

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 Farnham St., London W10.
 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 29 Gt. James' St., London WC1.
 Charter 88, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.
 Communist Party, 16 St John St., London EC1.
 Employment Protection Appeal, 60 Broughton St., Edinburgh.
 Gay Activists Alliance, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1.
 Gay Humanist Group, 45 Telford Ave., London SW2 4XL.
 Gay Left, 38 Chalcut Rd., London NW1.
 Gay Men's Press, 27 Priory Ave., London NR.
 Gay News Ltd., 1a Normand Gardens, Greyhound Rd., London W14.
 Gay Post Office Workers Group, BM GAYPO, London WC1V 6XX.
 Gay Pride Defence Committee, 42a Farnham St., London W9.
 Gay Rights At Work, 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9.
 Gay's Against the Film "Cruising" (GAP/C), 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9.
 Gay Sweatshop, 5 Leonard St., London EC2.
 Gay's the Word, 66 Marchmont St., London WC1.
 Gay Youth Movement, c/o 18, Moor St., Birmingham 4.
 Gemma, Disabled Lesbians, BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.
 Gay Workers In Print (GayWIP), 37 Perkins House, Wallwood Rd., London E14.
 GLAD, Gay Legal Advice, 101-262 3892, 7-12 nightly.
 Icebreakers, BM/GAYLB, London WC1V 6XX.
 International Gay Association, Hirschfeld Centre, 10 Fowles St., Dublin 2.

International Marxist Group, 328/9 Upper St., London N1.
 LesbianLine, 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.
 London Gay Teachers Group, c/o Peter Bradley, 112 Broxholm Rd., London SE7.
 01-670 4798
 Louthian Trades' Union Gay Rights Group, 60 Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1 3SA.
 Manchester Direct Action Movement, 164/166 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester.
 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 Fowles St., Upper, Dublin 2.
 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 62, 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

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 BRISTOL Full marks Bookshop, 110 Cheltenham Rd
 CAMBRIDGE Grapevine, 41 Fitzroy St
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 DERRY CITY Wedge Bookshop, High St
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 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
 Edinburgh
 EXETER I.C.E., 3 Palace Gate
 HUDDERSFIELD Peacework, 54 Wakefield Rd
 John Sheredans, 19 Anlaby Rd
 LANCASTER Single Step, 78a Penny St
 LEAMINGTON OYS SPA
 LEEDS The Other Branch, 42 Bath St
 LEICESTER Corner Bookshop, Woodhouse Lane
 Blackthorn, 74 Highcross St
 LIVERPOOL News from Nowhere, 100 Whitechapel Rd
 Adelaide Bookshop, 14 Cecil Court, WC2
 Balham Book & Food Coop, 2-16 Culmore Cres, SW12
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LONDON WC1N 3XX

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When is a killer not a murderer?

Answer: when he's in the Special Air Service, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Ulster Defence Regiment or the British Army. The members of these forces kill, torture, maim and brutalise every day of the week in the North of Ireland. They murder, with or without uniforms according to rules laid down in the Queen's Regulations. They kill and maim in the pursuit of their wage-packets and the political objectives of the British State. They torture in order to maintain the hold of the British State on the economy, life and culture of the Irish people. They take people's lives for political reasons: they are political killers.



Saturday 22nd November: in Dublin, twenty thousand march in support of the Armagh and H-Block hunger strikers.

The Irish Republican Army and the Irish National Liberation Army also kill for political reasons. They kill to liberate a land disfigured and brutalised by a foreign power, a foreign power that has dominated their country for centuries, plundering its agricultural wealth, allowing millions to starve to death while exporting the sufficiency of food that existed in the country, and driving millions again, generation after generation, to seek work in the industrial cities of England, Scotland and North America.

Now, it is as plain as the nose on Margaret Thatchers face that the Republican prisoners in Armagh Women's Gaol and the H-Blocks of Long Kesh are there because of alleged acts of violence in the pursuit of political

ends. The women in Armagh and the men in the concentration camp at Long Kesh have appeared before the judicial tribunals of the British State — they have not however been tried by jury or in accordance with the normal rules of evidence. To put it bluntly, they have not been tried.

They have not been tried because the British State does not believe it could find juries that would convict, it could not find witnesses that would come forward in support of the army of

occupation. You cannot have trial by jury in the conditions of an armed insurrection against the British Crown. The killings are political, the Diplock Courts used by the British State are political, and the prisoners of Armagh and Long Kesh are political.

As gay people, we are also in a position where we frustrate and threaten the interests, objectives and foundations of the British State. Lesbians and gay men are (correctly) perceived as a visible human challenge to the nuclear family,

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open gaze
bookshop

60 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 3SA

lesbian, gay
& feminist reading

SEND SAE FOR CURRENT LISTS

Eamonn O'Dwyer: Report

Editorial



George Morton MP, the Labour member for Manchester, Moss-side, is not a martyr like Oscar Wilde, nor a slimy opportunist like Thorpe. George Morton is simply another gay man among many thousands who have been arrested for looking for sexual comfort in a public lavatory. We trust that Michael Foot and the Moss-side constituency Labour Party will understand that George, like any other member of the Labour Party, needs a sexual life, and will therefore realise that George will be compelled to seek the fulfilment of his sexual desire in ways similar to those of any other homosexual man living in Greater Manchester.

For many, this will involve looking for sexual partners in public parks, lavatories and streets. It involves running the gauntlet of plainclothes policemen who seem to get some twisted pleasure from arresting gay men whom they have first set up. Until the police in Manchester, or anywhere else, can find some less harmful form of entertainment, gay men will be at risk.

It is the responsibility of homosexual men who sit in Parliament to come out clearly and firmly in support of their gay brothers like George Morton. Until they do, those of us on Gay Noise can have little sympathy with homosexuals who tumble from the back benches, or fall from high office.

200,000 March against unemployment despite collapse of Gay Noise banner

21st February 1981

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER saw one of the biggest political demonstrations outside of London since the 1930s. 200,000 people gathered in Liverpool, one of the areas of these islands worst hit by unemployment, to march in protest against this government's policies.

The magnificent *Gay Noise* banner was also there, though it was not so magnificent by the end of the demonstration. It gradually disintegrated during the course of the march, leaving us holding the crosspole as high as possible above our heads to keep the pink fringe at the bottom from trailing on the ground. Despite these problems we were well received, being clapped and cheered by the other marchers. At the assembly point, however, we were subjected to some ridicule by some comrades in the Trade Union contingent. A member of the *Gay Noise* collective ran over and sharply raised their consciousness, telling them that gay people too were unemployed, that we were there to march in solidarity with other people fighting unemployment, and that we expected them to march in solidarity with us.

We will have the banner fixed and ready for the demonstration against the H-Blocks in London on Sunday 7th December.

Improper Motives

HARINGEY BOROUGH COUNCIL have banned an openly gay playleader from working on projects directly associated with children.

Richard O'Neill has been working for Haringey Borough Council since July this year. On the 27th October he started working on a new site and during that day came out to the kids as he had done on all the playschemes he had previously worked on. On this particular site however, because of the alarmed reaction of his immediate superiors on the scheme, some parents made complaints to the police, who in turn passed these complaints to Haringey Borough Council.

Richard was then the subject of an internal council investigation which concluded that, he was in breach of paragraph 70 of the National Scheme of Conditions of Service for Local Authorities:

"The public is entitled to demand of a local government officer conduct of the highest standard and public confidence in his integrity would be shaken were the least suspicion, however ill-founded, to arise that he could in any way be influenced by improper motives."

In his recommendation to the Borough Planning Officer, the Chief Administrative Officer (Mr R Simmons) wrote "It is my opinion that public confidence, being subject to bias, fears, and quite ill-founded suspicions about homosexuals would be shaken if it became general knowledge that Haringey employs overt homosexuals who discuss their sexual activities with children of seven." He goes on to say that he does not "place any blame on Mr O'Neill for this" - typical liberal bullshit.

Richard has been informed:

1. That you will be reinstated to normal (sic) duty.
2. That you will be required to work on projects not directly associated with children until the expiry of your contract.
3. That your contract will not be renewed after 28 Dec. 1980.
4. That your attention be drawn to the fact that your official conduct has been determined as unsatisfactory within the terms of your conditions of employment and you are warned that any repetition of such conduct will result in further disciplinary action and possibly your dismissal."

Cruising flops in Huddersfield

A GROUP OF gays in Huddersfield organised a well supported picket of the film "Cruising", though it fell off when it became clear that few people were going to see the film anyway.

H Block

(continued from front page)

which is (correctly) regarded as the basic social unit of British capitalist society. We conduct our struggle with tactics different from those of the Irish Republican Movement, though we are treated to many of the same processes of harassment, intimidation, and political imprisonment.

Lesbians are denied custody of children in the courts not because they are dishonest individuals, child-beaters or pyromaniacs, but because they are lesbians. Gay men are imprisoned under the Sexual Offences Act, not because they are embezzlers, rapists or bad drivers, but because they are homosexual. And our oppression as gay people is not because someone forgot to change the statute books, but because we threaten by our existence, our organisations and our sexual pride the complacent, hypocritical and oppressive institutions that govern our lives. Thus, sometimes, we too are political prisoners, or political exiles.

