

ISSUE NO. 4

SEPTEMBER 1983

20p

GAY EAST MIDLANDS



Gay Health

News, Reviews,

...and more!



Dykes about town

Gays in Prison



LETTERS

Please try to keep your letters fairly short - we may have to edit if space is limited. Please give your name and address, even if it is not for publication.

Just a brief correction to your Peter Tatchell interview in the August issue. Your interviewer quoted me as saying that I had never been active in campaigning for gay rights. In fact, throughout the first half of the 1970's I was very much involved, firstly in the London Gay Liberation Front and, later, in the National Union of Students Gay Rights Campaign. Certainly, in the wake of the Bermondsey by-election, I intend to carry on the fight for gay rights within the Labour Party against those who would use our defeat in February 1983 as a pretext to renege on Labour's commitment to homosexual emancipation,
Yours fraternally,
Peter Tatchell
London.



I fear Peter Tatchell in his interview in GEM No 3 may be guilty of a little myth-building. I have faced personal intimidation for being openly gay, just as Peter has, so I know how unpleasant and unnerving it can be, but I get the distinct impression that each time Peter describes it its dimensions become a little more horrific. Exaggeration can be counter productive. The truth may be less dramatic but is usually more believable.

More specifically, in some respects Peter Tatchell gives important wrong impressions -

1) The old woman quoted as saying "This is the first time that a candidate has declared himself to be gay before an election" is wrong on both counts. The first openly gay candidate in an election in Britain that I have been able to trace is Sam Green in a local election in Durham. He was elected. In Parliamentary elections both Malcolm Greatbanks in the Westminster by-election and Maureen Colquhoun in Northampton North precede the Bermondsey by-election. In that election Peter consistently refused to admit he was gay and only did so after his defeat in an interview in 'The Guardian'.

2) "I got a lot of support from gay people during the campaign". The Labour Party organisers of the election campaign made it quite clear that openly gay helpers were not welcome. By contrast, Simon Hughes, Peter's Liberal opponent, who subsequently won, welcomed and encouraged openly gay supporters. Gay help was mobilised by Libgay with the result that many more gay people campaigned for Peter's main opponent than for Peter himself. The tactics they used reflected no credit on them but that is another matter.

Bernard Greaves,
LEICESTER

* This letter has been edited.

** In fairness to Peter Tatchell, his reference to being the first openly gay candidate referred to Bermondsey. That this was not made clear was due to my omission, not Peter Tatchell's distortion.

Colin Clews



CLASSIFIED ADS

From the October Issue of GEM we shall be publishing a Classified Ads section. We would envisage that these would fall mainly into 'Personal' or 'Accommodation' categories, although we will consider entries which may fall under other headings. Obviously, we have to be wary of falling foul of the laws relating to importuning, soliciting, etc., and for that reason we must reserve the right to refuse any ad. without explanation.

Classified ads will cost £1 for up to 15 words, plus 5p per word thereafter. Box numbers 50p extra. All ads must be pre-paid. All correspondence will be in the strictest confidence.



12 issues £4.50 (incl. p&p)

Please send one copy of Gay East Midlands monthly to:

Name

Address

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

NEWS

SWITCHBOARD GETS COUNCIL FUNDING

As reported in Issue One, Nottingham Gay Switchboard were undergoing a severe financial crisis following the collapse of Gay News and the refusal of grant applications by Nottingham University Students Karnival and Nottinghamshire County Council.

Determined not to be put off, however, Switchboard re-applied to the County Council in their new financial year, requesting funds for the installation of a phone line and answering machine, a filing cabinet for the safe-keeping of records, and a grant to enable them to increase their advertising in the local Press.

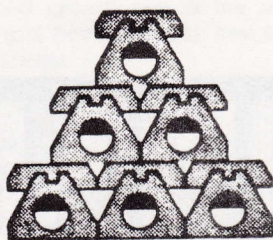
It subsequently transpired that the original application to the Social Services Department (which helps the Samaritans, Marriage Guidance, and Rape Crisis helplines) had been blocked at source by Edward Culham, Nottinghamshire's Director of Social Services, who had personally marked the Switchboard's application "NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT".

This was discovered by County Councillor Bob Howard who immediately took up the Switchboard case in his own Department (Leisure Services), the Social Services Department, the County Treasurer, the Chief Executive's Department, the County Council Legal Department, and the majority (Labour) group on the Council.

Because of this, Switchboard has received a cheque from the County Council to cover the cost of their own phone line, an answering machine, and safe storage for records.

Although this is the first time any gay organisation has received cash directly from the County Council (despite its Equal Opportunities Policy), there remains a sour taste. The final funding came from a discretionary fund for charitable purposes and not from Social Services.

Switchboard's joint co-ordinator, John Clarkson, told GEM that "...although we are delighted to receive official funding from the County Council, we are



disappointed that so much homophobia has been shown by individuals and committees of the council." He added "We must publicly record the support and efforts of Councillor Bob Howard, without whom I'm sure we wouldn't have got a penny."

Meanwhile, Switchboard reports a busier year than ever, with calls up by 25% on last year. Donations and offers of practical help are still needed (See Listings for contact details).



LOUGHBOROUGH GAY GROUP

A new gay social group is starting up in Loughborough, and would welcome enquiries from any gay women and men in the area who would like to join them. Les Bailey tells us that the group hopes to operate from the outset on 'non-separatist' lines and has the aim of encouraging gay women and men to build a local gay community in partnership. Meetings have been arranged at the Old Pack Horse Inn (see Diary), and further information can be obtained from Les on Loughborough 217763.



DISABLED GAYS SURVEY

GEMMA, the organisation for disabled lesbians, is currently putting together its Second National Disabled Gays Guide and is seeking information from disabled gays around the country. Individual questionnaires and survey forms for pubs, clubs, etc., are available from GEMMA, BM Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX. (Sae please). Donations and help with fundraising are also urgently needed.



