

# GAYPO

15p

No 2 Thursday 28th August 1980

149 RAILTON ROAD  
LONDON S.E. 24

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## CHE YORK CONFERENCE

The eighth National Conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality opened on the Bank Holiday week-end in York. With 300 delegates, it was the smallest conference since the first national CHE gathering at Morecambe in 1973.

Dominated by wrangles over the Special Commission Report on the future of the organisation, many activists felt that the Campaign was being strangled by the political domination of the liberal-right.

The Majority Report of the Special Commission failed to question why so many gay people reject involvement in CHE. Instead it recommended a second tier of regional committees to liaise between the National Office and the local groups.

Many delegates were equally unhappy with the Minority Report presented by Peter Naughton and Roy Burns. The Report tries to analyse the reasons why CHE fails to attract an active membership, but does not make any concrete proposals. Minority Report workshops unanimously accepted the Majority proposal for Regional Committees but went further, suggesting the division into two wings. One wing concerned with caring services and the establishment of commercial gay centres in competition with private enterprise clubs. The other wing, composed of activists and campaigners, would be financed by the social and entertainments wing — both sides of the organisation would then be linked by a Common Council administering a Trust Fund.

A fascinating idea — the political right financing the political left.

CHE financial problems were discussed at length. The national income has not risen for four years. Hovering around £24,000 a year the organisation's spending power is being eaten away by inflation, and the system where local groups retain 25% of the subs irrespective of the group's wealth gives the National Office little room for manoeuvre. Wirral and Chester local groups have over £5,000 each in the bank, Medway

## Editorial

Well, it comes as no surprise that the Union of Post Office Workers' newspaper has refused to carry an advertisement for GAYPO, the Gay Post Office Workers' Group. Trades' union organisations have not exactly queued up to demonstrate their opposition to the military occupation of the North of Ireland, to immigration controls, or indeed, to discrimination against women or to the oppression of homosexuals.

Margaret Thatcher's refusal to ask them in for tea arouses much more fury in the breast of the average General Secretary than does the persecution of their gay members. After all, queers are very small beer when set beside the really inspiring issues like Import Controls and Negotiating Procedures.

However, we should not allow our chagrin to run away with us. Trades' unions and trades' union rights are, at this moment under attack.

The attempt of Prior, the Tory back benches and the police, to outlaw effective picketing is going to become a crucial issue for everybody interested in the maintenance of democratic rights... without them, have no doubt, the Gay Movement would vanish within a week.

We hear much about bully-boy tactics on picket lines and much of what we hear is true. However, the disappearance of large, noisy, threatening pickets will not remove intimidation and violence from our society. On the contrary, the bully-boy Press, the bully-boy TV, the bully-boy bosses, the bully-boy Government, their police and their army will have a field day.

The capacity of the trades' unions, and the millions of working people who run and pay from them, to resist the employers and the Tories is all that stands between us and entirely arbitrary government by the rich. The question is not whether there is going to be intimidation or not, but rather, *who will intimidate who.*

In the coming tussle between the big battalions, the Gay Movement must increase its attacks upon sexism within the labour movement, while at the same time, flying to the side of the Mass Picket, publicly demonstrating our opposition, on the streets, to the erosion of democracy.

local group has £1,500, many more have hundreds, while other groups have nothing.

The National Organisation cleared last year's deficit, spent £20,324 on administration, wages, rent, mailings, publications and the Broadsheet; £898 on Executive Management — fares, auditors, solicitors, dinners for people being lobbied etc., £959 on campaigning of which £67 went on trade union work, £131 on law reform and nothing was spent on education.

The Report of the Discrimination Commission (Attacks on Gays. price £1.20) was presented to Conference and was generally well received.

## A BIGGER SPLASH

*At least ten pounds has been raised for the Gay Pride Defence Committee by a sponsored swim in St Albans. Richard Thorne of St Albans Gay Voice fearlessly took over a crowded swimming pool to cover fifteen lengths. 'An amazing performance', gasped the adjudicator, Geoff, who admits nearly collapsing with excitement at the achievement.*

*Rumour now has reached the Noise collective that Lotte Cash is urgently wanting to meet a swimming instructor in Crete.*

**IRA LEADERS LINK THE  
STRUGGLE OF WOMEN AND  
GAY MEN TO THE BATTLE  
FOR IRISH NATIONAL  
LIBERATION**

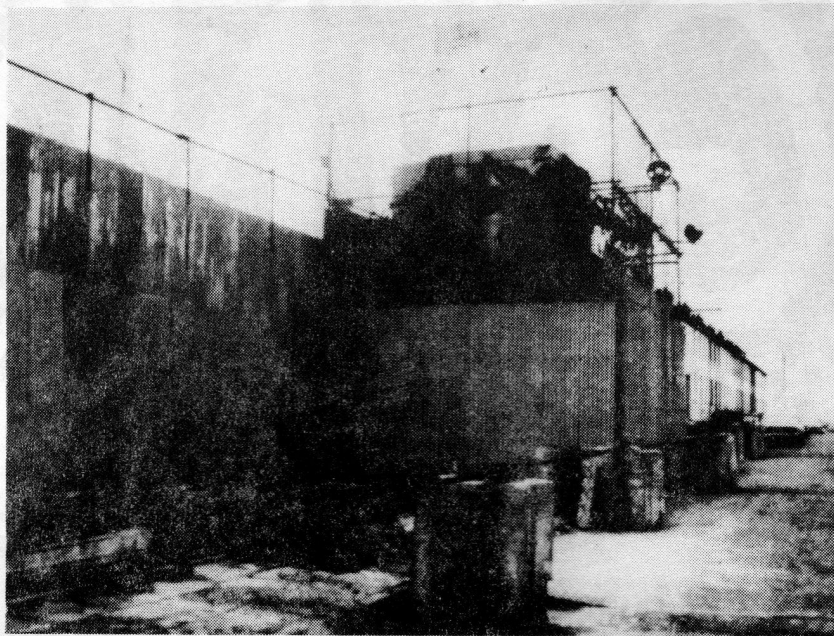
*Report by a member of the Troops Out Movement delegation in Belfast.*

