

GALOP

GAY
LONDON
POLICING
GROUP

6TH ANNUAL REPORT 1989/90

£2.95

Jeffrey Weeks

on HISTORY
& exclusive

'T' SHIRT offer



GALOP + THE MEDIA

CASEWORK

POLICE LIAISON

SEXUAL OFFENCES

PORNOGRAPHY

VICTIM SUPPORT

STATISTICS

PUBLICATIONS



GALOP

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Front Cover Photo: ACT-UP demonstration,
World AIDS Day, 1st December, 1990

CONTENTS

	page
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. STATISTICS	6
3. CASEWORK	8
4. POLICE LIAISON	12
5. GALOP & THE MEDIA	13
6. HISTORY, WHICH HISTORY?	14
BY JEFFREY WEEKS	
7. SEXUAL OFFENCES	16
8. PORNOGRAPHY	18
9. VIOLENCE & VICTIM SUPPORT	20
10. GOOD POLICING	22
11. FINANCIAL REPORT	23
12. PUBLICATIONS	25
13. ...'T' SHIRT OFFER...	25
14. ORDER + STANDING ORDER FORM	26
15. MEMBERSHIP	27

I N T R O D U C T I O N



1990 HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A YEAR OF REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR GALOP AND EQUALLY A YEAR IN WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF LEGAL CHANGES AND DECISIONS WHICH SHOULD BE A CAUSE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY.

The year saw a breakthrough in respect of the liaison between the gay community in London and the Metropolitan Police - with consultative meetings taking place at both local and Metropolitan-wide levels. Senior officers within the Met are, at last, listening to the views of the community on issues such as the monitoring of anti-gay assaults and the policing of public lavatories and open cruising areas. Whether "listening" can be converted into long-awaited action will become clearer over the next 12 months.

However, little more than a year ago it would have seemed incredible that the Met would appoint an officer specifically to liaise with the lesbian and gay community and that regular meetings would start being held between representatives of that community and the police. Undeniably, a cautious attitude needs to be adopted to ensure that these meetings are not mere academic exercises and that legitimate demands are met, but there have already been small successes at local level - particularly on the question of monitoring anti-gay violence.

The police liaison initiative is an issue which GALOP has spearheaded for a number of years. Now that demands are starting to become reality, the responsibility for such liaison has, quite rightly, shifted to the more representative umbrella organisation of the Lesbian and Gay Policing Initiative. GALOP will continue to play a leading role within the LGPI and to deal with police liaison in its own right, particularly at a local level.

There have been criticisms from certain quarters that we should not be speaking to the police at all. Such criticisms are not incomprehensible but as long as such liaison holds the prospect of a clear improvement in the conditions of lesbians and gay men and as long as it does not compromise the interests of the community, then it should be maintained.

GALOP has throughout 1990 been used increasingly as a media resource. The juxtaposition of the already high and

continually increasing policing of public sexual encounters between gay men with the failure of the Met (and other police forces) to make any progress in respect of a number of unsolved gay-related murders has been an immensely popular one for the media this year. Members of GALOP have consequently appeared on all four national TV channels, on satellite TV and in the national press in order to discuss the issues raised. Despite the immense strain that this work places on our resources, these appearances are considered to be worthwhile as they permit the presentation of what would otherwise be unheard, alternative viewpoints to the general public and heighten the lesbian and gay community's awareness of our existence and services.

Paradoxically and depressingly, the liaison with the police and the increasing legitimisation of the demands of lesbians and gays on policing issues are developments which have been matched by adverse legal changes.

The last month of 1990 saw lengthy sentences passed on a group of men who had been convicted of offences relating to their participation in consensual sado-masochistic activities. The injuries involved (cuts, abrasions and bruises) were all of a minor nature and required no medical treatment unlike, for example, the serious injuries which might be sustained in a "consensual" boxing match. The sexual and in particular gay sexual context of the behaviour clearly influenced the judge into passing sentences of up to 4 years imprisonment, having first ruled that "consent" provided no defence to such activities.

December also saw the House of Lords halt an appeal which challenged the use of local authority bye-laws against men arrested for alleged offences of indecency in public. The decision sanctioned the continued use by the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) of these often anachronistic and inappropriate laws. Men charged with such offences can only be dealt with in the Magistrates Court, where they are likely to be refused legal aid (and thus appear unrepresented) and to fall prey to that court's notoriously high rate of convictions (80% as opposed to 20% for such cases in the Crown Court).

At the time of writing, the police and CPS were again



making use of the Westminster bye-laws (the subject of the attempted House of Lords appeal) in respect of arrests resulting from a major police operation at Hyde Park Corner lavatories in London.

The end of 1990 also saw the sanctioning of Clause 25 of the Criminal Justice Bill. This threatens prison sentences for persistent sexual offenders which have been defined to include men convicted for gross indecency ("cottaging") and importuning ("cruising"). These are offences for which prison sentences have very rarely been passed since the partial decriminalisation of gay sex in 1967.

The whole of 1990 witnessed the continuation and escalation of extensive policing of public gay sexual behaviour, whether this was in the form of public displays of affection, cottaging or cruising. Hitherto unheard of police resources are now being dedicated to the control of these essentially victimless crimes, despite the massive escalation of crimes with genuine victims.

All these developments have placed an increasing

burden on GALOP, both in respect of the organisation's counselling and advice services and in respect of its role in making proposals to law makers and law enforcers which promote the interests of the gay and lesbian community.

The group's workload has increased exponentially throughout the year to the extent that our office, staffing resources and facilities are now more than ever clearly completely inadequate. At present, almost all our funding comes from the London Boroughs Grants Unit and that funding has been effectively frozen for several years, with no prospect of an increase for the foreseeable future. If we are to survive, then, increasingly we are going to have to look to the community for our financial and other practical resources. If you feel you can help, please make use of the forms elsewhere in the Report to make a donation, or offer support as a volunteer.

Angus Hamilton,
GALOP Convenor

January, 1991.



Jeremy Clarke (centre) and Paul Burston (right) negotiate with the police, ACT-UP American Embassy demo, 20th June, 1990

GALOP

STATISTICS

IT CAN NEVER BE STRESSED TOO OFTEN THAT OUR STATISTICS GIVE, AND CAN ONLY EVER HOPE TO GIVE, A PARTIAL REPRESENTATION OF HOW GAY MEN ARE POLICED IN LONDON. THOSE WHO CONTACT US ARE A SELF-SELECTING GROUP.

No obligation attaches to any individual or organisation to report incidents or crime to us, and in a sense we depend upon a general concern for the community amongst our callers to prompt them to get in touch with us. That concern can only be encouraged but never enforced. To overcome this problem we need the gay community to resource the production of accurate statistics, especially on violence against us. Most crucially, we need to press the police to record and monitor anti-gay crime. This longstanding demand has up until now elicited a brusque refusal by the police, despite their being able to monitor other forms of hate crime, for instance anti-semitic or racial attacks. Bureaucratic inertia is as much a cause here as homophobia and the gay community must continue in its efforts to shift police practice on this point.

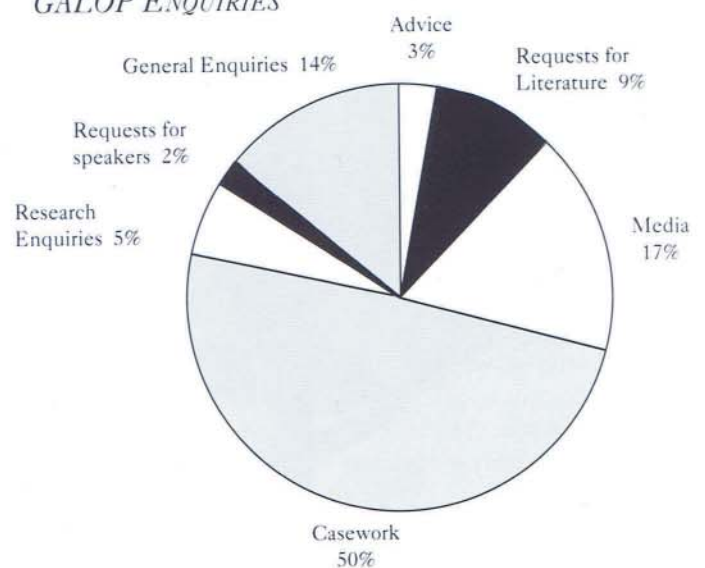
This year's figures indicate the consistent trend upwards in arrests and prosecutions for indecency offences between men. The Metropolitan Police's own figures show a startling rise to 1000 convictions for gross indecency over the same period. British Transport Police figures show a 653% rise in cases of indecency between males. Despite denials from police spokespeople, there is clearly increased attention to public expressions of gay sex, a fact confirmed by the increased reporting of raids for possession of pornography.

Whilst our figures for violence show a fall since last year, this should not be taken as any index of a real slowdown in the rate of assaults and murder. Rather, it may well be that gay men just do not report crime against them at all, on the grounds that reporting it will do them no good. Mistrust of the police extends to a general scepticism about reporting crime to anyone. We urge anyone who experiences harassment or assault, or who hears of assaults against other men to contact GALOP, and to consider seriously reporting the matter to the police, stressing that they feel it to be an anti-gay crime.

