

GAZETTE

15p

No 6 Thursday 23rd October 1980

149 RAILTON ROAD
LONDON S.E. 24

Our Lives Are Not For Taking!

THE SUBJECT OF nuclear Cruise missiles is enough to send all but the most optimistic into a severe and lasting depression. The prospect of their arrival (160 of them) in 1983 is bad enough. But, to add insult to injury, we have also had to endure the unlovely sound of governmental outpourings about civil defence, survival techniques, national security, and the need to protect 'our' values and 'our' way of life. It would be comforting to think that government ministers had taken complete leave of their senses and were in urgent need of a good rest. Sadly, that is not the case.

In the name of democracy and freedom, the state is preparing for nuclear war. The population of these islands is being insidiously softened up to accept that its way of life is seriously threatened, and that massive sacrifices may be needed to ensure its continuation. As with pay policies and welfare standards, the sacrifice is being demanded by those who will make no sacrifice at all.

The irony is that the consequences of fighting a nuclear war would be to negate the very objectives for which it was fought. The holocaust's survivors (if any) will not become citizens of a just, honest, and fearlessly democratic Nirvana. As the New Statesman recently revealed from government documents, the immediate post-holocaust prospect would be one of internment camps and execution squads for 'disgruntled minorities' (gay people, for example), the withholding of food supplies from urban refugees, and a health care system which would aid those with the least injuries and most chance, whilst leaving the rest to their own devices. (The United States government, generous to the last, is presently stockpiling opium so that those who will get no medical treatment can at least die with a smile on their face.) Democratic institutions would not get a look-in: we would be ruled by a military dictatorship and an industrial command economy that would make Stalin's Russia look like Butlin's.

The obscenity of the situation is further heightened

by the inane suggestion that there is a civil defence programme in operation. Willie Whitelaw genially tells us to rush out and buy a nuclear shelter, or, if we can't afford that, at least a copy of *Protect and Survive*. Shaken but determined citizens are pictured emerging from nuclear shelters after four weeks inside, just to show that it can be done. Sure it can be done when there is no nuclear strike – the only risk would be death through boredom. The real point is that there is *no* defence against nuclear attack. Those who were not killed, maimed, or fatally injured immediately would die of asphyxiation in those so-called shelters. Firestorms are a product of nuclear explosion, they would rage through attacked urban areas – those huddled in shelters would suffocate as the air was sucked from these sunken holiday homes.

The only survivors would be those with very deep, pre-stressed bunkers, as self-sufficient as submarines, equipped with oxygen supplies, air-filter systems, and large amounts of food. Country dwellers might fare better than those in the cities, but their shelters would still need sophisticated filter systems, and considerable food supplies. The pros and cons of different types of civil defence are not worth talking about. Only the very rich and the state have the necessary resources to survive unscathed, and those resources are clearly not for sharing.

This struggle for our survival is not just about Cruise missiles, though they have provided a focus for many campaigns. But Cruise does not represent a qualitatively different development. Tony Benn, interviewed in this month's *Spare Rib*, says that 'if the Americans have Cruise missiles here...' and can use them without government consent '... that is the abandonment of a democratic control over peace and war.' But there is no such democratic control anyway. Polaris and Trident are subject to no democratic control, neither are the armed forces, the police, nor the security services.

As gay people, we do not need vigorous exhortations

Recently in Rotherham

THE ROTHERHAM AREA Gay Group informs us of an attack that has been made on a gay woman in a local pub.

When she tried to protest, she was pushed down some steps, had her head banged against a wall and was then kicked several times.

The police were phoned and informed of this attack but refused to come to her aid, saying that she would have to go to the police station and lodge a formal complaint.

The woman is contacting NCCL to seek aid and advice.

Pharisees Phondle Phaggots

GUARDIANS OF our Judaeo-Christian moral tradition attending a talk by Mary Whitehouse on "The Subversion of the Family" at St. Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall on 15th October, were outraged by the presence of eight gay men who dared heckle the speaker.

The men shouted awkward questions from the floor, which so upset the straights in the audience that they jeered, shouted at, and at times physically attacked them. Half-way through these proceedings two men in the audience changed into full drag and slid up and down the pews, performing an occasionally erotic dance right in front of people's noses. The straights, since it did not fit into their world view, assumed it wasn't there, and continued shouting at the hecklers.

The vicar, once he realised that the gay men were not going to let themselves be intimidated by the increasingly alarming verbal and physical attacks, finally called in the police. To cries of "Here come the praetorian guard" and "Render unto Caesar, eh, Vic!" the moral miscreants were led out.

No doubt the police escort was provided to protect the gay men from the spirit of Sodom and Gomorrah that was moving in the irate hets who, in their righteous wrath would have ripped them limb from limb at the drop of a well chosen biblical quote.

OFFICIAL APOLOGY

GAY NOISE regrets deeply the number of articles in this and past issues about police oppression and violence against gays. We abhor such biased reporting and will ignore such depressing incidents in future.

Consequently standby for cookery columns and blank pages.

Women's Oppression & Imperialism Socialist/Feminist National Conference 1980 25 and 26 October



A full conference outline plus a resource list of useful films, books etc. and registration forms are available from *Socialist/Feminist Conference 1980*, c/o A Woman's Place, 48 William IV Street, London WC2.

★ Social Workers Reorganize ★

THE FIRST of a new series of regional meetings of gay social workers will take place at the National Friend Conference in Cardiff on Saturday 8th November, to plan the regeneration of the gay social workers' and probation officers' group. The meetings have been planned to coincide with conferences of gay people in social work. One of the first tasks of the group would be to look at the formation of a support network around the country to help combat the oppression of gay people and alleviate our isolation.

