

GAY NEWS

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GAY
GUIDE

Anniversary Issue
6th



Family favourite

But are gays also welcome in Blackpool? Peter Robins reports—p24

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER FOR HOMOSEXUALS
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Gay Bristol photograph: John Hudson

Extraordinary woman!

Radclyffe Hall and the 50th anniversary of the suppression of 'The Well of Loneliness'—p17



Meet



David Jenkerson, the man in the CHE Chair; PLUS the 'Tom Robinson of the over-35s' AND the author of the first gay musical —pp31-33



Scenes from the London Gay Pride Carnival the march from Sloane Square ended with a picnic on Shepherds Bush Green. A full report appears on page 2 this issue.



G/N Book Award 1978

—p29

Barcelona

is out of the closet —p19

Nasty habits

And how to cure them 1920s-style —p22

Everybody's talking

... about gays. Try and find out who said what on page 21

Laying bare



The male nude in art —p23

Gay Pride Photographs: Bob Workman (Gay News)

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Well you can't please everyone 'Mary' appalled to witness shame

"I AM SHOCKED," said 'Mary Whitehouse' (alias Gay Sweatshop's Alan Pope) to the gay people who crowded around the lorry she was using as a platform at the end of this year's Gay Pride March in London.

"I am appalled to see so many of you here at the climax of this week of Gay Shame," she admonished.

She had "just popped up for the sales" and had got herself embroiled in the column of marching gays who paraded from Sloane Square, through the streets of Chelsea and Earls Court, to a picnic at Shepherds Bush Green.

Some 900 people started off on Saturday, July 8, on the one and a half hour march and the column grew as the parade continued until 1,200 gays ("about a thousand," estimated the police) stretched out behind the pink triangle of the Gay Pride banner.

That was followed by the Gay Switchboard banner, by the Lesbian Line banner, Sappho, Wages Due Lesbians, Croydon CHE, Gays Against the Nazis, Lewisham CHE, CHE Young London, Gay Teachers Group and others from York, Birmingham, Leicester, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Newcastle, and even as far away as Paris.

Dragon

Near the front of the column was a pink and black carnival dragon—although, from the look of its face, it could have been a very long duck.

There were banners declaring "We are nature's children, too," "We are the product of heterosexuals," and "I like licentious dancing."

And songs and chants were taken up by the marchers—"Yes, we are homosexual" (to the tune of "Yes, we have no bananas"), "Give us a G . . .," "We're here because we're queer."

But, although over 1,000 people from all over the country joined the parade, there was something missing.

No band

The first thing missing was the steel band that had faithfully led last year's Pride March and the enormously successful NGNDC (National Gay News Defence Committee) Rally earlier this year.

It just did not turn up. And it rained. It rained hard



"Can't you think of anything better to do on a Saturday afternoon?"

Empty

The parade marched past, turning away from the gay pubs and proceeding up Warwick Road. But once across Cromwell Road, the marchers were into empty streets.

"Isn't there a more derelict area we could have walked through?" shouted one.

The point of the march had been made and people were just walking to reach the end of the route. It left some of the marchers feeling vaguely demoralized.

Shepherds Bush Green welcomed the parade with a food tent, to provide the wherewithal for picnics, but there was no music. There was still no band.

This year's Gay Pride March left a mixed feeling in many people. It did draw gay marchers from all over the country and it did demonstrate that Gay Pride is alive.

Anti-climax

But the anti-climax of walking the empty streets at the end of the route was depressing, said Don Tyler.

"We wanted to avoid central London this time," he said, "but we won't be using this route again. And the weather was unfortunate. We could possibly have had another one thousand people out if the weather had been better."

There was too the fact that the NGNDC Rally earlier this year diverted a lot of organizing energy from Gay Pride Week. The Gay Pride Committee was unable to start concentrating on the Gay Pride March until very late in the year.

Floats sank

"We had been hoping to get floats organized but one by one the people organizing them dropped out," Don added. "The final straw was when the steel band didn't arrive."

"We're aiming for something bigger next year."

And to make sure that Gay Pride '79 is "something bigger," work is going to start early. The first meeting to begin planning for next year will take place at Oval House in Kennington Oval, London SE11, on September 4 at 7.30pm.

"Anybody is welcome to come to that," said Don.

Photograph: Bob Workman (Gay News)

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