Lady Maude Ffrench our indomitable socialite looks at the traumas of the servant problem and how to get over it without getting the vapours. Read on.....



MODERN MAIDS-AND WHAT TO TEACH THEM

A Plea For Simplicity And The Right Attitude To Take Towards Your Treasure IV I HENEVER you see two or more married women in a huddle W you would be certain, if you listened in, to hear some-

"I simply can't get a cook . . . I've been doing my own chores for weeks . . . Not a sign of a maid to be got for love or money . . ." Then, all together, they chorus, "What do . . . what do they expect . . ?" And the refrain is sure to go: "What are we coming to . . . Everyone will have to live in service flats if this goes on . . ."

My dear ladies, it's not a case of what are we coming to? It's a case of what have we come to! Because we have come to it, whatever it is, and whether you know it or not. That old institution, the domestic servant, as our grandmothers and mothers knew her in the old days, is as dead as the dodo.

The Right Attitude

THE maid of old has gone, never to return. Instead has come the modern maid, product of this modern age. A charming and efficient person, if you know the technique of how to deal with her.

But do you know how to deal with the modern maid? Or are you still resenting her new liberties, and sighing after

the old days, when orders were orders, and amusements were for the master and mistress of the house, and no one else? I sincerely believe that a great many housewives, who can afford to keep one or two maids, don't keep them long just because they haven't got the right angle on how they expect to be treated. And so, these good ladies, fuming against the

finally get a bad mark there, which they don't really deserve. Now what is this angle which mistresses should get, without losing dignity or the headship of the house?

modern help and all her ways, haunt the registry offices, and

In my opinion, it is an acceptance of a great many things which govern this new relationship, whether the mistress likes

The New Charter of Freedom

THE new charter of freedom goes like this:

The modern maid wishes to live near her friends. And she also desires and resolves, if possible, to live near a

The modern maid will not consent to be in at ten o'clock, any more than the daughter of the house would, if she has passed

She will not wear a cap in the mornings, and only the slightest of "coronet-shaped" apologies for a cap in the afternoon.

The modern maid likes to plan the work her own way. She will not stay long where the food is portioned out, and the

groceries measured. She will not be happy unless she has a wireless, and is per-

mitted reasonable use of same.

She prejers a bed-room to herself, and that bed-room nicely

Is there anything wrong or really unreasonable in these demands?

Of course modern girls are modern, says the new school of thought, whether they are socialites, office workers, shop assistants, or domestic helpers. And, of course, being of their age and time, they like "perms," silk stockings, reasonable freedom, and friends, to say nothing of the wireless, that unseen companion of the leisure hours. And, goodness gracious, why shouldn't



Now about that "no cap" complex of the modern maids. Silly mistresses made it the badge of servitude, and thus started a prejudice. This is frankly a pity, as the covering of hair in dusting and sweeping is hygienic, and finds great favour with the younger generation of bright young housewives, who do their own housework swathed in gay-coloured handkerchiefs. But there it is. Or, rather, there it isn't, that discreet, some- times starched mob cap. The modern maid eschews it, and certainly doesn't fit well over shingled hair.

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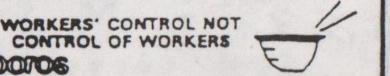


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uroboros





Published by GAY NOTTINGHAM, Box 34, West P.D.O, Nottingham, NG7 2DI.

EURO various parties have demanded that charges | Gay Mens Sub-Committee which meets monthly. David said against the directors of Bookshop be dropped.

A motion condemning the Democrats, Irish Fine Gael, and British Labour MEPs.

Carol Tongue claims that and is open to members of the public. the charges against the Human Rights and resolution on discrimination against gays passed by the Council of Europe.

