

HUDDERSFIELD FIGHTS BACK

Action Committee for Gemini

THE POLICE harassment in Huddersfield continues (ad nauseam)...

The dossier compiled by the town police continues to grow daily. Charges are to follow.

Local magistrates have set aside the 11th, 12th and 23rd of March to consider the renewal of the drinks licence - the length of time set aside for this indicates the amount of police opposition the Gemini are going to encounter. The police will take this opportunity to fling all the shit they can against the club's owners and gays in Yorkshire generally.

On February the 3rd the first meeting of the Action Committee was held at the Gemini Club and it was well attended by over a hundred people. Active support was obtained from individuals prepared to fight, and from the local students' union. The local radio station, Pennine radio, have taken an active interest in and have given support to the campaign.

The Action Committee are writing to and lobbying local councillors, Huddersfield's MP Barry Sherman and several local labour organisations and other "Big Wigs".

But the Action Committee wants active support from everyone of us. We should all write to and lobby the Mayor, the Chairperson of the General Purposes Committee (who will decide the club's music and dancing licence), Huddersfield's MP Barry Sherman and the Media. You can show a gay presence and gay pride at the magistrate court on the 11th, 12th and 13th of March.

Write to: The Mayor, Councillor Marjorie Fisher, c/o the Town Hall, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

The Chairperson, General Purposes Committee, c/o the Town Hall, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Barry Sherman, MP, House of Commons, Palace of Westminster, London SW1
Pennine Radio, Forster Square, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Now is the time for ACTION

AT THE MOMENT there is a very strong anti-gay faction amongst senior police officers on the Huddersfield Force. In spite of a directive from the Home Office urging Police to ease up on anti-gay activities pending changes in the Law, the Huddersfield Police are in fact stepping up their activities.

It has now reached the stage where the Police intend to object to the renewal of the Licence of the Gemini Club.

BUT the Police can only object. In the final analysis it is a group of Magistrates who must decide on the renewal of our Licence to sell alcohol and a group of Councillors who must decide on the renewal of the Music and Dancing Licence.

The management of the Gemini Club intend to fight any closure in the Courts and will meet the considerable costs involved in such a long legal battle.

But moral support is needed from individuals and groups in whatever way possible.

- It is intended to:
- Form an Action Committee to co-ordinate activities.
 - Lobby Members of Parliament.
 - Lobby local Councillors.

A meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd February at 8 o'clock at the Gemini Club. If you can offer any support PLEASE attend.

The GEMINI CLUB WILL NOT CLOSE. Any legal battle will take up to twelve months during which time the Club will remain open as usual.

As reported in *Gay Noise 9*, in Brighton on the 16th and 19th November police raided the Palace Pier and Curtain Clubs respectively. In both cases the police were using possible but very minor infringements of the licensing laws as an excuse to harass, intimidate and interrogate both staff and customers. This use of allegations of petty infringements to mount a persecutory campaign followed by the recent events in Huddersfield may indicate a dangerous trend in police activities and must be nipped in the bud.

COPY DATE

Wednesday 18th March for publication on April Fools Day.

News, letters, Ads, reviews, opinion. BM *Gay Noise*, London WC1N 3XX.

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Please make payments and debit my/our account no in accordance with the following details:

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Payments to commence on the day of 1981.

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Address

Date

Return this form to *Gay Noise*, BM *Gay Noise*, London WC1N 3XX.

Thanks.

Help advertise us!!

BADGES: 25p each including p&p
Discounts: 5... £1 etc
20... £3 etc

Gay Noise badges, stickers and back numbers are now available. We've produced a 1" metal badge with the 'Gay Noise' logo printed on the front - it looks as good on a badge as it does on the cover. Also available are peel-off stickers (size 1" and 2") with the logo and Marx/Engels hand in hand. And you can now obtain back numbers of *Gay Noise* for reference or otherwise. Order us now!!



Fortnightly No. 13 Thursday 12th February 1981

INSIDE: *ATOL*

Gemini
Action
Committee

&
GOING
MONTHLY

THE MANCUNIAN WAY

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST STATE
REPRESSION OF LESBIAN & GAY PEOPLE
Manchester, February 28th 1pm
Oxford Road, Mancunian Way.

