

MAY 1988

no 10

Leicester • Derby • Nottingham
Mansfield • Loughborough

EAST MIDLANDS

METRO
GAY

• THE FREE ONE •

Published by METRO GAY, West
PDO, Box 34, Nottingham, NG7 2DL.



PINK PAPER

One of 50,000 people,
wheeling into action
to scrap Section 29.

OUROBOROS IS NOTTINGHAM'S LONGEST RUNNING
VEGETARIAN WHOLEFOOD SHOP. IT IS RUN
COLLECTIVELY BY 5 PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED
TO AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF WORKING AS
WELL AS EATING. WE SELL BEANS AND PULSES
ORGANICALLY GROWN AND FLOURS
AND (HON), FRESH BAKED GOODS,
JAPANESE FOODS, WATER FILTERS,
AND COOKING UTENSILS AND FROZEN MEALS

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WE RE-CYCLE JARS AND BAGS TO SAVE MONEY AND RESOURCES.
WE STOCK SOYA ICE-CREAM SUGAR-FREE
SNACKS, AND SPREADS, CRUELTY-
FREE TOILETRIES, ENVIRONMENTALLY
SAFE CLEANING PRODUCTS, AN EXTENSIVE
RANGE OF HERBS AND SPICES AND WE HAVE
RECENTLY INTRODUCED A SELECTION OF BOOKS
ON VEGETARIANISM/VEGANISM AND FOOD POLITICS

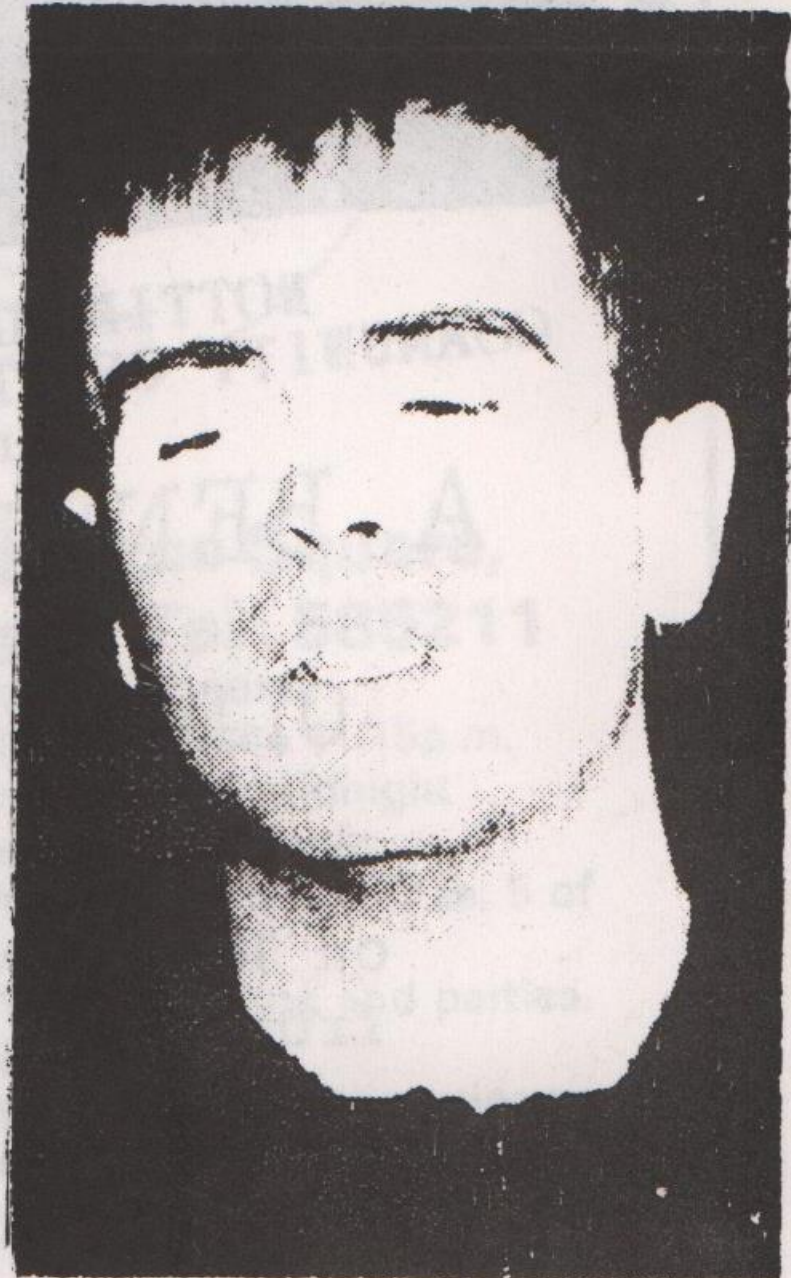
37A, MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM TEL: 419016

SWEAT SHOPPERS MUGGED

Two Gay Sweatshop actors were the victims of a frightening late-night attack in Croydon last month, after performing in "This Island's Mine". Richard Sandells and Dougrey Scott were walking towards British Rail Station. "We had our arms around each others shoulders" said Richard "when two skinheads shouted 'Oi Queers!' at us from behind".

The two actors carried on walking but were set upon by the two skinheads. They shook off their attackers and reached the station where the ticket collector let them to take refuge in his booth. Then approximately 15 skinheads surrounded it. This dangerous situation was only resolved when the station tannoy announced the departure of the last train to London, whereupon the skinheads left to catch their train.

The incident was reported to the police. Richard (pictured here speaking out at a Clause 28 reading in Manchester) and Dougrey played Nottingham recently with Gay Sweatshop's "This Island's Mine".



GAY LIFE



Gay comedian Simon Fanshawe appears at the Old Vic, courtesy of Spotz Cabaret on the 5th June as part of the Nottingham Festival. A veteran of the alternative cabaret circuit, including the Edinburgh Fringe for some years, he has built up a steady following. He has appeared on "Saturday Live" and other shows. Described by 'Time Out' as "One of the most accomplished stand-ups in the business", no one is safe from his satire. Victims include Reagan, the gay community, pot noodles god and death. "Fanshawe terrorises his audience into helpless laughter" (Scotsman).

Leicester parent wins fight



PINK PAPER

The mother of a gay son has, despite Conservative opposition, won the right to hold regular meetings on council premises for parents of lesbians and gays in Leicester. When Frances Nicol requested council facilities to hold the first meeting of Leicester Parents Support Group, she had no idea she would end up at the centre of a well-publicised local storm, with Conservative group leaders invoking Section 28 in an unsuccessful attempt to block her.

"I never thought anyone would object to something as basic as this" she told METRO GAY. "I realise now how important it is for parents too to 'come out' and help each other, especially in view of the hostile climate Section 28 is creating"

Eight parents of gays turned up, several encouraged along by their children. The idea for the meeting was borne of out of Frances' shock and anger that young lesbians and gay men should have to contend with even more isolation, as a result of Clause 28, than they face already. "I have a gay son, who until recently was living alone with it", she said. Several of the parents who came said their views had been changed as a result of the meeting and there are plans for regular meetings in future.

The next one takes place on the 18th May, 7.30, Leicester Town Hall, Cttee Rm. 1. Further details from Lesbian/Gayline (0533) 550667 (see listings).

