

## HOW WE MET - Jason and Ian



Jason Poole and Ian Borrill only met as gay men three months' ago, but have in fact known each other for years. "We both went to the same school in Lincoln but were never friends there. We often glared at each other over the years" says Ian. "Ian was in fact in the class above me but we never really mixed", adds Jason. And, as if they couldn't get enough of each other, they even worked in the same sports shop on Saturdays for several years, never dreaming what the future would hold for them.

The fateful day they met was on the 15th November last year. "I work at the County Hospital in Lincoln and some friends took me out for the night - a group of nurses. "Ah, but you didn't know you were going to a gay night, did you", interrupts Jason. Ian admits it was a shock when he found he was attending a gay party and he says he became a bit uneasy.

"I had been invited to this party and knew it was to be gay, but had no idea that Ian would be there or that he was gay. I arrived before he did and was talking in the corridor - its known as the groping corridor from previous parties - and that's where I was when Ian arrived at the party.

"I was fetching some drinks from the kitchen and I saw Jason behind me, and suddenly I was all of a quiver, what was he doing here I thought. I made some excuses to my friend Sue that I had to go, and kept saying 'I've had enough'. But as I left I had to pass Jason who was already there waiting for me", he added.

Jason takes up the story. "I was still convinced Ian was straight but decided to throw caution to the wind and find out." "Don't touch what you can't afford", says Ian. As I was reaching towards his back pocket I told him, "Oh but I can afford you dear!" "After the formalities we got down to practicals like your place or mine. Fortunately I just lived round the corner," says Jason.

"And next day Ian moved into my life and into my flat and we've been inseparable ever since. But there were dramas pretty soon" says Jason as Ian, who is an operating theatre technician, had to spend a week away at College in Sheffield. By the second day he was on the phone to Jason in tears, "...as I missed him so much, Ian admits".

Not to be daunted Jason caught the first available train to Sheffield and spent the rest of the week - ducking and diving in and out of the residence. But it worked fine.

Jason was just recovering from the sudden death of his lover a year previously, and was beginning to get himself reinvolved in gay related work. His family, including his grandmother, are very supportive about his sexuality. Ian came out to his parents a few months before he met Jason which made it easier for him to move away into his own bedsit, just two weeks before he and Jason met. When they introduced themselves as a couple to both sets of parents it made the 'meet the family' bit that much easier which can so often be a strain of pretence.

For the moment, they are both enjoying each other and still getting used to living together. Jason again: "I feel that our getting together was all meant to be and is the beginning of a new chapter for both of us".

### DERBY ONE NIGHTERS

Don't miss: Maggie Kilpatrick (Joan Ferguson 'The Freak' Prisoner Cell Block 'H') Wednesday 12th February, Curzons Club, (see advert on page 2) and Friday 14th February, Valentine's Night Camp fancy Dress at Green Lane Gallery (see advert on page 4).

## LEICESTER LESBIAN AND GAY LINE

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Closing date for applications: 26th February, 1992

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a steamy romance set in the hidden 1940s world of gay and lesbian sex ... created and performed by PEGGY SHAW, LOIS WEAVER, BETTE BOURNE, PRECIOUS PEARL ... 'A MEMORABLE EVENING, WILDLY INVENTIVE ... VERY FUNNY' What's On 'GOOD, CLEAN, DIRTY FUN' The Independent

PHOENIX

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Issue No. 22  
February 1992

# OUT RIGHT

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# B L U E

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see ABBA - THE MOVIE at Derby  
Metro Friday 14th February, 11.30pm..  
Sing along to all your old favourites.  
Let's make it a party!



