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FEBRUARY 1973



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DREAMS COME TRUE

By JEAN HARVEY

How often have you woken up from a most beautiful dream and tried to get back to it without success? I expect that has happened to most of us. Waking dreams, Walter Mitty, style are perhaps the best when we can cast ourselves off into a world where everything is beautiful and ourselves most of all. Perhaps this is what the cinema does for us in some ways, enabling us to immerse ourselves into the plot and become one of the characters for just a couple of hours.

I suppose life in some ways is one continual dream with plans we are making for the future and hopes we cherish. Dreams, that any minute Mr. or Miss Right will walk into our lives and change our mundane daily existence. The trouble is that like night dreams when we pinch ourselves we wake up. The very handsome creature we seemed to spend most of our sleeping hours with would turn out to be less than fantastic if we could have him/her in real life.

I sometimes wonder if this is the trouble (apart from the obvious) with drug taking. The trouble with drugs is that they give you a world which you cannot recapture in the cool light of day. I understand that colours, sound and touch become more vivid and for the brief time you are encompassed in its spell, life takes on a new look.

Of course there are many ancient mystics of the east who will

tell you that with will power concentration and a lot of luck you can transport yourself off into another world without any of the side effects of drug-taking. You have to simply learn to drift away leaving the world behind you. Place yourself in a situation and live through it. Sounds rather like Buzz Berkeley to me. I have another group of magazines for Mr. and Mrs. Everyday and we have been pursuing a feature particularly for the women about how they would spend 24 hours if they were given carte blanche and a reasonable amount of money. You would be amazed at what they have said (the ones that would tell you the truth anyway). It seems that most people live very boring lives and really want desperately to get away and have a wild time if only for a brief space of a few hours.

Day - dreaming always seems easier if attributed to warmth. Either in bed, in a warm car on a long journey, or on a river bank on a hot summer day. I can think of many films and books which have started off with the main character gently snoozing by the banks of the river with the sun beating down and the sound of gently lapping water in his ears. Maybe we should all try it once in a while. For now turn the heating up to maximum, get yourself in the most comfortable position and simply turn your thoughts to the most interesting and beautiful thing you can think of. Well they can't lock you up for your personal thoughts - can they?

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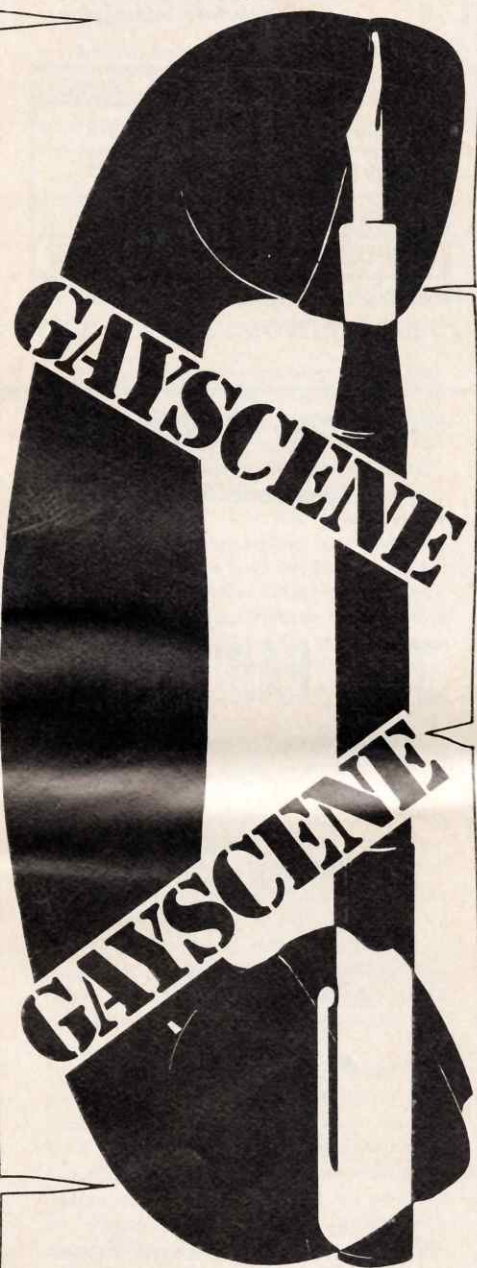
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Editorial Note:

Gayscene's Editor is anxious to meet anyone who has answered advertisements in any of the Gay Press and is prepared to talk about their experiences good or bad. Please write or telephone, details on this page.

