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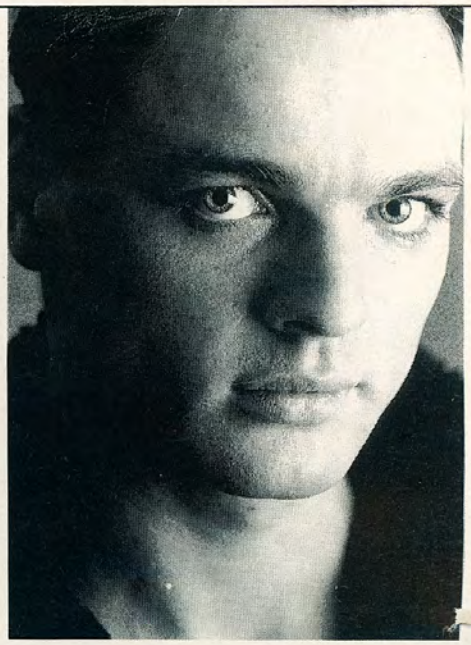

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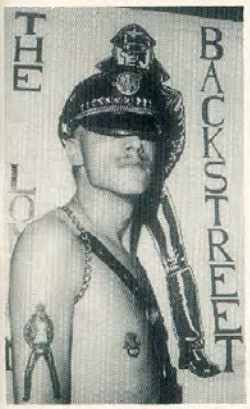

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HIM MAGAZINE

Man-Fest

This year's Man-Fest is now over and was highly successful. It's nice to see so many pubs and clubs working together, and plans are already afoot for Man-Fest '90.

But, it would seem that Dafydd Jenkins and I have rubbed some young ladies up the wrong way. To be told we are on a 'death list', by some frantic ladies who have accused Man-Fest of being anti-female, and that Dafydd is simply a Bryan Derbyshire clone, working on a plot with me to eliminate women from the gay scene, was at first amusing, but after a whole week of these threats, I must admit they're getting on my nerves. Unfortunately, Dafydd has had to cope with most of them, as they were directed at us via the Man-Fest hotline.

Man-Fest was intended to be a week of events for guys into leather, uniform and rubber. If it had been meant for anything else, we wouldn't have called it Man-Fest. So, may I suggest to these frantic lesbians that they start a Woman-Fest, and Dafydd and I promise faithfully that we will refrain from ringing them up with accusations of their event being anti-male.

As a matter of fact, both of us would be quite happy to give them the benefit of our experience in organising such events. And I hope that by the time you read this, our telephone will be silent, and that the time and effort these young ladies have wasted will instead be channelled into something more constructive for the gay scene.

Mr Gay UK

I hope as many of you as possible can get to Blackpool at the end of September for this year's final of the Mr Gay UK competition. It does promise to be a spectacular affair. The whole weekend will be a chance for everyone, both gay men and lesbians, to let their collective hair down and enjoy themselves.

We promise wholeheartedly we will not mention politics once; this is going to be a fun weekend. Perhaps the ladies who have been ringing Dafydd and I would like us to have a Ms Gay UK? See you in Blackpool.

Bryan

KEVIN Whitney, Official Artist to the British Olympic Association, was invited to record many of the sporting events held for Australia's bicentennial celebrations last winter. An exhibition of his more personal records of the trip — flora and fauna of the Great Barrier Reef and surfers in and out of the water — is held at London's St Jude's gallery in Kensington Church Street till September 30th.

SAN Francisco Eagle: Gay Bar in Time of Transition is a series of photographs by American Doug Ischar in the *Partners in Crime* exhibition at London's Camerawork gallery in Roman Road, E2. The exhibition also includes the *Pretended Family Relationships* series by London's Sunil Gupta. Till September 30th.

PSYCLONES on Heat, a film made with real live South Wales gay men, is to be given a screening in the Aberystwyth Film Festival, the first event of its kind to be held in Wales. The theme of the day on Monday September 25th is "sexuality", and *Psyclones* is part of a package of shorts under the title of *Muscles*, "an exploration of male body imagery and sexuality". Also showing that day are *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Fun Down There*, a quirky "coming of age story" set in New York City. The following day under the theme of "political and religious dissent", comes a showing of *Westler: East of the Wall*, a cross border gay love story complicated by the physical and political restrictions imposed by the Berlin Wall. Elsewhere in Wales, a poem by Anna Roberts dealing with the theme of homosexuality has won top prize in Anglesey's Llandegfan Eisteddfod.

head

PHOTO: BILL SHORT

Popular Disc Jockey brothers Colin and Jamie Peters had their private lives shattered last month with the news that their mother, Sheila Daubeney, was among the 55 victims of the Thames riverboat tragedy. Colin, host of London's *Bang, Propaganda, Palm Beach* and *Benjy's* nightclubs, also lost his best friend, David Highfield. Jamie's fiancee, Jayne Burke, was named amongst the dead, as were a number of the family's closest friends. Sheila, with her great warmth and familiar smile, will be greatly missed by the many friends who knew and loved her. The host of the party, held on board the *Marchioness* disco boat, was City financier Antonio de Vasconcelles, who was also lost in the disaster. Antonio was a business associate of Colin, as well as an economic affairs advisor to gay Labour MP Chris Smith.

WILLY Schmeltzkopf, posing as the legendary Old Testament hunter Nimrod in this 1913 photograph by an unknown artist, was a member of The Three Olympiers, a music hall troupe which specialised in *poses plastiques*. The photograph adorns not only the front cover of GMP's *Adonis: The Male Physique Pin-up, 1870-1940* but will also appear on a specially produced poster to be distributed to gay venues all over the country to mark GMP's tenth birthday. Also celebrating ten years of success this month is the Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association set up in the wake of the Mary Whitehouse prosecution of *Gay News* for blasphemy.

TIM Barnett, former South London Labour councillor and founding coordinator of the National Association of Volunteer Bureaux, has been appointed as the first executive director of the Stonewall Group, the new professional lesbian and gay lobbying organisation set up earlier this year by actor Ian McKellen and other celebrities and campaigners for lesbian and gay rights. One of 31-year-old Mr Barnett's first tasks will be liaison with party political activists at this autumn's round of annual conferences. He will then move on to establishing an all-party lesbian and gay rights working group in the Houses of Parliament.

liners

PHOTO: GORDON RAINSFORD

JOHN Selby Spong, Anglican Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, was in London promoting his new book, *Living in Sin?*, a reexamination of the theology of sexuality. "It is clear," he writes, "that heterosexual prejudice against homosexuals must take its place alongside witchcraft, slavery, and other ignorant beliefs and oppressive institutions that we have abandoned."

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Only the start on a long road

News from the United States that AZT can slow the onset of Aids in healthy people who have HIV must be treated with very cautious optimism. DAVID SMITH reports

The news from the United States that in a trial study the Aids drug AZT has proved itself useful for people who have the virus HIV but do not yet have Aids is not the "great new hope" for the future portrayed by the mainstream press, says Nick Partridge of the Terrence Higgins Trust.

The results of the trial involving 500 people were released last month by the drug company Burroughs Wellcome which produces the drug. They show that people with HIV taking the drug were less likely to go on to develop Aids or Aids Related Complex (ARC).

The official news of the trial results was splashed on the front pages of newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic and the price of shares in Burroughs Wellcome rose sharply once again.

But the idea that AZT could be useful in slowing the onset of Aids has been familiar in medical circles for some time now. And, said Nick Partridge, the trial results have been "misinterpreted by the mainstream press as a big step forward". "It's not that; it's only a small step forward. The newspaper reports could be misread as saying that Aids is no longer a fatal illness, when there are still a lot of people who are dying."

The reports, said Mr Partridge, contained "a dodgy sub-text", a message that the fight against Aids had now been won and that it was in everyone's interest to come forward for a blood test for HIV because if they have the virus they can now be treated.

The United States Secretary of Health and Human Services was quoted as saying people should volunteer for testing because "these results provide hope for millions of people worldwide who are infected with HIV". And Britain's *Guardian* newspaper said "the rules of the game have changed overnight".

Mr Partridge told *Him* magazine that he had spent several hours trying to dampen down newspaper journalists' enthusiasm for the news of the trial results but he had been relegated to the last paragraph of long stories where the Terrence Higgins Trust was described as "cautiously optimistic".

The notion that everyone should now come forward for testing was, said Mr Partridge, "very dangerous".

"All of the other aspects of testing must still be borne in mind. People must ask themselves 'can I cope with a positive result?' All of the problems with insurance, work, housing and so on still remain."

The trial results, he added, showed that AZT was "possibly useful for some people". But it had to be stressed that the results covered only 500 people who had a "blood count" of less than 500 T-cells, the blood cells which fight disease. There are, he said, about 11,000 people in Britain who know they have HIV. They will be "deeply interested" in the trial results. But many of them will have blood counts higher than 500 and the results will be of little use to them. Burroughs Wellcome announced that "there are no conclusive results to date" for people who have blood counts over 500.

If people who have HIV want to investigate the possibility of taking AZT, said Mr Partridge, they should talk to their clinic doctor. Blood counts, he said, do go up and down and there are now 450 people enrolled in the Paris and London-based "Concorde" trial of the effectiveness of AZT. And doctors conducting the trial are still recruiting new participants.

As *Him* went to press, these doctors were meeting to discuss the implications of the United States results. And it was confidently expected that they would now drop the controversial "placebo" element of the Concorde trial, in which some participants are given just a sugar pill so that their health can be compared to those taking the real drug.

The placebo element should be dropped, said Mr Partridge, and the trial should be used to compare different doses of AZT, and to examine the use of AZT in combination with other anti-viral drugs such as the very promising DDI.

The Concorde trial, he added, is designed to last only 18 months and there has still been no research into the very long-term effects of AZT.

"Clearly," he stressed, "AZT must now be made available to those with HIV infection who wish to take it."

But with perhaps more than 100,000 people in Britain who have HIV wanting a drug that costs as much as £4,000 a year and even more money needing to be spent on combatting the toxic side-effects such as anaemia, AZT could cost the hard-squeezed National Health Service as much as £1.5 billion every year.

It must be noted, said Mr Partridge, that the high-profile announcement of the test results owed a lot to pressure on the United States Congress and Institutes of Health to be seen to come up with some results in their battle against Aids.

"This important news can be met with cautious optimism," he said. But we are only celebrating the "start on the long road towards effective early intervention drug treatments for HIV infection".

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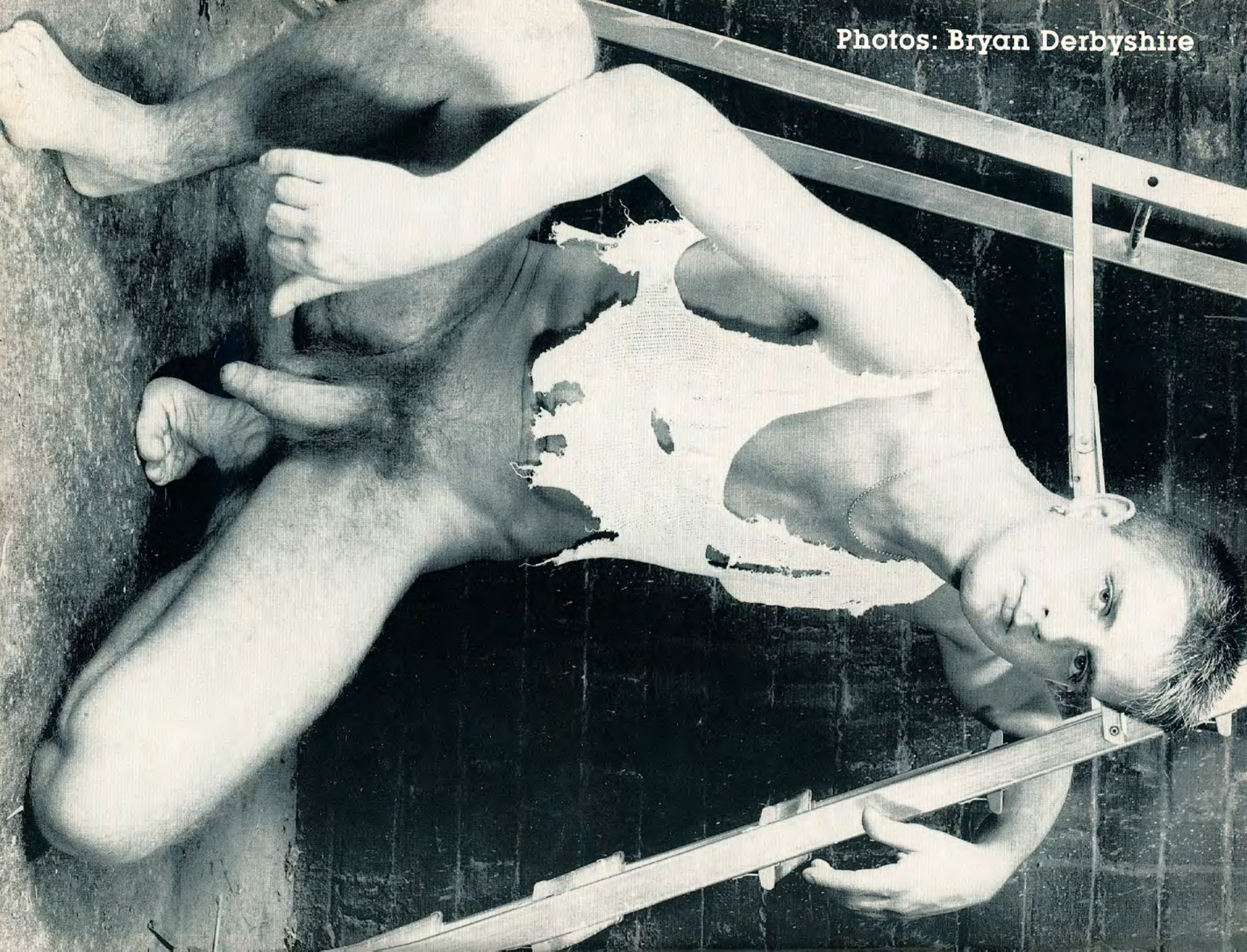

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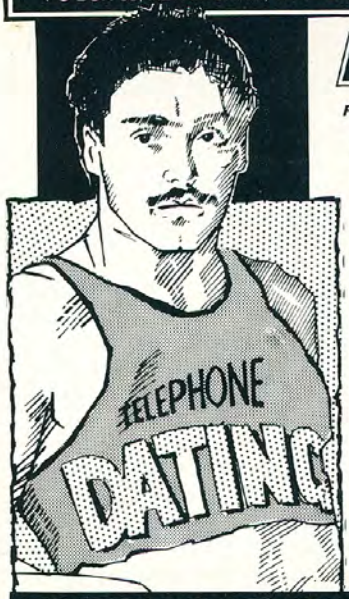

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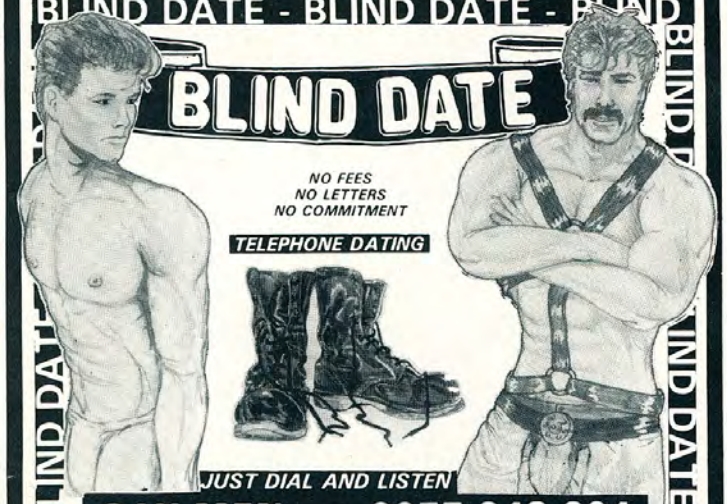

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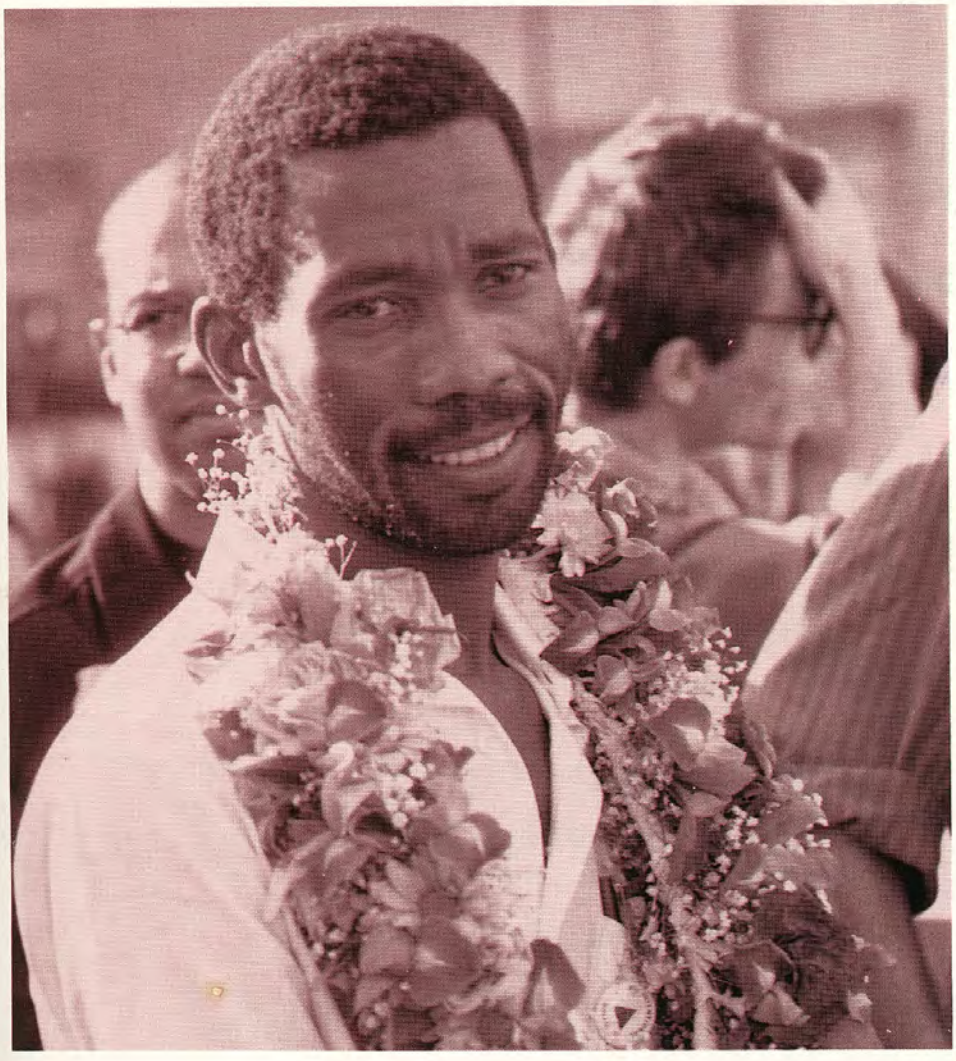


PHOTO: BILL SHORT

Tseko Simon Nkoli talks to Peter Tatchell about the gay struggle in South Africa

In June this year, the South African black gay activist and former political detainee, Tseko Simon Nkoli, scored a remarkable personal achievement.

Just eight months after his acquittal in the Delmas Treason Trial, including nearly three years imprisonment, he outpaced a field of 4,000 runners to win the *Squire's Loft 15 Kilometre Road Race* in Johannesburg.

Nkoli's resumption of his great passion for long distance running is an indication that his life is, at last, beginning to return to normal. "Though," he is quick to point out, "normality and freedom are relative terms in a country like South Africa where there is a constant State of Emergency involving the suspension of many of the civil liberties that people in Britain take for granted."

A prominent gay and anti-apartheid activist, Nkoli was first arrested in 1984 following the uprisings in the black townships.

Together with 21 other anti-apartheid campaigners, collectively known as the Delmas 22 Treason Trialists, he was charged with murder, terrorism, subversion and treason on the flimsiest of circumstantial evidence.

Nkoli was the only openly gay person among the accused and initially he faced considerable homophobia from several of his co-defendants who included the national leadership of the main anti-apartheid umbrella organisation, the United Democratic Front (UDF).

"Some of my co-trialists were very supportive of my gayness," says Nkoli. "But others made anti-gay jokes and didn't want to be near me."

"When lesbian and gay organisations from overseas started sending money to help us, several of the people in our trial didn't want to accept it. They were worried about the reaction of their wives and priests."

"However, during the course of the trial, these homophobic attitudes began to change," reports Nkoli. "It was really moving to witness this change of heart."

"Popo Molefe, the General Secretary of the UDF, confessed that he used to always think that lesbians and gay men were only interested in people's bodies and not in the struggle against apartheid. He told me: 'Since you have been with us in this trial, my eyes have been opened. I now understand that lesbians and gay men should be accepted and respected for what they are.' "

"After I came off the witness stand, another UDF leader, Patrick Lekota, the Publicity Secretary, came up to me and said: 'We are all very proud of you. I want to apologise for the way some of us treated you earlier in this trial.' "

Nkoli laughs when he recalls the judge's homophobic summing up of the case against him: "In an obvious reference to my homosexuality, the judge said he could not believe that I was a leader of the uprising in the townships. 'Surely,' he said, 'accused number thirteen could never be a leader of men.' "

Since his acquittal last November, Nkoli has thrown himself energetically back into lesbian and gay politics. He's currently chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW) which covers the areas around Soweto and Johannesburg.

"GLOW is a mixed black and white lesbian and gay organisation which is specifically committed to non-racism and non-heterosexism. We see

ourselves as part of the broad movement against apartheid. We support the campaign for a free and democratic South Africa which accepts the rights of lesbians and gay men as full and equal citizens."

Last April, GLOW held a rally in Johannesburg addressed by the gay draft resister, Dr Ivan Toms, and by one of South Africa's leading human rights lawyers, Dr Edwin Cameron, who recently came out as gay.

Coinciding with Lesbian and Gay Pride Week in June, GLOW organised a public meeting with the support of the Institute of Race Relations. It also put on a cultural evening which included an art exhibition and music and poetry recitals.

As a keen poet, Nkoli was personally involved in the latter. During his imprisonment, he had plenty of time to write and since his release he's had several works published in South African anthologies.

GLOW produces a monthly newsletter. "In a country where there's so much censorship and disinformation, it's extremely important to keep people well informed," says Nkoli.

GLOW is also putting a lot of effort into creating a non-segregated and non-commercial gay scene.

"Last October, we opened up the *Mhlanga Rocks Glowbar* in Mofolo Village, Soweto. We hold a disco every Sunday night which attracts over 100 people. It's a mixed crowd of black and white, men and women. We mainly play African-based township dance music which is very popular with everyone."

"We seem well accepted in Mofolo," reports Nkoli. "Since opening up the *Glowbar*, we've never had any problems with the local community."

"However," as Nkoli recalls, "it wasn't easy to get the *Glowbar* started. Initially, we couldn't find any bars willing to accept us. In one case, when we went to talk to the bar owners we were abused and literally chased away."

"Eventually, we found a shebeen (drinking bar), known as *Mhlanga Rocks*, run by the mother of a gay son. Since then, we've never looked back."

"Recently, we helped open another gay bar; this time in Diepkloof township. It's called *Sophie's Place* and it's run by a wonderful lesbian woman."

Inevitably, a fair proportion of GLOW's effort goes into Aids-related work. It is involved in the Township Aids Project (TAP) which was originally set up by another gay group which is now largely defunct, the Rand Gay Organisation.

Very generously, the Swedish lesbian and gay movement has pledged to help finance an Aids education campaign within the black communities which have hitherto been largely ignored by the South African government's white-oriented Aids prevention efforts.

In May this year, Nkoli addressed the annual conference of the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) on the subject of Aids.

