

CAPITAL GAY

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2,000 on happiest Pride Parade for years

Almost 2,000 people joined the Lesbian and Gay Pride Carnival Parade through the centre of London on Saturday for one of the happiest marches in recent years.

After the thrills and spills of Pride Marches in the last four years (1979: the biggest; 1980: anger at police confrontation; 1981: last-minute switch to Huddersfield; 1982: thunderstorms) glorious sunshine welcomed the 1983 parade which with the help of thousands of pink balloons and The Pink Singers, was simply a joy.

Numbers were up on last year's poor showing of just 1,200, but this year there was no tube strike, nor storms. Indeed, this year it was so hot everyone was drenched with sweat, rather than rain.

Among the marchers was, of course, Julian Hows, a waiter and Switchboard volunteer from SE24, living up to his reputation for wearing outrageous creations (see photo) who was worn-out halfway along the route and hitched a ride on a bus, to the embarrassment of an icy conductor.

Ian Thom, another Switchboard volunteer, must have been roasting under his gorilla suit; other notable paraders were Jim Innis and friend on stilts, and two pink nuns from Essex.

The parade, led by a float carrying The Pink Singers (*God help you merry lesbians, For much to your dismay...*) left Hyde Park at lunchtime and went down Park Lane and Piccadilly to the amusement and bemusement of tourists and shoppers, and then on up Shaftesbury Avenue and Tottenham Court Road to the University of London students union building in Malet Street for a party.

The marchers seemed reluctant to go into the building despite police orders but The Pink Singers encouraged them with a burst of *Oh Will You Gays Go Marching In?*

Inside the building were two bars (which didn't open until 5.30pm!), a play performed by Consenting Adults and a number of meetings. The Gay Black Group showed a video of their recent TV programme which was broadcast in the Midlands a few weeks ago. A packed meeting of the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights suddenly lost half its audience when it was announced that the GLC Leader Ken Livingstone was unable to attend because "He's gone to a meeting in Manchester"; but the sauna and swimming pool were crowded, as they are every year. Here

(continued with more photographs on the back page)



(photo: Bob Workman)

Press Council to hear 'prejudice' complaints

The Press Council, the newspaper industry's watchdog, is to have a look at anti-gay prejudice in the press.

Their complaints committee will shortly hear four complaints against an article in *The News*, Portsmouth, which was a tirade against gay people.

And a report, just submitted to the Press Council, examines the coverage of AIDS (Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome) in the national press — and calls for three guidelines for journalists writing about the disease.

Within the next few weeks the Council will consider complaints from four separate individuals who were angered by an article published in *The News*, Portsmouth, about the *One In Five* gay television programme broadcast on New Year's Day. The article was headlined "A sick parade I'd rather miss".

Martin Weaver, one of the people complaining about the Portsmouth *News* article said: "I find the article

highly offensive in the extreme, childish and full of prejudicial hypocrisy. In the first paragraph the writer places muggers on a higher moral level than gay people.

"This tone is carried throughout the article" he added.

Martin Weaver, a student, who now lives in Forest Gate, E7, and used to live in Portsmouth, has been corresponding with the Press Council for some months, as has *The News*' editor H.A. Faircloth, who defended the article by saying: "Robust expression of ideas and views is legitimate even if offence is caused to some."

Annoyed

A reply by Paul Brown of Solent Gay Switchboard was published in *The News*, but the editor cut part of it about the local switchboard.

The other case, about AIDS, has been prepared by Julian Meldrum, who works for the Hall-Carpenter Archives and the Terry Higgins Trust. He is taking the case to the Press Council as a private individual.

He names 11 daily and Sunday papers and says that he will not press any complaints if they give an undertaking to follow guidelines which he has drawn

up with the help of a doctor who is doing research into AIDS.

He is particularly annoyed by papers that use the terms "gay plague" or "gay bug".

And he threatens to take the complaints against the *Daily Mirror*, *Mail on Sunday* and *The Sun* to the Press Council complaints committee for an adjudication unless they make specific promises to improve the standard of their coverage.

Praise

He also criticises the reporting on AIDS in the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Standard* and the *Sunday Times* although he says he will not press for an adjudication against any of them. He asks each for assurances on their future policy.

Only one newspaper, *The Times*, is singled out for praise: "Provides a model of exemplary reporting".

His submission examines all Fleet Street coverage of AIDS during May and June this year and notes that "a number of papers have significantly improved their coverage during that period; others have not."

He asks the Press Council to support three guidelines to reporters:

ONE: A ban on phrases such as "gay plague";

TWO: A clear distinction should be made between AIDS and other, similar, unexplained abnormalities.

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Carnival Parade

(Continued from front page)

was the only bad news of the day: Jay MacLaren of the Gay Youth Movement slipped and fell in the changing room and broke his leg just above the ankle.

Drinking in the garden, on the stairs, and in the disco went on until midnight; and then slowly the revellers slipped away into the night, everyone, it seemed, agreed that this had been the best Pride Parade for a long time.

Banners on the parade included: Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1983; Lesbian Strength; Australasian Gay Group; CHE National; CHE Leeds; Consenting Adults; Gay Teenage Group; Gay Youth Movement; Gay Young London; Brothers and Sisters; Sparks; South London Gay Group; Gays for a Nuclear Free Future; London Gay Workshops; Icebreakers; Gay Humanist Group; Gay Teachers; Paedophile Information Exchange; Basingstoke Gay Pride; Bisexual & Proud to be Gay; Hyde Park Gays; Gay Christian Movement; Metropolitan Community Church; London Gays Against Imperialism; Oxford Gaysoc.



