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**WORKERS' CONTROL NOT CONTROL OF WORKERS**

**"SILENT PIONEERS" Channel 4,  
22nd September (30 mins)**

Picture 300 elderly lesbians and gay men at their weekly social bash. This is 1986 and it's New York Senior Action In a Gay Environment (SAGE). We are eavesdropping on oral histories of the 30's when these black and white lesbians and gay men lived out their lives, passing for straight, contending with the usual hellfire and damnation. A black grandmother humourously recalls the thunder and lightning that befell her when she could no longer live a lie, and the eventual surprise and obvious acceptance voiced by her granddaughter on film, when she realised that her gran and Sharon were, in fact, longtime lovers. The aged waitress who felt that she lived in a foreign country, but had now "come home" to the lesbian centre and a niche as an ironic, agitprop singer too. The lesbian with parkinson's disease, who recalls in quivering voice how she first wrote the word "lesbian" in her diary then tore it out only to find it days later, staring up at her from the floor of the family home, realising that it was the first time she had actually named herself. The two gay lovers, 50 years on, and still very clearly in love.

This film is undoubtedly a major highlight of the Channel 4 season, only spoiled by the often inaudible questions of the interviewers, making some of the responses weaker. In our youth-orientated culture, this is vital viewing, long overdue. For these determined, lively elders won't lie down and fade quietly away. We should celebrate that their retirement is only a passing phase. I shall no longer fear growing old.

**RICHARD McCANCE**

● If you missed "Silent Pioneers" you can see it at the next GAY MENS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING on the 9th October, (Thursday) at 7.30pm, Council House. The film will begin about 8pm. Not to be missed.

**THE METRO CINEMA**

Fri 10 Oct (Late Show) 11.00, Sunday 12 (9.00)

**"A WILD AND WONDERFUL FILM... A THOROUGHLY ENTERTAINING MOVIE"**  
THE FACE

**"VERY FUNNY... HIGHLY RECOMMENDED"**  
TIME OUT

**"BRILLIANT... ABSOLUTELY FULL OF BEEFCAKE..."** IN MAGAZINE  
France 1984 99 mins

**ROY ANTHONY**  
Mr Gay Britain 1986

**PAUL MORRISSEY**  
**MIXED BLOOD**  
A SHOCKINGLY FUNNY COMEDY SET IN THE MEAN STREETS OF NEW YORK

Fri 24 October 8.00, Sat 25 (6.30/9.00)

