

Birmingham Centre wins rate relief

The lesbian and gay community centre in Birmingham's Corporation Street was awarded a 25 per cent reduction in rates by Birmingham City Council's Finance & Management Committee, despite Conservative opposition.

The council has discretionary power to grant rates relief in bodies whose main objects are charitable, philanthropic or religious, concerned with education, social welfare, science or the fine arts and Social Services Director Adrienne Jones reported that the centre 'obviously has a social welfare and should be eligible'. However, the City Solicitor, William Pitt said that though the matter is not free from doubt

he did not believe the group were entitled to relief. Proposing that a reduction should be awarded at a meeting of the City Council's Finance & Management Committee, Labour Councillor Albert Bore expressed surprise at the Solicitor's conclusion and said it would be very discriminatory of the committee to decide otherwise. Tony opposition leader Cllr Neville Bosworth claimed the centre was 'quite alien to social welfare, taking into account the community as a whole', while Labour Cllr Chris Kirk told the committee he thought it disturbing that, in 1985, prejudice against homosexuals was apparently regarded as socially acceptable. The reduction was approved.

ACCOMMODATION

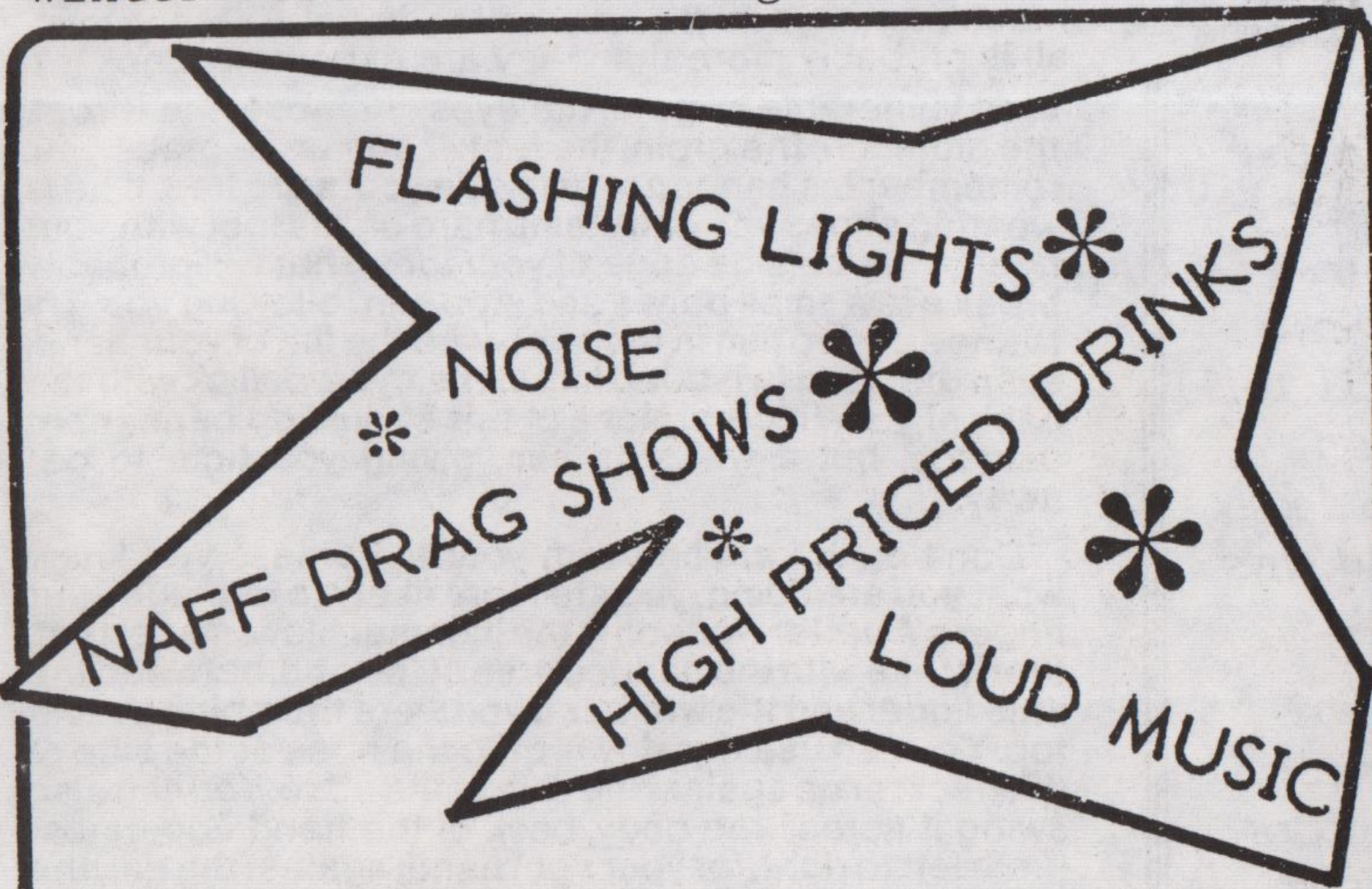
Sherwood - two people to share house in Sherwood. Large double, £25 p.w. single, £15 p.w. includes bills, c.h., washing machine, garden. Non-smokers only. No cats/dogs. Ring: Chris 607489 (eves.)