JUMP AID

A group of volunteers from Nottingham's Aids Information Project are doing a sponsored parachute jump as we go to press. They will jump when the wind's right, but probably on the 18th May. Anyone wishing to sponsor them should contact the Aidsline on (0602) 585526, Mon-Wed, 7-10pm.

THE NEW COSSACK

ROY WELCOMES YOU TO SHEFFIELDS CITY CENTRE BAR

NEWLY REFURBISHED IN
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★ TOP ENTERTAINMENT ★

FRONT DOORS CLOSE 10.30 BACK DOORS OPEN TILL 11.00

45 HOWARD STREET SHEFFIELD
OPPOSITE RAILWAY STATION & BUS STATION

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY
COMMUNITY CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
Presents

A BENEFIT NIGHT

at the
OLD VIC TAVERN
FLETCHERGATE

on THURSDAY 19th May
from 8.30pm till midnight.

Featuring...

The Infamous D.J. MIKE!!!!

'LIVE' Cabaret!!!!

Plus Fab free raffle!!!!

For Gay Men Lesbians
& their Friends.

ADMISSION: £1. waived 75p conc.

First Tuesday of every month is Lesbian and Gay Night at Confettis the newly refurbished Mecca venue in Leeds. £1.5 has been spent to make the Club the most up-to-date and exciting in the region with the latest sound and lighting systems and a 1,500 capacity. The dynamic duo of Dean Roughley and resident DJ, Terry George decided to hire Confettis once a month to offer the Lesbian and Gay communities a good-value night out in smart surroundings. "Lesbians/Gays deserve a venue with high standards", they say. Admission is only £1 (if you clip the ad, alongside), or £2 without. The first night in April was an outstanding success, with coaches from Sheffield, Manchester, Huddersfield, Doncaster and Barnsley and others planned. The Third First Tuesday is on TUESDAY 7th June. Tired of tacky dives then be there or be left out!

Confettis

GAY TUESDAY

7th JUNE

NORTHS LEADING

No 1

MONTHLY IN

LEEDS

Merion Centre

ADMS. Only £1 with Add

TEL 758622/557905 FOR DETAILS

TAYLOR MADE

Pen pushing over the last two years has paid off to the tune of £10,000 for the Nottingham Aids Information Project. Two grants, a one-off £10,000 to fund a full-time worker came from the National Aids Trust and a small two-part grant of £600 from Boots Charitable Trust.

A sponsored parachute jump by members of Nottingham's Aids Information Project and an art auction are the latest in a series of novel fund-raisers that are helping to fill the dwindling coffers of the Project. Co-ordinated by Gary Quarless, the press person of the organisation they have already raised several hundreds of pounds in sponsorships and more money has been promised.

Chairperson of the Project, Graham Gough said that whilst the current windfall was good news there was a need to find



permanent funding so that the Project could embark on a long term strategy of tackling the growing Aids crisis. "So much of our time and energy is spent in day-to-day fund raising that it would be nice to be able to concentrate on a planned, long term approach", he said.

The Project recently said goodbye to Gill Taylor, who joined soon after it was launched in March 1985 and was Chair of the Project for two years. "It is thanks to Gill's singular drive and persistence whilst she was Chair of the Project that we now have these present funds", he said.

Gill has recently taken up a post with Manchester Drugline and everyone at METRO GAY wishes her well for the future.



● Gill Taylor

*Scared, worried, or just
confused about Aids?*

Then Ring

Nottingham

Aids
HELPLINE

0602

585 526

Now open three nights a week
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings 7-10pm.

For Confidential and Accurate
Advice and Information

Nottingham Aids Information Project

Go CVB. 33 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG1 3FF

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DISCO

has moved to larger premises at
14 HILLCREST STREET
HANLEY, STOKE-ON-TRENT
(near junction of Potteries Way and
Bucknall New Road)

MAY 13
SISTERS SLIM
MAY 30
TUNNEL GIRLS



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★ 2 DANCE FLOORS ★

★ RESTAURANT ★

REGULAR

STAR CABARET ACTS

OPEN EVERY NIGHT

8pm TILL 2am

(SUNDAY 11.30 pm)

PART 2 CLAUSE and EFFECT

In the last Metro Gay, Chris Drake, a lesbian mother highlighted the implications of that part of Clause 28 that deals with pretended family relationships. She appeals for more awareness and action from the gay and lesbian community and now sets forth some of her own experiences and initiatives.

As kettles boil and toast browns and kids arrive home, I wonder whether, for many of us, that institution we've called 'the family' has been an inflicted 'norm' which we have rejected as part of our radicalism, and as a structure that has been oppressive to our self-discovery. Thus, we find it trickier to deal with that part of the clause than with the broader ideas of 'promotion'.

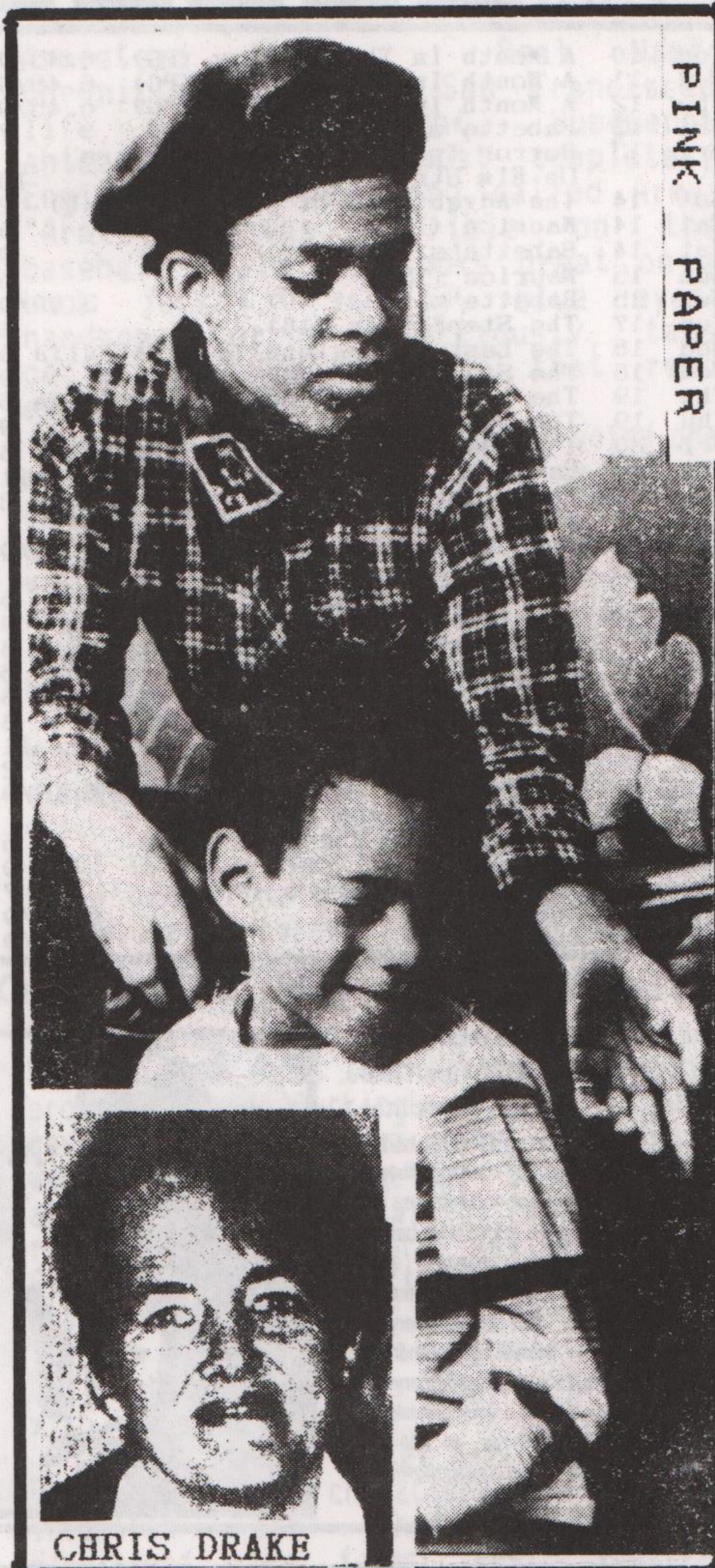
Chris nods. I think that's a big part of it. I realise many gays are saying the nuclear family concept is not for them. Fine. But it's something the gay community has to talk about. Most of us are the product of a family, and all part of one. I've chosen to live my family life in a different way to the way my mother and father lived theirs but it's equally valid. I spent years of my life in a closet where I and other people had put me. I chose to come out, and I'm not going back. I can fight and I will. But my children shouldn't have to. That's what I want to say not only to the heterosexual community but also to the gay community. How can we expect a heterosexual to think about this issue and help if it's not being fully addressed in my own community? I expect to get help from straights, and I damn well expect to get it from my own but I don't feel I am.