Jeff Bridges, Glenn Close, Peter Coyote

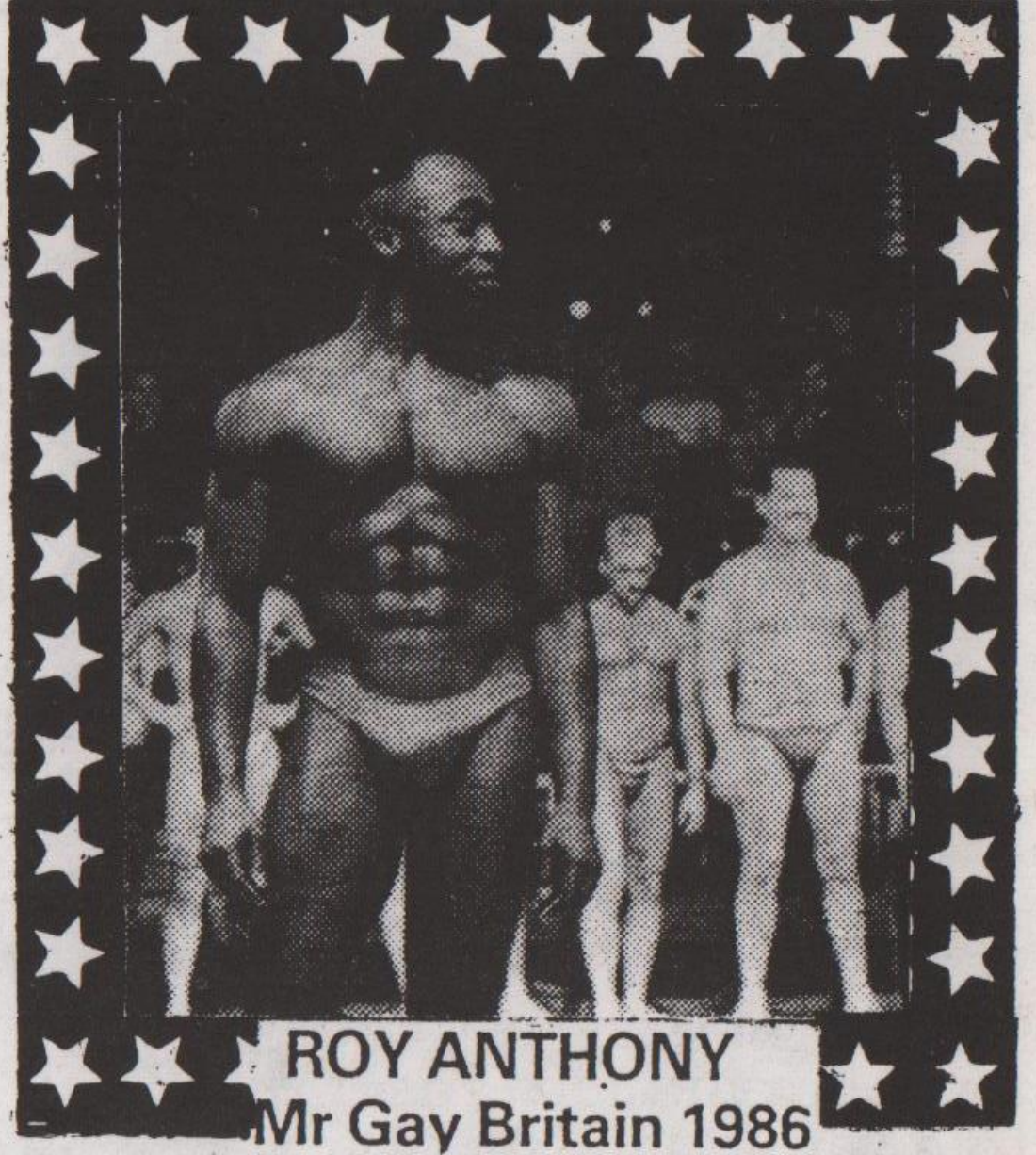
**JAGGED EDGE**  
Director: Richard Marquand

"Jagged Edge" is much more than a court-room picture. These days it is almost unheard of for a movie to keep you guessing till the last frame but this one does, partly because director Marquand plays it so beautifully straight. No question this will make my best ten for 1986." **David Pirie, Time Out.** USA 1985 109 mins

Sun 26 Oct (6.30-9.00), Tues 28, Wed 29 (8.00) Starring: Helen Shaver, Patricia Charbonneau, Audra Lindely

**Desert Hearts**  
A FILM BY DONNA DEITCH

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**LISTINGS**

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL - V.D. CLINIC, Daily: Mon-Fri. 9.30 to 11.30am. AFTERNOONS: Tues & Wed: 2-3.30pm. EVENINGS: Mon & Thurs, 4.30 to 6.30pm. SATURDAY: Emergencies only for one hour starting 9.30a.m. (Try to arrive at least half-hour before end of session and please do not pass urine for 4 hours before attending. If you are anxious ask for the Health Advisor. PHONE: 475989, (Clinic hours only), otherwise main hospital number - 476161.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities, Mon-Thurs, 7-10pm, tel: 411454.

LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon. & Wed, 7.30-9pm, 410652, c/o Womens Centre, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10pm, counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/IS's, tel: 474712 c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN/GAY YOUTH ORGANIZATION, up to age 26, info. NLGYO, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Rd, Nottm.

