



Nottinghamshire's RAINBOW HERITAGE

NOTTINGHAM IN THE NEWS

LGBT HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY 2010

Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage, your local LGBT history project, has been collecting cuttings from newspapers going back as far as 1915. This newsletter is devoted to quotes based on what the papers had to say about us.

WHAT A PIZZA CHEEK! POLICE NICK GAY BRITS



A gay council big-wig and his boyfriend were grabbed by police and held for two days in their swimming trunks after being mistaken for terrorists.

Councillor Dick McCance and live-in lover Dick Richardson were seized while enjoying a dream holiday for two in Sorrento, Italy.

The couple were bundled off to police HQ and thrown into separate cells while officers ransacked their hotel rooms. After fingerprinting and nothing to eat for 24 hours, they had plates of pizza shoved into their hands.

Police had mistaken Nottingham Councillor McCance for CIA traitor Frank Terpil, who is accused of terrorism in Italy. Police claimed that their vital proof was the councillor's holiday diary, written in Pitman's shorthand. They said it was secret bomb plots written in Arabic.

Mr. McCance and his boyfriend were finally released, still in their swimsuits, after 47 hours.

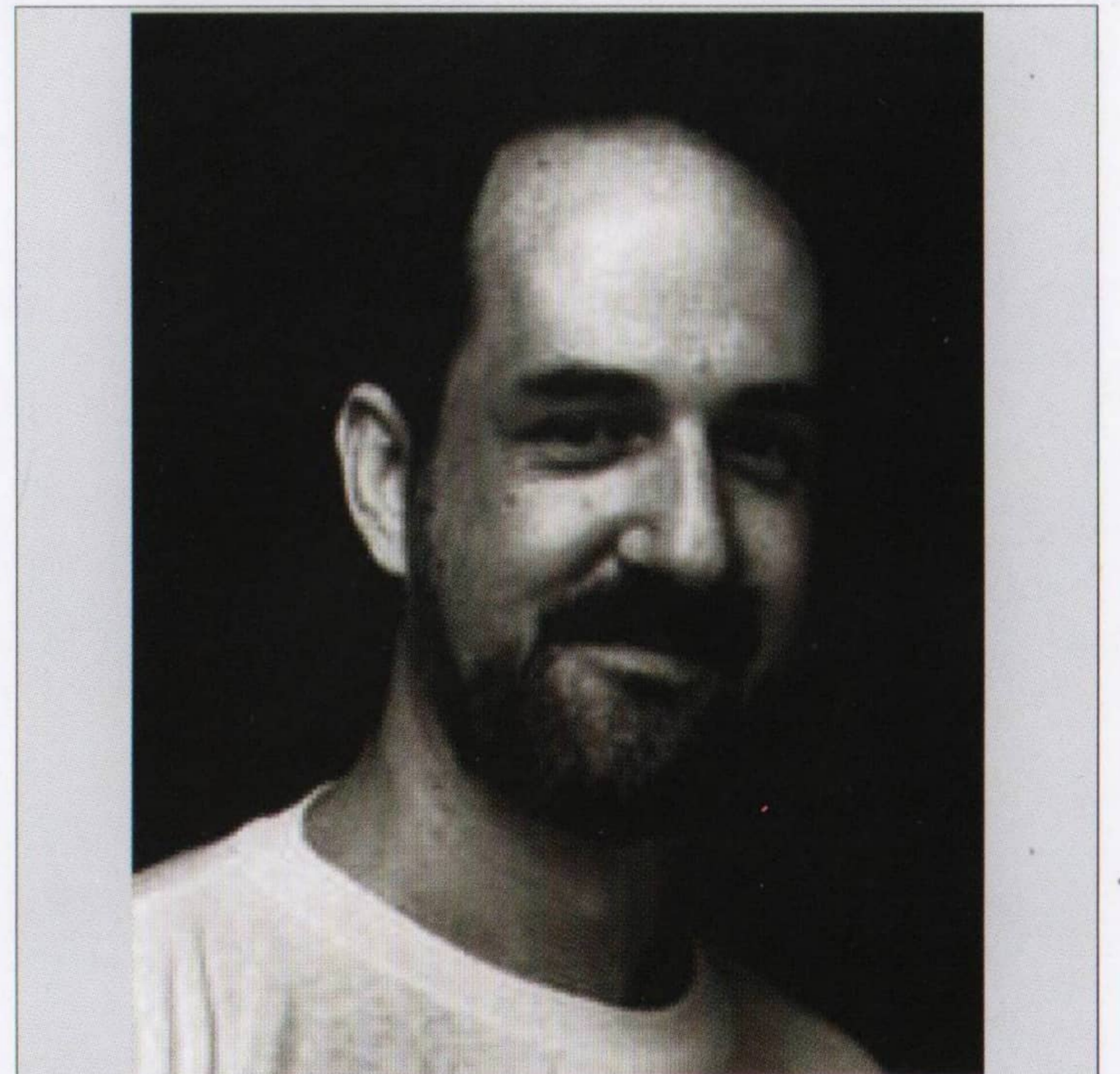
The Sun. August 22nd. 1985.