She scorns the platitudes of TV commentators who say our fears won't be realised when the bill becomes law.

'Victimisation is already happening. My 13 year-old daughter went through weeks of sheer hell last year because she mentioned her mum was a lesbian. It's not an issue to her. The girls got together and said that I was responsible for the spread of Aids. Everyday, my daughter took leaflets on Aids to school. Everyday, she put one on the notice-board, they'd tear it down; she'd put one back. I offered to go to the school but she insisted on dealing with it. So she confronted these people and was told by the school she was a disruptive influence and would have to move classes. Then I did go to the school and said this is not going to happen or else there'll be repercussions from the highest departments of the education authority. Their first reaction was of being unaware of what was happening, though it had been going on for weeks. They finally admitted that my sexuality was of no concern to other children and would speak to those concerned. There's still taunts of "Your mum's a lesbian" and my daughter just says "So what?" that seems to work because there's not a lot you can say.'

Chris was worried, too at a Parent's Evening when, having asked a community teacher what she was doing about the clause, found that the teacher didn't know about it. Her daughter took her an info pack the next day!

Her 13 year-old son copes in a different way, one which concerns Chris. 'He lives a double life, one inside this Front door and another outside. A child is made to feel so ashamed of how his parent lives his or her life that he has to pretend. It's psychologically bad. He lives in terror of his friends finding out. "Don't wear that badge, mum..." Not to be honest about your home and family is awful. I must continually say it isn't who you have a relationship with, a man or a woman, that's important. It's that they care about each other, feel good and happy about it, and don't hurt anyone. Everything about the world outside is saying the opposite.'



CHRIS DRAKE

PINK PAPER

So how can lesbians and gays without children help expose the idea of 'pretend family relationships'?

'Raise it among trade unions, local branches of political parties; write to every school saying there will be children of lesbians and gays in that school and what will they do about the clause? It will be interesting to see the answers. Not having children doesn't stop you challenging institutions and helping us to do that too. Every leaflet should give this aspect of the clause high priority. Every meeting should have someone to talk about it.'

And once it's law?

'Go to different groups. Many of us stood on picket lines with miners and printworkers, we've worked in the peace movement and anti-apartheid and many groups helping the oppressed in society. Lesbians and gays are strong. When it's law we must still say to straights - We stood with you, now you stand with us and challenge it, like us, every day of your lives. Challenge it, address it, until we recover the rights they've taken away and make inroads into getting more. Don't apologise for asking heterosexuals for support. We've helped them, now we're asking them to help us. And we might consider withholding rates. If I'm not getting the same services as heterosexuals regarding literature I wish to read, or the education my children receive - if I'm a second-class citizen getting a second-class service - I will keep back a proportion of my rates until I'm reinstated as a full member of society.'

Tea is ready, there's nothing pretend about Chris Drake's family, nor the thousands like hers, as they get together to discuss their day. The sickening, evil and hypo-critical suggestion that there is, must be challenged by all lesbians and gays.

'For somebody to say, when you've loved and cared for someone for all of their lives, that it doesn't mean anything, that it's pretending, is very hard to take!'

If the lesbian and gay movement came of age on the first Stop the Clause march back in January it matured beyond all expectations on Saturday when mile upon mile of dykes, faggots and friends paraded through the streets of London to show their anger at Section 28 of the Local Government Bill. People came from all over the world to join the protest which was described by 73 year old Rodney Oakley who had made the journey to London from Swindon with his partner Graham as being "absolutely awe inspiring. The Young, the old, the disabled and the fit, we're all here. It is the proudest day of my entire life". (THE PINK PAPER)



