

# DIARY MARCH 1984

FRIDAY 2ND Sheffield: Checkers Disco, Top Rank Suite, 9 pm. £1.90.

FRIDAY 9TH Derby: One-night stand disco, The Old Avesbury, Osmaston Rd (info from Derby Friend).

TUESDAY 13TH Gay Humanists meeting (phone George, Kenilworth 58450).

SATURDAY 17TH Gay Welfare Workers: discussing the education of social work course about the needs of lesbians and gay men as workers (phone Richard 0602 780124).

TUESDAY 20TH Lincoln: 'Satyricon', Golden Eagle, High St, 8 pm.

FRIDAY 23RD Derby: One-night stand disco, The Old Avesbury, Osmaston Rd (info from Derby Friend).

SATURDAY 24TH Boston: CHE/Gay group disco, Blackfriars Arts Centre, 8 pm.

SUNDAY 25TH East Midlands Ramblers: walk in Vale of Trent from East Bridgford (10-12 miles) (details John 0533 26617).

## REGULAR EVENTS

DERBY GAY GROUP meet every Fri, Green Lane Gallery, 8.30 pm.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SOCIAL GROUP (NOGSOC) meet every Mon at Foresters pub, Huntingdon St. and every Thurs at CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd.

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY GAY SOC (SNUGGLE) meet alternate Wednes in the darts room, Narrow Boat pub, Canal St. (phone 580421 for details)

NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S DISCO every Tues and alternate Sat at Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way, 8-11 pm. 40p.

SHEFFIELD STARS DISCO alternate Fri at Queens Rd, 10 pm. £1.20 (phone 754785 or 588904 for details).

SHEFFIELD WOMEN'S DISCO every Thurs at The Mail Coach Hotel, West St, 8.15-11.15 pm. 70p.

GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT meets 10th of each month (info, advice, etc, phone Phil, Coventry 552300, evenings 6-7 only).

GAY HUMANISTS meet second Tues each month (details from George, Kenilworth 58450).

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN GROUP meets alternate Mondays at the Women's Centre - a social/pressure group (info from Lesbian line).

**Are you insulted/aggravated, or just plain amused by what you read in the press about Gays and Lesbians? Share your feelings with other readers ..... Send any cuttings you find amusing to us here at G.E.M. and let us expose them for what they are - usually a lot of uninformed rubbish.**

**Watch your local paper!!!**

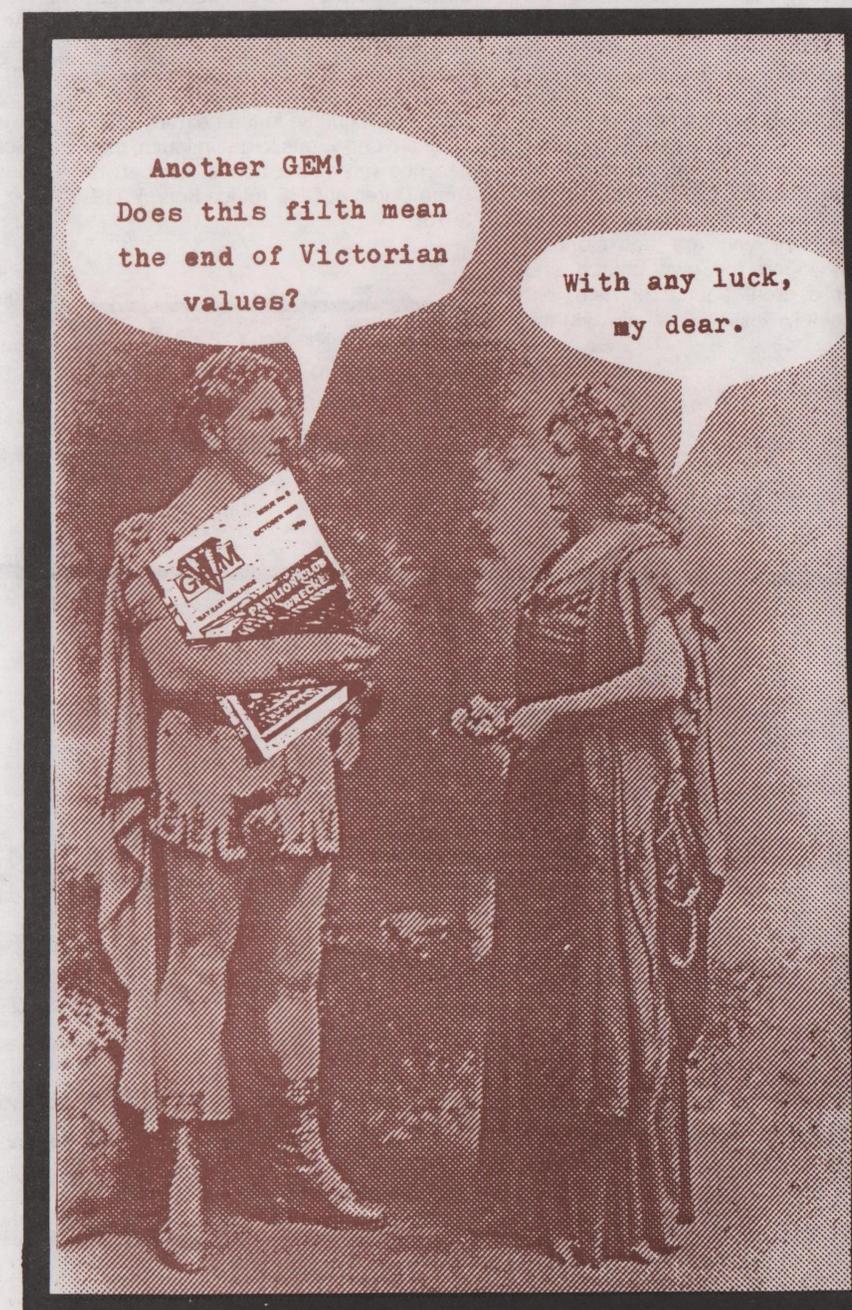
ISSUE No 9

March 84

20p



GAY EAST MIDLANDS



INSIDE!