GALOP ENQUIRIES APRIL 1989 TO MARCH 1990

	CALLS	%
ADVICE	38	3
REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE	110	9
MEDIA	204	17
CASEWORK	594	50
RESEARCH ENQUIRIES	64	5
REQUESTS FOR SPEAKERS	26	2
GENERAL ENQUIRIES	164	14
TOTALS	1200	100

GALOP ENQUIRIES

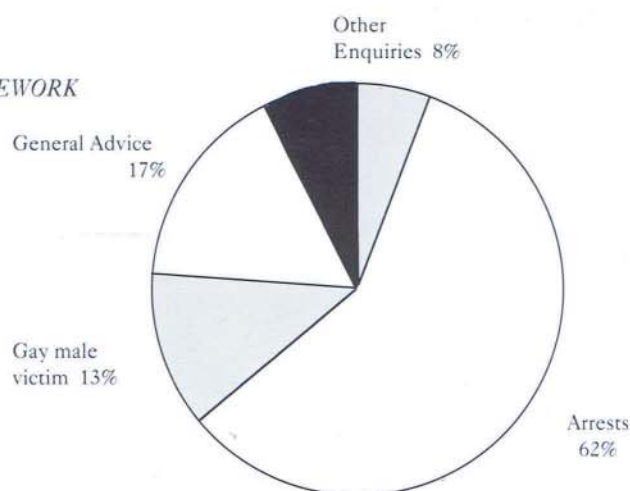


GALOP CASEWORK APRIL 1989 TO MARCH 1990

	CALLS	%
Gay men arrested for:		
Sex offence in public	328	55
Pornography	4	1
Prostitution	5	1
Public Order:		
Obstruction/Drunkenness	19	3
Other Offences	10	2
Gay Male Victim:		
Murder		
Violence	11	2
	68	11
General Advice:		
Sex under 21		
AIDS/Health	7	1
Search of Premises/Courts/	5	1
Legal Procedures	7	1
Disclosure of Convictions	13	2
Other Advice	70	12
Other Encounters With The Police:	47	8
TOTALS	594	100

Types of referral: 42% self referrals or via friends
 20% from mentions in the gay press etc.
 23% from other gay organisations
 8% from other organisations
 7% unknown

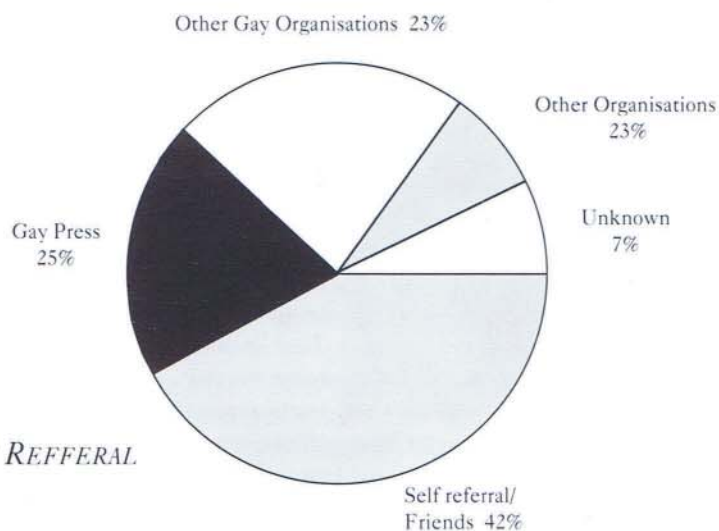
GALOP CASEWORK



Explanation of Categories

The breakdown above is of the calls we have received over the last year. The categories are fairly self-explanatory: **gay man arrested** indicates calls from men arrested for the offences cited. **Gay male victim** indicates calls from men who have been victims of crime, or in the case of Murder from people who were concerned about or had information to offer about the crime. **General advice** indicates inquiries about the named topics. **Other advice** indicates calls about miscellaneous legal matters too various to cite individually. **Other encounters** indicates calls concerning police harassment, complaints about rudeness and so on, not tied to specific charges. **Media enquiries** were from press, TV and radio. **Research enquiries** were from individuals or organisations wanting information, reports or analysis. **General enquiries** were about GALOP, who we are, what we do, times we are available etc.

TYPES OF REFFERAL



CASEWORK

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE KIND OF CASES GALOP HAS DEALT WITH IN THE LAST YEAR. THEY ARE NEITHER EXCEPTIONAL NOR PARTICULARLY UNUSUAL. GAY MEN ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO VIOLENT ATTACKS AND OFTEN GET A RAW DEAL AT THE HANDS OF THE POLICE AND LEGAL SYSTEM.

VIOLENCE

Attacks against gay men formed a high proportion of our caseload over the last year, though fewer cases were reported to us than during the previous financial year. (That said, the numbers of calls relating to violent attacks since April 1990 show a marked rise). Actual numbers of assaults on gay men are difficult to assess, since the police keep no specific records, and GALOP relies upon voluntary disclosure of information about incidents which many people find difficulty in talking about. What we can say without any doubt is that the general pattern of attacks has changed quite dramatically. Where we were once hearing

of isolated incidents, we are now dealing with cases of organised gang-attacks, often involving weapons such as cudgels and chains, and, in some cases, resulting in the victim's death. During the summer months, in particular, we received reports of grievous gang-assaults on gay men with alarming regularity. (We have also dealt with a few reports of attacks on lesbians, though women tend by and large to take their cases to other, mixed organisations such as GLLAD). The responses of the police have, for the main part, been totally inadequate.

• Anthony was cycling home across Clapham Common when he was stopped by a gang of four youths in their late teens who blocked the path and started asking him whether he was "a queer". They threw a football back and forth, close to his face, before one pulled out a base-ball bat which he then swung at Anthony's head. Luckily, Anthony managed to escape his attackers and, on reaching home, phoned the local police. He was told that there were no

officers available to come out to the scene of the incident. Anthony went to the police station and registered the attack. He was asked to contact the police immediately should he see the gang again. A week later the gang appeared outside his house. He phoned the police and was told that no-one was available.

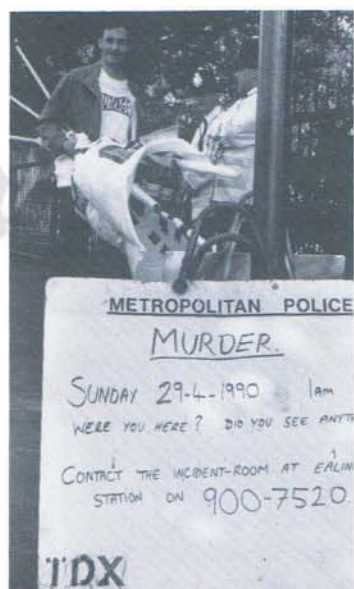
• Helen and her lover had just left a popular women-only club and were walking in the direction of their van when three youths appeared and began to verbally abuse them. Helen chose to ignore them, until one picked up a lump of concrete and threw it at her, narrowly missing her face and smashing through the driver's window of her van. She ran back to the club, which was only fifty yards away, and asked the bouncer to call the police. He refused, insisting that it was none of his business what happened outside the club. By the time she got home, Helen decided that there was little point in calling the police now, over an hour after the event, and the attack went unreported.

• Derek and Tim were walking through Islington late at night when they were approached by two men, one of whom asked them for a light. Moments later they were being beaten with what they believe was a wooden club, both receiving various injuries to the head and upper torso. Derek needed twenty stitches in his forehead. They reported the attack to the local police who, they say, were polite but did not seem particularly interested.

• John and his friends had stopped at a petrol station one evening for some cigarettes. While John was at the cash-till he noticed a car pulling up outside and heard a woman's voice shouting "queers", etc. He came out of the station and a slanging match ensued between John's friends and the two men and one woman in the car. Suddenly, one man jumped out of the car and smashed one of John's friends across the head with a hammer. The station attendant phoned the police, who arrived half an hour later, by which time the attackers had driven off. Luckily, John had taken a note of the car registration number, and the driver was eventually tracked down.

• Michael and a friend had spent the evening at a gay pub in South-East London which also admits straights. Earlier, a row had developed between the landlord of the pub and a group of young men and young women whom he had refused entry. As Michael and his friend were leaving, they noticed one of the men hanging around. Seeing two

Michael Boothe march



gay men walking ahead, they followed the same route, but gradually lost sight of the two men in front. A few minutes later, they caught up with the two gay men, who were involved in an argument with a young woman who was screaming abuse at them. With her were two of the men who had been refused entry to the pub, whom she was encouraging to "have a go at the queers". Two other young women ran up to join in the abuse. One had a rottweiler; the other wielded a bottle. By now they were in the middle of the private docklands estates surrounding the pub; people were looking out of their windows due to the noise. Michael shouted to them to call the police. At that moment a private security van drove by. Michael ran over to seek assistance. The security guard refused to get directly involved, though he did radio to the police. When he returned to the scene of the incident, the gang had disappeared and his friend was lying on the ground, having been assaulted. The police arrived but were totally unhelpful, failing even to arrest the young women who had incited the assault and who were still hanging around shouting abuse.

- Stephen was waiting for a train at Liverpool Street station at around 1am. It was announced that there would be delays to all services, so he decided to go outside of the station for a cigarette. While he was sitting on the steps, two youths approached him, one of whom stood next to him for a few minutes staring. Stephen ignored him, and the youth walked back to his friend with an exaggerated mince. Five minutes later, they reappeared and asked Stephen if he had any beer, where he was going, whether he was a "fucking lefty". They then started to poke at him, before laying into him with punches and kicks. Stephen managed to escape and ran to the ticket office, where he asked the inspector to phone the police. The inspector refused. The two youths appeared, along with five others, and chased Stephen along the platform. Fearing he might be pushed onto the track, Stephen tried to get past the ticket collector at the other end of the platform, who refused to let him past, whereupon the seven youths caught up with him and beat him to the ground. Luckily, a group of lesbians appeared, who managed to rescue Stephen and call the police. The police, when they arrived, arrested five of the attackers, and escorted Stephen to hospital, where he was treated for a cut lip and bruises. He later identified four of the five thugs, who were subsequently charged with



ABH. Stephen lodged a complaint against BR for the appalling behaviour of the station staff.

- Peter was walking through Finsbury Park at around 7.30 one evening when he was approached by a man in a blue track-suit, who called him "a fucking poof" and punched him in the face. Peter recognised his attacker, believing him to be responsible for a number of assaults on gay men cruising in the park. He reported the incident to the local police, who questioned him at great length about what he was doing in the park and eventually agreed to make a record of the attack. Peter doubts very much whether a proper report was even kept, let alone whether any action was taken, in spite of the full description he gave of his attacker.

