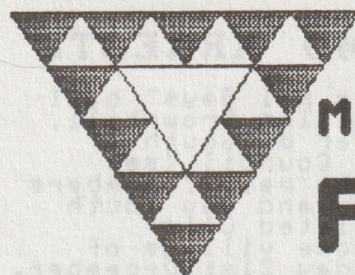


IN THE PINK



**WEST
MIDLANDS
FREE**

**LESBIAN & GAY
NEWSPAPER**

JAN 1987 No. 3

"Gas Gays" Storm

The Tory leader of South Staffordshire Council, Bill Brownhill, is in the centre of a political storm following his call for the mass extermination of gays. His comments followed a meeting of the council's Health Committee at which a government film on AIDS was shown. He said, "I should shoot them all... those bunch of queers that legalise filth in homosexuality have a lot to answer for and I hope they are proud of what they have done. It is disgusting and diabolical. As a cure I would put 90% of queers in the ruddy gas chambers. Are we going to keep letting these queers trade their filth up and down the country? We must find a way of stopping these gays going round... yet we are making heroes of some of these people and some are even being knighted."

LABOUR SUPPORT

He was supported in these views by the leader of the local Labour group, Jack Greenaway, who said, "Everyone of us here will agree with what has been said". The only dissenting voice was Liberal councillor John Chambers who argued that AIDS was originally a heterosexual disease originating in Africa, "there is little point in queerbashing other than making ourselves feel better".

The meeting voted to ask the Home Office to revise existing legislation on homosexuality (presumably to recriminalise gay male sex) and to press magistrates to deny licences to pubs known to have a gay clientele.

"EVIL"

Since the council meeting Bill Brownhill has received the support of the Council Chairman, Ted Bolland, who described Bill Brownhill as "an honest, courageous man... who has worked for years for the good of the people and the environment of South Staffordshire". He went on to say that councillor Brownhill's remarks were "not

taken literally by most of the members present". He then attacked church and political groups for not attacking homosexuality, quoting Martin Luther King, "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who perpetrates it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really co-operating with it."

"OUTRAGEOUS"

Reaction against Councillor Brownhill's call for genocide has come from Campaign for Homosexual Equality (C.H.E.) spokesperson, Jim Edgehill who said that, "the remarks were outrageous, ill-informed and prejudiced. This kind of comment defies analysis. The MP for South Staffordshire, Patrick Cormack described Cllr Brownhill's remarks as 'Unchristian... we should love the sinner but not condone the sin'. An officer from Conservative Central Office said that no disciplinary action would be taken against Cllr Brownhill as "it is the season of goodwill".

The Chairman of South Staffordshire Labour Party, David Cole, has asked for clarification of what Cllr Greenaway, the Labour leader, said in the debate. Mr Cole said these views were incompatible with what the party stood for. He called for a public apology from Cllr Greenaway, "If we don't get that retraction we would have to take some sort of action... Expulsion would be the final sanction, but it is hoped it is not going to come to that. I was outraged by this report and want to find out if it is true that Labour councillors are saying these things."

The council officer's union, Nalco, has demanded an early meeting with both the Labour and Tory leaders. Mr Sid Platt, Nalco West Midlands District Officer, said that he was concerned about people in responsible positions whipping up "anti-homosexual hysteria".

12 ARRESTED AT GAY DEMO
see page 2

GAY DEMO ARRESTS

After the "Gas All Gays" call made by Councillor Brownhill, the Tory leader of South Staffordshire Council (see report on front page), members of the Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement leafleted Cllr Brownhill's home village of Himley on Sunday 21st December. They then moved onto his house in School Road, occupying his garden and shouting slogans. A neighbour called the police, who attempted to arrest one of the demonstrators. Immediately the remaining protesters sat down and a further eleven of them were dragged to police vans and taken to Wombourne Police Station. They were questioned and the three women and nine men were charged with using abusive and threatening behaviour, an action liable to cause a breach of the peace (Section 5 Public Order Act). Gill King, who made a complaint of assault against one of the policemen, was also charged with assaulting two police officers.