The group was originally formed in 1974 and was particularly active until 1978 and during that time members of the group succeeded in persuading three organisations to adopt pro-gay clauses in their constitutions. The group also offered a supportive base for isolated gay students and social workers and provided an educational resource for social work courses. More recently a growing number of letters have been received testifying to feelings of isolation and a fear for the future, from social workers and students alike, and these letters reflect the difficulty of coping outside large metropolitan areas. It was this disturbing trend that led several members of the group to call the forthcoming meetings.

Richard McCance, a spokesperson for the group said that all social workers in child care posts, especially those in

residential establishments, were particularly vulnerable. The decision in the John Saunders case and the recent pronouncements by Clwyd County Council not to recruit known gay social workers for child care posts could only add to this pressure. It was important to be able to respond to issues as they arose and where possible enlist the support of non-gay colleagues.

Following the Cardiff meeting will be a meeting in Birmingham on Saturday 15th November and there are plans afoot for further meetings in Nottingham and London in December.

"If you are unable to attend either of the meetings but would like to be informed or help in any way, please get in touch. Whether you are in the closet, half-out or fully out, together we will be stronger by sharing our experiences", said Richard.

The meetings will take place on Saturday 8th November, Friends Meeting House, Charles Street, Cardiff at 7pm (open to non-conference-goers) and on Saturday 15th November, Friends Meeting House, Dr. Johnson House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham 4.

Further information about the group and other meetings from Richard McCance, 78 Gordon Road, Harborne, Birmingham (s.a.e.), or phone him on 021-426 3500 x24 (day), 021-426 1020 (evenings).

Our Lives

(continued from front page)

to 'protest and survive' - we've been doing it for centuries. We have struggled and fought to get to this point; we have often deviously, and sometimes defiantly operated in this crazed and malicious world. Many of our gay brothers and sisters have died violent and premature deaths, others have had their lives ruined by queerbashers, families, the police, prisons, employers, and psychiatrists. We refuse to accept that suffering is our lot, and we refuse to accept that another threat to our survival, this time from the genocidal policies of our rulers, is unchallengeable and unbeatable.

As gay people, we demand:

1. Withdrawal from NATO and all military alliances.
2. A struggle for the dissolution of the Warsaw pact.
3. The dissolution of all British armed forces, and their replacement by people's defence groups, democratically controlled by their local communities.

We make these demands without compromise or apology. We demand them selfishly and defiantly because we want to live. We are not protesting or fighting for generations as yet unborn - it is our lives which are threatened - it is our lives. And we shall not give them up lightly.

Out of the Closets and Onto the Shelves

AN ISLINGTON LIBRARY user recently ran into difficulties when he asked his local library to order Tom O'Carroll's new book. The assistant became worried when he read the title on the request card and quickly disappeared. He returned a few minutes later to say that he was not sure whether *Paedophilia: The Radical Case* was the type of book appropriate for a public library to stock.

The Islington ratepayer threatened to complain to the Chief Librarian and, if that failed, to take his complaint to the Libraries Committee and the local councillors. Whereupon, the librarian agreed to order Tom O'Carroll's book.

Other readers might consider asking their libraries to order such books for libraries can help the discussion of paedophilia to reach a much wider public (not to mention those of us who cannot afford £14.95).

When arguing with your local librarian, it is worth remembering that libraries are accountable to their local authority's libraries or amenities committee, which consists of elected councillors who should be made aware of and responsive to their electorate's wishes.

Mama's Gone A-Hunting

SIREN THEATRE COMPANY are a Brighton-based feminist theatre group. They have recently performed their play, *Mama's Gone a-Hunting* in Brighton, Edinburgh and at the Oval House in London.

Mama's Gone a-Hunting is set sometime in the future in an intergalactic court where a case is being heard by an androgynous judge. "Woman" is petitioning for permission to leave "Man" on the planet Earth and to depart for an unspecified destination. The hearing of the case provides the format for the enactment of the evidence which consists of incidents drawn from the history of "Women" in "Man's" world. Although no judgement is made, the case is won resoundingly by "Woman". Each time the blustering and defensive man introduces a piece of evidence he merely succeeds to indict himself further.

The play is loosely based on Mary Daly's book *Gyn/ecology*. It has been written by the company themselves and is consolidated with many songs on guitar, piano and saxophone. It is fast-moving and acted well. While there are only three members in the company they are widely talented and give the impression of being a larger company than they actually are.

The only reservation about this play is that its focus is on the ways in which women have been silenced in men's society rather than on the strengths of women and the visions, ideals and plans of a women's society.

The group intends to continue touring the play although the only definite date so far is at the Women's Liberation Conference in Leeds, the weekend of 21-23 November (women only). Other venues are being arranged: watch out!

For bookings, please phone Brighton 682742.



Hello to Berlin

SCHWULER OKTOBER Berlin '80 is one of the biggest gay events of recent years. The festival started on 10th October and runs for two weeks.

The programme lists seventy-five events and nineteen different venues. There are workshops on writing, video and the cinema, exhibitions of paintings and photography and discussions for gay students, pupils and doctors. Entertainments include a symphony for bikes, violins and saxophone, cabarets and punk. They gay centre provides coffee and information about everything going on.

Milliners Moment

AT OLD STREET Magistrates Court on 8th October, two more defendants in *The Gay Pride March Trials*, one of London's longest-running shows, were able to demonstrate how to counter extreme provocation from the Metropolitan Constabulary.

No evidence was offered against Don Milligan on a threatening behaviour charge, and he was fined only £25 on a charge of obstruction. In as much time as it takes to drink a Gin and Tonic, the Bench found Julian Hows not guilty of assault. Although they claimed in their summing up to have listened carefully to the police evidence, their main concern during the trial was how to recreate the huge, theatrical hat, from under which the alleged assault was said to have emanated. Mr Hows produced a similar hat, and gave a thoughtful lecture to the Bench on the problems of this kind of craftsmanship.



