

could have done with some moral support. Friends in high places wont stop a fall from grace, merely delay its onset. But Fashanu's initial denials of his gay sexuality and eventual disclosures, illustrate some of the pressures placed on you if you are doubly oppressed as a black gay man.



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copy deadline: 10th January

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FOOD BANK FOR LEICESTER

A new bank opens in Leicester in Spring '91, but it's soups, sweetcorn, spaghetti and sugar-indeed any kind of non-perishable food-that'll be in the vaults. Leicestershire AIDS Support Services and Leics Body Positive are setting up the Food Bank to help supplement the diet of people with HIV or AIDS in the County who are facing financial hardship.

Besides donations of canned and packet foods the Bank is looking for donations so they can buy food to add to their stocks. The Bank is already operating on a small scale, but hopes to build up its resources by the time of the official opening in the Spring. Donations will be gratefully received: cheques should be made out to 'The David Manley Fund' and sent to LASS/BP at 29, New Walk, Leicester, LE1 6TE.



A supporter of lesbian and gay causes in Nottingham died recently in Queens Medical Centre after a short illness.

Mary McCance was 79 and had lived in Nottingham for the last ten years near her son Richard. In 1986 she did a sponsored walk for the Lesbian & Gay Centre Fund and raised several hundred pounds. Despite being multiply handicapped she insisted on trying to live as normally as possible and was a familiar figure in Nottingham wending her way round the city, with her two red and white sticks.

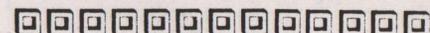
She also tried to do her bit in campaigning for the Deaf-Blind who did not have a community centre of their own, and often felt isolated in the Day Centre for the Blind. She was never afraid to speak her mind and on one occasion when the Mayor was visiting the Centre for the Blind he swished in, and made straight for the Board Room, ignoring the members using the centre. She went in to the Boardroom, and told him he should come and introduce himself to the users of the Centre, which was why he'd been invited in the first place!

She was also to be seen on several gay rallies in the region over the years. On one occasion she accompanied her son, Richard to court where he was one of eighteen defendants on public order charges arising out of the Rugby arrests in 1986. As she was adjusting her hearing aid in court, it began to oscillate, and the magistrates stopped the proceedings because they believed someone was recording in court. When she was asked what she was doing she told them and then swiftly admonished the court for not having proper facilities for hearing impaired people.

An impassioned fighter against injustice all her life she will be remembered by many for her wonderful sense of humour, never afraid to have a joke on herself. She was a great story teller, especially when she had a glass of whiskey in her hand and an audience. She laboured ceaselessly in an anti-gay world and was a bridgebuilder in forging positive relationships in her family with her son and his lover, Chris. Her family decided to write the funeral service themselves, celebrating her life, including where she touched the gay community.

HARRY'S PAINTINGS

A love of the countryside moved Harry Kettle to paint after his retirement, and mountains, hills and sunsets became his speciality. The English Lakes and Swiss mountains feature in many of his works. And it was love for the memory of his son in law, David Manley, that led to his paintings being exhibited at the Leicester Haymarket. Opened on World AIDS Day at the beginning of December, the exhibition is on view until the 12th January. Harry's works are also available for purchase and all proceeds go to the David Manley Fund, giving direct help to local people with HIV and AIDS. See and buy them at the Haymarket Theatre until 12th January, 1991.



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She was cremated on 29th November, and her ashes will be scattered on the cliffs of Sussex which she loved, and where she used to walk her dog Tara. It is hoped that in the Spring there will be a Celebration of her life in Lenton Community Centre,

Issue Number 9
December 1990

OUTRIGHT

Gay Freesheet for the East Midlands

FREE!

POLICE IN COURT

The Chief Constable of Staffordshire is being sued for malicious imprisonment by three gay men and a lesbian who along with eight other young people were jailed for a week at Winson Green Prison in December 1986 (two of the defendants (right).



At the height of the AIDS panic, the Tory leader of South Staffordshire Council, Bill Brownhill, in response to seeing a health education video, said that "gays should be gassed". A demonstration outside his Womborne home followed and led to the twelve arrests.

After a short but intensive national campaign the twelve were released and the police dropped all charges against the defendants. (The Wombourne 12 were charged only days before the 1986 Public Order Act came into force, which gave the police new sweeping powers.)

During the arrests one of the women, Gill King was allegedly assaulted by police and when she objected she was charged with assaulting the police. The case was closely followed at the time by the National Council for Civil Liberties, MP Chris Smith and MEP Christine Crawley.