P O L I C E M A L P R A C T I C E

GALOP are currently discussing with senior officers at New Scotland Yard (and have argued for some time) the need for an explicit disciplinary offence of anti-lesbian and gay discrimination to be included in the regulations that govern police officers' behaviour. Clients frequently allege that the police arrest them on spurious charges, fabricate evidence against them and generally intimidate them. Most often, the complaint is that police officers were rude, unhelpful, or used offensive language, referring to them as "queer", "fag", "poof", etc.

- Adrian and his boyfriend were sitting outside the Royal Oak pub in Hammersmith when three police cars pulled up. Nine officers in total emerged, and told the two men to move on. Adrian's boyfriend was tying up his shoelace when one of the officers suddenly pushed him to the ground and began kicking him around the chest and head.

He was then arrested, and taken to the local police station. The custody officer despatched him to Charing Cross hospital, where seven stitches were recommended. The officer in charge insisted that there was an urgent need to get back to the police station, and so a temporary bandage was applied. Back at the police station, a charge of being drunk and disorderly was made against Adrian's boyfriend, who accepted a caution, not realising that this was tantamount to an admission of guilt.

- Sean was standing on the Earls Court Road, trying to flag down a taxi, when he was grabbed from behind by two police officers, who arrested him on a charge of soliciting. He was taken to Kensington police station, where he was held for two hours, before being released without charges.

- Tom was driving home from a gay bar in Burnley when he realised he was being followed by police. After tailing him for a few miles, they stopped him and made him take a breath test, which proved negative. They then asked to see his spare tyre, and rummaged through the boot of his car. Finding a bottle of poppers and a small kitchen knife inside his tool-box, they arrested him and escorted him to the local police station. Here, he was questioned at length about where he was driving to so late at night and generally intimidated. After two hours, he was charged with possession of an offensive weapon and made to sign a statement, before being released with the advice that "the case may or may not be taken to court".

- Gordon was walking through the West End with a group of friends. He was crossing the road when a car sped up, halting within inches of him. Instinctively, he placed his hand on the bonnet of the car, which he thought was about to drive into him. A police-woman appeared and pushed him against the car. He asked, "What have I done?", but received no reply. Another officer climbed out of the car and told him that he was under arrest. He was bundled into a police van, which had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, and driven off. Inside the van, two officers used undue force to pin him to the floor, calling him a "fucking faggot". No-one informed him of his rights, nor of the reason for his arrest. At the station, Gordon was subjected to further physical abuse, having his head banged against a wall a number of times by one officer and being repeatedly referred to as a "fucking faggot". During the time that he was detained in the police station, he received no answers to questions relating to relevant points of the

law, and was denied reasonable time to read documents which he was asked to sign. Finally, he was charged with disorderly conduct and released.

- Robert was standing outside Heaven, kissing and cuddling with another man, when he heard a voice shout "we've got some bloody queers here!" At first, he thought it must be a gang of gay-bashers, but then saw that it was a group of police officers. They arrested both Robert and the other man and bundled them into a van. At the station, they were handled by officers wearing rubber gloves, and were charged with indecent behaviour before being released some five hours later.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Cases of alleged sexual misconduct between males have always formed a large proportion of GALOP's remit. The enormous resources that the police have invested in the clear-up of such petty crime, (coupled with the quite uncharacteristic levels of enthusiasm and imagination they have displayed in the pursuit of convictions) have ensured that "cottaging offences" have been high on our agenda over the last year.

- Martin was arrested by a plain-clothes officer in the toilet on Baker Street tube station. Adamant that he had committed nothing that might be interpreted as "gross indecency", he insists that he was picked upon purely because of the way he was dressed at the time; i.e. in a recognisably gay manner. He was taken to the local police station, where it was discovered by the police that he was an HIV worker (he had safer sex literature and condoms in his bag). He was ridiculed by the police for this, and asked repeatedly about his own HIV status. After two hours of intimidation, he was released and ordered to appear at Marylebone Magistrates Court.

- Derek was one of thirty-seven men arrested by plain-clothes officers in a toilet at Hatch End in the course of two days! He claims that the man standing next to him at the urinal offered him a come-on smile and, when Derek smiled back, promptly identified himself as a police officer and arrested him. Fearing the publicity that might come with a court case, Derek pleaded guilty to a charge of "gross indecency".

- Paul was stopped by a police officer in Trafalgar Square



at around 6am while he was waiting for his night-bus. Because he works as a drag-entertainer, he still had traces of make-up on his face, and was dressed in what he described as "a slightly feminine way". The officer arrested him on a charge of "soliciting", and took him to Cannon Row police station, where he was subjected to verbal abuse for over twenty-four hours, before being released and ordered to appear at court.

- Tim was one of twenty-two men arrested at a toilet in Plymouth over the course of a week. All defendants were charged with "gross indecency", though Tim rigorously denied that he made any form of sexual contact, visual or physical, with another man. Eleven of the men pleaded guilty in the hope that this might prevent media coverage. Sadly, it did not. The names, addresses, professional details and photographs of all twenty-two men appeared in the local newspaper. When Tim went to appear at court, he was met by a jeering crowd, some of whom hurled missiles as well as insults. A few days later, the local gay pub was fire-bombed.

- Jonathan was waiting for his HIV counsellor in Hyde Park, which has been the scene for a number of large-scale

police surveillance operations over the past couple of years. He was suffering from a bout of diarrhoea, and had to make frequent visits to the nearby toilet. He was stopped by two police officers, who accused him of soliciting, to which he responded by revealing information about his HIV-antibody status. They finally accepted what he said, but took notes of his address and the address of his employer. He is worried that the police may pass on information about his HIV status to his employer.

- Edward was talking to an old acquaintance during a chance meeting at Victoria station, having driven there in order to say goodbye to his sister, who was catching a train. After a few minutes had passed, a plain-clothes police officer approached the two men, and accused Edward of "soliciting for an immoral purpose". He was taken to the local transport police office, where he was interrogated at length about the reasons for his being at the station. He was asked for his name and address, which he initially refused to disclose, but finally gave after seven hours of police detention. He was eventually released without charges, and subsequently made an official complaint against his arresting officer, which resulted in no action being taken.



March in memory of Michael Brothie, the gay actor kicked to death outside a cottage in Ealing, 10th July, 1990



POLICE LIAISON

IN THE EARLY YEARS OF GALOP'S EXISTENCE THE METROPOLITAN POLICE TREATED US AS A MEDDLING BUNCH OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED TROUBLEMAKERS, LEFTIES TARRER WITH THE BRUSH OF THE GLC, AND OBJECTS OF THE ALMOST PARANOID DEFENSIVENESS WITH WHICH THEY TREATED ALL MONITORING GROUPS.

Certainly, they would refuse to sit down in the same room to discuss matters of mutual concern, never mind allow that we might have constructive suggestions to make in terms of policy, practice or recruitment. Slowly, in the manner of two steps forward, one step back, this attitude has changed and over the last period the police have begun to see us as a professional voice representing the legitimate concerns of the gay community. It seems we can now enter the inner sanctums of Scotland Yard or local nicks without causing serious apoplexy.

The reasons for the shift are not hard to discern. Sir Peter Imbert's drive for perestroika has opened up the police to outside influence in a previously unthinkable way. The crisis of public confidence in the Force has demanded a radical rethink of the Police's image and their relations with the community in all its plurality. The conception of a police force standing apart from and over a community policed despite itself is giving way to an idea of a police service which garners consent from the policed and solicits its priorities from the public and not from its own agenda. The increasingly vociferous demands brought to bear by lesbians and gay men themselves and the more skillful use of media pressure have both pushed the police into a position where they have had to respond to the sorts of criticisms that GALOP has made of their practice towards lesbians and gay men. The Lesbian and Gay Policing Initiative, which GALOP was instrumental in setting up has set an agenda for change inside the Metropolitan Police which could yield extraordinarily positive results...

GALOP's liaison with the police now takes a number of forms.

1. We have always been in a position to act as intermediaries where gay men could pass on information of use to the police, without having to deal directly with officers. Several years ago we helped identify the body of a gay man found in the Thames. Now it is growing to be routine for Incident Teams to contact

GALOP when there has been a murder in London, firstly so that we know what is going on and secondly to enable us to route relevant information into their investigation.

2. We have successfully insisted on local police forces listening to our position around indecency offences, discussing with senior officers alternative ways of policing such defences. This strategy is of course fraught with difficulties, and such successes as we have had have not always been maintained. For instance, having managed to persuade Cannon Row to desist in its plainclothes operations around Hyde Park Corner toilets, we were appalled to discover that the operations have started up again, with all the same injustice.

3. Through the Lesbian and Gay Policing Initiative we are involved in regular meetings at Scotland Yard to discuss the sequence of demands made by the Initiative, but stemming from the policy recommendations drawn up by GALOP over the years, such as monitoring of anti-gay violence, appointment of liaison officers specifically for the lesbian and gay communities, equal opportunities policies inside the force and in recruitment, etc.

4. We are currently in liaison with the Community Involvement Branch of Scotland Yard to discuss the practical and technical arrangements for monitoring anti-gay violence across the Metropolitan Police area. Battersea police station have already agreed to a pilot project after a number of vicious assaults on Clapham Common, and this pilot will probably be integrated into a wider number of experimental monitoring schemes in four or five police stations.

There are of course a number of other areas that GALOP will seek to be involved with, notably in training officers and in producing policy recommendations to be adopted at senior Met and ACPO level. The encouraging aspect of this current work is that it should be possible to achieve a large number of our goals within the foreseeable future. This will of course depend on the Met, maintaining its current policy of openness and willingness to listen and consult, a policy

by no means guaranteed given the Commissioner's present illness and the noticeable grass roots reaction within the force against policing by consent. Whether the police are really committed to large scale and permanent reform, however, remains moot and subject to the test of practice.



