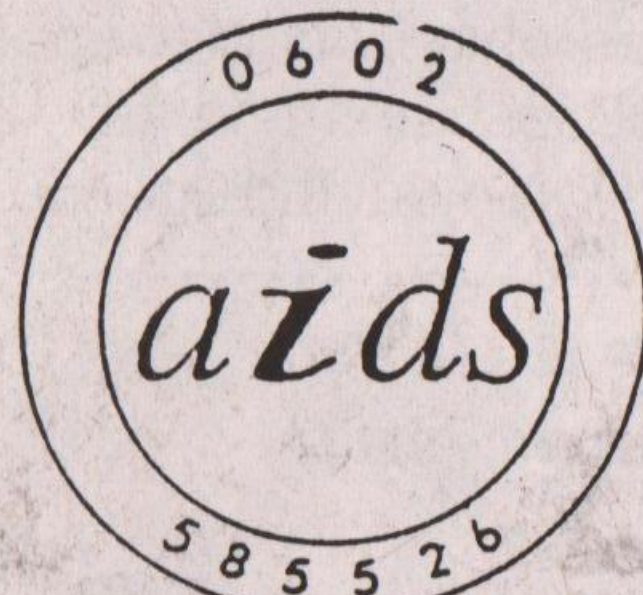


OUTRIGHT

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THE NOTTINGHAM



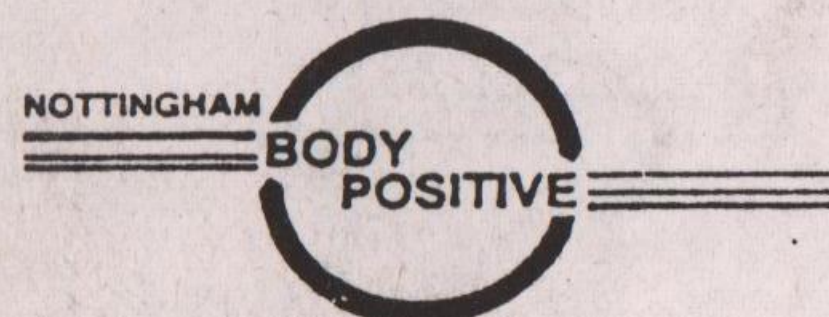
INFORMATION PROJECT

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Project and Buddies.

CHARITY DISCO FOR LEICESTER

Saturday 28th April is the date of a charity
disco organised by Shakti Leicester, the South
Asian organisation for lesbians and gay men.
The disco is in aid of the Michael Wood Building,
where Leicester Aids Support Services are
based. (Michael Wood was born in Newcastle,
brought up in Liverpool and lived in London for
twenty years before settling in Leicester four
years ago. Several years ago, he was diag-
nosed HIV and was instrumental in setting up
the Black HIV & Aids Forum (BHAF), which is
one of the organisations which meets in the
building named after him. He died in October
1989.)

The disco is to be held at Asquiths Club,
22 Silver Street, Leicester (off High Street). The
last admission is at 11pm.

BHAF is the only black and Asian organi-
sation outside London composed solely of
Asian, African and Afro-Caribbean women and
men devoted to the needs of black people with,
and affected by HIV and Aids.

Admission to the disco is by invite only
(four guests per invitation), and these are avail-
able in Leicester from Blackthorn Books, High
Street; Lesbian & Gay Centre, 45 King Street ;
Leicester University and Poly GaySoc; and
Phoenix Arts, Newarke Street, where Ray on
0533-701312 will post tickets to you. The tic-
kets are free but entrance on the door is £2.

HELPLINES

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NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN LINE, Confidential
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Accurate info, reduces anxiety

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DERBY FRIEND, Weds, 7-9.45pm, 49333 or
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DERBY AIDSLINE for help and confidential
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DERBY LESBIAN LINE, Wednesdays 7-9pm,
414111 or write c/o PO Box 140, Derby

GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT (LGCM) Paul
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NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY LESBIAN &
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Mon - Fri 7-9 pm
Thurs 2-4 pm.

Issue Number 3
12th April 1990

OUTRIGHT

Gay Freesheet for the East Midlands

FREE!

NOTTINGHAM ROUTS FASCISTS

Over 200 people,
women, men, old and
young, black and white,
forced about fifty British
Movement fascists off the
road when they had to di-
vert their meeting from
Nottingham City to Ged-
ling, outside the city
boundary, over the wee-
kend.

