

MONDAY 1ST: Nottingham Gay Social Group (NOGSOG), Foresters Pub, Huntingdon St, 8pm.

TUESDAY 2ND: Lincoln Gay Group/CHE Committee/Social evening, Golden Eagle, 8pm.

THURSDAY 4TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 5TH: 'Checkers' monthly Disco, Top Rank Suite, Sheffield. Tel (0742) 307142 for details.

SATURDAY 6TH: Lincoln Gay Group Disco, Golden Eagle, 8pm-midnight.

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

THURSDAY 11TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, 8pm.

FRIDAY 12TH: Leicester Gay Group canal walk & pub evening. Meet 8pm at Waterside Inn, Sibley Rd, Mountsorrel.

SATURDAY 13TH: G.E.M. COPY DEADLINE.

SUNDAY 14TH: Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation coach trip to Alton Towers Fairground. SAE for details (see Listings for address).

MONDAY 15TH: Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation present a Grand Fancy Dress A.I.D.S. Benefit Disco, Tamango's Club, Tower St, off

Bishop St, Coventry, 9.30pm - 2.00am, £1. ALL PROCEEDS TO A.I.D.S. RESEARCH.

MONDAY 15TH: NOGSOG meet Foresters Pub, Huntingdon St, Nottingham, 8pm.

TUESDAY 16TH: Lincoln Gay Group presents the film 'Jubilee', Golden Eagle, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 17TH: Nottingham CHE meeting. Contact Mike, tel 55196, or Andrew, tel 598471.

THURSDAY 18TH: Labour Campaign for Gay Rights meeting, Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham, 7.30pm. Tel Chris Richardson, Nottm 780124, for details.

THURSDAY 18TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

SATURDAY 20TH: Midlands Gay Welfare Workers meet, Nottingham, 2pm. Tel Richard McCance, Nottm 780124 or 414939.

SATURDAY 20TH: Lincoln Gay Group Disco, Golden Eagle, 8pm-midnight.

SATURDAY 20TH: Leicester Gay Group joint get-together with Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Boston Groups, 12.30pm onwards. Details from Arthur, Leicester 432430.

SUNDAY 21ST: Gay Outdoor Club (East Midlands Ramblers Group): 10-mile walk in Northants. Details from John, Leicester 26617.

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

THURSDAY 25TH: NOGSOG meet 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm.

SATURDAY 27TH & SUNDAY 28TH: Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, National Quarterly General Meeting, Nottingham. Details from Chris Richardson, tel Nottm 780124.

Eric & Dot welcome you to

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(5 mins from Theatre Royal)
Gay Women and Men
welcome



Where you can buy 'Gay East Midlands'

COVENTRY

Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation
Wedge Bookshop, High St.

DERBY

Forum Bookshop, Abbey St.
Green Lane Gallery, Green Lane.
News Kiosk, Albert St.
Pavillion Club, London Rd. Shardlow.

LEAMINGTON SPA

The Other Branch Bookshop, 12 Gloucester St.

LEICESTER

Karia Newsagents, London Rd (opposite Station)
Blackthorn Books, 70 High St.
Spots Club, St. James St.

LINCOLN

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

LONDON

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

LOUGHBOROUGH

Students' Union Bookshop, Union Building, Ashby Rd.

MANSFIELD

White Hart Disco (see Listings).

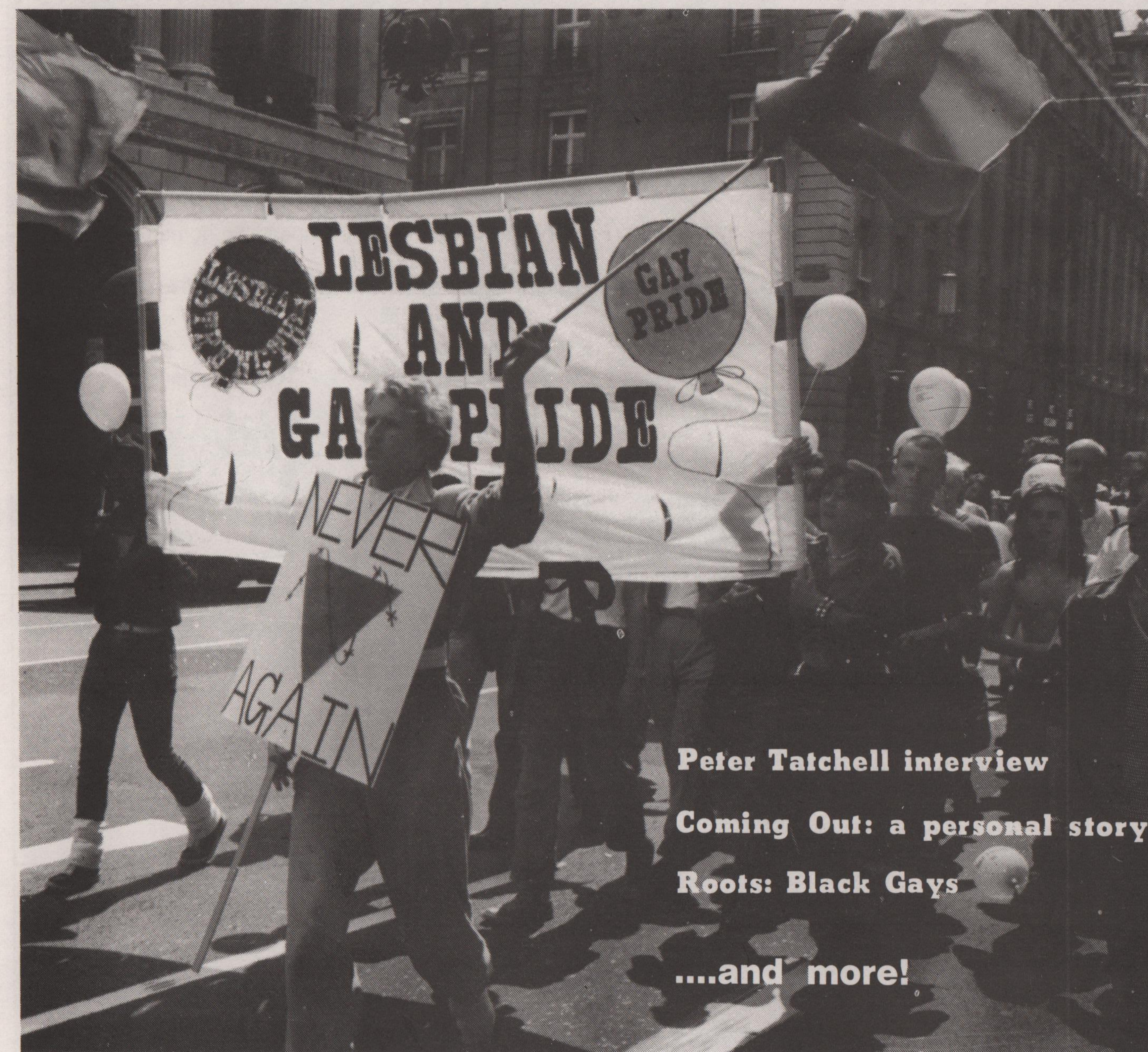
NOTTINGHAM

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

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



GAY EAST MIDLANDS



Peter Tatchell interview

Coming Out: a personal story

Roots: Black Gays

....and more!

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

On Saturday 2nd July, 2,000 gay people marched through the streets of Central London. They were proud and happy to be gay. They were angry at the way the world has treated them and countless millions of other gay people. They drew strength from each other to make a bold, public statement that gay people will not put up with being second class citizens.

On Saturday 9th July, two gay people left the Pavilion Club at Shardlow, near Derby. They, too, were proud and happy to be gay. They had spent the evening in the company of other gay men. They had drawn strength from an environment where they could

express their feelings without being told they were perverted, criminal, pathetic or ridiculous. But as they approached the street they found they had company. They were outnumbered and didn't stand a chance. The main road, so busy in daytime was deserted. The silence was broken only by the sound of fists and boots finding their target as one of the two - who'd been picked on because he was known - received his punishment for the crime of being a queer. Blood. Bruises. Hospital. Broken nose. Police statements. Back to the club next week as usual. Still proud. Still angry.

Britain, 1983. Freedom of choice.

'We're legal now, we've got a good scene, let's not rock the boat. You don't get too much hassle as long as you're discreet about it. Go shouting it from the rooftops and you're asking for trouble.' *It just isn't true.* The small gains we've made over the years have only been won through hard struggle, through making a noise and going public. And that's what we must continue to do, for no-one else is going to do it for us. Living a secret life is not good enough. We owe it to ourselves, as well as to the thousands more gay people living in lonely isolation, to fight not just for tolerance, but for our rightful position in society as equal and fully respectable human beings.

LETTERS

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

I thought I would write you a letter firstly to say that I liked 'our' newspaper. I found some of the articles very interesting reading, and the local diary of events is great - it's nice to see what's going on in places not too far away. Only one complaint really, I felt that there should be some direct contact between the paper and its readers, ie a postbag section or problem page. I'm sure you'd get a lot of response from people. I don't know whether you intend to try anything like this - maybe if you do you could publish this letter. Anyway, best of luck with the paper, hope you manage to keep things going.

Jon, Nottingham.

Thanks, Jon. We're not planning a problem page at the moment, but letters from readers are very welcome and we will try and publish them whenever possible. -G.E.M.

Come and Join Us!

As we mentioned last month, the work of producing and selling 'Gay East Midlands' is done by a Collective of four people (not forgetting the invaluable help we get from 'outside' contributors and supporters, of course). We enjoy doing it, but we'd like to expand the Collective not only to spread the load but also to benefit from the wider range of skills and ideas that a larger group would bring to the Paper. There's no mystique - none of us has ever worked on a newspaper before - and it needn't involve huge amounts of work. If you're interested, do get in touch.



12 issues £4.50 (incl. p&p)

Please send one copy of Gay East Midlands monthly to:

Name

Address

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

LOCAL 'G.E.M.' GROUPS

Local 'G.E.M.' support group addresses are -

Coventry - c/o Jem Bowen, Students Union, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

Derby - Andy Lloyd, 125 Cavendish Court, Friar Gate, Derby.

Leamington Spa - c/o The Other Branch Bookshop, 12 Gloucester St, Leamington Spa, Warwicks. Tel (0926) 28467.

Leicester - c/o Blackthorn Books, 70 High Street, Leicester.

Lincoln - c/o 'G.E.M.' Collective, Nottingham.

Nottingham - Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tel. no: Nott'm 602783.

Please contact us if you want to get involved with production or distribution of the paper. Contributions for 'Postbag', and any other items for inclusion in 'G.E.M.' should be sent to your nearest local group or direct to the central Collective in Nottingham.

Cover Photo by Rentasnap, Nottingham

GAY PRESS

Does the Gay press do nothing but write about the Gay press? Just recently you could be forgiven for thinking just that, with so much happening on the publishing front. **Gay Reporter**, after a short and stormy life of four issues, has ceased publication as a self-contained paper, and will now take the form of a news supplement within 'Him' Magazine. In their last issue the publishers place the blame for the paper's failure on 'economic factors', but take the opportunity to vent their rather paranoid feelings against those who have had the temerity to criticise G.R.'s policy. So once again we are without a national paper (with the notable exception of **Outrage** - which unfortunately publishes only every other month) and we continue to wait for news of **Gay News'** reappearance. (Nigel Ostrer, the new owner of the Gay News title, must have been following the Gay Reporter saga with interest; let's hope he'll take note).

