



The Lavender Letter

For Lesbians and Homosexual Men

Issue 3. December 3rd 1982

GN to become a Collective?

The latest episode of the World's longest running soap opera

A new working party is to be set up in an attempt to buy out the present owners of *Gay News* and establish the paper as a co-operative.

In an open meeting in the Greater London Council headquarters at County Hall on Monday, November 29 the idea of a working party was approved almost unanimously. Its aim will be to form a trust with a view to achieving co-operative ownership and management of *Gay News*. If this proves to be impossible, it will try to set up a new national newspaper for lesbians and gay men, to be run on non-commercial lines.

Money for both these schemes would have to be found by an appeal to *Gay News* readers and the public at large, perhaps along the lines of the fund set up during the *Gay News*/Mary Whitehouse blasphemy trial in 1977.

Gay News has been in a state of chaos for more than two months, torn by a struggle that has as much to do with personal power as with corporate finance.

Angry debate

Well over one hundred people filled the room for four hours of restrained but angry debate. Discussion centred around the fact that Robert Palmer, the present owner, still owes former owner and editor Denis Lemon over £70,000 for the sale of the paper. £10,000 of this is due by January 1 – a sum which it seems Palmer cannot pay.



Former Owner Denis Lemon
Credit: Peter Burton

If the money is not forthcoming, some people believe the ownership will revert to Lemon, a man not greatly loved by certain of the *Gay News* staff. Literary Editor Alison Hennegan said, "I jumped for joy at the thought that Denis Lemon would not be coming through that door again."

But the financial ramifications of Palmer defaulting on the payment to Lemon are far more complex than they at first appear.

Finances

An advisor on company law, working from such information as is public about the deal between Lemon and Palmer, pointed out that Denis Lemon is entitled to be paid the money owed to him – but stressed that Lemon is not owed anything by *Gay News* Ltd. It appears that ultimately the outstanding monies are owed by Robert Palmer Marketing Ltd, the holding company owned by Palmer which effectively owns *Gay News* Ltd. If that holding company – Robert Palmer Marketing Ltd – does not pay Lemon, he (Lemon) has the right to sue Robert Palmer Marketing Ltd and to take the company's assets (in reality, the shares and, therefore, the ownership of *Gay News* Ltd). Lemon also has the right to sue Palmer personally.

As far as can be judged, *Gay News* Ltd still appears to be a going concern – but, of course, no-one knows how much the company owes. Though the company (*Gay News* Ltd) does not owe Lemon anything, if the instalment of £10,000 due on December 31 – and subsequent instalments – is not paid, then it is the holding company (Robert Palmer Marketing Ltd) which receives the full force of any claims. It would seem obvious that it would then use all assets to meet those claims.

However, the only asset Robert Palmer Marketing Ltd has is the shares in *Gay News* Ltd. The over-

all effect is that Lemon could possibly end up with the shares in *Gay News* Ltd – but he would only get what those shares are worth after all existing creditors of *Gay News* Ltd

Lemon commented that no-one from *Gay News* nor, for that matter, *Capital Gay* had bothered to speak to him about matters relating to *Gay News*' current position.



Caption: GN Editor Andrew Lumsden
Credit: Kris Kirk

had been paid off.

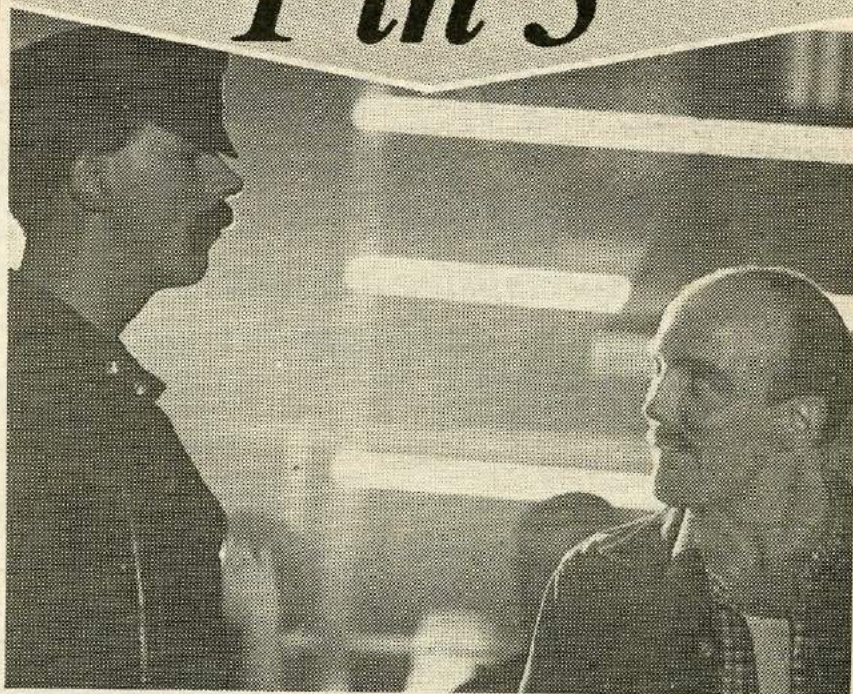
Renounce Claims

In effect, this can be interpreted to read that Lemon could find *Gay News* Ltd shares returning to him – but that, after *Gay News* Ltd's creditors had been satisfied, what reverted to him would not be a viable asset.

An open letter was signed by many at the meeting, demanding that Lemon renounce all his claims on the finance and running of *Gay News* Ltd and its parent company. However, he shows no signs of doing this.

Michael Mason, who used to work for the paper but now is believed to co-own (as well as co-edit) *Capital Gay*, alleged that Lemon would try to prevent collective control. Yet, as we went to press,

Date for "1 in 5"



Channel 4 has announced on New Year's Day. De- programme includes that "1 in 5" – the television scribed as "A very special appearances by disco diva programme specifically, party, offering an exciting Grace Jones and drag act but not exclusively, aimed mix of cabaret and con- The Trollettes. at gays throughout the versation and a gay pers- Cruising Clones from "1 in 5" country – will be screened pective on the year", the Credit: Ed Heath

Story: Stephen Bleach; additional material: Peter Burton

Options

Two main options for the staff and readership emerged during the meeting. Firstly a trust could be set up to buy *Gay News* from Lemon – probably after Palmer had defaulted on his payments – using funds raised by appeal (Palmer claimed he was willing to give his shares in the holding company to the staff of *Gay News*, but warned that this

would make them liable for the £70,000 owing).

Secondly, the staff of *Gay News* could resign en masse to start their own magazine or newspaper. When questioned about this, those of the staff who attended the meeting were reticent. The idea was vigorously supported by Joan Parker from *Spare Rib*, who reminded the meeting that the feminist magazine had been set up in 1972 with capital of only £2,000. Others at the meeting felt this was not a realistic proposal for a national gay publication.

Choice

Effectively the choice between these two options has been left to the working party. The date of the meeting to form it will be announced in the next issue of *Gay News*.

A third possibility is that the staff could simply allow the business wrangles to take their course and continue to work under Denis Lemon when own-

ership reverts to him. It seems that very few of them would be prepared to do this.

Fourth and finally, *Gay News* could fold and the employees could go their separate ways. This option was not universally disapproved of.

Future

Andrew Lumsden, Editor of *Gay News*, told *Lavender Letter*, "The difficulties for *Gay News* and its staff for too long have been the secrecy on the part of the ownership, past and present, which has made it very difficult for us to share our problems with the gay community. It's a breakthrough for us to be able to hear the opinions of others who have the prospects of a paper for lesbians and gay men as close at heart as we do."

Asked what he thought would be the fate of *Gay News*, Lumsden sighed deeply, peered through the smokey haze and said, "The future is impenetrable."

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Not to be missed?



Photograph: Ed Heath

NATIONAL: Now that the shouting is over (well most of it) . . . it looks as though all the '1 in 5' footage is in the can, ready to be spliced for your delight.

The hour-long Channel 4 gay programme will be beamed out some time during the first week in January, though the exact date isn't yet for public consumption. Let's just say it will probably be somewhere between the 1st and the 3rd.

So what's on show? Well, Grace Jones for one, caught on her lightning trip to these sceptered isles, and plugging her new single "The Apple Stretching". She's not

gay, but she sure gets those fags jumping. And the Trollettes, who are. (Gay, that is.) Thank God for some real gay visibility.

All this, plus film and theatre reviews (probably) and a round-up of the year's gay news. Oh yes, and those dancers who caused such a rumpus doing their bump 'n grind cave-person routine on the night the show's "party" was filmed in Heaven. Sexist monsters! Need their hands and legs smacked.

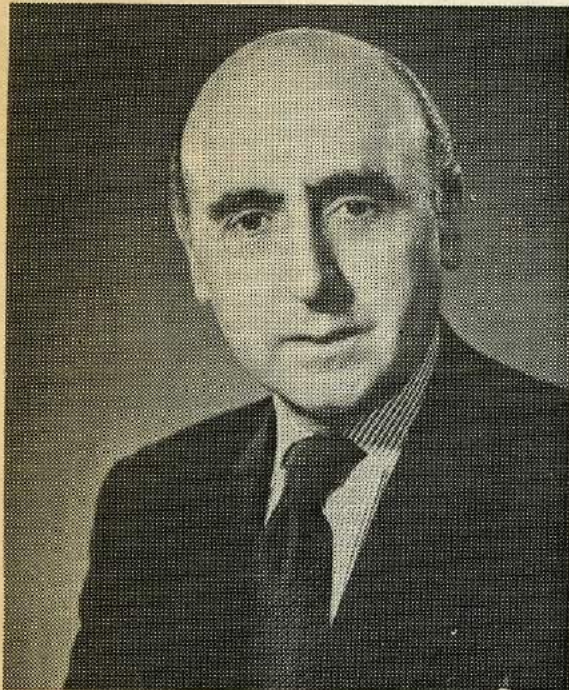
This we can't miss. *As we went to press, we heard that '1 in 5' is to be broadcast on New Year's Day.

NORTHERN LIGHTS Whilst we are currently a paper focusing mostly on southern-based interests, we do reach one or two parts north of Watford! It is to all our friends "up there" that we say 'ello - and don't despair! Look out for us when we go North in the New Year. If you cannot wait that long, here are the places you might troll along to and grab us:

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CAN YOU AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT?

Quote confirmed



Sir David Napley

Photograph: Courtesy Harrop & Co.

NATIONAL: In the first issue of *Lavender Letter*, we ran a story about solicitor Sir David Napley. In this, we quoted Sir David - who lists amongst his distinguished clients Commander Michael Trestrail and Jeremy Thorpe - as saying, "I would like to curb homosexuality . . . I see it almost as an illness."

Alan Rusbridger, diarist on *The Guardian*, appears not to have been convinced by the accuracy

of our quotation. He decided to check with the great man himself, to make sure that he really had said those rather surprising things.

"I'm not at all sure in the long run that it's a good thing to encourage the development of clubs where homosexual people go and meet together," Rusbridger reports Napley saying. "Someone who's holding it in check who finds it publicly acceptable will cease to resist it."

Favourable response

EXETER: "We would uphold the right of absolutely anybody to make their own contribution to a Remembrance service, no matter who they are, provided they are doing it for the right reasons, that is that they are genuinely paying a respect to their fallen comrades," said Derek Taylor, South West officer of the Royal British Legion, the largest ex-Services organization.

Mr. Smith was commenting on Devon CHE's decision to lay a wreath at Exeter's war memorial on Remembrance Day. "Clearly there must have been such men in the Services, although, of course, it is an offence," Mr. Smith continued. "The wreaths that are laid are for all men and women, whatever Service they were in, whatever religion, colour or creed. We do not lay a wreath and say this is for everyone except homosexuals."

