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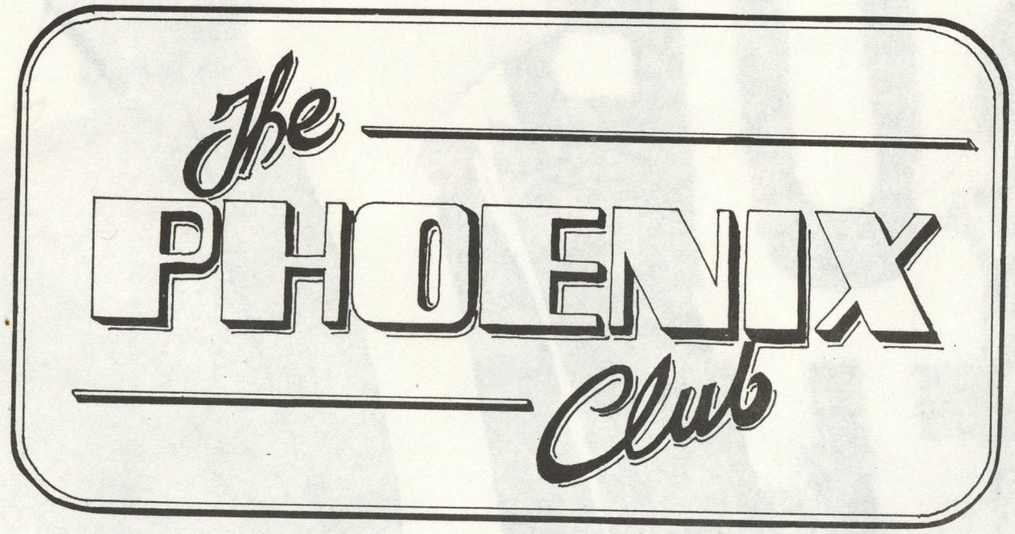
NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

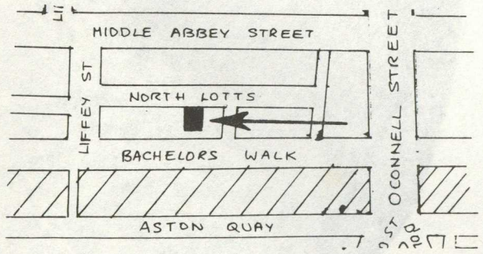
DUBLIN: WEEKLY CLUB DIARY

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:	7.30pm. - 9.00pm.	Gay Switchboard Serivce
Tuesday	8.00pm. - 10.00pm.	Phoenix Players Group
Wednesday	7.30pm. - 9.00pm.	Gay Womens Group
	10.30pm.- 1.00am.	Gay Womens Disco
Thursday	11.00pm.- 1.30am.	Phoenix Club Disco
Friday	11.00pm.- 2.00am.	Phoenix Club Disco
Saturday	3.00pm. - 6.00pm.	Gay Switchboard Service
	7.30pm. - 9.00pm.	Gay Youth Group Disco
	11.00pm.- 2.00am.	Phoenix Club Disco
Sunday	10.30pm.- 1.00am.	Phoenix Club Disco

CORK:

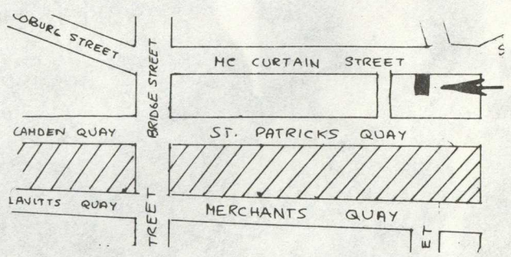
MONDAY TO FRIDAY:	8.00pm.- 10.00pm.	Gay Switchboard Service
Tuesday	8.00pm.-	Under 21's Group
Wednesday	11.00pm.- 1.00am.	National Gay Conference Cork Benefit Disco
Friday	11.00pm.- 2.00am.	Phoenix Centre Disco
Saturday	11.00pm.- 2.00am.	Phoenix Centre Disco
Sunday	10.00pm.- 12.30am.	Phoenix Centre Disco





National Headquarters;
18 North Lotts, Off Bachelors Walk,
Dublin 1. Telephone (01) 786593

LIMERICK BRANCH: The Secretary, Post Office Box 131, Limerick.



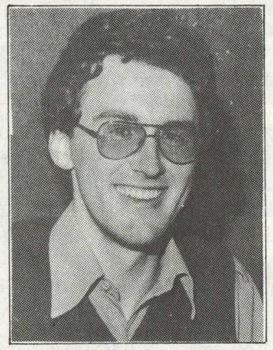
Munster Regional Headquarters;
4 McCurtain Street, First Floor, Cork.
Telephone (021) 505394

WATERFORD BRANCH: The Secretary, Post Office Box 36, Waterford.

ALL OTHER BRANCHES AND REPRESENTATIVES CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

IN TOUCH

Volume 4 | Winter 1981 | Issue 14



John Ryan Gen. Sec. His report appears on this page.

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The Official views of the Irish Gay Rights Movement are expressed in the General Secretary's Page. Opinions expressed in by-line columns, letters, articles and graphics are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Movement. Contributions, both literary and pictorial are welcomed.

This Movement and it's Executive Committee are acknowledged to have behaved with remarkable restraint and dignity in the face of the virulent attacks, both verbal and written launched against I.G.R.M. by certain former members who are now associated with a commercial disco in Dublin.

We have not forgotten legal claims which we have over items of I.G.R.M. property which are no longer under our control, but nevertheless, in the interests of reconciliation, the Executive Committee has, in conjunction with the I.G.R.M. Munster Regional Council, issued an important statement which is reproduced later in this issue. We hope that this gesture will be reciprocated by those concerned. Although we consider unity in the gay community to be of great importance, we in I.G.R.M. must continue with our programme of activities until our goal of complete unity has been achieved.

Members of the Movement have been particularly busy over the past month with our ongoing political reform campaign which aims to inform politicians of the current problems affecting gays who suffer from discrimination in legal, social and employment areas. A delegation from the Movement was received by the Minister for Law Reform who was interested to receive a submission from I.G.R.M. setting out our ideas for reform. A fraternal delegate from I.G.R.M. addressed the opening session of the Annual Labour Youth Conference in Liberty Hall, Dublin and received great support for his address on the need for working class support for gay rights.

As the Movement enters 1982, we call on all members and interested persons to give some thought to what they can do to develop the Movement in the New Year. As a voluntary grouping, we depend on a constant inflow of helpers for social and political activities, and unless this flow is forthcoming the Movement will very quickly grind to a halt as the existing personnel try to cope with the ever mounting workload. If you can help in any way, even financially, please let your local committee know.

To all our members and friends, the Committees of the Movement send their very best wishes for the New Year, and we all look forward to the development and growth which will certainly come over the next twelve months if all put their shoulders to the wheel.

Credits: Padraig O'Gannain, Trevor Noble(Photography & Graphics) John Ryan, Sean Connolly, John Malone, Stephen Quillinan, James Keaveney,John andrew,Publications Group. Published by the Irish Gay Rights Movement, a National Movement for homosexual men and women, established in 1974. Post Office Box 739, Dublin 8.



Jeff Dudgeon wins case

On Thursday 22 October, 1981, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled that the criminal law relating to homosexuality in Northern Ireland violated European Human Rights Conventions, and that Jeffrey Dudgeon of Belfast and N.I.G.R.A., who had brought the case to Strasbourg, had suffered unjustified interference to his private life. The European Court rejected the British Governments arguments that the interference with Mr. Dudgeon's private life was justified in the interests of protecting morals under the European Convention. In a ruling, achieved by a vote of fifteen to four, the European Court held that Jeff was subjected to an unjustified violation of his rights under the Convention.