"Many of the titles seized are lawfully published in the United Kingdom", says the Labour MEP, "and none contravene the Obscene **Publications Act.**"

The motion will be debated by the European Human Rights Committee, and "condemns the prosecution of the directors of the Gay's The Word bookshop vindictive and malicious attack on the lesbian and gay community in the United Kingdom, which further attacks the freedom and liberty of every citizen by censoring the printed word. David Northmore of the Defend Gay's The Word Campaign is delighted by the news from Europe. and described the motion as "a

The nine directors of Gay's The Word are due to appear at the Old Bailey on October

campaign.

very welcome step indeed in

direction of





New Chair elected Chair of the Cay

Mens Forum. He is also Vice-Chair of the City Council's

he saw his appointment as a new challenge and looked Word forward to the forthcoming year. "I hope I will be able to encourage more gay men to get involved so that we can make full use of the Council's facilities in the City", he said. (The Lesbian/Gay Sub-Committee met for the last shop's prosecution has been time in May). From now on two separate committees, one proposed by East London for men and the other for women will exist. The City MEP Carol Tongue. It is Council was not keen to continue the monthly meetings supported by Socialists, for both groups. The lesbians wanted meetings every se-Liberals, | cond month but the gay men wanted to retain their monththe ly meetings' cycle. After intensive lobbying of the Rainbow Coalition of green | Council by the Gay Men it was agreed that the meetings parties, one member of the | would continue on a monthly basis as before.

The next meeting of the Gay Mens Committee takes place on Thursday 31st July at 7.30pm in the Council House,

directors of the Bloomsbury bookshop fly in the face of the European Convention on Human Pights and Attacks claimed



Several attacks on gay men by bouncers at the monthly Astoria gay disco have been reported to GAY NOTTINGHAM recently. At the April disco, Pete Johnson, a gay man, says he witnessed a gay man being repeatedly kicked to the ground and then being thrown out by the scruff of his neck, for no apparent reason. Another man, Kevin Powell said he saw a bouncer beating up another gay man at the May disco. "He was thrown out the

back door. I asked for the manager who wasnt available so I saw the head bouncer who told me that all gay people carried knives and that we were all the same and he didnt care a damn". Commenting on the incident, Cllr. Richard McCance said: "This has got to stop. We hope that the meeting will result in a positive

relationship between the gay community and the Astoria staff in future". Club Manager, Steward Biddulph said he had checked with staff and police and cou-1d find no record of the complaints.

The public meeting is on Monday 23rd June at the YMCA, Shakespeare St, at 7.30pm.



LESBIAN **Bloody'Mad** A lesbian blood donor is angry

because she was told she was no

longer acceptable as a donor when she turned up at the Nottingham Blood Transfusion Centre. Maureen McKenna asked her doctor to write to the Regional Blood Transfusion Service for an explanation. She received a reply from a Consultant Haematologist who said that whilst lesbians were the safest known blood group, the Transfusion Service's policy was a blanket refusal if people were known to be homosexual. Gay Nottingham got through to a spokesperson at the fourth attempt and a Dr. Vergi James, who wrote Ms. McKenna's letter explained that "we understand the behaviour of heterosexuals which is normal. We feel it is better to have a blanket refusal on taking blood from lesbians - we call them homosexuals - because we might find on counselling them that their partners had been promiscuous". When asked whether the service had been in touch with anv gay or lesbian organizations Ms. James said that they had "talked to" many such groups.

Would they continue to take blood from straights, known to be higher risk than lesbians in having contaminated blood?. She said she did not forsee a change in their policy. Ms. McKenna said that their double talk was interesting.