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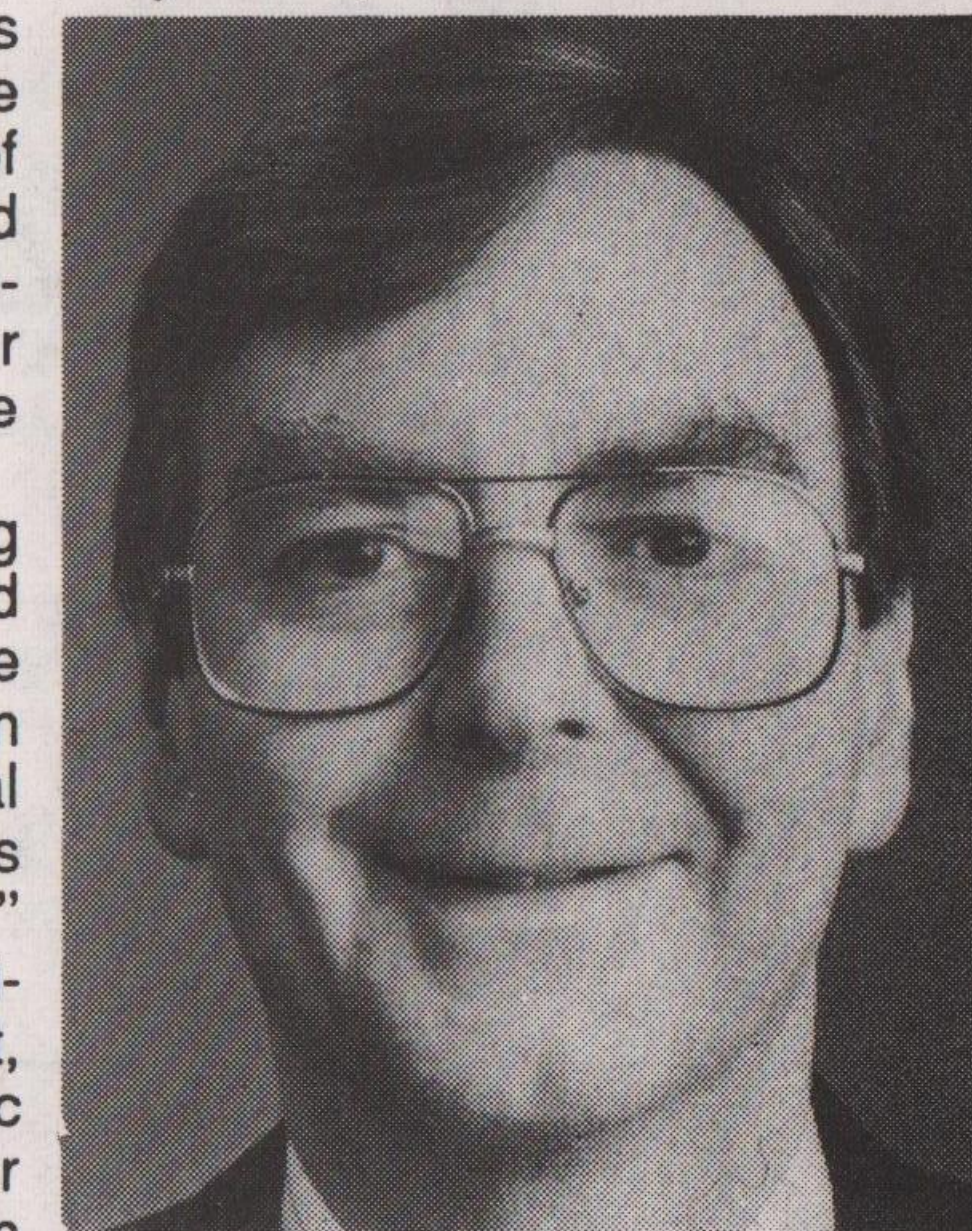
## CAMPAIGN GROUP PRODS POLICE

Leicester Lesbian & Gay Action has written to the Crown Prosecution Service and the Chief Constable of Leicestershire urging them to quash over sixty wrongful convictions for indecency in public toilets in the County since the end of 1987 and provide financial compensation. If this is not possible, say LLGA, then the victims should be granted a Royal Pardon. This follows the upholding by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court of the appeals of Ian Gilbertson and Rev. Ashley Cheeseman, convicted of indecent exposure under Section 28 of the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847.