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Leisure ideas

Gay films

Lesbian health

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## YOUR LETTERS TO GEM

Dear GEM,

I note the concern of G.E.M. about the problems arising out of Christianity and homosexuality, and to some extent sympathise with it. Although some strides have been made within the churches to discuss the question of homosexuality, there still exists, I'm afraid, many who continue to display, what for me are, 'anti-Christian' viewpoints on the subject of homosexuality. The Church should be a support, but so often it can put up barriers. It is therefore hoped that the Young Gay Christian Group can provide some support and guidance to those faced with unsympathetic Christian 'friends'. Having personally suffered numerous traumas as I came to terms with being a gay Christian, I know how helpful it can be to talk to someone who has experienced similar doubts and questions as you have and to know that you are not alone. I certainly found my own church and minister a great source of help, but unfortunately this is not always the case.

Yours sincerely,

John Stuppel.

Dear Colin,

Thanks for your letter and the copy of GEM.

I'm delighted to see my article reprinted - and glad to get a name check this time, which is more than the Gay Men's Diary managed! Obviously as someone involved in Gay Self-Defence I'd love to see the whole gay population involving themselves in this lively and positive activity.

At the moment there are couple of gay groups in London (apart from some women-only groups). One is running at the moment in South London, and we are looking for a hall in North London to start a new course in the next month or so. If anyone wants to get in touch, they can ring me at the above number, or Anna Durell at CHE (office hours) 359-3973.

UNFORTUNATELY KATHY IS  
ILL - SO NO CARTOON  
THIS MONTH. BEST WISHES  
KATHY FROM US. ALL.



We hope eventually to have enough people teaching for us to take occasional trips to start other groups in areas where people would like to start. Otherwise people can try to find gay martial arts instructors (difficult!) or maybe women, who may be less macho in their approach. But a large part of the process is just down to people getting together and pooling ideas - helping people believe in themselves.

Anyway, I had better not get started on the subject or I'll write a whole article again!

I enjoyed the magazine very much. Some of the articles seemed fresh and daring, examining areas which tend to be ignored or taken for granted in London publications.

Good luck, and best wishes for Lesbian and Gay Action Year.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Mayes

## CLASSIFIEDS

## PERSONAL ADS

## Placing Ads

CHESTERFIELD AREA: Attractive, romantic fun-loving lesbian seeks friends of any age to share good times & confidences. I am 25 unemployed and rather isolated. GEM 114.

LEICESTER/NOTTINGHAM/MELTON: Seeking bridge players. Free tuition to beginners if required GEM 115.

Woman 25, femme type, seeks lesbian friendship/relationship. Photo appreciated GEM 116.

NOTTINGHAM: Room offered to lesbian in shared house close to city centre £14.50 per week. Tel. 607946.

SOUTH LEICESTER: Accommodation offered to Gay Guy age 20 plus own room in very comfortable house. Meals if required. GEM 117

Classified Ads in GEM cost £1 for up to 15 words, and 5p per word thereafter. GEM numbers 50p extra. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to G.E.M. Collective. All classified ads must be prepaid.

We reserve the right to refuse advertisements without explanation.

## Answering Ads

When replying to GEM numbers, please put your reply in a sealed envelope. Write GEM number on outside of envelope then place in a second envelope and send to GEM, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.



12 issues £4.50 (incl. p&amp;p)

Please send one copy of Gay East Midlands monthly to:

Name .....

Address .....

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

## GAYS AND THE POLICE

In some ways it was heartening to see in a recent issue of Capital Gay (Number 129) a letter from a Gay who was serving in the Metropolitan Police.

When I resigned from the police in 1981 after a little over ten years I firmly believed that, as a Gay, there was no place for me there and that was a great shame because throughout my service I functioned effectively (being, of course, sympathetic, but never open to Gays I met).

I found after I left that a number of those that I had worked with (this was not in Nottinghamshire, by the way) had known I was homosexual: it had no apparent effect on those that I was in day to day contact with, but those who wielded the power (with whom I differ strongly in respect of priorities), made it known indirectly that any chance of promotion was shot to Hell.

I had had a couple of affairs whilst in the force, and been with a couple of girls too due to pressure that exists on officers to conform. It was after the last of these affairs, which ended badly for me, that I realised fully that I was homosexual and would never be happy any other way. There comes a time when you have to stop lying to yourself.

This realisation coincided with a rejection of many of the ideals that the police were sustaining with regard to minority groups - indeed I was with one officer one night who described a multi-racial group in the 17-24 age group as "jobs". This sort of sweeping generalisation was not uncommon.

One of the major problems of the police seemed to be its insularity and its desire for uniformity, both within and without. Canteen talk would vary between pay, conditions, the Government, football, cars, them and us. The public's worst enemy was, in the opinion of many officers, the public; and it had to be protected from itself. That protection would of course include what are considered undesirable elements in Society; which of course means Gays amongst other groups.

I found eventually that the pressures on me were just too much and decided to leave but was lucky enough to arm myself with a university place before I did so, and it was with great relief that I finally resigned, although I could relax for at least a year (and still do not fully) eventually coming out to family and friends.

In retrospect I am sure that had I come out whilst serving I would have been required to resign or maybe, at best, hidden in an office somewhere. Although approximately six months after I left two guys in Hampshire came out and were allowed to remain but were separated. The force I was in, much smaller than local forces, tended to very narrow views and, although I hate to say it because it tends to overclassify, had safe, middle-class, Christian ideals.

Should homosexuality ever come to be accepted within, and by, the police (and, by extension, central government) it will only be through the education of coming generations that Gay does not equate with abnormal. For those serving homosexuals I hope that time will come soon.



G.K. Rogers

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-HIM

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The Campaign Against the Police Bill culminated in a demonstration in London on the 21st January, 1984. Many of the 3,000 or so demonstrators were black, and there were large contingents of women and gay men, marching under five gay banners, including a contingent from the East Midlands. The march drew the largest contingent of upfront lesbians and gays for a long time, seen for a long time on straight demonstrations, so in terms of visibility this must have been one of the gay and lesbian movement's most successful interventions.

But the lack of Labour movement and trade union banners were criticised by a number of speakers, including Paul Boateng, form the Greater London Council Police Committee, who also said that lesbians and gays would be two of the groups that would be hardest hit if the Police Bill becomes law.

This clearly had an impact on the other marchers. However, as one speaker said it would be dangerous to establish a rank order of disadvantage, when all groups so affected by the bill, should be saving their energies not to fight each other but to fight the Bill.

# Lesbians & Health



Recent articles in the Paper about A.I.D.S. and gay men's health have focussed my mind on lesbian health issues. Naively, I had always assumed that lesbian and straight women shared common health issues - like the way in which a male-defined Health Service treats what are usually labelled 'women's problems', i.e. menopause, menstruation, gynaecological operations, etc. Often, though, the issues which hit the headlines are contraception, abortion and childbirth, which can be of marginal relevance to women for whom heterosexual sex is never considered, or only infrequently an option.

