

NOTTS. COUNTY COUNCIL:

The Battle is on!



Mick Wallis & Di Monk
(C.L.P. Womens Officer).

Two years ago, Tory-run Rugby Council had an anti-gay employment policy that was eventually overturned, now campaigners are hoping to do the same with Labour-controlled Nottinghamshire.

The controlling Labour group refuses to abide by party policy and only after extreme pressure did councillors, led by Dennis Pettitt, make an equal opportunities commitment. But this one excludes lesbians and gay men.

Local gay activists are furious that the council has back-tracked on its pre-election pledges. When the Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights wrote to all 47 councillors about the issue only 4 bothered to reply.

East Midlands LGLR has called a rally and mass demonstration for October 25th in Market Square, followed by a march on County Hall. The initiative for the rally was taken by lesbians and gays but has the support of many straights, angry at this injustice. Nottingham and Worksop Trades Council have passed resolutions in support of the stand taken.

"We expect these councillors to act like representatives of the Labour Party, standing up for people's rights. Instead, they act like right wing bigots. It's disgusting. It brings the Party into disrepute," said Mick Wallis one of the co-ordinators of the campaign.

Two years ago Rugby Council was forced to change its equal opportunities policy to include lesbians and gay men after a well-organized campaign. (The Tory councillor who spearheaded the anti-gay campaign in Rugby, Keith Judge, lost his seat at last May's elections). This should be a timely reminder to those Labour councillors who think they can do what they like. Their time may be running out. Information of the Nottinghamshire campaign, which includes dates of pickets, and demonstrations, is available from LGLR, 3 Marlborough Road, Beeston, Nottinghamshire NG92HG.

WELCOME CHE

C.H.E. (The Campaign for Homosexual Equality) returns to Nottingham after nine years for its annual conference, to be held at the George Hotel, Hockley. Older readers may remember this as one of Nottingham's gay bars of thirty years ago. If you have memories of the George in its gay days, Gay Nottingham would love to hear from you.

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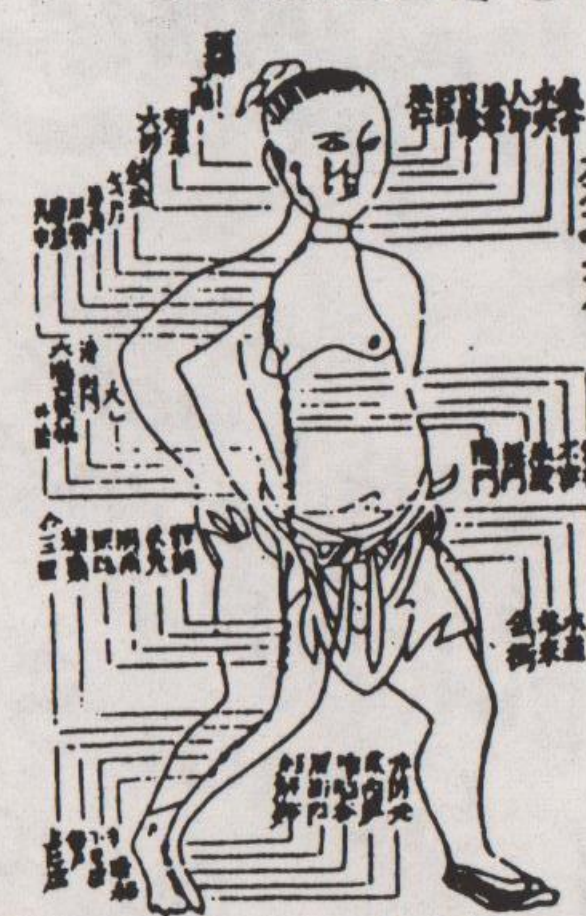
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Sat. Aug. 9th, 8.30

KISS OF THE
SPIDER WOMAN



WILLIAM
HURT JULIA

Sat. Aug. 23, 8.30pm

Sun. Aug. 24, 4.30pm

Mon. Aug. 25, 6pm.