NAMDA is the professional organisation of progressive doctors and dentists in South Africa. In welcoming Nkoli to the conference as a guest speaker, a leading member of NAMDA, Dr Liz Floyd, praised the pioneering work of the lesbian and gay community in Aids prevention education.

Nkoli says that South African public attitudes to Aids are still very badly informed: "It's a subject which is completely distorted by stereotypes and mythology. Many blacks think of Aids as a white disease and most heterosexuals see it as a gay problem. So lots of straights and black gay men still refuse to wear condoms. A lot more public education is urgently needed."

As for the future: GLOW has plans to eventually open a Lesbian and Gay Centre in Soweto and to set up a gay cultural organisation to promote traditional music, dance and poetry by lesbian and gay performers.

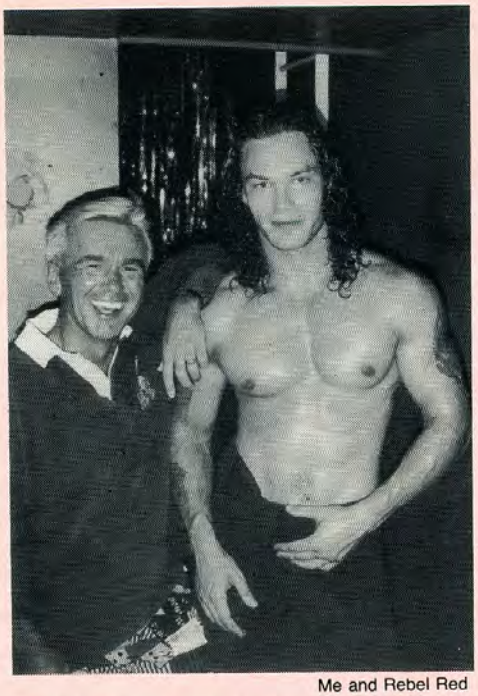
"We'd also like to establish a national progressive gay newspaper," says Nkoli. "The existing paper, *EXIT*, is white-biased, right-wing and full of trivia."

Another GLOW project is to form a gay sporting organisation. "Some of our members are very good athletes and footballers. We think it would be a good idea to field gay teams against straight clubs as a positive and enjoyable way of raising the public visibility of lesbians and gay men and carrying the fight for full and equal acceptance into the sporting arena."

Nkoli's energy and enthusiasm for GLOW seems all the more amazing given the four years of imprisonment and trial that he endured from 1984-88.

"Strangely," he says, "imprisonment made me stronger and more determined. It could have easily destroyed me. Instead, the huge international campaign by lesbians and gay men from all over the world kept me going. It made me realise that what I was fighting for was really important. Once I knew that so many people cared about me and supported what I believed in, it really did give me the strength to carry on through all the months of solitary confinement and interrogation. To all those lesbians and gay men in Britain who wrote to me and campaigned on my behalf, I want to say a big thank you."

john addy



Me and Rebel Red

Having visited about twelve clubs in as many days, this month it's been very hectic to say the least.

On a somewhat sad note, I was sorry to hear of the death of Michael Sundin, the very lovely ex-*Blue Peter* presenter, once again a victim of the gutter press some years ago, when he lost his job with the popular children's television programme. He was a lovely person and will be missed by a lot of friends.

There was also the sudden death, due to a heart attack, of Ronnie Goff, a super character from Leeds. Ronnie was well loved in Leeds, and I was very sorry to hear of his death. Many years ago — too many in fact — when I was a 'chicken', he nicknamed me 'Torchy'. Now, how many of you remember the t.v. character? Fortunately, the name never stuck, but I'll always remember Ronnie for his humour.

A quick apology to the *Curzon Club* in Liverpool. It seems that in the last issue I forgot to put in the address. It's in Temple Lane, Liverpool. Temple Lane is next to Stanley Street, home of the famous *Jody's* club, who I believe will be soon having the pleasure of Rebel Red, the stripper.

I bumped into Rebel recently at *Rockies* in Sheffield. Oh, how I wish I could do more! John, the manager, said it was one of the busiest nights they'd had. He (Rebel) does an amazingly sexy show, which is **WELL WORTH** seeing. I also believe he'll be on in Blackpool (*Flamingo*), Chester (*Connections*) and in Leeds (*Rockshots*), so don't miss him!

Talking about bumping into people, it was nice to see Paul Graham (ex-*Gay Life*) recently in Manchester (*No. 21 Piccadilly*) and *La Cage*. Paul has recently done a funny and informative sheet on the Manchester scene, called the *Drama Queen*, which makes very interesting reading.

It was interesting recently to hear that Val Lehman from *Cell Block H* was amazed at her gay following, since neither she nor her character are gay — but doesn't she know what 'camp' is, and that she's a camp lady?

I was invited to a new club in Nottingham, called *Oysters*, formerly the *Casablanca*. The club is not gay, so why was I sent an invitation? The dress was black tie. Well, I mean this is the season of shorts, so I didn't go. Talking about shorts, I was hoping to give a rave review on a restaurant in Manchester, named *La Gitane* (the Gypsy). I've been twice before, in rather smart shorts, only to be told, on a Friday, no shorts allowed. You either have a dress policy, or you don't, but please don't change it on a whim. It's a pity because the restaurant is very nice. Gay people (it's not a gay restaurant) like to do their own things, by means of dress, and, thank God, will not be dictated to. So, Ricky and Zea, if you have a change of policy, let me know.

It seems that BBC2 will be showing a film on the Brick Lane area of London in November, and the *Brit* pub will apparently be featured — and also one of its regulars **SU 'BLOODY' POLLARD**. The *Brit* are holding a Beach Bum party in August and Yours Truly and SP will be the judges. Can't wait!

So many of you have asked about my old club, *The Gemini* in Huddersfield. So, for the record, the club is now straight during the week, as a rock club, and definitely not gay. However, on Sunday evenings the club is gay, so, after a quick trip to the very busy *Greyhound* (I understand Mike and Robin have done wonders to the pub, and it's heaving on a Sunday — must visit soon), it's down to the *Gemini* to bop the night away. A quick Hi! to Popper Paul. The evening I called, I saw Candy Du Barry. I hadn't seen Candy for ages and she looked fantastic. It was a **FABULOUS** show, especially the 'Fat Lady' number. The one thing that I particularly like about Candy is that it's a totally live show — no mime. Long may we see you on the circuit Candy.

Friends at Mr B's, Bradford

Went over to Bradford to *Mr B's*, only twenty minutes away from Huddersfield. Why haven't I been before now? It's my own fault. From the moment I arrived, the door staff were **FABULOUS** — two guys, obviously doing a **SUPERB** job keeping out the riff-raff. By that I mean any nasty straights; the club is on one of Bradford's busiest streets, but they have never had any trouble.

In the club, I had a wonderful welcome from Chris and Andy (formerly *Lips and Lashes*). The ground floor is the main bar area, and it reminded me of all the **SUPERB** bars I've been to in the USA. Looking around, I saw a lot of old faces, faces it was nice to see, and amongst the crowd was none other than Terry Deal, our **LOVELY** Advertising Manager, up for the weekend. It was nice to see Terry, and when a bottle of champagne, courtesy of Chris and Andy, came over, I could tell Terry was impressed. 'So, this is a night out with John Addy,' he said.

Onto the upper-floor, which is the disco, open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It was heaving with some **FABULOUS** music courtesy of Ada, previously one of the famous Shagettes, now disbanded. It's funny, but I saw Tanya Shagette later that week in Manchester — now that was some act!

Back to *Mr B's* — there was really a **SUPER** atmosphere, and everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves, so much so that I will be back very soon. They are opening soon on Sundays, and they have male strippers on a Thursday (I hear that Rebel Red is coming in the near future!) Thanks once again boys; I hope the club can only go from strength to strength.

The Manchester scene is certainly something these days. Michael at *Rockies* re-opened his new disco area to a capacity crowd recently. He has done an impressive job and everyone is raving about the club. He has moved the DJ, enlarged the dance floor, opened the area and installed the latest t.v. and video system, which will show all the latest American videos — I must add, not the naughty ones, but some really good ones from Chippendales in New York. A larger, and newly positioned, bar in the disco area makes it much easier to be served, and, as always, Brian the Manager was his attentive and helpful self. So what next Michael?! The new club is great!

Manchester now has a regular, once-a-month big venue in the shape of *21 Piccadilly*, the flag-ship of the Noble Organisation, which includes *MGM Nottingham* and the *Roxy* Sheffield. Phil Clegg now brings to Manchester on the last Monday of the month a mega-sized venue. Having been invited to dinner on the opening night, I can only say first that the restaurant was excellent, and the club was packed.

Phil has done an excellent job to promote the venue, and with over eight hundred on the first night, I'm sure it will become an established part of the Manchester scene. Nice to see Basil (*Flamingo*), Michael (*Rockies*) and Geoff (*No 1)* in the club, as well as Graham (Chester's *Connections*), Andy and Chris (*Mr B's*), Mike McCann from London's *Clone Zone*, Ann (*Napoleon's*), and not forgetting the lovely Michael in the ripped jeans.

Phil has promised some really big cabaret names, and the next one, I believe, will be Limahl, at the August 'do', a young man I haven't seen for ages.

Lately, Manchester clubs seem to have been the target for anonymous phone calls. Recently, *Naps* was visited by the police on a Sunday evening, resulting in this popular venue now closing on a Sunday. The *No 1 Club* was paid a visit by the Fire Authority, and now strictly enforces its fire safety

buzz

HIM reporters tune in to the buzz from all corners of the gay scene

Me, David Dale and The Cowboy

limit. This now means queues on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The fab atmosphere, aided by one of the best Jocks around, at the *No 1* has been maintained though. Tim, I believe, will be the resident DJ at *21 Piccadilly*, by the way.

On the subject of visits, *McMillans*, where I had a **FABULOUS** time a few weeks ago, is still open on Sundays, but I'm told now opens at 8pm. *McMillans* is in Concert Street, Liverpool. Hi to Carl and Robbie!

Popped into Roys Restaurant in the Fulham Road with **SU POLLARD** and my old mate Gordon Kaye recently. But where were all the regular staff? Was this summer holidaytime? The existing staff were ok, and the blond barman was very good, but not the usual standard I've raved about before. The food was excellent. However, the evening was somewhat spoiled by the person in charge being a bit star-struck with Su and totally ignored Gordon, not to mention me. So a bit of advice: it's nice to see the Celebs around, but the fuss you made of Su was a bit OTT. Maybe I'll get a reply. Su loved it, of course!

A friend of mine was telling me that he overheard his Mum telling her friend 'Well, all I can say is that if the hole in the ozone layer means we'll get good weather like we're having, I think they should make it bigger'. No comment.

So, who are the dishy fellas that make up Stock, Aitken and Waterman's group, Big Fun? Maybe we'll find out soon. On the subject of S.A.W. it was good to see Damien doing *The Time Warp* on the *Hit Man and Her* recently. Damien (seen in *21 Piccadilly*) told me that it's been fantastic. He's been getting a **SUPER** response on a recent tour, organised by Bill '*Fire Island, Edinburgh*' Granger. Now that's someone I haven't seen in years.

On the travels again, this time to Leeds: now where does the lovely Linda at *Rockshots* get all her frocks? She must know Linda Evans or Joan Collins! Anyway, popped in with the effervescent Ross Smith, ex-*Part II*, Nottingham, for a quick bop one Saturday. And didn't we have a ball; what a **SUPER** evening we had.

Summer is usually a quiet time in the clubs, but it's been very heartwarming to see just how busy they are at the moment. In Leeds, now on a Tuesday, it was *Confetti's*. Organised by Terry George and Dean, this very popular venue is still packing them in. Next month sees their heat of the Mr Gay UK contest, and Yours Truly will be a judge; I'm sure it will be capacity time. Nice to see some familiar faces, including Marc Almond in Leeds, where he went to Art School.

So, Manchester has a new club called *La Cage Aux Folles*, but condensed to *La Cage*. It is operated by George Lees, a well-known Mancunian, and Tony Donovan (ex-*Naps*). Invited to the opening night, I popped along with Geoff from the *No 1 Club*. It's in Bloom Street, in fact next door to *New York, New York*. The club is set out nicely, with an elevated dance floor and three bars. One is the Champagne Bar, and on our visit, the stunning Simon (ex-*Clone Zone* model) was doing the honours and doing them very well, I must say.

It's difficult to describe a club on its opening night, since it was very busy, so I'll be giving a further report in the next issue. It was nice to bump into Bill Short, doing his Hot Spots after three weeks' windsurfing in the Canaries. Also Adrella and Terry Fox were in attendance, the former providing her own inimitable cabaret. Quick hi to Rudi who welcomed us in on the door so efficiently.

So the clubbing goes on, and this time it was off to Nottingham, where *L'Amour* has undergone an extensive re-fit. The dance floor is now on the ground level, and the upper bar has become the 'quiet lounge'. It was a Saturday and doing excellent business. It was nice too, to see Frank and David, ably assisted by Captain Tony. Thanks guys for the champagne.

The upper lounge, I was told, still has extensive work to be completed, but from what I saw, it will look very nice indeed. The guys have done wonders with *L'Amour*, and long may it continue in Nottingham. It was nice to bump into David from London. His only complaint was that they didn't play much house/acid music, which is certainly popular these days. The cute DJ was however playing some excellent music, in between the poppers (joke!). So, if you are in the area, pop into *L'Amour*, as it's **WELL WORTH** a visit.

I'd Rather Jack!

For some years now. the Amsterdam Jacks. part of an international jack-off party network. have been holding regular meetings in the Dutch capital. Here. both gay and bisexual men are invited to 'learn and practice new and safe sexual behaviour'. in an atmosphere of conviviality. eroticism and sex.

There are only two requirements at these parties: that shoes are worn (to protect against the possibility of broken glass). and that strict safer-sex guidelines are adhered to. The sex rules prohibit any exchange of body fluids. and. amongst the obvious. banned activities include deep-kissing.

A clothing check is provided. as are friendly Jacks who are happy to help and put the newcomer at ease. As well as being able to interact intimately with other party-goers. there is a bar. which provides an opportunity to relax and chat over a drink.

For more detailed information of the parties. held at *De Spijker* bar. Kerkstraat 4. Amsterdam on the first and third Saturdays of each month. you can call the Amsterdam Switchboard on 010-3120-236565 from abroad. or (020) 236565 from within the Netherlands. Gay Krant. the gay newspaper also carries details of the parties.

Before *L'Amour*, we called (me and Andrew, that is) into the *Gatsby*, run by the other Bradley brothers, Michael and John. The pub is in Huntingdon Street and has two bars, one disco and the other a quiet bar. The two bar system is very good since not everyone is into dancing.

The Kitchen Sink Co. production of *Boys in the Band* at the Library Theatre was excellent. Having seen it some years ago, in New York, London and on film, I was very much looking forward to it. David Dale played an excellent Howard and the cast were all **SUPERB**. The Cowboy (David) was an absolute dish (**WELL WORTH** the ticket money alone). I do hope that Kitchen Sink take it on tour next year.

This month I went over to Barcelona, calling in on Benidorm. Very briefly: Barcelona has a most amazing scene, with *Martin's* disco being one of the best I've ever been to. Thanks to the owner who not only recognised me from *HIM*, but made Miss Marsh and I very welcome — a **FABULOUS** club.

We stayed at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, on the Ramblas, which is a beautiful hotel in a lovely situation.

For those interested, the *Thermos Sauna* on Calle Diputation (open 24 hours, Friday/Saturday/Sunday) is **WELL WORTH** a visit. So too is the *Sextienda* sex shop on Calle Rauric.

Popped down to Benidorm (an amazing town now) and called to see my old mates Kess and Philip. The latter has just opened a new bar with the handsome Rene, called *Peppermint*. It's on Calle San Vincente, near the old town Parc d'Elche, and is **FABULOUS**. You must go to this lovely bar when in Benidorm. The other bar that is a must is *Peoples*, which is five minutes away from *Peppermint* and is generally a later bar. Next issue, I'll tell you more about Benidorm, since I'm going back, but make a note of *Peppermint* and *Peoples* bar.

Lastly, I popped up to the *Flamingo* to see Basil on his very busy Tuesday evening. The cabaret was provided by David Derby who is more an impersonator/impressionist than a mime artiste. His Carol Channing was fantastic, and definitely a man to watch.

Well that's an exhausting month, so I look forward to seeing you around. It's been especially nice recently when people have come to me and said how much they enjoy the column. Thanks, and keep on reading it. Love John.

buzz

wales

Body Positive N. E.

Since being recently diagnosed HIV positive, André Adore — who describes herself as 'a male actress' — has moved back home to the North East of England, to be nearer family and old friends.

André has also become involved with Body Positive North East, a voluntary organisation with charitable status, providing and developing services to people with HIV, ARC or Aids, their families, friends, lovers and carers.

The organisation needs to find £20,000 to meet running costs for one year, and so, necessarily, some charity fundraising events in Newcastle-upon-Tyne have been arranged, starring Ms Adore and some (as yet) unconfirmed fellow artistes. The dates and venues are:

Wednesday 20th September — *Rockshots*, 10pm-2am.
Friday 29th September — *Strings*, 10pm-2am.
Tuesday 26th September — *Walkers*.
Tuesday 10th October — *Walkers*.
(The latter two dates have been organised by the Tyneside Lesbian and Gay Entertainment Collective.)

André, who regularly uses BPNE's services says: 'I am working hard to raise funds, and in doing so have become more aware of what I personally have to offer and can do to help others in the same position. Body Positive North East were there for me, I would like to help them to stay there for others'.

Getting the jab?

A vaccination against Hepatitis B is now available to all respondents taking part in Project Sigma (Socio-sexual Investigations of Gay Men and Aids), thanks to a grant from South Glamorgan Health Authority.

As part of the research, people are asked to donate a sample of blood to test for Hepatitis B, and all those who, in the past, wished to know their result, will be given an opportunity to be vaccinated, free of charge, against the infection.

Although it is recommended that people first approach their GP or STD clinic for the vaccine, where people have misgivings regarding the wisdom of discussing their need with a family doctor or the staff at the local STD, that's where the project can help.

The project's senior research officer, Clive Rees, says that it is a pleasure to be able to offer something back to the gay community who have made the research possible.

"Hepatitis B is a serious infection but it is preventable and we encourage all our volunteers who have the opportunity to be vaccinated against it to do so," he said.

The research goes on . . .

Although over 70 per cent of the original sample taking part in Project Sigma have been re-interviewed a major problem has arisen in trying to get hold of the others — people who have changed address or moved away and not informed members of Project Sigma.

The project is still trying to interview these people — so if you are one of the original group and haven't had a second interview, please get in touch with Project Sigma immediately.

Similarly, if you would like to help with the research and have not yet been interviewed please write to: Prof. A M Coxon, University College of Cardiff, Freepost, Cardiff CF1 1YZ or call Cardiff (0222) 383296.

A Nightmare in the Castle Grounds

A night not to miss is this year's Hallowe'en party in Cardiff's only gay nightclub, Tunnel, at the end of October — for those who dare venture out on that night the theme will be 'A Nightmare in the Castle Grounds'.

At least one witch in the form of Marcia will be present, so watch out for details in Tunnel and The Kings Cross.

Body Heat

Cardiff's Red Dragon, now with a late licence until midnight, has cabaret twice a week, every Monday and Thursday evenings.

One recent show featured Body Heat, a talented trio from London, namely Rob (swoon), Matt and Jon Jon who not only looked good, but put on a very entertaining and interesting act. Well done lads — come back soon!

Rumours, rumours and more rumours . . .

Cardiff's gay nightclub Tunnel is NOT closing — despite rumours widely circulated to the contrary.

It is generally accepted where the rumours are originating from — perhaps by the same people who have glued the club doors locked regularly and regularly announce that Tunnel is shut — well the rumours are not true and it is such a shame that SOME people have to stoop to such low tactics.

Geoff Rhys

News from Plymouth: Club 91 — growing from strength to strength

Plymouth's new gay club, Club 91, in North Road East, is growing from strength to strength.

Opened only last year, from the outside it gives no appearance at all that inside there is a thriving club, that regularly attracts several hundred gay men every weekend.

Situated in a row of terraced houses, a stone's throw away from the semi gay bar, The Grand Duchess and the polytechnic, Club 91 owned by young Richard, has transformed the gay scene in the south west beyond all recognition.

Quite literally, the club has been created from a terraced house and, at the moment, occupies the ground floor.

There is a lounge, a bar, and tucked away at the back a very deceptive dance floor where club owner Richard is the very able jock — playing the latest hits both from the chart and all the gay favourites.

The exclusivity of the club is part of its success, says Richard.

"We don't want to broadcast all around Plymouth that we are here — that would be a recipe for trouble."

Out of 10, I'd give the club 7 — **WELL WORTH A VISIT.**

News from Birmingham: All change at The 'Gale

Major changes are underway at The Nightingale, according to manager George Bancroft.

They include a total revamp of the sound system, 16 colour screen monitors around the dance floor, the introduction of a compact disc video and a whole new lighting system.

The improvements are costing £40,000 and are the latest in a range of changes — more are planned next year.

Recently new toilets were opened, more than doubling the size of the old loos, making them more spacious, brighter and cleaner.

Body Heat at the Red Dragon

hugo

Ask virtually anyone you know, over the age of twenty five, how old they are, and the usual response is 'ohmygod I'm so old'. Either that or they'll tell you their age having first knocked a couple of years off.

Gay men seem to be particularly obsessed about their age. One queen I know even went to the trouble of altering his birth certificate, not just at home but by going to Somerset House, where they were then kept.

J.J.'s Runaway Wheel

The Royal Oak, a small and friendly cabaret pub in Glenthorn Road, Hammersmith, not only boasts the title of *Capital Gay* readers' Pub of the Year 1989, but also the DJ of the year, Mr Jeremy Joseph.

Jeremy's popular game show, *The Wheel of Misfortune*, which he holds at the pub every few months, has recently gone national. Sponsored by the *Sunday Sport* newspaper, the show tours around the country, in both straight and gay venues.

Differing from his other game-show nights, Jeremy's *Wheel of Misfortune* is a very messy affair, and goes something like this: the colourful wheel is spun and the three contestants are asked a question accordingly — example: What's the difference between Millie and a bowling ball? Answer: You can only fit three fingers in a bowling ball! When the question is answered incorrectly, the subsequent forfeit usually involves a messy substance, such as cold rice pudding or jelly, a contestant's mouth and a condom tampon etc. Join all three together, and you have some idea of the crazy scenes Jeremy creates on stage.

Every Thursday, at the *Royal Oak*, J.J. holds a game-show night, and frequently manages to come up with something original and entertaining. Catch him if you can!

AR

I have just celebrated my twenty-sixth. Yes, you missed it, so thanks for the card, and yes that is the real total. I had a few friends around for a drink, which was a disaster as I wanted to go to a club and they didn't, and by the time I had got them out the door and got myself to the West End it was two o'clock and various people who I'd sworn to meet at midnight were very pissed off. I could tell this because they'd drunk all the champagne they had bought to celebrate this momentous occasion.

I don't personally like birthdays, and like my mother always forget the important ones and remember the really trivial ones. ie. God knows when my sister was born but the Queen's is the 19th of April. No, I don't send her a card.

It does seem to be a funny thing to celebrate, getting older. I think that when I was nineteen I thought that being twenty-six was too old to contemplate, and anyone over twenty-one was pretty boring and square. I now find to my surprise, that it's the nineteen year olds who are boring and I'm quite looking forward to being thirty. At least when you're thirty you can stop trying to summon up the energy to go out every night when you'd far rather be in with a good Babs Cartland and a mug of brandied Ovaltine.

I always thought, at nineteen, that as you got older life got easier. I now recognise that the opposite applies. This is because, when you are nineteen, you don't have any idea as to how many potential nightmares are waiting for you at every one of life's endearing little crossroads. When you get older you are painfully aware as to just how close to the cliff edge you are walking.