Nottingham City Council
banned the British Movement from
marching. Word got around that
they had moved their meeting to the
Vale Hotel in Arnold and numbers of
people raced over there, just in time
to witness a steaming John Tyndall,
their 'leader', trying to get out of the
already crowded car park.

Said Richard McCance, who
spotted him: "He was very angry and
trying to race ahead to another
venue outside the city, where they
had yet again been diverted. We
followed him to a field near Gedling
Colliery, where there were a number
of thugs carrying Union Jacks."

Police reinforcements soon ar-
rived and moved the fifty or so fas-
cists away from the field, cutting the
meeting short and frogmarching
them off, two by two.

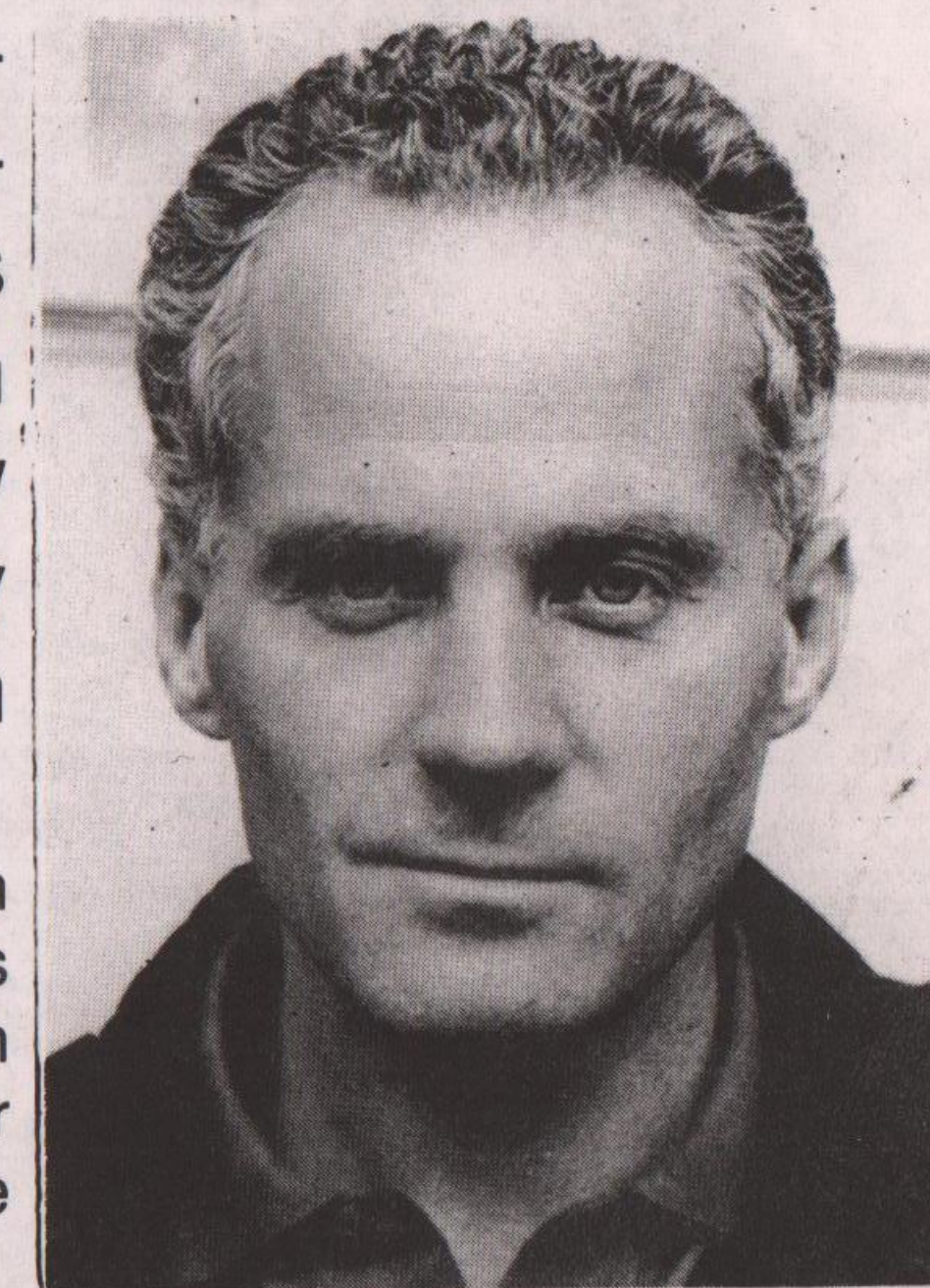
CHARITY GAY DISCO

organised by Shakti
at ASQUITHS
22 Silver Street, Leicester
in aid of Michael Wood Building
Saturday 28th April
Last admission 11pm (Tickets £2 in advance)
(see article on back page)