One of the dissenting judgements was delivered by Mr. Justice Walsh who is senior ordinary judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Law Reform Commission (!!). Justice Walsh said that the judgement of the European Court did not constitute a declaration to the effect that the particular homosexual practices which were subject to penalty by the legislation in question, virtually amounted to fundamental human rights. However, that would not prevent it being hailed as such by those who sought to blur the essential differences between homosexual and hetrosexual activities.

Following news of the judgement, the Irish Gay Rights Movement sent a telegram to Jeff Dudgeon expressing the Movement's great admiration for the work and dedication which was necessary in bringing the case to fruition. A press statement issued by the Movement following the announcement of the judgement was carried in the *Cork Examiner*, the *Irish Times*, *Press* and *Independent*.

Press Statement: 15 November, 1981. Irish Gay Rights Movement

The Chief Justice Mr. T.F. O'Higgins addressed a meeting of the Trinity College Philosophical Society on 12 November, 1981 and is quoted by press reporters as having said that arguments for rights for homosexuals and prostitutes could not be put forward here as arguments for basic human rights. The Chief Justice is also quoted to have said that there were certain "Common Law" rights for homosexuals and prostitutes in England but that these were not secure or entrenched rights. He is also quoted to have said that there were certain areas of private morality that the law could not interfere with – they did not include areas of immoral or sexual perversion.

The Irish Gay Rights Movement is deeply disturbed that the Chief Justice should have felt it necessary to debate publicly the area of the law as it effects homosexuals, and to link this discussion with the unconnected subject of prostitution. The question of the validity of anti-homosexual legislation under Irish law and under the European Convention is the subject of current litigation, and to discuss this matter in such conclusive terms as the Chief Justice is quoted to have done is not acceptable to this Movement. The Irish Gay Rights Movement would point out to the Chief Justice that his views are at variance with the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the Dudgeon case, and with the views of Mr. Justice Walsh who mentioned in his partially-dissenting opinion in that case that homosexual acts are not always indecent.

The Irish Gay Rights Movement calls on the Chief Justice if accurately reported to withdraw his remarks until the validity or otherwise of anti-homosexual legislation has been considered by the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. The Movement also calls on the Government to ensure that effective safeguards are taken to avoid a repetition of public comments of the type referred to above by senior members of the Judiciary.



GAY POLITICS

The elusive aim of reforming the law as it concerns gay people is presently the subject of unprecedented efforts by the Movement's Executive Committee and the Homosexual Equality Commission.

The Movement and the Commission represented by J. Ryan (General Secretary), S.J. Connolly (National Chairman) and M. Conlon (Special Advisor) met the Minister for Law Reform Mr. Dick Spring T.D. on 10 November, 1981. The Minister was given a detailed submission by the Movement outlining it's history and current services provided. The submission also contained the "five demands" or list of urgent measures in the area of law reform required to improve homosexual lifestyles and to remove arbitrary discrimination. The Minister undertook to examine with all possible speed any cases of employment discrimination incurred because of sexual orientation. He also commented that because the workload of the Law Reform Commission was so heavy, it would be impossible to refer homosexual law reform to the Commission in the near future. Furthermore, (and in reply to a point raised in the submission) the Minister remarked that law reform in the Republic would have to wait until litigation in the Irish courts had been completed. He would like to see the reaction of the U.K. Authorities to the Dudgeon case in the European Court before any reforms were introduced here.



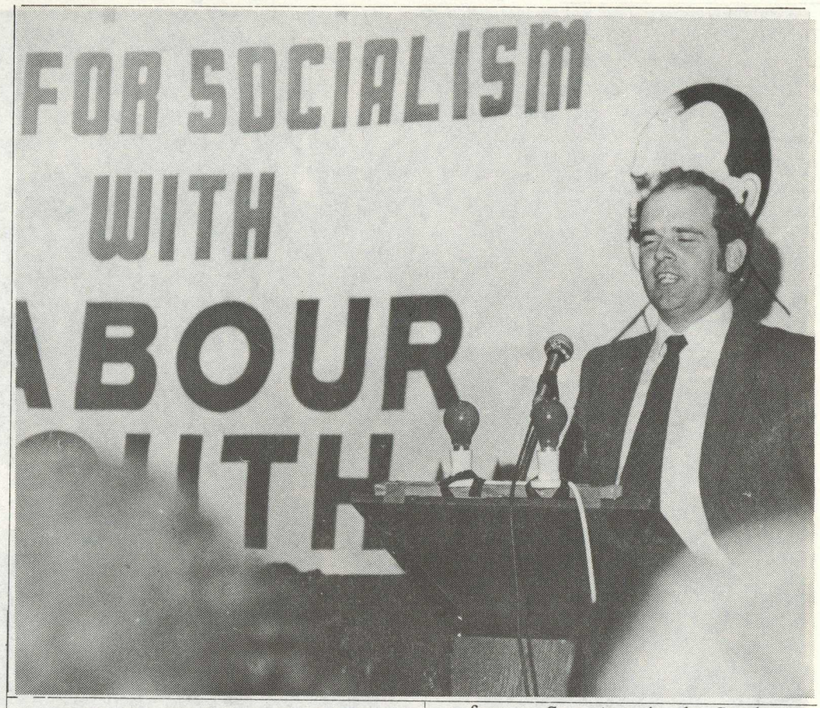
Mr Dick Spring, Minister of State, Justice

The I.G.R.M. delegation then drew the Ministers attention to a recent statement by the Chief Justice (see press release later in this issue) to the effect that rights for homosexuals and prostitutes could not be claimed as basic civil rights here in Ireland. The Minister had not seen reports of the Chief Justice's remarks, but officials of his Department had. The problems which the reported remarks of the Chief Justice will raise for litigants on the subject of homosexuality in domestic courts were then discussed by the I.G.R.M. delegation.

The Minister congratulated the Movement on the quality of it's submission and expressed the wish that a further meeting be arranged in the near future.

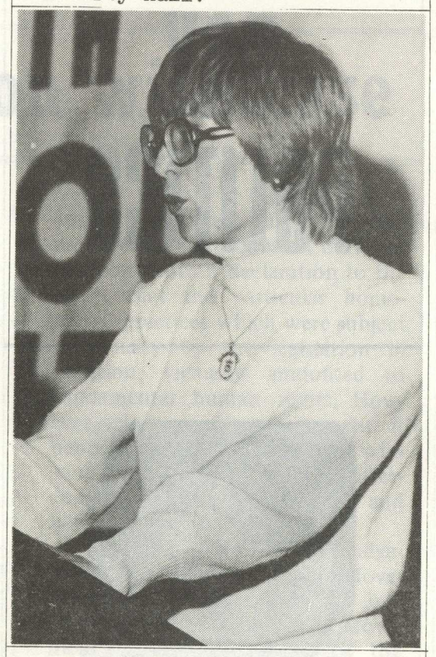
In addition to the above meeting, members of the Movement's Executive Committee have been meeting with Deputies and Senators. Further information on these important discussions will be carried in the next edition of *In Touch*.

labour youth



Sean Connolly addressing the Labour Youth Conference in Liberty Hall.