Over three coachloads of protestors from Nottingham joined the 400 strong demonstration outside Wombourne Court at the time which turned into a celebration of the charges being dropped and a chance to express anger towards the police. It is believed that the Police were worried about the increasing public interest in the case and that if it came to court the police would lose.



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FASHANU OUT - AGAIN!

Since we were last in print, former Forest football ace, Justin Fashanu chose the gutter press "Sun" for his coming out debut, for a reputed fee of 30,000. This left The Voice (Britain's best black newspaper) and his footballer brother John, frothing at the mouth. The Voice's columnist, Tony Sewell: "We heteros are sick and tired of tortured queens playing hide and seek around their closets...Homosexuals are the greatest 'queer bashers' around." He ranted: "No other group of people are so preoccupied with making their own sexuality look dirty." And John Fashanu, a fellow footballer did his own bit of queer bashing when he described his gay brother as an outcast whom he would never speak to again because John Fashanu would now lose face as a member of the board of a national youth organisation.

Eight years ago, Justin Fashanu sued 'The Sunday People' when it reported "his strenuous denials of rumours that he was homosexual". According to a People reporter that paper paid Fashanu several thousand pounds in damages for "this alleged slur on his manhood". And now we are told that paper plans to take steps so that Fashanu returns every penny of the cash he 'screwed out' of The People newspaper.

So what's new? In the days when Part II was going strong many people will remember Justin Fashanu as a regular attender at this mega gay venue, always quiet, polite and discreet when perhaps it would have been better to be a raging queen.

OUTRIGHT believes that people in positions of power have a duty to come out to make things easier for others. Justin's mistake was that he did not publicly come out when he was at the peak of his career. He could have given a lead to all those blackgay men and others who admired him and

continued back page

Inside This Issue...

- * Wombourne 12 - exclusive!
- * Vito Russo - obituary
- * Pete Smith's View from the Towpath



THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN
Sat. 12th & Sun. 13th January at 6.00 Director: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, 1978, 119 mins. subtitles. Throughout the late 70s and early 80s, the prolific output of the later Rainer Werner Fassbinder was regularly and successfully screened at film theatres around Britain. Fassbinder, a key figure in the 'New German Cinema' left behind a considerable body of work which, since his death, has been seemingly lost in the shadows cast by the huge subsequent successes of Wenders, Schlöndorff and others. Here we return to the screen probably his most well-known film, an elegant melodrama of a woman's advancement through the war years after her husband's posting to the Russian front.

PHOENIX

| | | |
|---------------|----------|---|
| Thu 20 | 7.00 pm | AN ITALIAN STRAW HAT (PG) |
| | 8.45 pm | WILD AT HEART (18) |
| Fri 21 | 6.15 pm | WILD AT HEART (18) |
| | 8.30 pm | THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MATTHEW (U) |
| | 11.15 pm | WILD AT HEART (18) |
| Sat 22 | 2.30 pm | LORD OF THE RINGS (PG) |
| | 6.15 pm | THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MATTHEW (U) |
| | 8.45 pm | WINGS OF DESIRE (15) |
| Sun 23 | 3.00 pm | LITTLE DORRIT part 1 (PG) |
| | 7.15 pm | DON GIOVANNI (PG) |
| Thu 27 | 6.15 pm | BELLES OF ST TRINIANS (PG) |
| | 8.15 pm | SCROOGE (PG) |
| Fri 28 | 7.00 pm | ONCE UPON A TIME IN AMERICA (18) |
| | 11.30 pm | EASY RIDER (18) |
| Sat 29 | 2.30 pm | WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT (PG) |
| | 6.15 pm | THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (PG) |
| | 8.15 pm | BRINGING UP BABY (PG) |
| Sun 30 | 3.00 pm | LITTLE DORRIT part 2 (PG) |
| | 7.00 pm | DRIVING MISS DAISY (U) |
| Wed 2 | 6.15 pm | NIKITA (15) |
| | 8.45 pm | INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18) |
| Thu 3 | 6.15 pm | INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18) |
| | 8.30 pm | NIKITA (15) |
| Fri 4 | 6.15 pm | HOUSE PARTY (15) |
| | 8.30 pm | NIKITA (15) |
| | 11.15 pm | HOUSE PARTY (15) |
| Sat 5 | 2.30 pm | FELIX THE CAT (U) |
| | 6.15 pm | MUSIC BOX (15) |
| | 8.45 pm | HOUSE PARTY (15) |
| Sun 6 | 3.00 pm | TESS (PG) |
| | 7.00 pm | MUSIC BOX (15) |
| Tue 8 | 6.15 pm | MAD MONKEY (18) |
| | 8.30 pm | ANITA, DANCES OF VICE (18) |
| Wed 9 | 6.15 pm | ANITA, DANCES OF VICE (18) |
| | 8.15 pm | MAD MONKEY (18) |
| Thu 10 | 6.15 pm | PAPER MASK subtitled (15) |
| | 8.45 pm | BYE BYE BLUES (PG) |
| Fri 11 | 8.00 pm | HARMONIE BAND plus NOSFERATU (PG) |
| | 11.15 pm | CARNIVAL OF SOULS (18) |
| Sat 12 | 2.30 pm | BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG) |
| Sun 13 | 7.30 pm | EDDIE PARKER GROUP plus ARGUELLES |
| Thu 17 | 8.00 pm | MOONSHINE and PETE MORTON BAND |
| Fri 18 | 6.15 pm | THE KILLER (18) |
| | 8.30 pm | PAPER MASK (15) subtitled |
| | 11.15 pm | THE KILLER (18) |
| Sat 19 | 2.30 pm | GREMLINS 2 (12) |
| | 6.15 pm | THE INTRUDER (PG) |
| | 8.15 pm | TOUCH OF EVIL (PG) |