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BARRACUDA

FORTNIGHTLY
ON THURSDAYS

MAY 12th
26th

JUNE 9th
23rd

For Lesbians GayMen & Friends

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES DANCEFLOOR

AIDS-LINE

If you want help
and advice on AIDS

Ring Derby

290766

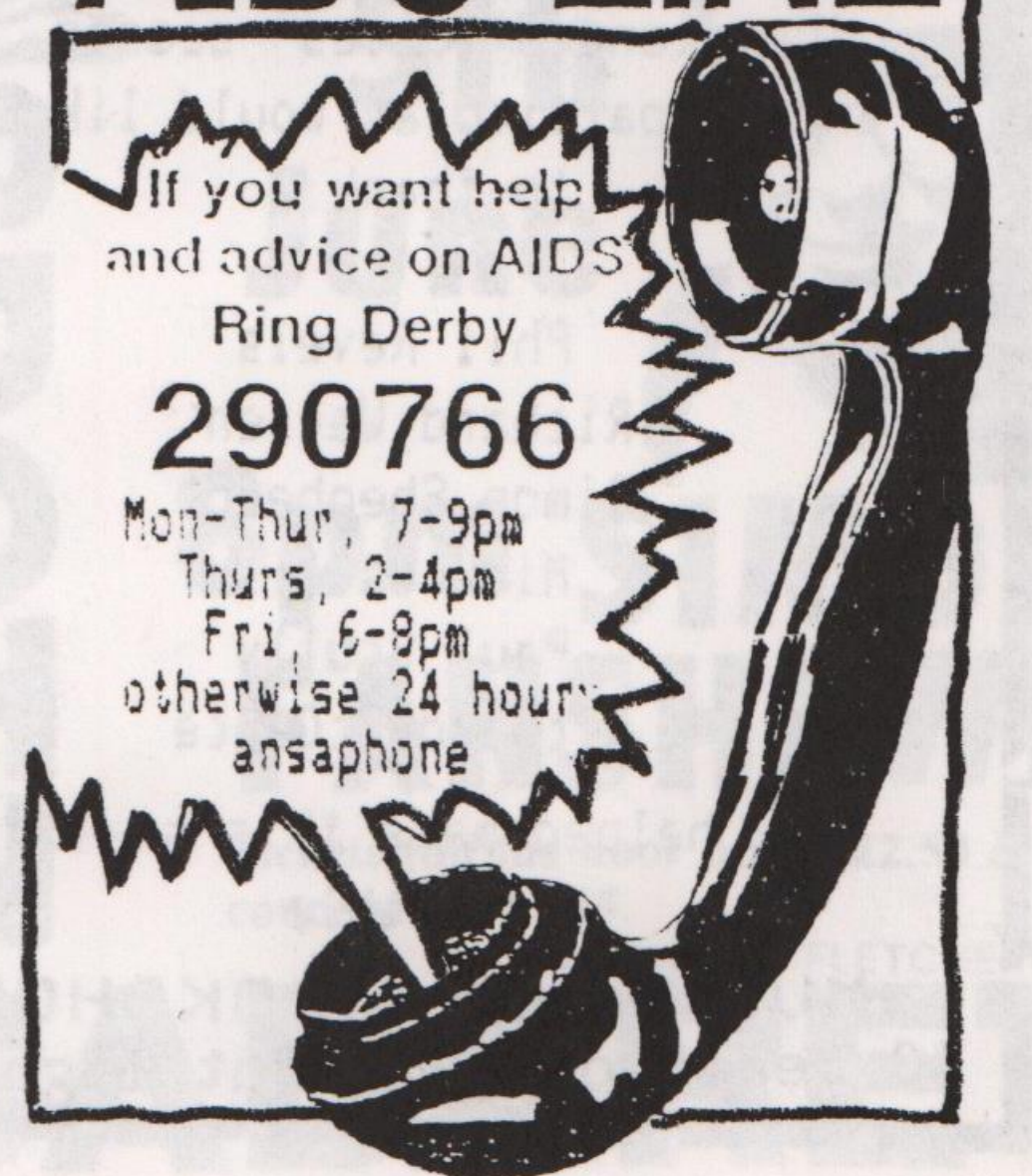
Mon-Thur, 7-9pm

Thurs, 2-4pm

Fri, 6-8pm

otherwise 24 hour

ansaphone



Speaking Out at The METRO CINEMA

From the makers of 'A Room with a View'

'A TRIUMPH'
Daily Telegraph

'ELEGANCE AND WIT'
The Times

'MASTERLY'
Financial Times

'EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES'
Time Out

'SUPERB'
Barry Norman Film 87




Maurice

James Wilby Hugh Grant Rupert Graves
Denholm Elliott Simon Callow Billie Whitelaw Barry Foster
Judy Parfitt Phoebe Nicholls Patrick Godfrey
Ben Kingsley

DIRECTED BY JAMES IVORY PRODUCED BY ISMAIL MERCHANT
Screenplay by Celia Catterall and James Ivory Photographed by Pierre Lhomme
Edited by Katherine Vrooman Costume Designer by Jenny Emery and John Bright
Music by RICHARD ROBERTS

©1987 Original Screenplay by Celia Catterall and James Ivory. All Rights Reserved. A Merchant Ivory Production. Distributed by E. Koster.

DEREK JARMAN'S
THE LAST OF ENGLAND



GREEN LANE

SUMMER RAMBLE to
Millthorpe & Totley,
Derbyshire
SUNDAY, 12th JUNE,
visiting the haunts
of early gay activist,
EDWARD CARPENTER

Meet 10am Salutation Inn,
Maid Marian Way, Nottm. Everyone
welcome, phone phone Chris on
Nottm, 780124 for travel info,

MUSHROOM

MUSHROOM BOOK EVENTS

would like to thank all those
people who supported
'Unsilenced Voices' season
and in particular would like
to thank;

Phil Revels
Richard Warren
Simon Shepherd
Mick Wallis
Paul Scully
Richard McCance

who helped make this season
possible

MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP
10 Heathcote St. Nottingham

Tue 10	A Month In The Country (PG)	6.45/9.15
Wed 11	A Month In The Country (PG)	6.45/9.15
Thu 12	A Month In The Country (PG)	6.45/9.15
Fri 13	Babette's Feast (U)	7.30
Fri 13	Horror Triple Bill - Nightmare On Elm Street 1/2/3 (18)	10.30
Sat 14	The Adventures of Mark Twain (U)	2.00
Sat 14	Maurice (15)	6.00
Sat 14	Babette's Feast (U)	9.00
Sun 15	Maurice (15)	6.00
Sun 15	Babette's Feast (U)	3.00/9.00
Tue 17	The Stepfather (18)	8.00
Wed 18	The Last of England (18) + Alfalfa	6.30
Wed 18	The Stepfather (18)	9.00
Thu 19	The Last of England (18) + Alfalfa	6.30
Thu 19	The Stepfather (18)	9.00
Fri 20	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	8.00
Fri 20	La Bamba (15)	11.00
Sat 21	Who's That Girl (PG)	2.00
Sat 21	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	6.30/9.00
Sun 22	Desert Hearts (18) + Club Des Femmes	5.00
Sun 22	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	9.00
Tue 24	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	8.00
Wed 25	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	8.00
Thu 26	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	8.00
Fri 27	Barfly (18)	8.00
Fri 27	Fellini Satyricon (18)	11.00
Sat 28	Labyrinth (U)	2.00
Sat 28	Barfly (18)	6.15/9.00
Sun 29	All That Heaven Allows (U) + Fear Eats The Soul (15)	5.00
Sun 29	Barfly (18)	9.00
Tue 31	Maidens In Uniform (PG)	7.00
Wed 1	Barfly (18)	6.30/9.00
Thu 2	Barfly (18)	6.30/9.00

MÄDCHEN IN UNIFORM

Dir: LEONTINE SAGAN

With: Dorethea Wieck, Hertha Thiele,
Emilia Unda, Hedwig Schlichter

Germany 1931 83 mins PG Subtitled
Mädchen is set in a Prussian girls' boarding school run
along fascistic lines by a reptilian headmistress and a
crowd of terrorised informers. A love affair between
two rebellious inhabitants, a mistress and a
schoolgirl, sets off a chain of insubordination that
demolishes the regime. This extraordinary film
created a furore in the increasingly authoritarian
Germany of the early '30s and was later banned by
Goebbels on the grounds that it was 'unhealthy'. It
has rightly been hailed both as 'an anti-fascist
masterpiece and a key film of the lesbian movement'.
CINEMA OF WOMEN.



METROPOLIS
CINEMA SHOP

16-22 Goosegate
Nottingham

FILM POSTERS,

STILLS, BOOKS METROPOLIS

CITY LIGHTS C·I·N·E·M·A

Wed 11	Time To Die (15)	7.30
Thu 12	Time To Die (15)	7.30
Fri 13	The Glass Menagerie (PG)	7.30
Sat 14	The Glass Menagerie (PG)	5.00/8.00
Sun 15	The Glass Menagerie (PG)	5.00/8.00
Tue 17	Deeper Into The Labyrinth (P.1)	7.30
Wed 18	The Bee Keeper (18)	7.30
Thu 19	The Bee Keeper (18)	7.30
Fri 20	Making Mr. Right (15)	7.30
Sat 21	Making Mr. Right (15)	5.00/8.00
Sun 22	Ulysses (18)	5.00
Sun 22	Making Mr. Right (15)	8.00
Tue 24	Burglar	7.30
Wed 25	Tin Men (15)	7.30
Thu 26	Tin Men (15)	7.30
Fri 27	4 Adventures of Reinette & Mirabelle (U)	7.30
Sat 28	4 Adventures of Reinette & Mirabelle (U)	5.00/8.00
Sun 29	Diner (15)	5.00
Sun 29	4 Adventures of Reinette & Mirabelle (U)	8.00
Tue 31	Deeper Into The Labyrinth (P.2)	7.30
Thu 2	Lady Caroline Lamb	7.30
Fri 3	Viva Zapata	7.30
Sat 4	Gothic	5.00/8.00
Sun 5	The Bad Lord Byron	5.00
Sun 5	Queimada	8.00
Mon 6	The Long Goodbye	7.30
Tue 7	On The Waterfront	7.30
Thu 9	Chinatown	7.30
Fri 10	Angel Heart	7.30
Sat 11	Angel Heart	5.00/8.00
Sun 12	Hail Rock 'N' Roll	5.00/8.00

City Lights Cinema, Broad Street, Hockley, Nottingham.