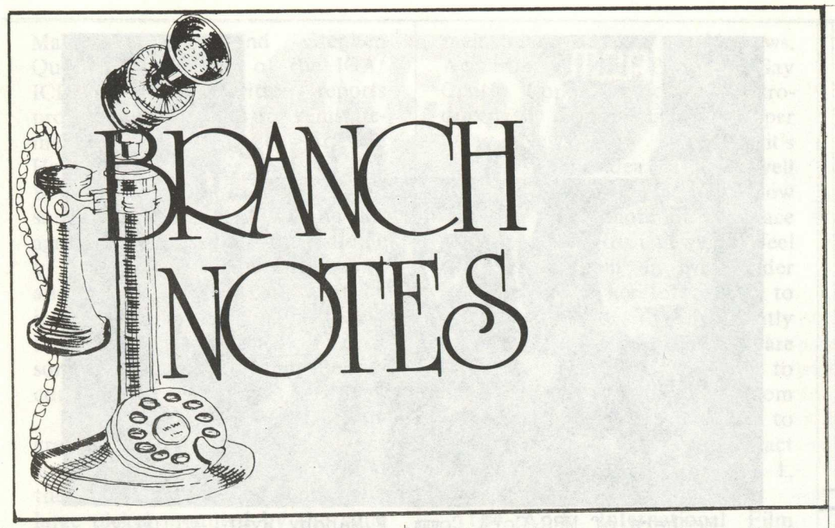
A group of I.G.R.M. members attended the Annual Labour Party Youth Conference in Liberty Hall on 27/29th November as fraternal delegates. I.G.R.M. National Chairman Sean Connolly addressed the opening session of the conference and outlined the everyday effects of legal and social discrimination on working class gays. He mentioned in particular the stress experienced by teachers, transport workers and others in sensitive areas of employment who are particularly vulnerable to attack. The conference gave a standing ovation to the Chairman's address. The Secretary of Labour Youth Ms. Jane Scott spoke on a motion calling on the Government to immediately reform the law under the terms of the European Court decision in the Dudgeon Case. This motion was passed unaminously. Unfortunately, a second motion calling on the Government to introduce legislation outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was lost as the Cork delegation was not present at the correct time. Laurie Bond (ex. Glencree Conference Chairman) unsuccessfully attempted to save the motion. An encouraging aspect of this Conference was the genuine interest which delegates showed in the topic when I.G.R.M. met with them following the first session. Several follow-up activities with Labour Youth are planned for the coming months.



Jane Scott. Labour Youth Sec.

Three I.G.R.M. delegates attending a Gay Liberation Workshop arranged in Trinity College on 28 November, 1981. The workshop was organised by Charles Kerrigan, a former Secretary in the Students Union, U.C.C. and was strongly attended by his colleagues from the Cork Gay Collective. Mr. Kerrigan gave a detailed account of his version of the history of the Irish gay movement. During a discussion on the relative merits of the organisations which operate in Ireland (North and South), Mr. Arthur Leahy of the Cork Gay Collective pointed out that the services which the Movement provides are necessary for the welfare of gay people and are worthy of support. Mr. Laurie Steel (Cork Gay Collective) said that he was afraid to speak as he was very angry. The gay organisations he claimed, provide no facilities for activists and the services which they provide were, in his view, "shit". Mr. Kerrigan spoke of the success of the Cork Gay Conference which, he said, was organised by the Cork Gay Collective, and hoped that next year's conference would see a breakthrough towards the formation of an activists group.

Concerning the National Gay Conference in Cork 1982, a preliminary meeting to discuss plans for the Conference will be held in Liberty Hall, Dublin on 13 Febrauary 1982. Further details are available from Steve Quillinan at (021) 505394.



Branch activity has been at a high level over the past few months with meetings in Limerick (8 August), Waterford (29 August) and Drogheda (5 September).

The Limerick meeting was held in the Shannon Arms Hotel and was attended by members and friends from Limerick city and county, Tipperary, Kerry and Clare. John Porter from Galway also attended as did two Americans who were in the city for the weekend. Several Executive Committee members travelled from Dublin for the meeting including W. Eastwood, Evelyn Bromlea, The General Secretary and the National Chairman.

The main subjects for discussion were the immediate needs of the Limerick gay community. Opinion was divided as to whether it would be sufficient to find a comfortable and welcoming bar in which gay people could enjoy themselves, or whether it was necessary to find a premises in which meetings and social functions could be organised. Following a long discussion, it became clear that most people favoured looking for a premises. Stan O'Grady, the Branch Chairman outlined the efforts made by the Limerick Branch Committee to find a premises with no success to date.

Members in Limerick city were urged to make every effort to find a premises which would be suitable for Branch meetings. The meeting learned with regret of the recent resignation of P. Rowland, Branch Secretary, who indicated however, that he will still by available to help the Branch whenever possible.

The Waterford Branch meeting was held in the Granville Hotel and attracted a good attendance. Members from Waterford city and county, Wexford, Tipperary and Kilkenny were present, as were several Executive Committe members including National Chairman Sean Connolly, General Secretary John Ryan, Financial Controller Clement Clancy, Evelyn Bromlea and M. Conlon. Waterford Branch Chairman Jim Lawless gave an outline of developments in the Branch to date, and mentioned advertisements and interviews by I.G.R.M. Waterford carried on a local radio station. There was a discussion on whether the Branch should look for a venue for regular meetings and functions, and members generally agreed that this would be desirable. The Branch Chairman and the Secretary both told of the difficulties encountered in their search for such a premises, but it was stressed that these difficulties were inevitable in a city with limited accommodation on the market.

Several members gave accounts of problems with an anti-gay gang who had followed several people from a gay pub. The general opinion was that such incidents were of an isolated nature. Another problem discussed was the recent move by a pub owner to make gays less welcome in his premises. Members felt that a new bar with a more friendly atmosphere should be sought immediately.

The National Chairman drew attention to the need for all supporters of the Movement to keep in contact with each other through membership. Membership was a concrete sign of support for I.G.R.M. aims and objectives and was a way of showing solidarity with those who were struggling to develop local branches, often in the face of indifference and apathy.

The meeting was also told of plans by the Branch to organise a river barge cruise and party, details of which were unavailable at the time, and would be circulated locally. It is hoped to organise a follow-up meeting in Waterford in December to review developments.

The Drogheda area operates without a Branch Committee or Convenor, but nevertheless members have a close relationship with the Movement, and are frequent visitors to the Phoenix Club facilities in Dublin. A meeting to discuss possible future plans in the area was organised in the White Horse Hotel on 3 September. The Financial Controller and the Special Advisor represented the Executive Committee at the meeting. The Dundalk Convenor and members from the Dundalk area were also present. Due to postal difficulties it is understood that some members did not receive reminders of this meeting although notice was given in the last edition of *In Touch*.

Members and friends were urged to build on the existing community spirit among gays in Drogheda and most of those present approved of a suggestion that premises be sought for meetings in the town. Most gays meet in the White Horse in the absence of any other facilities.

After the meeting, Clem Clancy was interviewed on Boyneside Radio and gave an outline of the proposals which had earlier been discussed at the meeting. The following day, a local social worker contacted the Movement and offered assistance. The local branch of a political party has also offered rooms for I.G.R.M. use, and this offer is being considered by the Executive Committee. It is important that all members in the area with interests in getting involved at this early stage should contact I.G.R.M. HQ.

MUNSTER REPORT



Members of MRC/Cork Comm. P.Mahony Rysh, D. Daly, S. Slator, T. Galvin, S. Quillinan

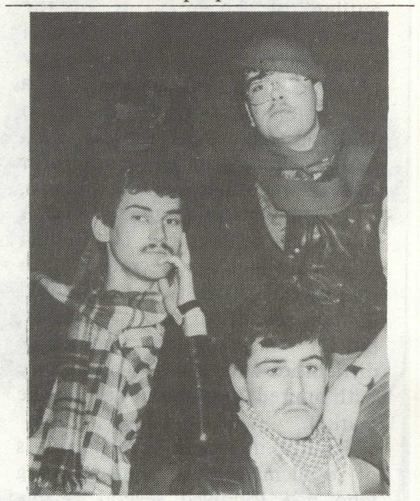
Munster Gay Switchboard recently contacted the Advertising Department of the *Cork Examiner/Evening Echo* in an attempt to insert an advertisement featuring it's services to the gay community. The innocuously worded advertisement ran as follows: "Munster Gay Switchboard provides information, advice, legal, medical and religious referrals to gay people, Mon.–Fri. 8pm – 10pm. PO Box 1, Cork".

