

# DIARY

## Dec 83 / Jan 84

### DECEMBER 1983

### JANUARY 1984

WEDNESDAY 14TH FOLLOW-UP Meeting equal opportunities in Nottingham. International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. 7.00pm.

THURSDAY 15TH Derby Gay Group Meeting and phone-in 7.30-11.00. All welcome. Tel. Derby 664234.

FRIDAY 16TH Leicester Gay Group outing to 'West Side Story' at Haymarket Theatre (meet in bar from 7.30pm). Tickets £4.00 (for details, phone Arthur).

SATURDAY 17TH Boston CHE & Gay Group Disco. Blackfriar Arts Centre, Boston. 8.00pm.

SATURDAY 17TH Derby Gay Group club night at Part Two, Nottingham. Meet at Jeff's. 9.00pm (phone early for lift).

SATURDAY 17TH Women's Disco, Hearty Good Fellow, Nottingham.

TUESDAY 20TH Lincoln: Film 'Watch out there's a queer about!' and 'Framed Youth'. Golden Eagle, High Street, 8.00pm.

WEDNESDAY 21ST. Derby Gay Group Christmas drinks and carols, 8.00pm (phone 664234 for details).

WEDNESDAY 21ST Nottingham: Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, 8.00pm (phone 780124 for venue).

WEDNESDAY 21ST Sheffield: Checkers Disco 4th Anniversary Party (Top Rank Suite).

MONDAY 26TH Derby Gay Group Open House at Jeff's. Bring a bottle, games, music. 7.00pm (phone 664234).

SATURDAY 31ST Women's Disco, Hearty Good Fellow Nottingham.

SUNDAY 1ST Gay Outdoor Club (East Midlands Group) ramble in Charnwood Forest - about 5-6 miles (phone John, Leicester 26617 for details).

FRIDAY 6TH Checkers Disco, Sheffield (Top Rank Suite).

SUNDAY 8TH Leicester Gay Group New Year Dinner, Regency Restaurant, London Road, 8.00pm (please notify Brian before Christmas).

SATURDAY 14TH Women's Disco, Hearty Good Fellow, Nottingham.

SATURDAY 14TH G.E.M. COPY DEADLINE ISSUE 8.

MONDAY 16TH Coventry: Gay Disco at Tamango, Tower Street, 9.30-2.00am, £1.

TUESDAY 17TH Lincoln: 'Querelle', Golden Eagle, High Street, 8.00pm.

WEDNESDAY 18TH Nottingham: Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, 8.00pm (phone 780124 for details).

SATURDAY 21ST Gay Welfare Workers, 2.00pm (details from Richard, Nottingham 780124).

SUNDAY 22ND Gay Outdoor Club (East Midlands Group). 10 mile ramble in South Derbyshire (phone John, Leicester 26617 for details).

SATURDAY 28TH Coventry: Coach trip (details to be announced). Contact C.A.G.C.O. (see listings for details).

SATURDAY 28TH Women's Disco, Hearty Good Fellow, Nottingham.

FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY Checkers Disco, Sheffield (Top Rank Suite).

## REGULAR EVENTS

DERBY GAY GROUP meet every Fri, Green Lane Gallery, 8.30pm.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SOCIAL GROUP (NOGSOC) meet every Mon at Foresters Pub, Huntingdon St., and every Thurs at CVS, 31a Mansfield Road.

NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S DISCO every Tues at Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marian Way, 8-11pm, 40p.

GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT meets 10th of each month (info, advice, etc, phone Phil, Coventry 552300, evenings 6-7 only).

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY GAY SOC (SNUGGLE) meet alternate Wednesdays in the darts room, Narrow Boat, Canal Street (phone 580421 for details).

## DIARY ENTRIES

Please note. If you would like **your** events publicised in the diary, please let us have your contributions in good time. The copy deadline for the next issue of G.E.M. is 14th January 1984.

STOP PRESS

LEICESTER Nag's Head Disco Finished.

COVENTRY New Pub. Spittlemoor, Hood St.

NOTT'M Women's Disco.

Hearty G'fellow. New Year's Eve. 8p.m.

Free Admission..Fancy Dress.

## 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)

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

### 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.

## ISSUE No 7

## DEC 83 / JAN 84

## 20p



## GAY EAST MIDLANDS

## MERRY XMAS FROM



## THE NEW GEM COLLECTIVE!

### INSIDE! 1983 Reviewed

### Andrew Lumsden on the Gay Press

### Equal Opportunities and lots more...!



# EDITORIAL

Those of you who bought or read, last month's issue will be aware of the traumas we have been going through. 'To be or not to be' was the vital question, a question which was answered not exactly deafeningly, more in a loud whisper of support.

Firstly, the paper came out just in time for the disco at Checkers, and four of us went up to Sheffield, armed with the hot copies, to attempt to establish just where we stood with our Northern Readership, stopping en-route, in Mansfield, at the White Hart, to spread the word and seek support. The scene in Mansfield is very relaxed and convivial so the selling of GEM is always relatively easy. This gave us heart and we motored Northward like marauding virgins, "Not quite knowing what to expect but anticipating enjoyment. We encountered a mob in the Cossack and decided that attempting to buy drinks was difficult enough so we held back our enthusiasm until we arrived at Checkers....

We set up our stall next to Clone Zone and sent out a scouting party, in the guise of Karen, to acquire two tables, whilst Nigel guarded the 2 carrier bags in which we were transporting the precious cargo of GEMS. (This was not an act of equality, more a necessity as Karen is stronger than Nigel.)

The sales began almost instantly, and the words of encouragement were more than welcome. People from as far away as Doncaster gave us info and support, it seems like the East Midlands grows every time we go to press!

We sold enough copies to make it feel worthwhile and we were encouraged by almost everyone to keep going.

I say, almost everyone, because I did encounter one guy who was less than friendly. He said that he did not want a magazine, but more to the point, he did not want to see women in Checker's Disco either! I, needless to say, scuttled back to my colleagues for support, all of

whom were disappointed by this attitude. I was assured that he did not represent the majority point of view, and I must admit that to date, it has not been my experience to encounter such hostility, but I would like to hear from others as to their point of view of this matter.

Meanwhile back in Notts, we have received offers of help from 5 other people, and articles from a number of others, all of which has lightened the load a little, but please feel free to come and join us if you possibly can.

This edition carries articles from 3 lesbians who have not written for us before and at least two more Gay men. I hope you like what we've done, and the way that we've done it, if not, why not just let us know .... (You could also let us know if you DO like it!!)

Seeing as this is the Christmas Edition, The Collective would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New year .....

## CLASSIFIEDS

### ACCOMMODATION

Nottingham. Accommodation offered to gay guy age 30 plus. Own room in comfortable house. Meals if required. GEM 106.

Nottingham. Own room plus share of small furnished house with anti-social lesbian feminist and cat, preferably for quiet-living older woman. GEM 107.

### PERSONAL

Very attractive leonine femme, 34, non-smoker, bored with the scene, seeks similar (any age) to share fun/good times. I am sincere/discreet but now a bit isolated. Photo appreciated. GEM 108.

Lowdham, Southwell area. Is there anybody there? Male, 21, slim, about 5'7", quiet and very bored, looking for similar under 30. If you don't ring you may regret it. Give me a ring on Nottingham 663989.

Male, 40s, seeks friendship etc, Chesterfield area. GEM 109.

### EMPLOYMENT

Male, 35, seeks change from ultra-straight office environment. Educated to A-level standard, current driving licence, good clerical experience, anything in area considered. GEM 110.

#### Placing Ads

Classified Ads in GEM cost £1 for up to 15 words, and 5p per word thereafter. GEM numbers 50p extra. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to G.E.M. Collective. All classified ads must be prepaid.

We reserve the right to refuse advertisements without explanation.

#### Answering Ads

When replying to GEM numbers, please put your reply in a sealed envelope. Write GEM number on outside of envelope then place in a second envelope and send to GEM, Box 11, c/o 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

## Don't forget



## your 'GEM' !

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.

## NEWS

# OUTRAGE!

FOR LESBIANS & GAY MEN

## Advisory Group for "Outrage!"

Britain's only national lesbian and gay magazine - 'Outrage!' - has set up an advisory panel to help steer the magazine to financial stability. The Advisory Panel will have responsibility for setting up and overseeing a Development Fund to relaunch 'Outrage!' as a financially viable project in January 1984 and to ensure that 'Outrage!' remains a collectively owned resource for lesbians and gay men.

The panel will also be setting up a limited company to provide a legal framework for the magazine and to bring 'Outrage!' into community ownership. Anna Durell, one of the Panel members said "We see the establishment of the Advisory Panel as a declaration that 'Outrage!' is an important psychological, emotional and political property in which the rest of the lesbian and gay movement has an interest."

Help is needed in setting up support groups throughout the country and also raising money for the relaunch of the magazine. With the current suspension of 'Outrage!', Britain is without an intelligent national voice for lesbians and gay men and the relaunch must be seen as an event of some considerable importance for both communities.

Donations and offers of help can be sent to 'Outrage Advisory Panel', c/o C.H.E., 274 Upper Street, Islington, London, N1. Cheques and postal orders should be payable to 'Outrage Development Fund'.

## Leicester Gay Youth

Leicester Youth Group are organising speakers for their coming meetings. If existing members have ideas, will they contact the Youth Group ..... New Members very welcome.

Information Via Leics Gayline

## BMB Meets MMM

Beards Meeting Beards continues to meet regularly - both locally and nationally. The success of BMB has spurred the group on to form a new sub-division - Moustaches Meeting Moustaches (!?) - which will meet regularly in 'Augustas', Leamington Spa on Sunday evenings. What next, we ask ourselves. Will 'Clones meeting clones' be the next sub-division of M.M.M.?



## SHIELD

Those of you who live anywhere near Sheffield and go there more often than simply zooming up to Checkers, will be interested to know of a quarterly publication called 'Shield'.

Described as an official information guide and newsletter for the Sheffield regional Gay community, 'Shield' is compiled by representatives of Gay organisations in Sheffield. It contains information about pubs, clubs, social events and advice agencies in and around Sheffield.

From reading the magazine, there's obviously a lot going on in Sheffield. However, it gives no contact advice or lists of places to buy it. I can only suggest that you ask a member of the Checkers Society at the next disco. (Then come and buy a copy of G.E.M. and tell us so that we can put it in our next issue!!!) See you in Sheffield for a Xmas Drink!

N.B. If the Shield group read GEM (and who doesn't!!) we have an offer for them. Sheffield Gay Soc would like to distribute Shield along with GEM ..... Please phone or write to us.

## ALLEGRO

A new organisation formed in Leicester had its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, December 1st.

"Allegro", as it is to be called, is a federation of local lesbian and gay organisations whose intention it is to take action to ensure equality for gay men and lesbians.

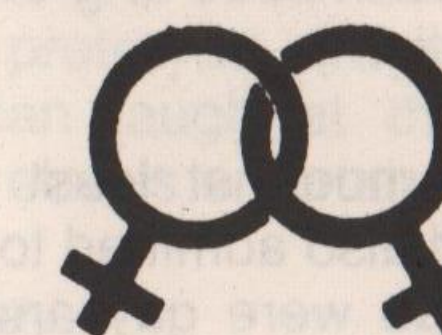
If you are interested, more information can be obtained from Leicester Gayline.

## Women's Conference

About 50 women met in Nottingham recently to discuss ways of working on women's issues with the City Council's newly-formed Equal Opportunities Committee. After introductions from Coun. Betty Higgins (Nottingham) and Coun. Margaret Sandra (Lewisham, London), the meeting split into small discussion groups with a feedback session at the end. A steering group will take forward the results of the various groups and attempt to find some structure which would represent the views of all women. The minutes of the day will be circulated to all organisations on the mailing list. Future meetings of the steering group will be open.

If you, or a women's organisation you belong to, would like your views heard (or would like a copy of the day's minutes), contact Coun. Lee Harrison - who is on the Equal Opportunities Committee and chaired the conference.