The washing machine's making funny noises.

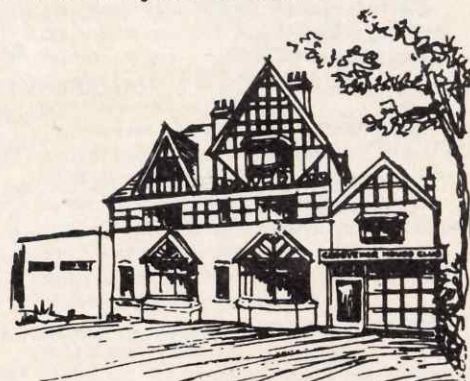
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SHE-LINES

MODERN DAY SAPPHO

By RUTH MAGNANI

Nowadays, they tell me, it is far more chic not to have been to University than to have trodden the campus. Yet even the near-illiterate will know that Sappho was the lady who gave love between women a name. By camping (and I use the word advisedly) with her ladies on the Isle of Lesbos, the word Lesbian was added to our vocabulary, although, in company with many of my sisters I prefer to be called "gay" Sappho and I share another common denominator - she too was a married lady with children.

What makes a married lady, in her forties, with three teenage children, turn from her husband to another woman? So many married women are doing just that and the age-group is pretty vast. Are we kinky, sexually frustrated, chasing lost youth or whatever? Kinky, I'm not (I find porno a big yawn), I can happily say that since my first bedding (by a man, of course at seventeen), I have never known sexual frustration and as I firmly believe that age is irrelevant (some people are ancient drags at 30 and others fascinating at 70, circa Mistinguette), I don't think I'm chasing my lost youth.

I shall not relate a tear-jerking resume of my marriage. Most of it was sordid, sad and a waste and I prefer to forget it. Briefly my husband was a near-alcoholic, weak and incapable of making a firm decision about anything. He provided me with nothing - home, goods nor chattels. What I achieved was my own, through work - a blessed soporific for unhappiness. On the reverse side of the coin, my husband was, when not intoxicated, charming, gentle and an excellent lover. Most of the time he was very drunk indeed.

I was leading, so thought I when I had my first serious gay relationship, a fairly satisfactory life, where work was my God and love was something kids had illusions about. I suppose I was completely bowled over, not, as everyone so fondly imagined (and hoped?) by sexual passion, although that was out-of-this-world as well, but by the sheer delight of some one caring about me, as a person. Caring whether I was well or ill, happy or miserable. I couldn't believe it! For twenty-five years I'd seldom thought about what I'd wanted. Were the kids well-fed, happy at school and trendy enough to look good against the others? - that was my pattern my pattern of living. And following the caring came the marvellous feeling of being treated as if I was something beautiful, romantic and special - in short, I'd forgotten how it felt to be treated as a woman. It was inevitable that I should fall completely in love. With her, I became a woman as I had never been with a man.

My straight friends say she ruined my life, and that my love for her which endures to this day, corrupted me, lost me many friends and changed my whole concept of living. The latter is certainly true but they neglect to add that she taught me how to be happy. Work and circumstances took her many miles away but thanks to her I now have a very contented, peaceful and super relationship with my present partner with whom I live very happily. Better still, within the gay world I have many understanding friends.

If I'm bent, I've no wish to be straight. But sometime I'd like an opportunity to say to an all-male gathering - "Try caring a little more, fella, because it could all happen to your wife."

