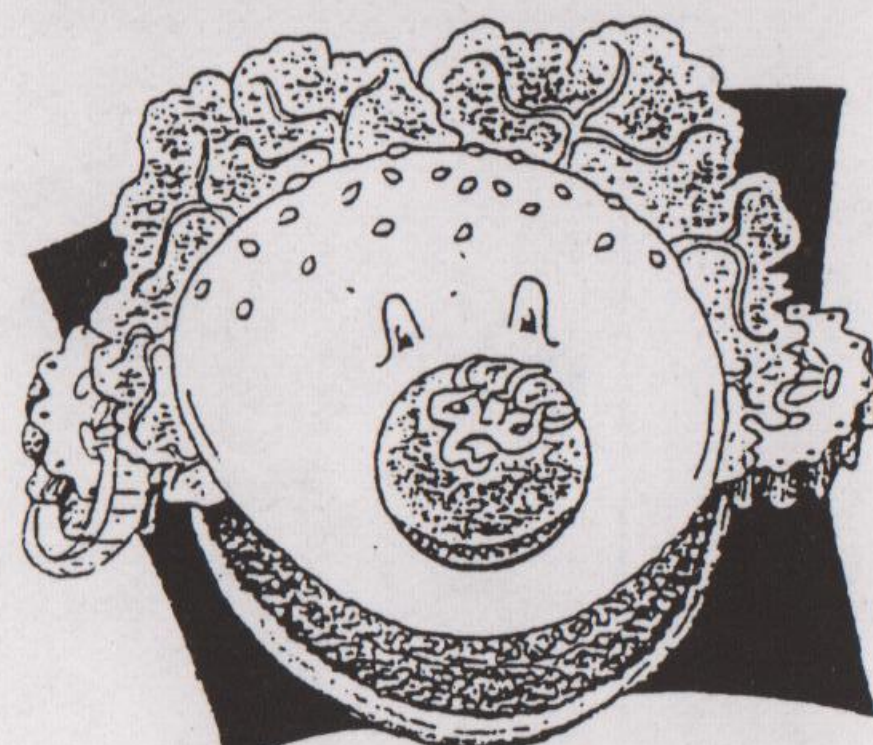


VEGGIES

CATERING CAMPAIGN (NOTTINGHAM)



Tasty Wholesome Snacks

LUNCHTIMES AT
CLINTON STREET WEST

Gay Radio

the last few years from the written and spoken media and he feels that this is one way to fight back and ensure accurate and realistic coverage. "This will be a station run by and for gays", he said.

The station is now on the lookout for interested volunteers; all you need is enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved in the various jobs including secretarial work, and programming and generally helping out. So if there are any budding DJ's or announcers out there, call Nottingham 422651. Andy would like to hear from you!

The Jigsaw Cafe operates out of the Leicester Lesbian/Gay Centre and is designed to offer a relaxing, unthreatening atmosphere for the two communities, to wine and dine by candlelight.

Open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 till late, customers can choose from a varied 3-course menu, including vegetarian and vegan dishes at around £6.00 a head. (Bring your own wine). During December a full 4-course Xmas menu is available, at an inclusive cost of £10.50 per head. Sheila Roughton runs the show and she also offers an outside catering service for parties, buffets etc.

This surely must be a unique service for lesbians and gays outside London. New faces are always welcome, and whether you want a quiet romantic dinner for two, or a party celebration for twenty, you can always be assured of good service, quality food and an entertaining night out. So why not give it a try.

Students Defend Gay Awareness Campaign

Despite allegations of homosexual bias and immorality and the use of taxpayers money to 'promote homosexuality', the editor of the Loughborough Students Union newspaper, Doug Bustin, stood by his decision to let the University lesbian and gay group co-edit one edition of his union's newspaper, 'Fast Forward', as part of the Students Union Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week. A row then broke out when a local councillor, Paul Mercer, accused the Student's Union of using taxpayers money to 'promote homosexuality'.

The October edition of the magazine was edited by the Lesbian/Gay group in a bid to 'increase homosexual awareness', as part of the lesbian/gay awareness week. The initiative by editor Doug Bustin produced a petition signed by sixty students from one hall of residence, who felt there was 'bias towards homosexuality'. This resulted in counter petitions circulating among the students.

Councillor Mercer contacted the local press to say how he might have been contravening Section 28 and he particularly objected to a piece which I wrote on 'the causes of heterosexuality'. The story that appeared was quite well balanced, though I later found out from another source that the reporter had intended to slam the union newspaper for its support of lesbian/gay issues, said Doug.

The furore produced welcome publicity for the Lesbian/Gay Group and resulted in over 40 people attending a fringe meeting followed by an article in the November edition of the student magazine by out-lesbian lecturer, Elaine Hobby. The incident has been widely reported by other university newspapers including those at Leeds, London and Warwick.

"We must continue to press for lesbian and gay equality and as a matter of urgency and a matter of right", said Doug. "Cllr. Mercer seems to forget that lesbians and gay men are voters and ratepayers too and as such are entitled to be visibly represented on campus", he added.

COTTAGING

LLGA claimed that the operation was being carried out by the vice-squad from Charles Street Police Station acting on the direct authorisation of the Chief Constable, Michael Hirst. "The police are devoting disproportionate resources in an almost obsessive manner to securing convictions for offences which have no victims, and in law can only be described as trivial and attract fines of as little as £30", said the report.

After the allegations and Keith Vaz's comments appeared in the local press, Leicester Council's Public Services Committee, which has responsibility for the city's lavatories, took the unusual step of asking a representative from LLGA to speak at a committee meeting, revealing the concern that the council felt that police might be committing illegal activities in council-run lavatories. The committee decided to write to the Chief Constable and the caretakers of all public toilets in an expression of their concern for the welfare of the users of the facilities.

Bernard Greaves, spokesperson for Leicester Lesbian and Gay Action, said that the letter 'didn't yield an inch, but the Chief Constable didn't challenge any of our facts'.

Further evidence has emerged that Leicester City Council park attendants have, at the request of the police, been collecting the registration numbers of vehicles parked in the car parks of Abbey Park. Leicester Lesbian & Gay Action have asked the police for an assurance that those numbers won't be kept on record.