CASHMAN OPENS COFFEE BAR

Michael Cashman is to re-
open the newly refurbished Lei-
cester Lesbian and Gayline's
coffee bar and switchboard on
the 9th April. The coffee bar now
runs from 12 noon to 2pm every
Friday and from 10.30am to 5pm
on Saturdays.

Leicester Lesbian and Gayline has been
in operation for 13 years and has enjoyed its
first year with two paid workers, Diane Benn
and Steve Tyson, pictured below. Leicester
has the only paid gaycentre workers outside
London and Manchester.



*The inaugural meet-
ing of the East Midlands
Lesbian and Gay Coun-
sellors and Therapists'*

Network will take place on
Saturday, April 28th in Nottin-
gham. Further details from Dr
Bernard Rattigan, Nottingham
Psychotherapy Unit, St Ann's
Hospital, Porchester Road,
Nottingham NG7 6LF or
Dominic Davies, Student
Counsellor, University of Not-
tingham, University Park, Not-
tingham NG7 2RD.



ELECTION HOPES FOR GAY STUDENT LEADER

The National Union of Students is likely to elect its first ever out gay President at its Annual
Conference in Blackpool this week.

23-year old Oxford Graduate Stephen Twigg, the official Labour Students' Candidate, claims
to have found a genuinely positive atmosphere towards lesbians and gays whilst campaigning. His
experience in liberation politics has prompted him to argue
for the student movement to abandon its macho, confronta-
tional style.

In a year when students face the abolition of housing
benefit, the introduction of the Poll Tax and a loans scheme,
the election of a President who can unite students in opposi-
tion to the government, rather than each other, is a message
he is keen to get across.

The two front-runners in the election for the full-time
post of Vice President Welfare are both out lesbians.

Although student elections tend to be unpredictable,
the amount of out lesbian and gay candidates standing this
year ensures a high profile for sexual politics amongst the
student population, win or lose.