Meanwhile **Capital Gay** continues to provide a good weekly news coverage although it is of course mainly aimed at a London readership.

Finally we wish every success to **Gay Midlander**, whose first issue is now on sale throughout the Midlands (40p monthly).

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Equal Opportunities

One important plank of the manifesto on which the new Nottingham City Council was elected to office is a commitment to an Equal Opportunities policy. Many disadvantaged groups, including gay people, have fought long and hard to get their special needs recognised by Local Authorities, and the commitment Nottingham has now made could be a significant step forward if we take full advantage of the opportunities it presents.

The Council has just appointed an Equal Opportunities Adviser, Harry Joshua, who is directly responsible to

the Chief Executive and to the Equal Opportunities Committee. Working with him in the Equal Opportunities Unit will be probably at least six other staff, including a research worker.

In an interview with G.E.M., Mr Joshua stressed that an Equal Opportunities policy means nothing if it simply remains on paper as a statement of good intent. Nor is it reasonable to think that the Unit can, by itself, revolutionise Council policy overnight. But by helping to set up direct contact between the Council decision-makers and the Community groups - who after all know best how what the Council does (or fails to do) affects their lives - the Unit aims to improve understanding and offer a chance of much better consultation.

The Labour Campaign for Gay Rights is approaching other gay groups in the City to decide on a joint approach to the new policy, and it is hoped to arrange a meeting with Mr Joshua in early September.

Health Strategy Group

"A campaign to promote health and influence the Area Health Authority got under way in Nottingham on July 19th with the first meeting of the 'Health Strategy Group'. Among various groups represented was Nottingham CHE, who raised gay issues such as A.I.D.S., next-of-kin status for same-sex partners, hospital visiting rights and the attitudes of GPs to gay patients. Lesbians and gay men with an interest or experience in gay-related health issues are urgently sought. For more details phone Nottingham Gay Switchboard and ask for 'Gay Health Strategy'."

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Manchester Gay Centre

Manchester Gay Centre has finally been successful in its campaign to ensure that it is funded by Manchester City Council but this is only a partial victory.

On Wednesday 6th July the City Council decided to accept a proposal from the Policy Committee to give the Gay Centre its full £10,600 grant until March 1984. This overturned a decision by the Social Services Committee which had said that the Centre should receive no more money. However the Council also agreed that the Centre would receive no money after March 1984.

Paul Fairweather, the Centre's Liaison Officer commented:

"We are concerned that the Council seem to have already decided about our grant for the next year. No other project has had such a condition placed upon them and we feel it is another example of the Gay Centre being singled out for discrimination. However, we are pleased to have finally received the whole of our grant and would like to thank all the groups and individuals, both gay and non gay, who have helped with our campaign. We are determined to keep the Gay Centre open and to convince the Council of the value of our work and the need for us to be supported by the local authority. We have already applied for 3 workers and £32,000 for the next years grant and will be campaigning for that as our present grant is insufficient for the work that needs to be done."

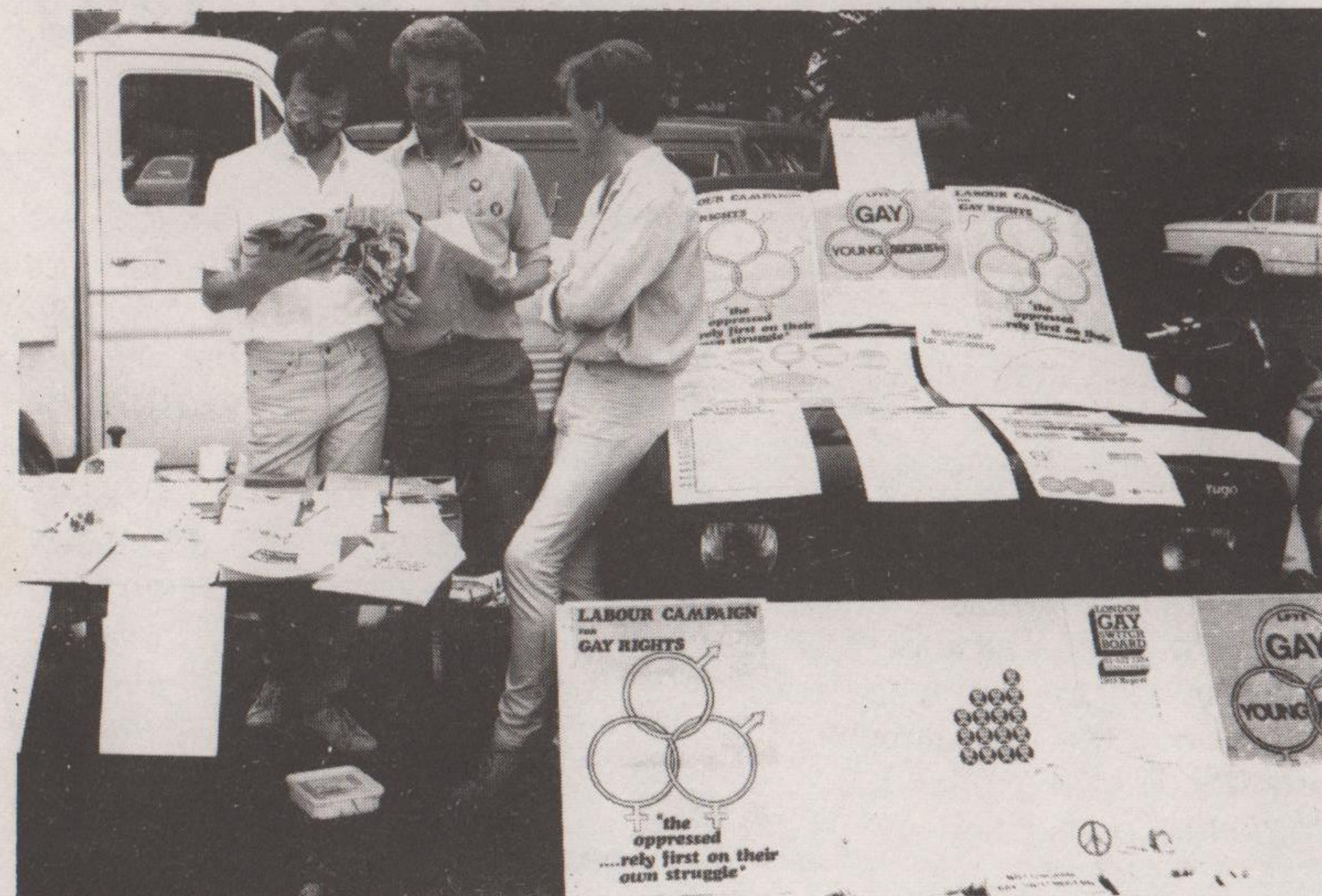


Queerbashing in Shardlow

Members and guests at the Pavilion Club, Shardlow, have recently been experiencing some harassment on leaving the club late on Saturday nights. A group of local youths have been offering verbal abuse and on Saturday 9th July Andy Wallace, a club committee member who works on the door, was badly beaten up. Police are making enquiries, and have interviewed suspects. Possibly as a result of this there was no trouble last Saturday (16th) and the Club is hoping that the trouble is over for the present.

NEWS

LCGR at Peace Festival



Members of the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights at the recent Nottingham Peace Festival in Wollaton Park. Their stall, displaying a wide range of leaflets and badges, attracted a lot of attention from the large number of people who'd turned out for the event, and many people (not to mention a few passing dogs!) found themselves wearing the 'GAY 16 OK' stickers produced by LCGR to draw attention to the unequal age of consent laws for gay men.

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB

We've heard recently from the Gay Outdoor Club - a national organisation which has many local groups up and down the country. Although walking and scrambling in rugged areas is one of the Club's activities, it would be wrong to think that it's all boots, beards and rucksacks! Cycling, swimming, fishing, inland waterways and lazy days on beaches are just some of the things they're up to this summer.

The Coventry Scene

We've heard nothing further of plans to set up a regular disco in Coventry now that 'Busters' is no longer gay. However, the new Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation is busy setting up events to keep the social scene alive and flourishing. A trip to Hero's Club in Manchester is planned, as well as a 'Clone of Arc' (!) bonfire party, but the major event this month is the **A.I.D.S. Benefit Disco** at Tamango's Club on Saturday 15th. This will be a fancy dress affair, with the theme 'what you were wearing when the ship went down', and Secretary Mick Aldridge would like to make it 'a major regional event'. Further details from C.A.G.C.O. - for address see listings.

Contact for the East Midlands Group is John, Leicester 26617, and you can get details of membership and a sample newsletter by writing to: G.O.C. New Members Secretary (GEM), 6 Cranbourne Court, Cranbourne Road, Stockport, SK4 4LJ, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

PUB SCENE

Anyone who hasn't been to Nottingham recently may not be familiar with the biggest change on the local pub scene for some time. The Central Tavern as was has now been revamped as Gatsby's and is currently drawing in the crowds - so it's well worth a visit.

The refurbishing of the front bar has been done extremely well, with the emphasis on flashing lights and loud disco music. This reflects the modern trend in gay bars, not to everyone's taste but certainly popular with most. Perhaps the campest moment is the artificial smoke emanating from the bar area - shades of Part Two on a busy night. At the very least, Gatsby's is fun and busy, a racey atmosphere of alcohol and disco music and enough space to cruise about or just chat to friends. If this doesn't appeal, there is a comfortable back bar which is more relaxed. My only criticism is that music is often relayed from the front bar, which seems to defeat the object of having a quieter area. Although most of the customers are men, an increasing number of women seem to be using Gatsby's, particularly at weekends.

Gatsby's has certainly added zest to the Nottingham pub scene. It's good to see that a gay bar can now also be one of the smartest bars in town.

Meet Dot and Eric, the people responsible for giving a whole new look to Ye Hole in Ye Wall on North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. Some of you may already know Eric from his time as manager of the Penny Farthing pub in Radford. He and Dot have been close friends for about ten years and have finally realised their ambition to start a joint business venture, running their own pub. Although they don't aim to run an exclusively gay bar, their regular customers number a great many gay men and lesbians, "everyone is welcome, as long as they all get on, which they usually do", says Dot.

Together they have already made many improvements to the pub, the main one being the new sophisticated decor. Eric is also very proud of their new sound system and impressive range of music, "and people can always bring their own tapes", he adds.