Plans by the Devon group to place a wreath at the war memorial provoked a front page story in the *Exeter Express & Echo* and a subsequent story and photograph in an issue of the paper two days later.

A spokesman for Exeter City Council commented, "Any ex-Services organization who applied to be represented there and to lay a wreath would be accepted. I must admit I would not put this particular organization in that category."

Bruce Galloway, Devon CHE member, said, "We laid the wreath not only as a tribute but as a campaigning move. It challenges the traditional stereotypes of gay men, and highlights the discrimination against homosexuals in the Armed Forces today. The publicity was very fair, and ample. We're well pleased."

Trestrail: "No breach"

LONDON: Commander Michael Trestrail's gay sex activities did not lead to any security breach, according to the Security Commission looking into the implications of the Trestrail affair. But in its twenty-seven page report the Commission, chaired by Lord Bridge of Harwich, criticises the "poor command structure" at Scotland Yard which is responsible for handling the Queen's safety at Buckingham Palace. And as a result of the inquiry, stricter selection procedures and a more discriminating vetting system are likely to be introduced for officials appointed to "sensitive" posts.

The inquiry was ordered by Home Secretary William Whitelaw after the recent break-in into the Palace by Michael Fagan and the quite separate resignation of Trestrail, the Queen's bodyguard, after admitting a gay affair with a prostitute.

The Bridge Report says that Trestrail carried out his duties "loyally and efficiently", but Lord Bridge was also moved to

comment on what he calls Trestrail's "secret double life". "I think there is undoubted conflict in his character between the image of himself which he has succeeded so well in projecting in his public and professional life, and which he would like to live up to, and his taste for casual and promiscuous sexual encounters which he himself recognised as sordid and degrading."

Much is made in the report of Trestrail's evidence to the Commission that his relationship with the prostitute, Michael Rauch, "was simply that of prostitute and paying customer, that there was no emotional involvement, and that the meetings were by no means regular or frequent". Bridge comments: "I find it difficult to envisage circumstances in which any risk to security could have arisen". He describes as "a serious indiscretion", however, the fact that Trestrail revealed that he was the Queen's bodyguard to both Rauch and a Spanish tourist with whom he had an affair.

The report also reveals

GLC to Fund Fest?

LONDON: A group of lesbian and gay artists have been meeting for the last six weeks to thrash out a policy recommendation for the Greater London Council to adopt with regard to funding gay artists. This has now been presented to Councillor Andy Harris, and is to go to the full council early in December.

The main practical recommendation is that the GLC should fund a month-long festival of all the arts, to take place in venues all round London next summer. The festival

will run along the same lines as did "Women Live" earlier this year, will culminate in Gay Pride Week and the Gay Pride March in the last week of June 1983.

Initial reaction from the GLC has been favourable, although money is unlikely to be forthcoming until the beginning of April next year, which is well into the planning stages of an event on this scale.

Those involved in compiling the report - including Kate Crutchley, Noel Grieg, Martin Humphreys and Eric Presland - are

meeting to prepare a festival programme and budget on Tuesday, December 7 at 5.30, in Room 180 at County Hall. They are anxious that others join them to work out plans. They are especially keen to hear from musicians, visual artists, film and video makers, since the original group has a mainly theatrical bias.

Further information can be obtained from Kate Crutchley, Oval House, 54 Kennington Oval, London SE11. Tel. 01-737 2786.

Briefly . . . No problems

BRIGHTON: Opposition is expected from Tory members of East Sussex County Council with regard to a recommendation that the council change its policy concerning Brighton Gay Switchboard.

Labour councillor Owen Davies, of the Voluntary Organisation Sub-committee has suggested that the 1981 decision which cancelled Switchboard's grant be reversed. He suggests that a token sum of £50 be paid to Brighton Gay Switchboard. A final decision on this is expected in January when the full Social Services Committee meets.

★ ★ ★

SUSSEX: On his conversion to Catholicism, Malcolm Muggeridge stated that it "had been looming in my mind for many years." The former Editor of *Punch* also suggested that in part his decision had been made in rejection of the "gay priests and doctrinal confusion of Anglicanism".

Hasn't Mr. Muggeridge noticed any of the gaiety about the Catholic church? If he hasn't, he must be getting decidedly short-sighted.

BOGNOR REGIS: "The police visit to the Safari Bar had nothing to do with the fact that it's a gay bar," said Mr. Denning, licensee of the premises which are located at Zootopia, Hotham Park, Bognor Regis. He was commenting on reports that the police had raided the bar.

"We run a disco on Friday nights," he pointed out, "and though the bar closes at 11 p.m., the disco continues to run until midnight. On the night in question, the police saw that the lights were still on and came in to check that people weren't still drinking. I'm sure they arrived with the intention of taking names and addresses of anyone who was drink-

ing after hours. But when they saw that none of our customers had an alcoholic drink, they left. That was the end of that."

The Safari Bar must be a unique first - a gay watering-hole set within forty acres of parkland and a zoo made up from ex-circus animals (some of whom co-starred with rock'n' roller Gary Glitter).

At present, the Safari is open on Wednesdays (from 7-10.30 p.m.) and Fridays (from 7-11 p.m.). Discos are held each Friday; women only nights are held on alternative Saturdays. Mr. Denning also said that plans are afoot to open the bar on more nights.

60% Against "Coming out"

Peter Burton



Photograph: Bill Short

PORTSMOUTH: In a poll of listeners taken towards the end of Radio Victory's "Topic" programme on the theme Should Gays Stay in the Closet - Do They Get Too Much Publicity, 40% felt that gay men and women should come out; a resounding 60% were strongly against gays "going public".

During the hour-long 'phone-in programme, host Tim Colwell and *Lavender Letter's* Peter Burton dealt with calls which covered many of the bogey-men and old chestnuts gays constantly have to confront. "I don't believe gays should be militant," said Vera, "because young people can be influenced and attracted to homosexuality. This can cause areas of anxiety and keep young people trapped in an adolescent stage."

One listener - Mike - who had been molested as

a child was really irate. "They're a scourge on society," he said, voice trembling with emotion. "If one of them ever touched my kids, I'd murder him . . ."

Josephine disagreed with the use of the word "gay". "It's misleading," she argued. "How can they be gay when they're not leading a normal life according to the scriptures?"

Fortunately not all the responses were so depressing - one listener proclaimed herself a happy lesbian, another told of her love for her gay brother and went on to say that she has a seven year old son "and if he grew up gay I would still love him as much", a third felt that it was important that gays should have support and another insisted that "gay people - like everyone else - have a right to enjoy their lives".

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Mr. Toad & Oscar Wilde



It's a well-known fact that authors often base their characters upon people they know. Yet who would have believed that Christmas show favourite *Toad of Toad Hall* was based upon a real life character – a gay one, at that?

In his biography of Kenneth Grahame (author of *The Wind in the Willows*), the classic children's book which forms the basis for *Toad of Toad Hall* author Peter Green convincingly argues that the pompous Mr. Toad – whose criminal high-jinks lead to a prison sentence – was based upon Irish wit and playwright Oscar Wilde.

Grahame and Wilde's paths crossed because of their involvement with the 1890's literary periodical *The Yellow Book* and Green suggests that the Wilde scandal (resulting in the playwrights imprisonment for homosexual offences) "... sank deep into his [Grahame's] mind; and twelve years were to pass before the core of that terrible episode re-emerged, transmuted and scaled down to animal fantasy in the misfortunes of Mr. Toad."

Those wishing to judge for themselves can see Graham Chinn, David King, Graham Seed and Alan Palmer in *Toad of Toad Hall* at the Piccadilly Theatre, London, from

December 13 for a season.

Another Edwardian children's favourite – Sir J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* – will be making a Christmas appearance at the Barbican Theatre from December 16. Staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company and co-directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird, the great transvestite role of Peter will be played for the first time by a real boy – actor Miles Anderson. And as anyone who watched Andrew Birkin's 1978 trilogy of television plays *The Lost Boys* or read the same author's book *J. M. Barrie and the Lost Boys* will know, the story of *Peter Pan* grew out of the tales Barrie told to his beloved Llewelyn Davies boys.



For the Individualist

In a little shop in the heart of Brighton, a little man by the name of Barry is making a Huge impact with his Large range of clothes – jogging suits, T-shirts, string vests, a lovely range of satin/see thru' jocks, etc. ...; cards for all occasions (don't miss his Christmas selection boys!), and tons of other goodies: lots of lovely leather accessories and, coming shortly, a range of high-quality men's toiletries.

Also in stock now, a good selection of books for those little stockings at the end of the bed – titles include:

"The milkman's on his way"
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"Gay men's diary"

The window to watch is KAESAN, open six days a week, 10-6 Kensington Arcade, Kensington Gardens, Brighton, tel: 693390.

1066's Dinner

HASTINGS: The 1066 Gay Community based at Hastings and which, with over one hundred members, is the largest gay group on the South Coast is running its first Christmas Dinner/Dance on Saturday, December 11. The function will take place at the Manor Barn, De La Warr Road, Bex-

hill-on-Sea, commencing at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Admission, open to non-members also, is strictly by advance reservation. Applications for tickets should be made to the Treasurer, 1066 Gay Community, c/o 49 Cambridge Gardens, Hastings, East Sussex not later than December 8. Remittance of £6.50 per head – which is fully inclusive of the four-course dinner with coffee, VAT and the open-untill midnight disco – should be included. The licensed bar will be open from 7-11.45pm.

GAY SWITCHBOARD

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THE IMPERSONATORS



Gnome exclusive



Photograph: Bill Short

Avid readers of *Chatterbox*, the Bolts Newsletter, have been wondering about the identity masked by the pseudonym The Brighton Gnome. Many readers suspect that the Gnome is diminutive membership person Bill Short. But Bill has been furiously denying this: "I can't write," he confessed to *Lavender Letter*. Now – in an exclusive photograph – we can reveal the identity of the Brighton Gnome. A regular at the doors of Bolts at Sherrys in Brighton, the gentleman pictured above wished to remain anonymous. "But he's outside Bolts every Sunday," Bill Short told us, pointing an accusing finger. "I believe he's the Brighton Gnome!"

LONDON: If you've ever wondered about the lives of male impersonators like Vesta Tilley and Hettie King, who were so popular at the turn of the century, you'll want to see a new dance-drama about them which is due to open in London.

"The Impersonators" is a new dance-drama, written, directed and choreographed by Jacky Lansley, which examines the world of Victorian Music Hall and in particular the lives of the male impersonators

mour and the drudgery of their roles as female working class entertainers. The story of Jekyll and Hyde forms the basis of the piece, and we're told that the familiar Victorian melodrama is turned on its head to explore the stark contradictions of Victorian sexuality and build an ambiguous imagery around impersonation both male and female.

"The Impersonators" is playing at the Drill Hall, 16 Chenies Street, London WC1 from December 16 to January 9. Box Office 01-637-8270.

LONDON: Bang DJ and co-founder Gary London will once again be hosting a charity gala night at the capital's oldest established American-styled gay disco. Anyone who goes along on December 20 with a toy, gift or game will get free admission. All gifts brought along will be donated – as has been the case for years past – to the Dr Barnardo's Children's Homes.

LONDON: No sooner had Commander Michael Trestrail been cleared of causing any security breach by the Bridge Commission, than Michael Rauch, the male prostitute who had provoked the whole ugly scandal, was bursting into print in the *News of the World*. In a Page 3 story, Rauch claimed "Trestrail was obsessed by the Queen – he insisted that I call him Ma'am."

Meanwhile, in the same edition of the paper, ex-butler Andy Hawkins was claiming that "We regard this man [Rauch] as a traitor. He has broken all the rules." Hawkins went on to say, "Male prostitutes are hoping to raise several thousand pounds to hire a gun to eliminate him."