It was therefore with some trepidation, I agreed, at a friend's suggestion to take a driving lesson. Well, not so much as a lesson. I would let her show me how it was done in her car, and then have a bash at it myself.

I have never seen the point of having a car in London, you can never park it, or drive it at speeds of more than 4mph. You can't take them to clubs in case you get pissed, they pollute the environment, and besides there are more than enough taxis for everyone. That, of course, does not mean you can get away with not giving me a lift next time you see me hanging around outside a club at four in the morning. (But please pick your moment carefully).

We met on a more or less derelict housing estate in South London. Me wrapped to the nines to keep out the cold, and her cheerfully pulling on a fag and saying not to worry. Now, I have driven before. Being rurally rooted, I learnt to drive a tractor when I was eight and a combine harvester when I was thirteen. The difference is that with a tractor in a field the only thing you will kill is a bit of easily replaced wildlife. In a car, on congested roads, it's completely different.

So I sat in the driver's seat and she explained the controls, the pedals and finally the gear stick. Now, I would have thought that any self respecting driver who knew a thing or two, when asked if he wanted a manual or an automatic gear box, would instantly reply "Automatic Please Guv". Indeed, with the invention of automatic, I would have expected any reasonable government to outlaw manual cars on all but vintage models and Sinclair C5s.

Try as I might I could not see the point of manual over automatic, and after we'd argued the point she finally demanded "Do you fucking well want to learn to drive or not?" The real answer was, "Not really, no". But as we were there, as she had made the effort, and as she is a lot bigger and more violent than me, I replied "Of course".

So off we went, bunny-hopping and gear-crashing our way around this deserted estate, and as time passed I found I could gear change without crashing all five. It wasn't all that difficult to keep looking in your rear mirror either, just a bit pointless on a deserted estate.

After a little rest, and a lecture on the finer points of driving she announced that I was ready for the open road. I personally didn't feel ready for anything other than a stiff drink, but I gamely strapped myself down and said a silent prayer for the populus that lived on or near the Old Kent Road.

Now, I know that you are all expecting me to say that I crashed the car, well I didn't. But it must be said that the only reason that I didn't is that as soon as I had managed to pull out into the traffic, I stalled the car. The combined effect of furious road hogs honking at me and the rush of cars in both directions did the trick. I froze. I then slid into the back seat and demanded to be taken to a place where hot tea is served with a complimentary Valium.

However, this unfortunate experience has not put me off driving altogether. I am having motorbike lessons, so God help all you queens on your Honda Civics.

Cinatra's Goes Gay

Cinatra's nightclub, at 146 Clapham High Street, London, is Dennis Gilding's newest venture on the club scene, and begins with a grand gala opening on Sunday 24th of September. With top DJs, a disco, restaurant and big screen video entertainment, *Cinatra's* should quickly become a major (Sunday) gay venue.

Dennis promises not only the 'devastating' Miss Ziggy Cartier in the Blue Angel Piano Bar, but every week there will be heats for *Cinatra's* Mr Adonis contest, the Miss Cinatra Drag International 1989 contest and a search for talent, for which invitations are open to singers, drag acts, comics etc.

Open from 3pm 'til midnight, the club's entrance fee is just £4, or £8 to include a lavish meal. Any enquiries about competition entries, or general queries, can be answered by calling 01 672 5709. See you there!

AR

Photos: Men In Focus

Readership Survey

So that we at Him Magazine *are in a better position to provide you with what you want, we ask that readers complete this questionnaire and return it to: Him Magazine, 283 Camden High Street, London NW1 7BX, as soon as possible. Please don't feel obliged to answer every question, but the more you tell us, and the more honest you can be with your answers, the greater the help. Thank you.*

YOU ARE NOT ASKED TO GIVE EITHER YOUR NAME OR YOUR ADDRESS

1. What is your age? .....

2. Your marital status? .....

3. Would you describe your sexuality as: (please tick)
   a. Homosexual? ☐
   b. Bisexual? ☐
   c. Gay? ☐
   d. Other? (please specify) .....

4. What is your occupation?
.....

5. Your annual income? (approx.)
.....

6. Where do you live? (town/city etc.)
.....

7. Type of home? (flat, house etc.)
.....

8. Do you own or rent your home, or other (please state)? .....

9. Do you possess: (please tick)
   a. A compact disc player? ☐
   b. A video recorder? ☐
   c. A video camera? ☐
   d. A car? ☐
   e. A motorbike? ☐
   f. Other motor vehicle? (please specify)
.....

★ ★ ★

10. Where do you buy *Him Magazine*?
.....

11. How often do you buy it?
.....

12. For how long have you been buying *Him*?
.....

13. In order of preference, what, or who, are your three favourite regular items or contributors in the magazine? (please mark a 1, 2 or 3 next to your three chosen items)

a	Fashion	.....
b	Him Doctor	.....
c	Hugo	.....
d	John Addy	.....
e	Bryan Derbyshire	.....
f	All Our Yesterdays	.....
g	Showbiz	.....
h	Wales	.....
i	The Late 80s Gay Man	.....
j	Stella's Horoscope	.....
k	Books	.....
l	Personal Ads	.....
m	US Gay	.....
n	Buzz	.....
o	News	.....
p	Headliners	.....
q	Scotland	.....
r	Other (please state)	.....

.....

14. Which special feature, from the last six issues or so, have you found the most interesting/enjoyable? .....
.....

15. Is there anything in particular that you dislike about the magazine? .....
.....
.....
.....

16. Which has been your favourite model in, say, the last ten issues, including front cover guys?
.....

17. What, if any, daily newspaper do you read regularly? .....
.....

18. Which other gay publications do you read, if any? .....
.....
.....

19. What, if any, other newspapers or magazines do you read on a regular basis?
.....
.....
.....

★ ★ ★

20. How often approximately, per week, do you visit:
   a. A pub? .....
   b. A club? .....

21. Which is your favourite:
   a. Pub? .....
   b. Club? .....

22. Do you prefer to frequent a gay pub/club to a straight one? Yes/No (please delete)

23. Do you drink alcohol when you go out for the evening or night:
   a. Always? ☐
   b Usually? ☐
   c. Occasionally? ☐
   d. Never? ☐
   (please tick one)

★ ★ ★

24. How many times a year, approximately, do you take a holiday? .....

25. Where have the last three holidays that you have had taken you (excluding weekend breaks), and when, approximately, were they? .....
.....
.....

26. Do you normally book your holidays through a specialist gay travel agent? If so, which have you used? .....
.....
.....

★ ★ ★

27. Would you call yourself a celibate? Yes/No (please delete)

28. If any, how many partners/lovers do you have on average per month? .....

29. Has the number increased, decreased or remained about the same over the last five years? .....

30. Is the sex you practice, if any, safe or unsafe in your estimation? .....

31. Do you use condoms, and if so, what brand? .....
.....

32. Do you have a regular partner? Yes/No (please delete)

33. If so, do you live together? Yes/No (please delete)

34. How long have you been together?
.....

35. If applicable, would you describe your relationship as monogamous? Yes/No (please delete)

36. Do you 'cottage', and if so, how frequently? Yes/No (please delete)
.....

37. Have you ever used recreational drugs, and if so, which? Yes/No (please delete)
.....
.....

38. Have either the advertisements or editorial coverage on the subject of Aids and HIV in the gay press contributed to any change in your sexual activity/behaviour? In what way?
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

39. And finally, if there was a general election tomorrow, would you vote, and if so, for whom?
.....

Letters

★ STAR LETTER ★

Heart in the right place

Dear HIM,
I am writing this letter in reply to the slagging I received at the hands of Mr Dafydd Jenkins, in his article in August's issue of HIM. In it he called my act, "Ruby Relish", rubbish. Well, what he thinks of me or my show is of no consequence to me, but Mr Jenkins failed to mention that I am donating 25% of my fees, plus collecting donations from customers, all going towards the Terrence Higgins Trust.

As a direct result of his article I have so far had 5 shows cancelled in two days. So I decided to ask him how I should recoup this money for the THT. He hurled abuse at me and accused me of damaging the THT.

Well, if raising money for them is damaging, then I plead guilty, and I am proud of it too. Mr Jenkins heart is not in the right place, as I am considering others who are less fortunate than myself. Examine your conscience Mr Jenkins, if indeed you have one at all.
Ruby Relish
PS I look forward to your comments.

Dear Ruby Relish,
From the tone of your letter you sound most surprised that you should be "slagged off". I would have thought that with an act like yours you would have been used to it by now.

To walk on stage and first off announce that you are giving 25% of your earnings, and I quote "Isn't that wonderful?", I think smacks of begging for sympathy. It certainly offended a number of people who were near me, in fact several walked out very shortly after.

Then, to inflict an act that consisted of "jokes" about fist-fucking women, at which more people walked out, was an insult to your audience.

As for cancellations of your act, well I am hardly surprised. The night that I saw you perform at the White Swan in East London, I was spoken to by a venue owner who had got you booked in, or at least had been offered your act. His reaction was "Over my dead body does that act ever appear at my place."

I did not hurl abuse at you and accuse you of damaging the THT. What I said was, "If I worked for the THT, I would be more fussy where I took money from." The vast majority of cabaret entertainers in this country work long and hard at raising money for various charity organisations, but you never hear Lily Savage, Adrella, Candy du Barry or the countless others responsible for raising many, many thousands of pounds stand on stage and tell everyone how wonderful they are for doing so. No, they just get on with it, happy in the knowledge that *they* know what good they have done.

I have no conscience, Ruby, for telling the truth as I see it. If the truth hurts, then I am afraid that you are in the wrong business.

Yes, I know that you have worked successfully for some time in Israel. In fact I have seen a video of a performance. All I can say is that perhaps in Israel they are not used to the high standards that English audiences have the right to expect.
Dafydd Jenkins

Next month's star letter will receive a £10 prize.

Know what I mean?

Dear Editor,
Although I thoroughly enjoy reading *Him* each month, particularly Neil McKenna's *All Our Yesterdays* and the good mix of interviews and features, I am somewhat disappointed with the lack of colour, and the (fairly) recent reduction in the number of pages.

Please can we have our colour back? And how about some more revealing photos than we have seen of late? I'm sure you know what I mean!
Tim, Cambridge

Dorothy's daughter

Dear Him,
What has happened to the series of interviews with the gay men of the late '80s? Has it run its course, or is it taking a little holiday?

And how about an interview with the brilliant Liza Minnelli? Please, please, please!If mega-star Eartha Kitt can spare your interviewer a couple of hours, surely Dorothy's daughter can, too?
Roger S., Dundee

Stimulating read

Dear Him,
I received your bumper magazine the other day (issue 27) and I look forward to it every month. I really liked Steve, photographed by Bryan; very nice in his rubber chaps. More photos please of leather/rubber guys in future issues! I enjoyed the feature on gay nudism; very nice reading. And also the travel feature on Leather Amsterdam. The news section was very enjoyable too.

I was sorry to hear about the death of Steve Wilson. I believe he was a wonderful person, and it's very sad that he should be snatched away at such a young age. My sympathy goes out to everyone who cared for and looked after him.

Overall, I find your magazine very informative, and a stimulating read. Well done *Him*!
Patrick B., Eire

Free Trade!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind your readers to come to Manchester on Saturday the 23rd of September. As the fabulous Yazz says, we must stand up for our love rights!

What is *Love Rights '89*? It's simply a celebration of lesbian and gay sexuality. There's a march from Cavendish Square at 2pm, and then a rally in Albert Square, in front of the Town Hall. And in the evening it's all go in the Free Trade Hall, from 6pm, with the *Love Rights Concert* with stars such as Jimmy Somerville, Ian Shaw, Helen Terry and the Deltones, amongst others.

It's all in aid of disabled lesbians and gay men, as well as the Manchester Parents Group, an organisation for the parents of lesbians and gay men. Remember February last year, when 20,000 people marched on the 'Never Going Underground' demo against Clause 28? Well, let's do it again!
David R., Greater Manchester

Please address letters to the Editor, and send them to: Him Magazine, 283 Camden High Street, London NW1 7BX.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

Liberace plays Las Vegas

Oh the jewels, the furs, the cars, the spectacle!!!

We have ten copies of this video to give away to the lucky readers who answer the following questions correctly:

1. Where was Liberace born?
2. With which Symphony Orchestra did Liberace debut, at the age of sixteen?
3. Complete the following jewel from the lips of the late 'Mr Showmanship': "To much of a good thing . . . . . ." (two words)

Send your answers on a pretty postcard to:
Liberace Competition, Him Magazine, 283 Camden High Street, London NW1 7BX

There's different strokes for 'very' different folks ... on the best GAY Line around

"He grabbed my arm and dragged me back into the shower area ..."

0898 555 392

Calls charged 25p off peak, 38p peak

LIAISON FOR MEN

The date line for men who want to get to know the **'right kind of guy'.** Just dial and listen. Updated daily.

0898 777 305

Listen to live conversation

0898 777 315

For professional men

0898 662 112

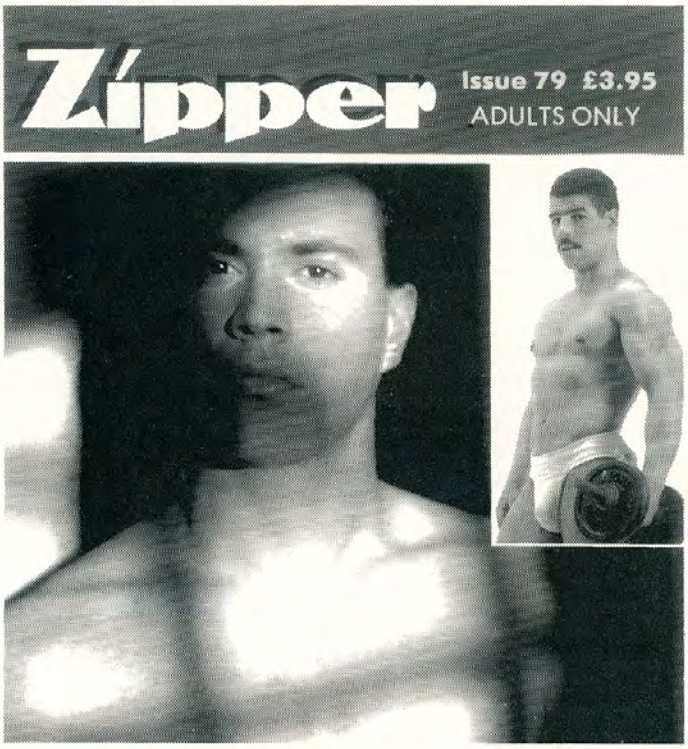
For the Male Order Number in your area

0898 777 323

Your free message on the air within 24 hours:
call FREEFONE **0800 269 353**

All calls are charged at 25p per minute cheap rate, 38p per minute other times.
DATAZEAL, Cornwall House, Lionel St, Birmingham

The Heavy



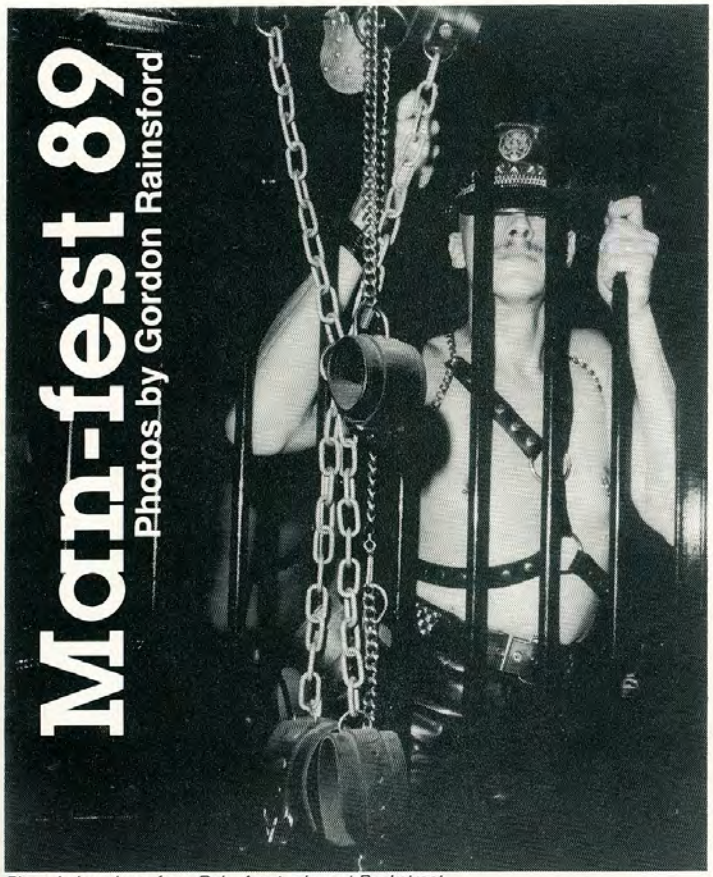
weight Champ.

Zipper Magazine.

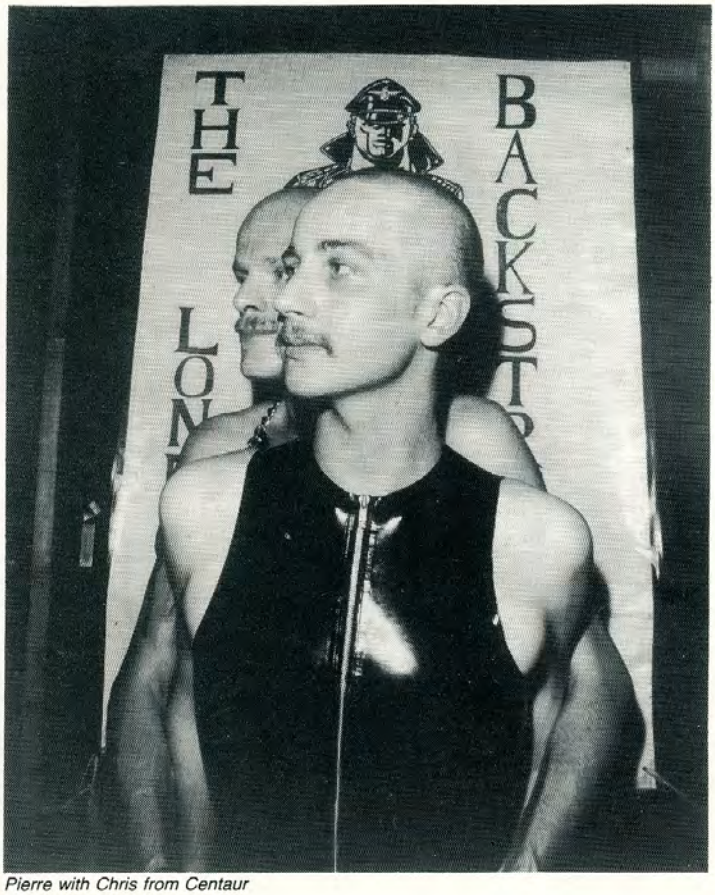
Zipper Magazine, 283 Camden High Street, London NW1 7BX 10 issues - £39.50. One copy: £4.25

Man-fest 89

Photos by Gordon Rainsford



Pierre Labouchere from Rob, Amsterdam at Backstreet



Pierre with Chris from Centaur

Ian, up for grabs at the Block's slave auction

Adam, slaving away for Mike Dow

SENTRY BOX

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All Enquiries: (01) 735 9922
Photography: Carl Marshall

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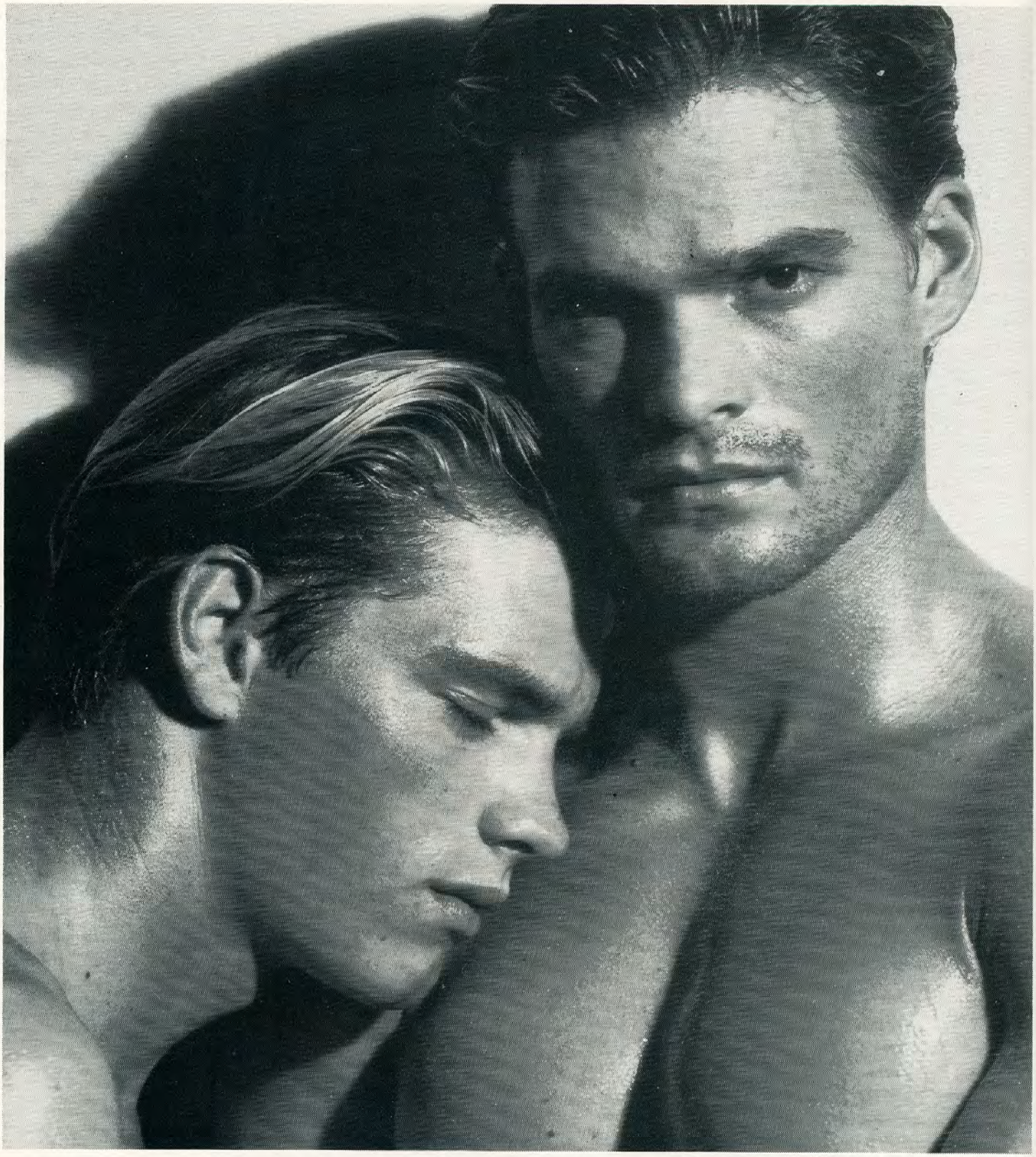
Photos by Klein



IF YOU THINK SAFER SEX SOUNDS DULL, READING THIS MIGHT CHANGE YOUR POSITION.

Don't let the name put you off.

Safer sex isn't some kind of sanitised version of the real thing, dreamt up as a response to AIDS.

Safer sex simply means any activity where infected blood or semen (or vaginal fluids) can't enter your body.

Mutual masturbation for instance. Fingering, massage or body rubbing.

Oral sex may carry some risk if the person sucking has cuts or sores in their mouth, or if infected semen is swallowed.

Unprotected anal intercourse, however, carries the highest risk of any sexual activity.

Even if you use a condom it still won't make it completely safe.

If you'd like more information or advice, ring your local helpline. Or call the National AIDS Helpline free of charge on 0800 567 123. It's open 24 hours a day and it's completely confidential.