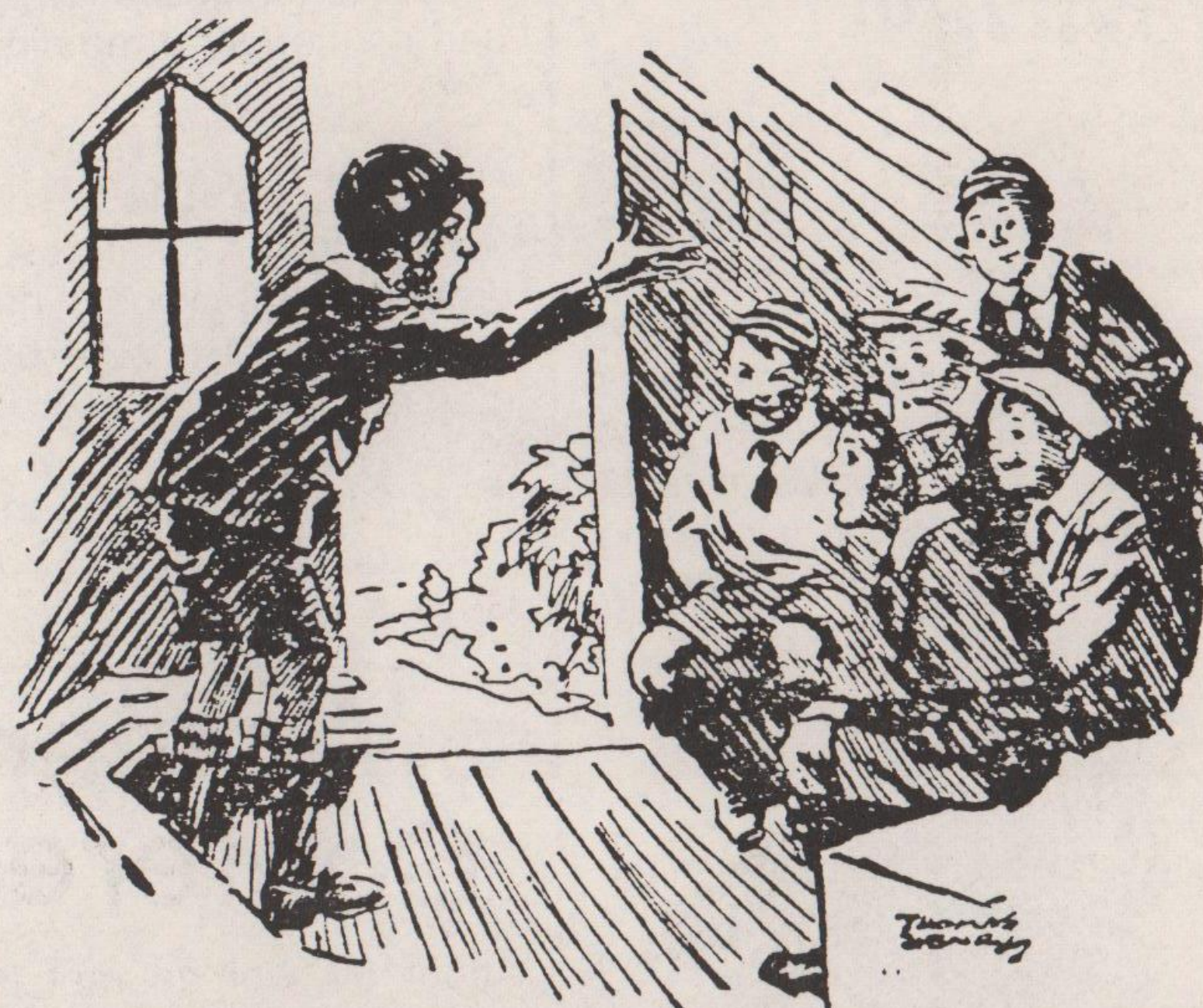
● Lewisham Council are about to publish a document called 'Working on Sexual Discrimination', price £2 and available in the new year from Coun. Margaret Sandra, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford, London SE6. Readers in the Nottingham area who are free in the daytime may like to know that the monthly meetings of the Council's Equal Opportunities Committee are open to the public. The next three meetings are at 2.30pm in the Council House on 21 December, 18 January and 22 February.





# CONFERENCE

## LOCAL & NATIONAL



"... AN' WE'RE 'UMAN BEINGS, TOO, AN' WE OUGHT TO BE EQUAL, AN' WHY SHUN'T WE BE EQUAL? ..."

## Gay Welfare Workers

Some two or three months ago I attended a meeting at the Tavistock Institute in London which had been arranged to look at the problems arising out of working with lesbian and gay youth. (The problems for the heterosexual workers in helping with the problems of the gay men and lesbians!)

Well, as one might expect, a great deal of the day was taken up with totally naive statements being made by hetero workers who wanted to "help" but really did not understand the difficulties of being gay so really did not know where to begin.

I sat through the first hour without declaring myself to be lesbian but was forced to show my true colours when someone in the group said "they felt sorry for us!"

I spent the next 2-3 hours explaining that I am very happy, stable, and not at all neurotic. I am not sick and will not 'grow out of it'. (Those of you who know me know I don't need to grow anymore in any direction!)

By mid afternoon at least two other workers had also admitted to the group that they also were gay and the long

heavy process of attempting to educate the receptive minds of those present began.

By the end of the day four or five gay workers decided it would be a good idea for us to attempt to get together as many lesbian and gay men we know who were working in a social context with people.

And so it was that, on Saturday 19th November, some 18 lesbians and gay men met in what was, by coincidence, two equal groups of nine men and women. For the purpose of attempting to define some course of action for us collectively, in attempting the arduous task of educating hetero workers we worked in single sex groups all day, coming together before lunch and again at the end of the day to discuss our toils.

I, for my part, can only truly represent what went on in the women's group - The morning was spent with each member introducing herself and explaining, or attempting to explain, why they were there, what they personally hoped to take out of the group, and what they had to contribute. The overwhelming consensus was two fold -

- 1) The need to educate other workers, both in post and on courses, about sexuality, fact and myth.
- 2) The need for support from other lesbians both in the work setting and in coming out to one's colleagues and organisation.

The pre-lunchtime session was very encouraging due to the fact that the objectives raised by both groups were identical (something of a first).

The afternoon was spent with each group attempting to set out some direction for itself which would allow us to reach the stated objectives. The first was relatively easy to decide - that we would offer our expertise to educate our hetero colleagues (how we did this was not so easy!).

Eventually we decided on a resource pack of videos, explanatory documents, and our own verbal input. This is the project we have set ourselves to work on before our next meeting in January 1984.

The second objective, of supprt, was not so easily definable but we started by the usual methods of address circulars and telephone trees and hope to spread the word to our numerous brothers and sisters.

The day was most encouraging for all concerned and was both productive and humorous. There was much hilarity during the lengthy discussions on producing a name for our collective but all suggestions were unacceptable in some form or other, so we are, as yet, nameless.

The group will meet again in London on 28th January when all lesbains and gay people who are social workers will be more than welcome to join us.

We are hoping to organise a weekend conference and regional groups so please feel free to join us.

If you, or anyone you know, would like any more infromation, our contact person is Chris Heaume, The Kentish Town Project, 4, Caversham Road, LONDON NW5.

Denise Rooney

# CONFERENCE

## Equal Opportunities for the Lesbian and Gay Community in Nottingham.



When Nottingham City Council offered to hold a conference on Equal Opportunities for lesbians and gay men it may have seemed like a well-meaning but unnecessary gesture. Another example of a Labour-controlled council frittering away money on wasteful projects.... After all, so the argument goes, gays aren't really oppressed these days.

Certainly there seems to be less queer-bashing these days. But bruises aren't the only evidence of hostility. There's a different sort of oppression that's hard to put your finger on, dangerously silent but still hostile. One way of discovering it is by trying to publicise a gay conference.

The organisers of the Equal Opportunities conference circulated information leaflets through the central library to local library branches in the city. Ten days later they checked out the libraries to see if the leaflets were on display. Here's what they found in the 19 libraries circulated: only *three* were displaying the leaflets (Bulwell, Strelley Road and central libraries - but

in the central you had to be on your knees to spot it: presumably that's where they want us). Nowhere else was the leaflet displayed, usually because the librarians hadn't 'got round to sorting out that week's posters yet' (they'd had a week to do it!) - clearly the leaflet for this specially arranged one-off conference didn't strike any one as important enough to be displayed immediately. In two libraries, Nuthall Road, Aspley and Beechdale Road, they said they'd either lost it or not received it (why don't they lose posters for cultural events in country houses?). When the leaflets were displayed in the Turkish Baths (not on the library circuit, yet) the manager took them down again.

By coincidence, the story of the conference leaflets was repeated in the story of the posters advertising Gay Sweatshop's performance. Watson Avenue library did have one up - on a window right at the back; so did the

central library - on a notice board crammed up against another notice board and well way from the main door. And, to be fair, one other place should be mentioned which would not display a poster for a gay play, though it's not a library. In fact, it's a gay place, so it surely wins dishonourable-mention-of-the-month award: Gatsby's. Posters, it was felt, do not fit with the nice décor (unless they are day-glo orange price-lists, apparently). Keeping the walls elegant means keeping the customers ignorant.

Two little morals emerge. Yes, we do need those equal opportunities, because social institutions, for instance information centres such as libraries, still help to ensure a wall of silence around gay issues and gay interests. And, secondly, gays *still* need to be active in their own interests, because it's only by getting off their arses and trudging round those libraries in the bloody rain that the conference organisers ensured that some gay somewhere knew there was something going on for them.



INTERESTED IN A  
REWARDING, EXCITING  
SPARE TIME OCCUPATION?

PROVINCIAL AGENTS  
REQUIRED FOR SALES,  
PROMOTIONAL WORK.

WRITE/PHONE -  
COLIN FIELD,  
GAYBREAKS,  
14 SUSSEX PLACE,  
LONDON.W2.  
TEL: 01 723 9360.

**LONDON GAYBREAKS**

14, Sussex Place  
London W2  
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**WE'VE GOT CHRISTMAS  
ALL WRAPPED UP**

**LONDON LIGHTS**  
2 nights accommodation  
Evening Meal or Christmas Dinner  
half day Sightseeing tour  
from £27

**CHRISTMAS 83**  
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3 nights accommodation  
Club Entrance and first drink  
at NEW YEAR PARTY  
Meals and Tours incl  
as per Brochure  
Resident Gay Courier  
from £59



# PERSONAL VIEW

## THE GAY (o)PRESS(ion)

Following his recent visit to Nottingham, Andrew Lumsden (former Editor of 'gay News' and co-author with Gillian E Hanscombe of the book 'Title Fight - The Battle for Gay News') offered to write an article for us about his views on the current state of the gay press in Britain. We were delighted to take up his offer, and his article is printed below.

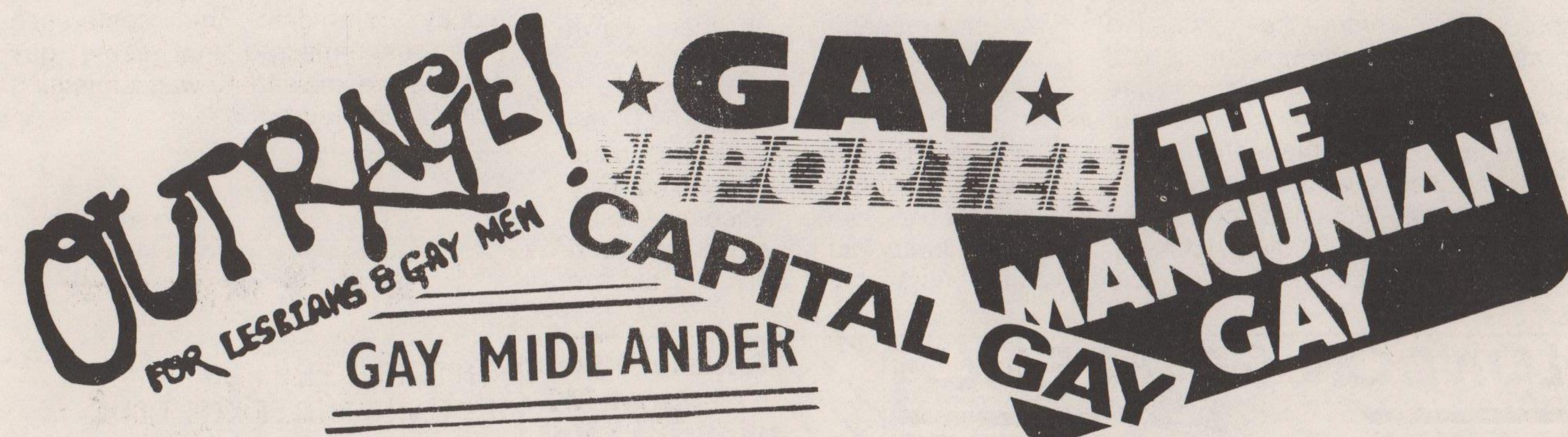
Those who can do and those who can't - preach! I'm very conscious of not being involved in bringing out a gay paper (haven't been since the original gay News closed down in April 1983) so these can only be the thoughts of an amateur on the state of the trade. Done in haste in response to a last-minute request when I was in Nottingham, just before the GEM deadline, so forgive the speediness!

There's talk of a nationally distributed free newspaper for gays (copying the model set by Capital gay) in the New

the Gay Reporter pre-publicity last summer which precipitated the send-up, The Cheap One, in Gay Pride Week '83, which you may have seen. There were ideas of making that into a regular funny paper. I grovel. Nothing has come of it. It notes the need for coverage of what the 'activists' (or whatever we're to call people trying to do their bit for other gays) are up to. It looks as if the people toying with this national free paper idea have learned from the mid-1983 excesses of GR that potential readers and news-sources don't appreciate being treated as cattle

HIM complain bitterly that the New Gay News has distribution access in London and elsewhere in the country as if it were the 'quality' leader, while HIM keeps getting under-the-counter as porn.

If I were HIM I suppose I'd be hopefully eyeing Nigel Ostrer's operation at New Gay News (of which there have been 8 issues so far as I write) in the hope that something unhappy will befall it and the title (the right to publish as Gay News) become available for purchase or merger, so that HIM transubstantiated



Year. I hear that the people interested in creating it have been to the USA with the scheme of making it as international as possible in its advertising and editorial content. A much bigger print run than the original Gay News (which sold around 18,000 - 19,000 copies) is talked of.

It may all be one of the jokes being played in the present press scramble, it may be a real plan but an airy one that won't come off as at present described, or maybe it's going to happen. As I hear it, a gay business not previously involved in publishing is behind the idea. Leisure, travel, etc are all going to get plenty of attention, the usual 'upwardly mobile gay male' (UMGM) material that's vital for the advertising base, and women aren't going to be explicitly excluded from the hoped-for readership, though they'd probably be implicitly pretty well left out.

All this is judging by draft promotional material I've been shown. The material is nothing like as witlessly offensive as

to haul in advertising.