There are, however, specific concerns for gay women: for example, getting advice about vaginal infections and how they may be transmitted, or getting your lover accepted as your next-of-kin. Overall there are clearly problems in getting your sexuality accepted as

normal, and not being offered psychiatric 'help' by well-meaning medical practitioners. Looking at your health in a wider context, where can a lesbian couple go for help if their sex life isn't satisfactory or if their relationship is rocky? My guess is that we are all pretty suspicious (and rightly so) that such 'help' would be couched in terms of counselling us to give up our funny ways and return to the fold.

I don't pretend to have any answers, but would like to suggest that lesbians reading GEM who feel they know a bit about the subject write in. You may have had particularly good or bad experiences of the Health Service, or you may know of useful sources of information or help. Or (hint...hint...) you may want to write an article on the subject. So we hope to hear from you - your privacy will be respected (unless you wish otherwise).

Karen Buckley

## GAY WELFARE WORKERS

The Midland group of gay Welfare Workers recently held a meeting to decide whether or not to continue with their monthly meetings. Since its inception just over year ago, many people have expressed an interest in the group but attendance has been falling off at recent meetings and the group is also concerned that it is not reaching all those people who might benefit from such an organisation. However, following their latest meeting, GWW are to launch a new programme of meetings and publicity immediately. Membership is open to all those lesbians and gay men who would define themselves as being welfare workers of some sort. Meetings are held monthly in Nottingham but members travel from all parts of the Midlands to attend and accommodation is provided for those who have some distance to travel. Future topics for discussion will include 'Coming out to colleagues' and 'A.I.D.S and Social Workers', and a picnic is to be held in June. For further details see Listings/Diary or contact Glenise Lewis (Nottingham 602164) or Richard McCance (Nottingham 780124).

# "1984 WHAT IS TO BE DONE" LABOUR PARTY FRINGE MEETING

"1984, What is to be Done" was the theme of a Labour Party fringe meeting on gay rights at the Labour Party Local Government Conference held in Nottingham over the weekend of 4th February. Over forty delegates and visitors were reminded of ways in which lesbians and gay men are systematically discriminated against in law, education, provision of housing and other local government services.

Jo Richardson, MP opened the meeting by saying that lesbians and gay men were positively discriminated against and excluded from jobs in ways that other disadvantaged groups were not. In 1981 the Labour Party had produced a discussion document, "The Rights of Gay Men and Women" but had generally fudged the issue since then. It was now time to stop making excuses and for the Party to stand up and be counted on this issue. It had taken an unequivocal stand on hanging why not on gay rights? It is time for the Labour Party to become an honest party, "which I hope the Party will become".

(Jo Richardson was the recent sponsor of the Private Members Bill on Sex Equality and took the opportunity to include a clause on discrimination in employment against lesbians and gay men. At the time it was said that the Bill would attract the attention of the gutter press but this did not happen.

Chris Smith, MP spoke on police entrapment and the law and contrasted the harsh immigration laws and practices in Britain with those in Australia. He had recently won an appeal with the Home Office against the deportation of an Australian gay man who was deaf and dumb and who needed medical treatment in this country. The man was involved in a longstanding relationship with his British partner and had the appeal been lost the couple would have been forcibly split up. He also called for joint housing tenancies with automatic inheritance rights of tenancy on death of a partner and spoke of the problems facing teenage lesbians and gays in an exploitative housing market.

Cllr. Bob Crossman highlighted the need to persuade local government staff that lip service towards gay rights was just not good enough and that lesbians and gay men could be the victims of prejudice at interviews where subtle remarks and comment often took place. Specialist youth workers were needed to help lesbian and gay teenagers to find their own identity. "There is an absolute base line for lesbians and gay men in the Labour Party for gay visibility", he said. At present out of a total of 1,900 Labour councillors only four had come out as gay.

The meeting sent a letter of support to Roger Thomas Labour MP for Carmarthen in a bid to persuade him not to resign after he had been arrested for cottaging.

Richard McCance.

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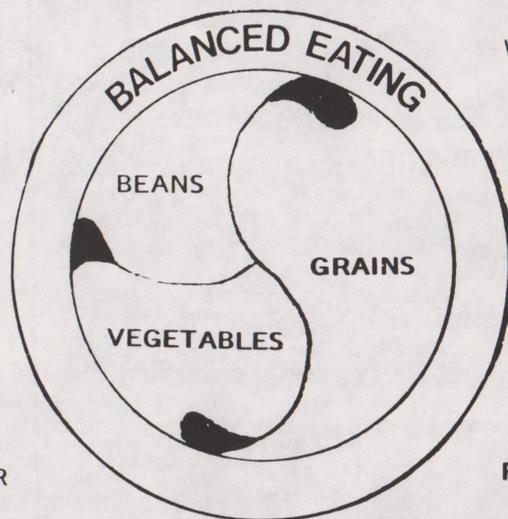
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BROWN RICE

NUTS AND SEEDS

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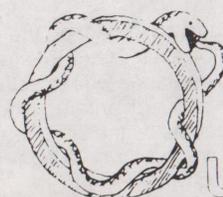
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Any list like this is bound to be provocative and personal. The films I've chosen are all relatively 'positive' in the way they show lesbians and gay men, and they are all worthwhile films as films. Most of them are available for hire on 16mm and are worth getting for gay meetings.

# THE GREATEST GAY FILMS OF ALL TIME



## 1. COMEDY IN SIX UNNATURAL ACTS (available from The Other Cinema, 79 Wardour Street, London W1V 3 TH)

Although only a short film, I still think this is the best gay film ever made. It is in six parts, and each one takes a familiar image of lesbianism and explores it in a witty and challenging way. In one section we see a woman getting all dressed up in a smart 'masculine' style, plastering her hair with awful-looking hair gel; as the section is called 'role playing', we assume she is the butch lesbian getting ready for the femme, but when she calls on her girl-friend, she too is all dressed up in the smart butch style. This sort of surprise ending, which is a nice gag, asks us to question our attitudes about gay role playing, about butch and femme roles. All the sections do the same, raising questions about love and romance, about power trips, about political lesbianism. Amazing to set off so many different issues and thoughts in twenty minutes, and genius to do it in a way that makes you laugh.

