

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

IRELAND'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER • DECEMBER/JANUARY 1992/3 • FREE

A Taste of Success

Jubilant Young Lesbians and Gays gain membership of the National Youth Council

On Friday, 20 November, 1992, at the AGM of the National Youth Council of Ireland, the Lesbian and Gay Youth Federation of Ireland (LGYFI) was granted full membership, after the assembly voted in favour, by a two to one majority.

Gaining membership to the NYCI means that an Irish lesbian and gay organisation has now been given 'official' status. Through the NYCI, the group will be able to lobby the Government for recognition and funding and make a range of submissions to highlight the issues which are relevant to young lesbian and gay people.

LGYFI (founded on the 8 June '91), is the co-ordinating body for all lesbian, gay and bisexual youth groups and societies in the country, while the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) works on behalf of voluntary organisations to promote the development of services for all young people. The NYCI have 'social partner' status in government

and have the right to consult with government on all matters relevant to young people. The Council also has representatives on bodies such as the National Economic and Social Council, FAS and the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Employment.

The youth federation's main aim is to break down the barriers between gay and non-gay groups. To do this the LGYFI is to adopt policies passed by the NYCI and implement them through the organisation. The group hopes to organise a weekend away in 1993 for all members of the NYCI to attend and to take a giant step in trying to break down the barriers.

A Year and A Half

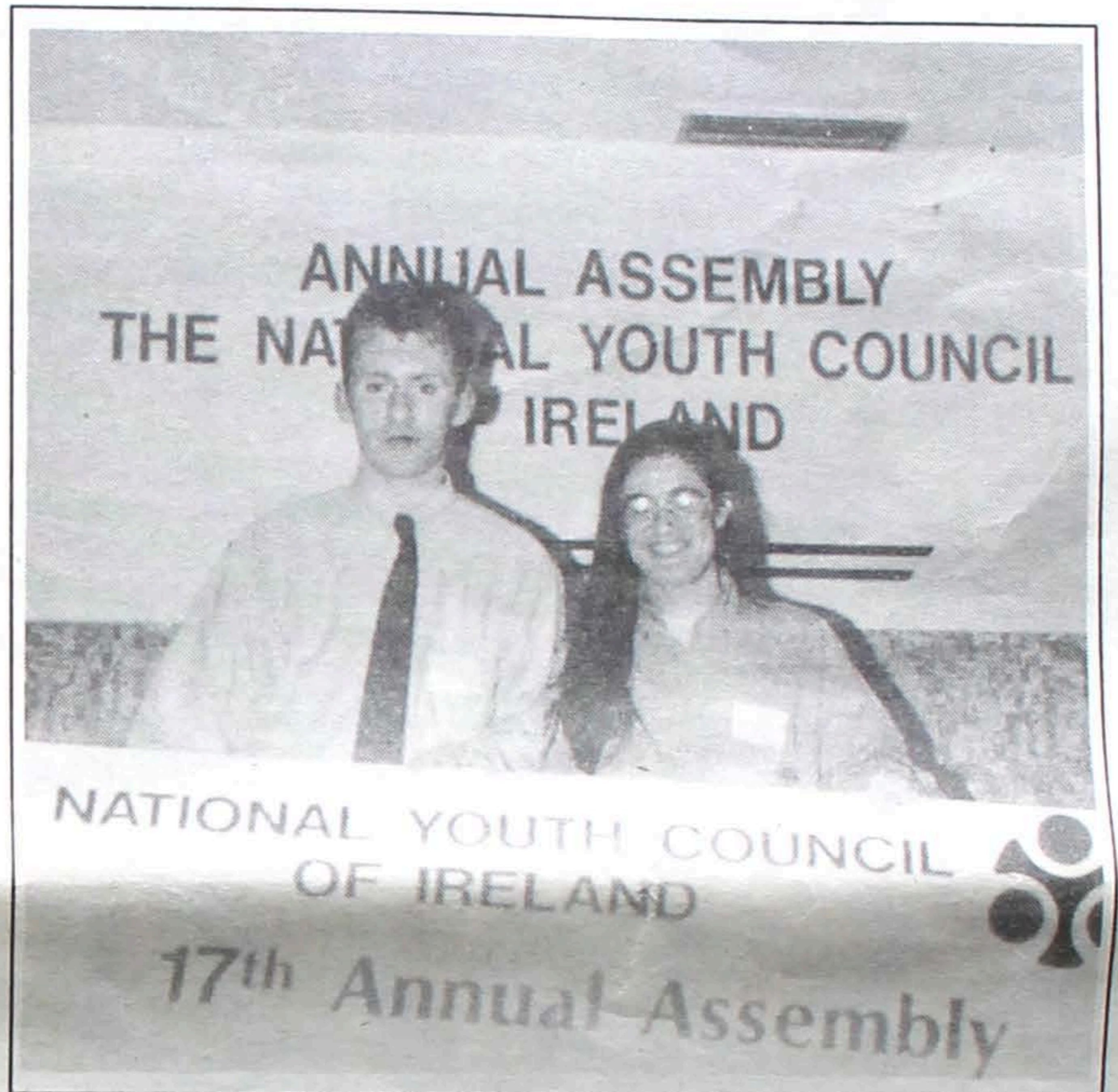
For the last 18 months the Lesbian and Gay Youth Federation has been working to gain membership to the National Youth Council of Ireland.

In June 1991, we made our first application for membership and went before the Membership Review Board Committee.

It turned out that our application form was badly drawn up and we felt that the membership review board would not have given us the vital recommendation for membership. So we decided to defer our application for membership until June 92.

From the outset in October, the Working Committee developed an effective strategy to gain membership. At certain times there were about 10 to 15 people acting as a 'think tank' to the working committee, but a lot of the work rested on the three members themselves: Donal Gallagher, Geraldine Andrews and Paul Gorry, who, between them, made the final decision on every thing. (Paul and Geraldine stood down as leaders of the Dublin Youth Group in order to work full-time on the application)

The three finally drafted a 72 page membership document and submitted it in June 92. At the Membership Review Board in July, the Director, Tom Curran, praised the Working Committee for 'the



Geraldine Andrews and Paul Gorry, two of the working committee of the LGYFI at the Assembly in Limerick.

tremendous amount of work and effort which was put in to the application.'

The work paid off and in October, the Membership Review Board reported that the LGYFI was an 'eligible applicant for membership'. There was now a glimmer of hope. The Working Committee immediately started to lobby and seek support from NYCI's member groups. Some of the groups which gave support were: Labour Youth, ECO, Interculture, Wet Paint, ICTU Youth Section, Young Fine Gael, Dublin Travellers groups.

November came and the LGYFI sent Paul Gorry and Geraldine Andrews (ably assisted by Lar) to the Assembly of the NYCI in Limerick, where the vote for membership would be carried out. The two delegates worked hard for support and at 9pm were asked to leave the room. The National Youth Council decided on the membership applications at their closed session.

The working committee was left waiting outside for two hours and at exactly 11pm on Friday the 20th of November, the LGYFI's working committee was officially told of the NYCI's decision. They were accepted into the organisation with the required two thirds of the total votes

Thanks

After a long hard battle the working committee raised their glasses of champagne to celebrate our greatest victory, in the company of Bernie and Joan our Limerick hosts.

The Working Committee would like to thank all who showed their support and faith in our efforts and would like to express their deepest thanks to Lar, Dermot, Paul, Victor, John, Maria, Patricia, Kieran, Eoin, Larry, Don, Bernie and Joan - for a wonderful weekend - (both single and very available!).

Also to NLGF, LOT, GLEN, for their sponsorship and concern. And finally to all who supported us.



Often subjected to strong condemnation for his portrayal of Sado-masochism and Homo-erotic images in photography, Robert Mapplethorpe has also produced classic portraits of famous people such as Debbie Harry, Grace Jones, William Burroughs, Donald Sutherland and Sigourney Weaver (above).

His new book, simply entitled Mapplethorpe, is reviewed on page 11.

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Dykes FORUM

TOWN AND CITY

In my town of invisible lesbians 'coming out' happened privately and secretly. Talking to the river, to myself, to my friend. "There must be others in this town", I told my friend as I wheeled my child's buggy along the street. I looked. She looked. No one.

So I turned to the city and made my first lesbian friend there. Life became much more tolerable. Life became bright. I began travelling to and fro . . . but this town is still home to me. This is where I came from. This is where I live and work.

Unlike the city, in many towns there is no group where lesbians can meet. It makes for uncomfortable living. A lesbian needs lesbian company. Why are we so quiet? Why don't we know each other?

On Friday nights when a city lesbian sets out for the disco, her town counterpart is sitting in a pub listen-

ing to the talk which tells her who is what. That woman she wondered about walks in, arm in arm with a man. Confusing.

Perhaps some lesbians eventually move to the city. For those who have children, who are still married, the move can take a long time. Finding work, a new home, friends. Being sure of the custody of our children. Few of us have smooth foreheads, making our way.

Today I'll go and collect my child from school. Tomorrow I'll say goodbye to the river and my friend, look for a home in the city. But maybe tonight that woman I've said hello to every day for the last ten years will suddenly tell me she's a lesbian. I hope I don't faint from the shock!

A hundred invisible lesbians in this town? Or one?

M. Ryan LOT.

'Religious' Abused Children for at least Five Years

A fifty year-old religious brother was sentenced on Friday 27 November, in the Central Criminal Court in Dublin, to an 18 year custodial sentence on charges of buggery and sexual assault of six children. When passing sentence the Judge, Mr Justice Lavan, stated that this case was the worst that had come before him in the Central Criminal Court.

The brother who cannot be identified by order of the court, was charged on eight counts out of a total of 63 separate offences outlined in the indictment. He pleaded guilty to all eight charges, all of which occurred between 1986 to 1991 while he was the children's teacher.

In his defence the brother, Mr. Patrick McEntee S.C. defending

counsel, mentioned the man's seclusion from his family since he joined the order as a 13 year old boy. He also brought attention to the man's battle with alcohol, stating that after his alcoholism had been cured, that he began the sexual abuse of the children under his care. Defence counsel felt that these were matters which should be taken into account in deciding sentence.

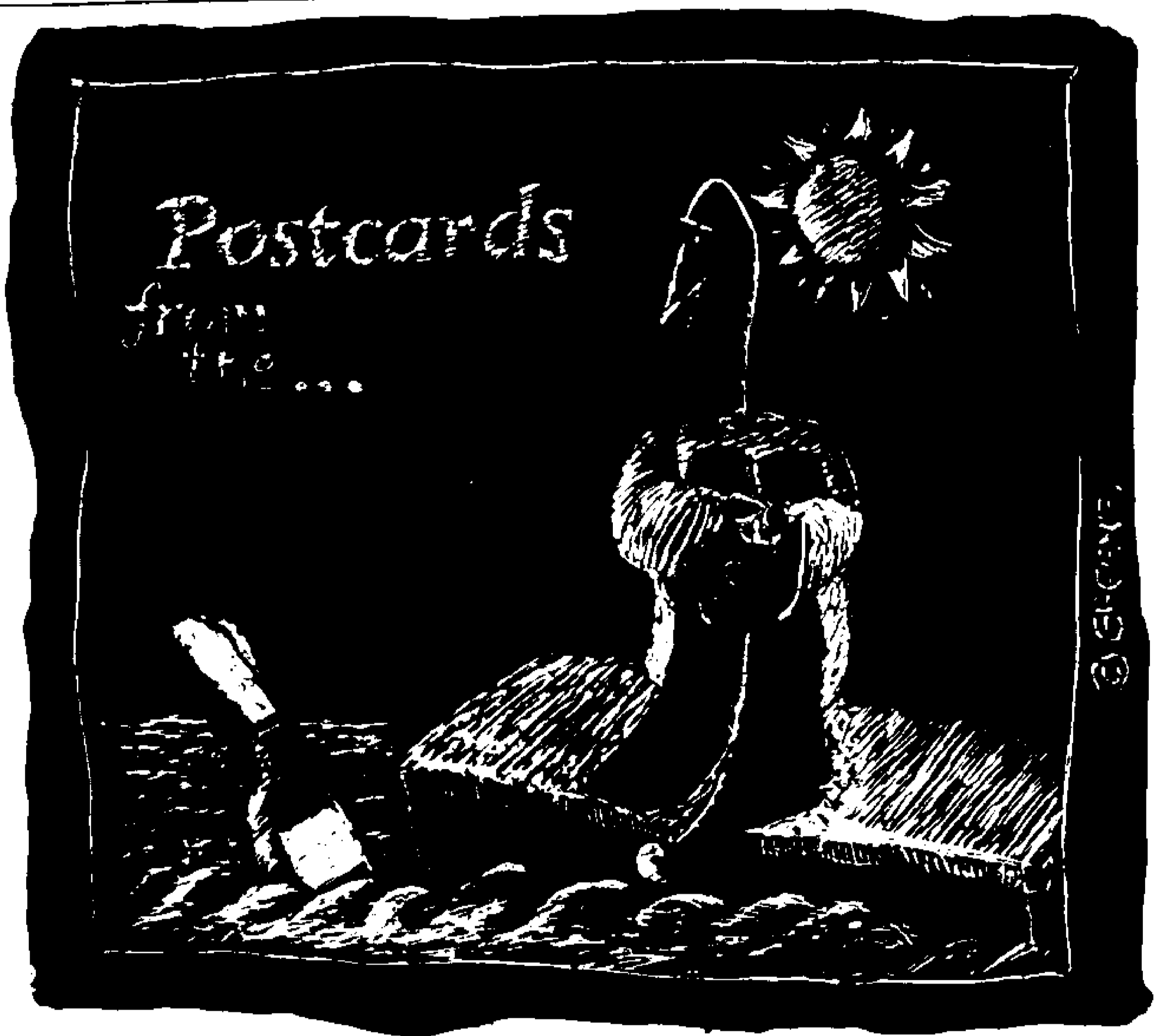
In summing up the judge said "to weigh up all matters to the credit of the accused, is to undermine the appalling breach, by him, of the sacred trust imposed on him as a teacher, and relied upon by 6 innocent children".

The man's sentence may seem harsh to some, but must be compared to the sentences passed for similar crimes in recent times.

A year ago another paedophile was sentenced to life imprisonment for the rape of three girls. However suspended sentences are more frequent in crimes of this nature. Ms. Olive Braiden of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre said that the contrast in sentencing in various cases highlighted the need for a uniform, informed sentencing policy.

A spokesperson for the National Lesbian and Gay Federation said "the members of Ireland's lesbian and gay community, like all other right thinking people, find all forms of child abuse, as abhorrent as rape or murder. We hope in the future that criminals of this nature receive the full sentence allowed under law."

PO'Diomsaigh.



. . . Victim

Four months ago, a friend of mine died. Michael (named as such for the purpose of privacy) was found by his boyfriend suspended in the shower. The certifiable cause of death was voluntary strangulation - but, not so.

A fortnight earlier, Michael confided in me that a recent HIV test showed he was positive. Apparently, the ignorance of HIV infection and the idea of having *the leprosy of the nineties* combined together to tie the noose - but, not so.

Michael and John had lived together for four years of 'matrimonial

bliss', with high-income jobs, two cars, an apartment plucked from Dynasty and happiness.

Michael was immensely content with his lot and also very faithful . . . John, it later emerged, was not. While the proverbial cat is away on business weekends, the mouse was displaying - and using - his manhood to whoever would be dim, desperate or drunk enough to share a few dark hours on a once-off.

So, by deduction, it wasn't a length of rope or the prospect of a terminal disease that my friend succumbed to, but to his belief in a relationship.

One can't analyse infidelity, it comes in many shapes and forms,

for many different reasons and far be it for me to claim I'm any chaste role-model, but unprotected sex, in this era, that can (and did) lead to the transmission of the HIV virus is infidelity of the highest carnal order. It is sickening to attend the funeral of an individual who's only fault was naivety. There is a point to all of this.

Michael is not one of the 129 AIDS casualties in Ireland to date because he never let it take and degrade him. He bowed out in the only way he knew how. How many are like him? Is the actual death toll higher than statistics can show?

Never before has a society needed consciousness, honesty and trust as much as now, but never has a society seemingly lacked these three such qualities as the gay society does.

AIDS is not a hereditary disease, where we must sit on the sidelines and wait for a cure to arrive. It can be combated by a society that possesses the morals of a mature, responsible adult.

This has not being a lecture, merely a tribute with purpose. Yes, I'm afraid of how many 'Johns' line the walls of clubs with the sole intention to cheat, and how many more 'Michaels' we're all going to lose before the lesson is learnt.

Anthony McGrath.

Colleges Defy the Law

As part of its Safer Sex Campaign, the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) co-ordinated a National Day of Action, where colleges country-wide installed condom vending machines. The Day of Action took place on December 1 - World Aids Day.

The Campaign was co-ordinated by local students unions, the lobby group 'Condomsense' and USI Welfare Officer Helen O'Sullivan. Current Family law prohibits the sale of condoms in automatic vending machines.

"It is ridiculous that there are restrictions of any sort on condom availability. Condom use must be promoted. It is dangerously irresponsible of the government to restrict condom availability in a country which has a fast growing rate of HIV and AIDS", said Helen. She added "Students have taken the initiative to install vending machines in their colleges, to provide a service to students, whereby they can purchase condoms anonymously and also to confront current family planning legislation which prevents people from acting responsibly to protect their own health".

Thirteen colleges participated in the action including Dublin City University, Dublin Institute of Technology Colleges and many Regional Technology College's. University College Dublin are not participating because they have been involved in a long running battle with college authorities over the confiscation of four vending machines which were displayed in their union offices.

Suzy Byrne

Make a date...

Galway Disco
Sat Dec 5, 10pm
Aula Maxima, UCG
in aid of Gay & Lesbian
Line and Pluto

Pub Quiz
Dec 13 - 4.30pm
The George Pub
in aid of Cairde

Youth Group
'Blind Date'
Sunday 20 December
Parliament Inn Dublin

Comfort Aid Draw
Wed 23 December
Parliament Inn Dublin

Tea Dance - 7
Bank Holiday Monday
28 December - £5
Ormond Hotel Dublin

Hirschfeld Outdoors

Parents Enquiry Meeting
Sun Dec 6 - 4.30pm
Carmichael House, Dublin
All parents welcome

LOT Christmas Dinner
Friday December 11
DRC - £10/£7

Magnus Hirschfeld
Dinner
Saturday 12 December
Glenthworth Hotel Limerick

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REACH Reach is a support group for gay people with a Christian outlook. You are welcome to contact us for information in confidence.

Reach,
P.O. Box 1798, Dublin 6, or Tel. 01-961843
(Thurs. only, 7.30 - 9.00 pm.)
Meetings held in Dublin and Cork

LESBIAN & CHRISTIAN?

Julian Fellowship
P.O. Box 1871, Churchtown, Dublin 14
or Tel: 01-961843
(First Thursday of month only: 7:30 - 9:00pm)

Homosexual Advance Justifies Murder?

A 24 year-old man beat another man to death after he made sexual advances to him, the court heard on Thursday, 8 October in Belfast.

John Auld, (also 24), of Donegal Gardens, Belfast, denied murdering 41 year old James Boyle at the deceased's home at Wolff Close off the Newtownards Road, Belfast, on 28 July, 1991.

However, the Crown accepted his plea of guilty to manslaughter, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Belfast Crown Court heard that Boyle agreed to let Auld, who had been drinking, stay at his flat overnight, because he was concerned about him. Both men had earlier been seen in each other's company at a club at Ballymacarret Walkway.

A Crown lawyer, opening the case, said that between 12 o'clock and 12.50am on July 28, Auld had called at his sisters home at Beechfield Court. The court heard that Auld allegedly told his sister and her boyfriend "I have stifled somebody". The Crown lawyer said Auld then told them that he had "stifled Big Jimmy".

Counsel said the three then went to Mr. Boyles' flat where the deceased was found lying on his back in the living room. His face was badly bruised, and he was lying in a pool of blood. A piece of cable was found around his neck.

The lawyer told the court that Aulds' sister then asked her brother why he had done it. He allegedly replied that Boyle had made sexual advances. The lawyer said Auld, who appeared to have a lot of drink taken, walked away from the scene.

The Court heard that police found Auld next morning at his wives' home in Emerald Street. He was lying in an upstairs room wearing only a blood-stained T-shirt. He said police also found a pair of black training shoes with blood on them, lying in the bath.

Crown Counsel said Auld allegedly told police "What will I get for this? I did not realise I could do it. I did not think I could do it". The Crown lawyer said that a post-mortem examination showed Mr. Boyle to have 16 injuries to his head, a further 16 injuries to his trunk and arms and 4 injuries to his neck. He had also received a number of fractured ribs. He said that the injuries were consistent with Mr. Boyle having been punched, kicked and even stamped on.

The court heard that police enquiries revealed that Auld and Mr. Boyle had been in each others company at the Pigeon Club on the evening before the incident. At one stage both men had gone outside after some unpleasantness between them, but had returned soon afterwards in better form.

The lawyer felt that in view of the medical evidence, the Crown thought it appropriate to accept the manslaughter plea on the basis of diminished responsibility. He added that the Crown was not in a position to rebuff the accusations made by Auld towards the deceased which (he alleged) made him react the way he did.

(Report by Gary Grattan in Belfast Telegraph)

Murder is murder, no matter whom the victim, nor what his class, creed or condition.

We in NIGRA call on every right-minded person to condemn unreservedly the infamous so-called 'Portsmouth Defence', whereby a killer may claim that he killed only after his victim allegedly made homosexual overtures to him. The killer insists that he, of course, is a 'normal heterosexual'.

Judges appear to presume that any normal heterosexual must be so outraged by this slur on his masculinity, that he will completely lose all self-control and kill the offender on the spot.

The very brutality of the killing has itself been accepted by some judges as evidence that the victim made the alleged homosexual advances.

The victim is never heard or represented in our courts, nor are his dis-

traught relatives. They can but weep, while their loved one is in effect found guilty of the very crime committed against him!

There is something fundamentally wrong with any system which allows this. We call for victims to be represented in court, as they already are in several other countries which share our common law tradition.

These murders often occur in the victim's home, to which he has come back with his killer, after spending an agreeable time altogether.

A woman who went to a man's home in such circumstances would, alas, be laughed out of court for claiming that her escort then made unwelcome sexual advances. Women claiming rape have all too often been blamed for provoking it, because they accepted an invitation to their attacker's home.

We call on the courts to protect the rights of every citizen whether jew or gentile, black or white, rich or poor, male or female, young or old, gay or straight. No civilised society can accept double standards."

NORTHERN IRELAND GAY RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

Waterford 1992. Calling all gays & lesbians in the Waterford area. If you are interested in getting together for a Christmas party at a local venue, please write to this box no., including a stamped addressed envelope, for more details. Let's rock around the Christmas tree (in Red Square)!

Box D.818,
GCN,
10 Fownes Street,
Dublin 2.

▽ LIFE of BRIAN



"Where can I get in touch with you if I change my mind?"

Physical Education Teachers Reject Vatican Statement

At its Annual General Meeting held last October, the Physical Education Association of Ireland (PEAI) passed a motion objecting in the strongest possible terms, to the statement by the Vatican, this July, specifically with relation to the employment of homosexuals in the area of games education.

Ms Ger Murphy, President of the PEA, told GCN the association regarded the Vatican statement as 'a fundamental attack on the privacy of the individual'.

"Sexual orientation is not a criteria that should be used in the hiring or firing of physical education teachers, and being homosexual has no more relevance than

being heterosexual," Ms Murphy said.

According to some members present at the meeting, no speaker opposed the motion, and when put to a vote it was passed by an overwhelming majority.

Following a request from the floor, the meeting had earlier decided to change the order of business, specifically to ensure that the motion would not be 'talked out' by other motions.

The PEA, has 350 members and is the representative body of physical education professionals in Ireland. Most of the members are PE teachers in second level schools in Ireland.

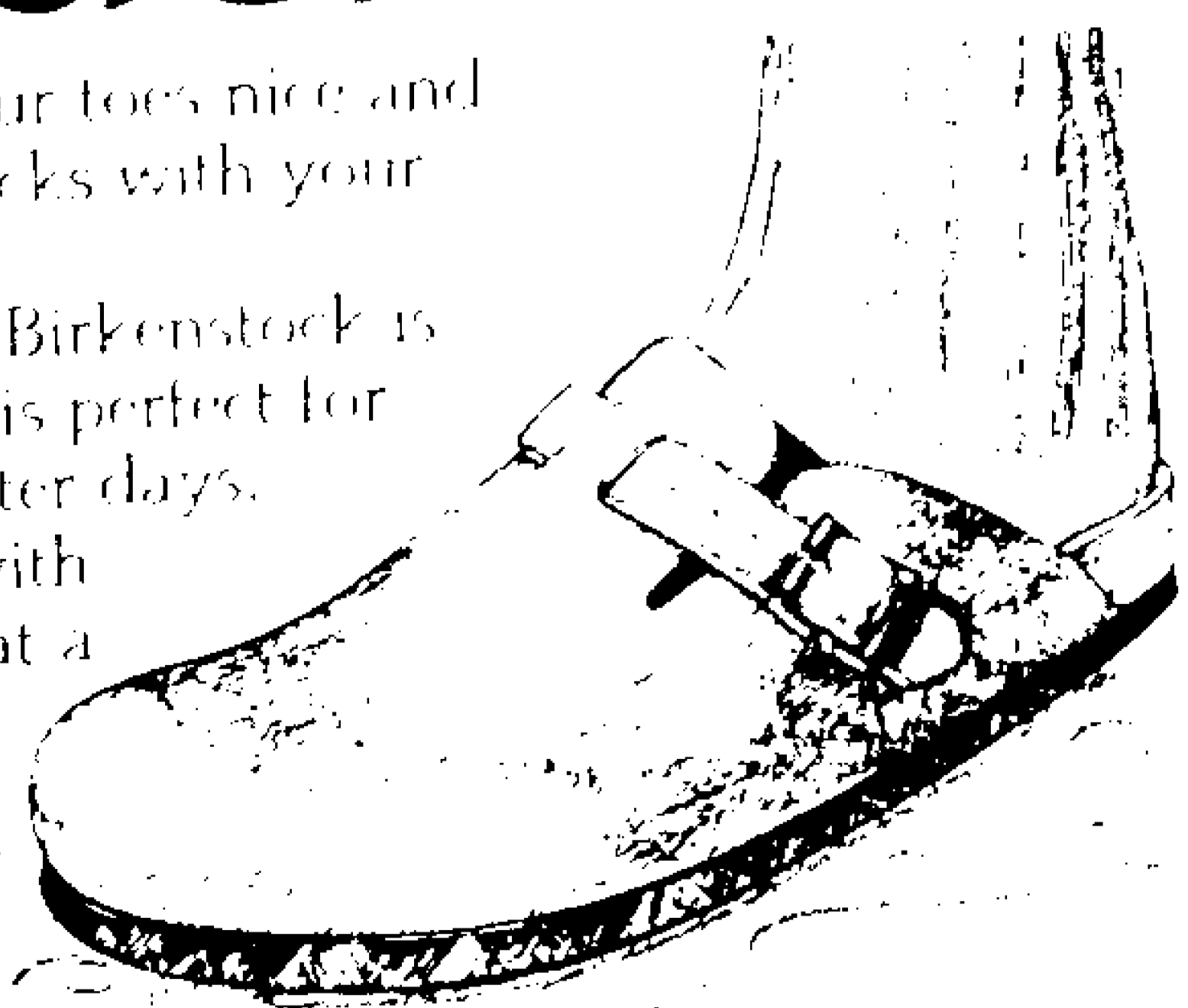
Cathal Kelly

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Christmas Tea Dance

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Ormond Quay. Admission £5.00

Proceeds to The National Lesbian & Gay Federation

Housing Project Initiative



The above photograph shows John White London presenting a cheque to Mary O'Neill, Chairperson, The Round Tower Housing Association Ltd (RTHA). John raised over £7,000 recently as a result of a 300 mile sponsored cycle around Ireland. John who works with Irish people affected by HIV in London wanted to donate the money he raised to an agency working to help individuals who are affected by H.I.V. and who are homeless.