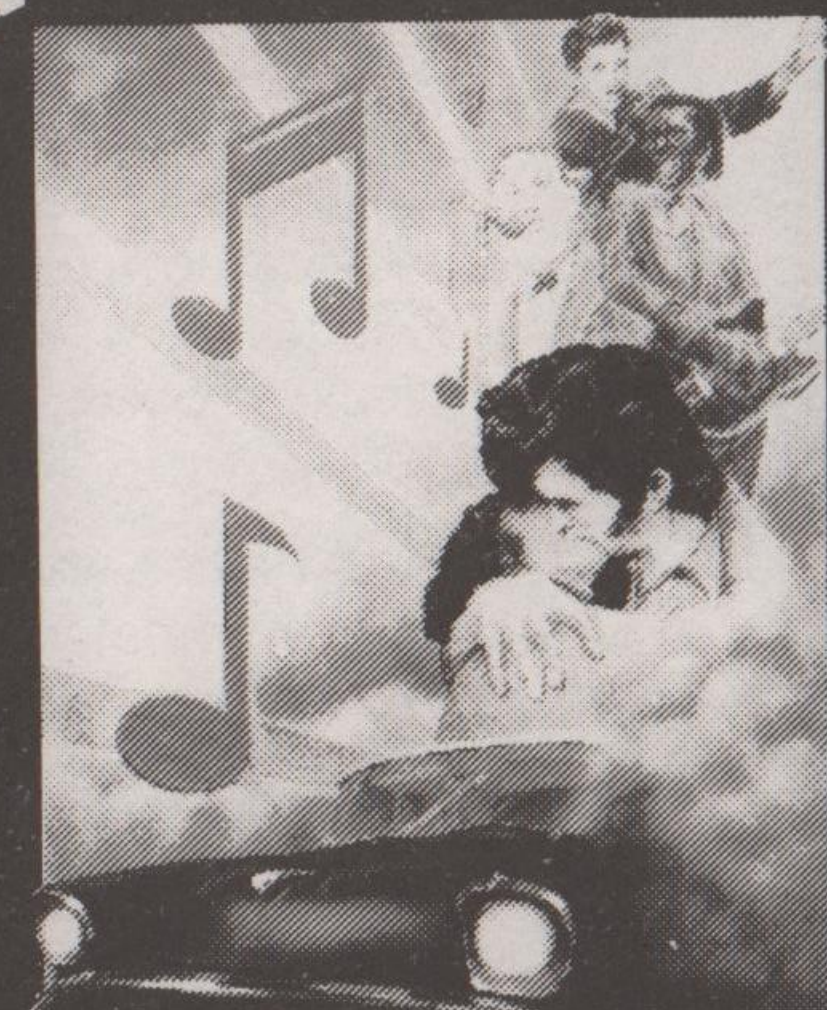
Plans for the future include the paving of the area outside for tables and chairs, and by next summer Eric hopes to be open all afternoon serving soft drinks and food in the continental bar-café tradition.

In the near future Dot and Eric hope to have informal live entertainment nights, which can only add to the pub's already growing popularity. The atmosphere is relaxed and very friendly and welcoming to both men and women which is good to see. Ye Hole in Ye Wall is certainly a fun place to spend an evening, so why not drop in and make friends with Dot and Eric, (and Sean, the barman), and have a good time?

As G.E.M. goes to press we hear of a plan to open a gay bar in Newark. Adrian, the landlord of Ye Olde White Hart, informs us that they have recently opened a 1940's style 'Blitz' bar which they would like to promote as gay. He describes it as 'a cosy small bar, separate from the main pub which has a disco light system.'

As there seem to be no established gay venues in the Newark area, the Olde White Hart would welcome any gays who are in the district. So perhaps the message is, if you live around Newark, now's your chance to move in and make it a success.

LIVE ON STAGE



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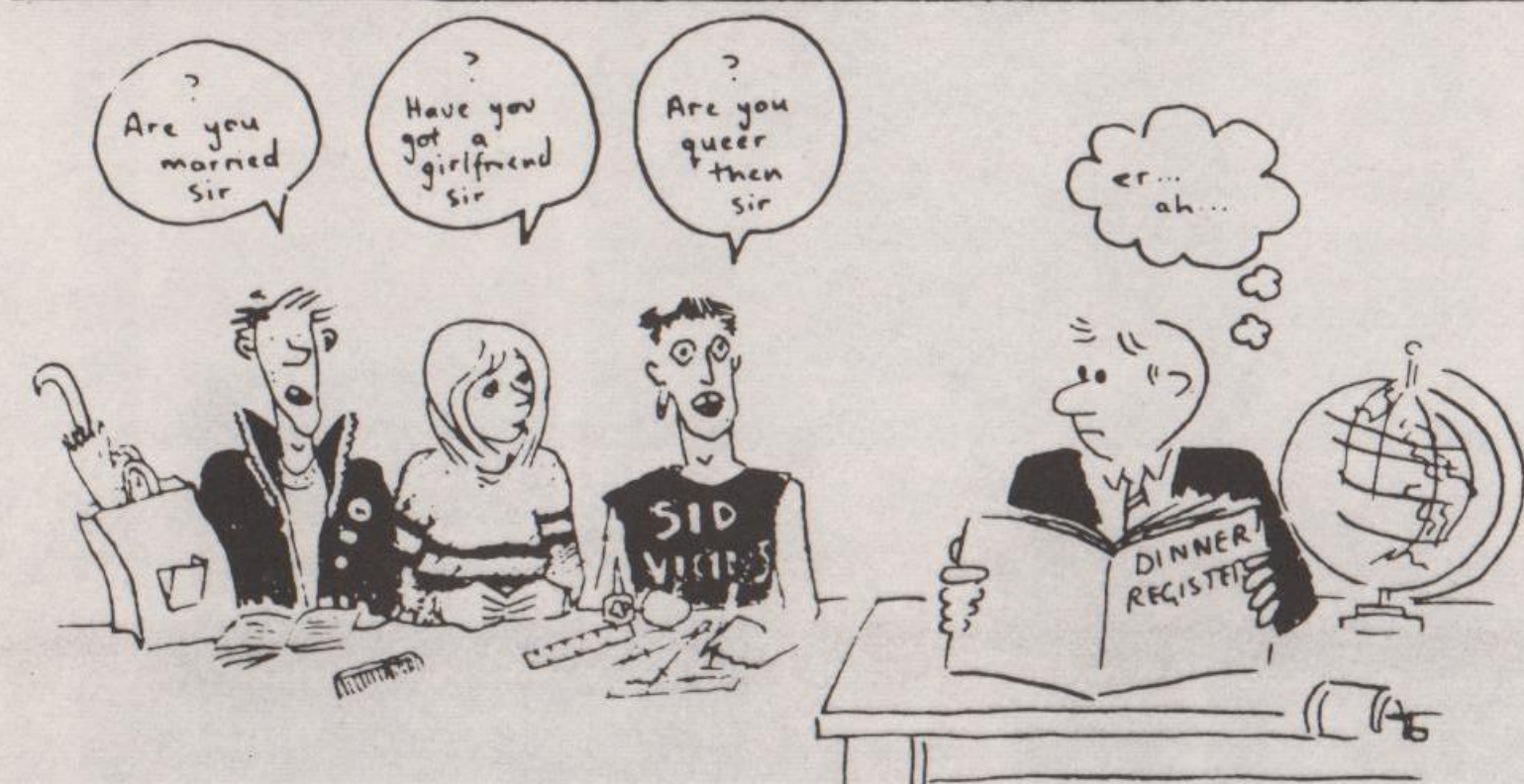
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School's Out

The G.E.M. Research Department gets 0 out of 10 this month for failing to realise that our July feature 'School's Out' is also the title of a very useful booklet just published by the London Gay Teachers Group. We are indebted to Geoff Hardy for sending us a copy. Nigel Leach has been reading it.

As a youth worker, and someone who feels it important to try to be open about my homosexuality, I can recommend 'School's Out' as essential reading for anyone who works directly with young people. As the Introduction says, 'With some 9 million pupils in our schools, there must be close on a million who have identified, or will identify, as homosexual. At present there is very little notice taken of them, yet they do have specific needs. Those of us who

are gay and have come through or are still in the education system need to be listened to so that teachers and administrators come to understand those needs.'

The 63-page booklet consists of 10 articles on subjects like the experiences of teachers coming out at school, gay rights within the NUT, and the difficulties experienced by gay pupils. There is also a booklist which school libraries could well make us of.

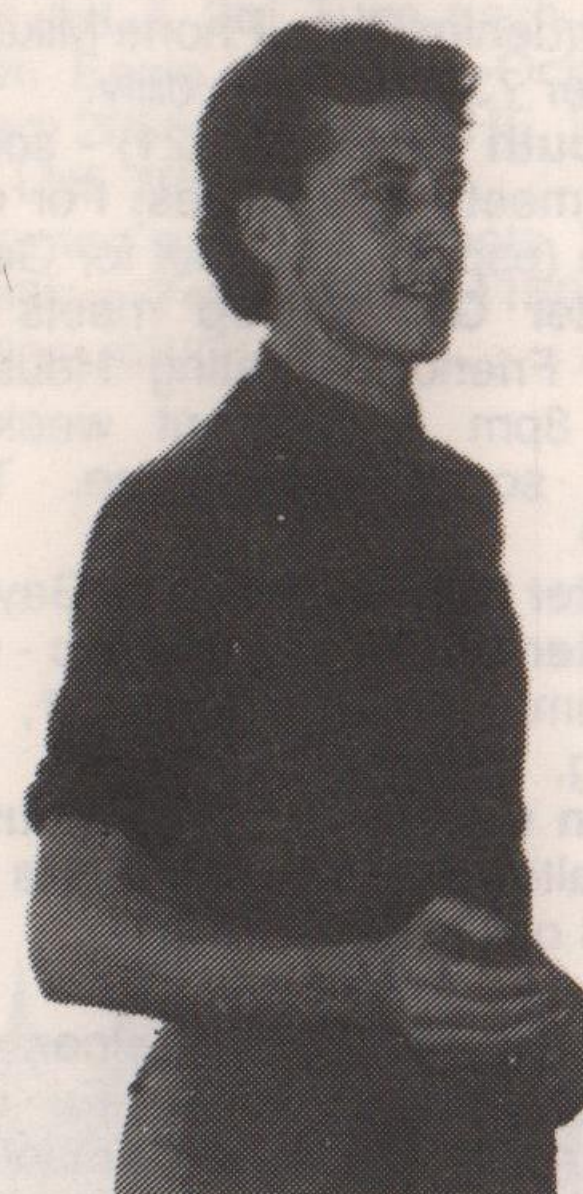
I found 'School's Out' full of useful ideas and well worth the cover price of £1. Anyone seriously interested in gay rights and education should try to read it. Copies are available from London Gay Teachers' Group, BM Gayteacher, London WC1N 3XX.

Married Gays

Bob Emerton, one of the members of the G.E.M. Collective, is preparing a feature on married gays for a future edition of G.E.M. and would like to hear from gay people who are, or have been, married and who may like to tell us about the ways their lives have been affected by that situation. All correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you feel you have something to contribute, write to Bob at the G.E.M. address (Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham).

Gay Youth in Nottingham

In response to last month's feature on Gay Youth, we've been contacted by social worker Glennis Lewis and youth worker Nigel Leach. Like G.E.M., they are concerned that no group exists for young gay people in Nottingham, and are very willing to help set up such a group. If you're interested in this idea or have any comments, Glennis and Nigel would be pleased to hear from you - they can be contacted via G.E.M. or Nottingham Gay Switchboard.



PETER TATCHELL

Nearly six months after standing in the Bermondsey bye-election, Peter Tatchell is still the victim of a vicious hate campaign which has included three attempts to run him down, more than 30 death threats, and numerous abusive telephone calls and incidents. During a recent visit to Coventry, he spoke to G.E.M. about the election and its aftermath.

GEM - Why do you think you lost the election?