A curtly worded reply was received from Mrs. Forde, Advertising Manager stating that the advert was "unacceptable". Switchboard is both astonished and annoyed at this refusal given that the activities of the Switchboard and Phoenix Gay Centres have been widely advertised on local radio in Cork and Waterford, not to mention the "Cork Review", the Official Tourist Board magazine "What's on in Cork and Kerry", the *Limerick Weekly Echo*, and the national press. The MRC of the IGRM intend to make strong representations to the Examiner Group to remove this petty and bigoted ban.

We are pleased to announce that Deputy Jim Kemmy, Independent Socialist T.D. for Limerick has agreed to speak on the issue of gay rights in Limerick at a public meeting. The meeting which will be organised under the auspices of I.G.R.M. Munster is scheduled for later this year and through it we hope to capitalise on the ever increasing coverage of the gay issue in the South-West of the Province.

The well-known U.C.C. academic Professor John A. Murphy who is also a Senator in Seanad Eireann has also agreed to meet with the Council to discuss the problems facing Munster gays.

Although it had been hoped to produce a magazine to coincide with the first birthday of the re-born Phoenix Gay Centre, Cork, the pressure of work was such that this proved impractical. Now, however, Munster is pleased to announce that preparations are well



Members of the I.G.R.M. Munster Regional Council Youth Group at a recent function in Cork.

underway in the production of our new journal entitled "Munster Gaze". Those of you who remember "sapphire" and "Corkscrew" (which will be incorporated in the new mag.) for their bright and lively contents will not we hope be disappointed by the new production from Munster which, in it's first issue at least, will present a retrospective of the activities of Munster gays in the last eighteen months, and will also contain a sizeable input from international sources. Suggestions and contributions for "Munster Gaze" are most welcome. So if you would like to appear in what should be a fairly historic issue get your pen to paper now!

I.G.R.M. in the person of Pat Mahony Rysh, Munster Chairperson and Director of the IGA International Co-ordination and Information Centre on Religion, was represented at the Conference organised by the Northern Ireland Council on Religion and Homosexuality (NICRH), in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim over the weekend of the fifth of September. The event which was well attended by gays from all over the North was felt to be a very constructive exercise and Pat was pleased to be able to acquaint our Northern gay friends to the activities of I.G.R.M. and the IGA/ICIC/REL, renewing old friendships and establishing new contacts.

Ms. Elaine Morrisens, a Belgian gay was recently dismissed from her post by the provincial authorities in the Province of Hainault because she was gay. The Federatie Werk-Groep Homophile (a member group of the IGA) of Antwerp requested through the offices of the IGA Information Centre in Dublin that I.G.R.M. would protest to the relevant authorities. Accordingly, Munster Chairperson Pat Mahony Rysh and Stephen Quillinan, Secretary of the IGA/ICIC/REL sent written reports protests and requests for reinstatement of Ms. Morrisens to the Hainault authorities and to the Belgian Embassy in Dublin. We suspect that Hainault will be disagreeably suprised at the volume of protest from all over the world and acting on the basis that an injury to one is an injury to all, I.G.R.M. is glad to have been of some assistance to our Belgian comrades.

Delegates to the Annual Congress of the Irish Trade Unions were somewhat suprised to be met at the doors of City Hall, Cork by a large picket mounted by the combined forces of I.G.R.M. Cork, the Cork Gay Collective and individual gays. A specially printed handout called on the delegates to support gay rights and further called on the Irish Federation of University Teachers to review their stance on the issue. Many of the delegates were obviously very interested in the gay lobby and several interesting conversations took place with individual delegates, which hopefully will bear fruit in the coming years.

Readers of the *Irish Times* will have been following the recent debate in the *Irish Times* between Mr. Andrew Fowler and Steve Quillinan and others on the question of gays in Nazi Germany and the treatment accorded to them. We are grateful to the *Times* for the space afforded to us to refute the specious arguments put forward by Mr. Fowler and would specially like to congratulate Ms. Cammy Adams of Wexford for capping what was a lively and somewhat acrimonious exchange with the letter which effectively demolished the said Mr. Fowler. For those unaware of the background of the correspondence, Mr. Fowler has consistently indulged through the columns of the *Irish Times* in epistles which can only be described as "gay baiting" and although we think that he has been effectively silenced for the time being, we have no doubt that he will return to the fray – we shall be ready for him! (See article in this Issue about the subject).

Many gays in the South frequently feel isolated from the mainstream of gay world news. Accordingly, the Phoenix Gay Centre Cork has recently introduced the London gay newspaper "Gay News" on sale to it's members. This idea has been well accepted and given that GN is now devoting much more of it's space to coverage of Irish news, we feel that it will gain an even wider readership than heretofore. Due to the fact that issues have frequently arrived late in Cork, we are currently negotiating with GN to have it mailed directly from London. If you would like to receive it by post, please contact the Secretary, IGRM, PO Box 1, Cork, enclosing SAE.

The Cork International Film Festival was considerably enlivened for many local gays when the film "Madonna and Child" was shown in the Opera House on 1st October. Coyly described on the official handout as a "study of the conflict between Catholicism and sexuality", the film was in actuality the portrayal of a repressed gay's attempts to come to terms with his gayness. The film, which was quite well attended (but which would have been better attended had the advance publicity been more forthcoming) was described by Laurie Steel of the Cork Gay Collective as being a bleak and "moving" film which while probably offputting to gays in the process of coming out was highly explicit and "got the adrenalin going". A somewhat stunned audience nonetheless applauded warmly at the finish. We were all quite delighted when it was announced that the film had been awarded the St. Finbarre Statuette for the best film in the Student's Category – one of the highest awards of the festival. Our sincerest congratulations to Director Terence Davies of the National Film School, London for producing such an excellent film.

Catering as it does for the single homeless of the city of Cork, Simon Community has done trojan work in this field in recent years. Due to the economic recession, Simon like everyone else is feeling the pinch. The Phoenix Gay Centre has therefore "adopted" Simon as "it's" charity and we were glad to be able to donate £100 to Simon on behalf of IGRM Cork recently. We hope to be able to increase that amount significantly over the coming year through benefit nights, raffles etc.



Members of the Munster Regional Council with a giant PINK TRIANGLE which was set on the summit of the Comeragh Mountains.

Munster Gay Switchboard is now operational Monday to Friday from 8pm to 10pm due to increased demand and the volunteer team has been expanded accordingly. The Switchboard has also recently joined the National Association of Gay Switchboards which co-ordinates the activities of the various Gay Switchboards in Britain and Ireland.

VIOLENCE AT GAY FESTIVAL



The Durham Gayfest was billed in the gay press as the event of the year, but subsequent comment on the occasion has been mixed to say the least. Curious to see how our counterparts in Britain approached the task of organising a major conference, Munster I.G.R.M. sent a strong delegation over to Durham consisting of representatives of MRC, Gay Switchboard IGA/ICIL/REL and the Gay Youth Group. Having completed a long and arduous journey from Cork to Larne and then down through Scotland to Durham (North Yorkshire) the I.G.R.M. delegation were less than pleased at the chaos reigning at reception and registration. The city of Durham itself is a very historic and attractive place and the Gayfest was located in the campus of Durham University. Regrettably, the attitude of the locals to the presence of so many gays in their midst was less than welcoming and there were some nasty incidences of intimidation and actual violence against gays which cast a pall over the whole proceedings.