Organised by Joint Committee Against
State Repression of Lesbian and Gay People.
Further information: CASR:
61a Bloom Street, Manchester 1
Gay Noise BM *Gay Noise*,
London WC1

Saturday 28 February is the date of the Manchester demonstration against state repression of lesbian and gay people.

The persecution by the courts of lesbian mothers, the discrimination in employment of lesbian and gay people, the attacks on paedophiles and their right to self organisation, the manipulation of the psychiatric services and the direct use of the police against homosexual people are all on the increase.

It is in this growing climate of repression, engendered in the schools, hospitals and the media by state agencies that attacks on lesbian and gay people, our clubs and our meeting places, are all increasing at an alarming rate.

Sections of heterosexual society believe that we face few problems since the 1967 Sexual Offences Act was passed.

We know this is untrue. The attacks on us are attacks on us for existing, not necessarily for what we do. What few basic freedoms we have, have no guarantee in practice or in law.

The Demo in Manchester is the first large scale gay demonstration that has called for heterosexual support. It is encouraging that so many predominantly heterosexual organisations have already pledged support and solidarity. Now it is essential that these links between the lesbian and gay movements and predominantly heterosexual organisations be strengthened in order to develop a wider understanding among heterosexuals of the nature and depth of the material and cultural oppression of homosexual people.

Crowds Come Out

AS CHE is now urging attendance and wishes to be listed among the sponsors, and more recently the Workers' Socialist League has joined in too, the list of Sponsors is, to date:

Campaign for Homosexual Equality, Scottish Homosexual Rights Group, National Gay Federation, National Union of Students Gay Liberation Committee, National Union of Students Executive Committee, Manchester Area NUS, Manchester University Union, Communist Party, International Marxist Group, Socialist Workers' Party, Workers' Socialist League, Revolution Youth, Campaign Against Public Morals, *Gay Noise* Collective.

Dozens of trade union branches, Trades Councils, and feminist and socialist organisations have been invited. Hammersmith, Islington, Camden branches of NALGO (National Association of Local Government Officers) have passed resolutions of support and Camden have given £50. More than 30,000 leaflets have been printed and are being distributed, as well as 4,000 posters. Lancaster Gay Group and people from both North and South London are planning costumes, theatre and dance to brighten up the streets, and Manchester CASR has promised some social dalliance, including a women-only event, for the evening.

It is vital for people to realise that many of those from Manchester cannot come on the demo. Their jobs may be put at risk, their homes jeopardised or in other ways their peace of mind or material or physical well-being threatened. This means that it is even more important that as many gay and heterosexual people as possible come to Manchester from all corners of these isles on the 28th.

RIOTING ONCE A FORTNIGHT

GAY NOISE grew out of the helter-skelter of events that followed the arrest of people during Gay Pride 80 and the subsequent march of eleven hundred people on Bow Street police station. One of our Collective's wags has it that we grew out of a riot and have been rioting once a fortnight, every fortnight ever since.

So, during a gloomy meeting at the end of July at the Oval House theatre at Kennington in London - the clouds lifted - somebody suggested that what we really needed was our own newspaper - a paper that would help to provide a focus for people in the gay movement to discuss and organise the fightback against the mounting harassment and repression of homosexual people within this society.

Forty-five pounds

Hurried phone calls and meetings produced a total of £45 in two donations from Icebreakers and Gay Liberation South London. The International Marxist Group gave us access to their type-setting machine at a peppercorn rate, and a member of the collective skilled in such mysteries worked, bog-eyed, through several irritable nights. Before we had time to turn around we were confronted with the task of producing, and paying the costs of issue three... four... and so on.

Slum Journalism

Produced variously in a kitchen, in three widely scattered flats at once, in a squat we shared with a hen and a rabbit, in a room where we had to upend the bed before we could start work, back to a kitchen (a different one this time) we produced eleven of our thirteen issues.

Now we have an office, minus heating, telephone and typewriters it's true, but an essential base to work from just the same. The paper grew from four pages at issue one to sixteen pages at issue twelve, we organised our own distribution and have met every deadline since the fourteenth of August 80.

