

*** NEWS in brief**

* **Kathy Almack** is currently researching experiences of women and men involved in donor and self-insemination for her MA Women's Studies dissertation. Some of the questions she is covering include parenting alone, co-parenting, finding donors and decisions to become donors. Anyone able to help with their experiences, please contact Kathy in confidence on 0115-970-6326.

* **Spiral Women's Camp 1995** will be a ten-day camp for women from 4 to 14 August at a site near Shepton Mallet and Wells in Somerset. Organisers encourage women interested in coming to send donations of £10 in advance to cover costs. Details from Vron on (0115) 960 5469 or Rachel on (01458) 50073. Make cheques to 'Spiral Women's Camp' and sent c/o 42 Mapperley Road, Nott'm, NG3 5AS.

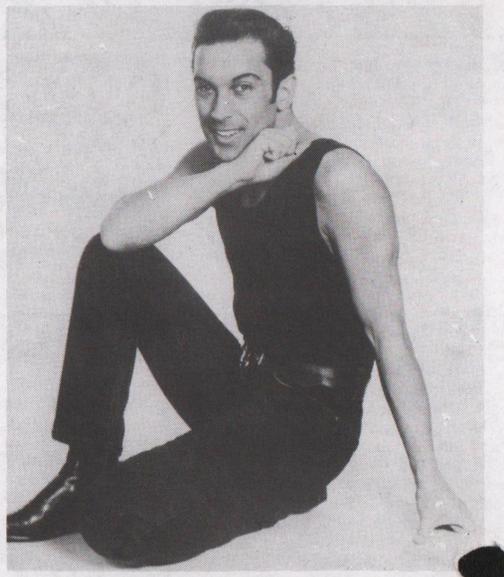
* **A new mountain bike group** in South Yorks aims to meet up regularly one Sunday a month, and head into the Peak District. The group caters for all skills of cyclists, the main aim is to have a good time, the organizers tell us. If you're interested or want more info, then get in touch c/o SHOUT!, 22 Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield, S10 2BA. (SAE appreciated).

* **Metropolitan Community Church** meets every Sunday, 11.30am, Queens Walk Community Centre, Meadows, Nottingham. 2 July, Revd. Doreen Shambrook, 9 July, James Chapman from Mansfield, 16th July to be confirmed, 23 July Graham Brindley-Mayne, 30 July, Carl Hossack, MCC North London, 6th August, Bring Your Own Worship. More details from Wendy on (0115) 9750031.

Brenda's Big Night Out

Nottingham's Takeaway Theatre Company stages "Brenda, A Star is Torn". Starring Ceri Dupree, last seen as Lucy Fur in the 70's musical hit, "Hot Stuff". This one-hander features the Bette Midler of the Welsh valleys, Brenda Llewellyn. The play begins at the Penlan Working men's club where Brenda is hitting the groove with her big cabaret finale, 'Big noise from the valley'.

Entering Brenda's world is what this evening is about. The glamour of Garbo, Monroe and Dietrich. The voices of Cher, Tina Turner and Bassey, not forgetting the hysterical parodies of Piaf, Julie Andrews and Nana Mouskouri, all brought to life by the talents of Ceri Dupree. The show runs from 25th July-4th August at the Filly & Firkin, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tickets from Victoria Centre Box Office (0115) 941 9741.



Leicester Trade on the lookout

Would you like to become a volunteer in the outreach work which takes place on the commercial Gay scene within Leicester? If the answer is yes, there is a training day for this which has been organised for Sunday July 2nd from 10am onwards at Leicester Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Centre, 45 King Street, Leicester. Potential volunteers from Black communities would be particularly welcome as they are under represented at present. For more info ring (0116) 254 1747 or 251 8755.

ON THE BOX

Saturdays from 8th July, C4: VINTAGE THAMES
Delving back into the archives of Thames Television with such classics as Man About the House, The Sweeney, Special Branch, Callan, George & Mildred, Bless This House and Minder

Sundays from 23 July, C4: SCHOOLDAZE
A celebration of the formative years of American youth including Stand By Me, House Party, Pump Up The Volume & the truly awesome Hairspray

Tuesdays from 4th July, C4: WITNESS
Series includes 'Better Dead Than Gay', the story of Simon Harvey, a Gay Christian unable to reconcile his homosexuality with his religion, resulting in his suicide shortly after his 26th birthday.

