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SPONSORED CO-OP PUB CRAWL

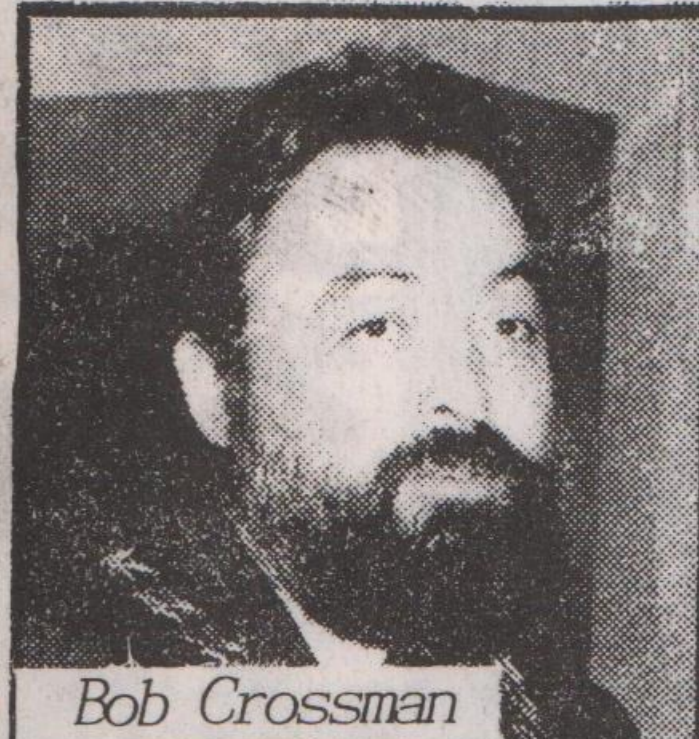
A sponsored pub-crawl is the latest fund raising idea for the Nottingham Lesbian & Gay & Gay Community Centre Co-op. Cathy White and Jimmy Kennedy are inviting other gays and lesbians to join them in a pub crawl in Nottingham city centre on the 10th November. They plan to visit up to a dozen pubs. Said Cathy: "We wanted to do our bit for the Co-op. A centre for lesbians & gays is long overdue, especially for those who prefer a mixed meeting



(continued back p.). Cathy White & Jimmy Kennedy

FORWARD EVER, BACKWARD NEVER!

500,000 MARCH ON WHITE HOUSE



Bob Crossman



Photo: RICHARD Mc.CANCE

Pat Norman

Aids Vigil Supporter

Hundreds of thousands joined October 11 march for full democratic rights for gays and lesbians

Over half a million lesbians and gay men, from all over the United States, angry joyful and proud, marched past the White House on October 11th, demanding action on AIDS from the Federal Government. "We're out of the closets and we're not going back" they chanted on the largest ever les/gay rights rally, rivalling even the Vietnam demonstrations of the 60's in size.

Waves of applause greeted People With Aids, who headed the march, followed by a contingent of openly lesbian/gay elected officials including Islington, London Councillor Bob Crossman, attending the rally as Honorary Chairperson of the Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs of America.

The march was endorsed by over 700 organisations and individuals, including civil rights and religious groups, trade union leaders and political leaders of cities, counties and states. "Money for AIDS Not The Contras" (American-backed opponents of a free Nicaragua) was one of the slogans.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, singled out the People With Aids for special respect. Only 24 hours previously he had declared himself a presidential candidate and chose to make his first major campaign speech at the Rally, endorsing the organisers' call for more funds for Aids reserach, education and treatment. A national Aids Memorial quilt, composed of over 1,500 panels made by friends, families and lovers of those who died of Aids was laid out in the Mall, Washington's main open space between the Washington Memorial and the Capitol.

Pat Norman, Lesbian co-chair of the March Committee compered the "Let Freedom Ring" concert of 200 voices and 350 musicians in Constitution Hall, owned by the blue-rinse Daughters of the American Revolution, who less than twenty years ago refused black soprano Marion Anderson permission to sing in the same hall.

A capacity audience cheered, laughed and cried when the Washington Gay Men's Chorus sang a specially composed tribute to the 24,000 who have died of Aids in America.

Following the march there was a massive non-violent civil disobedience action on the steps of the Supreme Court and there were over 500 arrests by police wearing rubber gloves.

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or Monday 23rd November

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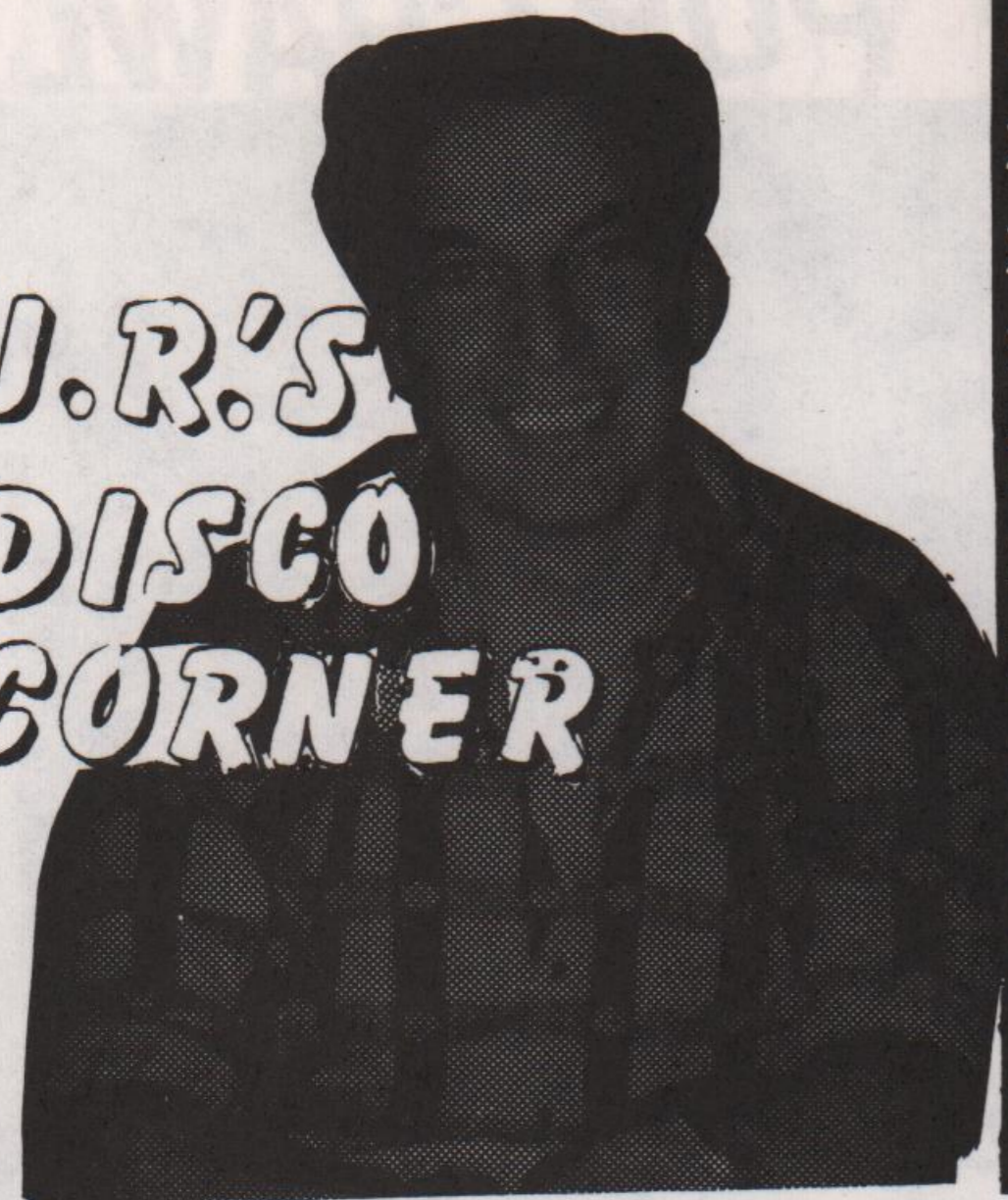
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J.R.'S DISCO CORNER