While the accommodation was quite adequate (although over-priced) the quality of the meals available in the college refectory was poor and again over-priced. These factors while irritating in themselves would not have been of major importance if the rest of the occasion had been worthwhile, but this was not the case. While such occasions are valuable in renewing and making contacts which our delegates made ample use of, the fact that many workshops which had been advertised failed to materialise or were difficult to locate seriously affected the working of the Gayfest. A factor which astonished the I.G.R.M. delegation was the admission charge of £8.00 to the C.H.E. Annual Conference and the charges for video shows etc. Delegates to the National Gay Conference in Cork last May will remember that the registration fee for the whole weekend was the massive sum of £5.00 (£3.00 for the unwaged), and that the total charge for the ancillary social activities and food came to £3.00! It is also worth remembering that where required out-of-town delegates were put-up in private homes free of charge. In this connection, we are pleased to note that news of the Cork event had travelled widely in Britain and that many of the Gayfest delegates compared Cork very favourably indeed with Durham.

While not wishing totally to condemn the Gayfest, we do consider it intolerable that people should travel considerable distances and at great expense (especially in our case) to arrive (if you were lucky, the London coaches never materialised) at an event whose organisation left a great deal to be desired.

With the experience of Durham behind us, and it must be admitted that the Gayfest was partly experimental in nature, we feel sure that next years Gayfest in Cardiff will be a much improved event, and we wish the Conference organisers every success.

Possibly the only major worthwhile feature of the Durham Gayfest was the linking up between the MRC-IGRM delegation and the Irish Gays in London Group. Once again old friendships were renewed not least those made during the National Gay Conference. The two groups have agreed to maintain close links and cooperation and in this context we were delighted to have a surprise visit from two of our London based colleagues to Cork recently, and our only regret is that they were unable to stay longer. In the meantime, IGL is filling a long-felt want on the London scene for Irish gays and we understand that they are "very comfortably located" in the Friend building at 274 Upper Street, London N1, where General Secretary Tom Kelly assures us that Irish visitors to London will be warmly welcomed.

CORK GOES TO WASHINGTON ?

The IGA International Coordination and Information Centre on Religion which is based in the Phoenix Gay Centre Cork is rapidly proving it's worth and fulfilling it's mandate to provide an international contact centre for gay believers of every faith and denomination. To date, the IGA/ICIC/REL has been in touch with over 110 different organisations in thirty countries and in several different langauges. Replies to our requests for information have come from as far afield as Japan and New Zealand, and while there are still several other countries to contact, we hope in the not-too-distant future to begin production of an international Directory for gay believers together with an occasional news bulletin. It is also hoped that when we travel to Washington DC next year for the Annual Conference of the IGA that we shall be in a position to give a comprehensive report on the position of gays and the church. Anyone wishing to help in the work of the IGA/ICIC/REL is cordially invited to do so. For details please write to the Secretary, I.G.R.M., P.O. Box 1, Cork, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.



Keeping up with it's tradition of producing new, thought-provoking and disturbing experimental works, the Project Arts Centre excelled itself with it's Irish Premiere of "Bent" by Martin Sherman.

Although the play has broad overtones, it is essentially about the plight of homosexual men in Nazi Germany from the formation of the concentration camp at Dachau in 1933 to the final surrender in May, 1945.

Competent imaginative direction by Michael Scott coupled with beautifully sensitive intelligent acting gave us an alarming (almost oppressive) evening of theatre. How often have we sat back and watched war-time documentaries on television and reacted to them with little or no emotion! Yet, here we had a play that gave us part of the terror, part of the real horror of Hitler's Germany, right in front of our eyes, and even the most hard-hearted would have been moved by the experience.

With excellent lighting design by Rubert Murray, the production itself had few drawbacks. Scene changing was rapid and well executed by the efficient stage management. However, the use of the music hall piano, it's actual physical presence and it's almost burlesque music, tended to distract from the atmosphere created.

Originating in Greta's club scene, it seemed totally out-of-place elsewhere, and could have been replaced with profounder effect with taped music (less distracting) or, more appropriately, by sounds or chanting from Hitler's Youth Movement or Nazi Germany of the time. As for the set by Bronwen Casson, it worked almost to perfection. However, the use of a bed frame and patchy pieces of carpet as floor-coverings in the opening scene did stretch the imagination a little far. Also,



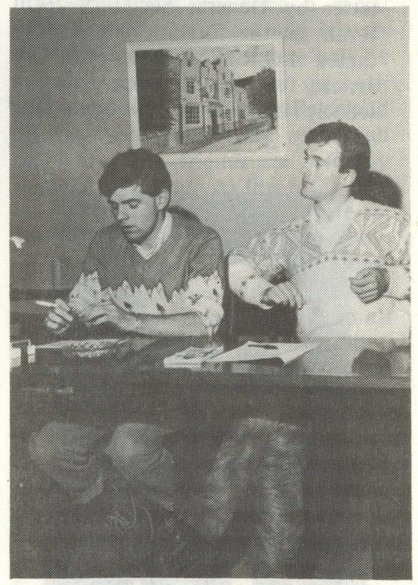
Freddie's burial scene was completely eclipsed for a section of the audience, due to the burial pit being placed too far up-stage.

Then, to the acting: this was uniformly excellent from Garrett Keogh and the other leading players, and in particular Malcolm Douglas as Rudy. The Nazi officers presented to us by F. McKeown, T. Sheehy and J. Walsh lacked a definite air of realism. The obvious absence of accent was a major blunder, not to mention the absence of the familiar, authorative SS-stance and it's allied vindictiveness.

Overall, the production was not to be missed, and will undoubtedly rank among the more remarkable theatrical experiences of the year.

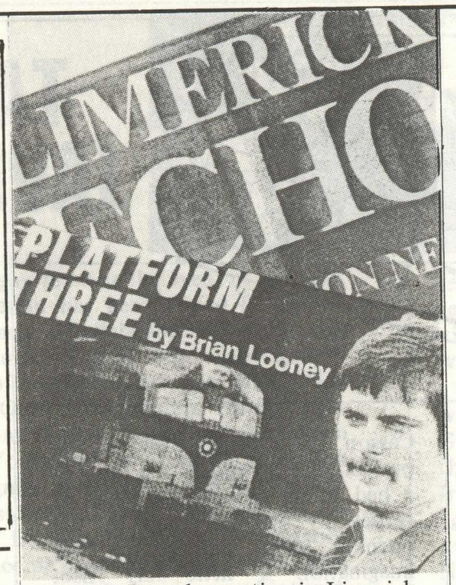
STOP PRESS

The details of the Galway I.G.R.M. disco are now available.
The function will be held in the Rockland Hotel, Salthill, Galway on 16 January, 1982 (Saturday) starting from 9pm.
As this is the first social function of the newly-established Galway Branch of the Movement, we ask all members in the area to give it their fullest support.
If this initial venture is successful, the Galway Branch will organise regular social events for members in the city.
Further details may be obtained by phoning the Dublin Gay Switchboard at (01) 786593 any evening from 7.30pm.- 9.00pm.



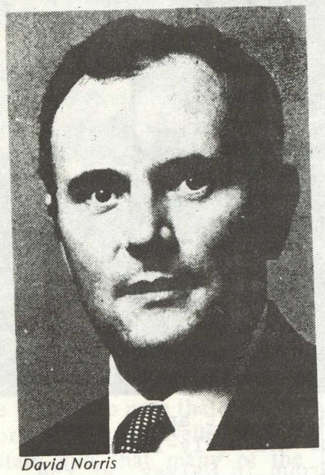
S. Rabbitt and M. Duggan of the newly-formed IGRM Group in Galway, at the National Regional Conference in Abbeyleix.

media view



In the last few months I.G.R.M. has enjoyed a good amount of press coverage. I.G.R.M. Cork Secretary Steve Quillinan began a discussion in the letters column of the *Irish Times* on the significance of the pink triangle for gay people today. It is particularly important that historical inaccuracies concerning the mass number of gays in German concentration camps be corrected and Steves' letters have set out what actually happened in stark and horrifying detail.