More reports from regular users of Abbey Park lavatories who claim not to be gay, and over half of whom are women, say that they have observed plain clothes police officers with walkie-talkie radios mounting operations in the vicinity of public lavatories during June, July and August. The reports speak of officers "provocatively dressed", and "dressed in leathers", or park attendants collecting vehicle registration numbers in Abbey Park, who when challenged, said they were doing so at the request of the police, and they tell of overheard conversations on radio sets indicating that particular individuals were being targeted, such as "the (identity of car) has arrived. Send in the boy".

Bernard Greaves commented: "A few years ago there was extensive co-operation and liaison between the police and the gay community in Leicester. Now that is unthinkable. Lesbians and gay men are reluctant to report to the police even crimes against themselves and are unlikely to cooperate in major criminal investigations as they have done in the past."

So far the Chief Constable has ignored LLGA's request to meet a delegation of its members but as a result of LLGA's campaigning the case has received wide publicity nationally and we await future developments.

December

1989

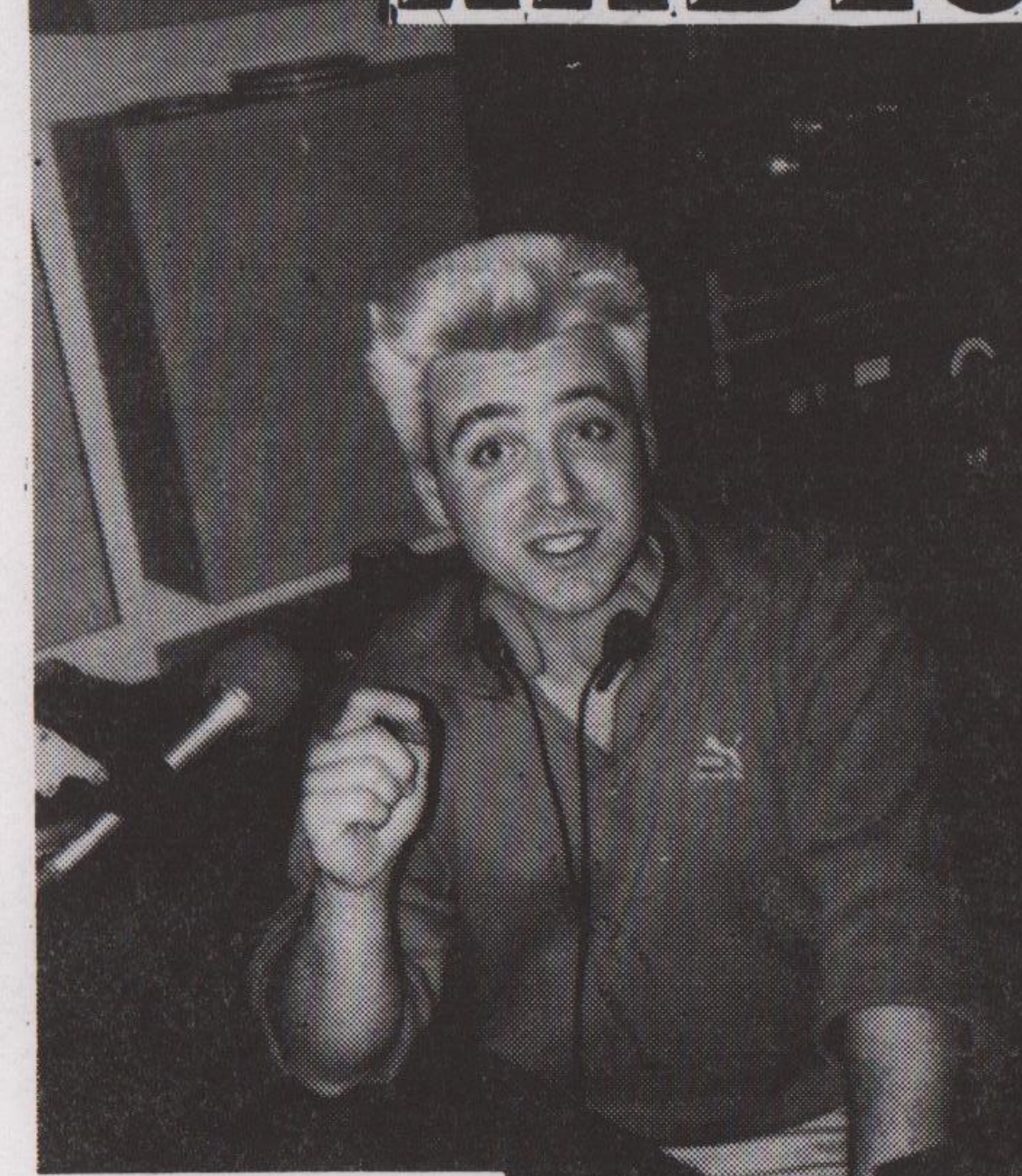
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EAST MIDLANDS

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GAY CENTRE RADIO



ANDY LLOYD

A novel new gay community radio station goes on the air in Nottingham in late January. Called Centre Radio it is the brainchild of Ad man, Andy Lloyd. "The idea is that callers phone up and for the price of a local call they can tune into their very own gay-orientated station. There will be the usual mixture of news, music, interviews, weather and travel, but with a gay bias. We also plan to offer a mobile radio show/disco for hire to clubs, pubs and parties," he said. But Andy stressed that they are not offering befriending or counselling. "That is already well-covered by the various helplines", he added.

The equipment and title were acquired from the now-defunct Centre Radio in Leicester which closed in 1985. The new studio is ready to run in its new premises near Canning Circus and is fully-equipped. If the venture proves successful there are plans to expand the number of lines. The station is also gearing up to apply for a radio station franchise when the government issues them in 1990.

