

OUT right!

Issue 83 march 1997

for gays lesbians & bisexuals - free

Midland leads the way

Local company Midland Mainline are way ahead of the competition

At least as far as gay employees are concerned. Because now partners train travel concessions apply to all workers - regardless of gender or sexuality.

Midland Mainline are the InterCity operators for train services to London St Pancras from Sheffield & the East Midlands. So if you've been 'dahn sarff' lately you'll probably have noticed that trains, corporate uniforms and price structures all have a new look.

And the winds of change have been blowing through the company policy too.

It was about time

The Company Council - a body that gives workers a say in policy making - have extended train travel concessions to all partners of their employees who have been together for at least two years. Giving gay and lesbian couples the same rights as everyone else.

A spokesperson for Midland Mainline told **outright!** that it wasn't a big deal - the company just felt it was about time that all



Sponsored by Midland Mainline

their employees had real equal rights. It isn't just about running trains on time - it's about making it all work - it's about how you treat people. Happy employees make for happy customers. And that's what MM are aiming for.

In the Community

Midland Mainline see themselves as very much part of the community. They realise that over the years rocketing prices and falling standards of service have lost rail travel a lot of customers. But they're working hard to turn that around. And there's plenty on offer - group monthly returns to London for up to 4 people for under £30 for example

IN CONTRAST

Lisa Grant is still pursuing employers South West Trains through the European courts for not allowing her girlfriend similar partner's rights.

- or individual day returns for under £20 - including free tube travel and discounts at many attractions & museums. Just the job for a bat round Covent Garden/Soho and grabbing a bit of culture.

The company is also investing a lot in supporting local arts and sports. They sponsor Leicester County Cricket Club and were main sponsors of the Leicester Comedy Festival last month. This month they're backing the intriguingly titled **The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband** showing at Nottingham Playhouse and they assure us she wasn't driven to such drastic measures by railway catering!

The Vine

22 Ford Street Derby

Thurs 6th March



Kerry Wilson

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Thurs 20th March

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...inside!

- hospice plans
- cyberqueers
- leicester young lgb's
- sm - let's talk about it
- classifieds

& more!

UNISON Health Branch Goes Pink !!!

In January, Nottm Health Care Unison branch elected Terry Tinsley (right) as steward for his work area and also as Lesbian & Gay Equalities Officer. It is a significant move towards L&G involvement in this branch - and as part of L&G self-organisation.

"I have been a member of Unison since it was set up but was only elected a steward and L&G Equalities Officer at this year's AGM. As a Unison Steward I hope to represent all members of my work area and to raise the profile of L&G issues. It is surprising how many L&G members are unaware of the fact that they have the right to form branch L&G groups with funding from Unison" *cont page 4*



...welcome!

to the new look **outright!** we hope you like the changes to the layout. You'll also find some new features dotted around inside and we hope you'll enjoy those too. By popular demand, one is a horoscope column - from none other than the internationally reknown psychic, Madame Bovina Polari. We were, of course, extremely lucky to secure Mme Polari's services for **outright!** as these days she is virtually a recluse and has to wear tin foil swathed around her head below the famous turban in order to prevent her brain being monitored by MI5. We must hope that her fragile grasp on reality doesn't become over strained under the pressure of a monthly deadline.

We'd like to include a letters page/column - but people hardly ever write to us. Hopefully we'll get some feedback on this issue and we'll be able to include one next month. So if you like or loathe anything about **outright!** - let us know.

Apologies to anyone whose copy/copies of **outright!** arrived late last month. There was a new team getting to grips with the subscription and distribution lists and a few vital scraps of paper evaded capture.

outright!

issue 83

march 1997

Eighth Year

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monthly to over 120
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East Midlands

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Views expressed in **outright!** are not necessarily those of the editors. All information is as up to date and accurate as we can make it - let us know if anything has changed.

copy date 24th
publication date 1st

We think we have it all under control now so hopefully there should be no more slip ups. Anyway, grovelling apologies to anyone affected.

If anyone is interested in writing for **outright!** - get in touch! We would really like more news from more areas - so regular 'stringers' are especially welcome. Also any good ideas for one off features or regular items

News from local groups / events are always welcome, you can write or phone with your information. Try and get stuff to us as early as you can. We've standardised the copy deadline to the 24th of the month to make it easier to remember. It may be

possible to include brief items if you ring them in a bit later than this but we can't guarantee it.

Brickbat of the Month....

Goes to the Information Officer at the Central Library Nottingham. Who, when we arrived with our usual pile of mags for distribution to the City libraries, told us she couldn't display or distribute **outright!** anymore. Because 'there's been a complaint'. (That's literal by the way - 1 complaint about 1 item in 1 issue by 1 person).

When pressed, she reluctantly offered to keep it 'under the counter' and hand it out to people 'if they come & ask for it'. We said that just wasn't good enough

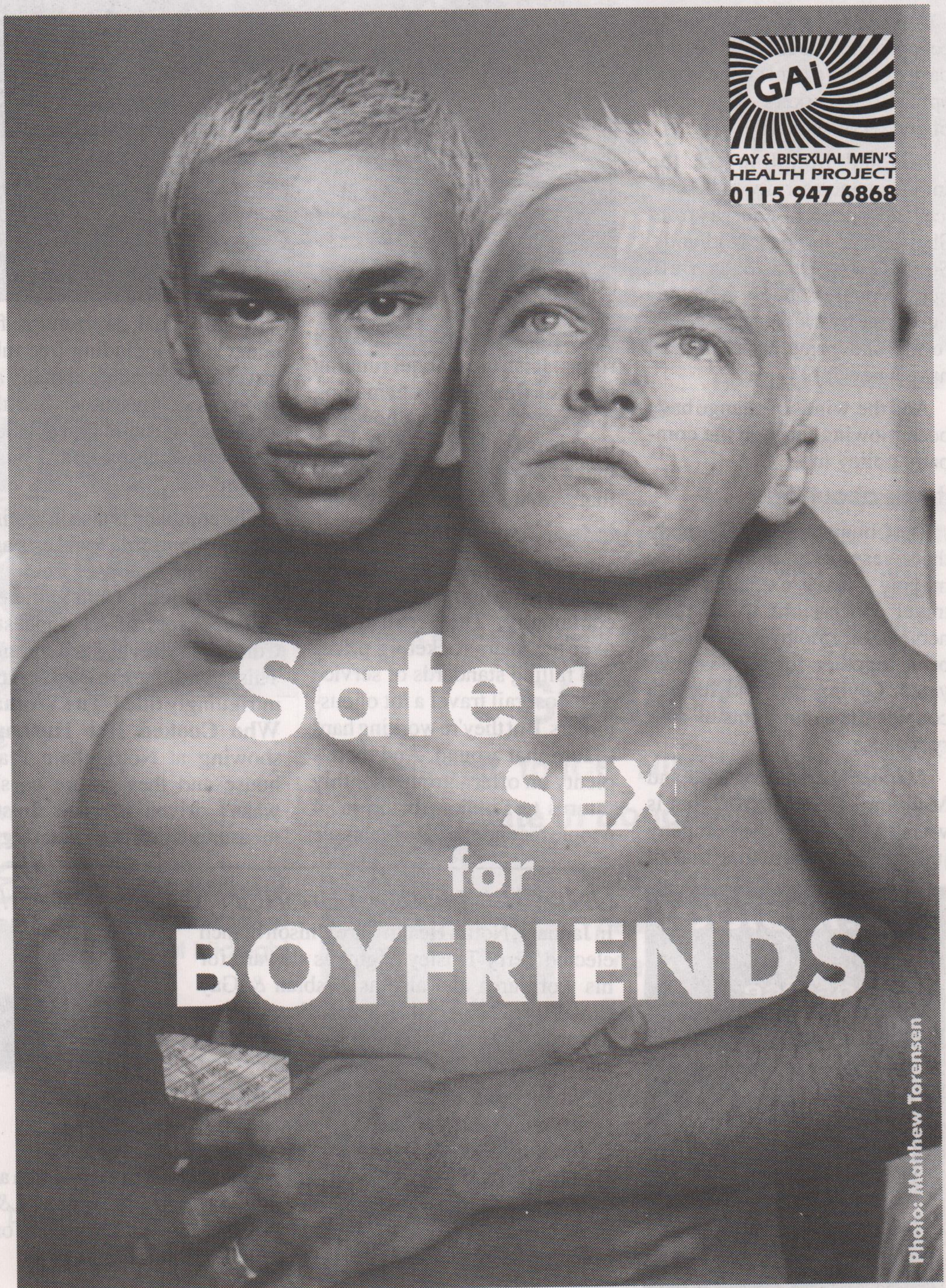
and added that in our opinion people who censor books are as bad as people who burn them. So she declared that the Head Librarian must be summoned to adjudicate.

Bouquet of the Month...

Goes to the Head Librarian, who duly appeared, flipped through **outright!**, remarked that it looked like a good issue, told the now scarlet Information Officer that one complaint in 8 years wasn't bad going and waved us goodbye with a cheery smile.

The complaint? That was about a safer sex advert.

Nominations for next month's brickbat & bouquet are now open...



