

# GAY NOISE

15p

No 4 Thursday 25th September 1980

149 RAILTON ROAD  
LONDON S.E. 24

## WE WILL DEFEND OURSELVES!

### DO YOU see yourself as a victim?

The moment we leave our front door we are under attack. Advertisement hoardings as big as houses aggressively ignore us. Well-programmed small children call us names. Self-hating old men spit at us. Armed gangs of queerbashers wait for us round dark corners. Our ripped bodies are splattered across the cinema screen, and our battered faces are paraded across the front pages of newspapers.

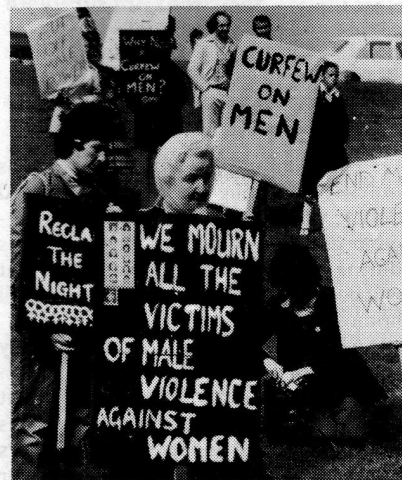
Not only are street attacks upon gay people becoming more frequent, they are, quite literally, becoming murderous.

In the wake of mass unemployment and deepening material misery, many heterosexual men are becoming blindly embittered. Morally and emotionally dislocated, they clutch at our throats in a desperate attempt to make their impoverished reality fit with their dreams of dominance and supremacy. However, having a sense of the queer-basher's fear and confusion does not provide us with much comfort.

We are still left with the question — So what do we do?

Time and again the police display either a cynical indifference or

an active hostility towards gay people under attack. We know intuitively, we know from our direct experience, and we know from the role played by the state institutions in our persecution that the police will not protect us.



However, political rhetoric — not even *Gay Noise's* — nor even moral indignation will save anybody. We must organise our own defence. The women pictured here were demonstrating in Bradford after a woman was prosecuted there for

carrying a small knife to protect herself from the Yorkshire Ripper. These women were responding to a situation where the only serious consideration of their protection has come from themselves.

This is as true for gay men as it is for all women. The problems are complex. We have to collectively protect gay pubs, clubs, discos. We have to protect gay centres and the offices of gay organisations and we have to defend ourselves when we are out alone or with one or two friends. It is an enormous task and cannot be tackled simply by the formation of self-defence squads or ideas of para-military gangs. We have to consider the roots and nature of our fear and how this often disarms us quite unnecessarily. We have to have a thorough going discussion in all our groups and clubs of the implications of self-defence. We have to consider the nature and degree of the violence we are prepared to use.

**And finally, we have to issue a warning to the authorities that if these attacks continue and the police continue to fail, so conspicuously, to protect us then we will have no option but to take the law into our own hands.**

## EDITORIAL

MANY YEARS ago Lady Docker, the paste-jewellers friend, was observed to remark "The employment of a man as casual labour destroys his integrity and leaves him open to exploitation".

In 1972 after many depressing years of struggle the Docks were de-casualised. No longer were there queues of men outside the dockyard gates every morning hoping and waiting to be given the privilege of a days work. No longer were whole dockland communities dependant on the uncertainties of casual work to feed themselves, their families, or their boyfriends. From then till now the dockers have enjoyed a regular minimum weekly wage. It seems incredible that this didn't happen until 1972 doesn't it? It seemed even more incredible to us that the employers tried to go back to the daily hired, weekly paid, system last week.

However, hard won long-overdue victories are not easily given up. Thankfully for us as gay people, the Dockers resisted this proposed erosion in the quality of their lives, stood firm, and the employers backed off. Whether any of the Butch Omé dockers will appreciate our thankfulness doesn't matter. What does matter is that casual labour leads to "casual" sackings, casual pay, casualties through worry and unsafe working conditions and gays are a major proportion of the people casually affected. It might be very convenient to suffer the illusion that the price we pay for a job in the gay commercial world is having no security of employment. In exchange for this we have the wonderful opportunity of working with, and for, other gay people. This is pitifully inadequate compensation when measured up against what things could be like! Isn't it rather pathetic that out-front gay enterprises, or even those merely with gay ownership, treat their casual staff in the same way as everybody else treats casual staff? Even so, many of us will go out of our way to "moonlight", not merely for the money, but also for the opportunity of working in a gay atmosphere — a glamour that is totally lost on immigrant catering workers as we would suspect.