WANTED GaySports Organizer

A gay sports organizer is wanted to help set up a gay sports group in the city, covering the A-Z of sports, including Badminton, Swimming, football, table tennis, and others. Essential qualifications needed are an enthusiastic interest in sports and groups, a flexible non-bossy attitude towards others and someone who is glad to be gay. You could be an arm-chair sports person or one who takes part. Interested? Then contact Nottingham Gay People's Centre, Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.



Young lesbians & gay men enjoying a performance of "The Best of Friends" at the recent Winter Festival in Nottingham.



THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE

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Published by GAY NOTTINGHAM, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM FILM THEATRE

Friday Feb 28th - Sunday March 2nd
COLONEL REDL (15) Hungary 1985
Director Istvan Szabo. 149 mins.



Fri. 28th 7.30 p.m.
Sat. 1st 4.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.
Sun. 2nd 7.30 p.m.

ALFRED REDL was a high-ranking officer in the army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire who committed suicide in 1913 under circumstances so mysterious and suggestive that the case has obsessed writers as diverse as Stefan Zweig and John Osborne. It is the latter's play, *A Patriot for Me*, and not historical truth, which provides director Istvan Szabo with his inspiration and guide for this fascinating, hypnotically-gripping film starring Klaus Maria Brandauer (best known as the bisexual Colonel Redl, a poor boy from the provinces whose star in the ranks rises as swiftly as his self-respect declines. The performance is brilliant, with Bran-

dauer creating a complex figure perpetually stalked by danger from within and without, an accomplished acrobat walking a tightrope of dissimulation and disguise, desperately seeking to deny his Jewish lineage and 'overcome' his gayness in soul-debating of heterosexual debauchery and marriage—with, of course, predictably tragic consequences. But the film is more than a provocative character study. It's also a parable of naked ambition, power and brutal betrayals, at the core of which is the passionate, but rigorously self-controlled performance of Brandauer, one of the postwar cinema's most intelligent and articulate actors.

Broad Street, Nottingham

gay info gay info

— PUBS and CLUBS —

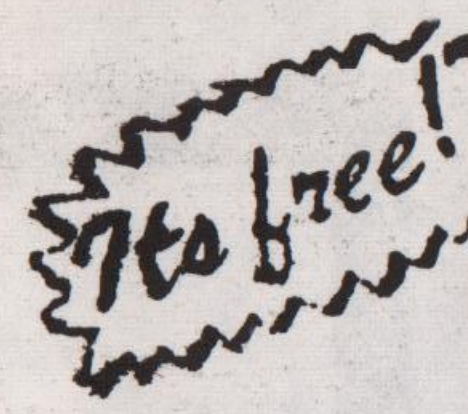
NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD for the latest info. on pubs, clubs & discos in the City.