The grounds for quashing these cases were that vice squad officers on toilet surveillance duties who were specifically on the look out for "squalid" illegal acts could not be classified as "passengers" or "passers-by" who might be annoyed. The Divisional Court therefore ruled that, unless a member of the public other than a plain-clothed officer of the Vice Squad had been annoyed, no offence had been committed.

Home Office guidelines state that "No member of a police force should counsel, incite or procure the commission of a crime and all police forces should be aware of the need for care to avoid plain clothes officers placing themselves in situations where accusations could be made that they have acted as agents provocateurs."

Bernard Greaves (pictured) of LLGA said: In asking for a review of the sixty convictions what we are asking for is compensation for financial loss and damage to their professional, public and private lives. The Leicestershire Police are now making very strong efforts to establish proper working relationships with the lesbian and gay communities. But unless they are prepared to admit their mistakes and right the wrongs of the past, their efforts will fail because lesbians and gay men won't trust them in the future", he added.



## LESBIAN WORKERS SUPPORT GROUP

Are you isolated at work? Are you able to be open about your sexuality - would you like more support? If so you might be interested in the Lesbian Workers' Support Group which meets in Leicester every month. It meets on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on 5th March at 45 King Street, Leicester from 12.30pm. So if you are hungry for support as well as food you can have lunch there too. If you want more details please contact Jill Parker, on (0533) 547412 during office hours.







## EAST MIDLANDS OUTDOOR GROUP

The East Midlands section of the Gay Outdoor Club opens its tenth season on Sunday 16th February with a walk in Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. This will be followed by a varied programme of walks, cycles and weekends throughout the rest of the year. Old and new friends are cordially invited to come along. Walkers should meet at 11am at Forest Gate pub, Forest Road, Loughborough, map ref 129 - 527187. A further walk on Sunday March 15th meets at Burrough Hill car park, Leicestershire, off B.6047 South of Melton Mowbray. map ref. 129 - 766115.

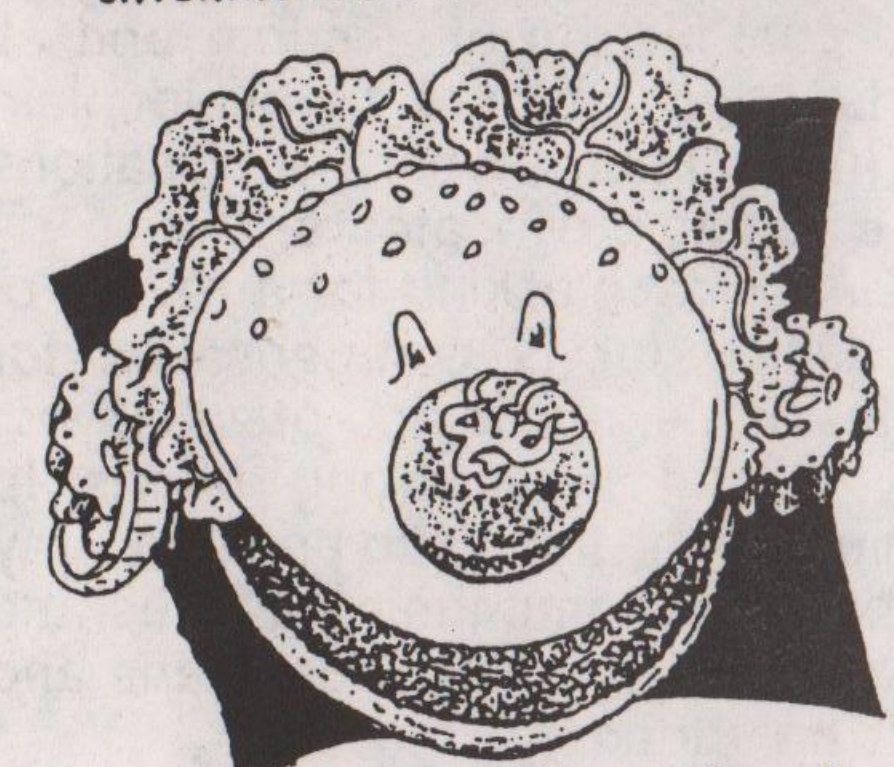
Whilst the walks are not strenuous, strong shoes or boots are recommended. A packed lunch and waterproofs should be brought. For information, ring Nick on (0533) 811138. Pictured are some members having a lunch break.

