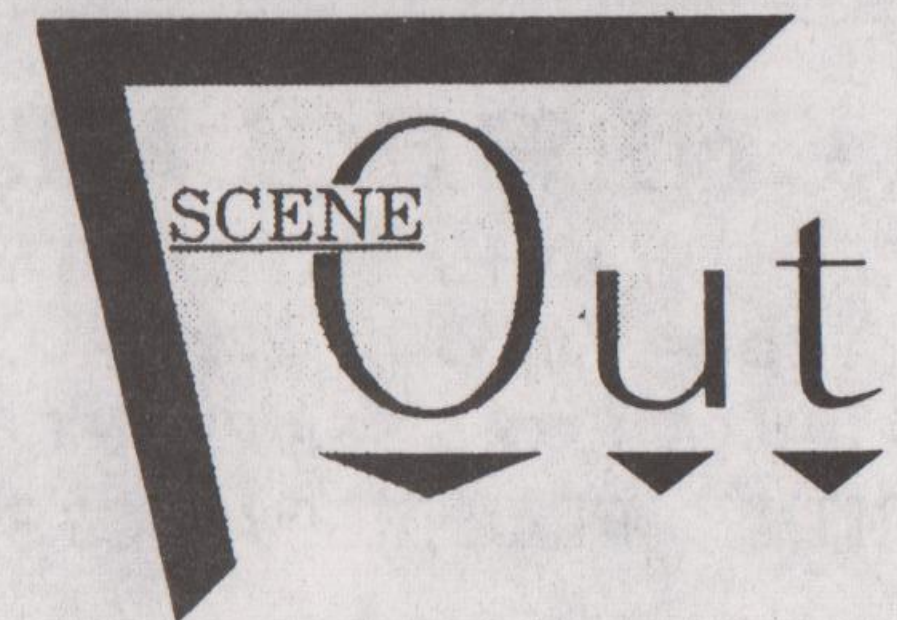


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COMING OUT

Visibility is vital; The problem is that Pride is only once a year. That once a year should be seized. It's important that we are there in strength, not just in ones and twos. We will then be seen as we really are; like heterosexuals we are an infinitely varied bunch of people.

Pride is a demonstration of friends and lovers; where you get to wave to all the people you've worked with or had sex with in years past or simply had a crush on. They are all there, marching together. And the bonds are not just political links. It's a great pulse of emotional excitement that you get from marching with people you feel you belong to. It does us all good. The joy, strength and pleasure in being together is so vital and pulls me there year after year".



'PRISONERS' PLAN PRIDE PARTY

Said Adrian; "I would advise anyone thinking of booking with this company to seriously think again". Roz believed that the raids were part of an organized attack on the gay community. "This resort was built with the pink pound. Today the Canaries take more trade than the Costa Brava, they want us out now", she said. This claim seems to be backed up by the local press who ran a front page headline; "Black Tuesday for Gays".

As for the 'Prisoners' they plan to rally on the Pride march under the 'Cell Block' banner, and will have a reunion party at the end of Pride.

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COMING OUT ON THE 24th?

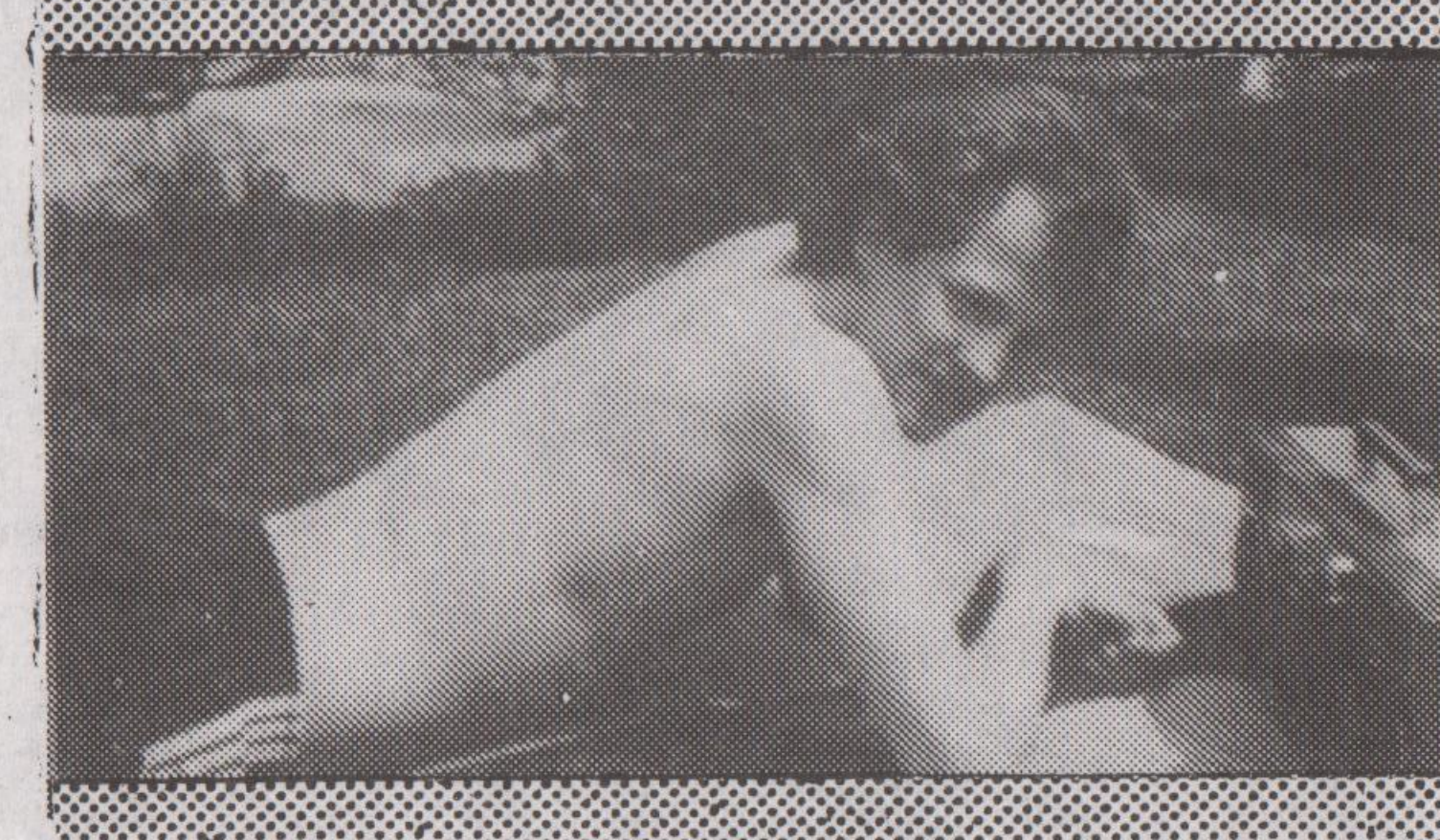
In the run up to Pride '89 we asked SIMON SHEPHERD, an out-gay lecturer for 13 years at Nottingham University for some thoughts on the importance of 'Coming Out'.