Over the long weekend of the 8th, 9th and 10th of August the seven hundred year old British occupation murdered two children, blinded two others, inflicted brain damage on a fifth, ran over a seventy-nine year old woman, did to death a twenty-one year old social worker while in military custody, murdered a twenty year old man in a hail of bullets from a Saracen, arrested and severely beat up a large number of Republicans and were congratulated by the Northern Ireland Office, the Head of the Occupying Forces and the RUC Chief Constable.

On the same weekend a 180 strong delegation from the Troops Out Movement in Wales, Scotland and England picketed Army forts, calling upon soldiers to desert. The Republican community of West Belfast marched in support of the women in Armagh Jail and the men in the H Blocks, Europe's modern concentration camps; and throughout this period boys (but not girls) from the age of five upwards demonstrated their skill in the battle for control of the streets, stoning the heavily armed and protected RUC landrovers and Army Saracens, knowing precisely when to run to avoid snatch squads and the lethal plastic bullets which are often fired at point blank range with murderous effect.

The message from Belfast, sent via the Troops Out Movement to the people of Britain is clear. There is a war on, the republican community are up in arms, and they are in great spirits. For eleven long years since the start of the current war the British attempt to pacify the North of Ireland has failed, and the Republican population now enters the twelfth year of rebellion — the twelfth year of armed and political struggle against the combined might of an occupying army and its Orangist allies (who are subsidised to the tune of £1,000 million a year).

Seeing is believing. The carnage of the British occupation can be seen within a few short minutes of entering Belfast. Protestant areas, which to white English eyes look tatty and poverty stricken, take on the appearance of Mayfair in comparison to the Catholic areas, where main roads suddenly peter-out into dirt tracks, street signs have been obliterated, and a large number of houses look as though they last saw a major repair some fifty years ago. In the Petty Sessions Court, we saw an arrested man appear with an arm broken by the Army whilst in Custody. His solicitor, appointed by the Court, told the magistrate that 'it was a matter between him and the Army'.



The army 'fort' in Crossmaglen.

Other defendants had to be carried into the court room by friends, one of whom suffered broken legs and ribs. They were all found guilty of 'riotous behaviour'.

Two days in Belfast was a revelation for many of us on the delegation. The reception accorded to us on the streets and in cafes and social clubs was tremendous. There was not a trace of anti-English feeling, nor for that matter, anti Protestant feeling. Religion or race has no part in their intense hatred of British Imperialism and Orangism. For two TOM delegates, the myth of a religious conflict was violently shattered when they got caught by an RUC snatch squad who, using clubs and gun butts, were clubbing a number of boys into unconsciousness. They screamed: 'We're English, We're English!', and much to their relief the RUC let them off without smashing their English skulls. Social Imperialism rules OK.

For the gays and perverts on the TOM delegation, the revelation was twofold. United by a common energy, street violence is directed at the RUC and the Army, leaving the streets far, far safer to walk in, night or day, than in say, London or Glasgow.

**When questioned about sexuality the Sinn Fein leadership linked womens and gay liberation to the struggle for national liberation, saying that one cannot be achieved without the other. The struggle, they said, was a long and hard one, but it must come from within the Republican Movement, since sexual liberation was a pre-requisite for ridding Irish Life of the poison of Imperial culture.**

With five year olds fighting in the streets... a whole community risen in arms... the liberation of women and the abolition of British laws on sexuality and the age of consent becomes an anti-imperialist necessity, not a Utopian dream.

**SMASH THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS**

**TROOPS OUT NOW!!**

**Doncaster Protests by NCCL**

In Doncaster this June a man of 38 was convicted of having sex with a man of 18. They had met and gone to the older man's home by mutual consent and slept together overnight. The younger man left in the morning, and, unknown to the householder, had taken some valuables. He pawned them, got an imitation gun and was found by the police threatening a taxi driver in town the same afternoon. He was later given three years as this was part of a long series of convictions for violent behaviour.

When the police questioned the 18 year old they learnt where he had spent the previous night. They turned up on the doorstep and arrested the older man who had not even noticed that anything was missing as this was late afternoon of the same day.

When he went to court he was fined £25 and, because he was 'out' at work he has had no hassle.

The National Council for Civil Liberties group in Doncaster have led local protests about this case on two main grounds. Firstly, the prosecution can in no way further the 'public interest', so what was the Director of Public Prosecutions doing agreeing to the case? It is most unusual where both men are 18 or over, so it seems that the DPP has had new instructions from the Attorney General, whose anti-gay views are well known.

Secondly, this case opens the way for any young man to rob, assault or threaten older gay men in the knowledge that the victim will be very reluctant to go to the police for fear of being prosecuted himself.

NCCL in Doncaster are following this case up with South Yorkshire police, the DPP and local MPs. The Hull group are watching a case where the DPP is considering prosecuting a 21 year old for sex with a 20 year old!!! There seems to be a nationally co-ordinated programme of age of consent enforcement which we should all fight to stop. Anyone wishing to contact Doncaster NCCL about this case or any others in the area should write to John Bennett c/o Gay Noise, marking the envelope: Private.