'ABOUT MEN'

Channel Four is to run a three part series of programmes entitled 'About Men' on three consecutive Fridays this month. Filmed in Coventry, the programmes are centred around a discussion group of ten men who consider 'Men...and Women' (16th September), 'Men...and Children' (23rd September,) and 'Men...and Men' (30th September).

The final programme includes scenes from a Coventry gay disco and a 'confrontation'/discussion between two gay men and two of the more anti-gay men in the discussion group. All three will be broadcast on Channel Four at 10.30pm.



GAYS INTERNED

If you thought gays in internment camps were only a feature of Nazi Germany, think again. Gay people, along with other 'enemies of the State' are still interned in such camps in Chile - victims of the military dictatorship which seized power 10 years ago. What is worse is the fact that British firms and the British Government supply the military regime with arms and billions of pounds in loans.

On 11th September in London a national demonstration takes place, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the seizure of power and calling for a return to democracy. British gays wishing to show support for their Chilean counterparts should contact the Chile Solidarity Campaign on - 01-272 4298 for details of the demonstration and transport from the Midlands.

PERSONAL VIEW

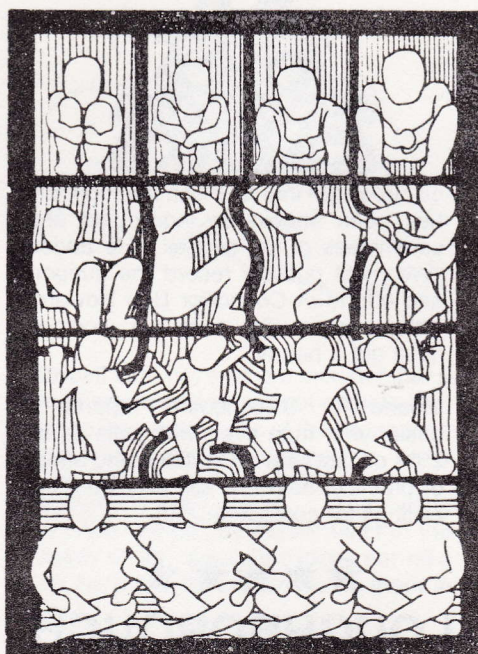
Life 'inside' is not particularly pleasant at the best of times. For gay prisoners the experience is usually a lot worse. Below, a gay man writes about his time in prison.

As the door closes on you as you enter the inside world of prison institutional life you can only wonder what is next. But there is nothing. Only the loneliness, pain, insecurity, and degradation. Yet, through all of this, the humiliation, the hate, and the feelings one cannot put into words, there is love. Love for one another. Mainly that love is friendship but, quite often, you walk into, or hear of, yet another love - the love from one man to another - gay love.

Depending on the status of your crime or sentence, or simply whether you're hard or not dictates what happens to you, and that is what I want to try to explain. Many gays end up within the walls of prison and are afraid of what will happen to them.

Firstly, remember you are what you are and that no one has the right to judge you for that. But they do. They will try so often to pull you down physically and mentally. Only you yourself can determine if they are right or wrong and whether or not you should change, give in, and bow down to their dictatorship, becoming an oppressed slave to what they call normality.

GAYS IN PRISON



If you let this happen to you, not only are you subjected to a life of misery for your sexual preference and beliefs but your masters and overlords will pick on you for anything they can. They will, but only if you let them.

Now, if you are a lifer doing a bit of bird (a long sentence) then the chances are that you will be left alone by both screws and cons alike. The same applies if you're known for your use of violence. People become wary of you and only a few, if any, will have a go.

Then there are the type like me. I just go about minding my own business as anyone else would do, being careful as to who I make passes at, yet not hiding who or what I am. But making sure I don't flaunt it. In other words, treat them as you would have them treat you. For me, this has always worked, or at least since I applied it to my criminal institution life, which started with Borstal in 1971.

There are two other ways to go about your life whilst protecting yourself from possible harm whilst still being open and staying 'out'. One is to become a 'raving queen', screaming and camping it up to the fun of all and at your expense. You must be able to take all the ridicule and butts of all jokes.

As a last resort, you can become a protected prisoner on rule 43. Failing all of this you can deny and hope no-one finds out what you are.

But, if you have any sense at all, you will stay out of prison and remember, I who write this have both experience and knowledge of what I'm talking about. I have seen the atrocities of prison life, not just for us gays but for everyone.

Paul Clifford

* This article has been edited.

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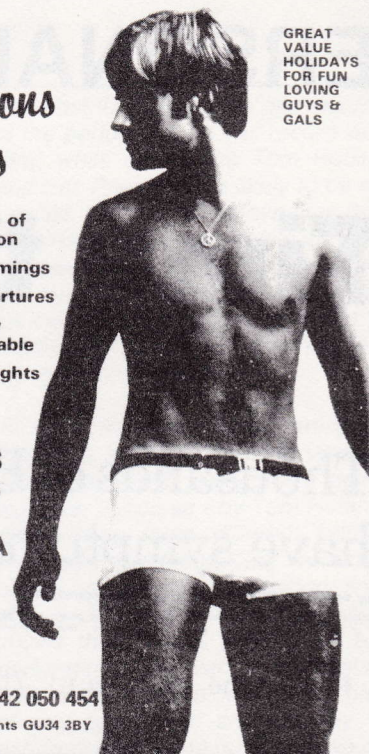
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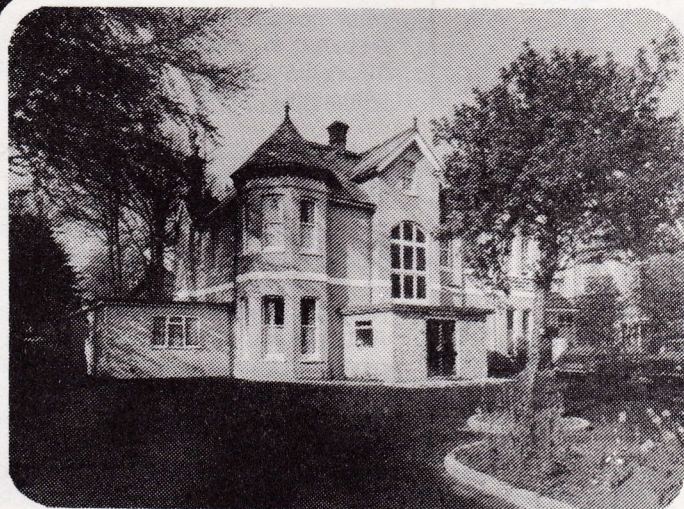
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PERSONAL VIEW

Time to start talking?