HIM has apparently taken the lesson to heart as well. It's pushing to take the slot which was formerly occupied by Gay news as market leader in the UK, but though, as it seems to me, it still shows rather engaging flickers of defensiveness about making so bold, its reshuffled staff are obviously trying to put behind them HIM's air of hysteria between about autumn 1982 and autumn this year. The magazine seemed then to be a Victorian man-maiden cowering on a table top to get away from lesbian mice loose in the kitchen.

Now - and why not, with so many able people working on it or contributing to it? - HIM has suddenly found itself, a newsmag with plenty in it, buoyed by advertising that hasn't got much place else to go (other than the London free weekly Capital Gay). I know nothing except at second hand: but I gather

into a 3rd generation Gay News might win fair distribution, not to mention a possible monopoly at the national level.

And how would that be for us all? How would it be even if HIM went fortnightly or quantum-jumped to weekly, heaven help the staff? A good thing in itself, if only there were a 'plural' gay press. We saw a kind of conservative male recoil from the moment that discords began on 1st generation Gay News in about spring 1982, the UMGM's rising from their silos. When you clear away the smoke you see - every woman certainly sees - that the two current notional contenders to be the UK's national gay mag/newspaper are staffed by and designed for gay men only (NGN is theoretically for lesbians too, but.)

That this is bloody awful for women anyone and everyone knows, though not perhaps *completely* irremediable if some of those men who work at or contribute to HIM found themselves

running a newsmag without the apparent confines of that title. It's difficult, it proved difficult when cries of rage about 1st generation Gay News' trouble were at their height, to be a gay man and say anything about lesbians without sounding like a charity that wants to spend the money of gay male readers on providing reading material of direct interest to lesbians, or sounding like a bogus feminist mysteriously trying to make gay men in general toe a party-line.

Or rather, it isn't difficult *not* to talk like that, but it can be difficult, above the roar of the accounts department and legitimate commercial pressures, to be heard as talking about the resulting quality for all readers, male or female. I can only speak personally. For me, a strange air of childishness pervades single-sex male publications (and always threatens, even if it doesn't pervade, single-sex female ones as well). It's like expecting stereoscopy when you have only one eye, or



accepting a 'flat' photograph when you could have holography.

Is anybody going to do anything about the slump into safety-first male-gay-only journalism? Outrage would like to, with its commitment to being for and by both sexes. Capital Gay, which does have lesbian-sensitivity, doesn't so far as I know have any wish to go national. Regional papers, eg Gay Scotland (or GEM) usually take for granted that gay male journalism, as I'm tempted to call the monotony when no account is taken of gay women, is not a desirable target even if it is hard (for financial reasons) to avoid; and nice for male writers when it happens.

Probably not, unless HIM (re-launched, in effect twice, out of previously established facilities) or New Gay News (owned by a rich man) sees a way of/need to do it. Commerce unfortunately adores a vacuum. Filling it looks at present almost beyond the wit of (wo)man.

Andrew Lumsden

### OUROBOROS

37a MANSFIELD ROAD  
OPPOSITE YORK HOUSE

### WHOLEFOOD

TELEPHONE:  
NOTTINGHAM 419016

### COLLECTIVE

WHOLEWHEAT PASTA

VEGETABLE OILS

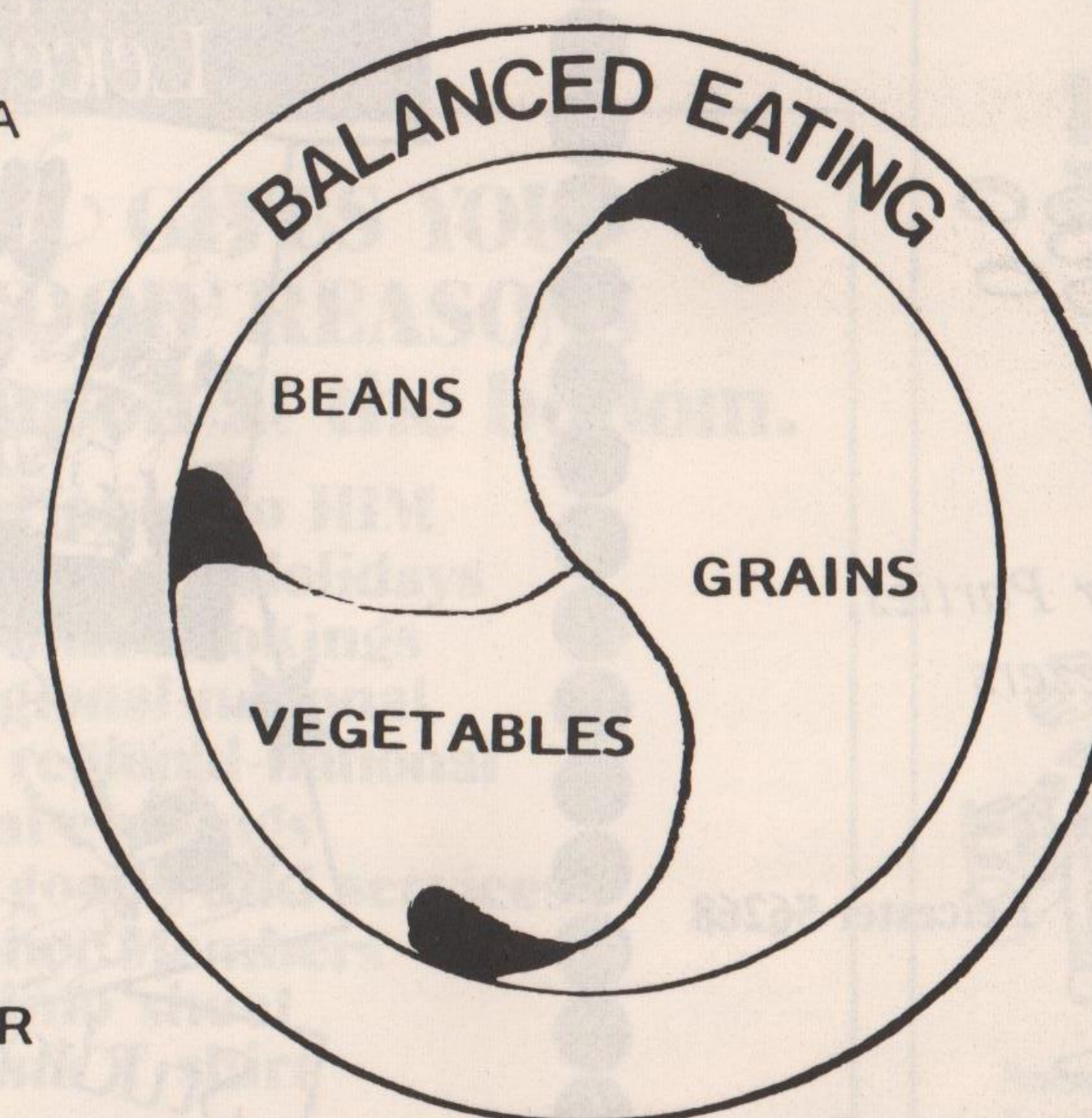
PORRIDGE

HONEY

BROWN RICE

NUTS AND SEEDS

WHOLEWHEAT FLOUR



WHOLEWHEAT BREAD

PEANUT BUTTER

DRIED FRUIT

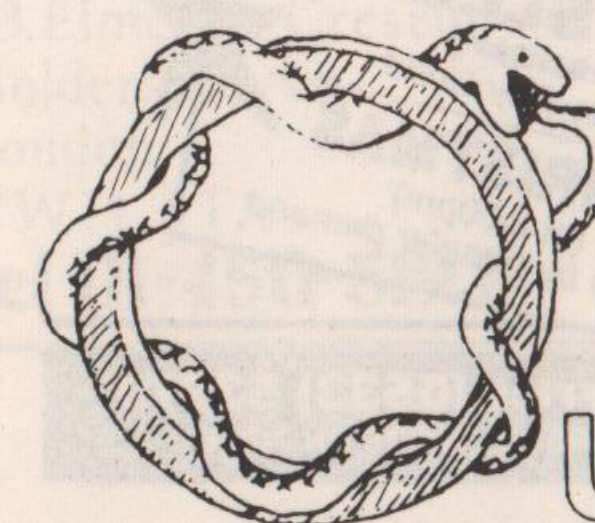
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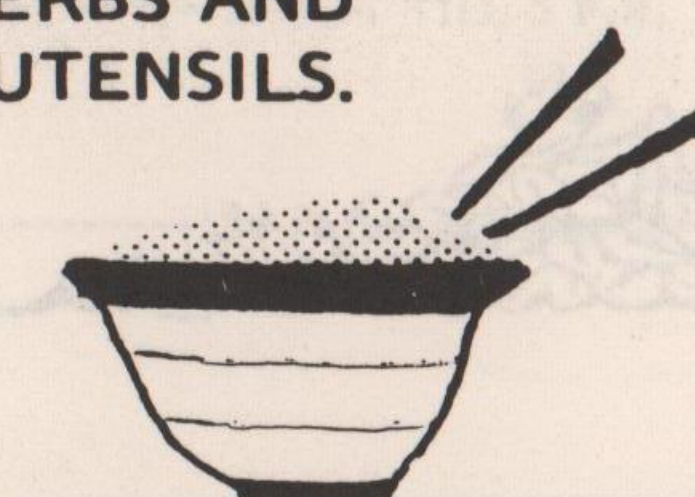
SEA VEGETABLES

RENNET-FREE CHEESE

PLUS A WIDE SELECTION OF JARRED HONEYS, HERBS AND SPICES, BREWING MATERIALS AND COOKING UTENSILS.



ouroboros





# CONFERENCE

## GAY

## CONFERENCE

### DEMANDS.....

As reported in last month's G.E.M., Nottingham City Council Equal Opportunities Committee sponsored a one day conference for lesbians and gay men on Saturday 3rd December. This was held at the International Community Centre in Nottingham. The aim of the conference was to discuss the Equal Opportunities policy as it related to lesbians and gay men and to make suggestions as to how existing policies could be complemented and new facilities set up. This was the first conference of its kind outside London set up by a Local Authority.

A series of recommendations emerged from the joint talk-back session. The lesbian group proposed:

1) The setting up of a lesbian working party to promote the ideas and demands arising

out of the conference, and to continue the work of consultation with the council.

2) Provision of office space and facilities for this working party.

3) Provision of space for a regular women-only disco.

The lesbian proposal laid major emphasis on the lack of opportunity for lesbians to meet each other and the lack of comfortable and safe places to hold social gatherings and meetings.

The gay men proposed:

1) A joint meeting between the groups to discuss a structure for consulting with the Equal Opportunities Committee, with the possibility of having co-opted members on that committee.

2) That a major effort be made to inform and involve members of the gay male community.

3) That alternative non-commercial facilities be established for gay men in Nottingham (eg. alternative gay discos).

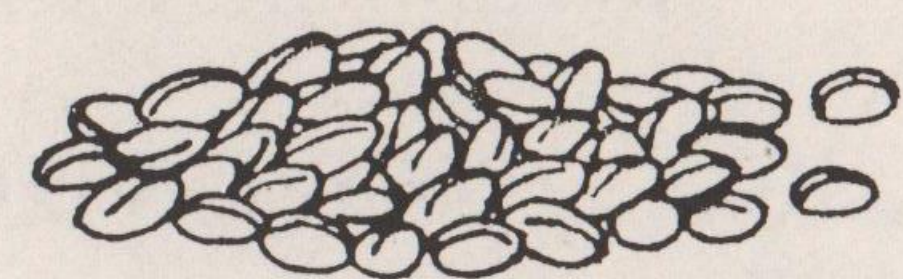
After an introductory session, the conference met in

separate lesbians' and gay mens' groups, with a joint meeting at the end. Speakers were Helen Jenkins from London Lesbian and Gay Centre, Bob Crossman from Islington Borough Council, and Chris Beer from the Greater London Lesbian and Gay Employment Campaign. Discussions centred around the issues of consultation with the council, housing, employment, leisure, publicity and the setting up of a Lesbian and Gay Centre (on the rates!- because of course lesbians and gay men are rate-payers!).

About 50 people attended the conference and the organisers felt that the day had been very productive.

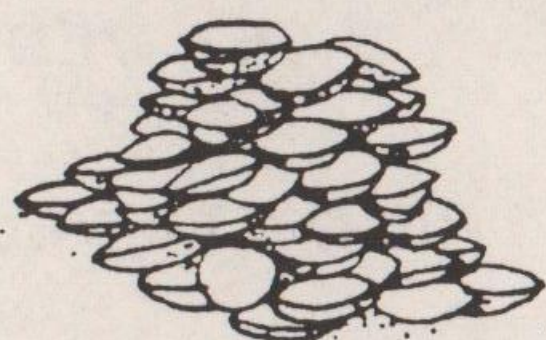
Meanwhile, if you have any ideas and suggestions, and don't know anyone involved, why not write to G.E.M.? We'll guarantee to pass your letters on as well as publish them. The working group would particularly like to hear from those of you that don't want to get involved in conferences.

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Friday  
Dec

16

CHRISTMAS STARTS TONIGHT WITH THE SWITCHING ON OF OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS HERALDING 18 DAYS OF FUN. TONIGHT PART TWO'S FAVOURITE DRAG DUO-THE NEW TOP TWO-WITH THEIR EXCITING XMAS SHOW-DON'T MISS THE BETTE DAVIS SKETCH.