A journalist who read a recent letter by General Secretary John Ryan in the *Sunday World* contacted I.G.R.M. HQ to write an article for the *Limerick Echo*, a weekly tabloid. A report on the recent Branch meeting in Limerick (see Branch Notes) was carried and plans to acquire a meeting place in the city were given front page headlines. The paper interviewed John Ryan and also asked local politicians and clergy for their views on the plans. The Editorial mentioned the recent unsuccessful High Court challenge of anti-gay legislation by David Norris (Ex-Chairman of I.G.R.M.) and welcomed the practical efforts of the Movement to improve the social facilities for gays in the city. Prominent coverage was also given to the services of the Gay Switchboards and phone numbers and addresses were also given. A member of the I.G.R.M. Limerick Committee was also quoted in the article. There has been considerable response to the article which, it is expected, will generate the same interest as did a series of articles and letters in the Midland press some years ago.



David Norris

Most members are aware of the difficulties that have marked relations between I.G.R.M. and *Gay News* since 1979. The paper had refused to advertise details of the Movement's addresses and phone numbers in it's Gay Guide section, and had published several snide and biased articles about I.G.R.M. over that period. Recently however, there was a dramatic turnabout in *Gay News* attitudes when a staff reporter Chris Kirk visited Dublin to report on the gay scene in the city. He met Sean Lynham of the Gay Switchboard, Evelyn Bromlea and Alice Dorman of the Womens Group and John Ryan, General Secretary. During an interview which lasted two hours all aspects of the Movement's activities were discussed. In the resulting article (*GN* 222), the Movement was praised for it's democratic structures, and criticised for the absence of a youth group in I.G.R.M. Dublin. Several large photo's were published, including one of John Ryan, the Phoenix Club disco floor, the A.G.M. in Cork and the facade of 18 North Lotts. All who met Chris were impressed with his fairness and ability to get to the bottom of the story.

Gay News also amended several Irish listings in the Gay Guide section relating to the Limerick and Waterford Branches. It is certainly our hope that relations with *Gay News* will remain at their present firendly and co-operative level for the future.

The *Irish Times* and the *Evening Herald* gave coverage to an I.G.R.M. Press Statement regarding the removal of mortgage subsidies for single people.

Five newspapers carried details of the new Phoenix Players theatre group, and a new literary magazine "The Oak" also gave publicity to the group. Phoenix Players were first set up when I.G.R.M. was based at 46 Parnell Square, and everyone from that time will remember the distinctive PHOENIX PLAYERS teeshirts.

It is planned to restart a campaign of newspaper advertising for the Gay Switchboard in the near future, using national Sunday newspapers. Such advertising is highly expensive, and anyone interested in contributing to these costs should send their contribution to the Financial Controller, I.G.R.M., P.O. Box 739, Dublin 8.

PHOENIX CLUB POLICY STATEMENT

No individuals will be barred from entering the premises of the Movement except on the grounds of breaches of the laws relating to drugs, alcohol and violence, subject to existing club rules

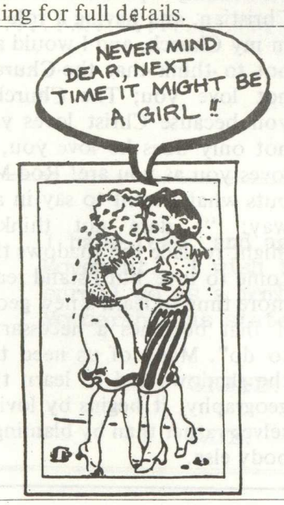
NOTICEBOARD

Womens Group

We are glad to see that Evelyn Bromlea, of the Executive Committee and of the I.G.R.M. Womens Group has completely recovered from her recent illness, and is now back at work with all her former vigour. The Womens Group hold weekly meetings at 18 North Lotts, Dublin on Wednesday evenings from 8 pm. There is a weekly



Womens Disco and Social Night every Wednesday night from 10.30pm. at 18 North Lotts. Full Information on womens events is obtainable by phoning the Gay Switchboard any Wednesday night from 7.30pm (Dublin 786593). Any lesbian members living outside Dublin who would like to meet the Womens Group should contact the Group at 18 North Lotts, Dublin 1 or should phone any Wednesday evening for full details.



Cartoons Reproduced from Gay's the Word



Theatre Group

The I.G.R.M. Phoenix Players Acting Workshop has begun acting classes for beginners to all ages. This Workshop is provided free to all I.G.R.M. members and friends. The aim of the Workshop is threefold: 1. To provide a social activity for disco members, 2. To teach interested members the fundamentals of acting and direction. 3. To widen members knowledge and appreciation of theatre. Such topics



as basic stage craft, relaxation exercises, voice production, stage movement and production of plays will be part of the Players programme in the coming weeks and months. Furtherdetails are obtainable from John Malone, Group Director any Tuesday night at 786593. John Malone has considerable acting experience, having been a founder member of the Focus Theatre and professional actor for several years. It should be stressed that no acting experience is necessary, just a desire to learn!



Galway

The new Galway Branch of the Movement has organised a social function for members and friends in the Galway area: There will be a disco and get-together on 16th January, 1982 in the Rockland Hotel, Salthill, Galway which all members and friends are cordially invited to attend. As this is the first venture by the new Galway group, we hope that all members in the area will give it their fullest support! A circular with full details on the function will be sent to all members and friends on the mailing list in Galway/Sligo/Clare areas in the coming week.



'We're collecting for the gay sisters.....'

out of the clerical closet †

A Priest writes :

For a long time, I have been blaming somebody, myself, for not doing what I think everybody should have been doing, and that is being true to oneself. It's not easy when you are gay, it's not easy when you are a priest. I am a man who happens to be a priest who happens to be gay, and this is the first time that I have come out of my clerical closet to any extent. I believe in myself as a man, I believe in my priesthood and I believe that being gay makes me no less a priest than my hetrosexual brother priests. In some ways, I believe it adds to my vocation because I have found among gays courage, great humanity, understanding and real Christian faith. I have also found bitchiness, jealousy, anger and the most awful of discriminations, the cult of youth where any gay person over 30 is almost excommunicated to a limbo of shadows and cruising.



I wanted to write and come out because I believe that there is a place in the Church for my gay brothers and sisters. I don't use the words "brothers and sisters" in a preaching sense, but in the real meaning since we have a common father/mother in God. We are called to be intregal persons in our own right with a place in the Church. When you look at the figures given, you can certainly say that one out of every ten to fifteen people is gay and that includes priests, nuns, seminarians and laity. We are called to be ourselves and we have a Christian duty to love ourselves and not to give in to what the world thinks of us. We have a lot going for us: I believe that to survive, even in acknowledging one's gayness, one must have a reserve of courage and strength to stand against what the straight world thinks of us. They categorise and therefore kill and destroy, they joke about us, they beat us up to prove their masculinity and all the time they are afraid, afraid that they might be "one of them".

If we look for self-respect, we must respect those who are different to us. There is a tremendous danger in overstating our case. We have rights to jobs, to housing, to membership of churches, but we do ourselves a disservice if we use our gayness as a hammer to put out point of view across. I write these few words not as a sermon, not as a few idle words, but as someone who is particularly proud of himself and what he is. I write it as someone who is particularly proud of being a Christian, and having a role to play in my Church, and I would ask you not to think that the Church does not love you; The Church loves you because Christ loves you and not only does he love you, but he loves you as you are! Rod McKuen puts what I want to say in a better way: "I dare not think what might replace the shadows that I've come to love, but I stand ready one more time to learn a new geography if that becomes a necessary thing to do". Many of us need to leave the shadows and to learn the new geography, it begins by loving ourselves rather than by blaming everybody else.