## PROMENAIID '92 HUGE SUCCESS

Promenaid '92 the gala fundraising event at the Leicester Haymarket Theatre last month raised over £11,000 for Leicestershire HIV organisations. This brings the total raised over four years to £42,000. The evening celebrity performance was sold out days in advance, but those people without tickets were still able to watch the show on a TV monitor in the foyer. Deborah Watson of Leicestershire AIDS Support Services said:

"We are delighted that Promenaid '92 was such a resounding success. This ensures direct support for Leicestershire people living with HIV and AIDS and for their families, friends and carers. The Haymarket Theatre staff are already talking about next year's Promenaid!"

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## DEAR DOCTOR... I'VE GOT THIS PROBLEM

We begin a regular column this month on health matters written by a practising doctor from the region who is gay, Dr Thomas Shaw.

### SWEATY

*I am 17 years old and new to the gay scene. I am very shy and would like to make new friends but whenever I'm introduced to people I immediately break out in a sweat and nearly always forget their name when they tell me. How can I get over this - it's so embarrassing. Dean.*

This is not an uncommon problem and its probably true to say that all of us sometimes, to various extents, feel anxious or daunted at the prospect of meeting 'new friends'. Feelings such as these are often related to several things like age, personality, social experience and the meeting place. Being introduced to new faces against the backdrop of a busy pub, thumping disco or party often with a liberal amount of alcohol on board isn't really conducive to anything more than a minor glance. Most of us can recall conversations with faces we know, but whose name we can't remember. The keys to breaking this cycle are a little self confidence, relaxed approach and if needs must, a repeat introduction or tactful confirmation of a name, and above all don't forget, practice can make perfect. But do remember when faced with some dreadful trolling leech, amnesia can be a positive godsend for the occasion.

### HEPATITIS B VACCINATIONS

*I read somewhere that you can be vaccinated against Hepatitis. Is it worth having the jab and how much does it cost?*

The vaccination which you refer to is that for Hepatitis B. This is a virus which mainly affects the liver and which can be transmitted sexually. Infection can result in a number of short and/or longterm problems including a persistent infectious state.

Statistically, Hepatitis B or evidence of previous infection is more common amongst gay men than the general public, and given that the majority of people affected show no obvious signs or symptoms and contrary to popular belief, have never been jaundiced (yellow jaundice) it is sensible to get yourself maximally protected. A safe and effective vaccine is available free on the NHS and confidential and professional advice about this and a whole range of other gay and lesbian health issues is available at your local STD clinic (Dept. Genito Urinary Medicine), or if you live in Nottingham at Nottingham Health Shop.

LOCAL CLINICS: Leicester Royal Infirmary, Infirmary Close, Leicester, Tel: (0533) 541414 x5208; Derby Royal Infirmary, London Rd, William Donald Clinic, Tel: (0332) 47141 x504; Nottingham City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Tel: (0602) 691169; Lincoln County Hospital, Sewell Rd, Clinic 10 (GU), direct line Tel: (0522) 537723, Health Advisor, tel: (0522) 536989.

Problems with a lover? Something medical on your mind? Concerned about something at home? Write to Dr. Thomas Shaw, Outright, PO Box 4, West PDO, Nottingham, NG7 2DJ. Remember, letters may be edited for publication and no personal correspondence will be entered into. You can write anonymously or otherwise. All letters will be destroyed as soon as they have been dealt with.

## SHANA SOUND at THE SKYY CLUB

A Women's event takes place, Tuesday 11th February, 9.30pm to 1.30am. Main attraction is MAL FINCH and disco with late bar and quiet area. The Skyy Club is at 509 Alfreton Road, Bobbersmill, Nottingham, price £2.50/£2.00.

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## OUTBURST!