The sadness is that he'd only have himself to blame.



FROM ME TO YOU

By JEAN HARVEY

As a female homosexual and editor/publisher of *Gayscene* I feel that I must pass on some of the feelings of many of the women that write to the magazine as well as my own personal impressions formed over the years.

The usual comment about women is that 'well it's OK for you - it's never been illegal for you'. True in basic substance but rather far off the mark in many other ways. I really wonder whether the legal side of the problem has rather overshadowed the many and various other difficulties that people feel still exist and which the law has had very little effect upon. I speak of course about the inner us. Perhaps it is the person inside trying to get out that causes most of the problems. I really feel that there is an awful lot of rubbish expounded by homosexuals as well as heterosexuals about 'straight society' and how difficult it is for the 'gay' to become accepted. Well I can honestly say that at the delicate age of 36 and looking back on well over twenty years of knowing myself to be homosexual I feel that on the whole life isn't as bad as it is generally made out to be. The difficult years are the first few as a young

person. Unsure, wondering whether you are the only one, trying to adapt to obviously feeling different to your contemporaries and thereby finding the gap between you widening. The crushes on teachers and school-friends, and the loneliness of a young teenager in a world not yet too obvious. In a way the yellow brick road stretched out before me but taking those first few steps were the most difficult. Never believing in your wildest hopes that there was another human being you might just share life with.

Then you grew up and went out to work. Found out more about life and ran across someone else, started going to clubs, (yes even in those dark days B.C. Before Camp)! For myself I, like many of you, had to conform. One could hardly turn up at the office in those days anyway in a butch suit - but that didn't stop you chatting up the boss's secretary or the postgirl! I remember well the racing up to London to meet a girl friend or go to a club and changing from your pretty daytime attire into your then trendy sports slacks and blazer. In the years since - I have progressed to running my own publishing/entertainments/club business and now I can and do turn up wearing what I like, when I like and where I like, no one yet amongst all my 'straight business clients' has refused to deal with me, I have never ever been refused entry into any restaurant, club or hotel or anywhere else come to that matter. Even in Scotland where I was told they would all die of shock and shun me I found nothing but charm and pleasantness. All the hotels were really helpful.

Nowadays, of course and thank goodness, everyone looks the same. So who can tell and who cares anyway. I do think that the gay set make rather more of segregation (see my other column this month) than is necessary. I believe heterosexuals in the main do not care and you will probably find that if you just give it a try you will be amazed at how easy it is. Don't put up barriers that don't exist - don't snap at a remark that means not much at all and don't go expecting trouble - you will probably be sadly disappointed to find that they are too busy with their own problems.

Of course you will meet up with the ignorant, bad-mannered and less than tactful. So does everyone else. It isn't exclusive to the homosexual to be insulted, ask any Jew, coloured, Irish, Chinese, or Evangelist. Someone, at sometime has made a rude personal remark, thrown beer or in extremes shot or executed them.

So there you are girls - life is your oyster go out and grab it.

Footnote: We have had dozens of letters from girls asking for more in the magazine for them and we will try. Most of our editorial is, we hope applicable to all. But do write and give us your views, opinions and any ideas for features.

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CHE & ALL THAT

During 1973 I feel sure you are all going to be driven mad by my integrate don't segregate campaign. But really has the homosexual society gone quite raving mad? CHE organised a London Conference at the Conway Hall on Friday 12th January. The hall was packed and we were invited to listen to the Earl of Arran, Maureen Duffy, The Rev. Chad Varah and Bryan Magee. The latter getting my vote for some very sensible and obvious comments.