The Shoestring Snaps

Over the months since August many people, our nearest and dearest and a few people who preferred to remain anonymous, donated a total of £906. We raised a total of £1,721 from the operation of the paper itself and now confront a working deficit of £1,327.91.

The Choices Open to Us

If we merely continued to publish *Gay Noise* as a fortnightly without making fundamental changes our typesetters would starve, our printers would be bankrupt and our collective nerves would break down. So we were faced with three choices: 1) Welching on our debts and our subscribers and disappearing, disguised behind false moustaches, to the remotest parts of these islands. 2) Suspending publication for six months while we raised seven to ten thousand pounds as working capital to relaunch as a commercially viable newspaper, or 3) to work hard and furiously to clear our debts and regear *Gay Noise* as a twenty-four page monthly.

Whether that is accurate or not the Gay Pride Defence Committee was faced with an extraordinary degree of prevarication, lack of co-operation and simple cynicism from people with influence and power in the gay press and in a number of gay organisations.

Going Monthly

The first option we have never really taken seriously and the second seemed to us impossible. Our track record is simply not good enough or long enough to sustain a six month suspension and we doubt very seriously whether we could raise seven thousand pounds in so short a time. So, in our collective wisdom we have opted for the third solution: becoming a twenty-four page monthly.

Orgy

Our reason for deciding on this course of action is, at source, financial, but it is also to do with a growing dissatisfaction within the collective with the paper we are producing. Because of a lack of time, wages and equipment we feel that the writing in *Gay Noise* has become slapdash; considered argument frequently giving way to shrill imperatives and cheap-jack paper solutions to the real problems that our movement faces.

This orgy of self-criticism does not mean that a hankering for liberal notions of unbiased reporting has grown, like a cuckoo in the *Gay Noise* nest. Nor does it mean that we feel that a turn towards the style of 'the bland leading the bland', so common within the gay press, is required.

As revolutionaries, of course we believe that gay liberation can only be achieved in the context of fundamental changes in the social and economic life of our society. But that does not mean that we believe hurried and crude solutions cobbled up to meet publication deadlines can really assist the development of a confident and autonomous gay movement.

Under Siege

The almost siege conditions under which we have been producing the paper has meant that political discussions among ourselves and with people outside the collective have dwindled. Real debate within the paper has tailed off and our social life has become enclosed and sporadic. On top of this, the visual presentation of the paper and the quality of its artistic content has frequently been as funereal as we have often felt.

April Fool

So, on the first of April *Gay Noise* will appear as a monthly, our current subscribers will go on receiving their copies, we will work to clear our debts and secure the financial future of the paper. But perhaps, more importantly, we will work to produce *Gay Noise* in a form that is more effective in advancing discussion in our movement and supporting the political and social action of gay people in building alliances within the labour movement and with other oppressed and exploited people in the battle to defend the gains of the gay community and advance the fight for gay liberation.

NOW GOING MONTHLY

Writing, Reading and ...

Gay Noise's change from being a fortnightly to being a monthly newspaper will bring about some changes to the way we cover the news. The news may sometimes be a little older, but monthly production will have its advantages. In fact, the time that we will gain should make it possible for us to live up to the ideas that we had when we began: ideas which didn't always survive the needs of such a tight schedule.

We realise that our coverage of issues has to be more deep, more complicated, and has to be backed up by much more discussion, inside the collective as well as with our readers and other people involved in the gay movement.

We intend to be, what we had intended at the beginning, a paper which does not simply report and comment, but which is an integral part of the movement. We want what we print to be a help and a support in all the battles that lesbians and gay men are involved in; and these are not only 'gay issues' - unless everything is, and why not?

We haven't been able to do this as well as we had hoped. We bit off more than we could chew, the work was too much. We made real mistakes, some due to haste and scrappiness, some due to losing sight of where we were going, sometimes being plain wrong and then being slow to acknowledge it.

The discussions around the financial situation of the paper had eventually to turn towards these things. Simply taking a long hard look at ourselves was a great help. The change to a monthly will allow us to keep up

the hard work on all those things which aren't the physical production of the paper. But we do need support.