Thousands of British gays have symptoms of AIDS

by ANNABEL FERRIMAN, Health Correspondent

THOUSANDS of gay men - But about half of that group more than 15 partners a month - from New York, writing in the

From 'The Observer' 7th August 1983

I make no apologies for returning to the subject of AIDS for the third time in four issues - indeed, I hope we shall continue to do so in future. I'm afraid that I'm not one of those people who believe that simply talking about it a lot engenders panic. Obviously, it depends a lot of *what* you actually talk about but I firmly believe that *informed* discussion on this particular topic will ultimately save us from some of the more unpleasant consequences which have appeared in the States.

I don't believe that it's too early to discuss our attitudes and approaches to AIDS just because we 'only' have 14 cases confirmed in the UK. Quite the reverse, AIDS is here, (although not, I feel, amongst *thousands* of us, as The Observer suggests) and we need to decide how we adapt to that fact.

I'm not suggesting that we all adopt a particular lifestyle - 'promiscuity', monogamy, or whatever. More importantly, I feel that we all need to make our own decisions on the basis of the fullest possible information. If we choose not to keep up with the facts - because it's too horrible to think about, because it won't happen to me anyway, or because we just don't want to know - then we risk falling into the trap which so many American men have fallen into. Ultimately, we do respond by panicking and we end up isolated, anxious, and self-oppressed. There are more than enough people around already who are willing to kick us, let's not do it for them.

I have a terrible feeling that, once the first AIDS case is reported in this area, gay men will, metaphorically speaking, take to the hills. After all, who wants to catch an incurable disease? And catch it we surely will, it's something to do



Some US bath houses have already closed. Others are producing ads like the one above, in an attempt to educate their clientele about the transmission of AIDS.

with 'promiscuity' isn't it? Cruising and cottaging and that kind of thing. Or is it? And thousands of gay men in this country may already have AIDS anyway. Or have they?

In fact, we don't really know but we seem to swallow the media hysteria as easily as Mary Whitehouse might.

The Observer was wrong to suggest that thousands of gay men have symptoms of AIDS, they have no evidence to suggest that. The suppression of the immune system which was found in less than 5 men (and was what 'The Observer' based its article on) can be caused by lots of things and is in no way evidence that AIDS is present. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that promiscuity *causes* AIDS, although it may certainly increase the chance of catching it.

People who have been working on AIDS research for years still don't know what causes it, so why are we so prepared to accept the first ridiculous theory that comes to the attention of the homophobic media?

In the United States the AIDS panic has had a devastating effect on gay life - and not just people with AIDS. The New Right, such as the Moral Majority, are having a field day proclaiming AIDS to be God's judgement on homosexuals. Hospital workers are refusing to handle AIDS patients and the media persists in reporting 'the gay plague'. Business has fallen and bath houses are closing down because people won't use them for fear of catching AIDS. Gay organisations are reporting that more gay people are choosing to isolate themselves at home rather than risk contracting AIDS.

Yet surely we can get ourselves organised enough to avoid the same things happening here. The one good thing to come out of the AIDS scare is that a lot of the gay community is pulling together to support each other, and

that's what we need to emulate. Despite the tragedies of those who have died, the isolation of those gay men who literally fear for their lives, and the anti-gay hysteria which the Moral Majority and their kind have whipped up, a lot of positive things are happening.

For example, there is support from and for 'People With AIDS', a lot of information is available, and people now have some idea of what constitutes 'safe sex' (see illustrations this page).

We need to tune into that positively. By educating ourselves about AIDS now we can learn from the American experience and prevent the bad things and encourage the good. We must not accept easy generalisations about AIDS or about ourselves. By coming to terms with the prospect of AIDS we can support, rather than isolate, each other and we can make our own decisions about our lifestyles.

Colin Clews

● Further information on AIDS is presented in The Advocate Guide to Gay Health. See also listing for Terrence Higgins Memorial Fund.



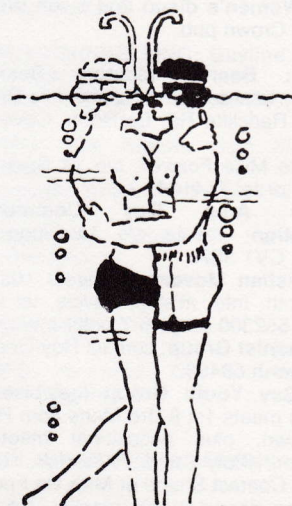
BE CREATIVE—Sensual massage, nipple play, verbal games, role playing, toys, cuddling, erotic touching, costumes, brunch, phone sex, mirrors, shopping, uniforms, fantasies use your imagination!!!

Some of the illustrations from the leaflet 'Can We Talk?', produced by the San Francisco Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club. The leaflet is based on the most recent theories that AIDS is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluids and lists a number of options for 'safe sex' including mutual masturbation, hugging, fantasies, and 'verbal games'. We hope to publish further details from the leaflet at a later date.



DEEP KISSING MINIMAL RISK

If neither person has open cuts or sores of the mouth, lips, or tongue, kissing probably represents little risk.