— SOCIAL GROUPS —

LESBIAN/GAY WELFARE WORKS GP. (social & support), Inc. Health & Education works, meets monthly, Central Nottingham, Info. Chris Williams, 27 Moore Rd, Mapperley, Nottm, or 602164 (after 7pm).
NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN/GAY YOUTH ORGANIZATION, (up to age 26), info. NLGYO, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, (s.a.e.).
QUEST for gay Catholics, meets fortnightly, 419137, write c/o Flat 4, 19a Pelham Crescent, The Park, Nottingham.
GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT, Meets 2nd Friday in month, MEN: Mark 394624. WOMEN: Sheila/Chris, Loughborough 226871.
NOTTINGHAM GAY SOCIAL GROUP, Meets every Thursday, Tel: David 216447, or write c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham.
NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY GAYSOC, c/o Students Union, Portland Building, Nottingham University, Nottingham.
GAY OUTDOORS GROUP (EAST MIDLANDS), Rambling Group, 3rd Saturday of month. Tel John (Leicester 26617).
TV/TS CAMELION GROUP, c/o Nottingham Friend, 31a Mansfield Rd, Tel Clive. Long Eaton 727710.

— HELPLINES —

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities, Mon-Thur, 7-10pm, tel 411454.
LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon & Wed, 7.30-9pm. 410652, c/o Womens Centre, Shakespeare Street, Nottm.
NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10pm, counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/TS's 474717 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham.
QUEST PHONELINE, for gay Catholics, Weds. 7.30-10.30pm, 419137.
AIDS HELPLINE, Worried about AIDS? call up Mons & Tues. 7-10pm, Nottingham 585526. Accurate info. can help reduce anxiety.
VD TREATMENT, General Hospital, Postern St. (Nr. Mount St. Car Park), Perth House, (Men) Amberley House (Women) daytime 476161.



GAY Nottingham!

PUT TOGETHER BY GAY MEN No. 11 1985

"NO" TO APARTHEID

Over two thousand people, including many lesbians and gay men marched through Nottingham on 24th January, in protest at South Africa's apartheid regime. The rally was jointly organized by students and the Nottingham Anti-Apartheid Movement, and was the largest for many years. Last month the Lesbian & Gay Sub-Committee of the City Council, sent a letter of support to a gay black activist, Tseko Simon Nokoli, held in detention for over a year, for making a speech, criticising the South African Government, at a banned funeral service. Although Nokoli was a co-ordinator for the Gay Association of South Africa, GASA has remained silent throughout his detention. Their silence has called into question, their continued membership of the International Gay Association, which has a strict anti-apartheid policy.

Christopher—Isherwood

Literary rebel of the 1930s, Christopher Isherwood, died in his adopted home of California on January 4, aged 81. British born Isherwood gained fame with his Berlin diaries. 'Mr Norris Changes Trains' and 'Goodbye to Berlin' which introduced the character of Sally Bowles, played by Liza Minnelli in the award-winning film 'Cabaret'. The character based on Isherwood himself was played by Michael York. 'Lions and Shadows' was a largely autobiographical book about his time at Cambridge and after, with thinly-disguised portraits of literary friends such as

Wystan Auden and Stephen Spender. But it was in 'Christopher and His Kind' published in 1977 that Isherwood first made explicit his homosexuality, and gave the real background to his fiction. 'To Christopher' he says, 'Berlin meant boys'.

Just before the war, he moved to America, meeting his lover Don Bachardy with whom he lived until his death. His books have recently been re-published in this country by Methuen, exploring not only his gay life, but also his opposition to fascism and his interest in the Hindu religion.