"PROFESSOR OF GAY STUDIES" PROTEST

A row broke out yesterday over the appointment of Britain's first professor of lesbian and gay studies.

MP Ann Widdicombe branded the move "a phenomenal waste of public money". She added: "It would be far better spent giving young people academic and vocational training to ensure they get jobs. It is not clear to me what kind of job this would qualify someone for."

But gay campaign groups hailed the appointment of Professor Greg Woods at Nottingham's Trent University as a step forward in the recognition of homosexual culture.



A spokesman for Stonewall said "There is tremendous ignorance about lesbian and gay issues. This will help redress the balance."

Professor Woods 45, who has lectured at Trent for 8 years, described his appointment as "small but pioneering". He said: "It's encouraging that the University has taken what is a slightly brave decision."

Sunday Mirror July 5th 1998.

GAY NIGHTCLUB CLOSES DOWN

La Chic, Nottingham's nightclub for "gay" people has closed down, despite tremendous support and a membership of around 12,000. The club became a national landmark for homosexuals and lesbians when it opened in November 1973.

Its owner, Mr. John Glover, said it was a sad loss. La Chic was the first nightclub of its kind in the Country.

Nottingham Evening Post
May 23rd 1977.

CLOSED CLUB

A brief comment on your item about the closure of La Chic club.

To speak of "homosexuals and lesbians" is misleading - lesbians are homosexuals. The phrase compounds the error of thinking the word homosexual applies to men - the word covers both sexes.

La Chic was not "the first nightclub of its kind in the country". In fact a club was already in existence in Nottingham prior to La Chic's opening in 1973.

Tony Barker
Nottingham Evening Post
May 27th 1977



Southwell Diocese has opened a wide-reaching debate on homosexuality, the subject of a report to go to the General Synod.

Nottingham Evening Post. Feb 16th 1981

UNDERSTAND BEING GAY, CHURCH ASKED

There is a widespread ignorance about homosexuality, said the chairman of the Southwell Diocesan board, Rev Malcolm Goldsmith. "It needs to be said loud and clear that homosexuals are not perverts, nor are they men and women with some dreadful illness. Of course, some of them go off the rails, as do heterosexuals. But your sons and daughters are not in danger, because one in 20 of all adults they meet is likely to be homosexual."

Others at the meeting expressed their views:

Just because they have different sexual ideas does not mean that they are any less human. (Barbara Lacey)

Homosexuals were often lonely and found it hard to mix in society. (Nora Healey)

God had designed men and women to compliment each other not their own sex. If everybody turned to homosexuality, then the human race would soon die out. (Yvette Freeman)

Newark Advertiser 20th Feb. 1981

JOURNAL'S REVIEW OF SEX PROBLEMS

Today's edition of the Practitioner contains 17 articles on sex and its problems.