P.T. - I think there are probably three main factors. Firstly, Michael Foot standing up in parliament and saying "Peter Tatchell will never be a Labour candidate" didn't help. Then there was the Press campaign, which included despatching 'Tatchell hunters' to Australia to search for a sex story - "preferably with photos". Thirdly, it didn't help having the former M.P., Bob Mellish, supporting the Independent Labour Party candidate and splitting the Labour vote.

GEM - What kind of support did you get from gays during the campaign? Gay News, for example, was very critical because you didn't come out before the election.

P.T. - I got a lot of support from gay people during the campaign, particularly those in my constituency. Quite a large number came from

outside the constituency to help me campaign. At one point when we were canvassing, an old woman came up to me and said "This is the first time that a candidate has declared himself to be gay before an election - and I think it's marvellous because I'm 76 years old and I've been a lesbian all my life!"

GEM - How do you feel about the Labour Party's stance on gay rights, in the light of your experience? Do you think Labour are genuinely committed to gay rights?

P.T. - At the minute I think Labour have a very half-baked commitment to gay rights but I don't think that that means we can't change it. Certainly, their support for me during the bye-election was a lot less than candidates usually receive but that's just made me more determined to fight on. I think we've got to be prepared to battle on but the battle is certainly winnable.

GEM - What is your position now in relation to politics and gay rights? Do you think you'll continue to be active?

P.T. - Well I'm still active in the Labour Party as Secretary of the Bermondsey Branch. When they next select their Parliamentary candidate I shall certainly stand for selection again. As far as gay rights goes, I obviously support the issue but I don't feel that I've ever been really active in that area and I wouldn't say that I'm particularly prominent in the movement.

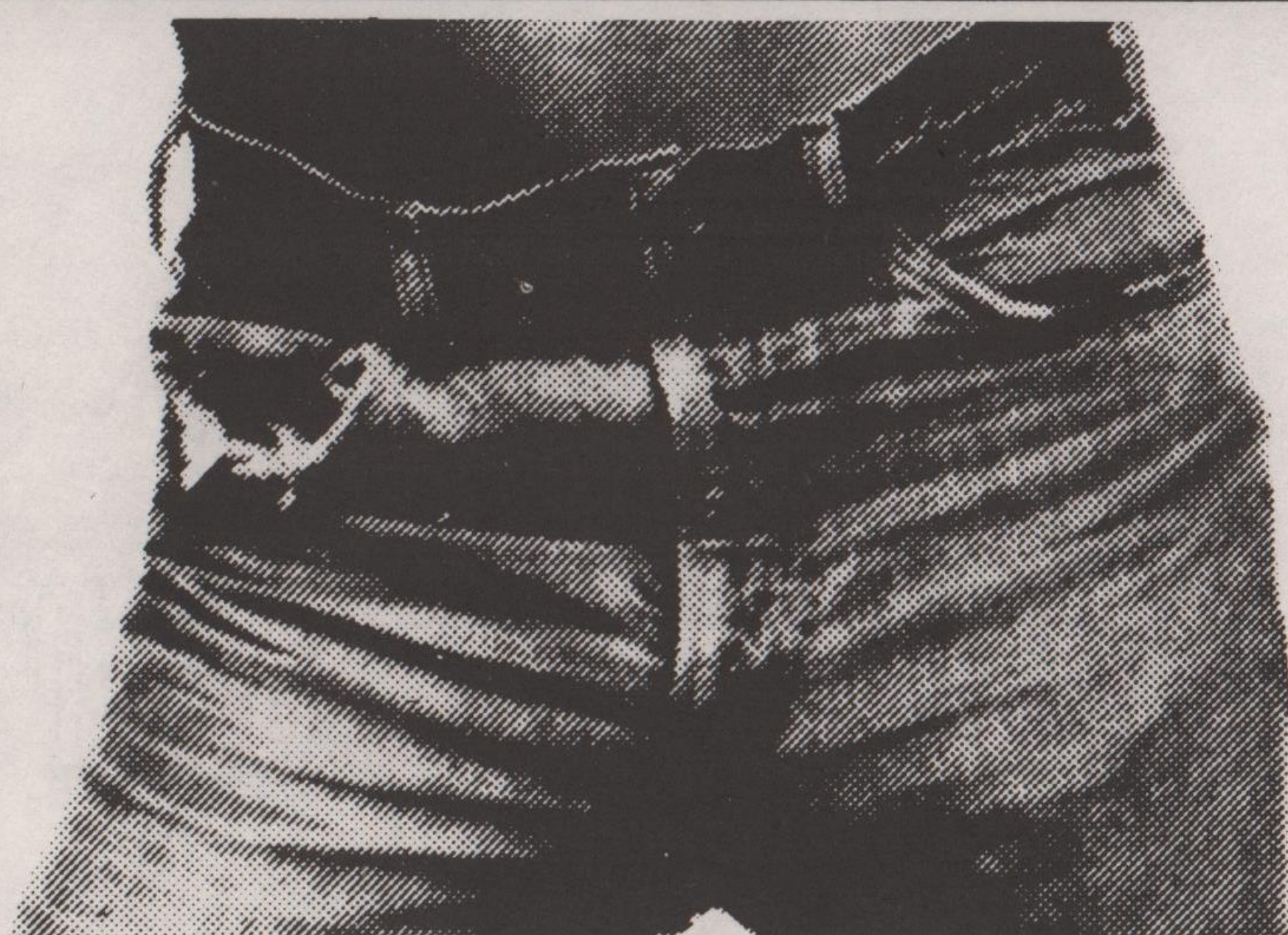
Colin Clews.

PART TWO

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BOSTON

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

COVENTRY

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

GROUPS: Beards Meeting Beards: exclusively bearded gays. M'ship info Bryan (BMB). 4 Radcliffe Rd, Earlsdon, Coventry (SAE).

CHE, write Mike Foxwell, c/o 14 Spon St, Coventry, or tel 714144.

Coventry Area Gay Community Organisation - write c/o 14 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA.

Gay Christian Movement meets 10th of each month. Info, m'ship, advice, tel Phil, Coventry 552300 (evgs 6-7 only).

Gay Humanist Group, contact Roy/George tel Kenilworth 58450.

Mercia Gay Youth Group (gay/bisexual under 25) meets 1st & 3rd Mons 8pm Rose and Crown, plus occasional meetings Lanchester Poly and Warwick Univ. Gaysocs. Contact Shane or Mick via Friend. **Swimming group** meets weekly. Contact Richard or Julian via Friend.

Warwick University Gaysoc. Contact Jem Bowen. c/o Students' Union, tel Coventry 417220.

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

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

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

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

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

DERBY

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

GROUPS: Derby Gay Group, social meetings weekly. Tel Jeff, Derby 664234 Thurs evgs.

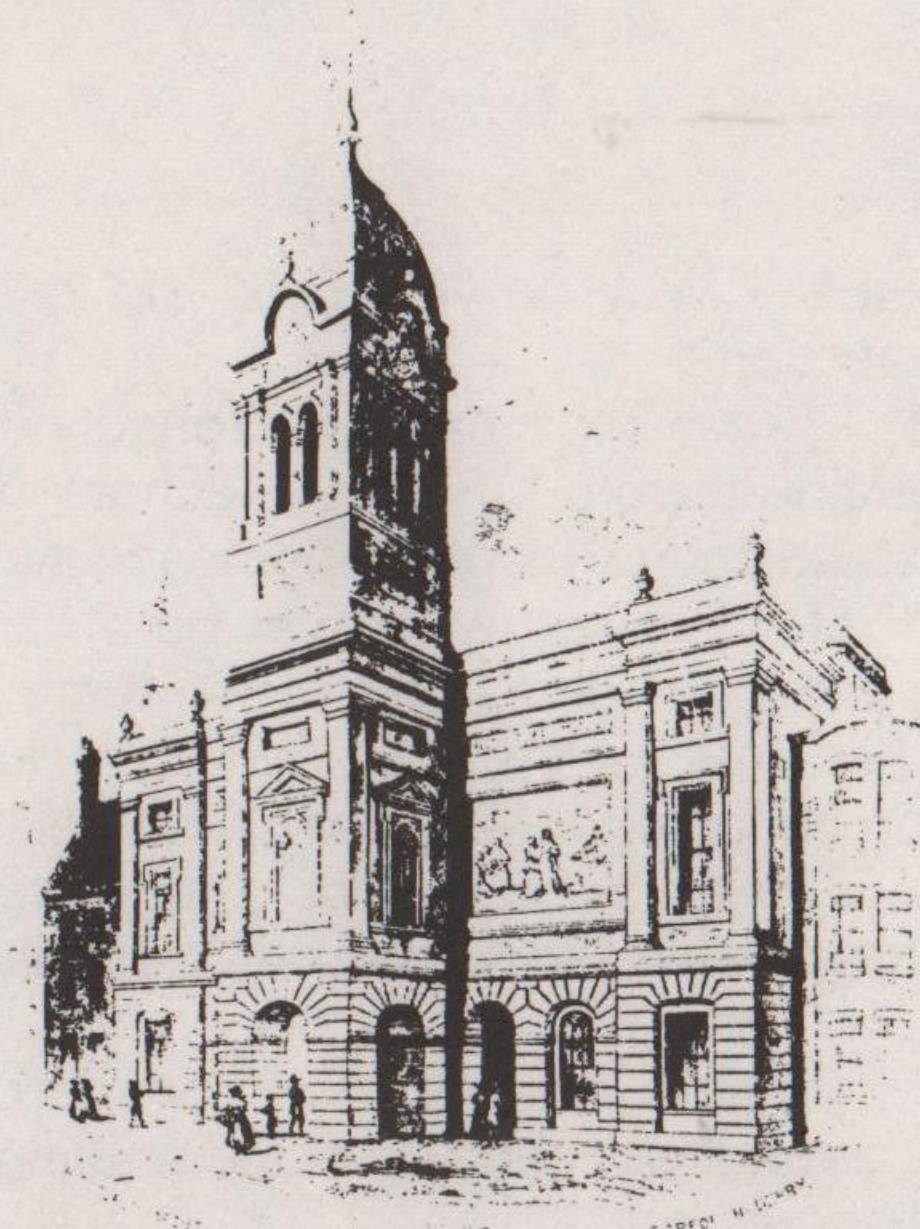
Derby & District Gay under 26's Group, c/o Andy Lloyd, 125 Cavendish Court, Friargate, Derby. Tel 360610. Meets alternate Suns, 3pm.

Gay Christian Movement meets 3rd Fri in month, alternately in Derby and Nottingham. Tel Charles, Derby 833294.

Gay Fellowship meets Sun afternoons. Tel Ken, 364771.

Spotlight 4.3.3. National gay soccer group for players and supporters. Info/m'ship forms from Anthony, 68 Cavendish Court, Cavendish St, Derby, tel 361639.

INFO/COUNSELLING: Derby Friend tel 371725 Wed 7-10 pm or write Derby Friend c/o CVS, Kings Chambers, Queen St, Derby.



PUBS: Green Lane Gallery Wine Bar, 130 Green Lane, closed Mon; Weds women's night. Tel 368652.

Wagon & Horses, Ashbourne Rd. Lounge Bar Sat-Wed evgs only. Mixed.

VD Treatment: Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Dept of Genito-Urinary Medicine, London Rd, Derby, tel 47141 ext 504, 2579, 2577.