GALOP *and the* MEDIA

IN TERMS OF MEDIA LIAISON, THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUSLY SIGNIFICANT ONE FOR GALOP. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RELIANT TO A LARGE EXTENT UPON THE MEDIA TO EXERT THE KIND OF PRESSURE ON THE POLICE THAT ALONE WE ARE UNABLE TO, AND HAVE TRADITIONALLY ADOPTED A REACTIVE ROLE WHEN IT COMES TO MEDIA RELATIONS.

Looking back over the year, it is clear that our decision to take on a far more pro-active role in our dealings with the media has paid off. GALOP's profile has risen considerably, both in the gay and the mainstream press, and far greater attention been paid to the whole subject of policing the lesbian and gay community.

The gay press, of course, has always supported our work, providing us with free publicity and frequently generating discussion around the issues that concern us. Debates about cottaging have dominated the letters pages of the weekly gay papers on more than one occasion. Additionally, the increasing numbers of reported attacks on members of the lesbian and gay community have generated publicity in themselves, focussing the attention of gay journalists on the issues of self-protection and public safety.

The amount of coverage given to the issues of anti-gay attacks and police harassment in the mainstream press could not have been foreseen a year ago, and GALOP would claim a large part of the responsibility for putting these issues firmly on the agenda. Our early involvement with an item for The London Programme prompted a round of severe questioning by the media over the deployment of police resources and generated an avalanche of interest in the relationship between the police and London's lesbian and gay communities. Unfortunately, the coverage has not always been as extensive nor as positive as we may have hoped. The failure of BBC's 'Newsnight' programme even to screen the item to which GALOP devoted considerable energy is just one example of such shortcomings. And the straight media, of course, are often inclined to take a voyeuristic approach to a subject which demands sensitivity and respect for individuals' confidentiality - witness the visitation of Channel Four News to gay haunts in an item entitled 'Return Of The Pink Panther' which went out in September. By and large, television coverage has been concerned more with the lurid vision offered by rumours of gay vigilantes patrolling known cruising areas than it has with pressing the police over the legitimate charges levelled at them by members of

our community.

As an overview, it would be true to say that the national press have treated the subject of policing with the same mixture of

serious enquiry and sensationalist provocation they reserve for gay issues generally. Fortunately, individual journalists have contributed usefully to the debate by devoting considerable copy-space to the campaigning activities of OutRage, and to analysis of the breakdown in relations between the police and the lesbian and gay community. Heather Mills and Sean O'Neill at the Independent have contacted GALOP on numerous occasions for information and opinions about the situation as we perceive it. It was unfortunate then that the Independent's editorial column resorted to the sort of tactics beloved of the tabloid press when it reported OutRage's Kiss In demonstration, while the Guardian ran a news item on the same event under the offensive and misleading headline "The Kiss Of Death". A subsequent editorial, however, (see inset) suggests that the Independent, at least, has begun to reconsider its attitude and we would like to think this is due to the good relationship we have established with their journalists. Encouraging as the interest of the press may be, we are clearly not yet in a position where we can always expect sympathetic press coverage when it comes to questions of appropriate policing.

Media liaison has had other benefits. Had it not been for the pressure exerted by sections of the media, it is doubtful that the Metropolitan Police would have agreed in the first instance to the regular meetings between senior officers and lesbian and gay representatives which are currently taking place at New Scotland Yard. For as long as the Met relies on the media to provide effective PR, there is every reason for us to continue to put pressure on the media ourselves, to ensure that the issues affecting lesbians and gay men remain on the public agenda.

What we look forward to now is the decision by some brave television company to produce a live debate between high-ranking members of the Met and ourselves, which would provide us with the chance to put some pertinent questions to them directly in front of a studio audience, and deny the police any opportunity for ducking and diving around the issues.

The police and homosexuality

"WE ALL know that the few villains, liars, racists, bullies or just plain bad officers in our midst do harm to our service which is out of all proportion to their numbers. There is no room for such people in a service which takes pride in its collective integrity," Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, told his members recently. He might have added that there is no room for officers who are prejudiced against homosexuals and allow that prejudice to distort their work.

This is not a question about whether most people in Britain approve of homosexuality. It is a question of equality under the law. A grave danger in democracies is that majorities will oppress minorities, so that individuals of, say, the "wrong" race or religion are unable to obtain fair treatment. There is considerable evidence, some of it given in this newspaper yesterday, that this is often the predicament of homosexuals in their dealings with the police. Officers have shown an excess of zeal in catching homosexuals who are committing indecency offences, and a corresponding want of enthusiasm for pursuing people who have committed serious assaults on homosexuals. Much time and money have been devoted to keeping public lavatories under surveillance. A large proportion of these resources might have been better spent on such humdrum tasks as putting more officers on the streets at times when the general public feel most menaced by crime, for example when the pubs close.

It is not difficult to see some of the reasons why this distortion of priorities occurs. Many crimes are hard or impossible to solve. A careful surveillance operation on a public lavatory used by homosexuals offers, by con-

trast, a good chance of securing convictions. It allows junior police officers to use undercover methods that would more often be employed by their seniors to investigate more serious crimes. It also enables officers to feel that they are doing something useful about a local nuisance, albeit one that, like prostitution, is likely, if crushed in one area, to reappear in a neighbouring district. Moreover, it allows police officers to believe that they are fulfilling their self-appointed role as guardians of public morals, and to prove to their colleagues that they are themselves determinedly heterosexual.

There is no point in having an argument about how widespread anti-homosexual feeling is in the police (though it is undoubtedly widespread in the society from which the police are recruited). Neither would there be much point in an argument about exactly how far it distorts the way the police operate. Many officers are among the most fair-minded people one could hope to meet anywhere. The worthwhile debate is about how the police service can prove that it regards unfair treatment of minorities as unacceptable. There is an analogy here with attempts by the police to overcome racism within their ranks. The making of racist remarks has become a disciplinary offence. The same should be true of anti-homosexual remarks. The police have also tried to recruit more officers from racial minorities: a measure that would find its parallel in enabling officers to admit, without the fear of retaliation, that they are homosexual. Only by ostentatious measures to demonstrate that they are committed to equality under the law can the police convince the world that this is really so.

HISTORY, WHICH HISTORY...?

JEFFREY WEEKS

WE LIVE IMPRISONED IN A PRESENT WHICH IS A PRODUCT OF HISTORY,

BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO

RECOGNISE WHICH HISTORY WE ARE LIVING. RECENTLY WE HAVE BEEN MESMERISED BY THE STARK FACT THAT PROSECUTIONS FOR MALE HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITIES HAVE REACHED LEVELS LAST ATTAINED IN 1954 - BEFORE WOLFENDEN, BEFORE THE 1967 REFORMS, BEFORE GAY LIBERATION, BEFORE THE EXPLOSION OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY. THE TEMPTATION IS TO THINK THAT NOTHING CHANGES, THAT ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN, THAT WE ARE PRETTY MUCH BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM.

That would be a mistake - not because I want to offer a facile optimism, nor because I don't think we are living at a dangerous moment, but because it mistakes the contours of the present, because it addresses the wrong issues in the wrong way. It has been suggested that what we are witnessing is a recriminalisation of homosexuality. I think that is incorrect, for it misrecognises the past: male homosexuality is not being recriminalised for the very simple reason that it was never fully decriminalised. We are living now the consequences of the partial reforms of 1967 which decriminalised male homosexuality in the (very narrowly defined) private sphere only at the expense of sharpening up the surveillance and control of the public sphere. In the years immediately following 1967 there was a tripling of the prosecutions for homosexual offences.

What is happening today follows the same logic, re-shaped by a decade of New Right dominance, the impact of AIDS, and the climate that brought us Clause 28. We are living in a post-Wolfenden, post gay liberation world, and can now see its limitations.

The prosecutions that reached a peak in 1954, symbolised most dramatically by the trials of Peter Wildeblood and Lord Montagu, were products of a world where male homosexuality itself was totally illegal, whether in

"HISTORY", JAMES BALDWIN HAS WRITTEN, "...IS THE PRESENT - WE, WITH EVERY BREATH WE TAKE, EVERY MOVE WE MAKE, ARE HISTORY."

public or private. Official paranoia on the subject, always latent since the late 19th century, exploded in the wake of a

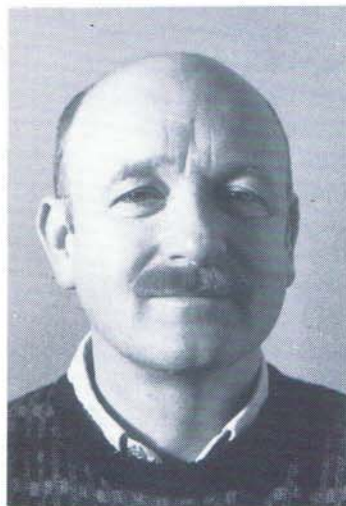
number of changes in the post-war world: a new emphasis on the joys and pleasures of family life in the new Welfare State; a great anxiety that the streets of the imperial capital were being defiled by prostitutes and importuners to the detriment of our overseas image (1953, remember, was Coronation year); and a panic in the wake of the defection of Burgess and Maclean in an ever-chilling Cold War climate. Homosexuality was portrayed as an insidious danger that undermined the family, sapped our loyalties, and crossed invisible but potent barriers of class and status: the trials of Wildeblood and Montagu were criss-crossed by references to class: why should you be friendly with your inferiors unless there was a sordid motive?