## NOTTINGHAM: John Clarkson Defence Campaign

John Clarkson, the co-ordinator of Nottingham Gay Switchboard, was arrested on June 4th and charged under section 5 of the Public Order Act with insulting behaviour. If he had been charged with importuning, or gross indecency, not only would the police have to prove something quite specific, but he would be entitled to a jury trial if he wanted.

Importuning and gross indecency are vague enough in practice — the police can try and do you for all kinds of behaviour — but the use of the Public Order Act is an attempt to convict a gay man under even vaguer criteria. Criteria not included in the existing legislation aimed at gay men. And Catch-22, this extension of repression is matched by a restriction on John's only legal protection against weak cases and police malpractice. No jury trial.

This attempt to whittle away the few rights that gay men have, part of a clamp down happening all over the country — see the articles on Hull and Doncaster — part of a general attempt to erode legal rights in general — see last weeks article on the Criminal Justice Scotland Bill — must be resisted.

## London Gay Film Festival

At the beginning of December, the 1st to the 6th, a Gay Film Festival will take place at the London Film Co-op in Camden Town. It will include films by/about gay women and men, exhibitions of photography, paintings, sculpture, slide-shows... and most especially, discussions around the films showing.

It is hoped that the Festival will lead to the setting-up of a regular workshop, aimed at creating more of our images from a collective and independent practice.

If you wish to show your film(s) or exhibit your work at the festival or help with all your ideas and energy, write to Steve Farrell, or Jeannette (for the women's films), London Film Co-op, 42 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 or to Bruno DeFlorence, 155 Railton Rd, London SE24.

Or meet us at the fund-raising party — disco, band — bring drink on Saturday 20th September, 8pm till late, at the London Film Co-op, 42 Gloucester Ave, Camden Town Tube.

## All London Newsletter

Eighteen people attended an open meeting to set up an All-London Gay Newsletter. The organisers of the meeting see the project as an important way to increase co-ordination and contact between London's many gay groups and to keep London gays informed of the whole range of activities, actions and events in the Sprawl.

A defence campaign has been set up in Nottingham to make sure that the police don't get away with it. John comes to trial on the 10th September: if he gets off, all well and good; if not, the legal and political battle must be carried on.

An appeal at the CHE conference last week-end brought about £50 in cash and £150 in guarantees of further support if there needs to be an appeal. Much more is needed. The campaigns offer of speakers has not been widely taken up. London GAA and the Gay Pride Defence Committee will be sponsoring a public meeting in London, but there has not been much more response.

Donations to: **John Clarkson Defence Campaign** (a/c No. 50031757), Co-operative Bank Ltd., 15 Friar Lane, Nottingham.

Spare cash at the end will be sent to Gay Legal Advice Service (GLAD) to help lesbians and gay men up against the law.

Requests for speakers to Mike Raymond, telephone Nottingham 55196.

## How blase Brum's become

What follows, astonishingly enough, is from the August newsletter of the Gay Community Centre, Birmingham.

'Gay Pride March & Rally. Very briefly the march and handing-in of the petition went as planned although additional entertainment was provided by the arresting of a few of the marchers for reasons given in *Gay News*. Following this a few hundred marchers retraced their steps to Bow Street Police Station. With the aid of gay solicitors the prisoners were soon released and the festival in the Students' Union was able to get into full swing.'

*Gay Noise* was absolutely fascinated to hear that Birmingham Gay Community Centre regard the arrest of ten gay people on a gay pride march as *entertainment*, and is equally intrigued by the inaccuracy of the report.

The march on Bow Street Police Station which secured the speedy release of those arrested, was exuberant and angry, forcing its way through a cordon and resisting heavy intimidation and piecemeal beatings at the hands of the police. It was a significant achievement by a broad cross-section of the gay community and cannot be dismissed as the 'retracing' of steps. The police gave the numbers of those involved as 1100. Predictably, *Gay Noise* sets the figure rather higher at 2000! The arrests were not *entertaining*, but the demonstration of solidarity certainly was.

The meeting discussed format and production and felt that the newsletter should be an access paper, carrying listings and Diary of Events sections, as well as news and information on activities and happenings in London. Articles giving a commentary, and initiating discussion on issue affecting gay people in the city, will also be an important feature of the new paper.

# Síogáí

There is a great welcome for the Irish Gay Group being set up in London, not only from the numbers of people who came along to the first two meetings, but also in letters, many from Irish gay women and men back home. Meetings will now be held on the first and third Sundays of every month at Friend, 274 Upper St, N1 at 3 o'clock.

Emma Soames, a reporter for the *Evening Standard*, turned up for the first meeting, but was asked to leave before we started. Undaunted, she still managed to write an article by the following Wednesday to say just how sympathetic she really had been. She wrote 'My heart went out to them'; and to show just how hurt and rejected she felt over not receiving a traditional welcome from the Irish 'pixie faced girls'. As she explained 'How feminine, how Irish'. Thanks Emma, but we didn't think you'd understand, seeing as a mansion in Buckinghamshire wasn't what we were talking about. Love to the Lord, agus buinneach na bliana oraibh.

## Scottish Gay Activist Alliance

The third Scottish GAA Conference will be held in Aberdeen on Saturday, September 13th. Anyone interested contact Aberdeen GAA, c/o Boomtown Books, 167 King St. or phone Aberdeen Gay Switchboard (0224) 572726 Wednesday 7pm - 10pm.

