

December 1987 No.5

Leicester • Derby • Nottingham  
Mansfield • Loughborough

EAST MIDLANDS

**METRO  
GAY**

• THE FREE ONE •

Published by METRO GAY, West  
PDO, Box 34, Nottingham, NG7 2DL.

## MARGARET ROFF: LAWRENCE NEWCOMBE:

# WE REMEMBER THEM WITH PRIDE

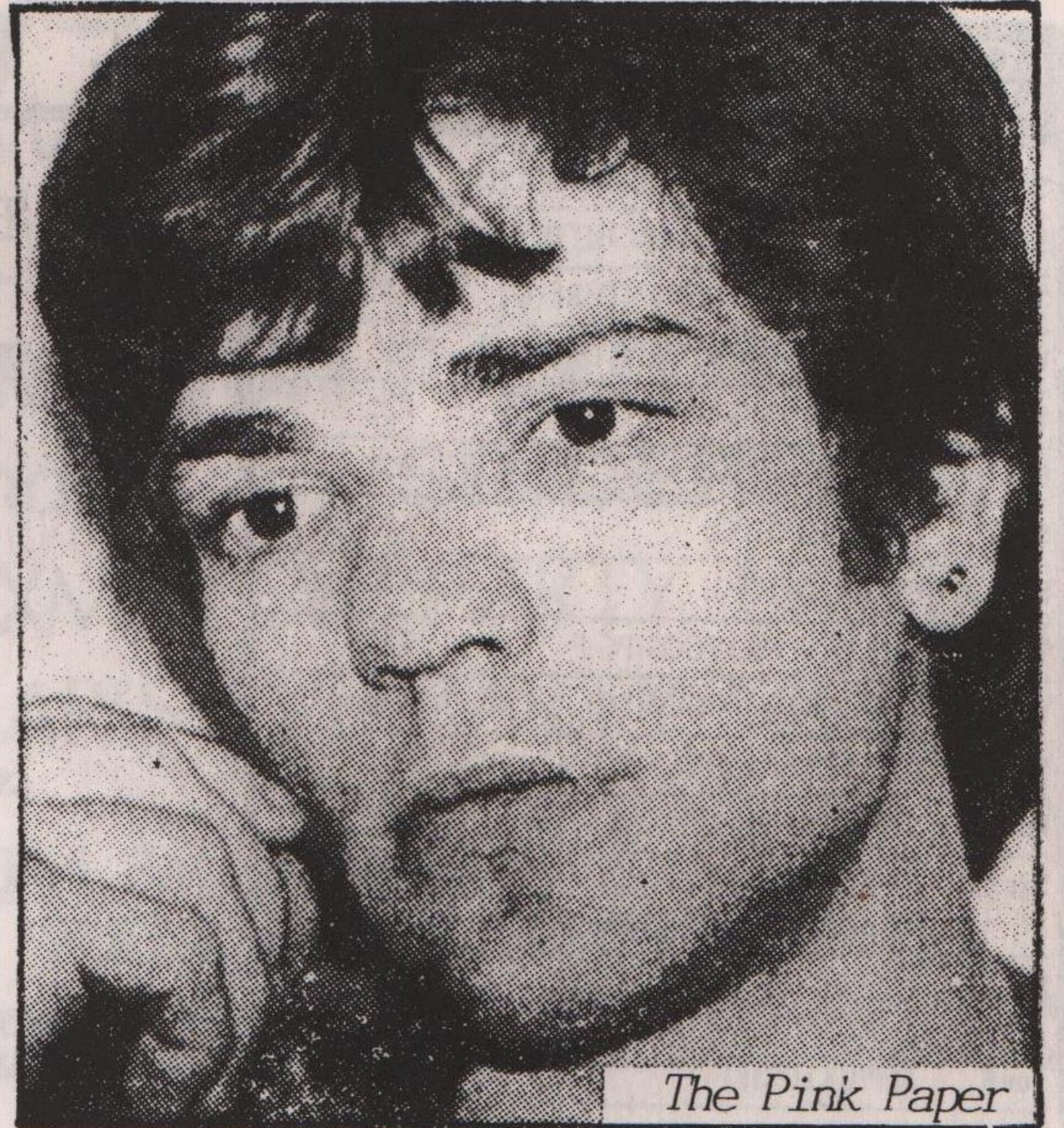
Margaret Roff, a leading lesbian and gay rights campaigner, and former Mayor-elect of Manchester City Council, died in a hotel fire in Nicaragua last month. The blaze, which claimed another eight lives, occurred in Manchester's twin city of Puerto Cabezas where Ms. Roff was one of a number of women there to present local Nicaraguan women with £6,000, raised at a Manchester Women's Festival last summer. A spokeswoman for Manchester City Council said Ms. Roff was "a great and wonderful person who worked tirelessly for lesbian and gay rights and a woman of vision who saw how things COULD be and would commit herself fully to working for that vision. She will be greatly missed".

Margaret Roff was the architect of Manchester Council's trailblazing equal opportunities policies, aimed to benefit all disadvantaged groups not just lesbians and gay men. She was also very active in campaigning on behalf of black people and worked in the city council's Low Pay Unit. A contributor summed up the secret of her achievements when she said: "Margaret never let go of the ground as she reached for the moon".

More than three hundred people, attended A Memorial for Margaret Roff in Manchester last month. The Memorial opened with a contribution from Lesbian Link, and moving, oftentimes tearful tributes, from those who worked with her, including Pat Carney, Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council. There was also a taped message from Viraj Mendis, from his sanctuary in the Church of the Ascension, who said that Margaret was the first politician to condemn the Home Secretary's attempts to have him deported. "Were it not for her I probably would not be here today", he added.

President Ortega of Nicaragua and Joan Lester, MP sent messages of condolences among the many others. The meeting ended with "It Could Have Been Me" sung by Holly Near. May her spirit live on. (A Memorial Fund has been set up. Donations to Margaret Roff Fund, c/o MANCODA, 12 Mosley Street, Manchester, M23AQ).

Gay Life



The Pink Paper

Lawrence Newcombe had left Kings Cross tube and was on his way home, after meeting a friend, before heading off to start a shift at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

When he saw smoke coming from Kings Cross underground station he dashed back underground, in a brave attempt to use his nursing skills to help save the lives of others. He later died in the inferno.

The Daily Mail, infected with its own hysteria screeched, front-page banner headlines that Lawrence was an "Aids Carrier". The paper also claimed that fifteen fire stations had been sent a directive urging anyone who had been in contact with Lawrence to see their doctor for a check-up. (This was later strongly repudiated by Terry Beckwith, Chair of the Fire Brigades Union).

There were other acts of bravery that night. The Chief Fire Officer, who rushed into the smoke without his breathing apparatus, also died in the fire. The "Guardian" referred to his "simple, instinctive courage" and the subsequent television coverage of his funeral dwelt on this.

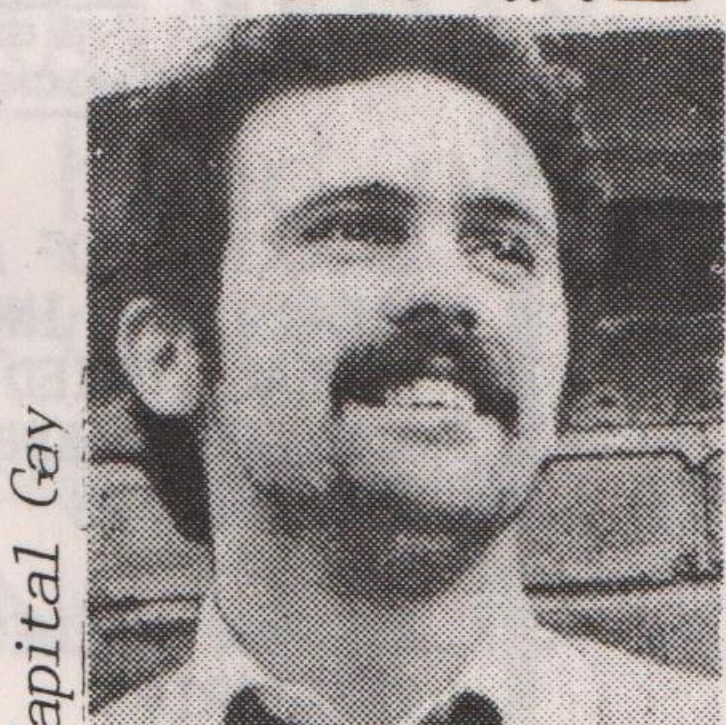
Not two weeks before in the tragedy that was Enniskillen, a young woman who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time - also

(continued, back page)

## IN THE PINK



Jan Parker



Stephen Burn



Lisa Power

Burn, Parker and Power! No, it's not the latest line in sophisticated graffiti, but the lineup for the Pink Paper, a new national weekly for lesbians and gay men that hit the streets on 12th November. AND IT'S FREE! The paper aims to fill a gap in British publishing by offering up to date news, for and about lesbians and gay men throughout Britain, as well as providing a forum for topical debate.

Apart from Capital Gay, only available in London area, there is no national weekly paper that carries news relevant to lesbians, and with high unemployment, the monthly glossy gay magazines are often beyond the pockets of low-waged or unemployed lesbians and gay men.

Co-editors are Jan Parker and Stephen Burn. Lisa Power, will handle advertising sales and office management.