GAINSBOROUGH

PUB: Tiger Inn, Lord St. Mixed.

LEICESTER

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

DISCOS: Lorna's Disco, Dover Castle, Wed/Fri/Sat/Sun.

Three Cranes Hotel, nightly disco with light show and videos.

Womens Disco Nags Head & Star, Oxford St, alternate Fri 9pm-1am (back room - use side entrance). Tel Hinckley 617583 for details.

GROUPS: East Mercia MSC, Leather/denim Club. Phone Mike or Tony on Leicester 734331. Men only.

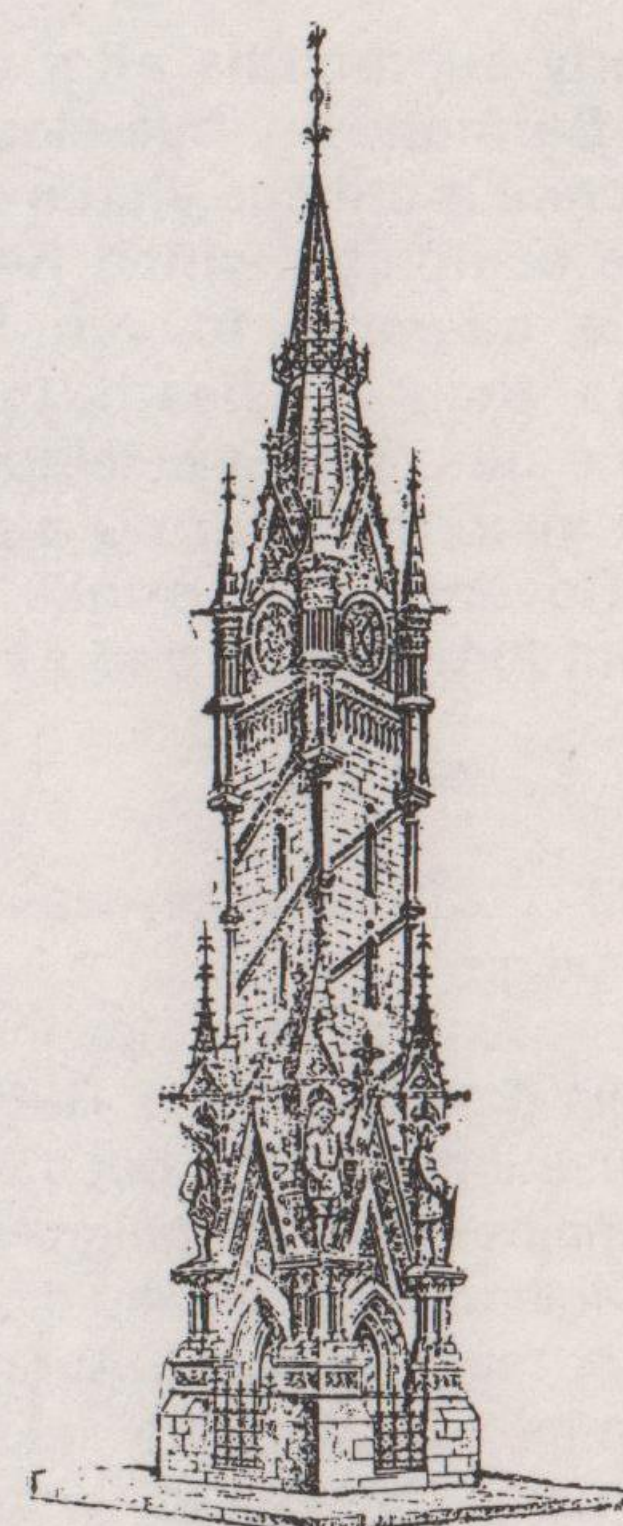
Gay Youth Group (14-21) - social support group, meets every Tues. For contact ring Gayline (esp. Weds - ask for Gareth).

Leicester Gay Group meets last Fri of month, Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road, 8pm & different weekly venues. Varied social programme. Tel Arthur, 432430.

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

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

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



PUBS: Dover Castle, 34 Dover St. Disco (see above). Men and women, almost exclusively gay.

Three Cranes Hotel, 84 Humberstone Gate. Tel: 24666. Gay hotel with beer garden. Disco (see above). Gay women and men welcome.

VD Treatment: Leicester Royal Infirmary, Dept of Genito-Urinary Medicine, Infirmary Close, Leicester. Tel 541414 ext 5208.

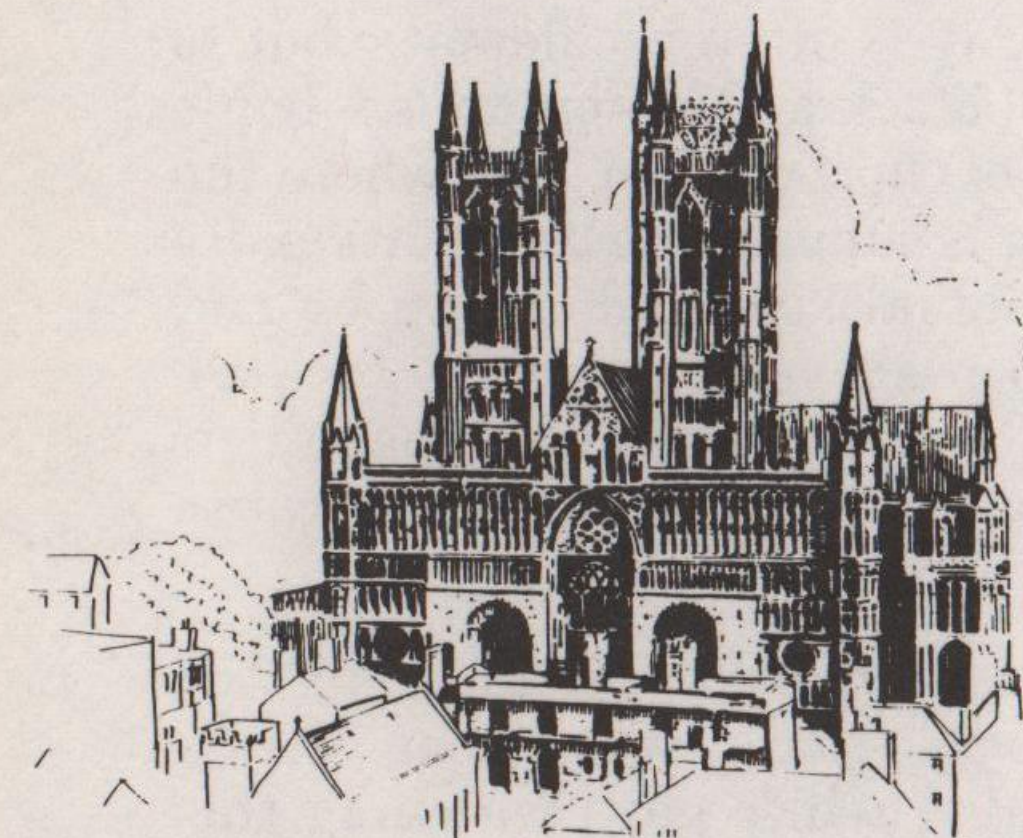
LINCOLN

DISCO: Gay Group Disco alternate Sats, upstairs at Golden Eagle, High St, 8-12pm.

GROUPS: Lincoln Gay Group

/CHE meets 1st & 3rd Tues each month, 8pm, Golden Eagle. Tel John Ockenden, Metheringham 20851 or write CHE, PO Box 12, Lincoln, LN5 7PE.

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



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

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

LOUGHBOROUGH

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

LOUTH

PUB: Woodman Inn, Eastgate, Mixed.

MANSFIELD

DISCO: The White Hart, Church St, upstairs lounge/disco room. Thurs-Sun evgs. No membership, entrance free. Tel 23607.

GROUP: Gay Christian Movement - new group, hopes to meet regularly each month. Tel Phil, Mansfield 555388.

VD Treatment: Mansfield & District General Hospital (Special Treatment Centre), West Hill Drive. Tel 22515 ext 442.

NOTTINGHAM

CLUB: Part Two, Robert House, 5-13 Canal St, Disco/Bars/Restaurant, open Tues-Sat, 9.30-3am. Tues-Thurs members free, guests £2, Fri-Sat members £1.50, guests £2.50. Tel Nottingham 558866.

COUNSELLING: Nottingham Friend tel 476714 Tues evgs 7-10pm or write c/o CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.

DISCO: Women's Disco, Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way (upstairs), Tues 8-11pm, 40p, also alternate Sats (late bar) 50p.

GROUPS: CHE (campaigning only) - write c/o CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd, Nottingham NG1 3FF, or tel Mike 55196 or Andrew 598471.

Gay Christian Movement meets 3rd Fri of month alternately in Nottingham and Derby. Tel Charles, Derby 833294.

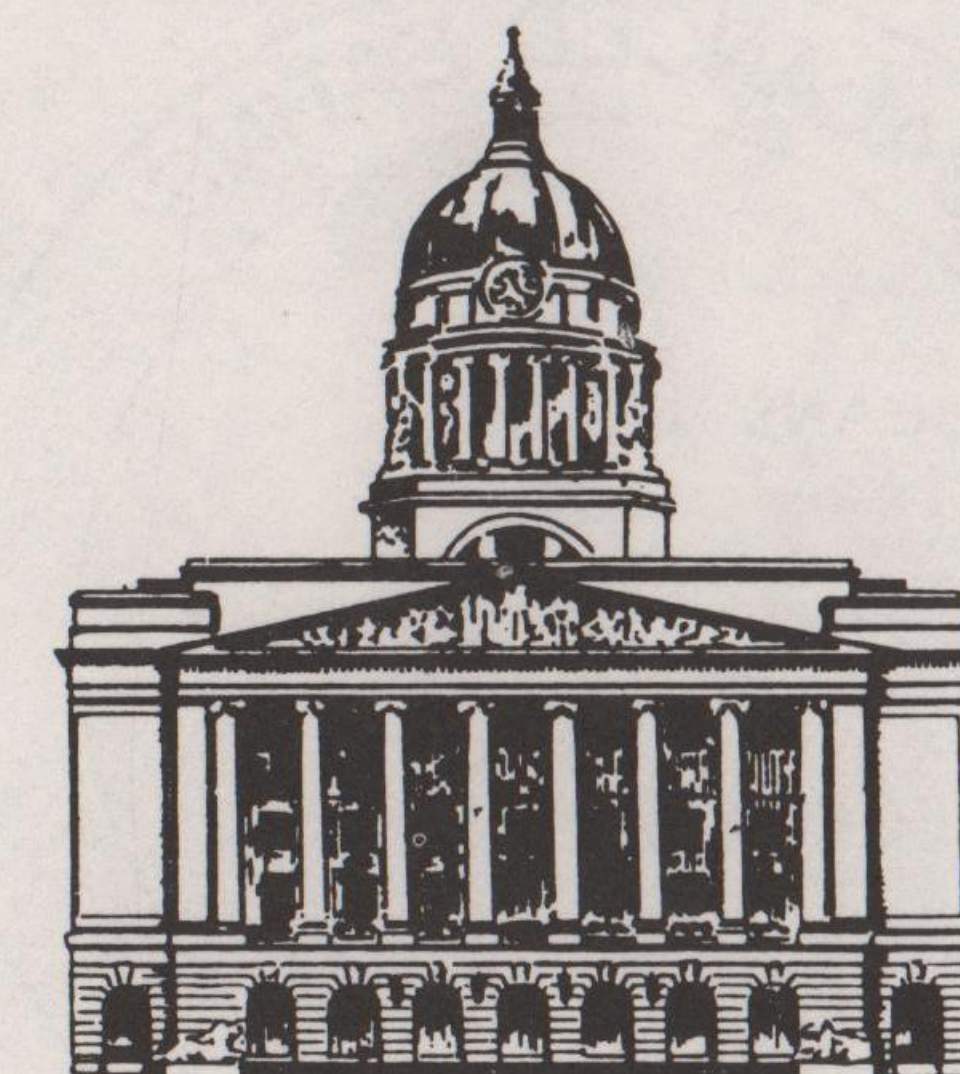
Gay Welfare Workers Midlands Group. Tel Richard McCance, Nottm 780124, or send SAE c/o 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottm.