## Next Issue 'Musts'

All articles, letters, comment and reviews *must* be typed double-spaced. Photographs *must* be black & white prints, no negatives or contact sheets. Similarly, drawings, cartoons and all artwork *must* be black & white. We'll have no colours in *Gay Noise* thank you

To be in time for the next issue of *Gay Noise* all material must reach us by Monday 8th September.

## NEXT ISSUE OUT ON FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Gay Noise, 149 Railton Road,  
London SE24

(01) 272 5628

In terms of production, a broadsheet format of four sides of A4 when folded is planned. Initially the newsletter will be monthly, becoming more frequent... bigger and better.. as time goes by.

Watch out for the first issue on November 1st. News and information must reach the collective at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. by October 14th.



## THE THINKING BEHIND GAY NOISE

The people who came together in London to form the Gay Noise collective felt that the Gay Movement needed a paper that would meet its needs throughout the four countries in the British Isles. The advantages of London publication are as overwhelming as the dangers and the Gay Noise collective is determined not to make yet another metropolitan product.

Instead we want to build up a network of relationships with individuals and organisations who are interested in writing for Gay Noise sending us news and selling the paper. We hope that people will come together in their areas to actively shape the content and priorities of the paper. Gay Noise success will depend on this. We are not setting up a commercial organisation — non sexist advertising will be accepted, if it is offered to us — but we have no intention of actively seeking an advertising revenue.

At present the collective is composed of men and the degree and nature of the involvement of women will depend upon women's experience of our practice. Politically, the Gay Noise collective is a coalition of revolutionary socialists, anarchists, drag queens and radicals open to all who share similar perspectives. Of course, we are interested in the doings and preoccupations of gay people with different politics and will aim for the broadest coverage.

The different opinions in any disputes over editorial decisions will be published as signed articles in debate format. Quite apart from making a maximum effort for broad news coverage the collective also believes in the importance of political and cultural argument. We do not think that argument should be restricted simply to letters. It should be expressed throughout the paper and underpinned by the regular publication of a 'Noises Off' column, where space for a thousand-word article is always reserved for people not involved in the collective, to take up at length any issue that concerns them.

GAY NOISE COLLECTIVE  
August 16th 1980

## CLAMPDOWN IN HULL

A year ago three criminal cases which involved gay people either as victims or criminals initiated a series of arrests in Hull. In November 1979, a house blaze resulted in the death of three people including a young gay man.

As a part of the investigation, the police approached gay people he knew and used this case to get more information about gay people in Hull.

Most gay men who were questioned after being found cottaging didn't know their rights. The police told them that they wouldn't be prosecuted if they gave away the names of people they knew or had slept with. As a result of social pressures, they accepted those conditions and were charged after that.

The police also used a rent-boy to gather more information. They forced a medical examination on him and the results showing that he had been fucked a lot were used as evidence against his partners.

The main objective of the police was to charge *unorganised* gay people. The nucleus of Hull gay activists weren't molested.

One of the charged people contacted the Hull Gay Centre. His solicitor and another solicitor had a meeting with members of the Hull Gay Centre. They advised calling public meetings to inform gay people about their rights, warn them about the police tactics and publicise that information in posters. The posters were placed in several cottages but were washed down within 24 hours. The people the police had already interrogated were then asked if they knew who had placed them. It is essential for the police to quote more homosexual crimes and offences to carry on their campaign against public indecency.

Two public meetings took place, one of them in collaboration with NCCL. A large campaign may be launched after individual cases come to court.

Initially, the Hull police had shown themselves as rather helpful to gay people by referring them to Friend. But now as part of the general right-wing backlash, it seems that police inspector Nebbitt aims at eradicating gay people from Hull.

★  
**GAY** PRIDE DEFENCE FUND &  
COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENTS  
present



**RED LIGHT DISTRICT**  
PLUS  
**DISCO** ★

on  
**FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER**  
8pm till midnight - 2 bars  
at the  
**CAMDEN CENTRE,**  
**EUSTON ROAD, NW1.**

opposite King's Cross/St Pancras stations  
entrance in Blidborough St.

**Admission £2.00 (unwaged £1.00)**  
**All Lesbians & Gay Men Welcome**

Buses: - 14, 18, 30, 45, 46, 73, 77A, 168A, 214, 221, 239, 259, N90, N93, N96.

## FRANK & PETER GET OFF! GRAHAM IS BOUND OVER

The first of the Gay Pride March defendants' cases came up at Old Street Court on Wednesday 13 August. The case was Frank Egan's who was charged with possession of an offensive weapon. *Gay Noise* is unsure whether it was a meat cleaver or a vegetable chopper. Whatever it was for chopping it certainly could chop.

A machete, a penknife, a meat cleaver... just what is an offensive weapon and what is not. A meat cleaver is for cleaving meat and, it was decided, is not an offensive weapon while being worn in a drag queen's hat on a gay pride march.

This was the magistrates conclusion after a four hour case which ended with Frank Egan's acquittal. The last hour had seen an incredible attempt by the prosecution to bias the magistrate's verdict. Resorting to a small library of legal books and calling upon past cases and verdicts, Alison Martin, for the prosecution, warned of the consequences of an acquittal... gays brandishing their machetes through Parliament Square!

Gays in the gallery bore witness to a predictable lack of accuracy in police statements and, on occasion, some pantomime as they contradicted each other.

What came across most often in the prosecution's argument was that Frank had the cleaver in his bag. The prosecution was reminded by the magistrate that Frank had been told to remove the cleaver from his hat and that he would not convict Frank for doing something the police had told him to do. He was, he said, perfectly content that Frank had not gone to the march with the intention of using the cleaver offensively. So Frank was given back his cleaver unconditionally.