The Pink Paper needs one more Nottingham person to complete a team of two to help with distribution on a once weekly basis, preferably someone with access to transport. Expenses will be paid. Interested? Then

(continued, back page)

OUR XMAS

STARTS ON 19 DECEMBER

With the outrageous

STEVE La QUEEN From Rags and Riches

Top Midlands Drag Act Admission 30p

PARTY NIGHT XMAS EVE

with Games and Fun

XMAS DAY 8 pm onwards

DISCO and FREE BUFFET

A Great Night planned for

New Year's Eve 8 pm 'til late

Everyone welcome Free Admission

WHITE HART HOTEL

Church Street

MANSFIELD

Mansfield 23607

The Pink Paper

Capital Gay

Capital Gay



CITY LIGHTS C.I.N.E.M.A		
Sat 5	THE BELLY OF AN ARCHITECT (15)	2.00/5.00/8.00
Sun 6	THE BELLY OF AN ARCHITECT (15)	5.00/8.00
Tue 8	PEE-WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE (U)	7.30
Wed 9	PEE-WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE (U)	7.30
Thu 10	PEE-WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE (U)	7.30
Fri 11	COMRADES (PG)	7.00
Sat 12	COMRADES (PG)	3.00/7.00
Sun 13	COMRADES (PG)	3.00/7.00
Tue 15	THE THREE AMIGOS (PG)P	7.30
Wed 16	THE THREE AMIGOS (PG)	7.30
Thu 17	THE THREE AMIGOS (PG)	7.30
Fri 18	THREE MEN & A CRADLE (PG)	7.30
Sat 19	CHRISTMAS STORY (PG)	2.00/5.00
	THREE MEN & A CRADLE (PG)	8.00
Sun 20	A CHRISTMAS STORY (PG)	5.00
	THREE MEN & A CRADLE (PG)	8.00
Tue 5	52 PICK UP (18)	7.30
Wed 6	52 PICK UP (18)	7.30
Thu 7	52 PICK UP (18)	7.30

City Lights Cinema, Broad Street, Hockley, Nottingham.  
Tel (0602) 583184

## WEST ONE

### THE HAIR CARE CENTRE

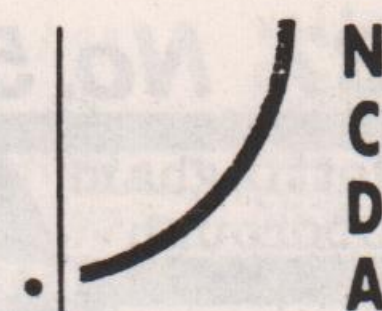
EXPERT UNISEX HAIR STYLING  
SPECIALISTS IN  
SCALP & HAIR PROBLEMS

10% DISCOUNT ON PRODUCTION  
OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT

(33 1/3% DISCOUNT FOR STUDENT UNION  
MEMBER ON TUS, WED & THURS)

FIND US AT:  
15 MANSFIELD ROAD,  
NOTTINGHAM.  
TEL: 410021.

## WEST ONE



### CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

DUNKIRK ROAD, DUNKIRK,  
NOTTINGHAM NG7 2PH.

TELEPHONE: (0602) 705700

The fact that there are several lesbians and gay men working in co-operatives in Nottinghamshire is not necessarily a coincidence. The merits of the co-operative/collective structure may offer a solution to some of the problems some lesbians and gay men face in other workplaces or groups. SO WHAT IS A WORKERS CO-OPERATIVE?

- A co-op is a business owned and controlled by all those working in it.
  - A co-op operates for the joint benefit of the workers involved
  - Decisions about the business are taken on a "one person one vote" basis
  - Co-operatives allow people to work together while controlling their own working life
  - They give people the satisfaction of working for themselves and their friends and of sharing the rewards of their work on an equal basis
  - The rules of a co-operative prevent discrimination
  - Many co-operatives provide opportunities to learn or use a skill which might not otherwise be available
- USE YOUR PURCHASING POWER TO SUPPORT LOCAL CO-OPERATIVES! For more information contact Nottinghamshire Co-operative Development Agency Ltd, on Nottingham 705700.

Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Community Centre Co-operative Society

# BENEFIT DISCO

TUESDAY  
15<sup>th</sup>  
DECEMBER  
8-30 - 11-30 pm

plus ---  
CHRISTMAS  
DRAW !!!

MUSIC BY  
THE WOMEN'S  
DISCO COLLECTIVE

FOR  
GAY  
MEN  
LESBIANS  
AND  
THEIR  
FRIENDS

at  
THE  
YORKER  
(upstairs)  
Mansfield Rd.

admission 50p



## December 6th.

John Hegley & Otiz Cannelloni  
plus full support.

SPOTN

## December 20th

Igor Thompson - Henry Normal  
plus full support.

## January 17th

'BROWN BLUES'

Arnold Brown and Barb Jung & Michael Parker.

OLD VIC TAVERN FLETCHERGATE

# CABARET

HIZIKI WHOLEFOOD COLLECTIVE

15 GOOSEGATE  
HOCKLEY 505523

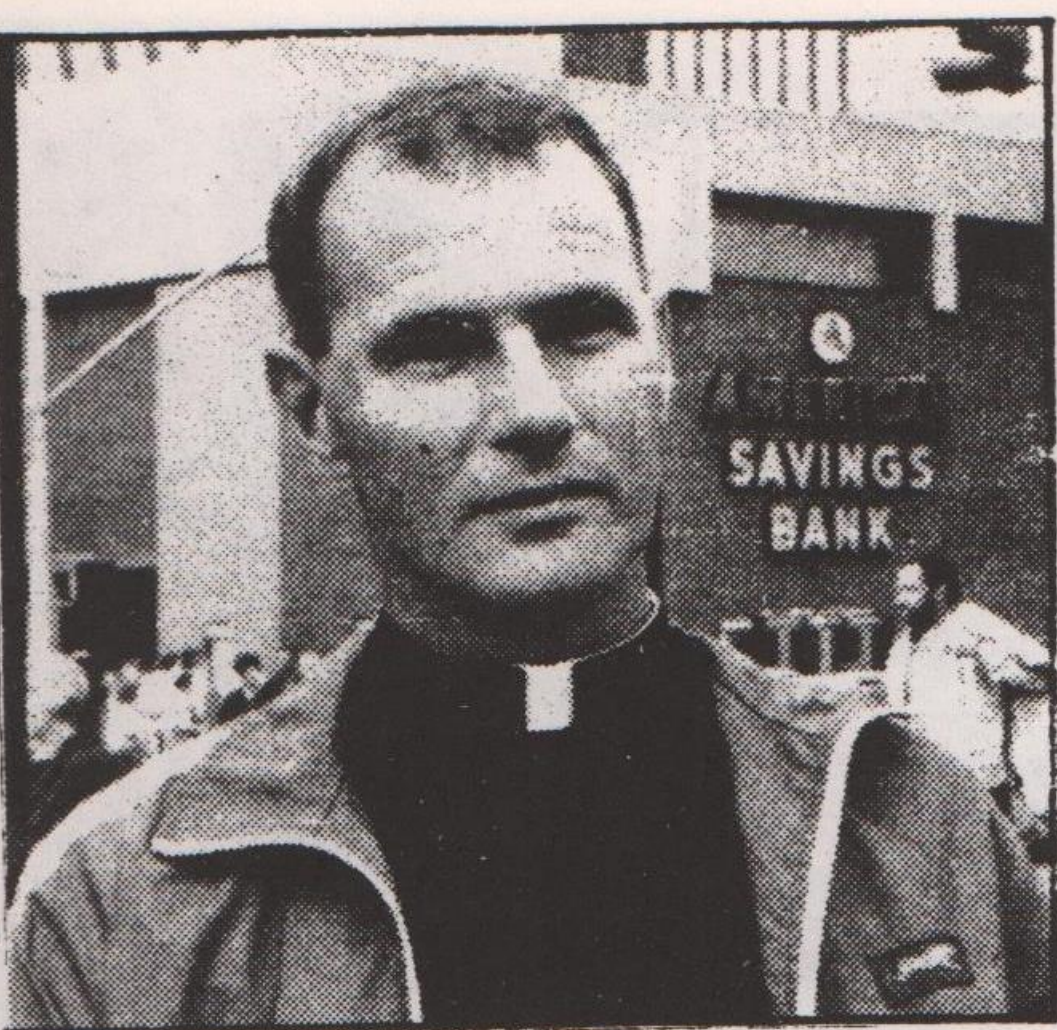
STOCKISTS OF A WIDE RANGE OF  
WHOLEFOODS INCLUDING BREAKFAST  
CEREALS, DRIED FRUIT, PULSES, NUTS  
AND SEEDS, HONEYS, SUGAR FREE JAM  
AND FLOURS ...PLUS.

A LARGE SELECTION OF HEALTHY  
VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN  
CONVENIENCE MEALS.  
(Frozen, Packeted and tinned).  
All at reasonable prices.

Wide selection of fresh take  
away Food and Bread daily.  
Also available -  
Fruit Juices, Organic Wines,  
Beers and ciders.

Increasingly catering  
for vegans!





"A Priest's Testament, C4, November.

"The Church will be judged on Aids," Thus spake Father Bernard Lynch, sometime New York shepherd whose flock was being remorselessly ravaged by the pest.

Some would suggest to the 'father' that many gays had judged the Church longbefore, and that its recent responses only reinforce that judgement. In "A Priest's Testament", the gently spoken Lynch pressed his fingertips together, furrowed his brow and pondered a possible spiritual poverty in a priesthood which denies communion to his gay flock. He squeezes them all into his small sitting-room, men and women, and they praise God. Down the block, the doors of God's temple remain firmly barred to them.