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"For the generations of people who will come after us, we have to remember that someday the Aids crisis will be over. And when that day has come and gone there will be people alive on this earth - gay people and straight people, black people and white people, men and women - who will hear that once there was a terrible disease, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and in some cases died so that others might live and be free". VITO RUSSO

Vito Russo died in New York from an Aids-related illness. He was in his mid forties. A tremendous advocate for lesbian and gay culture, he did as much as anyone else to encourage the emergence of modern gay cinema all round the world.

For the past five years, Vito had been living with Aids, and he played a central role in the emergence of ACTUP in New York. Born in New York, of Italian descent, Vito was always alert and sensitive as ever to the cultural values and the achievements of the marginalised, always intolerant of injustice. He was a the most palpable link between the historic lesbian and gay struggles of the Stonewall period in the USA, and the Aids activist movement. Until quite recently he was forever tearing round the world delivering ever-changing versions of his famous lecture on the history of lesbians and gay men in cinema. The way he was able to combine his work as a teacher, historian and articulate advocate of gay culture with his Aids activism was a constant source of inspiration to all around him.

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A writer for numerous magazines, Vito Russo will perhaps best be remembered here as staff writer on Gay News and as author of "The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the movies", published in 1981, with a revised edition appearing in 1987. Vito Russo was also one of the people with Aids featured in the documentary "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt", which opened in this country in the autumn, and which was shown on television on World Aids Day on December 1st.

It is entirely fitting that we should remember and pay tribute to one of the very rare gay men whose achievements were truly international in scope and significance. He died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of November 6th, having been lovingly cared for by a close circle of friends, just as he had cared for so many others. (Thanks to GAY TIMES - A compilation from the tributes of Simon Watney and Peter Burton.)

broadway

27th Dec-30th Dec — 6.00pm Thurs & Fri — 8.30pm Sat & Sun

Blue Velvet (18)

U.S.A. 1986 Director David Lynch (120mins)
With Kyle MacLachlan, Dennis Hopper, Laura Dern, Isabella Rossellini

Who else could we end the year with if not Lynch? After the tremendous success of *Wild At Heart* and *Twin Peaks*, Broadway presents what is still arguably the director's greatest achievement. Funny, sexy, sadistic and replete with moody ballads from the late great Roy Orbison.



UNION BOYCOTT OF BLACK NEWSPAPER for queer bashing Fashanu

A union conference recently overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution boycotting 'The Voice', an Afro-Caribbean newspaper, for its anti-gay coverage of former Notts Forest ace, Justin Fashanu's coming out revelations in 'The Sun'.

The conference voted not to place any advertising with The Voice until it changed its anti-gay stance.

After the motion was passed the paper's deputy editor contacted the Chair of the NALGO National Black Members Co-ordinating Committee, saying that bad publicity about black gay men would get the paper closed down. However, he was surprised when the Committee Chair, Kursad Kahramanoglu, (pictured above left), stated that the Voice should support all self organised groups, including the black lesbian and gay group in terms of positive images and encouraged the editor to consider working closely with the black lesbian and gay group in future.