"Clearly the transfusion service is in need of a trans-1,5

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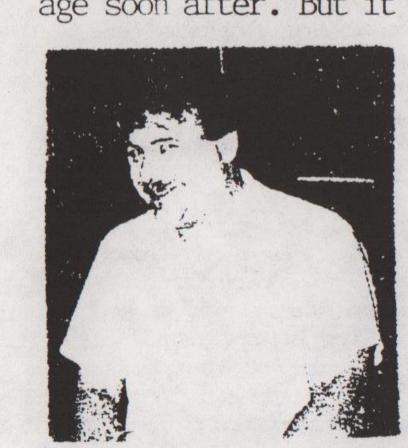
After knocking at the fifth house, I struck lucky and found John Clarkson and Steve Lancashire, blearey-eyed after a night out, and a lay-in, clearing up the debris of the night before. How had they first met? 'Well, there was this over dressed young man across the bar, sporting a white carnation. He wouldn't let me buy him a drink, then promptly bought himself one, "says John. "I was feeling independent", laughs Steve, recalling their first encounter in the Hearty Goodfellow several years ago. "I saw Steve later that evening in Part II Club, but he seemed to be dodging me". Steve continues,

"my parents were picking me up from the club but they were late. I went out to phone them and promptly got lost. "I really thought he was giving me the heave-ho", added John. But fate took a hand and ·they met again as John was leaving the Club. One night became three

and that was the beginning of their relationship, which began in the middle of Steve's university course at Lancaster where he was studying English. Steve is 22 and hails from Mansfield and this is his second ser-

ious relationship. "I'd been going to the White Hart in Mansfield

since the Sixth Form days and got involved with someone around my age soon after. But it just didn't work out.



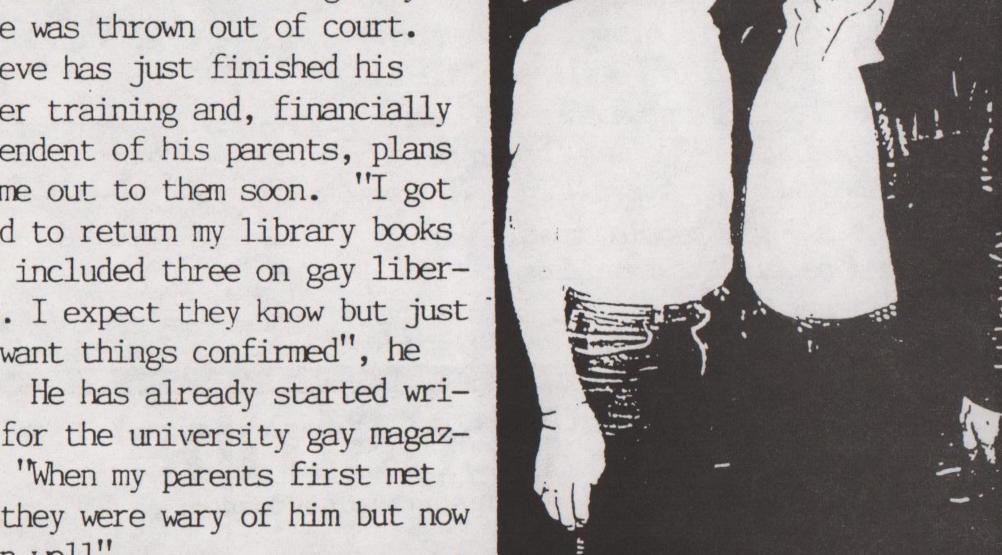
John is 40 and an Area Manager for a catering firm and at that time was commuting to Bristol during the week. He knew he was gay at 13, and has been involved in a number of affairs over the years. His first big one at 18 landed him and his 27 year-old lover in jail, where John spent eight months, simply because John was under 21 at the time.

The die was cast for his later involvement with the gay movement in Nottingham which extends over ten years in the Campaign for Homo-

sexual Equality and Gay Switchboard, where he was a founder member. Some years later in 1981 John was to see the inside of a courtroom again when he was framed by the police on a cottaging charge but

after a community campaign based around the issue of police harrassment and entrapment and John's determination to fight the charges, the prosecution case brought by the police was thrown out of court.