POLICE WATCH

Nottingham City Council will meet the police shortly, to identify police practices in the City and to document the ways in which the gay and lesbian communities are, or are not, being harassed by them. Already a number of disturbing cases have emerged where gay men have been prosecuted, where there is no equivalent heterosexual charge. Though it is believed this practice is still widespread in Nottingham, we need facts. If you, or any friends have been arrested, charged, beaten up, harassed or victimised by the police because you are known or suspected of being gay or lesbian tell us. YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED. Contact Ben Benson, Gay Rights Worker on 418571.

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Omar is torn between the scholarly aspirations of his impoverished socialist father and the lavish lifestyle of his unscrupulous uncle's family of hard-nosed entrepreneurs who turn Thatcherite enterprise economics to their own advantage. When his uncle lets Omar manage the tatty Churchill washeteria he sees the chance of a fortune and employs his old school friend to do the dirty work. Together they decide to make their best laundrette in London - called, appropriately, given its streetwise funding, POWDERS. "Hanif Kureishi appears to be one of the few writers unafraid of tackling the state of today's nation... LAUNDRETTIE is enormously enjoyable." Scott Meek.

Friday 7 (8.00), Saturday 8 (6.45 & 8.45)
Sunday 9 (6.45 & 8.45) February.

COLONEL REDL (reviewed inside)
Tuesday 18 (8.30), Wednesday 19 (8.30), Thursday 20, Friday 21, Saturday 22, Sunday 23 (7.30)
February. Hungary/West Germany/Austria
1985 151 mins
Starring: Klaus Maria Brandauer, Armin Muller-Stahl, Gudrun Landgrebe.
Director: Istvan Szabo. Subtitles

GREEN LANE, DERBY 40170

Derby's Green Lane Gallery will be holding a David Hockney poster print exhibition during the months of February and March. Derby's Green Lane Gallery is in the City Centre and has a large car park. Its licensed gay bar is open every night of the year from 8.30pm.



A group of young lesbians and gay men en route for their rally in the City Centre.

- ADVERTISEMENT -

AIDS information project is seeking new members for all areas of its work. Areas to be covered will include the AIDS Helpline, Buddying, publicity & campaigning. Training and ongoing support will be given. For further details, please send S.A.E. to AIDS INFORMATION PROJECT, c/o 114 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HL.

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH

benefit disco



at THE PALAIS
cellar bar

THURSDAY
20th FEBRUARY
10.30-2am
£1 on door



Maudie's Column

Last month Lady Maude Ffrench told us how to greet Royalty on lonely roads. This month she looks at Golden Weddings and such like.



The sunset of life, as well as the dawn, must be suitably celebrated by a party. And of all the parties ever given, surely the one planned to honour a golden wedding is the most gracious of all. The bride and groom of fifty years ago may not be equal to the strain of an evening party, so let it be in the afternoon. A tea-party, that is what is best, with a handsome white sugar cake on the centre table, gaily decorated with shiny gold leaves and gold tinsel paper.

Guests invited to such a party are often deterred from bringing gifts by the feeling that these offerings must be of gold or silver gilt, precious metals, which are beyond the purses of most of us. But this is not necessary. The gift can take any form, with the proviso that gold, either as a colour or a decoration, should appear somewhere on them. A few timely suggestions would include a bag, complete with gold initials, a gold pencil, a gold thimble, a gold-coloured satin cushion.

In high summer a garden party is a nice variation of the indoor tea-party. But no matter where the party is held, the elderly married couple should be free to enjoy themselves without the strain of receiving the guests as they arrive. That duty should be done by a married daughter or daughter-in-law. Nor should Derby and Joan remain until the very end of the party unless they so wish. And don't forget the birthdays occurring annually in your family, and make each of these a gay little do.

And surely being twenty-one or having had twenty-five years of happy married life, are both rather enchanted days, too. For daughter it means the adventure of life has really begun, and for her parents it means that a good stretch of the pathway has been successfully traversed.

Both occasions for the true party spirit, as opposed to merely conventional entertaining, and for allowing a touch of poetry to creep into everyday life.

NOTTINGHAM FRIEND

has changed its telephone number to 474717. It still operates on Tuesdays, same time, 7-10pm.

