

GAY NEWS

WITH 4-PAGE GAY GUIDE & ENTERTAINMENT DIARY

NUMBER 123
July 14 - 27,
1977

THE WORLD'S
LARGEST
CIRCULATION
NEWSPAPER
FOR
HOMOSEXUALS

UK/EIRE 25p
US/CANADA \$1
FORTNIGHTLY

GAYS & THE PERSUADERS
• Robin Houston explores the dangers of the advertising industry —p13

SINKING OUR DIFFERENCES
... Before they sink us: a personal appraisal of the gay movement now —p19

ANTHONY & ROSS
• 'Together' —p21

GAY BRUM
• GN visits Britain's second largest city —p17

PETER ROBINS



• How a war correspondent and BBC producer became a gay short story writer —p16

WHITEHOUSE: MORE TRIALS TO FOLLOW

by Michael Mason
News Editor
THANKS TO Ms Mary Whitehouse and her prosecution of Gay News, Professor James Kirkup's poem *The Love That Dares To Speak Its Name* has been rescued from the comparative obscurity of the Gay News review pages to take its own special place in literary—and certainly legal—history.

And at least two more criminal prosecutions over the poem are expected shortly. The first involved Bill McLroy who recently retired as Secretary of the National Secular Society.

The second, astonishingly, involves Bedford probation officer Kenneth Kavanagh, director of the Parents Advisory Group, who

last week gave evidence for the prosecution in the Gay News trial—and who figured in the last edition of Gay News as one of the leading lights in the killing of the Arran reform Bill.

By post

In the first case—that of Bill McLroy—it has been charged that he sent an obscene article through the post, namely a copy of James Kirkup's poem. The person who claimed to receive the copy from Mr McLroy was Kenneth Kavanagh, who took the poem round to a local police station to make a formal statement of complaint.

Bill McLroy has now received a summons to appear in court. The case is scheduled for August.

The second prosecution is even more unusual. Giving evidence for Ms Whitehouse at the Old Bailey, Kenneth Kavanagh told the court that he had purchased a copy of Gay News 96 containing the poem

by James Kirkup. He subsequently gave his copy to Ms Valerie Richards, Secretary of The Responsible Society, so that she could read it. He spoke in court of his concern with the moral welfare of youth, and said he was a member of a small group of people who discussed such matters.

Private group

Lawyers have now pointed out that his handing a copy of the poem to Ms Valerie Richards amounted to a "publication" of it in legal terms. And if the Gay News poem is found blasphemous by the Old Bailey jury (who had not reached their verdict as we went to press), then Kenneth Kavanagh might have "published a blasphemous libel."

The judge has already ruled in the Gay News trial that it is no defence to say that the motives for publication were pure ones. So a group of private individuals is now preparing for a private prosecution of Kavanagh. They also

believe that Ms Valerie Richards published the poem (perhaps directly to Ms Mary Whitehouse) and if they establish satisfactory proof will consider prosecuting Ms Richards as well. "What is sauce for the goose..." they told GN.

Jury

At the main Old Bailey trial, a jury of seven men and five women were sworn in before Judge Alan King-Hamilton—the judge who presided over the Playland case. They were told by prosecuting counsel John Smyth that James Kirkup's poem was a "blasphemy so vile that it would be hard for even the most perverted mind to conjure up anything worse."

The jury, he said, was "being asked to set the standard for the last quarter of the 20th century and perhaps beyond" of what was and was not permissible. He called only one witness—Kenneth Kavanagh—to give evidence that he had bought GN96 at a St Pancras bookstall.

When John Mortimer QC and Geoffrey Robertson came to open the case for the defence, the judge refused to allow most of the defence's witnesses to appear. The jury did not need literary witnesses to explain the poem, nor did they need religious and theological witnesses to explain the doctrinal tenets of Christianity at issue in the trial.

That left the defence with only two witnesses—to the good character of the paper.

Responsible

The novelist, Margaret Drabble, spoke fulsomely of Gay News' coverage of the arts. "The standard



Mary Whitehouse at court

is first class. The paper has attracted some of the most highly respected names in the literary field as contributors." And she added that Gay News published quality reviews of quality books such as one would find in the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Sunday Times* or the *Spectator*.