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Paedophilia

Paedophilia: The Radical Case, by Tom O'Carroll. Peter Owen. £14.95.

Paedophilia and Public Morals, by CAPM. 95p (plus p&p) from CAPM, BM 1151, London WC1V 6XX.

Semiotext (E) Special: Loving Boys. 75p, *Gay's the Word* and other good bookshops.



Gay Noise welcomes these three publications. They are badly needed. In January the "Conspiracy to Corrupt Public Morals" trial begins at the Old Bailey and the sexual politics movements of this country will have to decide what attitude they are going to take. For it is certain that their enemies in the Whitehouse sexual purity league won't let them ignore it. We should remember that the Anita Bryant "Save Our Children" Campaign in America was nominally an anti-paedophile campaign. The publicity surrounding the trial will certainly provide material for anti-gay moves, and the question must be faced of how these attacks are defeated. The easiest response, the one used by the bulk of the US gay movement against Bryant, and one which will appeal to much of the gay movement in Britain, would be to give one loud scream of "we're not child molesters" and hope that our oppressors believe us. Or we could note that paedophiles aren't child molesters either and take up the fight. All three of these works suggest strong reasons not to accept the division in the struggle for sexual freedom which our enemies would like.


Tom O'Carroll calls his book 'a radical case'. It is a liberal case. He effectively demolishes the myths about paedophilia, trawls the journals of anthropology to show that not all children everywhere are treated as asexual as they are in western society. But nowhere does he attempt to explain the basis for the oppression of paedophiles except as a sort of left-over for Judaeo-Christian prejudice which will wither in the face of his reasoned account. He seems to think that the myth of children being asexual is due merely to misinformation, rather than seeing it as a myth deliberately used to control sexual behaviour as part of a wider social discipline. He finds no space to discuss similarities of experience and shared sources of oppression with women and other gays, and says nothing about the necessity of controlling children in a patriarchal society. This isolation from the ideas of the rest of the sexual politics movement might be accounted for in part by the hostility which paedophiles

have received from much of the gay and women's movements, but it is also rooted in the writer's own unexamined politics. This is most clear in his section on children's rights where he says: 'I must admit it - letting children do as they like makes me nervous. I'm scared of anarchv.' However we still owe our thank: to him, and PIE, for as he says, 'We felt that a big bang was necessary to get paedophilia on the agenda for public debate.' They have provided that bang.

The Campaign Against Public Morals (CAPM) pamphlet covers much of the areas ignored by O'Carroll. Written by a collective of paedophiles and other gay men, it gives a detailed account of the development of law on children's sexuality in Britain, and relates it to a theory of patriarchy in capitalist society. It argues that while children cannot be liberated until they are economically free from dependence on the family, their sexual relationships can still be an important source of freedom not otherwise available. 'This does not mean that they will be equal (an adult and child in a paedophile relationship). Paedophile relationships do however shift the balance of power surrounding the particular child and children in general, away from adults and in favour of children. The child actually has a choice in a relationship with a paedophile. That is subversive. That is why paedophiles are hounded by the press, imprisoned, and tortured by the medical and prison institutions.'

The semiotext 'Loving Boys' includes interviews with David Thorstad of the North American Man/Boy Love Association, Mark Moffat a 15 year old member of same, Kate Millett, and the text of a broadcast by Michel Foucault. Millett's contribution seems tinged with some of the new feminist puritanism **WHAT. As a feminist typesetter I object to such anti-feminist remarks. No evidence, no explanation, no qualification. Just feminists are puritans. Sounds like the Sun. What a typically MALE put-down. I am not a puritan. What I am fighting is male oppression. What a TOTALLY STRAIGHT attitude to label that as puritan. . . .**

The semiotext 'Loving Boys' includes interviews with David Thorstad of the North American Man/Boy Love Association, Mark Moffat a 15 year old member of same, Kate Millett, and the text of a broadcast by Michel Foucault. Millett's contribution seems tinged with some of the new feminist puritanism, or at least makes clear the danger of relying on groups like PIE to provide the argument for abolition of the age of consent: 'But what is our freedom fight about? Is it the liberation of children, or just having sex with them? I would like to see a broader movement involving young



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people who would be making decisions because it's their issue and their fight. Their's is the authentic voice.' Mark Moffat point out that relationships with adults can be important because things can be learnt and power borrowed. Restriction to sex with one's peers, particularly for gay children, means being cut off from any tradition of gay pride and self-assertion. David Thorstad gives the history of the NAMBLA and the confused state of sexual politics in America. He claims that many feminist groups have retreated from their radicalism. He points to the example of feminist groups in New Jersey which initially supported the lowering of the age of consent to 13, but subsequently allied with the puritan movement to have it raised again to 13.

The common weakness of all three of these works (though to a lesser extent the CAPM pamphlet) is first that they are mainly concerned with male relationships which accounts for much of the hostility of some feminists. There is an urgent need for women paedophiles and girls to write about their experience.

Second, there are few concrete proposals for ending the isolation of paedophiles from the rest of the gay community. But until paedophiles and children are accepted and supported by the gay movement then that movement concedes the argument of its oppressors. If the state has the right to control some people's sexuality, then it has the right to control anyone's.

And a final word from the typesetter...

I should think there might be a bit more hostility caused by your attitude. . . . I have not seen - here or anywhere else - any refutation of the feminist argument against paedophilia. Just put-downs. I have not even seen a statement of what the feminist argument is - just that feminists are puritans and hostile. Seems like they're not the only ones that are hostile.





EDITORIAL

THE PAST TWO weeks have shown the true face of the Tory Party, long hidden behind a smug face of compassion.