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Tue. Sept. 2nd, 6pm.

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- NOTTINGHAM - 40-year old guy seeks work and accommodation in Nottingham area. Also would like to meet young guy, over 21, for friendship, possible relationship. All letters answered. BOX 7, GAY NOTTINGHAM, P.O. Box 34, West P.D.O., NOTTINGHAM.
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HELPLINES

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities, Mon-Thurs. 7-10pm, tel 411454.
LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon & Wed. 7.30-9pm. 410652, c/o Womens Centre, Shakespeare Street, Nottm.
NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10pm, counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/IS's 474717, c/o 3la Mansfield Road, Nottingham.
AIDS HELPLINE, worried about AIDS? call up Mums & Tues. 7-10pm, Nottingham 585526. Accurate info. can help reduce anxiety.

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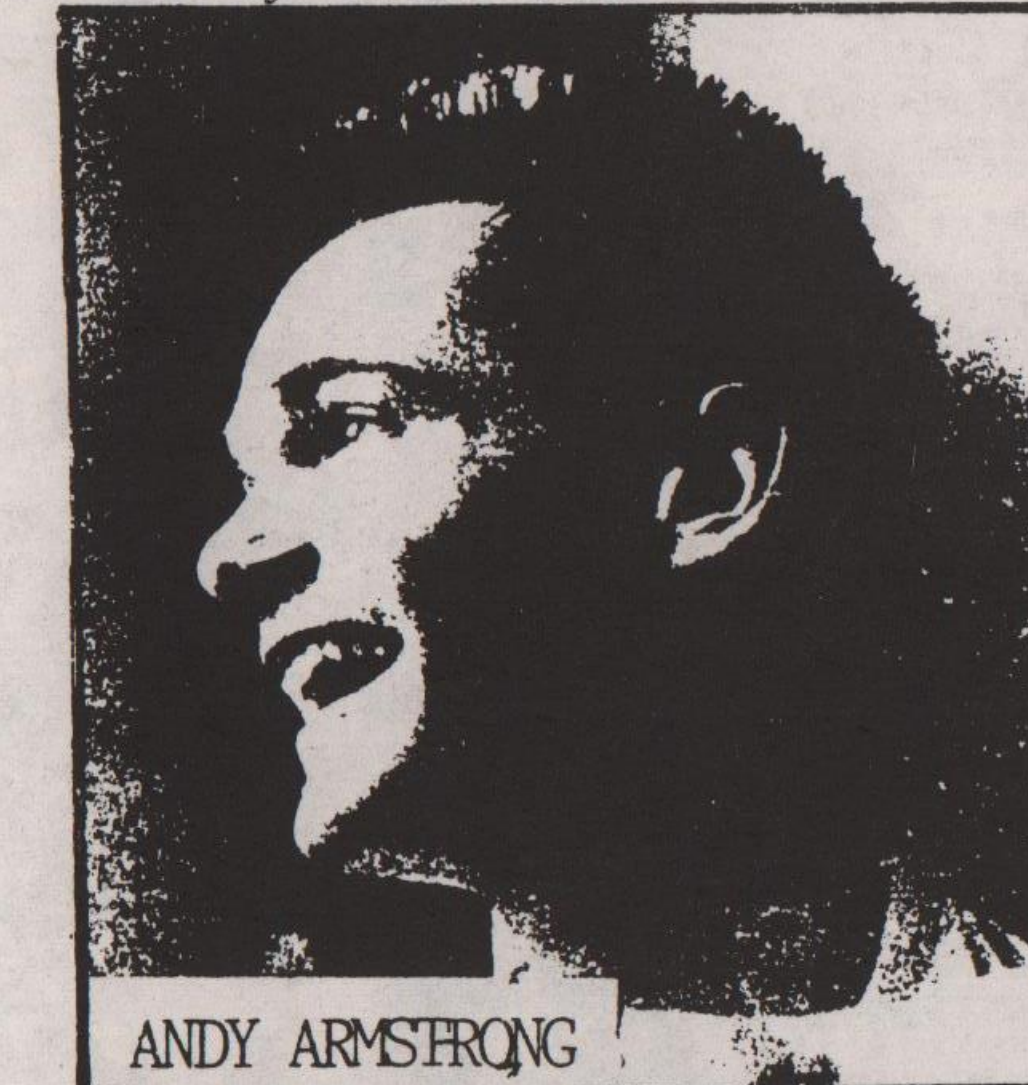
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CO-OP BREAKS £1,000 BARRIER

Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Co-op Society, the first of its kind in the country, has raised over £1,200 towards the setting up of a lesbian/gay community centre in Nottingham. With nearly 100 members the Co-op has now been approved by the registrar of Friendly Societies.



ANDY ARMSTRONG

A membership drive, donations and jumble sales helped swell funds and the social side hasn't been forgotten either with trips to South Wales, The Lake District and Gay Pride 86. Exchange visits have also been underway between the Nottingham Co-op who visited Cardiff in May and the South Wales Co-op, whose members are due to visit Nottingham over August Bank Holiday, when a series of events are planned.

Andy Armstrong, a member of the Co-op Committee said: "The centre is our target - we are now several steps nearer, though lots of hard work remains. It may take several years until the Centre is a reality; that's why we're building up community spirit in the meantime". Already members of the Nottingham Co-op are looking for suitable premises, with City Council help.

Future plans include a competition to find the best logo design for the centre, and the exploration of twinning links with Nottingham's twin cities, and more socials and outings in the Autumn.

It costs only £2 to join the Co-op. Details from Nottingham Lesbian & Gay Community Centre Co-op Society, Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, (S.A.E. please).

2-year wait for triumph



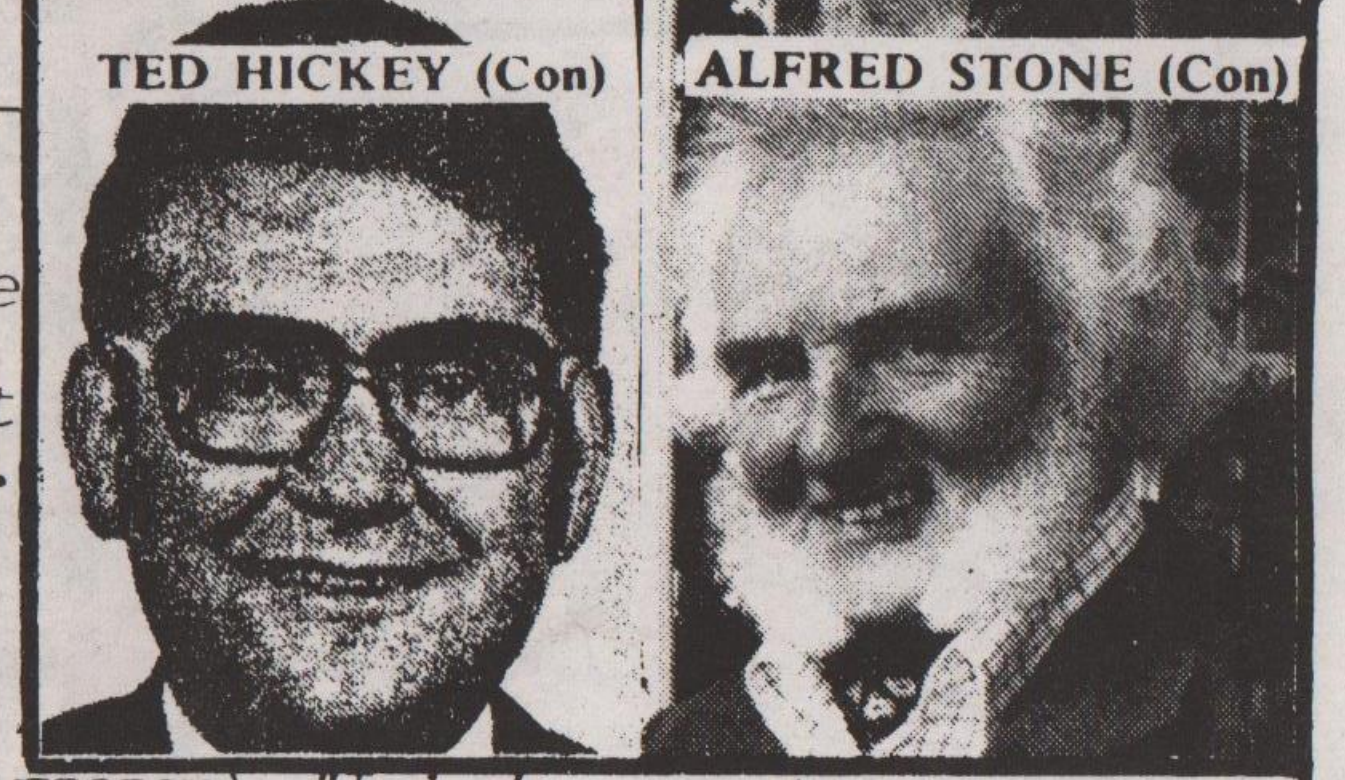
Defendants and campaigners celebrating with champagne.