RTHA has been set up with the broad aim of providing a small number of units which can be rented by people who are affected by HIV and who are homeless.

The Association, although still at the project stage, hopes in the near future to be able to provide these units by either buying a site and building purpose-built units or by purchasing an existing building and converting it into suitable units.

Finding accommodation can prove nightmarish at times for most people but for those who are HIV positive it can be an even more difficult task. There is very little, if any, suitable accommodation available in the Public Housing Sector which prioritises families over individuals. In the private rented sector there are few enforceable standards and cheaper accommodation tends to be unsuited to those with special needs.

For those people whose HIV status is known it is highly improbable that a mortgage might be obtained.

Overall, it is clear that for those who are affected by HIV there are very few options available if they become homeless.

To enable independent living the RTHA recognises that for someone who is affected by HIV there are specific needs which must be appropriately met, these include location.

The accommodation should ideally be within a short distance of local amenities such as shops and public transport. The living-units need to be easily accessible, ground floor accommodation being the ideal. The units need to be of adequate size suited to having overnight accommodation for carers, if necessary. Central heating, proper cooking facilities, proper bathroom facilities and adequate laundry facilities might seem basic requirements but they are absolutely vital to the physical and psychological well-being of anyone affected by HIV. Requirements such as telephones, alarms and intercoms are also recognised as being essential aids to independent living.

The full range of support services, both statutory and voluntary, at community level, would be available in this setting and would help to eliminate the need for hospitalisation since the individuals needs could be met in their own homes.

RTHA propose to offer tenancy agreements which would provide security of tenure in the event of someone being hospitalised. The allocation of accommodation would be based on a number of criteria including medical condition, financial circumstances, existing housing conditions and ability to cope with independent living.

RTHA can be contacted by writing to: Avoca House, 189/193 Parnell St. and welcomes suggestions from anyone interested in the project, but we must stress that at the moment we are not in a position to make any offer of accommodation and we cannot accept referrals of that nature.

Mike Bulter P.R.O.

THE WORLD ON MY DOORSTEP

Do you, like me, enjoy meeting visitors from abroad? I have welcomed a succession of interesting people to my home so far this year, including a pleasant Swede, two cheerful students from Warsaw, two from Budapest, two more from Paris, two lovely ladies from New Zealand who were into Scottish country dancing, and a globe-trotting Australian grandmother.

You see, I am a host with the international co-operative group SERVAS, which aims to help build world peace, good will and understanding, by giving travellers the opportunity for deeper, more personal contacts with people of diverse cultures and backgrounds. As a host I welcome visitors to share my life in my home and in my community, my concerns on social and international problems, and my interest in creative activity. The traffic is, of course, two-way: I learn a lot from them in return. This usually makes for really long and interesting conversations: the crack can be mighty!

The rules are simple. Travellers intending to come to Ireland have an interview with their local SERVAS secretary. They write out a letter of introduction, giving the essential and interesting details about themselves, hire from their local secretary the list of SERVAS Irish hosts (which gives the same details about each of us), contact each host they would like to meet (hosts specify how much warning they expect, what accommodation

they usually have, etc.) and then it is up to each host, who decides whether or not (s)he wants to welcome this traveller. Travellers may stay only two nights, no money changes hands, and travellers normally help with housework, share food costs, cater for themselves or take their host out to dinner.

SERVAS visitors are a random sample of the world's population, so they are usually not gay, and I am often the first gay host they have ever stayed with. But SERVAS travellers are interested in understanding other people, so we always end up by learning from each other. And of course my visitors learn about being gay. They learn too about homophobia and discrimination. Can you imagine a more pleasant way of recruiting allies?

SERVAS is international, inter-racial and inter-faith, non-government and non-profit. You don't have to be a host in order to become a traveller - you can, for example, be a 'Day Host' who welcomes visitors, even though you can't offer them a place to stay. If you are interested in joining the 90 or so Irish hosts, or in becoming a SERVAS traveller, send a self-addressed envelope (stamped if you live in the Irish Republic, or with international reply coupons if you live in Northern Ireland) to: Luke Plunkett, SERVAS Ireland, 5 Priory Drive, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

P.A. MagLochlainn

mediawatch

As readers will remember I predicted a victory for Bill Clinton in the last *Mediawatch* and he won!

The *Pink Paper* (8.11.92) won the witty headline race with their 'Clinton cruises in on seven million gay votes'. So now, all change at the White House. Martin Walker, in *The Guardian*, observed the lists of what's in and what's out with the change in household's:

WHAT'S IN

68 Mustang Convertibles
Oxford
condoms
gays
abortion
grey hair on men

WHAT'S OUT

Golf carts
Yale
abstinence
homophobes
adoption
grey on women

I have no objection to meeting any group of citizens, but I'm not going to allow this office to be used by any pressure group for the sake of that group."

Is he critical of

the Government's inaction on this issue?

"I don't know that it's a huge priority, in the circumstances that we find ourselves", said Mitchell. "I don't think that the gay community is being oppressed for instance. By the same token what happens among consenting adults in the bedrooms of the nation is not the business of the State.

The legislation should be changed, but there are a huge number of other pressing issues. I don't think that it's *not* on top of the Government list because the government is anti-gay or anything - that is not a fair interpretation of the situation".

Just to remind you readers, this is Gay Mitchell Fine Gael TD, I wonder has he had his head stuck in the sand for the past four years. Another rarity is the fact that Mitchell supported the government's stance, Mr. Bruton will not be pleased!

Martina Navratilova is in Dublin

this weekend and I for one hope to get a glimpse of her at some stage.

'Every dykes dream' gave a frank interview to Gerry Thornley of the *Irish Times* (28.11.92). Martina is now contemplating retirement and it looks like we will no longer see the cool, contemplative, grimace and exhilarating play of the female athlete of the eighties.

The Chris Barry Phone Show on *FM104* (a Dublin local radio station), had a phone-in on attitudes to lesbians (23/11/92). As Chris put it so aptly himself, there are many discussions on attitudes to gay men but lesbians and their sexuality are rarely discussed.

The discussion was very lively and apart from the usual biblical recitals, callers were very open in their views and several lesbians rang in to tell their stories. This show, which has the biggest listenership in Dublin for that time of night, rarely covers homosexuality, and this was a welcome change which seemed to keep the phonelines hopping. Another sign of a more tolerant society?

Six-One News (*RTE Television*) profiled Kieran Rose and the gay community. *GCN* featured with last month's front page being the focus of the item. The work of GLEN was also discussed. A very trendy scene included lesbians and gays drinking wine in the IFC. Wine was also the on the menu in Kieran's house. (*Mick Q. - mind your reputation!*)

At last (and long overdue) a member of the clergy actually speaks out

on the subject of prejudice against members of our community.

Fr. Sean Healy, head of the *Conference of Major Religious Superiors*, in the *Sunday Tribune* (15/11/92), wrote about those excluded from the main stream of society.

If you include us, the unemployed, travellers and those from other ethnic minorities, more than one third of the population is excluded from the mainstream of our society.

Fr. Healy called for an elimination of the divisions that have caused exclusion in our society, including a *Freedom of Information Act* and an overhaul of decision-making processes.

Emily O'Reilly, political correspondent of the *Irish Press*, has been spearheading the condemnation of Albert's inaction on gay law reform.

In the last month she has covered the subject of 'the promises' and the lack of action four times. (*twice on television and twice in print*)

She said in an interview with *Hot Press* that the gay lobby in Ireland is "far too polite... they need to act up, be more like their counterparts in the States. They are a strong lobby, a strong community and they have been kicked around far too much". Words to the wise but will we listen?

Suzy Byrne

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French Community Loses National Paper

Gay Pied Hebdo, France's only national weekly Gay publication, closed last month. The decision was announced by Gerard Vappereau, director of Editions du Triangle Rose and the last publication appeared on October 29th. Mr Vappereau cited falling circulation and the French governments proposed tax of 50% on gross profits from Minitel.

The magazine's circulation has been falling steadily since 1983. Circulation figures reached a high of 26,000 that year but by 1991 figures had declined to 6,000.

The magazine seemed to lose relevance for many people according to feedback in the Gay press, which can be partly explained by the fact that over the last few years much of its finances have come from Minitel.

Minitel is a telephone-linked computer network system. During the '80's the french phone company provided Minitel to a vast range of telephone subscribers free of charge. This allowed for a huge market for advertisers on Minitel and Gay Pied were quick to take advantage of this by starting a Contact Ad Service. This service proved so successful that it was soon providing nearly 80% of the magazine's finances. This financial security contributed to the downfall of journalistic standards in the magazine.

The French far right then entered the picture, led by a Mrs Chapouthier of Federation de Families du France (FFF). The

FFF attacked the Minitel contact services on the grounds that "children might see sexually explicit ads on Minitel". Eventually the Government relented and a number of phone lines were closed for "obscenity". The government then

"community newspaper" it would be exempt from the new Tax. This makes Vappereau's decision seem more like a personal rather than a financial one. With the French right-wing gaining ground, Vappereau seems to have lost the

stomach for the fight for Gay Rights which was the hallmark of the magazine during the 1970's. Gay Pied's loss will be a major setback for France's Gay and Lesbian community. In fact "community" may be too strong a term. Due to France's Catholic past, many lesbian and Gay people seem reluctant to openly identify themselves as such. They tend to view themselves as individuals rather than members of a powerful minority group, subsequently they tend to blend into the background. Gay Pied provided a vital link between people living in rural areas and those in the cities. It also played

a major role in disseminating AIDS information and Safer-Sex education.

Now that this link has dissappeared, France's community may become even more fragmented and thus less able to defend itself against future attacks from the right-wing.

P O'Diomsaigh



announced a 50% tax on Minitel profits.

Since it's main source of income was about to be slashed, Mr Vappereau's decision to cease publication may seem logical enough, however the French Budget Minister assured Gay Pied that as a

International International Mardi-Gras

February is Mardi Gras time in Sydney, Australia. The Sydney Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras, the world's largest gay and lesbian night-time street parade, takes over the major thoroughfares of the city and Sydney comes out to enjoy a visual spectacle unrivalled in size and sensibility.

The Mardi Gras began in 1978 as a protest march in support of the Stonewall call to action. It traditionally occurred in June but was moved to February to take advantage of the best of Australian weather. Over the last 15 years it has grown and now encompasses a month long festival of arts, a cavalcade of sporting events, a myriad of community activities and a street parade of true Mardi Gras proportions.

The 1992 Mardi Gras parade attracted a record breaking crowd of over a half a million people watching 70 floats and marchers representing the gay and lesbian community as it moved through the major streets of Sydney to the site for the party, the Sydney Show-ground. The Parade is Australia's largest gay and lesbian demonstration and receives massive media coverage.

The parade is followed by the party - a huge celebration which takes over the Sydney Show-grounds, offering patrons several large industry halls and pavilions for their revelry. 16,000 dedicated followers of fashion danced and promenaded at the 1992 party, sampling the delights of a cabaret club or two huge dance floors equipped with thunderous sound systems.



The month long arts festival offers a wide range of lesbian and gay talent and a creative platform for the lesbian and gay sensibility. The 1993 Sydney Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras Festival will feature over eleven theatre productions, a vast number of visuals, art exhibitions and sporting events that will leave you breathless.

The Sydney Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras welcomes international visitors and is credited with the biggest boon to Sydney tourism since the Sydney Opera House. Thousands of international visitors flock to Sydney for the Mardi Gras and the centre of Sydney becomes the centre of the world for the month long festival. Many tourists take the opportunity to discover Australia and holidays can be planned to take in the best of Mardi Gras and the far reaches of Australia.

A TIME TO SPEAK

'A Time to Speak' is the title of a statement released in a recent issue of the National Catholic Reporter in the USA. A paid advertisement, the statement replies to the Vatican statement released in July which stated that discrimination against lesbians and gays was licit in certain areas. More than 1,500 people signed the statement including Bishop Walter F Sullivan of Richmond and Thomas Gumbelton, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit.

The statement says that its signatories "believe that lesbian and gay people are numbered among our finest teachers and coaches", that many "have provided loving and nurturing homes" to children and that a "recent government study showed that gay and lesbian military personnel are no less qualified or effective than any other group". The signatories also "reaffirm the inherent dignity of lesbian and gay persons and we pledge our renewed support for their basic civil rights in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations."

Europe To Do Double-Take?

Mr Alecos Modinos, a Greek Cypriot, looks set to win the case he brought to the European Court of Human Rights, against his country's gay sex laws. Mr Modinos' case was presented before the court on October 27th - almost 4 years to the day that Senator David Norris brought his case against the Irish Government.

This case is, in fact, almost identical to Senator Norris' case. Like the Irish Government, the Greek Government has consistently broken promises to decriminalise Homosexuality, arguing that since no prison sentences have been handed down in recent years "the spirit of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights was

being respected".

Articles 171 - 174 of the Cypriot Criminal Code prohibits all gay male sex in public or in private. The penalty for breaking this law ranges from 5 - 14 years imprisonment. Provisions for whipping and flogging were only deleted from the criminal code in 1972.

In its ruling the Convention stressed that "the mere fact that the implementation of a penal law has not resulted in any criminal convictions does not in itself negate the possibility that it has effects amounting to interference with private life... maintaining the law unammended is not necessary in a democratic society".

P O'Diomsaigh.



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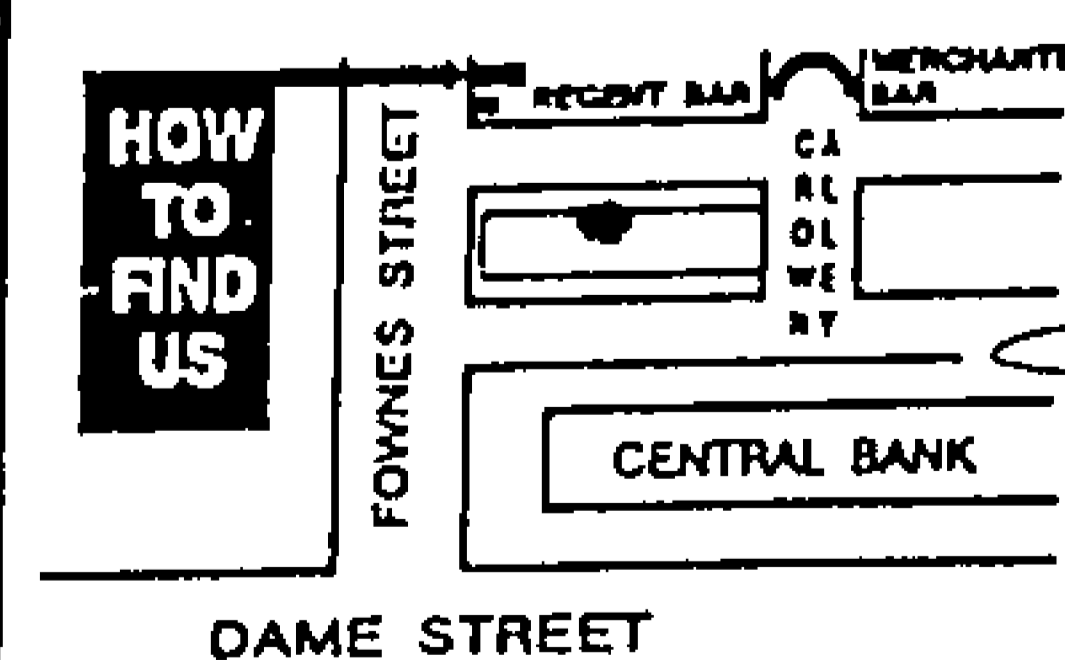


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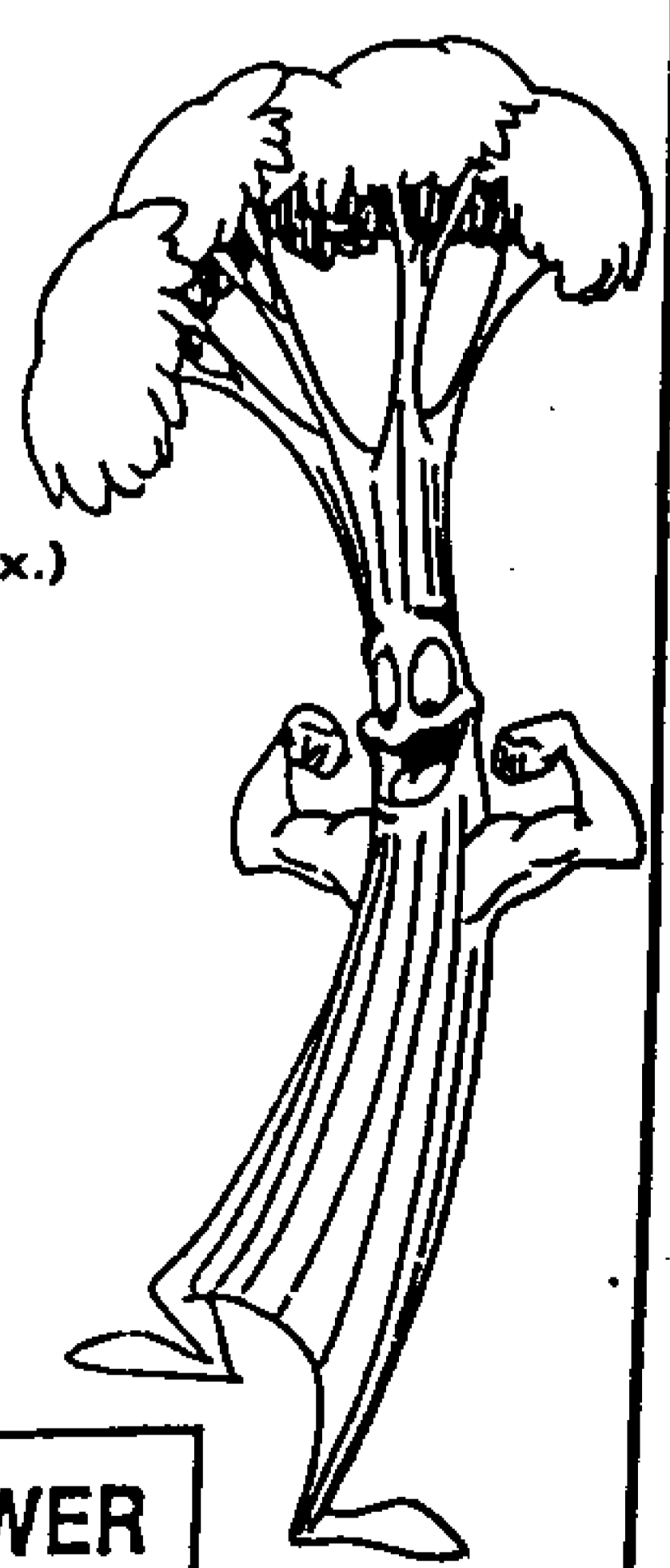
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Outrage in Colorado

Martina Navratilova is spearheading a campaign against a recent referendum in the United States state of Colorado, which made discrimination against lesbians and gay men legal. The legislation forbids the state to bring forward laws protecting the rights of homosexuals in any way. Martina is among several noted residents of the state who are lodging complaints with the Colorado Court of Justice appealing the decision.

The amendment to the state's constitution was put on the ballot by 'family values' groups and voting took place on the same day as the US Presidential election.

The law-suit brought by Navratilova and others, disputes the referendum result as they say it is contrary to the 14th Amendment of the US constitution, which states that all citizens are guaranteed equal protection under the law.

Attorney Clyde Wadsworth, said that the amendment "gives people the freedom to discriminate and to deny employment for no rational reason".

Martina said that if the amendment is not overturned she will emigrate. At a recent Press Conference the 36 year-old tennis star said that she was not willing to pay taxes to a state that "discriminates against people like me". Navratilova has stated that the campaign against the amendment by lesbians and gay



groups was 'fought too nicely'. "They didn't fight as dirty as 'family

values' group did"

The anger of Navratilova is only part of the intensified movement against the amendment. Colorado's embarrassed governor is supporting the lesbian and gay counterattack.

As soon as the result was made known Governor Roy Romer stated that if any one in state government was fired because of their sexual orientation, he would fire their supervisor as well and file suit against them. The outrage against the amendment has fired the anger of the lesbian and gay community and according to some it has come as a blessing in disguise. Maybe now the community will fight harder for themselves.

Gay Heaven

There'll have to be Gays up in heaven-
Or there's no point in my going there:
I'm so used to the scene
Of the chicken and queen
That without it my life would be bare.

There'll have to be Gays up in heaven-
Or there won't be a role there for me:
Though i'm not gay myself,
To each fairy and elf
I'm the fairy godmother you see.

There'll have to be Gays up in heaven-
As I think that is where they belong,
For they don't do much harm,
And they don't take up arms,
And they've been down in Hell here too long.

Maria



Social Attitudes in UK

A recent British Survey on Social attitudes revealed that 58% of adults believe that sex between adults of the same sex is always wrong. British Social Attitudes is one of the major opinion pollsters on social issues.

The organisation however has been condemned by Stonewall for the 'leading' question put to the public. The survey's question read

"What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex?"

Anya Palmer of Stonewall said that a poll conducted for them through the Harris organisation revealed that 64% of the British population did not know any lesbians or gays. "This suggests that judgemental opinions are based on ignorance", she said.

Isle of Man on Line with New Switchboard

For twelve months a small group of highly committed and highly motivated individuals have been working together to set up *Carrey-Friend*, the Isle of Man Lesbian and Gay Switchboard.

Carrey, which is the Manx word for friend, came into existence as a direct result of the needless deaths over the past ten years of at least five men and women who committed suicide when the pressures they faced in relation to their own sexuality became too great.

There have been lesbian and gay switchboards in the United Kingdom and in Ireland for many years, but it was not until the final impetus of law change in the Isle of Man and mass arrests in February 1992, that this small group of dedicated volunteers came together. Since then they have filled their waking hours with planning, fund raising and training.

Carrey-Friend is about to be registered as a charity and affiliated to *National Friend* the umbrella organisation which supervises all such switchboards throughout the United Kingdom and which is itself affiliat-

ed to the *British Association of Counselling*. This affiliation assures that Carrey-Friend will operate to the highest ethical standards with full training and back-up.

Trainers have come to the Isle of Man (giving of their time freely), to ensure that the volunteers have all the theoretical academic and practical traing they can before phone lines went live.

As long ago as July 1992, a full timetable was worked out leading to the phones going live in January 1993. Premises have been identified, training is now almost completed and work is being carried out to adapt the premises and install the telephones.

Carrey-Friend will go live on Thursday 7 January, 1993. Initially Carrey-Friend will operate from 7-10pm each Thursday night. The telephone number will be:

Douglas 611600.

When the switchboard is not staffed there will be an answerphone advising of the hours of service and giving alternative numbers such as London switchboard which operstes 24hrs a day, 365 days a year.

Carrey-Friend volunteers have had full training and possess the necessary counselling skills to deal with the multitude of problems that can be caused by sexuality. They expect to receive calls fom all age ranges from the young to the old, from parents of gay men and women, from bereaved gay men and women and from those who may be infected

from AIDS or who may be just lonely, isolated or coming to terms with their sexuality.

For obvious reasons the members of Carrey-Friend do not identify themselves, thereby ensuring anonymity and confidentiality for callers.

Two volunteers are on duty whenever the switchboard is open, and a support group network exists to assist volunteers with any problems they may have arising out of calls they receive.

Carrey-Friend is always looking for new volunteers, for funds to assist in its work and for friends to help with the administration and organisation.

In addition to taking phone calls Carrey-Friend will also befriend people by letter. This is an invaluable service as some people may be too scared to telephone or indeed may not have access to a phone when Carrey-Friend switchboard is open. Over the last two years the *Ellan Vannin Gay Group* has conducted, without training, but very successfully, letter befriending with over fifty people who have written in for help, assistance and advice. This work will now be taken over by Carrey-Friend allowing EVGG to concentrate on political campaigning and social projects of its own.

We have been very lucky in finding some very skilled and talented people to fulfil the roles of vice presidents and patrons including Sir Ian McKellan, Michael Cashman, Pam St. Clements, Simon Fanshaw and Chris Smith MP.



Christmas Tea Dance



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It Can Affect Us All Intimately

Every man should do the following at least once a month: Stand, or sit naked, in front of a mirror (a full length mirror or a hand one) with your legs wide apart, places your hands on your testicles and start to massage them. What you are doing or looking for is signs of testicular cancer. This can be lumps found in the scrotum (bag) or lumps actually growing on testicles (balls) themselves, another sign is the testicle swollen up.

