

Friday  
June 30th  
1995

No. 701

Sponsors of Lesbian and Gay Switchboard

# Capital Gay

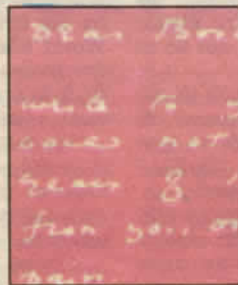
A Weekly Newspaper For Lesbians And Gay Men

Independently audited circulation

WEEKLY NEWS  
**FREE**  
LONDON & BRIGHTON



**PRIDE '95**  
FULL PHOTO  
SPECIAL  
PAGE 8



**DEAR X**  
GAY SCRIBES  
GONE BY  
PAGE 13



**POLLY**  
BEST PM  
FOR US?  
PAGE 12

# 200,000!

*That's the record turnout for Pride '95!*

**THIS** year's march and festival broke all records with an estimated 75,000 lesbians and gay men taking to the streets of the capital on Saturday, followed by a festival for 200,000 in east London.

Only the weather forecasters were found wanting — they promised a heat-wave but all we got were grey skies and chilly winds.

Astonished police say not a single crime was reported throughout the hectic day and no arrests were made.

East Londoners gave festival-goers heading for Victoria Park a warm welcome and, in marked contrast to last year's south London violence, there were no recorded muggings or queerbashings.

And for the first time ever, Pride is set to make a profit — providing much-needed cash to invest for next year. The park collection raised £77,900 compared with last year's £46,000.

Police attendance figures are often much lower than those from organisers, but although the Met said only 40,000 joined the march, they agreed Victoria Park attracted "197,500 and possibly 200,000" as festival managers had declared.

Dykes took pride of place on the march from Hyde Park to Victoria to mark this year's Lesbian Visibility theme.

By ROGER GOODE

And for the first time an impressive convoy of ten floats was added to the banner-waving and whistle-blowing procession. A bright pink tank driven by Gay Men Fighting AIDS got the loudest cheers.

Mile End and Bethnal Green tube stations had to be closed for a period in the rush to Victoria Park because platforms had become dangerously congested.

Stall holders did roaring trade, with the only complaint being that even the huge new venue was still too small to take the crowds.

On stage, surprise guests included Erasure and Alison Moyet. They joined pre-billed performers like Boy George, Sandi Toksvig, D:Ream, Dannii Minogue and Colette.

Jimmy Somerville, who had been due to appear on stage, was knocked off his bicycle by a cab the night before and spent the day in a hospital bed for observation. He suffered no fractures and was later released.

The innovative one-minute silence, to remember those lost to AIDS, had to be held twice after the packed dance tents could not silence their whistle-blowing revellers at 8pm. It was repeated at 10pm.

"We're really pleased that it all went so well," said Pride festival chair, Teddy Witherington.

"The minute's silence was very moving and should become an important tradition."



PHOTO: GORDON RAINFORD

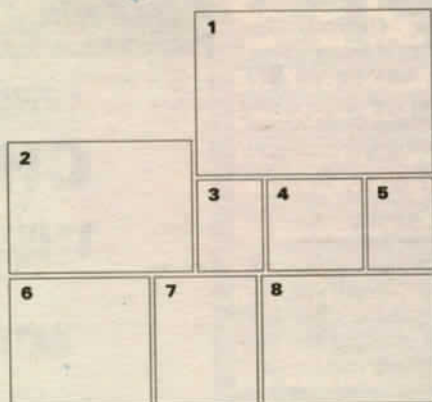
**Hyde Park call, New York Pride page 3; Capital Comment page 6; Pride in the press page 11**



# Pride '95

1. Dykes head the march as it wends its way through central London, in keeping with this year's lesbian visibility theme.
2. The boys from Gay Men Fighting AIDS atop their distinctive pink tank.
3. Andy Bell of Erasure - one of this year's surprise guests in Victoria Park.
4. Dressing up is what it's all about.
5. Isn't it amazing how subversive feathers can be?
6. Alison Moyet steps into the breach after Jimmy Somerville's bike accident - and the crowd loves her for it.
7. Ways and ways of keeping visible.
8. Afterwards at Heaven - hot, happy and ready for more.

PHOTOS: GORDON RAINSFORD



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7pm-Midnight

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