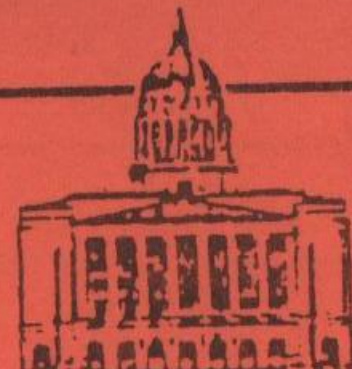




City of  
Nottingham



## LESBIAN & GAY SUB-COMMITTEE

At last Nottingham is to have its own Council lesbian and gay rights workers. Following widespread advertising in the gay, lesbian and straight press, two workers have been hired by the City Council to represent the interests of lesbians and gay men in the city. They will work from the Equal Opportunities Unit. Over fifty people applied for the job, which is a senior one, and carries a salary of £12,000. The one post will be job-shared between a lesbian and a gay man, so that the interests of both communities will be properly represented, and it is expected that both workers will start at the end of August.

The workers are Jo Fraser who currently works in Further Education and Ben Benson who works for an Area Health Authority.

Nottingham follows Manchester as the second local authority in the country to specifically recruit for lesbian and gay issues.

The new post has already been attacked by the Tories on the City Council, and used by them to "queer-bash" our communities in the run-up to the Basford by-election set for July 11th.

## GAYS & LESBIANS SUB-COMMITTEE

Meets, 1st Thursday of the month, 7.30pm, in the Council House. Half hour open discussion at end of each meeting.

FURTHER INFO:

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT 418571 ext. 4513

A gay man in Nottingham is starting a new drag company. The aim of the company is to present drag with music and dance that isn't at the expense of women. (that is, not to be men playing women as stereotypes but simply to be men in frocks). If you are interested and can offer ideas and skills like music, dance, design, slap, administration, etc. then contact Jamie on 705287.

# NEW CINEMA MIDLAND GROUP

24 Carlton St. BOX OFFICE: 586100

HE WAS POWERFUL, CHARISMATIC, COMPASSIONATE AND GAY. AFTER ELEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE HE WAS ASSASSINATED.

## THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK

"ASTOUNDING  
... hits home"  
*Sunday Times*  
"RIVETING  
... go and see it"  
*Gay News*

OSCAR  
ACADEMY AWARDS '84  
BEST DOCUMENTARY

"The gay film  
of the year...  
IMPRESSIVE"

*Guardian*



NYON: Grand Prix

NEW YORK Film Critics Award 1984

CONTEMPORARY FILMS Release

Thursday-Saturday 1-3 August

6 & 8pm

PLUS Friday 2pm matinee

## gay info gay info

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH ORGANIZATION.  
info. on groups meetings/activities: N.L.G.Y.O.,  
Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (SAE).

ASTORIA, Greyfriars Gate, Broadmarsh,  
Tel: 580555, First Monday, monthly  
disco, £3.00 entrance.

THE FORESTERS, St. Ann St. (back of Victoria  
Centre. Attractive, cosy, mixed - noisier darts  
match Mondays - lesbian/gay with friendly at-  
mosphere.

GATSBY'S, Huntingdon Street, Tel:  
55323, Formerly Central Tavern, Not-  
tingham's main gay pub, busy weekends.

THE MANOR, Albert Rd, West Bridgford, (off  
Central Avenue), 816662. Large, comfortable  
disco, mainly lesbians, Saturdays, 8-Midnight.  
"Golden Oldies" selections. Doors close 10pm.  
Manor Club entrance.

VD Treatment: General Hospital, Perth  
House(♂) or Amberley House(♀), Postern St,  
Notm. tel 45989.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD your help-  
line to the Gay and Lesbian Community,  
(Mon. Tues. Weds. Thurs. 7pm-10pm.  
tel: 411454

TAKE ONE,  
ITS FOR YOU!

# GAY!

# Nottingham!

PUT TOGETHER BY GAY MEN

No. 5

1985

# PRIDE '85

Ye Olde Gaye Pryde Traditions



SPOTTING  
THE PLAIN CLOTHES  
LAW



The June 1985 Lesbian and Gay Pride Carnival was the largest ever seen in Britain. Over 10,000 lesbians and gay men marched and danced through the streets of Central London to the South Bank of the River Thames where they were entertained to a four-hour concert by Tom Robinson, Jimi Somerville, Divine and the Beverley Sisters (who?). The march stretched for more than a mile. At Trafalgar Square it filed past a Salvation Army band which provoked loud boos for its anti-gay teachings. Women who went fearful of being swamped were delighted to find so many others on the march.