However, both us and them put up with combinations of pay, conditions, and authoritarian employers attitudes which usually leave a lot to be desired.

Of course, we don't expect pay or conditions to be any better when working in a gay establishment or for a gay employer — and if things are better we tug our forelocks in gratitude. But why the fuck should we have to? We shouldn't have to demand security of employment and complete involvement in the decision-making process from our gay brothers and sisters who employ us — it should be taken for granted. Gay solidarity starts in the workplace just as much as on a demo.

Otherwise the only answer is to take a leaf from the book of those Butch Omés, the dockers, and organise along class lines — they won! But surely we are above all that . . . aren't we?

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## Campaign moves into full swing

*Paedophilia and Public Morals*, is the title of the new 60 page pamphlet soon to be published by the Campaign Against Public Morals (CAPM). With only three and a half months to go before the show trial of Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) members at the Old Bailey publication of this pamphlet is a bold initiative on the part of CAPM members.

Without kowtowing or apoloising, the pamphlet sets out to provide a basic framework for an informed public debate on patriarchy and the suppression of children's sexuality. Concentrating at some length on the role of pornography and the manipulation of medical models of paedophilia this pamphlet will play an important part in the battle for a positive restructuring of the way the women's movement, the gay movement, and the socialist left views the position of children in general and child/adult sexuality in particular.

The members of CAPM feel that it is only by mounting the most widespread debate will it be possible to organise tangible displays of support on the streets during and after the PIE trial; a trial that will be used, make no mistake, against all homosexual women and men.

Already the International Gay Association has committed itself to an international support campaign — but it is we who will translate it into action. It is up to *Gay Noise* and its writers, readers and supporters, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association, the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group, *Gay News* — in fact the entire gay movement — to take-up and support the initiative of CAPM. For more information, and to send messages of support, large sums of money (while Lotte's back is turned) and requests for CAPM speakers contact: CAPM, BM 1151, London WC1V 6XX.

## Saunders case used as precedent

SINCE JOHN Saunders was sacked and lost his appeal against unfair dismissal, it has been consistently argued that the position adopted by the Industrial Tribunal threatened the rights of all workers. The tribunal's argument was that Saunders' sacking was reasonable because his employers held a genuine belief that he was unsuitable for his job, "even where modern sophisticated opinion can be adduced to show that [the belief] has no scientific foundation".

The threatening precedent that this ruling sets has been taken up by some trades unions, and the Scottish Labour Party.

It has now been brought to *Gay Noise's* attention that the Saunders ruling has *already* been used as precedent. It occurred in June of this year in the case of Harper vs. National Coal Board. Mr Harper was sacked by the NCB after refusing retirement on health grounds following a series of violent epileptic fits at work. An Industrial Tribunal found his sacking to be fair on the grounds of either "lack of capability or for some other substantial reason".

On appeal, this ruling was upheld even though one of the two medical reports on Mr Harper stated that retirement was not necessary, his medication having been altered to make future fits less likely. It was at this point that the Saunders case was cited as precedent, and Harper's sacking again found to be fair "even where modern scientific opinion etc. etc. etc. . . .".

It is essential that opposition to the Saunders sacking is intensified, and that its meaning and implications are raised throughout the trade union and labour movement. The Employment Protection Appeal has been launched in Edinburgh to raise funds to overturn the Saunders decision and others like it. The Appeal urgently needs money; gay people should raise this issue in their union branches, political parties, and gay groups and persuade them to send financial support. The address is Employment Protection Appeal, 60 Broughton St, Edinburgh.

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## Hurrah for the Contrack!

"The Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality is being revived to strengthen the gay movement . . ."