## 2. GIRLS IN UNIFORM (available from Cinema of Women, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1)

This feature film was made in 1931 in Germany and tells of the love between a girl and her teacher in a boarding school. Their relationship is portrayed in a way that is both visually delicate and yet shimmeringly intense. On top of this the film links their love to a revolt against the school, which is run on repressive, militaristic, in a word, patriarchal lines - thus love between women is seen as part of a revolutionary, liberatory attitude. It may seem surprising that such a film should have been made so long ago, but there was in fact a vigorous feminist and lesbian movement in Germany from the turn of the century and this undoubtedly helped to give the film its sureness of touch and its astonishing realisation of the power of tenderness.

## 3. UN CHANG D'AMOUR (also from The Other Cinema)

One of the few sexually explicit male gay films that is also tender, romantic and beautiful. Set in a men's prison, it is in part about the frustration of the guard, unable to express his desire for those in his charge except in violent forms. Counter-posed to this is the feeling of the prisoners for each other, shown in shots of love-making in a sensuous, shadowy lighting and in scenes of imagined freedom in a forest. Most evocative of all is a scene where one prisoner pushes a straw through the wall and blows smoke through it into the mouth of his lover in the next cell - its such an 'obvious' symbol of fellatio, and yet unlike most imagery of male sexuality it is fragile, delicate, tender and exquisite.

## 4. GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON D.C. (also from The Other Cinema)

I'm not very keen on documentaries, so there are only two in my list. This is a record of a massive gay march on Washington in 1979, and it intersperses scenes of the march with songs and statements from individual people. Its a bit like **Word is Out** in feeling, very sunny, cheerful, and optimistic; but it is also more full of bounce than that film. It makes you feel that we can together change society, that 'gay pride' is not an

empty phrase. You come away remembering the black lesbian grandmother with her host of lesbian daughters and grand-daughters; you come away humming the lovely theme tune; you come away glad to be gay.

## 5. OUTRAGEOUS! (not available on 16mm)

This is the most likeable entertainment feature film that I've seen that centres on a gay man. The main character is a gay man into drag who loves to get dressed up as the women he admires, Judy Garland, Bette Davis and the rest; his best friend is a young woman whose parents want to put her in a mental hospital. Their friendship is the heart of the film - he protects her from her parents and the psychiatric institutions; she encourages him really to get into his drag fantasies. Together they can stand against the bleak, intolerant society around them. Straightness in dull, is the film's message, its much better to be mad.



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JOHN THAW  
JACK WATLING JOYCE CAREY  
BARBARA MURRAY LALLY BOWERS  
and JACKIE SMITH-WOOD  
in GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S CLASSIC COMEDY  
**Pygmalion** DIRECTED BY RAY COONEY

**24 MAY - 16 JUNE**  
**THE CHERRY ORCHARD**  
by ANTON CHEKHOV  
Adapted by PAM GEMS based on a translation by Tania Alexander  
DIRECTED BY NANCY MECKLER

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## 6. LOVING COUPLES (not available)

This rather neglected film was the first to be directed by Mai Zetterling who was already well-known as an actress in films. It tells the story of three women who are just about to give birth and in flashback tells of the events leading up to their pregnancy. One of them is lesbian, and her relationship with her friend is by far the most positive one in the film, set over against the experience of the other women in heterosexual relationships. Made in Sweden in 1965, it is a complex film, interesting above all for the way that it shows the connections between lesbianism and other aspects of women's experience in society. In most films, lesbians are deviant women; here their experience is shown to be at the heart of womanhood.

## 7. ARMY OF LOVERS (also from The Other Cinema)

This was a surprise to me when I saw it quite recently. It is a survey of the male gay scene in the USA in the seventies, with interviews with gay activists and gay nazis, gay businessmen and gay pornstars. Its texture is harsh and much of what it depicts is, frankly, not my cup of tea. But I also found it exhilarating, a though provoking clash of all sorts of different ways of thinking about being gay. Some of the most difficult issues in gay politics are there - sado-masochism, promiscuity, love, the connection with other forms of politics, gay men's attitudes towards women. Its uncomfortable, but really alive too.

## 8. HUNTING SCENES FROM LOWER BAVARIA (available from ETV, 247a Upper Street, London N1)

Most 'serious' films about gay men and lesbians are also very depressing - we always end up dying or suffering or being run out of town. This film ends like that too, but for once the fault is very clearly shown to be in society not in the gay man. The main character is a likeable, ordinary gay man who works in a small farming community in Bavaria; gradually we realise he is gay; when the townsfolk realise it, they chase him like wild animal and kill him. The film ends with them going about their folksy ways as if nothing had happened, a picture of complacent normality. A chilling end, but at the same time a brilliant anatomy of anti-gayness.

## 9. DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS (not available)

Some people might not consider this a 'positive' view of lesbians, and I am aware that I am a gay man making



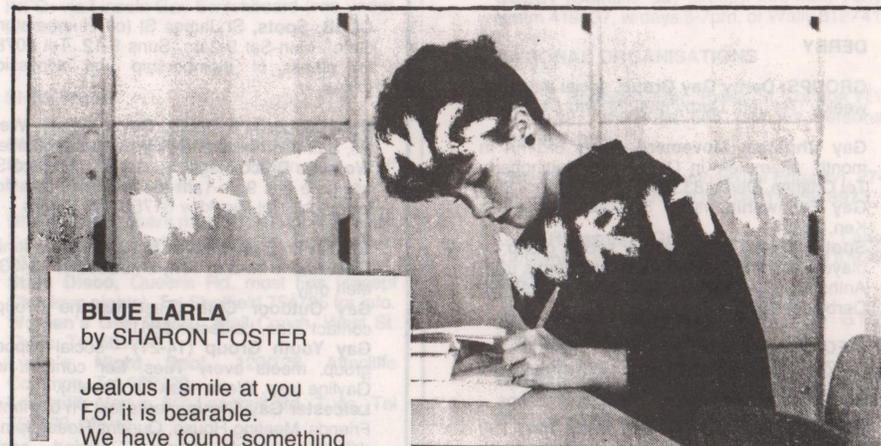
"Many intimate scenes are shown throughout the picture of boarding school life, revealing the prevalence of abnormal relationships"—from the censor's report on *Mädchen in Uniform* (1931).

the recommendation. **Daughters of Darkness** is one of the many films featuring lesbian vampires; it is very stylishly made and stars the ultra-elegant Delphine Seyring as the chief vampire. Lesbian vampires crop up in most horror films as further titillation for the straight male audience. In this film though, it is very clear that the vampire represents the threat of lesbianism to male sexuality; and, what's more, the film is definitely on her side. In the face of the insipid straight couple and wretched men in the film, who would not identify with the splendid lesbian countess, who would not succumb to her magnificent sexual magnetism?