The Wolfenden Committee was set up in the wake of these ructions. When it reported in 1957 it set forth the formula that has dominated official discourse ever since (though it typically took another 10 years to translate it very partially into law). Homosexuality was seen as a more or less undesirable personal characteristic that demanded further investigation. That was a task for science and religion to explore. The task of the law, however, was to control the public sphere, to protect acceptable standards of public morality. It therefore recommended that homosexuality (like prostitution) should be decriminalised as a private activity, whilst more effective steps should be adopted to police the public arena. This, more or less, is what happened after 1967, and shapes official policy to this day. When the police say they are not concerned with private morals but with merely carrying out their duties to prevent public nuisance, they are fully in line with the logic of Wolfenden; which is why it is so difficult to get much of a consistent response to police abuses from politicians and the public.

But of course that is not all that happened. The new lesbian and gay consciousness that erupted after 1970 had a different logic behind it. We proclaimed that the personal was the political, that the private was an arbitrary and historical divide, not a natural phenomenon, that lesbians and gays had as much right to be open ("public") about their sexual feelings as heterosexuals. The lesbian and gay community pushed the Wolfenden compromise further than it was intended to go. Clause 28, and now the police purge, is an attempt to say: thus far and no further.

The Wolfenden strategy never attempted to legitimise

Jeffrey Weeks



homosexuality, and certainly never contemplated the idea that gay sexuality and relations were on an equal footing with heterosexual. On the contrary, the containment of homosexuality within the private sphere was a form of regulation designed to minimise its impact, make it less of an issue. As Lord Arran, chief architect of the 1967 Act put it: "I ask those who have, as it were, been in bondage and for whom the prison doors are now open to show their thanks by comporting themselves quietly and with dignity."

From this point of view, lesbians and gays did not act with much dignity after 1970. The community and movement asserted as a matter of right the equality of homosexuality with heterosexuality. The local government initiatives of the 1980s were an attempt to put these assertions into concrete forms. They failed, and Clause 28 was the direct result. Its ban on the "promotion of homosexuality" as a "pretended family relationship" was not an attempt to return the clock back to 1954. It was an attack on the gains made since 1967, against that logic of that reform, and on what were seen as the overweening claims of newly assertive lesbian and gay identities and communities. Clause 28, like the current police actions, are based quite straight-forwardly on a denial of the equality of homosexuality with heterosexuality.

Such a claim could not even be made in 1954. That it can be made now is a testimony to the self-activity of lesbians and gays over the past generation. But we have to be clear about what is currently at stake. It is not simply about the rights of gay people to pursue their sexual needs in private, however defined. It is ultimately about the validity of homosexuality, the challenge it poses to traditional notions of personal life, and the freedom to choose those much maligned "pretended family relationships".

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That condom habit: ACT-UP demonstration, World AIDS Day, 1st December, 1990





OVER THE LAST PERIOD WE HAVE SEEN A CONTINUATION OF THE TREND, NOTED IN PREVIOUS ANNUAL REPORTS, OF INCREASING PROSECUTIONS OF MEN FOR CONSENSUAL HOMOSEXUAL ACTS. IN 1989 THERE WERE 2,677 CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS FOR INDECENCY BETWEEN MEN, SOLICITING AND IMPORTUNING, AND PROCURTION OF HOMOSEXUAL ACTS. AN INCREASE OF 51% OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

acquittals. Clearly, the overall effect for men tried in this way is prejudicial to their rights. It might even be argued that the House of Lords rejected the recent byelaw appeal on the grounds that the costs involved in processing the appeals of those men already convicted under these byelaws meant that to allow the appeal would be to "swamp" the courts with the concomitant costs.

It is likely that this will only reinforce the already fierce determination of the Crown Prosecution Service to charge under byelaws. Even during the hiatus between appeal and judgement in the House Of Lords challenge, the CPS continued to charge under the disputed byelaw. One solicitor

informed GALOP that his client had had his gross indecency charge reduced to a charge under byelaw 23 on his third appearance in court. (GALOP has heard of a further three similar manoeuvres.) The case was then adjourned pending decision by their Lordships, and eventually the defendant was bound over by virtue of the length of time his case had been non-effective. Such an approach by the CPS would seem to serve to increase cost and delay. The impression remains, however, of an intent to increase the probability of conviction in the Magistrates Court as well as to improve the cost-effectiveness of 'justice'.

The appearance of zeal and intransigence on the part of the CPS is confirmed by the conflicting behaviour of police and CPS with regard to bindovers. Solicitors report a seeming willingness on the part of the police to recommend bindovers in lieu of fully contested trials, but note that it was the CPS who refused this course of action and who proceeded to trial.

This "conciliatory" attitude on the part of the police, however, seems paradoxical in the light of other police operations through the year, yet it has had the consequence that more "graduated" responses to the "problem" of cottaging have been tried. In Harrow, police on surveillance at a public toilet fixed notices therein warning the uses that the toilet was under observation. Similar notices have been used at British Rail Paddington, although whether such action reduced the number of men arrested is debatable. Even so this beginning of a strategy not focussed on prosecution is encouraging.

The full development of an alternative strategy may well be impeded by pressures brought to bear on the police from outside. Two examples illustrate this well. In Horsenden Hill,

SEXUAL OFFENCES

In addition to this extensive use of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act, local authority byelaws have been widely used, often in preference to established statute law. As we have argued, the use of byelaws not only deprives those charged of the right of election to Crown Court trial, but also reduces the likelihood of obtaining Legal Aid to defend their case. The responsibility for determining who gets Legal Aid, rests with the Legal Aid Board or individual magistrates, and all too often their decisions pay scant regard to the potentially ruinous consequences of conviction, focussing instead on the "trivial" nature of the charge (the usual sentence being a small financial penalty).

A recent legal challenge to one of the byelaws most frequently used in London has just been considered by the Appeal Committee of the House of Lords. This was byelaw 23 of the City of Westminster byelaws which prohibits "acts of indecency" within a substantial area of Central London. Research and legal argument showed serious defects in the "enabling" legislation which empowers the enactment of the byelaws. The Appeal Committee, however, were unanimous in rejecting the application for leave to appeal. (Decision reported 17 December 1990). Counsel commented, "I had considered this appeal bound to succeed and I am frankly amazed that the defendants were not even given the opportunity to argue their case." This decision must now have the effect of sanctioning a greater use of this and other byelaws in London.

This strategy of charging under byelaws and under the Public Order Act seems to indicate an intent to reduce costs within the legal system. The above charges are summary only, that is only triable at Magistrates Court. Though heard more quickly than comparable Crown Court trials, and at reduced cost, such cases yield 50% less



the main motivation given for the police operation was that local residents had complained of "homosexual activity". The most vocal of these complainants appeared to be the local MP. On Hampstead Heath, the allegations which prompted police action were made by park attendants, and the only police involvement was the charging of the two men concerned.

Whilst a police force should respond to the needs of the community, this response must be tempered by a recognition of the plural nature of that community, and cannot just result in action that alienates a significant

section of it, i.e. gay men. Nor does public opinion generally indicate any sense that these "victimless crimes" are identified as a priority.

So, the picture emerging from the last period is chequered. On the one hand some senior police officers have begun to consider alternative strategies for policing alleged homosexual offences, whilst other sections of the Service, the CPS and the government have acted contrary to the "spirit of liaison and accountability". We must hope that a more uniform and progressive policy will come to predominate in the coming year.



The Long Arm of the Law: Lesbian & Gay Pride, London, June, 1990

PORNOGRAPHY

GALOP RECEIVES VERY FEW CALLS ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY. IN THE YEAR TO MARCH 1990, WE HAD 4 CALLS FROM GAY MEN WHO HAD FACED CHARGES OR HAD BEEN THREATENED WITH CHARGES RELATING TO PORNOGRAPHY. THAT REPRESENTS LESS THAN 1% OF OUR TOTAL CASEWORK CALLS; UNDER 0.5 % OF OUR TOTAL CALLS. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS UNIMPORTANT EITHER TO GALOP OR TO GAY MEN IN GENERAL; RATHER IT REFLECTS PORN'S CURIOUS LEGAL STATUS AND OUR OWN AMBIVALENCE TOWARDS IT. PORN IS SOMETHING MOST OF US KEEP QUIET ABOUT, INCREASINGLY TO OUR COST.

It is not actually against the law to own pornography, with the exception of child pornography. It is, however, illegal to do many of the things which enable one to own porn. Various statutes make it a crime to publish obscene material or to distribute, display, send through the post or import obscene or indecent material. Further, the Video Recordings Act, 1984 (VRA), makes the production of lesbian or gay porn videos in this country almost impossible since their distribution and sale would be illegal. Pre-recorded videos may only be sold openly if they have received a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

The legal definition of pornography adds to the confusion by not existing. Instead, sexually explicit material is judged by the tests of obscenity or indecency. The least stringent test, the test of obscenity, derives from the Obscene Publications Act, 1959 (OPA). Material is judged to be obscene if, taken as a whole, its effect is to tend to "deprave and corrupt" a significant proportion of those people likely to see it. This means that, say, a passage from a book cannot be taken out of context in order to condemn the whole work. It can also be argued that the material in question is intended for a particular audience and so cannot harm those who choose to avoid it. Moreover, the Act allows a public good defence, whereby material can be judged to have artistic, scientific, educational or other merit beyond mere depravity and corruption. For all that, the Act allows the police and courts a considerable degree of discretion.

The law does not define what does deprave and corrupt and what doesn't. The police and the judiciary, to a large extent, make the definitions up as they go along; the police by virtue of what material they prosecute and what they don't; the courts by their individual judgements. The same applies to the test of indecency. Again, indecency is not

defined as such. Instead, the law relies on a "common sense" understanding of the term. Put simply, indecent material is something which would embarrass or offend a "reasonable" person. Here there is no public good defence; nor does it matter if the material in question is only meant for "unreasonable" people. If the police or the courts feel that the material is beyond the bounds of "common decency", then it stands condemned.

