



34,000 in park, say officials

# PRIDE GOES ON FOR S-MILES

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AT PRECISELY 2.02pm on Saturday in bright sunshine, with pink balloons buffeting in the wind, 19,000 hollering, whistling, cheering men and women set off from Hungerford Bridge on the 1990 Pride Parade.

Exactly twenty-one years after the wilder demonstrations that marked the Stonewall Riots, they had flocked to the riverside, packing the Victoria Embankment as the march assembled.

Coaches brought demonstrators from Strathclyde, Liverpool, Manchester, and Leeds, though British Rail refused to hire special trains, pretending that they didn't have rolling stock available - a later test application by the "Pig Breeders' Association" proved they did. Planes brought in visitors from San Francisco, Sydney and Seattle.

For 30 minutes before the 2pm start, the Embankment was chaos. As she made a dash for a riverboat an American tourist exclaimed plaintively: "Just what are they all going to do? I mean, why are they here?"

### Seven nuns

A deafening cheer echoed under the arches of the bridge as the march moved off. At its head the familiar blue and white police control van, followed by a lorry laid on by the Camden Lesbian and Gay Unit. Michael Cashman, Bob Crossman and Martin Sherman were amongst those following behind carrying the main banner which announced 'Pride 90' in glittering sequins. As Pride organiser Graham Swann revealed: "It took seven blind nuns just three weeks to make."

The pace of the march this year was frantic. A route that should have taken 90 minutes to walk was covered in just over an

hour. Even so, it took more than an hour for the deviant horde to pass by astonished tourists in Trafalgar Square and Whitehall.

There was hilarity too as two cultures passed in opposite directions - our parade hooting gleefully at an open-topped double decker bus driving up Whitehall, the top deck filled with women in Sally Army bonnets brandishing tambourines like their eternal souls depended on it.

### Temperers

Outside Downing Street it was all "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie... Out, out, out." Though one can't be sure how people would feel if she actually did come out. Then on to Kennington Park, with ghetto-blasters blaring, whistles screeching, and cheers for any passer-by who waved. The only shadow cast over the jubilant throng was by an unseen hand throwing heavy bags of cement powder down from a building site, one of them narrowly missing a 12-year old girl walking with her mother.

Estimates of the crowd in Kennington Park ranged from the police's 25,000 to Lambeth park officials' 34,000. Clearly a growing number of people nowadays are skipping the parade, and just going to the Festival.

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*A helping hand  
to cross the road...*



A policeman steps in to help a pedestrian across the Pride parade as it wound its way down to Kennington. For more pictures and reports, see pages 18-19

(Photo: Gordon Rainsford)

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## Wreath marks our dead



A MOVING sight on this year's march came when people passed the Cenotaph, which this year bore a pink triangle wreath dedicated to lesbian and gay victims of violence.

The wreath had been laid a couple of hours beforehand by Peter Tatchell and Dave Bunnett, who braved the one downpour of the day to place the floral tribute bearing the inscription:

"In memory of all the lesbians and gay men murdered by homophobia - in Nazi concentration camps & at the hands of queerbashers."

Sadly, the wreath only survived a few days at the Cenotaph before it was removed. Police guarding the monument nor the Department of Environment responsible for its upkeep seemed to know anything about its disappearance.

## PRIDE GOES ON FOR S-MILES

(continued from page 1)

Smooth stewarding meant no long waits to get into the park and people were quickly picking their way round the 250 stalls, six marquees, five beer tents and the main stage. Pride volunteers had worked round the clock from Thursday onwards to prepare the site.

Tempers flared briefly in a confrontation between ACT UP and people from the Revolutionary Communist Party, publishers of *Living Marxism* which claimed that heterosexual Aids was essentially a myth.

Crowd-pleasers on stage

included Parker and Klein, Michelle Stanting (who borrowed Lily Savage's make-up!), and perhaps the biggest hit of all - Jocelyn Brown, who brought the late evening event to the boil.

By 10.30pm, beer and stamina were running low, though there were still thousands of lesbians and gays in the park. The disco played out to favourite numbers like *I Am What I Am* - a gay Auld Lang Syne - and Pride stewards ushered people off the site to the tube and buses to pack the pubs, clubs and cafes of central London to overflowing.



## Low key policing

THE RATIO of police to parade-goers on Saturday was just about the lowest for any public event. Only 48 officers were on patrol in the park to handle the crowd of 34,000. Met officers in turn described it as "one of the best stewarded events" they deal with.

And there was back stage banter with Pride volunteers. One officer, complaining about

the state of his boots, was told "you'll find someone out there who'll clean them for you." "Yes," he agreed, "but I don't know what colour handkerchief to look for." And another said he had shaved his moustache off this time after getting one or two compliments too many last year.

Though vandals had visited the site the night before, slashing the women's marquee and overturning a lighting tower, the damage was quickly repaired.

On Saturday afternoon a small band of opposition skinheads who entered the park were quietly followed round by eight police officers until they left.

Three people were arrested for being drunk but all were later released without charge.

The Guardian Angels, London's very own vigilante group, patrolled the park and Kennington tube a couple of times, but Festival-goers seemed more puzzled than reassured by their presence. Still, nice costumes...



Mathilde Stanting



Jocelyn Brown



Sheba's stall



Only connect...

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# Row brews over beer shortage

A ROW was brewing this week between the Pride Committee and the London Lesbian and Gay Centre after the drink tents ran out of beer.

The Centre had won the beer concession after putting in the lowest tender splitting profits with the Pride organisation.

The drink tents, run by the

Market Tavern in recent years, had traditionally been one of the biggest sources of income for Pride.