Tel (0602) 583184

DESERT HEARTS



MONTH IN THE COUNTRY



DERBY 40170

people · people · people · people

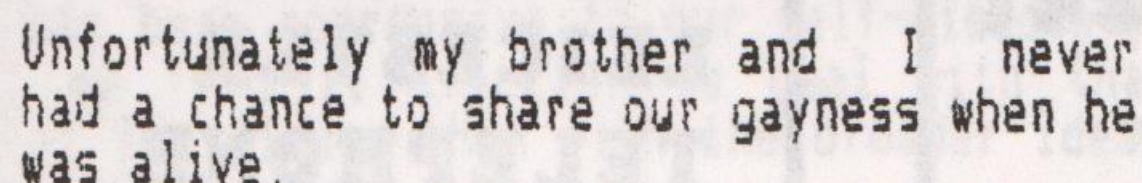
"I was born and bred in Breaston
and have lived in the same street
all my life". It's 40 year-old
Martin Fox talking as we settle
over coffee in his comfortable
detached house in the village.

Not many people these days can claim
to have lived in the same place for forty
years, but this has been Martin's choice.

Both Martin and his older brother went
to Long Eaton Grammar School and were
very close to each other. We had good
times together, Martin remembers. "When
we were both alter boys at the local
church Trevor, my brother, got pissed,
drunk all the communion wine and slumped
over the alter rail at 8am on Sunday
morning! Shortly after leaving
university, he got his first job and
went to live in a cheap lodging house,
which was owned by a Councillor. Trevor
was tragically killed by fumes from a
faulty bathroom water heater where he
lived.

At this time I had known I was gay
for several years, before gay helplines
and clubs existed. I needed to sort
out my confused feelings but my GP wasn't
helpful. He referred me to a
Psychiatrist, who fortunately, said it
was O.K. to be gay. After my brother's
death I was sorting through his things
and talking to his friends, it soon
became clear that he too was gay.

ARMISTEAD MAUPIN



This was a difficult time for Martin who also lost his father two years later from cancer, followed closely by his mother. But still The house has fond memories for him, built by his father who was a builder. "That's one of the reason's why I've stayed here", he says.

He's had a variety of jobs from Pontin's Bluecoat to working in a firework factory and has for the last nine years been a council social worker, which he enjoys. Martin describes himself as a peaceable person - a doer of things with a civic conscience. He was a local councillor for a time and also joined the Friend organisation, first in Nottingham and then co-founding the Derby Friend group, which has been going strong these five years with Martin as Co-ordinator.

Martin breaks off to recount the time when he was in a hurry to park by the Friend offices, near the Cathedral car park when he reversed into the Bishop's bollards which caused a minor diplomatic incident!

In all, he belongs to over 12 voluntary organisations which reflect his diverse interests both gay and straight from Street Warden and CND to the Long Eaton Operatic Society - it's all there! And he manages to be active in them all as well. "If you're involved in something you have to respect that commitment", he warns.

Central to his life is his lover, John. "I have had two relationships before John and I became involved. We had been friends for twenty years before and we just grew together gradually. We had similar interests and just grew together", he adds.

John works for Rolls-Royce in Derby, and lives at the other end of the village. They both believe in the importance of their own space.

Had he any tips for a successful relationship I wondered? "Stay

together for as long as it works, be open, honest and trust one another". Right now he and John are planning a weekend jaunt to Amsterdam, having just returned from a week's holiday in Turkey.

When tragedy has stared you in the face more than once, you learn to take life as it comes, a day at a time, "Live for today but plan for tomorrow." ●

May 26th June-June 2nd & July 28th-Aug 4th

Held in the country at Laurieston Hall, for up to 60 men, weeks are organised by all who are there; share your skills, join in, have fun!

Cost: from £56 (unwaged) to £84 (waged)
all-inclusive. Some lower rates are negotiable.
Write for details to ECCT, 34, Queensdown Road,
London E5 8NN

Armistead Maupin, Real Name, Chronicler of sunny San Franciscan life, gay and straight, Hueguenot antecedents but "almost completely English", hates being called Army. "Armistead was horrible on the baseball field but looks great on a book jacket," 43, blue eyes, handsome, grins infectiously, tans perfectly, writes books that read easily.

He came out in '73 after being voted one of San Fran's ten most eligible bachelors. He'd already done a Vietnamese stint "to put my manhood on the line in a stupid way. My mother said it was my Lawrence of Arabia complex. She was nearer the truth than she thought!" Spring '88 saw him in Nottingham talking about another struggle.

"On Christmas Day, my friend Ian McKellen called to tell us about the clause and that he would publicly come out. Generally, Americans didn't learn about it until they read a very short news story about the women who abseiled down the House of Lords. So if you have any doubts about the effectiveness of such tactics put them to rest because that was the way the story reached the States." He also knew about the lesbian suffragette protest outside Buckingham Palace, "that gave me a shiver because my grandmother was an English suffragette. She travelled all over the country talking about women's rights in 1913 before moving to the States. I feel connected to her campaign here in a funny sort of way, 75 years later. The causes are intimately linked, Gay rights and women's rights have to do with the same oppressor."

Indeed, Maupin writes well about women. DeDe and D'or are characters of high comic invention and sharp observation. Wiminwood, the forest music festival they attend in the latest novel, 'Significant Others', gives the book its wickedest humour.

I try and inhabit all the characters when I write about them. I think it works most of the time. Women tell me it does.



Church Street
MANSFIELD
Mansfield 23607

**JEAN SAYS:
"GER ON DOWN
TO THE HART!"**

Saturday 14th May

MR. HART

Big, butch & beautiful
(Belt & Medal to be won)

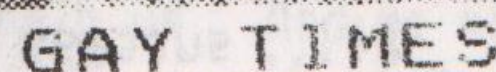
Saturday 21st May

MR. & MRS. CONTEST

1st prize, Meal for 2
(Open to Girls & Guys)

Saturday 28th May
TOP DRAG APPEARANCE

Every Friday night is disco night. All the latest sounds and yer old favourites as well



I don't consider women to be some exotic species outside my imagination."

Maupin is genuinely amused and embarrassed by comparisons from everyone from Proust to Waugh. "Someone asked me the other day if I was the Dickens of San Francisco. I said I was the Cartland of the Castro! What I do is essentially my own." The novels are obstinately contemporary; references (fashion, music, linguistics) hardly seem crafted for posterity's concern. "Oh, they'll be funny later on precisely because they'll have no importance later on."