HEALTH EDUCATION AUTHORITY

HEALTH EDUCATION AUTHORITY

AIDS HELPLINE DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY OF HIV AND AIDS HELPLINES - AUGUST 1989

For reasons of space this is not a complete list of all HIV and AIDS helplines and/or organisations. If you have specific needs, e.g. Body Positive groups, you can get this information from your local helpline or the national helplines or self help groups.
The most comprehensive list of referrals is to be found in the National AIDS Manual (NAM Publications, PO Box 99, London SW2 1EL).

NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE

24 HOURS 0800 567123

For people who are deaf or hard of hearing
MINICOM DAILY 10am-10pm 0800 521361

Staffed by people speaking **Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English**
WED 6pm-10pm 0800 282445

Staffed by people speaking **Chinese (Cantonese) and English**
TUES 6pm-10pm 0800 282446

Staffed by people speaking **Arabic and English**
WED 6pm-10pm 0800 282447

Terence Higgins Trust
DAILY 3pm-10pm 01 242 1010

For people who are deaf or hard of hearing
MINICOM DAILY 7pm-10pm 01 405 2463

NATIONAL SELF HELP GROUPS

Frontliners
For people with AIDS or ARC
Minicom facilities and ansaphone
MON-FRI 10am-5pm 01 404 4324

Body Positive
For people who are HIV antibody positive (Don't be put off by the switching mechanism delay)
DAILY 7pm-10pm 01 373 9124

London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard
For lesbians and gay men
24 HOURS 01 837 7324

Mainliners
For drug users and ex users
MON-FRI 01 738 7333

Blackliners
For the Black and Asian communities
TUES-FRI 1pm-4pm 01 673 1695

Positively Women
For women with a positive diagnosis only
MON-FRI 10am-5pm 01 837 9705

Bisexual Phoneline
For bisexuals
THURS 7.30pm-9.30pm 031 557 3620

HELPLINES IN ENGLAND BY TOWN OR METROPOLITAN AREA

Many of these local helplines have a larger catchment area. Look for your nearest big town.

BATH
Aled Richards Trust
THURS 2.30pm-4.30pm
THURS 7.30pm-9.30pm 0225 444347

BISHOP AUCKLAND
AIDS Advice Centre
MON, THURS 6pm-9pm 0388 602996

BOSTON
Boston AIDS Helpline
MON, TUES 9.15am-10.15am and
THURS 11.15am-1.15pm 0205 354462

BOURNEMOUTH
Dorset Community AIDS Support
MON-FRI 8pm-10pm 0202 292717

BRADFORD
Pennine AIDS Link
MON-THURS 7.30pm-9.30pm 0274 732939

BRIGHTON
Sussex AIDS Centre and Helpline
DAILY 8pm-10pm 0273 571660

BRISTOL
Aled Richards Trust
MON-FRI 7pm-9pm 0272 273436

BURNLEY
Burnley AIDS Helpline
FRI 7.30pm-9.30pm 0282 831101

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge AIDS Helpline
TUES, WED 7.30pm-10pm and
SAT noon-2pm 0223 69765

CHELTENHAM
Gloucestershire AIDS Line
MON, WED 7pm-9pm 0242 224666

CHESTER
Chester and District AIDS Relief (CADAR)
MON, FRI 7.30pm-10pm 0244 390300

COLCHESTER
Colchester AIDS Support and Counselling Group (CASAC)
TUES, FRI 7.30pm-10pm 0206 42980

CREWE
CADAR Crewe AIDS Helpline
WED 8pm-10pm 0270 628938

DERBY
Derby AIDS Line
MON-FRI 7pm-9pm
THURS 2pm-4pm and 7pm-9pm 0332 290766

DORCHESTER
AIDS Advisory Service
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 0305 251012

EASTBOURNE
Eastbourne AIDS Helpline
MON-FRI 10am-1pm 0323 20322

EXETER
Exeter AIDS Line
MON, WED, FRI 7pm-10pm 0392 411600

FOLKESTONE
Folkestone AIDS Helpline
FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 7pm-10pm 0303 41444

GRANTHAM
Grantham AIDS Helpline
MON, FRI 9am-10am and
WED 1.30pm-3pm 0476 60192

GREAT YARMOUTH
Waveney and Great Yarmouth AIDS Helpline
FRI 6pm-8pm 0502 501509

GREATER MANCHESTER
Manchester AIDS Line
MON-FRI 7pm-10pm 061 228 1617

Rochdale AIDS Helpline
MON 2pm-6pm 0706 755024

GRIMSBY
Grimsby AIDS Line
THURS 7.30pm-9.30pm 0472 240840

GUILDFORD
Surrey and East Hants AIDS Line
TUES, WED, FRI 8pm-10pm 0483 300150

HARLOW
West Essex Health Authority Helpline
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 0279 450570

HARROGATE
AIDS Concern North Yorkshire
MON, THURS 7pm-10pm 0423 505222

HASTINGS
Hastings Aids Helpline (HARAS)
MON-FRI 2.30pm-4.30pm 0424 429901

HUDDERSFIELD
Kirklees AIDS Line
DAILY 7pm-11pm 0484 434825

HULL
AIDS Action North Humberside
MON, THURS, SAT 10am-2pm
TUES, THURS 7pm-9pm 0482 27060 (Hull)
WED, SUN 7pm-10pm 0482 870451 (Beverley)
FRI 9pm-1am 0262 400440 (Bridlington)

IPSWICH
Ispwich AIDS Line
TUES, FRI 7.30pm-10pm 0473 232007

KETTERING
Kettering Area AIDS Support Group
TUES-FRI 10am-4pm 0933 223591

LANCASTER
North Lancashire and South Cumbria AIDS Line
MON 7pm-10pm 0524 841011

LEEDS
Leeds AIDS Advice
MON-FRI 7pm-9pm 0532 444209

LEICESTER
Leicester Lesbian and Gayline
MON-FRI 7.30pm-10.30pm
Staffed by women only
TUES 7.30pm-10.30pm 0533 550667

LINCOLN
Lincoln AIDS Helpline
MON, WED 5pm-7pm 0522 545371

LIVERPOOL
Merseyside AIDS Support Group
MON, WED, FRI 7pm-10pm 051 709 9000

LONDON
AIDS Line (Enfield)
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 01 366 9187

Harrow Health Authority Helpline
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 01 422 4159

Hounslow and Ealing AIDS Response Service
MON, WED 6pm-9pm 01 571 9191

LUTON
Luton AIDS Community Support Unit
TUES, THURS, FRI 7pm-10pm 0582 404405

MANSFIELD
Mansfield AIDS Helpline
MON, TUES 7pm-9pm 0623 642814

MARGATE
East Kent AIDS Helpline
MON-FRI 7pm-10pm 0843 298610

MILTON KEYNES
Milton Keynes Lesbian and Gay Switchboard
MON, THURS 7pm-9pm 0908 666226

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
Body Positive North East
MON-FRI 10am-5pm 091 232 2855

Community Support Centre
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 091 273 0197

NORTHAMPTON
AIDS Information Line
MON-FRI 9am-7pm 0604 28999

NORWICH
Norwich AIDS Helpline
THURS 8pm-10pm 0603 615816

NOTTINGHAM
Nottingham AIDS Information Project
MON-THURS 7pm-10pm 0602 585526

OXFORD
OXAIDS
SUN, MON, WED, FRI 6pm-8pm 0865 728817

PETERBOROUGH
Peterborough AIDS Helpline
TUES, THURS 7.30pm-9.30pm
0733 62334/311555

PORTSMOUTH
Portsmouth AIDS Line
THURS 7.30pm-10pm 0705 672666

PRESTON
HEAL (Health Education AIDS Liaison)
MON-FRI 7pm-9.30pm 0772 555525

READING
Reading AIDS Line
MON, THURS 8pm-10pm 0734 503377

SAINT ALBANS
The Crescent
MON-THURS 10am-4pm
MON 7pm-9.30pm 0727 44230
(In Hemel you can ring 0442 42042 which switches you automatically to the above number)

SALISBURY
Salisbury AIDS Helpline
WED 7pm-9pm and
THURS 6pm-8pm 0722 411064

SCARBOROUGH
Aids Concern North Yorkshire
TUES 7pm-10pm 0723 354292

SHEFFIELD
Sheffield AIDS Line
MON-FRI 7pm-10pm
(Freephone from 1.9.89) 0800 844334

SHREWSBURY
Shrewsbury AIDS Helpline
MON, WED, THURS 2pm-5pm 0743 232748

SLOUGH
Hollies Centre
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 0753 692401

SOUTHAMPTON
Solent AIDS Line
TUES, THURS, SAT 7.30pm-10pm 0703 637363

AIDS Line Southampton
FRI 7.30pm-10pm 0703 339467

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
Southend AIDS Helpline
MON-FRI 6pm-10pm 0702 460380

STEVENAGE
North Herts AIDS Helpline
TUES, THURS 7.30pm-10pm 0438 740270

TAUNTON
Somerset AIDS Helpline
WED 7pm-9pm 0823 259989

TORQUAY
Torbay AIDS Support Group
TUES, FRI 7.30pm-10.30pm 0803 299266

WATFORD
Watford AIDS Support Group
MON-FRI 9am-5pm 0923 33917

WEST MIDLANDS
AIDS Line West Midlands
MON-FRI 7.30pm-10pm 021 622 1511

AIDS Lifeline
MON-FRI 10am-7pm 021 235 3535

Dudley Information AIDS Line (DIAL)
MON 7pm-9.30pm 0384 53037
WED 7pm-9.30pm 0384 390390

WINDSOR
AIDS Support Group
MON, WED, FRI 8pm-10pm 0753 693050

YORK
Aids Concern North Yorkshire
MON 2pm-5pm
WED, SUN 7pm-10pm 0904 620520

HELPLINES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST
AIDS Helpline (Northern Ireland)
MON, WED, FRI 7.30pm-10pm and
SAT 2pm-5pm 0232 326117

HELPLINES IN SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH
Scottish AIDS Monitor (SAM)
MON-FRI 7.30pm-10pm 031 557 1757

GLASGOW
Scottish AIDS Monitor (SAM)
TUES-FRI 7pm-10pm 041 221 7467

HELPLINES IN WALES

BRECON
Powys AIDS Line Services (PALS)
Llinell Wasanaethau AIDS Powys
WED, SAT 8pm-11pm English speaking 0597 4200
SAT 9pm-midnight Welsh speaking 0597 2800

CARDIFF
Cardiff AIDS Helpline Llinell Gymorth AIDS Caerdydd
MON-FRI 7pm-10pm 0222 223443

CARMARTHEN
Carmarthen AIDS Helpline
THURS 6.30pm-8.30pm 0267 234501 ext 4468

HAVERFORDWEST
Dyfed AIDS Helpline
MON, FRI 8pm-10pm 0437 4545 ext 405

LLANDUDNO
AIDS Care North Wales Gofal SDIC Gogledd Cymru
THURS 7pm-10pm 0492 860569

NEWPORT
Gwent AIDS Helpline
MON-FRI 8.30am-4.30pm 0633 841901

Gwent AIDS Advice Line
MON-FRI 9am-5pm TUES 'til 8pm 0633 422532

SWANSEA
Swansea AIDS Helpline
West Glamorgan AIDS Project
THURS 3pm-8pm 0792 456303

HELPLINES IN THE CHANNEL ISLES

Jersey AIDS Relief Group
DAILY 7pm-10pm 0534 58886

pink pages

MENS PERSONALS

NORTH

Tired of hiding

Merseyside. Inexperienced guy 26, tired of hiding, seeks genuine friendship/relationship, locally. Box 28HM001

Hairy and muscular

21, white male seeks hairy and muscular guys. Frank letter and photo please. ALA. Box 28HM002

Soul mate

Merseyside/ Wirral. Inexperienced guy, 27, seeks soul mate. Photo/ letter appreciated. Box 28HM003

Good times

Sheffield. Romantic, arty, good natured guy, enjoys dancing, good times and laughter. Wants sincere, honest relationship who is not afraid of loving. Photo appreciated. Box 28HM004

Ex-bodybuilder

Leatherman, trim ex-bodybuilder, now 50, 6'2", seeks to expand interests into aqua and allied sports. Write with photo to: Box 28HM005

Uniform Geordie

Uniform Geordie, 5'8", light hair, slim build, 24 years old, young looking friends, possible relationship. Aged 21-30. Photo/phone number. ALA (promised). Box 28HM006

SOUTH

Professional

Essex. Professional guy, 40, 5'9", 11st, hirsute, seeks guy 25-40 for relationship. Must be straight-acting. Photo appreciated. Box 28HM007

Berks/London

Attractive, masculine lad, 25, seeks skinhead, labourer, army guy as older brother for fun and friendship/relationship. Satisfaction guaranteed. Frank photo please. ALA. Box 28HM008

Fit muscular guy

Bedford. Fit, muscular guy, 30, goodlooking and very intelligent seeks young (21+) slim guy. All types welcome (except Tories). Photo and frank letter please. Box 28HM009

Bodybuilder

Advanced bodybuilder seeks penfriends. Box 28HM010

Equestrian

Enfield, Herts. Equestrian, 25, own house & horse, seeks similar normal guy for friendship. Discreet. Box 28HM011

Can accomodate

Hants/Surrey borders, 40s, into leather, rubber, sports gear. Can accomodate. Exchange letter/ photos. Box 28HM012

Outings and fun

Guy, mid-forties, seeks friends for outings and fun. Age not important. ALA with photo. Box 28HM013

Hunky bi-guy

Hunky, goodlooking bi-guy, 30, non-scene and non-smoker, outgoing and friendly with many healthy, sporty and musical interests, would like to meet similar hunky-hairy? guys in Hampshire and surrounding area for discreet fun and friendship. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box 28HM014

WEST

Laughs and fun

Poole, 26, in relationship. Wants laughs and fun with other(s). Photo and honest letter gets mine by return. Box 28HM015

Decent looks

South West, South Wales, Glos, Avon, anywhere. Non-scene, masculine, genuine 32. Decent looks seeks similar, straight acting guy, 21-36. Your place. Photo essential. Enjoys swimming/gym workouts. Strictly no effems. Box 28HM016

Sense of humour

Shy, lonely guy, 29, inexperienced seeks guy 21-30 with sense of humour for fun/friendship. Photo please. Box 28HM017

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh

Sad lad, issue 25. Have home. Willing to help. If interested, please send photo in reply with name and address. Box 28HM018

Uniforms

Uniform worker, RAC, AA, 999 services or forces wanted by professional man for afternoon meetings and fun in Edinburgh/ Borders area. Total discretion expected and given. Photo ensures reply, but ALA. Box 28HM019

WALES

Fun/friendship

South Wales. Slim, good looking guys. Straight acting, 25, seeks similar guys 21-26 for fun/ friendship. Photo please. Box 28HM020

Well built blonds

Cardiff/ anywhere. Inexperienced guy, 28, into jocks, sportswear, wishes to meet younger (21+) well-built blond guys for fun. ALA, but frank letter and photo gets priority Box 28HM021

MIDLANDS

Seeks hairy guy

West Midlands guy, 25, inexperienced, seeks hairy guy for fun. Photo please. Box 28HM022

Bodybuilders

Birmingham/anywhere. Bodybuilders, sportsmen. Ordinary bloke enjoys weight training, wants to meet similar guy, 21-40, for friendship, maybe more. Photo please — returned. ALA. Box 28HM023

Straight guy

Lonely straight guy (35) seeks gay guy (23-35) for friendship/ relationship. Stoke/ Stafford/ anywhere close. Box 28HM024

Reserved type

Young looking, early forties, fair, medium build, own business in Potteries. Seeks reserved type, good looking, non-effem 25-35 years for occasional meetings and friendship. Photo guarantees reply. Box 28HM025

Professional

Birmingham/ Leicester/ Northants. Professional, thirties, own house and car, seeks slim, 21-30, under 5'5" for 1-1. Box 28HM026

Chez L'Amour

The South's Biggest & Best Sex Shop
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25, The Triangle, Bournemouth
Tel: 0202 290529

Special introductory offer:— Imported hard-to-get American Gay Mags £7.50 each or 3 for £15

List included with every order or send £3 for regular lists and updates.

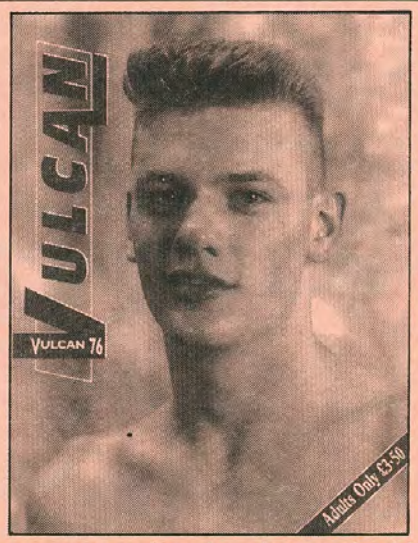
We also stock all brands of poppers starting at £4.95 inc P&P.
Please ring for details.

Large selection of butt plugs, videos and vibrators.

Callers very welcome and a free Gift can be claimed on production of this advert!

Cheques & POs to Halemark Ltd, 25 The Triangle, Bournemouth BH2 5SE.

We also buy and exchange books and magazines—phone for details



THE MALE PIN-UP MAGAZINE WITH **MORE** PHOTOGRAPHS PER PAGE THAN ANY OTHER PUBLISHED IN BRITAIN.

Vulcan magazine is always looking for new and exciting models. if you would like to appear in the magazine and are aged 18-25 then send a recent photograph to us along with a few details and we will gladly consider you.

Send to: Nigel Hatton, Vulcan Magazine,
283 Camden High Street, London NW1 7BX.

ISSUE 76 OUT NOW

Birmingham guy

Birmingham guy, 6', brown hair, lonely and 24, seeks other non-smokers for fun and friendship. Box 28HM027

LONDON

In and out

Two young guys (26 & 27) seek similar singles/ couples for fun evenings in and out. Photo plus frank letter ensures reply.Box 28HM028

Big brother

Big brother wants little brother for safe fun, affection and leather fantasies. I'm determined, stong minded American writer, late thirties, with own flat in Central London and Los Angeles. You are over 21, attractive, masculine, trustworthy. Someone who needs a firm hand from someone who likes to make the decisions. Live-in possible for the right guy. Photo essential. Box 28HM029

Load of balls

Life is just a load of balls. Yours too? Let's get together. Box 28HM030

Friendly fun

Very goodlooking guy, 21. Fun, friendly, outgoing, straight-acting. Looking for similar guy for friendship. Photo ensures reply. Please write. Discreet. Box 28HM031

Asian guy sought

Young, goodlooking, smooth Asian guy sought by attractive professional, 29, for relationship. Box 28HM032

Houseboy

Houseboy required, in twenties (21+), hard working, ready to learn the ropes. Employer 26, with cropped hair, tall, attractive and athletic. Full or part-time position. Possible live-in. Central London apartment. Send photo with details. Training given if necessary. Box 28HM033

Seeks masculine guy

Guy, 22, seeks masculine, well built guy for fun and friendship. Photo ensures reply. Box 28HM034

Sump oil and mud

Cycle shorts, rubber, jocks, grease, sump oil, mud etc. Write with photo to uninhibited, waiting guy. Box 28HM035

Binding relationship

London/anywhere. Big, strong, handsome 6 footer, 38, into leather needs easygoing mate, 21-30ish, for binding relationship. I'm very caring, honest, nonscene and have a good home and lifestyle. Photo. Box 28HM036

London area

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Pob Hwyl!

Alistair and Philip say goodbye

After sixteen successful years in the drag business, the duo the Harlequeens are hanging up their frocks for the last time. Adam Roberts met Philip Harlequeen and found him in a reminiscent mood.

Philip apologised for the absence of long-term, and busy, partner Alistair before putting his three West Highland terriers out to play. In this beautifully-kept garden, set in the heart of Hornsey, North London, the animals could get up to unseen mischief, and leave us to talk about the Harlequeens' sixteen years at the top.

It was back in 1971 when Philip moved from Wales to London, soon finding employment in the audit department of the Savoy Hotel. Here he met Alistair, another young man who was finding it financially difficult surviving in the capital on the far from generous salary that the hotel provided. In 1973, as a way of earning extra money, the pair decided to start up a comedy drag act; they had both been regulars at the Black Cap, in Camden Town, a pub which Philip refers to as the 'Palladium of the drag circuit'. Philip and Alistair thought that they would love to have a bash at it themselves.

The name the 'Harlequeens' came easily. One costume they wore was a black and white affair, and a record they had then recently purchased featured a harlequin on the cover. Alistair suggested The Harlequins, but Philip was unconvinced. 'They'll call us the Harlequeens!', he said.

And why not, thought Alistair. Philip agreed, and so the Harlequeens were born.

Philip remembers those first few bookings: *Drag in the seventies was the big thing. Harry McCafferty, from the Black Cap, used only the top names, like Marc Fleming, Mrs Shufflewick and Hinge and Bracket. The Disappointer Sisters came later. He was very strict who he got there. It was a very prestigious place to work. I mean, you got jobs from working there; people would come in to see the shows and then offer you bookings.*

After two months we had to give up our jobs in the audit department because it just snowballed. We were soon working seven nights a week and Sunday lunch times as well. We worked all over, from Scotland to Wales, and back to London, in pubs like the Vauxhall Tavern and the Elephant and Castle.

It was their originality that enabled the Harlequeens to progress and make a name for themselves. Unlike today, drag acts didn't steal from each other's routines; the audiences wouldn't have permitted it:

Everybody had their own style. We didn't pinch each other's material. It wasn't the done thing, and I think that's why it was so popular. Then, you could go and see a different show every night of the week and every act would be totally different. You go to the Black Cap now and whatever's popular at the moment is done every night. In those days, it wasn't professional to do anyone else's material. I remember, if you went up and did even a snippet of another act's routine, you'd get all the boos and hisses at the back of the crowd. Oh no, they wouldn't let you get away with it.

As well as originality, the Harlequeens offered the type of humour that everybody seemed to like:

We could go to a Conservative Club, and at first they'd be a bit apprehensive, but then they'd laugh at everything. We did hen shows and gay nights too. We were the type of act that the gay boys could take their mothers to see. And the number of mums

me and Alistair have met!

The mums flocked to see them because, unlike many of today's drag acts, there was little in the way of smut in their routines:

It may have been a bit suggestive in places, like in the tarts routine, but never smutty. But that's the style it is today. Even the live patter acts didn't swear on stage. They'd hardly say 'bloody'. I mean, they'd never say 'prick', never mind 'fucking' or 'cunt' like they do now. You'd have been pulled off!

Back in 'those days', drag was not only original and smut-free, but it was also central to the drag pub:

Drag pulled the people in; the name of the act attracted them. They would come to watch you, not just to drink and talk. They would rather watch a good act than pick somebody up. I know drag's not everybody's cup of tea, but if people don't want to see it, then why do they go? And often they stand at the front of the stage and talk, with their backs to the performer. I don't know why they bother!

But it is not the negative side of life in a glamorous frock that is persuading the Harlequeens to call it a day. Besides, Philip knows there have been many more good times than bad during their lengthy career.

But, I always seem to remember the fucking awful times as well! Like when you've died a death on stage and everyone's looking at you like you've just landed from the moon, or something. And I remember one night, this chap came up to me. He was horrified when I came out of the dressing room looking like I did, in my black plastic mini skirt and wig. 'I can't believe a fella could look like that!', he said. It wasn't admiration, it was disgust!

The good times are numerous, and Philip beams as he recalls one particular evening:

We were doing the Hippodrome. It was fabulous, a sound check and everything. They brought us up on the rising stage. Well, we wore feathers and sequins, and what with the flashing lights and everything, we were told by friends who were there we looked fabulous, really stunning as we came out from the floor. Shirley Bassey was in that night, but she was being hounded by the press, so she had to leave, but she sent someone down to tell us that she thought we were really funny. I think that's a wonderful compliment. Apparently, she howled when we did some cuts from some of her records, like 'The Lady is a Tramp'. That was just a fabulous night, really wonderful.