There were several firsts this year. For the first time we were joined by an out-gay Labour M.P. Chris Smith and for the first time the organizers welcomed heterosexuals. There were seventy-eight men and women from the Welsh mining village of Dulais keeping the promise they made during the miners' strike to repay the solidarity and support shown by many lesbians and gay men. One of the women, Sian James, told the crowd it was the best march she had been on. Meeting gay people had had a profound effect on the mining community of Dulais, she said.

Amongst other supporters were the Labour councillors of Lambeth - all thirty-two of them! Messages of support also came from M.P.'s Jo Richardson, Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn and Chris Smith, and from the General Secretary of NALGO and ACTT, the Theatre Technicians union, and Greater London Council Leader, Ken Livingstone.

Two coachloads of gays were out in force from Nottingham that day, and for many it was the first time that they had gone public. Hugh said, "It was marvellous, quite important for me personally too - something I felt I had to do. One should not be a victim of fear, it was an opportunity to come out with style!" Mark added, "It was a powerful and exhilarating feeling to find that OUR march brought traffic to a standstill for over half an hour."

Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement fielded an impressive banner, ten foot long in sherwood green and red. Several of the gay men had been working their fingers to the bone on the sewing machine, the night before the march to get the banner finished on time. The verdict from them and everyone else we met was, "Let's do it again - soon!"

## Kinnock and Steel send messages of support

Opposition leader Neil Kinnock and Liberal leader David Steel were amongst those who sent messages of support to Saturday's pride parade. "I send you my good wishes for a successful carnival," said the Labour leader, "and I reaffirm my party's support for the principles of respect for equal treatment of all individuals irrespective of their sexual orientation. We must all work to rid society of the fear and guilt that has victimised gays and lesbians and to create conditions in which people can conduct their personal relationships without persecution."

This year we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and as we do so we remember that gays and lesbians were amongst the millions murdered by the Nazis. Prejudice permitted that horror and it produces others. That is why we strive to defeat it." David Steel wished "all success to the day's events. The Liberal Party will always defend the rights of gays and other minority groups and we are proud to do so."

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9.30-100 MONDAYS

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# Protect Our Freedom to Read

MUSHROOM  
BOOKSHOP

One of the most important obscenity cases ever heard against gay and lesbian books is underway at the Old Bailey with nine people from Gay's The Word Bookshop, facing criminal charges of conspiring to import 'indecent or obscene' material.

On April 10th, 1984 customs officials raided Gay's The Word, London's lesbian and gay community bookshop and detained all of its imported stock. At the same time, as part of a meticulously planned campaign code named 'Operation Tiger', thousands of books on the way to the bookshop from the United States were being denied Customs clearance and detained at the ports. In a series of dramatic moves over the following seven months, formal 'Seizure' notices were issued on a total of 142 titles covering the full range of serious lesbian and gay reading by major international authors. On November 13th 1984 the eight unpaid Directors of Gay's The Word and its Assistant Manager were served with a total of 100 criminal charges alleging conspiracy to import 'indecent' literature and now face the prospect of massive personal fines and possible

Police also used their separate powers under the Obscene Publications Act to seize a magazine, although this was subsequently returned. In both cases the powers are to an important extent arbitrary, depending on individual officers' prejudices, and those at the receiving end are put to great difficulty and expense in establishing their rights. The law has been used to weaken the financial basis of two important lesbian and gay organisations.

The outcome is to limit the access of gay men and lesbians to the printed material vital to the sharing of our culture, whether it is informative, romantic, sensual or just enjoyable. The Customs law arbitrarily limits the exchange of ideas across frontiers. The actions against the bookshops are very central attacks on the self-determination and self-respect of the gay and lesbian communities.

Gay's The Word bookshop was set up in 1979 in Marchmont Street, London WC1 by a group of lesbians and gay men. From the outset, no material which is racist, sexist, pornographic or which presents negative perspectives on lesbian and gay liberation is allowed.

The Directors of "GAY'S THE WORD"



imprisonment. If the committal proceedings are successful the defendants face a major trial at the Old Bailey next year with costs expected to be at least £50,000. The case has led to enormous protests from MP's, authors, the booktrade and the National Council for Civil Liberties, who point out that such books would not be liable to seizure if published in Britain.

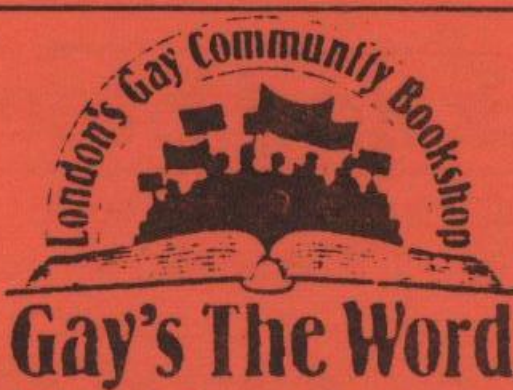
When reduced to basics, the charges laid against the bookshop amount to an 'indecent assault' on the civil rights of every lesbian and gay man in this country. When the government of a country, attempts to stop its citizens reading what they choose, then there is something seriously wrong with that government. The action by HM Customs and Excise against Gay's The Word bookshop exposes Customs' powers as a blunt instrument which can readily be used to seriously harass and threaten the gay and lesbian community. In Edinburgh, Customs and Excise detained stock destined for Lavender Menace, another gay and lesbian bookshop.