AIDS HELPLINE, Worried about AIDS? Call us Mon. & Tues. 7-10pm, Nottingham 585526. Accurate information can help to reduce your anxiety.

NOTTINGHAM - 50 year old would like to hear from others (40-50) for friendly, social meetings - Discretion assured, varied interests. All letters answered. Box 12, GAY NOTTINGHAM, P.O. Box 34, West P.D.O., Nottingham.

Looking for a Piano Teacher? Enthusiastic and qualified student at the Royal College of Music lives in central Nottingham at weekends. Interested? Phone Jeremy Fleet on 602706

**STOP PRESS**

**++ NEWS ++ NEWS ++**

Labour Party Conference passed a comprehensive Lesbian & Gay rights resolution for second year running. Two-thirds majority secured this year, now part of the official party programme.

**It's free!**

**Gay Nottingham!**

No. 19,  
October, 1986.

Copy deadline:  
October 23rd.

Published by GAY NOTTINGHAM, Box 34,  
West P.D.O., Nottingham, NG7 2DX.

**A FAIR DEAL FOR LESBIANS & GAYS NOW!**

**Labour Campaign for Gay & Lesbian Rights**

the oppressed... rely first on their own struggle

**COMMUNARDS STORM CHARTS NOTTINGHAM BOUND**

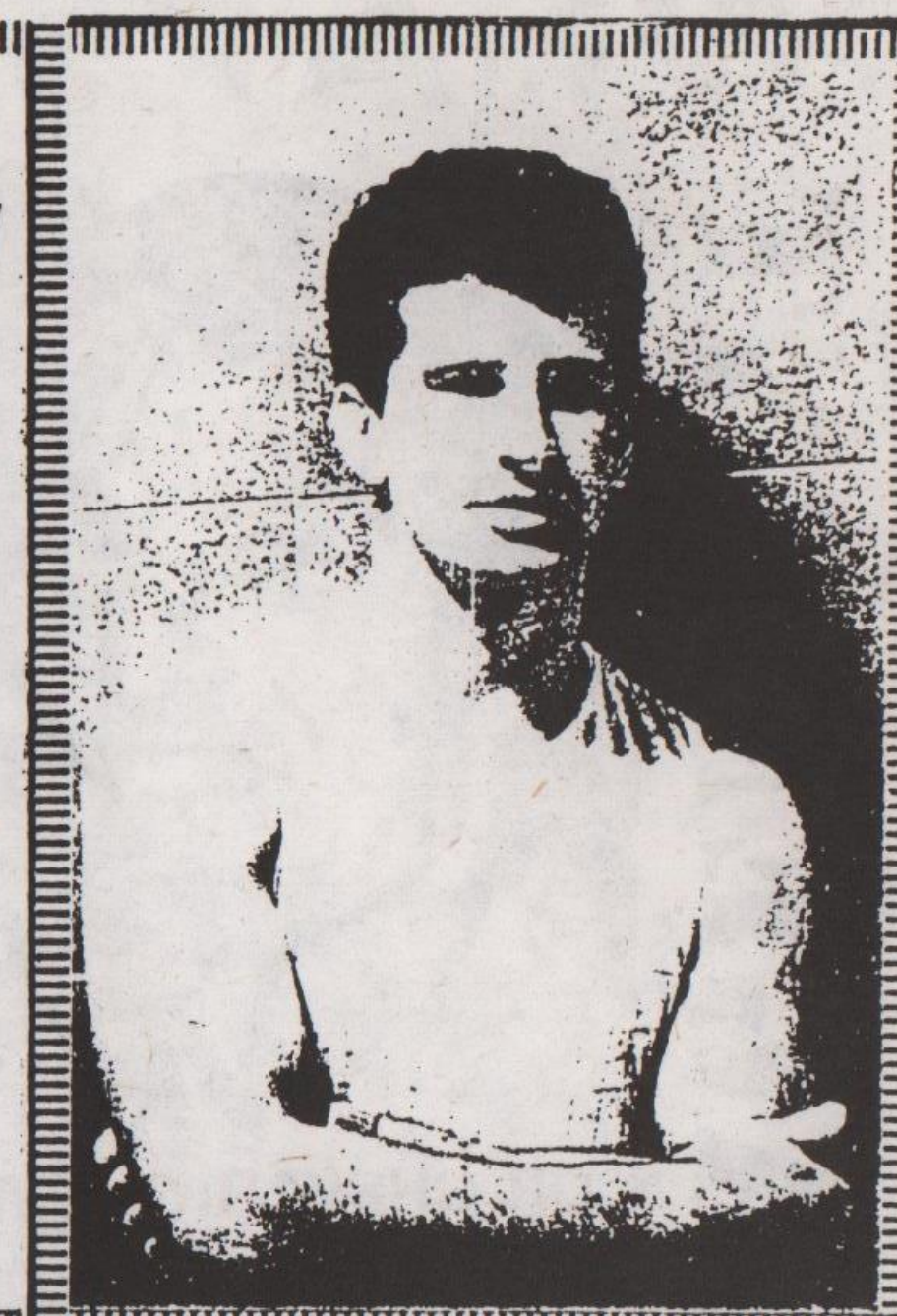


We're euphoric and delighted" - that's the message from the Communards (alias Richard Coles and Jimi Somerville), as they celebrate four weeks at No. 1 in the singles charts, with sales heading toward the million mark. The duo are promoting their hit single, "Don't Leave Me This Way" and appear at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham on Sunday 7th December, at 7.30pm, (tickets £5.50 and selling fast). The Communards were formed last March when Jimi broke with Bronski Beat. The duo are out gay men and often perform at gay benefits.

\*\*\*\*\* PRIVATE MATTERS \*\*\*\*\*