*Is there any gay life in Burton-on-Trent? Where are you all?*

*When I first came out in 1977, I found it difficult to make contact and to meet other gays socially. However fourteen years on it seems harder than ever.*

*But for one gay friend I made at work and his boyfriend, I should now be totally alone. I have been trying to look up old friends and make new ones and hopefully find true love.*

*Lesbian & Gay Switchboard in London had no listings for Burton. When you and your friends have to rely on public transport, Derby might as well be many miles away. The last transport leaves Derby around 9.30pm which scarcely gives one time to down a drink before returning home. So I have had to rely on my knowledge of fourteen years ago. We've visited the Midland Hotel several times but haven't seen anyone we knew or even any possibles. Are we looking in the right places?*

*If, as it seems, there's nothing happening in Burton, my friends and I have decided to get something off the ground. We would like to hear from other Burton-based gays with any ideas. Please give me a call on (0283) 45881 in the evenings midweek.*

*Yours faithfully,  
John.*

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## RECORD ROUNDUP

by SIMON SMALLEY

Ayup. This article isn't intended to be upfront on the latest dance mixes, but an alternative, with opinions on some recent releases.

Firstly, my personal album of the year for 1991 is the debut from Jellyfish. Entitled "Bellybutton" it's a hybrid mix of late 60's to mid 70's pure pop with witty lyrics and hook lines a go-go.

As if to herald the death of vinyl, Polygram records have a mass re-issue scheduled for this year, including the long-awaited Soft Cell albums which will contain bonus tracks. The forthcoming album by CeCe Peniston promises to contain some soon to become club classics if the taster singles 'Finally' and 'We Got A Love Thang' are anything to go by.

"No Regrets" is the title of a greatest hits package by Scott Walker and The Walker Brothers. This melancholy collection is an essential for those able to remember it first time around and need to replace their scratched Fontana 45's - and an ideal beginning for those wanting to delve into a style that many think Marc Almond started.

Those Manic Street Preachers burst onto the album racks shortly with their offering "Generation Terrorists". These lads have got the riffs, the looks and, most importantly the mascara and hairdo's to really be this month's thing. Anyone who witnessed their explosive appearance on 'The Word' in November will know just what to expect when they appear at the Poly on February 22nd. For real indeed!

Cooling down a little, jazz label Savoy have re-issued a series of digitally remastered albums from the 40's and 50's, including some long-unavailable titles by Duke Jordan, Cannonball Adderley, John Coltrane and Gigi Gryce. Well worth checking out if you fancy some laid-back tunes.

It seems that the popular music press has noted 'Screamadelica' by Primal Scream as album of '91. Bobby Gillespie has progressed from indie darling into a sussed out popstar with his finger on the pulse. This album certainly has the right vibe, almost Sly & The Family Stone meet The Rolling Stones somewhere in 1969. The mellow groove is a nice alternative to the plethora of frantic dance tracks currently around and maybe a few DJ's should invest in a copy and give it a go.

So, if you have some Christmas record tokens still burning a hole, some of the above may interest you, some may not. See ya. (SIMON SMALLEY is a Compact Disc Buyer for HMV, Nottingham).

