

LISTINGS

Aberdeen Trades' Union Gay Rights Group, c/o Bootmow Books, 167 Kings St., Aberdeen AB2 3AE.
 Anti-Apartheid, 89 Charlotte St., London W1.
 Anti-Nazi League, PO Box 353, London NW5.
 Brothers and Sisters, Deaf Gay Group, 11 Hawthorn Ave., Rainham, Essex.
 Campaign Against Public Morals, Box BM 1151, London WC1V 6XX.
 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Eastbourne House, Bullards Place, London E1.
 Communist Party, 16 King St., London WC2.
 Employment Protection Appeal, 60 Broughton St., Edinburgh.
 Gay Activists Alliance, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1.
 Gay Left, 38 Chalcut Rd., London NW1.
 Gay Men's Press, 27 Priory Ave., London N8.
 Gay News Ltd., 1a Normand Gardens, Greyhound Rd., London W14. 01-381 2161
 Gay Post Office Workers Group, BM GAYPO, London WC1V 6XX.
 Gay Pride Defence Committee, 42a Formosa St., London W9.
 Gay Rights At Work, 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9.
 Gay Sweatshop, 5 Leonard St., London EC2. 01-250 1762
 Gay's Word, 66 Marchmont St., London WC1 01-278 7654
 Gay Youth Movement, c/o 6-9 Manor Gdns., London N7.
 Gemma, Disabled Lesbians, BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.
 Icebreakers, BM/GAYLIB, London WC1V 6XX. 01-274 9590 7.30-10.30 nightly
 International Gay Association, PO Box 931, Dublin 4.
 International Marxist Group, 328/9 Upper St., London N1.
 Lethian Trades' Union Gay Rights Group, 60 Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1 3SA.
 NALGAY, 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9. 01-857 3793
 National Abortion Campaign, 374 Grays Inn Rd., London WC1. 01-278 0153
 National Council for Civil Liberties, 186 Kings Cross Rd., London WC1. 01-278 4575
 Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association, PO Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH.
 Parents Enquiry, Rose Robertson, 16 Honley St., London SE6. 01-698 1815
 Peace News, 8 Elm Ave., Nottingham. 0602 53587
 Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.
 Sappho, The Basement, 20 Dorset Sq., London NW1.
 Scottish Gay Activists Alliance, First of May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.
 Scottish Homosexual Rights Group, 60 Broughton St., Edinburgh.
 Sequel, 49 Pratt St., London NW1.
 Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act, BM RCT, London WC1V 6XX.
 Sisterwrite, 190 Upper St., London N1.
 Socialist Workers Party, PO Box 82, London E2.
 Spare Rib, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1. 01-253 9792
 Troops Out Movement, 2a St. Pauls Rd., London N1.
 Women's Information Referral & Exchange Service (WIRES), 32a Shakespeare St., Nottingham. 0602-411475

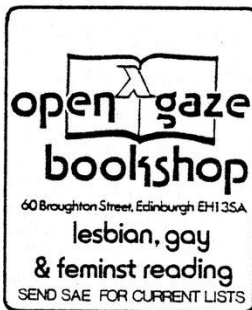
BOOKSHOPS

Gay Noise is on sale at the following shops:

ABERDEEN Booktown Books, 167 King St
 ABERYSTWYTH Whole Food Shop, Princess St
 BRADFORD Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate
 BRISTOL Full marks Bookshop, 110 Cheltenham Rd
 CARDIFF Community Bookshop, 108 Salisbury Rd
 COVENTRY Wedge Bookshop, High St
 DUBLIN Books Upstairs, South King St
 DURHAM Community Co-op, The Stall, New Elvet
 EDINBURGH Open Gaze, 60 Broughton St
 First of May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row
 HULL John Sheridans, Princess Ave
 Boks Bookshop, Princess Ave
 LEAMINGTON SPA The Other Branch, 42 Bath St
 LEEDS Corner Bookshop, Woodhouse Lane
 LIVERPOOL News from Nowhere, 100 Whitechapel Rd
 LONDON Adelaide Bookshop, 14 Cecil Court, WC2
 Bookmarks, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, N4
 Bookplus, Lewisham Way, SE14
 Bread and Roses, Upper St, N1
 Central Books, Grays Inn Rd, WC1
 Compendium, Camden High St, NW1
 Crouch End Bookshop, Crouch End Hill, N8
 Gay's the Word, 66 Marchmont St, WC1
 Housman's, Caledonian Rd, N1
 Man to Man, Pembroke Rd, W11
 The Other Bookshop, Upper St, N1
 Frith Free, Upper St, N1
 Stud Gay Bookshop, Frith St, W1
 Zipper Bookstore, Camden High St, NW1
 MANCHESTER Grass Roots, Newton St
 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Days of Hope, Westgate Hill
 NOTTINGHAM Mushroom, Heathcote St
 OXFORD E.O.A. Books, 34a Cowley Rd, Cowley
 READING Acorn Books, The Emporium, Merchants Place (off Finar St)
 YORK Community Bookshop, Walmgate

Cauldron extinguished

The "Cauldron" women's disco, every Tuesday at the Sols Arms, Hampstead Rd., London, NW1, has been closed. Does anyone know why?...