Needless to say most men who suffer from this form of cancer, find that it is every painful. This type of cancer is nick-named "youthful Tumours" because it affects males between the ages of 15 to 40 though the general name is Testicular-cancer. There are two types: (1) Seminoma, which is less malignant

but the most dangerous (2) Teratoma, spreads through the lymph-node or blood stream and is more difficult to treat and may affect fertility. The two above named may be treated by chemotherapy but if more serious, can lead to the malignancy being removed by a small operation to the effected area.

As in most Cancers, all can be cured - if caught in time, and that is why it is important to examine yourself at least once a month. If you have doubts about the correct way of doing this you should consult your doctor, or ask at your next medical check-up that he/she would examine you for Testicular Cancer.

If it is found that you have an abnormality the next step is that the doctor will refer you to a hospital for an X-ray. This would enable the

doctors to decide how serious the cancer growth is and the type of treatment needed. It would also verified if it is a cancerous growth and not a virus, which may give the same symptoms.

For many who are affected by this disease the cure to the illness is a minor operation to remove the growth. For most patients fertility is not effected and they go on to lead healthy normal life and, I should say, healthy sex-life as well. It is also important to point out that many men have died from this form of cancer over the years and it is one of the most likely cancers men die of today. So it is important to get a regular examination and to have any swelling or infection of the testicles checked if the symptoms persist.

Just another point to make: while researching this article I found that the Government Health Promotion does not have any information on cancer and I think that it is a crying shame and one which should be raised. If you do want information on this you should contact the Cancer Association: Telephone: 681 855. But if you are in doubt, do have your doctor check it out.

Paul Gorry

Breast cancer can be a great cause of anxiety for women. This need not be the case, as most cancer's are usually detected in time and can be dealt with, efficiently.

The first sign of breast cancer is the discovery of a lump in the breast and because most women do not examine their breasts, (which all doctors recommend), these lumps are usually discovered by accident. It is important to note however, that in the vast majority of these incidents the lump is benign - ie *not* cancerous.

So, what happens if you have breast cancer? Your doctor may refer you for a *Mammography* (an X-ray of the breasts). This helps to pinpoint and diagnose the position of the lump. More tests may be taken to rule-out possible other causes for the lump. The earlier the cancer is detected, the more options are available for the doctors to use.

Removal of the cancer by operation is done only after all other options have being tried. The first option is *Chemotherapy*, which may sound frightening but has a very high efficiency rate.

Chemotherapy is the use of radiation, which at times has some side-effects such as loss of body-hair and/or nausea after treatment.

The duration of treatment depends on how advanced the cancer is. For most people, the

fear of cancer ends here and a six monthly check-up would be your only reminder.

A small percentage of women go on to have some part of their breast removed as the cancer may be threatening the lung/heart.

Breast Self- Examination

1. Do it once a month or, if you are still menstruating, once during each menstrual cycle - usually after your period when your breasts feel less lumpy.

2. First look carefully at your breasts in the mirror for any obvious change in shape, size, skin texture or discharge from the nipples.

3. Then lie flat, perhaps with a folded towel under the shoulders on the side you are going to examine, and carefully feel each section of the breast with the flat of your fingers. Some women find this easier to do in the bath with soapy hands.

If this is practised regularly you should become familiar with the normal lumps and bumps in your breasts, and so pick up changes quickly. In order to practise BSE effectively it is important to be shown how, probably more than once, by someone with experience in teaching it.

Leaflets are available from most Health Centre's and family-planning clinic's and your local Well-Woman Centre should prove very helpful and supportive.

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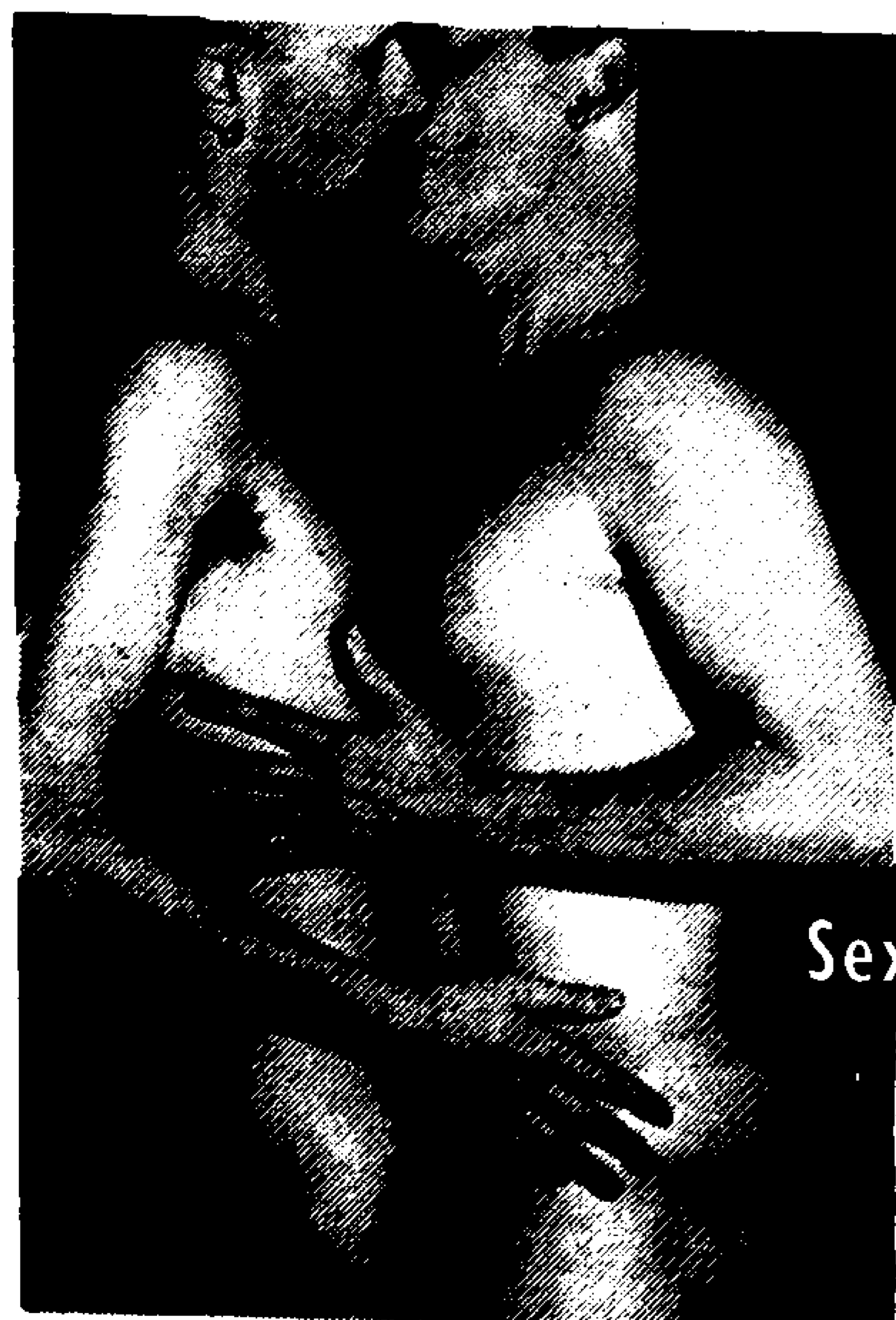
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Paul Gorry as he looked when the LGYFI was originally launched back in June 1991

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Difficult but Hopeful

Growing up is hard enough if one fits into the so-called mainstream, but if one happens to be lesbian or gay a whole new set of problems are added to an already heavy load.

Schoolyard taunts and prejudice combined with ones own feelings of a lack of identity make a lot of young people miserable throughout their teenage years. School often becomes a place associated with mental and physical torture and many experience a feeling of total isolation.

A common notion among young lesbians and gay men is that they are the only one's in their area or school, because of this it becomes harder for them to come out to their friends or family. This leads to loneliness and often to a feeling of being *subnormal* or *weird*.

This is why the *Dublin Lesbian and Gay Youth Group* was set up a number of years ago. Since then it has helped hundreds of young people to meet and make friends with others who have gone through the same experiences. Although the youth group offers no counselling services to troubled youngsters, we find that the knowledge that they are not alone is often enough to start the process of self acceptance.

Once one accepts oneself it becomes easier to live ones life and to ignore other peoples' prejudices. Another advantage of the youth group is that having already made friends here young people don't have to venture on to the scene on their own. *The Youth Group* (as we are now known) shows that there is nothing *subnormal* or

weird about us.

Another function of The Youth Group is to educate our members in areas such as HIV, AIDS and all other STDs. We have regular Safer Sex workshops where qualified counsellors/doctors come in and explain the dangers and how to avoid them. This is often the only safer sex information our members have been exposed to, as schools tend to ignore or condemn gay practices in sex education classes.

The Youth Group has also always made its members available to help the community where possible (collections for World AIDS Day, catering for the Dublin Tea Dances etc). This helps to promote a feeling of belonging and a family atmosphere.

Since the set-up of the *Dublin*

Youth Group similar groups have started in Cork and Limerick and word is that the Belfast group is set to restart in the near future.

As most of our members are either unemployed or still in school we do not charge a membership fee so fundraising is now necessary to meet our expenses.

The Parliament Inn has donated the use of their top bar for us to hold a disco in. The date is set for Sunday, 20 Dec at 8 pm and DJ Karen is providing the sound so it promises to be a good night! Admission will be £2 and there will be a special *Gay Blind Date* game on the night. Everyone is welcome so come along and enjoy yourselves.

Junior Larkin

The Group

September, said hello to some new faces at the Youth Group and goodbye to some old. My co-leaders *Ger, Donal and Paul* resigned and the new co-leaders *Junior, Orla and Thomas* came together to plan for the months ahead.

Keeping to our educational/interesting ethic, we kicked off with an AIDS/HIV workshop with Mick Quinlan, Patrick Reeves and Dr Louise Pomeroy discussed the facts about STD's.

Suzie Byrne and Stephen Lewis informed us of our rights as workers, students or unemployed persons and with our forthcoming Parents Day, everything looks good.

The Youth Group is open to anyone under 25 on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. For information please contact G.S.D. at (01)721055.

Between our video hour hosted by Junior, the cinema, bowling and MTV afternoons we've never had a dull moment.

BYRON.

Trinity Gay Society

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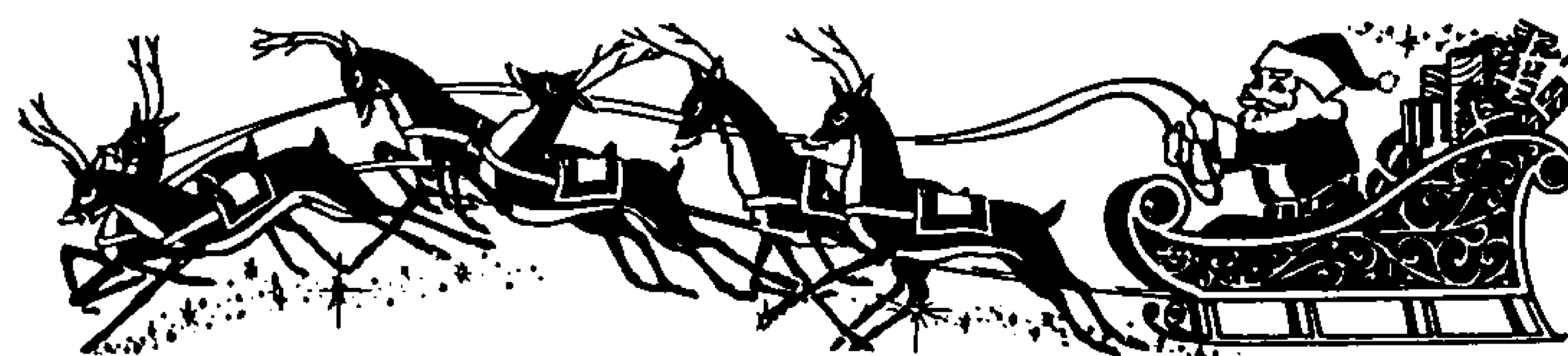
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In what was billed as the most exciting election in recent times we have seen and heard a plethora of promises, rainbows of all colours and 'dirty tricks' campaigns. The message out there among the candidates was that it was clearly every woman for herself! (okay, so most of the candidates were men - there's no harm in wishing!)

In an effort to get the subject of lesbian and gay rights onto the agenda I attended press conferences and asked many questions. By the end of the campaign I was punch drunk from the one-liners and cliches and I am glad the campaign is over.

As you can see, three parties had no hesitation in placing law reform in their manifesto's. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

As the parties make their sleeping arrangements for the next five years, GCN reviews the promises or the lack of them and assesses the implications for the lesbian and gay community.

You've read, heard and been canvassed and hopefully cast your vote. Now, what about the points the parties failed to ram down our throats during the campaign.

Suzy Byrne has spent the last month attending press conferences, hassling the politicians, listening to them on TV and Radio and generally becoming an election Junky.

Fine Gael

Fine Gael have no policy on law reform and no promises were made in their manifesto.

When asked if in government, would he immediately implement the necessary legislation, John Bruton said that "it was



important that those of other characteristics (including political and ethnic) were protected under law and Ireland's commitments under the European Convention of Human Rights should be backed up by the appropriate legislation."

The words lesbian and gay do not come easily to Mr. Bruton it would seem.

Labour

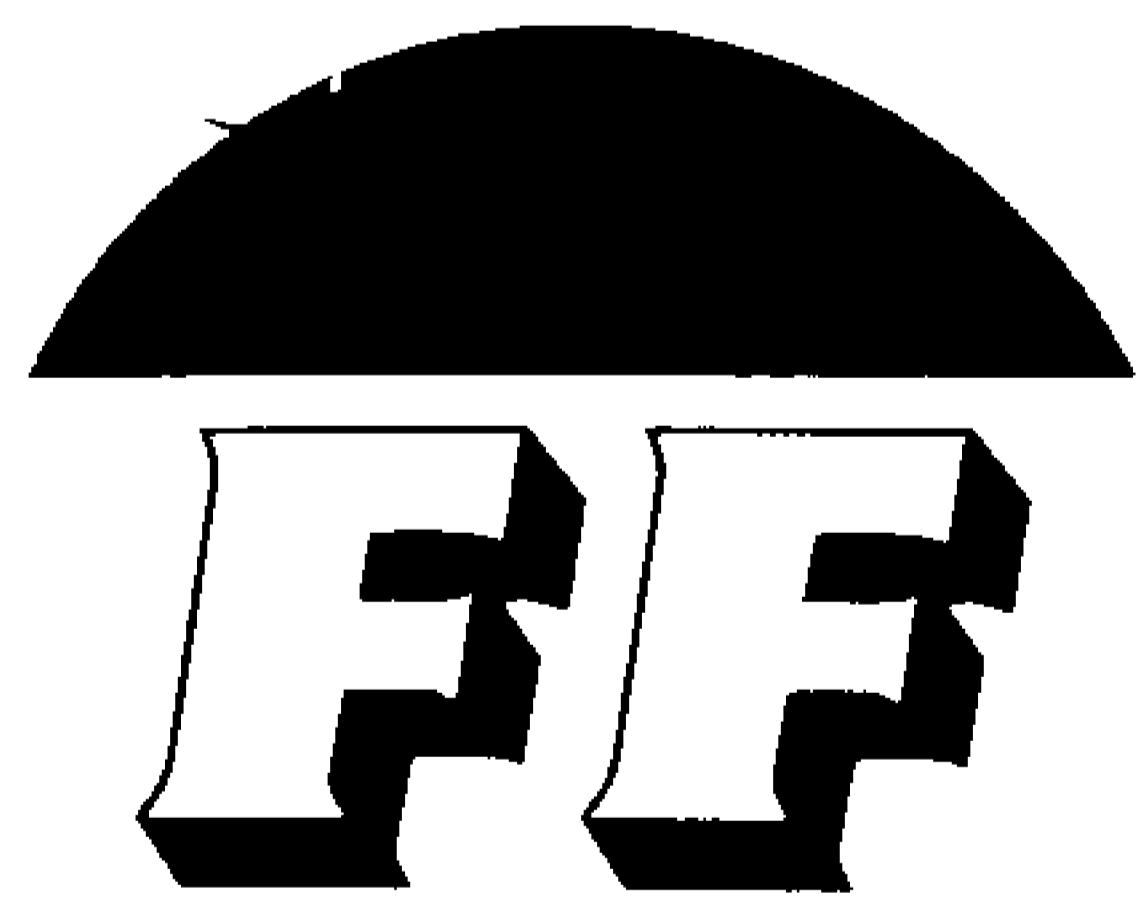
Labour Party policy on homosexuality has been in existence since 1973. The Party is in favour of law reform and anti-discrimination legislation. In their Programme entitled *Putting justice into Economics and Trust into Politics*, the party again committed itself to introducing

law reform. The party if in government would also introduce their Equal Status Bill which failed to become law by four votes earlier this year.

A SENIOR CANDIDATE FOR THE LABOUR PARTY WAS SEEN DRINKING IN ONE OF OUR OWN PUBS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY. AT LAST, SOMEONE HAS RECOGNISED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GAY VOTE!

Fianna Fail

Fianna Fáil did not commit themselves to reforming legislation in relation to homosexuality in their manifesto. During the campaign, the government told



the Council of Europe that Ireland would reform the legislation within the next six months.

Padraig Flynn former(?) Minister for Justice when asked about anti-discrimination legislation and other law reforms said that "although not a priority that doesn't mean that it's off the agenda".

RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE INFORMED GCN THAT FIANNA FAIL RAN A CLOSETED GAY CANDIDATE IN RURAL IRELAND. THE CANDIDATE NARROWLY LOST IN A BATTLE FOR THE LAST SEAT IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.

Progressive Democrats

Progressive Democrat chairperson Michael McDowell was the party's most out spoken representative on the failure of the government to introduce gay



law reform.

While it was the P.D.'s who originally placed the issue of gay law reform in the Programme for Government in 1989 there seemed to be much reluctance to force the issue while in government.

Democratic Left

Democratic Left included gay law reform in their manifesto. Asked why his party insisted on making lesbian and gay rights an important issue leader Proinnsias De Rossa said that

basic fundamental Human Rights have always been a priority for his party and that the governments inaction on the matter was a disgrace.

Where to From Here?

The election of Mary Robinson as President, represented the start of a shift to pluralist politics in Ireland. The implications for lesbians and gays from the massive swing to liberal politics are obvious. With homosexuality now a subject firmly on the agenda of two of the possible partners in a rainbow coalition, reluctance attached with dealing with the subject has, hopefully, all but disappeared.

We have all seen the promises and we have been let down before. Therefore it is up to us all as a community to remind the parties, in whatever coalition takes place, they have promised change. As the voters who instituted the mandate for that change there should be no let up in the pressure.

Labour will almost certainly be in government and with 33 seats they will have a strong voice in what ever coalition takes place. Sources close to the leadership in the Labour party have informed me that they will include law reform as a matter of urgency in any of their negotiations with other parties over the next month. It now seems a matter of *when* and not *if* law reform introduction will take place.

The demise of Democratic Left is a matter of some sadness to the lesbian and gay community, given the party's undiluted support. It is obvious that they will have to look into whether there is still a place for the party in Irish politics. Alleged links with the KGB and the Kremlin have obviously damaged the party as had the resurgence of Labour as the party representative of all classes and sections of society.

This election has also seen the coming and going of many of our friends and foes in Dáil Eireann. James Tunney (Biddy), has finally been forced to retire and joining him is Michael O' Kennedy - another noted homophobe.

Entering the Dáil for the first time is Frances Fitzgerald, former chairperson of the Council for the Status of Women, a long time supporter of lesbian and gay rights.

Monica Barnes who also voiced her support to the community, lost her seat in Dun Laoghaire. Monica was a staunch supporter of lesbian and gay rights and she will be sorely missed.

Certainly, the formation of the new government will be fraught with tensions, but hopefully, with up to twenty women involved in the talks, reason might actually prevail.

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MAD Flowers

This year's annual review of the stories that made the headlines in 1992 is compiled by James Dignam. The NLGF Media Archive has proved an invaluable source for this, yet again.

DECEMBER '91

***President Mary Robinson has a meeting with a group of HIV positive people and those living with AIDS. They presented her with an educational video, made by the *Irish Family Planning Association*, aimed at dispelling the prejudices about HIV and AIDS.

***Three weeks after Freddie Mercury's death, Queen's classic; *Bohemian Rhapsody* reaches number one after its re-release. The proceeds were donated to AIDS charities.

JANUARY '92

***In the USA, the first openly lesbian Presbyterian Minister is appointed a church. Jane Adams Spahr is made co-pastor in Rochester, New York.

***Marvel comics, creators of *Batman, Superman and Spiderman*, 'out' one of their other superheroes. *Northstar* (Canada's most eligible bachelor) admits his secret when confronted by the distraught father of a boy who died from an AIDS related illness.

***Aileen Wuornos, the *US Damsel of Death*, is convicted for the first of seven murders. The prosecution claimed she robbed her all male victims (after killing them) for gifts to her lesbian lover.

FEBRUARY

***The Department of Health launch a new video aimed at educating young people about HIV and AIDS. This causes controversy however, because it concentrates more on the moral aspect (monogamy, celibacy etc) rather than safer sex methods.

***In Dallas a state judge ruled that the banning of lesbians and gay men from the police force was unconstitutional. Before this ruling, applicants had to take a lie detector test to prove they were 'straight'.

***Condom vending machines are placed in nineteen venues in Cork, Galway and Dublin by the lobby group *Condom Sense*.

***Aidwise release figures showing a forty percent rise in AIDS cases in Ireland.



MARCH

***International outrage was caused when *The Ancient Order Of Hibernians* banned a group of Irish American lesbians and gay men from marching in the New York - Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

***Meanwhile in Cork the lesbian and gay community proudly march through the city in the St Patricks

Day Parade and take home the prize for best newcomer!

***Back in the US *Queer Nation, Act Up* and other activists stage a demonstration at the Oscar ceremony in protest at the portrayal of gays in the film *Basic Instinct*.

APRIL

***The Isle of Man MP's bow to pressure to scrap their laws banning homosexual acts.

***Jason Donovan, (that renowned heterosexual) is awarded £200,000 against the *Face* magazine for not being gay.

***Rock group Queen donate £1m royalties from the re-release of *Bohemian Rhapsody* to AIDS charities.

****The Union of Students of Ireland* join with *AIDS Alliance* to launch a dramatic poster campaign promoting safe-sex.

***Stars of the rock world, Bowie, Def Leppard, George Michael and many others including Elizabeth Taylor appear at Wembley in a tribute to Freddie Mercury.

***Buckingham Palace (and co) are shocked at a claim made on US TV that *Prince Edward* is gay.

MAY

***In his book *Rebel Males*, author Graham McCann states that the rise to stardom of 50s' Hollywood stars *Clift, Dean and Brando* is down to their bisexuality and thus an alternative to the 'McCarthy-ite straight-jacket of the time.

***Screen legend Marlene Dietrich dies a near recluse in her Paris home at the grand old age of 90.

***Tennis star Arthur Ashe shocks the sports world with an announcement that he is HIV Positive.

***Senator David Norris announces he's taken further action against the government for failing to implement the European Court Ruling on Homosexual Law Reform.

JUNE

***Labour TD Jim Kemmy, (while Lord Mayor) opens the first meeting of Limerick Forum, a social group for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals.

***Over 40,000 lesbians and gay men from all over Europe march through London to celebrate the 21st lesbian and gay Pride Week.

***US Food and Drug Administration approve the use of the drugs *DDC* and *AZT* in the fight against AIDS.

***In the Dail, the government is attacked by the opposition over its failure to implement the European ruling on the Norris case.

JULY

***Hundreds of lesbians, gay men and friends march through Dublin to celebrate Gay Pride, for the first time in seven years.

***The Irish government finally passes a new condom bill lowering the legal age of purchase to 17 but forbidding the selling of condoms in vending machines.

***The World AIDS Conference opens in Amsterdam.

***The first sex-swap operation takes place in Peking where a 30 year old male swaps his testicles for the ovaries of a 22 year old woman.

***A leaked *Vatican* document declares that in some circumstances it is justifiable to discriminate against homosexuals.

AUGUST

***The Canadian Human Rights Act is found unconstitutional for failing to protect lesbians and gay men.

***Gay rights activists are

ejected from *Westminster Cathedral* during a protest against the church's support of anti-gay legislation.

***Irish delegates were among those attacked by French police at a peaceful protest outside the Mexican Embassy. The delegates representing *GLEN* were protesting at the murders of seven gay men in Mexico City.

***Tommy Nutter the flamboyant fashion designer, died of AIDS related illnesses. Among the stars he dressed were Elton John, Bill Wyman, Diana Ross, Twiggy and Michael Jackson. He also designed Jack Nicholson's *Joker* wardrobe for the film *Batman*.

SEPTEMBER

***Legal chiefs in Scotland are accused of interfering with the course of Justice for fear of blackmail or being exposed as clients of male prostitutes.

***A US biotechnology firm based

in Galway develop the most sophisticated kits for detecting the HIV I and HIV II viruses in the blood.

***Lesbians Organising Together (LOT) celebrate their first anniversary at *Whelans* of Wexford St,

Dublin with a night of music, craic and comedy.