In the first place that means people letting us know what is going on. Not just the big fights such as Pie, or the police in Huddersfield. Not just the fighting either. Everything we do is important. It's good to hear about our successes, useful to know what went wrong. The paper is for all of us to be able to offer our support, encouragement and examples to each other: to talk about what we are doing. But not just hard news either. The new paper will have more room for people to express their opinions, to print poetry, cartoons.

Someone has to send all this in. We can't produce it all ourselves, and we have begun to get boring when we tried.

Then someone has to buy the paper - more people will, as the paper gets better. But the paper needs selling. In London, we do manage to sell a lot in the pubs and discos (more if we had more people to do the work). Our friends in Manchester, Glasgow, St Albans do the same. It must be done in other towns; not enough people go in to the bookshops where we are on sale to produce the money we need, nor for the paper to have the impact we hope for.

The present collective, with a few more people joining it can do what needs to be done at the office, and we will do it. The news must come in from, and the paper must go out to, everyone else - and that is what will make a success of the new *Gay Noise*.

Cash Flow

THE POTENTIAL sources of our income are, apart from subscriptions and shop and pub sales, advertising, bankers orders, donations and various fund-raising events. In fact, at present, the income raised from subs and sales is a very small segment of the total. We need a lot more advertising (one of the tasks to be tackled during our break till 1st April), but this will build up as the paper expands. For the present, realistically, our main sources of cash are going to be donations and bankers orders. Both are important but the latter give us *regular income*, which makes it easier for us to see our longer term financial position.

Immediately, we need to raise £700 by the first of April. This will pay for issue 14 - £480, and honour some part of our debts.

As for the fund-raising events, we have a commitment from the Au Pairs - a Birmingham-based band whose political stance dovetails with ours and who, in case you haven't heard them, are very danceable and about to break big - to play a relaunching benefit for us on 1st April. Venue, probably a Central London College. College Gaysoes could help by putting on discos for us. People can throw parties for us and charge their guests 50p. This has been done for us already - successfully. Let's use our imaginations: there must be lots of other ways.

The Cost of Producing *Gay Noise*

This is where the money goes every fortnight:

Typesetting	£130
Printing	190
Publicity	13
Distribution	56
Admin	40
Miscellaneous	13
Total	£442

The money that comes in is broken up like this:

Sales	£180
Subs	20
Ads	16
Donations	100
Total	316

These are average figures for the larger issues that we have been producing. In addition we have spent about £200 in supporting the Manchester demonstration, and various other political activities such as around the Gordon Wiseman case, the PIE trial, the Gay Pride defendants, CND etcetera.

We have to our credit say £200 owed us by bookshops and other sellers.

We owe about £1,300 to our printers and typesetters.

All in all, we've lost about £900 in actually producing twelve issues of the paper. We're confident of doing much, much better with the new monthly *Gay Noise* - but we need your help to carry on.

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CLEVELAND: amateur wants to photograph good-looking (what do you mean? - GN typist) models 21-30 (what an ageist comment - GN typist). Photo and details to GN 132 (what 'details?') BM *Gay Noise*, London WC1N 3XX.

BLOW, BANG or scrape; pianist seeks wind/stringed percussion instrumentalists who would enjoy playing in a group, jazz/classical/whatever. Technical virtuosity not important. North London. Write GN 131, BM *Gay Noise*, London WC1N 3XX.

Personal Ads

GAY NOISE

Free Bulletin

BM GAY NOISE,
LONDON WC1N 3XX

1st April, 1981

NOT QUITE THIRTY PAGES

APRIL FOOLS DAY was the day we said GAY NOISE was going to reappear.

We said in our last issue we needed to raise £700 by April 1st. This figure included £480 to produce issue 14, the rest going towards honouring some part of our debts. Sadly, we have failed to raise this money.

However, we will continue to be visible and involve ourselves in debates and arguments in the gay movement. We plan to publicise and participate in any discussion or struggle that touches our lives. We will produce leaflets and bulletins around specific issues and current battles which affect us all. We will remain together

as a collective and continue to be - as always intended - not just a newspaper, merely reporting and commenting, but an integral part of the movement, while retaining the objective of producing a newspaper.

For GAY NOISE to appear on a regular monthly basis we need a budget. To work out a production budget, we have to look at and assess all our sources of income - potential and existing.