Briefly . .

LONDON: The yummy Steve Swindells of *The Lift* is busy looking for a new home for his successful Thursday night only venture. The present location – The Gargoyle in Dean Street – closes down after sixty years on December 23.

"We'd like to keep the Thursday night Lift in premises that are on the top of a building," Steve told *Lavender Letter* just before whizzing off to New York "on music business".

Meanwhile, Lift II goes from strength to strength at Stallion's, off Charing Cross Road. Originally, Steve and his partner Tim Clarke ran Lift II from this venue on Friday nights only – but so successfully did it take off, that Stallion's management let Steve and Tim have Saturday nights too.

★ ★ ★

LONDON: Once famous for his portrayal of Jason King in the television series *Department S*, actor Peter Wyngarde was recently declared bankrupt. Now living on social security in Kensington, the actor's fortunes went into a decline after he appeared in court charged with committing an act of indecency with another man.

★ ★ ★

NOTTINGHAM:

PART TWO, England's most prestigious gay discotheque, is proud to announce the opening of its new in-club shop and mail order service – "TRADIN' POST".

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Lavender Letter,

We have just received copies of Issue 1 of the Lavender Letter and would like to send our congratulations to you and all the staff on such an excellent production and interesting new venture.

Our best wishes to everyone from all on this side of the water.
Love and gay solidarity, Tonic Walsh, General Secretary, National Gay Federation, Dublin, Eire.

Dear Lavender Letter

Thank you for your Editorial on Remembrance (LL2). Your Joe and my Ron are both dead. They both have watery graves; Joe in the South Atlantic and Ron nearer home. He was shot down over the Channel with a Star of David round his neck, in 1945. They both died in the fight for freedom, the fight that we, among other things, might be gay, and they are both remembered.

The pink triangle that I wear with pride today is in

remembrance of all gays who died in Hitler's concentration camps with a pink triangle sewn to their clothes - and as a symbol of my faith in gay equality in the future.

Time helps to heal, but if I did not shed a few tears for Ron, I hope my lover, with whom I have lived for twenty-nine years, would be ashamed of me. Yes, we should remember them with gay pride.

Yours sincerely, Bernard Williams, Convenor, Gay Bereavement Project, London NW11.

Dear Lavender Letter

We were delighted with your first issue and feel that its arrival in the gay media is both timely and important. We welcome your new and positive approach and applaud your policy of integration of the sexes. It was good to see two large fashion advertisements in a gay paper and two attractive women in them: we - no doubt along with many other gay women - are tired of the stereotyped image of lesbians presented elsewhere. We also enjoyed the piece on men's and women's bodybuilding and were heartened to read that Wendy is not afraid of losing her femininity!

The layout of Lavender Letter is pleasing and makes for easy reading; there's a nice balance between news and features; and it's encouraging to see you appealing to all gays, regardless of age or situation.

Don't let all this go to your head!

Good luck, Emma Read and Stephanie Norris, London NW1.

Champagne is winging its way to B. Williams at this moment. Don't forget that the best letter to the editor each week wins a bottle of bubbly.

Lavender Letter, P.O. Box 203, Brighton BN1 5QB.

Dear Lavender Letter,

I have read your first two issues with interest, enjoyment and amusement. Serious reporting tempered with humour and humanity brings a much-needed breath of freshness to a gay Press hitherto seemingly devoid of gaiety! Long may you

flourish, more power to your elbow, and similar colourful expressions of encouragement!
Peter, Worthing, Sussex.

The address: Lavender Letter Letters, PO Box 203, Brighton, BN1 5QB.

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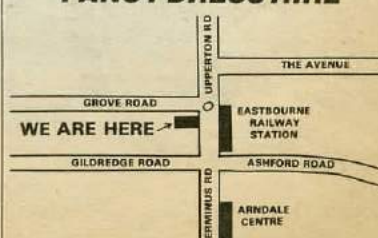


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Peter Burton's HOTSPOTS

Nightlife News & Views

A CHANGE IS as good a rest, I've always been told. Well, I don't know about "rest" – but I've certainly made a major change. Regular readers of this column will – needless to say – have realized immediately what has happened. New readers, start here.

This column was – until fairly recently – a regular feature in GAY NEWS (or MISERABLE NEWS, as a friend of mine calls it). When life at that publication became quite unbearable, I quit – vowing never to become involved in gay publishing again.

As you can see – my vow lasted about as long as a NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

As we totter towards CHRISTMAS, we also enter the height of the club birthday season – anniversaries are up-and-coming for HEAVEN, SUBWAY, BOLTS in BRIGHTON and – not too far into the NEW YEAR – BANG. The latter, grand-daddy of them all, will be entering its eighth year in February. It hardly seems possible. I remember, as if it were yesterday, the open-



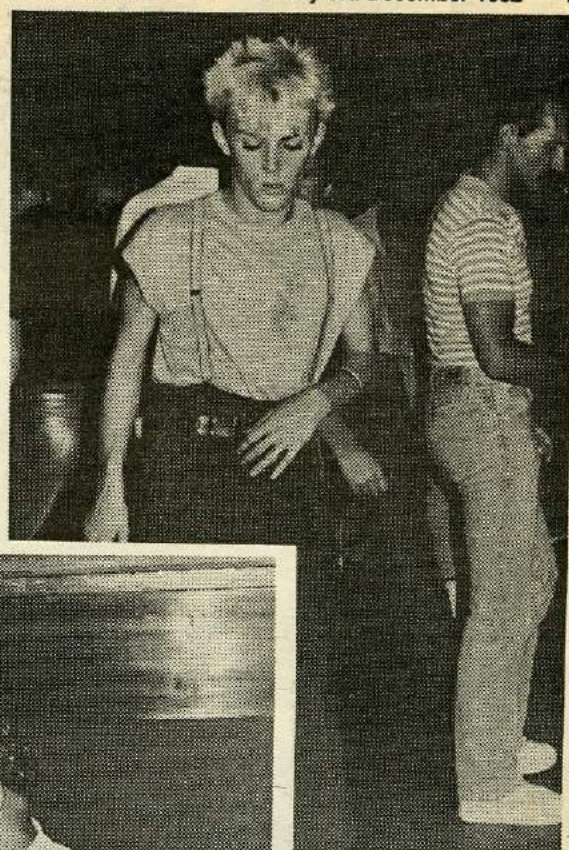
Nappies next for naughty Nicky

ing Monday night – when the crowds turned up in unexpected droves.

Speaking of BANG, DJ GARY LONDON tells me they're holding a PINK SATIN GIN NIGHT on Thursday, December 16. The first one hundred people in BANG will get a free cocktail – featuring, of course, the star drink of the evening. PINK SATIN will be served at half price until 11.30 p.m. Members and guests will have a chance to win a PINK SATIN COCKTAIL KIT – and there will be prizes for the most outrageous pink costumes or make-up!

thought of naughty NICKY PRICE in nappies and fantasising about PICKLE in a leather romper suit!

The lovely ALEX, who used to work at MOTHER BOLTS in HARINGEY, is now working at the CAMDEN PALACE – a favourite haunt of mine, not particularly gay, but packed with humpy numbers. For those who can find looking at beautiful people of either sex a pleasure, a night at the PALACE can be a real treat. And I have such a passion for YOBS with just a smattering of style!



brain might well decide I was seeing things because of one too many... and that would never do.

I hear that BRIGHTON's ADELAIDE CLUB is about to become rather larger – workmen are busily rebuilding the area at the back of the club so that even more people will be able to cram in!



I really do feel that I should make an appearance at this evening – if only to confirm the nasty rumours circulated by HIM MAGAZINE about my gin drinking. Anyone in the know, would be aware that since I ditched the pints of PERNOD AND WATER, my basic tipple has been SCOTCH AND WATER.

Incidentally, anyone who's feeling a bit confused about this particular BANG evening, shouldn't worry. It had been planned as the CHRISTMAS CHARITY NIGHT – with all gifts and toys to go to DR. BARNARDO'S. At the last minute, there was a change of plan, the charity night is now December 20.

BABIES IN THEIR SPLENDOR is the theme for BOLTS FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY at their BRIGHTON venue. Goodness only knows what outrageous costumes will be seen on the night – Sunday, December 19. Some members are already shuddering at the

As we go to press, I'm looking forward to a night of sleaze at HEAVEN – the ultradisco's AMERICAN TRASH NIGHT which stars the divine DIVINE. She/he was absolute bliss earlier this year – when she/he worked the same trio of British clubs: HERO'S in MANCHESTER, PART TWO in NOTTINGHAM and, of course, HEAVEN. This time around DIVINE is also appearing at BUSTERS in COVENTRY – AND HEAVEN entertainments person KEVIN MILLINS tells me that DIVINE would like to do other dates in this country, if suitable venues can be found. Watch out for an interview with DIVINE in our next issue – published on December 17. I've already read it and think it's great fun!

rumours have reached me of a fallout between BANG'S DJ'S MR. CHRIS and the lovely COLIN PETERS. According to my spies, tears were shed – with the net result that MR.



DJ Gary London

Speaking of BRIGHTON, South Coast fans of NORMAN SCOTT will be shocked to hear that the oft tired and emotional DJ will only be appearing at BOLTS at SHERRYS on about one Sunday in four. NORMAN's detractors will be delighted. But what will this do to sales of BREAKERS in BRIGHTON?

What is the secret of STEVE SWINDELLS and TIM CLARKE's success? They certainly seem to have hit the right formula with THE LIFT – and LIFT II, now a winner on Friday and Saturday nights at STALLIONS, a club which had been decidedly ailing until they came along. Maybe I'm not the only person who detests the basic disco music that's played in most gay venues. DJ's always claim that their supporters "don't like anything different" – but I'm convinced that's not true. Certainly not judging by the mix and match style I've encountered in my travels around the country over the past year. Only LONDON and BRIGHTON seem stuck rigidly to this old-fashioned formula.

and that's it for now. Next time around, all the news about who's doing what where over Christmas and the New Year.

Have a boppy time!



Heaven's Kevin Millins

CHRIS is no longer spinning the discs at the famous Monday and Thursday disco. What can that have been about?