"Being Out makes life much easier to live - you no longer need look over your shoulder all the time; no winks, no nudges, no games to be played. In fact you are much less vulnerable when out.

It's important to come out if you can. It provides a role model and focal point for those who are less sure or confident about their own identity.

The dominant heterosexual culture teaches that lesbians and gay men are somehow flawed human beings which is a lie, so my being out is a constant reminder to people that I am glad and proud to be gay. There's no 'homosexual' problem - it's a heterosexual one so hetties will just have to learn to get their act together.

(Continued Back Page)



'PRISONERS' PLAN PRIDE PARTY

A Derby man was thrown into jail last month along with 130 other gay tourists when Spanish police went on the rampage on the holiday island of Gran Canary. Prisoner Cell Block 'H' fan club organizer Roz Vecsey was at Playa del Ingles with her brother Adrian when baton-wielding police invaded several gay discos and bars at 3am, forcing patrons and bar staff out into the street. The tourists were all herded into trucks, strip searched, forced to sign statements, and kept for up to 21 hours in bloodied and urine soaked cells.

Roz and Adrian were staying at La Mirage complex, operated by Uranian Travel. One of the clients Simon Roche, reckoned he would still have been in jail if it had not been for the insistence of a German travel rep, who refused to leave the police station until Simon was finally released. Despite being held along with the other tourists the Uranian representative refused to use his Spanish when an interpreter was called for and made no attempt to get his clients out of jail. Uranian Travel's parent company, Infocus Leisure Services, is a member of ABTA, the travel agents watchdog body, and angry clients have already complained to them, as well as the Foreign Office and the Spanish Government Tourist Office.

(Continued on Back Page)



CELL BLOCK STAR HITS DERBY



'Prisoner' fans can expect to see Val Lehman who plays Bea Smith in the Cult Aussie Soap, Prisoner Cell Block 'H' when she arrives from Australia on the 26th June. Roz Vecsey and Tracey Elliott organizers of the Cell Block Fan Club have arranged a tour, insisting that all contracts signed include a stipulation that the 2,000 Fan Club members have first choice of seats at reduced rates. She plays the Excalibur Club, Stoke-on-Trent on the 1st July followed by Derby Playhouse on 2nd July, hosted by Central TV presenter, Anna Soubry. Said Roz; "The Playhouse is for fan club members only and is already a sell-out". Other dates include the Nightingale Club, Birmingham on 14th July and Leicester Place on July 15th.

Meanwhile the row between TV personality Michael Parkinson and the Fan Club's organizers blew up when Parkinson was asked for his comments on why the programme was so popular. He replied 'It is made popular by two groups of people in my view; those who believe Elvis Presley is alive and working in a bar in Worthing, the rest are lady sumo wrestlers and lady weightlifters. These two people from Derby are incredible; that is the kind of person that watches - severe haircuts my dear and that sort of thing'. But organizers, stress that the (cont. Back Page)

Union Les-Gay gp.meets in Nottm.

Lesbians & Gays in Nalgo are to meet in Nottingham on the 21st June to discuss ways of setting up a regular campaigning and support group in the city. The idea for the meeting came out of an earlier regional NALGO Equal Opportunities conference in Chesterfield when lesbians and gay men proposed a series of meetings. There has already been a successful first meeting in Leicester when it was thought that a regional group which rotated around different towns would be more viable. There will be two speakers at the Nottingham meeting, Michael Coxon, Convenor of the Leicester City NALGO Lesbian/Gay Group and a lesbian member from NALGO national office. The meeting takes place in the NALGO Regional Office 15 Castlegate, Nottingham (off Maid Marian Way), from 6.30 to 8pm in Committee Room 2, Ground Floor (No steps). Further details from Richard McCance (0602) 780124 (evenings).