That well-ordered, sternly disciplined annual charade, the Conservative Party conference, took place in Brighton. While Government Ministers gave stern assurances of worse to come to the well-fed, well-heeled parasites clustered round the rostrum, hundreds of police were needed to control the demonstration of "Right to Work" marchers who merely by their presence illustrated the obscenity of Tory policies.

The meeting with the TUC last week showed us that this government's contempt for organised labour is total. They are clearly satisfied with the prospect of three million people unemployed.

Their latest proposals to effectively cut Social Security and Sickness Benefit by 5% by not increasing them in line with inflation, and to remove the exemptions from prescription charges for pensioners, show the lengths to which they are prepared to go. And yet correspondence continues to be sent to *Gay Noise*, asking people to take seriously the notion of a Gay Conservative Group.

Our attitude to this is straightforward: gay people are faced with three choices. Firstly descent into fascism by allowing the present government its head. Allowing it to destroy the Trade Union and Labour Movement, to re-inforce patriarchal institutions – you know, the family, marriage and Mary Whitehouse; and to suppress dissent.

Or secondly, the continually inadequate attempts of social democracy to Pollyfilla the cracks in the system. A likely scenario would be a siege economy, increasing bureaucracy, and the undermining of the Trades Unions and Labour Movement, through its steady incorporation into the state machine. In both these gay people will have no choice.

The third choice is the total abandonment of years of Folly. We can struggle for a real liberation in which the control of resources and decisions are in the hands of all people. Only in this kind of society can the relationship between sexuality, social organisation and methods of production be fully explored and understood. This would provide an atmosphere in which we would not be constrained by heterosexual values, assumptions and static models of sexuality; rather we would be free to determine our own lives.

Fuck the Folly and make the choice.

The Reality of 'Reform'

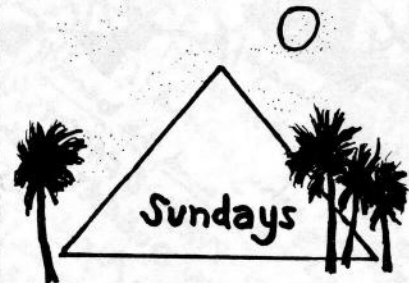
Lord Mackay, Lord Advocate, has stated that the new Clause 1 (Homosexual Offences) of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, allows him less discretion than he previously had. This is because it sets a specific age (twenty-one) for consensual homosexual male sex, and therefore he can no longer ignore certain cases on the grounds that they only involve adults (age unspecified). It is thus not surprising that SHRG never campaigned in support of this law

This statement was made on 17th October when a delegation of four SHRG members visited him in response to the spate of anti-gay letters in local newspapers throughout Scotland. Several other points concerning the future operation of the Law of Scotland emerged at that meeting. In response to

a question from Willie Waugh (sixteen year old youth group convenor) Lord Mackay said that he would not say that he would prosecute him, or others of his age, for having sex, but rather would merely remind him of the new law. He also made an assurance that it was lawful for gay teenagers to meet in the Gay Centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Gay News recently ran an inaccurate headline saying "MPs pass orgy law" Apart from giving the Lord Advocate his largest ever mail-bag (largely composed of anti-gay letters), this has even more damagingly encouraged a peer to move an amendment to write the English definition of 'in private' into the Bill. While we may not have wanted this Bill, if we must have it there seems little point in encouraging them to make it even worse.

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Manchester's

Odeus Difficulties

DURING THE first two weekends of this month about twenty people picketed performances of the film *Cruising* in Manchester. Manchester Gay Activists Alliance, who organised the picket, report that the response from those in the queue was generally positive. This picket, like the ones in London, involved the distribution of a leaflet which explains why gay people are protesting about this film. Some of those who read the leaflet in the queue decided not to see the film, while others expressed agreement with the leaflet after they came out of the film. The Odeus management were asked to advertise the Gay Centre phone number, but not surprisingly they refused. No doubt they were too busy worrying about the financial difficulties the Odeus are at present facing, and perhaps felt that such a gesture might lead to their being the first Odeus to be closed.

Tape-Slide Kit on Violence

ARE GAYS who cottage and cruise asking to be beaten up? Is coming out a good way of escaping blackmail? Should gay vigilante groups patrol Holland Walk?

Attacks on Gay People is a new tape slide show designed to promote the discussion of these and related topics. It is not an entertainment, but a prosaic and horrifying look at part of our lives and the way in which they may all too easily be ended.

CHE's Discrimination Commission have produced this topical and important kit and now need advice on how to present and use it. There will be a special showing, followed by a discussion on Sunday, 2nd November at Theatrespace, 48 King William IV St., London, WC1. If you have relevant experience or ideas, come and contribute.

Tickets are £1.50, with the proceeds going to further the work of the Discrimination Commission.



Solidarity for the defendants in the PIE trial

THE PIE TRIAL has got nothing to do with morality. The prevailing morality of a society merely reflects the interests of those in power – in this case patriarchal capitalists who need to maintain control over the potentially devastating forces of the individual and collective libido in order to secure and feed their system. The trial is a politically motivated attack designed to subvert the possibility of democratic debate on paedophilia and to reinforce the power already vested in the institutions of state, the medical profession and the family to control and determine the quality of life of children.