CONFIDENTIAL

IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

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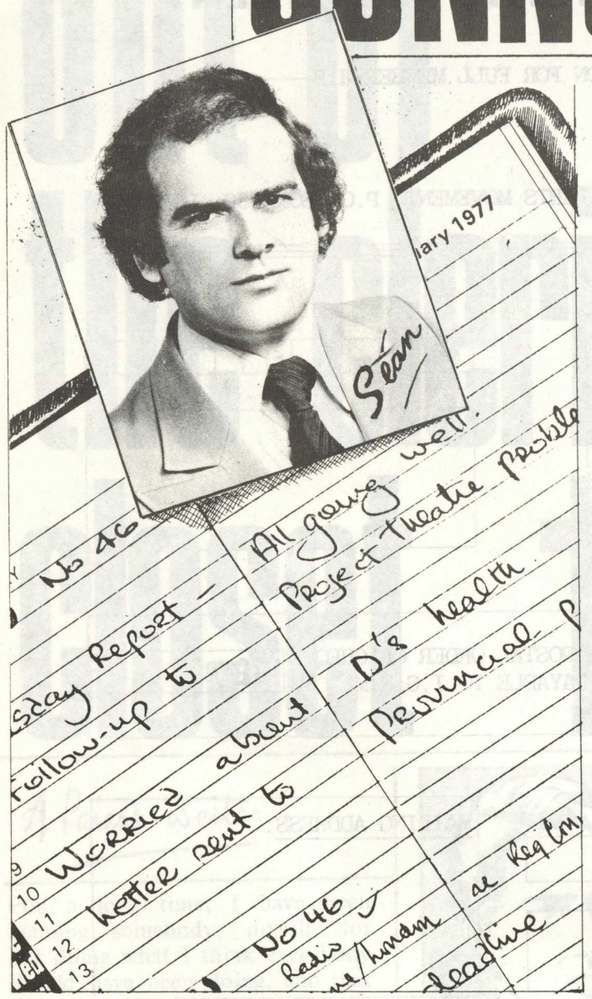
ANY OTHER DETAILS.....
.....
.....

I have read, and agree with the aims and objectives of the Irish Gay Rights Movement. I wish to support I.G.R.M. by way of full membership. Please enroll me as a member. If accepted, I agree to be bound by the Conditions of Membership as stated in the Constitution (revised) and in related circulars.

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .../...../..... I am 18 years or over.

THE CONNOLLY DIARIES



James Kearney
Sean, my first question is, will this forthcoming publication be likely to be the subject of controversy?

Sean Connolly
Well, of course, I should hope that it will be of interest, but not divisive. After all, it is in the form of a documentary not a personal appraisal of events in the Gay Movement.

James Kearney
But surely, personalities will be mentioned?

Sean Connolly
In so far as they were instrumental in providing positive contributions to the cause, I will try to launder some of the negative imputs.

James Kearney
What are your own thoughts back before your involvement in 1973 and how do they compare with now?

Sean Connolly
As of now I am still forming impressions of exactly how far we have progressed; It's an ongoing situation. In the early days, we had a horizon in view and we all seemed to have an ideal to which we set ourselves. Nowadays, the horizon is lost from view and gay people are wandering again, nomads travelling around in every decreasing circles.

James Kearney
Surely that's a bit negative?

Sean Connolly
No, not if we find our base again and continue on a definite line. Many people are only interested in the scenery along the route and miss the signposts and danger signals.

James Kearney
What, in your opinion, needs to be done?

Sean Connolly
Again, I don't wish to be subjective; I can say that I.G.R.M.'s stated objectives of enhancing the quality of gay lifestyles could' not be improved on. People should return to the fold and create a community as heretofore-the community spirit outside the I.G.R.M. seems to have been replaced by individuals who want to spread the seeds of malcontentment by introducing a caste system based on supply and demand, oblivious to the emotional and other requirements which are their birthright.

James Kearney
I'm sure that you will elaborate on that statement!

Sean Connolly
I will, maybe I'll change names and events: There are libel laws!

James Kearney
I see from your commentary that you will be giving a factual version of the famous split.

Sean Connolly
(Laughing) It's on record for a long time now, but firstly, I indicated recently in a letter to the *Irish Times* that there is uniformity of purpose between all the activists mentioned in my diaries. As regards the famous "split", there were as far back as 1973 at least five different "pretenders to the throne", some one-man shows, some dispersed then other new organisation challenged. I mean, first there was SLM (Sexual Liberation Movement) based in Trinity College, then there was S.F.I.; Where are they now? The I.G.R.M. took shape, shortly afterwards G.A.R. and contemporaneously a private commercial disco called Studio One, after that the University Gaysoc in U.C.D., and meanwhile in the North N.I.G.R.A. has been fused from several groups already operating there. So to me, it came as no surprise when the going got tough, after the initial honeymoon, that elements previously used to calling the tune in one man shows got together to form a Frankenstein of limbs from the bits exhumed from SLM, CHE, USFI GAR etc. etc. ad nauseum. But, and I think most reasonable people at the time agreed that when I announced my resignation in 1977 it set in motion a number of events that on reflection exposed people in their true colours ie, that their interest was more for titles than the idealism and self-effacement that a volunteer body such as I.G.R.M. demands. So to condense my answer to your question: There has always been a split between those who talk about doing something and those who actually strive continuously to achieve a positive change, ie. not brought about on the tide of inertia (to coin a paradox) but forming the channels through which all our endeavours can be harnessed for the betterment of the gay community.

James Kearney
That's quite a concept, but on a purely personal level, what does it mean to you?

Sean Connolly
I have of late, especially when speaking to more "aware" gay people, tried to state that while the gay scene here in Ireland is still in it's formative stages, many gay people exist on a double standard ie. weekends in town on the chance of something happening, and even if it does the rush home to take cover in the comfort of family shelter from the responsibilities that relationships require.

Perhaps it's a result of the average in Ireland being in the 20's but more and more people tell me of their dissatisfaciton with the Pink Balloon Brigade, poetry reading and similar when their peers in the hetrosexual world are going about setting up a life of their own.

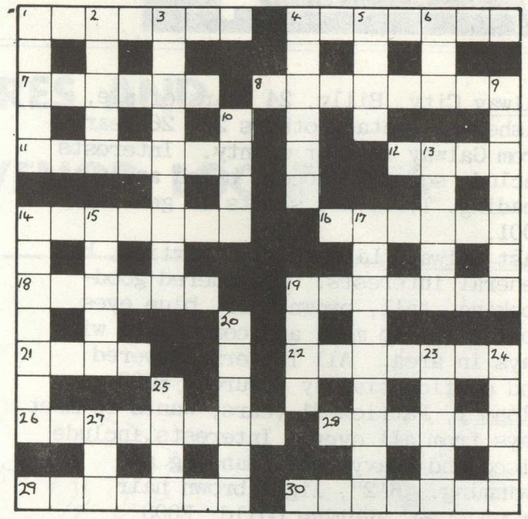
James Kearney
You mentioned at the Cork Gay Conference that you had some plans in mind for future campaigns?

Sean Connolly
Yes, I was gratified that many non-aligned people saw the need to get away from the vacuous ways imposed on them; This is real liberation. I.G.R.M. can provide an alternative prospective, but I'll expand on this later.

James Kearney
Do you envisage other people going into print to "challenge" your recollections?