Labour Campaign for Gay Rights. Contact Chris Richardson, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottm, tel 780124.

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

Nottingham University Gaysoc: c/o Students' Union, Portland Building, Univ of Nottm, NG7 2RD. Meets fortnightly Weds in NSQR term time. Tel 50421 Mons 8pm-12 for info.

Trent Poly Gaysoc meets Thurs Evg at the Dragon. Tel Gay Switchboard for info.



INFO: Lesbian Line tel 410652 Mon 7.30-9pm.

Nottingham Gay Switchboard: tel 476714, Mon, Wed & Thurs, 7-10pm for confidential help and advice for gay and bisexual people.

PUBS: Gatsby's (formerly Central Tavern) Huntingdon St (near Palais de Dance), Lounge bars, mixed.

The Dragon, Long Row (opp. Central Library), Alley Bar, mixed.

The Foresters, behind Victoria centre, mainly Women.

Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way, downstairs bar exclusively gay, opens 8pm, mainly men.

Ye Hole in Ye Wall, Sherwood St, mixed, gay women and men welcome.

VD Treatment: General Hospital, Perth House, Postern St, Nottm, tel 45989.

RETFORD

INFO: via Lincoln Gay Switchboard (see under Lincoln)

WORKSOP

INFO: via Lincoln Gay Switchboard (see under Lincoln).

MIDLANDS ORGANISATIONS

FLAGS (Federation of Lesbian and Gay Students): Write Jem Bowen, c/o Students' Union, University of Warwick, Coventry.

Gay Welfare Workers' Group: Richard McCance, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham (SAE), tel Nottm 780124. Meets 3rd Sat every month.

QUEST (Catholic Gay Group): Info from Tony, Nottm 419137, w/days 6-7pm, or Wally 812741.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

A.I.D.S. Special Clinic, Praed St, London W1, tel 01-998 1742 ext 666 (serious personal enquiries only).

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

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

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL GAY SWITCHBOARD 01-837 7324 24 HOURS

PERSONAL VIEW

There was a time when it was imperative for me to have sex with blacks in preference to whites. More often than not they used hair straighteners. The sun on the Empire had all but set, yet the colonisation of the mind and soul remained. In 1963 James Baldwin wrote to his nephew on the one-hundredth anniversary of negro emancipation, in 'The Fire Next Time', observing: "We were not asked to aspire to excellence but to make peace with mediocrity". It didn't then seem mediocre to see young gay blacks at discos, being paraded by white patrons as displays of exotica. It was even less usual to see young gay blacks in the chosen company of their race, white masks discarded.

Over the years black power and pride have made their mark, symbolic of an age of discovering roots. Two years ago and ten years after the birth of the gay movement in this country, young black gays formed their own campaigning and support group. 'Here and Now' (Central TV 25th June 1983) offered 25 minutes of black gays speaking about their lives in an often racist and sexist society. "In the past we have washed away

parts of our identity and have been expected to bleach out our blackness - it was only by talking with other black gays that I stopped defining myself through white eyes", said Lorna. Paula Aliwallah let the interviewees speak for themselves in an unhurried way. How do you tell your parents you are gay when there

ROOTS

is no vaguely positive word for this in Urdu? Coming out can be fraught with problems or wonderfully exhilarating; unfortunately Hussein's parents did not find it so, and promptly sent him packing. Even for black Britons the cultural pull is still strong as Bradford-born Hareesh testified. As the eldest son he was expected to supervise the arranged marriages of his four sisters and he had made the decision not to strike out on his own until then. For Dilip, his gay lover came second to his need to remain at home. Men only move out of the family home to marry, ties remain strong throughout life, and the age of majority has a reduced significance in Asian households

particularly. Parents are also keen to know if a marriageable man is out philandering when he should be sorting out possible partners for himself. Isaac's mother now speaks openly and positively to others about her gay son but he still feels objectified as a fetish, devoid of personality, by most white gays. "They either want you for sex or they don't want you at all", he adds.

To be gay is often problematic but to be gay, black and a woman is a triple crown of thorns, especially where the woman is supposed to be traditionally more submissive and, Asian or not, has no positive role models to work from. Several concluded that their ideal partners would be black because they would understand.

"There are none so fit to break the chains as those who wear them." Hopefully, white gays watching this informative programme will have got the message.

Richard McCance.

● Richard has a copy of this programme on video which is available to borrow. He can be contacted on Nottingham 780124.

Coming Out

'Coming Out' doesn't always happen when you're young. It doesn't always happen 'according to plan'. And sometimes it's the people who are very close to you whom it's hardest to tell.

Jacqui Grafton tells her own story.

I have a great fund of excuses for not telling my mother I am a lesbian - she is old; she is not in good health; she is a widow and lives on her own; she is the child of strict, authoritarian Ulster Protestants and, therefore, cannot be expected to understand. All these reasons masquerade under the biggest lie of all - I do not want to upset her. These deceptions and fantasies have coddled me for nearly five years. Until last week, when I was placed in the position of having to say to my mother, 'I am a lesbian'. Even that is a lie, really. Neither of us used the word 'lesbian' or 'gay', although my mother did refer to 'freaks'.

My mother had been staying with us for nearly a week when a caller at the door inadvertently revealed the truth I had been concealing for so long. Mother said very little, after her bald statement that she had overheard the conversation and now 'knew'. She walked out of the door and across the park. I could see her walking about, her hands clasped together, winding a handkerchief in and out of her fingers. I stood for a long time, all thought suspended, until fragmented scraps of placatory phrases began to assemble. I would go over to her and tell her not to think too badly of me, that no one at home need ever know, and above all, beg her to keep coming to see me.

Not very noble, these first thoughts, but years of self-deceit breeds a straight-jacket of self preservation. I did go to her, eventually, and walked helplessly along behind her, mentally joining in with her hand-wringing. I waited until she spoke. 'I wish I was dead', came first, closely followed by, 'I wish you were dead'. Couldn't she see I was happy? 'How can you be happy when you aren't right in the head?' I frantically tried to recall all the positive things I had ever seen written about lesbianism, or to think of a 'respectable' person who was also a lesbian, in order to convince her that my lover and I were not the only 'freaks' she knew. 'There are thousands of women like us,' I offered. 'No.' Defeated by her stony refusal to listen to anything that I had to say, and numbed - not yet hurting - from her rejection of my very existence, I retreated to the kitchen to begin the evening meal.

When I was twelve years old, I once failed to see my Mother in the street and she accused me of ignoring her. Nothing I could do could convince her otherwise, and I was reduced to begging her to forgive me for something I hadn't done. Now, I tried to tell her I loved her, only to be met with the same implacable obstinacy. My lesbianism, like the non-existence snubbing all those years ago, had been interpreted as a rejection of my Mother. And it was at that moment that I faced the unpalatable truth - that I had been lying to myself for years about the reasons I did not tell my Mother I was a lesbian. The true reason is that I knew I would meet this brick wall of prejudice and I was unwilling and afraid to face it and cope with it. I did not want to admit that my Mother, whom I love dearly, would not be unselfish enough to be glad for my happiness.

I would like to say that the realisation of the truth about the relationship between my Mother and myself brought me strength and courage, but it didn't. When J., my lover, arrived home from work I was still dithering around in the kitchen. Instead of telling her what had happened, in the presence of my mother, I signalled frantically to attract her attention and dragged her into the back yard, where I subjected her to jumbled, whispered explanations and importunings, presenting my Mother and myself as tragic, star-crossed figures and asking for J.'s collusion in my self-abasement. To my everlasting relief, I did not get it.

Although appreciating that the revelation of my lesbianism had come as something of a shock to my Mother, J. nevertheless refused to fall into the role of 'freak' and second-class citizen which was emanating from the rigidly erect figure of my Mother. I took courage from her strength and love and, for the remainder of the evening, we chatted and tried to act as if it were just another evening at home, in an effort to demonstrate that this was how we lived and we were not ashamed or guilty in any way. My mother ignored J. completely and spoke to me only when

necessary and in the tone one would use to a deranged person who had caused deep offence.

Before she left our home the next day, I tried once more to reassure my Mother that I was the woman I had always been, and that J. and I were ordinary and quite dull people. By this time, however, she had progressed to blaming J. for my 'corruption' and swore she would never return to see me as long as I remained living with J. I looked at her for a long time. I thought of all the lies I had told her over the years and how often I had longed to be truthful with her. I thought of the times I had tried unsuccessfully to please her by conforming to norms which I rejected internally. I thought of her own inner unhappiness, and the long evenings she would spend at home, agonising over my 'sickness'. For just one moment, I wanted to throw my arms around her and plead with her for 'forgiveness' - old habits die hard - but then, finally, the frightened, self-doubting little girl died and I was free of my Mother's domination. Perhaps she doesn't see it as such; perhaps she still thinks she loves me honestly. If so, then I can no longer live with that kind of love. My mother and I took our leave of each other later that morning in silence, the air full of unspoken pleadings and promises. I don't know what sort of relationship, if any, we will be able to establish in the future but at least it will be built on honesty on my part. And, perhaps, one day she will come back to see J. and me. We will be here. Together.



● Readers may like to know of Parents Enquiry, an organisation which offers counselling for the parents of gay people. Write to:

Rose Robertson,
16 Honley Road,
Catford,
London SE6 2HZ.