The state has given itself the right to define criminality, immorality and wrong-doing. We reject their definitions of gay and lesbian sexuality as perverted, unfortunate or criminal. Over many years we have developed our own definitions of ourselves. So too has the Irish Republican movement, and we must be quick to defend and support them. This is not about finding 'gay angles' or any such nonsense. It is about uniting in solidarity against a State that divides, oppresses and murders for its own political ends.

DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMAGH AND H-BLOCK HUNGER STRIKERS

Assemble: Speakers' Corner, London, 1pm Sunday 7th December.

Gay Filmmakers

WHAT'S NEW about the gay film festival? Well, after various troubles, we haven't been able to get the money (£1000) together. So instead we are having Gay Filmmakers Workshops each month, at which a gay Filmmaker will show and comment on her/his work.

The first, at the beginning of November, was a showing of 'A Certain Desire'. The next will be with Derek Jarman talking through his latest film 'The Tempest' (sound cut off). He will explain how he built up the script from Shakespeare's original material. This will be a lunchtime workshop, so bring your fish and chips to 4 Corners Cinema, 113 Roman Road, London E2 (Bethnal Green tube) on Sat. 13th December at 1.00pm.



PALACE PIER RAIDED — STOP PRESS

ON SUNDAY night, November 30 at 11.20, twenty policemen went to the *Palace Pier* in Brighton to ensure that the licensing laws were not being infringed. This follows a similar raid on the night of 16 November when Brighton's *Curtain Club* was visited by police at 10.45 pm. In both raids the police were intent on extracting a large amount of personal information from both customers and staff. The customers, it turns out, may be prosecuted for aiding and abetting the licensees. The 'crime' appears to consist of purchasing a meal voucher on entering the club and then not eating anything. Supper licences, it seems, are not granted for the purposes of permitting homosexuals to eat after hours.

At the time of going to press this is all that *Gay Noise* knows about this case, but we hope to be able to report in forthcoming issues that a picket of the police station and the courts over these raids has been organised.

Bristol Gaysoc fights racist laws

BRISTOL GAYSOC are supporting the fight of Jaime Henao against deportation. The Home Office allege that he has overstayed his residence period in Britain and that his marriage to a British citizen is a marriage of convenience. His trial is on Dec 1st. Should he loose this, the Campaign Against Racist Laws and Bristol Gaysoc will be petitioning the Home Secretary. It is essential that all who wish to support this campaign should immediately contact, Campaign Against Racist Laws, c/o 110 Cheltenham Rd, Bristol 6, or ring Bristol (0272) 651718.

Croydon

ON FRIDAY 21st November, the first night of Croydon's new gay disco, 'Jolly', was interrupted by an attack by three or four local thugs. At about a quarter to ten the men entered the 'Swan and Sugarloaf' on Brighton Road, south Croydon, a pub from which they were already banned, and forced their way into the disco. When refused entry by the woman on the desk, one of them smashed a beer glass. The police were called and they left, only to return nearer to closing-time. This time they smashed through the glass in the door which was shut against them, and a proper fight developed. The police arrived for the second time, and three of the straights were arrested. At least one has been charged with threatening behaviour, and it is believed that charges of causing an affray may be brought against the others.

The disco, run by Colin Peters, the regular DJ at Croydon CHE's 'Star' disco, is held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month.

Manchester Unemployed Gays Group

UNEMPLOYED, BORED, fed up, not enough money to go out and socialise? Dubbed as a scrounger on the state if you do have a good time on your dole pittance? Manchester unemployed gays intend to do just that, by arranging visits, talks, trips and all the other fun things that gay people do.

The first few gatherings are open to anyone and will be held from 1 - 4pm every Thurs. at Manchester Gay Centre, 61a Bloom St. (opp. New York pub), Manchester. Tel. Man. 236 5986.

Dykes go Dutch

THE INTERNATIONAL Lesbian Information Secretariat of IGA, the International Association of Gay Women and Men, is organising a lesbian Conference in Amsterdam for the 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st of December. Proposed topics include: child custody, paedophilia, female sexuality, ways of living lesbianism, IGA structure and aims, co-operating with gay men, education, equality before the law, lesbians and religion.

The official closing date was 1st November, but the Lesbian Secretariat says that they are willing to accept late participants provided that there is room.

More information from: International Lesbian Secretariat, NVIH-COC, Frederiksplein, 1017 XM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. (020) 234596.

Gay Rights at Poly

A GENERAL MEETING of the South Bank Polytechnic Student Union in October saw the development of a positive and practical approach to gay rights. A motion was proposed and carried in which the Executive of the union and the Gay Society were instructed to ensure that students at South Bank are made aware of the discrimination against gay people, and to take action against any manifestation of such discrimination at the Polytechnic. Whilst this motion may appear too woolly to be carried out by itself, a series of further instructions were issued by the General Meeting to the Executive. These covered such things as acceptance of advertisements for gay organisations in the student magazine *Digger* and the holding of Discos as benefits for FRIEND and London Switchboard. Three of the resolutions included in this list were, however, very far reaching. The Executive were instructed to write to the Employment Secretary demanding that the Employment Protection Act be amended to protect gay people from dismissal, purely on the grounds of sexuality; that the Department of Education and Science be written to with the demand that current sex-education materials be revised to include a positive approach to homosexual life-styles. The Executive were further instructed to investigate whether the union has any links with W.H. Smiths & Sons, and if so to break such links in protest at their policy, i.e., their refusal to stock *Gay News*, and to inform Smiths of the reason for such actions.

Other Student Unions may like to note these resolutions, as not only do they take a positive and supportive stand against gay discrimination, but also if they were adopted by all student unions, they would demonstrate clearly that these unions are quite willing to take up a controversial, political stand on behalf of their gay memberships.



Andrew Ward Report

Campaign against Racism and the ANL, in protest against the British Movement's march in Paddington (London).

3000 Police Protect Nazis

Incident on a tube train

British Movement supporter to gay man wearing 'Gays against Fascism' badge: "Why are you against fascism?"
Gay man: "Because fascists locked us up in the concentration camps and would do it again."
BM man: "We wouldn't bother, we'd just shoot you."

ON SUNDAY 23rd of November a significant number of lesbians and gay men marched behind the Gay Switchboard banner at a counter demonstration to protest against a march through London by the avowedly pro-Nazi British Movement (BM). Sir David McNee, the Metropolitan Commissioner for Police explained his refusal to ban the BM march despite requests from many multi-racial groups and the Tory controlled Westminster City Council on the grounds that it was easier to control it than to ban it. In fact the whole afternoon was a useful training exercise for the police, allowing McNee to develop further his forces sophisticated riot and crowd control expertise. The order of the day seems to have been "protect the BM from attack and frustrate the counterdemo". For this, three thousand police were mobilised with airborne surveillance by at least four helicopters. At what cost?

The route given to the counterdemo must have been thought up by a policeman familiar with the least important and most boring streets in Maida Vale and St Johns Wood. All during this long walk the police kept picking off stragglers and holding them for no apparent reason. Then finally we were cordoned off in a sidestreet and forced to wait for twenty minutes in anger and frustration knowing that the fascists had started their march at Speakers Corner and were probably not more than a mile from us. We were allowed to filter out of the sidestreet and

then forced to take another circuitous route back to the Edgware Road.

Uniformed boot boys would not allow people to walk south giving them a fairly clear indication which way we should be heading but they forgot to stop all London Transport buses. So in the end less than a hundred people, not enough to do anything unless you're into heroics and martyrdom found the BM heavily protected in an alley off Praed Street and had to stand by passively while they filed out of their meeting shouting "Sieg Heil" and "Adolph Hitler, we'll support you evermore". Estimates of the numbers ranged from 200 to 500. They were all young. Their leader Michael McLaughlin claimed that he had advised his older members to stay at home. Most wore either nazi insignia or tattoos.

Some of the black youth could not stand by idly and so skirmishes broke out. But by now any real challenge to the BM was impossible and the day degenerated into a series of futile and wasteful dogfights. McNee had succeeded in protecting an organisation which threatens the safety and lives of women, gays, black people, brown people, Jews; as well as socialists, liberals, even conservatives in the name of democracy.

Also in the name of democracy there were 73 arrests. Of these, 66 had contacted Paddington Advice and Law Centre by Tuesday morning. It is assumed that this 66 were from the counterdemo so a possible total of 7 BM members will appear in court. This despite the fact that a group of them broke out of the police cordon, climbed over the West Way and attacked the counter demonstration.

There is a defence fund. There will be a campaign and regular meetings on Monday evenings at the 510 Centre, 510 Harrow Road. Anyone wishing information or willing to help with money or as a witness should contact Paddington Advice and Law Centre, phone 960 4481 or 960 5746.

power and paedophilia

Dear Gay Noise,

Your typesetter is right. Nobody has presented the feminist arguments on paedophilia coherently in the gay (male) press, and to label those views as puritan does nothing to help anybody. I hope you and your reviewer are not part of that considerable caucus that sees women, at best, as in the background of your emotional landscapes, at worst, as one of the sources of gay men's oppression.

The arguments have been presented at length in the *Women's Newsletter* and *Spare Rib* (to name but two), but since most gay men do not read the 'women's press', it might be worth re-stating them here. I believe it is necessary to face up to feminist objections without being dismissive, (1) because the law invoked for the PIE trial is liable to become a stick to beat all feminist and gay organisations, and it is important for both movements to recognise that. In the eyes of the Whitehouse/Whitelaw axis, we are all 'corrupters of youth' in that we aim (I hope) to fill innocent little heads with ideas that undermine the status quo. (2) Governments always operate by 'divide and rule', and paedophilia will be seized on as an issue which can split the women's and gay movements, or indeed, fragment either.