Gay Switchboards

ABERDEEN	0224-572726
Wed 7-10pm	Windsor 56521
BERKSHIRE	0205-67527
Wed 8-10pm	or 0205-60167
BOSTON CHE	0273-690825
BRIGHTON	0272-297500
8-10pm evenings, 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	0233-25595 ext 2
Fri 8-10pm	Lancaster 63021
KENT	0532-453588
LANCASTER & MORECAMBE	01-837-8602
Thurs & Fri 6-8pm	
LEEDS	Metheringham 20851
Every night 7-10pm	
LESBIAN LINE (London)	01-837-7324
Mon & Fri 2-10pm Tues-Thurs 7-10pm	
LINCOLN	061-236-5986
Wed 6-10pm	
LONDON	061-236-6283
Open line for national and international gay information, advice and help. Always open.	
MANCHESTER	46881
7-10pm nightly	
Manchester Friend	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
Every evening, 7-10pm (women answering on Weds.)	
YORK	0904-411399
Thurs 7-9pm	

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 ADDRESS _____

Please send me one* copy of *Gay Noise* fortnightly for:
 Six issues (£2.00 including postage & packing)
 Twelve issues (£4.00 including postage & packing)
 Twenty-four issues (£6.00 including postage & packing)
 Institutions — twice the above rates

Make cheques and postal orders payable to *Gay Noise* Collective and send them with this form to 149 Railton Road, London SE24.

Signed _____ Date _____

* For orders of five or more no charge is made for postage or packing and a discount of a third off the cover price is available.

fortnightly



15p

No 3 Thursday 11th September 1980

149 RAILTON ROAD
 LONDON S.E. 24

Blinkered, stubborn and straight

AN EXTRAORDINARY PIECE of political manoeuvring took place at the Beyond the Fragments conference in Leeds on Saturday, August 31. The 1,000 strong conference, a significant coming together of various sections of the left, was presented at its final plenary with a petition in support of the Polish workers. A group of 15 gay men, who had been working together politically in the day conference (more of that later), protested that the message of support described the conference as "socialist and feminist" rather than socialist, feminist and gay.

Julian Harber, one of the conference organisers, chipped in with the explanation that they had been looking for a non-controversial wording to the petition. "It is controversial — we object to it. You are trying to make us invisible," shouted the gay men, but to no avail. The petition couldn't be changed because "no votes could be taken". Five minutes later a vote was taken on a resolution calling for another Beyond the Fragments conference.

Julian Harber was later cornered and asked to explain himself. He defended his actions by saying that it had taken a long time to build up links with the Polish workers' movement, and that they didn't want to jeopardise that with anything controversial. Controversial = gay = skeletons in the cupboard.

Later, however, the *REAL* truth came out. The word gay could not appear on the petition because its text was to be read out that night on the BBC Foreign Service's Polish broadcast. Harber & co. feared that any mention of deviants on the airwaves would jeopardise the links that they had spent so long building with the BBC...

A significant contention of the day conference was the casual treatment meted out to the autonomy of the gay and women's liberation movements. Structured in such a way that single "representatives" from special interest groups would attend each afternoon workshop, conference delegates were given slips telling them which workshop to go to. But gays and women are not special interest groups. There's a difference between doing and being which the conference organisers failed to appreciate. A large group of feminists, and fifteen gay men from the morning gay workshop, refused to participate in the afternoon workshops on this basis, and both groups made a statement to the final plenary explaining why.

The feminist statement protested that the structure of the conference did not reflect the autonomy of the women's liberation movement in that there was no space for women to organise independently. It also

demanding that a future conference acknowledge the relationship between patriarchy and capitalism both in theory and practice.

The statement from the gay workshop insisted that there is no distinction between being gay and socialist — "we are socialist gays and gay socialists... and we struggle like all other socialists at the point at which we experience the blight of capitalism". The statement also expressed interest in stronger links and unity with other socialists, but not at the expense of the gay movement's autonomy which the socialists should neither denigrate nor simply tolerate, but defend.

After these statements another conference worthy, Jean McCrindle, was heard to complain about "these whippersnappers, trying to disrupt our conference".

The London members of the gay workshop plan to meet again to continue the work done at the conference. There are likely to be other Beyond the Fragments conferences, and it is important that the gay movement throughout these islands should intervene in them and demonstrate our centrality to the socialist movement. The London meeting will be at Inter-Action, Talacre St., NW5 at 1pm on Saturday, September 13. Further information from Bob, 01-801 1220.

Semi-detached Dykes and Stately Homos

HOUSING IS THE most basic need of all, but to have a roof over our head is not enough. For being gay categorises us as being single, regarded by those that provide houses, as being in a temporary phase between leaving one's parents and being married with children. However, for us this "transience" will be permanent.

As being single is regarded by public and private landlords as a temporary stage, they feel that there is no need to house us adequately. So houses and flats will not be specifically designed for our needs, and the rents will be higher than that which nuclear families are expected to pay.

This has led gay people in London and Manchester to try and take some control of the situation. In the last year a Gays and Housing Group has been formed, from which have been spawned four Gay Housing Co-ops.