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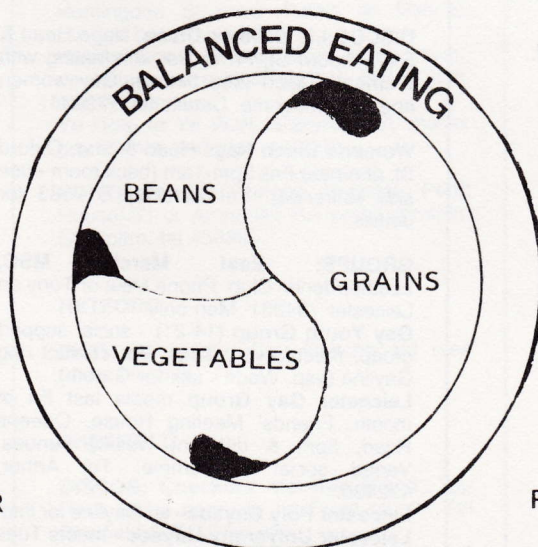
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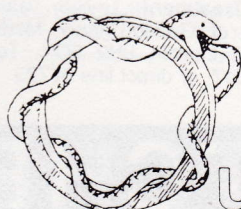
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gay info gay info gay info gay info gay info

BOSTON

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

COVENTRY

DISCO: Women's disco 2nd & 4th Weds, Rose and Crown pub.

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) meets 1st & 3rd Mons 8pm Rose and Crown, plus occasional meetings Lanchester Poly and Warwick Univ. Gaysocs. Contact Shane or Mick 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.

Women's Group meets weekly; contact Pat via Friend.

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

PUBS: Rose & Crown, High St, Disco bar at rear of pub.

Waters Wine Bar, Broadgate (Glass & Candle Room). Closed Suns. Mixed.

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

DERBY

CLUB: Pavilion, 123 London Road, Shardlow (7 miles). Sats only, 8-11pm. Tel. Derby 792581. Men only.

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.



GAINSBOROUGH

PUB: Tiger Inn, Lord St. Mixed.

LEICESTER

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

DISCOS: Liz Bailey's Disco, Nags Head & Star, Oxford St, Fri or Sat, alternating with Women's Disco (see below). Gay women and men welcome. Details tel. 772241.

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 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 Arthur, 432430.

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

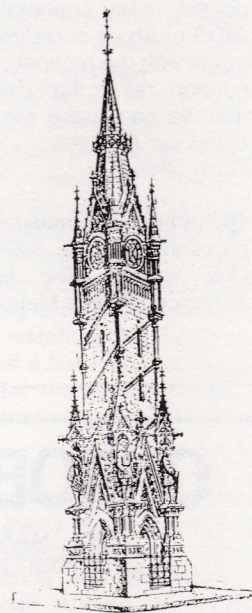
Lesbian Group - support/discussion group meets alternate Fris. For details tel Hinckley 617583 or Gayline.

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

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.



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.

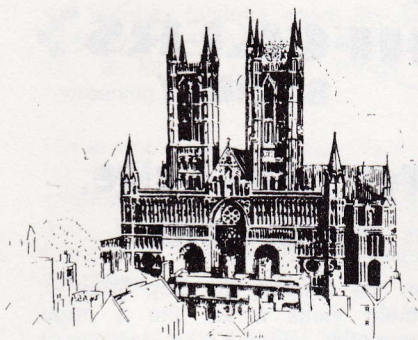
Lincoln Women's Group meets 3rd Fri each month. Tel Val, 41591, or Karen/Caroline, 40901.

INFO: Lincoln Gay Switchboard tel 22458 Wed 6-10pm & Sun 4.30-6.30pm or write PC Box 12, Lincoln LN5 7PE.

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

NATIONAL GAY SWITCHBO

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LOUGHBOROUGH

GROUP: Loughborough Gay Group - contact Les Bailey, tel 217763, for information.

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

PUB: Three Crowns, Nottingham Road, Lounge Bar weds only, 8-10.30, exclusively gay.

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 or Andrew 598471.

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.

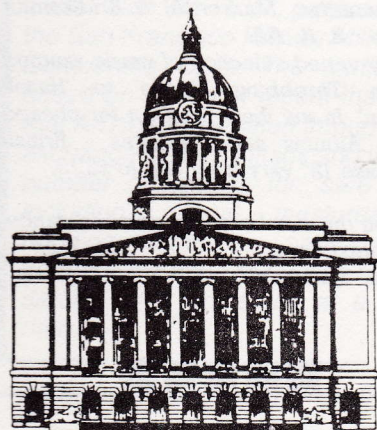
Nottingham Gay Social Group (NOGSOG) meets 2/3 times weekly. Write c/o CVS, 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottm, or tel Peter 861521, Tim 602894, David 216447 or via Gay Switchboard.

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 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), Lounge bars, mixed.

Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way, downstairs 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

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.

PUB: Cossack Hotel, Howard St.

STOKE ON TRENT

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

GROUP: Potteries Gay Community Association. Meets 1st Mon in month at CVS, Cannon St, Hanley. Tel Peter, Kidsgrove 5270.

INFO/COUNSELLING: Gayline 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

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 01-998 1742 ext 666 (serious personal enquiries only).

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

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

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

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

Sequel (publication for isolated gay women): write BM Sequel, London WC1N 3XX.

Terence Higgins Memorial Trust, 38a Grenada House, Gill St, London E14 8AD, tel 01-987 7876 (office hours).

ARD 01-837 7324 24 HOURS

REVIEW

Music

I'm sorry, no record reviews as such this time - but here are a couple of predictions for you:

● **Tee Roy Morris** - 'I Heard it through the Grapevine' - a fabulous new version of the Gladys Knight/Marvin Gaye hit (Gay Disco Top Ten).

● **'Flashdance' Soundtrack Album.** Best tracks: Imagination - Laura Brannigan; Romeo - Donna Summer; Maniac - Michael Sembello. Well worth the money and the film's not bad either!