Briefly, then, I take the feminist argument to focus primarily on heterosexual paedophilia, and the nature of male sexuality, inherent or learned. In a society in which all institutions conspire to place women at the mercy of men, literally or metaphorically, relaxing laws governing sexual conduct merely gives men greater power over more (younger women). Men as a sex suffer from the want/have syndrome; from the idea that merely wanting something gives one an automatic right to have it. The idea is central to consumer capitalism and to our sexual indoctrination. Rape is the extreme example of this, but it extends through the institution of marriage to the 'why won't she love me?' conversations in pubs over the fifth pint. Manifestly gay men are no better than straight men in this respect. Homosexual rape occurs as does heterosexual rape, and is the tip of just as ugly an iceberg, similarly reinforced by our institutions. From the macho of Heaven to the 'puritan' jibes of a *Gay Noise* review, the gay male world shows a general reluctance to give up their power. And feminists who try to work within mixed organisations experience just the same difficulty in getting a word in edgeways whether the group is gay or straight. It is not therefore surprising that women with an interest in children of either sex should be unwilling that those children should be subjected to such rough treatment. And it is no use bleating that 'I'm not like that'. Laws, ethics and attitudes deal with the rule, not the exception. Virtually all women have been subjected to unwanted attentions from a very early age, which makes it almost impossible for a man to understand the gut antipathy of feminists to paedophile ideas. The whole enormous energy of the Women's Movement and its

researches over the last twenty years has come up with one resounding unanimous conclusion - what is wrong with the world is Men. Many women have given up on us as a sex altogether, and understandably. Therefore men have a long way to go to establish their credentials with the women's movement if they are to be listened to. In short they have to prove their willingness to relinquish power.

If these arguments are based on a perception about power, then any counter-arguments must also tackle the question of power. In our hierarchical society, women, though subordinate to men, hold (delegated) power as adults over children. The paedophile movement which is to date predominantly male is therefore seen as yet another masculine attempt to pre-empt some of the little power that women have; just as the men's gay movement has attempted over the years to co-opt the energies of the women's movement from time to time. The feminist objections and fears are based on astute observation and bitter experience of the way things are now, and the facts of their case cannot be belittled or denied, especially by men.

What needs to be shown is that sexual relations between adults and children are *in themselves* likely to serve the feminist cause as well as the interests of men and children. This I believe they do.

Use or abuse of power is, on a theoretic level, controlled, contained and directed by doctrines of 'rights'. Economic power is confronted by the assertion of the right to the fruit of one's own labour, or the right to an independent income irrespective of work; legal power is opposed by extension of 'civil liberties'. Similarly patriarchal sexual power is undermined by the assertion of the right to control one's own body regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation etc. That right of control must include the right to say 'Yes' as well as 'No'. I would have thought that a movement which so effectively challenged the Corrie Bill on the slogan 'A Woman's Right to Choose' would have great sympathy for a campaign for 'A Child's Right to Choose'. The paedophile movement is at its weakest when its focus switches attention from the child to the adult, but the issues of children's rights and child-adult sex are inextricably intertwined. Some children, given the choice, will want to 'have sex' with adults. I certainly would have, and might have been spared several years of confusion in the process.

Nor does one further the cause of creating mutually caring or pleasurable relationships by setting limits within which they may take place (eg within the family) or denying their possibility altogether. Indeed to do so perpetuates one of the sources of male power. The language of 'protection/innocence' is precisely that used to subordinate women in the 19th century. And for the oppressed to use the machinery of the oppressors may be advantageous in the short term (eg. gays using the

(Continued on page 12)

LETTERS



Dear Gay Noise,

Jeff Dudgeon passed your letter on to me. I realised when I read my letter in *Gay Noise 7* that it did read as though I was accusing you of political censorship. This wasn't my intention. I was just trying to put over my views while at the same time indicating that there was room both in NIGRA and in *Gay Star* for a wide variety of views. I also had to make it clear that the piece you published was an article, not a NIGRA policy statement. It starts off putting the NIGRA position and then moves on to a more speculative style which wasn't obvious when the centre part was cut. In fact, knowing that you probably disagreed with it, I was impressed with the prominence you gave to it, and I agree that you got the main points that I was trying to make. In fact, since there has been very little disagreement with it here, I was probably being oversensitive to its 'policy statement' appearance.

Having long experience of English radical papers refusing to publish my views on Northern Ireland, I do appreciate the preparedness of *Gay Noise* to open the debate.

Best wishes,

Peter Brooke

Dear Gay Noise,

Thanks for the centre page spread on our pamphlet *Paedophilia and Public Morals*, in *Gay Noise 8*.

Unfortunately we have to distribute the pamphlet ourselves because PDC (Publications Distribution Co-operative) has repeatedly put off any decision as to whether to distribute it or not. We cannot afford to wait for this "radical" monopoly as the PIE trial is now four and a half weeks away. This means that we have had to set a higher cover price for bookshops outside London (£1.20). It also means that the Campaign has to spend valuable time on the pamphlet when time is crucial.

It is clear from the sort of debate that has taken place within PDC around our pamphlet that no decision has been forthcoming because it is about paedophilia ("controversy"). We would like anyone who has contact with PDC (eg bookshops, newspapers, magazines) to write a letter of protest to them at 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AT. Thanks.

Love,

Edward Bell, for the Campaign Against Public Morals (CAPM), BM 1151, London WC1N 3XX.

Dear Gay Noise,

Finding a "gay angle" on rock music is like looking for a right "angle" on the hypotenuse: not for the Euclidean or for the writers of NME. Indeed, if we are to believe what we read in the papers and hear on the radio - and why the hell shouldn't we! - the only gay musician this side of Aldburgh is a certain T. Robinson who, thankfully, has now stopped writing political songs and has never been heard of since. All the rest is mere innuendo and malicious rumour spread about by Shirley Bassey's manager.

However, since *Gay Noise* is already notorious for its fanatical and utterly irrational insistence that gay people should not only exist but, perversely, should be seen and heard to exist, it is necessary to make it plain once and for all that your humourless, nay hysterical, assertions are quite inappropriate when applied to the New Wave. As everyone should know by now this is aggressive, masculine music designed to resolve the adolescent male gender-crisis and to put women's libbers back in their cultural place - preferably in the dressing room, smashed out of their boxes.

Certain people on the lunatic fringe of homosexuality have claimed, in their customary sex-obsessed way, that there exists a 'Gay Undulation' which, by the law of averages, if nothing else, accounts for a 5% pink 'tri-angle' on the New Wave. This is quite clearly ridiculous.

The New Wave, unlike the effete and pointless chunterings of homosexual malcontents, has done nothing if not shown the world that Britain has still got what it takes. And the energy and vigour of some of the more recent post-bondage bands confirms my feeling that British white rock is doing more than its bit to protect our culture from alien influences. Take, for example, *The Pathetic Phalluses*. These boys, all under the age of consent and ex-members of Viking Youth, have come up with an act which rivals that of Kiss in its sheer misogyny, and is second to none in its unequivocally paranoid rhythms and lyrics. The lead-singer, Green Gilbert, whose stage-persona requires him to wear a chocolate éclair shoved down his spangled jock-strap, epitomises the cock-rock ethic of eclectic frenzy and sulphate-saturated shrieks. And the band makes no concessions to the trashy and atheistic commercialism of so-called "reggae" or to the elitism of obscure academic funk (sometimes known as the "Philly Sound"). The *Phalluses'* first single (soon to be released on Hard-on Records), "I gotta big one", is about white heterosexual male angst in the face of nuclear attack. How many gay musicians could possibly have the sensitivity to deal with an issue such as this, which so fundamentally affects all our lives? Who, apart from normal men, would understand the utter dependence of women on male sexual prowess and be

able to translate man's awareness of this into the context of the holocaust? Add to this some exceptionally frenetic guitar-work, a drum-machine, and two male-designed synthesizers, and you have the best song to hit the market since *John Thomas and the Red-hot Willies* did their astonishing post-coital version of "I'm a Man".

Beyond this, a gay angle on rock music is not just unthinkable from the point of view of the industry and the Arts Council; it is also obviously not what the public wants. One needs only spend several hundred pounds visiting the various rock-venues in London and the provinces to realise that there are never any gay bands booked and that the nearest thing to gay rock is to be found in the admittedly excellent and talented mime-shows currently enjoying such success at the Vauxhall Tavern.

As one writer to the *Guardian* (11 Nov. in reply to Gordon Rainsford's incomprehensible letter) put it so succinctly: "I would say to the gays: if the cap doesn't fit, don't wear it." And I would add: if the cap isn't black, stick to what you do best - and leave our young men alone.

Yours, outraged,

Siegfried De Crecendo

Dear Comrades,

I must say I was extremely disappointed not to see the *Gay Noise* banner on the Troops Out demo on Sat. 15th November. An organised gay presence on such a march and on such an issue cannot be underestimated.

As gays we should openly support other co-fighters in their struggle against our capitalist oppressors.