Andy feels that gay men and lesbians have taken a bashing in

Photo: RONY ALFANDARY



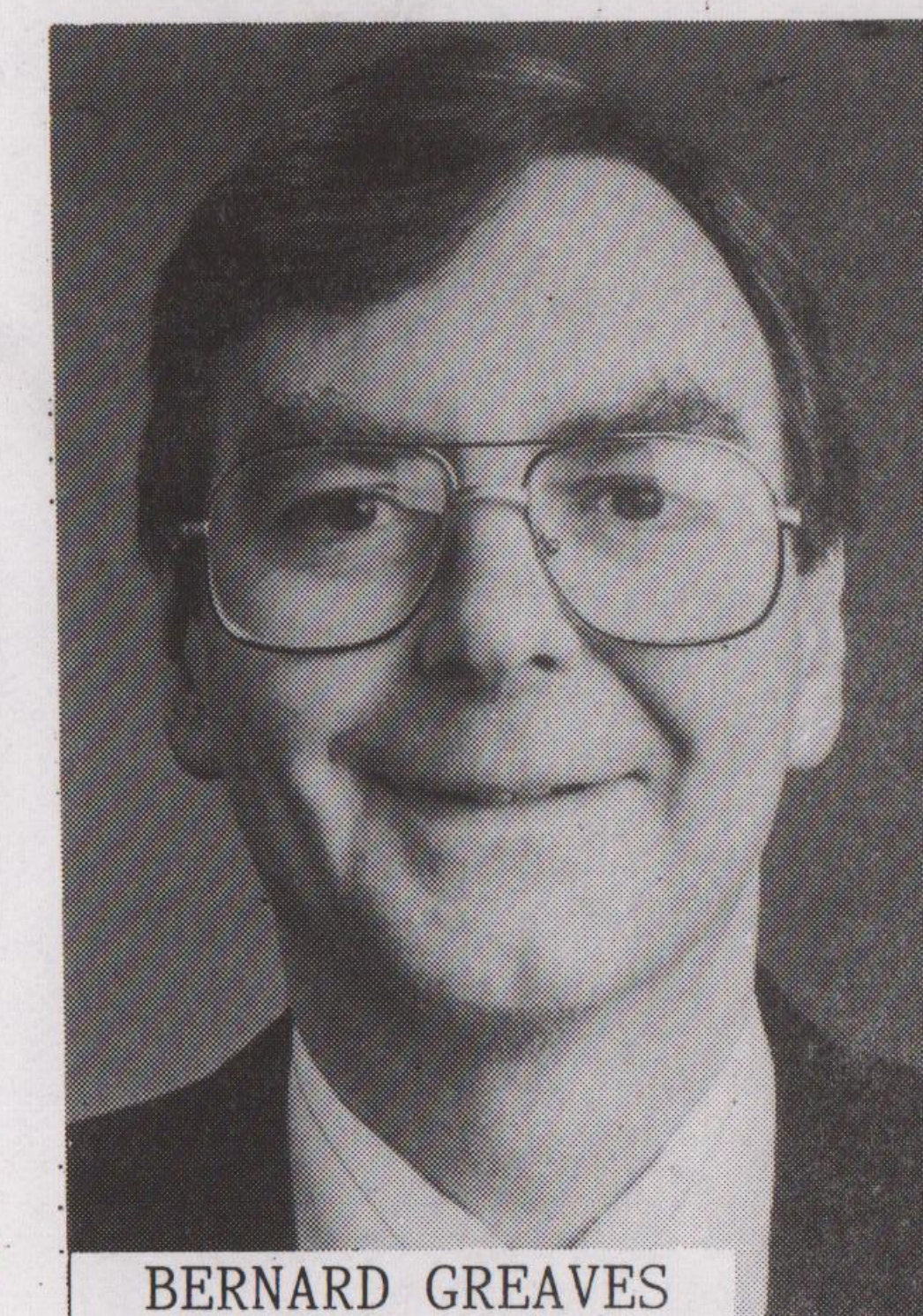
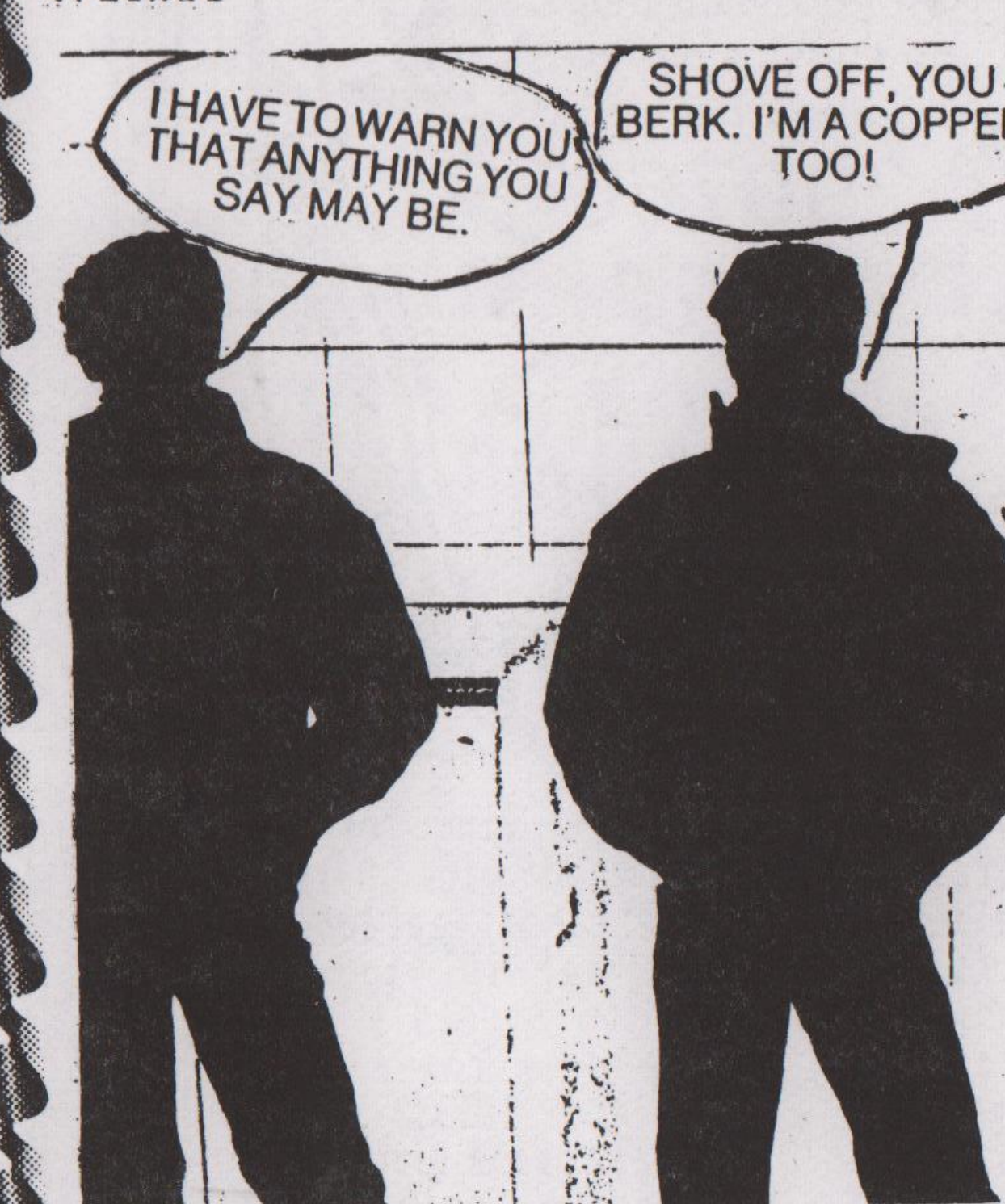
Jane Watts of LYNX Womens' Training chairs Peter Tatchell's talk about lesbians and gays in Nazi Germany as part of the Anne Frank In The World exhibition held October at Nottingham's YMCA (Tatchell Talking, inside)