## 10. I COULD GO ON SINGING (from Rank Film Library, P.O. Box 20, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex)

There is no gay character in this

film; what we have instead are Judy Garland and Dirk Bogarde. Garland was always the ultimate star in that pantheon of women stars beloved of gay men; her wisecracking humour, her ability to keep on going in the face of the blows that life dealt her, her rather audacious image and warmth of feeling, all of these made her the ideal gay men's star. And here she is with Dirk Bogarde, fresh from coming out as gay in the film **Victim** in a slightly trashy film about friendship, stardom, theatricality and Life. Its full of gay touches - Judy singing with a chorus of boys in drag, jokes about Fire Island, scenes between Judy and Dirk that look like the last word in scenes between (excuse the terms) a fag hag and a queen. A wonderful camp period piece - and Judy's numbers are just simply wonderful.



## BLUE LARLA by SHARON FOSTER

Jealous I smile at you  
For it is bearable.  
We have found something  
Warm, strong, gentle, free.  
The lack of chains  
lets me wander but  
thoughts return to you  
and again I smile.  
For freedom so safe  
I looked so hard  
& now have found  
in our secret love.

GAY SCOTLAND proudly announces its first short story competition. Write us a short story of no more than 2,000 words and sent it to Short Story Competition, GS, 52 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 3SA. There's no specific theme - so long as it has a lesbian/gay and Scottish connection. The winning story will receive £50 and there will be two runner-up prizes of £10 each. The judges are Peter Robins and Sigrid Nielsen.

## BOSTON

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

## CHESTERFIELD

**PUB: Manhattan Bar.** Saltergate. Mixed bar, open 8-10.30 pm, main gay nights Mon & Tues.

## COVENTRY

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

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

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

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

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

**Mercia Gay Youth Group** (gay/bisexual under 25). Contact via Friend.

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

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

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

**PUBS: The Spittlemoor,** Lower Ford St./Hood St. Mixed. Gays especially welcome Fri/Sat evenings, Sunday lunch.

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

## DERBY

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

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

**Gay Fellowship** meets Sun afternoons. Tel Ken, 364771.

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

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

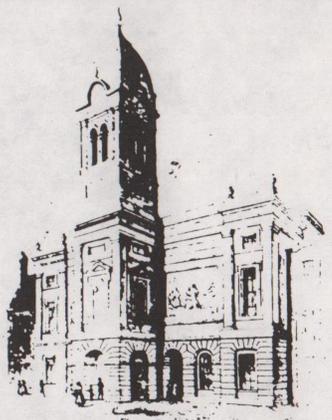
**PUBS: Green Lane Gallery Wine Bar,** 130 Green Lane, closed Mon; Weds women's night. Tel 368652.

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

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

## DONCASTER

**PUB: Olde Crowne Hotel,** Greyfriars Rd. Mixed.



## GAINSBOROUGH

**PUB: Tiger Inn,** Lord St. Mixed.

## LEAMINGTON SPA

**CLUB: Hintons** (Augusta Night Club), Augusta Place, tel 37231. Gay nights Mon, Fri & Sun. Women's Disco last Sat in month. No wheelchair access, good parking. Near Regal Cinema.

**GROUPS: Lesbian Feminist Group** meets fortnightly as discussion/support group. Contact LFG, Box 22, The Other Branch, 12 Gloucester St.

**SWAGG** (South Warwicks Area Gay Group): contact via The Other Branch, 12 Gloucester St.

## LEICESTER

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

**DISCOS: Lorna's Disco,** Dover Castle, Wed, Fri, Sat. (Get there early if you want to dance!) **Womens Disco** Nags Head & Star, Oxford St, alternate Fris 9pm-1am (back room - use side entrance). Tel Hinckley 617583 for details.

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

**Gay Outdoor Club** (East Midland Group): contact John, Leicester 26617.

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

**Leicester Gay Group** meets last Fri of month, Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road, 8pm & different weekly venues. Varied social programme. Tel David, 735049.

**Leicester Poly Gaysoc** - tel Gayline for info. **Leicester University Gaysoc** - meets Tues (term time) Meeting Room 1, Percy Gee Building, 1.30pm.

**PUBS: Dover Castle,** 34 Dover St. Disco Bar. Men and women, almost exclusively gay. **Three Cranes Hotel,** 84 Humberstone Gate. Tel: 24666. Gay hotel with beer garden. Disco Bar. Gay women and men welcome, though bar is by no means exclusively gay.

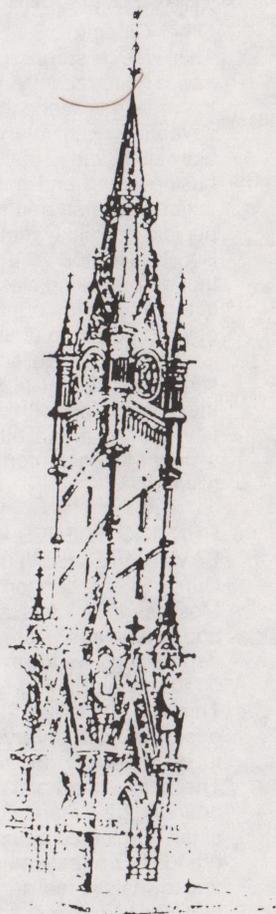
**VD Treatment:** Leicester Royal Infirmary, Dept of Genito-Urinary Medicine, Infirmary Close, Leicester. Tel 541414 ext 5208.

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

## LINCOLN

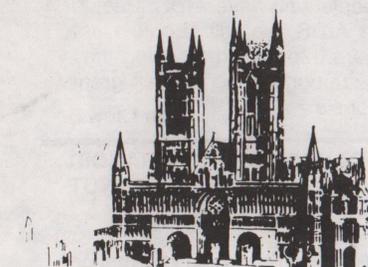
**DISCO: Gay Group Disco** alternate Sats, upstairs at Golden Eagle, High St, 8-12pm.

**GROUPS: Lincoln Gay Group/CHE** meets 1st & 3rd Tues each month, 8pm, Golden Eagle. Tel Jenny Esberger, Metheringham 20850, or John Ockenden, Metheringham 20851, or write CHE, PO Box 12, Lincoln, LN5 7PE. **Lincoln Women's Group** meets 3rd Fri each month. Tel Val, 41591, or Karen/Caroline, 40901.