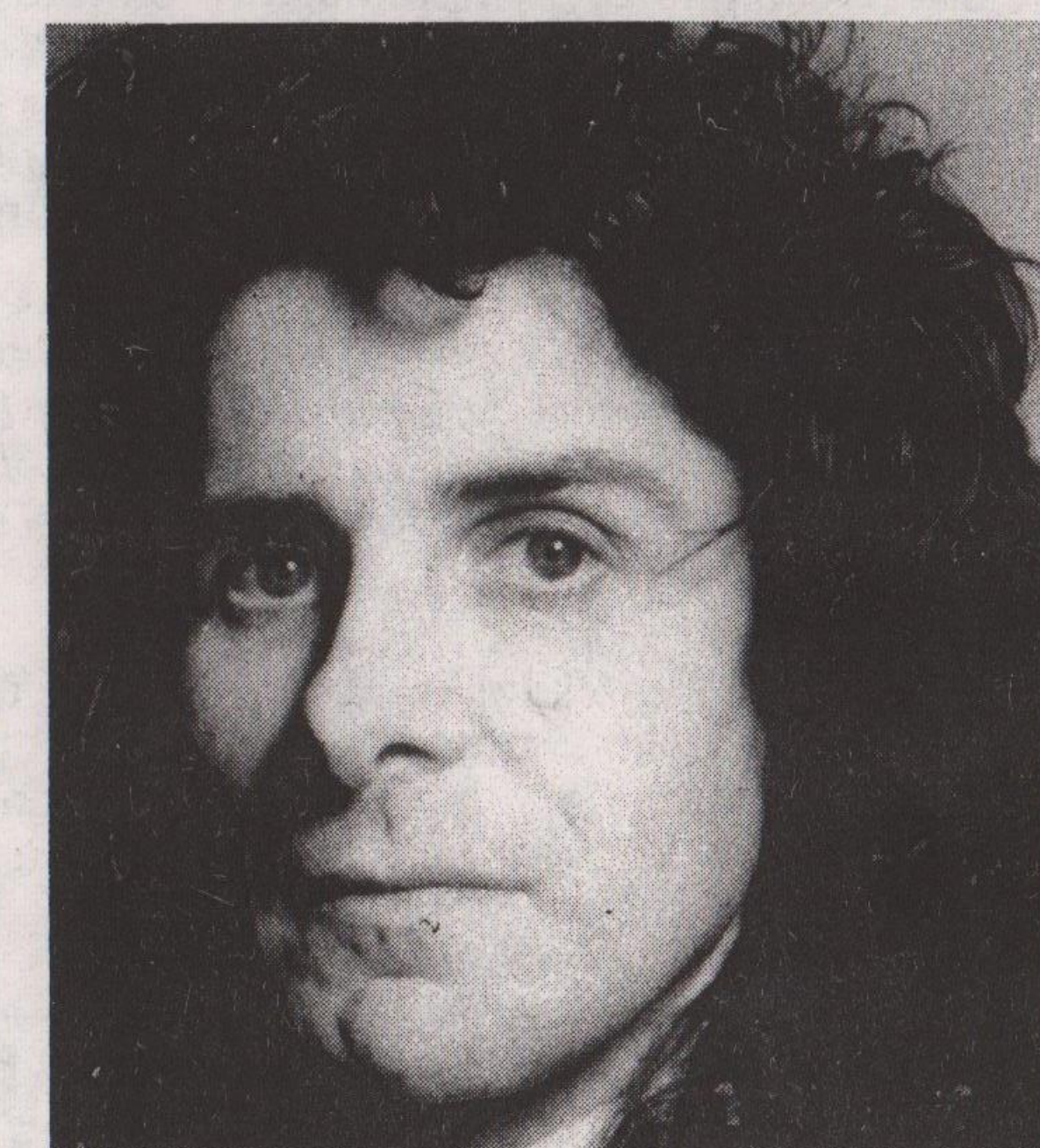
### HYKIN' DYKES, LESBIAN BREAKFASTS AND DISCOS ....ALL IN NOTTINGHAM

Hykin' Dykes have organised a mystery walk in Derbyshire for Sunday 16th Feb. Further details from Sue (0602) 620305. Fancy a late, leisurely breakfast with other lesbians? Then turn up to Nottingham Lesbian Centre on 23rd Feb. from 11 to 2pm. Eat your heart out on buns, bagels, croissants, tea, coffee and newspapers. Finally, LESBIAN DISCO, 1st Saturday of month, Open to all women, SPINSTAS DJ COLLECTIVE, 9pm 'til late. Saturday, 7th March. NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S CENTRE, CHAUCER ST. NOTTM, tel: 411475 (Lesbian Centre upstairs).

More pictures from last year's NALGO lesbian & Gay annual conference at Glasgow, featuring some of the East Midlands delegates including Trevor Sword who was one of the two delegates elected to represent lesbians and gays in NALGO at the union's annual conference in June.

### MADE IN HEAVEN

Bette Bourne (pictured), is a founder member of the inimitable British gay cabaret troupe, BLOOLIPS who had audiences gasping for over fifteen years with their inspired extravaganzas in tulle and tat. More recently, Bette has appeared with Neil Bartlett in "Sarrasine" and "A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep."