talking of cover versions, Modern Rocketry have teamed up with Jo-Carol to do "Born To Be Wild" which to my surprise sounds really good with a High Energy backing - (sorry that's only on IMP at the moment).

Also on IMP is a House Mix of Jamie Dean's "Love Child". The 12" has got 4 minutes of the track so maybe it's worth it.

I'm gonna review a couple of House Records now as a lot of you like it. The first is Crystalites "If My Friends Could See Me Now!" A Must for all the queens to sing along with. Also a UK LP with 21 tracks of 12" mixes for the price of one 12" IMP which is really great value - "Jackmaster, Vol. 1".

Dollar have recorded Erasure's "O L'Amour". When I first saw the record I thought I wouldn't like it. But, boy did I get a surprise when I played it. It's great and for my money, better than the original.

Eartha Kitt has a new mix out of "Arabian Song" which is from her last LP. I'm sure it'll go down well on the dance floor.

Talking of Dance Floors, I hear the Club has stopped doing their Gay Night on the second Monday of the Month. Mind you I'm sure Peter Martine will come up with a new venue soon. I'm off to Street Life this weekend and then Sheffield's Rockshots after that. Will report on them next month. JR

PS A lot of people have been asking about Man to Man's "Love Me Like A Locomotive". It's on a US IMP EP with the New York Mix of "I Need A Man". (Recca Records "RR2012"). See you.

Hi, This month are Rick Astley, Zenia, Dollar, Eartha Kitt, Jamie Dean, Modern Rocketry and Crystalite.

First, some good news for everyone who's been trying to get "Saving Myself" by Bria Fachin (Imp). Well it's been on UK release since 1st November. I think this is the best record of the year and by the way it's being played in the clubs, most other DJ's agree it's going to be remixed for the UK market.

Wouldn't you guess, Rick Astley's new single, "Whenever You Need Somebody", sounds the same as "Never Gonna Give" but is very danceable and will no doubt be a hit.

Zenia has made a cover version of an old Sixties soul track "I feel Love Coming On" which is very well done. And while we're

TOP TWENTY ***** TOP TWENTY ***** TOP TWENTY ***** TOP TWENTY *****

1. Savin' My Self
2. Love In The First Degree
3. Everlasting Love
4. Fighting For Our Lives
5. Pump Up The Volume
6. Turning My Back & Walking Away
7. I Want To Be Your Property
8. I Feel Love Coming On
9. Voyage Voyage
10. Love Me Like A Locomotive
11. They Say It's Gonna Rain
12. Cry Out In The Night
13. Born To Be Alive
14. Take My Body
15. I Can't Help Myself
16. Money Money
17. Rock me Tonight
18. Never Gonna Give You Up (New York Mix)
19. Mind Over Matter
20. These Boots Are Made For Walking (UK Mix)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| BRIA FACHIN | IMP |
| BANANARAMA | UK |
| SANDRA | UK |
| PEOPLE LIKE US | UK |
| M.A.R.R.S. (REMIX) | UK |
| CARO JIANI | UK |
| BLUE MERCEDES | UK |
| ZENIA | UK |
| DESIRELESS | UK |
| MAN TO MAN | IMP |
| KERRY DELIUS | UK |
| AMANDA LUCCI | UK |
| REMIX MACHINE | IMP |
| TRACY ACKERMAN | UK |
| THE REAL THING | UK |
| AMAZULU | UK |
| CHIP CHIP | IMP |
| RICK ASTLEY | UK |
| E.G. DAILY | IMP |
| JESSICA WILLIAMS & MAN TO MAN | UK |

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Wed. 6.15, Thurs. 6.15 Fri. 8.45. Sat. 8.45pm.

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Vincent Canby N.Y. TIMES

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Shaun Usher, Daily Mail

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Nigel Floyd TIME OUT

DANIEL AUTEUIL GERARD DEPARDIEU YVES MONTAND

JEAN DE FLORETTE

A film by CLAUDE BERRI based on the work of MARCEL PAGNOL of L'Academie Francaise

Wed. 8.15pm
Thur. 8.15

Wed 18 - Sat 21 Nov
Jean de Florette
Fri. 6.15pm
Sat. 6.15pm

OLGA

Is that OLGA? Yer wrong - it's Jan Parker, Co-Chair of a new national campaigning organisation, fighting for lesbian and gay rights. OLGA's first General Meeting is in Manchester over the 5th/6th December weekend, and is the results of over a year's planning by activists, unhappy with the slow progress on equality demands for lesbians and gay men. In the May '87 General Election run-up, lesbian and gay activists of every political hue, decided to fight on a common platform of an Equal Rights Bill for Lesbians and gays. The breadth of OLGA's aims has a passing resemblance to that of CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality, set up in the early 70's, except that the new organisation's demands will be more pragmatic, addressing some long-standing issues like sexual and racial harassment. Conference details from OLGA, Room 221, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1 or tel: 01-833 3660.

Jan Parker

"Where can I find a good selection of lesbian & gay publications?"

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"...and the best selection of gay and lesbian books in the Midlands?"

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BEYOND THE BERLIN WALL

WHAT IS THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS US?