● **Shakatak** - 'If You Could See Me Now'. Definitely another chart-topper with wonderful vocals including Norma Lewis (National Top 20).

Many people ask me where to go for records in Nottingham, so here's a guide as to where to shop for what.

Codes: **I** = Import 12"

B = British 7" - 12"

A = Albums

A2 = Import Albums

Arcade Records, West End Arcade - **I, B, A, A2.**

Good Selection of British and Import material, this shop specialising in Disco, Funk, Soul, Electro. Usually a good selection of Gay Disco available - also records not found on the shelf can be ordered.

H.M.V., Broadmarsh Centre - **B, A.**

Very trendy - mostly Chart and 'Indie Chart' 7", 12" and albums. Ideal listening for budding young Futurists and especially 'Gary's and Tracey's' (pet names for Chelsea Girl/Top Man Clones!)

Revolver, Lister gate - **B, A, A2.**

Record supermarket, discount store. they stock everything for good family entertainment, from Vera Lynn to Duran-Duran. Not a bad selection of 12" singles and Albums at competitive prices. Also very good video club.

Selectadisc, Market St. & Bridlesmith Gate - **B, A, A2.**

Very varied selection of music ranging from 'Throbbing Gristle' to 'Hazell Dean'. In my view the best for cheapo 12", Albums and Cassettes - British release 12" vary from 99p to £2.19.

Hope this has been of some assistance. Till next time, Love, 'Queenie'.



CHECKERS' SOCIETY

Top Rank Suite, Sheffield.

From the outside, the Top Rank in Sheffield looks a lot like a large concrete box - not the most inspiring of sights for newcomers. Approaching the building, visitors arriving for the Checkers Society disco are greeted by a large 'Private Party' notice prominently displayed outside the main door. Once inside, however, the atmosphere is infinitely more welcoming and the scene is set for a really good night's entertainment. The dance hall is typically Top Rank - very large with an enormous balcony suspended above the dance floor - but the size doesn't spoil the atmosphere. Careful use of lighting gives the areas off the dance floor a relaxed, spacious feel, leaving plenty of room for cruising, chatting, or just watching the dancers. With two bars and a fast food bar, there didn't seem to be the almighty crush which characterises so many pubs and clubs.

I was very impressed with the disco, particularly the lasers which I thought were used very effectively, but also the other disco lighting and the smoke effects. The music catered for most tastes, from standard gay disco classics like 'So Many Men...' through to more general dance tracks like Bowie and Human League. The little smoochy session shortly before the end was also a nice touch.

Given the size of the place, it's clear that it takes a lot of people to fill it. When I spoke to Checkers' Secretary Mick Slack and Liaison Secretary (!) Derek Robinson they told me that the average attendance is around 700 men and women. The night we were there we were told that 950 people had passed through the doors.

Gays often travel quite a distance to get there, coming from all over the East Midlands as well as places like Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and even Middlesbrough. The discos are aimed at men and women and it was good to see an equal number of women and men enjoying themselves together. Regular stalls from Lesbian Line and Clone Zone are there to cater for both groups.

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REVIEW

The monthly discos are organised by the Checkers Society - a breakaway group from Sheffield CHE - in an attempt to raise funds for a local gay community centre. The music is often supplemented by events such as raffles, competitions, and guest artists (like Laura Pallas on September 2nd) and the size and mixture of the crowd must be testimony to its success. Checkers is well worth a visit - every town should have one.

For further details of Checkers discos telephone (0742) 307142 after 6p.m. or (0742) 680039 7.30-9.30p.m. Thurs/Fri, or see GEM Diary.

Record Review:

'Coming Out - Ready or Not'

GAYN Records is a new gay record label which aims to bring gay and lesbian musicians to a wider audience. Its first release, **Coming Out - Ready or Not**, appropriately enough is a live recording of a benefit concert for Lesbian Line and London Gay Switchboard, given at the Albany Empire, Deptford, in December 1982.


For most 'Disco bunnies' like me, many of the performers on this record will be new, while others like Tom Robinson and Eric Presland are likely to be more familiar. I must say I enjoyed the record enormously, but what really impressed me were the lyrics. The songs express gay sentiments and gay experiences; it's the content of the lyrics, rather than the style of the music, that makes this an important album.

To take the best known artists first, there's a splendid acoustic version of 'War Baby' - later to become a big chart success, of course - by Tom Robinson. It's a song quite different from the legendary 'Glad to be Gay' (also on the album as the by now obligatory finale), and is delivered with a strength that shows that Tom is probably a better performer than ever. Eric Presland's 'We Were In There' is a potted history of gay oppression and closetry - an exhortation to come out if only we dare. I've heard Eric's voice described as many things (!) - but to my mind it's like wine, better as it gets older. What Eric may lack in vocal range he certainly makes up for in style and conviction.

The women performers are Rose Collis, Joanne Richler and Carol Uszkurat. I particularly like Rose's 'It's Only a Phase', a wry story about the stages of social disapproval experienced in growing up as a lesbian. 'What's it like to be a Dyke', by Carol Uszkurat, is a send-up of the infuriating 'heterosexual curiosity' that lesbians have to endure: 'Have you got a plastic cock - do you play with it a lot?'

The other performers are Toby Kettle, Richard Coles, Mark Bunyan and Chris Ransome. Chris's song 'Advertisements for Heterosexuality' summed up for me many of the reasons for starting a gay record label. It's a caustic comment on the popular music we hear every day: 'Turn on the radio, Turn on the TV, Read between the lines a bit and you're sure to see - advertisements for heterosexuality. It's not fiction - it's propaganda'. This is something that those of us who use the gay scene a lot could well remember. Most of the music we hear is hopelessly overlaid with heterosexual values: '...stick to love and boy-meets-girl if you want to be commercial! It's not entertainment - it's propaganda.' And if you don't believe that, just consider why for instance Elton John's record sales took a dive after he admitted being bisexual.