What will Philip miss most about the life of a drag queen? *The laughter and the applause. It's like a drug, really, when the audience claps and laughs and asks for more. It's a tremendous boost to you. We used to rip these clubs apart. All over, everywhere from Swansea to Leeds and abroad; we went down a storm.* Philip is not being immodest; he is telling it as it was.

Although there is much that he will miss about being half of the Harlequeens, Philip has plans for the future and is looking forward to realising a few ambitions. There is straight acting, and pantomime to begin with. His first venture is in *Cinderella* at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, where he will play an ugly sister with Ceri Dupree. Soon after the 'queens farewell performance, Philip will be in rehearsals for the traditional Christmas entertainment, which he sees as a challenge, and the start of pastures new.

I'm looking forward to being in a theatre for eight to ten weeks, where you take your costumes off and hang them up, and then go home. And I'd like to do more straight work, to come out of drag. If this particular project comes off, which I can't really talk about, then I might be touring next year in a play. I've never done it before, it's a whole different field. But that doesn't mean I'll never be in drag again. I may do the odd show, the occasional charity event, for Aids or something . . . and Alistair will plough along with his painting and decorating business and not rely on show work for his income any more, and have people working for him. That's what he wants to be doing in the future.

As a team, the pair are definitely calling it a day. But there is still a chance to see them before they go. Resuming work on September 16th, the Harlequeens are performing for three months until their final show on December 2nd, at none other than the place where it all began, sixteen years ago, the Black Cap.

Many fans will be sorry to see them disappear. But, as Philip wisely muses, it is better to end whilst at the top:

If we carried on, it might get to the point where we're not being booked any more, and I'd rather not get to that stage. Marilyn Monroe and James Dean became legends because they are no more; people remember them as they were. We don't want to be tired old drag queens doing the circuit. We want to be remembered as we were, as we still are . . .

There is no doubt that the Harlequeens, as the tremendously popular duo, will certainly be remembered, both as top-rate professionals and as first-class entertainers. They will be missed by many.

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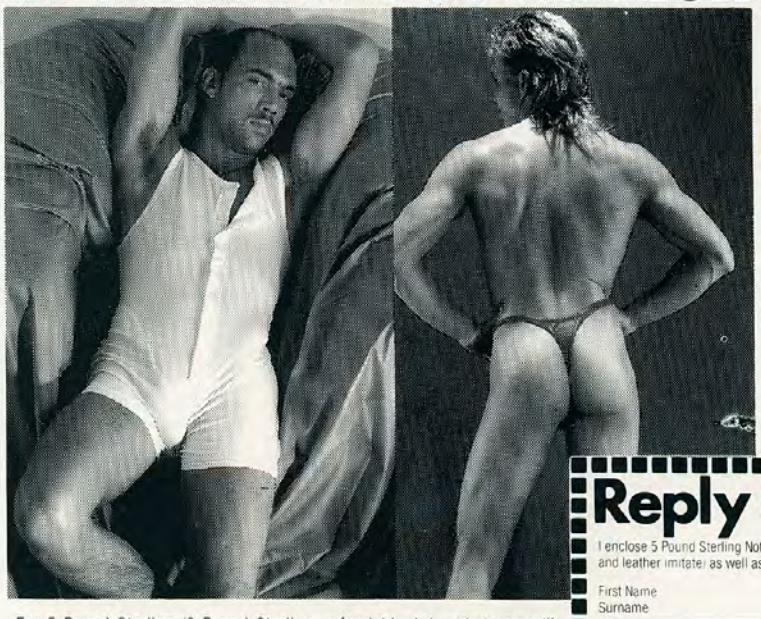

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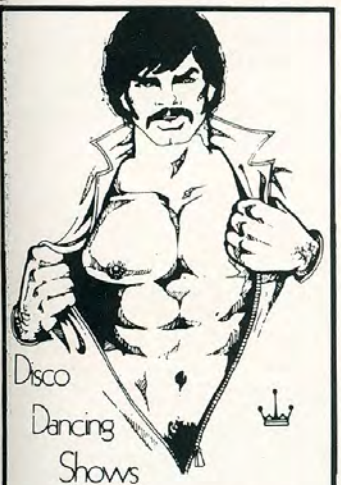

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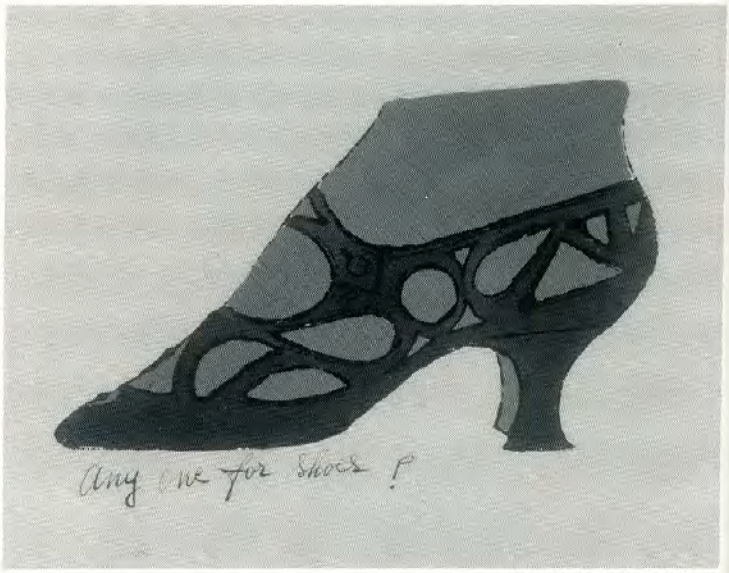
World of Warhol

by Keith Alcorn



Anyone for shoes? (1955)

Everyone has an opinion about Andy Warhol. Either they love him or hate him, and in the past few years Warhol has been an unfashionable artist to admire, but three large retrospectives of his work as a painter and film-maker in London till November are likely to remind us that Warhol was probably the greatest artist of the post-war period. He changed all the rules about making art and being an artist, and radically altered public perceptions of what a painting is.

In the early sixties he took popular heroes like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and Marlon Brando and used a mass-production silkscreen technique which turned the work over to an army of helpers. He created works which were truly contemporary, blending themes of celebrity and disaster, in paintings like his 1963 post-assassination series of Jackie Kennedy, "That Was The Week". Unfortunately this is omitted from the Hayward Gallery retrospective, but you can see the Marilyns, the Skulls, the Maos, the Campbell's Soup cans, the Dollar Bills and the Flowers for which Warhol is famous.

Marilyn Six-pack (1962)

You will see little that relates to Warhol as a gay artist however. More than most homosexual artists, Warhol can be claimed as a gay artist because of the way his work accurately reflects and indeed moulded the gay sensibility of the time. In his obsession with celebrity Warhol was usually selective and campy until his more frankly commercial portraiture of the 70s. His drawings of the 50s, more endearing and revealing than his later work, often have a gay sub-text. Simple, often faceless drawings of young men in ambiguous situations were exhibited by Warhol in 1956, and perfectly reflect both the clandestine nature of gay society at the time and the emerging frankness about sex in which it was possible to exhibit such work. In 1959 however similar work was turned down as too "swishy" by an artists co-op which Warhol had approached for an exhibition. These drawings are part of the "Success Is A Job In New York" show at the Serpentine Gallery till October 1, a collection of Warhol's prints and drawings from the 50s.

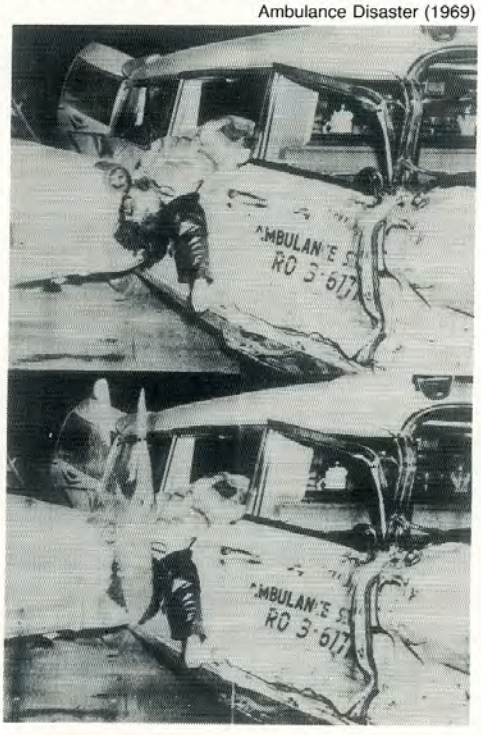
Just as Warhol's more explicit paintings like "Torso" and "Sex Parts" have been omitted from the Hayward show, it seems that the Serpentine show lacks several of the most explicit drawings which were part of the original New York show. Certain areas of Warhol's work remain invisible outside his New York coterie, including his collection of pornography and the legendary "Piss" and "Cum" paintings from the 70s, described in his recently published diaries.

Warhol began making films seriously at a time when he reached a hiatus in his painting career — people were running out of suggestions for him and he felt unable to make any further technical innovations as a painter. Between 1964 and 1969 Warhol's Factory, his Manhattan studio, made dozens of films. The National Film Theatre will be showing the most notable ones during September, including highlights from the six hour "Sleep" and the eight hour "Empire", a film of the Empire State Building. Warhol's films are renowned for their bad sound and the boredom that begins to creep in as nothing seems to happen, but for Warhol that's precisely what was happening — the voyeur is often left watching nothing, and Warhol saw himself, especially with the camera, as a voyeur.

Later in the 60s his films became more camp and dramatic as a host of drag queens and "superstars" sought his camera to play out their fantasies. "My Hustler" begins with an argument over a hustler, while "Blow Job" is a study of a clean cut American boy's face as he's sucked off, a teasing counterpoint to the porn traditions which are alluded to in Warhol's films, particularly "Lonesome Cowboys".

Several other shows of Warhol's work are also running: Self-Portraits at the Antony d'Offay Gallery and The Factory Years at the V&A.

Ambulance Disaster (1969)



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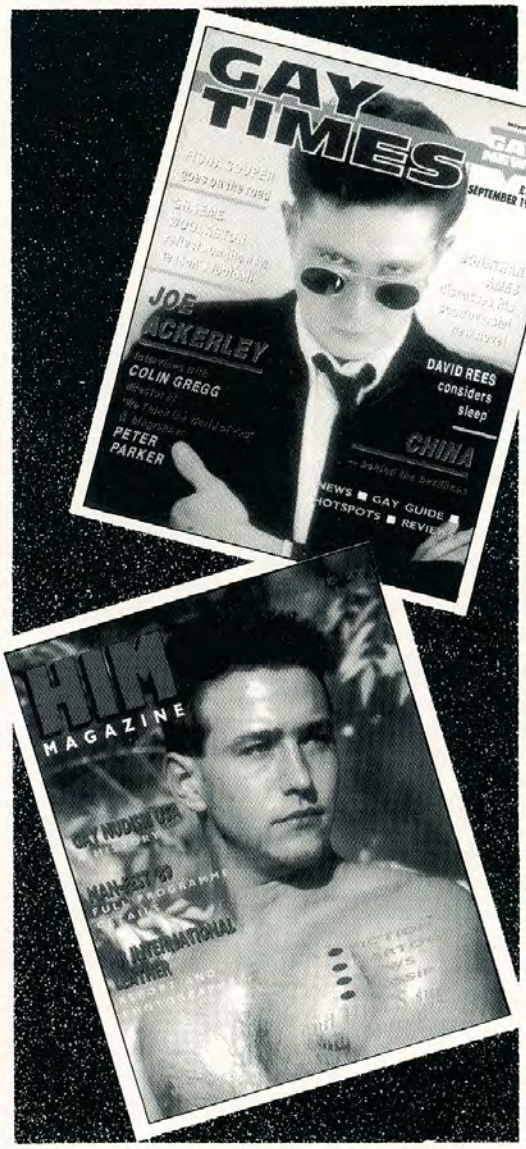
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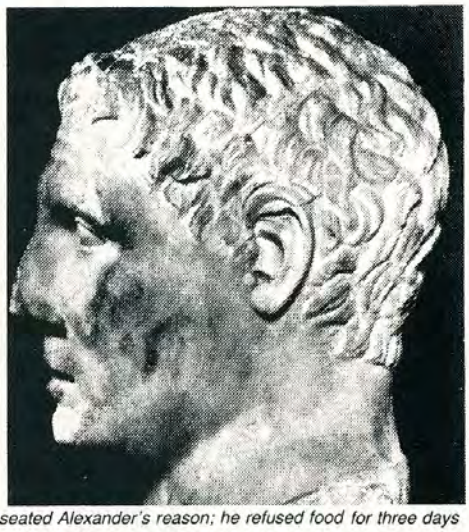
Gods and Heroes: Alexander and Hephaestion

Neil McKenna's All Our Yesterdays continues with the tale of two lovers who entered mythology as living gods with absolute world power



Alexander and Hephaestion (right): Hephaestion's death unseated Alexander's reason; he refused food for three days

When Hephaestion, the lover of Alexander the Great, died from a fever of the blood brought on by a drinking bout in 322 BC, Alexander's grief reverberated around the known world. It was the end of a seventeen year love affair during which Alexander and Hephaestion had won wealth, power and glory beyond the dreams of mortal men. Less than a year later Alexander himself was dead, some say of a broken heart.

Alexander chose the long agony of crucifixion as an appropriate death for the physician who had failed to save Hephaestion's life and then despatched envoys to the oracle at Siwah in Egypt to enquire whether Hephaestion should be honoured in his death as a hero or as a god. It was a question Alexander could equally have asked of himself.

Born in the city of Pella, Macedonia in 356 BC, Alexander was son and heir to King Phillip II and his queen Olympias although a legend quickly sprang up that Alexander had in fact been sired by Zeus, chief among the pantheon of Greek gods.

At the time of Alexander's birth, Greece was composed of small states nestling around the coast of the Aegean Sea — described by the philosopher Socrates as "frogs around a frog pond". Many of these states like Athens were democratic city states. Macedonia however was the most powerful of the "frogs"; undemocratic, an absolute monarchy, whose ruthlessly efficient military machine meant its influence was growing at an alarming rate. Moreover, Macedonia was considered by its Greek neighbours to be barbaric and uncivilised.

Homosexuality in Greece had for centuries been an accepted fact of life. Love affairs between young men or between an older man and a younger man were commonplace and encouraged.

Homosexual love was celebrated in Greek art, philosophy and poetry — and was legitimised by a mythology replete with gay love affairs between the gods. The Greeks believed that homosexuality had been brought to Greece in the wake of the invading Dorian tribes — the direct ancestors of the Macedonians.

When Alexander was 13 years old, Phillip sent for the greatest living Greek philosopher Aristotle to come to Macedonia and educate Alexander. It was an inspirational decision. Bringing together the greatest mind in Greece with the sharply intelligent but as yet unformed heir to the most powerful Greek state meant the results were cataclysmic. The known world and much of the then undiscovered world would tremble from the echo of this epic encounter for decades and centuries to come.

It was whilst he was studying with Aristotle — himself no stranger to homosexual love — that Alexander met and fell in love with Hephaestion who studied with him. Perhaps encouraged in their love for each other by Aristotle, the two young men formed an indissoluble bond which was only to be broken by death. Inspired by the epic Greek poem, the Iliad, which recounted the heroic exploits of Achilles — ancient Greek hero, half-man, half-god and his lover Patroclus — Alexander began to see himself as a reincarnation of Achilles with Hephaestion as his Patroclus. Together they would conquer the world.

By the time Alexander and Hephaestion were 18, they were both seasoned soldiers. Alexander had already displayed the military genius he was to become famous for — as well as his ruthless cruelty. But by the age of 19, Alexander's future hung in the balance. Phillip had divorced Olympias and remarried. His new wife had given birth to a son and it seemed as if this child would inherit the throne of Macedonia rather than Alexander. Alexander acted swiftly. Phillip was assassinated and Alexander with the support of the army crowned himself king. His first act was to execute those opposed to his kingship as well as his stepmother and baby stepbrother.

When the Greek city state of Thebes questioned Alexander's authority, he and his army stormed the city, burnt it to the ground, killed 6,000 citizens and sold the rest into slavery. The other Greek states got Alexander's brutal message and acknowledged Alexander's supremacy in the Hellenic alliance.

With all opposition quelled at home, Alexander at the age of 22 turned his sights eastward. With Hephaestion by his side, Alexander embarked on world conquest. His military genius combined with an unsurpassed cruelty ensured victory after victory. For the next ten years Alexander conquered everything in his path. His empire stretched eastwards from the Aegean to the Himalayas and southwards to Egypt. He was crowned Lord of Asia and Pharaoh of Egypt. Alexander's conquests stretched beyond the known world into India and in his path he founded new cities — Alexandrias — throughout his enormous empire.

Alexander and Hephaestion were inseparable throughout this time. They ate, slept, made love and war together. When Alexander's mother Olympias expressed anxiety about their love affair, he rebuked her sharply and described Hephaestion as "his soul", saying "I have no need of another one".

As conquest succeeded conquest and Alexander became omnipotent, he became convinced that he was a reincarnation of Achilles — a hero, perhaps a god, inexplicably entwined in the divine plan. Hephaestion was his Patroclus. Together they would enter mythology and become living gods. It is not difficult to understand why Alexander felt that this should be his destiny. Already he ruled the world with absolute power and possessed inestimable wealth. Even the oracle of the Egyptian god Amon at Siwah had declared him to be the son of Amon and Zeus.

The sudden death of Hephaestion unseated Alexander's reason. He refused food and sleep for three days and was in an agony of grief. He shaved his head, and commanded that the tails and manes of all his cavalry's horses be shorn likewise, and he ordered 10,000 talents — perhaps a fifth of the entire wealth of his empire — to be spent on a tomb for his now departed lover.

In the months that followed, Alexander's mental state deteriorated further. He was certain he was a god and issued decrees throughout his empire ordering that he be worshipped as such. But divinity was no defence against death. The King who wanted to be a god died in Babylon in 323 BC at the age of 32. Together Alexander and Hephaestion had ruled the world. Reunited in death they perhaps walk together again in the groves of the gods on Mount Olympus . . . .

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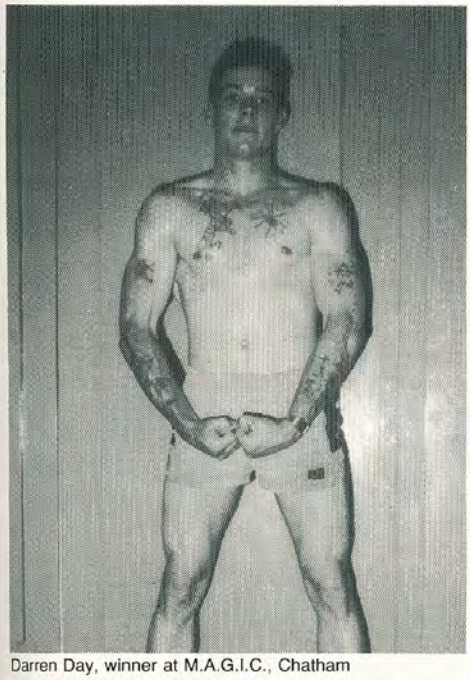


Darren Day, winner at M.A.G.I.C., Chatham

Tommy Smith (2nd) and Michael Lewis (1st) at Double Two Club, Torquay

Plans have now been finalised for the Mr Gay UK 1989 weekend at the *Flamingo* club, Blackpool.

For the Friday evening, September the 29th, one of Blackpool's famous trams has been hired to take the contestants and their friends through the streets to enjoy the town's world-famous illuminations. Also on the Friday night, the ever-popular Lily Savage will be hosting the Miss Alternative Gay UK Ball, again at the *Flamingo*.

The Saturday sees the final of the competition, and cabaret entertainment will be provided by *Fitness Two* from London, and we are hoping to get the guys from the play *Bouncers*. The club's doors will be thrown open at 8pm, and there will be an extension until four in the morning. So this is going to be one spectacular night!

If you *are* coming, make sure you get there early as we are only able to get 2000 people in. Most of Blackpool's gay hotels are fully booked now, but there are plenty of small, private hotels in the seaside town.

We hope to see you on September the 30th, early in the evening.

Winner of "Oasis" Bristol heat of Mr Gay UK competition, Danny Hunt from Weston-Super-Mare

Anthony Culvermouse (2nd), Neil Upton (1st) and Ken Brown (3rd) at Connections, Chester

straight

Timmy left school in the summer of 1965 at the age of 15 and started work almost immediately at Baily and Hinds (Holdings) Ltd., a finance company situated in a large office block not far from where he lived.

To work in the Post Room of such a large firm was no big deal, but the important thing to Timmy was that at last he was part of the adult world and finding his feet. I didn't take him long to realise that work wasn't like school — the only playtimes you had were the ones you stole away from the all-seeing eye of the Post Room supervisor, the sharp-tongued Miss Thorpe.

Timmy liked the new job. Not only was he meeting adults on their own terms, he was finding that he could actually make friends with some of them (a thing he could never have done with his teachers). The only problem was that so many of them were men that Timmy found uncomfortably attractive (a problem Timmy found pleasure in struggling with).

This attraction to men had happened at school, too, with some of his teachers, particularly Mr Smith the history master. Timmy had felt guilty about neglecting his study of Medieval life in favour of giving his undivided attention to Mr Smith's fascinatingly contoured crotch area. (Mr Smith, on the other hand, shouldn't have worn such tight trousers if he wanted his charge to concentrate on the Battle of Hastings).

Timmy's new job involved delivering internal post and messages to the many different departments of Baily and Hinds. This gave him the chance to see everyone who worked for the firm and to discover that there were an inordinately large number of young men employed there — some of whom Timmy began to fantasise about. He soon found that he could arrange his deliveries so as to ensure more than one visit to the accounts department per day. It was in Accounts that he could secretly worship at the shrine of Toby, the young clerk with the big shoulders and penchant for sitting with his legs so far apart it nearly made Timmy faint with desire. Timmy had never had the opportunity to get close to so many men before and it was a pleasant experience for him. To his dismay, Timmy discovered that Toby was married with two children. Of course, that didn't stop him dreaming about what it might be like to be close to Toby, to get between those wide open legs and . . .

But these were private dreams; he couldn't possibly share them with the other juniors in the Post Room, who all seemed to be bound up in boy-girl romances. Deirdre, for instance, was going out with Stuart in Documentation. Stuart was a good-looking lad, Timmy thought, and he envied Deirdre the power she had over him — all she had to do was giggle and show her legs and Stuart would have done anything for her. If only he could have a Stuart of his own. Or a Roger, like the one in the New Business department. Now Roger was the sort of arrogant jack-the-lad type that frightened Timmy but also fascinated him. Roger possessed a jaunty, uncomplicated approach to life. He always had an easy smile and a complimentary word for the ladies, who adored him (as soon as these women were out of the room Roger would speculate loudly about the shape and size of their breasts and his chances of gaining access to them. Timmy felt privileged to be amongst the men when they talked lewdly amongst themselves, it was an acknowledgement of his new adulthood, even though he wished he was the object of their lust). Roger's arrogant walk exuded masculine confidence that Timmy admired and desired. But there was another side to Roger, a violent side which didn't show itself at work. Timmy had heard that Roger liked to go out drinking and getting into fights — mainly over girls. He was everything that Timmy wasn't — self-assured, good looking, powerful, and Timmy would often bring Roger into centre stage during his fantasy times. In these daydreams Roger would be fighting wildly to save Timmy from some injustice, and afterwards Timmy would fall helplessly into his arms and allow Roger to indulge his every (usually extremely filthy) whim.