ASIAN GAYS' DISCO

A new support group for young Asian lesbians and gays has formed in Leicester and already has forty members. Shakti, - which means welcome - was first set up in London and following a recently networked Asian News programme which featured the group, over 500 enquiries flooded in to the group. Now forty strong, and meeting regularly in Leicester Shakti is promoting its first Bhangra lesbian/gay disco on July 1st at Leicester University. A spokesperson for Shakti, Ash said that all lesbians and gays would be welcome at the alternative disco and if successful they would become regular events. (see advert on page 8).

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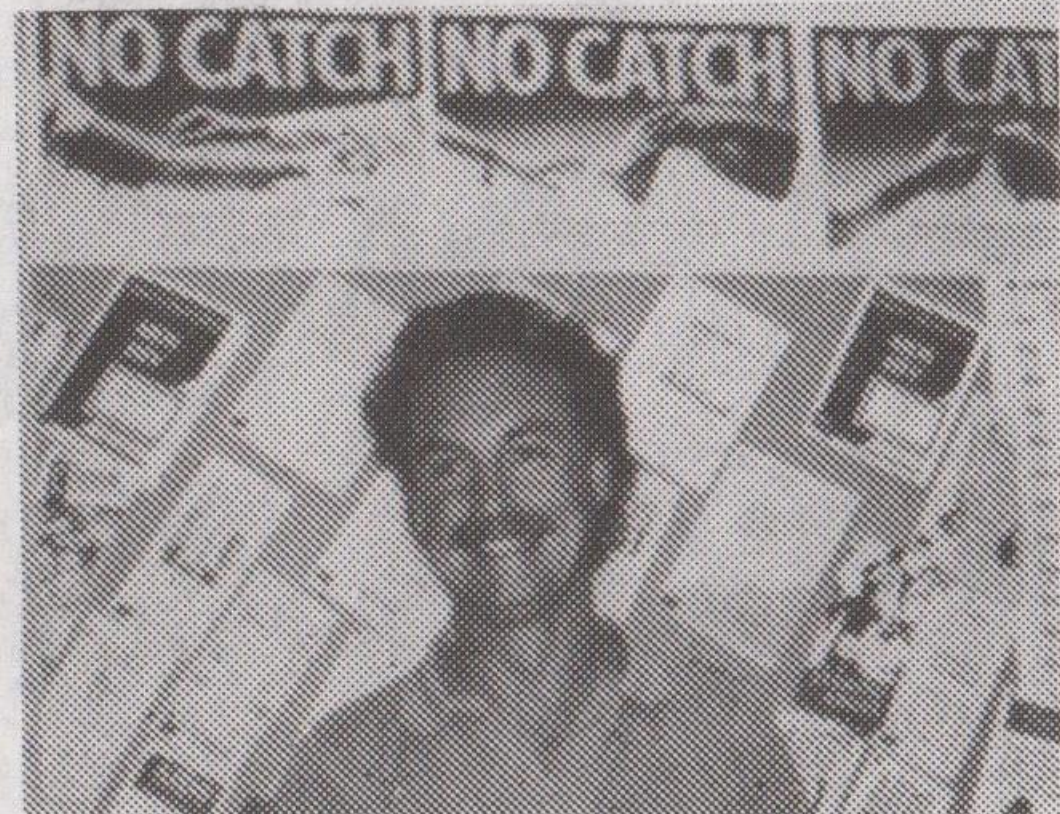
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'My lasting impression of San Francisco is of human beings fighting back.'



It's taken Clive Aylesbury - the new Aids Liaison Officer for Southern Derbyshire Health Authority - two years and approximately 8,000 miles to come all the way from Sheffield to Derby. Why so long? Well, Clive took the scenic detour in the summer of '87, stopping off in San Francisco for four months along the way. Besides what does a straight man do for fun in the world's gay capital?

Clive had arranged the volunteer placement with the San Francisco Aids Foundation, and he says it was the warmth he received from the mainly gay workers there, that eventually led him to enter the field of Aids education on his return to Britain. "A Friend drew my attention to the Derby job and I decided to apply", he says.

Whilst in 'Frisco Clive became active in the 'Food Bank', where free weekly groceries are provided to low income People With Aids. He even had his own special place of honour advertising the services of The Food Bank in that summer's massive Gay Pride parade, as the man himself reminisces.



"I was with the Aids Foundation floats and support groups at the front, dressed as a giant carrier bag full of food and giving out condoms! Mind you I hope that we will repeat this in Derbyshire". But how, I asked, did Clive's fellow volunteers react to having a straight "Liney" working alongside them at the Aids Foundation?

"My being straight was a bit of a novelty because the Foundation had its roots in the gay movement within San Francisco and it still is predominantly gay. There were no problems in terms of my being accepted. Being English was probably more unusual than being straight. Many people just wanted to hear me speak... say anything... (he breaks into infectious laughter).

But there must have been times when he found himself being chatted up by the gay men he was working with?

"Oh yes, but then it seemed appropriate to say, thanks very much but I'm straight. And from then on it was a bit of a joke, like the idea some people have that being gay is somehow perverted or strange and if you give people tablets they would be alright again. We did a role reversal on that and I would come in and say 'I've been taking the tablets but it doesn't work!' and there'd be jokes. But, on a more serious note, I can appreciate what it must be like to be discriminated against (or as much as any straight man can appreciate), inspired by much of what he saw in San Francisco, Clive came back to Britain with changed perceptions on how to tackle Aids education.

In the past I've worked with low income people, who suffered more than their fair share of poor housing and unemployment. They weren't used to having their say because they didn't know how to go about making their voices heard. They needed help in making their needs known.