The latest Gay Housing Co-op is only three weeks old, and is based in Lewisham. The group is only in its formative stage, but in the short term, it hopes to obtain short-life houses on licence from the borough council and from Housing Associations. The members will charge themselves rent and this will be used to pay rates and to cover the costs of materials and administration. Two other co-ops are also based in London, the oldest being the Pink Triangle Housing Co-op, based in Islington, which has been established for eight months. The other co-op, in Hackney, was started in April and has only one house at present.

They all operate on a similar basis, and all have a 50/50 women/men policy, with a long term aim to provide both long and short life housing.

The Gays and Housing Group wants to develop a network of similar groups in other parts of Britain — one has already been formed in Manchester. Once established, co-ops have obtained houses by approaching the Housing Department of the local authority or from Housing Associations, and by asking them for a licence to occupy vacant houses, such as houses awaiting improvement or demolition. Licences can be for six months or more, with no rent being paid to the council or Housing Association. However there is no security of tenure. If there is already a well established short life housing co-op in the area, it may be possible to join them a sub- or affiliated group. This may result in quicker access to the available housing stock.

The Gays and Housing Group can be contacted c/o Friend, 174 Upper St, London N1, or phone London Gay Switchboard on 01-837-7324 for details.

AT THE PICKET of the TUC Conference in Brighton on Monday 1st September, a member of the National Graphical Association (NGA) approached Clive Jenkins (ASTMS) saying "This leaflet is about John Saunders who was sacked for being gay."

Clive Jenkins pushed the leaflet aside and replied, "No, I'm sorry, I'm not into anything like that."

Employment Protection Appeal

THE FUND ADMINISTERED by the Employment Protection Appeal (EPA) is available for gay women and men who are sacked because of their homosexuality. The Appeal has got off to a modest start with £1,095. EPA has produced 25,000 copies of their first news-*letter Bulletin No 1*, and there are still some copies available for distribution to Trades Councils, political party meetings and the like. Secretary, Ian Dunn, stresses that "this fund is of particular importance to gay workers in situations where the trades' union is weak, badly organised or just plain anti-gay." EPA has got to get bigger and richer if its work of financing the struggle of victimised individuals is to have the maximum impact. All information concerning harassment at work, requests for the remaining copies of *Bulletin No 1*, and of course donations should be sent to EPA, 60 Broughton Street, Edinburgh 1.

Action over Leicester witchhunt?

Increased police surveillance of Leicester public toilets has led to a number of arrests of gay men, many of which have not been reported in the press. In response, Bernard Greaves of the Liberal Party has written to the chief constable, and a meeting between them is likely. As we went to press Leicester CHE were meeting to discuss their action. *Gay Noise* hopes they will decide to do something more positive and supportive than having a chat over tea and biscuits with the chief constable.

LONDON GAY WORKSHOPS

Between September and December 1980, at a variety of venues throughout London, a series of workshops will be held to discuss some of the major issues of gay politics. This programme of meetings aims to spread more widely the ideas generated by the Women's and Gay Movements, and also to help overcome the factional nature of gay organisation in London. The organisers are not attempting to set up yet another gay political organisation, but rather aim to help strengthen existing gay groups and campaigns within the city.

13 September ● FUND-RAISING PARTY
Disco ● Bar ● Stimulating Company
Caxton House (staircase) 129 St John's Way N19. 8 - 11.30pm.

18th September ● Thursday ● FIGHTING THATCHER
Speaker: John Lindsay (Socialist Workers' Party)
Venue: Action Space, 16 Chenies Street, WC1. 8pm.

25th September ● Thursday ● GAY HELP GROUPS
Speakers from Lesbianline, London Friend, Switchboard, and Icebreakers.
Venue: Caxton House (as above) at 7.30pm.

1st October ● Wednesday ● LIVING TOGETHER
Speaker: Bob Crossman of Pink Triangle Housing Co-op
Venue: Action Space (as above) at 8pm.

6th October ● Monday ● LESBIAN CUSTODY
Speaker: Anna Neale (Wages Due Lesbians)
Venue: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 at 7.30pm.

And many more which we will publicise in future issues of *Gay Noise*.

Botanic Gardens

TERROR!

Reports have been filtering through to the Belfast bulletin *Gay Star*, of a suspected terrorist headquarters in Botanic Gardens in South Belfast. Large numbers of police in Landrovers and unmarked cars have been seen staking out an innocuous small brick building. These police, often armed with machine guns and pistols, are said to have been backed up by plain clothes detectives, some wearing white trousers. They return day after day to the scene of this suspected hideout or weapons dump.

Of late they appear to be accompanied by a teenage boy; some of his former acquaintances, numbering half a dozen to date, have been brought in for questioning at Donegal Pass Barracks.

If you are taken in, the RUC must caution you to the effect that you are not obliged to answer any questions. Though it is difficult, stick to a set formula that you "will not answer any questions or sign any statement relating to my private life". Keep asking to see a solicitor, or bring one with you. The Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association (NIGRA, PO Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH) can advise as to the best legal advisers and solicitors in Belfast. But remember, the caution means just that. You are *not* obliged to answer questions.