It has been suggested recently that gays and *Gay Noise* in particular, have sought 'gay angles' on 'unrelated' issues such as Gardner's, CND etc, and now on Troops Out (to compete with the straight left?). This attitude annoys me no end. Tell me, who looks for a straight heterosexual angle? The importance of gays to the fight against imperialism is obvious. All forms of capitalist expression/oppression are inextricably linked. All stem from the same source: the need of the privileged few to control and extend their control over our lives. After all, we'd still be bought and sold slaves if that were more economically viable than bought and sold labour. A gay presence on a march against imperialism is therefore of extreme importance. It is also necessary to remind people of this as most of them seem to have forgotten.

People may turn round and say that the Republican Movement is anti-gay, and why should be march with them and support their struggle. I say again: IT IS OUR STRUGGLE TOO. Our appearance on their march in their struggle showing people where we stand is a great aid to educating in sexual

political issues. Whatever happened to solidarity?

Hoping for a greater show of gay solidarity on December 7th, love,

W. Fibak (no relation)
In retrospect, it was perhaps a bad idea not to have our banner at the Troops Out demo: especially as it led to some people thinking we did not support it. Unfortunately, the date coincided with our own meeting, though a few of us did go on the march and sell the newspaper there. The banner itself is unwieldy, and we didn't think to send it. From our article in this issue, and others in the past, we hope it is clear that we support the demands for Troops Out Now, and the demand for political status. On the other

hand, it is not only the presence of our banner that will build an organised gay presence on such a march - however striking our public appearance, it is no substitute for real grass roots gay self-organisation on any question. There was a gay presence on the Troops Out March, as there was on the CND march, and there are more ways than our bringing the paper's banner along to make that presence felt. There is gay solidarity with Irish Republicans, and we are hoping to help it grow. The collective and the banner will be at the march on December 7th... but there should be other banners, and the presence is, and should be seen as larger than our own.

Gay Noise Collective.

Manchester Campaign

IN RESPONSE to the prosecution of George Morton MP in Manchester on a charge of gross indecency, the Manchester group of the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights have attacked police policy on cottaging. They point out that in Stockport, arrests for 'gross indecency' have risen from 12 last year to over 150 already this year. They compare this crackdown to the way in which crimes against women are routinely ignored.

'The purpose of using police time in toilets, rather than on the streets, is to alarm the public about the apparently growing numbers of homosexual men in the area and to whip up panic about the dangers of "innocent" people being lured into homosexuality. Their public statement continues: 'Arderton's strategy has already been highly successful in Stockport where on the basis of the police arresting more men than previously in toilets, the Council are now having emergency meetings to discuss how to deal with the "corruptive menace" of homosexuals.'

Demands

The Manchester group intends to launch a campaign against police harassment of gay people. As first steps they demand: '1 an end to police surveillance and entrapment in public toilets, so that the police would act only on complaints from the general public.

2 that any men arrested in toilets as a result of a complaint be referred to the Manchester Gay Information Centre to ensure that they are aware of the alternative meeting places that exist.

3 an urgent meeting with the Greater Manchester Council Police Committee and with the leader and opposition party leaders of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to discuss the whole question of police priorities, given the increase in violent crime, car thefts and other acts which cause serious problems to the public.'

Problems

It can be seen clearly that the anti-gay harassment in Manchester is beginning to pay off the way it is intended to: emergency meetings to discuss the 'corruptive menace' result in sackings, hate propaganda in the press and beatings up. It is for this reason, while the Manchester group's initiative is welcome, it seems to *Gay Noise* to be too narrowly based. It isn't simply a matter of getting the police under control - and discussions pure and simple won't even do that. If there are to be meetings, what demands are to be put? One of the serious problems that we face is the racist notion that the violence and increase in crime that the police should be dealing with is the responsibility of black people. There's enough crap about 'mugging' about for this to be quite clear. When we're complaining of an increase in arrests of gay men, we can't simply point at the other increases vouched for by the police and hawked abroad by them as part of their campaign for increased powers, in attempt to get them off our backs and on to someone else's.

Politics

We need our own political struggle, not their 'rational discussion'. Our demands must be backed by our own self-organisation, and they must key into the common fight that we share with women, blacks, trade-unionists. For first steps, we would prefer joint meetings of Manchester's gay organisations, meetings with Stockport's local authority unions, so that delegations to local government committees, if they happen, carry some political clout; the proposed National Demonstration in Manchester for February is one weapon that should be used to the full. Manchester doesn't stand alone: nor in the end do gays. A determined campaign can win us allies where we haven't looked for them before. This is an issue we can force. No point, and no need, to go empty-handed to committee meetings with councillors and magistrates.

Heterosexuals are what they are, + exclusively so, because they deny the homosexuality that is latent within them, sublimating it for converting it into aggression

Mario Mieli

Homosexual Liberation:

elements of a gay critique

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Paedophilia: a lesbian contribution

THE PAGES of *Gay Noise* over the last few weeks have been taken up to quite a large extent with the question of the forthcoming PIE trial and its implications. Despite this, I, as a lesbian feminist, feel that there has been insufficient attention paid to what debates there have been within the women's movement on these issues, although the article reprinted from *Revolution* in the last issue did go some way towards dealing with this. So I felt that I wanted to add my threepenceapenny to the debate although in doing so, I may repeat points that have been made before.

From what I have read, those feminists who have argued against the abolition of the age of consent have done so from an analysis of male power over women. From this generally correct starting point however a number of wrong and dangerous assumptions are made. Thus Maureen O'Hara, from the Leeds Womens 'Liberation's Age of Consent working group, in her article in *The Leveller* (No.36) can argue "Clearly, then, the sexual freedom at issue in attempts to abolish the age of consent is the freedom of adult males to relate sexually to children".

This assumption I would argue against for a number of reasons. Firstly,

it underestimates the effect of direct legal harassment of young people in peer group relationships. Readers of *Gay Noise* are presumably aware of the legal situation of gay men under the age of 21 in various combinations of relationships with each other. Young women under the age of 16 are similarly not allowed to consent to sexual relationships with men of any age, and young lesbians do not escape harassment even if they are not proscribed from sexual activity in the same way. But the ideological implications of this law are at least as important. Young people are told that they do not exist as sexual beings, they are not capable of taking control over their lives. Thus even talking about sexual feelings is made difficult as one young person is isolated from the next in the guilt of forbidden feelings.

Secondly, it is important to see that just as some adults are emotionally and sexually drawn to children, so the reverse may be true. The fact that there are no organisations of gerontophiles should not lead us to believe that such people do not exist. After all, when children do not have a sexuality at all, how can they label it, let alone organise around it. Certainly it is clear however that young people can and do take

initiatives in sexuality towards adults. Just listen to anyone who lives and works with children talking about their embarrassing moments. For it is often adults who cannot cope with children's sexuality and not the other way round.

Thirdly I would argue against the implicit assumption that there are no female paedophiles. Again I grant that there are not large numbers of us screaming to be heard. But then gay men were visible in numbers before lesbians. Again that is not surprising given the way women's sexuality is suppressed, and given the fact that some female paedophiles give themselves another name - mothers.

The age of consent laws are part of the construction of childhood, part of the denial that young people can have any control over their own lives, that they are the subjects of their own lives. Any campaign against these laws in order to succeed must involve large numbers of young people in its leadership and must take up other issues of discrimination against youth. And the aftermath of the PIE trial will certainly be used to increase state attacks on young people and their sexuality, to reinforce the strengthening of the family that the Tory government so dearly longs for.

Steely Dan: Gaucho

STEELY DAN are intelligent. They are aware of what's happening. They know that President Reagan is a sickening and disturbing fact. They know that the Hollywood and Los Angeles coke-snorting hedonistic scene is thoroughly vacuous. The problem is, they don't care. If they did then they wouldn't make an album of such glossy trival smugness as this. They've joined the ranks of the coffee table muzak merchants making comfortable escapist noises for the hip, cool and apathetic west-coasters. Like the Eagles, the Bee Gees, the Cars and the American heavy rock groups they simply pander to their already over-pampered audience.

The songs are as smooth as a billiard ball. Their lyrics are trite, indulgent observations. All very laid back and

technically faultless. Steely Dan used to have a conscience. It's got dried up by the LA sun and too many cocktail-coke parties. The impression is that the array of 'fine' musicians assembled on this album spent the time in the studio telling each other what wonderful talented people they are. The music is a clean soulful shuffle, a jazz piano here, a sassy trumpet there. Rhythms that meander and melt like ice cream. The lyrics are clichéish highbrow nonsense.

None of this would matter of course; except that Steely Dan are under no illusions. They've chosen the easy way. It's a glamour profession. The L.A. concession. Concession? Call it a fucking cop out. The sooner we forget about these miserable artists the better. You can't even dance to them anymore.



Gardners — a start

The occupation of Gardners diesel engine factory in Eccles has ended after 7 weeks in a victory for its 2,400 workers who were fighting against the 590 redundancies that the company wanted to impose. There will be a reduction in the number of jobs at the factory, but no-one will be sacked, and some of the threatened jobs have been saved. This success is the result of the first determined direct action against the employers' and the Tories' attempt to make working people pay for the crisis. Surely an example to the rest of us.

A new sound: Homophonie

A NEW SOUND is to be heard in the French gay press. *Homophonie*, a monthly paper, made its first appearance in November. It is published by the Comité d'Urgence Anti-Repression Homosexuelle (CUARH - Emergency Committee Against Homosexual Oppression), who want *Homophonie* to be an open platform for such diverse gay organisations as militant gay groups and religious groups. *Homophonie* aims to fight repression as we all experience it every day through laws, society and State power.