The system in East Germany prides itself in being scientific rational and humanitarian and that's the approach they have used in dealing with homosexuality. The first book ever to deal with the subject has recently been published with the full backing of the State which, for them, is ground breaking stuff. Also homosexual acts between consenting men over the ages of 18 were decriminalised in 1967, two years ahead of West Germany, and, incidentally, two years before the birth of the modern gay liberation movement. However, in some matters like housing they have a curious double standard. On the one hand discrimination is forbidden on the grounds of sexual orientation in work or housing, yet, because the state upholds the importance and sanctity of family life, to encourage an ever-rising birth rate, lesbians and gays are at the bottom of the priority list, as in England, alongside childless heterosexual couples and singles.

Although lesbians and gays are generally ignored in the media, after a long fight, lesbian and gay activists have won the right from the East German Government to officially take part in commemorative ceremonies, remembering the dead of the Nazi Concentration Camps, which is a step forward. However, as a lesbian friend put it: "the State still considers us some kind of exotic species, widely known about but rarely discussed." If the State could have its way, we would be absorbed into the straight community, with the least possible upheaval, for it is suspicious of things it cannot control.

At least gays and lesbians in West Germany can to some extent determine their own destiny and organise themselves in the way they want. However in spite of these shortcomings, East Germany is quite radical when compared to other Communist countries in Eastern Europe.

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE AIDS CRISIS?

In AIDS prevention and reduction East Germany is far behind the West. The East German Government was finally forced to admit there were AIDS cases, mainly as a result of West German TV's constant coverage of the disease in West Germany. (The vast majority of East Germans watch West German TV, which is more entertaining than their own).

The first hints of a change in attitude came in February 1986 when West German TV announced that the East German authorities were on the point of making an important announcement and then two days later, they admitted that one person had just died of AIDS and 16



Richard Scholey

In the first part of this feature Edward Naismith interviewed language teacher, RICHARD SCHOLEY who talked about his impressions on arrival in East Germany, living conditions generally and the State's wish to organise everything from food production to a lesbian/gay meeting. The second part looks at the Government's attitude to lesbians and gays, AIDS, and the pressures of life in East Germany for lesbians and gay men.

other people were currently hospitalised. Simultaneously, a media campaign began and in April 1987, the first East German TV adverts were screened and experts dealt with a viewers' phone in on AIDS. Unlike West Germany, East German doctors are obliged to inform the authorities when they treat someone with AIDS, as it is a notifiable disease. (They only began blood screening in 1986).

It's hard to say whether these figures are accurate, and I tended to believe that the situation was being played down, especially when you consider how many thousands of people cross the wall each week from West Berlin, which has been called the "Aids Capital of Europe".

WHAT ARE ATTITUDES LIKE TOWARDS SAFE SEX?

Gay men would think you had AIDS if you so much as mentioned safe sex and you would be dropped like a hot brick. I think this may be partly due to feeling cut off from what is going on in the West. For example the disabled gay man I spoke to said he would not sleep with anyone who had been to Hungary because many Italians visit Hungary and, therefore, so his argument went, Italians have AIDS; a bit like avoiding North American accents over here at one time.

WHAT DID YOU MISS MOST WHILE YOU WERE IN EAST GERMANY?

When I went to West Berlin I always stocked up on things like garlic and gherkins. I missed the option of going to gay bars and discos; at least the scene in England with all its faults, exists for those who want it with some degree of choice, however limited. Since I returned, I have been enjoying myself. On a very superficial level, I missed soft toilet paper. Whilst I was there I saw a lot of things that put me off their idea

of socialism. Anyone contemplating travelling there should be prepared to go without many creature comforts and try not to constantly compare it with what we are used to having in England.

WHAT ARE THE PRESSURES OF LIVING IN THE EAST?

People are forced into conformity more than they are in this country, so the only way to buck the system is to send it up or collide with it. So for example I was aware of many more effeminate and flamboyant gays in the East than in the West. Consequently, I was propositioned on a number of occasions because that's the only way people can make contact as gay bars and clubs are limited, mainly to a few in East Berlin. Once I was sitting on a roadside bench waiting for a bus, a middle aged man sitting at the other end, gradually moved nearer and nearer to me until he was rubbing my leg. On another occasion a young man who was drunk - alcoholism is rife in East Germany - was strap-hanging alongside me on the tram and openly asked me whether I would go home with him. When I said I wasn't interested he just shrugged his shoulders and went off. It isn't realistic to have a relationship with someone living in West Germany or elsewhere. For one thing, the "cinderella" rule applies, and your boyfriend or girlfriend would have to be back over the West German border by midnight. People obviously do maintain some kinds of relationships in spite of this restriction, but your lover can't stay in your bed overnight. I heard of two gay men who had applied to leave the country for West Germany and the authorities let them go.

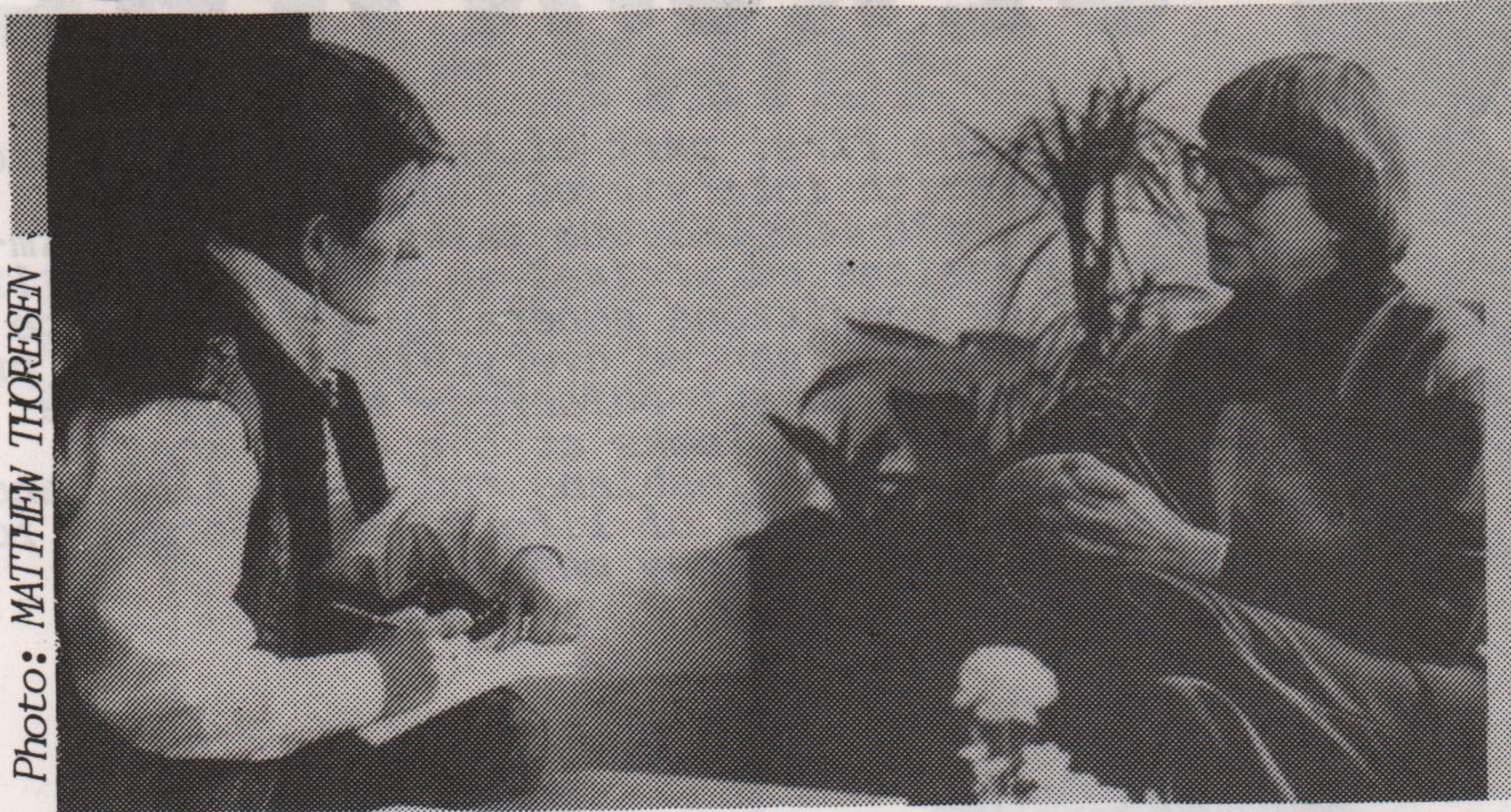
But despite some misgivings, the trip was a great experience for me and, given the chance, I would do it again.