When AIDS emerged in the States, it was in the hands of the medical 'experts', but it was soon plain that doctors couldn't come up with an answer and meanwhile PWA's continued to be treated as lepers until they themselves said enough is enough and eventually made the authorities listen to them as consumers of the government's policies.

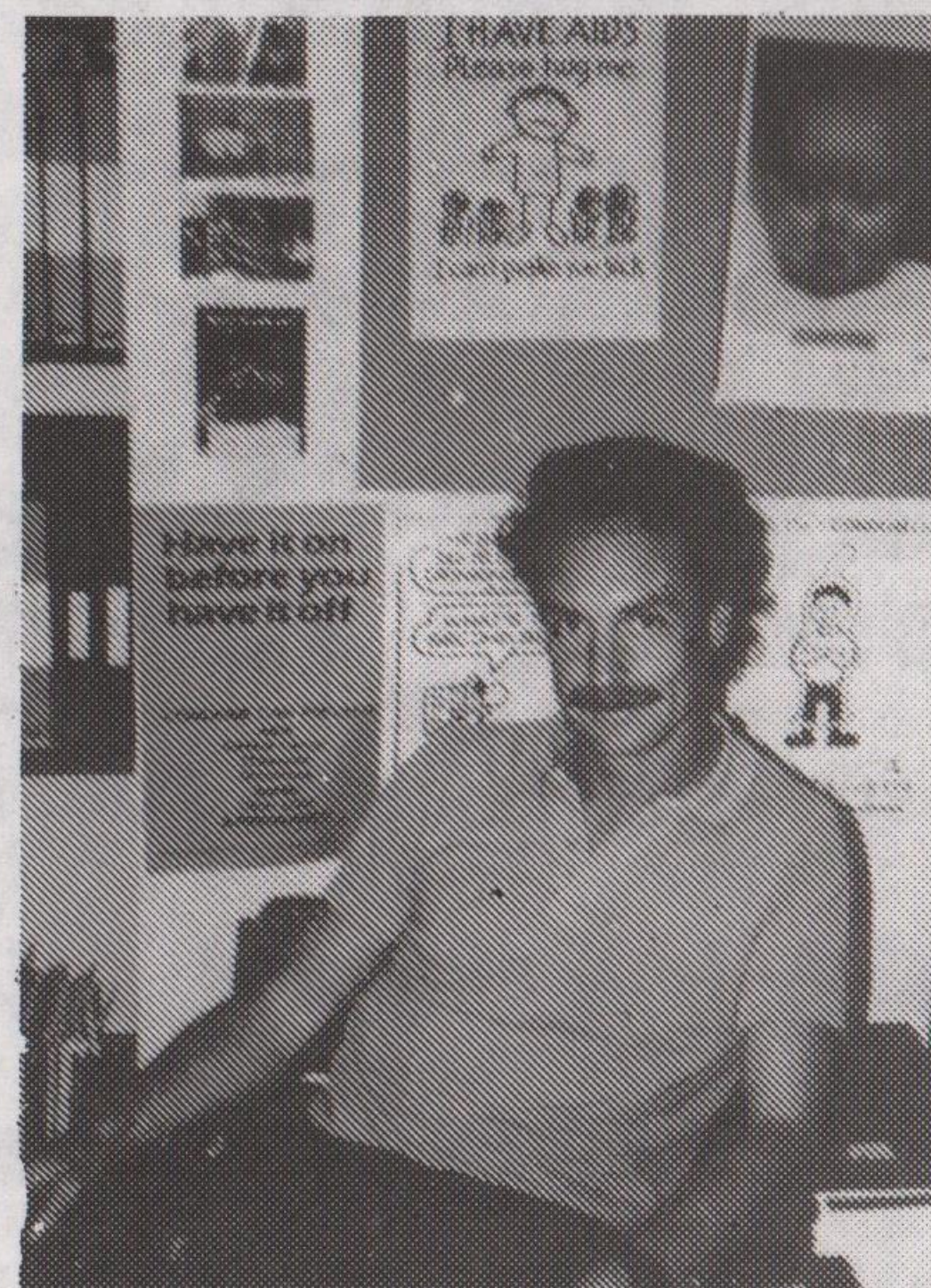
In both instances this led to more control over people's lives and destinies, for those in the frontline are often best placed to know what's needed and where.

I was forced to question my own assumptions of what PWA's were and were not. One day when I went into the office I was told that a volunteer I had worked alongside for over two months had been suddenly hospitalised with a severe attack of skin cancer. Then it clicked with me that a number of my co-workers actually had Aids but were nevertheless providing a valuable

SALOME'S LAST DANCE
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contribution to the fightback. I get very pissed off with most of the media here who still insist in using terms like 'Aids Victim' or 'Aids sufferer' just because it sells newspapers.

It is important that people, whether gay or straight should come out and speak up for proper funding on the Aids front; we all need to stand up and argue for better services. However, I realise it's very easy for me to say that but difficult for people in Derbyshire who may be HIV positive to do that. It would take an enormous amount of courage. And the rest of the gay community?

I fear that gaymen are fed up with all the publicity on safer sex which may make them blasé about it and turn off completely. Trying to find new ways of putting messages across is quite a challenge. Not that Clive views the question of HIV as solely a gay men's health crisis - "While I was working mainly with gay men, AIDS is moving more and more to injecting drug users and non-gays. In England it's an issue for everyone. Yes, I see AIDS as an issue for everyone."