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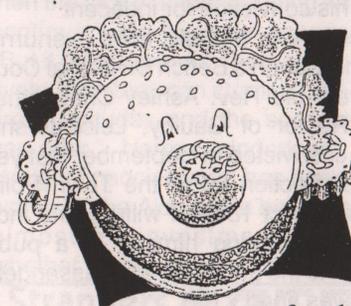
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BROADWAY

CINEMA

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| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Mon 24 - Wed 25 Dec | CLOSED |
| Thur 27 Blue Velvet (18) | 6.00 |
| Thur 27 Bye Bye Blues (PG) | 8.30 |
| Fri 28 Blue Velvet (18) | 6.00 |
| Fri 28 Bye Bye Blues (PG) | 8.30 |
| Sat 29 Bye Bye Blues (PG) | 6.00 |
| Sat 29 Blue Velvet (18) | 8.30 |
| Sun 30 Bye Bye Blues (PG) | 6.00 |
| Sun 30 Blue Velvet (18) | 8.30 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Mon 31 - Wed 2 Jan | CLOSED |
| Thur 3 Miami Blues (18) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Fri 4 Miami Blues (18) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sat 5 Miami Blues (18) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sun 6 The Interrogation (18) | 6.00 |
| Sun 6 Miami Blues (18) | 8.15 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mon 7 Dr M. (18) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Tues 8 Dr M. (18) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Thur 9 The Plot Against Harry (PG) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Thur 10 The Plot Against Harry (PG) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Fri 11 The Plot Against Harry (PG) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sat 12 The Icicle Thief (PG) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sun 13 White Hunter Black Heart (PG) | 6.00 |
| Sun 13 The Icicle Thief (PG) | 8.15 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Mon 14 Silent Scream (18) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Tues 15 Silent Scream (18) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Wed 16 Silent Scream (18) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Thur 17 Un Monde Sans Pise (15) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Fri 18 Un Monde Sans Pise (15) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Fri 18 Dance Film Dance 1 - OFB | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sat 19 Un Monde Sans Pise (15) | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sat 20 Drugstore Cowboy (18) | 6.00 |
| Sun 20 Un Monde Sans Pise (15) | 8.15 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mon 21 Rocco and his brothers (PG) | 7.30 |
| Tues 22 Rocco and his brothers (PG) | 7.30 |
| Wed 23 Rocco and his brothers (PG) | 7.30 |
| Thur 24 The Enchantment (18) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Fri 25 The Enchantment (18) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Fri 25 Dance Film Dance 2 - OFB | 6.00/8.15 |
| Sat 26 The Enchantment (18) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Sun 27 Bad Influence (18) | 6.00 |
| Sun 27 The Enchantment (18) | 8.30 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Mon 28 Korczak (PG) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Tues 29 Korczak (PG) | 6.00/8.30 |
| Wed 30 Wild at Heart (18) | 6.00 |
| Wed 30 The Big Picture (15) | 8.30 |
| Thur 31 Wild at Heart (18) | 6.00 |
| Thur 31 The Big Picture (15) | 8.30 |

Key:
♦ Dance Film Dance continues into February
OFB Off Broadway Cinemas, 24-32 Carlton Street

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Self Organisation in NALGO
Over 250 delegates attended NALGO's annual lesbian and gay conference in Preston last month. The renamed National Lesbian & Gay Co-ordinating Committee of NALGO represents lesbian and gay town hall workers throughout the country and is the largest local government trade union.

There were almost equal numbers of women and men and many more blackgay and lesbian workers attending. The weekend residential conference, scheduled to take place in Hull was switched to Preston at the last minute when fire badly damaged the conference hotel there. The conference now in its ninth year, has at last won the right to send two delegates to the union's annual conference, which takes place in Glasgow in 1991.

Workshops ranged from a women-only workshop on HIV/AIDS to Europe & 1991 and there was the usual women-only opening disco on the Friday night, followed by a mixed disco on the Saturday. The conference prioritised two motions for annual conference, one on bereavement and compassionate leave and the other on adoption and fostering rights for lesbians and gays. A further motion calling for the boycott of The Voice, black newspaper because of its anti gay coverage of former Notts Forest footballer Justin Fashanu, was passed overwhelmingly.

Manchester NALGO Blackgay activist Kursad Kahramanoglu has been overwhelmingly elected as the new chair of the National Black Members' Co-ordinating Committee. He was elected at the first meeting of the committee last week.