In practice, most written material published in this country is left alone by the law. If imported from abroad, HM Customs & Excise may choose to confiscate it. In the past decade, there have been a large number of Customs raids on lesbian and gay bookshops, that on London's Gay's the Word in 1984 being the most well known. The collapse of the Customs case against Gay's the Word, following a European Community Court of Justice ruling, means that written material imported from EEC countries can only legitimately be seized by Customs Officers if it would attract a prosecution under the OPA. These days, unless they contain explicit images, have no literary pretension whatever or if they advocate illegal activities, books are not touched by the law.

Visual representations, however, are treated far more harshly. Lesbian or gay porn videos, as we have seen, are effectively outlawed by the 1984 Video Recordings Act. Even films which are granted an 18R certificate - which restricts them to screenings at film festivals, in private clubs or licensed sex cinemas - occupy a grey area in the light of a recent judgement. In 1990, a Birmingham video shop lost all its 18R-rated videos following forfeiture proceedings under the OPA.

Still images are censored too. Nudity is permissible provided that the male erection is not portrayed. Which explains why many of the men in gay magazines available in this country have large grey or black blobs instead of a penis. Ejaculation, oral and anal sex are similarly beyond the pale. Even those gay magazines which contain provocatively-posed but limp models or pictures of sexual activity with the interesting bits blanked out can only be sold in strictly regulated circumstances. If general newsagents want to stock such magazines - and most don't - they are supposed to be displayed in a specially marked-off section of the shop (Indecent Displays (Control) Act, 1981). In practice, this means the top shelf. Otherwise, shops must obtain a special licence to operate as a sex shop (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982 and Civic Government (Scotland) Act, 1982). This means that the shop must be sited in an area considered suitable

censored

by the local authority, that it must not have any window display and that there must be a sign over the door advising that the shop sells material which may offend and that only persons over the age of 18 may enter

Another recent case has shown that the laws relating to indecent display cast a wide net. In 1990, a novelty shop in London's Covent Garden was raided by the police and all the penis-shaped items in stock were seized - chocolate willies, clockwork willies, penis-shaped soap, a clock with a dick-shaped pendulum and so on. The shop was prosecuted under Indecent Displays legislation and fined. But there is a twist in this tale. A leading tabloid newspaper ran an article which ridiculed the officer in charge of the raid. He sued and won damages of £25,000. The police and courts clearly take indecency very seriously indeed.

It is not just businesses which receive the attentions of the law. Individuals are regularly prosecuted by Customs Officers. Searches and on-the-spot fines at ports and airports are the most common actions. But individuals have also had their homes raided, as happened to Film Studies lecturer Richard Dyer, and their mail intercepted, as happened to gay artist, the late Philip Core, and to lesbian author, Jenny White amongst many, many others. Dyer got back most of the material which was confiscated. Core (though he sadly died while the trial was in progress) lost his case and forfeited the material in question which included a signed copy of Tom of Finland's *Retrospective*, a book of drawings also published in this country. White's case is to be heard in April 1991.

Individuals may also come under suspicion by merely owning a quantity of pornography. In England and Wales, the police may consider that this constitutes "*intent to distribute or supply*" obscene or indecent material. (In Scotland, the obscenity laws are more clearly drawn: actual distribution or supply must be proven; also, distribution amongst the members of a private club is not illegal provided that a third party is not unwittingly involved.) One of our callers had just such an experience, though, thankfully, he escaped prosecution. The police searched his premises and discovered some gay magazines. They threatened to prosecute him unless he could supply them with information relating to a case against another gay man. He convinced them that he had nothing to tell them and they left. There have also been instances, on lesbian or gay demonstrations, of police objecting to the images on some people's T-shirts.

"*Obscenity...is not a fixed or certain idea.*" (Paul Crane,

Guys & The Law, Pluto Press, 1982) "*The basic problem with any obscenity law which applies a legal test to methods of expression is that it calls for a judgement of opinion rather than a finding of fact.*" (Geoffrey Robertson, *Freedom, The Individual and the Law*, Penguin, 1989) Current legal opinion is that almost any explicit visual representation of homosexuality is either obscene or indecent. This provides the police and the judiciary with another stick with which to beat us. We are judged obscene and indecent even though there is no law which actually says so. Instead, policing practice and the weight of judgements over the years has decided thus. Pornography is a difficult subject for most people to talk about. Whichever way one turns, there is someone who will condemn it as harmful or immoral. Most of us, therefore, choose to keep quiet.

We are back at the beginning and silence. GALOP, as in the case of cottaging, takes no moral position with regards to pornography. We do, however, consider the way in which the law is operated to be inappropriate and dangerous. We cannot accept that gay sex should be condemned as obscene for that condemns us as well. As with cottaging cases, most people do not contest obscenity or indecency cases for fear of adverse publicity and because they do not expect to receive any support. The judgements of the Obscene Publications Squad (OPS) about what is and what isn't obscene or indecent enjoy society's tacit approval. But on what moral or indeed legal basis are their judgements founded? Mary Whitehouse is fond of declaring, "*as the Obscene Publications Squad told me...*" That she is told what she wants to hear is worrying. For the priorities of the OPS and their fellows throughout the country largely determine what is permissible and what isn't.

But the position is not hopeless. GALOP is interested to hear from people who have had trouble about their ownership of pornography. We believe that such cases can be fought. We intend to seek meetings with the Obscene Publications Squad in the coming year to raise our concerns with them. We will not hesitate to raise the matter in appropriate forums. The Home Office has commissioned an academic report on the effects of pornography. Press reports suggest that its findings will be that there is no evidence that pornography causes significant harm. This is an opening that we do not intend to miss.



VIOLENCE

VICTIM SUPPORT



ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING OUR COMMUNITIES. A RECENT SURVEY INDICATES THAT MOST GAY MEN CONSIDER VIOLENCE TO BE DRAMATICALLY WORSENING, AND THAT THEY TAKE THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. GALOP CARRIED OUT A PILOT SURVEY AMONGST GAY MEN AT LONDON'S LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE MARCH IN JUNE 1990. 41% OF THOSE QUESTIONED REPORTED EXPERIENCES OF ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE. WHETHER VIOLENCE IS INDEED ON THE RISE IS TO SOME EXTENT MARGINAL TO THE PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE.

Violence against lesbians and gay men is often portrayed as a spontaneous, vicious eruption by deficient or abnormal individuals. The truth is that such violence is endemic, common to all social and class milieux, and far from being abnormal, seems somehow structural and in-built. Varying from abuse and insults (the use of epithets like "queer", "fag", "AIDS carrier" etc), to systematic harassment, say on housing estates or at the workplace, all the way to violent assault and murder. The key to the violence at one level is the identification of the victim as deviant, either because of how they look - the clothes they wear, haircut, gay badges, etc. - or because of where they are - coming out of lesbian or gay bars and discos, on lesbian and gay demonstrations, or in or near public toilets or cruising places used for casual encounters.

There may also be elements of domestic violence involved - either violence from family towards lesbian or gay relatives, or violence between partners, which would also require sensitive handling by agencies involved. Because violence is so intimately linked with sexual identity, many of the problems about coming out are inscribed into it: self-blame, unwillingness to be identified as gay in describing the assault, lack of support through the crisis, etc.

Lesbians and gay men more often than not do not report crime against them. The reasons seem to be that violence directed against them often results in intense feelings of shame, as if somehow they had brought the assault upon themselves. This sense of responsibility or self-blame is, of course, not unique to lesbian and gay victims of crime, but is exacerbated in that many lesbians and gay men have not

arrived at an acceptance of their own sexuality, and often they have incurred assaults in places associated with sex - illicit or not. These feelings generally deter lesbians and gay men from going to the police, and also from approaching support organisations.

Similarly, reluctance to approach statutory or voluntary agencies is compounded by the desire not to assert an identity as lesbian or gay. This may be a well-founded fear that domestic or work relations might suffer if the victim's true sexual orientation were to become known. Or there might be a fear that they would suffer further degradation from the very agencies that are intended to help victims of crime.

Thirdly, a general suspicion of how information on them might be used inhibits many lesbians and gay men, or people who have yet to arrive at a clear sexual identity, from using extant services. Confidentiality is a burning issue for many people in this position leading to a scepticism, in the absence of clear and public undertakings around these matters, that agencies will respect and understand the acute sensitivity of privacy, confidentiality and tact.

The agencies that deal with violence against lesbians and gay men are few and far between. We have discussed elsewhere the difficulties of getting the police to take anti-gay violence as seriously as they should: they still tend to refuse to log anti-gay assaults, and whither rather pathetically about the difficulty of monitoring sexuality as opposed to ethnicity, or talk insultingly about how "offensive" it is to question people about their sexual behaviour, failing gloriously to understand anything about sexual identity. Yet, the problems with the police run much deeper than the issue of monitoring. There is a complex set of issues about the treatment of victims of a violence directed at them because of who they are that the police simply refuse to address. Whilst they have made some progress with incidents of rape, recognising, albeit reluctantly and tardily, that victims of rape need sympathetic women officers to talk to, and comforting environments where the trauma can be partially assuaged, the police still imagine that gay victims of crime have no special needs, nor do they think that it is important that officers try to meet those needs. Issues involved are the need for confidentiality and discretion with any information disclosed; sensitivity toward the self-blame and intense sense of disworth that can arise from anti-gay assaults; victims' fear of reporting to "straight" agencies assaults occasioned by homophobic violence, fears of ridicule, of

Face of hate: man arrested for shouting "kill the queers", Michael Boothe march



VIOLENCE

VICTIM SUPPORT



ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING OUR COMMUNITIES. A RECENT SURVEY INDICATES THAT MOST GAY MEN CONSIDER VIOLENCE TO BE DRAMATICALLY WORSENING, AND THAT THEY TAKE THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. GALOP CARRIED OUT A PILOT SURVEY AMONGST GAY MEN AT LONDON'S LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE MARCH IN JUNE 1990. 41% OF THOSE QUESTIONED REPORTED EXPERIENCES OF ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE. WHETHER VIOLENCE IS INDEED ON THE RISE IS TO SOME EXTENT MARGINAL TO THE PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE.

