

EUROPE'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER FOR GAYS OF ALL SEXES

NEW GAY SURVEY: EXCLUSIVE

Gay News today publishes one of the most accurate and comprehensive reports into homosexuality yet compiled in Europe.

The survey was launched three years ago in Germany by the Hamburg Institute for Sexual Research, and its findings have recently been published in the mass circulation magazine *Der Spiegel*. It deals openly and honestly with the least-mentioned aspects of gayness.

Britain has never sponsored such an all-embracing report on homosexuality. If such a project were undertaken here, it might lift away some of the stigma associated with it.

The long survey was the joint work of two Frankfurt sociologists, Martin Dannecker and Reimut Feiche, and because its findings are completely factual, and without any suggestion of myth, Gay News considered it to be a document of national importance.

It would obviously be highly desirable for Gay News to conduct its own similar survey, but time and a national feeling of gay timidity prevented any attempt at this.

Using the most important questions in the German report, we did, however, go into some of the known gay areas to hold our own minute-poll...the results of which we also publish today.

A Sad Story

The massive survey has some immediate features. It shows that almost without exception, the gay community is lonely, potentially sad and extremely repressed. It also shows that homosexuals are far more successful than other people in their attempts to adapt socially and at work.

The German survey carried 170 widely varied questions. Our own questionnaire was much smaller.

In Germany, 1,658 questionnaires were distributed by 157 contacts among homosexuals of all ages and occupations, and 789 of them could be evaluated...a very high proportion compared with similar enquiries into people's intimate lives.

A Few Shortcomings

However, the enquiry did have shortcomings. Not only did less than half the number of recipients respond, but also the whole system of their selection was by no means ideal, with the contacts handing out the questionnaire in a kind of snowball system among their acquaintances, instead of established demoscopical methods.

One of the effects of this was that the high number of students who returned questionnaires did not really reflect their proportional representation in the whole community.

Some of the results of the survey were predictable, but others were totally unexpected. There was a lot of hesitation about personal points, but of the questionnaires answered, no points were ignored.

The Findings

Some of the data that emerged after computing the answers showed that in Germany, the average age of gays on their first sexual contact with a man turned out to be 16.1 years. The average gay had sex 14 times in the preceding 12 months, and 102 times altogether.

83 per-cent of gays have at one stage told their affair that they loved him. Ten per-cent have been or still are married, and 61 per-cent do not consider themselves to be religious.

The results of Gay News' own survey are, ironically, very close to the German report, but the text of this survey deals with the German survey only. The findings of the Gay News report is published in detail at the end of the survey.



The German survey shows clearly that a lot of the common views about gays are quite true.

They spend more money than straights on clothes and on having their hair done. They see more movies, spend more time in live theatre and own more records. They like eating in good restaurants and are generally happier in well-furnished, more comfortable houses.

But the survey shoots down a widely-held theory that most gays have been brought up in fatherless families. The survey shows that at least 70 per-cent have grown up in families dominated by a 'happy' mother and father.

Some of the contradictions that emerged from the survey must leave the straight or the outsider a little more than baffled. One is the question of illness or non-illness. Hardly any gays think of their homosexuality as an illness, and yet at least one third of them have a solid idea that they would seek treatment if it was available.

Socially, Too

The survey finds that gays are also much more successful than their straight colleagues

in climbing the social ladder. Nobody's been able yet, to prove the existence of such an upward trend, but some background statistics prove interesting. Eight years ago, Dr Klaus Dorner, a Hamburg lecturer in psychiatry found no more than 3 per-cent of the people he questioned in his 'homosexuality in the Middle Classes' survey were skilled workers. In the United States three years ago, a similar survey carried out by Dr David Strubb of the Washington Psychiatry Unit put the figure up to 5 per-cent.

But this new survey outdates both those figures. It arrives at the same 3 per-cent figure, but it also shows that no less than 13 per-cent of all gays had actually started off as skilled workers in their professional careers.

It also shows that one in every five gays has been thoroughly trained for two different, both skilled jobs.

There is even more proof of this social trend. Thirty-three per-cent of the fathers of those gays are working class, while the proportion of their sons who had not become middle class by the time of the survey had dropped to just 11 per-cent.

But the survey also found that there was

a price to pay for changing over from the workbench or the factory to the desk or the creative area. More than 22 per-cent of them have undergone training and have been qualified for at least two different jobs.

By way of explanation, it's a question of theory. Perhaps this upward trend by gays—which is not paralleled by any other section of the community—could believably be as a result of the discrimination against gay people. Some gays, it turns out, have as many as four part-time, and all highly-skilled and totally different occupations. And invariably, they are good at all of them, and in the eyes of their assorted employers, almost indispensable.