The strategy should already be familiar to gays and women: e.g. their education, their religion and their law, backed by their media were used to try and convince us that they were right to tell us abortion was wrong. They tried to mystify and divide us with 'apolitical' moral dilemmas, while naturally avoiding the real reasons for claiming control over women's bodies and lives. It was through the combined organisation and resistance of the Left as a whole (apart from certain sectarians) that the totally *political* Abortion amendment bill was defeated and the gains of the women's movement, as far as abortion is concerned, secured – even if only in fragile parliamentary terms which still leave much to be desired. The same agencies of power use the same phoney moralising and emotive terms to justify their 'protection' of children and their control of the sexuality of those adults who, as paedophiles, challenge the present determinants of sexual relations

and power relations. It is entirely within the logic of this 'protective' approach that half the people involved in paedophile relations should not be deemed responsible enough to merit consultation on the matter – even if they were. how many kids would understand such obscurantist adult terms as 'paedophilia'? It is also clearly to the advantage of our oppressors that paedophilia should be confused by many people with homosexuality and with the violent sexual abuse of children. The trial is a perfect opportunity to exploit the darkest fears of 'liberal' parents and to justify the repressive physical and mental violence of authoritarian parents. If the defendants are convicted, the implications for gay men will be far-reaching: a general re-animation of the myth that homosexuals are corrupters of youth; a setback in the struggle to reduce or abolish the age of consent; increased difficulty in being 'out' in any work involving youth etc. For gay women it could result in increased hostility from the courts and public opinion in lesbian custody cases.

Many gay men will be unwilling to associate themselves with 'child-molesters' in the same way that they were unwilling to support those arrested on the Gay Pride march. It is important to produce information explaining the parallels and links between gay oppression and paedophile oppression and to distribute this as widely as possible. The complacency of the 'respectable', misogynist, anti-radical gays must be confronted, rather than

neglected or dismissed as it has been. In the present threatening political climate, neither they nor we can afford to remain alienated from each other.

Many women, whether gay or not, may see paedophilia as an aspect of oppressive male sexuality which they feel they cannot defend, a variation on the adult male exploitation of people not in a position to perceive and state freely the terms of their sexuality. However there are overwhelming similarities between the oppression of women and the oppression of children and young people. The actual defendants in the PIE trial are adult males, but obviously the freedom of all children and young people is implicitly on trial at the same time.

It is extremely unlikely that the labour movement could be mobilised at this stage in support of those charged with conspiracy to corrupt public morals, let alone in support of open debate on paedophilia. But the organised revolutionary Left has in the past shown a willingness to tackle the paedophilia issue, and it should not be allowed to overlook this – despite their present tendency to neglect issues specifically concerning the sexual minorities. We must not permit the issue or the trial to be isolated from a context with which non-paedophile radicals can readily identify. The trial must be recognised by the Left as an attempt to obscure and undermine, at least implicitly, the effectiveness of the struggle for sexual liberation in general, with far-reaching consequences for the revolutionary Left as a whole.

Letters

Dear *Gay Noise*,

I think you were absolutely right to issue a call (*Gay Noise* 4) for the defence of our organisations, clubs, pubs and gay centres and to link that call with the general attack being made on working women and men's living standards by the State in response to Tory Government demands. The links are very important: autonomy for ourselves does not mean individualism or a turning of our backs on the general attacks we now suffer – irrespective of the fact that we're gay.

Defending gay centres is proving difficult in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In Glasgow, the new licensed club owned by SHRG has naturally depleted visitors to Glasgow Gay Centre and a question must hang over its future. The Edinburgh Gay Centre was almost paralysed recently by a small group of men who were determined to instal a regime based on lies, sexist insults (to other gay men and – worse – to lesbian visitors) and the insecurity that they inevitably produce. In circumstances like these it is extraordinarily difficult to overcome problems because people have just walked away to less hostile environments: and all gay people in town suffer.

These internal problems are merely a reflection of the external pressures we are all confronting. In Scotland, we have not been helped by *Gay News*' stupid "MPs Pass Orgy Law" headline which, in itself untrue, has helped feed a vicious gay-baiting campaign by Parents' Concern, Ardrossan. There is a desperate need for gay-positive men and women to work quite closely together, to stay with the gay centres and turn them outwards to the population at large.

Ian Dunn
Edinburgh

Oh Dear . . .

Contrary to *Gay Noise*'s sound (and free) advice in issue 3 about consorting with Chief Constables, 'leaders' of Leicester gay community recently had a meeting with the city's Assistant Chief Constable.

Bernard Greaves and others concluded that they were reassured by some things, but remain concerned that the police are overstepping their powers in making cottage arrests through acts of provocation, which they see as 'a serious obstacle to good relations between members of the gay community and the police.'

Quite so. Along with all those other obstacles like the police force's duty to enforce discriminatory laws against gay people, and their job as defenders of a state whose institutions and values daily oppress us.

Come come, Leicester!

Dear *Gay Noise*,

One of the marks of oppression observable today is the occasional lapse into silliness on the part of those attempting to fight sexual and sex-role stereotypes.

Thus in a generally sensible and thoughtful publication like *Gay Noise* we find the following: "We must challenge the predominantly heterosexual basis of CND's perspectives – 'It is not just for us that we protest but for our children and their children'."

Surely it is a good thing, a mark of the innate altruism of the human race, that an appeal to save the next generation, or to make life better for today's children, is often more powerful than the simple desire to save our own skins.

This of course has a lot to do with people's fondness for their own kids – but there's also concern for kids in general. Lots of straight people don't have their own children, and a considerable proportion (probably a majority) of gays do have children. All of us know some kids, and this serves to concretise it all and bring it out of the sphere of abstract concern for the future of the race.

So surely, there is nothing hetero about CND's appeal – unless the gay community really wants to turn its back on all the good and tender feelings that people have for children. Your (unsigned) piece seems like a rather mechanical and hasty attempt to find the 'gay angle' on CND. If you must have an angle, find another one, and if you can't drop it. It does you no credit.

Rachel Lever,
London

Dear *Gay Noise*

The significance of your lead story on the Leeds *Beyond the Fragments* conference (*Gay Noise* 3) has just sunk in. In some ways it is a crushing indictment of ten years of sincere, hard work by gay socialists to find acceptance within the left. At a conference of people who have, from the start, extended a liberal tolerance to gays, at the first opportunity, gays are excluded from a public statement as being 'too controversial'.