During the night the police contacted a number of people and confirmed the identities and addresses of some of the protesters. The next afternoon, 22nd December, at 4.30pm at a Special Session of the Seisdon Magistrates Court at Wombourne, the Crown Prosecutor requested that they be remanded in custody

as the police claimed that they were having difficulty in confirming the defendants' identities. All twelve defendants were then remanded in custody for seven days. While some of the defendants had given false names and addresses, the police had already established the identities of several people.

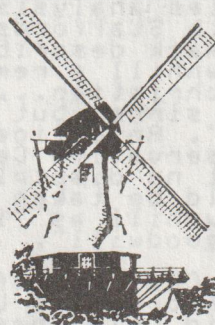
Three women spent Christmas at Ripley Remand Centre in the North West, four men under the age of 21 at Brookhill Remand Centre in Redditch and the remaining five men at Winson Green prison in Birmingham.

The twelve appeared in court again on Monday 29th December and were represented by Ivan Geffen and Louise Christian. Obviously the police were worried about something as there were eleven officers guarding the doors, a police riot van around the corner from the court and three motor cycle police stood by. All twelve pleaded not guilty to all charges. The defendants were brought into court in batches of three, handcuffed and made to stand throughout the proceedings until Ivan Geffen protested that the police were over-reacting. They were then allowed to sit and the handcuffs removed. As they were processed the defending counsel demanded an enquiry as to why the police had misled the court about the verification of the defendants' identities on their first appearance. They also gave warning that unless an undertaking was given, that the bench on the day of the trial would not consist of magistrates who had similar views to Cllr Brownhill or who had connections with any member of South Staffordshire Council, then an application to transfer the case to another court would be made. All twelve were released on bail providing that the four who initially gave incorrect names and addresses report to their local police once a week and that all remain at least ten miles away from Wombourne until their next appearance in court on 23rd and 24th February.

The defendants have requested that as many people as possible come to court on those days to support them. It is assumed by the defendants that the police had them spend seven days in gaol as a punishment, knowing that even if they were found guilty, the most that they could expect to receive is a small fine.

LARRY & PAUL
welcome old &
new friends to

THE WINDMILL



Hurst Street Birmingham 5
021-622 4710

Nightly disco and Sunday
Cabarets in a warm & friendly
atmosphere.

11th JAN JAY STARLIGHT
18th JAN SAPPHIRE
25th JAN BROADWAY BIRDS
1st FEB BUSSOM BUDDIES
8th FEB PHIL DAY

SHOW TIMES 1pm & 9pm

**HOT & COLD FOOD
ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

gayline

Introduction service
for men and women

Join Gayline
if you are seeking
gay friends
companionship
or a lasting
relationship

Our experienced staff provide a fully confidential,
friendly and sympathetic service. Join Gayline
and we will help you make the crucial first contact
from which a rewarding gay friendship can stem.

For our brochure send SAE to
GL, PO Box 759, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4ND
Or phone Membership Secretary Chris on 021-477 9811

LESBIANS & AIDS

AIDS is a word that is used and read about frequently nowadays, but as lesbians we remain invisible both in the spoken and written word. Lesbians remain still the lowest risk group for catching the AIDS virus but we are by no means immune.

Does Safer Sex apply to us and do we need to practise it, what indeed does Safer Sex mean? We have no need for condoms, so how and why should we think about protecting ourselves?

Ask yourself this question, "Do I know the sexual and social history of my partner?" If they inject drugs using dirty needles and syringes, if they are bisexual and in a relationship with a man in a high risk group, if they have been in a heterosexual relationship with a man in a high risk group, then you should think and practise Safer Sex.

Back to the concept of Safer Sex again. What it means is that if any of the above apply to you, then certain sexual acts might put you at risk from becoming Antibody positive and maybe going on to contract full blown AIDS. However, by avoiding certain forms of high risk sexual activity, you can reduce the chances of exposing yourself to the AIDS virus.

There are certain risk groups which are defined below:

HIGH RISK

Any act which draws blood

Sharing sex toys (e.g. vibrators)

Sex during menstrual periods if partner has open cuts, grazes or sores on their hands or body

MEDIUM RISK

Oral sex if active partner has bleeding gums, mouth ulcers etc

NO RISK

Stimulation using hands, either mutually or solo

General body contact, stroking, body kissing

Sex toys - provided they are not shared.