The Middle Class Boom

In other words, it's not a middle class upbringing that seems to produce a relatively great number of middle class gays. There must be just as many gays with non middle class backgrounds, but the great society machine forces them to look for and find white collar jobs...the ones where they can feel less exposed to criticism...the sort of contemptuous ridicule and persecution from their colleagues that they might get on the workshop or factory or assembly line floor.

Therefore, it's a lot to do with their ability to create the right relationship with their employers. They become 'ideal employees'. Intelligence has little or nothing to do with it. They seem to try harder to 'fit in', to be liked, in order that they may be successful. The effort to conform therefore is usually mammoth.

A lot of burden-bearing at an early age emerges from the survey too. A gay person, it appears, is made to understand by an unsympathetic and non-understanding society that he must never show his true face if he is not to lose face at all. He has to learn always to be hard-working, adaptable, very, very cautious, and accommodating. It's very fair, then, to conclude that homosexuals conform extremely well to social normality. They function properly.

On the question of employer-employee relationships, it's very likely that many gays reading this survey will relate some of the findings alarmingly close to their own heart.

It appears, from the survey, that they cleverly adapt to changing situations and opinions. They are always forced to put on an act. They master the whole range of behaviour patterns, methods of talking and functioning. In jobs where they deal with people, they do exactly what is expected of them. They are usually so good at communicating with people that employers—some even realising their gayness — are forced, by the sheer efficiency of gay people to promote them to supervise departments made up of non-gays.

When gays have no family ties, it shows that they are always available at work, and because they frequently change their partners or their 'lovers', they enjoy travelling. They are the workers who stay behind after official closedown time and 'get things done' for the sake of getting the work out of the way. If the gay people in question are creative, they are the most patient ones. Invariably, they will show their outward creative frustrations emotionally or with temper, but they will stay to the last to ensure that what they are doing is perfect. In the case of artists, they will feel uneasy until what they've done is acceptable to everybody. A photographer—be he gay—will take more photographs and deliver the best print.

But there's one further clause in this gay compulsion to climb the social ladder. In the gay sub-culture, on which gays rely totally for socialising and picking up trade, working class gays enjoy even less social status than in the rest of society.

Survey continued on Page 8.



Proud, but more or less ignored, gays march down London's Bond Street.



London Gay Pride March



More A Whimper Than A Bang

The Gay Pride March held on Saturday June 30th will most definitely not go down in history as an event of world-wide significance in the struggle for gay rights. Indeed the turnout was so small (an estimated 300) that one wonders if it was ever noticed within London.

The small turnout most probably can be traced to confusion in its organisation. The West London Gay Liberation Front had initially announced that the march would set off at 3.30pm from Trafalgar Square; not long after this, printed stickers went up around London advertising the gathering spot as being "The Embankment". Then, adding a "carry on" touch on the actual day, news filtered through that members of South London GLF believed that the march would set off from Hyde Park Corner.

At about 3.15pm, a quick glance at The Embankment near Charing Cross tube seemed to indicate there were more policemen than marchers. Happily, there were more arrivals by 3.30, some with hastily-constructed banners ("Gay Is Angry", "Homosexuals Are Revolting") and a few wearing make-up and semi-drag designed to attract as much attention as possible.

Still, if the proper political force was missing, a very pleasant quality was definitely there. It was perhaps the sunniest Saturday afternoon yet seen this year, and gay seemed more happy than angry.

At about 3.45, the march set off down Charing Cross Road, the band of marchers numbering between 150 and 200. In this case, the police ironically became more an asset than oppressor, herding the marchers along without any noticeable interference. They too were probably enjoying an afternoon in the sun.

And so the chants went up: "Gimme a G, gimme an A, gimme a Y..... what's that spell!.....Gay!.....and what's that mean!..... Good!" proved to be the most popular. Occasionally, "Angry" was replaced by "Good".

By the time it hit New Bond Street, the march had become quite joyous. The sun seemed even stronger, the walk through London became more enjoyable, and a larger audience had made itself available. Saturday afternoon shoppers and tourists were gawking, true to the march's intention. Even better was the fact that the march itself had grown in number. Perhaps it had picked up some gays doing some shopping, perhaps those who were confused over the meeting place had found the march; whatever the reasons, the modest procession now looked to number around 300.

The reaction of people in the street varied: some smiled fondly, even waving (younger girls usually), others looked puzzled, still others stared straight through

it, as if embarrassed and hell-bent on pretending it didn't exist.

Once the march passed Selfridges department store it was exposed to its biggest audience. Tourists were even taking photos, but alas it seemed that they would be the only people, apart from GN, to immortalise it on film. If any sections of the media were there to cover the event, I certainly did not notice them. This, along with the fact that the march had declined from last year's estimated 800 marchers, could indicate that the public at large are waiting for a new angle before the minority will receive any more attention.