Timmy was frustrated by all this; sex pressed upon him like a great weight and yet he could find no outlet for his secret longings. There were so many men in the world, and they all appeared to have women or want women. Nobody seemed to feel as he did and instinctively he knew he had to keep his desires well hidden. For someone so young and naive in other respects, he had become a master of emotional subterfuge. On the surface he was just a likeable kid, cheerful and chirpy, with the sort of vulnerability that made people feel protective toward him. Underneath, though, he had created a rich, homoerotic fantasy life that sustained him through his lonely nights.

This image of susceptibility which Timmy projected brought rewards: he played on his slight build and wispy, childish hair. He often found that the men in the office would put a fatherly arm around his shoulder or stand a little closer than they would to other adults. It was a strange mixture of a paternal desire to protect and a less easily identified desire to touch. Timmy never discouraged this warmth, but he wondered what these men would do if they knew what was going on in his mind.

Then one day he was sent to retrieve a document from the Archive cellar, a dingy place where all the out-dated records were stored. It was a cobwebby place, lit by a single bulb casting eerie shadows; hardly anyone ever came down here. He searched the shelves diligently, trying to find the papers he had been sent for, when he realised that someone else was in the cellar. It was Peter, from the Cashiers department, only a couple of years older than himself, but already moved on from the Post Room and making his way up the Baily and Hinds career structure. Timmy had sat with Peter a couple of times in the canteen and found him to be an easy lad to get to know. Peter's girlfriend was Louise in filing, and the two of them were already talking of marriage.

After a bit of brief conversation in which it was revealed that Timmy didn't like the cellar very much because it was so creepy, Peter started making ghostly noises, and pretending to be a monster. He switched off the light, and to Timmy's astonishment grabbed him round the waist and pulled him up close.

Timmy was so taken aback by this sudden bout of physical contact that he began to struggle, only to find himself pulled even closer as the grip tightened. He liked the feeling of these arms squeezing him and he was excited by the warmth he could feel coming through Peter's clothes. He stopped struggling and waited with escalating excitement to see what would happen next.

"I am Dracula," Peter was saying, pretending to bite Timmy's neck. Timmy yelped with pretend fear, hoping that the game would continue, but no sooner did he feel Peter's mouth brush his neck, then suddenly his friend let go and disappeared into the darkness of the cellar. Timmy struggled to find the light and eventually switched it on. Peter had gone, obviously having found his way out in the dark, leaving Timmy with heart beating furiously and with an embarrassingly sweaty face. It was the most exciting thing that had ever happened to him and he was utterly bewildered by it.

The next day, after a restless night imagining what might have happened if Peter had not made such a sudden exit, he saw the newly discovered object of his affection in the canteen. Peter said hello, just as he always did, and then went to sit at a table with Louise.

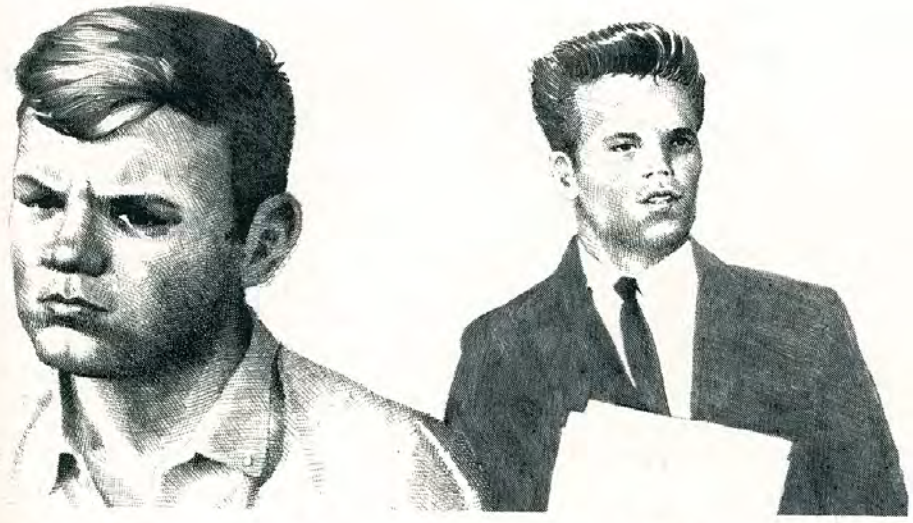
Timmy was confused, but he had to accept that the incident in the cellar hadn't meant to Peter quite what it had meant to him. And yet the next time he was sent to the Archive, Peter arrived again. Once more he switched out the light and grabbed Timmy round the waist, this time holding him close without saying anything, and without doing very much either. Was it supposed to be "wrestling", thought Timmy feeling Peter rubbing himself provocatively against him, all the time pressing closer, and wondering what might happen next. Was it really only horseplay, or was Peter trying to tell him something?

Timmy was far too frightened of the consequences to take any initiatives. He longed to make a grab at Peter to see what would happen, but he feared to do it in case he was misconstruing the whole thing. Maybe it was normal for young men to rub their crotches together in dark cellars on the pretext of "messing about". But nothing much happened beyond that and Peter eventually let Timmy go, and left the place without a word.

Over the next few weeks life at Baily and Hinds went on very much as usual. Timmy paid more visits to the Archive cellar than was absolutely necessary, making sure he passed the Cashiers department on the way and waving to Peter, who sometimes followed and sometimes didn't. The game of switching out the light and skylarking around continued, but with little apparent purpose. Eventually Timmy let go of the idea that anything else was going to happen, and simply enjoyed the incidents for what they were.

It was one lunch time during the summer that Peter joined Timmy at his table in the canteen. "Aren't you sitting with Louise today?" Timmy asked, looking at Peter's girlfriend at another table.

"I've finished with her," said Peter. "I'm fed up with women."



to bed

A short story by Terry Sanderson

Timmy expressed his sorrow at the breakup, giving no indication of his secret joy, and they talked for a while about other things. Eventually Peter suggested that if he wasn't doing anything at the weekend, perhaps Timmy would fancy going to the seaside with him, just the two of them. Peter's mum owned a caravan and she had said they could stay overnight in it so long as they didn't do any damage.

There was no suggestiveness in the proposal, no hint that it would be anyting other than two pals going out for the weekend, but Timmy felt his heart turn a somersault all the same.

He was walking on air for the next three days, anticipating a thousand combinations of what might happen, how it might all develop. Would Peter want to "wrestle" in the caravan? Did he have it in mind to take things that crucial step further? He hadn't given any indication, but then, he wouldn't, would he — not at work.

They took a coach to the seaside on the Saturday morning. It was sunny, and their conversation was its usual easy self. They reached the beach-side caravan park, and unpacked their things. Timmy was excited by the freedom they had; he had never been away from home overnight like this before. Peter and he could do whatever they wanted, for as long as they wanted. Timmy was staggered by the possibilities.

They spent the day walking on the beach, talking about work about the people they liked and disliked, they played football for a while (although Timmy hated ball games, he had a go simply so that Peter wouldn't be annoyed with him). However, he was so inept with the ball that they gave it up after a few minutes. He was similarly pathetic with the table tennis, which Peter enjoyed and was good at. He tried to enjoy these outdoor pursuits because he wanted so much to impress Peter. Peter was not impressed.

It began to get dark and they went to the local shop to buy some food. Now they would have to retire to the caravan and spend the evening together, all cosy and warm. They had beans on toast for supper, and Timmy couldn't wait to close the curtains so that whatever was going to happen could happen.

"Do you want to play cards?" asked Peter. Timmy wanted to go to bed — even though it was only eight o'clock. "I've brought some beer," said Peter and produced several bottles of pale ale.

So they played cards and drank beer, and Peter became more silly and talkative as he got tipsy. Timmy had no idea how he was going to let Peter know how he felt. Perhaps he should just get ready for bed, and that would make his friend more interested.

He changed into his pyjamas and sat beside Peter, who was now quite drunk and loud. Nothing happened.

Finally at ten o'clock Timmy pulled down the ingenious foldaway bed he was to sleep on. He put on the blankets and sheets and climbed in. "God, it's hot in here," he said after a while, and proceeded to throw off his pyjamas. By this time Peter was undressing, too, and when he was down to his underpants he fell on to Timmy's bed in a drunken stupor and appeared to go to sleep. Timmy lifted the sheets and pulled them over Peter so that they were in bed together. Peter made no move and seemed to be snoring slightly. Turning out the light, Timmy lay back and tried to go to sleep himself. But the proximity of the object of his affections made sleep impossible. Under the sheets he could feel the heat coming from Peter's naked body and wanted desperately to reach out and touch it, just to run his hand up and down that broad back, even a little cuddle would do. But he knew that he had no permission to do such things, and he feared more than anything the consequences of his having misjudged the situation.

After what seemed an age, Peter stirred slightly and turned over. His leg swung easily over Timmy's thigh, and an arm fell over his shoulder. At last! thought Timmy. But Peter lay still, and appeared to be asleep once more. Surely this was a signal? Or was the action a simple unconscious movement of which Peter was unaware? Timmy daren't move in case he broke the spell and caused Peter to end the embrace. His back was aching under the strain of keeping still; he had pins and needles in his arm and cramp in his leg. Yet he knew if he moved, this promising tableau would be disturbed.

Peter was no longer snoring. Surely he knew that his leg was resting on Timmy's lower tigh. But having staked such a claim why didn't he go further? Timmy could stand it no longer and decided that now was the time to make his move. He ran his free hand down his side and towards Peter's crotch. Soon it would be in contact with the part he desired most.

Asleep or not, Peter firmly took hold of Timmy's wrist and stopped the exploration before contact could be established. He removed the hand from the vital area and returned it to where it had started. He had rejected the overture. Timmy felt like sobbing with frustration. He couldn't take any more.

And yet he didn't move. All night he lay awake, grotesquely uncomfortable, waiting with fading hope for another development. There were none. And when dawn broke he got up and made some coffee, feeling angry and disappointed, but with no way of expressing it. Peter slept until nine, apparently totally unaware of the drama that had been played out in that bed all night.

The Sunday was spent fitfully. Peter did not mention the fact that they had slept in the same bed, or whether he remembered anything about Timmy trying to touch him "down there". He gave no indication that he was aware that he'd slung his leg and arm so casually over Timmy.

When they got back to work, Peter simply carried on as usual. But Timmy still thought of him as his "special friend" and continued to harbour dreams that one day their friendship would bring them closer together.

That comforting delusion fell into ruins one day, though, when he and Dierdre were sorting the post together and she casually said: "Have you heard about Peter and Louise? They're getting married next week." Then adding conspiratorially: "She's expecting, so they've got to."

He felt as if a sword had been stuck through his guts, and yet you would never have known it, for he was now an expert at non-reaction.

He had to wait until he got to the toilet before he could have a little silent weep. Later at home in his bedroom he could acknowledge fully the hurt and disappointment that he felt; he played mournful records and wallowed in self-pity. The over-ripe reaction was strangely pleasant, he felt like Joan Crawford in one of those melodramatic films they showed on Sunday afternoon telly.

Several years later, when he had met other men who felt as he did, Timmy was to discover that almost all of them had been through the same kind of initiation rite. Most of his gay friends had started off by having crushes on straight men, and most had suffered the same let-down as he. "Dreadful", said David, who was to be Timmy's closest friend all those years later. "They'll lead you on and dump you when it suits them," he said. "Give straight men a wide berth when it comes to romance."

Timmy's friend David always talked sense, and from that day to this, Timmy has resisted the temptation to fall in love with men who love women.

showbiz Dafydd Jenkins

Elsbeth Ballantyne as Warder Meg

CELL BLOCK H LATEST

Latest news on the stage version of television's *Prisoner Cell Block H*, which opens at London's Wimbledon Theatre on September 21 for 10 days before setting off on a national tour, is that Meg (Elspeth Ballantyne) and Erica (Patsy King) are to head the cast. It is hoped that before long other cast members will be announced. The tour so far takes in the Wimbledon Theatre, 21-30 September, October 2 Theatre Royal Hanley, October 9 Theatre Royal Hanley, October 16 Empire Sunderland, 23 October Empire Liverpool, 30 October Palace Theatre Manchester, November 6 Theatre Royal Lincoln, November 13 Congress Theatre Eastbourne, November 20 Dominion Theatre London, November 27 Kings Theatre Southsea, December 4 Hippodrome Theatre Bristol and finally, December 11 Alexandra Theatre birmingham. All dates except Wimbledon are for one week runs.

CODE FOR WOLSEY

Breaking the Code, Hugh Whitemore's brilliant play, based on the life and homosexuality of Alan Turing, the gay man who more than anyone brought World War Two to an early close when he managed to break the Enigma code that Germany was using to send signals. Don't miss it. It opens at the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich on November 8 and runs until November 25.

MILLIE WOWS 'EM

It's some time since I have seen the irrepressible Millie, so I went along to London's "City Apprentice" in Kings Cross to catch his *New Faeces Show*, an amateur night. My, how this artiste has come on. When I first saw this act some 2 years ago there were some rough edges but now we have an extremely polished and highly entertaining artiste who must rank among the best. His handling of an audience, his attack and verve are nothing short of superb. A brilliant performer and one who deserves more exposure.

The show, *New Faeces* is a collection of amateur and semi-pro acts that proliferate around the pubs of London, but Millie brings more than a touch of originality and makes Thursdays a must. He has collected some very interesting acts around him. Not least is Fedora, who in time could be a worthy successor to the inimitable Rose Marie. And I keep hearing great things about a female vocalist Tanya, who unfortunately was not appearing the night I went. Still, with an act like Millie and the collection of acts that appear, I shall be making Thursdays at The City one of my regular haunts.

DANNY BOY

Top stripper Danny Boy, currently wowing them at Madam JoJo's nightery, has had to cancell shows due to a nasty attack of shingles. Hopefully he will have recovered by the time that this column appears.

LORRIE LEE FOR SKY TV

The lovely Lorrie Lee, one of the great drag acts, is to appear on Jamieson soon, so keep your eyes open for it. Mr Lee regrettably doesn't appear on the gay circuits all that often; a great pity as he is one of the best around.

REVIVAL TIME

The national tour of *Evita* gets underway again, and once again Jaqci Scott is playing Eva Peron with Michael Bauer playing Peron. Also now touring is the Queens Theatre Hornchurch production of *Hair*.

HOPE FOR THE WEST END

After wowing the Edinburgh Festical with her great new show, Hope Augustus is to bring the show into London's West End. She will open at London's Arts Theatre later this year.

WHO'S AN OBNOXIOUS PRIME MINISTER, THEN?

Stripper Geordie had to cut short a recent holiday in Malta after being invited to a party and chatting to a guy. The guy had a rather forceful manner and the conversation ended when Geordie told him that he was an obnoxious old bastard. It turned out that the guy was the Prime Minister of Malta.

SHELLY WINTERS FOR LONDON

The fabulous Shelly Winters is to open in London next year in a new musical called *Earthquake*. This is, I believe, Ms Winters' first London appearance.

JOHN SPRINGS BACK

Ex-The Glitter Band, John Springsgate gave up performing a year ago after opening his own recording studio. But a visit to a venue one recent Saturday made up his mind for him to return to the boards. This superb and very cute vocalist is planning out a tour. Good to see you back, John.

John Springate

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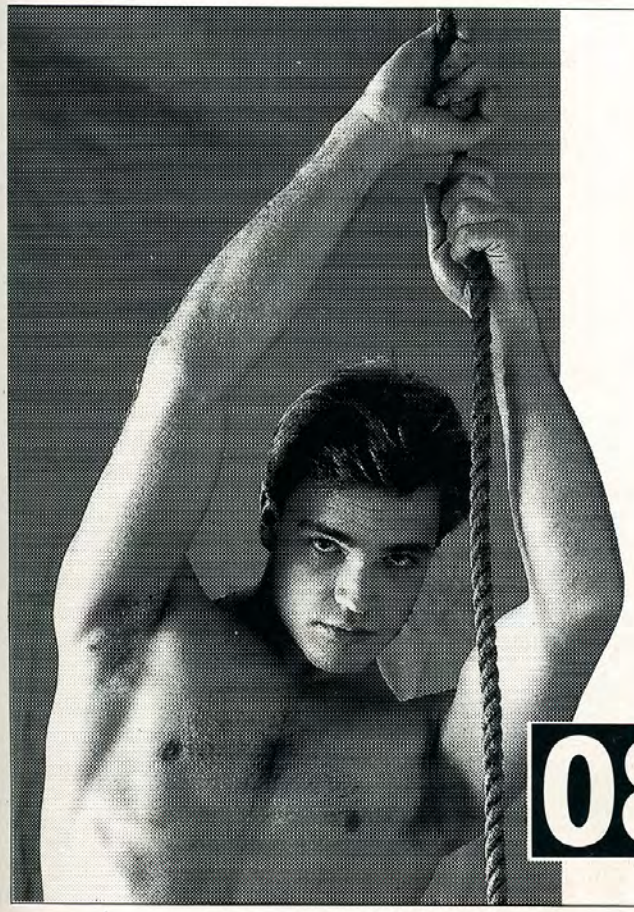

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"He stood back and looped his fingers down inside the waistband of his jeans ..."

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Chain stores bring the country to the High Street for Autumn 1989

Rural Charms

As you may have noticed, the clothing trade does not wait for falling leaves and temperatures before filling the shelves with Autumn's wares. In a world where Christmas begins in October it is as difficult to buy a decent pair of shorts in August as it is to find borage for one's Pimms Cup in June.

The relentless speeding-up of modern life is often at odds with the fashion statements currently in vogue. The frenetic pace of the shop-floor does not quite match the images of cool classicism and unhurried ruralism that have dominated British design for the last couple of years. Yet these are themes that look like ruling the High Street for the next few months at least.

Marks & Spencer and **Next** are two of the leading names in retail fashion, commanding a serious lead in sales of both mens- and womenswear. The latter being a little more arriviste than the former, **Next** picks up the younger end of the market whilst good old **Marks** sets its sights on a broader age range.

What both outlets have in common is the aim to produce easily marketable product of good quality at reasonable prices. Despite recent troubles within the **Next** empire caused by over-diversification (result: head-chop for George Davis), both stores look set to hold their position on the High Street as arbiters of practical and dependable styling.

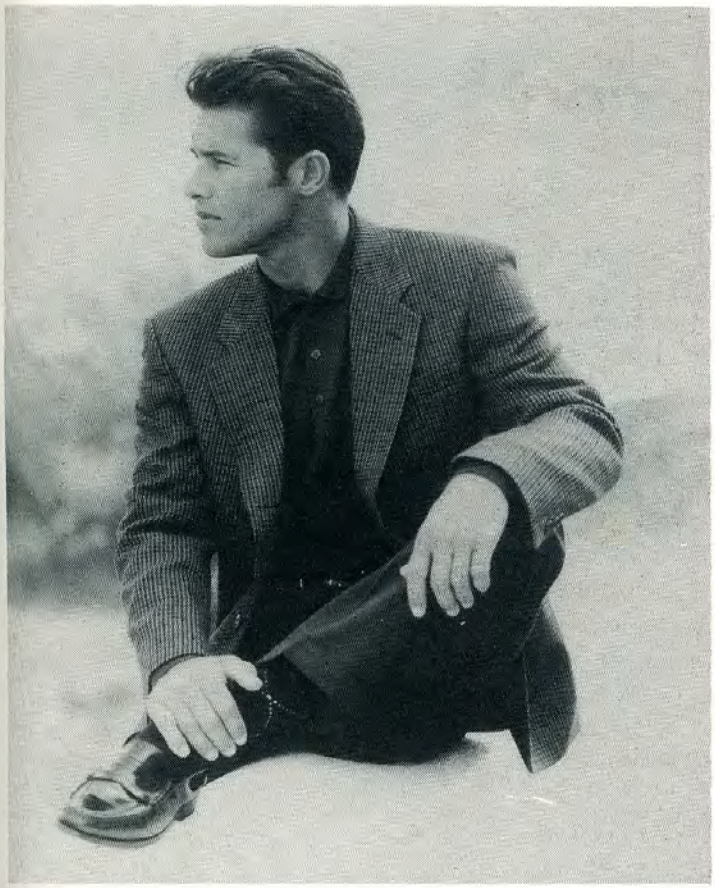
Autumn this year sees no real surprises in mass market menswear. The play-safe attitude in high fashion has finally filtered down to the big retailers who are sticking to old-time favourites. Innovation in terms of cut and style have been turned down in favour of boldness in accessories and colour.

For **Marks & Spencer** this translates as adding 50s flourishes and florals in pink and purple to their range of ties, and lilac to their choice of shirting shades. Jackets carry a more extravagant check, matching with a merino or botany sweater. Suits, though well tailored, remain stubbornly grey and navy in defiance of the new colour-vision of Italian and Spanish designers.

Next Menswear (surely the origins of the Invasion of the Double-Breasted Office Boy) strike back with a new range of made-to-measure three piece suits for both work and play, as well as a slightly bolder collection of officewear. Ties are brighter, checks are bigger and the look more comfortable.

Classic pure new wool is joined by donegal tweeds, with mismatching waistcoats for an individual effect in an otherwise run of the mill office environment this season. The sense of adventure has been relegated to the outdoors, where **Marks** at least offer aubergine and blueberry spiced up with cinnamon, saffron and sage in their choice of colourway.

The Country Gentleman look is hotting up at last with waxed cotton jackets in navy, brown and wine as well as blouson and flying jackets in leather and suede. **Next** are even more rugged with quilted



mountain and fringed Navaho jackets, western denims and whole cord shirts to go with their fringed suede boots, brogues and loafers.

Knitwear sales are increasing every year, and the market is diversifying to cope with the demand. **Next** may have scored first strike with their Aztec handknits, but **M&S** have not sat on their laurels, guarding their reputation.

This season's collection of woollens is better than ever. You can't go wrong price- or style-wise. Choose from arans, fair isles, shetlands and guernsey sweaters, matched with more formal cavalry twills and tweeds in jackets and trousers. The atmosphere isn't so much rural as country town.

Things may not be moving so fast on the High Street these days but at least there is a choice in menswear that didn't exist a few years ago. The secret is to use the clothes rather than letting them use you.

What these two outlets offer is value for money, good quality classics for Autumn. The best thing you can do is stamp your individuality all over them. Let's go!