### ADVICES & QUERIES

Peter Gissup appeared at Old Street a week after Frank, on the 20th August. Charged with obstructing the police, Peter also pleaded not guilty. The court heard how Peter had protested at the police's unjust arrest of a gay man on the march. As the protest march from Malet Street to Bow Street was going along Kingsway, Peter again remonstrated with the police on behalf of a woman the police were apparently taking into custody. On both occasions speaking directly to the police, Peter was surprised to learn that he could not get them to see reason. Instead they said, 'Go away little boy or we'll arrest you.' As he persisted he was told 'Go away little boy or we will arrest you'. Taking the hint, Peter relented and walked away. But as he went to cross Kingsway in front of the march, chief Superintendent Brian Mulligan arrested him for sitting down and encouraging others to sit down in protest.

But Peter, who is a Quaker, a member of the Committee of Friends Temperance and Moral Welfare Union, does not, the court was told, get Angry, nor, so one of his co-religionists assured the court, does he Lie. The Magistrates, looking for all the world like villains from an Edwardian melodrama, softened... they visibly softened. When Peter



The cordon across Malet St: police attempting to stop us marching on to Bow St Police Station after the Gay Pride March.

Photo: Union Place

read, from the witness box, passages from the Quaker book of principles, *Advises and Queries*, the case was in the bag. The prosecutor, Alison Martin again, got muddled by Peter's virtue, and persistently, even scandalously, accused Peter of Anger and Lies. But none of it would wash. With a brusque, 'We've had all this before', Alison Martin was found Irrelevant and Peter Gissup was found Not Guilty.

### PRINTS & MUGSHOTS

Unhappily, at the same sitting, Graham Burrell, accused of obstructing the highway, agreed to be bound over for six months.

It was a curious business. Graham did not plead and the prosecution did not offer any evidence. Graham told *Gay Noise* that because of this arrangement with the police he had been assured that his finger prints and photographs would be removed from police files. Which is interesting because the pickets outside the court were photographed by two plain men in a plain car who after a nod and wink and a thumbs-up sign to the uniform men on the court steps drove off in something of a hurry. No doubt they were speeding back to Bow Street to pop Graham Burrell's prints and mugshots in the shredder.

## LANCASTER'S LINES

### ARE BUSY

Lancaster's Switchboard has not exactly had an easy time of it. After a lengthy and unsuccessful battle to place ads in the *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald* the group was attacked by Sir John Junor in the *Sunday Express*, being virtually accused of running a call-boy service and acting as a front for brothel keepers. An attack that even the Press Council condemned on 27 April this year, in a decision upholding the Switchboard's complaint.

Undaunted, the Switchboard has not only stayed in business but has almost doubled the number of calls it is handling. Lancaster Gay Groups' joint newsletter reports that 'if the present level of publicity is maintained or increased there would seem to be no reason why the total for the year should not exceed four hundred calls. This would represent an increase of 80 per cent on last year.'



## Gordon Wiseman Fights on!



### THE MEN WITH THE PINK TRIANGLE

By Heinz Heger

Translated and introduced by David Fernbach.

Published By Gay Men's Press £2.25  
Publication date 18th September.

Since this year's Gay Pride March there has been some criticism of the approach of those who have, in shocked tones, catalogued the horrors of police harassment and plain-clothes surveillance on that march — it does seem rather strange that gay activists should express surprise when agents of our countries' regime behave in this way. However, there is a danger that in rejecting these paranoid politics we may uncritically reject important memories of persecution and oppression. *The Men With the Pink Triangle*, a first-hand account of a homosexual prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp is just such a 'document of horrors', but of great historical importance particularly in examining our past and present relations with the left.

Heinz Heger's book, first published in German in 1972, will be available in English from 18th September, translated and introduced by David Fernbach. The narrative proceeds in a clear, simple style, complicated only by his disconcertingly selective use of euphemism. Unfortunately, many of the questions raised by this account are left unanswered — what was the life of paedophiles who we are told were 'green triangle' prisoners (criminals), a category of higher status than 'pink triangle' prisoners. The power of Heger's condemnation of this regime is diluted by his adherence to a morality which requires that sex be justified by love.

Despite these shortcomings *The Men With the Pink Triangle* provides us with a valuable account of the horrors of life in concentration camps for homosexuals, a group which has been ignored in previous concentration camp accounts. This personal account is put into perspective by the overview given to us in the Introduction.

Gordon Wiseman, Drama Therapy lecturer at Salford College of Technology until last February, lodged notice of appeal on 13th August against an Industrial Tribunal's decision that he was fairly dismissed.

On December 6th last year Gordon was convicted in the Manchester City Magistrates Court for sharing sexual pleasure with another man in a public toilet on November 2nd, 1979. The *Manchester Evening News* reported the case. On December 10th, the Vice-Principal of Salford College of Technology suspended Gordon on full pay.

On January 15th, the Governors considered the case. The Principal, Mr Wood, supported his Vice-Principal, recommending to the Governors that Gordon be sacked. The Board recommended his dismissal to Salford City Council. A week later, the Council's Education Committee sacked Gordon.

Gordon took his case to an Industrial Tribunal, claiming unfair dismissal. The Tribunal heard that Gordon, who had taught at Salford for three years, had the full support of his colleagues, his students and their parents. Nobody... apart from the unsavoury crew running the College and the Education Committee considered Gordon to be a danger to the students, the staff or, even to the reputation of Salford College of Technology.