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innotts can be
contacted on
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Meet the Web Meister

It was a cold, grey February morning when I sidled into a dimly-lit basement bar in search of a stranger. I looked around - just me and the bartender - no sign of my quarry. I ordered a cappuccino and leant nonchalantly against the bar - waiting. A few minutes later the door swung open and in strode a young man. Light cropped hair, medium height, broad shoulders, friendly, open face. Could this be who I was looking for?

There was definitely a gleam of humour & intelligence behind those little, gold rimmed glasses. But surely, this baby face couldn't hide the secret identity of the legendary Web-Meister? I noticed the small red enamel ribbon pinned to his black leather jacket. I smiled, he grinned back. 'Hello', he said 'I'm Darren'.

Cyber-Hero

By day, Darren, 27, works as an information officer for a large local company. Spending his days on management computer systems linked to Europe & the USA. But after work he logs on to an even bigger system - the Internet - because Darren Bloore is our very own local Cyber-Hero.

Single-handedly, Darren's put Gay Nottingham on the Net. Creating The Health Shop & GAI Project's home pages, an Out in Nottingham guide, AbFab, reviews & information, and a pink & lovely homage to Julian Clary. With numerous links to other interesting and/or amusing sites - e.g. the Tupperware home page!

Freedom Award

He does it to give an additional resource for the Gay Internet Community. Now his hard work's been rewarded with a Freedom Net Award. So, his home page proudly displays the award logo - a fluttering rainbow flag.

He started sharing an Internet

connection with some friends about 4 years ago - a long while in net-time! He's always been fascinated by technology and is self taught. Modestly putting his skills down to 'sad nights alone in my bedroom', with a wry smile.

Our Cyber-Hero even came-out on the Net. Finding other people's coming out stories and the resources and information available a big help.

Phone Me!

He also met another Internet fan he thought might be gay. He kept dropping subtle hints but still couldn't be sure. Then one day when they were 'chatting' on-line he suddenly thought 'Sod this, I've had enough of skirting around the issue' and came out to him. What was his response? 'He just typed PHONE ME!' Darren laughs.

**"I EVEN
CAME OUT
ON THE
NET"**

Contrary to popular belief, cyber-surfers are not all computer nerds. As Darren points out, computer nerds never go out & meet anyone.

I've made loads of friends through the Net. It's a great way to communicate with & meet people. But sadly, it isn't always possible to meet up in real life. His hottest e-mail comes from an American military base on a tiny island in the Indian Ocean. 'You can hardly see it on the map' he grins.

Service with a smile

His Internet Service Provider is **innotts**, who, despite the name, serve the whole East Midlands. They're very gay friendly and give him the extra web space he needs for his gay resource sites, free of charge. Members have a monthly social get together and Darren says they're a nice bunch - & many are Trekkies.

Campaign

The East Mids Internet User Group recently started campaigning, he tells us. Currently,

Diamond Cable users have free off-peak Internet access but the company plans to introduce a charge in July. 'It's only going to be about 25p per hour - but it's the principle of the thing. Diamond has & still is using free Internet access as a selling point to users. And I suspect the new charge is not unconnected to their plans to launch their own Internet service soon'.

Why do it?

After going to 'Just Out' - workshops sessions run by the GAI Project, he thought it'd be a good idea to make all their info available on the Net. It grew from there. 'I couldn't find much about Julian Clary on the Net. So I built a Julian Clary site. He deserves it - he's really raised the gay public profile and he gives back to the community - like appearing at Pride and the Stonewall Equality Show.

Surf's Up!

Surfing the Net with Darren is a trip to Queer Cyberworld. We dipped into so many excellent sites - **Positive Links** covering HIV/AIDS related info like UK Resources, the CDC AIDS Daily & the Quilt Web-site. With links to Terrence Higgins Trust site, AVERT, ACT-UP and other organisations. There's even small ads section.

We also looked at the Gay Times site which claims to have the ultimate U.K. listing of boys & girls on the Net. There's certainly lots in the Midlands.

Virtual Noticeboard

Darren runs on-line noticeboard for local LGB info/news at **lginfo@innotts.co.uk** or if you have any info you'd like to display you can e-mail it to him at **bloore@innotts.co.uk** & he'll add it to the list. And as he's enthusiastically volunteered to help us put **outright!** on the Internet later this year - you'll be hearing more from - the Web Meister.

...cool sites

<http://gaytimes.co.uk>

<http://www.innotts.co.uk>

<http://www.innotts.co.uk/glyp>

<http://www.emnet.co.uk/coda>

<http://www.emnet.co.uk/ai>

<http://www.sonnet.co.uk/hub>

...stars!

Scried by Madame Polari



Aquarius

21 Jan - 19 Feb

The stars tell me you will develop a large spot in a rather bizarre place - on no account squeeze it - it could result in disaster!

Lucky Element - Plutonium



Pisces

20 Feb - 20 Mar

You will soon become involved in a major art theft from an East European museum - do not fight fate - resistance is useless.

Lucky Shop - Tesco



Aries

21 Mar - 20 Apr

New York? Paris? Milan? No! Travel is definitely not on the cards for you this month - unless you count Bulwell.

Lucky Stone - Charlie Watts



Taurus

21 Apr - 21 May

Juptier is aligned with Mars and the Moon is in the Seventh House - so watch out for burglars.

Lucky Drink - Snakebite



Gemini

22 May - 21 Jun

If you are thinking of making a large purchase this month - & when aren't you? - go for it - Blow the Access bill.

Lucky Tool - Chisel



Cancer

22 Jun - 23 Jul

Avoid all seafood - a sudden allergy may cause you to glow gently in the dark.

Lucky Pet - Gerbil



Leo

24 Jul - 23 Aug

If any bits of your body turn green & drop off this month you should consider giving up yachting.

Lucky Item - Umbrella



Virgo

24 Aug - 23 Sep

You know you're a star & this month Hollywood will call - sadly they'll get your answer machine.

Lucky Instrument - Piano



Libra

24 Sep - 23 Oct

Balance is all important to you especially after Happy Hour - so go easy on the Pina Colodas.

Lucky TV Show - Top Gear



Scorpio

24 Oct - 22 Nov

Someone new and exciting is about to enter your life - so for pity's sake - do something with your hair!

Lucky Vehicle - Tractor



Sagittarius

23 Nov - 21 Dec

You'll be full of zip, energy & enthusiasm this month - so everyone will hate you. Chill Out!

Lucky Fish - Turbot



Capricorn

22 Dec a- 20 Jan

Isn't it about time you got all those niggling little aches & pains sorted?

Lucky Word - Encapsulate

Feel the pain!

During the day Tara Simmonds is a University Lecturer in Psychology. Recently, she's been researching the fear of pain & how it affects people. At night she can be seen making some deft movements that land people flat on their back. She hastens to explain.

"They're not in pain, actually", she laughs. She's been a student of Jitsu for 8 years and has been teaching it to others for the last 2 years. With nine grades to pass, encompassing the colours of the rainbow and more, Tara is a Brown Belt - one from the top. And to prove her competence she took both gold & silver medals at a recent national competition in Sheffield.

"Obviously if I'm in competition with someone of an equal grade I don't need to be quite as gentle as if I'm teaching someone who's just beginning", she adds.

Jitsu is a full contact sport and a form of self-defence originally taught to Saumri warriors for when they fell off their horses. "You learn how to fall in this sport so though there may be surface bruising it's rarely deep. You are also taught to defend attacks, kicks, avoid being coshed, dodge knives, broken bottles and chains. These days people use a variety of weapons to intimidate and do harm", she added. "Often when people are about to be attacked they freeze, a response common in animals - trying to blend with the surroundings. Shouting or running away are powerful tools that few people tend to use.

For practising Jitsu it's a good idea to have a wide range of physiques and bodyweights to choose from. This is more likely to represent a random selection of people in the street.

"Quite a number of women practice the sport but are few & far between beyond 4th grade. The motives to learn the sport are often different for women & men. For women it's as much a question of feeling able to walk around without fear, especially small women who want to feel and look confident. Some young men want to learn because they have experiences of being beaten up themselves, for contrary to popular belief, most recorded muggings or beatings involve young on young. Others do it because they believe it's a macho thing to do and would often prefer it to be more rough. "Many of them resent being taught by a woman".

Tara is open about her sexual preference. "I won't hide my lesbian identity. If I'm open about myself then others are likely to be open with me", she says.

Richard McCance



- continued from front page

UNISON Branch goes pink....

"We all face homophobia at work; often in very subtle ways. By having a local lesbian & gay group we can get support from other members".

"I hope that in the future more lesbians and gay men will be able to get involved so that our voice will be heard".

Terry Tinsley

Macedon Trust

Are you homeless or threatened with homelessness?

We offer low-level supported accommodation in safe & secure shared houses within the Nottingham City area.

If you need to know more please call us
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A GROUP FOR GAY & BISEXUAL VOLUNTEERS WHO WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

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We are particularly keen to recruit volunteers from Black communities as they are currently under represented in our organisation

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UNISON

NOTTINGHAM HEALTHCARE LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP

The next meeting of the Nottingham Healthcare Group will be on the

**9th April 1997
at 8pm**

at the ICC 61a Mansfield Road Nottm

for further details contact: Terry Tinsley on 9160768

If you want to be heard ... speak in UNISON!



WOMENS

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every Wednesday 12 - 2 pm

45 King Street

(dental dams lubricant & safer sex information available)

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COMING OUT OR COMING IN?