Peter Radcliffe-Ludlam

## Tyneside Teachers team-up

ON TYNESIDE gay teachers have recently come together to form the Tyneside Gay Teachers Group. The group aims to provide a forum for the gay teachers in the North East where common problems in the field of education can be discussed. Apart from struggling against heterosexual indoctrination in the schools, and campaigning for real sex education, the group want to consider the problems met by gay school students and how these school students can be supported without the teachers risking losing their jobs.

So these are the aims of the group; to provide a social atmosphere where gay teachers can meet openly; to campaign within local trades union branches; to defend teachers job security; to strive for real sex education, and for the right to offer emotional and social support to gay kids in our schools.

All gay teachers in the North East who want to take up these issues should get in touch with Howard Llewellyn, 14 Everest Square, Carley Hill, Sunderland.

## "Cruising": two arrested

TWO MEN were arrested at the picket of the film "Cruising" in London on Thursday 11 September. They will be appearing in Bow Street Magistrates Court on December 1st. A picket of the court will be held — details from Gay Switchboard (01-837 7324)

"Gays Against the Film Cruising" (GAF"C") is organising pickets at the London Pavilion every weekend from 7.30 to 9.00. We have been leafletting the queue and passers-by, usually getting through 2,000 leaflets a night.

"Cruising" is now being shown at local cinemas in the South and will be moving north soon. If you would like GAF"C" to send you copies of our leaflets, either to help you with ideas of what to write or for you to hand out on your picket, write to GAF"C", 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9 or ring 01-857 3793.

### PICKET YOUR LOCAL ODIUS!

Is anyone organising anything around the vicious anti-lesbian film "Windows", which is rumoured to be reaching these islands in a week or two? GAF"C" would like to offer support!

GAF"C" is desperately short of money for leaflets for the London Pavilion picket. Please send donations to the address above.



## Walled City rocked

WHILE WE were preparing issue two of *Gay Noise* a wicked gremlin got into the typesetter and suggested that Chester Campaign for Homosexual Equality had five thousand pounds in the bank. This frightful distortion has caused so much huff and puff in the stately walled city that the *Gay Noise* Collective feel that it would be safer for all concerned if we set the record straight. In fact Chester CHE has a turnover of £8,000 a year and at present is struggling along with a meagre £600 in the bank. To avoid further confusion the group has promised to publish its accounts in March '81.

## Mancunian Lesbians write about Linkline

MANCHESTER LESBIANLINK is a collective of lesbian women who provide an advice counselling and information service for women.

We began the service in February 1979. The women who set up the phone line had already been working Switchboard and Friend on nights advertised as specially for women. But we wanted our own line so we could offer a better service exclusively for women. It was known that more women actually phone if they can be sure that a woman will answer and we wanted to reach as many women as possible.

Often it is not easy for a woman to talk over the telephone, so we can meet her and chat about things. After this the woman might want to meet other women socially. To help with this we have a support group which meets every fortnight on a Tuesday at the Gay Centre. Here again women can chat to each other and share their feelings and experiences. And then we run women-only discos every three weeks or so and we can go along with new women and introduce them to our friends. And on Fridays from 9pm there is a mixed gay disco at the Thompsons Arms, Sackville Street, run by the Gay Centre.

For younger lesbians (under 22) there is a group which meets every Friday and then often goes along to the Thompsons disco. This group aims to be supportive to young lesbians who often have to lead a double life at home, at school or at youth clubs where they are under pressure to have a boyfriend. At the Friday night meetings they have discussions about any problems they are having as well as about more general subjects. They are also involved in sporting activities, canoeing, badminton and football.

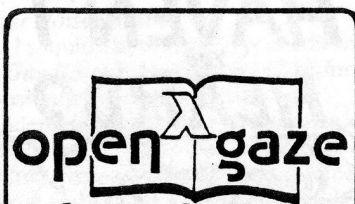
We hope that we offer the kind of support women need and want. We'd like to know if there's something else we could do, or do in a different way. We hope you will ring us. 061 236 6205 Monday - Friday, 7 - 10pm.

## A Score of Soddan Scots

THE SCOTTISH Gay Activists Alliance (SGAA) has recently been re-organising and begun active campaigning. After a conference in Stirling twenty soddan Scots, eleven women and nine men, picketed the Greek Consulate and stood in the pouring rain handing out leaflets protesting the Greek Government's attacks on lesbians and gay men.