Throughout the evening there was, as there so often is, a sad note in the proceedings. It would appear that there are a vast percentage of homosexuals, at least those attaching themselves to organisations and perhaps that's why, who really feel that the world in general is anti-gay, and I just cannot subscribe to this theory at all. I've said it in two articles this month. Over the last few months I have attended meetings large and small that have the overriding theme - how can we get it together with the straights or normals. Oh come on folks what a lot of old rubbish. Are you really convinced that the whole world is ready to throw us all to the wolves. To have meetings to talk about how to integrate is rather ludicrous as one never ever goes anywhere to integrate. By continually cutting oneself off even in one's mind from society in general is just heightening a situation which given a fair chance would just not exist. Surely to God you are not going to tell me that by some quaint quirk of fate everyone I meet is A OK and all the difficult ones are somewhere else.

Yes I believe the age of consent should be brought into line with current laws for heterosexuals, this is a matter for some tub thumping which no doubt CHE and the like have well in hand and do extremely efficiently. Perhaps there does need to be some sort of Counseling for those in trouble with the law so that they can quickly be put in touch with a sympathetic and understanding solicitor. We do need clubs, media to meet a need but surely it isn't necessary to make it seem as if the homosexual is so vastly different from anyone else. After all we only sleep with members of the same sex and that just about defines the difference.

The Earl of Arran took some stick especially from GLF. I feel it is not only the height of bad manners to express oneself in such a personally derogatory way to a man of age but more important, the Earl of Arran, no matter how many times you have heard it and are sick of it, did do what no-one else had the courage to do. He did stand up, support the homosexual law reform case and speak countless words and write unending supporting editorials on the case for the reform of the law. It is due to people like him that GLF are at liberty to express their own views in their own very particular way and for that at least they should be grateful.

Ask any of our Scottish friends and they'll tell you just how difficult it is to get anyone to fight their case for them.

GAYSCENE is planning a series of interviews with as many of the homosexual societies as possible to try and endeavour to obtain from them their manifesto and general approach for 1973. We will be bringing you their comments as from March.

By JEAN HARVEY

SCOTTISH MINORITIES GROUP

The GUARDIAN, the SCOTSMAN and the EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS announced the publication of the Group's SEXUAL OFFENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL at the beginning of December. Comment in the 'straight' Press was confined to the factual information given out at the SMG Press Conference. GAY NEWS, in an editorial comment in GN 12, remarked that it was 'a great pity' that SMG had opted for 18 and not 16 as the homosexual age of consent. The National Federation of Homophile Organisations at its Annual General Meeting on 9 December 1972 expressed 'universal disapproval' of our age of consent arguing (Anthony Grey's words) that a Scottish age of 18 will damage any English effort for an age of consent of 16. I would like to make the following comments:

1. The SMG Bill is the result of extensive consultations and Annual Meeting Directives.
2. It does not pretend to reflect the private wishes of members of the Law Reform Sub-Committee on the question of 'age of consent'. I hope all members are aware that some of us do in fact question the very concept of 'consent' and prefer the notion of 'protection'. But our task was to modify existing law. This we are attempting to do. We are trying to achieve the possible - that is the art of politics.
3. The SMG Bill gives protection to the 16 and 17-year-olds and in this definition it follows the practice established in Part III of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 Section 30(1) 'Definition of child' which makes the distinction between under 16 years and 16-18 years old children. The SMG Bill is not an all-out Reform measure, it represents a major first step for homosexuals

in Scotland.

4. Criticism has myopically concentrated on the age of consent. The Bill has other very important and significant provisions, yet these are not being discussed!
5. What proposals have the other homosexual organisations got to offer? We in SMG will listen more seriously to criticism when other groups produce the goods. SMG is away beyond the academic discussion stage and we're beginning to wonder just how importantly our friends south of the Border regard law reform. There should be a dozen Bills before Parliament - and lobbying campaigns. It's now getting on for 6 years 'after the Act' . . . let's see some action, brothers!