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The release of TORCH SONG TRILOGY is sure to be one of the movie events of the year. Four years ago Harvey Fierstein's award-winning play blazed through Broadway and the West End as an epic of loves lost and won of a New York drag queen, and this screen adaptation, with many of the original cast, loses none of that version's wit and integrity. Indeed, it's one of the few features from Hollywood, or anywhere for that matter, to examine gay lives in a heterosexual world with compassion, humour and few compromises. Starring Fierstein himself as the artiste Arnold Beckoff struggling to break the grip of his overbearing mother, through a decade of uneasy relationships. When he finally finds love in his relationship with a male model, the possibility of adopting a child and living as a 'legitimate' family leads to tragedy. And as Arnold's disapproving mother returns, his search for love and self respect is challenged most dramatically. "Anyone who has ever had a lover or a mother will laugh and cry with Arnold"

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Sat 10 Jun	Just Ask For Diamond Mat.	2.30
Mon 12 Jun	The Moderns	8.15
Mon 12 Jun	Dada Dada (Prog 3)	8.45
Tue 13 Jun	Night of the Hunter	8.15
Tue 13 Jun	The Moderns	8.15
Wed 14 Jun	The Moderns	8.15
Wed 14 Jun	Legend of the Suram Fortress	8.45
Fri 16 Jun	SALOME'S LAST DANCE	11.15
Sat 17 Jun	D.A.R.V.I.L. Mat.	2.30
Sat 17 Jun	Karat Khan - Leicester Proms	7.30
Mon 19 Jun	Manhunter	8.15
Mon 19 Jun	Spirit of the Beehive + La Lumiere Nuit	8.45
Tue 20 Jun	La Strada	6.15
Tue 20 Jun	Manhunter	8.15
Wed 21 Jun	Manhunter	8.15
Wed 21 Jun	La Strada	8.45
Fri 23 Jun	Altered States	Late 11.15
Sat 24 Jun	The Railway Children Mat.	2.30
Fri 30 Jun	Lair of the White Worn Late	11.15
Sat 1 Jul	The Wiz	Mat. 2.30
Mon 3 Jul	Mon Uncle	Mat. 2.30
Mon 3 Jul	The Thin Blue Line + Eponine	8.45
Mon 3 Jul	Tucker	8.45
Tue 4 Jul	West Side Story	Mat. 2.30
Tue 4 Jul	THE LAW OF DESIRE	6.15
Tue 4 Jul	The Thin Blue Line + Eponine	8.30
Wed 5 Jul	The Red Shoes	Mat. 2.30
Wed 5 Jul	Jeux Interdits + Amelia And the Angels	6.15
Wed 5 Jul	THE LAW OF DESIRE	8.30
Fri 7 Jul	The Devils	Late 11.15
Sat 8 Jul	Care Bears Movie	Mat. 2.30
Sat 8 Jul	Shogun He + Made in Heaven	8.15
Sun 9 Jul	Shogun	8.15
Sun 9 Jul	Out of Africa	7.30
Mon 10 Jul	Sinba	Mat. 2.30
Mon 10 Jul	Cry Freedom + The Burning	6.15
Tue 11 Jul	2001 - A Space Odyssey Mat.	2.30
Tue 11 Jul	A World Apart	6.15
Tue 11 Jul	Myapantula	8.30
Wed 12 Jul	My Life As A Dog	Mat. 2.30
Wed 12 Jul	The Brass Is Singing	6.15
Wed 12 Jul	Cap De Thiaroye	8.15
Thu 13 Jul	The River	Mat. 2.30
Thu 13 Jul	THE FRUIT MACHINE	6.15
Thu 13 Jul	Ceddo	8.30
Fri 14 Jul	Barry Lyndon	Mat. 2.30
Fri 14 Jul	Touki Bouki	6.15
Fri 14 Jul	My Life As A Dog	8.15
Sat 15 Jul	Big	Mat. 2.30

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Sat 10 Jun	Just Ask For Diamond	Mat. 2.00
Sat 10 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Sun 11 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Tue 13 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Wed 14 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Thu 15 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Fri 16 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Fri 16 Jun	The Naked Gun	Late 11.30
Sat 17 Jun	Katzen in Britain	Mat. 2.00
Sat 17 Jun	Cassile Claude	7.30
Sun 18 Jun	Un Chien Andalou + L'Age d'Or	8.00
Sun 18 Jun	Cassile Claude	8.00
Tue 20 Jun	The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne	7.00
Tue 20 Jun	Manhunter	9.30
Wed 21 Jun	The Lonely Passion of J.H.	7.00
Wed 21 Jun	Manhunter	9.30
Thu 22 Jun	The Lonely Passion of J.H.	7.00
Thu 22 Jun	Manhunter	9.30
Fri 23 Jun	Vincent	6.30
Fri 23 Jun	Madame Sousatzka	9.00
Fri 23 Jun	Videodrome + The Fly	Late 11.30
Sat 24 Jun	King Kong	Mat. 2.00
Sat 24 Jun	Vincent	6.30
Sat 24 Jun	Madame Sousatzka	9.00
Sun 25 Jun	Vincent	6.30
Sun 25 Jun	Madame Sousatzka	9.00
Tue 27 Jun	Madame Sousatzka	7.00
Tue 27 Jun	The Lair of the White Worn	9.30
Wed 28 Jun	Madame Sousatzka	7.00
Wed 28 Jun	The Lair of the White Worn	9.30
Thu 29 Jun	Madame Sousatzka	9.30
Thu 29 Jun	The Lair of the White Worn	9.30
Fri 30 Jun	Jean De Florette	6.30
Fri 30 Jun	TORCH SONG TRILOGY	9.00
Fri 30 Jun	Betty Blue	Late 11.30
Sat 1 Jul	Asterix The Gaul	2.00
Sat 1 Jul	Jean De Florette	6.00
Sat 1 Jul	TORCH SONG TRILOGY	9.00
Sun 2 Jul	Les Enfants Du Paradis	6.00
Sun 2 Jul	TORCH SONG TRILOGY	9.30
Tue 4 Jul	Hanon Des Sources	7.00
Tue 4 Jul	TORCH SONG TRILOGY	9.30
Wed 5 Jul	Hanon Des Sources	7.00
Wed 5 Jul	TORCH SONG TRILOGY	9.30
Thu 6 Jul	Hanon Des Sources	7.00
Thu 6 Jul	TORCH SONG TRILOGY	9.30
Fri 7 Jul	Da	6.30
Fri 7 Jul	Virgin	9.00
Fri 7 Jul	Round Midnight	Late 11.30
Sat 8 Jul	Laurel & Hardy Double Bill	2.00
Sat 8 Jul	Da	6.30
Sat 8 Jul	Virgin	9.00
Tue 11 Jul	Matewan	6.30
Tue 11 Jul	Virgin	9.30
Wed 12 Jul	Matewan	6.30
Wed 12 Jul	Virgin	9.30
Thu 13 Jul	Matewan	6.30
Thu 13 Jul	Virgin	9.30
Fri 14 Jul	Pascali's Island	7.00
Fri 14 Jul	The Law of Desire	9.30
Sat 15 Jul	Twelve Tasks of Asterix	2.00
Sat 15 Jul	Pascali's Island	7.00
Sat 15 Jul	LAW OF DESIRE	9.30
Sun 16 Jul	An American in Paris	6.00