TAKEAWAY THEATRE COMPANY

in association with C J Jones presents

'BRENDA, A STAR IS TORN'

Starring Ceri Dupree, fresh from two national sell out tours as Lucy Fur in 'Hot Stuff'. At 39, and trapped in the 70's with her hairstyle and clothes, a failed marriage behind her, and stardom still out of reach, Brenda dreams of who she longs to be....

Tue 25th July Fri 4th August, 8.30pm start, Filly & Firkin Pub, 36 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, All tickets £5.00

Available from Victoria Centre Box Office (0115) 941 9741

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July 1995
Issue 63

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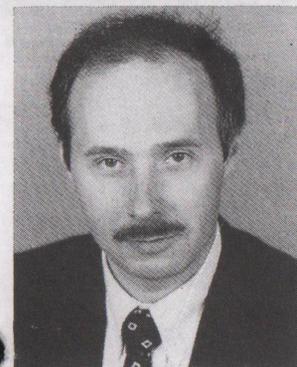
for gays lesbians and bisexuals in central england

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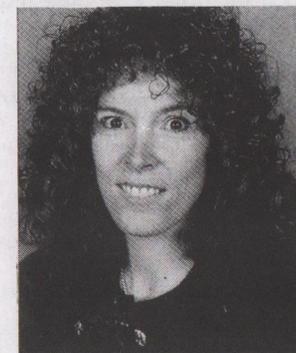
Two County Councillors are spearheading a move to end discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men.

Leon Unczur, Councillor for Nottingham's Aspley ward is proposing a resolution at the July meeting of the County Council. Seconding the resolution is Joyce Bosnjak, Councillor for Ravensdale & Sherwood ward in Mansfield.

The resolution states: "This County Council calls on the UK government to implement real proposals for a classless society. We therefore urge the government to end unjust discrimination against any of our citizens. To this end we call on the government to implement equal rights legislation for Lesbians and Gay men."



Cllr Leon Unczur



Cllr Joyce Bosnjak

Councillor Unczur is Vice Chair of the Council's Community Services Committee, which replaced the Equal Opportunities Committee, abolished in May. The new committee will be taking up issues of concern in the community. "These issues could", said Councillor Unczur, "include Lesbian and Gay issues."

Local Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual groups, at a Forum in June drew up an agenda for further action relating to the County Council and have already planned meetings with Councillors and Officers.

Councillor Unczur expects the debate to be the main issue on July's agenda. The meeting begins at 2pm at County Hall, Nottingham. A show of support from the public gallery, which holds around eighty people will be appreciated by the proponents of the resolution.

A warm friendly welcome is extended to everyone at

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- * Thursday to Sunday our resident D.J. Jamie *

See you soon!

Just before they set off to wow the crowds at Pride, Mary & Claire from Atomic Kandy chewed the fat with Simon Smalley.

What do you think of 'outing'?

M: Well, we have certainly never denied being dykes. We don't really care who knows, but some of the extreme tactics of outing are rather unfair, to have great billboards saying a certain person is gay would be really wrong. Obviously, some areas of work are easier to be out in. Although rock music has traditionally been sexist and homophobic we intend to be honest and upfront about our sexuality.

C: I think it's up to the individual. It's my personal choice as to who I tell. If we were a really major band like U2 or someone then I feel that we'd have a responsibility to be totally honest, to set a good example and be out.

Where have you enjoyed playing the most?

M: The Cabaret Stage at Pride, Pump & Tap in Leicester, there's a good responsive crowd there and they get very excited.

C: The Artful Dodger in Islington, although it's a small venue, they really pack them in.

How many Prides have you done previously?

C: This is to be our 4th Pride - not forgetting of course that we were on the main stage last year, in front of 160,000 people. Playing to such a large crowd was mega. I prefer smaller more intimate venues but to have Atomic Kandy in front of so many people was amazing.