Understandably then, he's an E. F. Benson fan and laughs as he relates a fellow appreciator in a pretty English town calling Benson's homosexuality 'a vicious lie'. And the bookshop lady who writes notelets which she sticks on the cover of books saying what she thinks. "The Poems of Rupert Brooke said 'read the lovely poems but don't believe those rubbishy revelations in the introduction'. My lover, Terry, and I were so angry we were going to inflict guerilla damage on the store until we saw the Swimming-Pool Library with no note. Obviously hadn't read it!"

Maupin is easy-going but stops at calling himself an optimist. "we have to learn how to bring laughter into our lives in order to cope. I've seen a spirit here as never before. There's a hopefulness for the future. People are fighting. It's thrilling"

TERRENCE STEVENSON

Sunday

5th June



8pm SIMON FANSHAWE

Tickets (on the door only): £2.50 & £2, concessions £1.25.

OLD VIC TAVERN FLETCHERGATE

CABARET

JR PLUS PETE



Photo: Richard McCance



VOODOO Alternative Clothing

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Not all success stories in the recording industry begin and end in London. METRO GAY's Laurence de Souza dropped in on John Ramage (J.R.) and Pete Rigby, whose first big success was the 'pumped up megamix' of 'Toy Boy' by Sinitta which they produced in Nottingham, where they intend to continue operating.

MG: A CHEF AND AN ENGINEER SEEM AN UNLIKELY MIX! HOW DID IT ALL START?

Pete (the engineer) was in the Casablanca Club, where John (the chef) was the resident D.J. Pete takes up the story.

"This was the first time I heard John D.J.ing; my immediate thought was 'this guy's got some great sounds and I want to borrow some of his older classics' - the problem being no one lends out irreplaceable records to total strangers, so I decided to get to know him better (I'm still waiting). When we talked it was obvious that John was ready to do something more creative musically. Eventually we got round to discussing the possibility of doing remixes together.

John breaks in, "It wasn't until a year later when we finally got together to do some real work and we haven't looked back.

MG: HOW DO YOU WORK TOGETHER?

John: "It's a lot of fun. We take our work very seriously and spend hours together on each project. Therefore it is important that we have a good working relationship. Pete: "Yeah, we're always laughing about something - usually taking the piss out of each other. John: We work well together because I can listen to a number and immediately I've got ideas on how to restructure it. Then we go into the studio and put all our ideas together. Pete: I've worked with musicians and musical associates on similar projects in the past, but the results were never as good as we have together. Our skills are complementary - it's almost like a chemistry.

MG: IS IT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR BOTH BEING GAY?

Not at all. Being gay doesn't necessarily mean we both think alike. We'd work well together even if one of us was straight because our ambitions and goals are the same; in less than a year, hard work and dedication has got us the

recognition we feel we deserve. It would have taken separate individuals at least five years.

MG: ARE THERE PROBLEMS WORKING OUTSIDE LONDON?

Obviously Nottingham is smaller than London, so we have fewer acts here. Most of the music industry is based in London which gives it a certain mystique around the music scene to justify its existence there. Pete: If you have the talent and dedication, your surroundings don't matter.

MG: HOW DID YOU BECOME KNOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE?

John: By pestering record companies and never taking no for an answer. If you know you are good you must just keep pushing for a break. Ours came with 'Toy Boy'. Pete: It's difficult to break into the music business. You're competing with a lot of egos. Everyone is saying 'I'm the best' - it took dedication and a belief in ourselves to convince others that we are the best.

MG: TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO RECORD/RELEASE 'TOY BOY'.



John & Pete mix 'n' matching

John: I was on the phone to Fanfare Records, and whilst we were talking I happened to mention we'd done a really good mix of 'Toy Boy' - good enough to be released. They wanted to hear it. At this point we were still setting up our studio, and had never actually worked together. So I contacted Pete and told him the mix had to be done that night. Pete came straight over. Having our own studio enabled us to start work when we wanted, and we worked

GAY TIMES



SINITTA

right through until we were both completely satisfied. Fanfare records loved the remix and asked if we would do a second mix for the B side. In two weeks it was released. We were on our way.

MG: SO WHAT GOODIES CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU NOW?

John: We've just had our first release in the States, 'Cross My Broken Heart' by Sinitta and 'Walk Away' by Joyce Simms, courtesy of Hot Tracks Records. We also have two other tracks on Power Records, and there's a Petshop Boys' mix awaiting release for the Music Factory.

We're currently working on an L.P. featuring our remixes of such classics as, 'Eat You Up', 'You're A Beat', 'Catch Me I'm Falling In Love' and 'American Love'. The L.P. is entitled 'Passion Gold' for Passion Records and should be in the shops by July.

We're having a celebratory party at the Hippodrome in London for the release of our L.P. when all the stars featured on the album and more will be present.

MG: WHERE DO YOU GO NEXT?

Now that we have our own studio the obvious follow on is to start producing our own records on our own label. After this who knows... ●●●

Rev. Jesse Jackson



GAY TIMES

Hawley & Rodgers

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Leading candidates in the US presidential elections have been struggling to gain 'the gay vote', in marked contrast to political reticence this country. At a recent New York election campaign rally, Rev. Jesse Jackson addressed 2,000 enthusiastic lesbian and gay supporters. He reminded them, they were part of America's "patchwork quilt" - recalling the huge quilt that was the centre-piece of last October's March on Washington, DC which Jackson had addressed. Promising full equality for lesbians/gays he said that, as President, he would ban discrimination "at every level" and a huge increase in Aids funding and health care. Homosexuals would have the same right as any couple to adopt children, unlike rival Democrat, Mike Dukakis who, whilst supporting gay rights, refused to support our rights to adopt or foster children. Minnesota Representative Karen Clark, a lesbian and state co-chair of Jackson's campaign, said that Jackson was "the first and only presidential candidate to respectfully address our issues as a community."

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The popular Excalibur Club in Stoke-on-Trent (formerly the 141) has moved to massive new premises making it one of the largest gay clubs in the Midlands. The move was made at the end of 1987 and the club can now boast four bars, two dance-floors, and a restaurant amongst its many attractions! Bob Stewart and Ray Toulson (pictured below) made the move from London several years ago and have never looked back - nor have the gay crowd in Stoke. Run by gays for gays both Bob and Ray believe you should offer a fair deal for a fair price, after all they say, "Don't gays and lesbians deserve the best that's on offer?" And the club is also responsive to

the local gay/lesbian community.

Stop The Clause Group meet there and there's a notice board. Friday nights has a women-only bar, & there's a leather bar in the Keep and every Tuesday TV's meet in the lounge.