But those expected profits took a sharp knock after a series of cock-ups. The Centre was caught on the hop when first the beer delivery truck arrived two hours late, and then broke down in the middle of the park.

The site was too crowded for cars to ferry fresh supplies, so

volunteers tried - unsuccessfully - to keep the beer flowing by running cases by hand.

Pride organisers complained too that the Centre had supplied less than half the 70,000 cans of beer they were meant to provide, again cutting profits that would have helped pay for the event this year and next.

Now the Pride Committee is to decide whether it will demand compensation from the Centre.

## In demand ...

GCODS, the group that organises Capital Gay's postal subscriptions for us and gives the profits to lesbian and gay charities, reported an insatiable demand for their specially printed Pride carrier bags.

Five and a half thousand of the yellow bags, bearing subscription details and the phone numbers of the main lesbian, gay and Aids helplines went in no time with people crying out for more.

And Pride reports that it could have sold its stock of badges, T-shirts and caps twice over.



Maggie there

Photos by —

Jean Fraser and

Gordon Rainsford



## Banner headline

AMONGST THE many banners carried on this year's Pride Parade were the following:

Lesbian & Gay Pride; Pride 1990; Stonewall Group/Iris Trust; National Lesbian & Gay Survey; Body Positive; Hull Gays; Enfield Area Lesbian & Gay Group; Dorset Dykes; Socialist Group; Gay Pride 90 - Be Proud; Vale Group Labour Party; Campaign for Homosexual Equality; Lesbians in Croydon Social Group; Islington & Haringey Gay Group; Friend Newcastle; Labour Campaign for Lesbian & Gay Rights; Wandsworth NALGO; LNG; Gay & Lesbian City Country; Alice's Cabaret; Bath Students Lesbian & Gay Society; Brighton Lesbian Line; Harlow Lesbian & Gay Friend; London Monday Group; Skippy the Bush Kangaroo says...; Gay Young London; Oxford Friend; The Backstreet; CP&A; Lothian NALGO; Lambeth NALGO Lesbians & Gays; Trades Unionists Against Clause 28; Alan - the best & dearest friend...; City of London Anti-Apartheid Group; Harrow & Brent Gay Unity; We are gay, we are straight; NALGO Norfolk County Council Branch; NALGO; ACT UP London; Pink '90; MCC of North London; Central Rainbow; Brothers & Sisters; Metropolitan Community Church; Older Lesbian Network; Bears against racism & razors; Bristol Gay Group; Gay West; Lewisham Lesbian & Gay Socialists; Gays & Lesbians in Christian Science; Lesbian & Gay Youth Community Workers; ELCAS; Earnest Productions; Gay Bikers Motorcycle Club; Wages Due Lesbians; Magic; Cambridge Lesbian & Gay Activists; Manchester Parents' Group; Parents of Lesbians & Gay Men; West Lancashire Lesbian & Gay Youth Group; London Lesbian & Gay Centre; Hammersmith & Fulham Lesbian & Gay Workers; Socialist Worker Gay Group; Stitch Youth Group; Liverpool Pride; Merseyside Gay Men; London Bisexual Group; Gloucestershire Gay Community; Lesbian mothers are not pretending; Hot Dykes; Leicester Lesbian & Gay Action; Bristol gays are lush; Albert Kennedy Trust; Gay Liberation; Lesbian Caerdybi; Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement; Derby LGCM; Body Positive North West; North-west Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights; Landmark; South West London Lesbians still dancing; Quest gay Catholics; East London Gay Social Group; Bradford Lesbians; Lesbians come together; Official Dyke Spotter; Lewisham Lesbians; Hackney Women's Football Club; ACT UP Manchester; The Women's Institute Lesbian Section; Golden Girls Addict Support Group; Orientations; Revolutionary Communist Group; Newcastle Lesbian Line; Black Lesbian & Gay Centre; Scottish Homosexual Rights Group; Strathclyde Lesbian & Gay Switchboard; Come Out Kyle; Fusion multi-racial group; Shakti; Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association; Peppys Estate; OutRage!; Lancaster Lesbians; British Telecom Lesbian & Gay Group; Dorothy's Darlings; Steve & Paul from Brixton; Greenwich Lesbian & Gay Centre; Hineinu - Jewish gay & lesbian youth group; Jewish Gay & Lesbian Group; Jewish Lesbian & Gay Helpline; Oxford Student Lesbian & Gay Society; Sappho Lesbian Feminists; SM Gays; Pink Pig; Long Yang Club; The Pink Paper; South Herts Gay Community; Sheffield Lesbian Line; Lesbian Nurses Group; University of Surrey Lesbian & Gay Group; Kingston Polytechnic Lesbian & Gay Group; Social & Liberal Democrats for Lesbian & Gay Action; Peterborough Gay Group; Lesbians enjoy life; Brighton Grapevine; Gay Outdoor Club; Bristol Association of University Teachers; Sussex MSC; Rough Trade; Lesbians & Gay Men in Troops Out Movement; Sapphic Graphics; Oxford Dykes; Plymouth PLN; Lesbians & Gays in IPMS; Lesbian & Gay Medical Association; Hereford & Worcester Lesbian & Gay Switchboard; York Lesbian & Gay Society; Centre 238; Basingstoke Gay Pride; NUCPS; We are here; Fife Friend; Brighton Area Action Against Section 28; Glad to be 071; And we've got Sky!; Hounslow Lesbian & Gay Group; Abandon; I'm happy, I'm out; Hiphiphip hooray, both my sons were born gay; Rob & Paul, proud to be gay; ff.

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