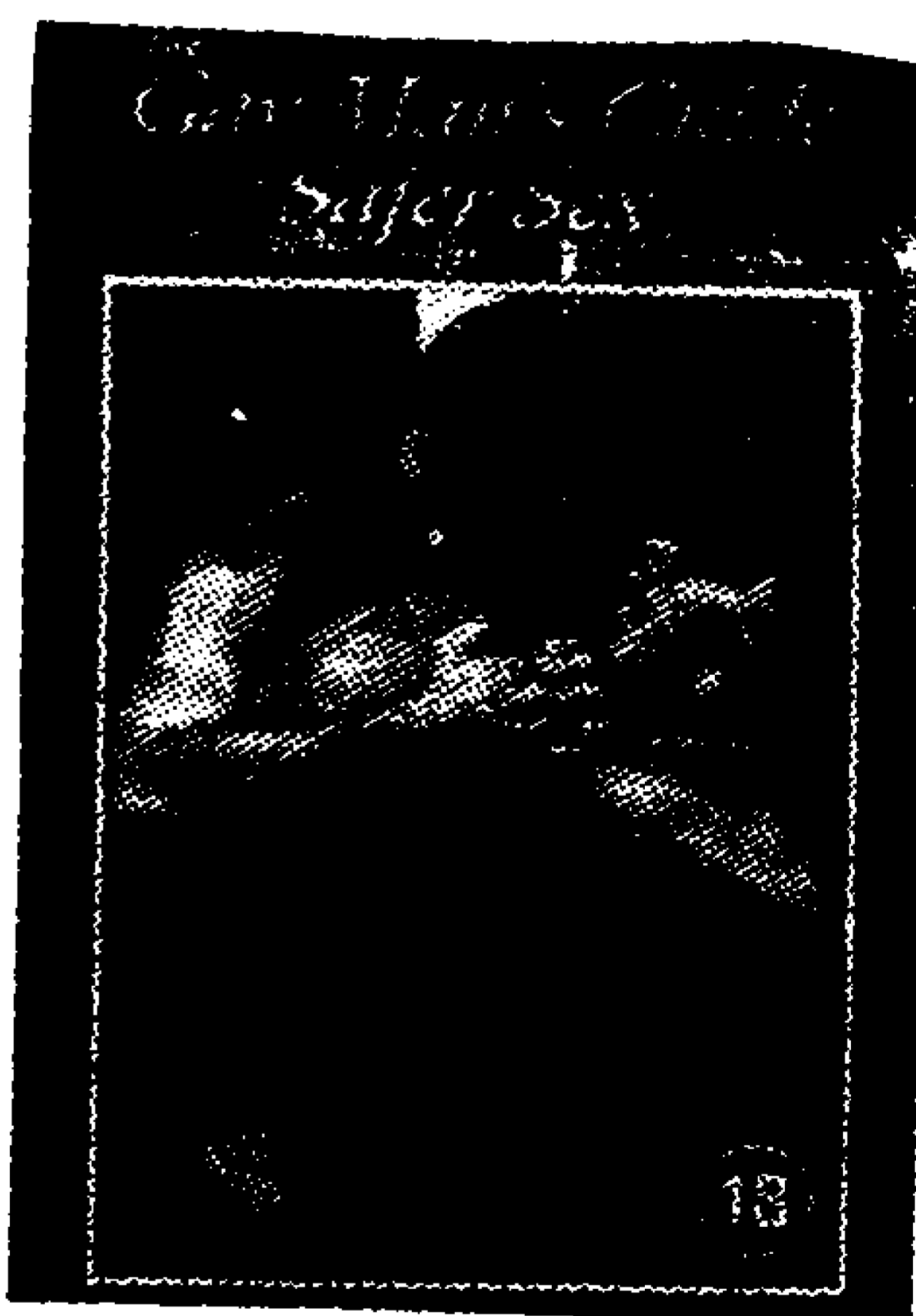
***In response to the Vatican document, Fr Pat Buckley speaks out in the *Munster LGCN*. In the article he says "I have been ashamed of Rome's inhumanity to man".

OCTOBER

***The *2nd Irish Lesbian and Gay Film Festival* opens in Cork. Among the many screenings was the controversial Terrence Higgins Trust video *The Gay Mans Guide to Safer Sex*.

***In Dublin the new Irish Film Centre hold their first Lesbian and Gay Film Club.

***In Belfast *The Waterfront Bar*, a pub frequented by lesbians and gay



men is attacked by the *IPLO*. Although the bar is immediately destroyed, the clientele are cleared from the building without injury.

***The fourth anniversary of the Norris Judgement is celebrated(?) outside the Dail with a large Birthday cake, starlights, pink ribbons, etc. Those in attendance included; Proinsias De Rossa of Democratic Left, Roger Garland of the Greens, David McConnell of ICCL, The Diceman and of course David Norris himself.

NOVEMBER

***A new 19-bed unit for people with AIDS related illnesses opens in *St James Hospital*, Dublin.

***Pop star *Elton John* sets up his own AIDS charity, it will sponsor research into the cause and transmission of the disease.

***Irish government officials are called to the *Council of Europe* to explain why they have failed after 4 years to comply with the Norris ruling on Homosexuality. It was decided to delay and decision for a further 6 months.

***Fans gather outside the former home of rock star *Freddie Mercury* to mark the first anniversary of the stars' death.

Fadó Fadó

Jan '76

In response to the Vatican's latest condemnation of homosexuality, David Norris, in a letter to the *The Irish Catholic* likens their attitude to their condemnation of Gallileo for stating that the world was not flat.

Dec '77

The first meeting takes place in Trinity College of the newly formed Gay Society.

Dec '80

After years of cover-up, an inquiry is launched into allegations of sex abuse in the Kincora boys home.

Dec '81

Ireland's first glossy mag aimed at lesbians and gay men is launched. The magazine entitled *Identity* retails at 40p.

Dec '83

The Gay Society in University College Dublin is refused recognition by the Academic Council.

Dec '84

Out, a new magazine aimed at lesbians and gay men, is launched.

Dec '85

The world is shocked by the tragic death of Rock Hudson from an AIDS related illness.

However, the trauma of his death has been made worse by the unseemly squabble over his multi-million estate.

Dec '86

For the first time in the United States, an openly gay man wins a custody case for his 13 year-old son.

Jan '87

The short-lived marriage between Renate and Elton John ends.

Dec '87

A Dublin man, who was part of the gang in 1982 which killed Declan Flynn in Fairview Park, Dublin when they went 'Queer-bashing', was sentenced to ten years in prison after admitting to raping a woman who was seven months pregnant.

Dec '88

Gay activists picket the Dail to protest at the exclusion of *Incitement to Hatred Bill*.

Jimmy Dignam

Compact and Practical

TACKLING MEN'S HEALTH
IR£ 4.99
On Stream Publications Ltd.

This paperback purports to be a practical guide to health and fitness for men, and it is just that. The author, Dr. John O'Riordan, is a general medical practitioner in Cork and has first-hand experience of men's questions on health. The book contains 11 chapters,

of which the first four basically deal with general health issues, such as lifestyle, stress, heart disease and cancer. Common questions are answered, procedures and tests explained and preventative measures are described.

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 deal with specific issues pertaining to men's health. Chapter 5 provides a guide to male sexual organs, how they work, prob-

lems that can occur and available treatment. Of particular interest is the section on self-examination of the testes. Women, at this stage, are very familiar with self-examination of the breasts, but men aren't told

to examine their testes, while cancer of the testes is the most common cancer in men between the ages of 29 and 34. Early detection leads to virtually a 100% cure rate.

Sexual problems are discussed in Chapter 7 and various treatment options are given.

The chapter on STD (sexually transmitted diseases) is factual

and up-to-date.

The final two chapters of the book deal with work and sports-related injuries and give sensible advice on prevention.

All in all, this is a compact and practical book, easy to read and understand. At £4.99 it is a must for any man who takes an interest in his own health.

Hennie Walsh

As Camp As Butlins

Kylie has always had her knockers and recently there seems to be a lot more of them (and I'm not talking Gossard Wonder Bra or silicone implants here girls!). The release of a double album of her greatest hits has sickened all the trendy mediafolk who said she wouldn't last all those years ago. All the hits are here from the high camp *I Should Be So Lucky* to the more dancey *Celebration*. Who could forget the completely fabulous *Better The Devil You Know* or indeed *Shocked* (the only Kylie song our own DJs seem to play - more please). This is the perfect addition to your Christmas pressie list and if you're a good girl maybe Santy will bring you a copy (I have one already but the video would be nice). This album is as camp as Butlins and is just perfect to frug around your handbags to at the office party this year.



Junior Larkin

Tramp, Whore, Tacky, Slut, Feminist, Manipulator, Campaigner or Saviour! Whichever way you think of Madonna you can't ignore her. Her book *Sex* has caused outrage not least because of its heavy gay content. In fact there are 32 pages and a free comic dealing with lesbian, gay or bisexual encounters. You may think it is good that gay sex appears in a mainstream book by a major star however I am very cynical about this. The featured lesbians are of the butch, tattooed, shaven headed variety and the pictures seem designed to appeal to the sexual fantasies of heterosexual males. Spread over two pages are scenes of gay sex depicting mutual masturbation and simulated anal intercourse in a public toilet. As these scenes have other pictures superimposed over them they are difficult to make out at first glance. Indeed on closer inspection the



scene turn out to be the two women

from the lesbian pages (I told you they were butch). Elsewhere in the book there are pictures of naked men kissing-shock, horror, yawn!! This book is not the pornographic incitement to unsafe sex that the pre-publicity would have you believe. It is far to arty and Madonna is now in danger of disappearing up her own arse (or indeed up someone else's which almost happens in a rimming scene in the book). Word is that Kylie has a sex book coming out soon lets hope hers is more interesting than her middle aged rivals'.

Junior Larkin

Smashing Through the Barriers of Decency

Robert Mapplethorpe's lens has ventured where none has gone before - his post-death, self-entitled collection proves this. What is in question is whether the journey was entirely necessary or even remotely worth while?



Patrick Cross, 1983

Three years after his AIDS-related death, Mapplethorpe is back in the vortex of controversy - which is, seemingly, where he was born, reared and died in, and rightly so. His book has been removed from the shelves of Harrod's while the New York Times, who should know all about these things, asked of its readers, 'Is art above the law of decency?'

Let's draw comparisons with 'SEX', Ms Ciccone's offering of the season. They're both very big, both weigh a ton (I exaggerate slightly) and both cost a bomb. Madonna's book sets out to arouse the imagination but clumsily falls flat on its forehead because it is a mite too staged and contrived. Mapplethorpe's self-indulgent scrap-book of pics is so raw, that it is disgusting.

Is this what coffee tables were made for? A knife blade inserted deep into the eye of a penis is far from art, it is stomach-weakening stuff. In fact, the 'offending' section of this 400 page epic reeks of homo/bi-/tri-sexuality, blatantly parades bondage and grabs you with the 'pain for gain' theme.

Yet it's a book of oddities. Waves breaking on shore lines create safety against the backdrop of a vast, desolate ocean. Sigourney Weaver looks positively regal in an *Alienless*, pre-haircut portrait. Mapplethorpe looks like a throw back to the days when 'Grease' was a trend-setting film, in his own self-portraits.



Self Portrait 1980

And it is somewhere, between all of these contrasts, that we get a glimpse of who was really behind the camera - a confused and adventurous man, randomly perverse, who captured beauty and vulgarity at their most poignantly best.

Is it art? I wouldn't think so, but art to me is a DaVinci as opposed to a paint-by-numbers lookalike modern offering. Mapplethorpe didn't rise above the law of decency, he

smashed through the barrier and still climbs because, as is the norm in such cases, one becomes instantly more famous, admired and recognised as a genius of your time upon dying. It's just a pity that he hasn't rested in peace.

Anthony McGrath.

MAPPLETHORPE
 JONATHAN CABE PUBLISHERS
 STG £60.00

gay community news wishes all readers

A Valuable Family!

Fans of this seasonal offering will know all too well that Sandy dipped her pen into the syrup and wrote all about the bodies that make up our family of GCN. This year, due to a computer, non-human related, error, her finished article got lost in the mirco-chips. Any rumour that I wiped it off into that expanding black-hole deep in all Macintosh computers is a total lie . . . I'm perfectly sure that she was terribly complimentary when using my name.

So, in the throngs of deadline panic, the honour falls on me - the pen is mightier than the sword and my tongue is swishing. GCN is, indeed, a family, and probably is to the gay community what the Huxtablies were to black American's.

The family gathers in the Hirschfeld Centre, an out-house behind the Central Bank, steeped in tradition memories and water-leaks.

This year, Frank T-h-a-c-k-a-berry left the family fatherless, departing to British soil, his absence still bringing a tear to many an eye in a smoky room. Coronated into the biggest desk was Richard P-r-e-n-d-erville, the semi-red headed wonder who has a finger in all the pots that brew within the Hirschfeld's walls (whether the pots like it or not!). Having once applied for his position, it kills me to say, that he is the

perfect master-chef.

If Ritchie is the Father of us all, then Larry is most certainly the Mother. He knows where every missing thing is, knows how to do any impossible job, is the key-holder to our most private drawers and still smiles when one of the flock flee.

This year saw a whole new generation climb our steep stairs: Suzy B, waving banners and hassling anyone remotely related to politics, while finding time to talk one-to-one with the nation still manages to don the best Beret around.

Junior, infamous for his adoration and often uncanny resemblance to Kylie, struts his stuff through the working day while Oliver H, of the melting vocal cords, gets involved in all those heavy, butch jobs like loading skips and cleaning out the basement. The question is; who gets to go down to the basement with him (answers on a postcard please).

Paul C is out-and-about on the advertising trail, seemingly a wonderful excuse for arriving ever so late for meetings, whilst Mary E, the quiet lass, leaves us all wondering exactly what she is hiding under her hat.

Hennie W, the red-jumpered Dutch wonder, has brought a

certain flair to the atmosphere again, while Paul and Ger (of L.G.Y.F.I. . . X.Y.Z. fame) are so compatible we can only refer to them together as our wonderful distribution duo, or was that 'solo team'.

Philip As Gailge, the butch, radical-socialist, anti-facist and always politically correct mane (but Suzy B does'nt think so), gets his kicks from popping disks in and out of the computer - which should duly be noted as the wonderful item that it is, if only we had one or two more (all Christmas pressies warmly accepted.) And that's only some of the staff!

We have Simon L, the Belfast princess, who retired from a tour of the country to grace us all with a fashion sense that only Colin W could write about and an art for making coffee that John Greene would kill for.

Then there is Ian Quay, popular drag persona who does not believe in the invention of underwear, but can drive like the clappers and Angeline F - who can make a keyboard sing and will subject any telephone caller to a gruelling Question Time before she lets Ritchie near the phone, though the latter will always gracefully decline the option.

Martin McC, who single-handedly keeps Minitel in operation, Dave B who dribbles on aimlessly about football and Wayne



Mary E, Dave B and Suzy B reviewing last months offering.



Hennie W. speaks Double-Dutch



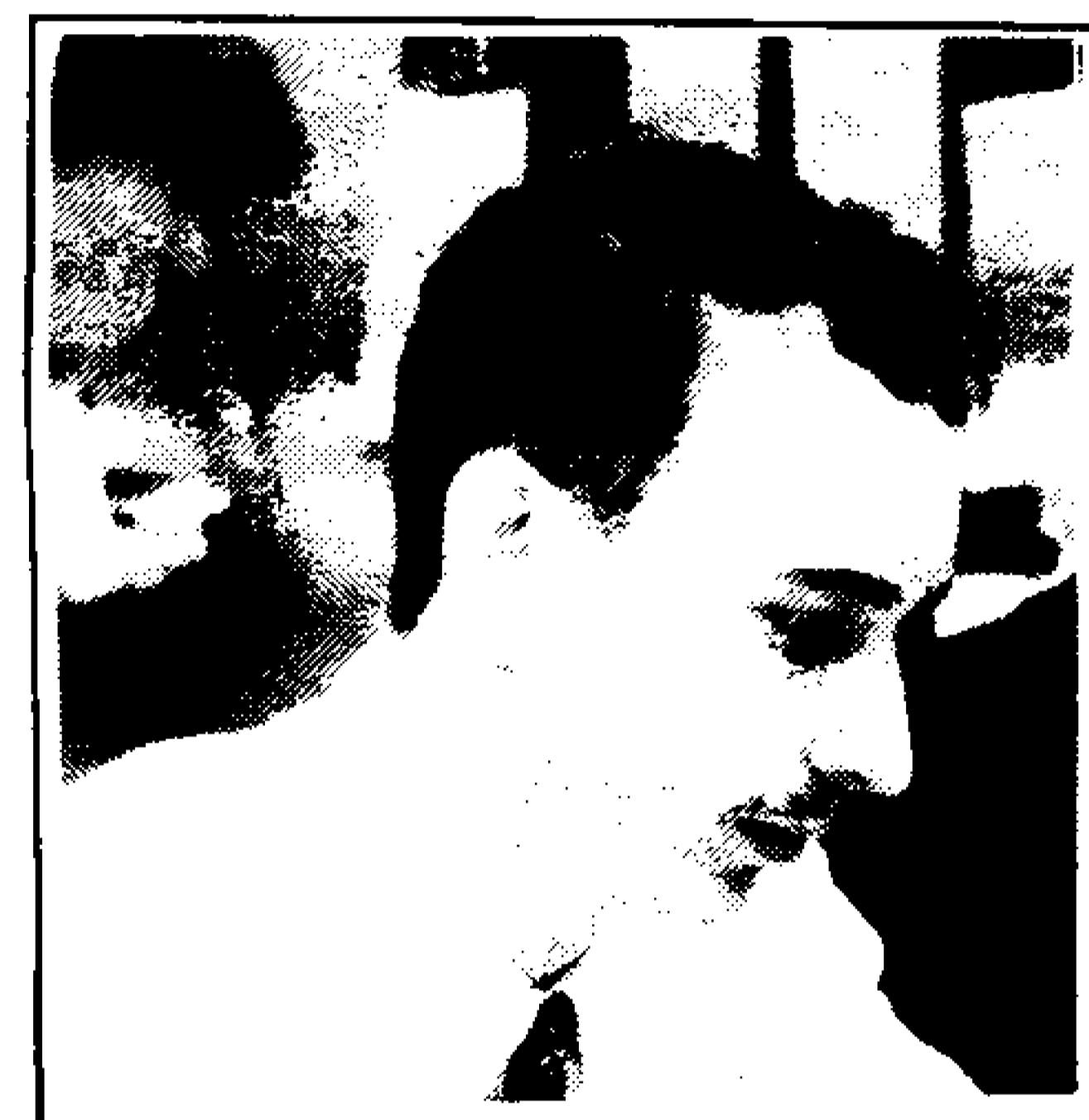
Larry still FAB after all these years

master coffee-drinker, keep the branches of our tree green.

Liz C and Pauline have their LOT cut out for them in here, and Patrick R amazes with his comical memoirs and direct tactics. Patrick R is one of the old crew here (from where Mother Laurence originated), when the paper was a shadow of it's former self, but now has grown - in proportion to his laugh..

The committee who over see all this brewing and boiling (the heirarchy) are just as strange. Michael D is our babbling blonde secretary, and George R. (who he is glad I left out such a surname), the swiveling chairman with a bear hug you'd die for. John G. is the N.L.G.F's scrooge, making sure that every penny is accounted for, Niall O'L is looking at us all through a rose-tinted lens (or after seeing some of the pics, I'm compelled to say thorn-tinted) while Henry McC and Colin W turn up in all the best threads - giving class to those marathon evenings.

John Greene is our man with a vision, and doesn't even charge us for the insight - handy he got an office so near. We've constantly popping around for



Simon back from his national tour.

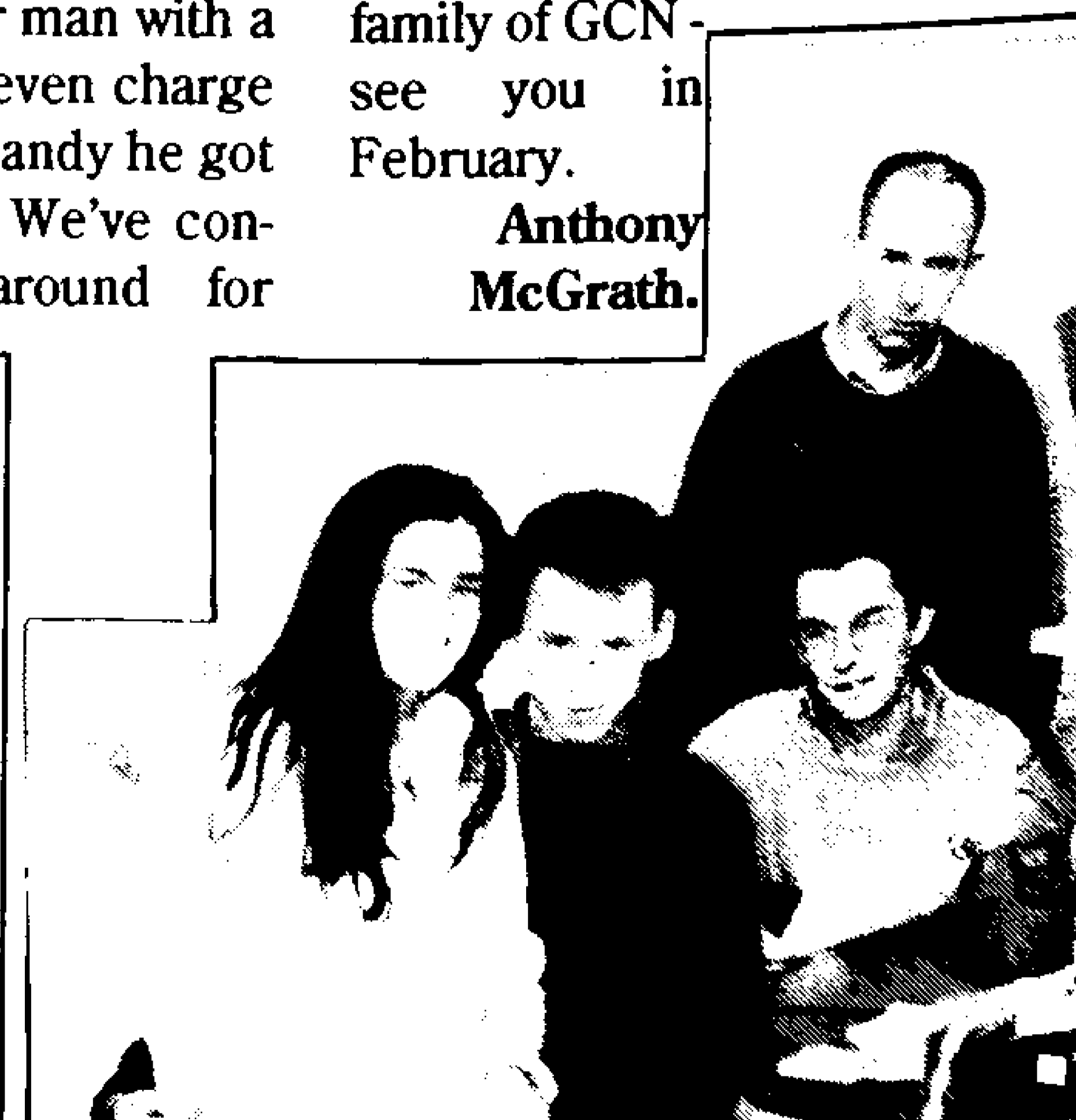
sugar and odd-jobs that add to his aging process.

It's quite a strange clan, a bit like a satanic Brady Bunch, even if we loss the likes of David M this year, who turned film-reviewing into an art in itself.

As for me, I'm Anthony McGrath, the quiet, reserved and totally timid sod who wondered in one day clutching a collection of postcards and never looked back again. . . .or was it 'never got out again'.

Merry Christmas from the family of GCN - see you in February.

Anthony McGrath.



Ger A, Paul G, Paul C and Oliver H.



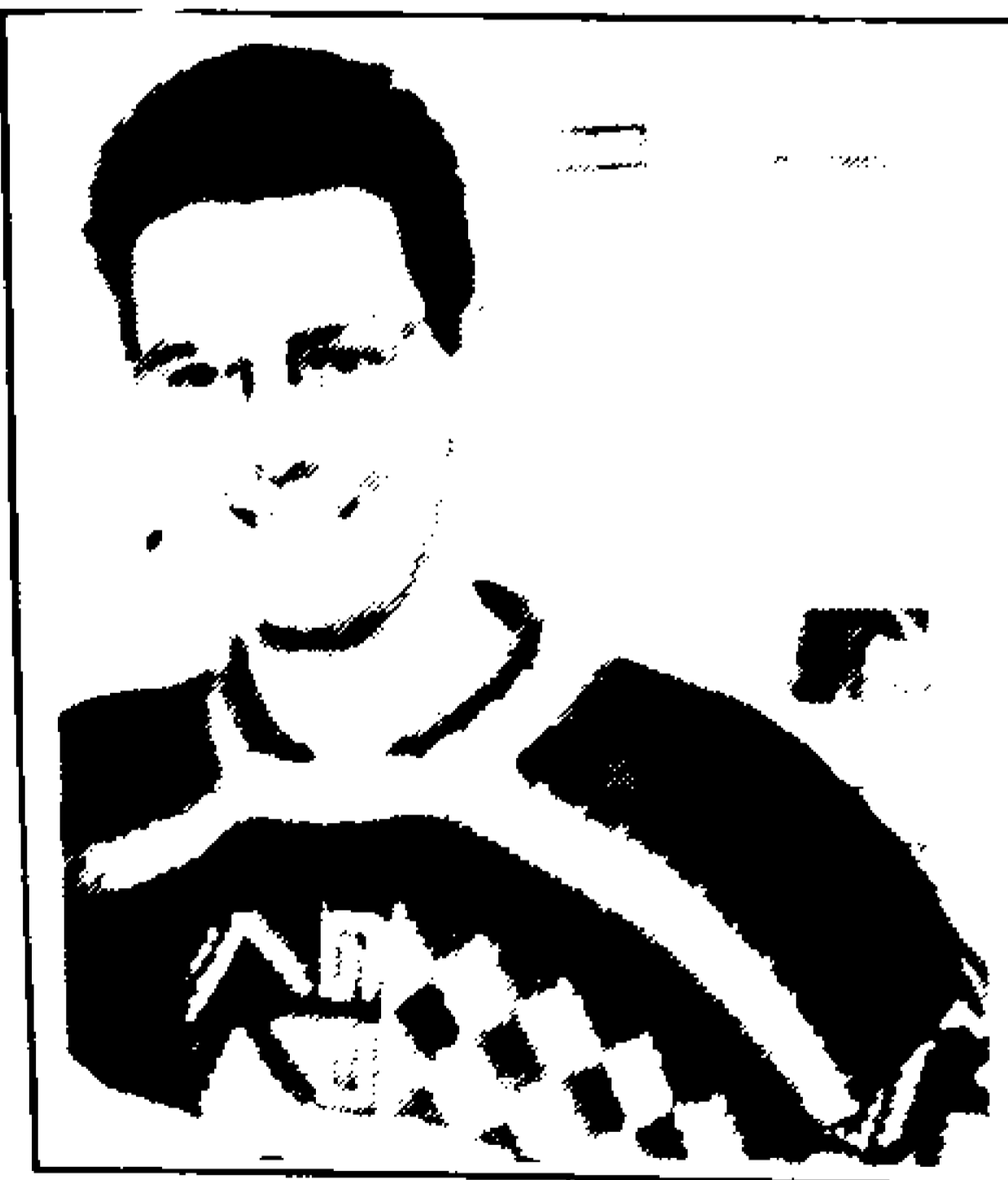
Anthony, outside his home.