Scottish Gay Activists Alliance, a separate organisation from the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group, is a support group for lesbians and gay men that also intends to campaign around specific instances of gay oppression. Further actions are to be planned at the Aberdeen Conference. Details from SGAA, 1st May Bookshop, Box 15, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QB, or ring 031-225 7337.

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

  
**open gaze**  
**bookshop**  
 60 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 3SA  
**lesbian, gay**  
**& feminist reading**  
 SEND SAE FOR CURRENT LISTS

### Waltham Forest festival

DISABLED LESBIANS group, Gemma, is participating in the Waltham Forest Festival for Racial Harmony on Saturday October 5 at the Theatre Complex, Lloyds Park, London SE7. With the assistance of East London GLF and CHE, the group will run a stall at the festival from 1pm.

A week later, on Sunday 12 October, Gemma will be meeting between 2—6pm at 48 Boundary Road, London NW8. If you need transport get in touch with Elsa, BM Box 5700, London WC1 6XX.

### Cut them up and laugh

GAY PEOPLE attacked a straight rock band at the London Film Co-op last Saturday. The band had unfortunately been asked to play as part of a benefit for a gay film festival in December. They had insulted us all evening, disrupted the film showings and prevented the gay performers from rehearsing.

A zany and inventive drag queen called Charlie Pig, whose act consisted of gutting a make believe dead rabbit and eating the innards was constantly heckled. He bravely shouted back, protesting that he had traipsed around west London all afternoon looking for a dead rabbit and if they didn't like it, they could fuck off. The straights won however and Charlie was driven off the stage.

In the fight which later developed, lesbian sisters were called cunts and wankers, and a gay man had his face blooded. The drag artist intervened and subsequently got into a row with the other gay people for his pains. The straights eventually left and attempted to apologise on their way out. This was met with abuse and derision from from the gays. The drag artist was the last to leave; good humoured and weary he gave us roses. All of us, including Charlie Pig, had survived another night of violence.

Charlie is planning future shows and among the dead creatures he will dissect for gay delight and amusement will be worms, rats and straight men.

### Come Together

THE PUBLICATION of *Come Together* — the years of gay liberation 1970–73 by Gay Men's Press is timely. It is almost 10 years since Aubrey Walter (who edits this compilation) and Bob Mellors called the first GLF meeting at the LSE.

In his introduction Aubrey recaptures the excitement of the early years, and describes the development of the paper that expressed it. The selection of pieces builds a picture of a movement which frankly recognised its differences:

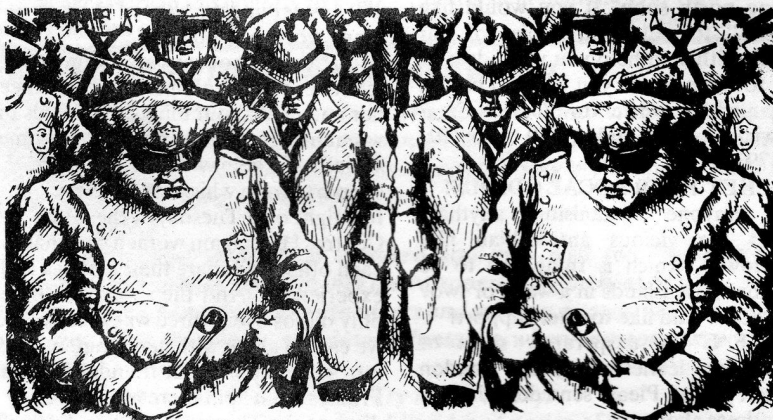
"We share the experiences of our gay brothers, but as women we have endured them differently." (CT 7)

Conflicts of ideas were openly expressed: "Revolution today is a state of mind" v. "To say that the revolution is in our heads would mean that the individual could be free in prison..." And contrary visions of revolution were vividly lived: "The meat market smells. Pull the flush in the cottage. Have a revolution in your life." (CT 6). Whereas Shirley Temple knew better: "to have just a head appear under a partition and chew your balls or four middle aged men grope and lick while you wank or a schoolboy's prick in your mouth or an old man's tongue up your bum." ("Shirley Temple Knows" CT 12)

