

Friday
July 11th
1986

No. 250

CAPITAL GAY

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY GAY MEN

THE
FREE
ONE

COME ON IN

Thousands
marched
through
London to
celebrate
Pride
and were
greeted in
Kennington
Park by
stalls,
a stage
show and
sadly –
THE RAIN.

..... **THE PRIDE IS
RIGHT!** (See pages
10–13)

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Keep up to date with Capital Gay every week!

Fascist foul-up

A FURIOUS row erupted in Kennington Park on Saturday when some of the crowd recognised a well-known fascist acting as part of the stage security team.

Nicky Crane, employed by security firm Gentle Touch, is a self-confessed member of the British Movement. He has served three years in prison for leading a skinhead attack on a group of blacks in Woolwich.

Once freed, in 1984, he and other fascists stormed the stage at the GLC's 'Jobs For A Change' festival in Jubilee Gardens.

Nicky Crane says he has renounced his fascist past, but these claims are dismissed by Tony Robson, a researcher with anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, who says that Crane: "has a long history of fascist violence and is very dangerous."

Crane was identified at Kennington Park by members of the Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement who approached stewards and demanded his removal. Crane was told to stop work and after protests eventually did so.

Embarrassed

Pride Organiser David Bunnett is embarrassed by the incident but says: "The organising group is not in the business of politically vetting its security staff, in the same way it doesn't vet the portaloos or the park staff, or the other people we had to have on the day."

Gentle Touch provided the security for the Anti-Apartheid festival on Clapham Common

on June 29th. The firm has also provided staff for Labour Party events as well as bouncers at Heaven and The Jungle at Busby's.

Saturday was the first time Nicky Crane has worked for them, and Gentle Touch worker 'Mac' explained that he was hired in case a group of skinheads who hang around Kennington Park caused any trouble.

Capital Gay Competition

IF YOU took your camera along on Saturday then be sure to enter our competition.

We are offering an Olympus M10 automatic camera to the person who sends us the photograph that best captures the spirit of the 1986 carnival.

We will print the winning picture along with a selection of the best runners-up.

Send your entries to: Capital Gay Pride Competition, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP. Closing date is Friday, July 18th.

MANY MESSAGES of support were received, all from people regretting that they couldn't attend the Pride carnival.

The most notable was from Labour leader Neil Kinnock. Other politicians sending 'regrets but with best wishes for a lovely day' included MPs Jo Richardson and Robin Cook from the Labour benches, Davids' Alton and Steel of the Liberals and sole Tory well-wisher John Wheeler. Opera singer Jessye Norman through her agent regretted that she couldn't appear and in keeping with the politicians sent her 'best wishes'.

Neil Kinnock's message:

I am unable to address your event today as I have to be in South Wales. I am pleased, however, to send you my good wishes for a successful carnival.

Today's event reminds everyone that discrimination against gays and lesbians is still all too prevalent in our country. It reminds everyone that there is still much to do to rid society of the fear and guilt that has victimised gays and lesbians. It reminds everyone that we must all strive to defeat prejudice and the ignorance in which it is rooted.

Above all your event reminds everyone that we must create a society in which people can conduct their personal relationships without persecution, a society which promotes and protects the principle of respect for an equal treatment of all individuals.

I am glad to have this opportunity to re-affirm that it is such a society that we in the Labour Party will continue to work for - and one which we are determined to achieve.



PRIDE PA A SOD SUCC

THOUSANDS OF lesbians and gay men brought central London to a standstill on Saturday when marching on the 1986 Pride parade.

Despite the abrupt end to the sunny weather, more rain fell than normally expected for the whole of July, 7,500 marchers took to the streets to celebrate our Pride.

The parade, two miles long, took half-an-hour to pass through Trafalgar Square and became longer and longer and slower and slower as it made its way to Kennington Park.

"Eee God, there's lowds o'thum," screeched a Geordie woman, visiting London for the weekend with her husband. "Get ya camera oot, Billy, or they'll never believe us back yem."

Newcastle may not have seen anything quite like it but for Londoners it was as if the clock had been wound back twelve months.

Colourful

The good humoured and noisy procession was dominated by pink balloons and a gloriously colourful array of more than fifty banners.