If you are approached in Botanic Gardens by an unusual man making suggestions of a criminal nature, arrest him and take him to Donegal Pass Barracks as the suspected terrorist they are seeking.

Letters

Dear Gay Noise,

It comes as no surprise to any of us that the trade union leadership refuses gay adverts, just as it is not surprising that their idea of political action is having tea with Thatcher.

You are quite correct to say that only the millions of working people (millions of whom are gay!) stand between us and arbitrary rule by the rich.* The question is how we are going to organise?

Flying to the side of the mass picket is correct. The turnout of gay people on the Brixton Dole Picket was excellent. But pickets have to be organised, the fight against the Tories has to be given some direction, otherwise people feel at a loss and give up struggling.

The Right to Work March from South Wales to Brighton, leaving on 23rd September, is an attempt to give such a focus. Unemployed miners, steelworkers, schoolkids, dole fodder will be marching to raise the issue of unemployment in factories all along the route. In the past the march has been a chance for raising the other issues as well. In 1978 the march picketed WHSmiths' in Brighton over the *Gay News* struggle. Every marcher wore a gay badge. This year gay liberation can be taken up with hundreds of people new to politics, if there are enough gay people on the march.

When the march arrives in Brighton on the last day of the Tory Conference, 10th October, there will be a large demonstration representing everything against the Tories. There is a special gays against the Tories leaflet, available from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (100 leaflets for £1.00.). A train is booked on the 10th for Brighton leaving Victoria at 9.30am (tickets £3.00 return).

Gay liberation has been able to win a place within the labour movement. This is a chance to make sure we don't get pushed aside during a lurch to the right.

John Lindsay
Right to Work Campaign
*What we actually said was: "The capacity of the trades' unions, and the millions of working people who run and pay for them, to resist the employers and the Tories is all that stands between us and entirely arbitrary government by the rich".

Sappho and Sequel

SAPPHO AND SEQUEL like *Gay Noise* depend upon material from readers. Why not contribute letters/articles on your experiences as a woman and as a lesbian to these magazines?

Sappho, The Basement, 20 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QB. *Sappho* one copy 60p. The subscription for six months is £3.75 and for one year it is £7.

Sequel costs £2.90 for six issues a year, from 49 Pratt Street, NW1.

Dear Gay Noise,

In September 1979, Brighton Community Resource Centre printed a 96 page handbook for the London Gay Activist Alliance. The title was *An anti-fascist handbook* and as it was a worthwhile project the centre printed it at their cheap rate. In retrospect it wasn't such a good project for the centre, for while London GAA got a thousand copies of the handbook with a cover price of 70p each (and thus worth £700 in total) the Centre got nowt, zilch, zero, in fact, nothing.

Now, as we approach the first anniversary of printing this book, and despite sending numerous invoices and pleading/threatening letters to six different addresses, the centre has still not received a penny. Not only that, but London GAA are still refusing to enter into a correspondence with us, and don't even come to the phone when we ring. We still think the book was worth printing, but wish some other press had got the thanks bestowed on us on the inside back cover.

We are a small collectively run Centre and printshop and find it very difficult to carry such large debts for such a period.

If anyone actually has any contact with London GAA, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Brighton and Hove Community Resources Centre, North Road, Brighton Sussex. Tel: 607141

Nancy Boys or Nazi Boys?

PATRONS OF THE London nightclub Heaven may well have been startled on Sunday night to see half a dozen swastikas carved into the front of their club's locker room.

However, fears that the British Movement had joined forces with the clones were allayed when it was discovered that copies of *Zipper* were on sale in the Locker Room itself with the approval of the management. The magazine contained a spread of photographs showing a man being "humiliated" etc., by a Nazi officer in front of several swastika emblems.

It appears that the graffiti was a protest against the presence of such material. Two drag queens were suspected of the damage and, as a result, men wearing make-up or flamboyant costumes will be refused admission to the club in future. Jack boots and Iron Cross medals First Class will be tolerated, it seems.

Rumour has it that the two queens do not intend to return to Heaven anyway... they seem to be busy filing their nails in readiness for a nights entertainment at the local Odeon watching "Cruising".

We have just heard that one of Heaven's staff has been sacked for being connected with the incident. Of course, he can't do anything about it, since like most of the Heaven staff, he was casual labour.

Fascist Fashions

Police women are now being given trousers, like the boys. However, they won't be allowed to wear them in court or other formal occasions. Fair cop really, I've never seen a policeman wearing skirts in court.

Oodles and Oodles

Contrary to popular belief, the Gay Pride Defence Fund has got lots lovely money to spend — thank you, WAGS, CHE Monday Group, Hull University Gaysoc, Nottingham CHE, Sexual Outlaws, Oval House and many others — we are hoping that none of this lovely lucre will need to be paid to Her Majesty's truncheon fund (not even to buy police-women trousers) and that it all can be spent on next year's Gay Pride celebrations — has anybody got 10,000 hot pink doves for sale? PS The money is still thankfully dribbling in, last count £450 and going up.

Gay Workers In Print

At the *Gay Rights at Work* Conference, a group of gay print workers decided to start a gay group for workers in print unions.