Kursad, 39, has a long history of political activism in Manchester where he has lived since he left Turkey in 1977. A founder member of Manchester Black Lesbian & Gay Group he has been extensively involved with anti-racist and lesbian and gay politics and is currently works as an immigration and nationality officer.

"I was heartened to see many more black lesbian and gay delegates at this years Preston conference. I hope to encourage more black lesbian and gay delegates to come out and become active in the black members self organised group in NALGO because at present we are only a small group of around six people. I hope to be instrumental in helping to change that in the near future".



Leicester Rector wins appeal in indecency case

A Leicestershire Clergyman has had his conviction for indecent exposure in a public toilet overturned by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court. 37-year-old Rev. Ashley Cheeseman, the Rector of Gaulby, Leicestershire was convicted in September last year under Section 28 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 of wilfully and indecently exposing himself in a public place "to the annoyance of passengers" and was fined £100.

But the court has ruled that the conviction should be quashed because vice squad officers on surveillance duties at the toilet specifically on the look out for "squalid" illegal acts could not be classified as "passengers" or passers-by who might be annoyed.

Now Leicester Lesbian & Gay Action have written to the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, Mr. Michael Hirst and to all Magistrates' Courts in the County, requesting all convictions for indecency in public toilets over the last 3 years obtained under the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, be reviewed.

This follows a recent judgement in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that unless a member of the public other than a plain clothed officer of the Vice Squad has been annoyed no offence has been committed.

Leicester Lesbian & Gay Action estimates that about sixty men across the County have been wrongfully convicted in this way.

Bernard Greaves, a spokesperson for LLAGA said: "Several men have lost their jobs, suffered financial loss, faced crises in their personal and family relationships and had their public reputations destroyed as a result of convictions now shown to be unsound." We

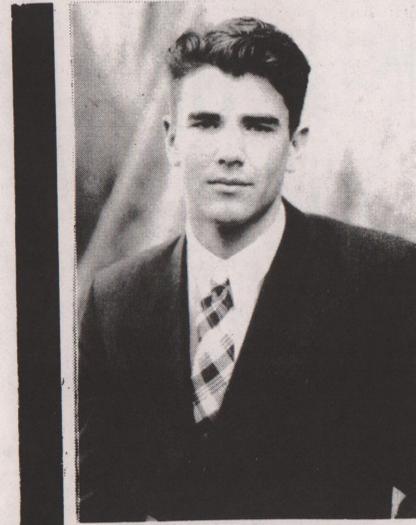
are asking that all these convictions be set aside, and these men's fines be refunded and that they receive fair compensation". In addition the organisation further demands that no further prosecutions are brought where members of the public have not been annoyed and that the Town Police Clauses Act is not used for prosecuting this kind of offence in the future.

But despite the the overturning of his conviction Rev. Cheeseman's suspension has since been renewed by the Assistant Bishop of Leicester, Dr. suffered financial loss, faced crises in their personal and family Godfrey Ashby. He explained: "A complaint has been made under Ecclesiastical Law on behalf of the parish of Gaulby which will be investigated over the next few months. Meanwhile, Rev. Cheeseman, his wife and young baby are still living at the parish rectory, and he is still being paid by the diocese."