**Inside
This Issue...**

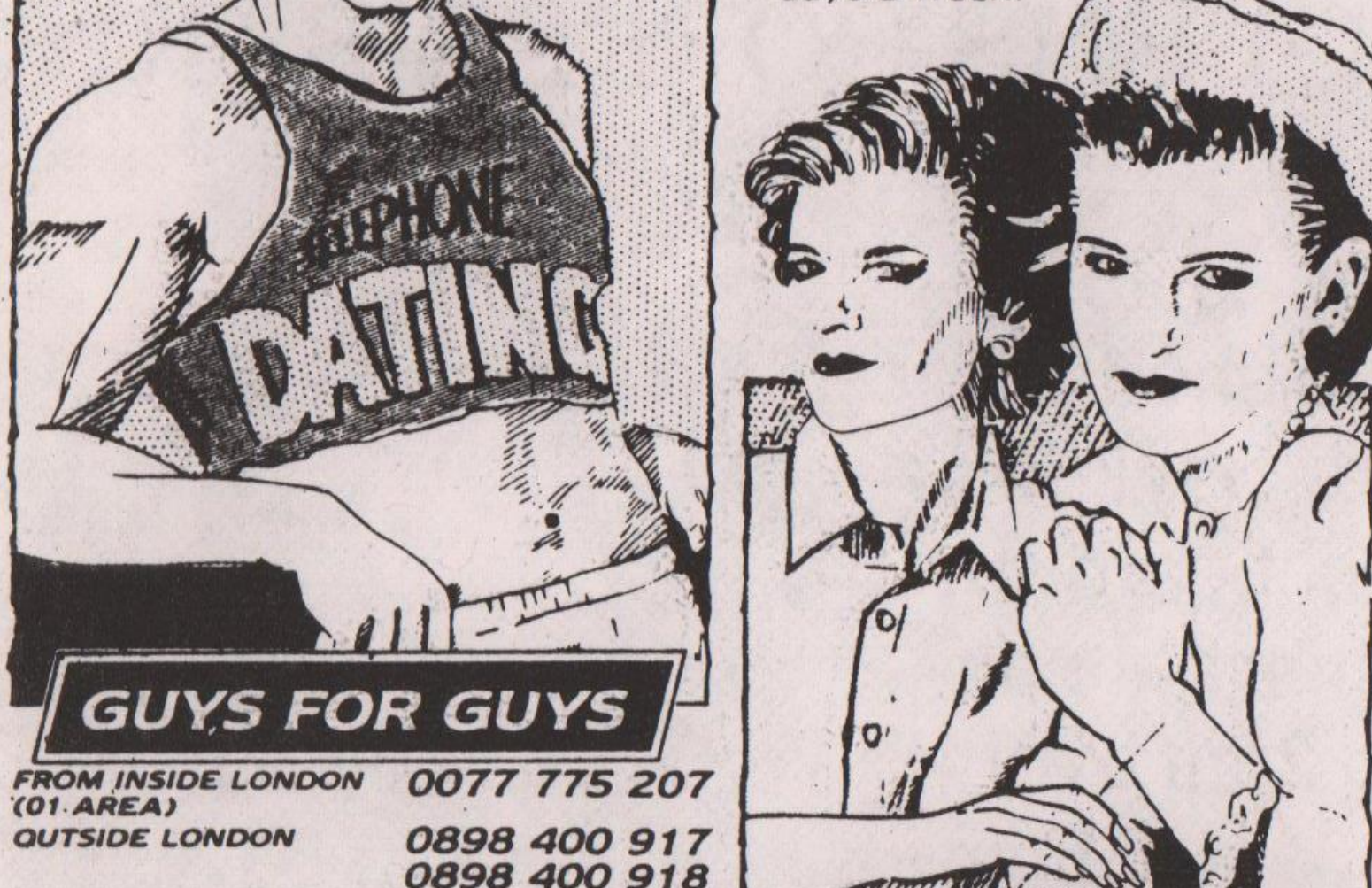
- * Welfare rights
- * Charity disco

HOLIDAY ISSUE

OUTRIGHT is taking a breather with 4 pages
Back to 8 pages next issue!

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IAN HILLIER ON WELFARE RIGHTS

Ian Hillier (below) is a Senior Welfare Rights Officer based at Notts. County Council H.Q. He is currently updating his book, 'HIV & AIDS - WELFARE BENEFITS', first published last year and which quickly sold out.

The book began life as a short paper for the Social Services Department and grew from there. Until then, there had been nothing comprehensive on the subject. Ian had been involved in a national working party and when they wanted to tone down some of the more 'streetwise' content and were slow to offer a publishing deadline, Ian found an enthusiastic backer in the Nottingham University Benefit Research Unit.



Ian stops proof reading for a moment and comments that, whilst people with haemophilia fought and won compensation for contracting AIDS through infected blood products, he thinks this portrayal of the guilty and innocent is totally ludicrous. "There is a danger in seeking compensation for one particular group, because it then separates people out; just what the government likes," he added.

An impassioned campaigner, Ian is angry about the callous way the government has evaded its responsibility towards people with Aids. "Under the old supplementary benefit rules, people with Aids or HIV were able to claim extra for a special diet which enabled them to stay well longer and prevent the onset of opportunistic infections. Under the new income support scheme, that money is no longer payable, so people are being forced into a situation where they cannot eat properly, leaving them open to infections."

The philosophy underpinning Ian's work is that of the barefoot doctors of Africa, where they would train a large number of paramedics, able to follow out basic medicare. "My time is limited - I can either sit in my office and be 'the expert' or get out and train others. The way I tend to work is that PWAs often have a buddy and I am advising the buddy as a kind of go-between. Buddies are often able to help GPs make more accurate assessments of their patients, as so many GPs have absolutely no knowledge of Aids symptomatology. Buddies play a key role in welfare rights, especially if the person is claiming mobility or attendance allowance."

"It's a problem for homeless drug users who have no income. 16 or 17 year-olds are the most likely to go on and develop some kind of infection more quickly than people who have a reasonable diet and will stay well longer."

However, thanks to Ian and others, there are some changes on the way. A new rule from April this year, which becomes effective in October 1990 means that a person diagnosed as terminally ill with Aids will no longer have to wait six months before they get the attendance allowance; they will now qualify immediately. And this is in no small measure due to the campaigning work of Ian and others around the country who are proving a formidable lobby in attempting to change unjust rules.