In an article dealing with criminal aspects of sex abnormalities, Captain Athelstan Popkess, Chief Constable of Nottingham, states:

"We know that homosexuality is beginning to eat into the very vitals of the nation like a cancer. The public would be horrified if they knew its extent, and it is on the increase."

The News of the World April 4th 1954.

IT'S HOMOPHOBIC RELIGIOUS HATRED

Yet again the fundamentalist Christian churches are rearing their ugly, bigoted heads in trying to harm members of the homosexual community.

I was horrified to hear that Rev. Ogbe-Ogbeide has been performing exorcisms on lesbian and gay people to purge them of their same-sex attraction. He admits that the ritual at the United Pentecostal Ministry in Harrow involves "casting out demons and witches that possess a gay person's soul".

I know three people who have been turned into heterosexual zombies by similar brainwashing techniques used by Jehovah's Witnesses. Narvel Annable.

Nottingham Evening Post September 3rd 2009.

JUDGE HITS AT BROADMINDED

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, at Nottingham Assizes yesterday, gaoled two men for homosexual offences. He said: "There are many people in this country in high places who are prepared to smile tolerantly on this sort of behaviour and may have expressed sympathy for it.

If they had the experience Judges of Assizes have in dealing with these matters, they might be a little less - as they think - broadminded".