Saturday  
Dec

17

MAKE SURE TONIGHT YOU VISIT SANTA'S FAIRY GROTTO WHERE FOR 25p YOU CAN SIT ON SANTA'S KNEE AND COME OUT SMILING WITH SOMETHING IN YOUR HAND TO REMEMBER HIM BY. (ALL PROCEEDS TO DR BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL) PLUS THE FREE RAFFLE DRAW FOR £100 CASH - IT COULD BE YOURS!

Thursday  
Dec

22

THE INCREDIBLE MISS MARSHA RAVEN AND THE JINGLE BELLS SING "CHRISTMAS JOLLIES" AND A SELECTION OF THEIR RECENT DISCO HITS.

Friday  
Dec

23

THE LARGER THAN LIFE LAURA PALLAS BRINGING MUSIC TO YOUR EARS WITH HER LATEST DISCO SMASH "SKIING IN THE SNOW" AND FULL LIVE PROGRAMME. TO TAKE US INTO XMAS EVE.

Saturday  
Dec

24

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY. IT'S AN EARLY START TONIGHT. DOORS OPEN AT 9P.M. WITH ADMISSION FREE BEFORE 10 P.M. JOIN US FOR A FREE GLASS OF MULLED WINE AND MORE MINCE PIES THAN SIMPLE SIMON EVER BAKED. BARS OPEN 'TIL 2A.M. FUN AND MORE FREE GIFTS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. A VERY SPECIAL EVENING - DON'T MISS IT.

Monday  
Dec

26

BOXING DAY FULL DISCO DOWNSTAIRS WITH HALF PRICE DRINKS ALL NIGHT -PLUS FOR THOSE WANTING TO LAY BACK AND UNWIND, CLASSICAL MUSIC IN THE COCKTAIL BAR.

Tuesday  
Dec

27

PART TWO GOES O.T.T. SILLY NIGHT BUT SENSIBLE PRIZES IN OUR VERSION OF SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE T.V. GAME SHOWS. OVER AN HOUR OF HILARIOUS FUN. THE FABULOUS PAT MILLS RETURNS AS A GUEST IN AN OUTRAGEOUS VERSION OF 'MAKE ME LAUGH' PLUS 'NAME THAT QUEEN' AND THE EVER POPULAR HOT BUNS COMPETITION. WITH BIG MONEY PRIZES IN ALL EVENTS.

Friday  
Dec

30

A LOOK BACK AT THE HITS OF 1983 WITH THREE D.J.'S THROUGH 'TIL 2A.M. AND A FREE BUFFET PLUS HAPPY HOURS 9.30 UNTIL 11.30 HALF PRICE DRINKS.

Saturday  
Dec

31

NEW YEAR'S EVE THE BIGGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR IS BIGGER THAN EVER. A WILD PART TWO THEME NIGHT WHERE YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF 'IN THE JUNGLE IN YOUR PYJAMAS'. THE NATIVES WILL BE MORE THAN FRIENDLY TONIGHT. OPEN 'TIL 4 A.M. MEMBERS £2 50p GUESTS £3 50p - £3 50p AND £4 50p AFTER MIDNIGHT.

Sunday  
Jan

1

NEW YEARS DAY PART TWO OPENS AT 7P.M. THIS EVENING FOR A MUCH REQUESTED "CLUB TROPICANA TEA DANCE". TROPICAL TEMPERATURE, EXOTIC FAUNA, AND LATIN RHYTHMS £5 ON THE DOOR AND ALL YOU CAN DRINK UNTIL MIDNIGHT FREE! IT'S GOING TO BE A HOT BUSY NIGHT -PERHAPS THE START OF MANY.



# gay info gay info gay info gay info gay info gay info gay info gay info gay

## BOSTON

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

## CHESTERFIELD

**PUB: Manhattan Bar**, Saltergate. Mixed bar, open 8-10.30 pm, main gay nights Mon & Tues.

## 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.

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

## DERBY

**CLUB: Pavilion**, 123 London Road, Shardlow (7 miles). CLOSED INDEFINITELY DUE TO FIRE DAMAGE.

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

**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.

## LEAMINGTON SPA

**CLUB: Hintons** (Augusta Night Club), Augusta Place, tel 37231. Gay nights Mon, Fri & Sun. Women's Disco last Sat in month. No wheelchair access, good parking. Near Regal Cinema.

**GROUPS: Lesbian Feminist Group** meets fortnightly as discussion/support group. Contact LFG, Box 22, The Other Branch, 12 Gloucester St.

**SWAGG** (South Warwicks Area Gay Group): contact via The Other Branch, 12 Gloucester St.

## 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: Liz Bailey's Disco**, Nags Head & Star, Oxford St, Fri or Sat, alternating with Women's Disco (see below). Gay women and men welcome. Details tel. 772241.

**Lorna's Disco**, Dover Castle, Wed, Fri, Sat. (Get there early if you want to dance!)

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

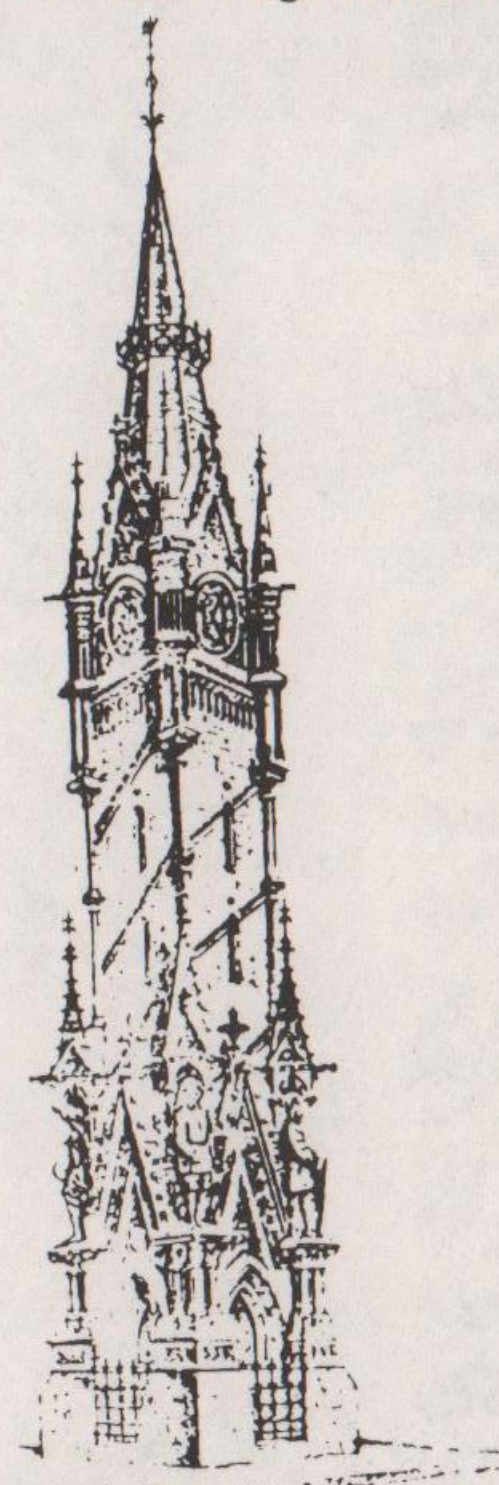
**Gay Outdoor Club** (East Midland Group): contact John, Leicester 26617.

**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 David, 735049.

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

**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 Bar. Men and women, almost exclusively gay.

**Three Cranes Hotel**, 84 Humberstone Gate. Tel: 24666. Gay hotel with beer garden. Disco Bar. Gay women and men welcome, though bar is by no means exclusively gay.

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

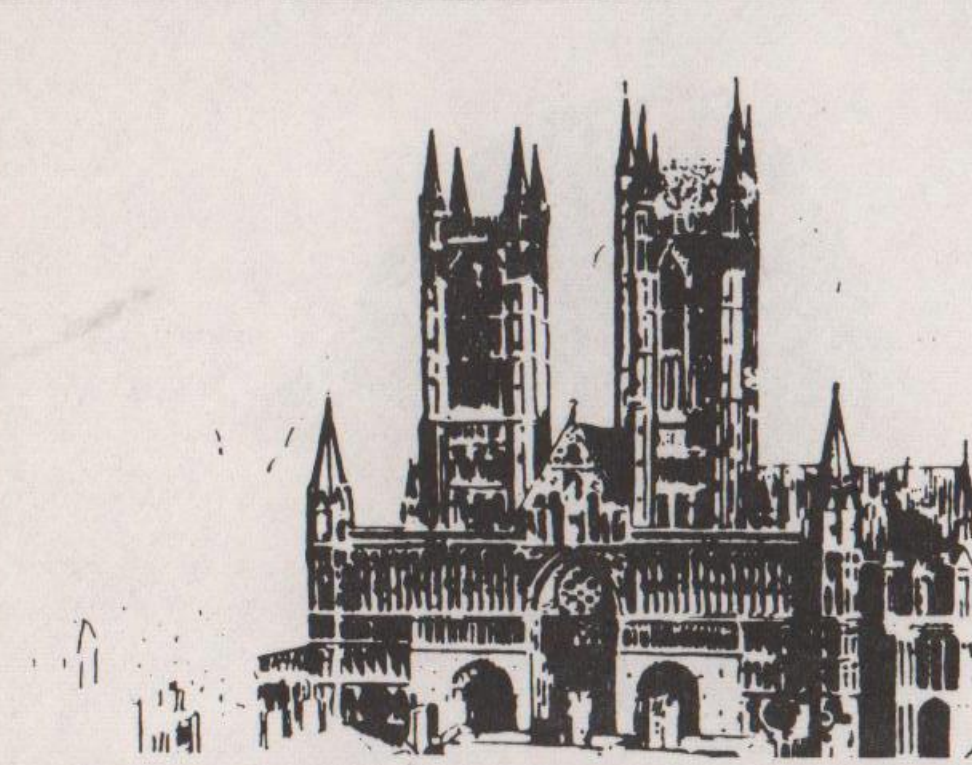
## LINCOLN

**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 Jenny Esberger, Metheringham 20850, or 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

**GROUP: Loughborough Gay Group** meets Fridays at Old Pack Horse Inn, Woodgate.

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

**PUB: Old Pack Horse Inn**, Woodgate. Gays welcome, but not a gay bar as such.

## 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.

**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.

**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.

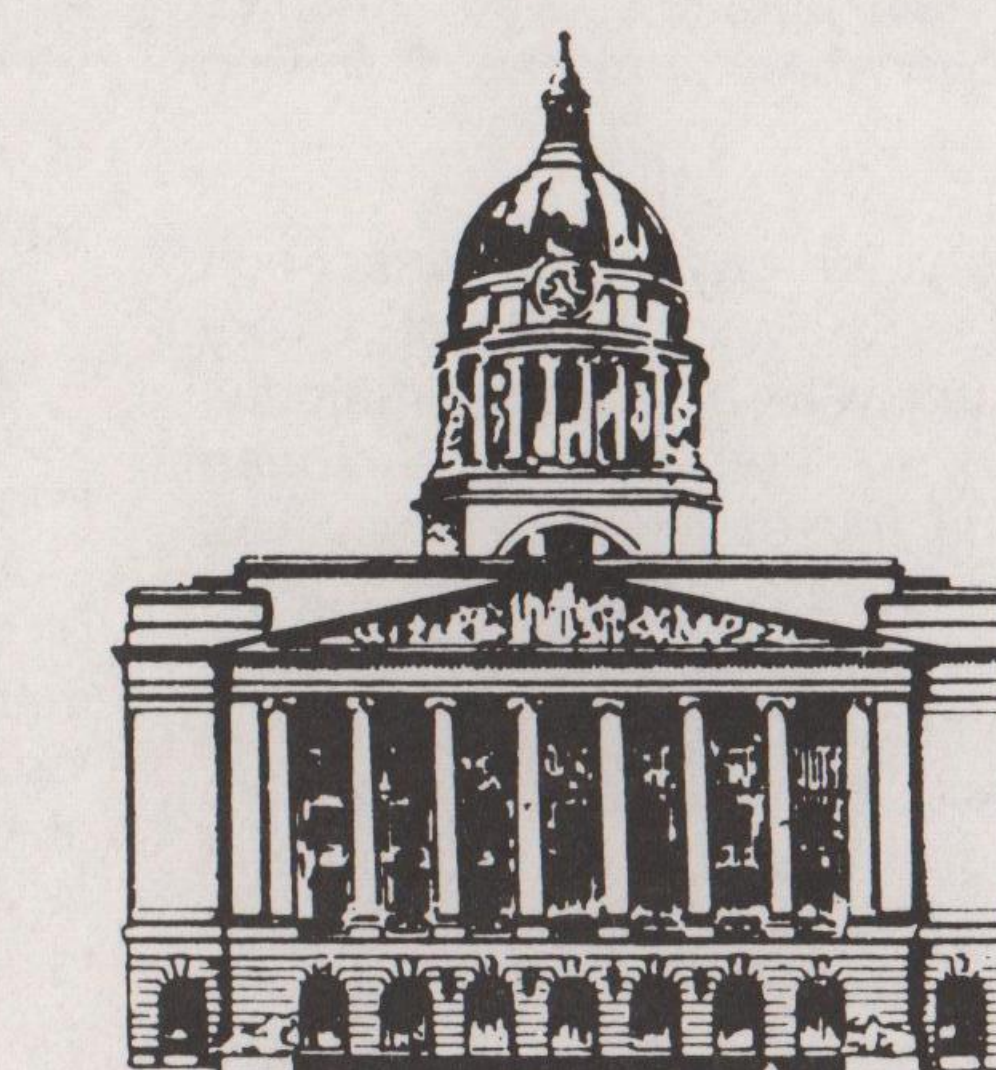
**Nottingham Gay Social Group (NOGSOG)** meets 2/3 times weekly. Write c/o CVS, 31a Mansfield Rd, Nottm, or tel Peter 861521, Tim 602894, David 216447 or via Gay Switchboard.