COTTAGING: LEICESTER CHIEF BACKTRACKS

The new Home Secretary David Waddington has become involved in a public row over accusations that police in Leicester have been using "good looking young police officers dressed in casual clothes" to harass men in public toilets and to incite acts of indecency.

Mr. Waddington became involved when he was approached by Leicester MP Keith Vaz (Labour) who had been refused a meeting with the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, Michael Hirst, because he had raised the allegations of the use of 'agents provocateurs' in the House of Commons.

Mr. Vaz approached Mr. Waddington in the tea room of the Commons and said he regarded the refusal of a meeting "a very serious matter" and an interference in parliamentary privilege. A letter was sent to Mr. Hirst from the Home Secretary's office and the Chief Constable has now "back tracked".



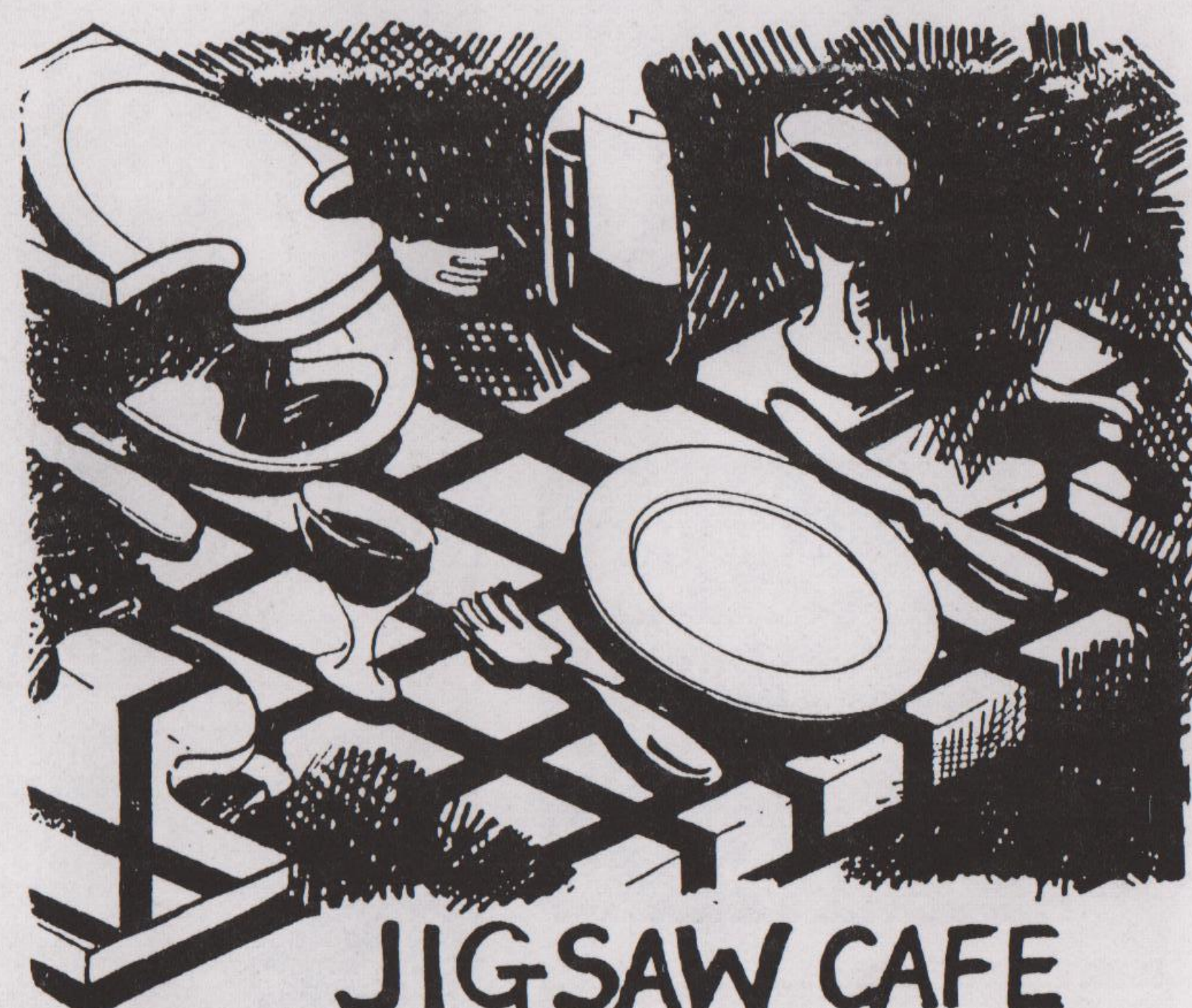
BERNARD GREAVES

The allegations, originally raised by Leicester Lesbian & Gay Action, prompted Mr. Hirst to write to the campaigning organisation, denying that his officers were deliberately inciting people to commit crimes, and claiming that there was an "orchestrated campaign to reduce law enforcement" in the city.