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JANE ON JANE

Photo: MATTHEW THORESEN



Jane Rule one of Canada's most respected writers, and author of numerous novels and stories was the guest of Mushroom Book Events in Nottingham last month. Jane Rule was the first regular female writer for the prestigious national Canadian gay magazine, *THE BODY POLITIC*, (now sadly deceased). In 1979 the paper was being charged for obscenity by the Ontario Provincial Government for publishing a serious article about a man loving boys. Many people in the gay community in Canada were saying that this was the one topic that gave them a bad name. Jane Rule was outraged at this self-censorship, and as an act of solidarity, agreed to write a regular column for the paper until they were off the hook. Little did she know that the paper would be in and out of court for the next five years! The author of "Lesbian Images", and "Desert of The Heart" (filmed as "Desert Hearts"), she lives in a small community on Galiano Isle in British Columbia with Helen her partner. JANE RULE talks to JANE BRISTOW for Metro Gay.

Jane Rule is a tall, friendly woman whose sense of well being and togetherness radiates to all who come in contact with her. Her most striking attitude is that of tolerance. She is intelligent, interesting and oozes an amazing sense of humour which endears her to her audiences and readers alike.

I wondered where she got her inspiration for writing from?
 "Questions you don't know the answers to. I like to think about things and work out my ideas".
 Writing for her has been a driving force, which she now feels at this point in her life is lessening.

"At one time I used to write solidly for eight hours a day, but arthritis in my back and posture problems mean that I can only work for three hours at a stretch, with an extra hour in the afternoon."

Her characters are rarely drawn from life; they are either completely imagined or combinations and mixtures of people. I asked her if she used situations from her own background.

"Rarely. I'm like a magpie and take ideas and situations from everywhere and actually put things into my own life. In "Desert of the Heart" I went and learned what it felt like to be a change girl in the casino in Reno.

Sometimes in her writing she feels she is far away from experience and her term for this is 'out on the edge of imagination'. What then, motivated her to write? Her simple, honest answer was 'to pose questions openly and thoroughly,' and 'to provide new insight for myself'.

There are two major recurring themes in her novels - relationships and love - which are a source of endless fascination for her. This inevitably led on to the film "Desert Hearts".

"I was very pleased with the film which was a glamorous first cousin to the book".

Her humour is ever present as she describes a cousin of hers who 'is not much of a thinker but is very good to look at'.

Jane Rule is a well-grounded realist and this is apparent from her essay writing to her practical

approach in life and the filming of "Desert Hearts". She didn't feel that the book was compromised at all.

"Any film has limitations. I've often been asked why the women were beautiful in the film.

Photo: MATTHEW THORESEN



I wanted to get rid of the old cliché that women who turn to women do so because they can't get men".

The practical side of Jane Rule surfaced when she talked of her relationship with Helen and when in the early days they had a house with a basement so they could have lodgers.

"If we were 'found out' and one or both of us lost our jobs we would still have some form of income". The visibility of the gay and lesbian community depends very much upon the political pendulum and which way it swings. I am concerned that it could swing against us and frighten another generation back into the closet".

My interest in Jane Rule was primarily as a woman, a writer and a lesbian. She had some interesting ideas about "community".

"For me the community or ghetto provides a false sense of security; the one thing you can be sure of in rigid communities is that they break up very quickly. I am very much against 'codes of conformity' and avidly believe in the power of tolerance. It is essential to have our life spirit in our own hands.

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Her fiction portrays the world "as it is" for her it is the world she lives in. She feels optimistic about the future in most respects but worries about the political pendulum.

I asked her if she felt any disillusionment with the Womens Movement.

"None what so ever!"
 And what of her childhood? She certainly came across as a very together person.

"I had a happy childhood. The family moved around a lot but fortunately my parents were well suited to each other. It was a stable, loving and well-anchored background.

Had she told her parents that she was lesbian?

"I didn't tell them until the publication of Desert of the Heart". By this time I had lived with Helen for years. At first things were sticky but then alright - but it took a lot of time and working through".

And did she recommend coming out as a general rule to parents?

"If at all, only when the parents need to know and not perhaps when the young person needs to tell them. I think it's all a matter of timing".

Jane Rule's warmth and strength shines through her presence and in her writing of the world 'as it is'. She is forever the determined realist.