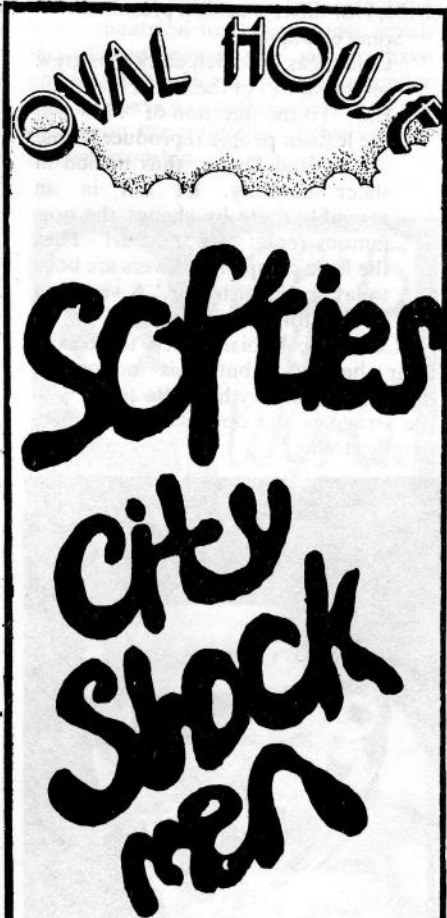
We have now had ten years of trying to find our place within socialism. Everywhere we have been rejected. It is time to think again.

It is not a question of socialism first, gays second. It is not a matter of trying to fit ourselves into a pre-existing body of theory. We must look at our own lives and our own history. We must understand the natural function of gayness in the world. From this beginning we can hope to make a new politics.

Certainly this will involve revolution and change – it could hardly be otherwise in a world that is falling apart at the seams. But I think our gay politics will be rather different from those envisaged by a straight-laced Victorian thinker named Marx.

We must understand the natural function of gayness. From this all else will follow

In brotherhood,
Bob Mellors
London



City-Shock-Men: Gays observing men who are touching, who make you smile, who make you lasciviously melt away, who make you vomit because they have surrounded themselves with symbols and have nothing to say to each other. Presented through a combination of acting, rock and tango music, poetry, slide projection and lighting.

October 22 – 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets
£1.50 + 50p Theatre Membership.

Telephone 735 2786
54 Kennington Oval,
London SE11

Lesbian Peoples

LESBIAN PEOPLES by Monique Wittig and Sande Zeig. Published by Virago in November 1980.

Lesbian Peoples may seem a rather strange book at first glance, a second glance confirms this. In fact, this book might be said to make non-sense.

Material for a Dictionary is the rather bold sub-title, and the prose rapidly dissolves into a pseudo-classical re-write of herstory. A degree in Greek would be an asset in reading this book but for us poor mortals fresh from the local secondary modern who need a dictionary to help us spell cunnilingus, the book is very disappointing. Different strokes for different folks, presumably.

Some examples:

Chickpeas: 'Golden chickpeas grew on the shores of the sea.' Hmm.

Ear: 'To the question of "How will the lesbian people reproduce?" one of the Red Dykes, thus named in sheer modesty, let out in an assembly quite by chance the now famous reply: "By the Ear!" Thus the little companion lovers are born today from ear to ear.' A variation on the stork story?

Certainly, lesbians need to reclaim their herstory, but this notion of matriarchal fantasy has little to do with the struggles and oppression of lesbian peoples today.



Friends of the Hets

HAVING HAD it pointed out to us by an angry reader from London that Friends of the Earth (FoE) were producing a badge saying 'Nuclear Power—Up Uranium', the *Gay Noise* collective took it upon themselves to bring the power of the press to bear upon those responsible.

We telephoned FoE to issue objections and veiled threats, only to hear them deny responsibility for creation of the slogan. 'It must have been some little group using our resources and distribution facilities. Anyway, we've stopped producing it now', they explained. But if it was a little group producing it, then how...? Never mind.

The point we made is that there is nothing unpleasant, silly, funny, or nuclear about stuffing things up your arse, and that it is offensive and anti-gay to suggest that there is.

And finally, reliable sources have informed us that Friends of the Earth central office (9 Poland St., London W1. 01-434 1684) was *entirely* responsible for the creation, production, and distribution of that badge, and that their denials were a little less than comradely and honest. If any more people complain, they'll soon be saying they never even heard of the slogan.

And what's more, Central Books, the CP bookshop, ought to know better than to sell them.

Demonstration Against Repression

The first meeting of a Joint Committee to plan a demonstration against gay repression has been provisionally arranged for the weekend of 29th/30th November at Lancaster.

See future issues of *Gay Noise* for more details.

LONDON GAY WORKSHOPS

30th Oct. Thursday, **Gays and the Law**
Barry Prothero, NCCL

Room IF, Central London Poly,
SU Building, 104 Bolsover St, W1.
8pm

4th Nov. Tuesday, **Abortion**
Jan Parker, NAC

Arsenal Hall (SU) Goldsmiths College,
Lewisham Way, New Cross, SE14
8pm

12 Nov. Wednesday, **Prostitution**
British Collective of Prostitutes
Action Space, 16 Chenies St., WC1
8pm

17th Nov. Monday, **Gays and the Left**
Gay Left, CP, IMG, SWP
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1
7.30pm

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

Soggies

"SOFTIES are boys who aren't really gay but are interested in gays because, for example, they lost their women friends through feminism or lesbianism or they think that gay men are so much more interesting than women. There are a few softies in the company. It's one of the things which keeps the group together; men beyond reach are valued higher than a comparable gesture from someone who is gay anyway."