Coming Out - Ready or Not can be obtained by mail order form GAYN Records, 89 Paulet Road, London SE5. Price: £4.50 inc. p&p.



coming out - ready or not

13 great tracks

9 great lesbian and gay performers

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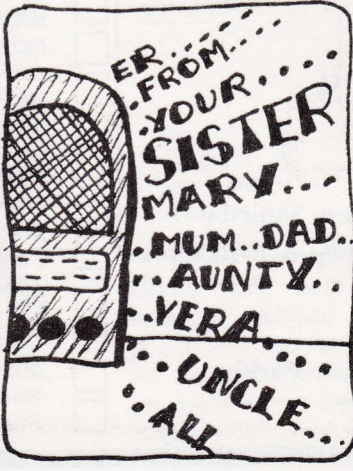
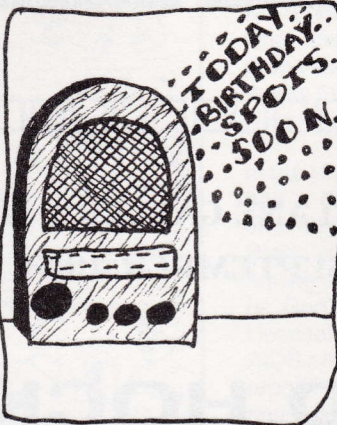
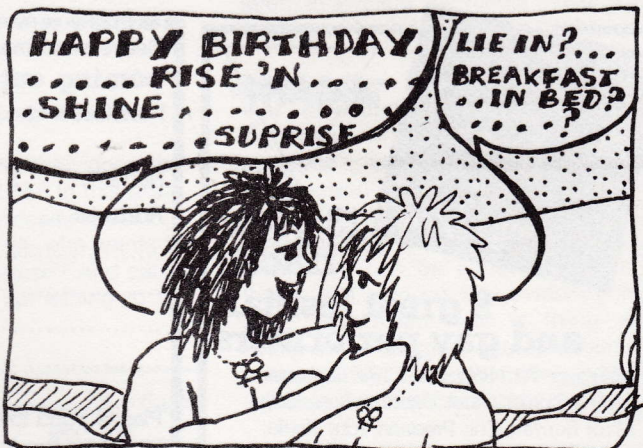
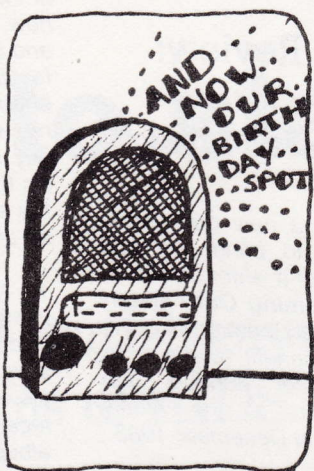
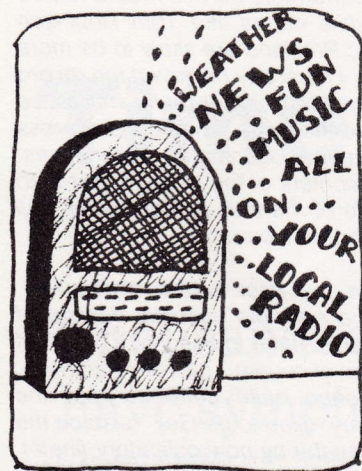
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ABOUT TOWN by Cathy White



REVIEW

'Part Two' Playlist

- 1) HAZELL DEAN - Searchin'
- 2) PAMELA STANLEY - I don't wanna talk about it
- 3) LIME - Guilty, Angel Eyes
- 4) EARLENE BENTLEY - When the Boys come to Town
- 5) MICHAEL SEMBELLO - Maniac
- 6) MIQUEL BROWN - So Many Men
- 7) HERBIE HANCOCK - Rock it
- 8) FREEZE - I, O, U.
- 9) IRENE CARA - Flashdance
- 10) SYLVESTER - You make me feel (mighty real)
- 11) SHALAMAR - Dead Giveaway
- 12) THE O'JAYS - Put our Heads together
- 13) CLUB HOUSE - Do it again/ Billie Jean
- 14) TEE ROY MORRIS - I Heard it through the Grapevine
- 15) MAGDA LAYNA - When will I see you again
- 16) SYLVESTER - Band of Gold
- 17) DONNA SUMMER - She works hard for the Money
- 18) INDIA - Stay with Me
- 19) MENACE - Memory
- 20) RICHARD JON SMITH - She's the Master (of the game)

This list is compiled on the basis of dancefloor reaction at Part Two Club, Nottingham.

Film: 'FLASHDANCE'

God knows, I tried to find something good to say about this film but I'm afraid it gets my award for the most boring film of the year.

Very basically, it's the story of a lively young dancer's attempts to get into a very conservative ballet school. Wrapped around that is the old 'boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl again' theme.

I found the whole film incredibly frustrating. Not just because of the shallowness of the characters or the absence of a decent story line, but also because the dance sequences were rarely shown in their entirety so we couldn't even watch that, or get into the music. The only exception to that was Irene Cara's "What a Feeling". The film tries desperately to cash in on the success of the much livelier 'Fame' but fails miserably.

Cecil B. De Mille.

The book is a lot more than a simple list of symptoms of the most common gay afflictions. Through its lively and often anecdotal format it details causes, symptoms, and treatment of many conditions from acne scars through to vaginal yeast. But, at least for me, its appeal lies in its consideration of the wider issues involved in staying healthy (prevention being better than cure). The book looks at mental as well as physical wellbeing, raising issues like our attitudes towards ageing, how others see us, and, most importantly, how we see ourselves.

Another point in its favour is its detailed and informed consideration of our various lifestyles - from alcohol and drug use to sexual activity - without feeling the need to moralise. That's not to say that it doesn't offer the occasional warning about certain practices - fistfucking doesn't come off too well, for example. But, at a time when others are only too keen to pass judgement on us or our lifestyles, this book is a valuable asset.