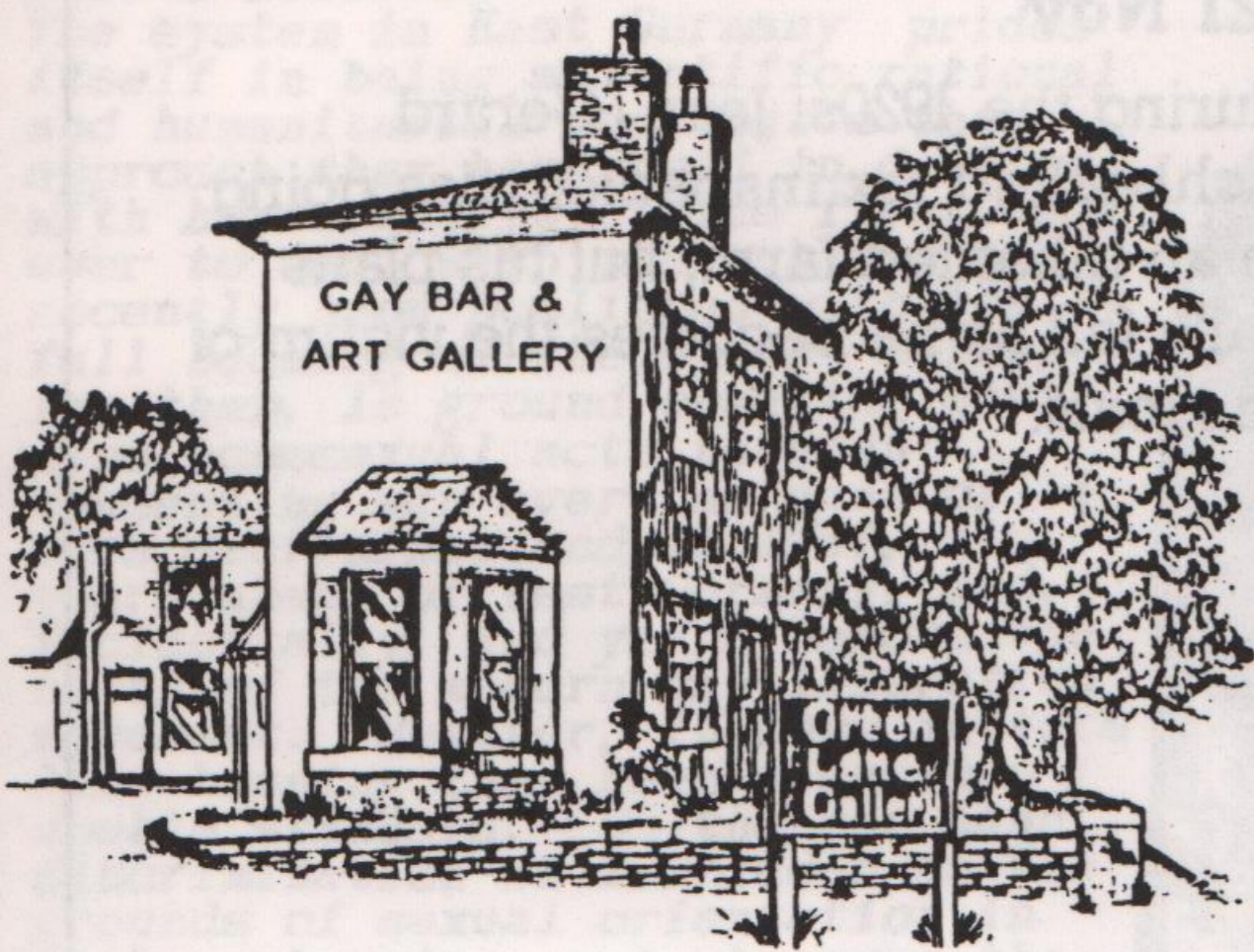
"I am a novelist because I don't want anyone telling me what to do. Ever!"

Jane Rule's latest novel, "The Memory Board" is published by Pandora Press at £4.95 and is available at MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP

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LEICESTER COFFEE BAR GOING STRONG

Leicester Lesbian/Gayline Coffee Bar is six months' old next month and going strong. When the busy helpline moved into premises provided by the City Council, they decided to go public and open up the social rooms to provide a much-needed drop-in facility, which is the first in the Midlands. Already the coffee bar is proving very popular with locals and visitors alike. The project represents over two years' hard work by volunteers. Two adjoining rooms and a sundeck patio combine to make this a comfortable, relaxing and welcoming place, free of flashing lights and loud music. And there's no need to go hungry while you give it the once over, because there's cheap, well-cooked food on hand as well. But however nice the decor it all falls down unless newcomers are helped to feel at ease. (For many, this will be their very first contact with the lesbian/gay communities). In this the volunteers have paid as much attention to welcoming newcomers as they have to the restful decor. You will not be left alone in a crowd, (unless that is your choice). We can confirm that, though you may not meet the woman or man of your dreams first time around or even second, you will be assured of a friendly welcome, and will probably want to return again...and again. But like all projects it cant run on thin air. It needs money and many helpers to keep going. One way you can help is to pay it a visit and if you like it, tell your friends. The Coffee Bar is always on the look out for reliable helpers. It is presently open Saturdays, 10am to 5pm and Tuesday evenings, 8pm-10pm (Women only). There are plans afoot to open Sundays in the future. The Joffee Bar is at 45 King St. Leicester, centrally located in a quiet sidestreet. See you there?



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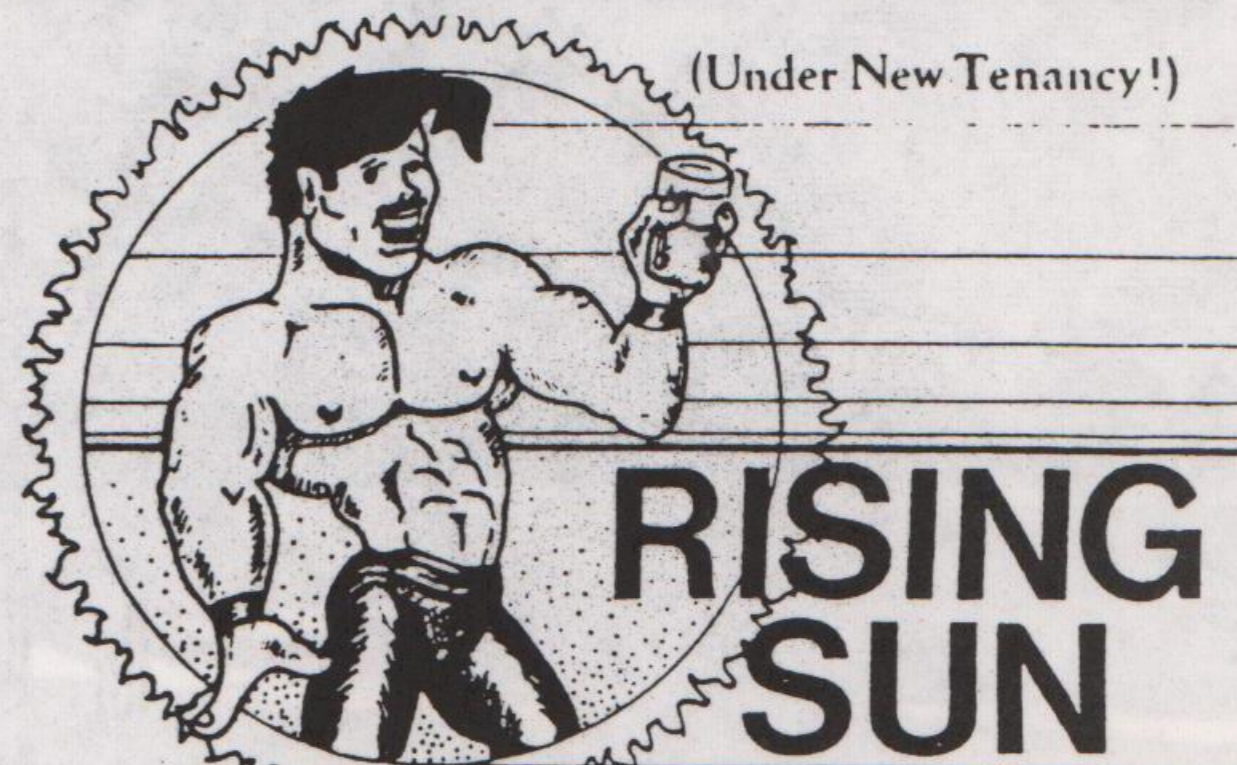
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The METRO CINEMA