The row began in October, when LLGA wrote to the Chief Constable, council officials and the press, stating that it was receiving an increasing number of complaints from men who had encountered plain clothes officers in the city's public lavatories.

In a report sent to the Chief Constable and local MP's, LLGA said that: "The officers carrying out the operation are by their appearance, demeanour and actions provoking the very behaviour for which they are subsequently charging men. A man visiting the toilets solely to urinate will find the behaviour of the police officers suspicious and intimidating and believe that he is about to be attacked. The innocent men will glance round nervously and hang on waiting for the police to leave rather than risk a confrontation in trying to pass them, as the police stand obstructing the way out. The Police officers are likely to interpret that behaviour, which they have provoked, as an indication of guilt."

(Continued on back page col. 2)



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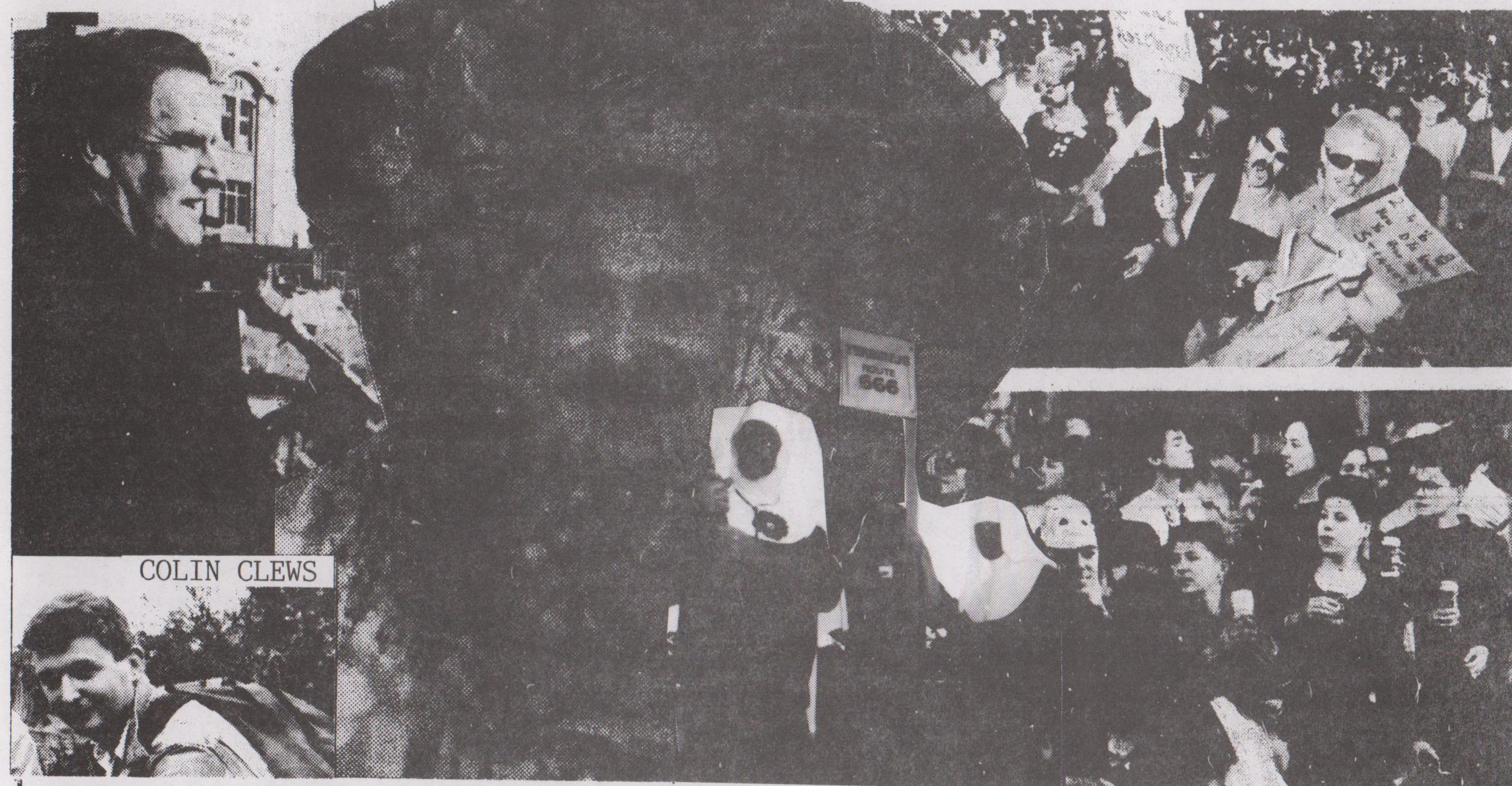
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Review

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Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence roll out the carpet AUSTRALIA for Rev. Fred but..



COLIN CLEWS

Sydney's annual Lesbian and Gay MardiGras got off to a colourful start some five months early this year, writes our Australian correspondent, COLIN CLEWS. Ironically enough, it began with an attempt to have it banned.

Australia's answer to Mary Whitehouse, the Rev. Fred Nile has made it his life's mission to harass lesbians and gay men. Every February - when the huge Mardi Gras parade is held - Fred prays for rain. This year, perhaps doubting the likelihood of divine intervention, he also went to Parliament to have the parade banned. He was spectacularly unsuccessful.

Undaunted, however, Fred continues his campaign, believing that he is, quite literally, on a mission from God, claiming that God had spoken to him and told him how upset he was about the annual celebration of gay culture. Fred announced a "cleansing march of witness for Jesus". According to Fred, "tens of thousands" of Christians would march up Oxford Street - the centre of Sydney's gay community and the route of the Mardi Gras parade - in an act of "love and forgiveness". Coincidentally, the march would also call for the banning of Mardi Gras.