Angeline F, Junior, Patrick R and Ritchie - who's fly is open??



Philip As Gaelige - trippin'



Niall O' in front of camera.



Michael D and John G wonder what is George rabbiting on about?

How *Subtle* can YOU be?

1 : What are the Christmas gifts you most love to give?

- A : Socks.
- B : Home made zucchini and lentil Chutney.
- C : Returning the gifts people gave you last year.
- D : Those which GCN recommend as ideal gifts.

2 : How often do you have people fall at your feet (for whatever reason)?

- A : Only when they trip.
- B : Regularly, But mostly happens at the taxis rank.
- C : Not so much these days, people seem not to be waxing the floor as much.
- D : My Lover *lives* at my feet..

3 : Popping out for a coffee means?

- A : Full days outing, including a visit to the Hairdresser, a new shirt (before you go any where), followed by a six hour stint in the window seat of your favourite cafe.
- B : One cafe, and three hours of *meaningful* eye contract with the waiter.
- C : A six-hour lunch with 15 of your closest friends

D : Getting off the couch to wander into the kitchen for a quick cup of Maxwell House.

4 : What do you enjoy most about going to the movies?

- A : Seeing a good film with good friends.
- B : Stepping on peoples feet as you leave halfway through.
- C : Having a good cry at the happy ending.
- D : Leaving your half-eaten choc-ice melting into the seat.

5 : You're going to the office New Year party, how do you know what to wear?

- A : Everyone else is wearing it.
- B : *No-one* else is wearing it
- C : Bargain rail at Brown Thomas'.
- D : Your best Levis'

6 : When is it all right to tip your drink over someone?

- A : Never.
- B : When it's someone you really dislike
- C : When their clothes offend you

D : Who needs an excuse?.

7 : You see someone across a crowded room who you think is *FAB*, What are you most likely to do?

- A : WAIT (to make sure that they really are attractive, that the wrong people aren't watching, that the moment is right etc.)
- B : Make eye-contract and take it from there.
- C : Stroll over *very* casually, introduce yourself and steer them out into the garden.
- D : Use all your contacts to find someone who knows them (or at least had them) to introduce you

8 : Your best friend introduces you to his/her new lover. While your friend is out of the room do you?

- A : Make polite conversation.
- B : Tell him/her your friend's entire sexual history.
- C : Ask him/her for his phone number.
- D : Warn him/her of your friend's recurring venereal disease.

9 You know you've had an orgasm when?

A : You can't stand being touched for another twenty-four hours.

B : You want to do it again straight away.

C : You feel playful, dangerous and kind towards comparative strangers.

D : You regain your focus and discover that the person next to you is considerably less handsome than you had originally thought.

10 : It's a dark, rainy night and you hear footsteps coming up from behind you in the street. Do you?

- A : Cross the road in a hurry.
- B : Fumble for your cigarettes so you can ask them for a light, just in case they're cute.
- C : Wonder who the poor soul might be out at this time of night and whether they are in distress.
- D : Wheel around, Introduce yourself and offer one of your photographs/business cards.



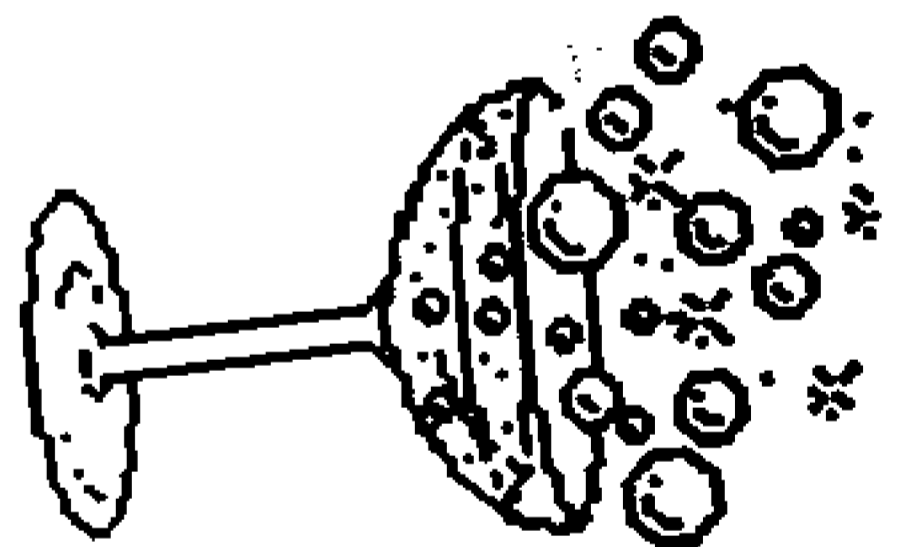
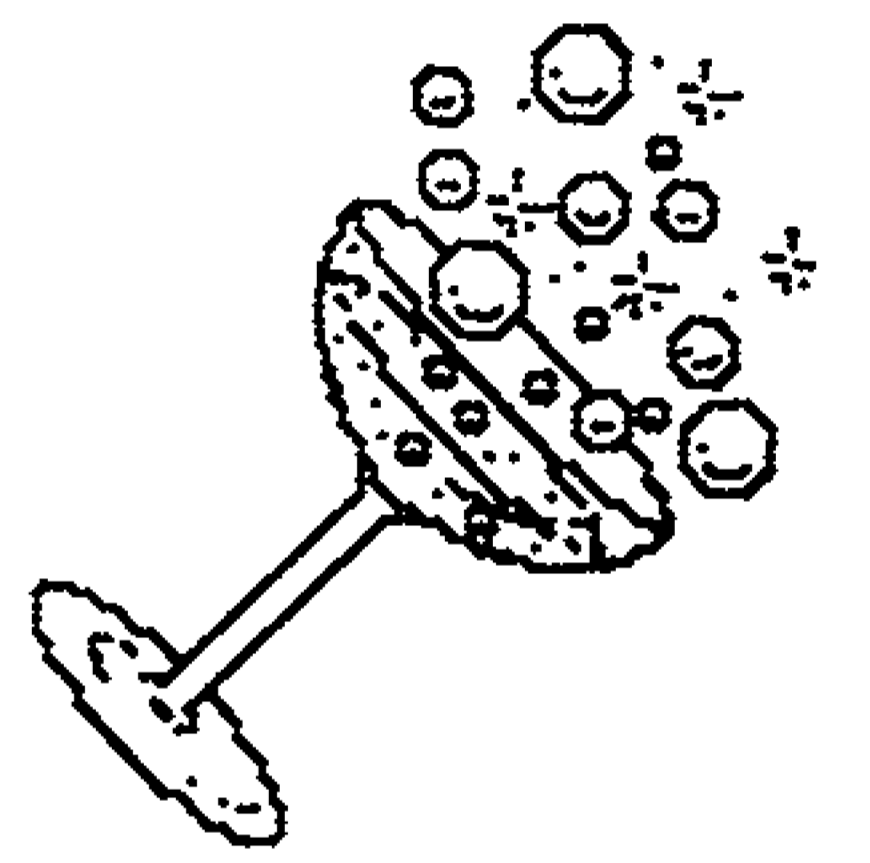
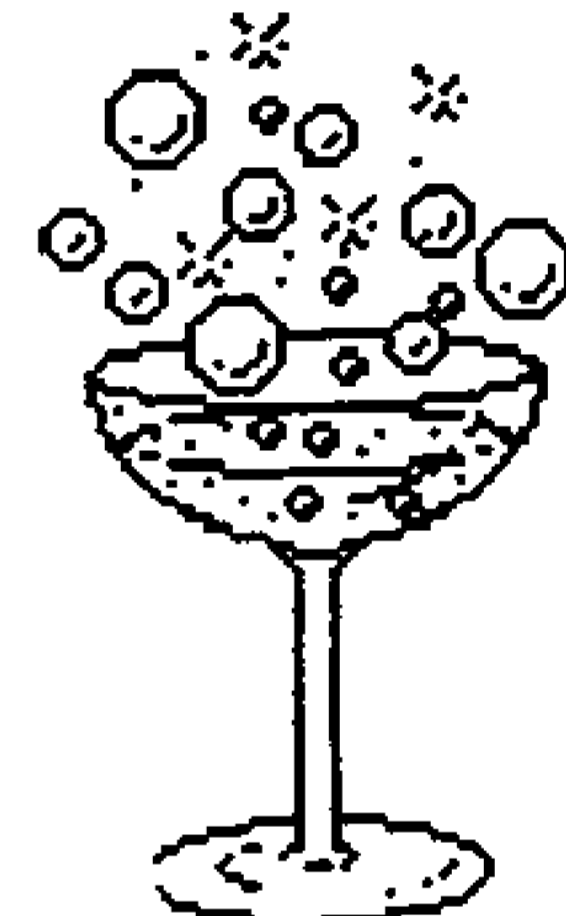
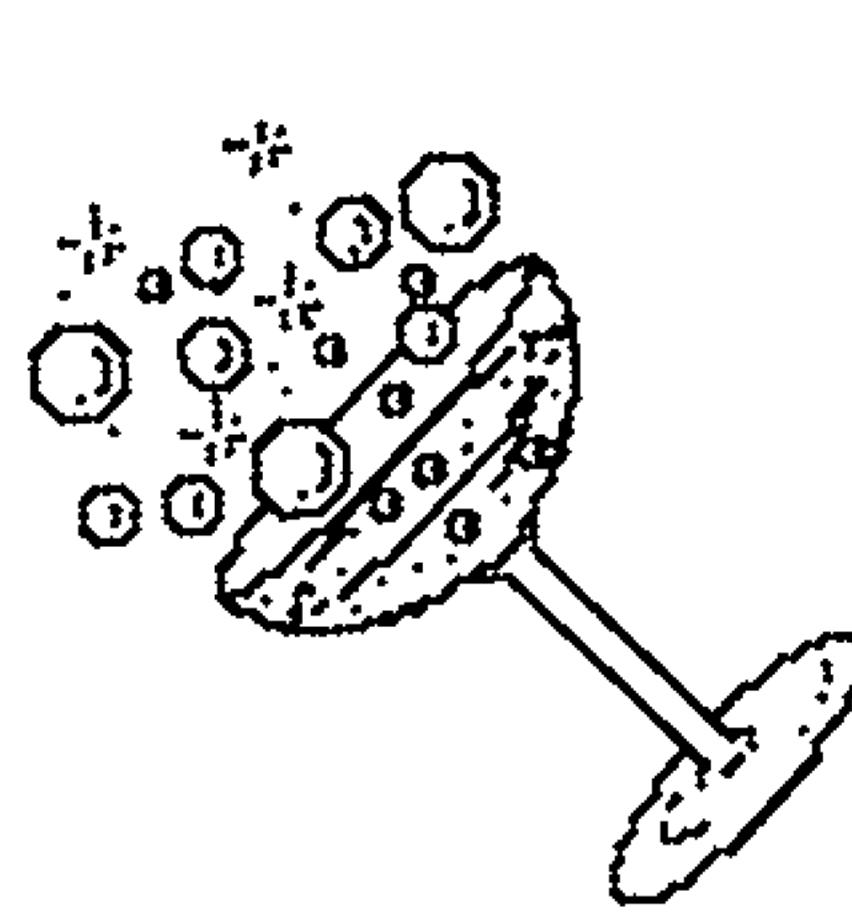
RESULTS

Those of you who have answered mostly "A" are ruthlessly efficient people who throw yourselves 100% into everything, with the result that you spend so much time making sure everything is right - you forget to have some fun! Go on, let your hair down.

Those who have answered mostly "B" are 'try hards', and you are certainly up there, but are not really bothered. You have probably been bewildered by this whole quiz, but then - it is Christmas - have another on us

Those who have answered mostly "C" *know* what the look is. You know all the catch phrases, where to be seen and who to talk to. But your lacking that certain something that pulls it all together. But do keep on trying - one of these days it will all come together for you

Those who have answered mostly "D" Please contact GCN Box CQ 1000, straight away! You call a spade a spade, but you know there's lots of different kinds to choose from. You are into new experiences, yet your fine tuning makes you ideal for any scene.



1			2		3		4		5			6
			7									
8		9							10	11		
					12	13						
14				15				16				
				17								
18								19				20
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23			24						25			
			26									
27								28				

Across

- 1 Well known Gay watering hole (With 16 down)
- 4 Describes a type of condom (With 3 down)
- 7 Over fed felines
- 8 Rhymes with 4 down
- 10 Sport involving horses
- 12 A Muted Cupid couldn't
- 14 Barbara Striesland film
- 16 Homoerotic Artist (With 9 down)
- 17 Great for cleaning baths
- 18 Cary
- 19 Purgative Salts
- 21 Curative Mineral Spring
- 23 No longer under the bed
- 25 Small poisonous viper
- 26 Larva of frog or toad
- 27 Still waiting for justice
- 28 Needing confession

Down

- 1 With pleasure
- 2 Rudimentary boat
- 4 After Minsky's
- 5 Coarse type of file
- 6 "..... my case"
- 11 Process by which sap rises in plants
- 13 One for each tit
- 15 fore and
- 18 Eden had one
- 20 Every slave should have one
- 21 Sundays only
- 22 Declares
- 24 Bright and shining
- 25 An age



Michael Christopher

Clairvoyant
Fortune Teller

If you have any problems with your life in making the right decision, eg. as regards job prospects, relationships, buying your new home; or you need to know where your life is heading.

If you want to make that important decision for the future!

Contact me for advice and clairvoyant reading.

Tel: (01) 975160
for appointment



Carmen Miranda, Spider-Woman, Madonna, Kylie and Marlene Dietrich



Well it finally got here! The night all us screaming queens were waiting for when we could drag up and mince around to our hearts content. Of course, I went out as Kylie and stuck out like a sore thumb amongst all the pseudo Madonnas (I still didn't win anything though). After wading through the tonnes of Autumn leaves on the floor I proceeded to get as drunk as I could on my limited resources and found I could balance better on my heels once I was intoxicated. When it was time for the competition the bitchy comments were flying around backstage (one lady went as far as

ripping off my wig, the cow!)

The DJ was brilliant that night and he actually played songs that people knew and loved which is something that doesn't happen often on the scene (unless Karen is playing).

All in all a fab night was had by everyone and I can't wait until next year . . . maybe I'll go out on Thursday night.

Junior Larkin

More than a few balls were in evidence, as the October Bank Holiday/Halloween celebrations, got into full swing. The festivities were spread over 2 weeks, 3 nights and 4 venues. What made this holiday particularly significant was the consolidated effort put forward by the two bars, the Parliament Inn and the Loft. The two popular venues joined forces bringing out the dizziest queens and their entourages to join in the traditional drag theme.

The whole shebang began with the Sides Drag Ball on Sunday. 1st prize of £100 went to Delores Deluxe, with a £50 prize going to a fruity reincarnation of Carmen Miranda. The following weekend

(Friday, 30) saw Shaft hosting their Drag Ball, with Spider Woman scooping up 2 tickets to Amsterdam.

The next evening, the combined Loft & Parliament party saw revellers hobbling between both venues attracting more than just the judges attention. First prize in the Loft went to a Marlene Dietrich wanabe, who should apply her £100 to a new and more complete make-up bag. A masked stranger kept her £50 2nd prize and identity to herself, while the 3rd prize winner had to settle for SEX (compliments of Madonna). The judges also awarded a special prize to the bar staff who relished the opportunity to camp it up on the night.

Meanwhile over in the Parliament, Kylie's antics (reported elsewhere) failed to impress the judges as they awarded a weekend for 2 in London to a condom maniac. A horse-cart whisked the

2nd prize winners off to their disco, while the 3rd prize winner took home more than just a large bouquet of flowers!

As preparations are already underway for next year, it is predicted that size 12 spiked heels are going to be in very short supply.

Ian Quay



New Year Movie

November's Gay and Lesbian Film Club screenings were, again, very successful. Lower numbers turned up for this double-bill but, this had been anticipated as 'The Garden' and 'Les Biches' have a narrow appeal (and narrower, it would be fair to say, after our screenings!). Despite the films'

response we believe most enjoyed the screenings and the chat in Bewleys afterwards.

As our December screenings of "Dessert Hearts" and "Torch Song Trilogy" coincide with the distribution date of GCN, it is too late to offer you a review. We trust all attending enjoy(ed) the evening.

Questionnaires were distributed at the November screening to ascertain what type of programme our members would like to see in the new year. From the answers we received it was clear that most would prefer a series of single-screenings, continuing to be held in the Irish Film Centre, which has proved very popular as our venue. In response to this we announce the first film in our 1993 season of single-screenings: "My Beautiful Launderette", at the new time of 8pm, January 8th, The Meeting Room, Irish Film Centre, 6 Eustace St., Dublin 2.

Membership costs £3 (£1.50 concession), and is available in advance from the Hirschfeld Centre (contact Suzy : 710939). It can also be obtained on the night of the screenings at 7.30pm. Admission to each single-screening is £3.50 (£2.50 conc.). As we cannot guarantee seats we advise you to turn up early, regardless of whether you have obtained membership in advance. The screenings will start promptly at 8pm.

From everyone in the Gay and Lesbian Film Club we wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Hanif Kureishi's success as scriptwriter of "My Beautiful Launderette" lies in his skilful blending of comment on many topical issues of the Eighties (and indeed, the Nineties), such as homosexuality, racism, Asian community-life, colonialism and Thatcherism, into an entertaining and engaging film. His picture of Eighties Britain is one of curious logic in which two youths, one Asian and the other with National

Front connections, join forces to survive in a society hostile towards them both. Omar (Gordan Warnecke), after working in his Uncle Nassar's car-wash, is offered the management of one of his uncle's run-down Launderettes. He

enlists the help of Johnny (Daniel Day Lewis), an old school-friend who became involved with a gang of racists, to transform the launderette into a viable concern. Ironically, Johnny is subject to a reverse form of racism from Omar's relatives who do not accept him as a business partner of Omar's. That Omar and Johnny also become lovers complicates things somewhat for them!

Kevin McCarthy.



MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDERETTE
97 min., Dir Stephen Frears
Irish Film Centre, January 8th.

IFC Cinemas
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DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

December 4th to 17th
Lars Von Trier's EUROPA

December 21st to 31st
SPOTSWOOD
Starring Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins

December 4th to 10th
Neil Jordan's - **ANGEL**

December 8th to 12th
MINUTENKINO -
A SERIES OF GERMAN SHORTS

December 11th to 16th
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free Public Seminars and much, much more! Isn't it time you were a member?
IFC Cinema membership makes an ideal Christmas present!
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Power and Impact

In an admirable contribution to World Aids Day, RTE's Radio Drama of the Week was *Melchizedek's Misfit*.

This pointed drama, written by Gerry McArdle and produced by Daniel Reardon, compels the listener to collaborate with Fr. Eugene Kenny, as he discards layer after layer of Catholic teaching to unveil his sexuality. Exposing his homosexuality, only to discover his humanity buried deep within.

The depth of the author's ability is brilliantly demonstrated by the contrast between the matter-of-fact approach taken by Fr.

Eugene's sister as her brother discusses the results of his HIV test over a cuppa, while the same information provokes an unholy monologue from his spiritual brother the Archbishop.

A double sting in the tail is delivered as the play closes with the parish priest colluding with the Archbishop while Fr. Eugene's Christianity is lost on the rent boy.

The power and impact of this play is certain to be repeated in many and varied formats.

Neil.

Eight-Point Memo

A meeting for the community in connection with *World AIDS Day* was held on Sun, 29 Nov. The meeting was well attended and was excellently facilitated by Peter Clarke.

The people at the meeting discussed what they were doing in the area of HIV and AIDS at present. The main focus of the afternoon was to network between groups and individuals and highlight what they would like to see happen around the issues of HIV and AIDS.

An eight-point 'memo' was drawn up to be circulated to all organisations, highlighting the general agreements from the meeting.

It was felt that the issues proposed could be raised in the context of equal-

ty and a respect for sexuality both as guidelines for groups/ organisations and also for dealings with government agencies.

- An extension of the Eastern Health Board's *Gay Mens Health Project* to every Health Board area as a priority for the Department of Health.

- Funded Lesbian and gay social community centres in major cities.

- Equality under criminal Law.

- Anti Discrimination Codes, to cover sexual orientation and HIV status.

- Creating an accessibility for people to become involved in HIV and AIDS issues.

- HIV and AIDS work needs to include and support lesbians.

- All lesbian and gay HIV work should

be along side the work done with other marginalised communities.

- The need for all groups in the lesbian and gay communities to take on sexuality issues.

It was agreed to hold a further meeting of interested people next spring, but if you have any comments or queries about the above, contact:

Mick Quinlan
Gay Men's Health Project
19 Haddington Road
Dublin 4
Tel: 602149
or Kieran Rose
c/o GLEN
Hirschfeld Centre
10 Fownes Street
Dublin 2.

Mick Quinlan.

Community Commitment

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nations caring, patience, need and love for one another.

Their very presence transcends politics, religion and their ethnic backgrounds. They are a luxury too often taken for granted. It frightens me somehow, to imagine what the world would be without them."

ERMA BOMBECK.

Indeed without volunteers practically all fundraising for AIDS organisations and Education would come to an end. The majority of people involved in organising or taking part in World AIDS Day (1 Dec 1992) were volunteers who freely gave their time to help with this enormous task.

The main aim of this exercise was to raise awareness of the AIDS

issue, although raising funds also played a part.

In the week leading up to 1 Dec, information stands were set up in Galway and Dublin, providing literature educating people about the true facts of AIDS. Also a number of concerts and events featuring a host of international and home grown stars were held - raising much needed funds.

The response from the media worldwide has been very favourable and in Ireland we have had numerous documentaries, plays and discussion programmes on radio and TV all promoting AIDS awareness.

There was to be a street collection but this was cancelled because the abortion referendum was originally planned for this week.

Also, volunteers that took part in Irish AIDS Day earlier this year reported receiving verbal abuse from members of a young right-

wing group, and Dublin AIDS Alliance did not wish to put volunteers through this again.

The theme for World AIDS Day was *Community Commitment*. AIDS service organisations can only do so much to help, so it's up to each individual and each community to face the challenge of AIDS.

We all must help to educate so that more people aren't infected and provide a place in the community for people with AIDS. At this stage the stigma attached to being HIV+ should have disappeared amongst the gay community. Unfortunately it hasn't, and this is a sad reflection on our community.

To date there are 1,288 cases of HIV in Ireland. There has been 300 AIDS cases reported and of these 133 have died.

Junior Larkin



Lesbian Christmas Dinner
in the
Dublin Resource Centre

Friday 11th December
Bring Your Own Booze

Tickets : £10 / £7

ALL LESBIANS WELCOME !

Tickets from : LOT & TRINITY Pub Saturdays

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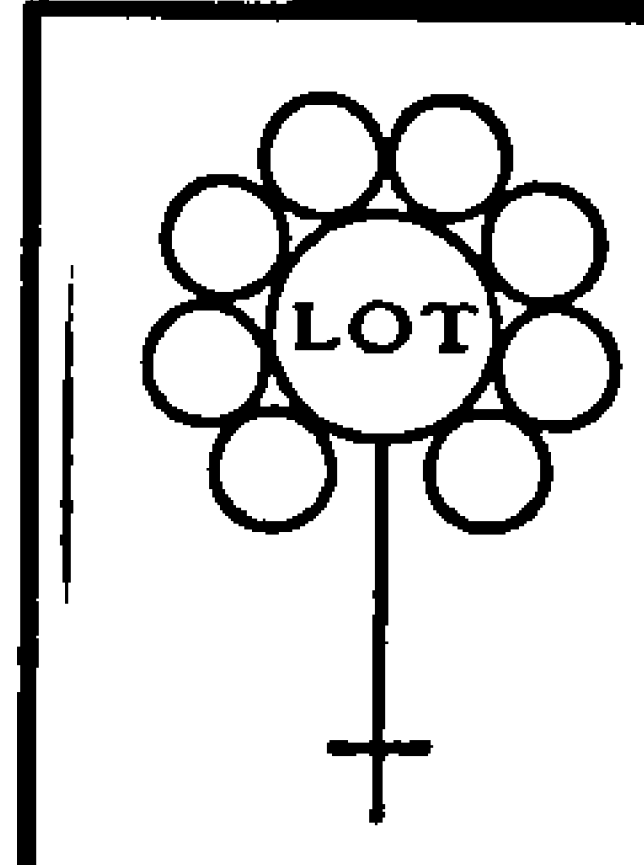
Vacancies:

Applicants are invited for two people to work on LOT-related projects. Applicants should have some office experience and be over 25yrs old. The positions are funded under a FAS-Social Employment Scheme, and people interested must be in receipt of Unemployment Benefit for a least one year OR Unemployment Assistance for more than one week.

Ability to work on your own initiative an advantage

Please forward written applications, to arrive no later than Dec 24, 1992 to:

LOT Vacancies,
c/o: 10 Fownes Street,
Dublin 2



OFFICE FURNITURE

LOT requires Office furniture to furnish new office.

ALL Donations Appreciated.

Write to: LOT

c/o Hirschfeld Centre,
10 Fownes Street,
Dublin 2.



credits

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Yes it was that time of the year again, the 5th Wild and Wonderful Women's Weekend (I would dearly love to change the name, anybody out there in agreement?). While it was not a roaring success from a financial point of view, the weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by the hundreds of women who attended the various events and discos which ran over the 16th to the 18th of October. The elements made a decision to be our enemy that weekend, the nights were so cold that exiting into them was a test of endurance.

The attendance at the Friday night disco in the Teachers Club was disappointing but this was quickly forgotten in the stampede for the Ormond discos on Saturday and Sunday night. There was a steady flow of people through Trinity during the daylight hours inspecting the variety of matter on display on the stalls and also attending the workshops. The number of new

faces in evidence over the weekend gives a lie to the theory that there are no emerging dykes in this country, thank Na Mna you are there, and you are coming out.

A major revamp of the weekend is proposed for next year and if implemented will dramatically change the face of the event for all time. Watch this space for further snippets.

On a footnote I would like to invite you, for a small fee of course, to join me in the DRC-Well Fed Cafe on Friday the 11th of December at 7.30pm where you will eat the most delicious four course dinner and be seated with the most delicious of company including myself of course. **Booze/Soft drinks to be brought by yourselves.** I shall guarantee you a dinner with a difference and all for the sum of £10 waged and £7 unwaged. Limited availability, so hurry. Tickets are available from LOT.

fashion bits

Well here we are again just over two weeks to Christmas and you haven't a clue what to buy your families etc., well if you read the article in this paper on "What to buy your loved one", I hope it will give you a helping hand.