METRO CINEMA

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Thur 27 | Wild At Heart (18) | 8.00 |
| Fri 28 | Wild At Heart (18) | 8.00 |
| Sat 29 | Wild At Heart (18) | 8.00 |
| Sun 30 | Wild At Heart (18) | 8.00 |
| January 1991 | | |
| Tues 1 | Presumed Innocent (15) | 8.00 |
| Weds 2 | Presumed Innocent (15) | 8.00 |
| Thur 3 | Presumed innocent (15) | 8.00 |
| Fri 4 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 8.00 |
| Sat 5 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 2.00 |
| Sat 5 | The Draughtsman's Contract (15) | 6.30 |
| Sat 5 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 9.00 |
| Sun 6 | The Draughtsman's Contract (15) | 6.30 |
| Sun 6 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 9.00 |
| Tues 8 | Let's Get Lost (15) | 6.30 |
| Tues 8 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 9.00 |
| Weds 9 | Let's Get Lost (15) | 9.00 |
| Weds 9 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 9.00 |
| Thur 10 | Let's Get Lost (15) | 6.30 |
| Thur 10 | Korczak (PG) s/t | 9.00 |
| Fri 11 | Mo' Better Blues (15) | 8.00 |
| Fri 11 | The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle (18) | 11.00 |
| Sat 12 | Laurel and Hardy (U) | 2.00 |
| Sat 12 | The Marriage of Maria Braun (18) s/t | 6.00 |
| Sat 12 | Mo' Better Blues (15) | 8.30 |
| Sat 12 | The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle (18) | 11.15 |
| Sun 13 | The Marriage of Maria Braun (18) s/t | 6.00 |
| Sun 13 | Mo' Better Blues (15) | 8.30 |
| Tues 15 | Straight, No Chaser (PG) | 7.00 |
| Tues 15 | The Handmaid's Tale (18) | 9.00 |
| Weds 16 | Mo' Better Blues (15) | 6.15 |
| Weds 16 | The Handmaid's Tale (18) | 9.00 |
| Thur 17 | Mo' Better Blues (15) | 6.15 |
| Thur 17 | The Handmaid's Tale (18) | 9.00 |
| Metro's 10th Birthday week starts here... | | |
| Fri 18 | Miller's Crossing (18) | 8.00 |
| The Metro 10th Birthday Party | | |
| Sat 19 | Honey I Shrunk the Kids (U) | 2.00 |
| Sat 19 | 1900 (18) s/t | 5.00 |
| Sat 19 | Texas Chainsaw Massacre 3 (18) | 11.00 |
| Sun 20 | 1900 (18) s/t | 2.00 |
| Sun 20 | The Grifters (18) | 8.00 |
| Sun 20 | Texas Chainsaw Massacre 3 (Club) | 10.30 |

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PINK POUND SENSE

"Gay people's investment needs are very simple," says Ivan Massow, of new independent financial advisors, Bowater Massow. "They're just the same as everybody else's, but they need to be dealt with sympathetically. The advice that I have to offer them is no different from that they could get elsewhere - I have to advise them clients to be absolutely truthful on their lifestyle questionnaires, for example - but we do have a different attitude. It

may be that a gay or lesbian client will simply feel more comfortable being able to say to their investment analyst: 'I want to write this for my boyfriend or girlfriend.' But we can also help in other, specific areas. We have found one or two mortgages without a life insurance commitment, which are really intended at safeguarding families. For a lot of gay people, that simply won't apply: the value of the house is still there at death, and it might as well go back to the building society." Underwriting the financial success of this new firm's venture is a clear commitment to changing the financial sector's attitude to homosexual investors generally. "If gay people approach 'straight' firms, like insurance companies, individually, then the lack of understanding will continue," Mr Massow asserts. "But if they approach them collectively, then they can change both those firms' attitudes and the services they can offer." Narrow mindedness in the straight financial world has been made worse by the Aids scare but, in fact, for almost all investment products, whether someone is or isn't HIV posi-

Pensions Investments Mortgages 071 404 5011

Ivan Massow, Bowater Massow, 58 Lady Somerset Road, London NW5 1TU. Office: 071 404 5011 Personal Direct Line: 0860 293314

Please tick box. I am interested in sympathetic independent financial advice:

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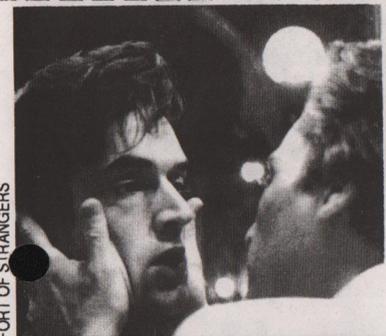
Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms) Initials
Surname
Address
Postcode
Telephone (Day)
(Evening)

Please send to: Ivan Massow (F.P.S.), 58 Lady Somerset Road, London NW5 1TU Tel: 071 404 5011

itive is absolutely irrelevant. Bowater Massow is at Lady Somerset House, 58 Lady Somerset Road, London NW5 1TU (071-404-5011).

(Courtesy of the Independent on Sunday)

The Comfort Of Strangers



14th Dec-23rd Dec - 6.00pm & 8.30pm The Comfort of Strangers 9180 USA/France 1990 Dir. Paul Schrader 9105 mins) With Rupert Everett, Natasha Richardson, Christopher Walken, Helen Mirren Literally days after its London release Broadway is proud to present the premiere of Paul-Patti Hearst-Schrader's new all star horror-romance. "The Cannes Film Festival closed with Paul Schrader's 'The Comfort of Strangers' in which a young English couple get preyed upon by a very odd couple indeed (Walken and Mirren in the kind of Venice sketched more audaciously by Roeg in 'Dont Look Now'. But Schrader's silky smooth and professional style does something for the story, translated ably enough by Harold Pinter from the Ian McEwan novella and played, by Walken in particular, with spectacular icy aplomb." Derek Malcolm - Sight and Sound.