Ian C. Dunn, member of Law Reform Sub-Committee

QUOTES

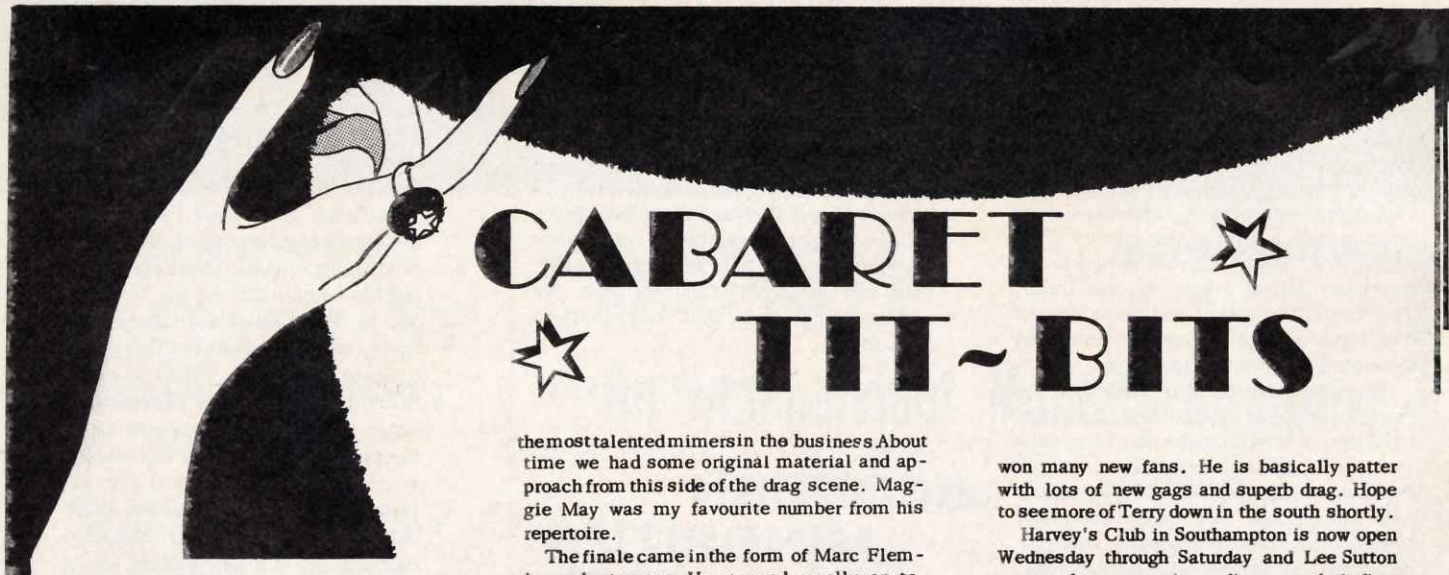
From the Evening News

A Unisex Ward costing £1800 is to be added to Patterson Ward, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. The cubicles will take patients needing special treatment as well as men and women.

From a conversation with a Club Manager:
We don't mind you sending queer drag acts but for God's sake don't send any coloured.

POEM

Across The Room You Pass a Smile
To Touch—To Kiss You Wait Awhile.
The Fear You Feel—She will not wait
The Time's Too Long—To be Your Mate
You hold Your Breath—You say A Prayer
Please Wait Awhile—My Life to Share



The Union Tavern's Charity night in aid of the Licenced Victuallers Homes for the Retired Fund raised over £450 and was a riotous success into the bargain. We arrived an hour before the show was due to start and the place was packed to the doors.

Compering by the resident wit and chanter in the frame of Guy Saville, music by Mike and Ken as usual. Don McLean opened the show and got everyone in the right mood with excellent patter. Nice to hear some original material, and what a super suit. Don starts a new series in Crackerjack which I'm sure will be a great success.

Also on the bill was David Anthony. This young man has a really pleasant and interesting voice and 'I Don't Know How to Love Him' from Jesus Christ Superstar was given a really fabulous new look.

Lee Sutton, the Union's own Superstar gave his usual faultless performance and I still like him in blonde wigs best!! Sandy Graham gave a tremendous show and surely is one of

the most talented mimers in the business. About time we had some original material and approach from this side of the drag scene. Maggie May was my favourite number from his repertoire.