Steve has just finished his teacher training and, financially independent of his parents, plans to come out to them soon. "I got my Dad to return my library books which included three on gay liberation. I expect they know but just dont want things confirmed", he said. He has already started writing for the university gay magazine. 'When my parents first met John they were wary of him but now get on well" (continued on page 4



NOTTINGHAM-NICARAGUA MUSHROOM -

DIRECT LINKS

The Arena programme on Channel 4 recently featured a programme on Nicaragua, a country , regularly in the news because of the longrunning civil war. On the 19th July is the anniversary of the overthrow of the Dictator Somoza, and there is a disco to celebrate this (tickets 582369 daytime). There is also a direct links committee between Nicaragua and Nottingham. We thought it was time to take a look at life for lesbians and gays in that country..... (The article comes from the Los Angeles ADVOCATE).

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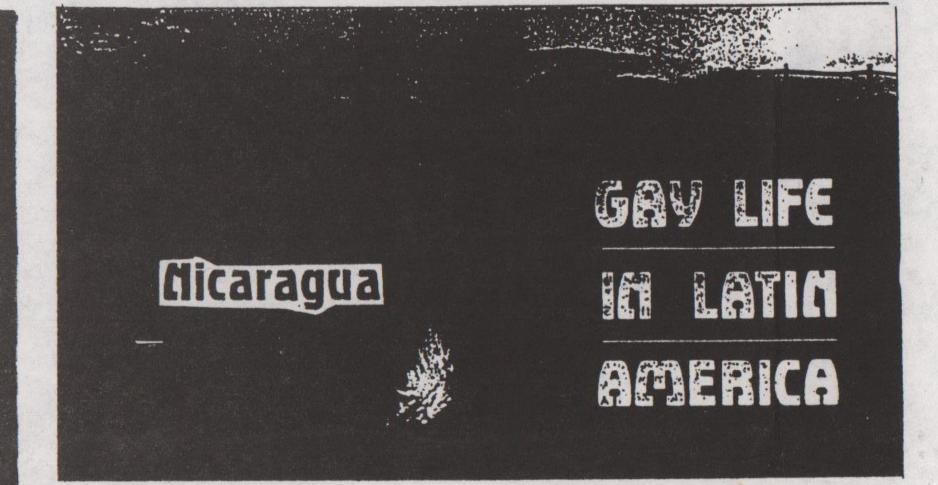
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YOUNG GAY PEOPLE SEEK LEGITIMATE ROLE IN SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT

ADVOCATE correspondent Judy MacLean traveled to Nicaragua recent ly, where she had an opportunity to speak with young gay students aligned with the Sandinista government. Her dispatch reflects a point of view not often reported in the American press

by Judy MacLean

've been completely straightforward about being a lesbian on my job," says Marta, a vivacious, dark-haired 18-yearold Nicaraguan. "At first, one woman there didn't like me because of it. Things got so bad between us that I thought one of us would have to guit. But then she came around, and now we even walk down the street together, with her pointing out the cute men to me and me pointing out the cute women to her." Marta is a trainee in a video company in Managua, Nicaragua's capital.

I met Marta at a demonstration in front of the United States Embassy in Managua. She was helping film the American protesters, many of whom live in Managua and have marched weekly, more than 120 times, to say they don't want to be "rescued" by a Grenada-style American invasion.

Marta is unusual in being such an openly gay person in her country. It's a land of contrasts. The Sandinista government is using a homegrown blend of Marxism and Catholicism to radically change the Nicaraguan economy and put more resources in the hands of the poor. Yet the country is extremely conservative on social issues like abortion. The subject of homosexuality has only surfaced in the media during the past

year (and then not in a completely favorable light); most gay people live in a narrow closet.

Still, as in many countries, a career in the arts makes it easier to be open as a gay person. And Marta's bubbly personality and youthful optimism probably help others accept her sexual orientation.

Marta spent her first 15 years in comparatively liberal Brazil, where she came out. She found the social conservatism of Nicaragua "a shock." In spite of her own easy situation, she says that poverty and social conservatism make life hard for most lesbians in Nicaragua. Change, she predicts, will be slow.

But change is happening, in part spurred by the hundreds of foreigners who come to study, to help or to experience a new society building itself. Inevitably, some of these foreign residents are gay and apt to be open, either because they are used to being out at home, or because they are more comfortable being out away from home.