AUSTRALIAN PRIDE KICKS OFF THE 90's

Colin Clews reports: Mardi Gras has been around for more than ten years now in Sydney, and from its angry birth, when the police beat up revellers, it has mellowed into an organisation with a political mind and a heart that's celebration. The 'artistic nature' that used to stereotype the parade has been embraced deliberately and the Mardi Gras is now the largest community arts organisation in Australia.

Whilst the highlight of the parade is the all-night party, this year's Mardi Gras had a lot to offer in other areas, too. The parade stretched for 26 days throughout February and boasted an impressive list of activities which included sports, cinema, politics, cabaret, visual arts and community arts. For example, February 11th saw 450 lesbians and gay men touring the Australian countryside on a steam engine, whilst another 150 joined the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on their Lesbian and Gay History stroll around Sydney.

The success of Mardi Gras is undoubted; in commercial terms alone, it brings in some £20,000,000 in tourist revenue (yet receives no finance or publicity from Government tourist bodies). As a social event it attracts crowds of up to 200,000 for the parade and 15,000 for the all-night party.

At one stage, tempers frayed at the party that followed as many lesbians and gay men found that they couldn't get in because many of the tickets had been bought by heterosexuals.

However, the new Mardi Gras committee (pictured above) has had to focus on a growing and more urgent problem - a resurgence of gay-bashings in the city, said to be caused by anti-gay pronouncements of fanatical Festival of Lighters. Over 500 people marched through Sydney recently, demanding an end to the violence and taping lists of attack victims on the door of the Festival of Light offices. The police were quick to move in and removed the lists to defend the door from the 'attack'. Few people were surprised at this action but many remain bitter at the protection afforded a door, whilst so little is offered to real victims of violence.

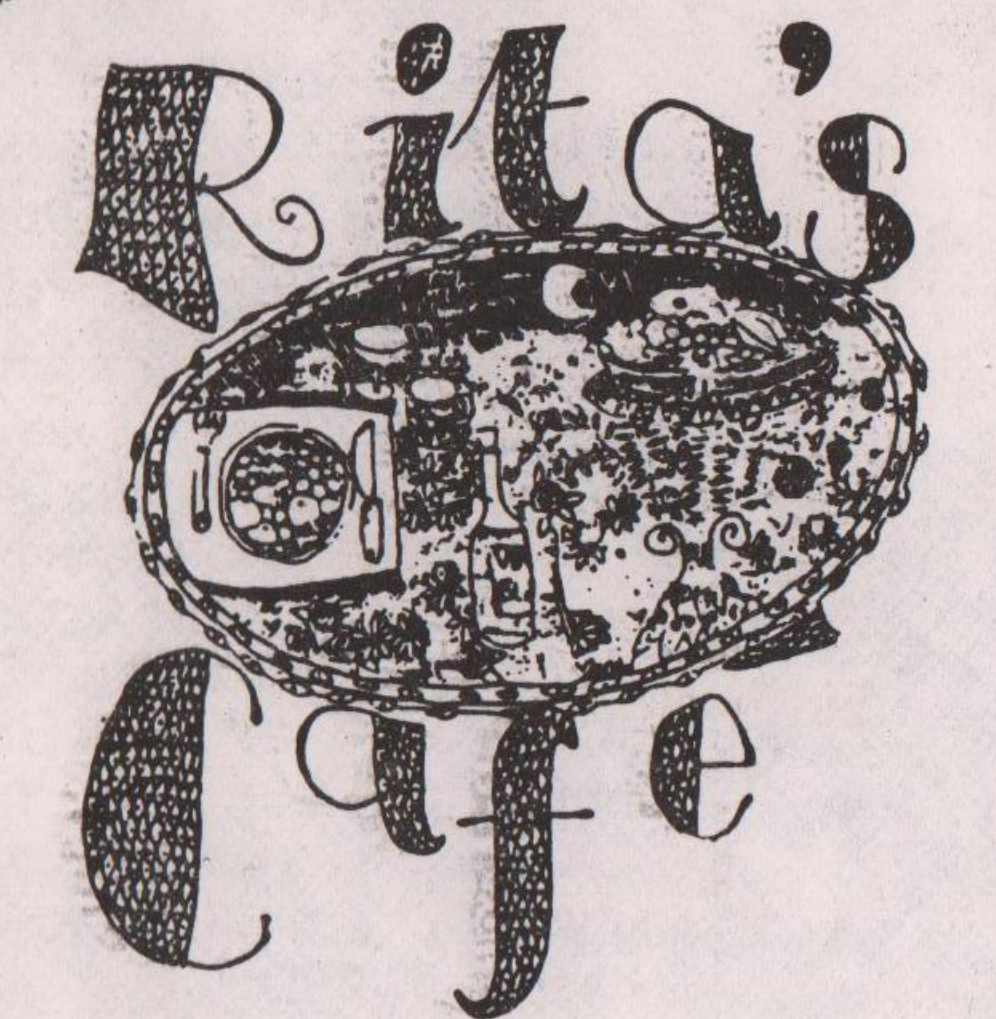
However, here in Sydney, the lesbian and gay community is ready to act. As the marchers moved through the city, their chant couldn't have been clearer - "poofahs Bash Back!"