If He is a She

And She is a She

Or He is a She

Is there neither He nor She

About the personality

And yet the body

Is there to see

Physically we are

A He or She

Could there be some fifty-fifty

Natures way of being shifty

Or perhaps seventy-thirty

Can nature really be so shirty

It obviously is, percentagewise

To get yourself analysed

But if the shrink is twenty-eighty

You've got yourself a problem
matey

J Devine

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5 Clarendon Street Nottingham NG1 5HS
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Searching ...for you?

LEICESTER GAY/BISEXUAL YOUNG PERSONS PEERS EDUCATION PROJECT Are conducting research in the young LGB community to try to identify needs around drug issues.

Would you like to take part in a research project which will bring an important impact to the service **YOU** receive around drug issues?

They need LGB young people to answer a few simple questions or take part in in-depth interviews

CONTACT: Rosni (Peer Ed Drugs Volunteer)
Tel : 01426 235286

The Clare Connor Sanctuary Fund

Clare Connor was active in the L&G Community for many years and was a cherished friend of many people in Nottingham. She died of cancer in July 1995.

Now, in her memory, a small voluntary organisation has been established to address the urgent need for a safe, non-judgemental care agency for lesbians & gay men affected by cancer, HIV/AIDS. They aim to be up & running in three years as a self contained hospice unit within a wider complementary health project located in the North of England.

They are organising a series of fund-raising events - which they ask you to support generously. (See page 6) The group are also planning a film

including interviews with lesbians, gay men & their carers describing their experience of treatment within the NHS and highlighting the need for a same sex care agency to present to prospective funders.

If you can help this project in any way - donations of cash /equipment etc, help with admin / fund-raising / publicity etc. please contact: **The Clare Connor Sanctuary Fund c/o 7 Cripsey Rd Oxford OX2 0AH**

If you are willing to relate your experiences for the film project please contact

S. Ajame-Singh c/o Second Sight Zair Works 111 Bishop St Birmingham B5 6JL

THE MENS SEXUAL HEALTH PROJECT

45 King Street Leicester LE1 6RN 0116 254 1747

Information Counselling & Support around
HIV/Sexual Health - Safer Sex - Relationships - Sexuality
Free condoms, lubricant & dams

ANDY GRIFFITHS - Project Co-ordinator

DYLAN PARRIS - Project Worker

Black men who have sex with men

DAVID PEET - Project Worker

Cottaging & cruising issues

Open 12 noon - 4 pm

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday & Friday

(Wednesday the Centre is Women Only)

ALL OUR SERVICES ARE FREE & CONFIDENTIAL

Available free to all men who have sex with men regardless of age - sexuality - race - religion - disability - antibody status

...outings!

Why not Breakout... Launched in Oct 96 with the help of the GAI Project Breakout has quickly established itself as the main social group for gay bi men in & around Nottingham. There's a regular turn out of 15-20 and a varied programme of activities, e.g. bowling, LazerQuest, workshops, quizzes & movies. The group meets every Tues 8pm at the Health Shop Broad St. You can get more details from GAI 0115 947 6868 or Switchboard 0115 941 1454. Some comments are 'nice mix of men', 'most fun I've had' and 'brought new horizons to my social life'. Sounds good!

Health Professionals will want to know more about the Nottm. Health Shop's Open Day on Wed 12 March where you'll have an opportunity to meet the team, learn more about their work and pick up loads of useful leaflets and other resources- all this plus tea & bickies! 0115 9745414

Café Society March 11 at the Alley Café is Nottm women's night - a very popular evening with probably the best coffee in town veggie/vegan food etc. 0115 999 9999

The Big Breakfast at the Lesbian Centre 30 Chaucer St Nottm Sun 30 March food, papers, music etc. Children welcome. Jane 0115 960 6270

WIGGLE tha fifth DeeJayz Ov Perpetual Enjoyment's monthly session with GOD (Girls On Decks) at the Skyy Club Alfreton Rd Nottm. £2.50/3/3.50 Multi-lingual nightclubbing with free sweeties & records 0115 9422050

8th BISEXUAL WOMEN'S WEEK-END 4th - 6th April

Discussions, workshops, networking, fun & relaxation in a women-only house in the beautiful North Yorkshire countryside with partial disabled access.

Sliding scale £12 - £44 full board. Priority places available for women with children & first timers. Book early to be sure of a place. SAE for booking form to: **BW Weekend BiWomen's Group NWC 30 Chaucer St Nottm NG1 5LP** Ring 0115 960 5843 for details

Happy Feet! Sun 9 March Lesbians, Gay & Friends Country & Western Tea Dance 3.45 - 6.30pm with Beginner's Two Step Workshop 2.30 - 3.45pm. Tuition by Joy Anagostis.

£5/3 adv £6/4 door SAE for tickets to **Dance Events** 45 King St Leicester Details 0116 254 7412

East Mercia MSC 2nd Friday & 4th Saturday every month at Mercia HQ above The Pineapple Inn Leicester from 9.30 Private members group but guests welcome provided the strict dress code is observed 0133 236 1056

Leicester Gay Group has a newcomers night every 2 weeks in central Leicester (March 4 & 18) and on Mar 11 they've organised an evening at 45 King St 8pm with solicitor **Laraine del Buono** talking about how the law affects the gay community and available to answer your knotty legal queries. Chris 01509 415 272

Lesbian Party Night! Sat 17 Mar 8.30 - late £1.50/2.50/4.00 at Nottm Women's Centre 30 Chaucer St Fab dance music by Sophie (Hidden Talents). Please bring own refreshments. All women welcome. Proceeds to help fund the work of the Lesbian Centre.

Chesterfield- We often wonder what's going on in Chesterfield - why doesn't anyone tell us? Was it something we said?

Women Are Gorgeous (WAG) Every Friday Night at LC 30 Chaucer St Nottm 8.30 onwards. If you are unsure (or sure!) of your sexuality meet others for a friendly social, coffee, conversation etc. Contact Lesbian Line 0115 9410652.

Kerry Wilson Live at The Vine Derby Thurs 6th Mar phone Ian or Linda for details 01332 200 266

New Venue Portland Arms Mansfield Woodhouse opens its doors every Thurs for a gay disco (see back page)

**Divorce
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Serious Sista

Selecta

Returning to Earth with cabaret

Sisters from

Another Planet

Blandish Music Magic & Comedy

Magic Madge

All proceeds towards a major fund-raising campaign for setting

up a hospice for lesbians & gay men - to be named

The Clare Connor Sanctuary

Admission on door £2/£4/£5 Food & Drink Available

This Event Sponsored by outright!

Derby - We would all really like to know what's happening in Derby - so won't some kind soul let us know?

Steamy Tenko - A new exclusively gay sauna for men & women opens in Loughborough (see below)

Lincoln - We'd all so like to know what's happening here!

Bangshees All lesbian samba band + Alison Bown & support 22 Mar The Shed Yeoman St Leicester Tickets 45 King St.

OLGA Older Lesbian Group 9 Mar 3pm 45 King St Leics.

That's All Folks! Well actually we suspect it isn't ... please send carrier pigeons with more news....



Laraine Del Buono
Solicitor

**WORKING
FOR WOMEN**

GOODBYE!

The region says farewell to **Liz Mansell** this month - well known for her sterling work at Northants L & G Alliance. She's off to Bristol to be an Equalities Officer with responsibility for women's issues.

Good Luck in the new job Liz! And don't forget to leave a note for your replacement telling them to get in touch with **outright!** when they're in post.

LOOKOUT!

Is the info/listing sheet issued by Nottm Lesbian Centre with information, ideas on groups, places to meet, local & national events, entertainment, health/welfare advice, training etc.

For your free copy every quarter - send name & address to Lookout! Lesbian Centre c/o NWC 30 Chaucer St Nottm NG1 5LP. Taped versions available on request.

Stamps & donations also welcome! (it costs 28p per copy to produce) Cheques to Nottm Lesbian Community Centre - Tal.

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES

CONCERNED ABOUT HIV/AIDS OR SEXUAL HEALTH?

We offer information & support about all aspects of HIV/AIDS, safer sex, HIV testing & general sexual health.

We also provide care & support, befriending, practical & financial help and drop-in facilities for anyone in Leicestershire affected by HIV/AIDS

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Tenko

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...therapy!

Hypnotherapy uses the powerful abilities of our subconscious minds to help create positive changes in our lives. From time to time, we all have problems we need some help with - and hypnotherapy **can** help you to resolve issues that are making you unhappy - it can also help you to achieve your goals more easily.

You've probably heard of hypnotherapy being used to help people lose weight or give up smoking but it can also be used to control pain, stimulate the body's ability to heal itself and alleviate certain allergies, amongst other things.

Our minds & bodies are inseparably linked. Doctors attribute up to 70% of all reported sickness to emotional or psychological influences. Of course, hypnotherapy is a

complementary therapy that works alongside mainstream medical treatment. It can give your health & well-being an added boost but your doctor is still the first person to consult if you are experiencing any pain or other physical symptoms.

We've all seen people being made to look ridiculous in stage hypnosis acts. There's no need to worry - hypnotherapy is something very different. A Hypnotherapist can't make you do anything against your will while you're under hypnosis. All qualified practitioners abide by a strict code of professional conduct and their first concern is for your comfort and well being.