**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 411454, Mon, Wed & Thurs, 7-10pm for confidential help and advice for gay and bisexual people.



**The Foresters**, behind Victoria centre, mainly Women.

**Gatsby's (formerly Central Tavern)** Huntingdon St (near Palais de Dance), two Lounge bars, one exclusively gay.

**Hearty Good Fellow**, Maid Marian Way, basement 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(♂) or Amberley House(♀), Postern St, Nottm, tel 45989.

## RETFORD

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

## SHEFFIELD

**DISCOS: Checkers monthly Disco**, Top Rank Suite, normally 1st Fri in month. Tel Sheffield 307142 for info.

**Stars Disco**, Queens Rd, most Fris (except Checkers nights). Tel Sheffield 754785 for info.

**GROUP: Sheffield University Gaysoc** meets Weds, Senior Common Room, Crookesmoor Building, Crookesmoor Road, 7.30pm. Open to All. Details tel. Phil, Sheffield 665282, or write c/o Students' Union.

**PUB: Cossack Hotel**, Howard St.

## STOKE ON TRENT

**CLUB: 141 Club**, Marsh St. North, Hanley, tel 24207

**GROUP: Potteries Gay Community Association.** Meets 1st Mon in month at CVS, Cannon St, Hanley. Tel Peter, Kids Grove 5270.

**INFO/COUNSELLING: North Staffs Gay Switchboard** tel 266998 Mons, 8-10pm. **Women's Link:** tel 266998 Fris, 8-10pm.

**PUBS: The Albion**, High St, Tunstall. Mixed.

**Antelope Hotel**, Trinity St, Hanley. Disco Thurs.

**Stage Door**, Gitana St, Hanley. Mixed. Mainly men.

## 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.

**Gay Humanist Group**, 34 Spring Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2HB, Tel (0926) 58450.

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

**GEMMA**, lesbians with/without disabilities, all ages. Newsletter, penfriends. Write GEMMA, BM Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX (SAE).

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

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

**Terence Higgins Memorial Trust**, BM AIDS, London WC1N 3XX, tel 01-987 7876 (office hours).

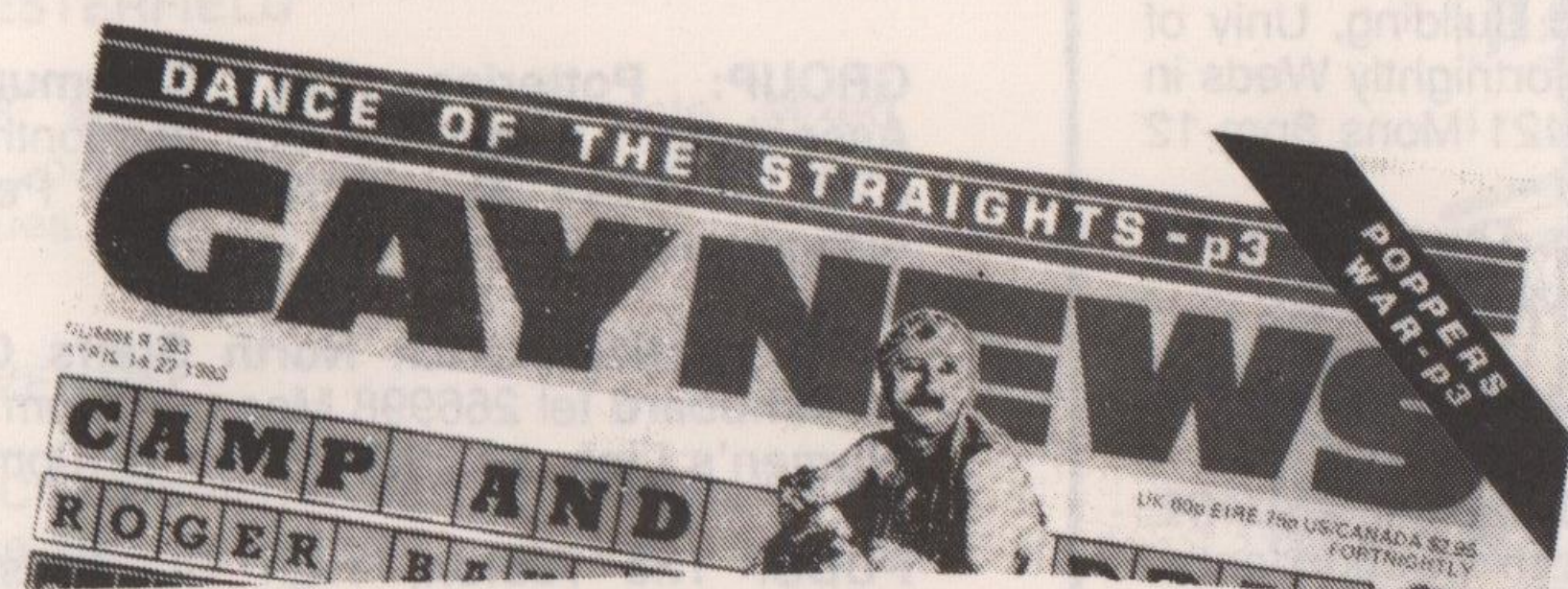
# NATIONAL GAY SWITCHBOARD 01-837 7324 24 HOURS



## PERSONAL VIEW

## INTO '84

A.I.D.S.



"It's the last one", said a friend of mine when I phoned. "Oh! I'll get one next week!" No, it's the last one, Gay News has folded". A mixture of shock and panic flowed through me. Our newswire to the gay world outside the East Midlands was snuffed out in one move. That was in April, but the repercussions of the closure still have tremendous significance for gay people, far beyond the commercial value of that newspaper and the laying off of its twenty-three workers. The cobweb that had kept the gay community in touch had been broken.

The national press recorded the closure of Gay News with little more than a small paragraph in two newspapers, in contrast to the banner headlines and acres of newsprint that accompanied the story of the Queen's bodyguard, Commander Trestrail, found out to be having an affair with another gay man.

But even without Gay News, gays have managed with the assistance of the straight press to remain front-page news for most of 1983.

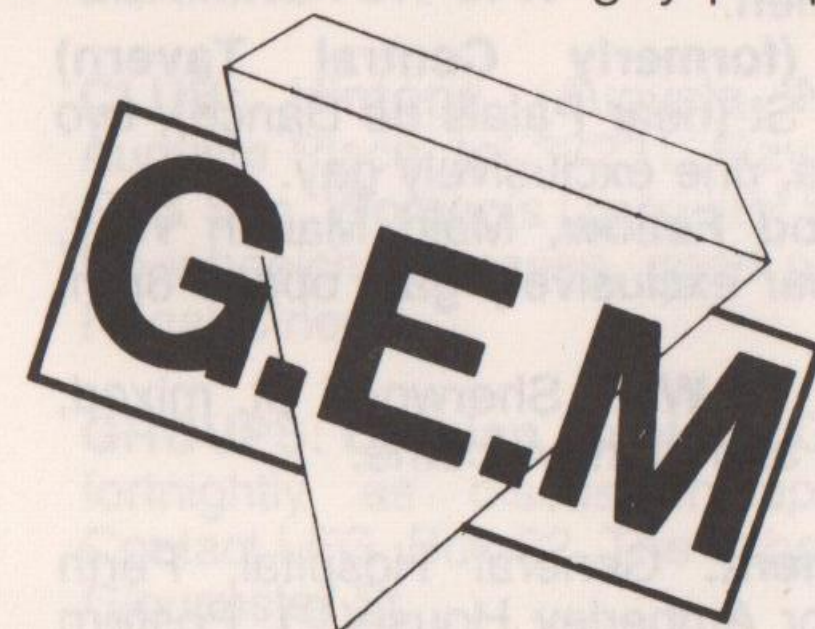
Was it really a year ago when we all switched on to watch Channel 4's programme, "One in Five"? More bad news followed in February with the Bermondsey bye-election, and Peter Tatchell's defeat, which must go on record, according to Gay News as "The most homophobic bye-election of all time".

In May I stood for election to the Nottingham City Council as an out gay and won; this is a small but significant step forward - a victory shared with the gay movement who made it possible.

In June the Town Hall union, NALGO, held its annual conference in the Isle of Man, where the laws on homosexuality are even more antiquated than they are in this country. Over three hundred gay and straight women and men; marched

through the main town in protest. The impact was front page news in several Sunday papers, enough to make many of the Manxpeople's rice krispies crackle over breakfast the following day.

This victory for gay rights was soon overshadowed by the return of a Tory Government with a massive majority, committed to perpetuating Victorian values and the sanctity of family life. This is a severe setback for many, including most gays, who are working class, women, black or disabled, which takes care of the majority of the population of this country. But here in Nottingham, as if to compensate there was a neat little beacon which began to light up in the East Midlands for gays. GEM! Once more we were speaking for ourselves direct to other gay people.



In July and August the Brighton Rape case occupied the front pages and became more than a nine-day wonder. The media's hysteria and the column inches devoted to this story, reflected sadly on the attitudes of the popular and the "quality" press where the sexually-motivated murders of two young women, occurring at about the same time, were almost relegated to insignificance. Could the moral be that boy children are seen as more valued and not-to-be-tampered-with whereas girls and women are there for men to use and therefore of little or no importance?

Nearer home in August, the long-established Pavilion Club in Shardlow,

Derbyshire, was gutted by fire. The cause of the fire is still open to speculation, but arson has not been ruled out. The club has always kept its head down locally but its discretion did not make it any less vulnerable than some of the more upfront glitter palaces.

But September and October were good months for gays. In Nottingham, City Council leaders met with local lesbians and gay men in the Tea Room at the Council House to discuss the implementation of the city's Equal Opportunities policy for gays. The sight of over fifty gay women and men marching into the Council House together, reminded me of my own election when a lesbian mother rang in delight to say that next thing we'd be taking over City Hall. For two hours we did.

There was also an invasion of another kind. In October a dozen gay women and men invaded and occupied the London Evening Standard's editorial offices in protest at that paper's increasing anti-gay stance. November was generally a quiet month and in Derby the local paper was the scene of a more sedate confrontation between supporters and opponents of gay rights, with prolonged exchanges in the correspondence columns. Back to Nottingham again and at the time of going to press, a week of gay events culminated in a one-day conference sponsored by the City Council for lesbians and gay men, to discuss the way forward for local gays in 1984.

**City of Nottingham**  
**ONE-DAY CONFERENCE**  
on Equal Opportunities for the Lesbian and Gay Community in Nottingham.

CHECKERS

THE  
DISCO

21st December &amp; 6th January

TOP RANK SUITE  
SHEFFIELD

But on the national scene it does not bode well. Throughout 1983 the Tories' Police and Criminal Evidence Bill has been quietly prepared and rehearsed and will now become law early in 1984. This bill will give the Police even greater powers than they already possess to continue to harass people including gays, simply for showing affection in public and we will be subjected to intimate body searches, which will be just one more intrusion into our lives.

There can be few people too who will not have heard of AIDS before the year is out, even if they don't know what it stands for, and we are now reminded that, not only are we morally contagious but medically dangerous as well.

A little anecdote to end with. At the 75th anniversary dinner of The Journalist (the union magazine) the fledgling gay group decided to send the Editor a "singing campogram". A young actor sang to the tune of 'Lambeth Walk': "If You're in the NUJ, and you've got something to say, tell us that you exist; write to the Journalist..." At this point the editor had a big grin all over his face. It was soon to disappear: "But if you're a lesbian or gay, you will find to your dismay, the Editor lets it slip, what's that - CENSORSHIP!" The Editor groaned and slumped down in his chair. Others cheered, some booed. There was chaos with diners and staff scrambling to get hold of the leaflets showered over them. What a way into 1984!

Richard McCance.

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AT YOUR  
FINGERTIPS



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TUESDAY  
WEDNESDAY } -----10 A.M. TILL 5 P.M.  
THURSDAY  
FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
& } ----- BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT.  
EVENINGS



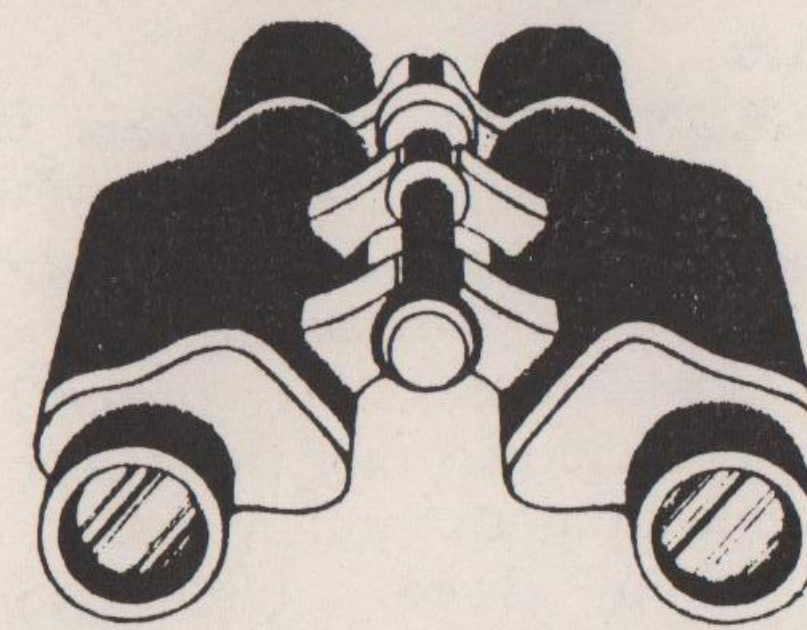
# DYKES

## ABOUT TOWN

by Cathy White



## REVIEW



### A Good and Faithful Servant

One of gay playwright Joe Orton's lesser known comedies, *The Good and Faithful Servant*, is being performed in the University of Nottingham's Performing Arts Studio from 6-10 December (7.30pm). The play was originally written for television and broadcast in April 1967.