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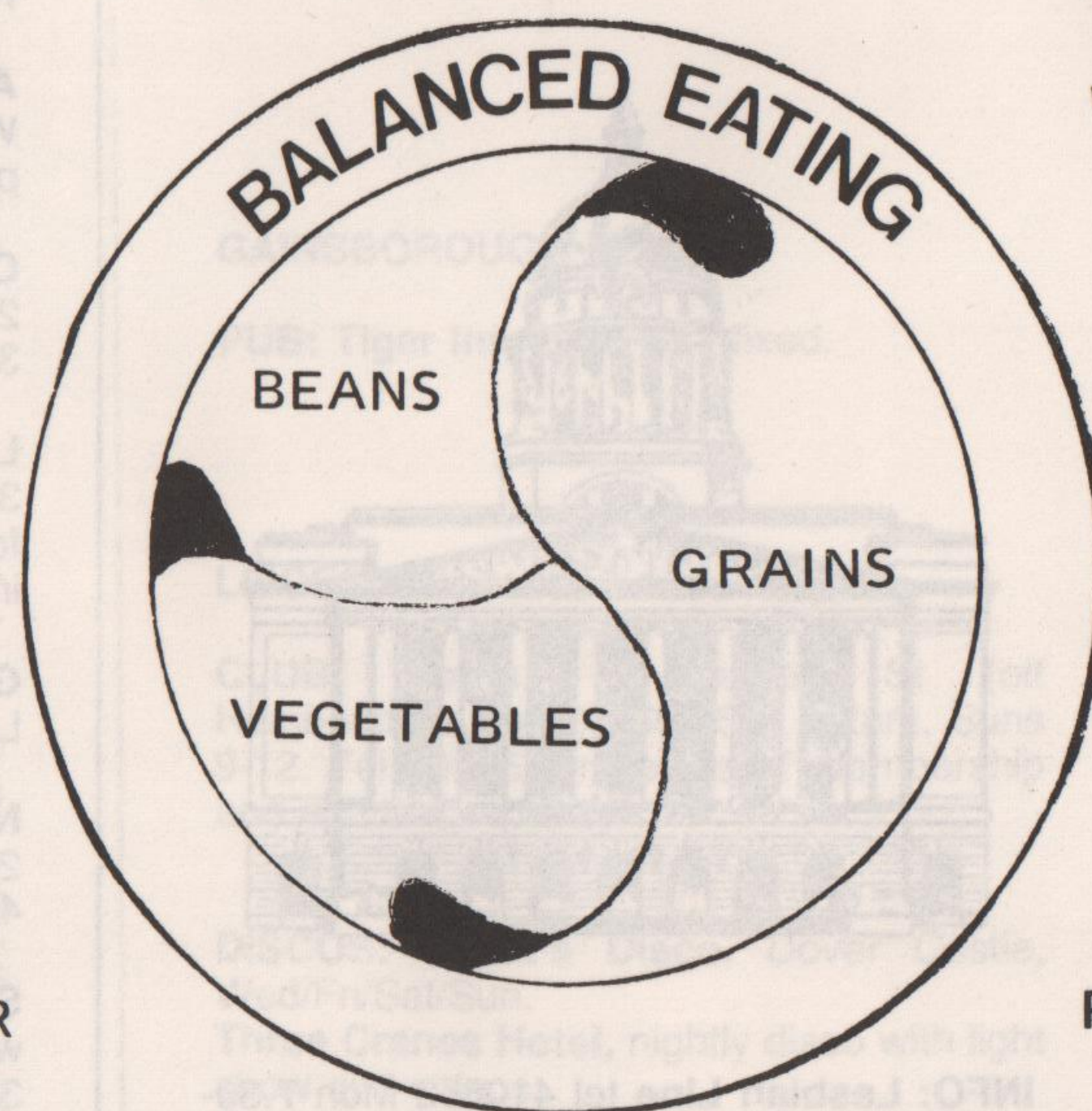
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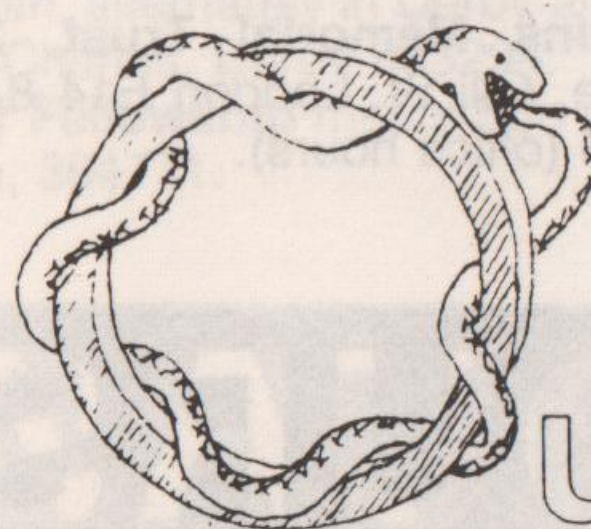
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INDEXES

ABOUT TOWN by Cathy White



REVIEW



With the club being open until 4am there was a nice period when Ross became D.J. and played some smoochy music. Maybe this had something to do with certain licensing laws. I'm not too sure what happened to the celebrity guests and the 'all night surprises'. Maybe the surprise was that they weren't coming. But they weren't really missed as it was a very good night. I don't know how the night ended - it was getting light when I left and things were still happening - but hopefully for a lot of people it ended with a bang.

Bob Emerton

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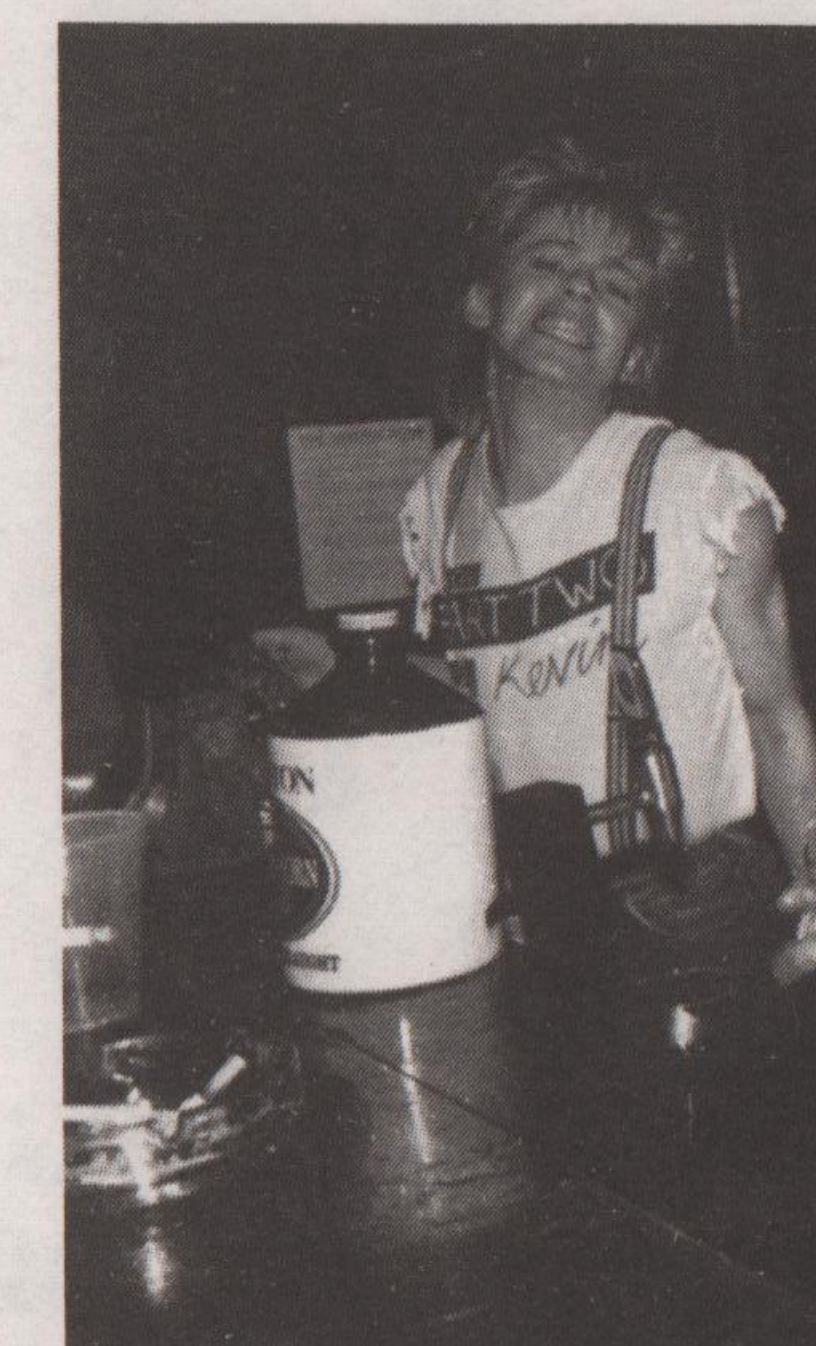
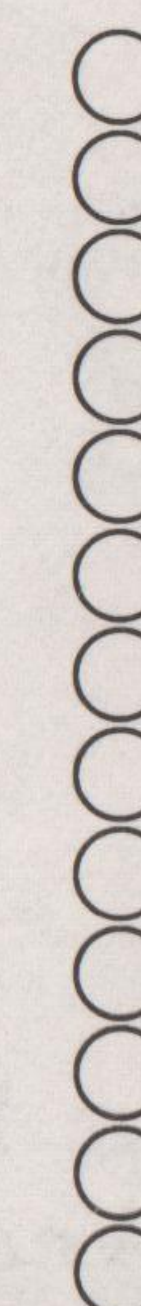
Part Two Happenings

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Not much to be said about the Mr Hardware competition, the atmosphere at Part Two was good as it usually is on Saturday nights. Not all the good-looking guys at the club entered (well, not the ones I liked, anyway) as is usual at these competitions. Maybe they are put off by having to bare their all (well, nearly all) in front of 500 or more gays.

The guy who won, Nigel Duncan of Derby, represents Nottingham in the final and wins £100. According to Paul Orton (Great Lakes Products), the final will be recorded by BBC-2 and will go out at the same time as 'Miss World' is on one of the other channels. Quite a coup if it happens.

Bob Emerton



Music

Yet again, another three new reworks released this week on import all destined to reach a high position in the gay charts. The first of these is a great version of *To Sir With Love* (remember Lulu singing it? I think she was 'bona drag'). Anyway, this version is by Vicki Sue Robinson. Next is *When Will I See You Again*, sung by Mada Layna, which is very similar to the original. Last (but not least) is Sylvester's brilliant version of *Band of Gold* - a bit strange to some people's ears but already getting lots of requests on the dance floors.

The new music this summer is very much like the weather - HOT! Lots of new releases. The American and Canadian pressings of Lime III have a remixed version of *Guilty*, which is excellent. Hazell Dean's *Searching* has been remixed by the one and only Ian Levine (DJ at Heaven), who has also released another record - 'Erlene Bentley', *The Boys Come to Town*. I'm told that he's also working on the new Miquel Brown record. Other records to look and listen for are by Loverde and Pamela Stanley.

● This month's music column is by ANDY ALLAN, resident DJ at SPOTS CLUB, LEICESTER.

