

Friday  
July 5th  
1991

No. 501

# CAPITAL GAY



Official Sponsor of Pride 1991

Independently audited circulation

Pride swells ...

## 40,000 FLAUNT IT



Heaven floats by

**THE SHEER** numbers - and shades of pink - on Saturday's Pride took everyone by surprise. 25,000 people joined the march itself and 15,000 more swelled the crowd for the party in Kennington Park. The parade sparkled with colourful costumes and throbbed to

**the sound of disco floats and marching bands.**

Sun beat down as marchers gathered on the Embankment on the first dry day this June - a tribute to the coven of gay white witches who met earlier at Beachy Head to take care of the weather arrangements.

But rain from last week left the

Park soft underfoot and festival-goers churned up the mud; Pride organizers now face a bill of £8,000 from Lambeth Council to put the park straight again.

### Brilliance

Groups from all over the country brought their banners and arrived by every form of transport

**MORE PHOTOS BY  
GORDON RAINSFORD  
AND JEAN FRASER  
ON PAGES 15-17**

- by train from Salford, by coach from Nottingham, by motorcycle or Rolls Royce from parts of London. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence rode pillion on the

back of motorbikes, their habits flying in the wind.

Moving off at 1.30pm, the march drew a thread of colour and brilliance through a grey Whitehall; too much brilliance for the police who asked the disco floats to turn down the volume for the procession through Government Gulch.

The throng passed over West-

minster Bridge, taking the same route as last year to Kennington Park where marquees, many of them new this year, awaited their arrival.

Singers and bands formed the backbone of entertainment on the main stage - and included Hazell Dean, Bjorn Again and

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(Photo: Gordon Rainsford)

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# PRIDE '91



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scene-stealers Nomad who drove the crowd all-mad with their hit *I Wanna Give You Devotion*; Eric Presland delivered serious (and seriously funny) cabaret acts in an adjacent marquee; and many women escaped to their own marquee, bar and disco, whilst FF ran a mixed disco tent at the other end of the ground.

## Decibels

A "first" this year was Lily Savage's Tea Tent featuring top entertainment from the pub and club circuit. Packed all afternoon, a wild throng played bingo, with Lily calling numbers. Regina Fong awarded the Best Dressed Pride-Goer title according to the audience's whistling, cheering and clapping. There was no contest - all-over pink Johnno (if that was the name, hard to catch above the din) won by a hundred decibels.

New too were the Health Tent, courtesy of Heaven and Crusaid, promoting safer sex, and the Arts Marquee.

Policing was low key once the parade had reached the park.

and Scotland Yard later reported only five arrests on the day, and all those were cases of "minor disorder".

Some of those arrests may have followed the fast and friendly service at good prices which was delivered in the beer tents by the Workers Beer Co-operative.

The day was tough on some parents, who found that the team hired to run the creche had failed to show up, and on the disabled who found their loos sunk into the mud.

For thousands more there were warmer memories to take away as they dispersed at nightfall to catch coaches home, or travelled on to celebrate at the post-Pride parties held through the night at clubs, pubs and flats around the capital.

Sunday dawned at teatime for many, but Pride organizers were busy on the phone trying to raise the extra £8,000 needed to put the park to rights. If you missed the collection buckets (which netted £10,000 - about 25p a head) you can still send them something at BM Pride, London WC1N 3XX.



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