Lynch - in handsome early middle-age, often to be seen pounding Central Park for a cathartic jog and a chat with God - is viewed by his flock as an Angel of Mercy. His overriding concern, all his love,

## A PRIEST'S TESTAMENT....

care and energy, is for his disenfranchised sheep. He is supportive. Even saintly.

"Here in New York, Jesus is dying of Aids," he said. "Jesus made these unclassed people his class." Including one young man of 23 who had died and for whom Lynch clearly had special regard; rather as, one supposes, Jesus specially loved John. We see him at the graveside with his friend's mother who bravely states that "you cannot walk around pain; you've got to walk through it", and whose sisters cry. One was a fundamentalist Christian who had a problem. She either loved her gay brother and upset Him Upstairs, or loved Him and disowned her brother.

Possessing humanity, she plumped for Lynch's (mis)interpretation of the Good Book.

Lynch's own dilemma seems likewise horned. "It is irrelevant whether the Church is right or wrong. We must find a cure and stop the squabbles even if it means using condoms. There's no time to play around with dogmas while people are dying....It's unnatural for gay men to go to bed with women, the unnatural thing is to be forced into heterosexuality."

One wonders if Lynch is cut out for the Church.

Meanwhile, an Aids vigil has to be held outside on the steps of the Catholic Church. There is much weeping and gnashing of teeth. The flock weeps. Doubtless, Lynch gnashes his teeth as he speaks of the tax-exempt building locked to them. Gore Vidal, in the Midlands this month, said that Jesus Christs should be taxed. "It's a wicked, wicked religion. We should not turn the other cheek. We atheists should unite and arrange autos-de-fe on the village green. Make martyrs. They would be happy and so would we."

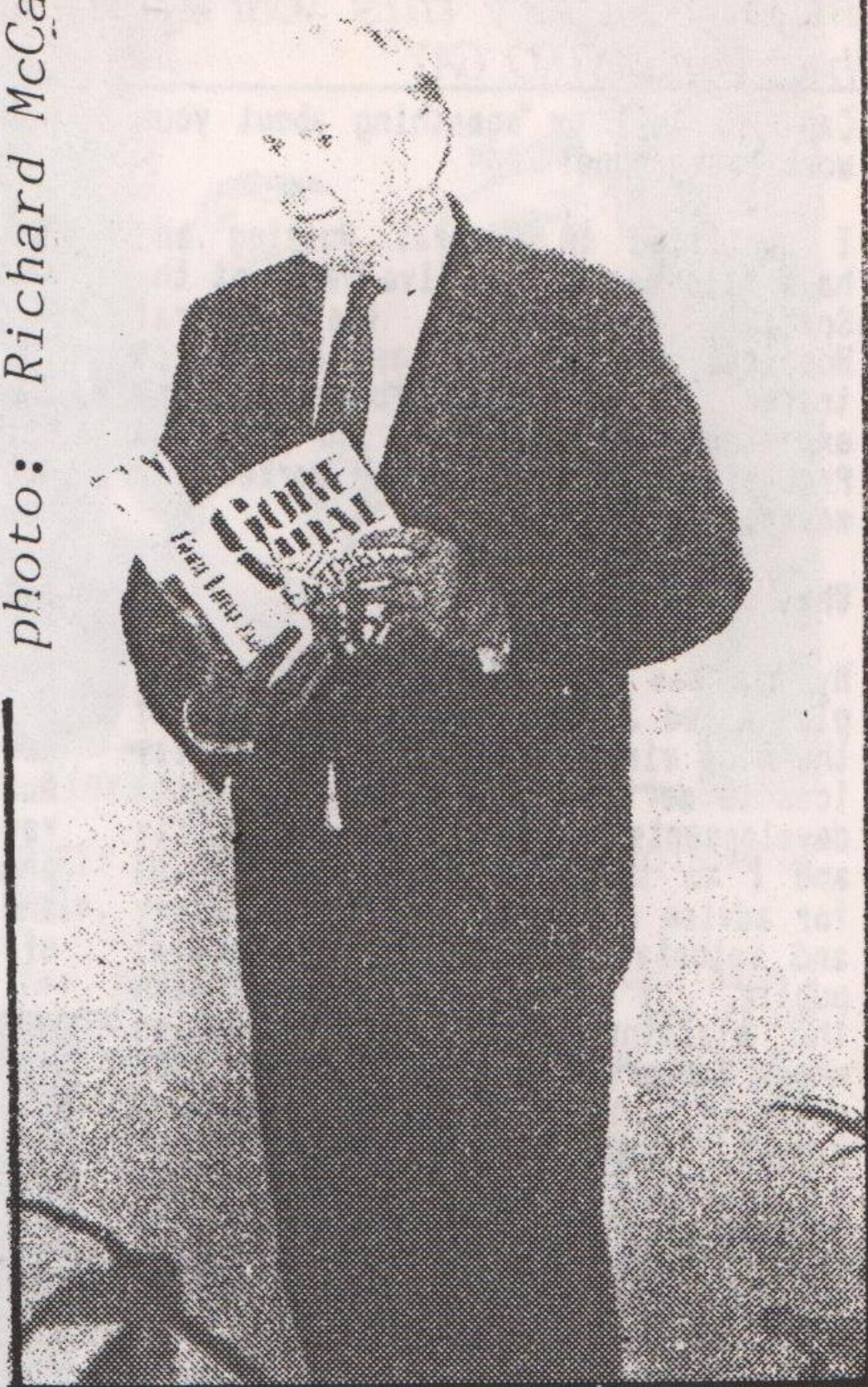
Fry a friar? It would seem unfair on Fr. Lynch to pile the faggots round his (so to speak) and watch him burn. He is indubitably a Good Thing; besides, Christians have had more practice at that sort of thing. "I've studied years in seminaries, but sitting with a young man dying of Aids, a coathanger with a head, has a radicalising effect." The said people who are not permitted to worship with their fellow believers cry and say that if Fr. Lynch were ever taken from them, they would feel utterly deserted.

Now they are, the Church has recalled him to Rome. Now that might really radicalise him. He might feel that he could do a better job for sufferers without a spiteful, reactionary creed hampering his every effort. Miracles do happen!

And as Vidal pointed out: "There are no answers to principles. Just other principles."

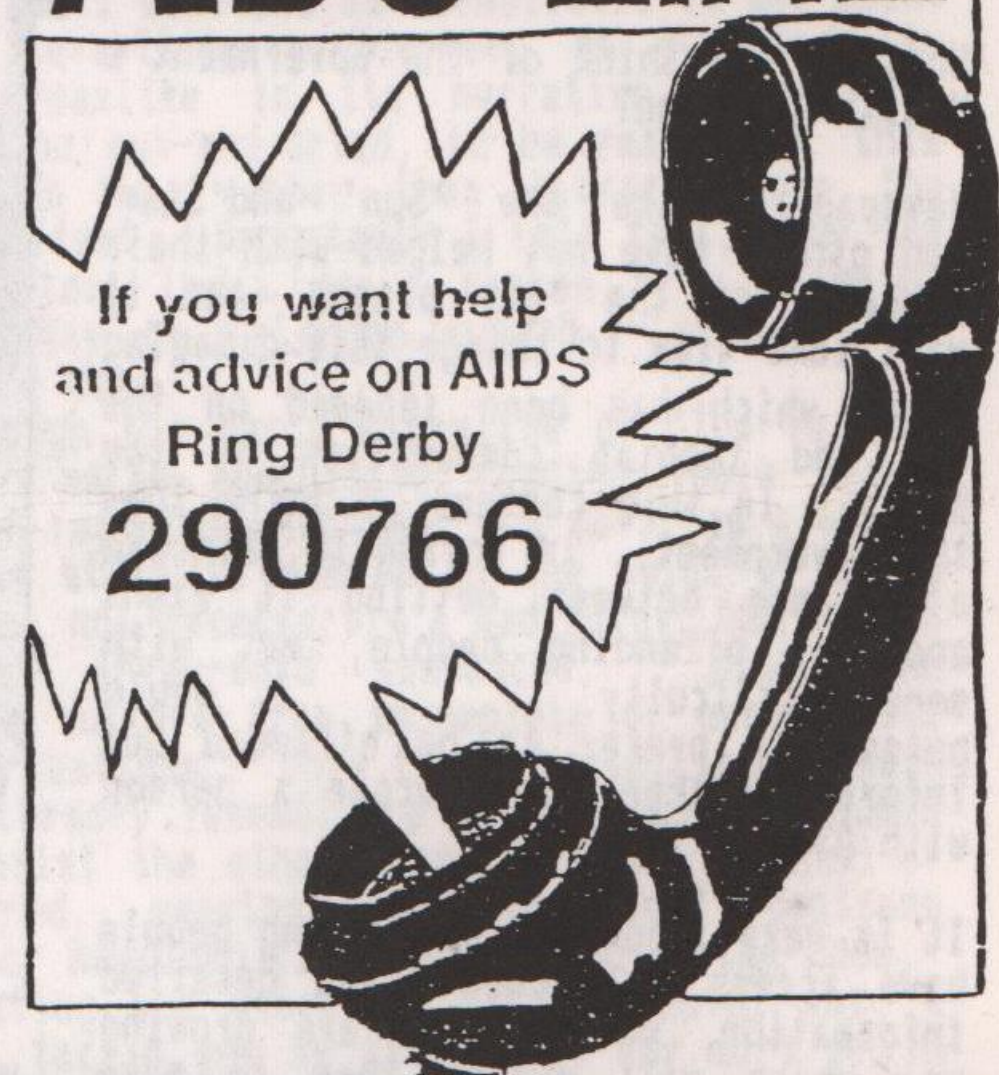
**Terry Stevenson**

photo: Richard McCance



## AIDS-LINE

If you want help  
and advice on AIDS  
Ring Derby  
**290766**



## Green Lane Gallery



Derby's gayest venue  
open Christmas night  
and  
every night!