The Plot Against Harry (PG)

9th Jan-11th Jan - 6.00pm & 8.15pm The Plot Against Harry (pg) USA 1969 Dir. Michael Roemer (81 mins) with Martin Priest, Ben Lang, Mamine Woods Discovered and finally released more than 20 years after it was made, 'The Plot Against Harry' has received remarkable acclaim as a witty, quirky look at New York Jewish life in the sixties. Indeed its tale of a lone shark, who's trying to reconcile his amoral life with his family commitments has pleasant traces of Woody Allen both in its humour and excellent black and white photography.

METRO CINEMA



DISTANT VOICES, STILL LIVES 23/24th January, Wed & Thur. 7pm & 6pm. Terence Davies celebrated study of a Liverpool family's life from the war to the 1960's. Both hopeful and despairing. An honest and unpatronising account of working class life.

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VIEW FROM THE TOWPATH

The Plato of The Building Sites

Walking through the construction site that currently passes for the centre of Leicester provoked a number of thoughts. The immediate and usual reaction of regretting the disturbance to a number of familiar views was, of course, present. This includes the man who used to work in the accounts department of The Co-op. This is now rapidly being transformed into that fountain of blank expressions, A Shopping Mall. I refer to The Co-op not the man in accounts.

The building works now add the hazards of a construction site to the perennial problem of lamp posts. These always seem to appear when your attention is turned to a piece of passing trade. This led me to meditate on the healthiness of our lives. It has long been recognised that long hours spent in cold, dark places carries the attendant risk of penile frostbite. Furthermore, a social life that revolves around licensed premises brings the certain risk of pessimism if not alcoholism.

At the same time people who are single tend to eat large amounts of convenience or take-away food. Generally, these do not seem to be noted for their healthy characteristics, particularly if accompanied by a perpetual diet of chips or what are euphemistically described as 'French Fries'. In many of us this is combined with a lack of exercise. I would here exclude those who seem able to spend many hours in a catatonic state on the dance floor. Few of us seem to spend much time in the Gym or Sports Centre. When we do it may be inspired by a Greek Ideal, but not that of a healthy mind in a healthy body.

This brings me to a hobby horse of the Vegetarian variety. Namely the number of Gay Men who smoke. Presumably the desire for oral satisfaction outweighs the well-known dangers and concern not to do harm to others through passive smoking. If this is the case, it leads to a mystery. Cigar smokers are notable by their absence. Perhaps the dearth of King Edward's signifies an all-pervasive blandness. Alternatively, perhaps the dictum of not confusing size with effectiveness has more adherents than I suspected.

It does seem that giving more thought to the lives we lead would make us healthier and more self-satisfied, if not happier. After all, a positive atti-



tude towards ourselves is half the battle. However, I do not want to suggest that it will affect our appearance, but more about that next month. In the meantime watch out for those lamp-posts. Pete Smith

mushroom

B.O.O.K.S.H.O.P

"Where can I find the best selection of lesbian & gay publications in the Midlands?"

MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP, OF COURSE!

Sorry about the flooding. The good news is that Mushroom's back in business and welcomes old & new customers.

Open 10.00-6.00 Monday to Saturday

10 Heathcote St, Nottingham NG1 3AA Tel: 0602-582506

In Sheffield, counsellors from the city's Aids Education Project have been handing out free condoms to men who use two city centre public lavatories for sex. The initiative is reported to be proceeding with the co-operation of the local police, and in the last eight months the counsellors have made contact with more than 50 men. "Sheffield leads the way nationally in reaching people in the community who have historically been regarded as unreachable," said the project's manager, Jo Adams. Counsellor Jef Jones reports that "cottaging" is "still an illegal and socially stigmatised activity, and we have been careful to understand its internal dynamics and to cultivate a non-judgemental approach. The work is innovative and challenging. We are working with men, many of whom have very low levels of knowledge about HIV transmission and many of whom do not identify as gay."

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DERBY AIDSLINE

Worried/confused
about HIV/AIDS?

For confidential advice and
information, phone FREE on
Derby Aidsline

0800 - 622738

Mon - Fri 7-9 pm
Thurs 2-4 pm.