The first issue deals mainly with civil rights questions. There are articles on gays in the USSR, Amnesty International, and the International Gay Association's statement on paedophilia. It will be interesting to watch the development of the paper - lets hope the sound will prove emphatic. Best wishes, anyway, from one gay noise to another.

Homophonie is available from CUARH Publications, 1 Rue Keller, 75011 Paris. One year's subscription costs 90 francs, and should be sent by International Money Order (available from Post Offices).

Geordie GAA

A GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE has been formed in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. People interested in being involved in this new group should contact Newcastle-Upon-Tyne GAA, c/o 17 Chester Cres., Newcastle-Upon-Tyne 2, Tel. N-U-T. 29923.

Hateful men

THE EQUAL RIGHTS In Clubs Campaign for Action (ERICCA) is holding its first conference on the 6th December in Wakefield. ERICCA has been fighting for equal rights for women in the male stronghold of social clubs since its formation in October 1979 after a woman was barred from playing snooker in the Wakefield City Club.

ERICCA's main campaign is against the women-hating policies of the Club and Institute Union (CIU) which has a membership of over 2 million men. Many CIU clubs still bar women from membership, from entering unaccompanied, buying drinks, joining committees, or playing games like darts or snooker. The CIU does not allow

women to affiliate to itself or to be sent as delegates to CIU conferences.

ERICCA is taking the following aims to the conference:

1. Equal membership for women in all CIU clubs.
2. Equal affiliation to CIU for women.
3. Abolition of the sexist title "Working Mens Clubs".

It is hoped that they will receive formal support and be used as a basis for future campaigning.

The conference will start at 12pm sharp at the Belvue Liberal Club, 173 Doncaster Road, Wakefield. For further information contact Brenda Hayward on Wakefield 72762 (work) or Leeds 780841 (home).

Cotting

Brixton Faeries - Gents

("Hemingford Arms", 8th November)

DO YOU COTTAGE? Most gay men do, so it seems entirely appropriate that Brixton Faeries should explore the twilight (40-watt) world of sex in toilets in their latest show. To judge from the laughter of recognition from the predominantly male audience at North London's Hemmingford Arms, they have struck a chord.

Gents proclaims a) that cottaging is fun and b) that it can be a vehicle for revolution. But on the strength of this show you would remain unconvinced on either count.

At one point in the performance, Julian Hows describes an anonymous encounter which starts when an invitation is slipped through a hole in the bog wall: "Immediately my palms started to sweat, and naturally my cock started to harden." Naturally? Why? We are not told. The eroticism is taken for granted. For those that like that sort of thing, that is the sort of thing they like.

"Those that like it", in Gents, are a spectrum of gay stereotypes from out activist to totally closeted married man. From the revue format, individual characters emerge. A middle-aged ambulance man, touchingly played by Bill Thorneycroft, is convicted with gross indecency, loses his job and family; a gay teacher fights his case and wins it, but not before the judicial process has taken a certain psychological toll. The show is at its best on such safe ground as the idiocy of the law, successfully fusing documentary and surreal drag to show the legal farce ("PC Whittle, what is your definition of a large penis?") and the individual tragedies it causes. It is good, too, when dealing with cottage paranoia and the pressures that send self-oppressed gays to the cottage for their only form of sexual contact, as in the haunting song, "Going Down for Air".

Less good are the play's stilted attempts at the conversation of straights, and the lapses into ageism and sexism. The closet is the province of the older man, liberation belongs to the young and pretty. That is the final impression left by the script, despite the warm presence of Bill Thorneycroft. Women of necessity are on the periphery of the action, but when mentioned they figure as people who prevent gay men from getting what they want. These blemishes are admittedly occasional, but they reflect the limitations of the kind of world the Faeries inhabit.

And herein lies the problem. Cottaging "means" different things according to the kind of lifestyle one has above pavement level. To the person who has no other gay contact, it is the sum of all possible gay experience; anything else is unimaginable. To those who make their forays from within the gay activist community, it is a kind of holiday - the irresponsibility is the attraction. And while gay activists need holidays from changing the world more than most, it is a large claim to make that (there are) "none so fit to break the chains as those who pull them".

Any revolution first of all needs a base; it depends on those boring perennials, communication and organisation. So how do you build that base from anonymous casual sex? How much "communication" is there, can there be, with someone who will not even look at you the other side of the toilet door? How much of the Faeries' gay zest rubs off (sic) on those who lack it when they cottage? Does the cottaging activist talk to the cottaging closet? Not in Gents, and in this art imitates life. Which makes cottaging in the final analysis an activity as marginal to our concerns as macramé or jogging. Free and pleasurable it may be, liberation it ain't.

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Campaign Against Public

AS A RESULT of a General Meeting decision, the University of Manchester Students' Union has affiliated to CAPM and produced an excellent leaflet in support of their position.

While the Union does not have a policy on paedophilia, it supports the right of paedophiles to organise, and supports the other four CAPM demands.

Pink Files and Opera Houses

WE'VE SEEN Switzerland under tear-gas before, and rubber bullets aren't that new either. Up to now though, the riot police have been mainly used against peaceful anti-nuclear demonstrations and in attempts to break the regionalist movement of the Jura. What is new is that the youth movement is rioting almost every second weekend, that this has been going on for over eight months now, and that all the police brutality on the streets and the torture in police custody have not succeeded in breaking it up.

It all started the day when the Zurich City Council allocated several million Swiss Francs to the City Opera House. The price of a seat there is twice as high as that of the exorbitantly expensive seats at a Rolling Stones Concert. The cynicism of the authorities appears clearly when one knows that various youth movements have been demanding an autonomous youth centre financed by the city for over ten years now; add to that the fact that there are no places for young people to meet without paying very high prices and being under constant adult control: no community centres, no cheap clubs, nothing.

At the first demonstration in front of the Opera House the police behaved in their usual manner: teargas, truncheons and dogs. The demonstrators weren't up to a peaceful martyrdom and started to build barricades. The wave of demos and mass meetings was on its way. This was answered by the most extreme and indiscriminate police violence. Weeks after it started, the journalists of a leading Zurich newspaper published under their own steam an article which the ownership of the paper had refused to print. This was a careful and horrifying account of the beatings and rapes committed by the police during and after the demonstrations. The author himself, a journalist just returned from abroad knowing *nothing* of what had been

happening, was picked up off the streets, detained and maltreated for several days in police custody.

The city council had to give in, and a youth centre was opened for a short period - after which the police raided it, found minute quantities of dope, and shut it down. The youth movement was outraged: the shop windows and posh cars of Zurich got smashed up.

Very soon the movement began to spread to Lausanne and to Basel. In Lausanne, they concentrated on three main demands: for an autonomous youth centre, for free poster space in the city, and for the abolition of the Pink Files. This demand rapidly became central in Lausanne, with the involvement of the Groupe de Liberation Homosexuelle (Gay Liberation Group) in the Youth Movement. These files are the police records kept on all known homosexuals in the canton. No need to have committed a crime in the legal sense to be on these files: their existence is denied in most cantons, while in others, the police try and justify the keeping of them. In Zurich they had already been abolished after several years of campaigning by the Homosexuelle Arbeitsgruppe Zurich (Zurich Gay Working Group) and the Homosexuelle Frauen Gruppe (Gay Women's Group).

June 1980 saw the second ever National Gay Pride Demo in Switzerland. The first, which took place last year in Bern, attracted 300 people. This year, four thousand lesbians and gay men gathered in Basel to demand the abolition of the Pink Files. That very day, the chief police officer of the canton announced that the officially non-existent files had been burnt. The demo was joyous: it was a clear victory. The authorities were aware of the present Swiss climate of riots that they couldn't risk a gay riot on top of it all. They had to be grateful for every demo that didn't end on the barricades.

At the moment the Youth Movement is trying to establish some co-ordination at a national level. Many people have been convicted of offences arising from the demos, ranging from threatening behaviour to incitement to breach of the civil peace of Switzerland. This notion is rather closer to the notion of civil war than to the British notion of 'breach of the peace', and carries correspondingly higher penalties. Many of these convictions are based on confessions extracted by torture and intimidation: there is a strongly felt need for a national campaign to win an amnesty for those convicted.

This is important for the Swiss gay movement as well, as they are involved in the youth campaign, and can begin to build seriously within the youth movement itself. What is clear already is that the whole movement seems to be as important in Switzerland as those of 1968. What is different now is that Switzerland's apparently natural prosperity is beginning to look like a myth from the past. The people rioting in the streets are also those who make up most of the dole queue.

THEATRO TECHNIS

THERE MAY be gay life in Greece outside Mykonos as far as Amfi is concerned, but London's Teatro Technis certainly didn't want to know about it last week when the Amfi Benefit Collective turned up to perform.

Apparently it was all a big misunderstanding and the Show hadn't really been booked in at all. In fact Teatro Technis *always* give out tickets for selling in advance to anyone whether they're booked in or not. It's a new game - they give you a date and you get all your friends to pay you and then you spend that day jumping up and down for joy outside the Theatre until the performance is supposed to begin when you inform everyone that it's all been a big hoax: Our mistake of course. How silly of us!

Anyway with a little perseverance the group given priority over the gay benefit by being booked in to rehearse at the last minute were given another space, and a solemn pact was reached.

Obviously information about the Amfi Show had got lost somewhere between the person responsible for bookings and the Theatre Committee which must have been somewhat less than delighted to get the whole story from *Time Out*.