Now we're set for the demo, on the 25th October (you'll have seen it in the press, and leaflets will soon start to flutter), we might as well face that thorny old problem: DONT ROCK THE BOAT. SEXUALITY IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR. DEMANDING SPECIAL TREATMENT WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE. We're right to want to be left alone. But how private is our sexuality as far as the Police are concerned? Customs? and Excise? Teachers? Employers? the Sun, the Star and the rest? As gays, we're under constant and increasing public attack. In that sense, we're already getting 'special treatment', and want it to stop. I think we need to take a public stand to protect our privacy. That's why I'll be on the demo, on the 25th.

But there's one homosexual man who won't be. He's very powerful at County Hall, and has consistently been opposing equal opportunities for lesbians and gays. It seems to be that he's frightened of losing some of his power, if sexuality gets on the agenda. Somebody might just ask him to stand up publicly for their rights. I very much oppose suggestions that he should be 'exposed'. We must defend the right to privacy of all gays. But when does his right to privacy include the right to walk over everybody else's right? See you on the 25th! **MICK WALLIS**



A 22 year-old Nottingham student has been placed second in the recent "Mr. Gay Britain" bodybuilding contest held in London recently. Damian McCarthy originally from Cork, Eire, trains at the Nottingham YMCA and this is only his third contest. Sport runs in the family; his older brother is an athlete and is also gay. "This helped me to come out at home. When I came to Nottingham I used the scene quite a lot at first, but as I don't drink or smoke, I don't rely on it that much. The scene is not the easiest place to get to know people, too artificial," he adds. Damian plans a future career in physical culture and has an eye to running his own gym. Right now he is keen to run some aerobics classes in the city. Watch out for Damian, he's going places!

**FEMI OTITOJU**

**MICK WALLIS**

**SAY "NO" TO DIVIDE & RULE**  
A DEFEND BLACK RIGHTS...  
A DEFEND WOMENS RIGHTS...  
A DEFEND DISABLED RIGHTS...  
AND DEMAND...