Apologies, dear reader, for subjecting you to such absolute drivel. After reading the whole of their publicity I really feel quite sick. However, the show they do might well belie the rather self-oppressed image they project: after all they are from "liberated" Amsterdam. Having seen their show which is beautiful, musical and a joy to watch technically, I can only look forward to their appearances at the Oval House. London (dates are advertised in this issue), where they will be performing in English. I look forward with relish to the possibility of throwing rotten fruit at them for foisting straight men who "are not afraid of having gay friends" onto a pedestal which ill befits them.

The three gay stage performers are a

beauty to behold. However, dressed in leotards and jockstraps (worn outside their tights) they look sexy there can be no doubt. They move, sing and act beautifully, there can be no doubt. Their message, however, is full of doubt. Bored with exploring the very real oppression of gay men in Amsterdam (Toy-town of the gay world), they invite you to "break down the frontiers between gays and real men, and "Softies" are the opening to the fact that all men are targets of our sexual attention: Eyefucking games in the tram or subway, the appetising newspaper boys or wink of a smart looking postman. "We don't want to avoid looking them in the eyes when we pass them by in the streets." Does this mean all newspaperboys and postmen (who of course in Amsterdam are all liberated straights) and indeed all straight men should be treated as sex objects? This show tells us we should flirt with straights to gain their respect—nothing new really, haven't we been doing that since clowning was discovered?

All quotes from Softies programme notes.

CHE London Groups Winter Fair

The co-ordination of this years Winter Fair has been undertaken by members of the Haringey-Islington group under the guidance of the convenor, Simon Vaughan. After much rushing around checking out various venues in central London, the Porchester Hall — more noted for its Drag Balls than as a CHE venue — was chosen. So on Saturday 31st January, 1981 large influxes of gays are expected to invade Bayswater.

Most of the committee members are new to CHE — but what they lack in experience — we are told — will be made up by their enthusiasm.

As usual the fair will take place in the afternoon along with, says CHE, "films

and plays, and the day will reach its climax in the evening at the disco". Will this "climax" have anything to do with the porn mags which are, tongue-in-cheek, sold every year?

Arrangements are well in hand and all local CHE groups and some other interested organisations have been contacted requesting their support and ideas. Any non-affiliated group or organisation wishing to help CHE in it's fund raising efforts should contact Natasha Stracey, 11 Webster House, Boleyn Road, London N16 as soon as possible.

★ Lotte Cash's Fighting Fund ★



When going for a job, one is advised to make one's personal appearance as acceptable as possible. One expects in return to see that one's conditions of work will also be of a high standard. As you can see, in the picture of me hard at work in the *Gay Noise* office I am extremely respectably turned out, but my surroundings are nothing short of shabby.

Now, if I can keep up appearances personally, so necessary for the kind of work I have to do, then the office must also surely be a decent one.

As it stands, or rather leans, the filing system, photographic archive, safe, card index, accounts and my desk are all contained in the kitchen cabinet you see me sitting at. The prominence of the brush merely highlights our lack of a vacuum cleaner.

You have to go all the way downstairs, outside, past the lavatory and into a disused garage which houses a hen and a rabbit just to get a drop of water for the kettle — which isn't even electric. And as for the wallpaper — well, I ask you, is that a fit background for such a portrait? All I can say is that if the gay movement is going to move into the '80s with any effect its furniture and its decor must move out of the '50s.

Meanwhile I and my staff continue to work with our busy pens powerful ideas and ready enthusiasm, in the middle of a world depression surrounded by '50s wallpaper for no money. It's enough to give you a turn. (Thank God that Lotte at least is not for turning.)

Can it continue, you may ask.

No, of course not. Without much more financial support than many of you have so far managed, our enthusiasm will wane, our pens wilt and our ideas will go unuttered. The depression will stay and so will the wallpaper. We can and will strip it.

Last issue's postbag was an improvement. It included several personal donations of £10 and £20 and £25 from Gay Liberation Information Service. Altogether £120. Good but hardly riveting.

Remember if we want real power we need real money.

Yours, really

Lotte Cash

Gay Noise Sells Out!

"We have no intention of seeking an advertising revenue." *Gay Noise*, No. 2.

It would seem that *Gay Noise*, unprincipled and scurrilous rag that it is, has quietly and shamelessly done a U-turn. In Issue No. 6 we read: "We have every intention of increasing our advertising revenue! Like a Rolls or a race-horse, a radical paper costs money to run. Most papers of the revolutionary left in these islands are only able to keep going by owning their own print-shops and taking in work from outside. *Gay Noise* is not in this position. (Yet.) To help us meet costs the more advertisements we can carry, the better, provided that they are non-sexist, and come from organisations we approve of. We are more anxious to hear from gay bookshops in Bolton or Belfast than gay boarding-houses in Bermuda, from gay drama-groups in Dundee or Dagenham than gay hamburger-joints in Hampstead.

Advertisements should be sent to *Gay Noise*, 149 Railton Rd, London SE24, must not be more than one-column wide, and will be charged at £20 a full column, £10 a half column, and £5 a quarter column. Advertisers submitting an advertisement larger than column-width will be charged the cost of reduction.

★★★

Seven Gays a Week

IN A loyal and earnest response to Thatcherian calls for harder work and less profligacy, the London *Gay's the Word* bookshop has announced that it will soon be opening seven days a week. From November 1st the shop at 66 Marchmont St., WC1 will be open from 10-7 Mon-Sat, and 12-6 on Sundays.

Rumours that the bookshop staff have recently been unionised are believed to be true.

★★★

Number 7 Do's and Dont's

- 29 Oct First copy meeting and discussion of previous issue 7.30pm
- 1 Nov Final copy meeting 10am
- 4 Nov Paste-up 9am
- 5 Nov London distribution and fold-up meeting 6.30pm

Erratic as ever, we have decided to add an extra copy meeting to the weekly schedule. This is also so that there can be more time to discuss the previous issue. Ring 01-272 5628 for meeting details.