The show went ahead however and was a success. Over £80 was collected for Amfi, the Greek gay magazine due to go on trial next March for publishing a poem containing the word 'kavli' (erect prick).

Theatro Technis staff didn't attend the performance, but morbid curiosity didn't prevent them from taking periodic voyeuristic peeps at the dress rehearsal.

Free the Maw sisters

BERYL MAW'S marriage ended on the 27th March. For two years her husband, a habitually violent drunk, had been banned from every pub within a two mile radius. Therefore he drank at home. That night, literally demented after drinking more than 13 pints of cider, he pursued Mrs Maw and her two daughters through the house murderously and unstopably - until finally Charlene and Annette stabbed him.

On the advice of their solicitor the two women pleaded guilty to the charge of manslaughter. Defence and prosecution both expected a non-custodial sentence. Instead Charlene and Annette received sentences of three years imprisonment.

Picking up the story from local papers, a group of women contacted Bradford and Leeds Women's Aid, and formed a support group. On Monday 24th November, following the Leeds conference on Women and Violence, 200 women picketed the court in protests. It appears that Mr Justice Smith took particular account of the fact that several attempts to hit or "attack" Thomas Maw had been made in the course of the evening. He did not take account of the 28-year history of mental and physical violence of which this was merely the last episode. Literally "man-made", the law assumes that there are always alternatives to violence. For women, what are those alternatives?

Beryl Maw's experience with the police was unencouraging, and, according to Women's Aid, typical. Beryl had suffered broken bones in previous attacks, and had called the police several times. Usually they refused to intervene, saying that it was "a domestic matter": on other occasions they abused her, suggesting that she must have provoked her husband by going with other men.

The women could clearly expect no help from the forces of law and order. Beryl now believes that if she had known about injunctions, that would have been the answer. If she had known of a refuge, perhaps the three of them could have fled to one. According to Sophie, of Women's Aid Federation (England) (formerly NAAF), about 95% of women do not know their rights or the resources available. In any case, those resources are pitiful. The Select Committee on Violence in Marriage recommended that there should be one refuge place for every 10,000 head of population. Sophie described this as an absurdly low estimate of the need. At present, there are in fact only about 130 refuges in England, with four to five rooms apiece. In the year ending September 78, 7,415 women and 12,944 children passed through them.

Many women seek injunctions instead, but this is often a hollow sham, since judges may simply make a

"regulatory order" limiting the man to certain parts of the house, rather than excluding him altogether or attaching powers of arrest. Sophie quotes such an instance. Having purchased a rope, and waiting until the children had gone to school, the husband then hanged his wife in the house they were still supposed to share. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment. In London, on 21st November, Mr Justice Sleeman refused to attach powers of arrest to an injunction when the husband failed to appear in court. The man was in fact outside it, and as his wife left he stabbed her and her solicitor. On the 25th November, the Yorkshire Post carried the report of the initial hearing in a murder case. After a judicial separation, a husband, claiming that his wife's lesbianism would pervert and poison the minds of "his" children, pursued his wife to where she was then living and killed her.

Sanctioned by the law, a violent man can drive a woman from the house to which she is at least equally entitled. She may run, often in night clothes and without money or possessions. But DHSS officials often do not accept that the woman qualifies for immediate needs payments (for clothing and shoes), particularly if she has a job, even though she cannot of course attend that job without clothing and may have fled to a relative some distance away. Women's Aid expect this situation to be worsened as the result of local interpretation of the new Supplementary Benefit Laws. Similarly, Housing Departments, in spite of a legal obligation to deal with the homeless, often refer women to other authorities without making any provision for travel, if they believe the woman is not "homeless in their area". As a result, many women give up and return to the marital home. Many of those who do so die.

So the situation remains that male violence against women, whether routine brutality in the home or gang assault on the street, or ritual murder like the "Ripper's", is reinforced and enforced by male institutions. Women are now organising against this. The Maw sisters' appeal will be heard at Strath Appeal Court on December 3rd at 10.00am, and it is hoped that large numbers of women will be there to picket the court. Men are asked not to join the demonstration - but to remember that gay men are also often enough guilty of violent attacks on women who share housing with them or whom they see as rivals (eg the case reported in the Yorkshire Post of Oct. 23rd where a gay man in Hull beat and strangled the 21 year old girlfriend of his lover, leaving her "an emotional cripple"). An appropriate response might be donations to Women's Aid.

Information from Anna Durell, Sandra McNeill, and Women's Aid Federation, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

Danse normale

"Two queers heel and toe it down the High, and fling their arms about like tic-tac men"

Craig Raine, Danse macabre

Two naffs* cling together in the Turl and tongue each other's mouths like soft ice-cream

O how delightful, proper and most natural

modest, aesthetic, pleasing to the eye

The passing English don eyes them benignly

bedroom antics at noon don't bother him

This public spectacle won't set him in titters

laughing all the way to Carfax

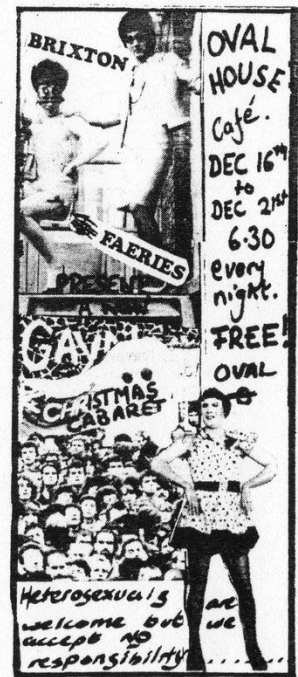
Hee'l approve the way they went to it admire those tac-tics, fling down no gauntlet

Rehearse no nigger insults in the High only savage cream-puffs in some chintzy tea-room

(God knows how the swans fare at night if we are to believe the porter at the other place)

* a naff is a heterosexual

Ivor C. Treby



Something different, but...

CHE London proudly presents 'Something Different! A night at Heaven... No constraints on attire and gender'. Thank you so much Heaven. Thank you CHE London convenors, for winning for your members one night to fill the pockets of a management that shits on women every other night of the year, and constrains the attire of everyone in exchange for the right to buy overpriced drinks and watch clips from *Cruising*. Would it be too much to ask some more enlightened part of CHE than the London convenors, say the national Executive, or perhaps the other 20 London convenors who weren't there when this squalid deal was reached, to support all women, and their own lesbian members in particular, by calling on Heaven to provide something different? the whole year through? Heaven actually makes its money from discriminating against women. Collaboration with this bunch of rip-off misogynists is something you might expect from some men in CHE, but a Campaign for Homosexual Equality must have something to say about equality between women and men. Someone should write and ask. In the meantime, members of CHE who are at a loss for something to do on Thursday 11 can go along to the South Bank Poly Gaysoo disco at 8.45; if they want something better than *Cruising* they should turn up at 7.30, for a performance of *Gents* by the Brighton Fairies.

Saint Eddie, or God and His hosts strike again

CITY OF RAZORS

Pub: Jay Landesman Ltd.

£2.50

IF EDDIE LINDEN finds any joy or pride in his homosexuality it is certainly not to be found in his poetry. For those who want to read how much of a burden homosexuality is, how sordid, lifeless and ultimately empty it is, this book does very well.

Sebastian Barker, in his foreword, claims that the reason the poems of this "Roman Catholic homosexual who has decided to break his silence" are worth reading is because they offer us an "insight" into "that stark, bare, desolate world... they show us the life of an intolerably sad and lonely man who has made it his business to hide the fact in his service to others." This is a fairly accurate description of the poetry, it is apparent that Eddie is very conscious of all the crosses that he has to carry

through life. However he seems to show no awareness or anger at the causes of his intolerable sadness and isolation.

There is no doubt that for many people life is stark, bare, and desolate - but that is the point from which we should proceed. The intolerable contradictions in the lives of many individuals will remain intolerably contradictory without a constant personal struggle to resolve them, in struggle, with others. All Eddie Linden seems to do is to wallow in his pain, making his poems into a kind of celebration of his martyrdom. The only escape he sees from this Vale of Tears is a flight into solitude or into the supposedly idyllic past that betrays its graveyard nature in "Tribute to Archbishop Roberts": (It might be that I am lost among the corn/Yet wait for the day when a glare of light/Might point the way/Finding the sanctuary and tranquility/That you, on your 80th year have found.)

The result of Eddie's attitude of being martyred by, among other things,

his homosexuality, is a quite strongly anti-gay book - not once do we have an image of homosexual love or desire as being fulfilling or fulfilled. Instead it is presented as a "cross made for the heart", as empty, hollow and joyless ("Heartless men in need/Of love kill the love/By three/And on their search/As if no end in sight") or overshadowed and prevented by guilt ("The more I looked into your eyes/The stronger the pain./Your thin body and small waist/Were all I wanted to possess/But a shadow hovering in our midst/Prevented a possible communion."). In contrast to this we are subjected to a hymn glorifying heterosexual marriage ("A ring around her head/and gold on his finger./as they walk slowly/to the altar of God./... Promise to Christ/service to man/and service to God.") which is all the more sickeningly oppressive coming from a homosexual man.

If Eddie Linden insists on hanging on the crucifix of continence and isolation demanded by his faith he can, as he must, do it alone.

Power & Paedophilia continued from page 5

courts for redress), but in the long term self-defeating.