Our initial intention is to attempt to get print unions to pass motions condemning discrimination against lesbians and gay men on grounds of their sexual orientation (so far only the NUJ has passed such a motion), and to persuade the unions to fight cases of discrimination against gay print workers in the workplace; this includes dismissal and harassment by management, and also harassment by fellow workers.

We also hope to be able to provide support and encouragement for gays coming out at work. This is an essential function, since many gays are not aware (until they come out themselves, at any rate) of other gays in their place of work.

For centuries, gays have been forced to live lives separated into compartments: gay at night, passing for heterosexual at work. We refuse to be invisible any longer.

We invite all gays in print unions to get in contact with us, with a view to building a strong pressure group to achieve the above aims and a social/discussion group to provide a supportive atmosphere for gay print workers.

The first meeting will be held at the Marchmont Street Community Centre, Marchmont St., London WC1 on October 28th, 1980 at 6.00pm

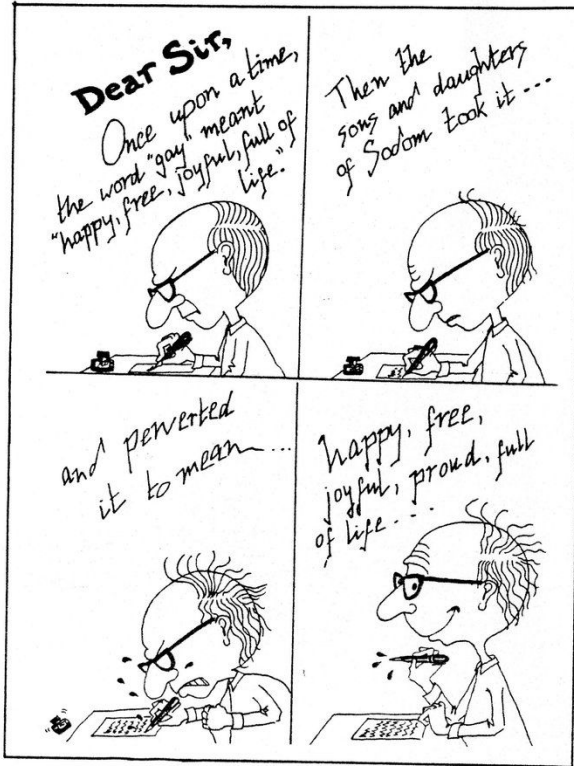
Date & time: 18th October at 9am
Venue: St Matthews Meeting Place
(Opposite Brixton Town Hall)

Occasion: Gays South of the River
London South of the Thames has always been on a par with the Dakota Salt Flats when it comes to open-air cruising, cottaging, coffee, and bookshops, or even just pubs and discos.

That a good faerie will come along with a wand and change all that cannot be in doubt, it's just that Gay Liberation South London in their usual meddling way cannot wait.

When "Gays South of the River" kicks off it's hoped that people and organisations will come along with their experiences and beat the Good Fairy to making councils give us gay centres or adequate funding for gay community events.

The organisers promise workshops, speakers, disco in the evening, a crèche, a photo exhibition and food! As well as discussions around facilities and grants the scope of the one-day conference should be wide enough to exchange experiences about discrimination in housing and employment! We here at *Gay Noise* didn't know that discrimination still existed in the enlightened eighties (after all, we've got a woman Prime Minister, haven't we?). Those of a different opinion can contact the co-ordinator on 01-733 9733.



Revolutionary Communists cop it

Two people who were arrested outside Celtic football ground in Glasgow now face charges of "breach of the peace". The two, who are both members of the Revolutionary Communist Group (not noted for its ardent gay liberation stance) were selling "Hands off Ireland" badges and "Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism" when the boys in blue whisked them away to the dismay of the crowd of football supporters. They were charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act with "behaviour liable to give people cause to believe that they were members or supporters of a proscribed organisation". In court this charge was changed to the more serious one of "soliciting and inviting financial or other support for a proscribed organisation — namely the IRA". However, *Gay Noise* was delighted to learn that this has inexplicably been changed to the minor one of "breach of the peace" and wishes the Comrades the best of luck. We await a message of solidarity from the RCG. For further information about the RCG and its campaign around the arrests ring Maxine on 01-737 3922.

GAY PRIDE DEFENCE COMMITTEE

OLD STREET MAGISTRATES COURT APPEARANCES

Russel Herring
Terry Cooke Sept 24 10.30am

Defence Committee 42 Formosa Street, London W9.

North London Gay Centre

As a result of a meeting at the Hemingford Arms to discuss the setting up of a North London G.L.F. group, moves are afoot to set up a Gay Centre and short-stay Gay Housing Agency.

The meeting of about 20 people quickly decided that they weren't into a lot of traditional lobbying and campaigning. But there was a lot of support for the idea of a Gay Centre and Housing Agency where gay people could develop their own life-styles. The Housing Agency would provide short term housing for gays who want to escape from oppressive housing conditions, young gays still living with families, etc.