**INFO: Lincoln Gay Switchboard** tel 22458 Wed 6-10pm & Sat 3-5pm or write PO Box 12, Lincoln LN5 7PE.

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



## LOUGHBOROUGH

**GROUP: Loughborough Gay Group** meets Fridays at Old Pack Horse Inn, Woodgate. Phone Les 217763.

**INFO: Loughborough University Gayline,** tel 231688, Tues 7-9pm, term time only.

**PUB: Old Pack Horse Inn,** Woodgate. Gays welcome, but not a gay bar as such.

## LOUTH

**PUB: Woodman Inn,** Eastgate, Mixed.

## MANSFIELD

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

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

## NOTTINGHAM

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

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

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

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

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

**Gay Welfare Workers Midlands Group.** Tel Richard McCance, Nottm 780124, or send SAE c/o 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottm. **Labour Campaign for Gay Rights.** Contact Chris Richardson, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottm, tel 780124.

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

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

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

**INFO: Lesbian Line** tel 410652 Mon 7.30-9pm. **Nottingham Gay Switchboard:** tel 411454 or 476714, Mon, Wed & Thurs, 7-10pm for confidential help and advice for gay and bisexual people.

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

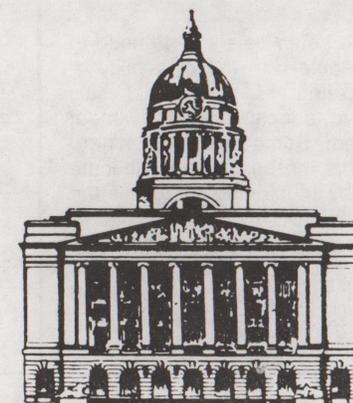
**The Foresters,** behind Victoria centre, mainly Women.

**Gatsby's (formerly Central Tavern)** Huntingdon St (near Palais de Dance), two Lounge bars, one exclusively gay.

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

**Ye Hole in Ye Wall,** Sherwood St, mixed, gay women and men welcome.

**VD Treatment:** General Hospital, Perth House(♂) or Amberley House(♀), Postern St, Nottm, tel 45989.



## RETFORD

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

## SHEFFIELD

**PUB: Cossack Hotel,** Howard St. **Rutland Arms Hotel,** Brown St., off Paternoster Rd. Mixed.

**DISCOS: Checkers monthly Disco,** Top Rank Suite, normally 1st Fri in month. Tel Sheffield 307142 for info.

**Stars Disco,** Queens Rd, most Fris (except Checkers nights). Tel Sheffield 754785 for info. **Women's Gay Disco,** Mail Coach, West St. Thurs, Tel 581238.

**Lydia's Night Spot,** 120/126 Attacliffe Common, Tel 682920.

**Leadmill,** Venue 6/7 Leadmill Rd. Tues, Tel 754500. Mixed.

**GROUP: Sheffield University Gaysoc** meets Weds, Senior Common Room, Crookesmoor Building, Crookesmoor Road, 7.30pm. Open to All. Details tel. Phil, Sheffield 665282, or write c/o Students' Union.

**Weekenders,** (Outdoor walking) Tel Friend for details.

**CHE,** Tel 307142 or meet Tues 7.30pm Cossack Hotel, Howard St.

**INFO/COUNSELLING: Sheffield Friend** Tel 680039 (Thurs-Fri 7.30-9.30pm).

**Lesbian Line,** Tel 58128 or write P.O. Box 162, Sheffield S1 1UD. **Sheffield Gayphone,** Tel 752254 (Mon & Weds 8-10pm).

## STOKE ON TRENT

**CLUB: 141 Club,** Marsh St. North, Hanley, tel 24207

**GROUP: Potteries Gay Community Association.** Meets 1st Mon in month at Cartwright House, Broad Street, Hanley. Tel Peter, Kidsgrove 5270.

**INFO/COUNSELLING: North Staffs Gay Switchboard** tel 266998 Mons, 8-10pm. **Women's Link:** tel 266998 Fris, 8-10pm.

**PUBS: The Albion,** High St, Tunstall. Mixed. **Antelope Hotel,** Trinity St, Hanley. Disco Thurs. **Stage Door,** Gitana St, Hanley. Mixed. Mainly men.

## WORKSOP

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

## MIDLANDS ORGANISATIONS

**East Midlands Ramblers Association.** John 0533 26617.

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

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

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

## NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

**A.I.D.S. Special Clinic,** Praed St, London W1, tel 01-927 1697 ext 666 (serious personal enquiries only).

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

**Gay Humanist Group,** 34 Spring Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2HB, Tel (0926) 58450.

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

**GEMMA,** lesbians with/without disabilities, all ages. Newsletter, penfriends. Write GEMMA, BM Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX (SAE).

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

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

**Terence Higgins Memorial Trust,** BM AIDS, London WC1N 3XX, tel 01-486 8806 (office hours).

**NATIONAL GAY SWITCHBOARD 01-837 7324 24 HOURS**

# INTERVIEW WITH AN AIDS WORKER

The following interview took place between myself and Mitch Bart - worker for the San Francisco A.I.D.S./Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation - in July 1983 in San Francisco. Whilst it is important to recognise the very different circumstances - not least the sheer scale of the problem in the USA - it is equally important to learn what we can from the American experience of A.I.D.S.. Despite the size of the problem, I felt that there were a lot of positive attitudes around and I hope that some of that positively comes through in this interview.

GEM - What impact has AIDS had on gay lifestyles in San Francisco?

MB - There appears to have been a reduction in anonymous and casual sex and sex clubs and businesses are closing through a drop in demand. The same is happening with some bath houses. One night stands appear to have been replaced with more 'dating' relationships. Unfortunately, there appears to be some evidence to suggest that more people are just staying at home, scared to go out in case they get AIDS. That's totally unnecessary.

GEM - Was this impact unavoidable?

MB - Staying at home and being frightened was avoidable but I think the change to safer sex was unavoidable. A lot of fear could have been avoided if information had been available much earlier.

GEM - Has the AIDS crisis really united the gay community?

MB - In some ways it has. Many new organisations have developed around the country. Gay bars and businesses have made massive contributions to AID funds and, particularly in the last twelve months or so, there has been a much greater involvement by gays in general.

GEM - Are there any lessons British gays can draw from the US experience?