The finale came in the form of Marc Fleming and entourage. He stepped regally on to the stage followed by his attendants and proceeded to cause an absolute riot. No wonder he is such a big favourite at the Union where he is a regular cabaret act. To make an agent laugh takes some doing but Marc had me falling about crying with laughter. His camp pal-are is superb and although I'd heard he could be cruel with the patter I found his humour most entertaining. I specially liked the Queen Mother going mugging routine.

Lovely show, well presented because after all the Union has limited stage facilities and Guy kept it all going up there very well. Thanks Floss and Jim as usual a good time was had by all.

Down South the Club Gigi had their Miss Gigi contest which turned out to be an enormous success. The club was packed and there were over 20 entries which is an extremely good turnout. Jim and Julian provided a camp night and worked hard to get it just right.

Terry Dennis appeared for the first time at Bishops Waltham Country Club last month and

won many new fans. He is basically patter with lots of new gags and superb drag. Hope to see more of Terry down in the south shortly.

Harvey's Club in Southampton is now open Wednesday through Saturday and Lee Sutton appeared to a capacity audience on their first Wednesday night. An accolade for Lee's parody Sweet Things taken from Ding a Ling. Brandy Balls, Walnut Whips etc. has to be heard to be believed. Never did an audience clap and scream so loudly. At this club on 14th February there is a big Valentine's Ball and Drag Contest. As tickets are limited it would be wise to purchase in advance of the night.

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THE MICK SANDWELL SPOT IDEALS & EMPHASIS

Bad publicity haunts homosexuals like the plague. Reason quickly flies out of the window when people's emotionally biased ideas are allowed in through the door. As I write this, today's Times has come through my door, and the remarks of an honest and no doubt admirable policewoman concerning certain West End squalor provide a so-typical illustration:

'If (some of the missing persons) are young lads, men will start speaking to them, take them back to their homes and be nice to them. These boys are usually naive, and often accept. The man demands something more of them. Eventually, they put these lads on the streets as male prostitutes, and they give the men part of their earnings. Their ages can range from 14 upwards. Many of these boys end up as permanent homosexuals . . .

But the sexual nature of a cheat can come in as many varieties as the sexual nature of an honest policewoman. What about the girls who are enticed into prostitution? Do they 'end up as permanent heterosexuals'? and, of all the con-

sequences of their mistakes and 'naivety', is that the one to be bewailed?'

'One man had 10 little boys working as male prostitutes for him from 14 upwards. Capitalism and human exploitation of a wickedly selfish kind, certainly. An intolerable disrespect for the young, indeed. But entirely equal to the situation of a man exploiting ten little girls as female prostitutes, even though the latter case adds to the risk of V.D. already hanging over any prostitution arrangements, the additional risk for the prostitute of the so unnecessary complications of unwanted pregnancy, and perhaps the birth of further unwanted children to be that same honest policewoman's clients of a further generation.

That policewoman, and many like her, should be listened to with respect. But when will British society start to listen with respect to its other minority groups, of whom we homosexuals are one? Perhaps after publication later this year of the long-awaited Kinsey Report on homosexuality.