Prosecuting counsel John Smyth asked the witness whether she thought it was responsible journalism to print an article by a paedophile—drawing her attention to a piece in the same issue as the poem.

"Most certainly. There is so little understanding of this sub-

(continued on page 2)

Our thanks...

GAY NEWS would like to thank publicly all those people who generously offered to appear as defence witnesses at our Old Bailey trial, and who gave lavishly of their time and energies preparing for the case—making statements, swearing affidavits, meeting lawyers to discuss their evidence, and even taking a week off work

so that they could stand by to be called to court—some travelling many miles from home.

We are more grateful than we can say. We hope to thank each of you individually as soon as the trial is over and things return to normal here at Greyhound Road. Please forgive any delay, however, and accept our sincerest thanks.



GN editor Denis Lemon

Photographs: Bob Workman (Gay News)

LONDON: More than one thousand gay men and women reached Hyde Park Corner at the end of a one and a quarter hour march through central London to mark the opening of Gay Pride Week in Britain.

Over the same weekend there were marches in America, Holland, Germany, France and—for the first time—Spain. A number of American and European groups combined demonstrations against Anita Bryant, the Florida evangelist, with their parades.

In London there was a new air of cheerful comradeship on this year's march. At the head of the procession, men and women jogged and danced along behind a steel band, whilst those towards the rear cheered, clapped and chanted to show their high spirits. Wisecracks from onlookers were returned by the demonstrators with laughing defiance.

Chief Supt Kelly, officer in charge of the police who accompanied the procession, told Gay News: "It's been very well behaved. No trouble at all. We're very happy with it."

What did spectators think of it all? A young man watching from outside the shoe shop where he worked thought it was: "Terrible—doesn't do our business any good at all." A strange reaction from a shoe-seller to a shuffling procession of two thousand feet on tarmac!

And a taxi driver in his 30s, held up by the march: "What do I think of it? I think they're all poofs—I dunno."

But it was left to a young Dutch couple to sum it all up: "In Holland we don't have this problem. What you are after is normal with us."



Discos

DISCOS—the favourite social standby of any gay conference, Pride Week, or local group organising committee—were as plentiful as ever during Pride Week.

After the march there was a special Gay Pride Week disco at the Hanover Grand, where Liberties hold their regular Friday night event.

A good many people preferred to join the fun at this more private affair than to walk the public streets of London. But a good many of the stalwart plodders found their way here as well, and still found the energy to dance through to the small hours of Sunday morning.

Gay women held their own disco (organised by Sappho) at the Sols Arms, whilst a rock disco was simultaneously staged at Hampstead Town Hall. Some enthusiasts even managed to attend more than one disco that night.



Picnics

AFTER THE MARCH there was an impromptu picnic in Hyde Park. The plastic carrier bags with Union flags and "Woolworth's" on them, which marchers had been clutching all the way from the Victoria Embankment to the park, held bottles of wine, sandwiches, beer, strawberries and cakes.

Pamphlet and magazine sellers ran into trouble with the police and park regulations, but by and large the good humour remained with the large crowd seated on the grass.

But if the Hyde Park picnic was the largest of Pride Week, it certainly wasn't to be the last. Each lunchtime there were picnics arranged in various parts of London throughout the rest of the week. One enterprising band even took their sandwiches to the centre of the roundabout at the southern end of Waterloo bridge.



Gay Pride marchers follow the lead banner down Oxford Street. The photograph was taken from the back of the Gay Switchboard truck which carried a Steel Band. On the right are pictures of the picnic at Hyde Park (top) after the march and a lunchtime picnic held on Waterloo Roundabout during Gay Pride Week.



Footweary marchers still managed to find the energy to join in the Gay Pride disco at the Hanover Grand Hotel.

First and Third Wednesday in each month 8-1am Admission 50p

UNICORN DISCOTHEQUE

Unicorn Club, Lake Street, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, The Home Counties Premier Gay Rendezvous

Three Bars • Snack Bar • Top Sounds and Lights • Frequent Star Cabaret

MYKONOS

MAN AROUND LIMITED

individual holidays for discerning men

fly in luxurious style by jumbo jet
heathrow to ATHENS
where you spend a night of fun...
then fly to MYKONOS
for a fabulous holiday
in the sun.

for further details:
send for our exciting brochure
phone: 01-229-0806/1868
or call in:
186 Kensington church street
london W8