NEXT ISSUE OUT ON
THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER

LISTINGS

Aberdeen Trades' Union Gay Rights Group, c/o Boomtown Books, 167 Kings St., Aberdeen AB2 3AE.
 Anti-Apartheid, 89 Charlotte St., London W1.
 Anti-Nazi League, PO Box 353, London NW5.
 A Woman's Place, William IV St., London WC1.
 Brothers and Sisters, Deaf Gay Group, 11 Hawthorn Ave., Rainham, Essex.
 Campaign Against Public Morals, Box BM 1151, London WC1V 6XX.
 Campaign for Homosexual Equality, 42a Formosa St., London W10.
 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 29 Gt. James' St., London WC1. 01-242 0363
 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. 01-857 3793
 Gay's Against the Film "Cruising" (GAF"C"), 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9. 01-857 3793
 Gay Sweatshop, 5 Leonard St., London EC2. 01-250 1762
 Gay's the 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.
 GLAD, Gay Legal Advice 01-262 2892, 7-12 nightly.
 Icebreakers, BM/GAYLIB, London WC1V 6XX.
 01-274 9590 7.30-10.30 nightly.
 International Gay Association, Hirschfield Centre, 10 Fownes St., Dublin 2. 70-08-95

International Marxist Group, 328/9 Upper St., London N1.
 Lesbian Line, BM 1514, London WC1V 6XX.
 01-837 8602. Mon & Fri 2-10pm, Tues-Thurs 7-10pm
 London Friend, 274 Upper Street, London N1.
 01-359 7371, 7.30-10 nightly.
 Lothian 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
 National Gay Federation, 10 Fownes St., Upper, Dublin 2. 71-09-39
 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
 Release, legal & medical emergency service 24hrs. 01-289 1123
 Revolution Youth, 328 Upper St., London N1.
 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
 South London Women Against Imperialism, 71 Saltown Rd., SW2.
 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
 Boomtown Books, 167 King St

ABERYSTWYTH
 Whole Food Shop, Princess St

AYLESBURY
 Tantadlin, 53 High St

BATH
 1985 Longacre Hall, London Rd

BELFAST
 Just Books, 7 Winetavern St
 Gardners, Queen St

BIRMINGHAM
 Peace Centre, 18 Moor St, Queensway, 3
 Prometheus, Alcester Rd, Moseley, 13

BLACKBURN
 Amamus, 2 Barton St

BRIGHTON
 Public House, 21 Little Preston St

BRADFORD
 Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate

BRISTOL
 Full marks Bookshop, 110 Cheltenham Rd

CAMBRIDGE
 Grapevine, 41 Fitzroy St

CARDIFF
 Community Bookshop, 108 Salisbury Rd

COVENTRY
 Wedge Bookshop, High St

DERRY CITY
 Bookworm, Bishop St

DUBLIN
 Books Upstairs, South King St

DUNDEE
 Logos Bookshop, 251 Hawkhill

DURHAM
 Community Co-op Bookshop, 14 Railway St,
 New Elvet

EDINBURGH
 Open Gaze, 60 Broughton St
 First of May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row

EXETER
 I.C.E., 3 Palace Gate

HASTINGS
 Grapevine, 24 High St

HUDDERSFIELD
 Peacework, 54 Wakefield Rd

HULL
 John Sheredans, 19 Anlaby Rd
 Bofs Bookshop, Princess Ave

LANCASTER
 Single Step, 78a Penny St.

LEAMINGTON SPA
 The Other Branch, 42 Bath St

LEEDS
 Corner Bookshop, Woodhouse Lane

LEICESTER
 Blackthorn, 74 Highcross St

LIVERPOOL
 News from Nowhere, 100 Whitechapel Rd

LONDON
 Adelaide Bookshop, 14 Cecil Court, WC2
 Balham Book & Food Coop, 2-16 Culmore Cres., SW12
 Bookmarks, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, N4
 Booksplus, Lewisham Way, SE14
 Bread and Roses, Upper St, N1
 Central Books, Grays Inn Rd, WC1
 Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8
 Colletts, Charing Cross 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
 Kilburn Bookshop, Kilburn High Road, NW6
 Man to Man, Pembroke Rd, W11
 The Other Bookshop, Upper St, N1
 Rising Free, Upper St, N1
 Stud Gay Bookshop, Frith St, W1
 Zipper Bookstore, Camden High St, NW1

MACHYNLETH (Powys)
 Quarry Bookshop, Llyngwern Quarry

MANCHESTER
 Grass Roots, Newton St

MILTON KEYNES
 Oakleaf, 109 Churell St, Wolverton

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
 Days of Hope, Westgate Hill

NORWICH
 Freewheel, 56 Benedicts Rd

NOTTINGHAM
 Mushroom, Heathcote St

OXFORD
 E.O.A. Books, 34a Cowley Rd, Cowley

PRESTON
 Fly-In-Amber, Fishergate Hill

READING
 Acorn Books, The Emporium, Merchants
 Place (off Friar St)

ST AUSTELL
 Goodness Gracious, Globe Yard

SUNDERLAND
 Bakery Bookshop, 27 Stockton Rd

SWANSEA
 Focus, 10 Benham Place, St Thomas

TODMORDEN
 Great Bear Trading Company, 23 Water St

YORK
 Community Bookshop, Walmgate

Gay Switchboards

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

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ADDRESS _____

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 Six issues (£2.00 including postage & packing)
 Twelve issues (£4.00 including postage & packing)
 Twenty-four issues (£6.00 including postage & packing)
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Signed _____ Date _____

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