The recent Head to Toe Show Live, at the Point Depot, which had been hyped since the afore mentioned programme came back onto our screens in September, was no more than a stylised promotion for R.T.E., Futura and of course Pat O'Mahony! I arrived at the Point at about 2.45 to be told that I would not be able to enter the building until the 3pm show was complete at 4.45, this was somewhat annoying as what the hell does one do at the East Link Bridge on a Sunday afternoon, if Harry's Bar is shut.

Eventually on entry, may I add at 5pm, we were treated like a bunch of out of control teenagers, the show was 45 minutes delayed and then lasted over an hour which brings us to about the best bit of the day, the supposed exhibition which was completely unorganised, everybody was everywhere, on the whole the day was a rip off which unless is rethought for next year I and about 75% of the audience will not be present, enough bickering.

Animal Magic, the words for menswear and womenswear for the season Winter 92'. This seasons designers followed their animal instincts and included a wide range of fake leopard, zebra and cowhide fabrics in their collections, Venturi used synthetic leopard as did cool cats Dolce et Gabbana who, not sat-

isfied with a bizarre fabric opted for an even more bizarre coat shape. Versace produced zany zebra crossed with leather. Coats, jackets, trousers and gloves in animalia, abound.

Plaids and checks impose carefully patterned order on designer collections. Signature monochrome madras from Armani is joined by an array of criss-cross couture. Check it out! Big and generous describes the season's selection of overcoats. Ample in length or roomy in fit they are designed to look good whilst combating the elements (See visual).

If anyone is interested in things to excite the feet, there is a new and exquisite Sock Shop boutique on the lower half of Griffon St. so please check it out, they have a wonderful selection of sexy tights! Enjoy your Christmas whatever you do and wear well.

Colin Wall



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'Mature and Beautiful Tracks'



Automatic For The People
R.E.M.
Warner Bros Ir£8.99

R.E.M. are back again from the recording studios with a new offering. It seemed the task facing them could not have been greater: a follow-up to their hugely successful 1990 album, *Out Of Time*, which quadrupled their sales and gave them a string of major international accolades and awards.

Obviously, those looming monuments were no problems for the four from Athens, Georgia. *Automatic For The People* comprises of 12 mature and beautiful tracks marking several departures from the band's usual direction and recording style.

Their current single, *Drive*, epitomizes the album's sound - mellow, contemplative, relaxed yet very strong. As band-member Peter Buck says of *Automatic* "... Although the album has a more gentle sound, it is hyper-arranged ... [with] an unsettling feeling and mood going on underneath all the songs ..."

Everyone Hurts, one of the five tracks on the album, is a beautiful, very poignant ballad. It's a delicate, sensitive melody that makes the heart whoa as the lyrics speak to the heart. It's a beautiful, very poignant ballad. It's a delicate, sensitive melody that makes the heart whoa as the lyrics speak to the heart.



A winter for my one, fair or not.

Tubular Bells II
Mike Oldfield
WEA

20 years ago, Mike Oldfield made his debut with the original *Tubular Bells*, an album that became a classic in the fullest sense of the word.

It made UK chart history, sold over 16 million copies internationally and pushed wider the ambits of the music world.

A year later, the 21-year-old composer, performer and multi-instrumentalist released his second album which went to No.1. The album it nudged into the No 2 slot was, in fact, *Tubular Bells*.

20 years after the original, *Tubular Bells II* also goes straight to No 1. This album is an equally challenging sequel. Oldfield says, "There are certain parts where the two works converge, but then they'll separate and follow two distinct paths again."

And there are the inevitable echoes of the original, but they remain just that - echoes. The sound is more graceful, digitalised, pure and, often more exciting. The new work compounds the old most obviously in *The Bell* where the trademark 'role-call of instruments' now has among its new additions the digital sound-processor, two slightly sampled guitars, and the venetian-effect.

But, more noticeably, the works diverge in style and influence. In *Moonshine*, for example, there is a sudden hairpin turn to lilly-billy influence; in *Tattoo*, a detour into Scottish music, bagpipes and all; in *Maya Gold*, a soporific glide through vocals, Clannad-style.

Though it will never out-do the original *Tubular Bells*, it is still a phenomenal work in its own right. For that reason, maybe it is unfair to

refer to it as a sequel ... perhaps, yet another masterwork - and long overdue, too.

West In Motion
Bumble
Mother Records

Bumble, the latest signing to Mother Records, are heralded as Ireland's first House band. The six-person group have just released their debut single *West In Motion* - a successful blending Irish traditional and modern dance music. This is not the tacky, cringeful effort that we all have heard and hated. *West In Motion* instead is a fine club-dance release in the style of Opus III's *It's A Fine Day*.

Bumble based this track on an Irish reel and brought in some of the best young traditional musicians, including Brian O'Connor and Sean Og Potts to record. The haunting, ethereal and maybe monotonous vocals are provided by Brida Mayock.

One of the three mixes included on the cd/7" single is the wonderfully hypnotic *Drum Mix* by dj/producer Andrew Weatherall. Although I doubt its success on the dancefloor, this is still an interesting release and one that will fit snugly into anyone's music collection.

Engine Alley



A Sonic Holiday
Engine Alley

At last, *Engine Alley* have released their debut album. Although they have been around for what seems ages, this is their first major recording venture and it is sure to be greeted with much praise.

The album, produced by Steve Lillywhite, includes recent singles such as *The Flowers* and *Infamy* (to be released in the UK after its success here) as well as new tracks such as the glorious *Song For Someone*, featuring Kirsty MacColl, and instrumentals, *Lame Dog Lament* and *Spare Me*.

Engine Alley, who took their name from a street in Dublin's Liberties, made their first appearance in November 1989. After many gigs which earned them an enviable following, they were signed up by Paul McGuinness. Since then, the band have had a string of highly acclaimed singles and a well deserved boost in profile.

A Sonic Holiday is a gem of an album bound to bring the band the

wider success they deserve. Watch out for their new single, *Mrs Winder*, the quirky tale of gardening and hallucinogenics.

BUMBLE



Unspoken Truths
Irish Museum of Modern Art
December/January

An exhibition of works by 32 Dublin women, many of whom have had little previous involvement with the visual arts, runs until 31 January at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. *Unspoken Truths* is the result of an 18-month project, during which time the women were encouraged to explore and

communicate some of the unspoken truths of their lives, past and present, through art in a variety of mediums.

A key objective of the project, funded by the Arts Council, was to enable participants to explore their own creativity, both individually and collectively.

Exhibits range from a window-cum-book illustrating the decline of Mountjoy Square to an installation depicting the move away from working-class women's traditional roles in society.

Sentiments of anger seem to be integral to the exhibition. This is reflected in particular in an audio-visual piece, *Voice In The Wilderness*. The installation comprises of a hessian sack partly concealing screaming masks and accompanied by music and chant which cry out against poverty, loneliness and injustice.

The highlight of the exhibition was certainly *My Refections Deep Within Me* by Patricia Carr. Eight simple magenta and blue paintings which seemed to depict various states of mind and ease of being ranging from the turbulent to a near calmness.

The exhibition was opened by the President of Ireland Mary Robinson.

Niall O'Leary

Mini-Encyclopedia

THE ATTIC GUIDE BOOK
AND DIARY 1993.
IR£4.95
Attic Press.

For that woman in your life that has everything - the stocking filler that everybody needs and the book that will keep her organised for ever!

Attic are well known as Ireland's only women publishers and this is the 14th year that they have published this 'mini-encyclopaedia' or as it says on the back of the book, 'every woman's pocket size resource centre' okay I know you shouldn't judge a book by it's cover and yes I have really reviewed this book, I didn't just take a look at the back and make up the rest!

Along with the usual diary and notes section there's a very comprehensive listing of women's organisations and other help agencies,

national and international. There are also quotes and cartoons to brighten your day. Quotes come from writers such as Emily Dickinson, George Elliot and Simone de Beauvoir and other VIW (very important women) including Mary Robinson and Marie Curie.

For those among you who are so inclined there's a menstrual calendar, I didn't really understand how to work it but then I failed maths in the Leaving Cert. which might explain a lot of things!

A list of women's periodicals (not the 'Women's Weekly' sort either) and a suggested reading list are also included so that we student feminists can further our education.

What more can I say but go out and buy it if not for your thoroughly disorganised lover then for yourself.

Suzy Byrne.



ACCOMMODATION

Gay male seeks a professional person to share a luxury apartment within 2 miles of the city centre with secure car parking. Rent reasonable & non-smoker preferred. **Box D.810**
☎ 1550 151 434

Gay man to share large 4 bedroom house with 3 others. Kimmage near KCR. All mod. cons. **Box D.811**

Gay man, mid-twenties, seeks to share house, flat, apartment, or be a lodger with other, aged 40+. **Box D.812**

Quality accommodation for Cork landlord's assistant. Mature (28+), intelligent gay with business sense, light duties, full board, private room. **Box D.813**

Young male postgrad. (Beaux Arts) seeks accommodation on his return to Trinity College, Dublin, Feb. 1993. Contact: Donovan, Chambre C504, Ecole Normale Supérieure, 7 rue Maurice Arnoux, F92120 Montrouge (Paris).

Gay guy, 27, moving home after five years in London seeks flat/flatshare within two miles of Dublin city centre, from January '93. Reasonable rent. **Box D.814**

EMPLOYMENT

Handsome gay postgrad student, 21, mature, good humoured, seeks part-time employment in Dublin area. Have experience in accounts and barwork. **Box D.815**

Young gay guy, open mind, seeks part-time work. Good fun, anything considered. Genuine offers please! **Box D.816**

SERVICES

Accountancy, book-keeping services, reasonable rates, accounts to trial balance, debtors, creditors, payroll, PAYE, PRSI, VAT, Tax returns. Details ring (01) 964347.

Wanted: Action magazines featuring leather, uniform, or skinhead. Good money paid in exchange. Write with full details. **Box D.817**

CONTACTS

Waterford 1992. Calling all Waterford gays & lesbians. If you are interested in getting together for a Christmas party at a local venue, please write to this box no., including a stamped addressed envelope, for more details. Let's rock around the Christmas tree (in Red Square)! **Box D.818**

TRANSEXUALS

Young transsexual (21) seeks other transsexuals for chat. Must be honest and sincere. Confidentiality assured and expected. No messers please. **Box D.819**

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Congratulations to the 'outrageous' one Mike Fitzharris (sometimes bisexual) of the 'clinic', Clontarf on reaching his big 40th year this month. From all his past, present, and future trade... With special best wishes on this 'outrageous' occasion from Winkie, Tina, Muriel, Miss R&C, Chantal, The Crowley Good's, Jacqueline and the ever rampant Miss Whyte, Geraldine and Erotica, the BV, Lickus Momacus and Justina, Harriot and Miss Lawlor, Beverley Sills, Horny Oscar, Tony the painter, Peter Higgins (blessed) and of course Steven... Not to forget Glenda 'you filthy bastard'.

David, Merry Christmas. Thanks for all in '92 as we enter '93. I hope the love, friendship, coming together is as beautiful. I love you. Denis.

☎ Voice Mail ☎
☎ Saves Time - Your Time ☎

GAY MASSEUR

Young, Handsome, Muscular. Offers Full Friendly Massage Service, in central private apartment. All ages welcome. Call Stephen 538115 Best times 11am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm.

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Lesbian, late 30's, seeks stable ladylike woman of character 30/55 with view to friendship/relationship. Genuine replies only. **Box D.820**

Lesbian, professional woman, late 30's, attractive, kind, sincere, with a good sense of humour wishes to meet sincere woman with view to friendship/relationship. Interests: reading, music, cinema, outdoor activities. **Box D.821**

Bisexual female would like to hear from other bisexual females for friendship. Varied interests. **Box D.822**
☎ 1550 151 439

Gay woman, 35, 5'7" non scene, working in the Middle East, seeks penpals/friends. Interests too many to mention, but I have a sense of humour, love people and travel. **Box D.823**

Gay feminine mother (40s), Northsider, not long out, would love to contact woman/women/mothers groups, Northside, for support/friendship/activities/possible relationship. Interests include music/outdoors/gardening, good conversation. **Box D.824**

Donegal lesbian, 37 yrs. very lonely, wishes to meet other lesbian from Donegal for friendship/relationship. **Box D.825**

Gay woman, recently moved to Dublin, 31, European, good-looking, loves arts, theatre, literature, likes travel, walks, talks, food, would like to meet attractive, affectionate, sincere woman (30-40) with similar interests and sense of humour, maybe leading to 121 relationship. **Box D.826**

Lesbian 40 non-scene professional, seeks slim mature 30 to 40 year old woman, convenient to Belfast for fun and friendship. **Box D.827**

Gay female 33 caring, sincere, seeks similar woman aged 30-40 for friendship, times out, possible relationship. Confidentiality assured. **Box D.828**

Gay woman, 30's, Munster area, wishes to contact sincere woman with a sense of humour. Can travel to Dublin or elsewhere. Varied interests. Phone no. appreciated. Confidentiality assured. **Box D.829**

Attractive female, 21, seeks genuine and sincere female for friendship, times out, possible relationship. Varied interests: music, sport, cinema and walking. **ALA. Box D.830**

MEN'S PERSONALS

Young horny defence force guy, fair hair, blue eyes, 5'9", non smoker, living in Dublin, wishes to meet young horny FCA/SLUA/Army/Navy/Garda or clean cut young guy(s) into sports/athletics to spend long evenings and maybe exchange week-ends watching hot male videos and having good clean safe sex together. Also would like to exchange hot horny experiences/fantasies with similar guys. nLet's correspond now. All replies treated in confidence and total discretion given and expected at all times. Reply today enclosing a photo and personal details. You won't be disappointed I assure you. Guy(s) between 18/35 only. **Box D.831**
☎ 1550 151 438

Professional guy, blonde, 32, looks younger, seeks similar good-looking guy, 27 to 35 who believes in a 121, likes a pint and a laugh. Preferably non-scene but not paranoid. Hairy welcome but not essential. Detailed letter please. **Box D.832**

Sth. Dublin guy, 26, witty, straight-acting, clean-shaven, non-scene, shy and often lonely, seeks other witty guys anywhere for friendship. Discretion expected and assured. Write please. **Box D.833**

Dublin gay guy, 26, not unattractive, seeks other sincere guy under 30 for friendship and possible relationship. Non-scene/effem. preferred. Photo/phone no. appreciated. Discretion assured and expected. **ALA. Box D.834**

Two gay guys, ages 29 and 39, living near Downpatrick (Co. Down) seek new friends anywhere in Ireland. **Box D.835**

Belfast gay T.V., thirty-something, seeks active males for fun maybe 121 with right guy. Can accommodate/travel. **Box D.836**

Waders, waders, wellies! Anyone interested in getting together? Details please. **Box D.837**

Two gay men from Donegal/Tyrone spending New Year in Edinburgh would like to get in touch with others. **Box D.838**

N.I. gay male professional, 40, lonely, would like to try a relationship again or whatever. Between 27-42. **Box D.839**

Genuine gay guy, 38, non-scene, straight-acting, needs a private relationship with younger guy. I am 6', fair hair, blue eyes. Over 5'10" if possible. I am lonely and very sincere. All letters with photo will receive a reply. Write now. **Box D.840**

Gay guy, 30 but 20 in mind, honest, straight acting, romantic, into music, sports etc., wants to meet genuine gay guy, 18-30 for friendship, possible 121 relationship. Work, religion unimportant. Galway area, but can travel. Photo/phone no. if possible. **Box D.841**

Gay guy, 30, shy, sincere, sensitive, romantic, straight-acting, down to earth, professional and fit, seeks understanding gay guy, 18-30 for one to one friendship and relationship. No messers please. Replies from Midwest, Dublin, anywhere. Foreigners welcome. Why not end our loneliness together. Can travel/accommodate. Photo please. **ALA. Discretion assured/expected. Box D.842**

Belfast, anywhere, 29, tache, smooth, pierced, leather, denim, seeks hairy guys, 35-55 for fun times. Photo if possible. **Box D.843**

Galway gay, 34 (Libra) fair Venus child who's every grace makes this strife torn world a wondrous place, seeks friends at home and overseas with a sense of direction. Replies. All letters answered inc. photo. **Box D.844**

Wexford calling. Gay man, 29, wishes to meet other gays in South-East. Looks unimportant, personality is. **ALA. Box D.845**

In my heart I know there's someone special for me out there. I'm 34, gay, professional, intelligent, caring, ok looking and into the arts, travel, food, good conversation and fun. If you're 25-35 and also seeking some sort of stable special friendship/relationship I'd love to hear from you, particularly if you live in the south Dublin or north Wicklow area. **Box D.846**

South Co. Dublin gay, HIV+, 50, 5'10", 150 lbs, healthy, attractive, nice fit body, own home, professional, enjoys theatre, music, art, travel, hill walking, occasional disco, seeks other 35-50 for friendship and possibly long-lasting relationship. Non-scene preferred. Please send photo (returned). **ALA. Box D.847**
☎ 1550 151 436

Active male, mid forties, seeks partner with view to forming lasting meaningful relationship. Confidentiality and sincerity assured. Photograph appreciated. **Box D.848**

Bearded, hairy, cuddly men are BEARS. If you are one and want to expand the Irish section of the successful Bears' Club (UK) write to **Box D.849**

MASSAGE

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(OVER 747 TRAVEL RED DOOR)
VISITING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Undisciplined male, 40's, 5'10" needs tall dominant person with CP experience. **Box D.850**
☎ 1550 151 431

Sensitive, fairly attractive, caring, honest, gay man, aged 26, seeks similar aged 45+ for intimate & sharing 1-2-1 relationship. **Box D.851**

Sincere guy, student, looking for some-one serious about books and art with ideas to exchange and friendship. **Box D.854**

Dublin guy, 26, genuine, caring, my inter-est in life now is to meet that special someone who seeks like I a sincere and happy 1-2-1 relationship. So if you are non-effem., attractive, romantic, sexy and want the same, let me know. Let's start the New Year together. **Box D.852**

20, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks 18-22 year old for friendship, maybe more. Non-scene/effem. Letters with photos only. **Box D.853**

Christmas/New Year alone again. I'm 22, tall, dark, moustache. Would like to meet similar under 40. Hobbies: working out, cinemas, pubs, Dublin area. **ALAWP. Box D.855**
☎ 1550 151 432

Belfast couple, attractive, early 30's, dis-creet, seek single guys or couples 21-40 for friendship and safe sex. Belfast/NI/Dublin. **ALA. Box D.856**

Mature guy, 33, slim, good-looking, sin-cere, seeks younger guy anywhere in Ireland. Put pen to paper - you won't regret it. **Box D.857**

Male student, 17, well-built and interest-ed in sport and music seeks guy for friendship/relationship any age. Photo and telephone number if possible. **Box D.858**

Midlands gay, 31, 5'7" attractive professional. Seeks guys between 20 and 40 for friendship, 1,2,1. Willing to travel. Phone no. **ALA. Genuine replies only. Box D.859**

French student, 24, seeks other hand-some Irish friend to build a true relationship. Various interests: arts, music, history, films and having fun. Write to: Laurent Nieto, 16 Rue des Chenes, 95100 Argenteuil, France.

Dublin passive type guy (39). Looks: average, 6', clean-shaven, acts straight. Likes: denim, trainers, music, videos, t.v., quiet nights (in your place). Seeks: similar active type (28-44) to make my life complete. Your photo/phone no. gets mine. **Box D.860**
☎ 1550 151 443

Truck driver, 45 years, 5'10" tall, slim, travels all parts of Ireland weekly. Spends lonely nights in cab. Would like to meet new friends. All ages. **Box D.861**

Calling all star signs of a Pisces, Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio or Capricorn nature. This young gay Scorpio invites you on an excursion into the heart of purely platonic friendship. Dare you venture? All aboard! 17-25. Genuine letters only. **Box D.862**

28 year old male bodybuilder, tanned, good-looking, now wanting to discover his true sexual orientation. Wants to be made happy by single gay man or gay couple. I am occasionally in Dublin during the day only. I need you now. Write with photo and phone number if possible please. **Box D.863**
☎ 1550 151 437

Munster gay, 40's, seeks guy, any age, for friendship and hopefully something more lasting. You must be honest, caring and good natured. Photo, phone no. if possible. **ALA. Box D.875**

AIRDALE TERRIERS

Ideal housedogs and family guards. Perfect with children (when you visit your brothers kids!). Maybe this could extend your domestic scene? I judge 50 breeds, and have made 6 champions.
contact:
Barry McDonnell,
Ballyonan,
Moyvalley,
Co. Kildare

PLACING AN AD

Please write the wording of your ad and your name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS. We reserve the right to alter or omit ads which we consider unsuitable for publication. Advertisers are assured of strict confidentiality. Replies are posted out as soon as we receive them. Gay Community News is published on the last Friday of each month. Classifieds deadline is two weeks prior to publication.

Deadline for issue 48:
Friday 15 January 1993.

An advertiser may place up to 20 words free of charge with each additional word costing 15p (irrespective of the number of ads being placed). Box numbers are provided free. Longer ads which are not prepaid may be edited down to 20 words or may be discarded.

EXTRA FEATURES

To have your ad printed in bold type the charge is £1. To have your ad boxed separately the charge is £1. Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to GCN.

REPLYING TO AN AD

Place your reply in an envelope. Mark with a pencil the box number to which you are replying. Place this envelope inside another envelope with a loose 32p stamp (or Cheque/Postal Order from outside Rep of Ireland) and post to:

Classified Ads, Gay Community News, 10 Fownes Street, Dublin 2.

Replies are forwarded up to eight weeks after publication and **any received without postage for forwarding are destroyed.**

Dublin gay 40, straight-acting, well educated, honest and sincere, seeks slim gay 18+ for friendship/possible relationship. Why spend your time alone and unhappy when we could be having enjoyable times together? I guarantee you will not be disappointed. Absolute discretion assured. Photo and phone number appreciated. Box D.864
☎ 1550 151 433

Gay guy will submit to sex and CP from leather clad butch Dubliners 50's. Genuine. SAE please. **Box D.865**

Skinhead, 25, 5'10", well-built, good-looking guy, wants to meet same 18-27, non-effem skinheads into boots and water sports for day-time pursuits. All letters answered. **Box D.866**

Dublin gay, 30, seeking guys 18-28 for evenings of discipline, my place. Clean, safe, fun leather guys most welcome. Photo if possible. **Box D.867**

Attractive gay white guy, 35, slim, seeks young penpals and possible guests when visiting Los Angeles. You are slim, smooth, tight and into anal sex. **Box D.868**

Gay guy, now living in Limerick, 34, slim, good-looking, sincere, trustworthy, loving, versatile in sex, seeks one special boy (24-35) for happy ever after. **Box D.869**

Gay Dublin guy, 33, non-scene, non smoker, romantic, honest and genuine, looking for that special guy who is probably 20 to 25, who enjoys eating out/sleeping in, likes walks in the park and is interested in a long term, one to one honest relationship. **Box D.871**

South County Dublin guy, early thirties, non-scene, seeks guy 18-22 for secret, safe bedroom fun. Discretion promised. **Box D.872**

Dublin, 27, tall, dark, athletic build, sub-missive, wants open minded, well endowed man for fun/friendship. **ALA. Photo, phone please. Box D.873**
☎ 1550 151 440

Dublin gay, 30, seeks guy 18-25. Fantasizes about spanking, would love to embark on experiences with horny guy. Photo with discretion. **Box D.874**

Ordinary, natural, "Joe Soap" type gay, cropped hair, tache and submissive (36) from Dublin needs similar active "safe" friend. **Box D.876**

A good-looking, lonely shy guy, looking for someone similar for friendship but no way to reach out and don't like the scene. Phone and photo please. **Box D.877**

Gay man, 25, seeks a large 'n' lovely 40-50 yr man for sincere & caring 1-2-1 relationship. **Box D.880**

← continued from page 21

01-area. Lonely. Make a call. Get to know a friend. One in ten - already you share his deepest thoughts and longings - a mature relationship. ALA. Box D.878

Dublin bloke, straight looks/acting, seeks similar (18-30) to meet for good times. Photo/phone appreciated. ALA. Box D.879

Gay couple, late twenties, with nice home, wish to meet singles or couples 18-25 for friendship or more. Warm welcome offered to all replies. Box D.881

Man, 48, Dublin, seeks genuine relationship with man aged 25-35. Replies from any area. Box D.882

☎ 1550 151 441

Dublin gay, 31, own place, seeks well hung guy 18-30. Into guys in lycra & leathers. For safe sex and friendship. Photo and phone no. Box D.883

South West gay male, 37, non-scene non effem. well built, ave looks, respectable. Loves nature, country life. Very sincere and romantic. Seeks guy 30-39 non-scene for friendship/relationship. Co. Cork/Kerry area. Photo appreciated. ALA. Confidentiality assured. Box D.884

Belfast guy, 23, caring, sincere, reasonably attractive, seeks a decent bloke under 30 for friendship and possible 121. Photo appreciated. Box D.885

Male gay, 44, non-effem., affectionate, romantic. Never had the experience of being massaged or spanked. Would love to meet mature guy over 55 to accomplish same. Must have own accommodation. Replies from Tipperary, Limerick, Dublin. Discretion assured and expected. Box D.886

Gay guy, 25, non-effem. into leather, docs, jeans. Many interests. Seeks similar 18-30 for fun, friendship and ? Discretion assured and expected. ALAWP. Box D.887

☎ 1550 151 442

ACCOMODATION

Discreet gay man wanted to share house in Rathfarnham area.

Non-Smoker, 25+ preferred. Rent reasonable. Box D801

postbox

BELFAST CONTROVERSY CONTINUES . . .

Dear GCN,

The last paragraph of the letter from 'Belfast Gay man' reads: "I note the invitation to 'Captain Jack' to attend meetings of the Gay Pride committee. However as the committee and obviously NIGRA are looking forward to those "platoons of male drag queens" I can see that attendance could not be constructive and that neither NIGRA nor the committee should be the forum for debate concerning our lifestyles nor a focus for celebrating ourselves!"