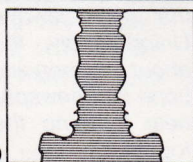
BOOK

The Advocate Guide to Gay Health - R.D.Fenwick
(Alyson Publications/Gay Men's Press)

Given the current panic surrounding AIDS, recent publicity about herpes, and the continuing high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, this new health guide will surely be a very welcome addition to the bookshelves of most gay people.

'The Advocate Guide to Gay Health' is certainly the first book I've seen devoted to gay health and makes up for the sad lack of information in the past. The worst thing you can say about it is that it's bloody hard to find outside London. I know copies are available at Blackthorn Books in Leicester, Mushroom Bookshop in Nottingham, and Wedge Bookshop in Coventry, otherwise it's mail order from Gay Men's Press, PO Box 247, LONDON N15 6RW (£3.75p inc. p&p)
Colin Clews

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Michael Leonard Changing

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REVIEW

THE WHITE PAPER by JEAN COCTEAU (Brilliance Books, £1.95)

For anyone who thinks that 'out' gay literature is the invention of modern times, Jean Cocteau's *The White Paper* may come as a surprise. Published originally in 1928, Cocteau's short story provides us with a fascinating insight into the life of a young gay man in the 1920's.

We are then presented with a relatively straightforward story, a tragic sequence of events which leads the unnamed narrator eventually to contemplate suicide. What makes the narrative interesting is the great economy of style, which gives us the bare outlines of the story in a series of episodes which leave character development to a minimum and yet have a strong homoerotic flavour.

Jean Cocteau was undoubtedly one of the most versatile talents this century. Quite apart from major works in poetry, prose and theatre, he also worked with the likes of Picasso in the visual arts, and in music with Satie. He directed film and was also a talented draughtsman and illustrator; this edition of *The White Paper* contains woodcut illustrations by Cocteau.

In the social world in which he moved, homosexuality was widespread and unremarkable. His own gayness was never a 'problem' as such, although many of his personal relationships were, and these centred usually on much younger men (a theme not uncommon today and one which certainly runs through the book). *The White Paper* opens boldly (and perhaps autobiographically): 'As far back as I can remember, and even at the age when the mind still has no power over the senses, I find traces of my love for boys'.

A principal theme of the work is guilt and how this destroys our potential for happiness. It becomes clear immediately that Cocteau traces guilt back to the earliest stirrings of gay feelings, but balances this by indicating the social pressures on gay people at that time. 'My misfortunes are due to a society which condemns anything out of the ordinary as a crime and forces us to reform our natural inclinations.' Cocteau reinforces this view in the closing pages of the work: 'In exiling

BOOKS



myself I am not exiling a monster, but a man whom society will not allow to live, since it considers one of the mysterious cogs in God's masterpiece to be a

mistake.' And again: '...The world accepts dangerous experiments in the realm of art, because it does not take art seriously; but it condemns them in life.'

Before we get to this point we are treated to a series of erotic adventures from childhood infatuation, through brief encounters, to traumatic relationships. Cocteau's work is people with beautiful schoolboys, butch sailors and youthful adventurers, taking in erotic encounters at a local bath-house en route. This is interspersed with comments which add a wry, some might say cynical, perspective to the gay scene at the time. 'I had to return to Toulon. It would be tedious to describe that "Sodom" where the fire of Heaven falls without danger, striking by means of caressing sunshine.Men in love with masculine beauty come from all corners of the globe to admire the sailors who walk about idly, alone or in groups, respond to glances with a smile and never refuse an offer of love.'

It is easy to see why Cocteau is still relevant - so much on the modern gay scene hasn't really changed.

The book ends with an open demand for total acceptance of natural inclination and chosen lifestyle. '....I will not agree to be tolerated. This damages my love of love and of liberty'.

Nigel Leach

THE BEAUTY QUEEN

In an age when the gay scene is more open than it's ever been, many people still find it difficult to come out. Perhaps it's for fear of reprisals from family and friends or maybe it's the general hassle from a frequently anti-gay society.

Patricia Nell Warren's book *The Beauty Queen* tells the story of a former beauty queen running for Governor of New York who plants fear and hatred into the hearts of the 'straights' in the City - which eventually leads to the murder of a gay cop called Danny. Jeannie's homophobic attitudes (not a million miles away from Anita Bryant - America's *Mary Whitehouse*!) seem to stem from her childhood.

But while her anti-gay campaign is running, little does she realise that her father is struggling to find his way out of the closet to be with his lover, a man he's been having a relationship with for years. He even finances Jeannie's campaign through fear of her realising why he doesn't want to get involved.

Patricia Neil Warren's previous novels, *The Fancy Dancer* and *The Front Runner* have focused in particular on gay male relationships. In *The Beauty Queen* she brings gay men and women together on the streets and in their homes to fight the persecution of gay people by moral bigots. Despite this, towards the end of the novel, when Bill (Jeannie's father) has just about decided it's time he came out (helped by a new-found lesbian friend), he makes this statement: "It's a shame that we're always two worlds apart". Unfortunately, this can still be said about gay men and women today. I only hope that newspapers like this one can help to bring the two worlds closer together.

The Beauty Queen is very good reading, and I found I could relate more to this book than to the other two of hers I've read. Yet, *The Fancy Dancer* and *The Front Runner* are both excellent novels - in fact *The Front Runner* is the first book that I can honestly say has ever made me cry. (Mind you, I always was a soppy queen!!)