We are lucky as lesbians that we remain in the lowest risk group. We can all help to keep it this way by looking after ourselves thereby looking after others.

For further information the Terrence Higgins Trust has published a booklet called "Women and AIDS" available from THT, BM AIDS, London WC1N 3XX. Written by women for women, cartoons by Cath Jackson.



**FRIENDS
OF THE
EARTH
BIRMINGHAM**

ONE EARTH SHOP

WHOLEFOODS, BOOKS, INFORMATION
DIY DRAUGHTPROOFING
ORGANIC VEGETABLES, STATIONARY

RECYCLED PAPER

ENVELOPES, DUPLICATOR PAPER
ALL AT 54 ALLISON ST, DIGBETH
BIRMINGHAM 5 021-632 6909

REMEMBER
GONNORRHEA?

AH-THOSE
WERE THE
DAYS...



ADRIAN welcomes you to

PEACOCKS



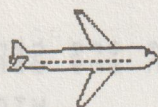
NEEDLESS ALLEY (OFF NEW ST)
BIRMINGHAM'S NEWEST GAY PUB!!!

FRIENDLIER BY FAR

Peacocks Needless Alley or enter
by New Imperial Hotel Temple St
Telephone 021-643 6751 ext 30

Peacocks wishes a happy and
prosperous New Year to all our
friends and customers.

YOUTH GROUP TAKES OFF!!



Did you know that a regular Youth Group has been re-established at the Lesbian & Gay Community Centre? We meet every Saturday from 2pm to 5pm (ish) and average attendance is 15 to 20 so far (the group only having started about two months ago).

It's a very informal group - with people free to pop in & out as they please. To date we have tried role-plays, videos, discussions & have spent a lot of time working out what we would like to achieve from the group.

The group comprises people of a wide range of ages, backgrounds & interests - we are still getting to know each other - so if you think you'd like to come along, now is the ideal time.

Young lesbians & gay men are most welcome - but you must be under 26!! It can be a great way to make friends of your own age without expense & hassle. Watch this space for details of future events, outings & activities!!

If you'd like to know more, please feel free to contact James Oxley at the Centre (021 359 5660). Hope to see or hear from you soon!!

NEW GAY PUB IN BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's gay scene has been expanding over the last twelve months, with more additions planned for 1987. The most recent addition is "Peacocks" situated in Needless Alley which opened in December. It has a somewhat safer entrance through the New Imperial Hotel in Temple Street, which the older members of the gay community will remember as being a gay venue many moons ago.

The owner/manager, Adrian, hopes to make his new gay venture into Birmingham's friendliest gay pub. Many of his plans are still in the pipeline, these include cabaret and possibly a poolroom. Food is now being served from lunchtimes till 9pm and during the afternoon, tea is served.

Birmingham now seems to be developing the gay scene you would expect for a city of its size.

DUDLEY SAYS YES!

A Tory amendment to Dudley Council's Employment Policy was defeated. Tony Bob Hyde, said that he didn't want his children taught by "perverts, queers or homosexuals of any kind". Despite these protests the Labour Party policy of non-discrimination was carried.

PENSIONS MORTGAGES SAVINGS PROTECTION INVESTMENT

Traditional or Unit Linked
or any other financial advice
FREE OF CHARGE
Lesbian & Gay financial issues
understood

LYSISTRATA SERVICES

021-783 4478

Call back if no reply

GAY SWITCH- BOARD

WEST MIDLANDS

Do you have
a room to let?

Do you need
accommodation?



021

622 6589

OPEN 7pm -10pm

THE JESTER

Holloway
Circus
Birmingham 1
021-643 0155

POPULAR
FRIENDLY
GAY PUB

OPEN
7 DAYS

WOMEN'S MUSIC

JAZZ FOLK BLUES

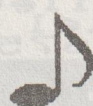
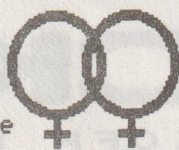
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plus T-shirts

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WRPM

62 Woodstock Road
BIRMINGHAM B13 9BN
021-449 7041



GAY GUIDE continued from page 5

Wolverhampton cont..