MB - Yes. Gay people need to come together. They mustn't be afraid of AIDS because then they just become afraid of each other. Don't hide in your homes. There's a very great need for gays to educate themselves and the non-gay population not to be afraid of gays.

GEM - Has anything positive come from the AIDS crisis?

MB - There's been a strong community response for one thing. Also, I think that the crisis has strengthened ties in terms of personal relationships. There's also been a decrease in pressure for people to have multiple sexual partners. I feel that there had been a trend towards lots of impersonal sex and that can put a lot of pressure on people.

GEM - Do you think a panic has been created by talking about AIDS too much?

MB - You've got to balance the need to educate people with the possibility of scaremongering. I feel that it's important to educate people without scaring them. Some people over here have felt that the best way to educate people is by frightening them but the use of fear in AIDS awareness is neither a good nor a positive thing to do.

GEM - How do we go about helping and supporting people with AIDS?

MB - It's important that we learn about AIDS so that we understand, for example, how it is and is not transmitted. By doing this we see that it is both unnecessary and wrong to isolate people who have AIDS. People who have AIDS are still people - not social lepers. More than anything they need our support during time of great personal crisis.  
Colin Clews.

## JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PARANOID IT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT OUT TO GET YOU.

Several pieces of disturbing information have reached the collective this month. Lavender Menace Bookshop was raided by police on 11th Feb. and its owners informed they might be subject to proceedings for stocking the paedophile magazine Minor Problems.

They also inform us that H.M. Customs have seized 26 gay books, some by major authors on grounds of obscenity.

Meanwhile at the other end of the country SQUARE PEG a magazine published by a lesbian and gay collective has been banned by its printers as the third issue was about to be printed.

In Chesterfield we discover that Tony Benn doesn't want help in the form of Peter Tatchell.

BOOKSHOP AND CRAFTS, OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM TO 6PM

# MUSHROOM

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MUSHROOM, 10 HEATHCOTE STREET. TEL. 582506.

# PERSONAL VIEW

Last month we published an account of Chris's involvement in the direct action movement against nuclear weapons. We follow it with an account of her subsequent imprisonment.

Three people were imprisoned before me, my summons being for December 9th. In court I was given a final chance to pay, and when I refused I was sentenced to five days. I was sent to Risley to serve my time, and after a while in the cells under the Guildhall I was driven up there by panda car.

I have produced a cassette about my experiences at Risley (which anyone interested can borrow or buy from me) and I hope to write a pamphlet too. Here I'll just write briefly about some of what I found most horrible about a terrible place. I had prepared myself by thinking that it would be worse than I could imagine - and it was worse than I could imagine.

All control of my body was taken from me - I was told what to do and when to do it. This included how to wear my earstuds, how to wash myself and when to clean my contact lenses. Being admitted equalled being sexually assaulted. I was made to strip completely, and was given a detailed and humiliating search. All this, combined with trying to find my way through a maze of unexplained rules and a total lack of privacy made me feel degraded and powerless. I was upset and shocked by the hatred of the screws towards the world - they did more than just their jobs, they were powered by the energy of their violent hatred. I was upset by the fates of other prisoners - I could cope with thinking that I'd be out soon, but some women had been sentenced to several months or more, whilst others were on remand and didn't know whether they'd be found guilty or not, and if so, how long their sentences would be. I couldn't imagine how they could survive without suppressing and then losing parts of themselves which have to do with self-respect, caring and feeling.

At this point I'd like to mention letters. When you're imprisoned, receiving a letter makes an unimaginable difference to how you feel. Apart from visits so brief and occasional as to be almost non-existent, letters are about the only point of contact with the outside world. So if anyone reading this knows anyone in prison, please write to them - in Risley, women could receive letters without their numbers on them.

When I had completed my five month-long days, I underwent another horrific search and was eventually escorted to, and dumped outside, the main gates. My feelings changed rapidly from

bewilderment to euphoria when I met friends waiting for me. But, despite warnings. I wasn't really prepared for the depression, confusion and inability to handle pressure which soon followed. However, after a few restful days, a happier outcome from another trial and a lot of caring from my friends I felt all right again. Now my confusion and fear have turned to anger, and I am angry angry angry for all those women still trapped inside a system which cares so little about them that it waits half an hour before answering an alarm

bell, and I am angry angry angry against a system which imprisons those who dare challenge it.

If my five days inside were to intimidate me from taking further actions, they will have been pointless. So I am and shall be continuing to protest in whatever way seems appropriate against the state which steals parts of peoples lives and rots them in prisons, which is the same state which is planning the nuclear destruction of all our lives.

Women interested in the peace movement should contact Nottingham Women for Peace on 582506. Many women in prison today do not have friends to help. Women prepared to support other women in prison by letter or visit should contact their local probation service or contact Karen via G.E.M.



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8- 11 P.M.

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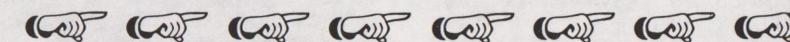
Admission £1.00

Doubles Offer all night:

Grant's Whisky and Gilbey's Gin - 99p for double

Beers from 64p

Women & Men Welcome



# PLACES TO GO — GEM INVESTIGATES

To continue our occasional series of write-ups about right-on nightspots - or places the best people go (that's us) - your roving rave-up reporters visited the revamped Hero's in Manchester. One of the great things about Hero's is that it has a reciprocal membership with Part Two in Nottingham, so if you have your Part Two membership card to hand you get in free on a Saturday night! In we went.

There were lots of people in (mainly men it has to be said), but no sign of the doldrums that seems to have hit a few clubs. There was music worth dancing to, and space to dance to it (which in our case has to be generous if we aren't going to be done for grievous bodily harm). We didn't spot the new swimming-pool though, which was probably as well since we were drunk enough to drown, but we did find a little fountain trickling merrily away in the comfortable looking bar (or was it a lager tap?).

It's difficult to know how to describe an evening in a club: we left pretty early because we were tired and emotional (drunk), having done some dancing (call it what you will), found a few men to ogle at, saw a man in a construction helmet (left over from the builders probably) and generally had a pleasant time. So enough said. Well worth a visit when you're next in Manchester.