Fringed suede jacket £150
Brushed jacquard cotton shirt £24.99
Stonewashed sateen jeans £26.99
Hand knit wool sweater £59.99
Fringed suede boot £35.99
at Next For Men

Stripe suit £175
Double breasted trench coat £120
Cotton polo shirt £19.99
Lambswool scarf £7.99
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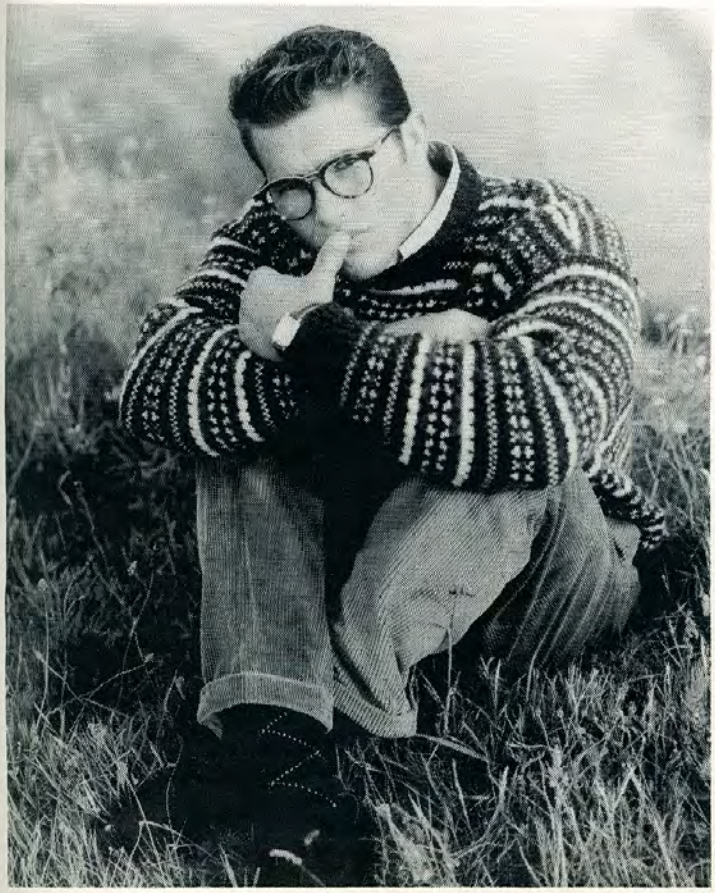
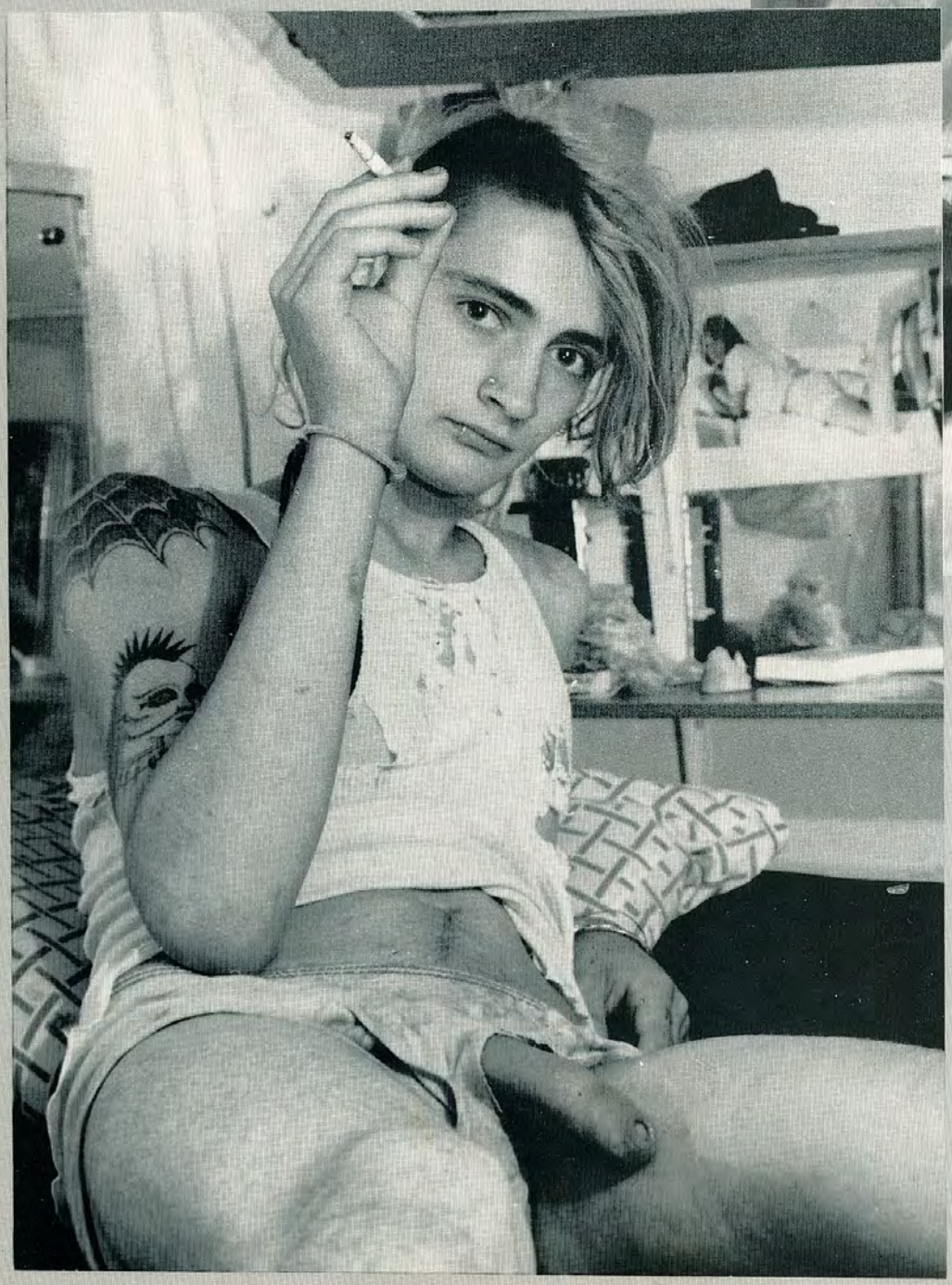
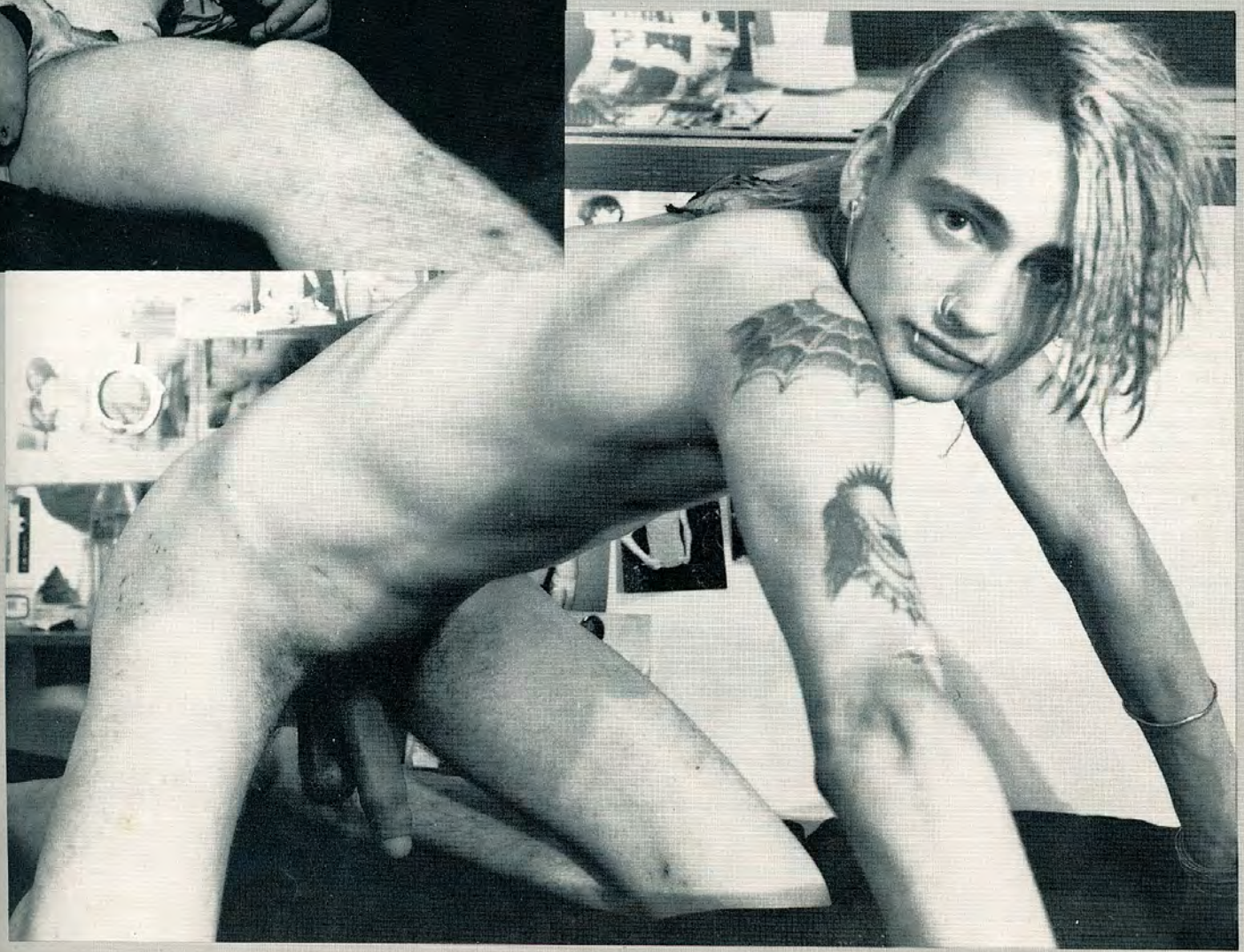


Photos: Ron Hunter





What am I?

Dear Ray,
When I was a child my name was Margaret and I was a real tomboy. In my teens and early twenties I enjoyed a number of lesbian relationships in which I always took the active "male" role. I always felt I was a man in female physical clothing. Seven years ago, at 28, I took the decision to live henceforth as Mark. Hormones, mastectomy (breast removal), hysterectomy (womb removal) and a bit of plastic surgery tinkering in my "nether regions" helped me to become the male I knew myself to be. I've never regretted the change. I know I can never father a child but I'm very happily "married" to a decidedly heterosexual woman. We have a more than adequate sex life.

But there are times when I still wonder what I am. Am I now to be considered as heterosexual as my "wife" or is my relationship with my wife still of a lesbian nature even though she sees it as hetero?

Mark (Tunisia)

Dear Mark,
It is entirely a matter of semantics. Genetically the cells of your body will always carry the two "X" chromosomes which will identify you as being female regardless of your hormones, your surgery or your psychological commitment to masculinity. From a scientific point of view you remain as a woman in a relationship with another woman.

However, if you have totally abandoned any acknowledgement of your former female status, and if you are so convinced of your masculinity that psychologically you are irretrievably male, then no useful purpose can be achieved by pursuing the philosophical pros and cons of homo- v. heterosexuality.

It is what you feel yourself to be that is important. Life is far too short to interrupt a "leg over" due to mental wrestling on such nuances of language. What are you? You are apparently a person who is "very happily married" — What more do you want?

the

Worried Well

Dear Ray,
When I was 17 to about 19, which was ten years ago, I was a male prostitute and often allowed myself to be fucked. I did my fair share of blow jobs as well. Then, for about five years I settled down with the same guy and we lived very happily together until we parted about five years ago. I know I was loyal to him throughout that time and I have sufficient faith in him to believe that he was equally loyal to me.

When we separated I trained as a masseur and have been in business ever since. Of course, five years ago we already knew about Aids and though I often indulge in mutual masturbation with my clients, anal and oral sex have been strictly taboo. It is thus about five years since I had any form of anal sex and for the five year period before that it was with only one regular partner who was then, and still is, apparently perfectly fit.

But, whenever I massage a new client I can't help worrying as to whether he is HIV positive and whether I am at risk. I also worry about the extent of my anal involvement years ago. Do you think I need to go for an HIV test?

Sam (Newcastle)

Dear Sam,
It is true that some folk who were infected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus as long as ten years ago are only now beginning to develop symptoms and, of course, you have no absolute guarantee that your long term partner was entirely true to you or even that he wasn't infected before you met. However, HIV infection was far less prevalent ten years ago than it is now and the statistical chances of your having been infected at that time were much lower than if you were "on the game" today. Add to that the fact that you are still completely well after this long period and haven't indulged in anal sex (far more dangerous than oral sex) for some five years and I would suggest that you are worrying unduly. Even if you were to prove positive on testing there is still nothing very much you could do about it but the anxiety would increase enormously. Stick to your present safe policy with your clients and I am very confident that you need have nothing to worry about.

Suntan Blues

Dear Ray,
In this gorgeous summer we're having I've been doing a lot of "all over" tanning on various nude beaches around our coasts. On two or three occasions my cock has become really sunburnt and has subsequently peeled just like any other part of my body.

I wonder whether there is anything particularly dangerous about this and whether you have any special advice to give.

Clive (South Coast)

Dear Clive,
I bet that by the time my readers see this the weather will have broken and it'll be pissing down with rain — then some bright spark will suggest I should be advising on the hazards of "water sports".

When you enjoy nude sunbathing in hot sun then, for starters, don't forget to include your cock in the general sloshing on of suntan cream/oil. A higher UV factor is preferable for your genitals because the skin is pretty sensitive down there. It is also important to use "after sun" skin conditioners, especially if you are burnt, to preserve the skin as far as possible. Severe burning destroys the upper layers of skin and they peel off, leaving particularly fragile and sensitive new skin underneath. Try to keep the old skin on for as long as you can to give the new skin below as long as possible to mature. Certainly don't go peeling off the old skin in strips because here and there it will adhere to the new skin below and cause damage and abrasions.

A cock which is thinly covered by brand new skin is vulnerable to friction abrasions during masturbation and intercourse and these, in their turn, can prove to be portals of entry for infections. So, treat your dick with respect both during the tanning process and subsequently in the after care period. In particular you would be well advised to heed even more strongly the general warning not to go poking it into "dark, damp caverns" without "a mac on".

him

doc

Dr Ray Hamble

Ray Hamble cannot arrange private consultations but is always happy to send readers a personal reply provided that a stamped/addressed envelope is enclosed.

Fear of Farting

Dear Ray,
I know that some diseases are said to be "airborne infections", like measles and mumps and chickenpox.

My boy friend is a hell of a farter. I love him very much but when his farts echo round the room I rush to my pocket for my hanky. Talk about smell . . . Phew — — !!!!

My question is this: Are there any diseases which can be spread by inhaling fart gas and, if so, what precautions do I take to prevent them?

Richard (Morecambe)

Dear Richard,

I don't envy you in your methane gas-filled home and presume you carefully avoid naked lights for fear of an explosion! What a pity you can't link your boyfriend to the central heating boiler!

Seriously, I can reassure you that fart gas may smell pretty putrid but it certainly isn't infectious. You can relax completely on that score. In olden times the smell of decay was genuinely thought to be a source of plague and pestilence but with the discovery of bacteria, which produce the gas but aren't wafted around by it, it was soon realised that the gas itself is harmless.

There are, of course, many guys who are really turned on by the smell of farting, and have you ever noticed that the smell of your own fart is never half as bad as the smell of the fart of the guy next to you?

Simple Question — Simple Answer

Dear Ray,
I'm new to the gay scene. I've read your column in several back numbers of HIM at my boyfriend's flat. All the problems seem to be so complicated and sophisticated that I'm almost afraid to take up your time with my little question.

When I'm hot, as in hot weather or after I've been running, my balls hang low with always the left one hanging lower than the right. When I'm cold, as in after swimming in the river, or when I'm just about to cum during a wank or having sex with my boyfriend, my balls get drawn right up high and almost disappear somewhere into my groin. Why does this happen and can you reassure me that it is quite normal?

Alisdair (Bristol)

Dear Alisdair,

I wish I had more simple questions to answer. I would hate to think that any reader was afraid that I would "pooh pooh" anything as being too simple. This is a column for everybody, whether they be swimming in the shallow or the deep end of the gay pool.

As a relic of prehistoric times, when all life forms existed in the cold seas of the Earth, our testicles will only produce sperm when they are cooler than the rest of our body. That's why they hang low, and far away, from our hot bodies and snuggle up close to us when they get a bit cold. They also rise up when orgasm is imminent because, during intercourse, that is the time when our pelvis is thrusting hard against our partner. They are drawn up to keep them out of the way and to protect them against accidentally getting squashed and bruised.

You are astute to notice that the left ball usually hangs a little lower than the right. This is because we are not completely symetrical. One side of our body tends to be slightly dominant over the other — that's why we are either right or left handed and one side of our brain is usually slightly bigger than the other. It just so happens that our left testicle usually hangs lower and is slightly larger than the right — but some people will notice that they are the other way around. It doesn't matter a damn!

Venereal Disease

Dear Ray,
Three days ago I fucked a stranger. Yesterday I had a terrible burning sensation in my prick whenever I went for a piss and today I've got a whiteish discharge oozing our of the tip. I'm terrified I might have caught Aids. What should I do?

Tony (London)

Dear Tony,

Fortunately you were sensible enough to enclose a stamped/addressed envelope for a personal reply and I was able to advise you to attend your local Genito-Urinary Medicine Clinic (VD Clinic) straight away.

Nowadays we are all so hyped up with Aids and Hepatitis and Herpes that a lot of people are forgetting that the old traditional venereal diseases haven't gone away. You describe the typical train of events associated with Gonorrhoea or, possibly, Non-Specific Urethritis (NSU). Early treatment of such conditions is almost invariably 100% effective and you should never hesitate to go along to the clinic where you can be guaranteed confidential and sympathetic attention.

It is far too early to be able to tell whether you might also have acquired HIV (Aids) infection. It might be three months or even longer before the blood test for antibodies will show up as a positive result. If you are concerned on that score there is nothing for it but to resign yourself to the waiting game.

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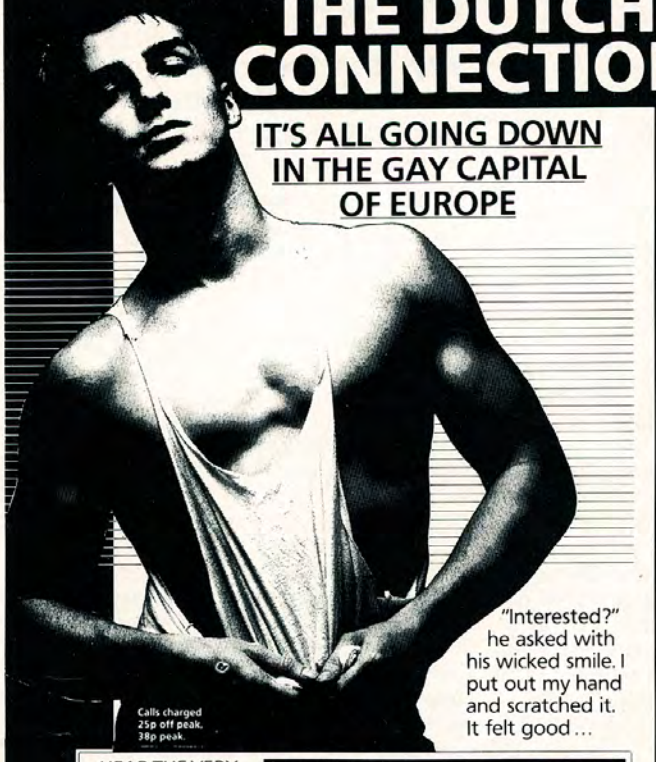

"Interested?" he asked with his wicked smile. I put out my hand and scratched it. It felt good...

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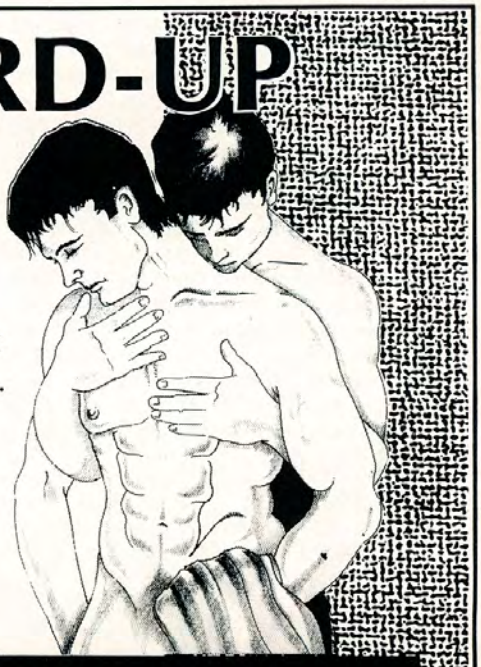

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books
by Neil McKenna

HIM TOP TEN
Fiction

1. ★ **THE SWIMMING POOL LIBRARY**
Alan Hollinghurst (Penguin £4.99)
At last in paperback! Probably the best ever novel about gay life in Britain. Profound and philosophical as well as very funny and erotic, this novel is essential reading.

2. ★ **BLUE HEAVEN**
Joe Keenan (Black Swan £4.99)
Wickedly funny novel about naked human greed set in New York and featuring a dazzling cast of characters from across the Big Apple's social spectrum. Highly recommended.

3. ★ **EQUAL AFFECTIONS**
David Leavitt (Viking £11.95)
A beautiful and superbly written saga of contemporary American family life from perhaps the best writer in America.

4. ★ **BILLY'S BROTHER**
Kenneth Martin (GMP £4.95)
Murder thriller set in the world of PWAs in San Francisco. Brilliantly plotted and tightly written, **Billy's Brother** keeps you on the edge of your seat till the bitter end.

5. **RED ECLIPSE**
Jeremy Reed (Jonathan Cape £11.95)
Strange hallucinatory second novel from poet Jeremy Reed. Centred around the imaginary notebooks of Jeanne Duval — the Creole mistress of the French poet Baudelaire famous for his *Flowers of Evil* poems, **Red Eclipse** creates a bizarre yet tantalising fictional world in which the events of the novel unfold.

Non-Fiction

1. ★ **FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA**
Ian Gibson (Faber and Faber £17.50)
Definitive biography of the celebrated gay Spanish playwright and poet who was murdered by fascists in the Spanish Civil War. Well worth the money.

2. **TAKING LIBERTIES: AIDS AND CULTURAL POLITICS ed. Erica Carter and Simon Watney (Serpents Tail £8.95)**
Collection of essays about the politics of Aids and the interactions of the epidemic with the media, the law and the medical profession.

3. **LIVING IN SIN**
John Shelby Spong (Harper and Row £6.95)
Radical reassessment of sexual morality in relationship to Christianity by an American bishop — with an excellent chapter on homosexuality. Why can't all Christians be like this?

4. ★ **COMING ON STRONG: GAY POLITICS AND CULTURE ed. Simon Shepherd and Mick Wallis (Serpents Tail £9.95)**
Interesting collection of essays on where we are and where we are ging culturally and politically — but largely irrelevant to most gay men.

5. **THE OSCAR WILDE FILE**
Jonathan Goodman (WH Allen £5.99)
A scrapbook of newspaper clippings and other contemporary accounts of the celbrated trials of Oscar Wilde. Fascinating.

Compiled by Gay's The Word Bookshop
★ Available from Gay Times Book Service

From Das Männerfotobuch

PROFILE: MARK BUNYAN

The publication of Mark Bunyan's first novel *Yesterday's Blonde* coincides with his 40th birthday which is why Mark says "Life begins with Yesterday's Blonde". An engaging and hilarious comic fantasy, *Yesterday's Blonde* rewrites recent history and asks 'What if . . .' Marilyn Monroe had survived her overdose? If James Dean hadn't been killed in a car smash? This alternative version of the history of Jimmy and Marilyn is a comic masterpiece.

Mark Bunyan was born in Bristol. He began his career as a song lyricist and has been compared variously with Tom Leherer, Victoria Wood, Fred Astaire and the Beatles! Critic Ned Sherrin has described him as "an original voice in the wilderness". Mark has written two successful musicals with gay themes — *Just Good Friends* and *Homes and Gardens* and was the author of the wickedly funny play *Dinner* premiered earlier this year.

With the publication of *Yesterday's Blonde*, it is to be hoped that the wit and panache of Mark Bunyan will become available to a wider audience. Although he is currently working on a play, new converts should not have to wait too long for his second novel — a gay whodunnit.
YESTERDAY'S BLONDE — Mark Bunyan
(Brazen Books £4.95)

BOOKMARKS

THE ALYSON ALMANAC (Alyson £4.95) ★Yet another winner from American publishers Alyson. **The Alyson Almanac** is a reference book with a difference. Information on lesbian and gay history, safer sex, holidays and gay slang rubs shoulders with the voting records of American congressmen and senators on gay issues. Primarily designed for Americans, **The Alyson Almanac** has lots of appeal for British gay men.

DAS MANNERFOTOBUCH The Male Photography Omnibus (VV £19.95) ★
The very best of European male photography — over 150 photographs by nineteen leading exponents of the art. Excellent!

LUCKY IN LOVE Don Sakers (Alyson £4.95) ★
The blurb on the back of this novel says it all: "When his best friend Keith moved away, there was a big hole in Frank's life . . ." Get the picture? The scene is set for a predictably classic American high school gay love story played out in the basketball team when team star Purnell attempts to fill Keith's big hole on a visit to hospital. Trashy but fun.

HIM BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE STORY OF A LIFE Claude Hartland (Brazen Books £4.95)
Early American gay history is shrouded in mystery — even more so than the gay history of Britain. What was it like, for example, to live as a gay man in the midwest of America in the late nineteenth century? Certainly very unlike the Missouri engagingly concocted in the famous Judy Garland musical *Meet Me In St Louis* if Clause Hartland's account of life in Missouri and St Louis is to be believed.