A SOLO PERFORMANCE BY  
**NEIL BARTLETT**

in  
**A VISION OF LOVE  
REVEALED IN SLEEP**

WEDNESDAY, 9th DECEMBER  
"A highly emotional collision of two  
Queens across the century" Square Peg.

THE DRAMA CENTRE, FEARON HALL  
Rectory Road, Loughborough  
8.30pm. Tickets: £3 waged £2 (conc)  
Information/Reservations, contact:  
Alive Arts Loughboro' 235386



**OUROBOROS IS NOTTINGHAM'S LONGEST RUNNING  
VEGETARIAN WHOLEFOOD SHOP. IT IS RUN  
COLLECTIVELY BY 5 PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED  
TO AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF WORKING AS  
WELL AS EATING. WE SELL BEANS AND PULSES  
ORGANICALLY GROWN AND FLOURS  
AND HONEY, FRESH BAKED GOODS,  
JAPANESE FOODS, WATER FILTERS,  
AND COOKING UTENSILS AND FROZEN MEALS**

**OUROBOROS**  
WHOLEFOOD COLLECTIVE

**WE RE-CYCLE JARS AND BAGS TO SAVE MONEY AND RESOURCES.  
WE STOCK SOYA ICE-CREAM SUGAR-FREE  
SNACKS, AND SPREADS, CRUELTY-  
FREE TOILETRIES, ENVIRONMENTALLY  
SAFE CLEANING PRODUCTS, AN EXTENSIVE  
RANGE OF HERBS AND SPICES AND WE HAVE  
RECENTLY INTRODUCED A SELECTION OF BOOKS  
ON VEGETARIANISM/VEGANISM AND FOOD POLITICS**

37A, MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM TEL: 419016



## BRITISH CITIZENSHIP YOUR RIGHT TO REGISTER

The National Union of Public Employees have produced a booklet entitled, "British citizenship - Your Right to Register". The right to register means that provided you satisfy certain conditions under the British Nationality Act 1981, and you apply and pay your fee before 31st December 1987, your application for British Citizenship cannot be refused. This is the least costly way of acquiring British Citizenship. The main advantage of becoming British is that you will have the right to live in Britain for the rest of your life even if you live abroad for a long time. In addition you will gain the right to live and work in other EEC countries, as well as other rights.

You can apply for the right to register as a British Citizen if you are (a) a citizen of a Commonwealth country or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, aged 18 or over, and have lived permanently in the UK since before 1st January, 1973, without a time limit on your stay under immigration laws or (b) a woman who married a British Citizen before 1st January 1983, and is still married to him (that is not divorced or widowed). Check out your local Law Centre or Citizens Advice Bureau or Community Relations Councils. In case of difficulty contact the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (tel: 01-251 8706) or if you are a member of NUPE contact your Divisional Office.

STOP PRESS : STOP PRESS

see opposite page for  
address of Les/Cay  
Immigration Group.



Nottingham Health Authority have recently appointed an Aids Liaison Officer. JENNY HOLLINGSWORTH has now been in post since February this year, and Edward Naismith interviewed her for METRO GAY

Can you tell us something about your work background?

I qualified in General Nursing and have also worked for five years at the Special Clinic at the General Hospital, Nottingham as a contact tracer. I wanted to broaden my work experience so I took a job with the Probation Service where I worked for several years.

What does your new job involve?

My aim has been to develop a working plan aimed at preventing the spread of the Aids virus. The Health Authority look to me to keep them informed about developments in the wider community and I am the central reference point for advice and resources for statutory and voluntary bodies and the general public. I am in regular contact with the statutory and voluntary bodies whose members may be working with AIDS patients, and that includes doctors, nurses, home helps and cleaners, administrators and clerical staff. Individuals and large companies also contact the Health Authority for information or maybe a speaker.

I have to ensure that information from the Authority reaches the target groups, like the gay and bisexual community as well as the heterosexual community. It is vital that we are all saying the same things about Aids so that the public know where they stand.

What do you think of the Government's Health Campaign?

Newspapers like the 'Sun' and 'Star' and others have not helped with their emphasis on the 'gay plague' and it will take time to change this damaging image which has been imposed on the gay and lesbian communities by the press. In this context, I think that the Government, in trying to maintain a balance between getting it right and not offending people, met with some difficulty. I would personally prefer to be offended but informed rather than become a person with Aids or the virus.

It is very important that young people have access to accurate and detailed information, whilst they are growing up, which will enable them to make informed decisions based on fact, not fear. Unfortunately, I think there are still many parents, who believe that children should be over-protected, especially in matters of sex. We have to be careful about the way we advertise, but young people are well able to make up their own minds, if given the chance.

Have you noticed any good responses from the straight community to AIDS?

I still get many requests for talks from various groups and schools in the community as do the Aids Information Project. Much of the work here is trying to set right the distorted information that people have acquired from inaccurate and sensationalist reporting, right across the media. I have found that once people are given accurate information they are then willing to look at some of the groups affected in a much more positive light. Recently the pupils of Glaisdale Comprehensive School, Bilborough, raised £95 by holding a non-uniform day, which was a tremendous effort and very much appreciated.

You have recently been co-opted onto the Management Committee of the Aids Liaison Project how do you think this will help your work?

I am very glad that this has happened because the Project have developed an expertise in AIDS information in the short time they have been in existence in Nottingham and are at the coalface and probably the most accurate barometer of what people are thinking and feeling in the community, for we should remember that a large part of their calls come from worried

heterosexuals apart from those that come from gay or bisexual men.

How many AIDS cases are there in this area?

The Trent Region reaches from Sheffield down to the borders of Leicestershire, and includes Greater Nottingham. Although the actual numbers of AIDS cases are low compared with some other regions there is no room for complacency. At present there are 19 cases of AIDS in the region.

Several other regional Health Authorities like Merseyside, and more recently Leicester City Council have promoted 'Safe Sex' workshops for gay and bisexual men. What do you think of this move?



We have to think of a number of ways of reaching people where it matters. Effective advertising may need further backup because there is often resistance to 'official' publicity and it can be a big switch-off. People who may have got the right message may need further practical reassurance that safe sex can be enjoyable. These initiatives should be welcomed if they succeed in helping people to adapt to new ways of having and enjoying safer sex.

Is this something that Nottingham Health Authority might be prepared to sponsor in the area?

Yes, I am presently considering this as a possible area of work for the New Year.

What are you currently involved in promoting?

Apart from the day-to-day work there are two things. One is a Day's Symposium on the community aspects of Aids takes place on December 9th and will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss all aspects of AIDS in relation to general practitioners and nurses. Topics covered will include testing, insurance implications, ethical issues, counselling and health education. There will also be a wide range of back-up groups there including the Aids Information Project and several gay groups like Friend and Gay Switchboard as well as Welfare Rights groups to provide information.

Last month I organized a week-long exhibition at Victoria Health Centre on Aids and Drug prevention, in conjunction with the Drugs Information Officer, John Melville. The week's

## Hawley & Rodgers

SOLICITORS

We undertake all work both civil and criminal.

Legal Aid available.

Free estimates given on request in respect of conveyancing matter and we can also arrange mortgages for you.

Available for consultations at weekends by prior appointment.

Ring Barrie Ward on Nottingham 419772 or write to 2 Clarendon St. Nottingham

**The Vegetarian Restaurant**  
10 COMMERCE SQUARE, HIGH PAVEMENT (OFF ST MART'S CHURCH) LACE MARKET NOTTINGHAM.  
OPEN - Tues to Sat, 12am to Midnight  
CLOSED Monday after 3pm and Sun.  
**Lunch Menu**  
AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENT MAIN COURSES DAILY INC. VEGAN DISHES.  
**Evening Menu**  
THROUGHOUT ANY DAY, A VARIETY TEAS, COFFEE AND SNACKS  
**PARTY BOOKINGS.**  
BOOK EARLY FOR XMAS! TELEPHONE: 585211.

Scared, worried, or just confused about Aids?