A MAJOR and resounding victory for the lesbian and gay community was celebrated last Friday when Customs dropped all criminal charges against Gay's The Word bookshop and its nine directors. And it seems that a European Court ruling about imported inflatable sex dolls was the deciding factor.

The dramatic and surprising climb-down follows months of lobbying from the gay community MPs, the National Council for Civil Liberties and authors and publishers. It brings to an end two-and-a-half years of attacks on the Bloomsbury bookshop, and Customs have finally admitted that the laws regarding the importation of books are a complete shambles.

WOULD YOU TRUST THEM?

These faces look friendly enough of Tory Councillors, Ted Hickey (Beechdale Ward) and Alf Stone (Robin Hood Ward). But read on. This is what they have said about us. "These people are unfortunate. We know they exist and no one should set out to injure them" *EVENING POST*, 8.3.85. And again: It saddens me... spending money on a lesbian centre" *EVENING POST*, 18.7.86. At the City Council meeting on 28th July, 1986, Ted Hickey said (about the Gay Pride Newspaper): "I don't want this pornographic filth sent to me through the post". He is not a member of the Equal Opportunities Committee. Could you afford to trust either of these men to look after your interests on the City Council? The next elections take place in May 1987. If you don't like what they are saying about you, then use your vote and make sure they are not re-elected to the Nottingham City Council!



TED HICKEY (Con)

ALFRED STONE (Con)

'Banned' Play for

BAN THIS FILTH

Nottingham, Sept.
12th, (see story P.3)

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"Overcoming Homosexuality" (Confessions of Two Deviants), devised by two Leicester Poly students as part of their exams. In Performing Arts, has made it to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, despite a threat by Fringe organizers to "dump" the gay theatre company. The ban arose when the organizers realised the subject of the play. They told the company not to come as Scouts would be using the same hall! But a threatened boycott of the Fringe Festival by other productions put on by Leicester Poly, resulted in a climbdown, and the ban lifted. The play, performed by Darren Brady and Jamie Mc.Carthy and directed by Jo. Docherty, concerns the autobiographical adventures of two gay men amidst the voices and images that try to destroy a belief and pride in self. It blows open the closet once and for all! You can catch the show at the London Lesbian & Gay Centre on the 15th, 16th and 17th August at 7.30pm, before playing the Edinburgh Fringe. Following their week's run in Edinburgh the company will appear for one performance only in Nottingham on Friday, 12th September at International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, (more details for tickets and reviews, in next G.N.).