I find the idea of a bar in a zoo fascinating – and am determined to tootle off to BOGNOR REGIS to see if the stories about THE SAFARI BAR are true. After a few drinks, I think I might find the idea of all those animals a wee bit alarming. My fuddled

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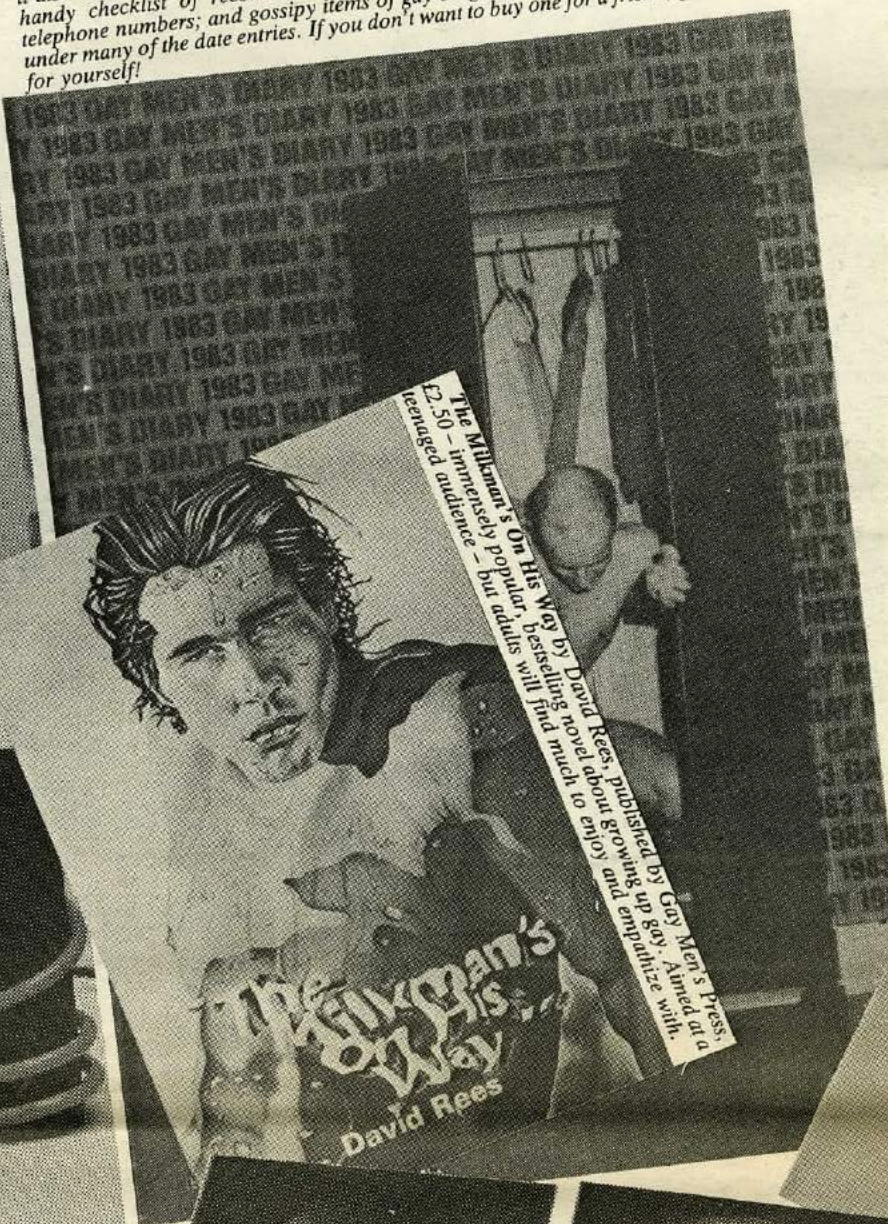
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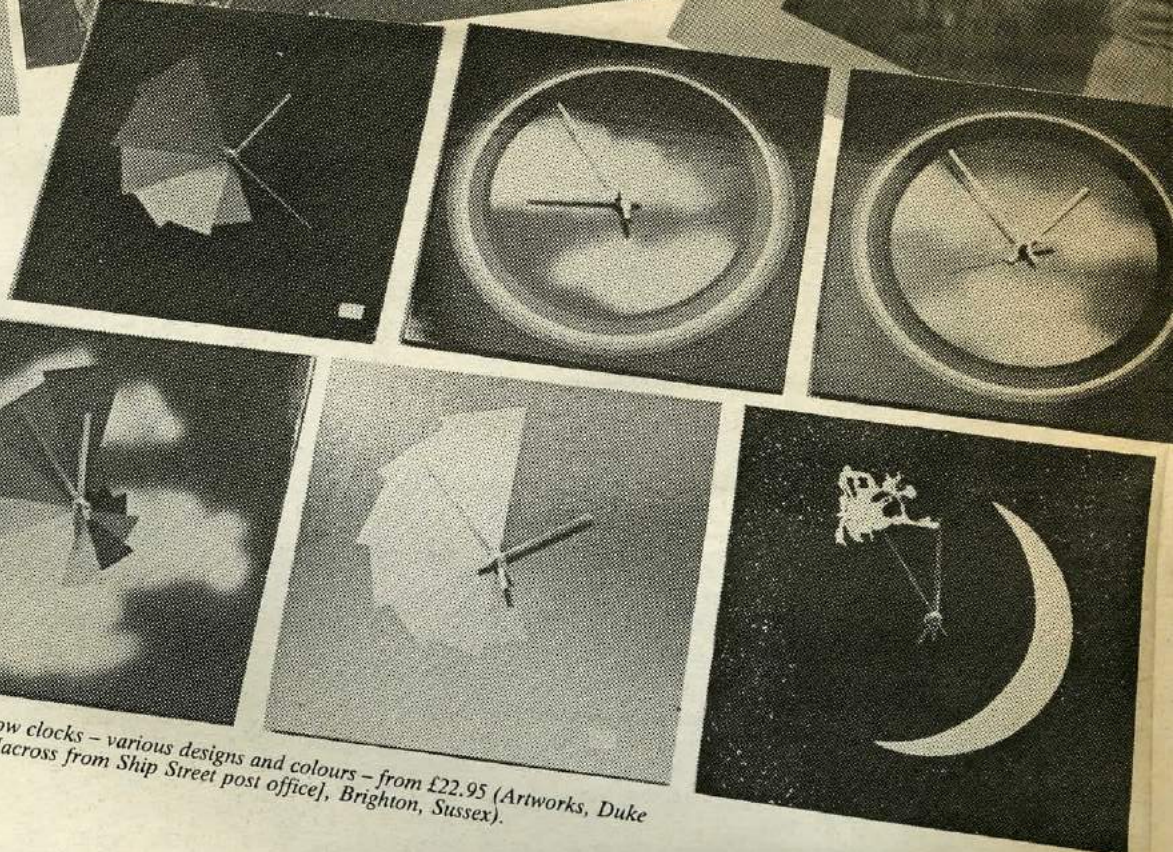
Gifts: A few Christmas

Gay Men's Diary 1983, edited and produced by Homosexual Posters, published by Gay Men's Press, £3. This compact and chunky volume is more than a diary - it also contains over sixty illustrated pages of lively and informative articles; a handy checklist of recommended books; space for names, addresses and telephone numbers; and gossip items of gay biographical or historical interest under many of the date entries. If you don't want to buy one for a friend, get one for yourself!



Our Hero Has Bad Breath by Peter Robins, published by new gay publishing house Brilliance Books, £2.50 - a collection of short stories by the author of *Undo Your Ruincoat and Laugh!* (To be reviewed in a future issue).

5 Triangular cocktail glasses, available in various colours, £1.52 each; tumbler sized cocktail glass - for the serious drinker - with built-in straw, £3.95; stainless steel cocktail shaker, from £4.95; reproduction Art Deco lamp, in plaster, from £44.50 (all from Artworks, Duke Street [across from Ship Street post office], Brighton, Sussex).



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2 Blue sheen tracksuit, with red and white stripe, £27.95; white socks (see 1); long-sleeved, white cotton sweatshirt £6.95; black mesh vest £5.50 (all from Kaesan, Kensington Arcade, Kensington Gardens, Brighton, Sussex).

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3 White cotton t-shirt with holly motif £4.95; boxer shorts with red stripes and holly motif £9.95; grey wool socks with Christmas tree motif £9.95 (all from Michael Lowrie, 5 Market Street, Brighton, Sussex).

DEAR VERA

Audacious, witty, downright rude but never sympathetic, that's our Vera. Write to Vera with your problems but don't expect her to help. Changers for the best or most outrageous problem each issue (printable please). Lavender Letter, P.O. Box 203, Brighton BN1 5QB

Dear Vera,

I have used a vibrator regularly for the last six years, but recently the motor burnt out and now I cannot find a model that suits me the way the old one did. Can you suggest any good modern makes that might do the trick? Veronica

Answer: How about a Honda 650?

Dear Vera,

I have recently met a new lover who really turns me on, but he is a vegetarian and insists on cooking me beans, brown rice and lentils, etc. This inevitably causes me to have really bad wind as I am too embarrassed to fart in front of him, I either make excuses and go home to sleep or spend the night awake with my buttocks clenched. How can I get around this embarrassing problem? William.

Answer: Be brave, and cast your fate to the wind - alternatively, do as I do - blame the cat!

Dear Vera,

I'm only 27 and have been sexually active as a homosexual since I was 17, but now I find it difficult to get a hard-on. What shall I do? Roland.

Answer: Regular dipping in Robin's starch might help, dear.

Dear Vera,

Ever since I had a nasty accident with the Hoover I have been unable to have sex. I cannot talk to my doctor about this as I am too embarrassed. What can I do to remedy the problem? Clive

Answer: Forget this traumatic incident; but remember, next time be sure to employ a cleaner - and use a toothbrush (it's smaller)

Dear Vera,

When I was in my twenties I was the dolly of the discos. I went home with a different woman most nights. Now it seems as though only a few years have passed but everything seems to be for the young. I get sneering looks when I hover near a bar, trying to hold in my tummy and my false teeth. Where can I go to find people who don't want to judge, but want a good time like me? Dorothy.

Answer: Have you tried midnight on an unlit prom?

Editors Note:

Seriously though folks, if you have a problem but don't know who to get in touch with ring us or write and we can give you details of who to contact in confidence of course.

Kris Kirk's MEDIAWATCH

Welcome. Those of you who devour the music magazines will have been heartened a couple of months ago to see *Record Mirror* initiate a weekly Gay Disco Top 20 Chart. They're still running it, but have since changed its title to the mildly witty, but far less up-front, Boys Town Disco Chart. I wonder whether this change came about because they've had postbags of mail from outraged parents of twelve-year-old readers?

Gay male lechers who, like me, used to buy the teeny magazine *Oh Boy* for the splendid pictures of bare-chested young men from pop groups will share my disappointment that the pin-ups are far less revealing ever since one of our boring morally upright MPs asked a question in the House about their tendency to deprave and corrupt.

Staying with the music magazines, they've been having a field day recently informing their readers that the luscious David van Daay (the male half of Dollar, that winsome twosome who epitomise heteropop and whom I'm afraid I love to death) is making a movie called "Do You Believe In Fairies?" Why the sniggers? Do they know something I don't.

Must say I had a little snigger myself whilst reading an interview with Frankie Vaughan in the November 27 issue of *Radio Times*. Seems that butch image we've all yawned at from the 50's on is all the result of cross-dressing! "I used to come on in a powder-blue suit and dicky bow," explains Frankie. "The topper, tails and cane idea came later when I decided to do a little send-up of myself. I got the idea from a male impersonator I worked with."

Readers of London's *Standard* will not need to be told that Peter Holt, who writes the Ad Lib column, is not averse to giving Friends of Dorothy a plug or two. Items on

Elton John, Tom Robinson and the gorgeous Boy George all appeared in his column in the space of a week last month.

Now that he's a chart-topper all the teeny mags are taking care not to say anything about George's (ahem) ambiguous sexuality. Not so the boy himself. In an interview with Fiona Russell Powell in *The Face* (where she proudly trumpets the fact that she's celibate) he says that, with regard to sex with men and women "I've never not done one or the other." In a rather unfortunate phrase he also tells her that "Sex is blown out of proportion ... twenty-four hours a day it's shoved down our throats."

Congratulations to *Lavender Letter* for making it into the qualities on its first issue. *Guardian* diarist Alan Rusbridger picked up on the paper's front-page Sir David Napley ("I would like to curb homosexuality") story on November 23.

In fact there have been quite a few gay references in the *Guardian* over the last couple of weeks. Pat Horne, describing her teenage son's reaction to a police spot check tells of the policeman who tries to degrade him by asking him if he's a "fruit" - one of the more derogatory terms for homosexual. As it happens, the lad is not homosexual, is fully aware that homosexuality is not illegal, and has been

its own inimitable way. Perhaps *The Guardian* took more note than the *Sun* et al that this was purely an unsubstantiated allegation. The majority of press coverage took a "forgiving" attitude to Trestrail himself, but accused Lord Bridge of being complacent for saying that he was satisfied that there was no breach of security involved. Typically, it was the *Sun* - which reported the whole affair to the police in the first place - which berated Bridge for having "a measure of understanding for the Commander" and squeezed in that archaic insult "deviate" to describe the unfortunate Trestrail.