Violence against lesbians and gay men is often portrayed as a spontaneous, vicious eruption by deficient or abnormal individuals. The truth is that such violence is endemic, common to all social and class milieux, and far from being abnormal, seems somehow structural and in-built. Varying from abuse and insults (the use of epithets like "queer", "fag", "AIDS carrier" etc), to systematic harassment, say on housing estates or at the workplace, all the way to violent assault and murder. The key to the violence at one level is the identification of the victim as deviant, either because of how they look - the clothes they wear, haircut, gay badges, etc. - or because of where they are - coming out of lesbian or gay bars and discos, on lesbian and gay demonstrations, or in or near public toilets or cruising places used for casual encounters.

There may also be elements of domestic violence involved - either violence from family towards lesbian or gay relatives, or violence between partners, which would also require sensitive handling by agencies involved. Because violence is so intimately linked with sexual identity, many of the problems about coming out are inscribed into it: self-blame, unwillingness to be identified as gay in describing the

assault, lack of support through the crisis, etc.

Lesbians and gay men more often than not do not report crime against them. The reasons seem to be that violence directed against them often results in intense feelings of shame, as if somehow they had brought the assault upon themselves. This sense of responsibility or self-blame is, of course, not unique to lesbian and gay victims of crime, but is exacerbated in that many lesbians and gay men have not

arrived at an acceptance of their own sexuality, and often they have incurred assaults in places associated with sex - illicit or not. These feelings generally deter lesbians and gay men from going to the police, and also from approaching support organisations.

Similarly, reluctance to approach statutory or voluntary agencies is compounded by the desire not to assert an identity as lesbian or gay. This may be a well-founded fear that domestic or work relations might suffer if the victim's true sexual orientation were to become known. Or there might be a fear that they would suffer further degradation from the very agencies that are intended to help victims of crime.

Thirdly, a general suspicion of how information on them might be used inhibits many lesbians and gay men, or people who have yet to arrive at a clear sexual identity, from using extant services. Confidentiality is a burning issue for many people in this position leading to a scepticism, in the absence of clear and public undertakings around these matters, that agencies will respect and understand the acute sensitivity of privacy, confidentiality and tact.

The agencies that deal with violence against lesbians and gay men are few and far between. We have discussed elsewhere the difficulties of getting the police to take anti-gay violence as seriously as they should: they still tend to refuse to log anti-gay assaults, and whither rather pathetically about the difficulty of monitoring sexuality as opposed to ethnicity, or talk insultingly about how "offensive" it is to question people about their sexual behaviour, failing gloriously to understand anything about sexual identity. Yet, the problems with the police run much deeper than the issue of monitoring. There is a complex set of issues about the treatment of victims of a violence directed at them because of who they are that the police simply refuse to address. Whilst they have made some progress with incidents of rape, recognising, albeit reluctantly and tardily, that victims of rape need sympathetic women officers to talk to, and comforting environments where the trauma can be partially assuaged, the police still imagine that gay victims of crime have no special needs, nor do they think that it is important that officers try to meet those needs. Issues involved are the need for confidentiality and discretion with any information disclosed; sensitivity toward the self-blame and intense sense of disworth that can arise from anti-gay assaults; victims' fear of reporting to "straight" agencies assaults occasioned by homophobic violence, fears of ridicule, of

Face of hate: man arrested for shouting "kill the queers", Michael Boothe march





Officers and Gentlemen: Michael Boothe march

contempt, of further degradation. The police must alter their practice in relation to gay victims of crime, endeavouring to understand the specificity of the community they are dealing with. They can only do this by recognising that officers need special training around this area, and that thus far police practice is far from ideal.

Another difficulty is that the police have failed to investigate the possibilities of further referral for victims of anti-gay crime. The police do not routinely refer on to counselling agencies such as Friend, or to support agencies like GALOP. It is as though they still cannot accommodate to the full extent of the gay community, and cannot allow the legitimacy of the various agencies and institutions that might be of use to victims of crime. Whilst the police have begun to recognise the importance of victim support schemes in general, they have yet to understand the importance of support to gay victims in particular. This is yet one more corollary of police inability to consider the lesbian and gay communities as legitimate constituencies.

Turning from the police to the voluntary sector, the picture is slightly better but still far from impressive. Having developed from mainly focussing on victims of crimes against property, victim support schemes now do, in the main, competently deal with crimes of violence in general. What they have failed to do, is to address the issues of anti-gay crime in particular.

The following criticisms are recurrent:

- a) that support agencies have not realised the scale and extent of the problem of lesbian and gay victims of violence, and have failed to incorporate the lesbian and gay communities in their outreach work
- b) that homophobia and heterosexism remain unchanged within such organisations
- c) that training around issues of self-identification, closetry, tact and sensitivity toward questions of sexual orientation etc is not given, as a matter of course in training volunteers within victim support schemes
- d) that the specific psychological damage done to lesbians and gay men by violent assault is not considered in training needs for volunteers
- e) that agencies do not consider men might also be rape victims and that it is of serious consequence for many gay men, raped either by long term or casual sexual partners, or by heterosexual assailants in an attempt to humiliate and degrade the victim: training around these issues is again a

sine qua non for all volunteers on victim support schemes

f) that relying on referrals from the police, for all the reasons raised above actually reduces the likelihood of lesbian and gay clients arriving at victim support schemes, and that consideration of other sources of referral be given, as well as more assertive engagement with police practice be seen as an urgent priority

There are a number of problems, too, in victims gaining financial redress for injuries received during violent assaults, both by victims and by partners of victims.

a) The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, whilst not explicitly discriminating against lesbians and gay men, nevertheless includes a statement to the effect that:

"having regard to the conduct of the applicant before, during or after the events giving rise to the claim or his character and way of life and ...to the character, conduct and way of life of the deceased and of the applicant - it is inappropriate that a full award, or any award at all be granted"

Lesbians and gay men feel a natural concern that such statements might very well be used to deny them financial compensation merely because of their sexual orientation. Evidence of refusal of claims is not sufficient to sustain a charge of systematic discrimination, but the concern is real.

b) More crucially, partners of lesbians and gay men are clearly excluded from any compensation in those cases of assault which lead to the death of the victim: a profoundly discriminatory situation which compounds the distress of women and men already suffering from shock and grief.

c) Information, support and financial assistance for those seeking to take out private prosecutions in situations where the police fail to prosecute, or for those attempting to sue assailants for financial compensation are difficult to obtain, and the pervasiveness of prejudice and homophobia in the voluntary sector make the situation difficult to rectify.

In short, both the statutory and voluntary sectors need to:

- a) recognise the specific nature of anti-gay crime, and the specific vulnerability of our communities
- b) train their personnel and target appropriate resources accordingly
- c) remove any discriminatory regulations or procedures that prevent lesbians and gay men from being treated as well as any other victim of crime
- d) publicly affirm their intention to incorporate lesbians and gay victims of crime into the constituencies they are to deal with.

Good

POLICING PRACTICE



GALOP HAS CONSISTENTLY RAISED CRITICISM OF THE WASTE OF POLICE RESOURCES TO PURSUE THE TRIVIAL AND VICTIMLESS CRIME OF "INDECENCY BETWEEN MALES". WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT OFFICERS' TIME COULD BE BETTER SPENT, AND THAT THE COURTS ARE NEEDLESSLY ENGAGED IN THE PROTRACTED AND EXPENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF WHAT IS AT WORST A NUISANCE. IN RESPONSE, THE POLICE ARGUE THAT WHERE THEY RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT ALLEGED INDECENCY THEY ARE DUTY BOUND TO ACT, AND THAT WHILST INDECENCY BETWEEN MEN REMAINS A CRIME, THEY WILL ACT AGAINST ALLEGED OFFENDERS.

Even granting some weight to these arguments, GALOP would claim that the use of prosecution is a heavy handed and crude instrument that rarely solves the "problem" but does cause disproportionate damage and stigma to those who are convicted. Further, surveillance operations and the use of plainclothes officers inevitably lead to accusations of injustice and fabrication of evidence, accusations that are lent credence by the high rate of acquittal of such cases when contested in the Crown Courts. Instead, we would call for a flexible, graduated and more community based response which would see eliminating the public decency problem as the goal, rather than the punishment of offenders.

To that end, we offer the following proposals for consideration.

1. That where the police encounter a problem of public indecency, and here it will nearly always be one of alleged impropriety in public toilets, they first draw attention to the issue by placing warnings in the gay press and putting posters in the toilet in question, outlining the problem and the intention of the police to take action should the problem continue. It would be useful for the police to disclose the sorts of complaints that they have received, bearing in mind that not all complaints are acted on, and there is an issue of accountability here, in view of the suspicion of discrimination and partiality on the part of the police themselves.

2. If indeed further complaints are received, the police should use uniformed officers to patrol the area, who are obvious and conspicuous, to deter any potential wrongdoing.

3. If these officers encounter any misdemeanour, that they be advised to issue warnings to offenders, either in the form of verbal warnings at the site, or written warnings to

the offender's home address.

4. If reoffenders are apprehended that they be arrested and formally cautioned at the station.

5. Only if offenders persist, should the option of prosecution be considered. Important here is that appropriate legislation be used. Given the potentially disastrous consequences of conviction for "sexual offences", charges should be brought under the appropriate sections of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act, where the proper safeguards of jury trial and legal aid are available. The use of charges under the 1986 Public Order Act or under local byelaws should be discouraged.

6. That offenders be given access to information about other safer and less controversial meeting places and be referred to gay counselling agencies where appropriate.