The doyens of New York's gay and lesbian comedy scene BLOOLIPS and SPLIT BRITCHES - a veritable marriage made in heaven - turn their attention, and their stilettos, on Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire". In their passion for queer love and their determination to play Blanche du Bois, they produce BELLE REPRIEVE, an unauthorised version of Williams' classic play, a steamy romance set in the hidden 1940's world of gay and lesbian sex. This is cross-dressing like you have only dreamed about and nothing, but nothing, is safe when Bette Bourne, Peggy Shaw, Precious Pearl and Louise Weaver take to the stage. You have been warned. "A unique tap-dancing, piano-playing, gender-bending, cabaret-influenced romp." (The Village Voice, New York).

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### A VIEW FROM THE TOW PATH DANCING WITH LAWYERS

Life is often a case of one step forward and two back. Such must indeed seem to be the case over the issue of Law Reform. Recently this has been illustrated by the suggestion in Scotland that there would be no prosecutions of consensual sex by men between the ages of 16 and 21, rapidly followed by the decision not to implement such a change.

There have been many such cases and, at first, it is tempting to regard each one as perpetuating the pattern. However, regarding this as a set-back requires a very narrow view of how to achieve progress. Instead it provides an opportunity to, at least, clarify our objectives on this issue.

There is an attraction to the possibility of quietly contacting those responsible for administering laws and persuading them to stop prosecutions. We can easily demonstrate that many

cases do far more harm than good by quoting examples from the lives that have been ruined by prosecutions of married men caught in Cottages or those still in their teens being sent to prison. It is also easy to demonstrate that such prosecutions offer the great British Public little protection from harm.

Many of the arguments against such an approach are well rehearsed. It does not change attitudes either among the public in general or those who enforce laws in particular. To begin doing so requires an open and wide-ranging debate. Law reform aims to continue this debate as well as obtaining specific legal changes. Moreover changes obtained by some secret administrative decision can be reversed just as easily whereas changes in laws are more difficult to reverse.

But we should go further than this because there is an unspoken attraction in the quiet approach. It is the possibility of achieving change without anyone noticing or provoking opposition. I would suggest that those of us who feel compelled to spend their lives on the margins of society are attracted to such an approach. Herein lies the fundamental weakness of these tactics. They perpetuate the marginal position of Lesbian and Gay Men by continuing the secretive and manipulative behaviour which has so often characterised our operations.

We should also add to this the difficulties encountered by those of us attempting to achieve reforms. There are so few organisations working towards real change that at times the difficulties seem insurmountable. Often in Lesbian and Gay organisations many hours are spent in discussion, at the end of which everyone goes to the pub feeling they have achieved something. In practice, all that has resulted is a mountain of waffle and no action.

In such a situation there is a strong attraction to taking short cuts with an apparent immediate pay-off and avoiding the need to build organisations.

A set-back gives us the opportunity to review our aims and tactics. We can ask ourselves if we have opted for the easy approach instead of thinking in the long-term. It is also an opportunity to examine the way in which we organise ourselves or, perhaps

continued on page six

### ● MATADOR (18) Subtitled

Spain 1986 Director Pedro Almodovar (105 mins)

With Assumpta Serna, Antonio Banderas, Nancho Martinez

Neglected gem from Almodovar on his typical themes of sexual fantasy, violence and death. Seen from the point of view of a bullfighting student, whose extreme desires lead him into an intense, dangerous relationship with a woman who has an equally bizarre fantasy life, *Matador* is a disturbing, erotic movie with a sly, humorous edge.

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### ABBA - THE MOVIE

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th

February at 11.30

Director: Lasse Hallstrom

Sweden / Australia 1977

If only we all knew then what we know now - that Bjorn, Benny, Agnetha and Anna were the greatest pop foursome since the Beatles - then Abba would have been sustained by critical and public acclaim alike and would still figure in the pop charts with workaday hits like 'Fernando' and the sublime 'SUPER TROUPER'. As fate would have it, all we have left are a dozen or so played-to-death albums and celluloid records, like this wonderful, 24-carat kitsch offering from the director of MY LIFE AS A DOG. Have the time of your life!