Being hypnotised is extremely pleasant and relaxing - a state between sleeping & waking. A bit

like a long drowsy soak in the bath after a hard day's work. Some people enjoy it so much that they like to repeat it regularly. For this, individualised tapes can be made to help you relax and reinforce your treatment at home.

Sessions last about one & a half hours. Initially the therapist needs to ask you some questions to give them the personal background information they need to decide on the best treatment for you. Naturally, this is treated in strict confidence. And it's a two-way process - there's plenty of time for you to ask any questions & sort out anything you're unsure about.

Belinda Richards is a qualified & registered hypnotherapist, healer & NLP practitioner with British Hypnosis Research.

Belinda Richards

A varied programme for the energetic this month. Check with group contacts for details if any of these enticing routes appeal to you.

...walkies!

The walking groups welcome newcomers but to let you know what you're letting yourself in for, each month we will be focusing on one of the groups - maybe the one for you. **Nottm Gay Outdoors Club** are mainly men but more lesbians have arrived recently and they would like more women to come along. In fact they say they're a very friendly - so everyone's welcome. The age range tends to be mid-thirties upwards and they aim their walks at the 'less strenuous end of the market' - around 8-10 miles. Members come from Leics/Notts/Northants etc. and they meet up regularly with West Mids & Trans-Penine GOCs. They also organise a summer camp. Lifts are usually available. Bring drinks & sandwiches, (but they do like to make a pub-stop if possible!), and dress sensibly. Several dogs are 'honorary' members and dogs who know the Country Code are welcome to join their owners. All GOC's aim to promote respect of & enjoyment in the countryside and although the local group is solely a walking group, nationally GOC organises a wide range of outdoor activities for the intrepid from rock-climbing to canoeing. NGOC's March walk is **Sun Mar 23** Southwell Meet 11am in car park opposite Southwell Minster for an 8 mile walk OS 119.702/539. You can make contact with GOC through Alan 0115 923 5421

Nottingham Hiking Dykes

Sun Mar 16 Meet at Bull's Head pub in Quorn (just south of Loughborough) Grid Ref 557166 on the old A6 10.45 start 8 miles to Woodhouse Eaves contact Sue 01509 213587 Lesbian only group

Sheffield Hiking Dykes

Sun Mar 23 Longshaw Estate - White Moor Edge - Frogatt Edge 7-8 miles Meet Lonshaw car park Grid Ref 266800 contact Deena 0114 268 6409/ Pauline 01623 550 209 For lesbians & women questioning their sexuality

Women Out Walking

(Formerly Leicester Hiking Dykes)

Sun Apr 6 Peak District Transport provided £3 waged/£2 low/un waged Meet 45 King St 9.15am contact Nina 0116 251844 Predominantly but not exclusively lesbian group.

Pink Pathfinders

Sun 16 Mar Solomon's Temple - Poole's Cavern - Staqnley Moor - Dane Head - Burbage - Poole's Cavern (7.5 miles) Meet Poole's Cavern CP 10.45 pm Grid ref 049726 Bob/Brian 0115 967 7081 All gay guys & gals welcome.

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What's a nice boy like me doing ...

...sitting in the Admiral Duncan? Well - that's not particularly unusual. But sitting there, tied to a chair, with a bag over my head, listening to the arrival of a crowd of gay men wanting to know more about SM? That is a little more out of the ordinary! The thought skittered through my mind that there hadn't been anything about this in the job description. No-one can say being a Safer Sex Project Worker isn't a challenging and varied career.

Eventually everyone arrived and the bag was whisked off so that I could introduce myself and welcome people to the Rough Sex Seminar jointly organised by Trent MSC and the GAI Project. From there the seminar leaders from SM Gays took over.

There were just over twenty men in the audience - we wanted to keep the group fairly small - ranging from the mildly curious to the dedicated SM-er. I suppose in some ways the day was aimed at the beginner rather than the more experienced. Obviously, the emphasis was on safer sex in an SM context - so it covered a lot more than using condoms.

Kicking off with advice on the right sort of rope or tape to use for comfort and safety with demonstrations of different types of bondage and knots that don't cut

off the circulation and can be released quickly. Learning how to tie knots again was a bit like being back in the Boy Scouts - but there were interesting variations - clingfilm for example!

We were also warned about the dangers of using coloured candles when playing. You can drip hot wax on someone 'til the cows come home if you're using ordinary white candles - with no ill effects. But the coloured ones contain chemicals and burn at a much higher temperature - ouch! And talking about 'hot stuff' - make sure you really like the effect of chemical agents like Deep Heat or Ralgex - because once they're on they take quite a while to wear off.

It was all very practical really - no wild thrashings going on or anything. Just sensible things - like not leaving someone on their own if they're bound or gagged in case they get into difficulties or panic. Agreeing Stop Words and Back-Off Words before you start playing. Part of the scene can be about feeling free to yell 'stop!' but not really wanting it to stop.

There was quite an amusing story about a guy who had a really elaborate system of stop words. He used stations on the Victoria Line to indicate how far he wanted to go - and he always stopped at Walthamstowe. That's probably not the best system to

Forbidden Pleasure ? - Or just a pain in the ...

Still a taboo subject for many. Is it vile pornography or gourmet sex? With the publicity surrounding the Spanner Trial and the establishment of SM Pride as an annual event - more and more LGB people are coming out of the SM closet - usually wearing leather. We give outright! readers an opportunity to find out more about it and decide for themselves.

adopt unless everyone involved has an intimate knowledge of the London Underground map!

But having Stop words is essential to prevent things getting out of hand. 'It's ironic' commented one of the 'Tops', 'The Bottom is always really in control'.

After covering the sort of practical things that make it easier to get into certain fantasies without causing any real harm, the discussion turned to legality. Is SM legal? It depends what you mean by SM. You can't legally consent to an assault on you that causes actual bodily harm - scarring for example. Although recently a judge ruled that it was ok for a woman to consent to being branded by her husband - comparing it to getting pierced or tattooed! I'm surprised that didn't arouse more public debate - or speculation on the private lives of the Judiciary come to that!

The test cases are always going to be about extremes. Spanner was about pretty heavy stuff - the police thought they were investigating a murder at one time.

In the evening talk ranged around the philosophy behind SM - sex & power - always fascinating subjects. I think a lot of people dabble - tying someone up, being tied up, wrestling, tickling - a lot of sexual activity involves an element of power play. Where do you draw the SM line? There's a lot more SM activity going on than there are people who define themselves as being into SM. There was definitely a lot of interest in the Rough Sex Seminar and we'd certainly consider running another if people wanted it.

Getting the Safer Sex message across is vital - whatever the context. People need information about the risks and precautions involved in any sexual activity they take part in. I'm glad we did it - and the feedback we got said it was interesting, fun and all done 'in the best possible taste!'.

Top dominant/active player or Dom/me
Bottom submissive / passive player or Sub
SM - Erotic exchange of power &/or pain. (Initials originally from 'sadism & masochism')
D&S dominance & submission
B&D bondage & discipline
BDSM B&D, D&S, S&M - some people use SM to mean all of these, others prefer this term as more explicitly inclusive of all flavours
Vanilla non-SM sex

BDSM - A feminist perspective

BDSM and feminism have sometimes been described as incompatible. But that depends very much on which bits of feminism you're talking about - it includes many strands of thought, not necessarily consistent with each other.

In the 'eighties, one group of feminists put a lot of energy into criticising SM. It was said to be based in patriarchal socialisation, copied from oppressive situations and not essentially any different from the real-life situations it sometimes resembled. If you found it sexy, that was a form of internalised oppression or "false consciousness". If you not only found it sexy, but actually thought there might be some value in it, you were undermining feminism (or at least their version of it) and propping up the patriarchy.

The debate at this time became defensive, simplistic and polarised. On the one hand, if you so much as fantasised about role-play you were damaging women. On the other hand, the SM-ers sometimes sounded as if they were saying "It's not possible for anyone to come to any harm, ever,

Deviant Dykes

December 1995 saw the launch of a new group in Sheffield for lesbian and bisexual women who have an interest in SM.

Deviant Dykes provides a social and supportive forum for discussion and workshops pertaining to all areas of SM activity. Our group boasts a diverse and invigorating membership from those who have little or no 'hands on' experience, to women who could give Pat Califia a run for her money!

The atmosphere is generally informal and participation in workshops is up to the individual. We strive to uphold basic tenets of physical and emotional safety as well as to encourage meaningful dialogue. If we achieve nothing more than providing a safe space for kinky lesbians and bisexual women to get together, then we'll have succeeded in our venture. Deviant Dykes meet monthly in Sheffield and new members are always welcome. For details please write in confidence, to:

Deviant Dykes c/o SP-MAG 575 Attercliffe Road Sheffield S9 3RB

MORE Deviant Dykes!

"MATRIX - feminist bi-women & lesbians exploring BDSM" Newly forming Nottingham based group. Social/discussion group - providing a safe space where our orientation doesn't have to be defended - not a 'play' space. Confidentiality respected. Please write MATRIX c/o outright!

through anything even slightly connected to BDSM". Any genuine discussion acknowledging potential risks would immediately have been used as ammunition in the "war".