AMSTERDAM ACTS ON JOBS

AMSTERDAM City Council recently unanimously adopted a new article into its municipal subsidy policy which will ban any organisation receiving financial support from the city which discriminates against lesbians and gay men. The decision follows the adoption of similar policies by New York's city council, which has become a model piece of legislation also taken up recently by the French Assembly. The policy will apply to employment as well as to health and welfare organisations financed by Amsterdam authorities, and is seen as a major advance for equal rights for gay people in Holland.

MUSHROOM

LESBIAN/GAY BESTSELLERS

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- 2) Hot Living: Erotic Stories on Safer Sex Preston
- 3) Who Lies Inside Ireland
- 4) Tales of the City Maupin
- 5) Sudden Death Brown

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SAFE SEX * SAFE SEX * SAFE SEX
Picture the scene at the Saturday night disco - as the last record signals its make yer mind up time. You see someone you'd like to know better. You explain as quietly as possible like trying to shout to Leicester that you're only into safe sex. Then comes the crunch.

Suddenly a glazed spaced-out look clouds Mr. Right's face and he suddenly remembers he has to put lard on the cat's bowl or accuses you of being a silly old drama queen, and then adds reassuringly, that providing you don't have sex with American accents that you keep away from the London Scene, all will be well.

But the AIDS virus is too clever by half and has got round that one and sooner or later we in Nottingham will know of someone or a friend of someone who may have AIDS.

What makes people have such a knee-jerk reaction when safe or safer sex is mentioned? It could be that people don't know what safe sex is and even if they do know what it stands for, they may think that it is just another threat to our freedom, for so the argument goes, in the one part of our lives where we can be free with each other in a different way from heterosexuals, we are now being told to cool it. It's not hard to see that gay men might be just a little angry.

However, most of us care about our own health and that of our friends and lovers (assuming that we are lucky enough to have both). If safe or safer sex means also the possibility of staying alive and well, then perhaps it's worth considering making a change in what we do in bed with lovers. It need not be the end of the world, we simply would have to look at new, safer ways of having and enjoying sex - a little more imagination and a little less risk.

The importance of taking this action is twofold, we can begin to take control of our own lives and bodies and banish that fear of powerlessness left us by inaccurate and often distorted reporting about AIDS. (For more information about Safe Sex contact the AIDS HELPLINE). Next issue we look at how we could cope, living with the fear of AIDS, in our daily lives.

Remember the burned-down Pavilion Club in Shardlow? Well the insurance payout has been invested in a Trust Fund and is available for distribution to worthy gay organizations in the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester areas. Nottingham benefits to the tune of £500 annually, with twice yearly payouts of £250. Nottingham Friend and Gay Switchboard received money from the Fund in January. The next meeting is in June. If you need funding a detailed letter with aims objectives and other sources of income, what you want and what you will do with the money should be sent to: H.E. Cowan, 33 Devonshire Road, Sherwood, Nottm. N52EW. (In exceptional cases decisions can be made before June).

JOIN THE GAY NIGHT LIFE

THE REFUGE

at **Penelope's**

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

DJ's - Peter Martine - Jon Wilde

Restaurant Open 9pm-2am

Licensed to 2am

Members free before 10.30pm - £2 after

Guests £1.50 before 10.30pm - £3 after

PENELOPE'S (NIGHT CLUB)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership of the Penelope's Night Club and agree to be bound by the rules and bye-laws of the club.

Name.....Occupation.....

Address.....Phone.....

I enclose a cheque P.O. (made payable to the Penelope's Night Club) for £5.00

Date.....Signature.....

You can join the PENELOPE'S (NIGHT CLUB) by simply filling in this form.