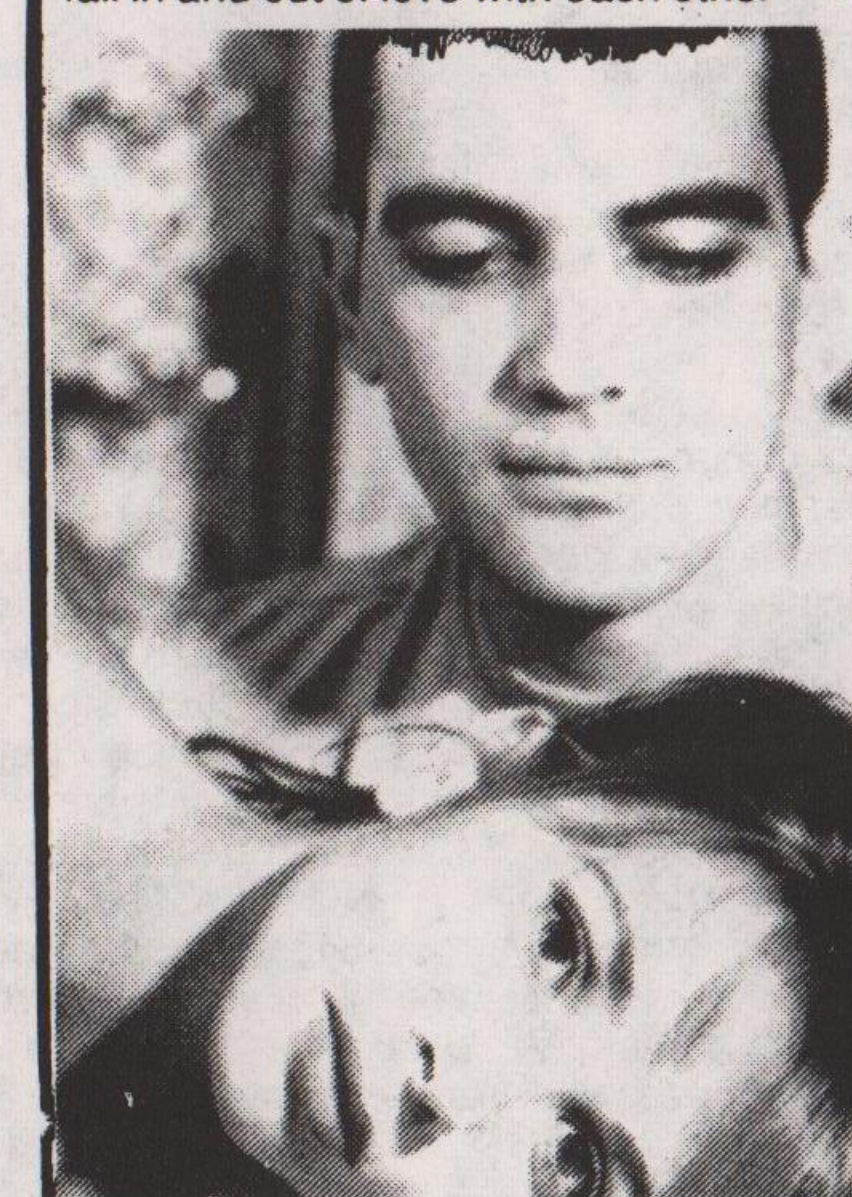
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### TIE ME UP! TIE ME DOWN!

Controversial, erotic farce from Spain's leading filmmaker which follows the complicated relationship of an ex-convict with a woman porn star whom he kidnaps on the pretext of getting to know her better! Intentionally absurd, occasionally surreal, *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* is a wacky, weird picture that takes tackiness to new comic heights.

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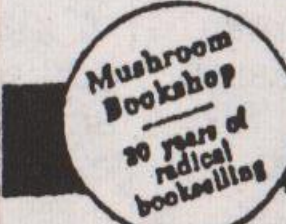
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