In recent years it's become somewhat more possible to talk about these things. And ironically, in view of the anti-SM feminists' criticisms, the culture of the BDSM community can be a valuable resource for some questions important in feminist politics.

The nature of consent

The nature of consent is one example. Currently it seems we still need a campaign just to establish that "No means no". But beyond that simple level, there are important questions that our culture as a whole is still working on. When is consent not genuine because the person giving it was disempowered and not free to choose? When, even though consent was given, ought one not to proceed because the person giving it was not sufficiently wise about their own well-being? Those questions aren't limited to BDSM, but

clearly this is an area of enquiry important to BDSM culture.

Meanwhile, out in the rest of the world, a pervasive cultural mystification on the issue of consent is an essential part of a male-privileging sex set-up. "But I thought she wanted it" is the ultimate get-out clause, and it only works when the nature of consent is continually confused and blurred.

One of the anti-SM arguments is this idea that people are unable ever to give valid consent to it, for one or other of the above reasons. Interestingly, one strand of feminist thought (of which Andrea Dworkin is probably the best-known exponent) sometimes represents all male/female penetrative sex in the same way. Women are not capable of consenting to it - they've been culturally programmed to want it, so therefore their consent is not of their own free will. A similar argument suggests that if lesbians want penetrative sex, it must be as a result of incompletely escaping heterosexual programming.

continued over page

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Feminist Perspective ... cont

(Presumably the people who think that believe they've escaped their own "cultural programming" enough to be an authority on the subject.)

Listen to your intuition

Pronouncements on what's "allowable" in sexuality have their own pitfalls. They may deny or confuse women's own instincts about what's right for them, which varies from woman to woman and from moment to moment. It's not only in the practice of BDSM that women need to ask "How do I know what to choose that's healthy for me?". And it's precisely when their instincts are dulled and confused that women become most vulnerable to abuse - of all kinds, not only physical. "Practise listening to your intuition, your inner voice; ask questions; be curious; see what you see; hear what you hear; and then act upon what you know to be true." (Clarissa Pinkola Estes, "Women Who Run With The Wolves"). That is how women get empowered, not by following someone else's rules, however well-meant.

One particular accusation which has been levelled at BDSM-ers is that it's "disrespectful" to genuine abuse survivors to play with pain and submission. I disagree. The disrespect lies in confusing the two situations. In one case, two people are jointly engaged in an exploration for the joy and fulfilment of both of them; in the other, one person is intent on their own gratification with, at best, no regard for the well-being of the other, at worst an intention to harm. The actions may be similar, but the underlying reality is completely different. To deny the importance of that underlying difference is to discount people's own reality. It's equivalent to saying to a rape survivor that because some people enjoy penetrative sex some of the time, they "must have wanted it" - as if different people never wanted different things, or as if people never wanted different things at different times. That confusion is not

only outrageously disrespectful, but dangerous in that it denies the importance of consent.

That's not to say that anyone should have to listen to, or see, things that they find upsetting.

Equality, power and pleasure

Something else with which feminists are concerned is equality in relationships. Focusing on the play-inequalities of BDSM does nothing to address genuine power imbalances created by money, education or physical strength, or based on race, class, body size, gender, abilities and so on. In a way, BDSM is a peculiarly equalising phenomenon, in that the roles someone plays need not bear any relationship to the economic, physical or intellectual power they may hold in the rest of their life, but only to their own (and their partner's) pursuit of pleasure. Power as an invented, fluid, changeable access to pleasure has a different purpose from power maintaining the authority of an established order.

Pleasure itself is a vital subject within feminist discourse. In her essay "Power and Helplessness in the Women's Movement", Joanna Russ talks about the "Feminine Imperative" - that any power a woman holds may never be used for her own benefit, but only to look after everyone else. This is part of the way that women are socialised. In that respect, it's inherently radical for a woman to set out in pursuit of her own pleasure. (That doesn't mean at other people's expense. The idea that one person's pleasure is always at another person's expense is a fallacy.) Also, many women learn from our culture to be uncomfortable with holding obvious power over another person, estranged from their own strength, and mistrustful of other women who don't have those inhibitions. To whatever degree BDSM provides a space for women to claim their own power and become comfortable with it, to value their own pleasure and that of their lovers, it's a profoundly feminist act.

Jennifer Moore

Whips & Chains or Power Exchange?

Sadomasochism is a word that is guaranteed to provoke extreme reactions. The mention of it brings to mind a certain Tory MP found dead in fetish clothing after an attempt at auto-erotic asphyxiation went horribly wrong.

We've all heard of savage murders, their perpetrators labelled 'sadists' etc. Images of abuse, violence and rape are often conjured up.

These reactions do simply not reflect the reality. All of these dreadful things do undoubtedly happen, but they are not part of safe, sane, consensual SM.

SM is about consenting adults finding pleasure in each other's minds and bodies. Pain, a very powerful feeling when controlled, can play a part in this pleasure but the true essence of SM really lies in the erotic exchange of power.

How many times in one day do you give up power when your consent is dubious? To a boss? A parent? A partner? SM allows us to choose who we submit to and when, for how long and under what conditions. Whether as a Top or a Bottom, we know that our desires will be fulfilled, our needs met, and perhaps above all... that we are safe. Safe to explore our physical capa-

bilities, safe to discover the intricacies of our minds, safe to let go of all our conditioned inhibitions.

That's not to say that SM isn't scary. It is scary to give in to your deepest, most forbidden desires. Placing your emotional and physical well-being in someone else's hands **should** be scary. I don't think I could play with any one who didn't have enough self-respect to recognise that their gift of submission incurs a responsibility on my part to wield my power safely.

Further, as any Top knows, taking such power is also scary. It is difficult **not** to internalise society's pejorative use of the word 'pervert' and start believing that we really are sick & twisted. It takes a lot of courage and emotional stability to safely play games that are labelled 'taboo' by those who don't understand.

The trust that we give each other should never be underestimated. It is, in my opinion, this meaningful and powerful two-way trust that marks SM as distinct from 'vanilla' (non-SM) activity. Although there should always be trust in any sexual activity, the more extreme nature of SM requires that this is more explicit. SM players need to do

more than simply snog, go home, throw their clothes off and hope for the best. Each party's needs must be carefully communicated and negotiated in order that the ensuing 'scene' is successful and safe for all involved.

A common misconception about SM is that the giving or receiving of pain forms the basis of our activities. Pain, of course, is subjective. I'm sure that many people who don't explicitly eroticise pain still experience love-bites and scratches down their backs some-

times! Perhaps the difference between SM and vanilla is a matter of degree. The terms 'pain' and 'pleasure' are simply different interpretations of sensation. It's also worth pointing out that a power exchange can take place through 'dominance' and 'submission', not just through 'sadism' and 'masochism'. There doesn't have to be any pain or even any physical contact involved. A total mindfuck can be as intense and rewarding as a good whipping.

Ms B Havin

Cracking The Code

Most people have heard about the 'Gay Hanky Code' - but if you ask for details all you'll usually get is some shuffling & a few embarrassed erms... Well here it is ... as far as we know ... erm...

Basically this elaborate system involves hanging different coloured hankies out of your back pocket to let people know what you're into. Top/Active guys left pocket Bottom/Passive guys right pocket.

Light Blue oral sex Robin's Egg Blue 69 Medium Blue police Navy Blue fucking Red fisting Pink dildoes Dark Pink nipples Magenta armpits Purple piercing Yellow piss Mustard 8"plusGold 2-2-1 Coral toes Olive Green military Beige rimming Brown Satin minus foreskin Brown Lace plus foreskin Black sm Grey bd Grey Flannel suits White hands Gold Lamé muscles Leopardskin tatoos Teddy Bear cuddles Jock Strap undies Shammy bikers Netting outdoor sex

Now where can I get a black & brown striped satin hanky with navy, light blue & grey spots, gold lamé border and a teddy embroidered in the corner?



Editorial

In 1990, following one of the largest and most expensive police operations in the UK, 15 gay & bisexual men were convicted of assault and given prison sentences of up to four and a half years, for taking part in consensual SM sex.

Everyone involved was a consenting adult, no-one involved sustained any lasting injury or needed any medical treatment. The events took place in private and no complaints about the events were made to the police.

The judge ruled that 'the question of consent was immaterial' in this case. Although some of the men involved were convicted of aiding and abetting an assault on themselves - by consenting. Clearly the term 'consent' here is used with 2 different interpretations - something the law usually abhors.

Some of the defendants appealed through the British courts, ending up in the House of Lords where a 3:2 majority upheld the convictions.

Meanwhile, the Law Commission reviewed the situation and after extensive consultation with both experts and members of the public, they recommended that consent to SM sex was valid unless it resulted in serious disabling injury.

3 of the original defendants took the British Government to the European Court - claiming that their convictions violated the European Convention on Human Rights. And in 1995 The European Commission ruled that there was a case to be answered and proceedings went forward to the European Court of human Rights.

On Tuesday 18th February 1997 the ECHR upheld the convictions.

If you think that all this doesn't affect you - think again. There are two very important points at issue here that have an impact on all our civil rights. The first is consent. Many men in our community are old enough to remember living in constant fear because consensual homosexual acts of any kind at any age were illegal. It seems the police & state have now reclaimed the right to interfere in private consensual sexual practices. In an allegedly free and tolerant society this retrograde step is disturbing.