The Metro Cinema presents a short programme of recent films which take a keen look at the Chinese immigrant's experience. Wayne Wang's two delightful, low-budget features, "Dim Sum" and "Chan is Missing", both set in San Francisco's Chinatown; Po-Chih Leong's quirky London comedy "Ping Pong" which closely examines the Chinese community in Britain; "A Great Wall", actor-director Peter Wang's journey back to his roots, ravishingly shot on location in Beijing - a film which evocatively defines some of the aspirations and traditions which underpin this experience.

"A GREAT WALL" Sun. 8th Nov. 6.30pm

"DIM SUM" + "CHAN IS MISSING" Sun. 15th Nov. 5pm.

"PING PONG", Sun. 22nd Nov. 6.30pm.

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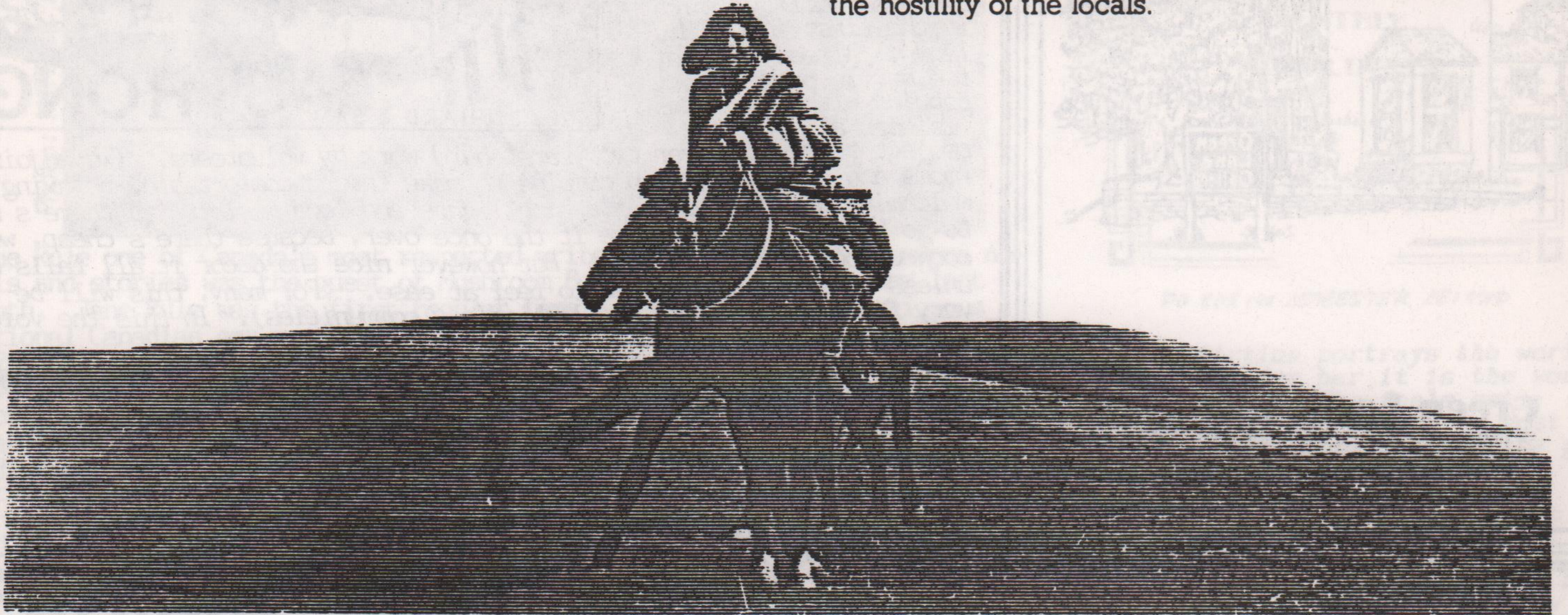
Wed 18 — Sat 21 Nov

A profoundly simple story of an impoverished herdsman on China's Tibetan border forced to crime, and therefore exiled from his clan. Only the ultimate sacrifice can win for his family reacceptance.

Jean de Florette

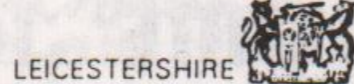
Wed 18 — Sat 21 Nov

Rural Provence during the 1920s: Jean (Gerard Depardieu) a hunchbacked tax inspector tries going back to nature on an inherited farm, but his plans tragically, terminally fail as he becomes the victim of the hostility of the locals.



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7.30	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	WED 4
7.30	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	THUR 5
7.30	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	FRI 6
5.00/8.00	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	SAT 7
5.00	KILLING FIELDS (15)	SUN 8
8.00	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)	
7.30	ERASERHEAD (18)	WED 11
		THUR 12
7.30	ELPHANT MAN (15)	FRI 13
5.00/8.00	BOY MEETS GIRL (18)	SAT 14
5.00	BABY (Uncert)	SUN 15
8.00	BOY MEETS GIRL (18)	
7.30	SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18)	WED 18
7.30	SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18)	THUR 19
7.30	RAISING ARIZONA (15)	FRI 20
5.00/8.00	RAISING ARIZONA (15)	SAT 21
5.00	NOVEMBERMOND (Uncert)	SUN 22
8.00	RAISING ARIZONA (15)	
7.30	HOME OF THE BRAVE (U)	WED 25
7.30	GOOD MORNING BABYLON (15)	THUR 26
7.30	GOOD MORNING BABYLON (15)	FRI 27
5.00/8.00	GOOD MORNING BABYLON (15)	SAT 28
5.00	DER TOD DES WEISSEN PFERDES	SUN 29
8.00	GOOD MORNING BABYLON (15)	

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THE WAY WE WERE



TOM STOKES and KEVIN PRIME

This month Metro Gay calls on Tom Stokes and Kevin Prime who talk about the good old, bad old days and how they got together thirteen years ago...