The only visible outrage provoked by the march came from Albert, a Hyde Park Corner fanatic who bicycled along beside the march demanding repentance from its members. Albert had a moustached, dignified air about him that suggested Coward's "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" number, and his interest can probably be traced to the fact that he had a captive if mobile audience.

The march through London completed, it arrived at Hyde Park as planned. The general idea had been that the marchers should bring food for a picnic; a few did, most did not, but everyone was content to merely relax and enjoy the sunlight, which had held up wonderfully.

The only disturbance came from the previously-mentioned Albert, who had managed to dispose of the bicycle and was still demanding that all present should repent.

"For what?" someone demanded. "For the sin of homosexuality," he replied.

"Says who?" "Jesus," he boomed, referring to a scrap of paper.

"Jesus was gay!" several charged at him, not terribly seriously I might add. One of Albert's Hyde Park Corner speaker cohorts was present and came up with a bon mot to the effect that Albert was inclined to believe in fairy tales. Pretty soon, Albert lost his audience.

The pleasant social aspect aside, the Gay Pride march of June 30th cannot be considered a success. The GN editorial ('On The Streets') on page 2 of this issue, examines the shortcomings and attempts to come up with some answers.

Other 'Happenings'

The march through London was part of a week of activities conceived and organised by GLF. The first major event was an attempt to penetrate the walls of Fleet Street journalism to examine and discuss the attitude of the national press towards homosexuality.

The GLF members who went to Fleet Street on Tuesday, June 26th were not large in number. However, they reportedly achieved a reasonable amount of success: they managed to get through to the Sun newsdesk, leafleted workers at several of the 'dailies', and placed stickers wherever they could. An attempt was made to enter the Morning Star offices; the GLF members were politely but firmly rebuffed. Apparently the paper is still reticent of visitors who call in groups, as their offices were barnstormed not long back by a vendetta group which attacked some of the Star's workers.

An open-air disco was planned for the following day at Clapham Common, where the public lavatory has been the scene of heavy police harassment against gays. This was called off, "Because it would have meant breaking regulations and probably attracting more trouble," as Brian Birt of GLF explained.

A 'Riverboat Shuffle' was also initially planned for that week, but was postponed shortly after its announcement due to lack of finance.

Stephen MacLean

Redcap Gay Disco Raided By Police



The upstairs disco at the Father Redcap.

LONDON: The gay disco situated in the upstairs section of the Father Redcap Hotel, Camberwell Green, was raided by approximately 10 policemen on Thursday, June 28th, at 10.30pm.

According to Alfred Carmody, manager of the hotel, the police have indicated that they intend to close the gay disco by resorting to a law established in 1839—"Disorderly Conduct On Licensed Premises and Public Places."

The disorderly conduct, it seems, was what one policeman allegedly described as "Men dancing together in close contact, groping each other with hands in trouser pockets."

"I've been running the club for two years and never had any trouble," said manager Alfred Carmody. "Then last Thursday night about 10 policemen went steam-rolling upstairs. They stopped the music dead and began asking for names and addresses. A few of the boys said flatly that they wouldn't give them the information."

"I spoke to one of the policemen in the kitchen, and he said to me 'You're running a club for poofs and lesbians,' and I said 'They're your words not mine.' He said they had kept watch on the disco for four particular nights—they had plants up there—and they believed I was running a 'disorderly house'."

Carmody, a massive, talkative man well known to regulars of the club, said he had never had any trouble or cause to call the police during his two years as manager of the disco.

"The police said that I never had a committee—this, after two years—and it wasn't a club as such, but was open to the general public."

The Redcap disco charges an admission of 15p for members and 30p for guests. Yearly membership costs 50p. Carmody has now taken up the technicality of appointing a committee.

"The police said 'We've come up, paid as guests, and walked straight in. Obviously, if a member comes up with a card and you're right behind him, the chap on the door would think you were a member's guest.'"

The club went ahead as usual the night following the raid. Fridays at the Redcap disco are all-girl. "Different laws govern that," said Carmody.

The following Sunday it reopened for its male clientele, but no dancing was allowed. "We explained it over the microphone to the boys, and they were terrific about it. I know all the regulars that come in, and they weren't angry with the hotel, they were angry with the men in blue."

Dancing has now recommenced. Carmody, who says he feels that the raid was "a victimisation of gays," plans to fight it in court if necessary, "Come what may".

Landlords or anyone else who find themselves in similar circumstances of unwarranted harassment are requested to contact Gay News. If necessary, we can put you in touch with a reliable, sympathetic solicitor or Queen's Counsel.

Through incidents such as the Redcap raid, it becomes increasingly evident that pressure on gays is being strengthened rather than alleviated. GN will do all it can to voice outrage over incidents such as the Redcap raid. It is also necessary for gays everywhere, through whatever channels possible, to make their justified anger heard.