WEST MIDLANDS AREA GAY GROUP
Contact Peter 021-350 8453

GAY SOC at the Polytechnic.
Lesbians & gay men. Phone
Students Union 0902 712901.

WORCESTER

IMPERIAL HOTEL 35 St Nicholas
St. Gay run pub. Mixed. Popular.

We try to keep our guide up to
date. Please let us know of any
changes.

gay guide

BIRMINGHAM

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
291 Corporation St see diary.

CRUISIN' (shop) Theatre Approach
off Smallbrook Queensway. Books,
cards, condoms, etc for gay men.

THE JESTER (pub) Holloway Circus
Popular, mainly men.

PEACOCKS (pub) Needleless Alley
off New St. NEW VENUE.

THE QUEEN VICTORIA (pub)
John Bright St - Mixed.

THE WINDMILL (pub) Hurst Street
Mixed.

THE ANCHOR (pub - WOMEN)
Rea St, Digbeth - in back room.
Not always exclusively women,
Wednesday ONLY.

STATION PUB (pub - WOMEN)
High St, Kings Heath.
"Sheila's Bar" Tuesday ONLY
NOT exclusively lesbian.

BOLTS at the DOME (club)
Horsefair MONDAY NIGHTS ONLY.

THE JUG (club) 8a Albert St
Mixed. Lesbians welcome.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB, 40 Thorpe St.
Members club - guests welcome.
Mostly men. 021-622 1718.

THE POWERHOUSE (club) Hurst St
THURSDAY NIGHT ONLY.

SPARTAN SAUNA 127 George Rd
Erdington Sauna MEN ONLY
021-382 3345.

THE WAREHOUSE 16 Fleet St
Sauna MEN ONLY 021-233 3090.

CENTRAL RAINBOW Midlands deaf
group phone 021-707 8327.

FRIEND SOCIAL EVENING at The
Queen Victoria in upstairs
function room - Alternative
Friday nights JAN 16th & 30th

WOMEN'S SOCIAL EVENING at above
venue JAN 9th & 23rd

GAY OUTDOOR GROUP details phone
Gordon 021-420 2694

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH GROUP
under 26 every Saturday 2pm -
5pm at the Lesbian & Gay
Community Centre.

LESBIAN SOCIAL GROUP - Function
Room, Royal George, Park Street
Every Saturday 8pm - midnight

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
phone 021-236 5419.

MIDLAND LINK MSC GROUP details
Rob or Terry 021-783 2360.

TV/TS GROUP phone "Friend" for
details.

COVENTRY

THE SPITTLEMOOR (pub), Lower
Ford St Mixed gay pub.

COVENTRY AREA GAY COMMUNITY
write to 28 Corporation St,
Coventry CV1 1PR.

COVENTRY CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL
EQUALITY (0203) 714144 or write
c/o 28 Corporation St.

COVENTRY LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH
GROUP for those below 21 phone
0203-25991 4pm-6pm on Sunday.

LEAMINGTON SPA

LESBIAN DISCO at Hintons,
Augusta Place. Last Saturday of
the month.

HINTONS DISCO, Augusta Place.
Fridays. Mixed.

SHIFNAL

BOOS FUN PUB (disco) 11 Market
Place. Mondays 8pm - 1am. Mixed.

SHREWSBURY

Gay men's & women's groups
phone Shropshire Gay Switchboard
for details.

STOKE ON TRENT

THE MOSTYN ARMS (pub) York St
Hanley

THE STAGE DOOR (pub)
Brunswick St, Hanley (behind the
Theatre Royal) Mixed.

THE STAR (pub) Marsh St Mixed.
Most popular gay pub in Stoke.

THE EXCALIBUR (club)
Marsh St North, Hanley.

POTTERIES GAY COMMUNITY meet 1st
Mon at The Star. Details Peter
Kingsgrove 5270.