The logic of this position is that 'Belfast Gay man' should find alternatives to NIGRA and to the current Gay Pride committee. If he is labouring under the illusion that the bodies in question would be put out by this he can rest assured that this is not so. No person (with the possible exception of one, and then in very specialised circumstances) and no organisation, is infallible.

Despite claiming that he had "no problem" with men in drag on the Gay Pride March (or mince as

Gay male, tall, moustached, straight acting, mid 30's seeks others 25-45 in north west region for friendship/relationship. Box D.888

Male, 35 yrs, would like to meet other tennis players to organise matches on southside . . . although tennis is one of my main interests, I would like to develop friendships through swimming, cinema and the odd visit to the theatre. I am reliable and a keen player. Box D.889

Dear Santa, I'm 33 and live in North Co. Dublin. I would like you to fill my stocking with a horny 18-25 year old guy. If you don't deliver I'll have to 'out' you. On the other hand, if you're good I'll answer all these Santa letters. Box D.890

Tall, dark, cute, articulate Cork guy, 29, waiting to be loved by any genuine sweet guy, 18+, non-scene welcome! Box D.891

☎ 1550 151 444

Keen bridge player interested in hearing from gay bridge-playing male. Squeeze, strip and throw-in my forte. Box D.892

Catholic curate wishes to hear from gay priests, any age, in Munster. All letters answered in confidence. Box D.893

USA bi female seeks mutual benefits etc. gay male, non UK citizen. Eire ideal. Easiest for non-smoking over 35 professional or self-employed. Box D.894

Dublin gay guy, 30, non-scene, with loyal and caring nature seeks same. Married or single, under 5'6". No time wasters please. I would like to meet someone to spend the cold winter nights with. Discretion assured. Photo and phone no. please. Box D. 895

Cavan man, 40, looking for friends who like the country life. Can accommodate at my country cottage. Late twenties to forties, sexy, sense of humour and average looks. Box D.896

☎ 1550 151 445

LITTLE LISBON
711271
ROBBIE AND STAFF
WOULD LIKE TO
THANK EVERYBODY
FOR THEIR CUSTOM
IN 1992
FOWNES ST.

everybody else described it) 'Belfast Gay man' clearly has a problem with cross-dressing and campness. "Who then" he asks "is going to dispel the myth that gay males are drag queens?"

We have news for 'Belfast Gay man': it's not a myth. Not all gay men are drag queens - but all drag queens are gay men.

"...many straights will perceive [identify ?] being gay with cross dressing and campness". Such straights are not 100% wrong; some straights (Christadelphians for example) think 'homosexual people are - literally - devils made flesh: so what? If there is a Gay community and if it is to flourish, we, who make it up, can't lead our lives worrying about what the lowest common denominator of the general community thinks about our sexuality and lifestyles.

'Belfast Gay man' frets about "campness", presumably referring to effeminacy in men. The heroic sissiness of people like Quentin Crisp, Michael Mac Liammoir, and to a lesser extent the legendary Belfast hairdresser Aanton* (who

Introducing . . .

The GCN Doctor

In medicine one can never run short of topics and issues to write about, especially those that concern us as homosexuals.

After giving it quite considerable thought, I have decided that, since this is my first article in GCN, the best way to approach this is to discuss a topic that is of paramount importance to us all. One that has practically nothing to do with sex - there will be other times when I will concentrate on sexual matters.

The topic I have chosen is Stress and the *Burn-Out Syndrome*. Let me emphasise that whenever I write about a medical problem I will try not to become too technical and to keep the language as non-medical as possible. I would also appreciate it if I could get some feedback from you in the form of a confidential letter, addressed to me at GCN, concerning matters and topics of interest to you.

I have chosen to talk about stress because we lead a daily existence that can result in constant pressure, leading to what is recognised in the medical field as *Burn-Out Syndrome*. It is vital to have a 'total breakaway' from the stresses and strains of daily work and routine. There is no better way of turning your attention away from what you are doing than enjoying something that you really love doing.

While the decade of the 80's was described as that of the baby boomers, that of the 90's is progressively being labelled as the baby gloomers. Stress, anxiety and insecurity are constantly haunting us as a result of the current recession-hit period. However, pressure, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Certainly some people have more pressurised lives than others, but it is the way that we react to it that is important.

One of the lessons that I would like you to learn is relaxation. Keep relaxed and cope with the situation that befalls you without resorting to winding yourself up with mutterings

had on occasion to fight - and beat-half a dozen "hard men" at a time), is surely something to be cherished?

Campness is, surely, that which defines what there is of Gay culture. From the moment we realise that the great edifice of what 'Belfast Gay man' describes as "straigh culture" is - like many an Ascendancy "great house" all facade and little substance. The whole secret of camp is that we know that very little is as it seems, and nothing is as it would like to be perceived.

"...we have no barometer on which to access the true reaction ..." of the public. There is the walk itself. In 1991 the Free Presbyterians said they would physically put a stop to it, and there was a none too subtle hint that there would be violence - they didn't stop our celebration in any of its manifestations. In 1992 they had a prayer meeting at the City Hall attended by 20 adults, of whom about five were ministers in the Free Presbyterian Church. There were also two very bored looking children. The attitude of

about the unnecessary interruptions and niggles that happen to you. If it all gets too much, stop and relax properly. Do not allow yourself to get bogged down and above all do not wind yourself up - plenty of others will do that for you.

Stress is *not* the same as pressure - it is to do with feeling unable to cope. Prolonged stress makes us tired, depressed and too tense to relax. Meals become rushed, sleep impossible, relationships difficult. We stop exercising and we're likely to smoke more, drink more and rely on medication even more. Stress leads us to withdraw from friends and social parties and it is a Delia Smith recipe for ill-health.

Stress is bad-news. It is linked with several medical conditions including: stomach ulcers, herpetic ulcers, asthma, eczema, skin-rashes, migraine, irritable bowel syndrome and diarrhoea, insomnia, high blood pressure (leading to heart attack and stroke) and loss of libido *ie.* sex drive (and God knows, you do not want to get to that stage!)

You know you are stressed out when your energy is drained and your work is less efficient and less effective. There is *nothing* good to be said about stress. You feel stressed, and you need to avoid the trap of thinking that you feel stressed. You are working hard and therefore doing a good job - if you are feeling stressed you are almost certainly working below peak efficiency.

To avoid stress just keep in mind the following hints:-

Be kind in what you say to yourself. There is nothing stressful about working late in the office, the stress comes when you say to yourself such things as 'why the hell is it always me that is doing the dum ass work?' and so on. Learn to spot when you are winding yourself up and be a little kinder to yourself.

Keep an eye on your physiology *ie* - *keep relaxed*. Get regular, steady exercise at least every other day - 20

Joe Public, which was characterised on radio as "benign indifference", ranged from the indifferent to the friendly.

Our Gay Pride festivities at their most public - unlike London where the march is through the administrative area - danders down Royal Avenue, as Dublin's marched down O'Connell Street and Galway's through Eyre Square. The general public, whom 'Belfast Gay man', like 'Captain Jack' implies are anti-Gay to the last woman and man are not disgusted or shocked by our appearance on the streets. The only evidence we can bring forward is the fact that every person on our two demonstrations (where the ages ranged from children under ten years old to a man of 72) are all still in one piece - and considerably happier for two wonderful experiences.

If the public were opposed to us we could quite easily be driven off the streets.

May we take this opportunity to wish all your readers a Sexy Saturnalia and an outrageous New

minutes walking is just ideal.

Learn to reward yourself and choose to be with those who engender good feeling.

Avoid a heavy workload - too much un-organised work leads to musculo-skeletal damage resulting in back pain, discomfort and fatigue. Learn to divide your workload in an efficient manner - get yourself a filofax or a personal organiser, or join a stress management course.

If you work using a computer take frequent 'eye breaks'. Make sure that your chair supports your back - the chair should allow you to sit upright with your upper arms hanging straight, lower arms at right-angles and hands on worktop. Your legs should be bent at right-angles with your feet resting flat on the floor.

Make sure that you are not confined to a dark room and that the air temperature is kept within a comfortable range. All these measurements help to reduce the level of stress so that you get home feeling at ease and in control and rearing to go.

LIFESTYLE

Look after your health. I recommend that everyone between the ages of 20 and 30 should have one complete medical examination during that period. Between 30 and 40 one should have a total of three medical check ups, and after the age of 40 I recommend at least one physical examination per year.

A full medical examination includes: a physical examination; a full blood-count and blood biochemistry; an STD screening; an ECG and a chest X-ray. Avoid boring repetitive work. Make healthy choices concerning diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol and stress avoidance. Follow a low-fat low-carbohydrate/high fibre diet. Eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Do not smoke, cut down on your alcohol intake, seek medical advice, finally *relax, relax relax*

GCN Doctor

Year - and extend to them a hearty Northern *cead mile failte riabh* to our Gay Pride festivities (which are already shaping-up) and Dander (or for the pompous) March?

Belfast Reader

PENPALS

Hi
I'm a 27 year old gay male and I'm a teacher of Greek language and literature.

I would like to correspond with Irish gay males 25-35. My fields of interest are literature, languages, theatre, cinema, music, travelling, etc.

My name is Dimitris Andreadis and my address Egnatia 9- Nea pella, GR58100 Giannitsa, Macedonia, Greece. Thank you, all the best,

Dimitris

NATIONAL**Organisations**

NLGF (National Lesbian and Gay Federation) (01) 71 09 39 (12-5.30pm)
The Hirschfeld Centre, 10 Fownes Street, D2. Publishes GCN, provides information & maintains an archive
Body Positive (01) 73 37 99.
c/o Dublin AIDS Alliance, Avoca House, 189/193 Parnell St, D1.

Self help and support group for people affected by HIV or AIDS.

Employment Equality Agency

36 Upr Mount St, D2. (01) 60 59 66

Deals with cases of job discrimination

GLEN (Gay and Lesbian Equality Network)

(01) 710 939 (12.00-5.30pm)

c/o Hirschfeld Centre, 10 Fownes St, D 2.

Group lobbying for law reform

Irish Congress of Trade Unions

19 Raglan Road, D4. (01) 68 06 41

Free policy document Lesbian & Gay Rights in the Workplace

Irish Council for Civil Liberties

c/o 36 The Rise, Boden Park, D16

Equality now for Lesbians and Gay Men

Report £4.95. Policy on anti-discrimination legislation

Irish Names Quilt

(01) 73 37 99

Avoca House, 189-193 Parnell St, D1.

LGYFI (Lesbian and Gay Youth Federation of Ireland)

(01) 71 09 39.

Co-ordinating body for youth groups and societies. 10 Fownes Street, D2.

LOT (Lesbians Organising Together)

Meets 1st Thurs of month

at USI, 16 Nth Gt George's St, D1

Parents Enquiry

Support and information for and by parents of lesbians and gays. Contact Gay Switchboard Dublin

DUBLIN**Organisations****ACT UP - (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)**

PO Box 3102, D1

"Action = Life. We are not silent - we demonstrate." Fortnightly meetings on Mondays 7 pm at Ha'penny Bridge Inn, Wellington Quay, D1.

Dublin City University, Lesbian & Gay Soc.

Meets Thursdays 6.00pm

room CG67 Contact Mike Egan in Students Union Office.

Dublin Lesbian Collective

Meets Weds 7.30pm Women's Room

6.26 TCD during term time

Dublin Lesbian Discussion Group

Meets Sat 7.30pm Room 6.14 TCD,

Contact Lesbian Line

Hirschfeld Outdoors Group

Meets 11am last Sun of the month at 10 Fownes St, D 2

Icebreakers

Informal meeting for gays and lesbians coming out. 7.30pm, first Sat every month in city centre hotel. Contact Gay Switchboard Dublin

Julian Fellowship

(01) 96 18 43

Thurs 7.30-9pm only. 1st & last Thu. only. Support and self development for Christian lesbian women.

PO Box 1871, Churchtown, D 14.

Kevin St. College Lesbian & Gay Soc.,

meets every 2nd Wed. Contact Bryan at the Students Union.

Metropolitan Community Church of Emmaus.

(01) 284 24 86

Service 1st Sun of every month by kind permission of Frankie's B & B. Details from Pastor Mary Reynolds

Muted Cupid Theatre Group

(01) 710 939. 12-5.30pm Lesbian & gay drama group meets Mon 8pm.

Reach (01) 96 18 43 Thu 7.30-9pm only

PO Box 1790, D6. Gay Christian group, meets monthly on Sat in Dublin & Cork

TCD Lesbian & Gay Soc.

Meets Room 6.26, Thurs. 7.30pm.

The Youth Group

Social group for under 25s. Meets 1st and 3rd Sun. Details NLGF or GSD

Help & Health**Gay Switchboard Dublin**

Carmichael House, Nth Brunswick St., Dublin 7. (01) 72 10 55

Sun-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 3.30-6.00pm

Lesbian Line

Thurs 7-9pm (01) 61 37 77

National Transvestite Line

Thurs 8-10pm (01) 71 09 39

Alcoholics Anonymous

Lesbian & gay group meets Mon 8pm.

Phone Lesbian Line or GSD for details

AIDS Helpline Dublin

(01) 72 42 77, Mo-Fr 7-9pm, Sat 3-6pm

AIDS Resource Centre

14 Haddington Rd, D4, (01) 60 21 49

Advice, counselling and HIV testing

Cairde

(01) 73 37 99 daily 10am-1pm.

Avoca House, 189/193 Parnell St, D 1.

Voluntary Group providing emotional and practical support to people who are HIV+ or have AIDS

Dublin AIDS Alliance

(01) 73 37 99

Avoca House, 189/193 Parnell St, D 1.

Gay Men's Health Project

(01) 602149 Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm.

Drop-in, no appointment needed.

Holistic Health Project

(01) 733 799

c/o Dublin AIDS Alliance. Holistic massage, Shiatsu, relaxation sessions for people affected by HIV or AIDS

St James' Hospital GU Clinic

Hospital 5, Rialto Entrance (01) 53 52 45 (direct line) or (01) 53 79 41 ext. 2315/2316. Mon & Fri 9am-12.30pm.

Tues & Thurs 1:30-4.30pm

HIV Clinic

(01) 53 52 45 (direct line) or (01) 53 79 41 Ext 2161. Mon 1:30-4.30pm. & Wed 9am-12pm (HIV+ only).

Bookshops

Books Upstairs (01) 79 66 87

36 College Green, D 2.

Irish Family Planning Association

36/37 L Ormond Q, D 1. (01) 72 53 66

The Meeting Room

Bookshop and coffee shop. Bedford Row, Aston Quay, D 2

Waterstone's

(01) 79 14 15

7 Dawson St, D 2.

Winding Stair

(01) 73 32 92

Bookshop/Cafe, 40 Lr Ormond Qy, D2

Accommodation

Bed and Breakfast (01) 53 34 24

206 Sth Circular Road, D 8.

Donnybrook View

(01) 68 09 75

65 Morehampton Rd, Donnybrook, D4

Frankie's

(01) 78 30 87

8 Camden Place, D 2.

The Georgian House

(01) 75 00 24

59 Lr Camden St, D2.

Eats**The Cellary**

Fownes St, D2. Demi-veg restaurant

The Foundry

5 Aston Quay, D2. Open 7-9pm

Marks Bros

7 Sth Gt George's St, D 2.

Young, trendy, cheap. Mixed gay/straight coffee shop. Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm

The Bistro Pizza & Pasta

Comfortable mixed restaurant

5 Castlemarket D2 (Close to Hooray Henrys) Open till 2am weekends

Well Fed Restaurant

Dublin Resource Centre, 6 Crow St, D2

Vegetarian food, 11-8.30pm/4-7pm Sat

Pubs**The George**

Sth Gt George's St, Dublin 2

The Loft

Dame Lane, above the George)

The Parliament Inn

27 Parliament St, D2

The Bailey

2 Duke St, D2. Sat afternoon, mixed, popular with lesbians and gays

Nightclubs**Shaft**

22 Ely Place, D2

Nightclub and winebar every night (Adm free except Sat)

Damsel's

Top floor, Parliament Inn, Parliament St, D2 - Women's disco Fri 8.30-11pm

The Grotto at Sides

Sun 11pm-3am

Dance club - Dame Lane, D 2

Saunas**The GYM.**

(01) 6795 128

14/15 Dame Lane, Dublin 2

Incognito

(01) 78 35 04

1/2 Bow Lane East (off Aungier St), Dublin 2.

CORK**Organisations****Cork Gay Collective (Icebreakers)**

Meets 8pm last Tues, monthly.

Contact Lesbian/Gay Line

Lesbian & Gay Resource Group

The Other Place, 7/8 Augustine St.

(021) 317660

Lesbian & Gay Youth Group

Meets Sat 4pm at The Other Place

Help & Health**Cork Lesbian Line**

(021) 27 10 87 Thurs 8-10pm

Gay Information Cork

(021) 27 10 87.Wed 7-9pm & Sat 3-5pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

'Live and let live' group meets Fridays 8:30 pm, ph: Lesbian Line or Gay Info.

AIDS Helpline Cork

(021) 27 66 76 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

Cork AIDS Alliance/Cairde

16 Peter's St, Cork. (021) 27 58 37

Bookshops

The Other Place (021) 31 76 60

Augustine St (by Queen's Old Castle)

Quay Co-Op

(021) 31 76 60

24 Sullivan's Quay.

Waterstone's

(021) 27 60 02

69 Patrick St.

Accommodation**Amazonia B&B**

(021) 83 11 15

Coast Road, Fountainstown, Co Cork.

12 miles west of city, warm welcome for gays and lesbians

The Arches B&B.

(058) 566 22

Near Conna, East Cork, country setting - 30 min from city

Mont Bretia B&B.

(028) 336 63

Adrigole, Skibbereen, Co Cork. Lesbian and gay friendly (women run)

Eats**Quay Co-Op**

(021) 31 76 60

24 Sullivan's Quay.

The Other Place (Cafe)

(021) 317660

Augustine St (by Queen's Old Castle).

Pubs**Loafers**

Douglas St, Cork

Nightclubs**The Other Place.**

(021) 31 76 60

Augustine St. Sat night disco

BELFAST**Organisations****NIGRA (Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association)**

Belfast 664 111 - 32 58 51 - PO Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH.

Meets Thurs 8pm. Also lending library operates

The Drop-In Centre

Cathedral Buildings, Lr Donegall St (next to Spice of Life cafe)

Sat 1.30-5pm, ring bell marked CF

Gay Star

PO Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH

Independent quarterly newsletter from Belfast, £5 annual sub

Northern Ireland Gay Christian Fellowship

PO Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH - Meets 2nd & 4th Sun at 3pm in Cathedral Buildings, 64 Donegall St

Belfast Butterfly Club

PO Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH

Group for transvestites and transsexuals. Meets 1st & 3rd Tues 8pm at Cathedral Buildings 64 Donegall St.

Help & Health**Cara-Friend Phoneline Belfast**

322023. Mon/Tue/Wed 7.30 - 10pm

Lesbian Line Belfast

Belfast 23 86 68 Thurs 7.30-10pm

Northern Ireland AIDS Helpline

Belfast 326117 Mon/Wed/Fri 7.30 - 10pm Sat 2-5 pm.

Parents Enquiry

Belfast 466944 Fri & Mon 7.30-10pm.

GUM Clinic (STD Clinic)

Belfast 32 01 59. Social Worker 24 05 03 ext 2450. Health Advisor 32 82 22.

Royal Victoria Hospital, Mon-Fri, 9 - 11am. Mon, Wed & Fri, 2 - 3pm.

Bookshops

Just Books Belfast 22 54 26

7 Winetavern St.

Pubs**Crows Nest Bar**

Skipper St (off High St)

Mixed Clientele, Mon to Sat. Thurs, Fri, Sat late bar/disco.

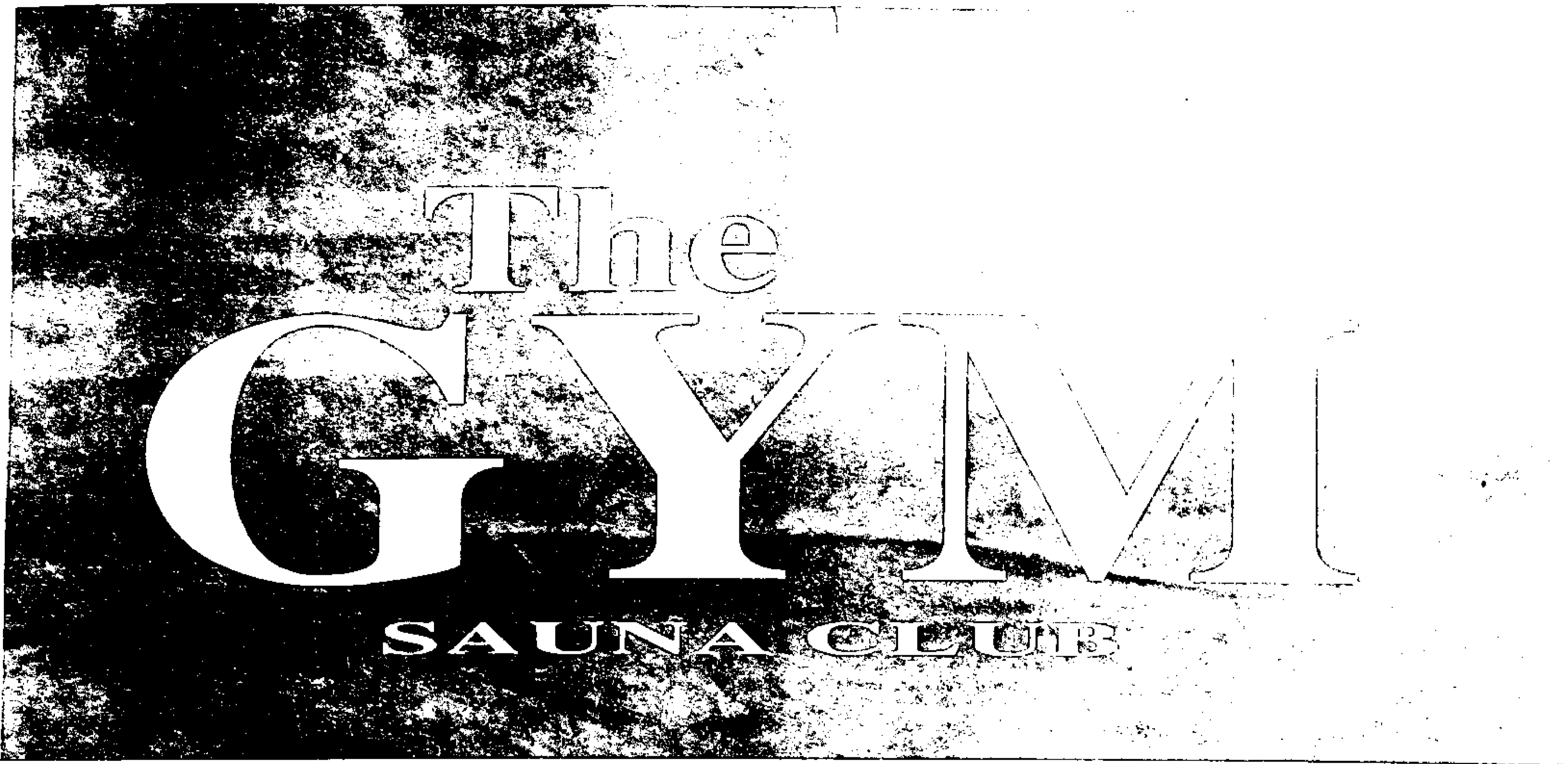
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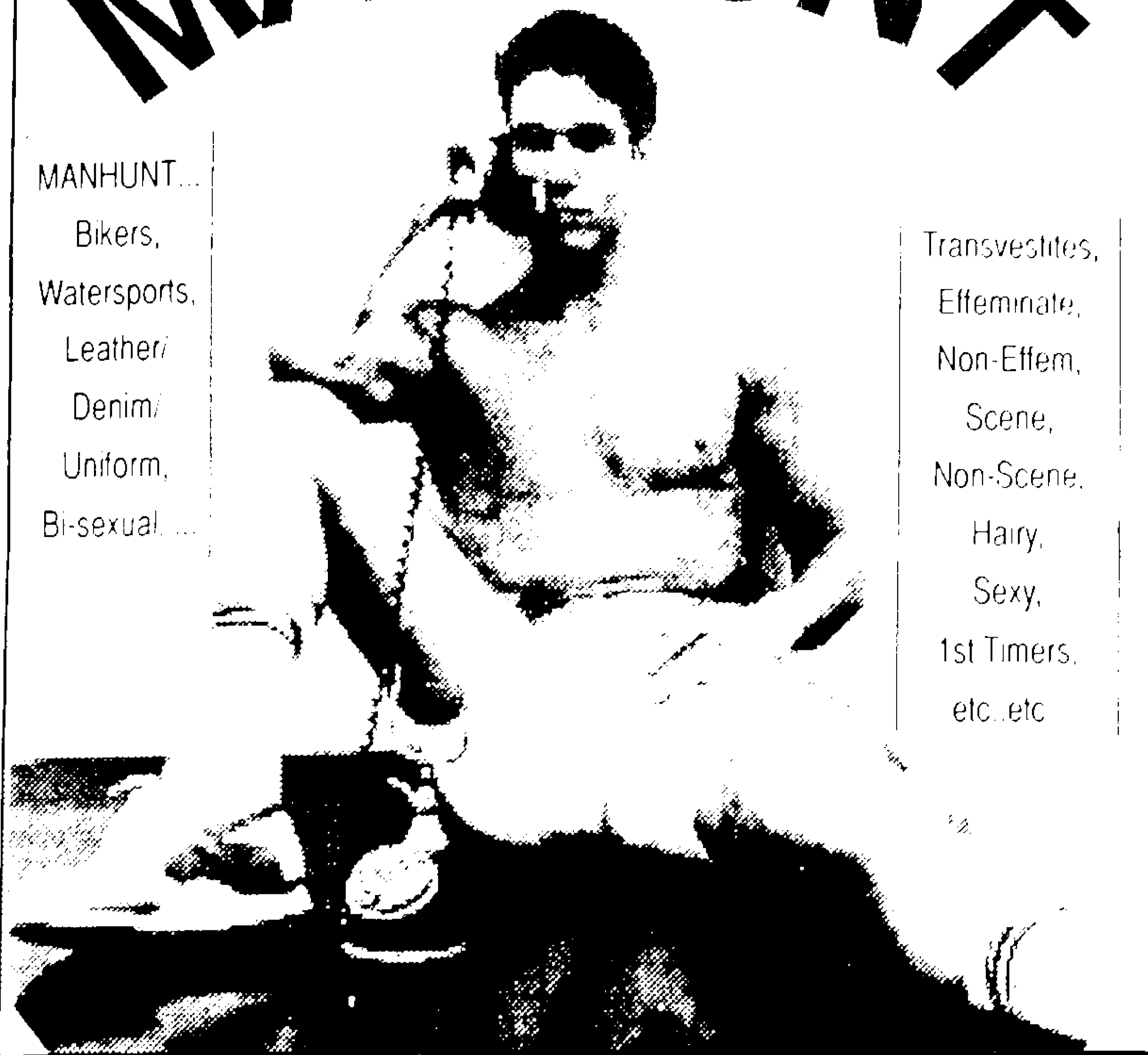
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DECEMBER 1992 / JANUARY 1993

ACTION, NOT WORDS!