7. That senior officers avoid the option of surveillance operations and the use of plainclothes officers ("pretty police"). There are a number of objections to this form of policing. Firstly, it does not deter the commission of crime but actually allows it to happen: if complaints of public indecency are the real issue, it is pointless to allow that indecency to take place before acting. Secondly, if the surveillance is carried out by concealed officers, perhaps hiding in a cupboard, the chances of error in observation and interpretation are so high that we cannot accept them comfortably. There is also too great a risk of officers embroidering evidence to secure convictions. On the other hand if plain clothes officers in the toilet itself are used there is a great risk that officers will engage in behaviour likely to incite an offence, acting, however unwittingly, as agents provocateurs: anticipating an offence they may very well encourage an offence, where, in their absence, none would have occurred.

8. That the police always take the first step of liaison with the local gay community, or GALOP if necessary, before acting in a unilateral and provocative manner.

It is GALOP's contention that the problem of 'public indecency' has as much to do with the general public's prejudices and embarrassment about gay sexuality as with any real issue of harm or offence, and that the police should therefore not react in an unthinking and reflex way: as the Independent editorial of 19.12.90 put it "*Only by ostentatious measures to demonstrate that they are committed to equality under the law can the police really convince the world that this is so.*" The above recommendations reduce the risk of unsafe convictions, lower the level of prosecutions and yet deter the commission of offences and allow the police to argue that they are effectively responding to the problem.



FINANCIAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF GAY LONDON POLICING GROUP

We have audited the annexed Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account, and Notes Thereon in accordance with auditing standards.

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the group's affairs at 31st March 1990 and of its results for the year ended on that date.

CHALMERS & CO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

17 Charlotte Road
London EC2A 3PB
3rd January, 1991

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1990

1.ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a)These accounts have been prepared under the Historical Cost Convention.

b)Depreciation - Office equipment is depreciated 100% in the year of acquisition, and the related capital grants are credited fully to the Income and Expenditure Account in the same year.

2.FIXED TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Opening Balance	Additions	Disposals	Closing Balance
	-	-	-	-
COST OR VALUATION				
Office Equipment	3,475	462	-	3,937
	3,475	462	-	3,937
DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION				
Office Equipment	3,475	462	-	3,937
	3,475	462	-	3,937
NET BOOK VALUE				
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 1990

	1990 £	1989 £
FIXED ASSETS (2)	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors & Prepayments	1,032	260
Cash at hand & in bank	3,001	4,981
	<u>4,033</u>	<u>5,241</u>
Less:		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	1,520	2,843
	<u>2,513</u>	<u>2,398</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	<u>2,513</u>	<u>2,398</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>2,513</u>	<u>2,398</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,513</u>	<u>2,398</u>
	=====	=====
FINANCED BY:		
GENERAL FUND		
Opening Balance	2,398	2,451
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	115	(53)
	<u>2,513</u>	<u>2,398</u>
	=====	=====

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1990

	1990 £	1989 £
INCOME		
Revenue Grant		
London Boroughs Grants Scheme	36,762	36,762
Membership Fees	81	79
Publication Sales	655	-
Miscellaneous Income	93	308
Donations	204	-
Fundraising Receipts	803	-
	<u>38,598</u>	<u>37,149</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Direct Costs:		
Fundraising Expenses	375	-
Cost of Publications	208	481
Salaries	27,347	24,453
National Insurance	2,199	2,594
	<u>30,129</u>	<u>27,528</u>
	8,469	9,621
Bank Interest Receivable	365	-
	<u>8,824</u>	<u>9,621</u>
Establishment Expenses:		
Office Rent	3,135	2,993
Insurance	75	121
Repairs & Renewals	-	6
	<u>3,210</u>	<u>3,060</u>
Administration Expenses:		
Travelling & Subsistence	93	62
Telephone	585	642
Postage	265	357
Stationery & Photocopying	471	1,602
Printing & Artwork	2,592	1,281
Sundry Expenses	287	144
Subscriptions	-	10
Advertising	270	1,843
	<u>4,563</u>	<u>5,941</u>
Finance:		
Bank Charges	63	110
Professional:		
Legal & Professional	1	149
Audit & Accountancy Fee	420	380
	<u>421</u>	<u>529</u>
Depreciation	462	34
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>£115</u>	<u>£(53)</u>
	=====	=====

GALOP PUBLICATIONS



THE FOLLOWING GALOP PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. PLACE YOUR ORDER BY PHONE OR DROP US A LINE. WE INCLUDE AN ORDER FORM BELOW.

BUSTCARD - a handy, pocket-sized summary of your rights on the street and in the police station. Bustcards are FREE, though for large orders there will be a charge.

GALOP GUIDE TO POLICE POWERS & YOUR RIGHTS - a 6 part, 24 page guide, described by the New Statesman magazine as "Highly recommended. Easily the clearest such guide...equally applicable to all people and organisations likely to have hassles with the police."

£2.50 each, inc. p & p.

ANNUAL REPORTS - this is our sixth Annual Report; the previous five are also available.

Reports 1-4 £1.50 plus 45 pence p & p.

Report 5 £2.50 plus 45 pence p & p.

GAY MEN & BINDOVERS - a response to the Law Commission Working Paper on Binding Over, and the way which this procedure discriminates against gay men.

£2.50 plus 45 pence p & p.

SEXUAL OFFENCES: Some Consequences - a guide to the effects a conviction for gross indecency and other sexual offences could have on employment, visa applications, etc. A guide also to the offences gay men are charged with and the sentences they can expect if found guilty.

£3.50 plus 45 pence p & p.

A NEW DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE FOR THE POLICE FORCE - a discussion document on the arguments for and against including a new offence of anti-lesbian/anti-gay discrimination in the regulations that govern police behaviour.

£3.50 inc. 45 pence p & p.

INDECENCY BYELAWS - a report on the discriminatory use of local authority byelaws against gay men by the police, with a series of policy recommendations.

£2.50 plus 45 pence p & p.

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS will include:

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE - some recommendations. A discussion of how the legal apparatus and local authorities might respond to anti-gay violence.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY - a discussion of the current system of accountability, complaints procedure, etc.

Contact GALOP for details of availability and cost.

GALOP T-SHIRT

GALOP has produced a limited edition T-shirt, featuring a design by gay cartoonist, David Shenton (see photos). The design is printed in black on white cotton T-shirts. There are three sizes available: medium, large and extra large. They cost £8 plus £2 post and packing. You can order yours by completing the order form and sending it to us with your cheque.



ORDER FORM

Please send me:

___BUSTCARD(S)

___ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 1 April 1984 @ £1.95
 ___ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 2 June 1985 @ £1.95
 ___ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 3 August 1987 @ £1.95
 ___ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 4 November 1988 @ £1.95
 ___ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 5 November 1989 @ £2.95
 ___ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 6 January 1991 @ £2.95

___GUIDE(S) TO POLICE POWERS & YOUR RIGHTS @ £2.50

___GAY MEN & BINDOVERS @ £2.95

___SEXUAL OFFENCES: SOME CONSEQUENCES @ £3.95

___INDECENCY BYELAWS @ £2.95

___A NEW DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE
FOR THE POLICE SERVICE @ £3.95

___GALOP T-SHIRT(S), size medium @ £10

___GALOP T-SHIRT(S), size large @ £10

___GALOP T-SHIRT(S), size extra large @ £10

I enclose (fill in as appropriate):

A cheque/PO for £.....
 cheques should be made payable to:
 FRIENDS OF GALOP or F.O.G.

(Please note: all prices include post & packing.)

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

I/We wish to become a member/affiliate organisation of GALOP.

Membership: £4 waged, £1.50 unwaged.

Affiliation: £15

I enclose (fill in as appropriate):

A cheque/PO for £.....

Cheques should be made payable to GALOP.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNED _____

DATE _____ 199__

Please return completed forms to:
 GALOP, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP.

BANK STANDING ORDER

To: _____

Bank plc

A/C No. _____

Sorting Code _____

Please pay:

National Westminster, Bank plc (60-40-04), Chancery Lane & Holborn
 Branch, PO Box 159, 332 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PS

for account: GALOP (10756019)

Starting (date of first payment) _____ 199__
day monthly/quarterly/yearly.

Date: _____ 199__

Name: _____

Address: _____

Reference No. for account (office use only)

Now please send this form to: GALOP,
 38 Mount Pleasant, LONDON WC1X 0AP
 for registration and NOT to your bank.

and thereafter on the same

CAN'T FIND A POLICEMAN WHEN YOU WANT ONE?.... **JOIN GALOP INSTEAD!**

GALOP is the Gay London Policing Group

WHAT WE DO

We give advice, counselling & support to gay men who come into contact with the police:

- because they have been arrested for alleged sexual offences, violations of obscenity legislation or other offences;
- because they have been victims of crime and want the police to act;
- because they have had bad experiences with the police and want to do something about it.

Gay men's lives are wrecked by legal discrimination and social violence. GALOP gives gay men the power to fight back.

We also compile data and information on the way London's gay community is policed in order to educate Londoners about current police practice and its effect on the gay community.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO

We have two long term aims:

- to develop, publicise and persuade the police to adopt a strategy for the appropriate policing of gay men which would end the policing of our communities as if they were criminal and involve the police in safeguarding our real needs and interests;
- to raise the issue of hate crimes against lesbians and gay men with those organisations dealing with victims of crime so that there is an effective support network for those who suffer from anti-gay or anti-lesbian crime and violence.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In order to carry out our work, we need money. At the moment we receive most of our funding from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme but it isn't enough to allow us to achieve our aims. Last year we helped well over 500 men individually and were instrumental in raising the whole issue of anti-gay violence in the press, on radio and TV. This year, the demands on our resources will be even greater: please help by becoming a member (waged £4, unwaged £1.50, group affiliation £15) or by giving a donation. In a time of growing hostility towards our communities, GALOP is needed like never before:

**PLEASE ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL
AND ADD TO YOUR PROTECTION**