M: To have all the equipment, all the stage crew all scurrying around devoting their time exclusively to us just for those few minutes was great - the sound - our sound, bouncing around off 160,000 people was phenomenal. It was good for the soundmen, too, 'cos other acts were merely miming to DAT and we actually played live and gave the soundcrew something to do!

So what are your forthcoming plans?

C: Well, we're playing nearly all of the Prides and we've been invited to play in Dublin later on in the year. We aim to have a good record deal by the end of the year. We've got a couple of labels interested in signing us and we can't really progress without professional expertise and financial backing to enable us to tour extensively with a good crew, good sound, good lighting and so on.

M: One of the new tracks we've written is called 'Dangerous' which is definitely the next single. We're very excited about it, it's like Free crossed with the Sex Pistols...

C: Very thrusy!

M: It's even more of the Atomic Kandy sound than the 'Doctor' song. I feel that we're progressing all the time in our writing. 'Doctor' was a very trippy song. I had this theme about a fucked-up woman going to the doctor at her wit's end and being shocked to find the doctor more out of it than she was, he'd been into his medicine cabinet and was sampling everything he could snort or inject or chuck down his throat. My version of the Beatles 'Dr. Robert'! I told this to Claire and she elaborated on it.

I've always wondered where your name came from!

C: It was the title of a book I found in a Nottingham library called 'Atomic Candy' by an American woman about post-war consumerism in the States. It's like the name, the desirable and undesirable. Atomic, all the nuclear aspects being undesirable and Candy, well, candy's sweet and tempting and just about everyone likes candy! There'll be some things people find desirable and undesirable about the band.

Atomic Kandy will soon be playing at the Amnesty International Benefit Concert at the Clinton Rooms, Nottingham. Watch this space!

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Richard Marriott
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Mission Impossible?

At an age when most people take to the rocking chair and put their feet up, Lill Boxall, Secretary of the Derby and District HIV/AIDS Support Services (DDHASS) is someone in a hurry. She knows that time is not on her side or more importantly, on the side of people living with HIV where she has worked for the last four years as a volunteer and the organisation's unpaid Secretary.

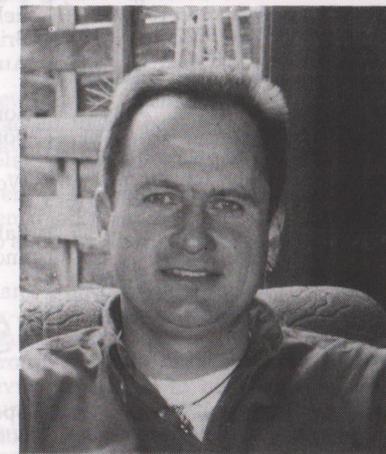
She knows what she's on about; As a regular visitor to San Francisco for the last ten years Lill has seen how the Californians have shown the rest of the world how to care for those living with HIV.

"There's more openness and acceptance around the issue of HIV and AIDS whereas here people still want to be shielded from it". Indeed she can remember telling her son and family of her decision to join the DDHASS and how they stopped bringing the children round for several months. "I had to let them work through their fear until they were ready to come round". Now they are very supportive and come to our fundraisers.

Though the DDHASS is funded by Social Services and the Health Authority, over the years Lill has seen more and more calls for cash made on its Hardship Fund which exists to provide the little extras that can make the difference between existing and living, which the main grants do not cover. (Since the demise of the Nottingham based AIDS Information Project the DDHASS has been a lifeline for a number of Nottingham residents as well).

Requests for help can range from money for toys for children of single parents, mainly women, living with HIV, whose lifespan may be time limited. "They may want to indulge their children a bit, they can't give them time but they can give them that little treat, and who can blame them", she says. Other requests might include help with payment of fuel bills, a blender or microwave to ease cooking, but prolong that bit of independence, which we all value, but those of us in good health often take for granted.

But right now the fund is in dire straits - it has almost run out and Lill and the organisation are dreading the time when they will have to refuse these small one-off grants. It's not that they haven't tried their fair share of fund raising, they have: there's been a Valentine's Sleaze Ball, Red Ribbon Stomp, with another in the pipeline, and the Priscilla Queen of the Desert, drag up do.



"Often benefits have to be shared between several organisations like our last one, the Priscilla Drag up do and we can end up with quite small amounts of money, which though very welcome, means a mighty effort for a small return".