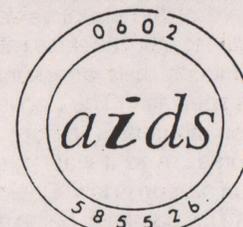


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THE NOTTINGHAM



INFORMATION PROJECT

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The AIDS Helpline is now open 4
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accurate, confidential advice and infor-
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New volunteers always welcome.

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NOTTINGHAM BODY POSITIVE



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Wednesdays 7 p.m.-10.00 p.m.
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Nottingham NG3 3B1

- Activities include:
- Support
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 - Fund raising
 - Links to Aids Information Project and Buddies.

"IT WILL BE A
GREAT DAY WHEN
SCHOOLS GET ALL THE
MONEY THEY NEED
AND THE AIR FORCE
HAS TO RUN A
CAKE STALL TO
BUY A NEW
BOMBER."

FAMILY FIRST



THE CROFT · ALBERT ROAD · ALEXANDRA PARK · NOTTINGHAM NG3 4JD · TELEPHONE (0602) 60611

A Full-time Nursery Officer is required for our Day Nursery at The Croft Family Centre, Alexandra Park, Mapperley, Nottingham for 37.5 hours per week.

The Nursery Officer is expected to provide a caring environment for all Family Centre Users, having respect for the rights and needs of individual children and their families. The Nursery Officer must work positively towards the Multi-Cultural, anti-racist, anti-sexist aims of The Centre.

NNEB qualifications essential. First year qualified £8,367 per annum, then £9,363-£10,950 per annum pro rata. Family First is working towards an Equal Opportunities Policy and would welcome applications from all sections of the community. Job-Share will be considered. Telephone (0602) 623906 for an Application Form.

All applications must be received by 2nd January, 1991.

Gaps in provision are usually first identified by self help groups, set up often because most official organisations don't bother to ask people what they want. One such group is BODY POSITIVE, which grew out of the Terrence Higgins Trust in London. The Nottingham group has been growing over the past three years. John, a prominent member of the Nottingham group, spoke to OUTRIGHT about BODY POSITIVE:

There are many reasons why there is a need for a group like ours; firstly, we are there to provide support to people who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and help reduce feelings of isolation.

When you are first told of your diagnosis it can be devastating, and you can feel terribly isolated even if you have friends. A lot depends on whether the person is out as gay or bisexual to his friends and relatives.

To know that there are other people in the same boat who you can be open with is a great comfort, and to know that you are not alone.

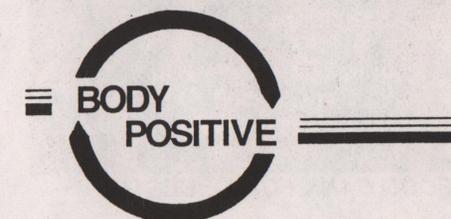
BODY POSITIVE acts as a pressure group, countering isolation and provides representation on official bodies and voluntary organisations so that the views and needs of PWAs are taken into account, from the ground up instead of from the top down.

Many people still agonise over whether or not to take the test for HIV and we say that anyone in this position has a right to proper counselling through the Health Authority in the area where they live, to help them decide whether they want to take the test. In some cases a person's need to know if they are HIV positive can be the deciding factor in taking the test, to relieve anxiety. Experience shows that getting this counselling from a GP is not necessarily the best way to receive the

news that they are HIV positive. When I took the test I was told by my doctor "Oh, by the way, you're HIV positive", just like that, no back up counselling to help me cope with the news. Mind you that was over five years ago and things have improved since then.

There are people in the group who have lived with the HIV diagnosis for over five years and they know there is life after being diagnosed - it is far too easy to be negative about the diagnosis and BODY POSITIVE tries to engender a positive approach to people living with HIV/AIDS. We speak for ourselves from our own experiences, and there is no substitute for that.

If and when we come to terms with the diagnosis the quality of life can improve in so many different ways: your life is put into perspective and you begin to recognise what is important and what



your true priorities are. As far as I'm concerned gay bars are way down my list of priorities now; for me, friends and family and helping others in my position are my chief interest.

The group is soon to appoint a full time, paid co-ordinator to cover the growth in the workload. This is one group that would like to work itself out of a job, but until an anti-AIDS vaccine is commercially available and AIDS is seen for what it is, a disease that needs to be totally eradicated, then groups like BODY POSITIVE will be crucial to providing that confidential, welcoming and supportive service to people living with HIV/AIDS.