I notice that *Private Eye*



DOLLAR: "that winsome twosome who epitomise hetero pop"

And one final comment from the music press: Julie Burchill, who always tries so desperately hard to be controversial, describes London's gays (in a review in *The Face* of Tula's autobiography "I Am A Woman") as "the capital's creepily misogynistic homosexual community." She's made a lot of snide references in the past to gays and it seems that Ms. Burchill's bad case of homophobia is getting worse.

brought up in a household where if he were homosexual he would not feel compelled to hide the fact. Apart from the obvious point that it's good to see in print an example of how stop and search powers are misused, it's also nice to know that such households exist. And I guess the article might make some readers stop and wonder what happens in such a situation to those of us who are real live "fruits."

An article in the *Daily Telegraph* by Colin Welch takes the side of the police in the current argument over whether they should have special training in the socio-economic conditions of minority groups in Britain. "The policeman," argues Welch, "is already overburdened with pseudo-sociological claptrap. It clouds his mind, paralyses his will, stays his hand, bedevils his promotion prospects." I understand - but do not accept - the first three examples. But bedevilling promotion prospects?

Talking about promotion prospects, there's been plenty of news on one policeman who'll never get promoted again.

Strangely, *The Guardian* didn't mention in its coverage of the Bridge Enquiry the one piece of news that the tabloids seized on: "Queen's shadow had gay affair with cop," as the *Sun* put it in

continues with its usual subtle and sympathetic gay coverage. As well as its usual "The Gays" cartoon about herpes, an Auberon Waugh piece on herpes and London's 100 Most Eligible Bachelors and a review of a non-existent Alan Bennett play set in a public convenience and featuring a retired mentally subnormal homosexual librarian, there's a spoof letter to the *Times* protesting at the media's intrusion into the Soviet spy Prime's private life - signed by Anthony Blunt, Jeremy Thorpe, Trestrail and others.

The *Sunday Times* coverage of gay issues proceeds apace. There was a long piece about the Jewish Church's (possibly) changing attitude to homosexuality plus a piece on gay artist Oswald Blakeston. It didn't mention he was an "out" gay, but drops a heavy hint by revealing that, when he lived in Paris, Oswald "accidentally sat on a hand sculpted in wax by Jean Cocteau and told Andre Gide how to cook écrevisse."

Don't forget - if you find a gay-related article, or news story which either makes you hopping mad or want to send a bunch of red roses to the editor, please send me a copy. Address it to Kris Kirk, MediaWatch, Lavender Letter, PO Box 23, Brighton BN1 5QB.



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The 499th Man

The 499th Man Patrick Newley ponders the pleasures and pitfalls of self-indulgence

Recently I've become known as Tooting's answer to Christine Keeler. Nothing that that exponent of 1960's easy virtue has done can compare to my sexual exploits. I am more tarty than anything dreamed up by Mr Kipling.

I should say at the outset that this title has been thrust on me, not by my gay friends, by the straighter ones. Homosexuals are of course promiscuous and self-indulgent. We sleep with anybody, fritter away our money in smoke-filled dens of iniquity and dress merely to attract attention. In the current issue of that bastion of right-winged religious propaganda *The Plain Truth*, the Editor condemned homosexuals by saying that "they are shame-faced perverts who flaunt themselves as if they actually had something to be proud of".

But is self-indulgence a crime? Let's face it, certain aspects of religion are self-indulgent to say the least. Changing all that water to wine was a bit show-offish for a start. You'd expect it from Paul Daniels but not from the other gentleman. And Moses parting the Red Sea was a gesture on a grand egocentric scale. Not to mention Bernadette dragging all those poor villagers along to a grotto in the middle of nowhere just because she'd had a vision. I have visions every time I pass the Coleherne Pub in Earl's Court at closing time, but I doubt if Jennifer Jones will make a film of that.

So why are gay men and women often thought of as being self-indulgent? A straight man walking into a bar and boasting of his sexual conquests with women is treated with the reverence of a saint. But a gay man or woman who talks of different partners is seen through straight eyes as being promiscuous - in short: a whore.

Wearing a British Homes Stores cravat one day at a straight party, I was accused by my host of "flaunting my homosexuality". The host then called me to one side and shoved a pint of Brown Ale and a packet of Woodbine into my hand in a vain attempt to make me look masculine. "Life isn't all cock you know," he whispered to me gently. I was tempted to reply with the words, "Well it may not be for you..."

So are gays necessarily self-indulgent? In the dictionary, we read that self-indulgence is "a weakening of one's moral strength by satisfying one's desires and appetites too readily". Which makes it sound as if you've spent the whole week masturbating in an opium den while reading the complete works of Aleister Crowley. And if masturbation is criminal then obviously we can assume that crime does indeed pay. If one was to

millions on *Gay Life* about how many times he'd been between the sheets that very evening, I must confess that it seemed as though Bryan Derbyshire had very little time to do anything else. When does he do his shopping and ironing? I kept asking myself. But you wouldn't class Bryan Derbyshire as a criminal would you? Yet the next day a gay friend of mine uttered the words, "Did you see that awful person on *Gay Life* last

by both your straight and gay peers. The difference being that the straight ones will class you as a tart (and more often than not a threat) and the gay ones will say that you're dragging the gay scene down into the gutter. Infidelity is a game that a number can play.

A recent survey in America revealed that half the population of San Francisco "claimed to have had sex with over five-hundred people". This throws a whole new light on those films with Jeanette MacDonald in which she sang about the delights of that infamous city - usually in the middle of an earthquake, from the top of a pile of rubble. "San Francisco, Open your Golden Gate, Don't



Illustration: Ian McGee

"I HAVE VISIONS EVERY TIME I PASS THE COLEHERNE..."

be charged for such an offence, I should spend the rest of my days languishing in Dartmoor.

Gay celebrity Bryan Derbyshire, (that walking advertisement for the leather pages of a Janet Frazer catalogue), was seen not long ago on London Weekend Television's *Gay Life* extolling the virtues of sleeping around. Let me say straight away that I have nothing but unqualified admiration for Bryan Derbyshire since he has proved his point by getting the gay joke on his own terms. Leather and sex are synonymous with him the way that tiresome dogs are synonymous with Barbara Woodhouse. He is no doubt despised by straight people who see him as representative of all that is worst in gay culture - but like Hermann Goering, I'm sure that when he hears the word culture he reaches for his gun. Or leather jacket.

After telling the viewing

night talking about all the people he'd slept with? I could never do that". Well perhaps my gay friend had never been asked, but it makes you wonder where you draw the line - if there is one. Do people like Bryan Derbyshire give the gay scene a bad name? Why not sleep around? Straight people do with all the enthusiasm of a nun who has just taken her final vows. After all Mr Derbyshire is only enjoying himself (and a lot of others as well it would seem) and "satisfying his desires and appetites". The worst that can happen to him is not that his "moral strength will be weakened" but that he might get a dose of the clap.

Dubious morality abounds in issues of self-indulgence probably as a darkly hooded disguise for jealousy. Like having a premium bond, you just can't win. If you're promiscuous (or simply having a good time) you will be judged as self-indulgent

Let Nobody Wait Outside Your Door," she trilled in a falsetto voice. With the promise of sex with five hundred people I can't see many waiting outside anybody's door for long. There'd be a positive stampede to get in.

So I wonder if over half the population of, say, London have had sex with over five-hundred people? Or have the straight population of any big English city had sex with five-hundred people? And does it really matter one way or the other? I for one would certainly like to know. It all seems a bit extravagant to me - but there I go - the next thing I'll say is that it strikes me as being a bit self-indulgent. I'll reserve my judgement until the four-hundred-and-ninety-ninth person. And to be perfectly honest, that's a long way off at the moment.

FACES

MARTIN SHERMAN & MESSIAH

"It's not a gay play," said dramatist Martin Sherman - best known for his highly acclaimed play *Bent* (about gays in Nazi Germany), when we discussed his latest work *Messiah*, due to begin previews at London's Hampstead Theatre Club on December 3, with the official opening night on December 9.

"*Messiah* is set in the seventeenth century," Martin continued, "and takes place against a background of real events. It's set in Poland and Turkey and is about a Polish family, one of whom believes he is the new Messiah."

What provoked Martin's interest in this particular theme?

"Well, some years ago in New York, a friend of mine - a gay rabbi, actually - wrote down a

name on a piece of paper.

The name was that of a man who - in the seventeenth century - proclaimed himself Messiah. 'You'll want to write about him,' my friend told me. And he was right. Once I had read about this man, I did want to write about him," Martin explained. "I've been working on the play for years now. Most of the time the play has been in gestation. The actual writing is usually very fast. It's the figuring out... finding out what you're going to do that takes all the time. That's the most difficult and frustrating part of it."

The London production of *Messiah* is the world premiere - and somewhat delayed one at that.

"I completed the play last year," Martin told me. "But we've been waiting for Maureen Lippman to be free to appear in it - and I must say, the wait has been worth it. She's absolutely marvellous in

the part."

Last time we had spoken together, Martin had told me about the plans to film *Bent*. What has happened to the movie?

"It's in limbo at the moment," he explained. "It's all very complicated, the contractual rights are held by a studio who are heavily in debt. But it still looks hopeful and Richard Gere is still dedicated to the idea of playing Max in the film. Unfortunately, we can't do anything until the present situation is taken care of and that requires a lot of patience."

First staged as a reading in 1978, seen in London (with Ian McKellan and Tom Bell) and New York (with Richard Gere and David Marshall Grant) in 1979, *Bent* has now been staged in twenty-eight countries.

"And it's due to open in Spain very shortly," Martin said. "That's one of the last fortresses to fall..."



Photograph: Kris Kirk

HOWARD WAKELING & Paranoid Thrillers

Howard Wakeling had just finished a literature course at Nottingham University in 1976 when he first had the idea for *The Disappearance of Harry*. Five years later he was back in the city with a film crew that was shooting his script for Channel Four. (It goes out on the new channel on Wednesday, December 8 at 9pm).

The film, which Howard says involves lots of mysteries but isn't a conventional thriller, stars Annette Crosbie. It was directed by Chuck Despina, the husband of an old friend Howard met at RADA back in 1968. He was a stage management student there and that was when he first "came out" -

with a vengeance, he says. Since then he seems to have done everything from operating a follow-spot on *Man of La Mancha* to playing a leading role in a flop West End musical.

"I played a part called The Tall Ogre. It was at the time the Gay Liberation Front started in London and I'd helped set up the first gay street theatre. They all came along to the Duchess Theatre to see me make a fool of myself. They laid a wreath outside afterwards, I remember. The show was that bad!"

Howard soon abandoned acting and went back to writing.

"I wrote my first play when I was ten. I have feeling it was probably better than most of the

stuff I wrote in my twenties."

Nevertheless, he had several plays produced at Nottingham and London universities and in 1978 his play *The Last Night* was produced professionally at a pub theatre in Hampstead.

That play had gay character in it, but he says he wants to be known as a gay playwright, not as a writer of gay plays.

His first radio play, *Sand*, was broadcast in September this year, but its movies he really wants to write. At present he's working on another paranoid thriller for Chuck Despina. Judging by the enthusiastic response his first film has already had at its film festival showings it should be worth waiting for.



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The Gay Gourmet

For those of you who like to wander in off the streets to eat, without the worry of every table being booked in advance, then **Al Forno's** in East Street, Brighton, is the place for you.

Everything about this place: waiters singing as they serve, the clattering of dishes married with excited Italian chatter, adds up to a wonderfully continental atmosphere in this extremely busy restaurant in the heart of Brighton.

We wandered in on spec, were greeted by the very friendly waiter who showed us to our seats, offered us an aperitif and handed us the menu. With gins duly poised we perused the extensive bill of fare. Nothing was hurried, although the place was busy, but we were hungry and made our decisions quickly.