But this former member of the WAAF and former nurse is not one to be beaten and when I visited Lill she had just completed a 12-page funding application and was trying to think of ways of tapping into, larger, regular funding. "So that we can get on and do the work we were set up to do". I also notice a card on her door "The impossible we can do but miracles do take a bit longer". You could help make the impossible come true by sending a money donation however small. Or perhaps that picture or a piece of china which you may have grown tired of but if auctioned could fetch a few pounds. All would be welcomed, so that when the next knock on Lill's door is answered she can offer practical help. It's not much to ask is it?

If you would like to donate the address is DDHASS Hardship Fund, 71 Friargate, Derby DE1 1FP, tel (01332) 204020.

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MURIEL'S WEDDING (15)
Dir: PJ Hogan/Australia/1994/105 mins.

The latest in a growing line of lively Australian comedies, set in a dull seaside town where its gauche heroine lives in a fantasy world of Abba songs and bridal-wear catalogues. In a desperate attempt to find romance, she leaves behind her family and friends and set out for Sydney.

wel fair

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*calls charged at standard BT rates

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wel fair is an initiative from The OUT HOUSE Project
wel fair is financially supported by Notts County Council & Nottingham Health Authority

NOTICE BOARD

Leicester Gay Group

Newcomers' Social Evenings every other Tuesday, 7.30pm at 45 King Street, Call Chris on 01509-415272 or Neil on (0116) 251-5818.

Leics Black Lesbian & Gay Group

Meets 18th July, 7pm at 45 King Street, Leicester. The Asian Youth Group, next meets on 15th July, 2pm Open Door, 177 Granby Street, Leicester, Info: (0116) 2541747, mobile (0378) 268632.

Leicester Hyking Dykes

Sunday 23rd July, Monsall, Peak District. Meets at 45 King Street, Leicester, 10.30am, dogs and children welcome. Transport provided. Further details, Helen (0116) 2912128 or Jill Parker (0116) 2547412.

Pink Pathfinders

2nd July, Bakewell-Chatsworth Park-River Wye-Bakewell, 8 miles, meeting poing, Market Place, Bakewell, 10.45am. 23rd July, Baslow-Curbar Edges-Baslow, 7 miles, meeting point Baslow Central Car Park, 10.45am, (optional visit to Well Dressings after walk).

TALENT WANTED

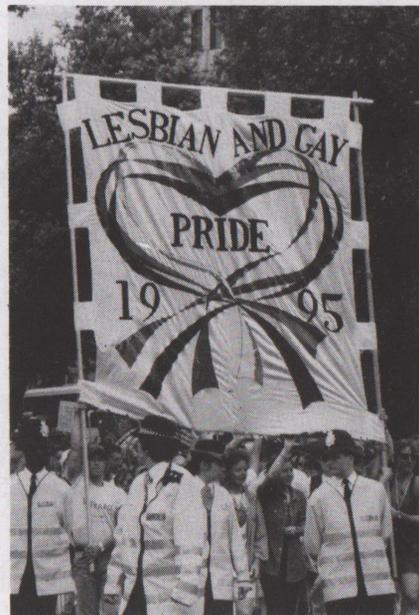
Singers, strippers, drag acts, hypnotists and other talent are being sought by the Chesterfield group HAND for a charity evening at the Bridge Inn, Chesterfield on Saturday 12th August.

The event is to raise money to set up a house-sit service and provide counselling support for people with HIV/Aids. Offers of talent for the evening should be made to Holly Wood on 01246-208315.

HAND runs a drop-in centre and confidential helpline on 01246-550550 Mondays 1-3pm and Sundays 7-9pm.

SHEFFIELD WOMEN

The Sheffield Women's Cultural Club is open everyday for women to have teas, coffees, tasty food & alcoholic drinks. Children are welcome until 8pm and there are toys and books available for them. Opening times are 11.00am-11.00pm Mon.-Sat., 7.00pm-10.30pm Sun. Wednesdays are no-smoking days all day.



An image of PRIDE '95

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TRADE

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If you would like to find out more about us, or are interested in getting involved, why not come along.