Once we know all our sources of income, we can then work out our budget. GAY NOISE can then appear on a regular basis.

From April 18th, we are going to be holding a weekly Saturday disco in

Islington which will provide the basis of a regular income.

'One-off' fund raising events will continue to happen. On April 1st at University of London Students Union the Au-Pairs, The Mistakes, and the Pinkies are giving a GAY NOISE benefit. Other fund raising activities in the pipeline include as GAY NOISE film benefit at the Ritzy cinema in Brixton.

But until GAY NOISE does reappear, we will not be concentrating our energies solely on fund raising and repaying debts. We will continue vigorously our involvement in all political, social and cultural issues which affect lesbian and gay people.

NOT JUST A NEWSPAPER MORE A WAY OF LIFE

Growing as it did out of the riotous events of Gay Pride Week 1980, it was essential, if not a little inevitable, that *Gay Noise* would not just be a fortnightly journal passively reflecting the events of the previous fourteen days.

As a collective, we have been constantly involved in calling for this demonstration and the setting up and organisation of CASR. By leafletting the London gay scene, and with our banner and articles we also successfully fought for a large gay presence at last year's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament demonstration.

In similar ways, we publicised and supported the National Council for Civil Liberties' public meeting on the Gordon Wiseman case, the London pickets of the film 'Cruising', the NATFHE Gay Group's picket of their union national executive, and the picket of the PIE trial. We also ensured a *Gay Noise* presence at the Liverpool demonstration against unemployment, and on the London marches in support of the H-Block and Armagh hunger strikers.

In these ways we have refused to be pushed into gay angles, corners, or canyons, insisting instead that the experiences and oppression of lesbian and gay people make up a central contribution to the understanding of this society, and how best to turn it upside down.

The millions of lesbian and gay people throughout the four countries in these islands play a full part in the hearlands of economic and cultural life. Everything that goes on in this society is our business and — as oppressed citizens and proud homosexuals — we will continue to look at any and all of the problems that confront our people.

Going monthly

But there's a catch. We've no money left. In fact worse still, we have debts of £1,300. The collective no longer has the resources to produce a fortnightly newspaper, so we have decided to go monthly from April 1st.

Immediately, we need to raise £700 to pay for the production of issue 14 — £480 — and to honour some part of our debts. We not only need one-off donations from individuals or benefits, but also a regular income that we can rely on. The two simplest ways of providing this are through bankers orders, no matter how small, and subscriptions.

Bigger and Better

Having got this far, we don't just want *Gay Noise* to continue — we want it to be improved through better analysis, wider discussion, and wider involvement. We want what we print and do to be a help and support in all the battles that lesbian and gay people are involved in, whether those battles are being fought in the Gemini Club, in the trade unions, in the home on the dole queues in left parties and organisations, in the Labour Party, or anywhere else that, as lesbian and gay people, we are asserting our right to define our own lives free from harassment, intimidation, and repression.

Gay Noise Collective
28-2-1981.

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Payment to be made monthly/quarterly until countermanded by me in writing.

Payments to commence on the day of 1981.

Signed Name (Caps.)

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Date

Return this form to *Gay Noise*, BM Gay Noise, London WC1N 3XX.

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Please send me one copy of *Gay Noise* fortnightly for:
Six issues (£2.60 inc. P&P.)
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FEB 28



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There is no defence against nuclear war

This Sunday, October 26th, there is going to be a massive demonstration in London against the Cruise nuclear missiles. The march, which has been called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is assembling at 11am at Speakers Corner (Marble Arch tube) and ending in a rally at Trafalgar Square at 2pm.

Many gay women and men are organising to go on the march. We're not going because we want to save the world for generations unborn — we're going because we want to survive now. And our survival is directly threatened by the placing of Cruise missiles in the four countries of these islands, by the build-up anywhere of sophisticated government war machines, in fact by all aspects of this violent society.

We can show our presence on the march by having our own gay contingent with our own gay banners. *Gay Noise* will be there with a banner as will many other gay organisations. We hope that many gays will march in the gay contingent.

**Assemble: 11am Speakers Corner (Marble Arch tube)
Sunday October 26th.**

GAY NOISE

P&P by

Collective
149 Railton Rd., SE24