It's a grim little story of a man's retirement from the firm to which he has devoted his life. On his last day at work he discovers a family for himself in the persons of Edith, the cleaner, and Ray, who is both her grandson - and his. In the next few scenes he encounters the horrors both of Ray's sexual appetite and of the firm's club of retired staff, run by the odious personnel lady, Mrs Vealfoy.

As an upfront gay writer Orton chooses for his targets the institutions of straight society, in particular the family. Mrs Vealfoy brings Ray into line by getting him married and giving him a job. The mysterious 'firm' doesn't just employ people, it controls their personal lives from birth to retirement, it organises entertainment but forbids sex. Orton's anarchic gay outlook sees jobs and families as traps which force people into roles that constrict their desires and inner lives.

This view of employment may seem to make the play irrelevant to the 1980's, but the unemployment threat makes those in jobs feel even more fearful for them, even more trapped by them. Orton's mock horror vision of the connection between employment and the family in 1967 becomes the very real horror of the 1980's, where the government that uses unemployment to control the labour force also subscribes to the values of the family. In Mrs Vealfoy, the gay playwright anticipated some of the nightmare of our own dear lady of Downing Street.

Simon Shepherd

### Submariners

Derby Playhouse Studio, Wednesday 30th November - Saturday 17th December. "SUBMARINERS", A comedy by Tom McClenaghan.

Is the crew on a routine training exercise ten miles outside Scotland or are they in fact heading for war in the Baltic or the Bahamas? Whatever their mission, "Roach", an ingenious young crew member called "Cock" by his friends, decides that he wants out. To achieve this end, he decides to pretend that he is Gay!!!

This comedy, with a wicked humour, also shows the suffocating atmosphere of being under pressure for eight weeks in a Nuclear submarine. Does "Cock" eventually leave the Navy? Does the submarine go to war? Does anybody care?..... No, seriously, this production seems well worth a viewing, so get along and see it.

Contact Derby Playhouse for more details. Full review to follow in next issue.....

Steve King

### Poppies

**Poppies** is set on Remembrance Day in a not too distant nuclear threatened London. A state of emergency prevails. Simultaneously the play is set in 1939, and through the delightful device of creating two central, irreverent and dead characters the action swings back and forth in time, with these two bizarre, pathetic, loveless and loving creatures exhorting the living to take control over their own lives.

Sammy (an ageing book dealer) lives an uncommitted life with his partner Snow, a man in his fifties who is in a personal and political crisis, feeling himself to be sliding towards an abyss of anonymity and needing to square himself with the world, his son, but especially with himself and his sexuality.

Sammy has endless reveries of an earlier war time love, a young RAF volunteer, Flag, who was killed in action leaving Sammy heart broken, his former youthful conviction as a conscientious objector jaded and mechanical.



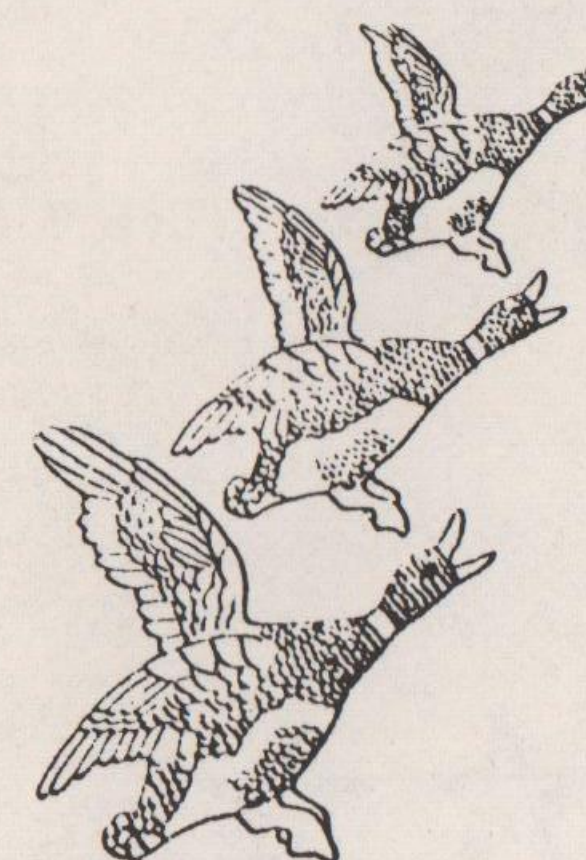
So, Sammy drifts between the two realities of present and past loves whilst, literally, London burns, the holocaust approaches, and the two lunatic stiffs cavort about more 'alive' than the living in their desparation to convince them and us that life is nonetheless a good thing - and worth preserving. The maddening point of this device of course is that the living can't heed the dead, and Noel Greig's use of the convention makes a poignant and disturbing piece of theatre.

It is a radical play. It looks at masculinity and militarism and argues powerfully that the two don't have to be two sides of the same coin. It places sexuality and sexual power firmly and subtly as the central vehicle from which to look at nuclear warfare. It also praises love. And it's hilariously funny at times.

**Poppies** makes a lot of points but doesn't preach. It bears out Gay Sweatshop's policy of insisting that 'any radical vision of society includes the question of gender and sexuality'. It is beautifully performed, the writing is delicious and it should be seen.

Derek Holt

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## EARTHA KITT AT PART TWO

The prospect of Eartha Kitt making an appearance at Part Two was obviously quite a coup for club manager Ross Smith and Miss Kitt certainly caused something of a sensation at the club. The downstairs bar had been transformed for the occasion, covered with trays of flowers and even a palm tree or two. This was obviously an attempt to allow more people to see her. I was one of the lucky ones at the front of the audience.

Miss Kitt's set consisted of a reclining couch covered with a zebra skin, with a china leopard standing guard nearby. After some initial problems rearranging the capacity crowd, Eartha made a speedy entrance dressed in a daring low-cut slit-skirt. She was clearly unafraid to reveal her remarkable figure to an admiring audience.

She burst into her most famous song "Just An Old Fashioned Girl", singing along to tapes. Miss Kitt had not been diminished by the years and she had lost none of her razor-edged wit or ability to communicate in a club setting. 'Are there any questions you'd like to ask me?'

'What's the secret of your age?'

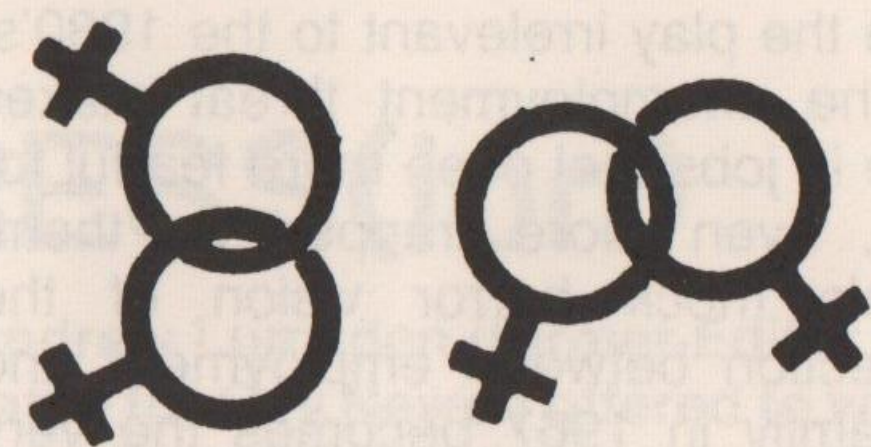
'I don't think about age. A number is something you put on a calendar, NOT ON ME!'

Eartha knew how to deal with hecklers as well. 'You couldn't afford me darling, don't even BOTHER to ask!'

Other numbers included "C'est si Bon" and of course her current disco hit "Where Is My Man?". In between, she toyed with her fawning audience. Cat-Woman had returned, inviting the lucky few in the front rows to touch or kiss her and there was no shortage of willing lambs to the slaughter. (I must admit that I found this somewhat distasteful. After all, there are plenty of opportunities to ape heterosexuality *outside* the club. Maybe I'm being just a little purist.) Anyway the fans loved it. Personally I preferred it when Eartha dispensed champagne to the revellers. Sadly her appearance was all too short and her inevitable encore was "Old Fashioned Girl" again. This time she didn't seem to be even singing along, but she could have done anything and got away with it. Eartha Kitt had lived up to her name, she was quite simply her unique and wonderful self.

Later I had a brief opportunity to speak to her. I asked her why she had decided to make a record after 15 years or so. Eartha drawled "Well cotton, I didn't *decide*, I did the record because I was ASKED!'

Nigel Leach



Current ten most requested records at the Nottingham Women's Disco are:

- 1) EURYTHMICS - Right By Your Side
- 2) LIONEL RITCHIE - All Night Long
- 3) YAZOO - Don't Go
- 4) CULTURE CLUB - I'll Tumble 4 Ya
- 5) NEW ORDER - Blue Monday (12")
- 6) TINA TURNER - Let's Stay Together
- 7) THE CURE - Love Cats
- 8) JOAN ARMATRADING - Drop The Pilot
- 9) BLACK HARMONY - Don't Let It Go To Your Head
- 10) BONNIE TYLER - Total Eclipse Of The Heart

New Albums worth a listen:

LIONEL RITCHIE - Can't Slow Down  
ARETHA FRANKLIN - Get It Right  
.....and of course the new Eurythmics album. And an excellent 'mini-album' to dance to is JAH WOBBLE's Snakecharmer.

J.F.S.

## 'Part Two' Playlist

- 1) MIQUEL BROWN - He's a Saint, He's a Sinner
- 2) MARSHA RAVEN - Catch Me
- 3) STEPHANIE MILLS - Pilot Error
- 4) LE JETE - la Cage Aux Folles
- 5) THE FLIRTATIONS - Earthquake
- 6) THE BROADS - Sing Sing Sing
- 7) EARTHA KITT - Where Is My Man?
- 8) GLORIA GAYNOR - I am what I am
- 9) SHARON REDD - Love How You Feel
- 10) MASTER GENIUS - Let's Break
- 11) KOFFIE - And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going
- 12) SLIP - Don't Leave Me This Way
- 13) VARIOUS ARTISTS - Bobby O Medley
- 14) YELLO - No More Words
- 15) DIVINE - Love Reaction
- 16) MIQUEL BROWN - Manpower/Beeline (Album)
- 17) PAMELA STANLEY - I Don't Wanna Talk About It
- 18) SHARON REDD - Somebody Save The Night (Album)
- 19) RISQUE - Burn It UP (Mr D.J.)
- 20) LIONEL RITCHIE - All Night Long (All Night)

### Reviews

★ **SHARON REDD - Love How You Feel (Album)**. Her new album is just amazing - very different from anything else she has done. There are some fine, very danceable tracks, including her new single, ranging from down-tempo funk to mid-tempo disco. Well worth buying.

★ **MIQUEL BROWN - Manpower (Album)**. Contains our No. 1 disco record, 'He's a Saint', plus title track 'Manpower' and 'Beeline' - which are both proving to be just as popular - and a fabulous new version of 'So Many Men, So Little Time'. Give it a listen.

★ **COMMANDO - Tubular bells (Italy Import 12")**. Disco version of best selling Mike Oldfield LP. 6.18 minutes of pure bliss. Going down very well at the moment.

★ **IRENE CARA - Why Me (American Import 12")**. Not much heard from this lady since 'Flashdance', but she comes back to the disco scene with a 'belter'. 'Why Me' is typical of the new American Disco/Rock. Some may find it a little heavy, but it grows on you.

★ **DAVE VELENTIN - Loquita (American Import 12")**. 12" single including four versions of this 'maniac' tempo disco record. Very danceable (bongos an' all).

★ **SUSAN STEVENS - Boogie Walk (Dutch Import 12")**. Much better than her last single 'Love School'. Heavy drum and whistle start brings you to a crescendo of brilliant backing and vocals.

### Stop Press

**GLORIA GAYNOR** is about to release in Britain her disco smash 'I Am What I Am'. Go girls - buy it!

I won't end this time with 'Thunderbirds', I'll just say: "Bye for now".

Luv,  
Disco Doris



Two poems by Sam Stevens ♀

### GOSSIP

*Gossip, Gossip, guess what,  
Do you know? I saw so and so.*

*Where, when, who with?  
Well I never did,  
Hang on a minute, while I give  
you the latest little tit bit.*

*Narrow minds, Narrow lives,  
Parasites all through the world,  
spend their days trying to decide  
Who they can find with secrets to share.*

*They never know the pain they bring,  
or how they ruin peaceful lives,  
Just like the nightingale they sing,  
But their tunes are formed with sharp blade knives.*

*So gossip on you cruel ones,  
Spread your lies and shame,  
Someday, just wait, your time will come,  
and then you'll feel our pain.*

### GEMS

*Your friendship is like gold,  
Your love is like diamonds, sparkling  
in the dark corners of my being.  
If you ever need to take away the diamonds,  
Please I beg,  
Leave the gold.*

Sam Stevens ♀



Do you remember 'Dykes About Town' in GEM Issue 5 - the one that showed the group of schoolgirls at the theatre, most of them fantasising they were the heroine, but one wishing she were the hero? That cartoon highlighted for me the difficulty I have with a lot of literature, TV and films - they're predominantly about straight people, heterosexual love and helpless women looking good. Not only does that perpetuate stereotypes of what women ought to be (ie, dependent, simple ornaments), but it denies me, as reader, the pleasure of really identifying with the situations and personalities portrayed. Thus it was tremendous to read two books about gay women, where their relationships are treated not as a curiosity but as a normal fact of life around which a story is woven.