Overriding the contradictions between us was our revelation that we were central to the revolution. This was delightfully expressed in "The Twilight World of the Heterosexual" (CT 12) but the divisions which eventually dispersed GLF led to a weakening of this confidence. The predominance of Gay Rights reformism has quietened and marginalised us. We have come apart. The political isolation is evident in the conclusion to Aubrey's intro. He projects GLF ideas into a gender free future where women are relieved of their fertility by the test tube and humans are de-sexed. (But I like being a man and I love men; I don't want male science to deprive me of that.) Far from gay liberation Aubrey's projection could well mean a final solution to the troublesome threat we as homosexuals pose to society.

Despite this nightmare, Aubrey's book is an important stimulus to our politics now. We cannot revive GLF, but we can come together and remake the "gay issue" into a central political question of the times. Read *Come Together* and give your will some optimism.

### Gays and the Police



COLLABORATION WITH the police is dangerous. Don't forget!

This was the overwhelming conclusion of the second meeting on gays and the police on Wednesday 17th September in London. The meeting recommended firstly that in the event of a gay murder enquiry any coverage in a gay paper should *not* be accompanied by the police phone number. The number given should be that of a Gay Switchboard and/or GLAD (Gay Legal Advice). A standard warning of the dangers involved in dealing with police investigations should also appear with any article.

All of the six groups represented agreed that they should collect evidence on the way in which the police have used gay murder investigations as an excuse to harass the gay community, with a view to

confronting the police with this evidence and making consequent demands on them, starting with the London Met.

Information on how to deal with the police needed a wider circulation, it was decided, not just *Gay News*, but the glossies like *Zipper* as well.

Unfortunately, although the first meeting had discussed the writing of a pamphlet on what lies behind police harassment and how to deal with it, many of the organisations represented had decided in the meantime that this was too ambitious a project. But there remains a crying need for such a document, and it has to appear soon.

The next meeting on relationships between gays and the police will be on 10th December, 7.30pm at the Prince Albert pub, Warfdale Rd, London N1.

## Blood Green

OTHER GAY theatre groups will have to carry the agitprop banner. *Gay Sweatshop*, "the one tiny area where the gay taxpayer can feel that s/he is represented in the state-subsidised arts" (according to their programme!) has staked all its Arts Council grant this year (and possibly its future existence), on one production, "Blood Green", which raises far more questions than it can possibly answer within the performance space.

It will be attacked for this, for failing to do what "Care and Control", "Mister X" and "Dear Love of Comrades" did so effectively. But "Blood Green", using a science-fiction fantasy setting with dramatic techniques to evoke mystery, comes closer, paradoxically, to the reality of our lives. It does this by carefully building on what the authors see of the present, so that the mystery, all of it, is taken from how we live now.

The difficulty is that the information necessary to convey to the audience the play's internal history is necessarily crowded into the writing, so that it becomes densely poetic, and unfortunately for those who like things simple, this demands of the audience the sort of concentration we are not used to exercising when watching gay theatre.

Louise, a woman with "no education, no special training", grew up "in Morecambe, in the fifties" and married Brian, a gay, end-of-the-pier matinee-idol. They are living in the top of a disused green-house which remains mysteriously warm in winter.

The time is the future, after a period of technological, medical, scientific advance with concurrent developments in the power-apparatus of our own patriarchal state, and an ecological disaster which has killed most of the population of Britain. Their outside world consists of a race of women reproducing parthenogenetically (without mating) and living in Jane, a large commune such as one finds



in Brixton, but this one is in what used to be Wales, and the men's state, Brit, somewhere in the Western Isles, where religion, medical science and militarism rule. Brit's "women" are made with scalpels and hormones from men who show signs of homosexuality or don't subscribe to military values. The other characters are Spider, a woman who has left Jane after bearing a male child, a priest-surgeon from Brit and a lesbian scientist, Robin Hansen, who developed parthenogenesis.

The potentially old-hat after-the-disaster scenario is defamiliarised by the mystery of the presentation and the special and real perspective which a gay company of women and men can develop. The range of themes examined through this perspective is wide, from the implications of genetic engineering and applied nuclear physics to transsexualism, lesbian-feminist separatism and the innate destructiveness of the patriarchal state.