We are particularly keen to recruit volunteers from Black communities who are currently under-represented in our group.

For more information phone Andy: 0116 254 1747 (office hours)

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Fancy yourself as the next Keats? See yourself as the gay Agatha Christie? Are you a budding Kate Adie, male or female? Outright! needs input from our readers, from poetry & prose to articles, suggestions, anything that you think that Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual central England would be interested in. We need to know what turns you on about Outright! and what turns you off, what gets you going and what gets your goat. Think you can do better? Drop us a line!

wel fair

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No Regrets



Four service people, dismissed from the armed forces on the grounds of their sexuality who recently took the Ministry of Defence to a Judicial Review in the High Court, lost their right to job reinstatement. Barely was the ink dry on that decision, however before the Ministry of Defence faced further challenges from other service personnel. Outright spoke to a former officer and member of Rank Outsiders, Simon Dawson and detected signs of change in attitudes long overdue.

"I joined up aged 18 before going to a civilian university. I was looking forward to a career in the Navy," he says. "I always suspected I was gay from my time at a single-sex school but when I went to university, it was confirmed for me that I really was gay".

Simon says he always kept a tight rein on emotions during his ten successful years at sea. "I was good at my job and it was an open secret amongst my bosses that I might be gay, but they were happy as long as I didn't make an issue of it and rock the boat".

Rapid promotion led Simon to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, third in charge of a nuclear submarine. "As I rose through the ranks I was continuously security-vetted." Whilst others went on shore leave and partied and had sexual adventures, Simon was busy channelling his energies into outdoor pursuits, in particular canoeing. And if Simon didn't provide hard evidence of his heterosexual imperative, he certainly conformed to their image of what a 'man' should be.

But doubts had already taken hold. He knew that if he were to rise to the top of the tree, there would be further positive vetting which would look hard at his suspected, but not so far recorded, sexual preference. Though not out on paper Simon felt good about his gayness and decided the best course of action for him would be to leave the service to obtain emotional freedom. (Apparently for every woman or man who is discharged from the services after being discovered, nine leave 'voluntarily' before being found out, bringing to an early end and what in many cases could have been long and successful careers.

When Simon left in 1987 he started a new career. Gazing at racks of canoes stacked in his backyard in Nottingham gave a clue to his new chosen career, as a Sports Instructor at a Watersports Centre in Nottinghamshire where he remained for three years, before moving to a local authority post nearby.

He began attending meetings of Rank Outsiders, a support group run by ex-armed forces personnel who are Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. "People need the group to help with the transition to civvy street, and to help with the pressures of a traumatic and unpleasant 'outing' when you and all of your contacts are being investigated", he muses. Following his second meeting he was asked to appear in a BBC2 documentary, 'Taking Liberties' and three weeks after this the Navy offered Simon a job working on a two-week canoe instructors' course in Austria for British recruits, where he was fully out as gay, and had no problems whatsoever.

Simon believes that a sea-change is taking place and that there has been a big move in opinion within the services. Recently a high-ranking Admiral asked for a survey to be conducted of attitudes of new recruits to homosexuality which backed the Admiral's own view that it was no longer the big no-no it was years earlier.

"Most of us in Rank Outsiders have had nothing but support from many of our straight friends and contacts who are still serving. Unfortunately, our friends cannot speak out publicly. It is generally only the retired officers and Tory politicians who get their views into the press. These people are completely out of touch with the views and attitudes of most modern serving personnel", says Simon.

"I believe that if the Armed Forces were allowed to get on with its job, and politics was kept out of the issue, things could change more easily." He is hopeful that the time will soon come when lesbian and gay officers need no longer fear the range of reprisals that they now have to face simply for being themselves.

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01332 755098

PENPALS WANTED!

Catherine Adams, authoress of the Cuba feature in last month's Outright! met some gay men who would like to have British penpals. If you would like to write to any of them they are:

Arnaldo Sanchez C. 46 No. 2505 e/25 y 27, Playa 13, C. Habana

Luis Perez Lopez C. 39 No. 4209, apt 5, e/42 y 44, Playa, C.P. 11300, C. Habana

Williams Licourt Garcia, C.Lima No. 7, Rincon, C. Habana.

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