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NOTTS. FEMINIST BOOK FORTNIGHT '89

MARY BENSON

Mary Benson is best known as the biographer of Nelson Mandela. Since 1948 she has been passionately involved in the destiny of South Africa, following her early life in the film industry. Mary Benson wrote the history of the African National Congress and her own life — the last 20 years in exile — has been one of courage and commitment. Mary Benson's autobiography 'A Far Cry' is newly published.

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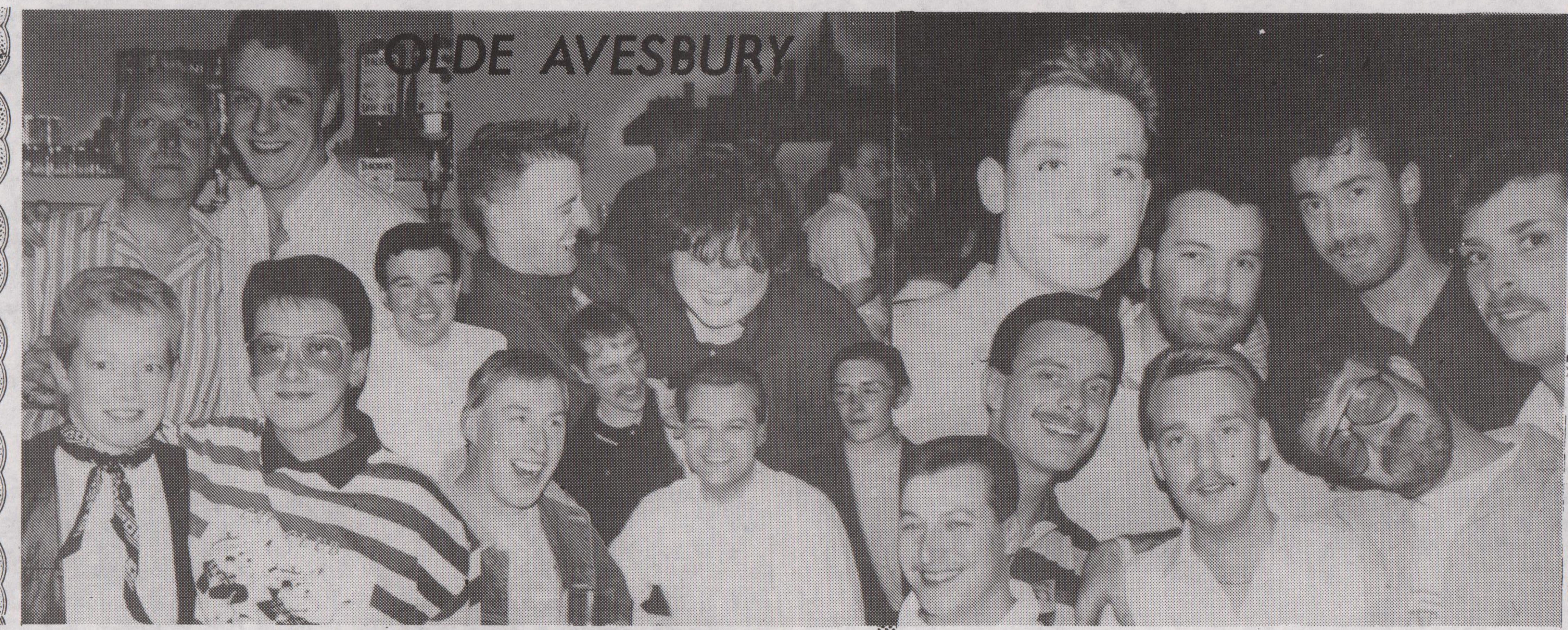
SHEILA ROWBOTHAM

Sheila Rowbotham is a leading historian and activist in the women's movement. She is the author of numerous books on women's and labour history. Her latest book 'The Past Is Before Us' is a history of the modern women's movement — from equal pay campaigns to childcare issues. Sheila's book also sketches a possible women's agenda for the 1990's.