If this puts you off, you can delight in so much from the dramatic traditions of Noël Coward, Shakespeare and the English bourgeois theatre (indeed the set, a greenhouse, could be seen as the ultimate in french windows), but the stranger who arrives is not tall and dark, indeed, the introduction of the outside world results in destruction, not an easy re-establishment of traditional values.

Whether "Blood Green" will be a popular touring show is in doubt, but the aim of fusing visual art sensibility with sexual-political awareness is ambitious and worth pursuing. It worked for me, more on the second view than on the first.

Wherever you are, go and see "Blood Green". It is much more than an avant-garde version of humanity through aphids eyes or vice-versa. Indeed "Blood Green" can be seen simultaneously in terms of the present and the future. It can also be seen at: Liverpool, Unity Theatre, October 3-6; Doncaster, 1st Aid Centre, 9-10; Nottingham, Lace Market Theatre, 11; Brighton, Mandela Hall, Sussex Univ, 16; Bath Univ, 17; Dublin, Grapevine Centre, 20-25; Coleraine Univ, 27; Ulster Poly, 29; Belfast Queen's Univ, 31.

For November dates see next issue.



## Noises getting louder

BARRING ACTS of God, eviction orders and thermo-nuclear war *Gay Noise* will grow to a stupendous 12 pages when issue six appears on October 22nd.

We can't promise good news, but at least there'll be more of it.



## Lesbian's the Word

IN LONDON the Gay's the Word lesbian group had its first meeting on Wednesday 10th September. About 17 women turned up for the first meeting, and it is hoped that more will hear about it and hurry along to the next one on 24th September.

The group is open to all lesbians, and is intended to bring women together to talk about their feelings and attitudes about being lesbians. The group hopes to discuss one particular topic each meeting, but start each session by just sitting round and talking to each other... as there are few places where women can meet and talk without feeling under pressure of some sort.

At the first meeting coming out was discussed at some length, some women feeling it to be a necessary political statement, others seeing it as much more

of a personal matter. Male violence and violence against gays reared its ugly head, most women agreeing that they would like to feel more competent when dealing with potential confrontations with would be rapists and queer-bashers. (Anyone interested in forming a Lesbian Defence Group?)

It's hard to say what form the group is going to take at this stage, and reluctant to categorise themselves the women involved think its best to keep it as an open, loose discussion group. Who knows what will happen?

The next meeting will be at Gay's the Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont Street, London WC1 (near Kings X), phone 01-278 7654, on 24th September, then every 2nd and fourth Wednesday.

## Letters

Dear Noisemakers,

I should like to reply to your editorial in *Gay Noise* 3. You criticise CHE for constantly striving to ignore fundamental conflicts and for shying away from action or analysis of the central divisions in our society. There are in fact many of us who are often frustrated by the inherent conservatism that tipifies a large democratically controlled organisation, with a membership comprising many who are only making the first steps towards coming out. Yet I believe you are wrong to suggest that CHE is only prepared to peck away at issues where there is a modicum of unity. Certainly the recent decision to report the changes at *Gay News* can in no way be attributed to a desire to shy away from major issues.

With reference to the recent Conference, you seem to believe that the restructuring of the constitution was a goal of the radical reformists. In actual fact, the radical reformists were seeking a major change in the aims and objectives of CHE, a change which in due course may result in constitutional changes. However, constitutions are of secondary importance compared with a redefinition of where CHE is going and how we see the development of the gay community. By contrast, the more conservative elements saw change only in terms of a structural re-organisation, and it is significant that it was the radical reformers who won the day.

It is also significant that the debate about the Gay Pride March was prevented by a procedural motion proposed by the more radical elements within CHE. While I believe that it would have been advantageous for a debate to have taken place, the motion was certainly presumptuous as it effectively called for a unilateral withdrawal of CHE from future Gay Pride Weeks, and on those grounds alone it was proper that the debate did not take place.

Let's have lots more noisemaking.