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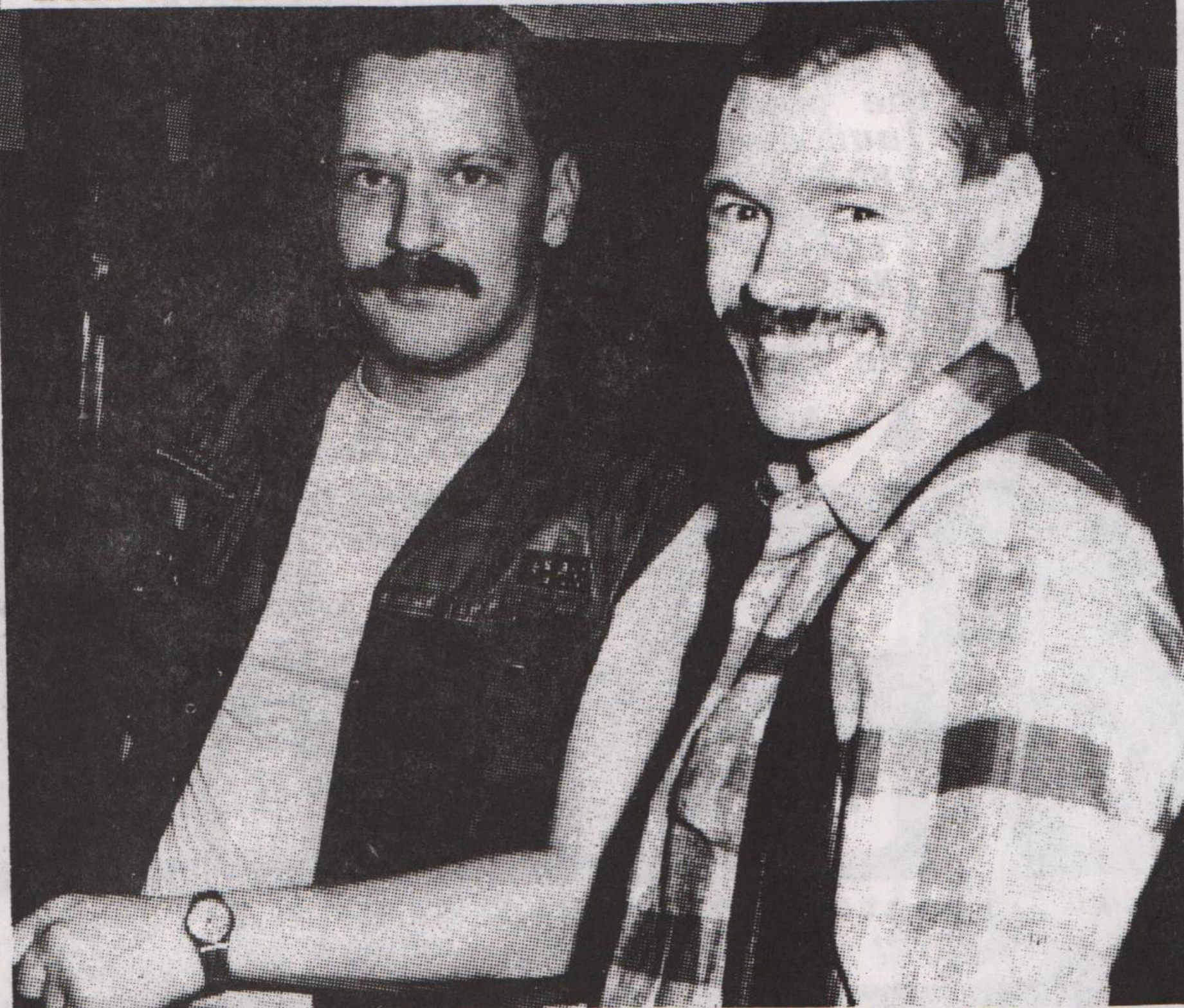
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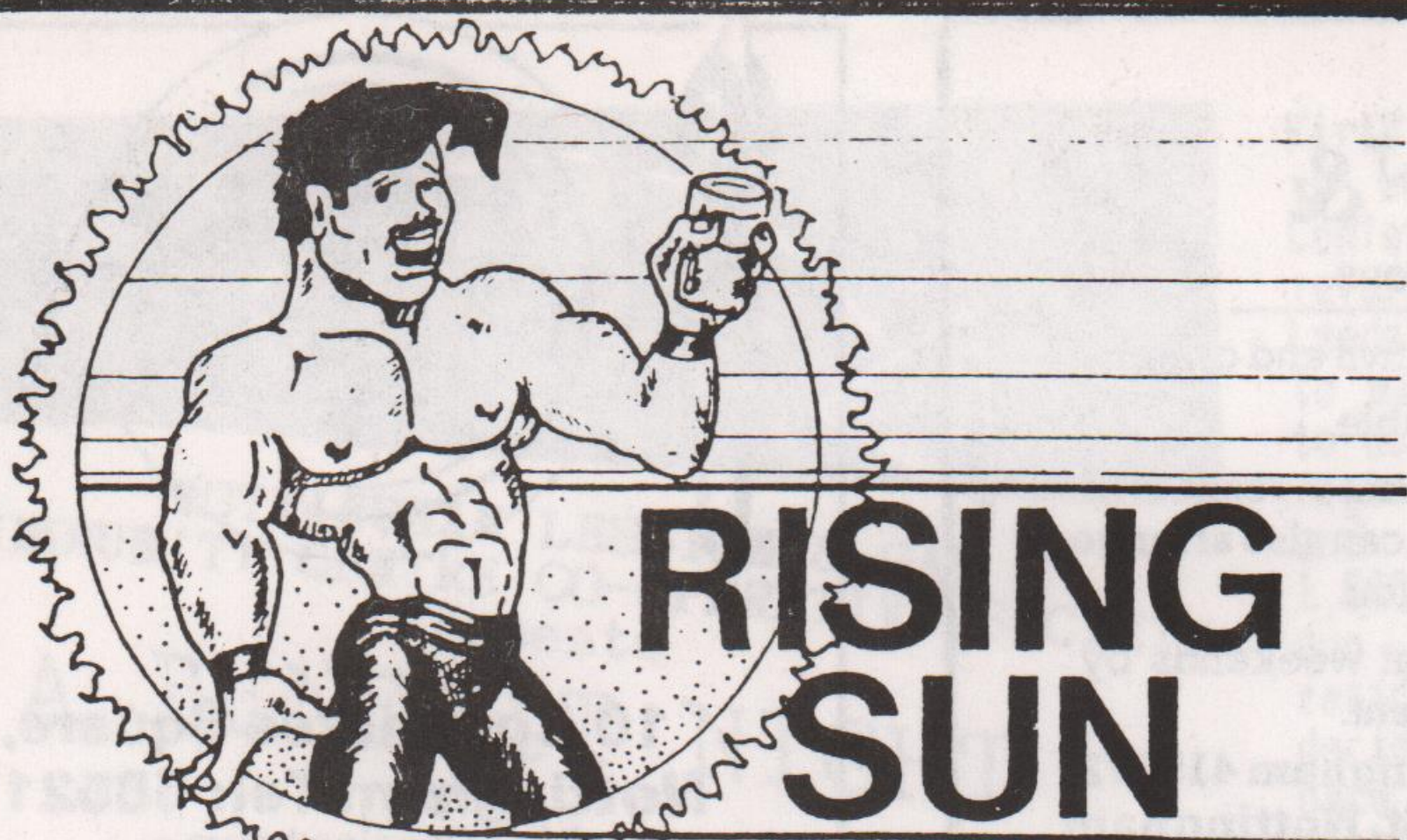
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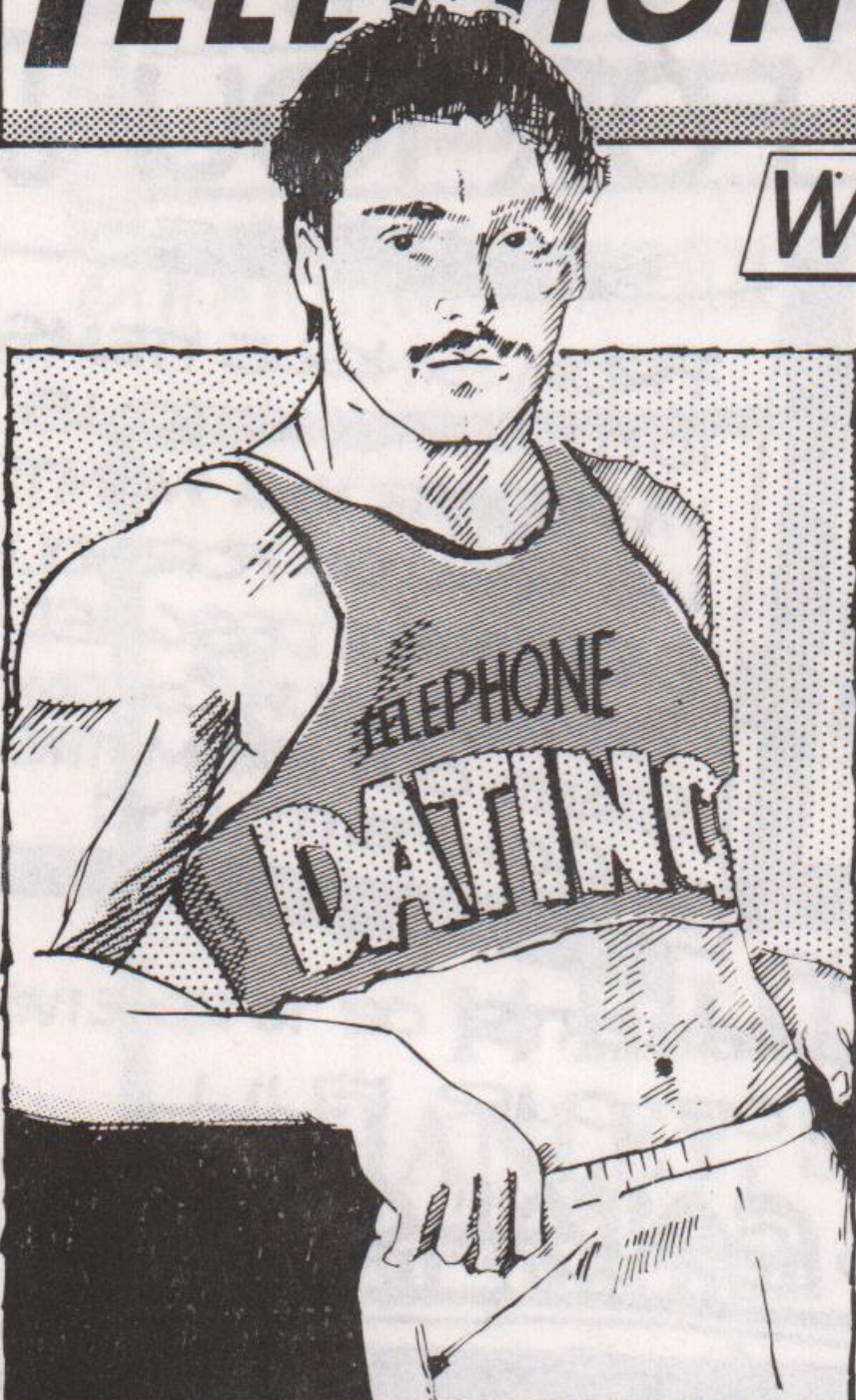
15th June PINK GIN