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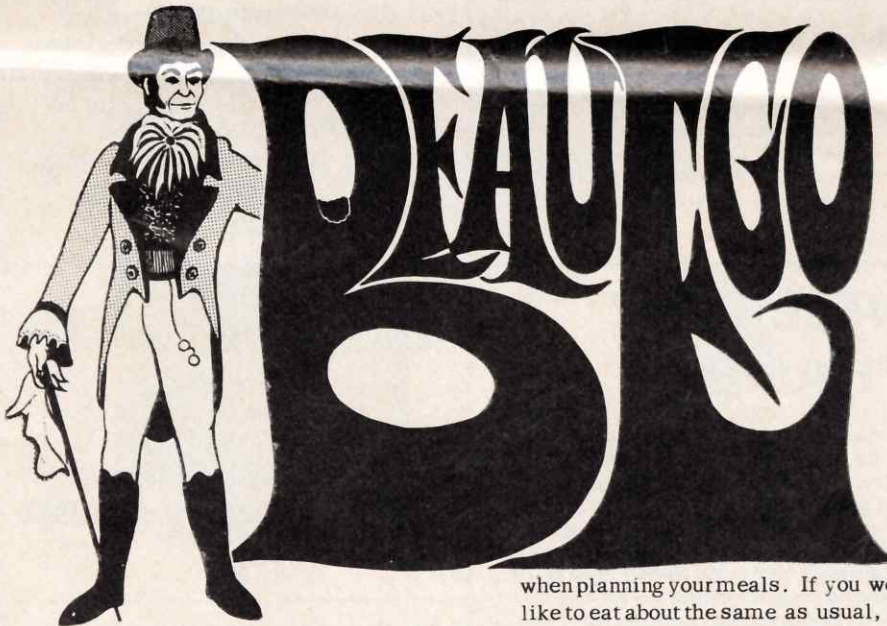
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Many readers have written to me with the same problem of 'Over Weight' and ask while at business how can one feast without famine. So this month Beau Ego is especially for fatties (which includes me). It is important to remember that we did not get stout in a hurry, so must not be impatient to lose weight. Charts tell us a man's caloric intake should be 20 calories per each pound of his weight. There are several pocket size booklets on the stalls which can be a great help

when planning your meals. If you would like to eat about the same as usual, and are in no hurry to go down the scale, these few golden rules could be sufficient for you to lose a few pounds.

First rule for the dieter is not to eat between meals, but if you find this very difficult try to eat such things as celery, carrots or radishes. Second rule - cut out potatoes, and take all other vegetables without butter, avoid the fatty parts of meat. Try to start the day on some pure lemon juice. Try plenty of salads but without oil or dressing. Eggs may be cooked anyway but fried, this

applies to fish too. Remember the wide variety of cheese, with cottage cheese as the lowest in calories. Probably these few-hundred less calories are all you need to start losing weight. It will of course be slow, but you are eating as you please.

Here are two suggested days' diets, one for the executive who dines out, the other for the fellow who may cater for himself.

GOURMET MENU FOR A DAY

CALORIES
PER OZ.

Breakfast

Fresh Orange juice	10
Egg boiled, poached or scrambled	45
1 slice of bread - toasted or formula bread - about	70
Coffee if possible with- out milk and sugar	Nil

Lunch

Asparagus	10
Trout	40
2 vegetables (Not potatoes)	20
Fresh Fruit salad	20
Coffee black	Nil

Dinner

Melon	5
Steak	80
Salad Mixed	25
Cheese	80
Energen Roll or similar	20

SELF CATERING MENU FOR A DAY

Breakfast

Fresh lemon juice	5
Boiled egg	45
1 Energen Roll or similar	20
Tea or coffee with- out milk and sugar	Nil

Lunch

Cheese	80
Salad Mixed	25
Tea or coffee	Nil

Dinner

½ Grapefruit	5
Cod steak or similar fish	50
Vegetables (Not potatoes)	20
Fruit Jelly	80
Black Coffee	Nil

With these diets it should be possible to lose that second chin and middle tyre permanently, and eventually you will be buying that smaller size just in time for your summer holidays.

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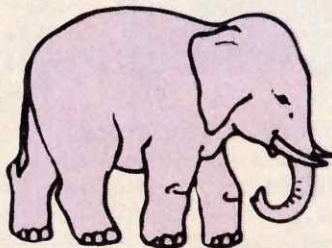
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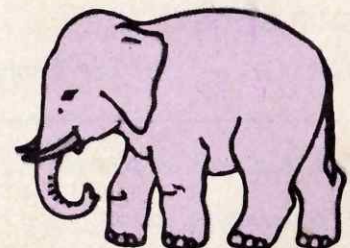
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