"I was born not ten minutes walk from Gatsbys, in St. Ann's and went to an all-boys school where I had a couple of relationships. I knew I was gay around 12 though I couldn't put a name to it then. The first I knew about the gay scene was when I overheard these two men talking about this gay club called La Chic, so I went along. At first I was terrified to even knock at the door. When I did eventually summon up courage, they said I was too young! It was some months before I got into the club for the first time. I didn't know what to expect or how to behave. This was in 1974. They said they needed a DJ in and the manager asked me if I was interested, and that's really how I began in the business for the next seven years".

Tom Stokes draws deeply on a cigarette, momentarily obscuring his former lover and now best friend, Kevin Prime across the room who is deeply engrossed in "East Enders". But it's time for the commercial break and Kevin takes up the story.

"I met a young guy when I was 16, who took me down La Chic for the first time. I loved it, and after that I tried to go every weekend. That's where I met my first proper boyfriend, Chambo. He travelled with his job, so I used to travel all over Great Britain with him when possible. Of course, at that age it was great and I fell head over heels.

When the day came that HE had had enough, I was heartbroken and devastated. Well, I went through all the floods of tears, rejection and - 'I wish I was dead' - sob, sob.

Mam already knew I was gay, but it was then I let me dad know. He went barmy. Angry, upset, disgusted and damn sure I was not his son anymore. So I thought c'est la vie, and ran off to Leicester. Dad found out where I was and dragged me back to Burton-on-Trent, but not before I told him I hated him and he gave me a bloody nose.

Things died down, I carried on going to La Chic, where one Saturday I was introduced to the DJ Tom Stokes, 'cause I was told he fancied me. At first I didn't fancy him much at all, but he won me over in the end, and one day I arrived on his doorstep with my cases and waited about four hours for him to come home. We've been together since then, and were an affair up until three years ago.

Eventually I told me Dad I loved him and he said he loved me, so we made up and have got on well ever since..

Tom takes over: "When we broke up we decided, better the devil you know...we share the same zany sense of humour and anyway, it's nice having someone to come back to apart from the fact that two can live cheaper than one. Mind you I still get very protective over Kevin's boyfriends and Kevin also tries to mind my own business. But we never bear grudges. We can have a row and it will be forgotten a few hours later."

"We've lived in some right places I can tell you", chips in Kevin

"Seven at least, until we got this one from the Housing Association which we really love, and can call it home. It's right slap bang in the city centre "couldn't be better and we can see Fairy Towers (the Vicky Centre) as well."

Laughter fills the air. Tom again. "In those days there were mainly older gays on the scene; they were the ones with the cars, and they had style with it. It were nice to have someone to run you about, it was great... and you could get in to clubs dressed as you want, dragged up to shock, what a laugh it was. But you cant shock anyone anymore".

"None of this dress code like now", pipes up Kevin during the commercial break.

Tom continues: "...We used to have theme nights, like everyone in shorts which set the tone for the evening. Now, it's all clones and knitting patterns. If you took women friends to the Club you were frowned upon, they weren't welcome then".

At La Chic they used to let the gay groups use the space when the club wasn't in use. I remember when Rose Robertson of Parents Enquiry (Parents of Gays) came up from London to speak on a Sunday evening. The gays brought their parents and it were great. I persuaded Kevin to bring his Mum and Dad and from then on we've got on like a house on fire. They've even stayed the night with us a number of times..."

Tom broke off to catch what Dirty Dea was up to before getting back into gear.

"A few years ago we took Kevin's parents to Gatsbys and Part Two"

"Me mum loved it - but me dad didn't like the disco lights", adds Kevin. My parents and younger sister still visit me, but my kid brother has only visited once. He's OK but he doesn't really want to socialise with me. The older sister doesn't agree or approve.

She invited us to her wedding (only because me Dad wanted me to come). Then some friends of me sister's called me a poof, so I gave them a mouthful. She complained later that if I couldn't put up with being called a poof then I shouldn't be gay! Charming I thought". But everyone else has got used to it now.

There was no stopping Tom now. "I remember when Ken, the owner of Whispers and his lover Colin decided to have a "wedding" in the Club. Everyone was in their dickie-bows at the reception, complete with a massive cake, with two grooms atop...It was no skinny do that one!"

I asked Tom whether he had ever left Nottingham. "Only once when I went to Brighton to work for a while at the Curtain Club DJ'ing. But I couldn't stand it and was homesick - Brighton seemed such a small town. Nottingham is the Queen of the Midlands". Whilst we talked I couldn't help noticing Kevin's snappy clothes, an original dresser I thought. He soon confirmed that the boutiques didn't get his money - he made all his own, having recently completed a fashion design course.

Kevin used to work behind the busy, busy bar of Part II Club. "People used to come from all over the Midlands the North and even London each weekend. It used to be the best club in town until they started letting straights in and then it began to go downhill", said Kevin.

But reasonable jobs being hard to come by these days, Tom had to wait for his break until, with several like minded people they set up Splinter Furniture Co-op, restoring old furniture. With the Nottingham City Council Business Award under their belts in 1984 they are now designing a range of their own furniture in their new premises in Dunkirk.

(continued back page)

PHOENIX ARTS

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Thursday 5 7.30	HEARTBEAT + PULL MY DAISY + CAROLYN CASSADY IN CONVERSATION
Saturday 7 7.00	HISTORY OF THE AVANT GARDE - 10
Monday 9 6.15	T. DAN SMITH (PG)
Friday 13 11.15	PINK FLOYD - THE WALL (18)
Saturday 14 3.00	STAR TREK IV - THE VOYAGE HOME (PG)
Monday 16 6.45	THE HITCHER (18) + JAGGED EDGE (18)
Wednesday 18 6.15 8.15	HORSE THIEF (18) JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)
Thursday 19 6.15 8.15	HORSE THIEF (18) JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG)
Friday 20 6.15 8.45 11.15	JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG) HORSE THIEF (18) UNDER THE CHERRY MOON (15)
Saturday 21 3.00 6.15 8.45	BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA (PG) JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG) HORSE THIEF (18)
Friday 27 11.15	DON'T LOOK BACK (18)
Sunday 29 4.00 8.00	COMRADES (PG) JUNK AESTHETICS - PROG 1 (15)
Monday 30 7.00	COMRADES (PG)
DECEMBER	
Tuesday 1 7.00	COMRADES (PG)
Wednesday 2 6.15 8.15	WHAT HAPPENED TO KEROUAC (15) OPERA DO MALANDRO (15)
Thursday 3 6.15 9.00	OPERA DO MALANDRO (15) WHAT HAPPENED TO KEROUAC (15)
Friday 4 11.15	QUADROPHENIA (18)
Sunday 6 4.00 6.00 8.00	SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18) JUNK AESTHETICS - PROG 2 (15) SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18)
Monday 7 6.15 8.30	THE BIG EASY (18) SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (18)
Tuesday 8 6.15 8.30	THE BIG EASY (18) ARIA (15)

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THE WAY WE WERE

OVER 40's MEETING



KEVIN BEHIND THE BAR IN PART II

Tom and Kevin still spend Xmas day together in the flat clubbing in the evening, and then its off to their parents homes on Boxing Day. But last year proved to be a watershed for Tom and another hurdle over.