Salford City Council argued that because Gordon had 'given into temptation... it would not be fair to pupils and their parents' to allow Gordon to go on working at the college. Gordon, they argued, 'may be vulnerable to approaches by his students'!

Defending, Mr Lizar, pointed out that Gordon's *offence*, that of seeking, and giving, sexual pleasure in a public place did not take place during the course of his employment as a drama teacher, and did not affect the lives of his colleagues, his students, or his capacity to do his job well.

On July 7th, the Tribunal found that the employers — the City Council — had *not* acted unfairly in sacking Gordon. Honour was satisfied, the fine reputation of Salford College of Technology unscathed, and the men and boys of Greater Manchester safe from the depredations

of drama teachers who 'lack control'.

### Minority Report

One member of the Tribunal, Mrs S Egan, disagreed. In a minority report she wrote: 'In treating a homosexual male ore harshly because of his homosexuality, the Governors showed themselves to be less than 'unprejudiced' and 'open-minded', as the Employment Appeal Tribunal requires them to be.'

Barry Prothero, the Gay Rights Worker at the National Council for Civil Liberties, added: 'The Tribunal's decision is based on a prejudiced, irrational and manifestly unfounded fear.' Gordon's appeal against the Tribunal and Salford City Council is an important one. His refusal to accept defeat will embolden many other gay people in similar circumstances.

In cases such as this, the *employers* have to prove to the tribunal that they *acted fairly*, and the tribunal has to decide whether the employer has acted as a *reasonable employer* would act in dismissing the employee.

### Tories Turn Down Bill

In July this year, in direct response to this sort of gobbledegook, NCCL's Barry Prothero sent the text of a Bill to amend the Employment (Protection) Consolidation Act 1978 to the Department of Employment. The effect of the Bill would be to make dismissal on grounds of homosexuality automatically *unfair*.

Tory Ministers at the D of E, haunted by the 'difficulties of defining a homosexual for the purpose of the legislation', have thrown out the idea. Other groups might have equally good cases for special treatment, and where, asks the D of E, might that lead us. Where indeed?

In a bizarre letter to NCCL from the office of Patrick Mayhew, Under Secretary of State, the Tories argue: 'Even if these problems (of defining homosexuality were surmountable there could arise cases in which it would *not* be unfair to dismiss an employee for the principal reason that he or she was homosexual'.

**So, they can define us in order to sack us, but not in order to protect our employment.**

### CHE GROUPS SCAN THE PRESS

CHE groups in Southend and Reading have appointed 'Monitors' (an unfortunate title) to keep an eye on their respective local newspapers. The idea behind the move is to supply the Archive of the organisation with evidence of judicial procedures, police practices and press attitudes throughout England and Wales. An appeal has gone out from the CHE National Office for all groups to appoint people to carry out this task.

Any cuttings sent to CHE's National Office should include the date and the name of the paper. *Gay Noise* urges *all* groups to follow the example of Southend and Reading.

Archive, CHE, 42 Formosa St., London W9



Of the three defendants so far, none has been found guilty as charged. There are still seven to come up for trial: and the task the committee has set itself, to carry on the fight-back begun at Malet St on the day of the Gay Pride March will last long after the last trial.

There still remains a lot to do. The next meeting, open to all lesbians and gay men will be at 37 Huntingdon St on Friday 29th of this month, at 7.30pm.

And don't forget the Camden Centre Benefit on September 6th.

## NUJ TAKES UP GAY MAN'S CASE

The National Union of Journalists is taking up the case of Harry Coen, the former news editor of *Gay News*. Harry was fired without warning on the 18th July by the proprietor, Mr Lemon.

Mr Lemon, who is quoted as saying, 'I know it's a bit mean luv, but the company can't afford any more', gave Harry two weeks pay in lieu of notice. Incensed at this paltry offer, Gary Morton, organiser of the Magazine and Book Branch (NUJ), is seeking full compensation from *Gay News*.

Not surprisingly, Harry Coen is not asking for reinstatement, but after nineteen months employment on the paper he not unreasonably expects three months notice or three months pay... whichever Mr Lemon would find least painful.

## COLCHESTER CHE APPEALS FOR HELP

Two gay men were recently attacked in separate incidents near Colchester North Station. One man was mugged and robbed by three youth, one of whom was the bait while the others hid in the cubicles. In the other assault a man suffered knife slashes on his penis.

Both victims were afraid to go to the police. As a result, Iain MacArthur of Colchester CHE has issued an appeal for help. Iain says: 'What you can do is to ask anybody who experiences this kind of trouble to get in touch immediately with either the local Gay Switchboard 0206-864233 — or with Michael, John or Iain' of Colchester CHE, P.O. Box 41, Colchester.

## ET LES HOMOS FRANCAIS, QUE FONT-ILS? And French gays, what are they up to?

The French gay movement came into being as a direct result of May 68 with the formation in Paris, two years later, of the predominantly male *Front Homosexuel d'Action Revolutionnaire* (Homosexual Front for Revolutionary Action). FHAR's manifesto, 'A report on normality' (1972) included a radical analysis of gender-roles and repressive institutions such as police and psychiatry. Inasmuch as it challenged traditional roles, drag was incorporated as an essential element of the new movement, which was trying to create radical means of gay self-expression. This was the first opportunity for gay people to come together on radical issues.