In **Good Friends Just** the central character, Maddy, watches with bitter humour her love for a silly friend and the antics of two men who try to make relationships with them during a destructive holiday in Turkey. In **The Glass Boat** the sensitively portrayed love affair Stephane has with Dasha, and the life it exposes her to, have a great effect on her career - and enable her to change from what she has been told to be to what she *can* be.

Both books are beautifully written; you'll laugh and cry with them, identify with the characters and become involved in the worlds portrayed. Together with them you can laugh at the straight world. What else is entertainment?

Karen Buckley

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## REVIEW

## BOOKS

**The Alice B. Toklas Cook Book. Pub: Brilliance Books, Plain Edition. Price - £4.95.**

'The carp was killed, assassinated, murdered in the first, second and third degree. Limp, I fell into a chair with my hands still unwashed, reached for a cigarette, lighted it and waited for the police to come and take me into custody.....'

When I was first asked to review this book I thought why me? Just because I am a caterer doesn't mean to say that I know all there is to know about catering.

However, I was pleasantly surprised when I began to read this particular cookbook. It isn't just a book full of exotic recipes, it has a storyline built around them. Alice B. Toklas takes us through her life and times, as she gathers her recipes from her home in France and the parties she visited whilst living there.

Having looked at the recipes, it is obvious that they are not for the beginner who does not know a bay leaf from a tea leaf. The enthusiast who likes to cook for a hobby will enjoy this book. However, one word of warning: the quantities used in each recipe are in U.S. measurements, so be sure to convert to British!

For me this book proved to be interesting, comical and enjoyable. I hope that those of you that read it, find it likewise. Bon appetit!

Catherine Allsop

Mates

Tom Wakefield

(Gay Men's Press £3.50)

If you're looking for a really good Christmas or new year present this year, then look no further and give your friend or lover a copy of a new book called 'MATES'. I must confess I had never heard of Tom Wakefield before, but after reading this book I would certainly like to read more of his work.

'MATES' tells the story of two men, Cyril and Len, who meet doing National Service in 1954. When they leave the army, they begin their life together in a grim bed-sit, Cyril to become a teacher - Len to become a wages clerk. Thus begins nearly 30 years of shared life; illustrated in episodes over the years which show us not only the personal dynamics of their relationship, but also the changing social position of gay men in post-war Britain. I suspect that many people will identify with the main characters, their feelings, their pre-occupations, their changing fortunes. If 'MATES' is about ordinary people, then it is a book that truly shows us just how extraordinary the everyday life of so-called ordinary people can be.

Perhaps there are traces of the writer's own experience in this book, anyway it has made me curious to read his last work, the autobiographical 'FORTIES CHILD'.

If the strength of the gay movement can, at least in part, be judged by the quality of its culture then we should rejoice that literature like this exists. It is a book that cries out from the ghetto for a wider readership and deserves it.

'MATES' is a convincing and credible novel, I was deeply moved as I read it and suitably impressed.

Nigel Leach

**Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin. Susanne Bosche (Gay Men's Press £2.95)**

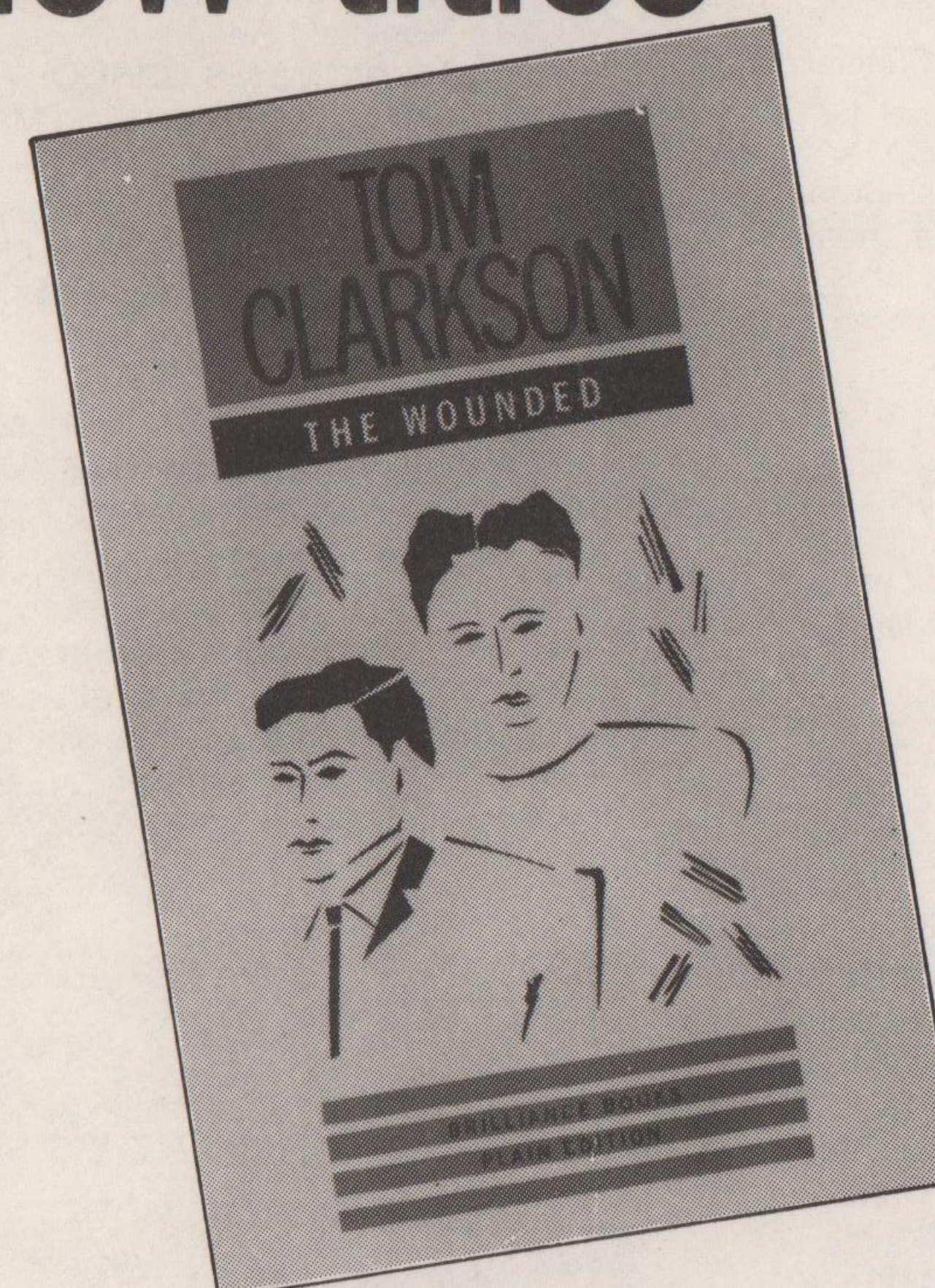
I personally think this book is very true to life. It's a good idea to have books like this because people should understand about gays. Children generally think gays are funny because they love their own sex and so they make horrid jokes about them. But they don't usually know anyone who is gay, so they don't really understand them. I think children should read books like this because it would help them to understand gay people.

I think gay people are alright because I live with them and know what they're really like. If more children read books like this they would understand too and grow up knowing what gay people are really like. I like the black and white photographs by Andreas Hansen. I think the settings are very realistic. The book was written for children between the ages of 6 and 8, but I think people of any age could read and enjoy it.

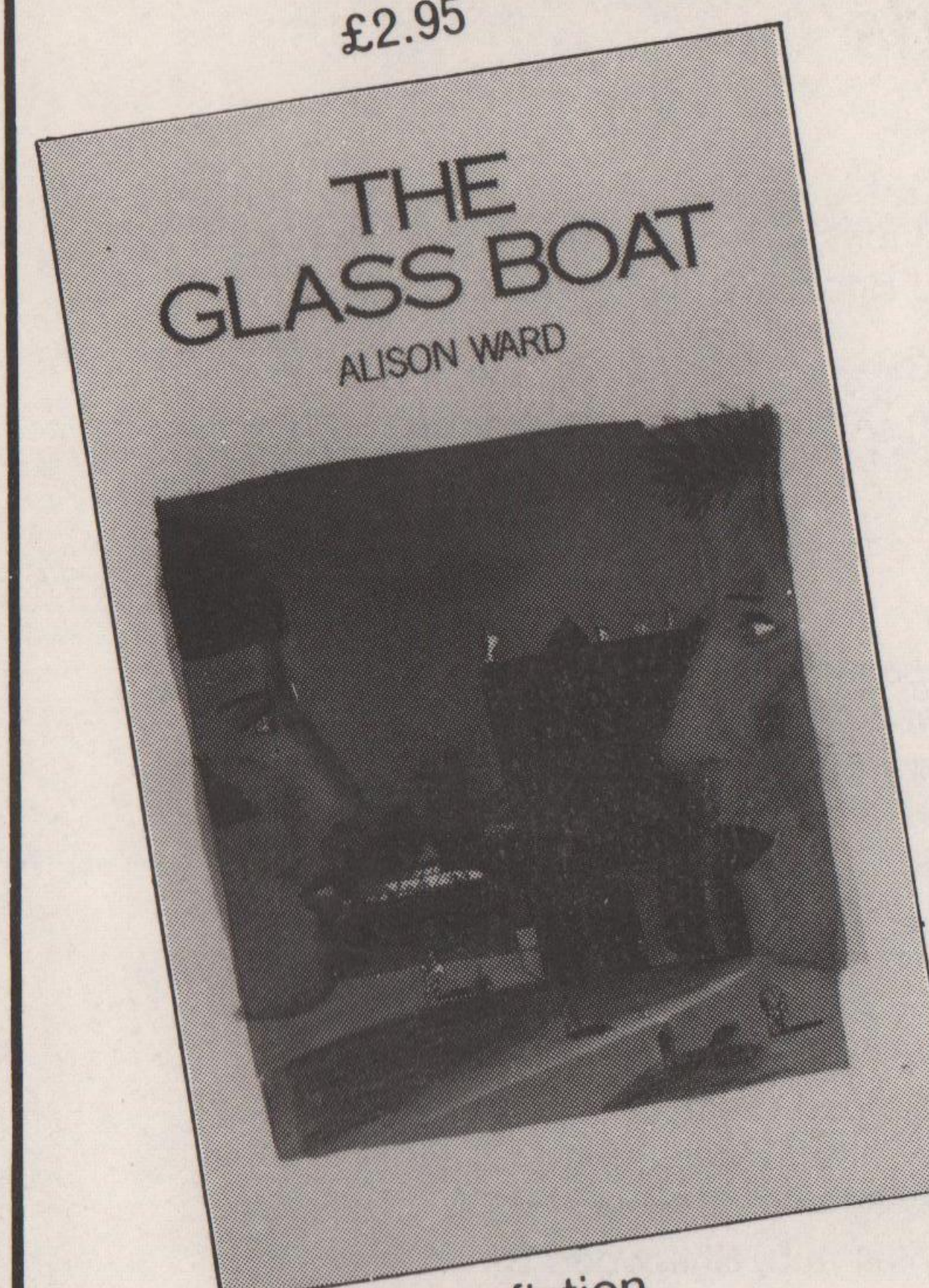
Oliver White (Age 11)