To start with, my companion ordered Moules à la Marinière, whilst I opted for the Minestrone. A basket of bread was duly forthcoming, accompanied by mounds of curly butter; this was replenished immediately it was emptied (other establishments, please note!) My soup was home-made – a rare occurrence in these days of tins and reconstituted glutinous mush. It was virtually a meal in

itself, liberally sprinkled with Parmesan. My companion's 'Moules' were pronounced "the best I've had in this country". I dipped my bread into her juices (no, I'm not being naughty!) and can testify to her opinion on this.

A fifteen minute interval was advised after this splendid start; our waiter topped up our glasses – we were enjoying a very decent house white – and happily left us to gather strength for the next course.

This duly arrived, complete with a beautifully presented mixed salad. My companion had plumped for the seafood pasta (she has a penchant for all fish!), whilst I had decided on a pizza Margherita. Again, her choice was gratifyingly successful. My pizza was out of this world – a continuous adventure through flavours and textures: artichokes and olives, tomatoes and mozzarella, with subtle hints of anchovy; all this on a nicely crisped dough – the pizzas are cooked on a large solid-fuelled oven in full view of the customers. I struggled through three-quarters of it, but, vanquished and replete, I finally surrendered, albeit with an eagle eye on the dessert trolley.

After a further break

gluttony ruled and, throwing caution to the wind, we embarked on the final stage of what had become a bit of a 'blow-out'. Dolcelatte and biscuits for my companion and a black-cherry mousse for me – with a lighted candle stuck in the middle! My companion had very casually mentioned that it was my birthday when we arrived, and the waiter had obviously carefully noted this. Bearing the mousse towards our table he started singing "Happy Birthday"; immediately the other diners joined in (it's that sort of place) and I was lifted, blushing, to my feet to acknowledge all this. It was a spontaneous happening, but it is a true indication of the warmth to be found at Al Forno's – which is more like a family gathering than a restaurant.

Having supped our coffee and lingered over the Remy's we departed, heading for the seafront to walk off a few of those delicious calories. In all, a very pleasant evening, simple food served informally, but efficiently in an atmosphere you'd go a long way to beat. Value for money: at around £20 for the two, can't be bad.

By the way, look for the blackboard, where the day's specialities are on offer – usually in-season delights!

LET ME DIE A WOMAN (General release)

"Imagine, if you can, what it is like to be a woman imprisoned in the body of a man," intones American sexologist Leo Wollman MD at the beginning of *Let Me Die A Woman*, "or a woman trapped in the body of a man. Not male, not female, not homosexual."

Cue for the soundtrack music by Thomas Valentino to swell. And Mr. Valentino's music certainly does add to the atmosphere of this curious movie: the cinemagoer quickly begins to suspect that Valentino learnt his craft before a television set in the late 1950's – taking his inspiration from such programmes as

film

"Dragnet," "The Untouchables," "One Step Beyond" and "Twilight Zone." In a nutshell, Mr. Valentino writes music for freak shows.

And – make no mistake about it – *Let Me Die A Woman* is a freak show in which transsexuals are paraded, clothed and naked, for the delectation of the prurient. Though Wollman – described on the credits as Scientific and Medical Advisor – spouts endlessly on in a simplistic manner, this is really only a peg from which to hang endless shots of big-busted men who have yet to have

"the operation" or small-busted women who are in the process of being medically turned into men.

The viewer is also treated to a series of sequences of sexual couplings – many of which are merely gratuitous. Even more depressing are the starkly reconstructed "despair" shots – the man who could no longer bear his penis and removed it with a chisel and hammer, the man who hangs himself just before his wedding.

The transsexual is far more the sexual outlaw (to borrow John Rechy's expression) than the gay man or woman and a movie like *Let Me Die A Woman* can serve no purpose other than to titillate those who find humour or entertainment in the anguish of others.

RECORDS DISCO

(BEWARE) BOYFRIEND – Mari Wilson (Compact)
WHERE THE HEART IS – Soft Cell (Some Bizarre)
LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT FROM THE START – Kevin Rowlands & Dexy's Midnight Runners (Mercury)
I FEEL LOVE – Donna Summer (Casablanca)
IN THE NIGHT – Laura Pallas (Solo)
IF I DIE, I DIE – Virgin Prunes (Rough Trade)

At the beginning of this year, Mari Wilson – the Neasden Queen of Soul – didn't mean much to anyone. With a hit single ("Just What I Always Wanted"), a series of concerts up and down the country and several television appearances behind her, and with her debut album due for release in January, Ms Wilson looks set to become a star. Her

late many of the problems faced by young people. "Where the Heart Is" is a song about the horrors of life at home with mum and dad; the "B" side, "It's A Mugs Game" – with gruesome lyrics about the grimness of the morning after the night before, should appeal to anyone who has ever over-indulged. The newest Soft Cell single should enhance the duo's growing reputation.

"Let's Get This Straight From the Start" – the new single from Kevin Rowlands & Dexy's Midnight Runners – is another of Rowlands' deceptive songs. Superficially, it's all bounce and energy – but closer attention to the lyrics show that beneath the happy smile, there's some deep thinking going on.



Mari Wilson

stage act is enormously appealing – with a band and back-up singers who join Mari in a joyfully outrageous pastiche of 50's and 60's broken-heart ballads and rousing songs which are guaranteed to set feet tapping and bodies swaying. (Beware) Boyfriend, Mari Wilson's latest offering is an infectious catch, up-beat song about teen-love and should win her legions of new fans.

Marc Almond, singer with Soft Cell, is the complete antithesis of everything we've grown to

Donna Summer has been churning out gay disco favourites for some years now – and the late Patrick Cowley's remix of her classic "I Feel Love" is likely to give the song a new lease of life in clubs around the country.

Laura Pallas – who appeared at Southampton's Magnum Club on December 2 – has just released her first single. "In the Night" (it can be obtained direct from Solo Records, 31 Gladstone Street, London SE1; Tel: 01-928 4274). Firmly aimed at the disco market,



Soft Cell

expect from singing idols – he's not particularly good-looking, he's frail of physique (the kind of nine stone weakling who would get sand kicked in his face) and doesn't even possess a strong voice. But Almond uses these seeming weaknesses to good advantage – composing (with David Ball) and singing a series of songs which encapsu-

the song is up-beat and torchy – and with the right exposure should set Ms Pallas's career off to a perky start.

And finally – the Virgin Prunes debut album. Recently seen at Heaven's Halloween party, the Prunes "If I Die, I Die" is for fans only. This listener found it distinctly dreary

The official Record Shack Supplied by Record Shack, 12 Gay Disco Chart – played on Berwick Street, London W1. Kenny Everett Show at 11.05, 29 November to December 12.

- 1 Scherrie Payne: I'm Not in Love (UK12")
- 2 The Weather Girls: It's Raining Men (UK12")
- 3 Bobby 'O': She Has a Way (US12")
- 4 Gwen McCrae: Keep the Fire Burning (remix)
- 5 Donna Summer: State of Independence (UK12")
- 6 The Flirts: Passion (remix)
- 7 Patrick Cowley: Mind Warp (US LP)
- 8 Sphinx: Collision (Italian 12", remix)
- 9 Bo Boss: Tequila (US12")
- 10 Divine: Shoot Your Shot (Can 12")

BOOKS

Supplied by Gay's the Word, 66 Marchmont Street, London WC1

- 1 Flaunting It – a decade of gay journalism from Body Politic edited by Ed Jackson and Stan Perskie (published by Pink Triangle Press – £6.00)
- 2 Funny Trouble – Fanny Tribble (Sheba £1.50)
- 3 Surpassing the Love of Men – Lillian Faderman (Junction Books £6.95)
- 4 Our Hero Has Bad Breath – Peter Robins (Brilliance Books – £2.50)
- 5 Dreamlovers – Peter Fisher (Seahorse Press £5.95)
- 6 Contrast With the World – Jane Rule (Naiad Press £5.00)
- 7 Loving Someone Gay – Don Clark (Signet £2.95)
- 8 Lesbian Poetry – an anthology – ed. Elly Bulkin and Joan Larkin (Persephone Press £7.00)
- 9 A Sweet and Sour Romance – Giovanni Vitacolonna (Gay Men's Press £3.50)
- 10 Maggie's Farm – Steve Bell (Penguin £2.75)

CLASSICAL

Compiled by Select Records, Duke Street, Brighton

- 1 The Four Seasons – Vivaldi
- 2 Requiem – Faure
- 3 Carmina Burana – Carl Orff
- 4 Guitar Concerto – Rodrigo
- 5 Piano Concerto No 21 – Mozart
- 6 Canon – Pachelbel
- 7 Adagio – Albinoni
- 8 Miserere – Allegri
- 9 Magic Flute – Mozart
- 10 Les Gymnopédies – Satie

DISCO CHART

ADAMS DISCO TOP 10

- Supplied by Adrian, Adams Bar, Bournemouth
- 1 Divine – Native Love (Remix Canadian Black Sun 12")
 - 2 Bobby 'O' – I'm So Hot For You (US 'O' 12")
 - 3 NEW – Weather Girls – It's Raining Men (US Colombia 12")
 - 4 Yazzoo – Situation (Dub/Remix US Sire 12")
 - 5 NEW Wham – Young Guns/Goin' For It (Innervision 12")
 - 6 Gwen McCrae – Keep The Fire Burning (Atlantic 12")
 - 7 Gino Soccio – Remember (US Atlantic 12")
 - 8 Blancmange – Living On The Ceiling (London 12")
 - 9 Scherrie Payne – (Medley US Altair 12")
 - 10 Gary's Gang – Knock Me Out/Inst (US Radar 12")

Record of the Week "Hold Me Tighter In The Rain" Billy Griffin (CBS 12")

BEST SELLERS

Supplied by Sisterwrite Bookshop, 190 Upper Street, London N1

- 1 On Lies, Secrets and Silence – Adrienne Rich (Virago, £3.50)
- 2 The Joy of Lesbian Sex – E L Sisley and B Harris (Fireside, £7.10)
- 3 Lesbian Poetry – edited E Bulkin (Persephone, £6.50)
- 4 Nice Jewish Girls – edited E Tortor Beck (Persephone, £5.55)
- 5 Rocking the Cradle – G Hanscombe and J Forster (Sheba, £3.50)
- 6 Nothing Sacred – A Carter (Virago, £3.50)
- 7 Everyday Matters, an anthology of short stories (Sheba, £3.50)
- 8 Six Feet of the Country – N Gordimer (Penguin, £1.75)
- 9 Relatively Norma – A Livia (Only Women Press, £2.95)
- 10 For Ourselves – A Meulenbelt (Sheba, £4.50)