And that is when the fun really began. Fred's tens of thousands didn't show, despite his yearlong tour of New South Wales attempting to drum up support. In fact, just over one thousand people rallied to Fred's call, including a young bearded man with a large wooden cross, on wheels! It seems that the true Christians didn't really want to know about Fred and his loony ideas.

however, they did not march entirely alone. As the march turned into Oxford Street the so-called 'Christians' visibly paled at the sight of more than five thousand lesbians, gays and their supporters waiting to welcome them to "the moral sewer of Sydney". Their implacable belief in God's will seemed to desert them as they walked through what the Sydney Morning Herald called "the city's wildest gay celebration since last February's Gay Mardi Gras".

And so it was. The hymns and sanctimonious messages were drowned out by the chants, whistles, jeers, and songs of the counter demonstrators. Gay Christians led the rally against Fred's misguided minority. Screamers were thrown, Fred Nile masks were produced in their thousands by the Mardi Gras Association, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence rolled out the red carpet in welcome. Somehow Fred's tribe didn't seem to appreciate it.

And the parade made the centre pages of the Sydney Morning Herald, captioned "The day Fred's protest turned a little bit gay" and as the Sydney Star Observer put it: "Fred began the day with the initiative and lost it half way up Oxford Street". By dragging out an assortment of homophobic bigots he not only incurred the wrath of Sydney's large gay and lesbian community but also offended the tens of thousands of real Christians who object to him using God to boost his own ego. Fred won't be back on Oxford Street for a very long time - a bit of a shame really it was a great day!

PHOTO: SYDNEY STAR OBSERVER



'Gay love is best' ... a man interrupts Mr Nile's address.

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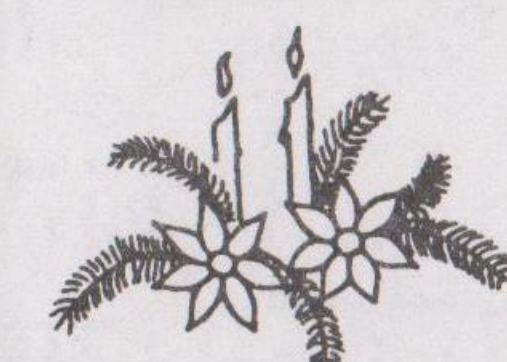


Members of the platform see the funny side of a point raised during debates at the NALGO lesbian and gay conference. Pictured from left are: Sue Salzedo, Ben Benson, Amanda Baird and Paul Fairweather.

The biggest ever national conference of lesbian and gay town hall workers met in Peterborough last month, when 180 members of the National & Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) covered issues as diverse as racism in the blood transfusion service and towards Europe in 1992. Large and small branches were represented from all over the country. "We think it is important to recognise that there are lesbians and gay men in all of NALGO's branches not just in big London local government branches," said Amanda Baird, co-chair of the national lesbian and gay steering committee. "It is often difficult for these members to come out at work and the experience of attending a conference like this can be very positive and supportive for our more isolated members", she added.

A home counties blood transfusion service which displayed a checklist of people it would not allow to donate blood was condemned by conference. This particular service would not accept blood donations from any male or female from Africa or from anyone who had slept with an African since 1978, or from gay or bisexual people. The Black Members Group urged NALGO to campaign around discrimination in the blood transfusion service and this was agreed. Details of NALGO East Midlands Lesbian/Gay Group from Richard McCance 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 2DS or phone (0602) 780124(eve).

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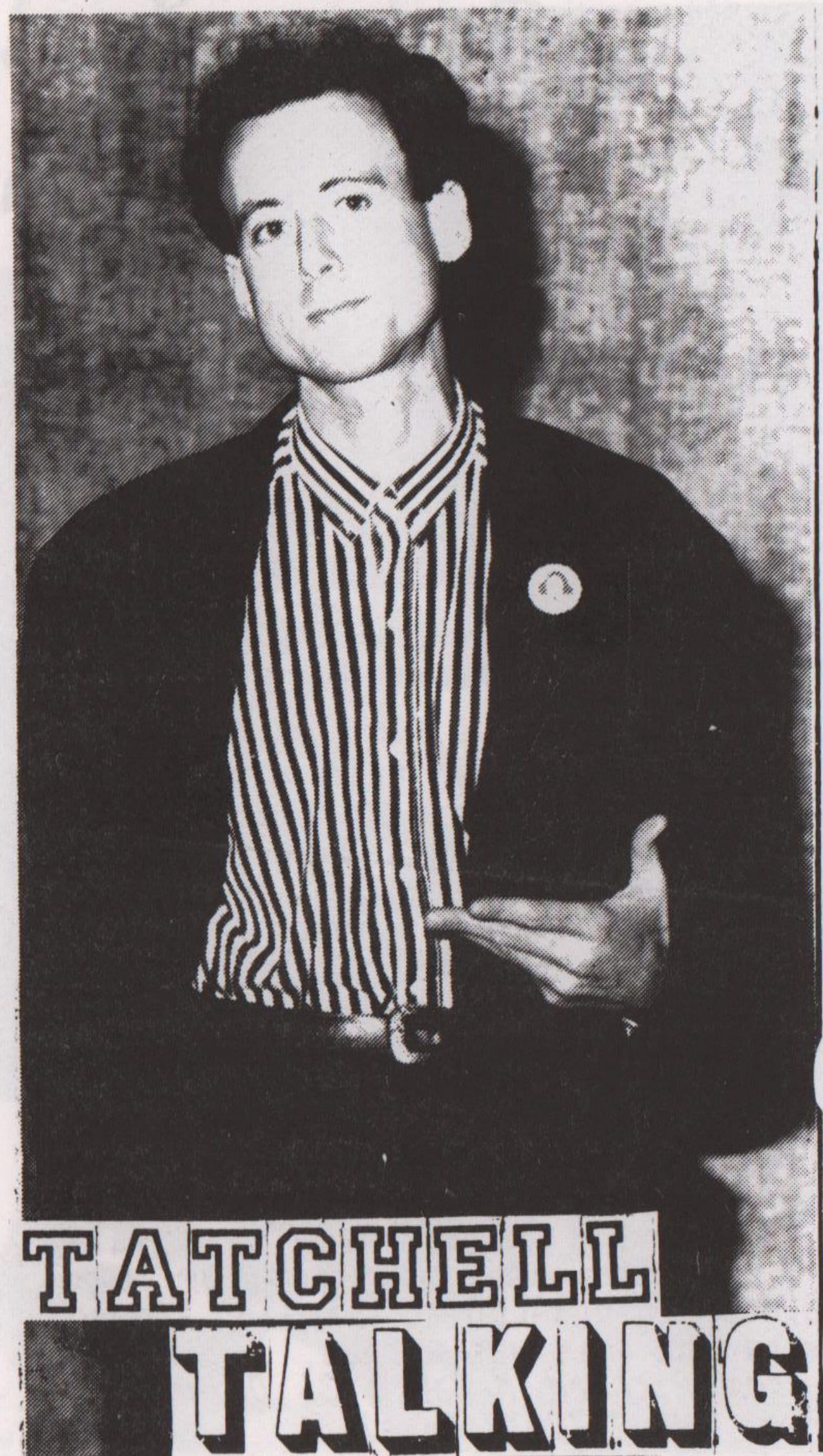
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S.28 ACT UP 1992