Gay activism in Stevenage

POLICE ATTITUDES TO gay people, the rights of gay people at work, custody rights for gay parents — these are just some of the topics of discussion scheduled for the meetings of the Stevenage Political Gay Group over the next few months. The group was formed about a month ago by gay women and men who wanted something more than the purely social scene offered by Stevenage Link. "We felt that you can't be gay and not be politically aware," said Anne, one of the founding members. For a while the Group operated as a sub-group of Link, but the parting of the ways came after members of the Political Group took part in the Gay Pride March on Bow Street in June. Other members of Stevenage Link were uneasy that the name of their organisation should be connected with this demonstration, and the Political Group decided it was time to go it alone. At first their membership consisted of three gay women and three gay men, but over the past few weeks there has been a steady trickle of new members. Some of these are people who are also involved with Stevenage Link, but for some of them this is the first gay organisation they have joined in Stevenage.

For the time being the Political Group is mainly concerned with getting itself established before it initiates any activities of its own. It is maintaining contact with similar groups across the country, co-operating with the Gay Voice group in nearby St Albans, and keeping its eye on Gay Pride Defence activities in London. Meetings are held every Monday night at 8.00pm. The topic of discussion for September 15th is the age of consent, and for September 22nd custody rights for gay parents. Further details can be obtained from Anne or Hugh on 0438-60811.

On our terms

A pamphlet is to be produced outlining gay people's rights under arrest and suggesting ways of dealing with police harassment.

The idea arose from a recent meeting called by London Gay Switchboard to discuss "co-operation" with the police. After listing the catalogue of horrors that gays co-operating with the police had led to, it became clear that a more organised and determined approach to police activities is required. The pamphlet is intended to assist people in handling the police on our terms, not theirs.

The meeting to discuss the pamphlet will be on Wednesday 17 September at 7pm at the Prince Albert Pub, Wharfdale Road, London N1 (round the corner from Kings Cross).

evening was a great success
£70 for the paper. The lively mixture of comic sl

rock and folk, and fine numbers. The worth seeing and worth listening to from them soon. There are gay cabaret at the Hemingford Arms, Islington, London N1

COME ALONG

THERE IS A myth abroad at the moment that gay liberation is something that can be achieved without a fundamental shift of power in our society away from the class of corporate managers and capitalists who govern all aspects of our lives. It is certainly true that the repressive activities of policemen, local councils, government ministers, employers, school governors and newspaper editors cannot be characterised as a grand conspiracy. It is equally true that the activities of this unprepossessing shower cannot be viewed as the result of a personal neurosis (homophobia).

The dominant ideology of our society argues that material equality is unobtainable, that the state is the only thing that stands between us and barbarism, that economic, sexual and intellectual competition is natural, and that stable families and dominant men are good for the kids. Our oppression as homosexuals is neither the result of a misunderstanding, nor a clerical error, but rather a fulsome expression of this ideology.

It is with this belief that we disagree with those in the gay movement who, like CHE, NIGRA, *Gay News*, and the gay christian movement, advocate unity at any price. As they constantly strive to ignore fundamental conflicts, they shy away from action around or analysis of the central divisions in our society. Instead, ostrich like, they peck away at the issues where they can achieve a modicum of unity. For the rest, they prefer to bury their heads in the conference papers.

Consequently these radical reformists end up getting into terrible tangles, as happened at this year's CHE conference. They didn't decide the future of the organisation's constitution, they prevented debate on the annual Gay Pride March, and in the row concerning the relationship of *Gay News* to the gay movement they moved a procedural motion that the motion be not put. What they did decide was to condemn the Tories' Employment Act, which was described as "Victorian". There is nothing Victorian about this law.

The Tories and their fellow travellers need to weaken the trades union movement in order to carry out their free market policies, and this new law is integral to their strategy. It attacks workers' rights in the fields of maternity leave, job security, and protection from arbitrary dismissal. Shouting "we've seen this before" is neither true, nor is it going to stop them.

Those issues that the CHE Conference could not decide about would have meant them facing real conflicts of interests that divide gay people. Sexually, being gay may, like cricket, be a great leveller, but on the other side of the bedroom door things are more complicated. Gay people experience sexism, racism and the operation of the class system in savagely and profoundly different ways. CHE dare not confront these antagonisms. Rather play ostrich than deal with all that...

The gay movement must stop trying to ingratiate itself into the laps of its oppressors. They might stroke our heads when it suits them, but their interests will remain paramount. And until that conflict of interests is confronted, CHE conferences and the like will remain as indecisive as this last one.

Union Tavern

For the last three or four weeks, there have been attacks on gay men as they left the Tuesday night disco at the Union Tavern pub in South East London. Last week, 15 men, armed with metal weapons and wooden clubs chased four gay men who had just left the disco — fortunately they escaped unharmed.

At least two of the incidents have been reported to the landlord and he is to be approached by South London GLF with a request that the disc jockey give out a warning to people to leave the pub in large groups. However, it is likely that an energetic and sustained defence of the disco will be necessary.

TABS???
THE WORLD IS d' In Print

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 a flat in East Londention is to attempt to lished in 1976, has s to pass motions ship of 80 people — crimination against rest scattered. aren on grounds of their throughout Wales a (so far, only the NTIT Gemma, acting as an information and link group, is seeking to raise awareness of the problems confronted by disabled people within the gay community.