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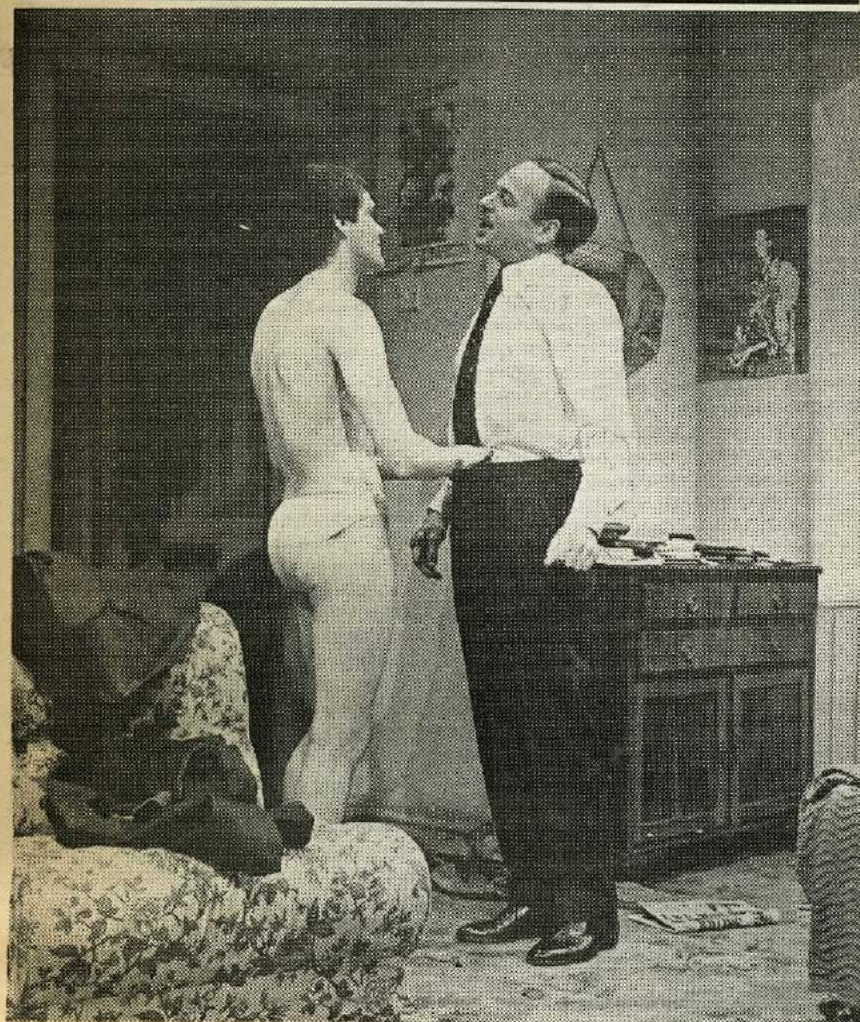
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Theatre



L to R: David Bannerman, Carey Wilson from the London production of 'Rents'.

RENTS by Michael Wilcox (Methuen, £1.95)

Originally staged by the Traverse, Edinburgh in 1979, Michael Wilcox's play *Rents* had to wait until this year before achieving a much-acclaimed London production. Yet the path from Scotland to London had not been smooth. "The play was turned down by Gay Sweatshop and the Royal Court and just about everybody else," the dramatist told me earlier in the year.

Set in Edinburgh in the mid-1970's, the play details the lives of Rob and Phil, two "rent boys", and gives insights into their encounters with a lively cross-section of "punters". In less adroit hands, the subject of youthful male prostitution could have been bleakly depressing. Fortunately for audiences – and now for those who enjoy reading play scripts – Michael Wilcox is an adroit writer with a wonderful ear for dialogue.

In fact, the character of Phil is based upon a youth he had met when he was teaching in Edinburgh in 1976. "He told me incredible stories and took me around Edinburgh," Michael Wilcox told me. "Each day, I would write a short play based on the material gleaned the day before. It wasn't until I had amassed a collection of thirteen of these plays, that it occurred to me to write a full-length play. *Rents* arose out of my interest in a particular person."

PETER BURTON

Starry Subway Charity night

LONDON: Mrs. Shufflewick, one of the last surviving stars from the heyday of British drag, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of Subway's gala charity night in aid of Cancer Research, held on November 30.

Firm favourites and new sensations turned out in full force to entertain an appreciative audience which – for this special occasion – welcomed women as well as men into the audience.

Subway favourites The Trollettes – who, co-incidentally, will be appearing in pantomime at Tunbridge Wells over Christmas – compered the evening. Amongst the stars this devastating du introduced were Top Two, Wizzard – currently making a name for themselves on the gay cabaret circuit, Dame Charlotte, Polly Perkins, Dockyard

Doris, Nikki du Cane, rocker Ricky Wales, comedienne Sheila Steafel, The Flirtations, Chrissi du Cane and the Subway's own jazz quartet.

Audiences lapped up the mixed bag of entertainment provided and contributed generously when purchasing raffle tickets from the be-dragged ticket sellers. Prizes and support came from a wide range of gay businesses – including the Angel & Crown, *Capital Gay*, *Gay News*, Harrods at Grays, the London Apprentice, the Prince of Wales Theatre, The Swan, the Salisbury, Trader, Top Guy, Travel Young, Wm Youngers and, not least, the staff of the club, who donated their wages for the night.

At the time of going to press, the final total raised had not been announced but, we were told, it was a sizeable amount.



Mrs. Shufflewick . . . before the Guinness got to her!

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Books

THE SPARTAN by Don Harrison (£3.95); COMING OUT RIGHT by Wes Muchmore and William Hanson (£3.50). (Both Alyson Publications, distributed by Gay Men's Press).

Imagine a gay Mills and Boon romance set in Ancient Greece, stuffed with American dialogue and populated by seven-



teen year old wrestlers with magnificently-built bodies and you have the measure of *The Spartan*.

The eponymous hero is Pantarkes, a lusty youth forced to flee his birthplace after accidentally killing the no-good son of a Spartan politician. After a brief interlude as a Theban soldier – where he almost has an affair with Alexander the Great and actually cuts the mustard with a couple of clean-cut, handsome lovers – Pantarkes eventually ends up competing in the Olympics and learning a little about life.

The book is full of splendid anachronisms – the Americanese has to be read to be believed. ("To Hades with them" cries one character. "Yeah", answers another.) Naive, idealized illustrations by the author add to the general tackiness of this immensely readable kitsch paperback. Gore Vidal he ain't, but Don Harrison has here crafted a rollicking, campy piece of historical tosh which, with enough exposure, should soon be gracing the bookshelves of most of the ideologically unsound gay men in the country. Lots of fun.

Which is more than can be said for *Coming Out Right*, which shows just how wide the Transatlantic culture gap can be. It's meant to be an informative handbook for inexperienced gay men and, despite its smug tone, is probably quite useful for the American gay who is just beginning to come to terms with his homosexuality. A step-by-step guide written in plain

language, it covers everything from how to deal with your first love to how to draw up your will.

But for the UK reader much of the advice imparted here is misleading. And some of it is positively harmful. "Truck-stops" and bus stations are not "good bets for action" in this country and it's not true that "if you go to the baths for any reason but sex you're in for a disappointment". Try telling that to Lord Denning! Similarly, advice on the age of consent, VD clinics and the gay laws in general is totally inapplicable in this country.

Less harmful, but no less irritating, are some of the authors' personal opinions and attitudes. Advice on how to look younger by standing in diffuse light I can giggle at ("Stay away from harsh glares", the authors warn) and if I swallow hard I can accept that information on facial cosmetic surgery is invaluable to some. But when I'm told that "beer is a manly drink" and read

Muchmore and Hanson's advice to the older man in search of a younger lover "Don't let go of your dignity. Avoid appearing weak or troubled. Don't talk about your problems", I begin to wonder where ten years of gay liberation has got some of us. It's indicative that this book about coming out is co-written by an author (Hanson) who admits to keeping his gayness "concealed at work". Avoid. **Kris Kirk.**

Dustin's drag
Dustin Hoffman – star of *The Graduate*, *Midnight Cowboy* and *Kramer Vs Kramer* (for which he won an Oscar) – is the latest in a long line of actors to don a dress in the line of duty.

In his new film *Tootsie* – due to open in American in January and likely to be seen in this country later in 1983 – the thirty-nine-year-old New Yorker plays an actor admired by his peers but totally unknown to the public. It isn't until he "drags up" as "Dorothy"

COMING OUT RIGHT

A handbook for the gay male



by:
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Hanson &
Wes
Muchmore



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CLASSIFIED ADS

Men's Personal

ATTRACTIVE Sussex guy 31, affectionate, romantic, 5ft. 11in. seeks relationship with similar under 5 ft. 10in. 21-30 photo please. Box 2/4.

ORIENTAL slim, attractive, boyish-looking 34, versatile, into body awareness, self-expression and discovery, wants to share experience with like-minded person, photo ensures reply. London. Box 2/23.

LONDON guy 39 seeks similar genuine versatile guy with no hang up. Brighton/London areas. Leather/Denim OK. photo, phone please. ALA. Box 2/24.

ATTRACTIVE biggish guy 30, white, seeks darker guys for occasional meetings or telephone chats. ALA. Box 2/29.

NON SANNAYSIN bisexual male, 41, would like to meet bi-sexual or gay sannaysin female 25-45, preferably NE Surrey GLC area. Box 2/25.

UNATTACHED attractive 30's guy seeks similar Sussex area, interest; music, jogging, films, non-scene, tired of one night stands. ALA. Box 2/26.

THREE nice, non-camp, straight looking guys, 21, 22, 32, seek guys/BIs similar, for friendship, evenings-out, socialising. ALA, London. Box 2/28.

BRIGHTON guy, young 40, non/camp, 5ft. 10in. chunky physique, spacious home, not bad looking, seeks masculine attractive guy 23-35 for special one to one relationship, photo appreciated. ALA. Box 2/27/2.

CHICHESTER area, amateur bodybuilder, 30's would like to meet others with same hobby for mutual gain. Box 2/30/3.

FRIENDLY bearded vegetarian, quietish but sometimes discos, unemployed, likes gardening, reading, films, swimming, ALA if with photo. Box 3/16.

HEAVYWEIGHT wrestling partner required for training sessions, London area, photo if possible ALA. Box 3/17/2.

HANDSOME slim guy 34, home/business seeks intelligent guy 25-40, for sincere relationship, photo appreciated ALA, promise! Box 3/18.

LEARN to photograph the male physique. Non-profit making group in central London studio. Live models clothed and unclothed, beginners welcome. Write Jack Young, BM/Zenith.

BEDFORDSHIRE attractive 21 guy, seeks 25-35, married guy for friendship, car essential. Box 2/22/2.

LONDON guy, 22, clean shaven, handsome, seeks similar guys, 21-25, Brian, 10 Noel Terrace, Clyde Terrace, London SE23.

21-YEAR-OLD guy, attractive, good personality, interests drama, theatre, music, countryside walking, seeks relationship, young guy, Brighton area, non-scene photo please A.L.A. Box 2/6.

CLEAN shaven, good looking, Brighton guy (31), needs special friend for nights in/nights out, photo appreciated. Box 2/2.

STRAIGHT looking 43 years, seeks younger country loving guy, share homelife, love, fun, genuine, Gemini, photo please. Box 3/13.

LONDON attractive guy, 34, seeks company/accommodation for museum, gallery, club visits, return weekends in Sussex. Box 3/20.

WANTED slim caring partner to complete aspirations. (For) quiet guy, 6ft. 11st. own home, car, teeth. (Against) old 35 years, boring, classical music, peaceful life. (Worse) non house trained Pekingese puppy. Reciprocal returnable photo please. Box 3/16.

I'M financially secure, 44, tall, slim, kind. If you are boyish, (21+), slim, under 5ft. 9in., would like to share evenings out and perhaps a short holiday, then let's meet. Unemployed shy, inexperienced, welcome, photo ensures reply. Box 2/10/3.

VERY attractive young man, wicked sense of humour, seeks active guy, photo appreciated, Brighton, London. Box 3/1.

PORTSMOUTH area, 34, straight appearance, varied interests, seeks loving and lasting friendship. ALA, photo, phone if possible, over 21. Box 3/19.

Travel, Hotels & Holidays

CHRISTMAS in Portsmouth, 4/5 days house party, £68. No VAT inclusive full board festivities and outings arranged if required. Box 2/8.

Women's Personal

EVERY day, my friends say, I'm in the worst kind of trouble. Is there a Joan Armatrading, black or white to help me, I'm mid thirties, Brighton area. Box 3/21.

BRIGHTON lesbian feminist late 30's blonde, attractive, wide interests, seeks compatible lesbian friend cultured, intelligent, sociable. Box 3/15/2.