15th June MISS GLADYS from LONDON

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Derby's much vaunted Boyz Plus at the 20th Century Club in Derwent Street in Derby came to an abrupt end, on the 20th April on the night Hazel Dean was billed to appear. The Manager, Nick Mooney, former owner of the Part II Club, Nottingham, was unavailable but a spokesperson for the Club first said it was closing for electrical repairs. Unconfirmed reports say that the club has been sold.

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WOT'S GOIN' OFF

Daily, NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Upstairs at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St. Nottm. Tel: 0602 483697/411475 (for messages, 24 hr. ansaphone). Open: Mon-Fri, 10-4pm, + Sat. 10-1pm, Library open, Tues-Thur, 10-4pm & Thur. 7-9pm (& 1st Fri of each month).
Every Saturday, LEICESTER COFFEE BAR run by Leicester/Lesbian Gayline, 11-5.30pm, Tues. 8-10pm (Women only), 45 King Street, Leics.
Every Monday, LESBIAN/GAY YOUTH GROUP, (up to 25), 45 King St. Leicester. 7.45pm-10ish.
Every Tuesday NOTTINGHAM, Clause 29 Meetings, Admiral Duncan, Lower Parliament St. 8pm
11th-12th May, "A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY", Metro Derby, (see listings).
12th May, FEVER DISCO, Barracuda, Nottingham.
12th May, BENEFIT CABARET for THT & Leicestershire Aidsline at University, tickets, Blackthorn Books, Leicester.
13th May, "THE GLASS MENAGERIE", City Lites, Nottingham, Dir. Paul Newman with Joanne Woodward
14th May, "MR. HART" contest, White Hart, Church St. Mansfield,
14th-15th May, "MAURICE", Derby Metro.
15th May, IAN McKELLEN ACTING SHAKESPEARE Leicester Haymarket Theatre Leicester: 539797. ALL PROCEEDS TO AIDS CHARITIES.
15th May, Party organised for People with Aids & A.B.P + Partners, 5-8pm, 45 King Street, Leicester.
16th May, "PICTURE PALACE", The Leadmill, Sheffield.
18th & 19th May, "THE LAST OF ENGLAND", Derby Metro, (see listings). 19th May, Nottingham Community Centre Co-op, A BENEFIT NIGHT, Old Vic Tavern, Fletchergate, 8.30pm to midnight.
22nd May, "DESERT HEARTS", Derby Metro.
22nd May, GAY OUTDOOR CLUB (East Midlands) Rambling: Linby-Blidworth-Newstead Abbey, distance 10 miles. Meet Lay-by, Linby/Papplewick Road, OS 120-540/513.
26th May, "FEVER" DISCO at the Barracuda, Nottm.
26th May-2nd June, GAY MENS WEEK, Laurieston Hall, Scotland (see ad on "people" page)
31st May, "MAIDENS IN UNIFORM", Metro, Derby
2nd June "PICTURE PALACE", Womens Theatre Group, Regal Centre, Worksop. 482896.
5th June, SIMON FANSHAW at THE OLD VIC, Fletchergate, 8pm. £2.50 & £2, £1.25 (concs).
"Fanshawe terrorises his audience into helpless laughter" (The Scotsman).
7th June, CONFETTIS, LEEDS mega disco, Hi-NRG & House, Merrion Centre, Run by Gays for Gays.
9th June, "FEVER" DISCO at the Barracuda

The Famous Astoria Gay Night is CLOSED

The Astoria Monday nighters have finally closed. Because of increased trouble at night clubs throughout the city, licences have been reduced by Nottingham City Council to midnight in a number of clubs including the Astoria. As we go to press it is not known whether there are plans to reopen the popular venue. Two months' ago that they launched a second one-nighter on the 3rd Monday, which was a slow starter. As we go to press we hear that New York, New York kicked off their first regular one-nighter on Monday 3rd May, and by all accounts they were bursting at the seams. So its New York, New York, for the moment.

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