What is even more disturbing is the use of semi-religious 'moral' arguments to uphold the ECHR's decision. If we are prepared to accept that one group of people in society, by virtue of their religious beliefs, have the right to impose their moral code on us all through the medium of civil/criminal law - then we are looking at the thin end of a very big wedge indeed.

The Religious Right in the USA have successfully brought pressure to bear in introducing recent homophobic legislation. Many, both here and throughout Europe, regard homosexuality as morally wrong. Draw your own parallels. Decisions such as those made in the Spanner case bring us ALL one step nearer to restriction of our civil liberty on a massive scale.

We know SM isn't everyone's cup of tea. We know many of our readers will take a conflicting view of SM to the ones in this feature. But we feel the piece is particularly timely with recent the Spanner ruling. We also feel it raises important questions and throws light on a subject shrouded in taboo - **We welcome and will publish responses from all points of view.**

Cathy White

The Word Is Out!

Leicester's **First Out** Youth Group is over 10 years old and going strong with a new lease of life due to a recent National Lottery Charities Board award.



The Group, currently run by Thilo Boeck and Ali Cayless (pictured above) has weekly drop-in youth sessions at the LGB Centre. The wide age range brief for the group - from 14 to 25 - means it has to be flexible to cater for all sorts of needs & eventualities. For one such 14 year old the group is a lifeline. "I'm too young to go into gay pubs & clubs where other young gays meet - so where else do I go?"

In addition to the usual social activities and visits to places like Lazerquest the group's collective experience gets called into action at various times. A recent situation arose where one of the youngest members was struggling with coming out to his parents but not too sure how to go about it. Other members pitched in with their own experiences to compare and contrast them with each other. So, a problem shared can be a problem halved. This is where the skills of Ali & Thilo come in to referee the group to make sure everyone has a chance to have their say, drawing out the more timid members & putting a brake on some of the more boisterous ones at times.

Thilo Boeck is currently doing an MA in Community Education and is the team leader. Ali Cayless, fresh from a Fine Arts degree at Loughborough University is the Outreach worker. "We also want to introduce an awareness of other kinds of discrimination that some youths have to face. They might have learning disabilities, be young black youth, living in rural communities, where racial discrimination remains hidden but is no less virulent than in the cities". "Just because we are part of the gay community doesn't necessarily make us any less sexist or racist or anti-disability", says Thilo. "We also want to introduce a holistic perspective to young people", he adds.

But although they welcome the award they both realise that their three year contracts are a short span to prove that the group deserves permanent funding. With this in mind a questionnaire has been sent to over 300 schools in the County telling them about the group's existence and welcoming contact. "Young people get to hear about us and we give them a positive image about being lesbian or gay", he says. "I don't go to promote homosexuality", says Thilo, "I go to give information".

The group also has a youth council drawn from its members who visit schools and other organisations with Thilo & Ali to spread the word about the group's existence. The group is currently putting together a new information leaflet written by group members.

The impression is of an active, involved membership trying to change attitudes in the face of much indifference. They also become chosen family for many new members and if it's possible to prove the need for such a group - you can bet these are the two people for the job.

Richard McCance

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LIES and Whispers

Rumour has it that **The Mill** - on the edge of Nottingham's Pink Triangle - is soon to be reincarnated as **Route 66** - a new Gay pub in the well known brewery chain.

Veteran star **Debbie Reynolds** is reported as saying that she's had it with men, she doesn't need a man to make her happy and that in the end - another woman won't let you down. Well at 64 - and after 3 marriages - it must be **better latent than never Debs!**

In an exclusive-to-**outright!** gossip over the trolleys at Tescos we learned that **the-club-formerly-known-as-Triangles** will reopen in a couple of months as **The Maze** - a new live venue for comedy cabaret performance & jazz... and will allegedly be 'gay friendly'.

Apparently **Cher** is currently chewing her nails now that her son Elijah Blue has started dragging up and hitting the New York gay club scene big style. Or perhaps she's just worried he'll keep raiding her wardrobe.

Q Why does everyone hate Michael Portillo on sight?

A It saves time.

IT'S THE LAW! Groundless Gossip, Unsubstantiated Rumours and Idle Speculation are always welcome for the **LAW** column!

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...review!

**Leicester Comedy Festival
De Montford Hall 15/2/97
Sandra Bernhart - Why?**

Having seen, fallen in love 'n' planned my future with the drop dead gorgeous **Rhona Cameron** earlier in the Festival (Y Theatre 11/2/97) - I evn forgave her for getting the **Gay Time TV** job. (I was one of the 4 women who made it to the final auditions by the way - just in case there is anyone left in the universe I haven't told yet). I was really looking forward to Sandra.

Rhona made me wish I was her girl and laugh for days every time I remembered her act. Surely Sandra would have a similar effect? Y'know - her being *the headline act* n' all.

Well readers, the most exciting thing that happened all night was Sean Hughes sitting in front of me. Yes THE Sean Hughes - he of the tortured Morrissey impressions and fab half hours on Ch4. I loved Sean Hughes when I was at college. He was my hero, my ideal mate, my icon. Oh Seany, Seany, Seany. Now I'm as out & proud as the next dyke - but give me Sean Hughes and I'd be choosing bridesmaids frocks before you could say 'knife'.

Ms Bernhart? - Jeez! OK, let me recall the onslaught in glorious technicolour. She was

late on stage, Leicester's biggest venue was less than a third full (how humiliating! HA), she made an early racist reference - and then chastised us for not laughing. There was no interval - let's face it nobody would have come back from the bar, people left early in droves and I would have joined them if it wasn't for the nearness of Mr Hughes. Then he left too! He hadn't smiled once. I'd caught his eye when he went to the little boy's room earlier and tried to send him a look that said 'I saw you last year at the Comedy Festival Sean - and you were so so funny - I love you and want to have your babies'. But he'd walked past before my eyes finished the sentence. Now I wanted to share an 'Oh God! Isn't this awful?' glance with him - alas - I missed again. So all in all it was just a horrible, unpleasant & miserable night children.

Sandra Bernhart heading the Festival was a HUGE mistake. HELLO? Whoever thought 'this'll put bums on seats' needs handing their P45 pdq. Was the reference to her female ex-lover and some tired old Madonna 'no Oscar for you, honey' type thang worth fifteen quid? Er ... no!

Exactly what was that really tasteless, humourless Kurt Cobain song all about Sandra? Cheap laughs at the mispronunciation of 'pasty' (as in

Cornish) and the word 'shag'. Americans don't use the word shag apparently - how I slapped my thigh & belly laughed at that one.

Then the whole American abroad thing kicked in (yawn!) - you know - how we're all emotionless, wear bowler hats and have accents you can cut glass with (zzzzz!). We don't laugh at that Sandra - we laugh at you and your ridiculous stereotypes. It's sad that you obviously don't have any friends over here who could put you straight, (no pun intended - oh I don't know though).

The whole atmosphere was bizarre - some people did laugh - I hope it was in a 'you're crap but we empathize with your predicament' kinda way but who knows - some people bought tickets for Bobby Davro.

Let's not hold back here - it was awful. She knew she was bad, wrapped up early and headed back for London where she was staying - Leicester obviously not good enough for megastars! Have I got a hidden agenda? Excuse me?? Did you see that interview she did with Rhona Cameron? How dare this brash, talentless, mannerless woman intimidate my girl and drive my man from De Montfort Hall! Leicester hated Sandra Bernhart - and so did I.

Julie Taylor

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...sounds!

from DJ Siraker

March sees the dance industry in full swing to storm the floors. First up with a couple of international #1's under their belt but yet to crack the UK market **Fun Factory** bring out a sampler EP & new album featuring main title track I wanna B with U, Don't Go Away and Celebration. All in the Ace of Base down tempo euro-reggae style. If this isn't your thing then check out **The Home Girl's International** remix of Be With You. A harder pumping Alex Party style Clubmix.

Erasure's remixes of Don't Say Your Love Is Killing Me courtesy of **Tall Paul and Jon Pleased Wimmin** - Scorchio!. But it's the B side Oh L'Amour remixes causing the real buzz.

Black Box's cover of Odyssey classic Native New Yorker finally gets a release after being promoed B4 Xmas. If you like your tracks recognisable and with full vocals go for the 1977 studio 54 mix- it's really doing the bizz clubwise.

George Michael is currently doing a greatest hits package - with Sony! Tracks include 2 new tunes to be released as singles to promote the LP due out Autumn.

Watch out for the release of the **Braxton's** cover of Diana Ross's hit The Boss. Massive on import with some storming house and garage mixes by the **Masters at Work Crew** - awesome!

The Pet Shop Boys come back with a good old fashioned pop song Red Letter Day, mixes by **Motiv8, Basement Jaxx** and the boys themselves.

Finally a tune that's guaranteed to pack the floors **Blonde Ambition's** amazing cover of Madonna biggie Live to Tell. So good that even the infamous club bible Mix Mag Update thought that it was a bootleg of Madonna herself - allegedly.

FREEBIES - 1st 3 **outright!** readers to send issue 83 front page banner to **outright! promo Dungeon Records PO Box 161 Peterborough PE3 8HN** get a goody bag of the latest promos.