Visitors to the club are welcome

6 Broadway, Lace Market, Nottm Tel 582114

Management reserve the right of admission

It was a joy the other week to see a crowd of around 200 turn out for the first night of Nottingham's latest gay venue, **THE REFUGE** at Penelope's Club, in the Lacemarket, which is **NOW OPEN TO GAYS ON THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS ONLY**, and with a modern, reasonably hi-tec interior, combined with Jon Wilde (Spit) and Peter Martine alternatively in the DJ Box, it looks like the City will again hopefully find its place on the gay map of Britain. A few minor alterations, however, are necessary.

The glitter on the walls will have to go and the superfluity of plastic pot plants must be carted off back to the greenhouse. The dance floor is very small but could easily be extended and Spit has told me that a new sound

system and better lighting are in the offing. It is important that these alterations are done as soon as possible or visitors from out of town, on whom every gay club relies will tell tales and be loathe to return. It is encouraging however to see faces I had not seen since the good old days of PART II.

Even David Bradley showed up, so be careful not to organize coach trips or hand out leaflets advertising bars other than Gatsby's which reminds me that MITZI'S BAR, (THE CATACOMBS) is only a stone's throw away and very handy for that pre-club drink. I wish the REFUGE at Penelope's Club well and for goodness sake lads, do support it. I certainly will.

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THEATRE SQUARE SUBWAY

FIGHTING BACK

With attacks on lesbians and gay men on the increase GAY NOTTINGHAM concludes this two-part look at what we can do, without special training to protect ourselves.

Being prepared

If you think attack is inevitable, or if you must pass through a dangerous area you can actually arm yourself with an inoffensive weapon. A biro or pencil clenched in the fist so the ends project beyond your fingers at both ends can be both discreet and effective. Or you can grasp a key ring so that the keys project between the fingers of the fist. A comb or even a credit card may give a

cut to the face. You may spot a handy weapon lying around. Hopefully you won't have to use it, but if you show signs of initiative this will often forestall an attack.

Making noises

We are now talking about the nastier stuff, and the greatest fears. Fear itself may be your biggest problem, but that rush of adrenalin can actually help you. It is supposed to alert your body to fight or run, but some of our instincts have become muddled, and you can find yourself paralysed, not even breathing. Well, take deep breaths, right down into the pit of your stomach, and don't be afraid to shout, make a noise. Shout FUCK OFF or give a loud animal scream. Noise disconcerts your attacker and arouses your body to action. It can give you just enough time and energy to run away.

Noise can be used in different ways. One of our group who was worried about a group of kids in the lift of his high rise just started making low growling noises as if he was crazy. They all got out as fast as they could when the lift doors opened. And if you want to attract attention, don't shout HELP, shout FIRE. That will turn heads and open windows, and disconcert your attacker.

Fighting back

When attack is unavoidable, breathe deeply and try to keep your energy going. Think ANGRY not frightened. THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE DOING THIS. There is not much you can do without practice, but any response at all is probably more than they are expecting. Look for their vulnerable targets; the eyes, the nose, the throat, the stomach, the groin, the feet. If someone grabs you, remember his hands are full while yours are free. If he is wearing shoes you can stamp hard on his foot with your heel or the outside edge of your foot. That will probably break a few small bones and stop him following you. Try to knee or slap him in the groin with the flat of your hand, even grab and twist. Jab him in the eyes, or flick with the back of your fingers. None of this should do permanent damage, but it will stop him, giving you time to get away.

Don't punch anyone with your fist unless you know what you are doing, you are more likely to damage your fingers. A better weapon is the hammer blow: make a fist, then strike with the padded area at the end, between the little finger and the wrist, as if you were thumping a table top. You can use this down, onto the nose or the side of the neck, or up against the chin or the nose. You can also swing it across the body, back of the hand uppermost (from left to right, for your right hand) against the ear, the neck or the jaw. Aim 'through' your target, to give the blow more force.

Some of you may be glad of this advice and feel it would help you if it came to a fight. Others may just feel helpless and sick at the thought of violence - even your own violent reaction. Whichever you feel, I strongly advise you to go to a self-defence group. We deal with feelings as much as with techniques, and always try to give you a choice. We are not trying to make you aggressive.

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