### ONE NIGHT STAND TOP TEN 17/2/84

1. I AM WHAT I AM. G. Gaynor.
  2. ITS TOO LATE. Simone.
  3. SO MANY MEN, SO LITTLE TIME. M. Brown
  4. LOVE TRAP. Astaire.
  5. JEALOUS LOVE. Hazel Dean.
  6. ROCKET TO YOUR HEART.
  7. LET THE MUSIC PLAY. Shannon.
  8. QUEENS OF FOOLS. Shannon.
  9. LOVE YOUR BODY. Amanda Lear.
  10. GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN. Cyndi Lauper.
- Compiled by Peter (Derby)

Mansfield's regular Disco at the White Hart was as friendly as ever, with a good selection of music and cheerful bar service. The White Hart itself seems to be quite a social centre with the landlady organising quite a few activities and trips.

Derby's 'One Night Stand' Disco was hilarious. Well - have you ever bopped with Boy George, Madame Pompadour, Dick Turpin and the odd gypsy. (Before I confirm all your suspicions about derby folk - I'd better tell you they did win prizes in the fancy dress competition.)

All in all, both discos are a welcome alternative to the commercial scene, and it really is good to see gay men and lesbians enjoying themselves together.

Mansfield's discos take place several times a week. Check by phoning the White Hart. The Group who organise One Night Stand have the events planned on March 9th, March 23rd, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th & June 23rd. Info via Derby Friend.

### ONE NIGHT STAND



2222222

### 'PART TWO' PLAYLIST

- 1) KOFFIE & THE LONE TONES - Countdown
- 2) LISA - Rocket To Your Heart
- 3) SHIRLEY LEWIS - Didn't Say a Word
- 4) FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD - Relax
- 5) VICKI SUE ROBINSON - Everlasting Love
- 6) HAZELL DEAN - Jealous Love/Evergreen
- 7) EARLENE BENTLY - I'm Living My Own Life
- 8) SHANNON - Let The Music Play
- 9) NORMA LEWIS - Life Is The Reason
- 10) SIMONE - It's Too Late
- 11) GLORIA GAYNOR - I Am What I Am
- 12) LAMA - Love On The Rocks
- 13) MADONNA - Holiday
- 14) EURYTHMICS - Here Comes The Rain Again
- 15) IRENE CARA - Breakdance
- 16) TAPPS - My Forbidden Love
- 17) STEPHANIE MILLS - Pilot Error
- 18) FANTASIA - Evergreen
- 19) VARIOUS ARTISTS - Passion Tracking (Album)
- 20) MIQUEL BROWN - So Many Men So Little Time

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**NEW GROUPS & EVENTS**

Lesbians bringing up children social support group starting soon. Tel. Leicester 740778 for details.

National (UK & Eire) gay rock club, lesbian & gay community centre 61a Bloom Street, Manchester M1 3LY. Write with S.A.E. for info & current newsletter.

National young gay Christian group providing events of a "social and devotional" nature and an opportunity to explore lifestyle in relation to faith. Contact: John Stuppel, regional co-ordinator for East Midlands/East Anglia, c/o Y.G.C.G. G.C.M. BM 6914 London WC1N 3XX.

"Stop the City" action day on March 29th. Intended as a day of protest by many organisations against the financial control exerted over their lives. The handout says dump the symbols of your oppression on the steps of the Bank of England. Stop the City: Box STC, 6 Endsleigh St., London WC1. Contacts Pip 0602 781858  
Chris 0602 624742

**SHEFFIELD**

In our Christmas Issue we mentioned a periodical called Shield which gives details of events and venues for gays & lesbians in Sheffield & surrounding districts.

In response to our concern that there was no contact point in it, we have received a letter from Gordon Young Social Sec. of Chequers which tells us that copies are available c/o Chequers Society, Brookdale, 41 Clarence Road, Chesterfield, Derbys S40 1LH, copies £1.40 each.

Sheffield Gaysoc inform us that they publish a newsletter giving information about their activities - they meet every Wednesday night.

Copies can be obtained from Gaysoc, C/o Students Union, Sheffield University, Western Bank, Sheffield.



Speakers at the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights Fringe Meeting during last month's Local Government Conference in Nottingham

**CHECKERS**

**THE DISCO**

**March 2nd and April 13th**

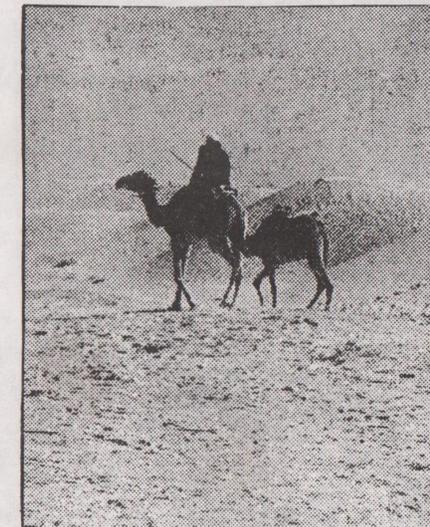
**TOP RANK SUITE SHEFFIELD**

**HOLIDAY IDEAS**

Good holidays depend on a lot of things - friends, weather, accommodation, scenery, and even romance. If you are gay or lesbian, tracking down the right night clubs or bars to go to can be hazardous. You don't necessarily go on holiday for the nightlife but if you can find it it does add something, especially if you're looking for a holiday fling.

A hotel, or town even, which accepts the fact that you might just want to hold your lover's hand in public, or where you are likely to find other gays makes for a lot of fun.

Thus, Playa del Ingles in Gran Canaria turned out to be a find. Temperatures in the 80s in January, cheap food and drink, easily findable gay bars, and an obviously gay contingent in the holiday population all made for a great holiday. It also has a massive nudist beach and I do have some very incriminating photos of certain ladies normally seen in the Foresters covered from head to toe in woolly jumpers.



**Costs** - A two week holiday in two person, one room apartments - £200 each. Meals a fiver for two if you shop around. Supermarket drink very cheap, but bar prices seem the same as England till you realise that there are no optics and 'drinks' consist of tipping it in till you say stop!!!

On the other hand, if you're a lesbian, don't do to Tunisia. The local males believe any woman on their own must want to be seduced and are very unpleasantly persistent. (I was offered 5000 camels for Denise however!).

Even when we held hands in the hotel lounge they appeared and pulled at the spare hands - evidently under the impression that we were a double act!! I believe that men get the same treatment but seem to appreciate it more!

Whether your tastes of finances run to Skegness or Samarkand, if you find good hotels, clubs, discos, and atmosphere from a gay or lesbian point of view, please write and tell us. It could help someone else have a good holiday too. It would be nice to have a regular slot for holiday suggestions.

Karen Buckley

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