They came from Hull and Cambridge, from Scotland, Wales and Holland. And everyone seemed to have a banner to match their regional banter.

The turnout was slightly down on last year's record-breaking rally, but, like last year, every section of gay and lesbian sexuality seemed to be represented.

The young mixed with the old and the politically red joked and frolicked with politically blue.

At the back of the march (police wouldn't allow them at the front), the Gay's The Word victory bus headed a stream of floats and buses featuring *Gay Times*, the Market Tavern, Heaven and the Bell.

In Kennington Park, two hours after leaving Hyde Park, the front of the march arrived and so did the rain. It began at ten past four and didn't stop until Sunday morning.

Some spirits were dampened with people packing up and going home.

Entertainment

For those that stayed there was entertainment to suit all tastes.



Steven (left) and Andrew after a little wrestle in the park

The swimming pool had few takers but the Market Tavern beer tent could have done with fewer takers. It was packed full of people - mostly men - sheltering from the rain.

On the main stage Lambeth leader Linda Bellos, speaking as a lesbian, declared that the borough would do everything in its power to promote the cause of lesbians and gay men.

Trade unionist Tom Sawyer, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said: "The unions of the future must champion the rights of lesbians and gay men."

Soggy

But on a soggy Saturday it wasn't the speeches that most of the crowd wanted to hear.

Singer Tom Robinson, the Communards and the sixties-star Sandie Shaw shared top bil-

ling in a show that ran for four hours.

Tom Robinson dedicated his new single, *The Real Thing*, to Boy George, absent on the day, who he said, should be left alone to sort out his own problems. And Sandie Shaw, conscious of her audience, changed the lyrics of a song to sing about 'the girl I love'. A gesture that went down well with the hundreds of spectators that remained.

"We were all disappointed with the weather," said an exhausted David Bunnett of the organising committee. "On the day, though, everything went well, although we could have done with more volunteers."

A public meeting will be held later this month to discuss ways of paying off the £2,000 debt incurred by this year's march, and to look ahead to Pride '87. See you then.



Southend's version



The victory bus



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PARADE ODD DEN ACCESS



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Cuddling coppers: thinking about joining in?



Southend's version of the 'pretty police'

AWAY FROM the main stage a few handfuls of broly-brandishing spectators gathered around the bandstand to watch the Pride cabaret.

Compered by veteran Eric Presland, celebrating his tenth anniversary of Gay Pride performances, and Gill King, making her stage debut, the bandstand entertainment featured ten acts including singers Mark Bunyan, The Insinuendos and all-women group Sensible Footwear.

As the rains came down, the crowds scattered until Eric was left performing to a solitary spectator.

SUNDAY MAY have been brighter and sunnier for most of us but for Pride volunteers it was wetter and soggier than carnival day.

On arrival in the park on Sunday morning they discovered that one of the Portaloos had broken pouring its mess out everywhere. It all had to be cleaned up along with all the other mess before Pride organisers could put their feet up until next year.

Woman PC rescues *Gay Times* boss

WHEN *Gay Times* publisher Alex McKenna booked a double decker bus for Saturday he got more than he bargained for.

The bus arrived on time and looked to be in fine fettle but he hadn't accounted for the barmy bigot who was driving it.

"This driver likes women!" read a notice plastered on the window.

"So do we", protested the diminutive Alex.

"No you don't, you're queer", came the retort.

The dotty driver threatened not to drive the bus, insisted on deciding on the way it should be decorated and was constantly rude to passengers.

The last straw for Alex McKenna came when he hit *Gay Times* worker Terry Deal. "The driver claims he only tried to push past him but I don't believe it", said Alex.

"After that I started to get a

bit clumsy. I somehow managed to drop his coat and briefcase in a big puddle that just happened to be near by and accidentally trod over both of them."

A police officer was called over by the driver who demanded the arrest of Mr McKenna.

But once Alex explained the situation to the WPC she merely told him to try and curb his clumsiness. She then went on to warn the driver for his insulting behaviour.

Blushing bride

IN WHITEHALL a wedding car got stuck in the enormous traffic jam caused by the march. "Don't do it, come and join us," cried the dykes on the march. The blushing bride blushed even more but she wasn't tempted, choosing instead to sit it out and await her marital bliss...



The victory bus



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