Could someone with a wheelchair get to your meeting? How would a deaf person participate in your group's activities? How would a blind person fare at your regular disco? Have you informed your local disabled gay groups in
 These are is forcefully a Disabled Gay's Guide that they are compiling in association with the men of Gay Aid (GAMA). For further information: Gemma, BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

Once you mean "gay" pub, full of

Do London Gay Activists Alliance support Ian Paisley?

MEMBERS OF THE Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association (NIGRA) have been attacked by members of the London Gay Activist Alliance (London GAA) and by supporters of the Troops Out Movement (TOM) who argue that we should not be making any demands for a change in the law here in the North of Ireland. They say that the Government which could make those changes — the Westminster Government — is a foreign government which has no business legislating for Northern Ireland. And that by demanding changes in the law we are recognising the right of this foreign government to rule over us.

It's funny how one always has to go to London to hear arguments like that. Whether we want to see a united Ireland or to maintain the union with Britain, the argument is stupid and only English people — or people who have been living a long time in England — could have thought of it.

NIGRA is solely concerned with improving the lot of homosexuals in Northern Ireland. It contains members with nationalist sympathies and members with unionist sympathies. NIGRA as such will continue to work for gay people whatever government is in power. We don't argue that our interests are necessarily more important than the constitutional question, but we leave it to members who feel strongly on either side of that question to join whatever other political bodies they like, without their decision prejudicing their membership of NIGRA.

But the Troops Out supporters aren't interested in such a modest, 'reformist' approach. They think that we should throw our interests as homosexuals to the winds and lend all our support to the efforts to get rid of the army (i.e. that we should join the Provisionals — or possibly the Irish Independence Party — who are the only people who are calling for the immediate withdrawal of the troops). The likely result of the immediate withdrawal of the troops (after a period of open and vicious warfare) would be the establishment of an independent Ulster — with Paisley on top (if there was to be a united Ireland, the troops would have to stay — to enforce it). Is that what these people want? Is that what they think we should want?

No. We are not prepared to campaign for the removal of the troops. And we are even prepared to oppose the removal of the troops unless there is some guarantee that it won't result in a (possibly smaller) Paisleyite state. And as long as we are in the UK, we want (at least) the same laws as far as homosexual are concerned as prevail in the rest of the UK. In making this demand, we expect the support of everyone throughout the UK who is involved in gay politics. And we support them in their search for further changes. As far as those of us who want to see a united Ireland are concerned, that no more compromises their principles than demanding better pay and conditions would compromise the principles of a trade unionist who wanted a united Ireland.

The only possible effect of the policy proposed by the London GAA would be to split us into a Republican Gay Rights Movement and a Loyalist Gay Rights Movement, both of them subjecting their particular interests as homosexuals to the greater interests of their respective 'causes'. We are not prepared to oblige them.

Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association August 1980

London GAA will be replying in Gay Noise 4.

Al Pacino is cruising for a large sum of money

The film "Cruising" has finally been loosened on audiences throughout these islands by the Odeon circuit. It is a nasty tale about a man who goes around cutting-up homosexuals, apparently because he had a warped relationship with his popa.

Our hero, the cop, played by the perplexed and glazed-eyed Al Pacino, who has also had an uneasy relationship with his popa, sets off in search of the vicious killer. Protection of homosexuals is apparently a priority for the New York Police Department.

Pacino has to get into the city's leather scene and have his cock sucked and his arse fucked all in the line of duty. We know that it was a distasteful duty because we see shots, backed by violins, of Al with his girl proving that heterosexual can be uneventful and perfunctory. However, the double-life of double-agent Pacino proves too much for him, and after successfully catching the man who has been cutting-up homosexuals, Pacino cuts-up a gay boy who gullible gays might think he had actually fallen in love with.

Or he might have not done. We don't know for sure. But what we know for certain is that homosexuality and murder go hand in hand. Which all goes to show how dangerous tangling with the leather scene can be. Close contact turns you into a homicidal maniac... always assuming you're not one already.

Liberal asides keep getting made by overweight and sweaty cops that this low life of agonising leathery ecstasy does not represent the "mainstream" of gay life. Presumably the "mainstream" they are referring to is the "mainstream" made up of cottage queens, paedophiles, transvestites, under-age boys, and clones who cruise the parks without leather hats and rattling chains. It is this "mainstream" that the New York Police Department respects, and apparently finds legitimate, reserving our horror and their distaste, for the people who are being chopped up.

The implication that comes across is that people who like being tied-up have only themselves to blame if they get stabbed to death on the big screen.

Gratuitously intercutting scenes of brutal killings with the joy and pleasure of Sado-Masochist relationships, the makers of this film want us to believe that no distinction can be made between loving and loveless brutality.

All in all a bleak and squalid tale that tells neither the truth about cruising, gay people in general, nor the leather scene in particular. In fact the movie is morally bankrupt, unconvincing and dull, telling more about the horny death-wish rape fantasy of the heterosexual men that put it together than it does about the gay scene — mainstream, sidestream, slipstream or streamqueen.

Gay Noise Development Meeting

THE FIRST GAY NOISE development meeting will be held in Nottingham on 25th October. The meeting, for gay socialists, feminists and anarchists from all over these islands, will consider the problems involved in securing the financial future of Gay Noise, its political development and methods of improving the quality, effectiveness and appearance of the paper.