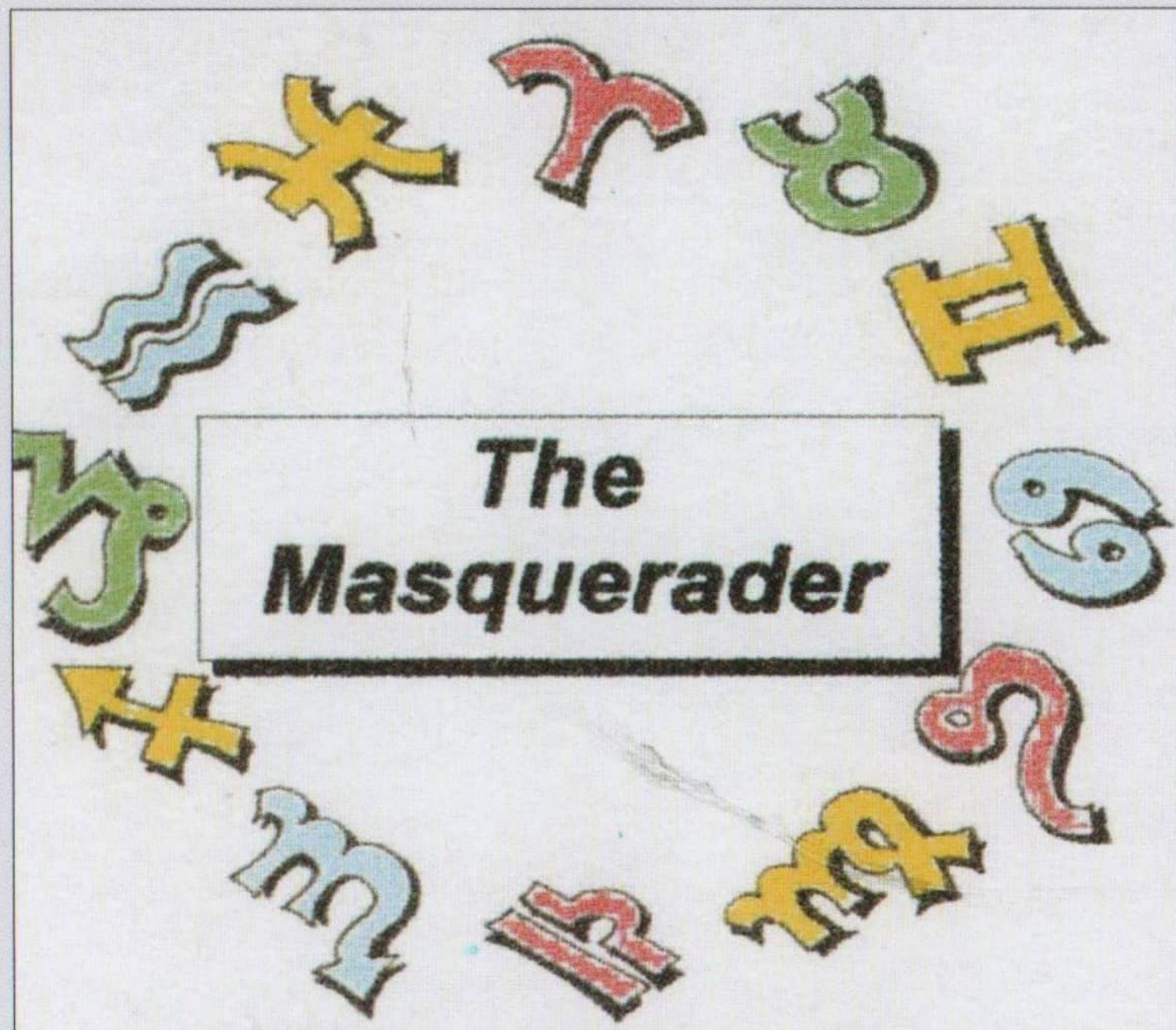
The Yorkshire Post July 7th 1965



TORY COUNCIL WILL DELIVER

I read with interest your report on the pleas of Nottingham's homosexual community not to turn them into an election issue. In fact, it is Labour's insistence on putting a high profile on any pressure group, no matter how crackpot or insidious, at the expense of those that form the backbone of Nottingham's citizenship that we as Conservatives condemn.

Nottingham Evening Post April 17th 1987.



FAMILIAR FIGURE IN SKIRTS PROVES TO BE A MAN

The sensation created in Nottingham by the arrest of a weirdly-dressed woman who for ten years has been a conspicuous figure in the city has been increased by the announcement that the prison authorities have discovered the supposed woman to be a man.

The prisoner was arrested on Wednesday by pure chance, when she happened to call at the house of a police sergeant collecting for a charitable and religious organisation. Papers in her possession described her as "Helen Phillips, Minister of the Christian Police Mission.

For years the prisoner has been an extraordinary figure, parading the streets covered with beads, rosaries, crucifixes and other bizarre ornaments. The deep copper hue of her face and hands, the police now state, is dye. She wore on her deformed left arm a man's boot laced up.

When she was remanded on Thursday, the prisoner said "she" was a Servian. When the police visited "her" home in Woolpack lane they found on the door sign the words "Miss Dr. Vien, F.R. H.S. Astronomy Recorder; Astrology; Clairvoyance.

In a tiny living room and attempt had been made to erect a sort of altar after the fashion of the Greek Church and a coloured picture of the Cross was surmounted by a holy ikon, the whole surrounded by numerous candles and oil lamps, one of which was apparently kept constantly burning.

It is stated Phillips professed to carry on some kind of healing, and about the place were books, papers and bottles, presumably used for this purpose. The prisoner will be brought up again charged with masquerading.

Nottingham Evening News April 10th 1915

"MISS" NOW "MR"

"This summons is inaccurate," said Mr. R. A. Young, a solicitor, at Nottingham yesterday, "as it names a witness as Mr. Tillitson, whereas it is a Miss Tillitson. She is sitting over there.

"I am not a lady," the witness said, and Mr Young apologised.

Interviewed afterwards, Mr Tillitson said that a change of sex came about at the age of 20, and about three years later he obtained official permission to change his name from Miss Tillitson to Mr. Clive Montague Tillitson.

News Chronicle Feb. 18th 1942.

WE NAME THE KILTY MAN

He runs club for gay frolics

(News of the World Feb. 16th 1992)



Pervert Mervyn Tacy loves a Gay Gordon. Or a Campbell. Or a McDonald. In fact ANY gay in a kilt.