TATCHELL TALKING

One of the depressing features about the campaign against Section 28 was the way in which many quite well-intentioned lesbian and gay spokespersons and several MPs attempted to attack the legislation by saying that lesbian and gay sexuality cannot be promoted. I don't think there's much evidence for that; actually all the psychological and anthropological evidence indicates that sexuality is not something biologically innate but is socially constructed largely dependent on the culture of the society and the degree to which sexual diversity is acceptable or repressed and I think we ought not to be ashamed to say that sexuality can be promoted and that in an ideal world people's sexual orientation will be far more fluid and diverse.

Probably in the last decade the struggle for human and civil rights has to some extent superseded the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation. Whilst it's very important we push the case for lesbian/gay equality we also need to recognise the limitations of that strategy. What it implies is that we're seeking equality with heterosexuals on their terms. The Lesbian and Gay Liberation Movement sought to define a space in the future for lesbians and gay men on their terms. With the backlash in the wake of Aids and Section 28, its probably more important than ever that we revive the emancipatory vision of the early Lesbian and Gay Liberation Movement and its tradition of direct action and civil disobedience as a way of profiling lesbian and gay issues and asserting our visibility in a very positive and upfront way.

ACT-UP in the USA has had a long and more militant history than the parallel organisation that has now been established in this country. It's interesting to note that people with HIV and AIDS in the USA seem much less willing to play conventional politics than the community of people with aids and HIV in the UK. Most of the mainstream AIDS organisations here have concentrated on lobbying members of Parliament and the media. Now that's important but it shouldn't be our exclusive pre-occupation.

I think possibly one of the most fruitful areas of future advance, particularly if we still have a Thatcherite government is by campaigning on the European level. Britain is clearly one of the most backward countries in Europe on lesbian and gay rights. Any upward harmonisation of policies around lesbian and gay equality would almost certainly be of tremendous benefit to lesbians and gay men in this country.

In a sense we could see a coalition leapfrogging the walls of this country and uniting with progressive forces in Europe.

It's really important that we build a more co-ordinated, European wide lesbian and gay movement which can fight simultaneously throughout all the member-states in the European community and beyond to get common policies which will enshrine in law, binding on all countries, the human rights of lesbian and gay people. I can see the International Lesbian and Gay Association coming into its own now as a strong force, not a shadowy Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Already ILGA is doing a lot of good work behind the scenes; but where it has failed so far is to actually mobilise the national lesbian and gay organisations in each of the member countries to provide a multi-pronged attack to back up its efforts. If it is going to make its mark it will need to do this.

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It's very clear that there are a whole range of issues affecting people with HIV and AIDS which the government has not responded on; for example the huge reduction in benefits for many people with Aids. It's therefore very important that we confront the government about its inadequate response to AIDS and we do this in a way which is visible and high profile.

One of the problems of going through the legislative process is that it is so long-winded. I think the tradition of direct action zaps is important for two reasons; first because it gets media attention - it puts pressure on government and public officials and secondly its important because it gives hope and self-confidence to people with HIV and AIDS and their friends and lovers because they can actually see something being done. The trouble with the behind-the-scenes lobbying approach is that its very invisibility makes it appear that nothing is going on and that can be very demoralising and despiriting for many people.

METRO CINEMA			
Fri 15	The Rainbow (15)	8.00	
Fri 15	Die Hard (18)	11.00	
Sat 16	The Wizard of Oz (U)	2.00	
Sat 16	The Rainbow (15)	8.00	
Sun 17	Dangerous To Know: Love Me Or Leave Me	6.30	
Sun 17	The Rainbow (15)	9.00	
Tues 19	The Rainbow (15)	8.00	
Wed 20	The Rainbow (15)	8.00	
Thur 21	The Rainbow (15)	8.00	
Fri 22nd - Tues 26th Dec: Closed.			
Wed 27	Henry V (PG)	8.00	
Thur 28	Henry V (PG)	8.00	
Fri 29	Henry V (PG)	8.00	
Sat 30th Dec - Mon 1st Jan: Closed.			
Tues 2	Henry V (PG)	8.00	
Wed 3	Henry V (PG)	8.00	
Thur 4	Henry V (PG)	8.00	
Fri 5	Venus Peter (PG)	8.00	
Fri 5	Scandal (18)	11.00	
Sat 6	Tales of Beatrix Potter (U)	2.00	
Sat 6	Venus Peter (PG)	8.00	
Sun 7	The Seventh Seal (18)	6.30	
Sun 7	Venus Peter (PG)	9.00	
Tues 9	Venus Peter (PG)	6.45	
Tues 9	Play Me Something (15) plus Colloque De Chiens	9.00	
Wed 10	Venus Peter (PG)	6.45/9.00	
Thur 11	Venus Peter (PG)	6.45/9.00	
Fri 12	The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and her Lover (18)	8.00	
Fri 12	Lenny Live and Unleashed (15)	11.00	
Sat 13	The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (PG)	2.00	
Sat 13	The Cook, The Thief... (18)	6.00/9.00	
Sun 14	Andrei Rublev (15)	5.00	
Sun 14	The Cook, The Thief... (18)	9.00	
Tues 16	DCHE Guest Lecture	7.00	
Tues 16	The Cook, The Thief... (18)	9.00	
Wed 17	Speaking Parts (18)	6.30	
Wed 17	The Cook, The Thief... (18)	9.00	
Thur 18	Speaking Parts (18)	6.30	
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Dir: Martin Daley/Australia 1987/24 mins/PG

A woman recalls the tragic summer liaison between her young brother and an English yachtsman.

