

# THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK

It is rare for untold fact to live up to the demands of fiction, or for a documentary to lead an audience to clap, cheer or even cry. But *The Times of Harvey Milk* is an extraordinary documentary, the story of one of America's first openly gay politicians, his election and shortly afterwards, his murder by reactionary San Francisco co-supervisor Dan White. It is a story that has implications not only for gay men and lesbians, it also illustrates in a most graphic way the consequences of self-righteousness and prejudice. The all-white, all-American boy murders not one, but two imaginative, generous and caring people who he views as enemies to the state - this is the irony which underlies and strengthens the whole film. There is a more than passing similarity to the current plight of the GLC. Harvey Milk was, before anything else, honest. He campaigned on the platform of providing aid to all who needed it even those who were, like himself, disturbed by dogshit in the streets. One of his first acts was to pass a law making the fouling of the streets an offence. But his major achievement was to spearhead the campaign against Proposition 8, the Briggs Initiative. California's Senator Briggs believed that by outlawing the employment of openly gay schoolteachers he would lower the odds of school children being molested or influenced towards 'perversion'. Milk's campaign obtained the support of Carter and Reagan, and turned Briggs' majority into a two to one minority. In November 1978, Milk's leadership turned the tide of anti-gay agitation that was sweeping America. A week later he and the liberal Mayor Moscone were dead. Dan White had resigned his seat in protest and frustration, and upon learning that he would not be allowed to take it back, he climbed into City Hall through a back window and shot the Mayor and his principal opponent. He was sentenced to eight years in jail and released after five. The jury, all of whom were white, straight and middle class, allowed his plea of diminished responsibility after too much stress and junk food. The story is told in a simple, documentary style. Milk's supporters are interviewed - including a trade unionist who was horrified to learn his union was supporting a fruit. The film is openly partisan - it might have benefited from one conflicting viewpoint. But it does show the overwhelming senselessness and injustice of the whole episode. The candlelit march of 45,000 people through San Francisco in mourning is an unforgettable image. Throughout the film the knowledge that all film used is genuine news footage, makes each image doubly effective. *The Times of Harvey Milk* fully deserved its Oscar - everyone should see it.



Queen Mother & William

## gay info gay info

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH ORGANIZATION. Info. on group 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.

CASABLANCA CLUB, Greyhound St, open 7 nights, 9.30pm-2am (Suns. 'til 11.30pm) 472088 (48 hours wait for membership). Nottingham's new nitespot.

THE FORESTERS, St. Ann St. (back of Victoria Centre) cosy, mixed lesbian/gay, friendly bar staff. (avoid Mondays noisier darts crowd)

GAISBY'S, Huntington St. Tel: 55323 Nottingham's busiest gay pub.

THE MANOR, Albert Rd, West Bridgford, (off Central Ave), 816662. 1ge, comfortable disco Saturdays, 8-midnite, doors close 10pm, mainly lesbians. "Golden oldies" selections. VD Treatment: General Hospital, Perth House (C) or Amberley House (Q). Postern St. Notm. tel 45989.

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD your helpline to the Gay and Lesbian communities, (Mon-Thurs. 7pm-10pm). Tel: 411454.

FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10pm, counselling and befriending for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, TV/IS's, 476714, 31a Mansfield Road, Notts.

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### Labour Win Basford

The Labour Party won the recent City Council bye-election in Basford Ward, despite a vicious queer-bashing campaign waged by the Conservative candidate, David Watson. An eve of poll leaflet attacked the appointment of Jo Fraser and Ben Benson. However the Conservatives under-estimated the common sense of the voters who were not taken in by these cheap tactics. A number of residents contacted GAY NOTTINGHAM saying that they usually voted Tory, but because of the smear campaign, would switch their votes to Labour.

Labour candidate, Eileen Hoppell, reversed a Tory majority in 1983 of 299 into a Labour one of 262.



## GAY FILM SEASON

A season of ten gay films has been arranged by the Midland Group, beginning on the 10th September. The season includes TAXI ZIM KID, ARMY OF LOVERS, QUELLE and SEBASTIANE.

The season has already been slammed by the Conservatives on the City Council. Writing in the Evening Post, Cllr. Bradbury, (T) described the season as "indecent and not the sort of thing the city should be connected with. Showing gay films is a waste of public money", added Bradbury.

Letters supporting the film season should be sent to the Director, Midland Group, 24-32 Carlton Street, Hockley, Nottingham.

Meet Jo Fraser (left) and Ben Benson (right), your new lesbian and gay rights' workers. They were chosen from over fifty applicants for this senior post, and will be the link-persons between the City Council and the Lesbian and Gay communities in Nottingham.

Jo was formerly a Students' Welfare Officer at Trent Polytechnic and Ben worked as a Health Administrator for Islington.

Nottingham is only the second authority in the country after Manchester to appoint workers specifically for lesbian and gay rights issues. Jo and Ben work from the Equal Opportunities Unit, North Sherwood Street, Tel: 418571.

GAY NOTTINGHAM will carry an in-depth interview with the new workers in the next issue.

## GAY CO-OP

After several months of planning a new Co-op, erative unveiled its plans on the 27th August. The Nottingham Gay People's Centre Cooperative Society will include a coffee bar and meeting rooms to cater for the large number of people who don't like the commercial scene, which was said to be inadequate in providing social facilities for the young, elderly, black, disabled and unemployed lesbians and gay men.

Already a fund has been set up to help finance the venture and shares are available at one pound, which carry the right to one vote. The Co-op will be registered officially as and when premises are found. Further details from Nottingham Gay Peoples Co-op, c/o Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Notts.

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**WORKERS' CONTROL NOT CONTROL OF WORKERS**

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# YOUTH FESTIVAL UNDERWAY

The Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement has laid plans for a national winter festival to be held in Nottingham over the weekend of 19th/21st December. Several hundred delegates are expected to converge on the city, including a delegation from Karlsruhe, Nottingham's twin West German city.

The group have written to City Council leader, Betty Higgins requesting a civic reception, as part of their plans to mark International Youth Year. (Recently the City Council passed a motion supporting the Youth Manifesto which includes recognition of lesbian and gay youth and their right to organize).

Already the group have planned a series of fund-raising events to help pay for the festival, commencing with a disco, on Thursday, 12th September, at the Palais, (Cellar Bar), 10.30pm to 2am. tickets £1 on the door.

Further information about the festival from Nottingham Gay Youth Festival, c/o Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

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