Then Ring  
Nottingham  
**Aids HELPLINE**  
**0602 585 526**

Now open three nights a week  
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings 7-10pm  
For Confidential and Accurate Advice and Information

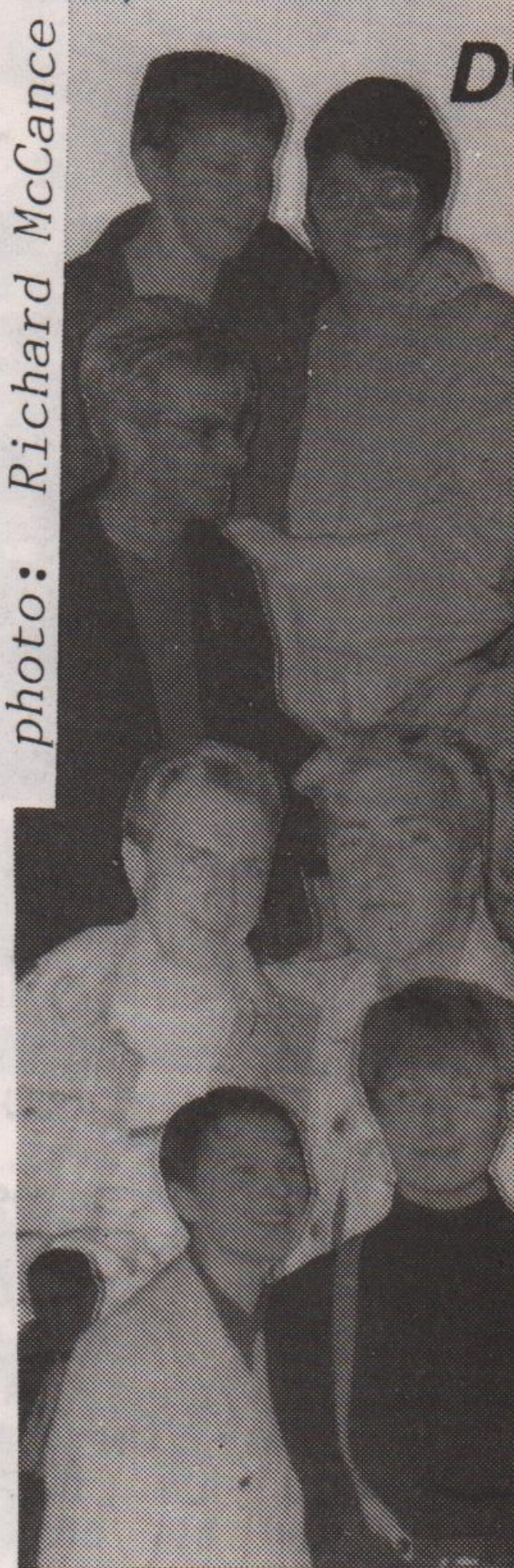
Nottingham Aids Information Project  
60 CVB, 33 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG1 3FF

event was well covered by the local media and was successful in raising public awareness of the Drugs and AIDS issue.

Have you anything you would like to add?

When I saw 'The Normal Heart' that played in Nottingham recently, I was struck by its main message that there is no time to lose, we must act now before it is too late. We should use the breathing space that we may have to make sure that for example, everyone knows what Safe Sex is and that they take it seriously. If we succeed here then I think we shall be on the right road.

photo: Richard McCance



NOTTINGHAM  
LESBIAN  
CENTRE

UPSTAIRS AT THE W...  
30 CHAUCER ST. TEL.

50p/75p/£1

DISCO

NEXT ONE  
DEC 18

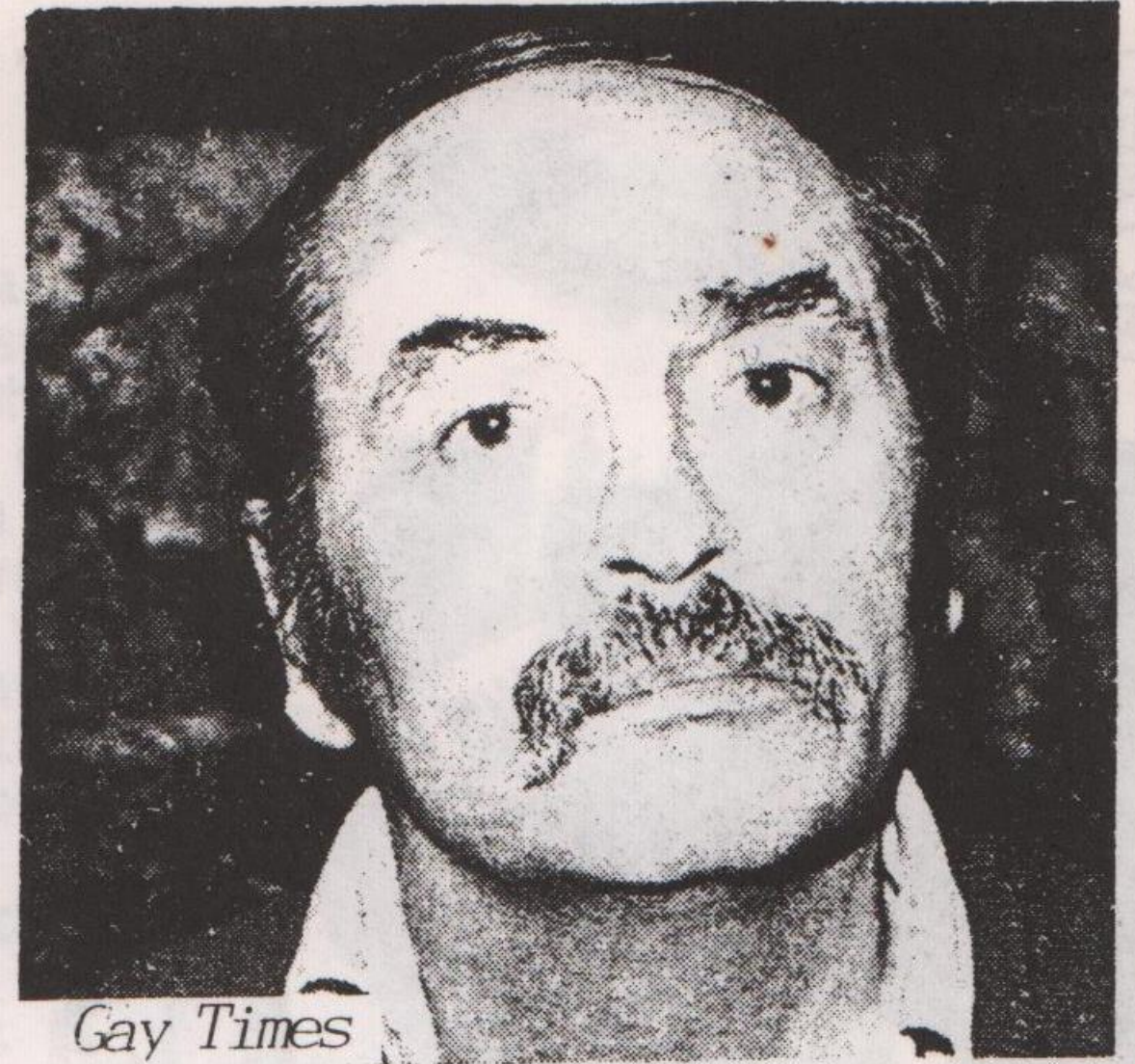
POOL TABLE, JUKE  
COFFEE BAR, GOS  
FOR DINNER 6.30 -  
CLOSET LIBRARY



DECEMBER	The METRO CINEMA	
Fri 4	Rita, Sue and Bob Too (18)	8.00
Fri 4	Top Gun (15)	11.00
Sat 5	The Neverending Story (U)	2.30
Sat 5	Rita, Sue and Bob Too (18)	6.30/9.00
Sun 6	The Man With Two Brains (15)	5.00
Sun 6	plus The Nutty Professor (U)	
Sun 6	Rita, Sue and Bob Too (18)	9.00
Tues 8	Swimming to Cambodia (18)	8.00
Wed 9	Pee Wee's Big Adventure (U)	8.00
Thur 10	Pee Wee's Big Adventure (U)	8.00
Fri 11	Pee Wee's Big Adventure (U)	8.00
Fri 11	Blind Date (15)	11.00
Sat 12	Asterix And Cleopatra (U)	2.30
Sat 12	Blind Date (15)	6.30/9.00
Sun 13	Three Amigos (PG) plus	5.00
Sun 13	The Road To Morocco (U)	
Sun 13	Blind Date (15)	9.00
Tues 15	Little Shop of Horrors (PG)	8.00
Wed 16	Little Shop of Horrors (PG)	8.00
Thur 17	Little Shop of Horrors (PG)	8.00
Fri 18	Personal Services (18)	8.00
Fri 18	Rocky Horror Picture Show (15)	11.00
Sat 19	Saturday Club Christmas Party	2.00
Sat 19	Personal Services (18)	6.30/9.00
Sun 20	Clockwise (PG) plus	5.00
Sun 20	Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (U)	
Sun 20	Personal Services (18)	9.00

GREEN LANE DERBY Derby 40170





Gay Times  
"THE VARIETY ARTISTES" Tom Wakefield, published by Robert Hale.

Until her husband died, Lydia Poulton hadn't really lived. Then she met Benny at her 'Know Your City' evening class and, much to her family's consternation, they became lovers. From this trite beginning (the first chapters are painfully slow) 'The Variety Artistes' pulls itself like a faded phoenix from the ashes of Lydia's former life and blossoms forth into what can only be described, in the nicest possible way, as a 'charming story' which develops by turns that are both bizarre and abrupt, to an outcome which is not entirely unexpected; that elusive ideal, happiness. The heroine (if she can be called such) is initially unremarkable in every aspect other than her bust size, yet she undergoes such radical personality changes that she is hardly the same person from one chapter to the next - this process she describes as 'getting to know myself better' and I describe as unrealistic to the point of unbelieveability. However, as the book is almost dreamlike in its narrative, being too simple, too cut-and-dried, to be real life, this point adds to, rather than detracts from the overall effect. Repeatedly I felt that, come the last chapter, Lydia would awaken to a cheerful summer's day in a London suburb - which, in a sense, she does.

Although the basic storyline of 'The Variety Artistes' makes compulsive reading there are a couple of features which mar the novel as a whole. The prose style is simple to the point of being childlike, not necessarily a bad point, but I soon tired of three-word sentences. Also, the narrative suffers from incomplete or unrealistic characterisations - only Lydia herself bears more than a cursory resemblance to a believable human being whilst the other characters are cliched or stereotyped, weaving like displaced denizens around her headlong clash to the end of the book.