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THE LONELY PASSION
JUDITH HEARNE

Leicestershire Vice Squad has increased activity around public lavatories over the last few months, resulting in batches of prosecutions. The 'Pink Paper' believes this is part of a national campaign instigated by Chief Constables around the country. To counteract this, pubs and clubs have been leafleted by Leicester Lesbian/Gay Action. Entitled, 'Watch Out, Vice Squad About', the leaflet warns gay men not to even use public loos because of the presence of police decoys.

Crucial information in the leaflet includes 'co-operate with the police if questioned; give your name and address. But if you're arrested refuse to answer any other questions until you've seen a solicitor. Try to remember as much detail as possible about the incident itself, the police involved and their number if in uniform; write it down for it could be vital to a defence; Do not admit anything at all.

A spokesperson for Lesbian & Gay Action warned that if questioned seek help immediately. "Not all solicitors understand either the issues or are familiar with the legislation involved so it is vital that you make informed contacts".

Contact points are: Michael Coxon, Highfields Community Law Centre, Leic, 532928; Bernard Greaves Leic 533436; Lesbian/Gayline 550667 (7.30-10.30 eve); GALOP, 01-278 6215; London Les/Gay Switchbd, 01-837 7324 (24 hours).

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Saturday Night at the Avesbury in Derby is fast becoming the place to be. The large pleasant function room, with ample dance floor and a small stage for aspiring performers, gets crowded as a growing number of gay men and lesbians from around the region are finding its friendly staff and regulars make strangers feel quite at home. In the jovial hands of Andy and Paul and Rose, and DJ Andy, the Avesbury is fast becoming a favourite haunt for a cheap, fun and relaxed night out for those tiring of the Nottingham or Leicester scene. These days Derby is no longer the armpit of the gay East Midlands for with the Green Lane Gallery, and the Rising Sun it provides three very different venues. So give Derby and the Avesbury a try. Free entrance to Disco, Pub hours. (The Avesbury is at 192 Osmaston Road, behind the Derby R.I.

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REVIEW



IVAN & NEIL BARTLETT

During the late nineteenth century, as the British Empire reached its zenith, Britain finally flung off her mantle of philistinism and poured forth a deluge of artistic work of consistent quality and vitality in every possible artistic sphere. Notorious amongst the fin-de-siecle worthies was Oscar Wilde whose name still stands as a byword for sodomy. Yet Oscar's louche liaisons with delivery boys and marchionesses' sons read like a kindergarten story when compared with the exploits of pre-Raphaelite painter and Bartlett hero Simeon Solomon, who was arrested having sex with an unemployed sixty - 'yes six-oh' - year old stableman in a public toilet bust behind Selfridges. During the ensuing scandal, to his eternal credit, Solomon did not once apologise for his behaviour, resisted all attempts by his family and friends to 'rehabilitate' him and finally died early this century penniless and destitute. Yet he never stopped producing exquisite drawings of beautiful youths, even though many were executed in coloured chalks on paving stones.

Even Solomon's tragic tale is unremarkable - Neil Bartlett's one man show draws upon hitherto untapped sources - books, letters and the inevitable legal documents to concoct a potent and compelling narrative of the events of the time. London had a thriving transvestite subculture by the early 1700's and Bartlett's show reveals that this had burgeoned by the late Victorian era. Many of the events he relates would be tragic if it were not for the inevitable high camp - take the case of Fanny the drag queen who was arrested in a ladies powder room whilst adjusting her wig. Upon hearing of this, her friends burgled her flat and stole her frocks and letters so that they could not be used as evidence in the ensuing trial. The judge directed the jury to return a verdict of 'not guilty' so that the world would not know that 'such creatures walked the streets of London'. Fanny - a veritable heroine - fainted at this point.

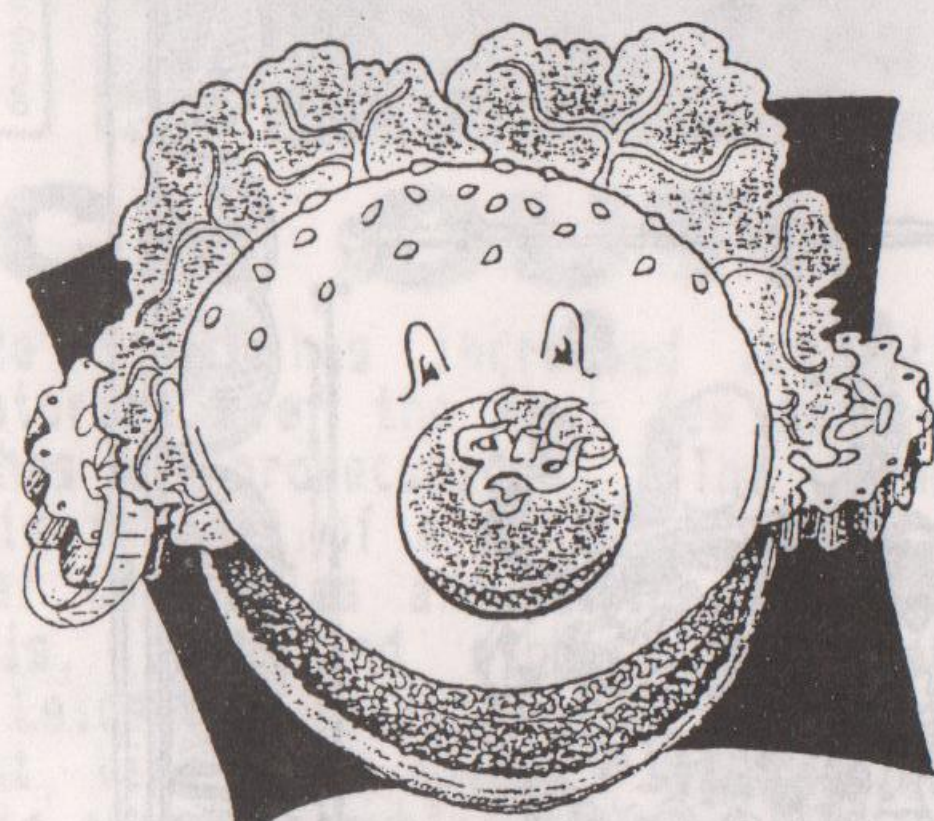
The entire show consisted of varied (and variable) fragments from Neil Bartlett's many works. They ranged from the excellent - such as extracts from his forthcoming novel a beautiful story of the wedding of two characters called