For he organises kilt parties where partners are chosen by lottery to have a Highland fling.

By day bespectacled Tacy, 43, helps send out poll tax from Bassetlaw Council in Worksop. By night he sends out a newsletter containing crude porn to members of the International Kilt Appreciation Society, which he runs from his home in Retford, Notts.

And at weekends he is busy hosting parties for gays who want to show what Scotsmen keep under their kilts.

GAY GUYS TO "WED"

A gay couple have decided to tie the knot in a special ceremony this year. Steve Harrington and Glyn Ashton could soon become Steve and Glyn Harrington-Ashton if all goes according to plan for their "wedding".

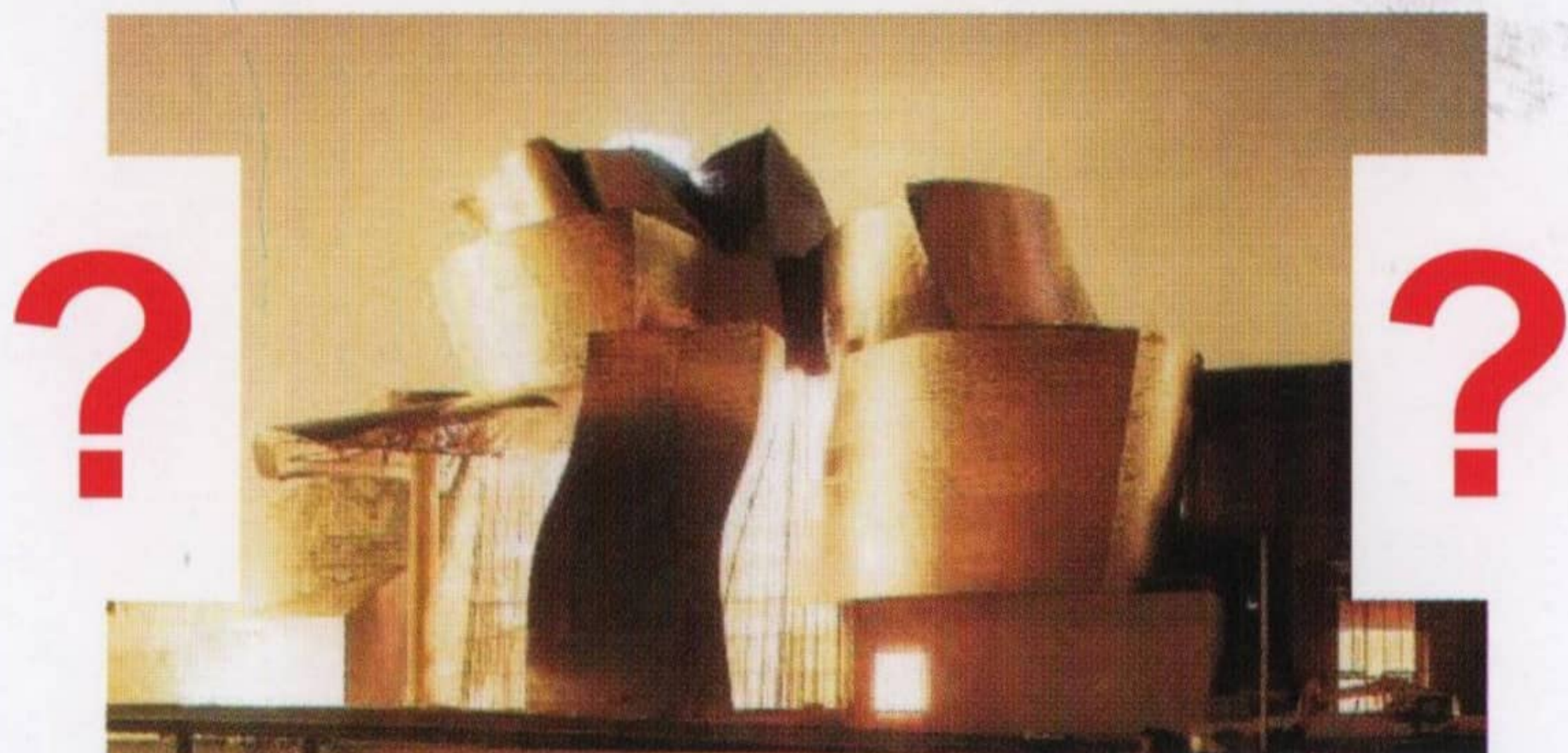
Gay Couples can be blessed in a church ceremony here and abroad. The Gay Christian Movement arranged up to 500 ceremonies every year.