Relating the storyline of this novel was, I confess, facile yet an attempt at any sort of in depth analysis proved to be near impossible and I had to content myself with the easy option. In brief, 'The Variety Artists' is an enjoyable and extremely readable book, compulsively so in its final chapters. So long as you ignore the grandiloquent eulogies from the Fleet Street worthies printed on the dustjacket and approach the novel with full comprehension of what it is - an essentially lightweight narrative - you won't be disappointed.

GEOFF WHITTAKER

METRO GAY visited THE WHITE HART HOTEL in Mansfield earlier this month and snapped Avis & Janice, Barry, Laurence & Richard, Paul & James, Steve & Churn, Keith & Steve, Eileen & Kay, Yvonne & Marion, Sally & Simone, Jeff, Jean, (Sistah Says!), Ollie, Peter & Gary, Tim, Tim & Susan and Disco Kevin & Jeff - not necessarily in this order. Friday nights are usually packed out with punters and everyone's friendly, so why not give it a go.

## Twin Sisters sing

WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION  
OF WOMEN

It Could've Been Me  
by  
Holly Near



at MARGARET'S ROFF'S MEMORIAL

photo: Richard McCance

HAM  
COMMUNITY  
RE

ENS CENTRE  
8369 7/4 11475

O  
8pm-12

LAST FRIDAY  
ERY MONTH

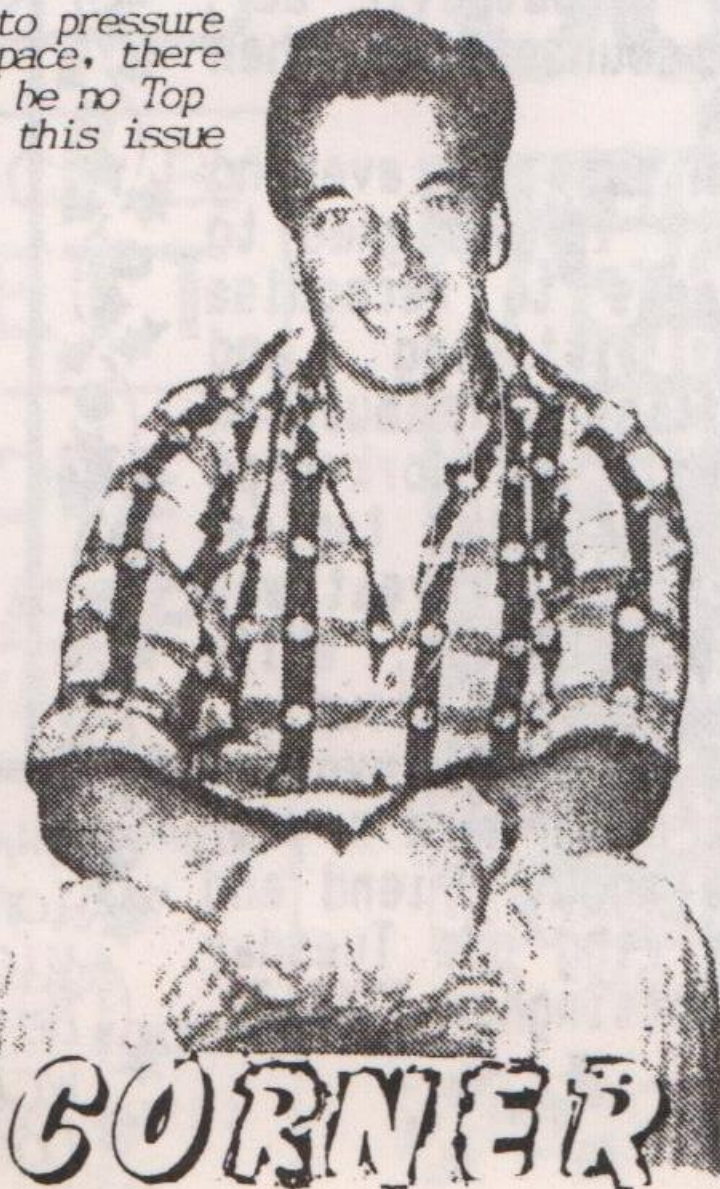
OX, DARTS,  
O CAFE  
m.  
OPEN

Hi there,  
Remember last time I told you about the Import of Jamie Deans 'Love Child' well now you can buy it on a UK label, also now on UK release is 'Boys' by Sabrina (This is the record DJ Astoria Alan mixes with 'Call Me'), Bolts records have remixed Man To Man's 'I Need A Man'. It's the sin-phonic mix which you may have guessed sounds like 'It's A Sin'. This is to get it into the Top 20, (dont think I'll mind). Also on Bolts records, is 'He's A Rebel' Genie should do well in the clubs over Xmas. Talking of Xmas there is a House Mix of 'the Conga' which is camp and a must for DJ's on New Years Eve. There's a new mix of 'American Love' (The Passion Remix). I cant understand why they have put it out, as it sounds so much like the original but when you hear it you may feel differently! Sinitta's new single is now out and will be a chart hit. Mind you I think the lyrics leave a lot to be desired. Yours truly and Pete Rigby have again done the remix, but no date is yet set for its release. Evelyn Thomas new single makes you wonder if it's the same

## J.R.'S DISCO

Due to pressure  
on space, there  
will be no Top  
Ten, this issue

photo: Richard McCance



CORNER

lady who gave us greats such as 'High Energy'. It's called 'No Win Situation'. Cant see this making the charts but have a listen yourself.

If you were at the Astoria last month you will have heard the DJ say that there will not be a Xmas Gay Night this year for reasons no one seems to know. Also apparently, the Gay Nights will finish after Monday 4th January. When I spoke to the Management they said the club would be refitted and opened up again as soon as possible, and we will be the first to know when this happens.

Went to the Leicester Place a few weeks ago which was great fun. There's always a good atmosphere there and the music is good although I think the DJ could do with a course in mixing, but the music more than made up for this.

Couldn't make it to Rockshots as planned. Had to go to London that week and while there went to see the musical 'Time'. If any of you get the chance, see it.

Well that's just about it for 1987; just to wish you a Merry Xmas and a very happy New Year - next Top 20 in '88. See you then.

## THIS XMAS CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK

Our Xmas selection includes **NORMAL HEART** (the script), **HETEROSEXUALITY** (Learn the awful truth), **MAURICE** (weren't the actors pretty?), **THE ORTON DIARIES** (outrageous) or the new **MAUFIN**.

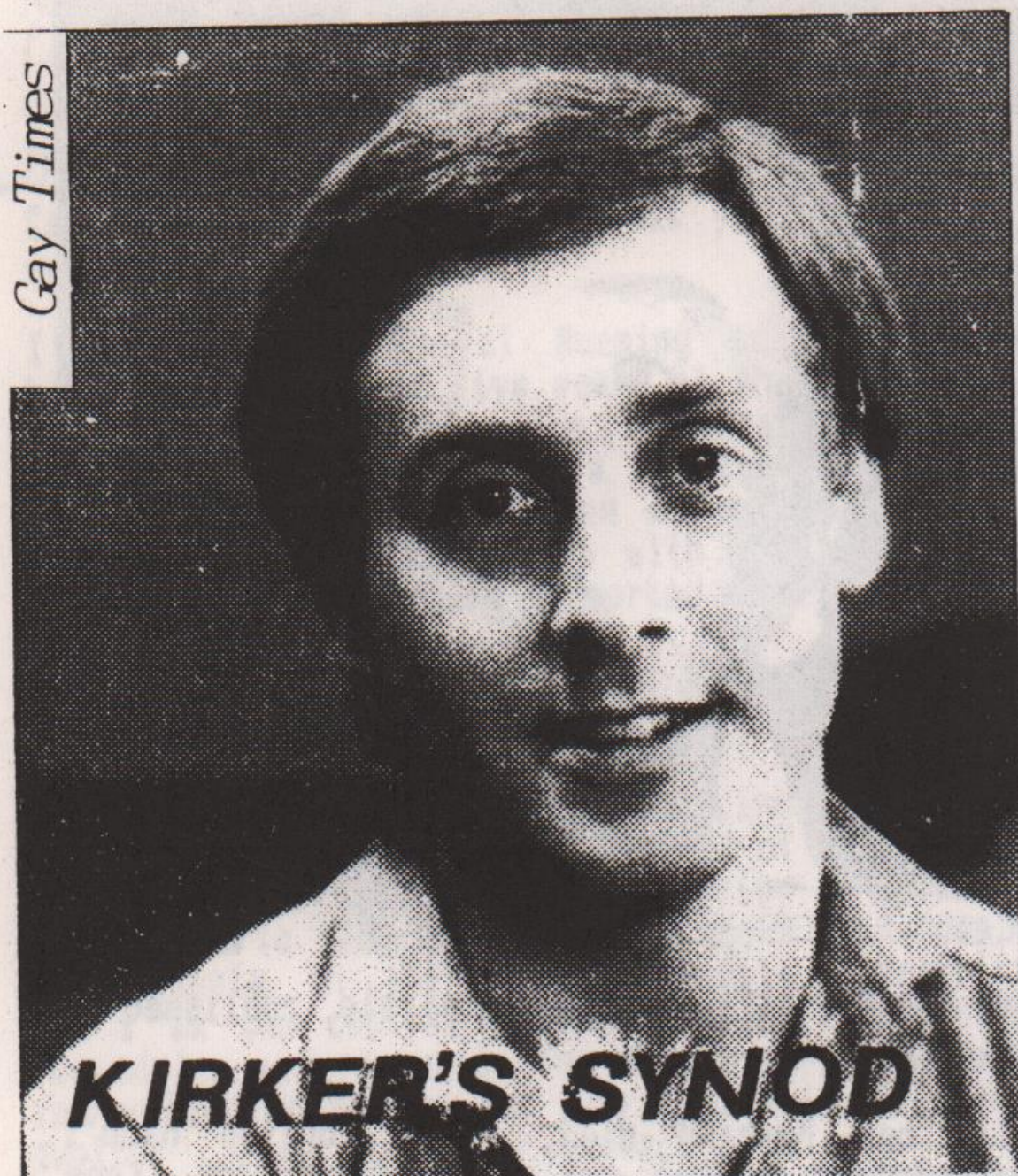
OR any (or all) of the wonderful **JANE RULE**, catch up on the **GOSSIP**, guess who dun it at the **NIGHTWOOD BAR** or maybe you go in for

## DIVERSIONS?

And do pick up our free Xmas catalogue.