...sounds! is sponsored by
DUNGEON RECORDS at Exit
10 Park Road Peterborough

Anyone fancy a party?

Propping up a bar one night I was told by the barman to smile, the place looked like a mortuary on a bad night. I looked around at the few people and they were all looking as if the end of the world could happen, or someone had just stolen their partner. "There's not much in this city to smile about", said one. "It's no fun around here anymore", said another. It was then that I realised they were right. Our city nightlife is on its last legs. A couple of years ago the pubs would have been heaving most nights but now there's no point in going out during the week because chances are you'll be the only punter in the place. So why has Nottingham - a really great place to live - gone so quiet?

When Neros closed down a couple of years ago it took the after hours atmosphere and our only club. Kitsch took over at weekends but was mostly mixed - now that's gone too. Maybe the re-opening of Deluxe will bring the crowds back. Or have we lost those crowds for good? It's still a far cry from the days when Chic was the biggest & best gay club in Europe.

More & more straight clubs are running gay nights but I question their motives. Is it for the benefit of the gay community? Or have they just realised there's a 'fast buck' to be made out of us? MGM & Revolution 2 are exceptions - run by us for us - with stalwarts such as Countess Martine, who whether you like his style or not, does provide a welcome escape from 'normality'.

Compared to other cities we just don't have the facilities to party. The Manchester scene is vast but we should be competing with them to attract more people. Gatsbys & the Duncan make an effort to put on events but they're poorly supported. Why?

We need a cash boost for our leisure activities. Rumours of new venues prove to be ... well, just rumours. And is there any guarantee the City Council would approve licences for any new gay pubs/clubs? They seem to think we should be grateful for what we've got.

There is a lot on offer in Nottingham good services, switchboard, newsletter, groups and the invaluable help of the GAI project. But we need to pull together to win back old friends and make this city a place to party.

D Holmes

The Beautiful Game...

Who said it would never last? **Leicester Gay & Lesbian Football Team** is still going strong. They meet every Tuesday evening to play at St Margaret's Pasture, St Margaret's Way Leicester from 8pm - 9.30pm.

Usually a dozen or so show up and have a friendly game of 6-a-side before retiring tired but happy to the Pineapple for post match drinks and social.

There are both men & women in the group with a wide range of ages and experience. They're always looking for new players and everyone is welcome to join.

You can just turn up next Tuesday (You did say you were going to get more exercise in the New Year didn't you?) or ring first for more details - Gareth 0116 270 0137 or John 01455 823 919.

earwigo earwigo earwigo!

contemporary music MEETS MULTIMEDIA

The Steve Martland Band

Thu 13 March • 8.00pm

From Factory Records this rhythmic 11 piece band has written for jazz group, Loose Tubes.

Fragments

Wed 26 March • 8.00pm

Featuring Andy Barrett, Gareth Howell, Third Angel and Michael Joseph in an evening of new theatre, dance, music and film.

DRIVEme:/CRAZY

Thu 27 March • 8.00pm

A multi image and live music thriller by Jan Kopinski, Steve Liffe and Frank Abbott.



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small ads...

Replying to box numbers

Seal your reply in an envelope and write the box number clearly on the envelope in the top right corner.

Post your reply / replies in a larger envelope to **outright! PO BOX 612 Nottm NG3 5TE**. Enclose 2 x 1st class stamps for each reply you send. **Replies sent without stamps will not be forwarded.**

men's personal

• **East Mids/S Yorks** Sociable White/Asian couple 38/40 med build masculine seek other couples for a pint friendship and/or fun! Photo appreciated ALA Box 83/1

• **Disciplined** relationship wanted Hirsute male 40's seeks younger caring partner Overnight stays Photo & full details Prompt reply SAE Sheffield area or within easy access Box 83/2

• **Notts Guy** 29 seeks safe fun with male 18-40 must be straight acting & open minded Box /4

• **Notts/Derbys** Late 30's Biker with all leather interest seeks passive pal for safe fun on & off the road Can accommodate Phone No. essential Box 83/5

• **Shy guy** 20 Nottm seeks someone 18-25 to bring me out of my shell ALA Box 83/6

• **Cute Nottm** guy mixed race loves having fun clubs pubs cinema sports and more Brown eyes medium build short black hair clipped goatee ALA Box 83/7

• **Nottm/Mids** Guy 44 WLTm young guys who like combat gear especially combat trousers ALAWP Box 83/8

• **You 50's-60's** Slim build own place N/S No beard/pets 1-2-1 Leicester businessman 64 10 stone 5'10" Interests - theatre cinema classical music books Non-scene Box 83/9

• **SA/SL** prof. guy 28 5'11" 13st seeks uncomplicated safe fun in S'well /Newark area Can't accommodate /can travel Absolute discretion assured Photo helps Box 83/10

• **S Yorks /Barnsley** area Guy early 30's Good looks good body SA honest WLTm hot horny singles/couples for discreet no strings safe fun Box 83/11

• **Sheffield/anywhere** Gay male 31 Non-scene N/S seeks masculine male I'm caring honest slim smooth with a GSOH Photo appreciated

ALA Box 83/12

• **Divorced lonely** male 48 seeks younger male mutual pleasures my place/yours Detailed letter & photo - prompt reply Full personal details appreciated N/S S Yorks preferred Box 83/13

• **Busy Derby** guy 30's seeks distraction by a guy of similar age For fun friendship and possibly more Photo appreciated Box 83/27

• **East Mids** Responsible experienced Master 47 offers firm discipline to slim student types under 35 Any nationality Report to my study soon boy Discretion guaranteed Box 83/28

• **Notts/Lincs/Newark** Attractive loyal male 25 Slim 5'7" likes clubbing WLTm guys 22-30 for fun & friendship possible relationship ALAWP Box 83/29

• **22 Ghanian** lad good body smooth passive seeks 1-2-1 with male any age Likes BD & massage Photo appreciated Box 83/30

• **Hello!** are you tired of being alone? A cute and fascinating Ghanian will visit England soon Box 83/32

• **Drop me a line** if you are seriously looking for a 1-2-1 relationship with a cute & tender Ghanian guy Bravo! Box 83/33

If you are replying to an ad from Ghana - please enclose 80p in stamps

• **Chesterfield** cute slim boyish guy 18-21 offered secure permanent home/holidays & loads of love & laughs Write soon Box 83/34

• **Nottm** Grandfather seeking wayward grandson 18+ needing TLC obedience & GSOH essential Accommodation available Discretion assured House-proud & domesticated ALAWP Please reply frankly Paul Box 83/35

• **Sheffield** guy early 50's looking for affectionate friendship / relationship with similar. Can travel / accommodate ALA with address Box 83/36

• **Leics** male late 40's seeking younger friends/penfriends Interests walking YHA member/theatre/holidays/swimming GSOH Any nationality Photo please Box 83/37

• **Derby** Avuncular schoolmaster offers to carefully unravel the discipline requirements of local naughty nephews 18-28 maybe

older if really deserving Grey trousers /shorts /pyjamas Box 83/38

• **S Yorks** area Easy going guy 32 very S/A WLTm married/single black guy for discreet no strings fun Good time assured Own place Box 83/39

• **Nottm** guy smooth S/A seeks guys 18-22 smooth/hairy passive for CP massage BD/SM O/A body shaving photography ALAWP Box 83/43

• **East Mids** lad 18 SL masculine mature honest reliable Broad chested 6ft brown hair/eyes Seeks lads 18-30 for fun friendship and possible 1-2-1 Box 83/44

• **Couples** and single guys for safe fun Contact us we are 40 & 50 something Around Leicester & Nottm Box 83/45

• **Derby** Good looking versatile 37 N/Sc into arts walking country house 'dining' WLTm hairy professional guy med/stocky build for 1-2-1 relationship Photo appreciated Box 83/46

• **Notts/Derby** Tall slim tached 41 yo mainly active but versatile Seeks friends for good times maybe more Biker or admirer a bonus ALA Box 83/49

• **Notts** Leather fan looking for friends all ages I am pierced tattooed horny & active 41 ALAWP Box 83/50

• **Sheffield** guy 25 slim dark hair/eyes good looking varied interests seeks genuine good looking males 18-27 ALAWP Box 83/51

• **Nottingham** regular visitor mid 40s seeks black guy 25-50 for wining dining & adult fun photo please returned with mine Box 83/52

• **Nottm/Derby** male 40 wltm black asian oriental guys 18-35 for safe fun possibly more discretion assured ALAWP Box 83/53

• **Gay Guy** 31 n/s seeks fun loving cheeky older men 65-85 for no strings friendship & cuddles your photo gets mine ALA Box 83/51

• **Nottm** attractive guy 39 tall slim w/e loves briefs etc wants intro to w/s phone/ photo ALA Box 83/57

• **Are you** into chubby guys I'm here waiting for cosy nights in cuddles & maybe more Lincoln ALA Box 83/51

• **Notts 28** dark s/a male med build gsoh seeks green /blue eyed romantic guy with soh I am home/antiques lover Box 83/59

• **East Mids** passive guy 41 tight fit for active guys over 50 loves O both ways size colour not important ALA Box 83/60

• **Gay Male** 27 tall slim good looking seeks younger guys 18+ for fun & friendship maybe more good time guaranteed Box 83/61