There is another source of disagreement as to what constitutes 'sexual behaviour'. Pregnancy, suckling and physical closeness between mother and baby can be intensely pleasurable. Disturbingly so since some mothers stop breast feeding because they are frightened by the sensations it arouses. Most other women will deny fiercely that these feelings are sexual. (Shades of Freud?) I find it odd that the Women's Movement, having spent so many years affirming women's sexuality in a wider, non-genitally-oriented sense, should in this instance seem to contract the definition towards a more traditional masculine perspective. In this perhaps, lies the origin of the 'puritan' label now so freely thrown around.

In general, I prefer 'sexual' as a term to describe the widest spectrum of sensual contact between people. Words can be used tactically, and the tactics of the wider definition are more useful to the women and gay movements. One of the early aims of GLF, now sadly lost as gays become another defined (and therefore contained) pseudo-ethnic minority, was to liberate the 'gayness' in all people. Polymorphous perversity remains however a desirable and profoundly subversive ideal to which all can aspire. Similarly, one of the results of the extended discussion of child/adult relations at last beginning, will be, I hope, as a recognition that the majority of adults, women and men, experience some degree of erotic attraction in the widest sense towards children, and that this attraction can and should be expressed as part of their and the children's joyous potential. That children are intensely sexual beings should not now need proof.

To define paedophiles, conversely, as those who seek genital sexual contact with those under a certain age makes them a tiny minority (as small as those

who can't stand children). It classes them as predominantly male (the verb 'seek'), and by categorisation it does some of our own lords-and-masters dirty work for them. It plays into the hands of psychiatrists who, by placing human personality into little compartments using Victorian techniques of pseudo-scientific labelling, carry on society's methods of 'divide and rule'. Far more constructive to look at the ways in which we can all be called paedophile.

Therefore I would suggest that any coherent platform on paedophilia which unites the gay and women's movements must include the following:

- A) a broad definition of sexuality, as above, which includes genital sex;
- B) a child's right to say 'yes', to choose who s/he associates with, and in what way; (we must become, in the words of the educationalists, child centred);
- C) a child's right to say 'no'.

An effective right to say no will exist only when enshrined both in the law and in the general social morality, for all ages and sexes. Paedophile arguments will only gain widespread support if equal emphasis is put on both aspects. But in those terms it should be seen that there is common cause between the gay and the women's movements.

To go from the general to the particular is a large step, since we're talking about nothing less than social revolution. At present it is difficult for adult women, let alone children, to say 'no', and the laws to let them do so are derisively enforced. (Paradoxically it is the very ineffectiveness of the laws which leads women to seek their retention). Therefore if men are in earnest about relinquishing their power, they must prove it not only by supporting paedophilia and children's rights, but demonstrating that as a sex they are prepared to take no for an answer.

Gay love,
Eric Presland

We are All Androgynous Yellow

Bob Mellors
65p from Another Orbit Press

This pamphlet is an attempt to redefine sexuality making use of I Ching symbolism. What it actually does is to use words in a peculiar way, without explicitly redefining them, and without reference to their contexts. Thus we are told our patterns of sexual behaviour are "butch" or "bitch", men can apparently become "masculine" or "feminine" at will (it's not quite clear whether women can do this since women's sexuality is seen primarily in terms of men), and the

distinction between sex and gender becomes increasingly confused.

Bob claims to be breaking down the pigeonholing of sexuality, but is in fact merely arguing for new applications of old categories. This does nothing to free us from rigid definitions of sexuality. If you don't feel angered and insulted enough by this pamphlet to want to tear it up, you'll probably be too bored to get past page two.

↑ Feminine drives
SUPER BITCH
BUTCH MALE BITCH FEMALE
UNBITCH MALE
FEMALE INVERT UNBITCH FEMALE

£700 A Month

★ Lotte Cash's Fighting Fund ★

THE IMPORTANCE of fundraising for this newspaper cannot be stressed enough. As you must have noticed, my fortnightly appeal is prepared with great care. There are preparatory meetings with financial advisers and social psychologists, several hours of meditation and much humdrum figure work. A first draft is prepared by a member of the editorial board - or "collective" as it is called. This invariably causes fierce argument and is often torn up by myself. This usually brings the little wet concerned to tears. I then have to go outside "moles" for stimulation. This comes to me in the form of gossip and hearsay, usually about other members of the board. Although non-factual, it does reveal what people really feel and I never hesitate to use it, I find that setting people against each other in this way produces a "creative tension" which gives our paper and indeed our whole movement a sparkle it otherwise wouldn't have. This technique is not unusual. In fact, a firm in West Kensington, which produces a fortnightly gay travel brochure, uses it so much, it has become second nature to them.

It is not surprising then that, given my care and industry, I was rather beside myself to find whole sentences missed out of my treatise on unemployment, in the last issue. At first I thought it was the spoiled brat on the board, whose drivel I had torn up earlier. No. It was the typesetter! Now, I'm not for one minute suggesting that s/he was being vindictive, but perhaps if s/he spent a little less time making impertinent comments on other people's spelling s/he might reproduce enough of the material submitted to her/him for it to make sense.

This incident is probably a response to my unbending firmness in monetary matters. The "collective" has, I must confess, shown signs of strain lately. The arguments have been between myself and the spenders - those who want to produce a colour supplement, for example. Last week there was almost a split and rather than embarrass everyone concerned I decided to absent myself from the Gay Left Conference and go to Brighton instead. There, I had a rest cure and a reassessment of my first 100 days with Gay Noise.

From what I hear I was well out of it. GLC's are, I know, often fractious and people do like to talk about sects, but beneath all the words there is that lurking thing - the lust that dare not speak its name. I was thinking as much in a moment of boredom when a gentleman was obsessively tweaking my nipples in the Brighton Beautiful sauna on Saturday afternoon.

I also heard there was a discernible frisson at the mention of my name. I can only put this down to scepticism of my sound money propositions! What, I was pleased that Mr Lunn, my assistant, collected £110 towards my expenses in Brighton. It's nice to know that through all that bitter and twisted thinking there is a dim glow of generosity. That glow must get stronger until it becomes a shining beam which will blind our opponents and make Gay Noise a beacon to the oppressed.

LET THERE BE CASH!

Lotte



WE SHALL ENJOY IT
AS FOR HIM WHO FINDS
FAULT, MAY SILLINESS
AND SORROW TAKE HIM!
CAPHO

... but bring him up straight

ON FRIDAY 21st November a lesbian was "allowed" to keep her 14 year old son, but was instructed by Sheriff Muir Russell of Aberdeen Sheriff's Court to bring him up heterosexually.

The father's case was based on the old argument of lack of a father figure. His lawyer contended that the house was used for lesbian meetings and "the only adult males the boy is subjected to are those who hold the same views as his mother". The mother's counsel was thus forced to claim the mother's discretion in her own sexuality and that she made her son aware of heterosexual relationships as well as homosexual ones.

It seems that it was the combination of a favourable social worker's report and the boy's own "adamant wish that he remain with his mother" that persuaded the sheriff to grant interim custody to the mother. Yet he felt obliged to add a series of riders about the boy's upbringing. "I do hope his mother has every intention of helping him to be brought up in a heterosexual way." He also expressed pity for people who found sexual satisfaction "in other ways" though he denied he was criticising them. He asked her to make sure her son did not follow her example.

This case represents a precedent in Scottish law - not English - and is therefore a small victory for Scottish lesbians. The sheriff made the right decision: he actually took note of what the son wanted, but perhaps his fear of a press backlash made him add these insulting conditions. The son has a better chance than most of making his own decisions about his sexuality. Surely he will see enough of heterosexuality in society at large?

EVENTS DECEMBER

Sat 6th
GAY NOISE DEVELOPMENT MEETING
2pm Mithchester Gay Centre. Registration £1 (free for unwaged) for 2 days. Write to Gay Noise for details.
MANCHESTER

REVOLUTION YOUTH
Gay Liberation Fraction meeting National Centre 11am. Write to Paul c/o PO Box 50 London N1 2XP for details.
LONDON

EQUAL RIGHTS IN CLUBS CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION (ERICA)
Equal rights for women in the stronghold of mens clubs. 1st conference at Bellevue Liberal Club, 173 Doncaster Rd. 12 noon - 5.30pm. Contact Hayward: Wakefield 72762 (day) Leeds 780 841 (evening).