Roy Burns, Vice Chair, CHE

### London Gay Workshops

**1st Oct. Wednesday, Living Together**  
Bob Crossman, Pink Triangle Housing Co-op  
Action Space, 16 Chenies St, WC1. 8pm

**6th Oct. Monday, Lesbian Custody**  
Anna Neale, Wages Due Lesbians  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, WC1. 7.30pm

**14th Oct. Tuesday, Sex and Sexuality**  
Derek Cohen, Gay Left  
Arsenal Hall (Students Union) Goldsmiths  
College, Lewisham Way, New Cross, SE14.  
8pm

**21st Oct. Tuesday, Gays at Work**  
Bob Cant, NATFHE Gay Group  
Action Space (as above) 8pm

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

### Well, really Roy!

*What waffle. To be sure the Campaign for Homosexual Equality is inherently conservative, just as surely as it is shrinking. But we are led to ponder on many things... Is that thing called democracy the preserve of conservatives? Or is conservatism the preserve of democrats? And is bigness, largeness or massiveness more likely to be democratic or conservative or perhaps both? It is a puzzle.*

Dear Gay Noise,

As one of the "stupid" people who have been living in England and a long time I cannot understand how a homosexual "with nationalist sympathies" in the six counties can support an organisation which condones the military repression of the entire nationalist population.

"NIGRA is solely concerned with improving the lot of homosexuals in Northern Ireland (*Gay Noise* 3), while at the same time is "prepared to oppose the removal of the troops". Do they expect the British Army to protect the rights of homosexuals while ransacking their homes, shooting indiscriminately, subjecting them to verbal and physical abuse? According to NIGRA, military occupation is justified as a means of keeping Paisley out of power. Would they consider the oppression of black people necessary in this country to keep the fascists out of power?

*We do agree that it is significant that radical reformers choose to deal with the right-wing of your organisation on the issue of the Gay Pride March by a procedural motion preventing debate. Is the suppression of debate radical, reformist, conservative, democratic or large? It is a puzzle.*

*By the way Roy, what was it exactly that the radical reformers won on that day?*

Extending the 1967 Act, far from alleviating the oppression of gays in Ireland, would only increase the harassment of those under 21 as well as the number of prosecutions for importuning, gross indecency etc. The laws applying to homosexuality in both states of Ireland at present are part of Britain's colonial legacy from the last century. They are being challenged for the first time in the Southern state by David Norris in the Dublin High Court. This could result in a repeal of *all* anti-gay legislation. But opposition from the churches to any change in the law North or South has been strong and very much untied.

If NIGRA were to escape the Unionist trap, and unite with anti-clerics and anti-Imperialists throughout Ireland, they could achieve a much better deal than the 1967 Act.

Padraig O Flaitimh

### Sound mind means sound money

*TERRIBLE RUMOURS have been reaching me about violence against gay people in these islands. As the sheer number of incidents increases week by week; murders, arrests, beatings, I find myself losing my temper. I feel I must however issue a word of warning to you.*

*Keep calm!*

*If your friend or lover is attacked you may well feel like tracing the assailants and damaging them and their property. If you hear of a murder you may feel like getting together with others and making discreet attacks on public property. You may have murderous fantasies when someone you know is arrested.*

*My advice is this: Calm down! Try not to worry.*

*Now, I know you will not take a blind bit of notice of this so perhaps I can give you some financial discouragement. Every time you feel guilty about having knocked some queerbasher's teeth down his throat, as I am sure you will, just send me £5. That will alleviate the guilt feeling. Each time you smash the windows of an attacker's house, don't wallow in shame. Send Lotte £7.50. Whenever you make a strike against public property in revenge for a murdered sister or brother, don't panic! Pay for it. Send Lotte £20. Doing this will serve two purposes: it will relieve your guilt for not taking my advice and it will help Gay Noise expose your heinous doings.*

*Our last issue brought in several donations of £10 from guilty aggressors, as well as a conscience stricken £10 from a Gay Medics group in Scotland and a sorry £10 from St. Albans. Altogether we received a thoroughly repentant £77.60.*

*This is appalling and can mean one of two things. Either you are quite calm about the mounting attacks on you and yours or you are indeed bashing back and bottling up the guilt.*