**FAIR DEAL for LESBIANS & GAYS in NOTTS**

**DEMONSTRATE OCT 25th NOTTINGHAM**

**national FEMI speakers OTITOJU**

**SHARON ATKIN**  
▲ ASSEMBLE 12.13  
▲ SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th  
▲ OLD MARKET SQUARE, NOTTINGHAM

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**SAY "NO" TO DIVIDE & RULE**

**DERBY TORY ELECTED TO GAY GROUP**

A Derby City Councillor has been elected a Vice-President of the Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality. Cllr. Robin Wood, the Opposition spokesman on Derby's Equal Opportunities Committee, unlike his Nottingham counterparts, is a staunch and outspoken defender of lesbian and gay rights. "My fellow Tories on the Council don't oppose me. No one voted against my introduction of Gay Rights into the City's Equal Opportunities policy", said Robin. Recently, he wrote to Tory Party Chairman, Norman Tebbit, pointing out that no votes were won by his anti-gay remarks. Further details of the CGHE Group from Robin Wood, Green Lane Gallery, Green Lanes, Derby.

**CLR. ROBIN WOOD**

**SHARON ATKIN**



# WHAT'S 'SPECIAL' ABOUT THE CLINIC?

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



DR. CHRIS BIGNELL



COLLEEN



BARBARA

Following the recent Central Weekend TV programme on AIDS, Gay Nottingham decided to take a look at the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic (known to most of us as "The Clap Clinic") at the General Hospital, and to meet the newly-appointed Consultant-in-Charge and members of his team of Health Advisors, Barbara and Colleen, who work alongside him. This month we describe what happens when a first-timer goes to the clinic and what he can expect...

Most people have a tear of hospitals, of being prodded about by doctors without being told what's happening. Add to that the fear that you might just have "something not quite nice a sexually transmitted disease, commonly called "the clap", and you have a recipe for fear which can build up. But how the hell do you tell a perfect stranger that you've just had sex with another man?

I wondered what a clinic first-timer would feel as he entered. We always seem to remember past bad experiences, never the good ones. It's understandable then, to feel a little cautious at least.

But I need not have worried, for one thing Dr. Chris Bignell is no stranger to Nottingham; he studied here and has worked in London and Leeds where he was a Senior Registrar, before returning here to the General Hospital as Consultant-in-Charge of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic. Over the years he has gained a wide knowledge of some of the medical and social problems gay men encounter, making him familiar with the London and provincial gay scenes.

He immediately puts you at ease and, had I been a patient that day, I would have felt reassured by his relaxed and caring manner, which by the way, extends to the rest of the staff, allowing for the off days what we all have; like us they are human beings as well. Where possible the staff have tried to make the clinic waiting areas as cosy as possible for patients. There are plants and pictures on the walls and even copies of Gay Nottingham. There are separate days for men and women. The only clinic in Nottingham, it provides a service to all

who use it, including a lot of gay men, so don't worry, you won't shock the staff, they won't have to reach for the smelling salts!

Over a coffee I asked Chris Bignell whether anything I told the clinic would be treated in confidence. You hear such stories sometimes. Would he set the record straight? "Whatever you tell us is in total confidence and won't even be shared with your own doctor. If we needed to get in touch with your doctor for anything we would need your permission first. People don't always realise that if they go to their own doctor for STD treatment or advice this will go on their file, as a matter of course".

He then explained how a new patient checks in. Basic information like your name, address, age and whether this is your first visit, will be taken. If you are afraid to give your real name, a made-up name will do. You can always give a friend's address; but if you can't or don't want to do this, you simply arrange with the clinic that you will call back sometime to get your results. Before you see one of the doctors or have any tests you will be given a number and then your name is not used any further. The tests are painless and don't take long, and the staff will explain what they are doing so that you are involved every step of the way. If you have a friend who's been before, it's a good idea to take him along.