Sun 7th
"DON'T LET THE PRISONERS DIE"
DEMONSTRATION
In support of H-Block Hunger Strikers demands. Assemble 1pm Speakers Corner.
LONDON

Mon 8th
SWP GAY GROUP
Sex and the rights of children. 8pm Prince Albert Pub, Wharfedale Rd.
LONDON

Tue 9th
GAY WORKSHOP: YOUTH LIBERATION
Age of consent laws, "Childhood" connections with the gay community. Speakers from "Revolution". Central London Poly. room 1F Students Union building 104, Bolsover St. W1 8pm.
LONDON

HARINGEY/DUNGTON CHE
Dave Landau of CAPM talks on the attitude of the gay community to paedophilia. 8pm upstairs bar Hemmingsford Arms, Offord Street, N1.
LONDON

A NEW NORTH LONDON-BASED GAY THEATRE GROUP
Formation meeting. Anybody interested in participating as a performer or anything else is welcome. Also meeting on Dec 16th. Both meetings 7pm Thornhill Neighbourhood Centre, Caledonian Rd. N1 (corner of Copenhagen St).
LONDON

Wed 10th
THE PERSONAL AND THE POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP
Speaker from the Socialist Feminist Group. Feminism, the women's movement and working with men. 7.30pm Gay Centre, 61a Bloom St.
MANCHESTER

Thu 11th
CAMPAIGN AGAINST PUBLIC MORALS BENEFIT
Boiled Sweet Cabaret 8pm. £1 (unwaged 50p) free for all under 16.
LONDON

SOUTH BANK POLY GAY SOC
presents "Gents", a play by *Brixton Fairies*. 7.30pm Students Union, Rotary St, SE1. Adm. £1.
LONDON

ENFIELD SWP PUBLIC MEETING
Support for hunger strikers. Troops out of Ireland. 8pm. The Scope Community Centre, Ponders End High St, Enfield.
LONDON

LESBIAN LINE LANCASTER BENEFIT
(See news report) Playspace, 78a Penny St. 50p (25p unwaged). All women welcomed.
LANCASTER

Fri 12th
ACTION AROUND THE PIE TRIAL
Meeting to discuss possible action in response to the PIE trial at Gay's the Word Bookshop. 8pm
LONDON

Sat 13th
SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE HEMMY
Carols. Incorporated, Sara Hardy, Paul South and Friends. 8pm (doors open 7.30) followed by disco. £1 (50p unwaged).
LONDON

Mon 15th
HELL IS EMPTY
A theatre of phantasy production. Until Dec. 23rd 7.45pm adm. £1.50 & 50p membership. Oval House, 54 Kennington Oval, SE11.
LONDON

Tue 16th
NEW NORTH LONDON-BASED GAY THEATRE GROUP
Foundation meeting. See Dec. 9th.
LONDON

Thu 18th
ST ALBANS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT GROUP
Public meeting "Civil Defence and the bomb". Stand speaker vs. Councillor Bilsborough. Details John, St Albans 43 372. St Albans Town Hall.
ST ALBANS

LESBIAN LINE LANCASTER BENEFIT
(See news report) Playspace, 78a Penny St. 50p (25p unwaged).
LANCASTER

Sat 20th
ALTERNATIVE QUEEN MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
New Year Party at the London Film Coop. 42 Gloucester Ave. NW1 (Camden tube). 9pm - 3am. £1.50 (£1 unwaged). All lesbians and gay men welcome.
LONDON

Sun 28th
FIRST INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IGA
in Amsterdam until Dec. 31st. For details write to the gis-NVH-COC, Frederiksplein 14, 1017 XM Amsterdam, Netherlands.
HOLLAND

January

Tues 6th
GAY VOICE & WOMENS VOICE
group meeting: Gay Noise and the Gay Press. Details: Richard, St Albans 69641.
ST ALBANS

Lancaster Lesbian Line needs lolly

A LESBIAN LINE is being set up in Lancaster and urgently needs money, equipment and womanpower. A benefit disco will be held every Thurs. at Playspace, 78a Penny Street, Lancaster at 9.00pm, entrance 50p waged, 25p unwaged. All women welcome.

Further info. ring Lancaster 37812 on Thurs afternoons or Lancaster Womens Centre, Lancaster 63967, anytime, or write to Lancaster Lesbian Line, c/o The Womens Centre, The Plough, Moor Lane, Lancaster.

NEXT ISSUE MUSTS

- Mon 8th Dec. Business meeting and discussion of previous issue. 7.30pm
- Wed 10th Dec. First final copy meeting. 7.30pm
- Sat 13th Dec. Final final copy meeting. 10.00am
- Tues 16th Dec. Paste-up meeting. 9.00am
- Wed 17th Dec. Fold up meeting. 6.30pm

ALTHOUGH THE times and days of all these meetings are as usual, the next issue will come out two weeks later than usual because of the winter solstice.

Advertisements, entries for Events and alterations to listings must reach us by Wed 10th December. Other material must be in by Sat 13th December. ALL copy must be typed, double spaced.

Ring 01-272 5628 for meeting details.

**ISSUE TEN OUT ON
THURSDAY
1st JANUARY 1981**

SMALL ADS will be accepted on the following terms. Rates: 15p per word. Minimum rate £2.00. An address or phone number must be included with each advertisement. No ads will be accepted from Escort Agencies. No box number service will be available.

PERSONAL ADS will be accepted on the following terms. Rates: £2.50 per box of eighteen words. 15p per word thereafter. A box number will be given to each ad. No addresses or phone numbers will be printed in ads. We will refuse to print ads that seem to us to be ageist or racially or religiously prejudiced. Wording such as "non-camp", "non-effem" or "discrete" will not be acceptable. Boxes will be kept open for four weeks. TO SUBMIT a Small Ad or Personal Ad please fill in the form:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Small Ad _____ Personal Ad _____
Please tick relevant space.

Wording: _____

Classified

Gay Noise Book Appeal

Gay Noise urgently needs books, films/theatre posters, programmes, prints, in fact anything saleable for a fundraising sale on Jan 8th. So take a large cardboard box and go along the shelves weeding out all the old paperbacks, hardbacks and rare incunabula that you don't read any more and give them to Gay Noise. Famous literary gays amongst our readership are welcome to send signed first editions.

Ring Willie on 01-272 5628 or write to BM Gay Noise, London WC1N 3XX.

TWO WOMEN wanted for large communal mixed house in Brixton. Phone: 01-274 4978.

Bearded Male, 30, seeks interesting men to share long winter nights in Tulse Hill. Own place. Reply to GN91 BM GAY NOISE. LONDON WC1N 3XX

AWARE GUY, 2 2
wishes to meet others interested in new wave music and fringes. I'm smallish, attractive with short hair. Reply to: GN81. BM Gay Noise. London WC1N 3XX.

CAPM

Boiled Sweet Gay Cabaret and Disco
Thursday 11 December
Hemmingford Arms, Offord Road,
London N1
Cabaret 8.30
Disco till 11.00
Entrance: Waged £1; Unwaged 50p
Proceeds to CAPM, BM Box 1151,
London WC1N 3XX

BOOKS ARE WEAPONS!
KICK OFF 1981 with a FIRST OF MAY Bookvoucher, the perfect seasonal gift from Edinburgh's comprehensive left/radical bookshop, 43 Candlermaker Row. Open 10-6 Mon-Sat. 031-225-2612. Browsers welcome.

INDECENT ASSAULT
by
ROGER MOODY
(Second Edition)
Now available from:
GLF INFORMATION SERVICE
5 Caledonian Road, London N1.
£1.05 incl. p&p

Gay Noise Development Meeting

MEETING: Weekend of the 6th and 7th December.
Registration will be £1.00 for waged people, free for unwaged.
Further details from Gay Noise, BM Gay Noise. London WC1N 3XX

Worker wanted
WORKER WANTED for ICP funded Community Resource Centre in Lambeth, London. A mixed collective teaching printing to groups involved in local community. Trade Union, anti-racist, anti-sexist and non-commercial work. For application and job description contact Union Place. 01-735 6123. Appointment in January.

New workers for Workshops

FIRE WITH the success of the workshops so far, London Gay Workshops are contemplating a further series in the Spring. With this end in view, they are keen to expand the organising group. People who are interested in being involved should write to: Gay Workshops, c/o 5 Caledonian Rd. London N1, or phone Philip Payne on 01-520 8782 after 5pm most evenings.

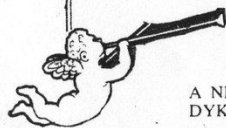
Volunteers Wanted

LONDON GAY SWITCHBOARD is appealing for gay women and men who have some time to spare and also some experience of gay life in London to become new volunteers.
They are in need of people who are free to do the daytime and late night shifts, particularly women since calls from women are increasing rapidly. But they would like to hear from anyone who feels able to help anytime.
Give them a ring on 01-837 7324 and they'll invite you along to meet the training group.

Politics of Homosexuality

A reprint of Don Milligan's pamphlet *The Politics of Homosexuality*, first published in 1973, is now available from 60 Broughton St, Edinburgh EH1 3SA. It costs 25p plus 10p p&p, but discount is available for bulk orders of five or more.

THIS WEEKEND (6th - 7th December) Gay Noise will be holding its development meeting at the Manchester Gay Centre. We hope as many people as possible will attend in order to air their suggestions and criticisms. We hope to discuss improving the breadth and quality of our coverage, by increasing our sources of news information, by making contact with people who want to write for the paper, making clearer what people want from it and what they think of it so far. Also up for discussion is the expansion of our distribution network, and the important issue of fundraising.
The meeting starts at 2.00pm on Saturday 6th December; there will be a registration fee of £1.00 for waged people, to help cover the costs. Unwaged need not pay.



A NEW YEAR PARTY FOR FAGGOTS AND DYKES

HERE WE GO again! The Gay Film-makers Workshops are organising another gay party at the London Film Co-op, and this time, we've managed to keep the smegma out! The ALTERNATIVE QUEEN MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY is taking place on Saturday 27 December, from 9 pm till 3 am at the London Film Co-op, 42 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 (Tube: Camden Town). All alternative queens, princes and princesses, dukes and duchesses and all the rest of the lot are welcome.

Programme

Film: *Angelique, the Road to Versailles* (Super Camp)
The Alternative Queen's Speech, by Stephen Gee
Cabaret by the Brixton Fairies
Songs by Robert Chevara and Ricky
Film: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*
DISCO/BAR/FOOD/DRINK
& many other events, including yourself.

Tickets £1.50 waged, £1 unwaged.