Claude Hartland was born in 1871 on a farm outside St Louis. At the age of 31 he decided to write his autobiography which is a unique account of the life of a gay man in Victorian America. *The Story of a Life* is the story of one man's gay life — his hopes, his fears, his experiences and love affairs. It is a remarkably frank account — even by today's standards — of a man's sexuality and at times makes harrowing reading.

Hartland's despair and self-loathing are graphically recounted as is his dignity in struggling to come to terms with a sexuality he finds intolerable. From a sociological point of view, the book is fascinating: because the concept of homosexuality was virtually unknown in late nineteenth century Missouri, men were permitted a degree of emotional lassitude in their behaviour with other men which would most certainly not be tolerated today. It was considered acceptable for men to kiss each other in public and display affection — even to share a bed for a night which was the opportunity for many of Hartland's sexual encounters.

The Story of a Life paints a fascinating picture of what it was like to be gay in the Victorian midwest. There are moments when Hartland's experiences seem incomprehensible to the modern reader as well as moments when he describes emotions and feelings which ring uncanny bells.

GAY TIMES BOOK SERVICE

FICTION

The Holy Innocents
Gilbert Adair £3.99
A cunningly contrived erotic novel about the triangular love affair between teenaged French twins and an American student.

Brandy Wine
John Ahearn £7.95
Raped and thrown off the covered wagon, the hero of this gay western has to pick up the pieces and start again.

The Sing-Along Tribe
Kent Ashford £3.95
Manila's call boys working to escape poverty.

Genocide
Tim Barruth £7.95
From the author of *Anywhere, Anywhere*, an anthology of stories which present nightmare visions of the future.

Boystown
Art Bosch £5.95
The lives of an extended gay family set against a background of Los Angeles' 'Boystown'.

In Transit
Brigid Brophy £4.95
Welcome reprint of a witty novel first published twenty years ago; a transsexual adventure with a heroine who may be a hero.

Sucking Sherbet Lemons
Michael Carson £3.99
Tender, touching and nicely comic about a Catholic teenager's torments growing up gay in Liverpool in the Fifites.

The Mysteries of Pittsburgh
Michael Chabon £3.50
A gangster's son falls in love with a stylish gay man and a difficult straight woman.

I Look Divine
Christopher Coe £3.50
Haunting novel about a young American obsessed by his own beauty, older men and rough trade.

Ernesto
Umberto Faba £3.99
A lyrically described relationship between a sixteen year old youth and an older man.

The Underbelly
Duncan Fallowell £4.50
When seventeen year old Derek Love erupts into a leafy North London suburb things will never be the same again.

The Family of Max Desir
Robert Ferro £2.95
Set between Rome and New York, a compelling novel about a gay man torn between his beloved father and the man he loves.

Despised and Rejected
AT Fitzroy £5.95
Persecution of conscientious objectors in which the main characters are a lesbian and a gay man.

Maurice
EM Forster £3.99
Forster's posthumously published novel about gay love at the turn-of-the-century.

The Boys on the Rock
John Fox £3.50
An engrossing account of a youth's first gay relationship.

The Movie Lover
Richard Friedel £5.95
Not since *Auntie Mame* has the saga of a poor little rich boy growing up been so delightfully told — and this time the gaity is explicit.

Kansas in August
Patrick Gale £2.99
New novel from the author of *The Aerodynamics of Pork* in which a brother and sister fall in love with the same man. Comic and touching.

Be Discreet
Paul Galle £6.95
A fast-paced adventure of ove, sex and power set in an escort service where the Madam is the judge.

The Miracle of the Rose
Jean Genet £4.99
New edition of homoerotic classic about life behind bars.

The Carnivorous Lamb
Augustin Gomez-Arcos
£4.95+70p p&p
Incestuous love between Spanish brothers.

Tweeds
Clayton R Graham £6.95
'How would I react if my lover got Aids?' asks Cory, the central character of this novel in which just such a situation arises.

Cody
Keith Hale £4.95
Adolescent first love shattered by an outrageously cruel world.

The Lion Warriors
Don Harrison £7.95
From the author of *The Spartan*, more high jinks in the ancient world.

The Swimming Pool Library
Alan Hollinghurst £4.99
Quite simply the best novel yet published about British gay life pre-Aids. Set mainly in the early Eighties, but moving back-and-forth in time, it is witty, wise, intelligent and erotic.

Mignon
Chris Hunt £5.95
Rollicking bodice-ripper set in Elizabethan England and concerned with the exploits of a gay French teenager and the likes of Christopher Marlowe.

Thornapple
Chris Hunt £6.95
From the author of gay bodice-rippers *Mignon* and *Street Lavender*, a tale of romance, murder and witchcraft set in the Thirteenth Century.

The Novice
Timothy Ireland £3.95
Twenty-three year old Don arrives in London lonely and inexperienced and looking for love.

Gods and Lovers
H Paul Jeffers £8.95
An historical novel set in Rome, Capri and Palestine about a youth kidnapped and forced into prostitution before finding happiness.

Shadows of Love: American Gay Fiction
Edited by Charles Jurrist £5.95
Absorbing collection of short stories from Stateside writers who are unknown here.

Power and Magic
Daniel Kane £4.95
Fantasy novel about the battle between good and evil. All proceeds go to the THT.

Blue Heaven
Joe Keenan £4.99
The Godfather meets *Dancer from the Dance* with hilarious results in ths uproariously funny novel set in *tres gai* New York.

Dead Heat
Willyce Kim £4.95
Sequel to *Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid*; an entertaining thriller which reintroduces lesbian private eye Dancer Dawkins.

Danny Hill
Francis King £3.95
A witty romp which purports to be the long-lost memoirs of Fanny Hill's half-brother.

Changing Pitches
Steve Kluger £5.95
All-American romance between hunky guys with a sporty background.

The Mask of Narcissus
Vincent Lardo £4.95
A double murder leads a newspaper columnist to investigate in NYs posh hotels and seediest hustler bars.

Family Dancing
David Leavitt £3.95
Highly-acclaimed short stories, many concerning gay men's relationships with their families.

The Lost Language of Cranes
David Leavitt £4.99
Deeply involving and beautifully written New York novel about a young man's relationship with his parents — particularly his gay father.

In the Purely Pagan Sense
John Lehmann £5.95
An absorbing and erotic autobiographical novel set mainly in Vienna in the early 1930s.

The Pious Dance
Klaus Mann £4.95
The misadventures of a well-heeled teenaged runaway in pre-Hitler Berlin.

Aubade
Kenneth Martin £4.95
New edition of a gay modern classic — written when the author was seventeen — about a teenager's first gay love affair.

Billy's Brother
Kenneth Martin £4.95
Chilling but compulsively readable thriller set in Aids-torn San Francisco.

Tales of the City
Armistead Maupin £3.99

More Tales of the City
Armistead Maupin £3.95

Further Tales of the City
Armistead Maupin £3.95

Babycakes
Armistead Maupin £4.95

Significant Others
Armistead Maupin £4.99
+£1.50p&p
Brilliantly funny, frequently touching to the point of tears sequence of superior soap opera novels about gay and straight lifestyles in San Francisco. A tonic!

Forty Ways to Sunday
Robert McCartney Moore £7.95
A warm and witty novel about gay men living 'the good life'.

The Object of My Affection
Stephen McCauley £4.50
New York set novel about a platonic love affair between a gay man and his straight female flatmate.

The Vanilla Kid
Daniel McVay £5.95
A wry and highly entertaining comic novel by the author of *Fetes* and *The Baggy-Kneed Camel*.

The Gold Diggers
Paul Monette £5.95+80p p&p
Hollywood based novel about American obsession with fame, fortune and living happily-ever-after.

All-American Boys
Frank Mosca £4.95
The story of a teenage love affair that should have been simple — but wasn't.

Chrome
George Nader £5.95
A classic of modern science fiction in which a Master and his student fall in love. But one of them is a robot — the question is: which?

Golden Boys
Michael Nava £9.95
+£1 p&p
A gripping thriller set within the gay world.

A Little Death
Michael Nava £4.95
A thriller in which the hero is a gay criminal lawyer.

The Boy Who Picked the Bullets Up
Charles Nelson £7.95
Controversial — but immensely powerful — novel set during the Vietnam War; a gay MASH.

A Room in Chelsea Square
Michael Nelson £3.95
Witty novel about an innocent youth's involvement with a wealthy older man.

Paradise Gardens
Donald S Olsen £7.95
Spanning ten years and locations as diverse as Oregon and Berlin, this novel explores the interwoven relationships of four extraordinary men.

A Sense of Touch
Christopher Osborn
£12.95+£1.50 p&p
Erotic but tender novel in which a concert pianist reflects back over his sexual experiences.

The Catholic
David Plante £3.50
Controversial and frequently highly erotic novel which explores religion and gay sexuality.

The Foreigner
David Plante £3.95
In the summer of 1959 a young American sets off to discover Europe and himself.

Franny: The Queen of Provincetown
John Preston £3.95
Enchanting novel about the life of an outrageous queen.

Deadly Lies
John Preston £3.95
Gay avenger Alex Kane combats a slur campaign led by a power-mad politician.

Lethal Silence
John Preston £3.95
Gay hunk Alex Kane righting wrongs again.

Secret Dangers
John Preston £3.95
Alex Kane battles with terrorists who attack gay tour groups.

Bloodstream
Joel Redon £7.95
Semi-fictionalized and moving account of a young person facing Aids.

In the Tent
David Rees £5.95
Sexuality and sexual identities are explored when four teenaged boys go on a camping trip.

The Milkman's On His Way
David Rees £3.95
Controversial and bestselling novel about a young surfer coming to terms with his gayness

Flux
David Rees £3.95
New short stories about aspects of gay love.

Watershed
David Rees £6.95
Set in the Fifties, this novel contrasts the coming to terms with their gayness of two cousins and their respective families.

The Wrong Apple
David Rees £7.95
A powerful novel about reactions and responses from friends after one man discovers he is HIV antibody positive.

Oranges and Lemons
Edited by David Rees & Peter Robins £3.95
These short stories from various writers present a wide exploration of gay experiences.

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David Rees £4.95
Set against the background of the Irish potato famine, this gripping historical novel revolves around the love between the squire and a young peasant.

Quince
David Rees £3.95
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The Retreat
Forrest Reid £4.95
Tom Barber is now thirteen and through his dreams embarks on the first uncertain steps along the pathway to adolescence.

A History of Shadows
Robert C Reinheart £4.95
Spanning forty years from the Depression to the Sixties, this is a gripping saga about the interwoven lives of four gay men.

The Best Man
Paul Reidinger £5.95
A man and a woman — best friends since adolescence — fall in love with the same man.

Crocodilia
Philip Ridley £4.95
Sparkling and highly original novel about an eighteen year old's obsession with a blue-haired punk who's mad about crocodiles.

In the Eyes of Mr Fury
Philip Ridley £4.99
Enthralling novel with an East End of London background in which incidents from the past haunt two young gay lovers.

Summer Shorts
Peter Robins £3.95
Witty and nostalgic short stories.

Survivors
Peter Robins £3.95
A touch of the Hermann Hesse about this fantasy about two princes searching the world for each other.

Touching Harry
Peter Robins £4.50
Comic and touching novel about growing up gay during the last years of World War II.

The Temple
Stephen Spender £4.99
Autobiographical novel about gay life in Weimar Germany.

Death Trick
Richard Stevenson £3.95
A thriller in which a gay activist is suspected of committing a sensational murder.

Two of Us
Leslie Stewart £9.95+£1.30 p&p
Teenagers in love in the novel based upon the controversial television film.

The Wings of the Phoenix
Florine de Veer £4.95
When Mark Madison falls for flawlessly handsome Blaise he doesn't realise what he's letting himself in for.

The Discus Throwers
Tom Wakefield £4.50
Often hilariously funny, frequently immensely moving novel about four very different people setting up home together.

Mates
Tom Wakefield £3.95
Highly-praised novel about an enduring relationship between two gay men who first meet when doing military service.

The Variety Artistes
Tom Wakefield £6.95
Though the central character is an elderly widow embarking on a new life, this novel — about the horrors of the family, as much as anything — has many resonances for gay readers.

A Boy's Own Story
Edmund White £3.99
International best-seller about an adolescent's handling of his gay experiences.

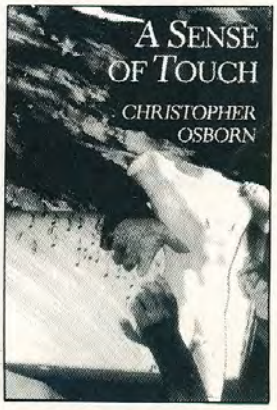
The Beautiful Room is Empty
Edmund White £3.95
In this sequel to *A Boy's Own Story*, the young hero moves to pre-Stonewall New York.

Seth
Roy Wood £7.95
Gay life in rural Georgia — rough and lusty!

Memoirs of Hadrian
Marguerite Yourcenar £4.95
Beautifully observed novel about the gay Roman emperor Hadrian and his beloved Antonous.

Middle Ground
Ursula Zilinsky £3.95
A fascinating novel, set in a Nazi concentration camp about the relationship between a young inmate and the commandant.

● BOOK OF THE MONTH



A Sense of Touch — Christopher Osborn (John Murray, £12.95+£1.50 p&p)
Even before British publication, American rights in Christopher Osborn's first novel *A Sense of Touch* had been snapped up for $50,000 and UK paperback rights had been sold for £20,000. Advance publicity described the book as a masterpiece and compared it to Alan Hillinghurst's bestselling *The Swimming Pool Library* — and though it is nowhere near as substantial a novel, *A Sense of Touch* is at once a serious literary novel and a distinctive piece of writing possessed of a strong erotic core.

Using as a framework the night Robert — the concert pianist central character — is to play Schumann's *Fantasy, A Sense of Touch* is a reflective novel about Robert's relationships and about his experiences. Absolutely central to the novel — and its hero's life — is casual sex and much of the narrative details his sexual experiences in the Observatory Gardens (a rambling open air late night cruising area located somewhere in North London). Osborn has described the attraction of cruising in public places: 'Firstly, the other person is anonymous therefore you can quite easily make him fit a fantasy of your own, and secondly the possibility of feeling personally rejected is removed by the anonymity of the situation.'

A Sense of Touch — by any standards — marks a distinguished debut and is a novel which should attract a wide readership.

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by stella

VIRGO — THE YEAR AHEAD

Be selfish this year — in the nicest possible way of course! You must consider your own needs and self expression rather than following your natural instinct to be of service to others. This year should see you having something to show the world — a talent or creative product that's unique to you.

Things are looking promising as far as recognition and status are concerned. Job prospects look good and if you're financially involved with women, nature, money and luxury goods — then nothing should stop you having one of the most successful periods of your life. Practical skills and talents are involved — maybe even some skill that you haven't practised for ages. So trust your instincts and if you get the urge to try your hand at anything, give it a go. You really can't tell where it might lead or what it might encourage to develop in your life.

The major area of stress lies in your love life and relationships. You'll instinctively want the quiet life, and keep on trying to play happy families, but life won't let you. How much will you have to sacrifice to get that happy family? How supportive are your loved ones? How much of your social life are you going to have to give up on to further your long term goals? And how will your partner feel about that? All these and more could be at the root of potential turmoil in your partnerships and it will only be your own charm, tact and diplomacy that can sort it out. Be fair to yourself and to others, because if you don't, everything could blow up around your ears.

VIRGO
(23 August - 22 September)

Don't feel as though you've got to go it alone this month. Even though you may be filled with your usual self doubt and angst, be open to suggestions coming from friends and groups to fulfill yourself through some kind of joint venture. The wider the scope of your activities and the more members of the human race they encompass, then the more fortunate everything is going to be for you. So think globally — if not in terms of world domination, then at least of larger social interactions.

LIBRA
(23 September - 22 October)

Who's the lucky one then? Yes, it's you this month — right in line for all sorts of fame, fortune and general good luck. All you've got to do is turn on the charm, make people like you, reconcile a few opposites and you'll be home and dry! Be prepared to take risks but keep your feet on the ground and fulfill your domestic responsibilities. Opportunities for career advancement are there for the taking, but you'll have to expend a bit of effort in reassuring your nearest and dearest that you aren't about to run off and leave them.

SCORPIO
(23 October - 21 November)

Lots of talking, travelling and communicating will ensure that this is a month when the last thing you're going to do is sit still! The channels are open for you to mix with new people, learn new information and put it all to some sort of constructive use. So get out into the world and interact madly! The 24th marks a peak of intensity in your love life — no one loves a bit of intensity more than you do and that time should see you at your deepest and most magnetic — give it all you've got and they'll be coming back for more!

SAGITTARIUS
(22 November - 21 December)

Some kind of positive gesture of faith in colleagues is called for — perhaps in the way of financial investment in some group activity. Decisions have to be made anyway about money and though you could find your situation uncertain, the cavalry should arrive in the nick of time. Travel over water brings love, good fortune and opportunity your way — so put on your water wings and head for strange and exotic shores. Tune in to music, film and other kinds of escapism too and your stocks should rise.

CAPRICORN
(22 December - 20 January)

Crisis point! But don't make a drama out of it. Pressure's been building up in relationships with other people in connection with some kind of need for restructuring and now the pressure has to be released. Decisions have to be taken, plans must be made. You have to look after yourself because no one else will. This month marks a turning point in your life, so make sure the change is for the better and you don't miss the boat.

AQUARIUS
(21 January - 18 February)

Think ahead and make the necessary adjustments to get your body fit and healthy. You're entering a two year period when your health and how you cope with the day to day responsibilities of life are very much at issue. You could find the results of past habits catching up with you but this doesn't negate the possibility of learning from past mistakes and starting from here to change. The past could also be pointing you into career directions which involve the mastery of new skills — trust your intuition.

PISCES
(19 February - 19 March)

You, more than any other sign, are open to inspiration and should find yourself getting the prompting you need to start to give those good ideas some concrete shape and form. Follow your charitable and artistic impulses — take on extra responsibilities and stop building castles in the air, build them on the ground! The end of the month bodes well for sexual relationships — emotional drama and passion fill you with the confidence you need to express yourself powerfully.

ARIES
(20 March - 19 April)

A turning point has arrived — and other people, career and home could all be involved. Life is never going to be the same again so you must make sure that the decisions you take are well thought out and constructive rather than the whims of the moment. Diplomacy is essential — think of bringing people together rather than splitting them asunder. You might be impulsive and impatient but right now you need to use those traits to bring about harmony rather than discord.

TAURUS
(20 April - 20 May)

Be happy and enjoy the excellent company that's on offer this month. You must be prepared to dig deeper than usual and face facts or people that you'd normally prefer to ignore, but in doing so you'll strengthen your position rather than weaken it and give yourself a greater understanding of your situation. Don't be wishing for the unattainable — look close to home and your desires can be fulfilled. The grass isn't any greener in Katmandu, though right now you might feel it is.

GEMINI
(21 May - 20 June)

Other people can't help you — you're going to have to do it on your own. There's no point looking for financial assistance or practical advice from them because the conditions they put on their help may well be far too restrictive for you. Resist their disapproval or criticism — trust your own abilities and have faith in yourself. You might have to sharpen up your practical skills and be more disciplined than usual, but if you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves — and all that!

CANCER
(21 June - 22 July)

Go for the big one. This is the start of a major expansionist period in your life when you must follow your creative feelings and learn something about who you are, why you are and what's the point of it all! Partners are likely to be sceptical and repressive — can you cope with it any longer? If you're being crushed by anything — this might well be the time for serious thinking and decision taking. The cosmic trend pits your own learning and growth against some kind of obstacle — think about it!

LEO
(23 July - 22 August)

If you're fed up, frustrated and bored then you're going to have to let things slide a bit, take off somewhere and let your imagination soar. Your batteries need recharging — your inspiration is running low! Don't hesitate to ask your family or those you live with to give you the support and understanding you need. You'll have a deep need to feel part of a close, caring circle and if they won't oblige then you'll just have to look elsewhere.

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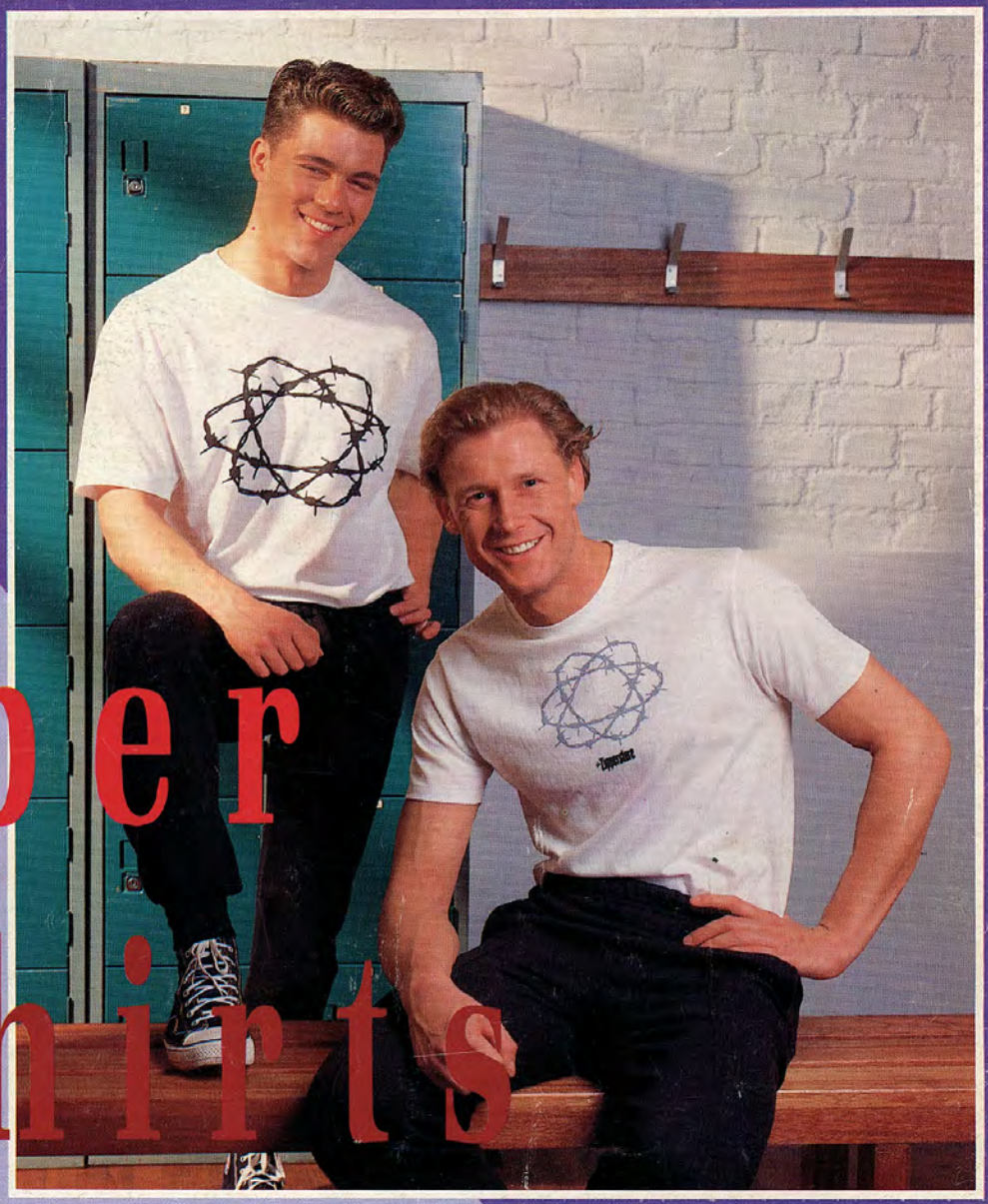

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