• **Notts Derbys Lincs** 48 s/a safe clean w/e good butt reliable discreet seeks similar for day/night fun Travel or accommodate Box 83/51

• **East Mids** slim long haired 25 yo veggie into alternative lifestyle seeks ordinary non camp guy for friendship 18-30 very genuine Box 83/63

• **Pen-pal** only? Perhaps yes perhaps no 23 yo in prison requires a special someone Understanding honest genuine caring SOH You? NTW Write only if above - special Box 83/64

• **Notts** 29 yo gay male genuine loving & sincere seeks same 30-50 for cosy nights in and cuddles No time wasters please ALA Box 83/66

• **Dominant** guy seeks passive types I'm late 40's slim interested in pubs cinema clubs WLTm someone upto my age No smokers or moustaches ALA Box 83/68

• **Notts/Anywhere** Naughty nephew type wants to report to Headmaster's study for discipline Phone photo ALA Box 83/69

• **Searching** for my Beautiful Thing S/A 25 Mansfield/Notts area seeks guy 23-28 for lasting relationship ALAWP Box 83/74

• **Deby/Nottm** Guy 40 interested in meeting younger guys who like wearing combat trousers - especially the grey/white ones - for fun & friendship Photo please Box 83/75

• **Leics** 38 & bored looking for penfriends/friends to brighten up 97 Frank letters welcomed 30-45 ALAWP Box 83/76

• **Videos** can anybody help please? Any gay videos to spare? I'm on Income Support but will pay postage Thanks Box 83/77

• **Nottm/Anywhere** male 40 seeking young guys 18-35 interested in briefs/sportswear/photography etc. For weekend fun together Discretion assured Photo for prompt reply Box 83/78

• **Notts** cute and cheeky 27 yo chubby guy wants slim admirers for fun times Prefer non-scene 18-35 Box 83/79

• **Nottm/Derby** Youthful 47 slim clean shaven hairy body SA/SL WLTm guys for uncomplicated friendship/fun times Age unimportant Phone no appreciated Box 83/80

...helplines!

CHESTERFIELD (01246)

LESBIAN Tu 7.30-9.30 559431
HAND Th 1-3 550550

COVENTRY (01203)

FRIEND Mo We Fr 730-930 714199
LESBIAN We 730-930 717166
MESMEN 224090

DEBY (01332)

BODY POS Tu 1030-130 Th 1130-130 292129
FRIEND WE 7-10 349333
LESBIAN We 7-9 41411
AIDSLINE Mon 7-9 Th 2-4 & 7-9 0800-622738

GRIMSBY/SCUNTH (01724)

SCUNTHGAY We & Fr 7-9 271661
AIDSLINE 276660
GAYLINE Tu Th 7-9 01472 251818

LEICESTER (0116)

GAYLINE Mo-Fr 730-1030 255 0667
AIDS Mo-Fr 930-5 255 9995

LINCOLNSHIRE (01552)

GAY/LESBIAN Tu & Su 7-10 535553
AIDS Mo We Fr 9-9 Tu Th 9-530 513999

MANSFIELD (01623)

POSITIVE SUPPORT 26254
SEX UAL HEALTH/AIDS 26254

NORTH STAFFS

L&F S /BOARD Mo We Fr 8-10 Su 1-3 01782 266998

NORTHANTS (01604)

LESBIAN WE 7-930 250887
GAYLINE Tu 630-930 35975

NOTTINGHAM (0115)

L&G S/BOARD Mo-Fr 7-10 9411454
LESBIAN Mo We 7-9 9410625
UNI L&G LINE Mon 8-10 termtime 9514999 Internal 4999

PETERBOROUGH (01733)

Tu & Th 730-930 61499
(answerphone other times)

SHEFFIELD (0114)

AIDS Mo-Th 7-10 0800 844334
GAYPHONE Mo-We 730-930 2588199

SOUTH YORKS (0122)

Th 7-10 Su 3-8 6730703

WELLINGBRO' (01933)

Th 6.30-9.30 223591

NATIONAL

BI-LINE Tu & We 730-930 0181 569 7500
L&G CHRISTIANS 0171 7398134
SWITCHBOARD 0171 837 7324

As most helplines are run by small groups of volunteers from time to time lines may not be covered and operational hours may change. We try to keep this section as up to date as possible - please inform us of any changes you know about -

Thanks!

women's personal

- Lincoln dyke 40's single parent butchish writer quiet tastes N/S WLTM similar to explore life laughter & maybe more ALA Box 83/14
- Nottm single gay female 25 looking for someone to care for - a slim dyke must have GSOH Genuine letters & photo ensure reply Box 83/15
- Lonely lesbian 28 looking for someone to share love hugs & romance with You don't have to be special - just you! Please write soon Box 83/16
- Female 30's new to Leics seeks some friends to share evenings out Car driver Genuine replies please ALA in confidence Box 83/17
- Nottm sexy femme 21 fed up with being single seeks 25-35 professional woman for friendship and more ALAWP Box 83/18
- Lincs/Notts Feminine 40's and fed up No Scorpios/married or previous relationship hang ups Just feminine happy & easy going Box 83/19
- Pretty very young 41 GSOH loves animals enjoys dining out videos clubs etc seeks older woman for fun/friendship Leics/Notts Box 83/40
- Articulate interesting educated mid-forties woman Attractive 'femmish' single rewarding career Loves travel books writing coastal paths music Seeks soul-mate/friends any age Derbys Box 83/47
- Caring easy-going Notts lesbian 23 Into sports laughs and having a good time WLTM similar genuine lesbians for friendship or possible 1-2-1 Box 83/67
- Three years without love - can you oblige? Fit sporty have plenty of love Non-smoker animal lover driver No time wasters Good food plenty of laughs photo Box 83/65
- 37 South Yorks WLTM caring sincere females age unimportant for friendship leading to who knows what? Box 83/70
- Woman 31 football fan Citroen Dyane driver drinker smoker and all round fun loving person WLTM other women for friendship or more Box 83/55
- Leicester Gay female young 40 feminine into self awareness

seeking to enjoy life to the full seeks friends Box 83/48

Are there any lesbian couples in South Notts villages? We are Prof. monogamous early 40's Enjoy arts dinner parties gardening & stimulating conversation Box 83/71

Gay feminine female seeks similar woman for caring friendship possible romance GSOH good conversation & seeking the good things out of life 26-36 Notts area Box 83/72

mixed personal

Stewart & Elixabeth from Derby (?) Please send your address So that we can return photos Box 83/25

Lesbian couple seek Black / Mixed race donor to start a family involvement Negotiable MBA a possibility for the right guy Box 83/326

Young black guy 24 looking for busty TS or convincing TV for friendship & relationship I am heavy built Photo please Box 83/88

Sperm donor sought by a potentially good mother and a.s.a.p. Donor must be healthy white & willing to have STD test Box 83/90

Bi Couple

He 25 She 35 seek uninhibited couples or single ladies for her or for both Party invites letters Anything goes attitude Box 83/84

just friends

Leics area Male couple in committed relationship WLTM other gay couples 25-40 ish for friendship Genuine Box 83/42

messages

ALEX We met a couple of times last summer Please make contact again TIM Box 83/22

GATSBYS13/12/96 YOU Tall slim 'latin' looks ME said I had bus to catch Had met - warm evening last summer Meet again properly? Box 83/23

GUITARIST seeks female singer/musicians to join Scots folk band Enthusiasm Commitment & SOH more important than experience Box 83/24

ASHISH We met at the barbeque in

Derby last year Please contact would like to see you again Write soon Box 83/41

SNOW I don't understand why you don't want to see me any more was it something I said at the workshop? Whatever it was - we can talk about it Please get in touch Spinny

acomodation

Prof N/S female seeks double room in clean house/flat in Derby Centre from 8-10/2/97 Phone 01754 769058 Box 83/20

Derby Prof female seeks shared accom in N/S clean house Derby area Box 83/21

Nottm Young man 18+ possibly student - to share large house with mature gay owner Adaptable & home loving GSOH Own furnished room Roy 0115 9241050

Leicester houseshare Single room furnished & use of facilities £35 pw Inc ex phone B&B £7 daily 0116 2433984

Sheffields Hillsbrough gay houseshare One room single furnished clean Meals & Bills inc Working £33pw Students £34 pw B&B 12.00 daily 0114 220 6638

Gay lodger required to share house with 2 others Quiet area of Leicester £200 pm approx 0116 254 0785

Nottm room available close to City Centre to share house with a gay male Rent £38 pw ex phone Call 0115 924 0376 after 6pm for details

Small cottage for sale or to let Small market town setting mid-

For Sale

Bestwood Village Nottingham

3 Bed end town house
2 reception
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sep wc & bathroom
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lawn to front
garage
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Derbyshire Builders on site at present - will be ready late summer 01629 824 862

Mansfield room in comfortable shared house Own furnished room Mod Cons Suit lesbian £40 pw inc bills ex phone ring Mandy 01623 647 302

Basford single room in gay house All facilities £35 pw inc bills ex phone & food Solvent non smoker please Evenings - 0115 970 6655

Nottm/Arnold Room to let in lux. det. 4 bed house all mod appliances gym facilities parking To share with 1 other male £40 pw inc 0115 953 6379

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holiday accom

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Women Only Night

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Poster for
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