In 1976, gay militants from the Trotskyist *Ligue Communiste* called for a common struggle of gays with women and trade unions like the left *Confederation Francaise Democratique du Travail*, within a new group, *Groupe de Liberation Homosexuelle/Politique et Quotidien*, (Homosexual Liberation Group/Political and Personal). By this time, FHAR had split and it reformed into GLHPQ. GLH organised workshops on gays at work, women's involvement and ways of giving a political coherence to the gay movement. It published a dossier on press coverage of homosexuality, organised a meeting in a young workers' hostel, organised demos against anti-gay laws and took part in women's and left marches.

Several GLH groups were formed in the provinces: they still exist, and only recently, the newest started in Angouleme, a medium sized town in the mid-west. The provincial groups are first of all concerned with problems of organisation and providing their members with adequate social programmes.

All through the existence of GLHPQ, the *folles* (drag queens) opposed the militants, reproaching them with taking over traditional male attitudes. This faction of *folles* contributed to GLH by a constant questioning, pointing out the necessity of bringing fun into gay activism.

They set up the first and only squatted Gay Centre in Paris, which remained open from June to October 1977 and where alternative gay discos were held. Although it was a real attempt to find new political means of expression, it still showed a middle-class urge to be aesthetically exceptional, and the attitudes they promoted, still used, even as a subversion, too many bourgeois-queen features.

In March 1978, the two factions, *folles* and *militants* came together to choose gay candidates for local elections in Paris. The *folles*, seeing that this campaign shifted from a jocular attempt to draw attention, to a more political game, left GLH and started local *Comites d'Arondissements* (district committees).

Last month, a harsher anti-gay law was passed after a year's discussion in Parliament. The Loi Foyer doubles sentences for acts of public indecency between people of the same sex and/or minors (under 18). The penalties can now reach up to fines of around 8000 Francs and two-years imprisonment.

As soon as the Loi Foyer had been proposed, the Marseille GLH responded by forming the *Comite d'Urgence Anti-Repression Homosexuelle* (emergency committee against the repression of gays), which is also active in Paris and Tours. These committees aim at organising the defence of gay people, regardless of their political or religious beliefs, and include members of lesbian and radical gay groups and gay religious organisations. They function both autonomously and in collaboration with other groups.

Last year, when a youth-worker, Marc Croissant, was sacked for being gay; CUARH/Paris mounted an active campaign to publicise his case, which included a huge conference with major parties of the left. The Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire and the Organisation Communiste des Travailleurs signed CUARH's petition demanding Croissant's reinstatement.

The CUARHs are now working on a mass information campaign to stimulate a more radical approach to the question of gayness by questioning bourgeois moral values and establishing gay identities.

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## Gay theatre in Cambridge

Activities started in March this year with the production of the cabaret 'Lesbian Review'. The women involved in this show and a group of gay men who had recently come together, were encouraged by Noel Greig, who gave a talk about gay theatre, suggesting that Gay Sweatshop could help with drama workshops in Cambridge if people were interested.

Connections with the Colleges are strong — the Womens' Week was organised by the Lesbian consciousness raising group — though not everybody active in the theatre project are students, and some efforts are being made to involve more people from outside the University.

Plans for the winter months are flexible and those participating in the workshops would be pleased to hear from anybody with written material, or just ideas, that could be used as raw material. Contact: Michael Turnball, 37 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2AB.



# THIS IS THE ART BIT

## BOOKS

By Viot Minczy

'172 ktory nigdy nie przychokzi'

By Piotr Imowicz; Translated by Adrian Leafpea

New Horizon Books, South Kensington. Price £11.50

*The New Polish Gay Wave: futurist felinism or homosexuality through inanimate eyes?*

The fact that the contradictions within the London gay movement can inspire allegorical novels is news, but when they inspire Piotr Imowicz, Poland's leading versatile polyglot Gdansk-based gay writer to produce the finest masterpiece East of Berlin this century, then it is the literary headline of the epoch.

'The 172 that never comes' is the result of the author's self imposed fact finding probe of the London gay movement a few years ago.

The simple plot is set at an unnamed bus-stop at the northern end of the 172 bus route where a medley assortment of characters is waiting to be taken south of the Thames. There are Gary, Larry and Harry, three heteros, of whom only Gary has actually seen a 172 — and that was ten years before. There's also a nonchalant lesbian cat called Michelle, who's invented radical felinism, and lastly Phchthatz, a gay male camembert.

As each tell the story of their lives, it transpires that Phchthatz once lived under a swing in a back garden in Holloway Road but got trodden on in mysterious circumstances and is now on the run, more of which later. All five are painfully shy and at first its strictly a case of Hunt the Conversation Topic.

A sharp condemnation of the lack of unity in the London gay movement is seen in the symbolic non-appearance of the 172 whose very existence is actually an idealized conceptualization of a united Brixton-Islington front/axis. But note also the optimistic tinge — the unreadiness of the movement to get on together is offset by the unripe conditions for building anything effective at the moment — gay people in London may want a state subsidized gay community bureaucracy (represented here by the nationalized public transport system), says Imowicz, but not now under the Tories or a right wing Labour government. Pounce Prepared is definitely his motto.

Fortunately Imowicz isn't restricted to the cheese meets transport contractor syndrome which has plagued his earlier works. The internationalist camembert has a character, personality, a heart, a soul and even a mind. The three-quarters full-fat soft cheese has recently been attracting the attentions of a rather butch slice of brie. Well, actually, Phchthatz really fancies getting screwed by the mysterious admirer, but all this is in direct conflict with what where gay liberation in London seems to be at viz. in order to become a truly liberated camembert he must avoid ending up in traditional cheese roles.