STOURBRIDGE

STOURBRIDGE AREA GAY GROUP at
Seven Stars (Pub), Brook Road
(opposite Stourbridge Junction
Station) 1st & 3rd Saturdays

STRATFORD UPON AVON

THE QUEEN'S HEAD (pub) Ely St.
Mixed.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THE GREYHOUND (pub) Bond St
Lounge bar - Mixed.

THE LORD RAGLAN (pub)
Great Brickkiln St.
Lesbians & gay men.

SCORPIOS CLUB at the Lord
Raglan. Closed Mondays.
MEN ONLY Saturdays.

SILVER WEB CLUB Whitmore St.
WOMEN ONLY Thursdays -
GAY MEN & WOMEN Fri & Sat

diary

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTRE,
291 Corporation Street,
BIRMINGHAM B4 7DP
021-359 5660

OPENING HOURS and GROUPS

WEDNESDAY 1pm-10pm

THURSDAY 7pm-10pm
Games Group 7.30pm

FRIDAY
Occasional WOMEN ONLY events
phone Lesbian Line for details

SATURDAY 1pm-7pm
Lesbian & Gay Youth Group
2pm - 5pm

SUNDAY 7pm-10pm
Bridge Group 7.30pm

Young Lesbian Group 1st Saturday
of the month phone Lesbian Line
for details.

Next Committee Meeting open to
all members 7.30pm on Thursday
8th January.

OTHER EVENTS

Women's Sing Around at the
Centre on Friday 9th January at
8pm. WOMEN ONLY.

WOMEN's socials in upstairs
function room at the Queen
Victoria Fridays January 9th &
23rd.

FRIEND socials in upstairs
function room at the Queen
Victoria Fridays January 16th &
30th.

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB walk at
Lapworth on Sunday 11th January.
Phone Gordon 021-420 2694 for
details.

STOURBRIDGE SOCIAL GROUP at
Seven Stars pub function room
Saturday 17th January.

We would like to carry
information about lesbian & gay
groups in our area. Please send
us details for inclusion in the
next issue.

Copy date for the next issue is
Saturday 23rd January.

"IN THE PINK" is published by
the Lesbian & Gay Community
Centre, 291 Corporation Street,
Birmingham B4 7DP.
021-359 5660

2,500 copies are distributed
FREE throughout the West
Midlands area. Centre members
are posted a copy with their
monthly mailing.

Helplines



LOCAL PHONE LINES

BIRMINGHAM LESBIAN LINE
021-359 3192
Mon, Wed & Fri 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

NORTH STAFFS LESBIAN LINE
0782-266998
Fri 7pm - 10pm

AIDS LINE MIDLANDS
012-622 1511
Tues, Thurs & Fri 7.30pm - 10pm

COVENTRY C.H.E. AIDS HELPLINE
0203-714144
Mon 7pm - 10pm

NORTH STAFFS GAY SWITCHBOARD
0782-266998
Mon 8pm - 10pm

SHROPSHIRE GAY SWITCHBOARD
095245-2384
Tues & Fri 8pm - 10pm

FRIEND COVENTRY
0203-25991
Women staff Tues 7pm - 10pm
Mixed staff Weds & Fri 7pm -
10pm

FRIEND WEST MIDLANDS
021-622 7351
Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9.30pm
GAY SWITCHBOARD WEST MIDLANDS
021-622 6589
Every evening 7pm - 10pm

NATIONAL PHONE LINES

LONDON LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD
01-837 7324
24 hours every day.

LONDON LESBIAN LINE
01-251 6911
Mon & Fri 2pm - 10pm.
Tues, Weds & Thurs 7pm-10pm

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH MOVEMENT
PHONELINE
01-317 9690
Mon, Wed & Fri 6pm - 9pm
Sat & Sun 3pm - 6pm.

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST
01-833 2971
For advice about AIDS.

GAY LEGAL ADVICE (GLAD)
01-821 7672
every night 7pm -10pm

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NATIONAL GROUPS

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY
38 Mount Pleasant, London
WC1M 0AP. 01-833 3912.
Main gay campaigning group in
England & Wales.

LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH MOVEMENT
BM GYM, London WC1N 3XX.
Political & social organisation
working for lesbian, gay & youth
liberation.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL
LIBERTIES 21 Tabard St, London
SE1. 01-403 3888.

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