Sean Connolly
Yes, but maybe they should wait until the final instalment lest they rush in where angels fear to tread!

TO BE CONTINUED/



CROSSWORD

Across:

1. Salmon spear (7).
4. I ask you in the old-fashioned way (7).
7. Dame is arranged differently helps myself (4, 2).
8. Flourish (8).
11. Just rumour (7).
12. A raffle won by nobody (4).
14. Protected bottles (7).
16. Dapper sort of tree (6).
18. Used to weigh the fish? (6).
19. They are powerless to fly (7).
21. Can be used to pick up military equipment (4).
22. Series of tens (7).
26. Telescope (8).
28. Be seen at (6).
29. They utter words in tuneful succession (7).
30. Mantle for a lady (7).

Down:

1. Leading thong (5).
2. Hindu God of the Heavens (5).
3. Bearer of grave words (9).
4. He could be enrapt with new issue (6).
5. Electrically charged particles (4).
6. '– Polloi' – The Majority (3).
9. Absurd mistakes (7).
10. Changes colour (4).
13. This is the way to follow (5).
14. Wear for chance visitors (7).
15. Prepare for battle once more (5).
17. An agent acts for him (9).
19. Olympian dwellers (4).
20. Floors depend of these timbers (6).
23. Attire (5).
24. German waterway its fun to go on (5).
25. You're reading this (4).
27. Longing for a foreign currency (3).

£5 will be awarded for the first correct solution to the above crossword received on or before 31st, JAN. 1982. Send your entries to: 'CROSSWORD' 18 North Lotts, D.1

PERSONAL ADS

Galway City, Billy, 24 Years of age, wishes to contact others 20- 26 years from Galway city or county. Interests include squash, soccer, pitch and putt, reading, T.V., and sports in general E001.

East Galway, Liam, early thirties, has general interests. Considered good-looking, tall, brown hair, blue eyes. Would like to meet and correspond with gays in area. All letters answered and confidentiality assured. E002

Clonmel, Patrick 21 years, wants to meet gays from all over. Interests include disco and heavy rock, dancing and swimming. 6'2", light brown hair, brown eyes, average build. E003

Canada, Richard 22 years. Would like to meet others ages 18- 25 years, blue eyes, blond, please send photo. E004

North Kildare, James, 24 years. Wishes to meet gays in County Kildare or any area. Interests, driving shooting, music. Will answer all replies. Letters from manual working guys welcomed. E004

Donegal, George, 39 years. Would like to correspond with others interested in magazines, and books anywhere in Ireland. E006

East Mayo, James, 32 years, would like to contact and meet others in area and the West. Any age, interests, music, travel, reading. Really into cords, E007

Cavan, Kevin, late twenties, would like to meet gays in same area; Hobbies are reading, T.V., and sport. 5'11", light brown hair. All letters answered. E008

Munster North, Michael, 33 years. Varied interests include outdoor, country life, sports, folk-music etc. Would like to meet or correspond with 20-40 age group. Sincere and discreet. E009

Donegal, David, 45 years. Wants to hear from others to exchange mags. and books. Would also like to meet and correspond with gays in area. E010

Tullamore, William, 38 years. Interested in gardening, television, country and western. Wants to meet and write to others in area and over. E012

Boston, John, 28 years, 5'10", interested in finding some Irish penpals and arrange a visit within next year. E013

Clonmel, Michael, 19 year old English guy living near Clonmel wishes to hear from guys in Co. Tipperary round same age or in 20's with view to friendship . General interests. Photo and phone number if possible. E014

Mayo South, 32 years, very interested in meeting gays in West of Ireland. Interests T.V., music, travel, films. E015

Newbridge, Noel, 23 years, wants to meet other guys locally. Interests include music, films, books. All letters answered. Photo appreciated. E016

Derry, Jerry, 25, would like to meet others of same age group. Interests include music and travel. 5'6" tall, dark hair, brown eyes. E017.

South Kerry, bearded guy, firties, would like to hear from others in area, preferably with own transport. If you fancy a weekend in the "Sticks", hill walking, nature watching etc. please write! E018

Cork, James, Hope to move to Dublin shortly would be glad to hear from anyone re. work, accomodation or from someone who has already made the break. E019

CUT

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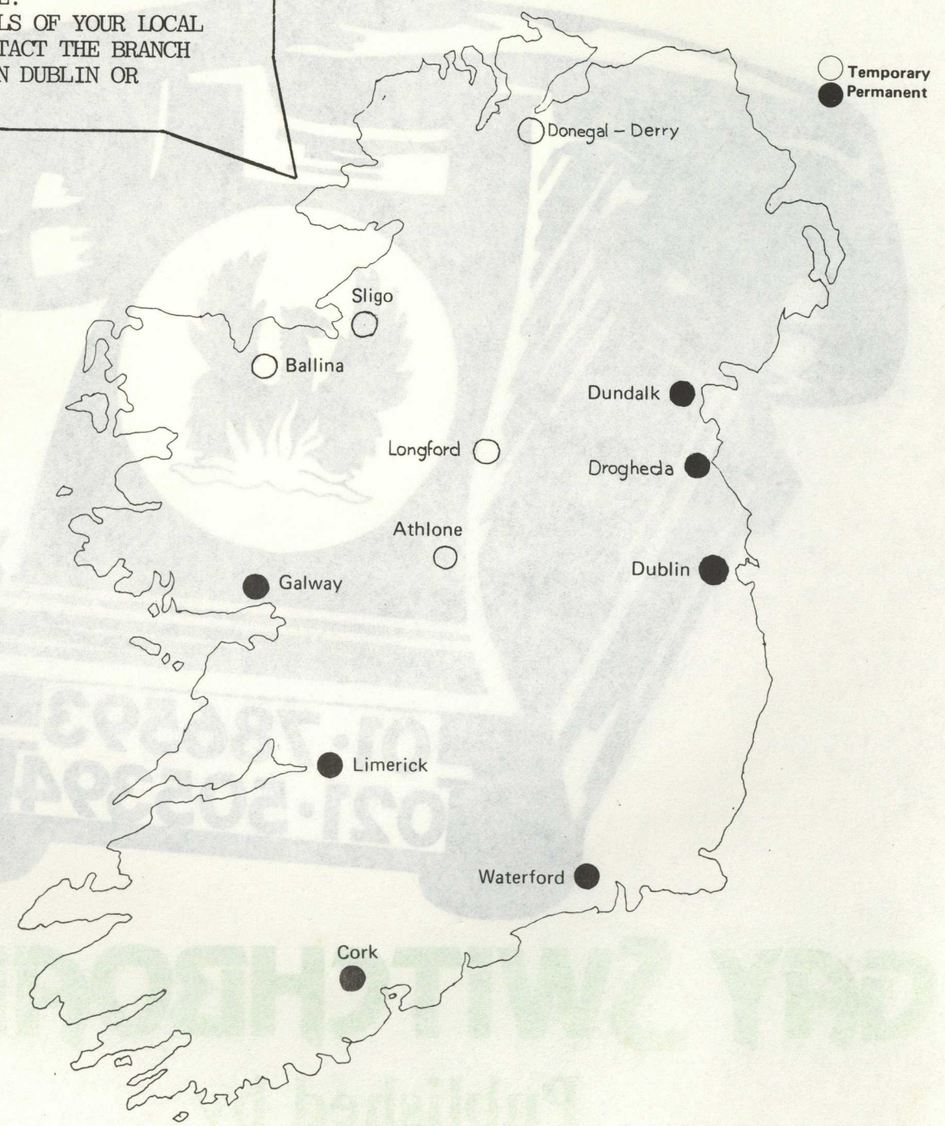
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GAY SWITCHBOARD

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