Ian Thom inside

Cambridge Gaysoc, Gay Military Group, GLAD, Streatham Area Gay Group, Hackney Lesbian and Gay Action, Feltham CHE, Islington/Haringey Gay Group, London Lesbian and Gay Centre, Hampstead GCO, Friend, Warwick Gaysoc, Mercia Gay Youth Group, Milton Keynes Gay City, GAYN Records, East London Gay Community, Gay Pride Reading and Labour Campaign for Gay Rights.



Jim Innis aloft



Passing the Ritz



WE ARE in for a hot, clammy, sunny weekend with temperatures reaching up to 26C — much as it has been recently. There may be showers or even a summer thunderstorm as the day wears on, which will clear the air and cool the streets.

WHAT'S ON

Daily

TILL JULY 30th: 'Cock-Ups' at the Bridge Lane Theatre, Bridge Lane, SW11. Inspector Truscott investigates Joe Orton's death. Tickets £2.50 (concessions £1.50) membership 50p.
TILL JULY 16th: 'The Crimes of Vautrin' adapted from Balzac by Nicholas Wright. Joint Stock, Almeida Theatre, Almeida St. N1 (Box office 359 4404).

Friday July 8th

GAY HUMANISTS meet for discussion/social in the library, Conway Hall Humanist Centre, Red Lion Square, WC1 (tube: Holborn) 7.30pm.
SEQUELSOFF: All women welcome. Meet in front of Boots inside Victoria Station at 7pm. Then on to Tavola Calda spaghetti house in nearby Bressenden Place. Self-service.

Saturday July 9th

JUNGLE PARTY at Heaven, The Arches, off Villiers St, WC2. £5.50 (members £4.50) From 9.30pm.
CHARLIE BUBBLES Black and White Supper Party, 150/151 Drury Lane (corner of Long Acre/Gt Queen St) Dress black and/or white £9.75. Two sittings 7.30pm, 10.30pm.
JANICE PERRY appears in the Covent Garden Piazza, 6pm.

Sunday July 10th

BETTY FADE in cabaret at The Coven, Oxford. Coach from London leaves Shepherd's Bush at 9pm; Foyles, Charing Cross Rd at 9.15pm. Leaving Oxford approx 2am.
EAST LONDON Gay Community, new members tea party at Bill and Tony's, Barkingside (details 01-551 3881) W-chair access. From 3.30pm.
LABOUR CAMPAIGN for Gay Rights meets at Gay's The Word, 66 Marchmont St, WC1 (tube: Russell Square) 6.30pm.
GEMMA (group for lesbians, with or without disabilities) meeting at Hampden Community Centre, 150 Ossulston St, NW1 (off Euston Rd) Level entrance, parking, w-chair access. Tea, coffee, juice, bring snacks. Non-smoking. 3-6pm.
GAY TEACHERS Group social afternoon. Tea, coffee, chat. London Friend, 274 Upper St, N1 (tube: Highbury/Islington) 4-6pm.
THE BRONSKI BEAT, new gay band, are at Movements Disco at The Bell, 259 Pentonville Rd, N1. 8p, 8.30 - 11.30pm.

Monday July 11th

HARROW GAY Unity social evening

Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Wealdstone. Mary and Bill, talk and film on alcoholism. 8.30pm

Tuesday July 12th

MARTYN GOFF of the National Book League talks to Gay Authors Workshop, 36 Earlham Grove, E7 (01-555 5687) 3 steps, help available. 7.30pm.
ICEBREAKERS Discussion Group meets at Gay's The Word, 66 Marchmont St, WC1 (tube: Russell Sq) 'Religion as a source of gay oppression' 7.30pm.
GEORGE BARNETT talks to Islington & Haringey Gay Group about September in the Pink, the gay arts festival. Upstairs at the Hemingford Arms, Offord Rd/Hemingford Rd, N1. 8.30pm

Wednesday July 13th

KINGS PINK Party, 132 Peckham Rye, SE15. Special party at new Peckham gay disco. Members free, guests £1.50. Free champagne for everyone wearing pink. 8pm-midnight

Thursday July 14th

PALMISTRY — talk by Pearl to

Wimbledon Area Gay Society at the Prince of Wales, Broadway, Wimbledon (opp Wimbledon BR & tube stations) Upstairs bar, own corner entrance. All welcome. 8.15pm.
EAST LONDON Gay Community coffee evening at Norman's, Leytonstone (details 01-989 7030) W-chair access. From 8pm.
SPACERS Disco, The Derby Arms upstairs bar, 565 Upper Richmond Road West, Richmond, Surrey. Free admission. Bar food. From 8pm.
WINDSOR & Maidenhead CHE coffee evening at Steve Cohen's, 26 Temple Rd, Windsor. From 8pm.
FRIEND Women's Group meets at 274 Upper Street, Islington, N1 (tube: Highbury/Islington) 7.30pm.
FELTHAM Gay Group meets at Feltham Community Centre, Hanworth Rd, Feltham. 8pm

Friday July 15th

THE RITZ 'sexy dance troupe that reveal all' at Spats, 37, Oxford St, W1. Disco 10pm-3am. Cabaret at midnight.
THE TROLLETTES at the Green Man, Stratford High St, E15.
THAMES LEATHER Club meets upstairs, Millford Arms, London Rd, Isleworth, Middlesex. Members and guests only, dressed leather/denim. 8pm

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