BEST WISHES

Dir: Ngozi Onwurah/UK 1988/15 mins/PG

A family romance about the emotional disruption following a flatmate's HIV diagnosis.

ELEVATION

Dir: Stephen Cummins/Australia 1989/11 mins/PG

A droll drama on coming out and going down.

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Dir: Garth Maxwell/New Zealand 1989/48 mins/PG

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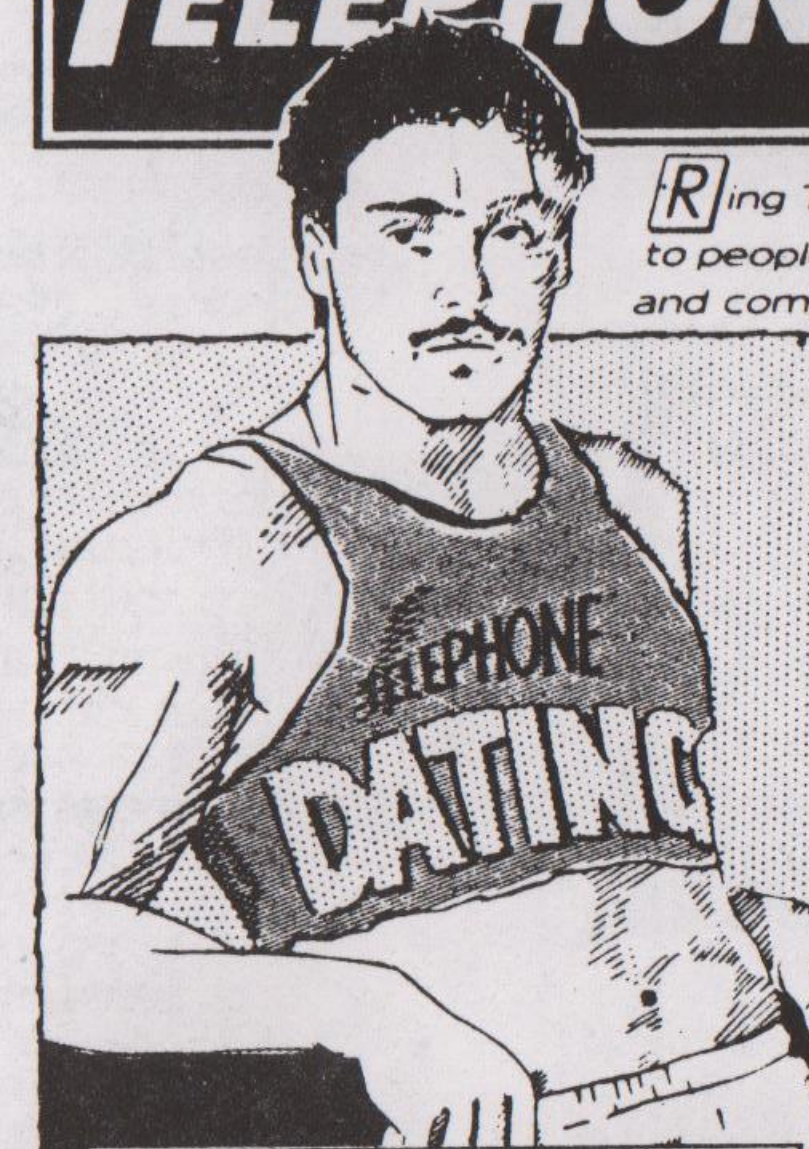


Beyond Gravity

Therapists Network

Lesbian and gay counsellors and psychotherapists working in the East Midlands are invited to join in an informal network perhaps providing support, peer supervision and facilitate referrals. The aims will be decided by the members of the network. Please write to either: Dr. Bernard Ratigan, Principal Adult Psychotherapist, Nottingham Psychotherapy Unit, St. Ann's Hospital, Porchester Road, Nottingham or Dominic Davies, Student Counsellor, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

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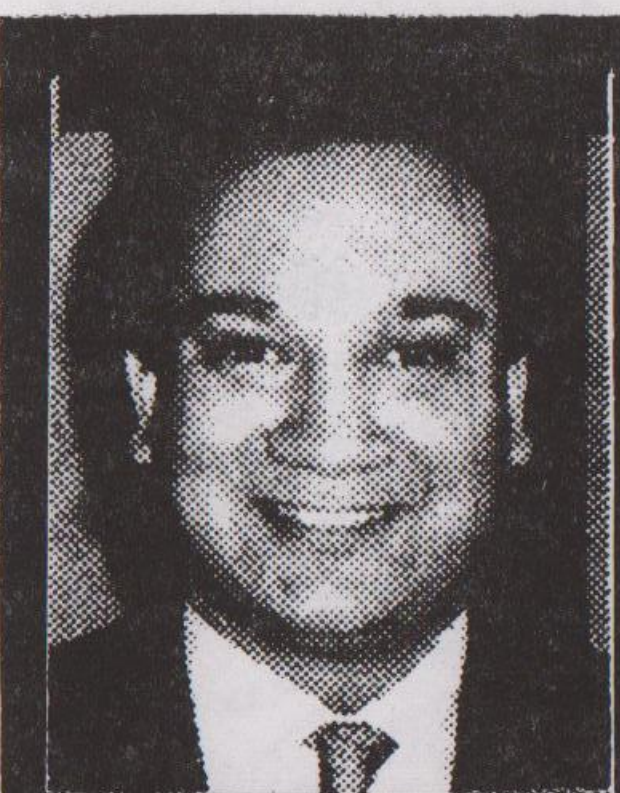
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PHOTO: GAY TIMES



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KEITH VAZ MP

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NEXT TO MUSHROOM

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