'SPOTS' PLAYLIST

- 1) HAZELL DEAN - Searching (UK 12 inch)
- 2) LIME - Guilty (remix)/On the Grid (Canadian LP)
- 3) ERLENE BENTLEY - The Boys Come to Town (UK 12 inch)
- 4) MIQUEL BROWN - So Many Men, So Little Time (UK 12 inch)
- 5) VICKI SUE ROBINSON - To Sir With Love (US 12 inch)
- 6) THE TWINS - Not The Loving Kind (German 12 inch)
- 7) SYLVESTER - Band of Gold (US 12 inch)
- 8) SUSAN STEVENS - Love School (US 12 inch)
- 9) LOVERDE - Back Street Romance (US 12 inch)
- 10) IRENE CARA - Flash Dance (US 12 inch)

REVIEW

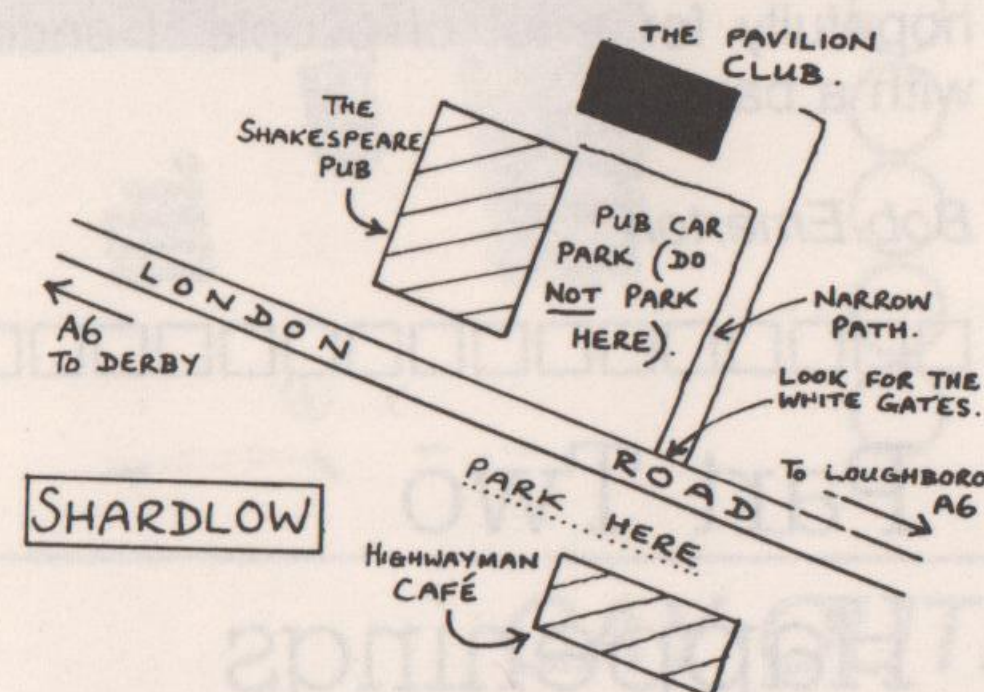
The Pavilion Club, Shardlow

The first time I went to the Pavilion Club, Shardlow, I went into the nearby pub to ask for directions. They'd never heard of it, so I explained it was a gay club that operates on Saturday nights and I felt sure it was near the pub somewhere. The penny dropped. Slight embarrassment. "That's not what they call it round here," they said, and gave me directions - the club turned out to be about 50 yards away behind the pub car park. Being curious, I asked what the locals *did* call it; and with even more embarrassment they told me - 'The Handbag Club'.

That's some indication of how anonymous and tucked away the Pavilion Club is, and to help you find it we've printed a map. It seems odd that after 12 years' existence the Club does not feel confident enough to put up some sort of sign by the road, but it seems privacy (dare I say closetry?) is the order of the day.

The Pavilion is unique in this area in that it's wholly owned and run by its members. The building, which used to be a bowls club pavilion, has been fitted

out very comfortably inside, and although not very large has a good dance floor at one end. At the other end is a carpeted area with a bar and seating. On a typical Saturday 70-100 people turn up, and the atmosphere is very informal and friendly. Drinks are at pub prices, but because of the licensing conditions, alcohol can only be served up to 11pm - after that the bar remains open for soft drinks only. It's very much a social club, as opposed to the hi-tech night club feel of places like Spots or Part Two, and doesn't see itself as being in competition with those venues.



The question of whether the Pavilion should open its doors to women has been put to the membership from time to time, and opinion has been divided. So far, however, the majority remain in favour of keeping it a men only club. Membership costs £6 per year, and admission is free to members and £1

for guests. The club does not set out to make a profit, but just to cover its costs.

That a small club like this has remained open for 12 years is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the members and committee, who have weathered many 'crises' over the years. However, the recent harassment experienced by some members when leaving the club (see Page 3) shows how vulnerable a place like this can be, and for me brings into question the whole 'low profile' policy. To hide away in secrecy is tantamount to apologising for being there, and gays should not have to do that. If the club were to make itself more public, make links with the local community (how about a meeting with the Parish Council?) and get them firmly on their side, it would be in a much stronger position to defend itself when under attack. The Club pays its rates, and the members have a right to use the facilities freely and without hindrance. It would be nice to think that in a couple of years' time a newcomer could ask a local for directions to the club and be told, "just up the road past the pub on the left. You can't miss it, there's a big sign above the gate." Idealism? Maybe, but we surely have to work towards that. How about it, Shardlow?

Dave Pitt.

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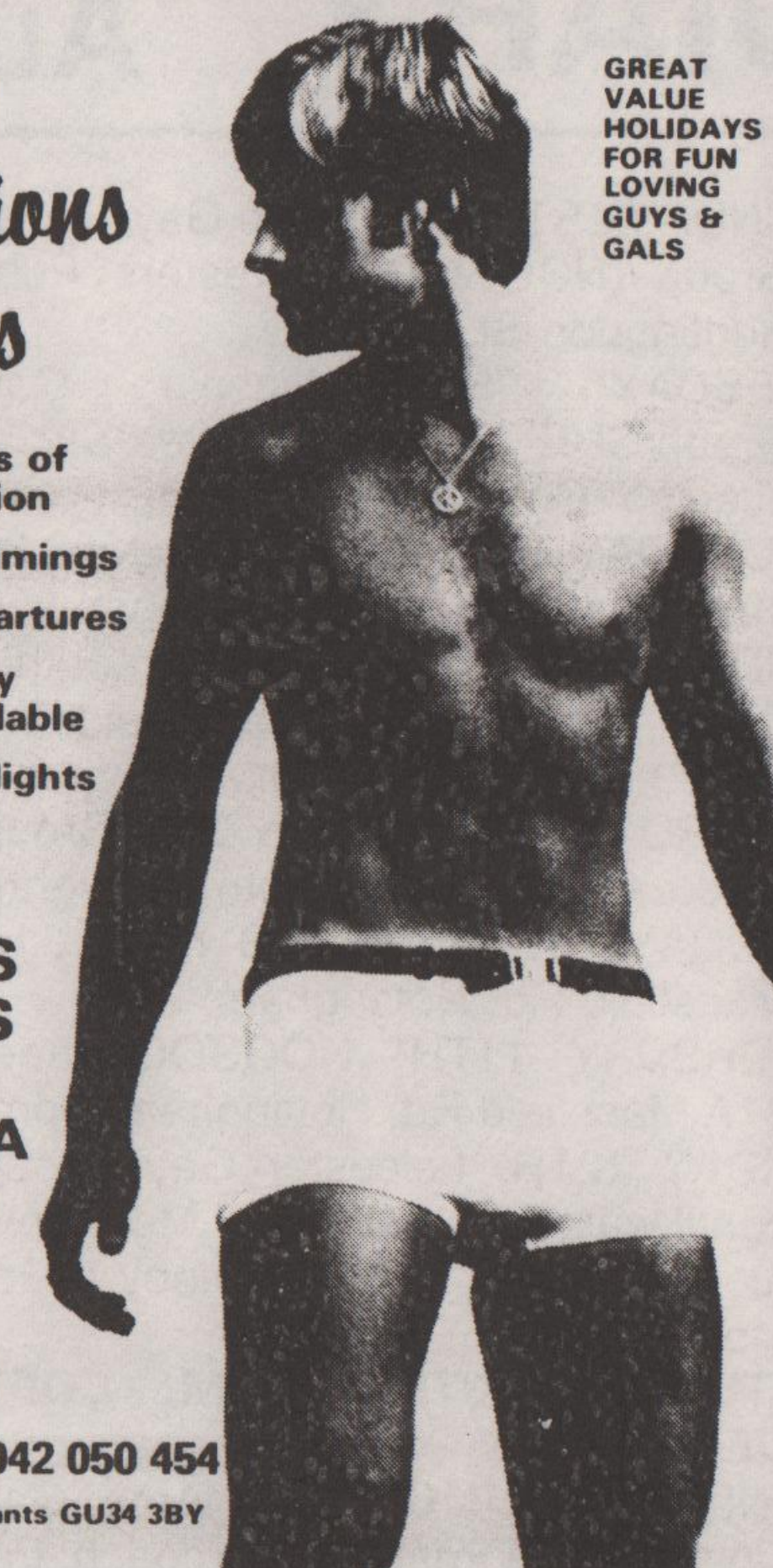
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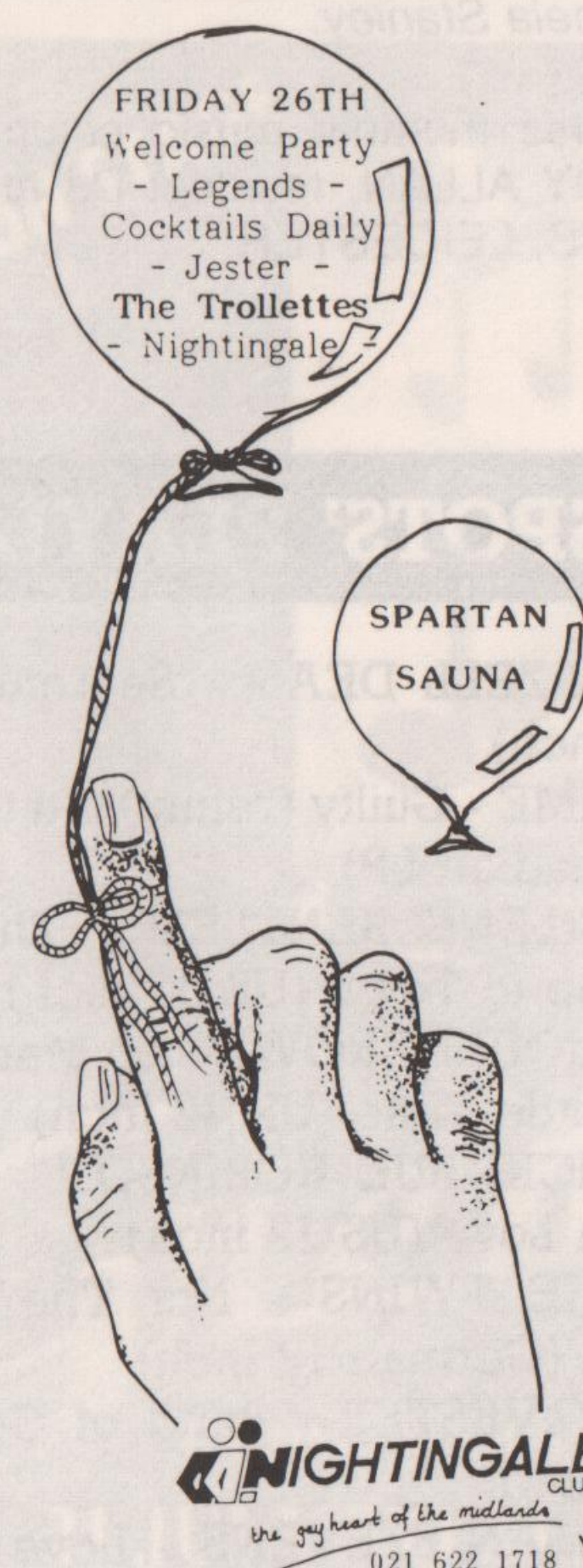
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