Walter (who, like Marta, has asked that his last name not be used) is also open on the job about being gay. He's already had a year-long relationship with an Englishman and another that lasted eight months with a man from Holland. With a trace of sadness, he told me it was harder to meet other Nicaraguan men than to meet foreigners. "But now, I want to find one Nicaraguan guy and settle down with him," said the tall, fair-haired, studious-looking young man.

He pointed out the dark, compact video technician he has in mind. "I know he is bisexual, and I have a terrible crush on him, but I'm very nervous about approaching him," Walter told me. With the difficulties he has meeting Nicaraguan gay men, he's afraid that if he doesn't

continued on p. 3.

Tories against

gay police

THE NEW Tory-controlled West Midlands Police Authority decided on Monday to throw out an opportunities = equal clause which protected the rights of gay men who apply to join the police force.

The previous Labour-run authority had drawn up a clause which stated that it would not discriminate against applicants on grounds of sexual orientation.

Chief Midlands West Constable Geoffrey Dear supported a revised list of grounds for non-discrimination which excluded not only sexual orientation but also religious belief and political and trade union affiliation.

Labour councillors argued that the old policy should be retained, and succeeded in pursuading Tory authority members to include religious belief, but the removal of the other grounds for nondiscrimination was accepted when the Tory chairman, Birmingham City Councillor Neville Bosworth used his casting vote, after a 16 to 16 'Red Stripe'

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Ms. McKenna has asked the

City Council's Equal Oppor-

tunities Unit to take up

the matter.

able donors", she added.

cation. On their reckoning

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YOUNG GAYS SEEK PLACE IN NICARAGUAN SOCIETY

(CONTINUED FROM Page 2.

seize the opportunity, another chance

may be a long time coming.

Most Nicaraguan young people, gay or straight, live with their parents out of financial necessity. Conducting a gay relationship takes a lot of ingenuity. Walter is atypical, in that he shares an apartment with two other men. His place has become a center where a close-knit group of young gay Managuans meet.

Gay life in Nicaragua is mostly contained within such small social circles. An American lesbian living in Managua observes that life for these young people is different from that of older gays who have established their careers and can afford their own homes. The older gays may work in such settings as the Ministry of Culture, where being discreetly gay is tolerated. And they certainly have more access to privacy. Still, there are no open meeting places, like bars, where these various small social circles might interact.

nd for the young, gay life can still be a struggle. Rosa (not her real name) is shy, closeted and anxious about being interviewed by a foreign journalist. There are no gay rights organizations in Nicaragua, but Rosa is part of a small group that has been meeting in Managua for several months to form the very first one. Age 25, she lives with her mother and must help support five younger siblings. She works full time in a government ministry by day and studies at the university at night. She's active in her union and in the Sandinista Youth. She's also a member of the Militia, a civilian organization that backs up the army when the war with the U.S.-backed Contras heats up. Then, there are meetings of the fledgling gay rights group. Also, "we have to have our parties," she says of her gay and lesbian friends.

While time may be in short supply, Rosa feels that only a group of people as active as she can succeed in building a gay rights movement. "We can't let ourselves be marginalized," she insists. "Only a group of people who have strong roles in organizations of the revolutionary process," she adds, will be seen as legitimate.

The war also makes her group's task immeasurably harder, she says. The fight against the Contras is seen in Nicaragua as a question of national survival; all other questions take second place at the moment.

Rosa stays in the closet out of fear of disapproval by her family and neighbors. She says she wouldn't lose her job, her standing in Sandinista organizations, or her right to a free university education if she came out. But the informal social censure would be devastating to her. She also believes the government will be far more tolerant of a gay rights movement than the hidebound general population.

I asked Rosa if Nicaragua could turn out like Cuba, where many gay people have left because they have been persecuted and denied basic rights.