Chris Bignell believes in being open with his patients. "If you don't know the answer to something it's often best to say so. The way to gain a patient's confidence is to build up trust with him. This can only be done if you treat him as an individual. I

won't dictate what people should or should not do. I'll give them accurate information and then with the help of our Health Advisors, Barbara and Colleen, the patient can make up his own mind. We often find that patients will confide and talk freely with them, when they won't always with us. In the past patients at the STD clinics were often treated like lepers and criminals, so it's not surprising they are sometimes cautious.

So if you are worried and you think the clinic could help you, try and arrive at least half an hour before closing time.

With laboratory testing facilities on hand results will be much quicker, and in total confidence, remembering that the information will not be shared with anyone else. In this age of specialisation, these are the experts, so it makes sense. So don't keep putting it off; they are there to help. (Next month, GAY NOTTINGHAM will look at some of the health problems the clinic deals with, including AIDS, and we talk to a gay man who went for a test.)



Delegates in pensive mood at recent CHE Conference held in Nottingham at the George Hotel, Hockley.

## NOTTINGHAM DECEMBER YOUTH FESTIVAL



Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Youth Organisation has told Gay Nottingham that it plans to hold its second Youth Festival in December, after the success of the last one. The date is the weekend of the 12/14th December. Details from NLGYO, Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. (Pictured are a group of last year's revellers in a happy mood. Watch next issue for more information on events.)

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Jeremy Younger, one of Radio Nottingham's top programme presenters is leaving after three years to become Vicar of Bow, East London. A household guest for many with his early morning programme, "Thought For The Day" and anchorman for "Late Night Nottingham", he pioneered a helpline off the air, knowing that there were many lonely listeners whose only lifeline was their radio. One of his more recent programmes on Lifestyles featured a monk, a single mother and members of a gay household. Jeremy says he has always had a love-hate relationship with the church. "I work within the church, in spite of it," he says. He believes the church asks some basic questions about powerlessness and

helps create a sense of community for minority groups. The reason for the move South is because his partner, Gordon is now studying in London. Originally they to commute but "it took us so many years to find each other it seems silly to be apart now", adds Jeremy. He will be sorry to leave Nottingham, having made a number of friends here. He is moving from a small house to a roomy vicarage. "It will be nice for Marcus, Gordon's teenage son, when he comes to stay with us", he said.

Recent visitors from Leicester were Just-A-Phase Theatre Company with their show, "Overcoming Homosexuality - Confessions of Two Deviants". The one-night show at the International Community Centre was a sell out and well received. Directed by Jo Docherty and Kafo Ade, it featured third-year performing arts students, Darren Brady and Jamie McCarthy. The show featured autobiographical material and traced the adventures of two gay men in their fight against prejudice and bigotry leading up to their eventual coming out. At the outset the Edinburgh Fringe Festival organizers, realising they had a gay play on their hands, tried to cancel the company's contract, but Leicester Polytechnic threatened to withdraw three other entries for the Fringe if the show was cancelled, and the Fringe organizers backed down. The company now plan to video the show as a permanent record of their work, before moving on to do other things.

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## MUSHROOM BOOK EVENT

## JEANETTE WINTERSON

Jeanette Winterson's lesbian novel 'Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit' won the Whitbread First Novel Award in 1985. Since then she has edited 'Passion Fruit' an anthology of love stories with a twist and has written 'Boating For Beginners'. Her latest book 'Fit For A Future' is a manual on fitness as a feminist issue.

7.30 THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCT. 1986

at the Auditorium, County Library, Angel Row, Nottingham, (Good Wheelchair access)

The writers will be reading from and talking about their work and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Wide selection of gay and lesbian books available also magazines including Gay Times, Body Politic, Gay Life, Out, etc. plus badges and pink triangles.

Tickets are £1.50 (waged), 75p (unwaged)

MUSHROOM Tickets from Mushroom Bookshop

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