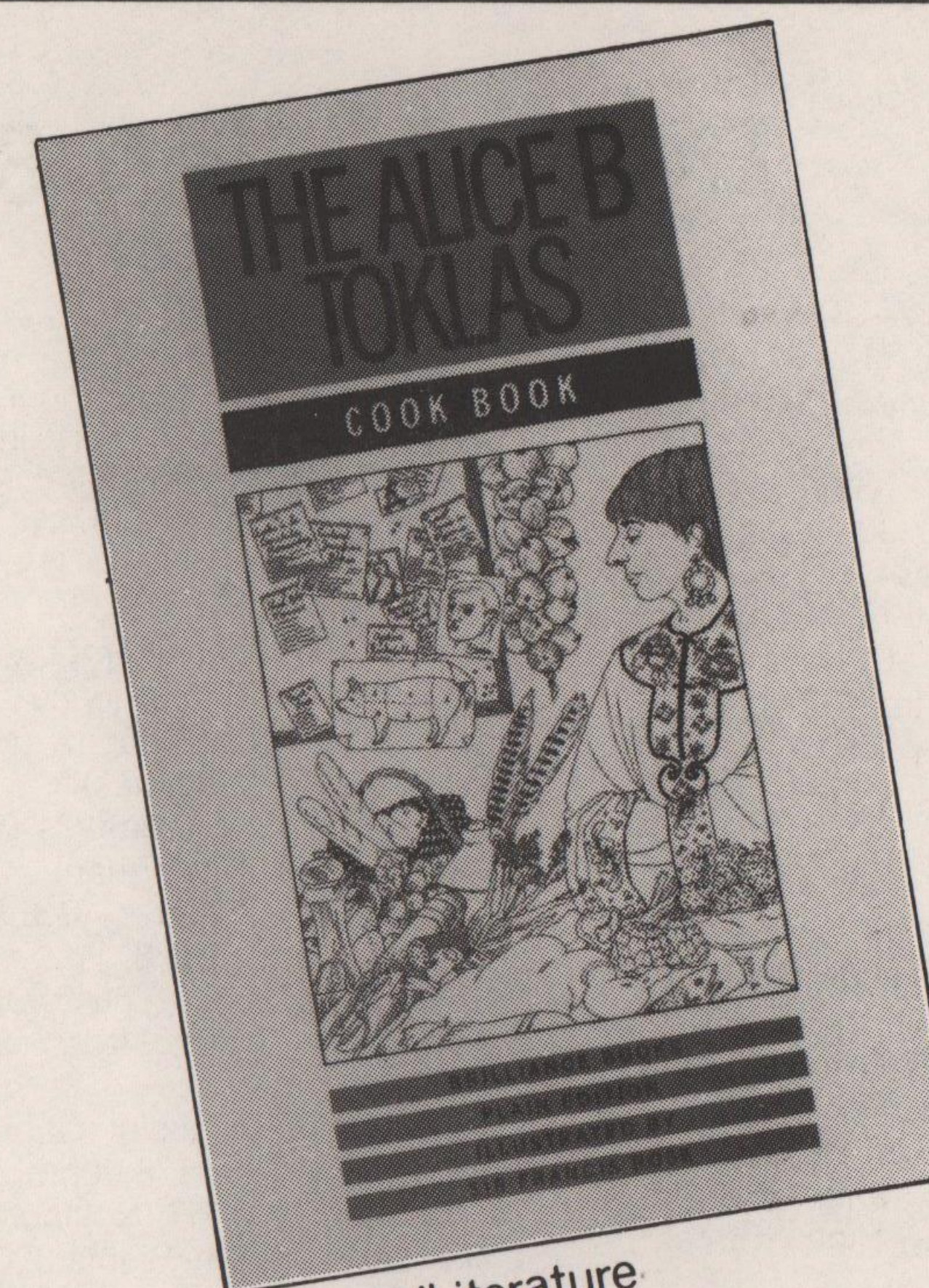
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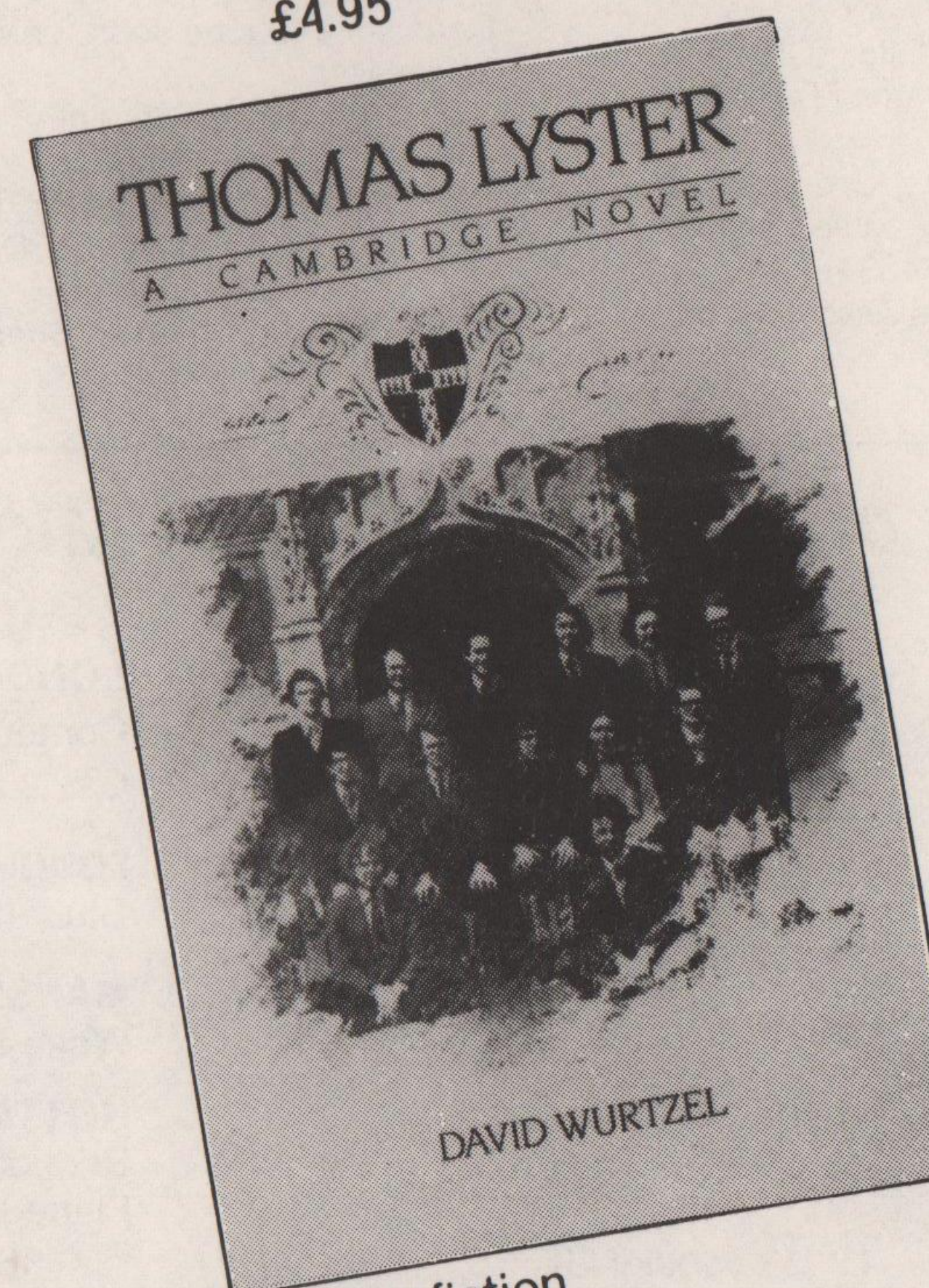
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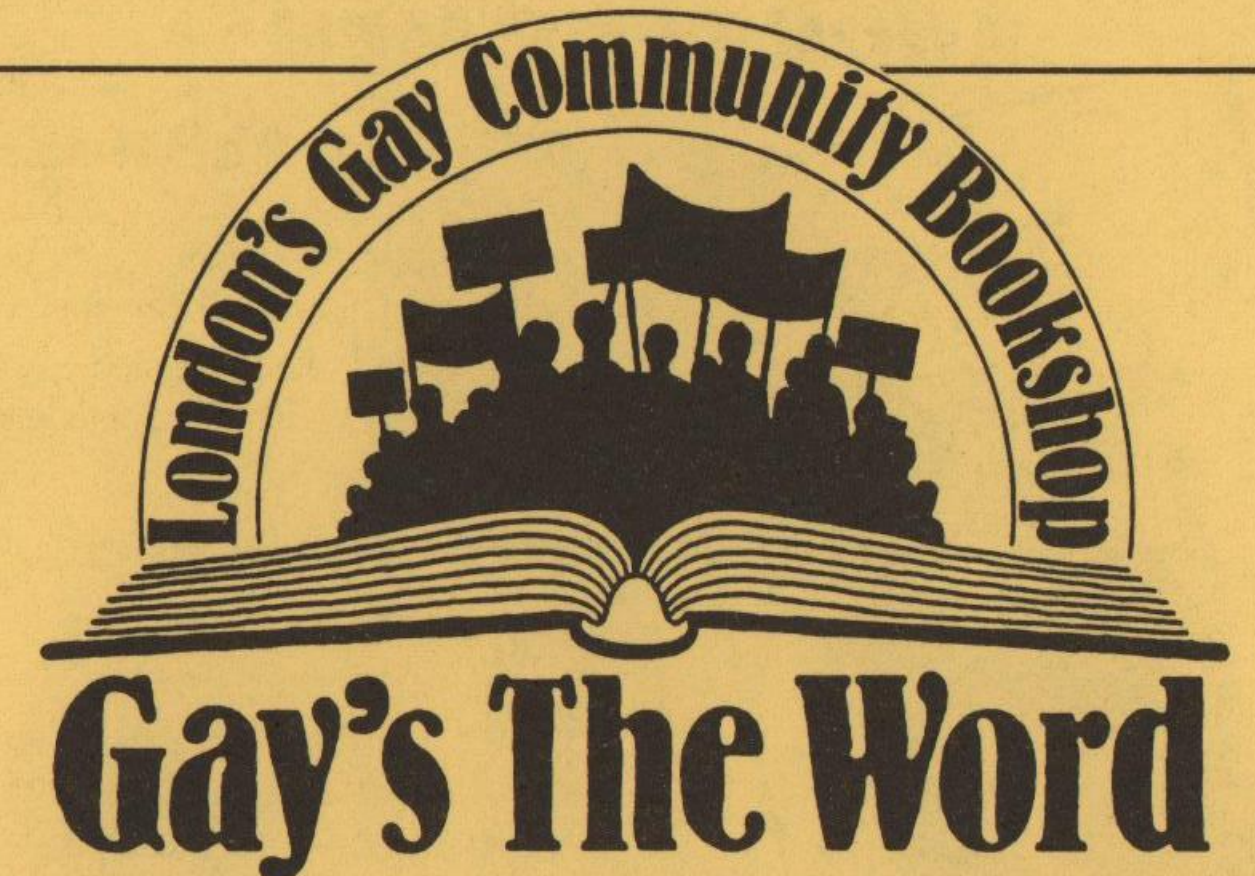
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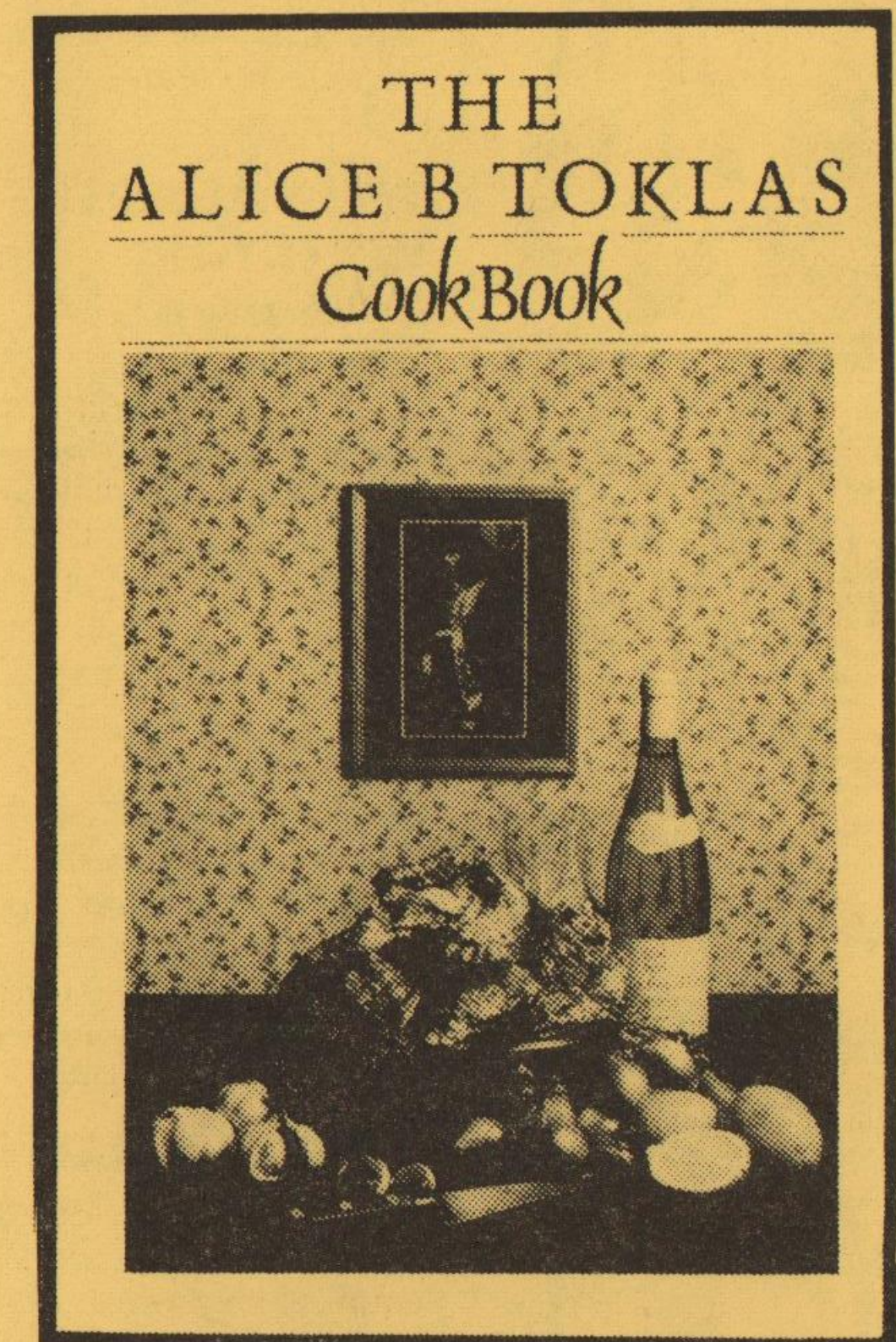
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