"How could it turn out that way?" she answered. "There were so many Sandinista commanders who were gay. One of them, Dora Maria Tellez, is now even Minister of Health." Just as in the United States, within the gay community it is common knowledge that certain public figures are discreetly gay, often because a friend knows someone who knows someone who was once the lover of the figure in question. Rosa is sure these people will be supportive when the time comes. (In other countries, of course, this has not always been the case.)

Rosa is realistic about the obstacles that poverty, war and a socially conservative population place in the way of gay rights. But she's known hard work and tough odds all her young life. Her dark eyes sparkle with optimism when she says, "We're bound to win something. It will take a long time, maybe until I'm old. But I do it for the next generations."



-Quote of the Week-

"I had three big parties in my flat last summer, and about 300 people turned up at each one. Friends brought friends, who in turn brought other friends, and that's how this complete stranger came to be in my home. It's not as if I even fancied him - he's blond and clean cut, while I like my men to be dark, swarthy, greasy dagos." - Kenny Everett talking about alleged murderer Michele Lupo.

Sanderson writes in clear, simple english, derived from his wide experience in the gay movement and as an agony uncle on a national woman's magazine. The book assumes the reader has reached a point of self-acceptance. The benefits and significance of coming out as gay are neatly put by Andrew who says "it's like having a sack of coal off my back". The writer has focused mainly on couple relationships, including courtship and setting up a home. One can just imagine the happy couple walking off into the



sunset, hand-in-hand! Other kinds of relationships dont get much space. Many people either by choice or the lack of it dont experience a one-to-one relationship but may have numerous encounters and a number of relationships which are no less important, but needed some recognition in the book. However these are minor criticisms. There are ample sections on gay mens health, very important at this time and a good listings section. There are too few books for gays which are accessible in style, content and in times of unemployment, price. An excellent starter for the possibly unwary first-time venturer into the gay scene and communities, which could ensure many heartaches and pitfalls could be avoided. "HOW TO BE A HAPPY HOMOSEXUAL" by Terry Sanderson, available from Mushroom Bookshop, price £2.95, paperback. Hurry, they're selling fast!

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people people

Continued from page 2.

John's parents and sister know we are gay and are fine about it. (At John's father's funeral recently Steve and John's sister got pissed together and started singing bar-room songs at the funeral tea) Needless to say this didn't go down too well at the time," said Steve.

Was there a problem of the age difference? "Only for other people," they both added. We have some laughs. We were buying some clothes recently and Steve was asked what his father thought of his outfit! On another occasion when Steve was taking more than a passing interest in John's new suit, he was overheard to remark that: "isnt your father a bit too trendy". And then there's Steve's passion for jelly babies and gobstoppers at the supermarket checkouts, which led a commiserating parent to remark to John, "He's still a little boy—They never grow up, do they!"

Steve is the youngest of three and a bit indulged, says
John ruefully. "He helps around the house when he's feeling
gracious, but I always have tohide the chocolate biscuits, otherwise he eats the bloody lot in one go".

Like most relationships, something of each rubs off onto

the other person. "I've now got John reading Jane Austen and he listens to Alison Moyet and he's got me into classical music and the theatre, and he's teaching me to drive!

Park), Perth House, (Men) Amberley House (Women) daytime 476161.

Steve shares a house in Morcambe with another gay man and three straight students and he's returning to clean it up before handing it over. Then he's got his third summer playscheme coming up, before his first teaching job in London in September.

They both enjoy having a monogamous relationship. "It suits us but might not suit everybody", they add. Their relationship seems to thrive on separation - though they phone each other daily. "Being together all the time would be like living in a shoe box. We take life as it comes living a day at a time."

I left them about to sit down to Sunday roast, before John would drive Steve to the Midland Station for the last journey to Lancaster. From now on the lines to London will be hot and that car of John's will be pointing in a different direction.

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED IN "PEOPLE" SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO: Box 34, GAYNOTTINGHAM, West P.D.O. Nottingham, and we will get in touch with you.