O and Boy, to the mundane, a recital of the biblical song of Solomon, which strangely, simply lacked the intense feeling which pervades his other work. I could not help feeling that the show had been cobbled together at the last minute and, as a result, although it was thoroughly excellent, was a little patchy. To conclude, you would be crazy to miss the final, full version of 'A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep' to be seen in London shortly and also a forthcoming work based on work by the Seventeenth century French playwright, Racine, Miss at your peril. 'A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep' is at the Drill Hall, Chancery St, WC1 shortly. Details from London Gay Switchboard 01-837 7324 (24 hours)

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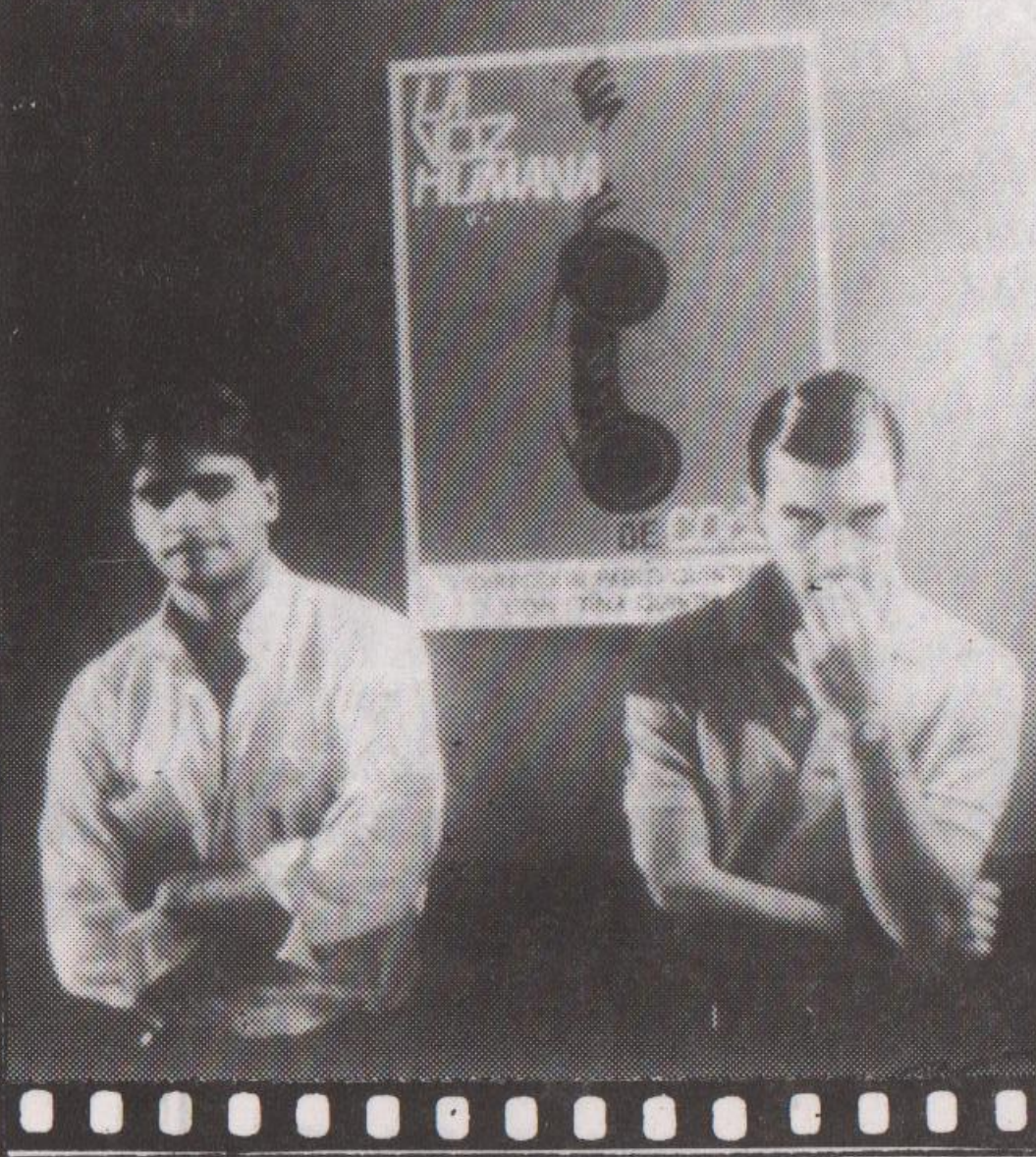


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