BEST WISHES FROM MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP,  
10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham.





## KIRKER'S SYNOD

"Central Weekend" Central TV - The Synod & Homosexuality, November 6th

The hard-line Christian stance against homosexuals in the Church reared its ugly head on TV five days prior to the presentation before the General Synod of the Church of England.

Those who watched the programme will have witnessed a considerable amount of homophobia being hurled about the Birmingham studio as the Revd. Richard Kirker of the Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement, put up his defence against the Revd. Tony Higon's private member's motion condemning homosexual acts in all circumstances.

There were a number of gay people in the audience all of whom backed-up Richard Kirker with sensible and reasoned arguments against the motion which fiercely attacked them and gay members of the clergy. Not the least of these arguments was the fear that any hard-line pronouncement from the Synod would encourage a "witch hunt" throughout the Church. They were strongly approved by various bigoted heterosexuals who showed very little Christian love and a great deal of ignorance in their attitude towards gays. For example, one woman stated that just as young people in her day experimented with smoking, so the youth of today tries homosexuality in order to see what it is like!!(?) One man claimed that he had genuine love and concern for homosexuals; and yet when the gay men announced that they were called a couple of perverts by a judge who promptly dismissed their case for adoption of one of the men's children, he loudly shouted in agreement.

Richard Kirker defended his case admirably with sensitive interpretations of the Biblical passages which Higon used to condemn him. As far as I was concerned, however, some of the most telling comments came from a woman in the back row of the audience who had obviously been listening very carefully to the lobbying; and announcing that she was neither a Christian nor homosexual, expressed surprise and dismay at the vitriol that was being thrown at gays by so many Christians. She felt that however we interpreted the biblical passages which mentioned homosexuality, Christ commands that we love one another despite our differences. A thought-provoking comment indeed.

RICHARD J. BRIERLEY, Nottingham/Derby Lesbian & Gay Christian Groups.



Sunday 20th December, 6.30pm.

A CIVILHAND ZENITH film

GARY OLDMAN ALFRED MOLINA  
with VANESSA REDGRAVE as "Peggy"  
PRICK UP YOUR EARS (18)



# PRICK UP YOUR EARS

Based on the biography by  
JOHN LAHR

Screenplay by  
ALAN BENNETT

Directed by  
STEPHEN FREARS

THEY SHARED EVERYTHING BUT FAME... MURDER MADE THEM EQUAL AGAIN

PHOENIX ARTS

Newarke Street  
Leicester

"If... you fuck with the bull, you get the horn..."

MALA NOCHE

A film by GUS VANSANT  
from the story by WALT CURTIS

"A remarkable achievement...  
expressionistic flair"

David Robinson, TIMES

"Raw, powerful and enduring"

SKY

"Extraordinary...delightfully offbeat,  
unusually frank"

"A gay romance for the 80's...raw, raunchy  
and often very funny...An excellent movie"

Jack Babuco, GAY TIMES



Sun. 27th 7.30pm., & Mon. 28th 6.15pm. Details & Booking on (0533) 554854



No, this is not an illustration from the latest "Safer Sex" manual. These two lucky people are experiencing a simulated telephone counselling session which formed part of the training programme undertaken by Nottingham Friend last year. If you missed out then, here's an opportunity not to be missed.

Friend will be running another training programme for new volunteers in the New Year. Why not think about joining us?

We provide an invaluable service to the Lesbian & Gay communities offering a confidential telephone helpline for those in need of an understanding and sympathetic ear, and long term, face-to-face counselling when required.

Our training programme which runs one evening a week over a six-week period is designed to help potential FRIEND volunteers to recognise and improve their own listening and communication skills. In addition to simulated counselling sessions, there will be workshops and speakers on a variety of specialist topics. What's more, it's entirely FREE and a great way to get to know yourself a bit better, while being part of a friendly and supportive group.

If you've ever thought of getting involved with one of the gay helplines then here's your chance to find out a bit more about Friend and its work. Why not give us a ring one Tuesday evening between 7 and 10pm on Nottingham 474717.

DAVID WRIGHT, Nottingham Friend.

PHOENIX ARTS

Newarke Street - Leicester  
Details & Booking on (0533) 554854

Friday 4 11.15	QUADROPHENIA (18)
Sunday 6 4.00 6.00 8.00	SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18) JUNK AESTHETICS - PROG 2 (15) SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18)
Monday 7 6.15 8.30	THE BIG EASY (18) SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18)
Tuesday 8 6.15 8.30	THE BIG EASY (18) ARIA (15)
Wednesday 9 6.15 8.15	ARIA (15) THE BIG EASY (18)
Thursday 10 6.15 8.15	ARIA (15) THE BIG EASY (18)
Friday 11 11.15	MONTEREY POP (PG)
Monday 14 6.15 8.15	SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT (18) RAISING ARIZONA (15)
Tuesday 15 6.15 8.15	RAISING ARIZONA (15) SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT (18)
Wednesday 16 6.15 8.15	RAISING ARIZONA (15) WORKING GIRLS (18)
Thursday 17 6.15 8.15	WORKING GIRLS (18) RAISING ARIZONA (15)
Friday 18 11.15	THE GREAT ROCK 'N' ROLL SWINDLE (18)
Sunday 20 3.00 6.30	BILL DOUGLAS TRILOGY (15) NO SURRENDER (15) + PRICK UP YOUR EARS (18)
Sunday 27 4.30 7.30	BLACK WIDOW (15) MALA NOCHE (18)
Monday 28 6.15 8.15	MALA NOCHE (18) BLACK WIDOW (15)

### JANUARY

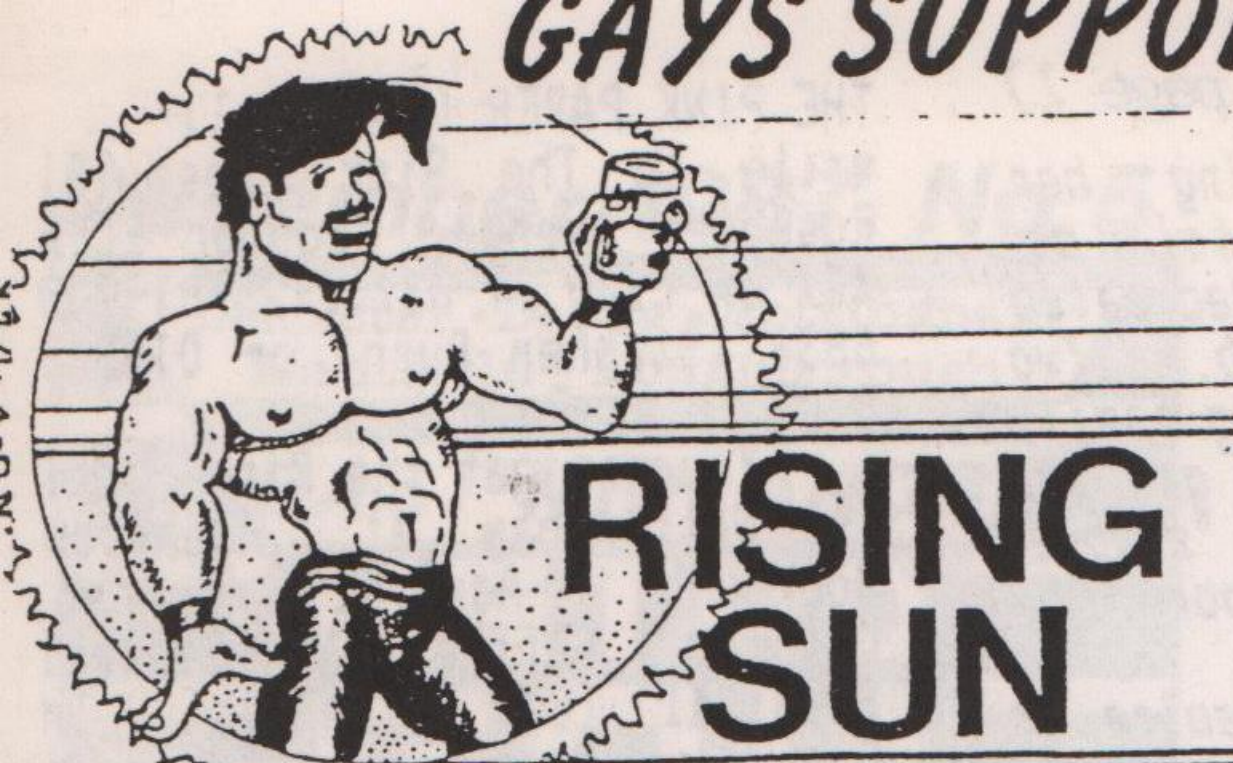
Friday 1 11.15	THE BLUES BROTHERS (15)
Sunday 3 4.30 7.30	THREE AMIGOS (PG) THE MORNING AFTER (15)
Monday 4 6.15 8.30	THE MORNING AFTER (15) THREE AMIGOS (PG)
Tuesday 5 6.15 8.30	PLATOON (15) 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD (PG)