*Don't! Just remember; our financial health can mean your clear conscience. Fight back if you must, but let the cash flow — to me.*

*Yours in blood and sterling.*

*Lotte Cash*

## Gay Rights in Northern Ireland

THE ARTICLE in *Gay Noise* 3 by the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association (NIGRA), criticised the London Gay Activists Alliance (LGAA) for not supporting the change of the law on male homosexuality in Northern Ireland. Evidently the article was written under a misapprehension: the LGAA in fact fully supports the demand of NIGRA on the British government to decriminalise homosexuality. We agree with NIGRA that not to do so would be to place some general strategy in opposition to the immediate interests of gay people in Northern Ireland. The legislation as it stands is an instrument used by the state in the six counties against gays, and we fully support demands — when they originate in Ireland — to get rid of that instrument.

The confusion over the LGAA's position on this doubtless arose from the discussion at the two meetings which we organised on the Strasbourg case in Gay Pride Week. At those meetings, the view criticised by the NIGRA article was in fact put very strongly by some comrades present. But this is not the LGAA's position. In fact, the LGAA and the GAA nationally have for some time been trying to organise a campaign of solidarity around the Strasbourg case that would put forward the demand for repeal of anti-gay legislation. We also helped to get the International Gay Association committed to a campaign in support of NIGRA.

We do, though, have differences with NIGRA over this issue. Firstly, we see the intense oppression of gays in the six counties as closely bound up with the imperialist domination of Ireland by Britain. It is quite true that the immediate problem for gays in the six counties is Paisley and Catholic morality. It was Paisley who organised the "Save Ulster from Sodomy" campaign, and who pressured the (all-too-compliant) Labour government into dropping reform of the law.

But the hold that Christian morality has, and the power of the Loyalist reaction in particular, was historically, *and still is*, underpinned by the British presence in Northern Ireland. The separate existence of the Northern Ireland quasi-state has only been possible as a Loyalist-dominated state, run on sectarian principles, and underpinned militarily by the British army. This is amply shown by the origins of partition. But it is equally evident in the last eleven years of British army occupation, during which time the Loyalist power has in no way been attacked but rather been preserved and reinforced. The British state has been unable to find any political solution but one resting on the reactionary social base it has itself created. There is no solution to sectarian and clerical domination, not even a liberal one, while Britain remains in the six counties. Nor do we agree with NIGRA that the withdrawal of troops would lead to the establishment of a Paisleyite state. Loyalist rule has never been viable without constant British backing, and it would not be in the future.

For this reason, we think that the campaign for decriminalisation should be made in the context of demanding British withdrawal. This is why we put forward the demand for the law change in the form "repeal all anti-gay laws", rather than proposing new legislation. (We are anyway opposed to new legislation incorporating an age of consent, such as that proposed by CHE.) We emphasise that we think that Britain has no business in Ireland. *Hands off Irish gays!*

London Gay Activists Alliance

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## Next issue musts!

THE *GAY NOISE* "What's On? Guide" is proud to announce the following meetings to prepare the next issue:

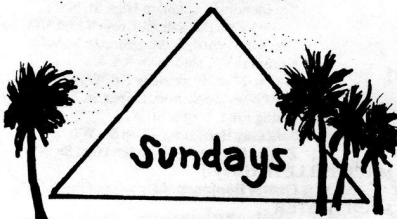
- 1 Oct, Wed: content, copy and business meeting at 2 Railton Road, London SE24 at 7.30pm.
- 4 Oct, Sat: final, final copy meeting at 2 Railton Road, London SE24 at midday.
- 7 Oct, Tues: paste up at 2 Railton Road, London SE24 at 9 am.
- 8 Oct, Wed: fold-up and distribution at 2 Railton Road, London SE24 at 7pm.

So as not to lull you all into a false sense of security, we have changed the final copy date to the Saturday prior to publication. All articles, photos, etc must reach us by that date; articles must be typed double spaced otherwise the type-setter will have a seizure.

## NEXT ISSUE OUT ON OCTOBER 9th.

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**Sundays**

Cafe opens for lunch 1.30pm  
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Production Workshop ●  
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● Contact Alphi or Martin Humphries for more information about these and other workshops.

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