For Steve and Glyn the nuptial blessing will take place either in Nottingham, or possibly America, where they are holidaying in the Autumn. The idea of exchanging rings brought howls of laughter from Steve who is currently launching a sideline as an entertainer. This Friday he can be seen at Burton Town Hall doing his impersonation of the outrageous Divine. Steve certainly won't be dressing up as Divine for the ceremony, said Glyn.

Burton Mail Feb. 18th 1987.

GAYS PLAN CENTRE

A national centre to promote gay and lesbian arts is planned for Nottingham. Organisers hope the centre will become a major tourist attraction - bringing in visitors from all over Britain, Europe and the United States.



They aim to develop a building in the city to provide workshops, studios, a museum and library, which will be a national and international information and arts resources centre, and provide up to 60 jobs.

Jacky King, spokesman for the National Centre for Lesbian and Gay Arts, said: "The visitors we would get would be mammoth; the benefits would be gigantic. People would come from all over the world because it is unique."

Nottingham Evening Post March 12th 1996.

TORY RAPS POLICY ON JOBS

Labour councillors in Nottingham were accused of distorting their priorities in the field of equal opportunities.

Coun. John Carter, Tory spokesman on the city council "watchdog" committee responsible for seeking out discrimination, said he feared Labour were giving preferential treatment to the homosexual and lesbian community.

"They may see themselves as deprived, but they are not on my priority list", said Coun. Carter.

"An equal opportunity policy has a great deal of merit. As a council, we must see where we are going wrong as employers. We must ensure we do not discriminate against anyone in connection with our council services.

"There are the disabled and the socially deprived who deserve a higher priority than the homosexual and lesbian community.

Nottingham Evening Post

January 19th 1985.

EQUAL SHARES

The £12,000-a-year job of equal opportunities officer for Nottingham should be shared by a lesbian and a homosexual, city councillors decided.

Yorkshire Post April 26th 1985

AWKWARD?

According to the Post, the new homosexual officer to be appointed at a salary of £12,000 plus will be responsible for stamping out "heterosexist attitudes" within the city council.

Does this mean that married male councillors will have to find boyfriends and the married lady councillors take up with one of the "wimmin"?

G. N. Bett

Nottingham Evening Post March 12th 1985

LESBIAN GHETTOS REPORT SLAMMED

A senior Conservative councillor today attacked a report urging the creation of lesbian "ghettos" in Nottingham. Coun. John Carter hit out at the report which suggests that lesbians might be housed in neighbouring homes.

"With lesbians and gays, it will make them more of a target than they are already. If they want to live normal lives, they don't want to live in Number One, Lesbian Avenue."

Nottingham Evening Post January 17th 1984.

GAY ADVICE

I wonder if readers have seen the Council's latest publication for homosexuals and lesbians? It's a leaflet bearing the advice "It's OK to be Gay".

It goes on to justify as acceptable what is behaviour of a most degenerate and immoral kind. There are lists of meeting places and even a contact address for "gay Catholics".

I expect it won't be long before attempts will be made to brainwash us into thinking it is acceptable for schoolchildren to be homosexual.

Nottingham Evening Post June 16th 1986



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