The central objective, however, is to set about the construction of a network of Gay Noise volunteer correspondents and salespeople. Thorough hard news coverage and a circulation of 5,000 plus are essential for the paper's survival — these objectives are not only modest, they are achievable within the next twelve months!

The meeting, organised with the assistance of the Peace News collective (who despite political differences, have welcomed Gay Noise), will start at 10am on Saturday 25th October and run through the day until 7pm. Arrangements are being made for a party and for putting-up people in Nottingham on Saturday night.

We hope that radical gay groups and individuals will arrange to be represented at this meeting. But you must tell us in advance if you will be coming, how many you are, and whether you will need to stay over. We are discussing accommodation problems with Peace News and with gay groups in the area.

We need advance warning as to how many people are coming so that we don't have to call in the St John's Ambulance Brigade or declare the Nottingham area a Disaster Zone!

Registration fee for the meeting will be £1 per person, in advance. Write to Gay Noise, 149 Railton Road, London SE24, marking your envelope "Development Meeting".

The Strange Case of Pepsys, the Page Boys and the Queen

ON THE FIRST of July 1663 Sammy Pepsys wrote to Sir Jimmy Mennes and even to old Mr Batten assuring them both that homosexuality in England is now as common as it is in Italy. Sammy told Gay Noise that a number of page boys of his acquaintance have been complaining to their masters. Sammy commented: "But thanks to God I have not understood till this very day the meaning of this sin nor what is the consequences of being the active part or the passive part."

However, Sammy's flumox subsided and he reports that on 16th July before he went to sleep: "I imagined that I was having it off with the Queen."

Cleaver Cabaret leads the way in noisemaking

Thanks go to Lisa Bellinie, Linda Gardner, Jane Lambert, Ann Murray, Eric Presland and Ruth Thomson for organising a Gay Noise benefit cabaret at the Hemingford Arms in London. The evening was a great success and raised £70 for the paper. The cabaret was a lively mixture of comic sketches, blues,

rock and folk, and included some very fine numbers. The performers are well worth seeing and we expect to hear more from them soon. PS Don't forget that there are gay cabarets most Saturdays at the Hemingford Arms, Hemingford Rd, Islington, London N1.

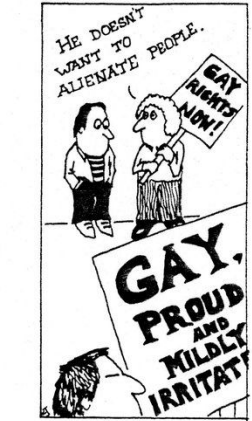
COME AND MAKE A NOISE

FILL UP YOUR Big Pink Diaries with these meetings to prepare issue 4:

- 17 Sept. Wed: Content, copy, and business meeting at 73 Huntingdon St., London N1 at 7.30pm
 - 20 Sept. Sat: First final copy date. Meeting to discuss copy at 153 Raitlon Rd., London SE24 at 2pm
 - 22 Sept. Mon: Final final copy meeting at Flat 2, 106 Manor Park, London SE13 at 7.30pm
 - 23 Sept. Tues: Paste up of issue 4 at 7.30am at 37 Huntingdon St., London N1
 - 24 Sept. Wed: Fold up and London distribution meeting at 153 Raitlon Rd., London SE24
- All copy must be typed double spaced and reach us by Monday September 22.

NEXT ISSUE OUT ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25

Not registered with the GPO as a newspaper. Published by the Gay Noise Collective.



Lotte Cash's Fighting Fund

Let's pull ourselves together!

IT HAS BEEN brought to my attention that a number of people, self-styled metropolitan intellectuals and others, have reacted sceptically to the fact that these islands are full of gay noises!

Well, let me just tell them one thing! Wash your ears out! The noises have in fact always been there. This newspaper is merely their proud amplifier! Let me also warn them that scepticism is a wet, unhealthy and unproductive habit which if practised to excess can only lead to one thing — deafness!

However, if I can't yet quite convince them that the noises really are there they can at least make some monetary contribution to those troublemakers and noise detectors who are crazed enough to associate themselves with this paper.

Sceptics, the next time you have a reflection, make sure that when your heads descend from the clouds and your hands emerge from their pockets you have in your grasp a few clean dry paper notes. Without even thinking, send them straight to Lotte!

You might be encouraged to know that some inconsiderate people from Reading and Doncaster sent £2; committed of Southgate sent £10; an impulsive group in Edinburgh sent £10 and a London benefi donated £70 on merest whim. On the other hand, thinking people in Birmingham sent their good wishes and a philosopher in South Kensington conveyed his good intentions. The total received was a mindless £113.10p. This means that the cautious and the sceptical are responsible for a disgraceful shortfall of £241.42p.

Remember we are constrained by cash limits. Financially, I am sure you will agree, we must not be as recalcitrant as London GAA or as gullible as the Brighton and Hove Centre in our dealings with each other. That would only cause arguments. So let's sink our differences and without too much soul searching raise £441.42p for the next issue. That's £200 plus the £241.42p shortfall.

Be thoughtless. Send more than you can afford!

Lotte Cash