"My mum has always known I was gay but she said well you needn't tell your Dad, because anyway marrieds have secrets from each other dont they? Well there we were, my younger brother and me with me Dad in his local in Bulwell when he looks me straight in the eye and says: "When am I going to get some grandchildren then, Tom?"

But my younger brother told my dad that I was gay then and there. My dad put down his pint and left the pub. We later found out he had gone straight to his allotment. Me Mum wanted to know what was up with me Dad. And I told her. When Dad came back he put his arm round me and said I am still your father and I hope we havent deiven you out of your home, lad". He later said he felt left out, not knowing. Since then everything has been great.

Right now Tom was waiting for David, the new love in his life to come in from work. "He lives in Leicester and is just coming out", I expect he'll be moving in as well, soon. Kevin looked up from his empty plate. By now "East Enders" was only a memory. they laughed.



Following preparations over several months, older lesbians & gays will hold their first coffee evening on the 19th November, (Thursday) in Nottingham. The group hope to reach others who, through lack of social contact, have become socially isolated. The coffee evening is open to any lesbian or gay over 40 and there will be a showing of the film documentary, "Silent Pioneers". More info. from Gay Switchboard Nottingham 411454 (Mon-Fri 7-10pm) or Lesbian Line, Mon. & Wed. 7.30-9pm 410652. or write to FRIEND c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG13FF. (Regret no disabled access).

PUB CRAWL

place for men and women". They kick off outside the Milton's Head, Parliament St. Tuesday, 10th Nov. at 5.20pm and will finish up at the Co-op Disco at the Yorker Pub, Mansfield Road, hopefully before closing time. Those unable to manage a 5.20pm start could meet the pub crawlers half way at 8pm in the Old Angel, Stoney St. Nottingham. Anyone wishing to sponsor Cathy or Jimmy can get sponsor forms by phoning Cathy on Not. 4 70906, office hours.

WOT'S GOIN' OFF

Daily, NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Upstairs at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St. Nottm. Tel: 0602 483697/411475 (for messages, 24 hr. ansaphone). Open: Mon-Fri, 10-4pm, + Sat. 10-1pm, Library open, Tues-Sat. 11-2pm + Thur. 10-4pm.
7th November, Birmingham University, Students Union, Edgbaston Park Rd. BRUM UNLIMITED. A day of style, culture and entertainment including a workshop at 11am on "Coming Out" in which Peter Tatchell and Elizabeth Wilson discuss gay culture.
10th November, Lesbian/Gay Co-op Disco, The Yorker, Mansfield Road, 8-11pm. 50p.
11th November, The Leadmill, 6-7 Leadmill Road, Sheffield (0742) 754500, "IF THE CAP FITS", performed by Gary Stevens. "Compellingly funny tragitheatre, starts 8pm. One night only.
30th November, Albert Inn, Sutherland Street, Sheffield (0742) 23569. SHEFFIELD GAYPHONE CHARITY NIGHT. Free raffle.
30th November, The Leadmill, 6-7 Leadmill Road, Sheffield NEIL BARTLETT & ROBIN WHITMORE in "A VISION OF LOVE REVEALED IN SLEEP". A powerful monologue tracing the forgotten story of Simeon Solomon, a fashionable painter and poet and friend of Oscar Wilde. Begins 8pm.
2-3 December, Phoenix Film, Newarke St. Leicester, "WHAT HAPPENED TO KEROUAC", (0533) 554854.

"I wish my life was a little gayer!"

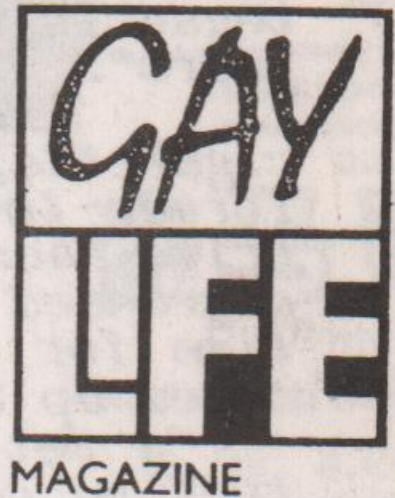


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NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD, your helpline to the gay/lesbian communities, Mon-Fri, 7-10pm. 0602 411454.
LESBIAN LINE, Confidential help/advice for lesbians, Mon. & Weds. 7.30-9pm, 0602 410652
NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 30 Chaucer St. Nottm. Tel 483697 or 411475 (24 hour. ansaphone).
NOTTINGHAM FRIEND, Tuesdays, 7-10pm, counselling & befriending for lesbians & gay men, bisexuals, TV/TS's, tel: 474717 c/o 31a Mansfield Road, Nottm.
AIDS HELPLINE, Worried about AIDS? Call us Mon-Wed 7-10pm, Nottingham 585526. Accurate information can help to reduce your anxiety.
NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL VD CLINIC, 475989, Daily, Mon-Fri, 9.30-11.30am, Tues & Weds. 2-3.30pm, Eves., Mon & Thurs. 4.30-6.30, Sats. Emergencies only, 9.30-10.30am.
LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY, Infirmary Close, (Nr. BR Station) V.D. Clinic, Tel: Leicester 541414 x 5208.
LEICESTER LESBIAN/GAYLINE, Mon-Fri, 7.30-10.30pm Leicester 550667.
DERBY FRIEND, 7-10pm, Weds, Derby 49333 (answering service at other times or write c/o Derby CVS, Kings Chambers, Queens Street, Derby. DE1 3DA.
DERBY AIDSLINE for help & confidential advice, Derby 290766 (ansaphone gives opening times).
DERBY LESBIAN LINE, Wednesdays 7-9pm Derby 414111 or write c/o P.O. Box 140, Derby.
DERBY ROYAL INFIRMARY, William Donald (VD) Clinic, London Road, Derby 47141 x 504.

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