As we go to press we learn that the party which put lesbian and gay reform on "the bottom of our agenda" - Fianna Fáil - has been put at the bottom of the voters' agenda. Unlike the USA, where the Lesbian and Gay vote was identified as an important sector by President-elect Clinton and which, in turn voted three to one for him, our community was totally ignored in the campaign just ended. As is well known, anything up to 10% of the population is gay. Who is to say that the dismissive, contemptuous attitude adopted by the Fianna Fáil party did not cost it some seats - especially in the highly marginal constituencies? Be that as it may, it now seems as if the so-called 'rainbow coali-

tion' will form the next government. The three main elements of such a coalition - Fine Gael, the Progressive Democrats and above all Labour, which has emerged as the People's Choice are all on record as being in favour of decriminalisation of homosexuality. All of these parties have been in power in recent years and nothing was done. Now, the Irish government has been given six months to enact legislation lifting the penal laws against gays. The Irish People have indicated in no uncertain fashion that they want change - so do we. LGCN calls on the incoming administration - and in particular Labour-leader, Dick Spring TD to deliver on their promises.

GAY MECCA??

Cork - the gay 'Mecca of the West', the 'Amsterdam of Ireland', the 'real' gay capital - all remarks recently overheard at the 2nd Lesbian and Gay Film-Festival. And why not? The resources available to us in Cork have developed at an exponential rate over the past few years. More and more men and women are coming out and coming together to build upon this foundation. No longer will our community suffer enforced silence. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to many who made possible some of the basic resources we all take for granted today. The time is right for lesbians and gay men to take a firm stand and not be frightened back into the closet.

An organisation based in Dublin - G.L.E.N. (Gay and Lesbian Equality Network) is now

active and seeking further membership in Cork. No special qualifications are needed for membership and information bulletins will be posted regularly. Based in Dublin's Hirschfeld Centre GLEN is an affiliate of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

GLEN actively campaigns for the decriminalisation of homosexuality and highlights the disgraceful inaction and the reprehensible confusion between outgoing Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds TD and our Ambassador to Europe, Liam Rigney (the Irish government - currently in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights - has been given six months to get its act together). GLEN plans to target the incoming administration in a series of actions thereby helping to ensure that it meets its commitments.

D. White

GLEN to move on L&G Job Dismissals

Should anyone doubt the necessity for the extension of job-protection legislation to cover lesbian and gays LGCN invites you to consider the cases of Frank Hickey a company rep. for the medical-supplies firm 'Pharmacia' and 'Angela' a gym/leisure-centre manager both Cork-based, both fired from their jobs on the flimsiest of excuses because the management of their respective firms found out they were gay. In both cases they were treated like dirt by their bosses in the way they kicked out. Both of these employees had proven track records of success in their jobs and out-performed their colleagues. Neither of them reported any adverse reaction from their customers towards them personally. I have made a detailed investigation of their cases for LGCN and am convinced that the only explanation for their dismissal was bigotry or, to use the CIA expression when finishing somebody off - "termination with extreme prejudice". Neither of them have any recourse in law for this blatant injustice. If either of them had been sacked for being black, Jewish, Protestant or a member of some other minority group there would be hell to pay - and proper order too. Being gay however they accepted their fate with resignation - "what can I do" says Angela "If I say anything I'll never get another job in the leisure industry - anyway cases like mine are not covered by the law". Frank - who suffers from chronic ill-health - is equally resigned to the fact that, even though he worked for his company for seven years,

he got no redundancy. To his immense credit is lacking in bitterness.

Both of these cases are horrifying for the cruelty and callousness which they reveal. Unfortunately, for legal reasons, we cannot reveal the full extent of their employers' perfidy. We CAN however - under parliamentary privilege - make sure that their dossiers reach the Dáil sub-committee on Legislation in the Workplace.

There are many more Franks and Angelas out there and many

of our people who are scared stiff that they'll lose their jobs if they're 'found-out'. This is an appalling and totally unacceptable state of affairs and another area which needs to be addressed by the new government with despatch.

If YOU have suffered discrimination in the workplace LGCN (and GLEN) would very much like to hear from you - in complete confidence if need be - the more documented cases we can present to our political masters the quicker and easier it will be to get the laws changed in our favour.

Stephen Quillinan.

CORK AIDS ALLIANCE LAUNCH WORLD AIDS DAY



Cork AIDS Alliance Chairperson, Anna Woolly, presents a framed copy of new AIDS Alliance poster to Cork's Lord Mayor Michael Martin, TD, in The Lobby bar in Cork to mark World AIDS Day.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS AND WISHING YOU A GAY AND PROSPEROUS 1993

Moustachioed, cherubic Derrick Gerety (42) - he of the mischievous smile and shining pate - has owned Loafer's Bar in Cork for nine years. Loafer's - an institution on the Irish lesbian and gay scene - has provided an invaluable, safe and welcoming meeting-place for the community down through the years especially when we were 'between premises'. Derrick, a Gemini - "although I don't believe in that stuff" nonetheless admits that he is a typical Gemini in that "I never finish anything!"

Derrick, who comes originally from a "typical, loving and supportive, working-class Dublin background" says he "knew he was gay" since he was 5 years old and - this has a distinct bearing on what follows - was conscious even then of having had a 'previous life'.

At 15 he went into Irish Shipping (R.I.P.!) and stayed with them for 16 years ending up a Chief Engineer - and an out gay man! Why did he come out on board ship? - "I told my subordinates first (they knew already as I was to find out) and then my bosses - so that if they were told - your Chief is a faggot - they could shrug it off and say, we know". As it happens two of his captains tried to sack him in foreign ports but, faced with a walkout from the crew in Derrick's support, they were forced to back down.

Derrick and partner ("my love life is VERY satisfactory, thank you") live in a Victorian four-story, Strawberry-Hill Gothic

profile..... Derrick Gerety



Derrick Gerety - enjoying his reclining years in Loafer's bar.

Tower or Folly in Cork's 'la-dedah' Montenotte (the 'north-side' as Derrick prosaically terms it) where romantic, dashing Irish folk-hero Robert Emmet used to 'bonk' (Derrick's term!) Sarah Curran. Plus ça change.....!

A 'ton-up-kid' since he was a teenager "I was an original Mod in 1965, Vespa 150cc scooter, Davy Crockett tail hanging out of the Aerial, 3/4 length parka - the lot"

he graduated through a Triumph Bonneville 750c to the 1000cc BMW which he rides today - and which he is selling as he informs us that he has now entered a "highly enjoyable, sedate Middle Age" and is "hanging up my leather gear" (WE believe you Derrick!). Sedate or not he tells us that he "enjoys running the pub and meeting people" although he finds it "quite stressful" and that he needs regu-

lar breaks from it. One of those breaks has just taken the form of a 3-month "very strenuous" retreat with 300 other handpicked followers 4,000 feet up in a Buddhist monastery in the South of France - the Langued'oc to be exact.

Some 13 years ago Derrick started practicing Transcendental Meditation (TM) with a view to embracing Hindu philosophy. Interestingly enough, although

brought up as a conventional Roman Catholic, his spiritual quest has led him to Tantric Buddhism and the High Lama, Sogyal Rinpochi, who was his spiritual mentor whilst on retreat. Derrick is insistent that Buddhism - and in particular the Tibetan "Book of Living and Dying" written by Lama Rinpochi (Rider Press IR£17.00) is of great relevance to our community - in particular the hospice movement. He tells us that there will be a talk given by the Author in Cork City on the 18th of December (contact Derrick for venue) which should be of special benefit to anyone catering for the dying - but all are welcome. Derrick who "tries - not always successfully - to devote 3 hours per day to prayer and meditation" is obviously thriving on this regime. Unassuming, "outgoing but also introspective - which is why I'm a Buddhist" Derrick displays a calmness and 'togetherness' which are a good ad. for his beliefs (he stresses however that Buddhism is "not a proselytising faith") and occupies the position of Trustee and Fincial Controller of 'Rigpa' (literally 'pristine awareness' a Tibetan term) the Irish controlling body of his faith.

LGCN salutes Derrick - who is "glad to be gay - it made me think about my life and beliefs" and who believes that "personal liberation comes first" - thanks him for his contribution to our community down through the years and wishes him continued 'good Karma and good Dharma'!!!!

A Lesbian Coming Out

I was born on March 14th, 1967. 25 years later (plus one day) on March 15th 1992 I had a conversation on a plane journey to New York which culminated in the arrivals hall at JFK with my asking two gay men travelling over for the St Patrick's Day parade, where I could go to meet other people 'like me' when I got home.

The realisation that my sexuality was not 'straight' forward didn't come to me like a bolt of lightning. It came rather as the result of an accumulation of inconsistencies that I noticed in the things I believed pertaining to sex, sexuality and relationships and the

feeling I had on these same areas.

What did I feel as this process was happening? The whole spectrum, I suppose. But most of all I remember feeling stretched, torn, confused.....

The positive, supportive response in the baggage-lounge of JFK was therefore something I will never forget and always be grateful for.

Similar unconditional acceptance of wherever you are personally at is very evident within the cork lesbian/gay community. I have found this tremendously reassuring. This doesn't mean that everyone holds similar views. The

diversity of opinions and beliefs is amazing and sometimes overwhelming, especially for the newcomer - but differences are acceptable, and that is the overriding message.

In the end you'll find your own balance within yourself, within the community and within the world at large. The weighing-up may at times be hard, but there is no time limit on anything you do. You have a lifetime's worth, it's yours, so don't waste it.....above all be certain of this, you are loved!

T.P.

In Memoriam

In a week in which I heard that a young man, a former member of the old club in No 4, McCurtain St, Cork, is near to death in London my thoughts once again turned to a friend who died recently in Dublin from an AIDS-related illness. I shall just call him 'a friend' because I was advised that to give his proper name would hurt his family, which is fair enough. It is important however that his death not go unnoticed or unmourned in our community and especially our national monthly. Indeed it is instructive to read in the foreign gay press the comprehensive coverage of AIDS-related deaths which gives the writers and readers a chance to express their very real sense of hurt and loss.

My friend was a very well-known and much-loved figure on the scene nationally in the '70s and the early '80s. A founder-member of the Irish Gay Rights Movement he was closely involved from the earliest days in providing our community with badly-needed social premises and devoted much of his free time to seeing that others could relax and

enjoy themselves in safe surroundings. He will be particularly remembered for his involvement with the first Phoenix Club (IGRM) in Parnell Square, Dublin. He was also one of the first gay men ever to appear on Irish TV as such back in the mid-seventies. He was a lovely, attractive, generous man with an infectious sense of humour who was as welcome in Cork as he was all over Dublin. Many people will particularly remember him for his hilarious drag-act especially his inspired take-off of Irish-harpist and ex-nun, Mary O'Hara.

His many friends in Dublin recently organised a very well-attended memorial Mass and get-together, which, I gather he would have very much enjoyed being at himself!

His death came as a great blow to many of us nonetheless the efforts of his and the other pioneers of the Lesbian & Gay movement in this country live on in our vibrant, confident and forward-looking community.

We remember him - and all the others who have died in similar circumstances - with love, sadness and gratitude.

S.Q.

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'Ethnic Cleansing' Publicans to lose Pink Punt

Readers of GCN will remember how, earlier this year, Gleeson's Bar - known to all and sundry as the 'White House' - barred the lesbian and gay community only to suffer a financially crippling boycott as a result which resulted in a total capitulation by the management. Well now they're at it again.

Very recently, three habitués of Cork's 'Other Place' who called in on their way back from Dublin were refused service for no good reason and a handful of people have been barred. Political types are apparently "welcome" but selective 'ethnic cleansing' is in progress. This results from a change in management. The owners - Maddens Milk - have sent in the 'men in grey suits' who obviously have an agenda of maximising profits at the expense of human feelings and dignity - this despite the fact that allegedly two of the management team are a gay couple! Needless to say the two closets are reportedly "embarrassed" by what's happening but seek refuge behind the "management have the right to refuse service without explanation" line when they have been pressed on the issue by Limerick Forum.

Limerick - currently spearheading the battle for lesbian and gay rights - has reacted with typical vigour and speed. Local gay supremo Don Donnelly (whose imminent departure for Dublin along with GLEN co-chair Joan Keogh for the "Big Apple" and Youth Group leader Eamonn Meade for Dublin to pursue his career will be greeted by deep

regret here in Munster and with gratitude for their sterling efforts on our behalf) has been briefing the owners of a new Limerick pub opening in January which will be "exclusively Lesbian and Gay welcoming artistic types feminists, liberated men and visitors" on an "ambiance, decadence (sic!) and layout with an ex-barman from a Dublin gay pub. The city-centre premises promises to be quite "ritzy" in tone - only the best for the best! In a strange quirk of fate it transpires that some 40 years ago the pub was 'gayish' when it was a popular haunt of visiting sailors. "Who needs to expend energy on a boycott" says Don Donnelly referring to the 'White House' "when we can bounce to a brand new put designed BY gays FOR gays! Put it another way the much derided 'political types' have won the day....again!"

LGCN congratulates Limerick on this marvellous news which, we trust will not sour Madden's milk - a commodity they might be better off concentrating on - as publicans they leave a lot to be desired. As a community we either hang together or hang separately - this time it's Maddens' turn to 'go hang'!



Departing Youth Officer, Eamon Meade, outside The Whitehouse in Limerick

in brief

James Joyce for Forum?

Mr Norris changes trains - well Senator David Norris actually and he'll be changing trains at Limerick Junction on the 9th January on his way down from Dublin to talk to the Limerick Forum (phone 061-310101 mons. and thurs. for venue) on his "life, loves, and hates". It is also expected that the witty, gay, bearded raconteur will be expounding from some of James Joyce's more humorous passages. Should be a most entertaining evening. incidentally, the Forum advises that it is essential to ring for info. on the venue as they do change the venue regularly for "variety".

Volunteers wanted

Cork Lesbian Line needs lesbians to work on its information and counselling line. Training will be commencing shortly. Contact: (021) 271087, Thursdays 8 - 10pm.

Women's Disco

The next women's disco in The Other Place is on Friday 4th December. There will be a 'Little Women's Christmas' disco on Friday 8th January featuring the mighty sounds of the slightly little DJ Diane.

SITUATIONS VACANT!

The Other Place Resource Centre is currently looking for people interested in working in the following areas:

- PRODUCTION OF LGCN • LIBRARY WORK • GARDENING
- CARETAKER/MAINTENANCE • RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION OF ALTERNATIVE IRELAND DIRECTORY • DEVELOPMENT WORK FOR LESBIAN & GAY INFORMATION LINES

Applicants must be eligible for SES, over 25 and receiving unemployment assistance or benefit for 12 months. Application forms available from The Other Place, 7/8 Augustine St., Cork.. (021)317660

BECOME AN AUTHOR - WITH LGCN

Capitalising on the fact that LGCN has access to 'state-of-the-art' desktop publishing facilities in the Lesbian and Gay Resource Centre located in the Other Place, Cork the Editorial Committee are inviting lesbians, gays and bisexuals to submit hitherto unpublished position papers which would be relevant to our community with a view to publication. This would be a non-profit venture which ideally should cover costs. The format will be A4, computer-generated material, laser-printed and then photo-copied, hand-collated and bound, produced from computer-memory according to demand.

If YOU have a burning desire to let the world know of YOUR views on - say - gays & sport, gays & cinema, gays and the social services, gays and trade-unions, gays and rural-life, gays & the media or whatever we would be interested in receiving your work. Equally, a group of people may wish to collaborate on producing a position-paper.

Naturally, we do not guarantee that every manuscript received will automatically be seen to fit into our list and, as is usual, we reserve the right to edit all material we get. Potential contributors are asked to bear in mind that we do not want book or novella-length

manuscripts as the proposed series will be basically pamphlets which will be sold in sympathetic outlets and by post.

We feel that given the astonishing ease by which printed material can be produced both cheaply and professionally given the new technology available to us that this is an ideal time for individual members of our community to communicate their hard-won experience of life, wisdom and opinions to the rest of us. LGCN will be more than pleased to facilitate this inter-play of ideas and community-bonding through this exciting new development.

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Limerick Switchboard Disco

No less than 21 people attended the Limerick Gay Switchboard and Lesbian Line training course - including 5 volunteers from Galway who travelled down on the two weekends. The course was co-ordinated by Don Donnelly with additional help from Mick Quinlan of the Aids Resource Centre, Dublin The Limerick Samaritans and Gay Switchboard Dublin. From January 1993 hope to add one or two extra nights per week and will change its operating hours from 7 - 8.30 to 8 - 10pm. Responding to demand it is also hoped to start a transvestite line again in January. To help fund all this very worthwhile activity The Switchboard people in conjunction with B.L.U.S.H. will be holding a bumper, action-packed Christmas Disco in the Stables (Limerick University Campus) on the 19th of December (Sat.). Contingents from Clonmel, Galway, Cork and Limerick are expected to have "one hell of a night!".

* Our thanks to Don Donnelly for Limerick reportage

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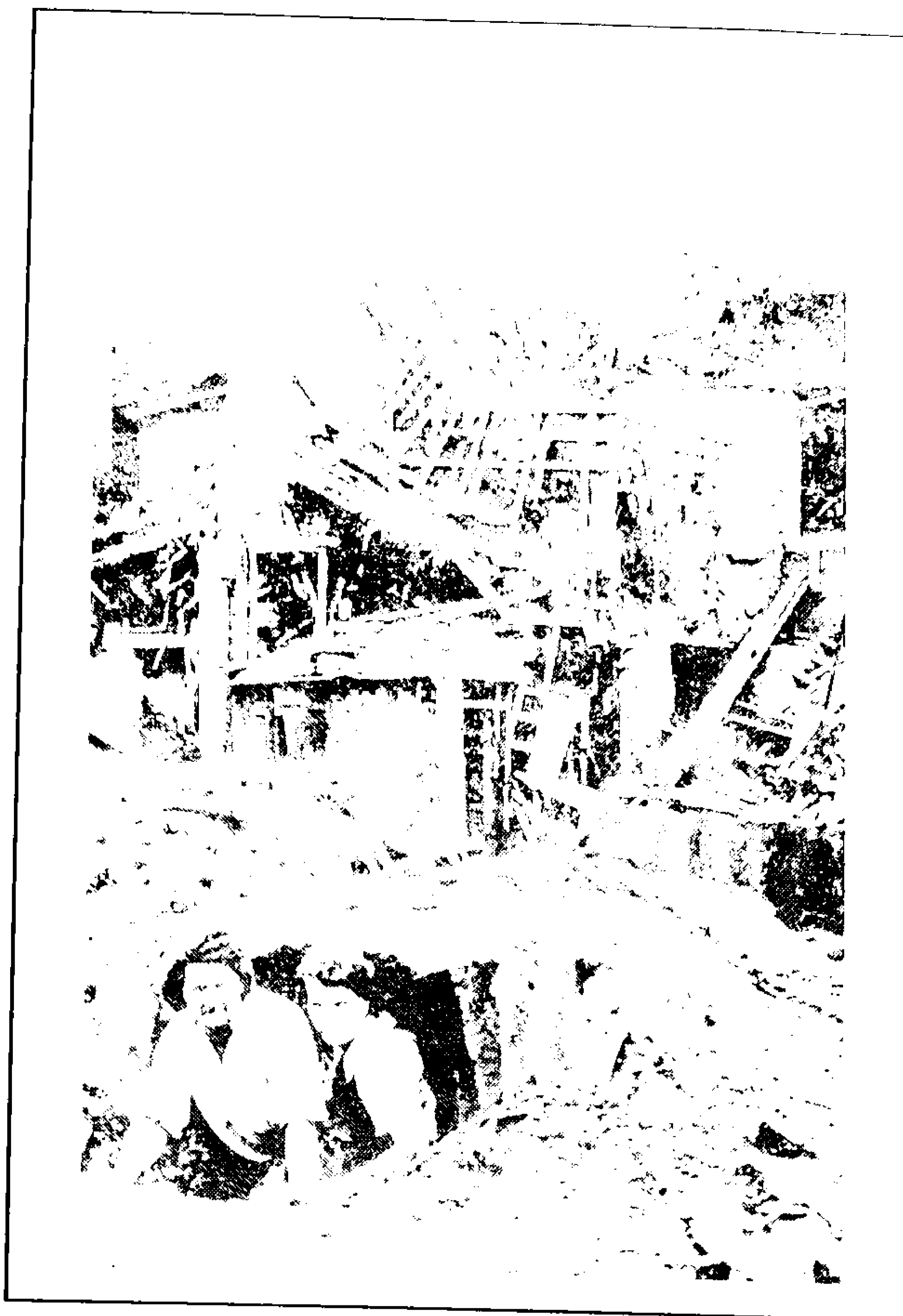
WHOLESCALE changes are underway for Cork's Lesbian and Gay Resource centre which is part of the overall Resource Centre in the Augustine St. complex (writes Dominic White). Central to this development will be the hiring of 5 new SES workers who will contribute variously, it is hoped, to promoting the telephone help-lines, work on LGCN and turning the existing bookshop area into a lesbian and gay lending and reference library which will concentrate mainly on areas of concern to lesbian & gays, women, and those interested in the environment and politics. Other areas which will receive immediate attention will be the promotion of the mid-week social nights when the Centre is open to men-only on Wednesdays and women-only on Thursdays up to 9pm for activities ranging from table-tennis to pool or just having a cup of coffee and a chat. YOUR ideas and help on this score will be very welcome,

by the way, and any venture which furthers the development of these nights will be most welcome.

With the heartening news that Comhairle Leas Oige (the National Youth Council) have admitted the Lesbian & Gay Youth Group to its ranks attempts will be made to revive the Cork section where "apathy reigns supreme". A worker to facilitate the 'wannabe' members of this group is under consideration.

Finally, the Lesbian & Gay Film Festival which has made such a major contribution to our public-standing will benefit from a series of fundraisers to be held during the coming months which will be essential for its survival and which will demand YOUR support.

Community involvement will be the keynote for the success of these developments. Please do not hesitate to come forward with your ideas or time.



"That was some game of table tennis"

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PRINT AND BE DAMNED!

"Print and be damned!" thus spoke The Duke of Wellington when told that some unpalatable facts were about to be published about him. In Limerick's hugely-popular, crusading Labour T.D. Ald. Jim Kemmy recipient-to-be of this year's Magnus Hirschfeld Award (have YOU got your ticket yet for the gala presentation dinner-dance in the Glentworth Hotel, Limerick on the 12th of December?) we seem to have a latter-day Duke of Wellington. To considerable surprise the *Limerick Leader* - not noted for its sympathetic coverage of lesbian and gay issues - ran a very good article last month on the former Mayor which highlighted his support for our community and for Limerick Aids Alliance. Much of the information for the article was supplied by the forum's Cathal Kelly. Prior to going to Press the *Leader* contacted "Our Jim" to prevent any "embarrassment" (that word again!) - his response? - "print it!"



Ald. Jim Kemmy T.D.

LGCN Comment: As we go to press we learn that Jim Kemmy has romped home in the Limerick poll. Once again the Irish elector-

ate has shown that it respects politicians who care for the under-dog and who show open, principled and consistent support for the under-privileged and marginalised in our society. In this connection the name of Noel Browne (a previous Magnus Hirschfeld-award winner) springs to mind. Noel Browne was consistently re-elected with massive surpluses because he openly fought injustice and hypocrisy. Would that some of our more craven politicians would emulate Jim Kemmy and Noel Browne - they could certainly sleep more easily at night when their seats are concerned!

DO YOU WANNA FLOAT?

As you may remember one of the highlights of 1992 - which attracted much attention both locally, nationally and overseas - was the award for best new entrant given to the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual float in Cork City's St Patrick's Day Parade. This was all the more remarkable given that our counterparts in New York had been banned from THEIR parade. "In a blaze of colour and glory we floated down Patrick St" (writes Orla Egan, one of the organisers) to reactions that ranged from "stunned silence, jeers and insults AND amazing support, clapping and cheers".

Although gay men far outnumber us in the bars and clubs yet there was a marked absence of them on the float. Where were ye boys? Equally contradictory was the fact that although we were 'out and proud' on the city's streets yet many of us wore masks because we couldn't risk being recognised!!!!!!

Be that as it may, we did our bit and now it's time for a new committee to come into being to plan next year's even bigger and better float - so, over to you. LGCN says: thanks again Orla and all the gang on the float, you enabled Cork to hold its head up high. If there is to be a float in 1993 planning needs to start NOW. Anyone with ideas is welcome to contact us at the office and we'll put you in touch with each other and give whatever help we can.

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LGCN EXCLUSIVE

So you think you're 'right-on' and 'oh, so politically correct' well have we got news for you! If you haven't yet got or, if you don't intend to buy **THE ALTERNATIVE IRELAND DIARY 1993**, 232 pages, (Quay Co-Op) - £4.50 at all GOOD booksellers - you're just nowhere-ville and you may as well go to bed now and not show your face for the coming year! This authoritative, intensively researched and invaluable diary (16 pages of lesbian and gay listings alone) is a MUST for your Christmas-socking and

will make an ideal and thoughtful gift for the one you love (or hope to!) and includes a full personal appointment diary. Watch your friends go GREEN with envy when you pull your AID out of your handbag or your 501s at that exclusive cocktail party or disco. Seductive, doe-eyed diary editor Stephen Boyd (???? - Ed.) aided by the equally alluring, sultry temptress, compiler Nadine Roche will be signing copies in the Other Place bookshop every Saturday until Christmas.

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