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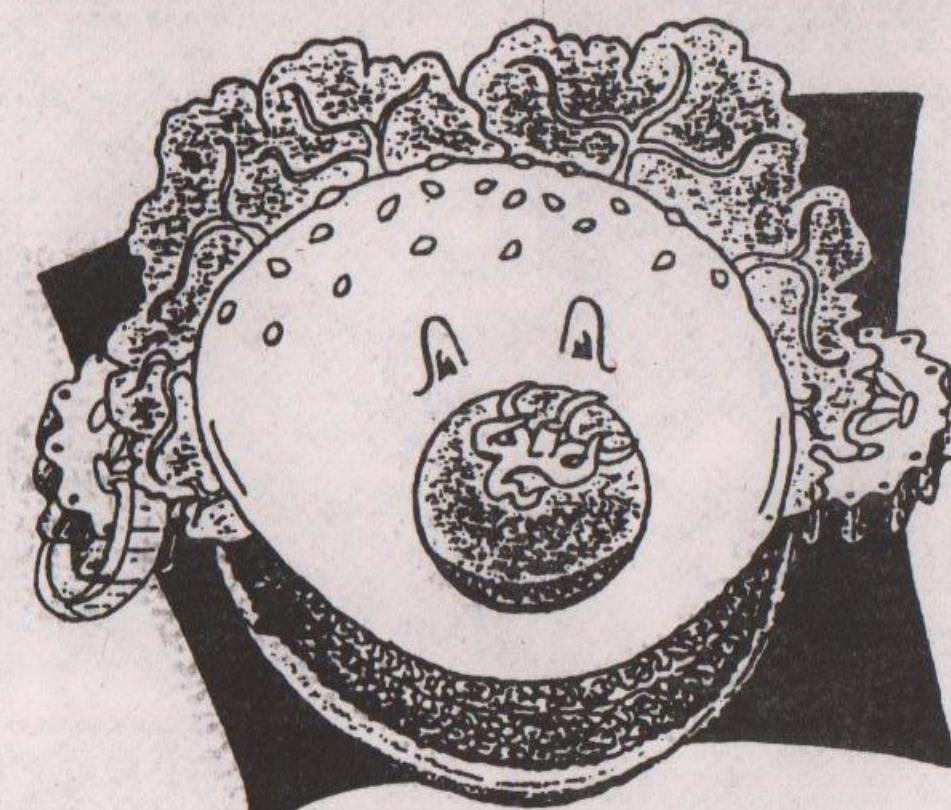


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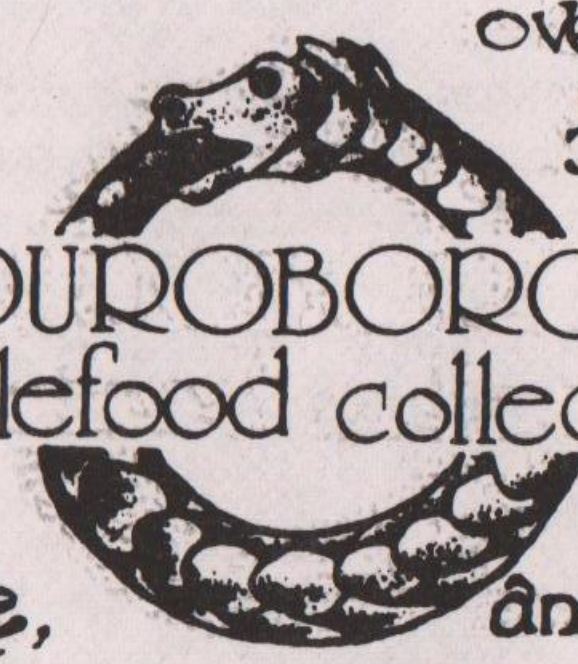
CATERING CAMPAIGN (NOTTINGHAM)



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