Miscellaneous

PENPAL magazine, singles, divorced, widowed, approval copy, Matchmaker (K 52) Chorley Lancs. Ref. 2/2.

Market Place

LOANS for owners or tenants telephone 01-385 1893 Agent for Credit-point (Licensed Brokers). **ARE** you seeking male or female gay new friends etc? Long standing and reasonable service, in every part of the country. Please send stamp: Secretary/B, The Golden Wheel, Liverpool L15 3HT. LL3/1.

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Escorts

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HANDSOME blonde escort, seeks work, evenings and weekends. Tel. 01-960 8148. Ref. 2/3.



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Meeting & Groups

LOOKING for new friends? S.A.E. for details, assist P.O. Box 99. Bournemouth BH8 9DS.

Last Classifieds must be phoned in by 2 p.m. Wednesday prior to publication (0273) 564573

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and can you spare an hour or two on either Thursday or Friday evening to distribute The Letter to newsagents, gay pubs, clubs and restaurants in your area? We pay a small fee for this service and we should like to hear from you if you are interested.

Ring Brighton (0273) 564573 and ask for Francesqua or write to Lavender Letter, P.O. Box 203, Brighton BN1 5QR.

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Brighton Gay Switchboard	0273-690825	8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sun.-Fri. - 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday
Bristol Gay Switchboard	0272-297500	8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Nightly
Medway and Maidstone Gay Switchboard	0634-826925	7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Thursday & Friday
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Plymouth Gay Switchboard	0752-266041	7.45 p.m. - 10.15 p.m. Thursday
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Lesbian Line (London)	01-837 8602	2 p.m. - 10 p.m. Mon. & Fri. - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Tues.-Thurs.
Lesbian Line (Brighton)	0273-690825	8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday

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Where discovered, literature or circulars from institutions, organizations or businesses, whether run for profit, charity or loss, whether of an advertising, promotional nature, or otherwise, will not be forwarded to Box Numbers: nor will communications not considered to be personal replies. The editors reserve the right to retain and not forward replies to Box Numbers: and are under no obligation to give a reason, return replies, refund postage or provide compensation.



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Fill in the Coupon and tick if Box No required.
Make cheques/PO's payable to Lavender Letter, P.O. Box 203 Brighton, Sussex
Number of insertions..... Box Number: Yes/No
Please find enclosed the sum of £.....
NAME.....
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Tel No:.....



NOTICE BOARD

FRIDAY, December 3
Messiah, a new play by Martin Sherman, author of *Bent*, begins previews at the Hampstead Theatre Club. The official opening night of the play's limited run is Thursday, December 9. Hampstead Theatre Club, Swiss Cottage Centre, LONDON NW3; Tel. (01) 722 9301.

SATURDAY, December 4
ELTON JOHN on tour. Winter Gardens, BOURNE-MOUTH.

SATURDAY, December 4
 Meeting of De Roze Rimpel, the social group for mature gay men and women. The Library of the Unitarian Church, Palace Gardens Terrace, London W2 (nearest tube: Notting Hill Gate); 7.30-9.30 p.m. All welcome, you don't have to be over 40! LONDON

SUNDAY, December 5
 Gay singer Tom Robinson will be appearing in *MID-NIGHT CABARET* - a low-key, friendly sort of gig for people to come along and hear what he's been doing and writing in the last few months. The show will feature familiar TRB favourites and Tom's more recent material. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, London E15; 8 p.m. LONDON.

SUNDAY, December 5
 The decidedly outrageous Marc Almond - one half of hit group Soft Cell - appears with Marc and the Mambas at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London WC 1; 7.30 p.m. LONDON.

SUNDAY, December 5
ELTON JOHN on tour. Gaumont Theatre, SOUTH-AMPTON.



Tom Robinson; photograph: David Corio

MONDAY, December 6
 George Melly, jazz musician and writer, talks to the London Monday Group at the Chepstow Public House, Upstairs Bar (entrance in side mews), Chepstow Place, Notting Hill, London W2 at 8 p.m. Non-members 70p admission, members 30p. LONDON.

MONDAY, December 6
ELTON JOHN on tour. Gaumont Theatre, SOUTH-AMPTON.

TUESDAY, December 7
ELTON JOHN on tour. Conference Centre, BRIGHTON.

TUESDAY, December 7
 Meeting to discuss gay festival programme and budget - with Kate Crutchley, Noel Grieg, Martin Humphreys and Eric Presland. Room 180, County Hall, London SE1; from 5.30 p.m. LONDON.

TUESDAY, December 7
 Following a highly-successful nine-week national tour, Wayne Sleep brings his own company DASH to Sadler's



Elton John

Wells Theatre, Rosebury Avenue, London EC1; evenings 7.30 p.m. matinees 2.30 p.m. - 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 23. Until December 23. LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, December 8
 Laura Pallas - whose debut single 'In the Night' has just been released - appears at The Embassy Club, New Bond Street, London W1. LONDON.



Wayne Sleep

WEDNESDAY, December 8
 'Coming Out - Ready or Not', benefit concert for Lesbian Line and London Gay Switchboard. Performers include Mark Bunyan, Noel Grieg, Joanne Richler and Tom Robinson. The Albany Empire, Douglas Way, Deptford, London SE8; Tel. (01) 691 3333. Tickets £3 and £2 (unwaged). LONDON.



membership), Sudeley Place, Kemptown, Brighton, Sussex; performances from 2.30 p.m. for seven days. BRIGHTON.



Laura Pallas

THURSDAY, December 9
 The Alan Davies Poodle Act appears at Bolts, 6-9 Salisbury Promenade, Green Lanes, London N8 0RX. LONDON.

THURSDAY, December 9
ELTON JOHN'S National tour closes with 14 dates at the Odeon Hammersmith - 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. LONDON.

SATURDAY, December 11
 1066 Gay Community hold their first Christmas dinner/dance at the Manor Barn, De La Warr Road, Bexhill-on-Sea; 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. bar closes 11.45 p.m. BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

SATURDAY, December 11
 Gays in Mid-Sussex Group will be 'having a festive drink at a local pub to celebrate Christmas'. For details of venue, check with Brighton Gay Switchboard. Tel. (0273) 698025. BRIGHTON.

SATURDAY, December 11
 Gay, Brighton-based radical comedian Simon Fanshawe at the Finborough Arms, Finborough Road, Earls Court, London SW10, check with venue for times. LONDON. **SATURDAY, December 11**
 Animal Nightlife in cabaret at Bolts, 6-9 Salisbury Promenade, Green Lanes, London N8 0RX. LONDON.

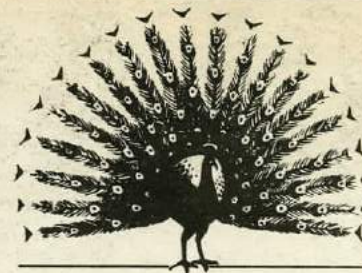
SATURDAY, December 11
 Author Peter Robins will be signing copies of his new book *OUR HERO HAS BAD BREATH* at GayS THE Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont St., London WC1; between 3-4 p.m. LONDON.

THURSDAY, December 16
THE IMPERSONATORS, a dance-drama on the lives of male impersonators. Until January 7. The Drill Hall, 16 Chenies Street, London WC1 Tel. (01) 637 8270. LONDON.

SUNDAY, December 19
CAROL SERVICE organised by the Gay Christian Movement (followed by a disco and food in the Crypt.) St. Botolph's Church, Aldgate (nearest tube: Aldgate); 5 p.m. LONDON.

SUNDAY, December 19
 'Babies in their splendour' is the fancy dress theme for Bolts in Brighton's first birthday party. Bolts at Sherrys, West Street, Brighton, Sussex. From 8 p.m. BRIGHTON.

MONDAY, December 20
 Charity gala at BANG - free admission to anyone bringing a toy, game or gift. All presents to be donated to Dr Barnardo's. Bang, Charing Cross Road (nearest tube: Tottenham Court Road). LONDON.



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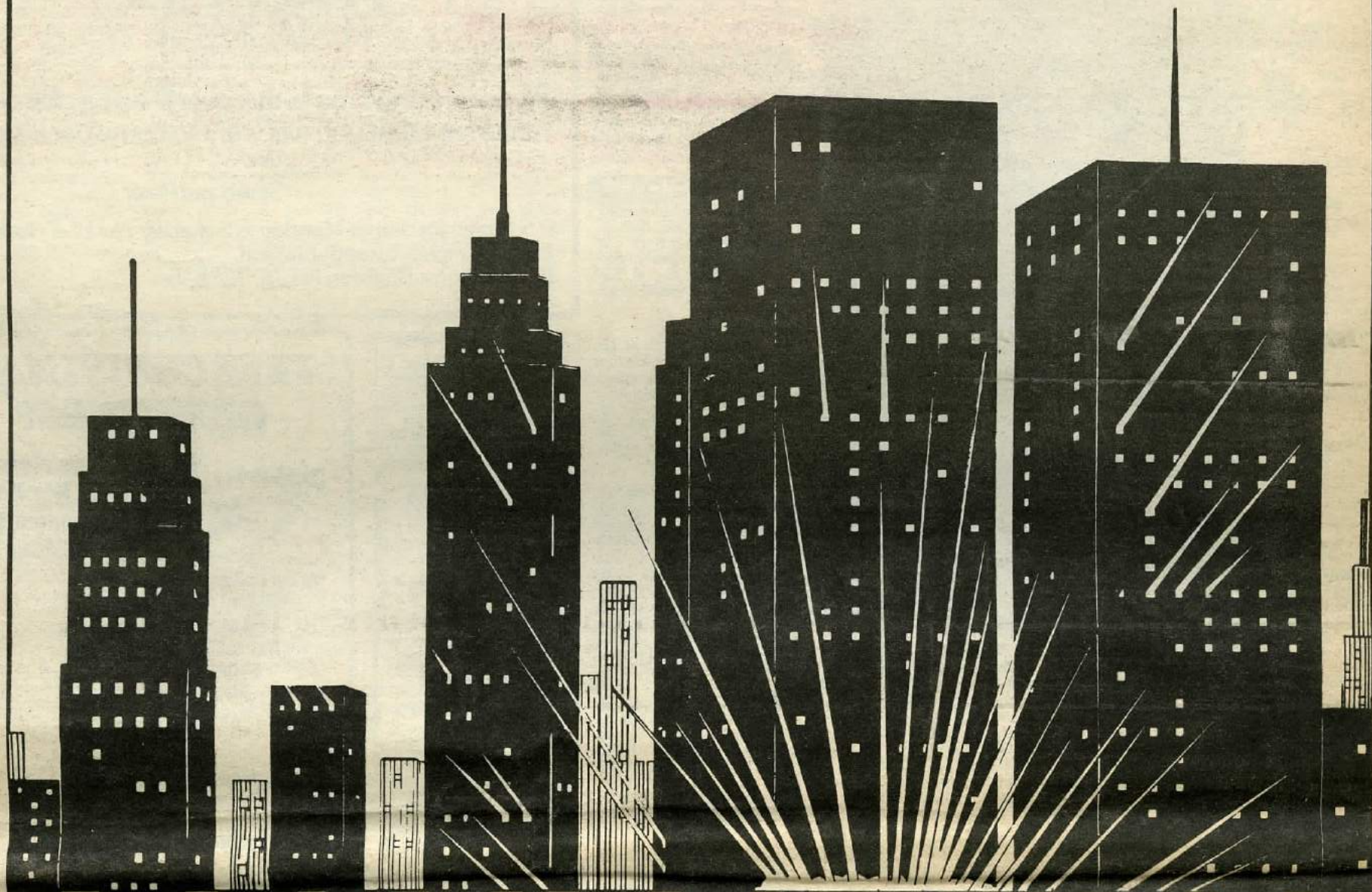
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