## A.I.D.S. Information Week

TxRx in conjunction with Radio Nottingham are promoting an "AIDS INFORMATION WEEK" which starts on Tuesday 16th July when doctors and volunteers from the Terrence Higgins Trust will be on hand to discuss and answer listeners questions on AIDS. The topics covered over the week include provision in Nottingham for future AIDS victims, a look at the local support group and the role of the National Blood Transfusion Service. The first programme starts at 9.30am on 16th July, RADIO NOTTINGHAM and further programme times are Wednesday (10.05am), Thursday (9.30am), and Friday (9.30am):

## Hepatitis 'B' - Vaccine on Trial

If you are a gay man and want to be protected against Hepatitis B, watch Channel 4's programme at 8pm on the 18th July, called "VACCINE ON TRIAL". Find out why the government is denying gay men the right to be protected against this serious disease.



Gay's The Word faces legal costs of up to £50,000 in its fight against censorship.

You can best help by either sending a donation to Gay's The Word Defence Fund, at the shop address, or buying lots of books from our shelves, which are still packed despite the actions of HM Customs and Excise.

Cheques payable to D.G.T.W.C., 66 Marchmont St, London WC1.  
Telephone: 01 278 7654.

## LONDON LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE

MIXED GAY DISCO

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

with

WOMEN ONLY EVENTS

Thursday &amp; Saturday

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Salad buffet 12 noon-7pm

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I went on a Friday night, to have a few drinks at the bar and then go down to the disco. (There is a mixed disco on Fridays, and women's discos on Thursdays and Saturdays.) As I went up the stairs and through the heavy wooden doors into the reception area, I could hear the hum of conversation from the bar-area in the back. I signed in, looked at the leaflets from different lesbian and gay organisations on a side-table, passed the branch of Gay's The Word bookshop at the side, and went through into the main room.

I went up to the bar to order a drink, and met Martin Farrow. We'd spoken briefly the previous evening, when he was working behind the bar and I was having a quiet drink with a friend, but this evening he was on the punters' side of the bar. He's been a volunteer at the Centre more or less since it began. "I'm not really into the gay scene," he explained. "I felt I wanted something else. I needed to be involved, to be doing something with a purpose, something that would fulfil me. It's a good way of meeting people - I've already made a lot of friends - and it's very relaxed working here. The fact that everyone working behind the bar is a volunteer makes a big difference to the atmosphere." He defines himself as "slightly disabled": he has fewer-than-average fingers on one hand and has an artificial foot, and he wanted to emphasise that more disabled people should come to the Centre, both as ordinary users and as volunteers.

Another friend of mine came over to join us, and conversation ranged from pearls to politics. I sat and looked around. As always at the Centre, there was a variety of people, of styles,

from the besuited middle-aged man sitting quietly talking with a woman at a corner table, to the loudly-attired young woman who bounced up beside me at the bar to order half of lager with a cherry in it. It didn't feel like your usual gay pub or club. No-one was standing or sitting around looking bored or shy -

I've always found the Centre to be a place where it's easy to chat casually with strangers.

Great

The bar shut at eleven, but the disco in the basement (with another bar) was open till two, so I wandered down. On the stairs I met Russell, who had just volunteered to work at the Centre. He had started coming to the Centre three weeks before and was enthusiastic about it. "I was interested to find out if it was everything it was made out to be." And was it? "I can honestly say I think the place is great! There's nothing else like it on the gay scene. There's no feeling of pressure, no feeling of ulterior motive like in a gay pub or club, where the motive is to make money and provide a forum for cruising."

I went into the disco, and met Gill King. She's an activist in the Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement, which had held a festival at the Centre the previous weekend. "I enjoy the Centre," she said: "you can talk to people, and meet people

Sonia Gooden and Angelo Iuliano were with her. What did Sonia think of the Centre? "I think it's brilliant! But another friend and I are the only two black people here - I wish the Centre would attract more black people." Angelo also liked the Centre on the whole, though he thought "it should be more accessible to both older and younger gay people. People under eighteen, for example, have difficulties because of the drink licence. I come here a lot. Give it a try - I think you'll like it."

By Jonathan Walters

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