A new national Les/Gay Immigration Gp. exists to support individuals under threat. They can be reached on 01-633 3659 or by writing to the Gp. at BM WELCOME London WC1N 3XX



**GAYS SUPPORTING GAYS**

**COME JOIN US ON...**



**Rising Sun, Friargate, Derby, DE1**  
OUR TEL: 43960

Wednesday 9 December **FEMALE VOCALIST SARA**

**PETER CHANEL** Drag Artist Wed 16 December

Wednesday 23 December **RISING SUN PANTOMIME**

**PINK GIN** from London in **SINDERELLA**

Thursday 24 December **XMAS EVE PARTY NIGHT**

31 December **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY NIGHT**

Wed 30 December **ZOE** Drag Artist

**COME JOIN US ON...**

Wednesday (at 9.30)  
**'MIDWEEK CABARET'**

Fri, Sat. & Sunday  
**'WEEKENDER DISCO' DJ-CHRIS 'C'**

TREVOR  
KEITH and DAVE  
WELCOME YOU  
TO

*Dorothy's* AT

**Silks**

**EXCLUSIVELY GAY**

above the COLISEUM

45 London Road

Derby 44203

OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY 1030 2am  
CABARET EVERY WEDNESDAY

December 23rd **NORMA LEWIS**  
**Return visit**



OPEN XMAS DAY Lunch optional  
£5 per head please book by  
16th December for meal



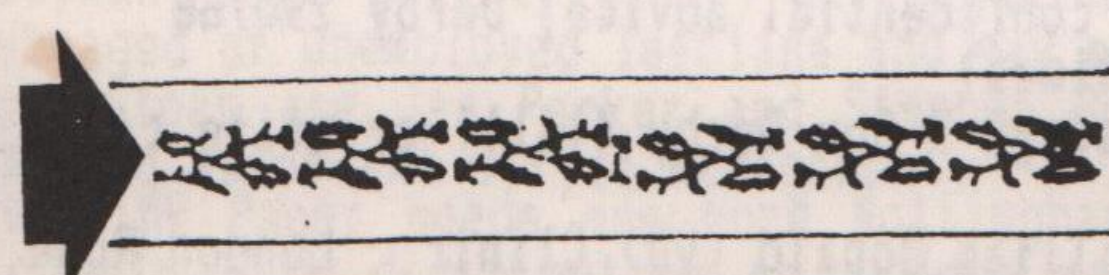
EVENING DISCO with CABARET

**COACH from ADMIRAL DUNCAN,**

Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham, leaves 9pm,  
each and every Wednesday to RISING SUN & SILKS,  
returning 2am to Central Nottingham. £2.50  
return includes admission to SILKS. Normal bar  
prices.



**£2.50 Return**



**GAYS SUPPORTING GAYS**



**"I wish my life was a little gayer!"**



Now's your chance available at  
BRIDDOCKS & MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP

**Brighter, bolder, bigger**

Subscribe for 12 months, only £9.

Medlock Publishing, 1-3 Stevenson Square

Manchester M1 1DN Tel: 061-236 60216



NEWCOMBE, continued from page 1)

died with dignity, holding her father's hand. The media told us, repeatedly, how this young, dedicated nurse, loved life and her job. Two young nurses, one representing family values and one identified as gay and body positive, but whose "simple, instinctive courage" was ignored by the straight media.

"We were not asked to aspire to excellence but make peace with mediocrity" wrote James Baldwin when speaking of the low self-esteem black people had of themselves as a result of racism. Lesbians and gay men have never had many positive images to model our lives on.

Whilst not wishing to diminish the dignity of others we would like a place in the sun, too and demand that the bravery of lesbians and gay men should not be diminished.

That is why, as 1987 draws to a close, we should take heart from the lives of Margaret Roff, a lesbian and Lawrence Newcombe, a gay man. And that is why Metro Gay remembers them both with Pride.

THE PINK PAPER (from p.1)  
write to The Pink Paper, 151 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4QX or ring 01-837 2425/01-749 6838 (Stephen Burn) or 01-515 8703 (Lisa Power).

You can get the Pink Paper in Nottingham at: Mushroom Bookshop, Admiral Duncan, Lesbian Centre & General Hospital (STD Clinic); In Derby at Green Lane Gallery, Silks disco, and the Rising Sun; In Leicester at the Lesbian & Gay Centre, Blackthorn Books, Women's Centre and Leicester Place; In Mansfield at the White Hart.

## ELDERLY GROUP

The last coffee evening for older lesbians & gays attracted 14 people. The next one is on December 10th at CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd, Nottingham. Further info. Gay Switchboard 411454, Mon-Fri. 7-10pm.

## WOT'S GOIN' OFF

Daily, NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Upstairs at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St, Nottm, Tel: 0602 483697/411475 (for messages, 24 hr, ansaphone). Open: Mon-Fri, 10-4pm, + Sat, 10-1pm, Library open, Tues-Sat, 11-2pm + Thur, 10-4pm.  
Weekly, LEICESTER COFFEE BAR run by Leicester/Lesbian Gayline, 10-5pm, Saturdays, 8-10pm, Tuesdays (Women only), 45 King Street, Leicester, (near open market).

4th December Lesbian Mothers 6p, 7.30pm, Lesbian Centre  
9th December, NEIL BARTLETT in A VISION OF LOVE REVEALED IN SLEEP, Fearon Hall, Rectory Rd, Loughborough, 8.30pm, £3/£2, Lough, 235386,  
9th December DOROTHY'S DISCO at SILKS, Derby, (over Coliseum, 45 London Road, Derby tel: 44203, ev, Weds,

10th December OLDER LESBIANS & GAYS GROUP (over 40's) social gathering, CVS, 31a Mansfield Road, further info, via Nottm Switchboard, Mon-Fri 7-10pm, 411454.

12th December DOROTHY'S DISCO at SILKS, Derby, (over Coliseum, 45 London Road, Derby tel: 44203, ev, Sat

7th December ASTORIA DISCO, Nottingham, 8 til 2am

15th December, CO-OP COMMUNITY CENTRE DISCO, 8.30-onwards, The Yorker, Mansfield Rd, Admission 50p.

18th December, LESBIAN DISCO, Lesbian Community Centre, upstairs at Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham, 8-12, 50p/75p/£1, 483697 & 411475

20th December, "PRICK UP YOUR EARS", Leicester Phoenix, 554854, 6.30pm,  
23rd December, PANTOMIME, RISING SUN, Derby, SINDERELLA, Derby 43960,

27th December, "MALA NOCHE", Leicester Phoenix, 554854, 7.30pm,

28th December, "MALA NOCHE", Leicester Phoenix, 554854, 6.15pm, 23rd December, NORMA LEWIS at SILKS, Derby,

25th December, XMAS LUNCH, at SILKS, Derby (book by 16th December).

## HELPLINES

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities Mon-Fri 7-10pm, 0602 411454.

LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon, & Weds, 7.30-9pm 0602 410652

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 30 Chaucer St, Nottm, Tel 483697 or 411475 (24 hour, ansaphone).

NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays 7-10pm, counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/TS's, tel: 474717 c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottm.

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

NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE (24 hours) 0800-567-123

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL VD CLINIC, 475989, Daily, Mon-Fri, 9.30-11.30am, Tues & Weds, 2-3.30pm, Eves, Mon & Thurs, 4.30-6.30, Sats, Emergencies only, 9.30-10.30am, LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY, Infirmary Close, (Nr, BR Station) V.D. Clinic, Tel: Leicester 541414 x 5208.

LEICESTER LESBIAN/GAYLINE, Mon-Fri, 7.30-10.30pm Leicester 550667, DERBY FRIEND, 7-10pm, Weds, Derby 49333 (answering service at other times or write c/o Derby CVS, Kings Chambers, Queens Street, Derby, DE1 3DA.

DERBY AIDS LINE for help & confidential advice, Derby 290766 (ansaphone gives opening times)

DERBY LESBIAN LINE, Wednesdays 7-9pm Derby 414111 or write c/o P.O. Box 140, Derby.

DERBY ROYAL INFIRMARY, William Donald (VD) Clinic, London Road, Derby 47141 x 504.

## THE MAGAZINE



photo: Richard McCance

## Meet The Gang of Five

Nottingham now has its own monthly free listings called 'The Magazine', now into its third issue. The five people who produce it are Fiona White, Jean Harry, and Rico Caballero, David Thomas and Julian Hicks, (1 to 5 in picture). You can get it at city centre newsagents, Polytechnic, University, fashion shops, Hiziki and Mushroom Bookshop and more outlets are expected soon. The Five have said that gay men's news and events will be covered, (lesbian news is already) so send in your news - deadline for listings 12th of each month and for advertising, 17th of the month - to Fiona White at The Magazine, COA Chambers, Dunkirk Road, Dunkirk, Nottingham NG7 2PH, Tel: Nottingham 420835.

The

## METRO CINEMA

Director Terry Jones has produced a joyful comedy. Julie Walters' best part since Educating Rita.  
ALEXANDER WALKER EVENING STANDARD

## PERSONAL SERVICES

18

Fri. 18th 8pm, Sat. 19th 6.30 & 9pm, Sun 20th 9pm