Bob Emerton

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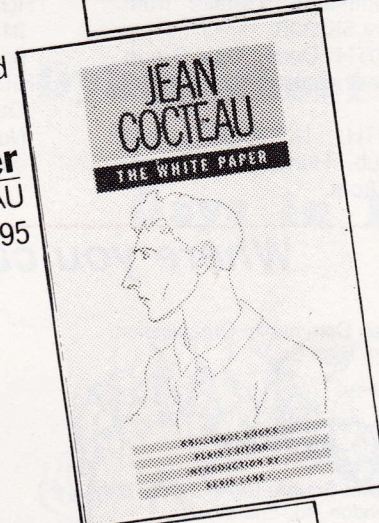
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BRILLIANCE BOOKS

DIARY September 1983

THURSDAY 1ST: Nottingham Gay Social Group (NOGSOG) meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 2ND: 'Checkers' monthly Disco, Top Rank Suite, Sheffield. Tel (0742) 307142 for details.

SATURDAY 3RD: Lincoln Gay Group Disco, Golden Eagle, 8pm-midnight.

SUNDAY 4TH: Leicester Gay group trip to Twycross Zoo. Details from Arthur, Leicester 432430.

MONDAY 5TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

TUESDAY 6TH: NOGSOG Video & Board Games evening, Cocktail bar, Part Two Club, Nottingham, 8pm.

THURSDAY 8TH: Loughborough Gay Group meet, Old Pack Horse Inn, Woodgate, 8pm (upstairs bar).

THURSDAY 8TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 9TH: Derby Gay Group trip to Skegness. Details from Jeff, tel 664234.

SATURDAY 10TH: Boston CHE/Gay Group Disco, Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston, 8pm.

SATURDAY 10TH: Coventry Gay Christian Movement Group. Informal social evening with members of National Committee. Details from Phil, Coventry 552300.

SATURDAY 10TH: Derby Gay Group trip to Skegness. Details from Jeff, tel 664234.

MONDAY 12TH: NOGSOG meet Foresters Pub, Huntingdon Street, Nottingham, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 14TH: Nottingham CHE meeting. Contact Mike, tel 55196, or Andrew, tel 598471.

THURSDAY 15TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 16TH: Derby Gay Group meet Green Lane Gallery, 8.30pm.

FRIDAY 16TH: G.E.M. COPY DEADLINE

SATURDAY 17TH: Lincoln Gay group Disco, Golden Eagle, 8pm-midnight.

SATURDAY 17TH: Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation coach trip to Hero's Club, Manchester. SAE for details (see 'Gay Info' pages for address).

MONDAY 19TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

TUESDAY 20TH: Lincoln Gay Group presents the film 'Desperate Living', Golden Eagle, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 21ST: Labour Campaign for Gay Rights meeting, Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham, 7.30pm. Tel Chris Richardson, Nottm 780124 for details.

THURSDAY 22ND: Loughborough Gay Group Disco, Old Pack Horse Inn, Woodgate, 8pm (upstairs bar).

THURSDAY 22ND: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 23RD to Sunday 25th: Gay Outdoor Club camping weekend, North Norfolk Coast. Members only; details from John, Leicester 26617.

FRIDAY 23RD: Derby Gay Group meet, Green Lane Gallery, 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 24TH: Joint Derby & Leicester Gay Group trip to Chatsworth and Matlock. Members of Boston, Lincoln & Nottingham Groups welcome also. Details from Jeff, Derby 664234 or Arthur, Leicester 432430.

SATURDAY 24TH: Bassetlaw Gaylink Disco, New Labour Hall, Retford (town centre, next to Co-op car park), 8.30pm (Note - no admission after 10.30pm). Gay women and men welcome.

MONDAY 26TH: NOGSOG meet Foresters Pub, Huntingdon Street, Nottingham, 8pm.

THURSDAY 29TH: Derby Gay Group discussion meeting, 7-11pm. Tel Jeff, Derby 664234.

THURSDAY 29TH: Loughborough Gay Group meet, Old Pack Horse Inn Woodgate, 8pm (upstairs bar).

THURSDAY 29TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 30TH: Leicester Gay Group Poetry evening - read you own favourites from the Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse. Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road, 8pm.

FRIDAY 30TH: Channel Four TV, 10.30pm., 'Men...and Men', programme about homosexuality featuring gays in Coventry.

Where you can buy 'Gay East Midlands'

COVENTRY

Coventry Area gay Community Organisation.
Wedge Bookshop, High St.

DERBY

Forum Bookshop, Abbey St.
Green Lane Gallery, Green Lane.
News Kiosk, Albert St.
News Stand, Market Square (open 1-7pm only).
Pavilion Club, London Rd, Shardlow.

LEAMINGTON SPA

The Other Branch Bookshop, 12 Gloucester St.

LEICESTER

Blackthorn Books, 70 High St.
Karia Newsagents, London Rd (opposite Station).
Spots Club, St. James' St.
Three Cranes Hotel, Humberstone Gate.

LINCOLN

Baldwin & Brown, Newsagents, High St.
Jems Newsagents, St. Mary's St.
Lincoln CHE/Gay Group (at meetings and Discos - see Diary).

LONDON

Compendium Books, 234 Camden High St, NW1.
Gay's The Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont St. WC1.

LOUGHBOROUGH

Students' Union Shop, Union Building, Ashby Rd.

MANSFIELD

White Hart Disco (see 'Gay Info' pages).

NOTTINGHAM

Briddocks Newsagents, Upper Parliament St.
Flanegans Newsagents, 32 Shakespeare St.
Foresters' Arms Pub, Glasshouse St.
Keith Price Newsagents, Goldsmith St.
Kiosk, Chapel Bar Subway.
Kiosk, Mount St. Subway
Kiosk, Theatre Royal Subway.
Lesbian Link (see 'Gay Info' pages).
Midland Group, Carlton St.
Mushroom Bookshop, Heathcoat St.
Ouroboros Wholefood Collective, 37A Mansfield Rd.
Part Two Club, Robert House, 5-13 Canal St.
Spurgeons Newsagents, Manvers St.
Ye Hole in Ye Wall pub, Sherwood St.
118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Rd.

STOKE ON TRENT

Potteries Gay Community Association (see 'Gay Info' pages).

If you know of other outlets which will, or may, stock G.E.M., please let us know.