He can accept that his processing as a camembert has rendered him well-nigh incapable of switching his desires from being deeply set in active-passive role playing to forming equal, non-monomagous stable relationships with other camemberts and bries, but it's all easier said than done and he still can't help getting rindy (sic) at the thought of a master-slave super-fuck with the gracefully-aggressive hunter brie. All this we gather from his self-confession to Michelle that he had once tried to externalise this self-oppressive desire with a similar slice of brie, but had got so hung up over the new liberationist questioning that he went all runny and was unable to function. Imowicz's message is clear — internalization leads to repression of sexual pleasure.

This is not a pretty novel — it won't make you feel happy, and Imowicz certainly plays it tough all along. There are no solutions, but there is poetry in everyday gay life in London. Read it.

## Lotte Cash's Fighting Fund

'Tighten you belts, hold on to your bootstraps and try harder!' (Lotte Cash)

I should like to take this timely opportunity to categorically deny that I am at present in Crete chasing boys. The merest glance at my political record will prove the falsehood of this malicious rumour. For rumour it is... spawned, I might add, by those intoxicated with the doctrines of Class War and Envy. Doctrines aimed at dividing the Nation and splitting the Gay Noise Collective.

Now, I must turn to more serious, even graver, matters. Your donations have not exactly flooded in. £25 has been received from South London Gay Liberation, a source, which I am sure you will all realise, we would rather not have to rely on; £20 from slightly less disreputable Icebreakers; 36p from Timothy Lunn and a stamped addressed envelope from somewhere in South Kensington. An absurd sum of £45.48. This leaves a visible deficit of £154.52p. Indeed, a shortfall of £154.52p in my appeal for £200.

This cannot be forgotten, nor, I hasten to add, can it be swept under the carpet. I should be less than Lotte Cash if I tried to soap you with false promises and false hopes.

Though my popularity may plunge, even plummet, it is my duty to tell you the unpleasant truth, to give it to you straight... by the next issue I want to see £354.52p on my desk. 'What do they need it for?' I can hear the cynics and faint-hearts whimper. Well, I have no hesitation in telling you. We need it for TYPESETTING, we need it for postage, we need it for typewriters, we need it for the telephone and, finally, we need it so that I, Lotte Cash, can keep up appearances during the many social functions it is my duty to perform.

Send cheques and Postal Orders made out to Gay Noise Collective, marked 'for the attention of Lotte Cash.'

Lotte Cash

## LISTINGS

### Gay Pride Defence Committee

42a Formosa St, London W9

NCCL 186 Kings Cross Rd, London WC1  
01-278-4575

Troops Out Movement 2a St Pauls Rd,  
London N1

CND Eastbourne House, Bullards Pl.,  
London E1

CAPM Box No BM1151, London WC1V 6XX

### Gay Switchboards

ABERDEEN	0224-572726
Wed 7-10pm	
BERKSHIRE	Windsor 56521
Wed 8-10pm	
BOSTON CHE	0205-67527 or 0205-60167 0273-690825
BRIGHTON	0272-297500
8-10pm enenings, 3-10pm Sat.	
BRISTOL	0244-312975
Sun-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 3-10pm	
CHESTER	0222-395123
7.30-9.30 7 nights Sat 12-4pm.	
CARDIFF FRIEND	0206-864233
Tues & Thurs 8-10pm	
COLCHESTER	Coleraine 51904
Wed 7-9pm	
COLERAINE	Derby 752260
Tues 7-10	
DERBY	01-710608
Mon-Thurs 1-2pm & 6-7pm	
DUBLIN	031-556-4049
(prefix 00 from UK)	
Mon-Fri 8-10pm (Wed women only) Sat 3-6pm.	
EDINBURGH	041-332-1725
Mon-Fri 7.30-10pm Sat 2.30-10pm Sun 2.30-6pm	
GLASGOW	0482-226511
evenings from 7-10pm	
HULL	0233-25395 ext 2
Fri 8-10pm	
KENT	Lancaster 63021
LANCASTER & MORECAMBE	
Thurs & Fri 6-8pm	
LEEDS	0532-453588
Every night 7-10pm	
LESBIAN LINE (London)	01-837-8602
Mon & Fri 2-10pm Tues-Thurs 7-10pm	
LINCOLN	Metheringham 20851
Wed 6-10pm	
LONDON	01-837-7324
Open line for national and international gay information, advice and help. Always open.	
MANCHESTER	061-236-5986
7-10pm nightly	
Manchester Friend	061-236-6283
7-10pm nightly	
Manchester Lesbian Link	061-236-6205
Mon-Fri 7-10pm	
NOTTINGHAM	46881
Mon, Wed & Thurs 7-10pm	
NORTH STAFFS	Stoke on Trent 266998
Weds 7-10 Sat 2-5pm	
OXFORD	0865-45647
7-9 nightly	
PLYMOUTH	0752-69558
Tues & Thurs 8-10.30pm	
PRESTON	0772-51122
Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 2-4pm	
Preston Lesbian Line	0772-51122
Mon & Wed 7.30-9.30pm	
READING	0734-597269
Fri 7-10pm	
SHREWSBURY	0743-67248
Tues & Fri 8-10pm	
SHEFFIELD	0742-307142
Mon-Fri from 6pm	
SURREY	Guildford 503128
Mon, Wed & Sat 8-10pm	
SOLENT	0703-37363
Tues, Thurs & Sat 7.30-10pm	
SWANSEA Lesbian Line	0792-467365
7.30-10pm	
WEST MIDLANDS	021-632-6528
Mon-Fri 7-10pm, Sat & Sun 4-10pm (women answering on Weds)	
YORK	0904-411399
Thurs 7-9pm	

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