

GALOP

GORDON HAINSFORD

GAY LONDON
POLICING
GROUP

galop . . .
STATISTICS

police monitoring of
ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE

police deny
TRIAL BY JURY

1987 - 1988

4TH ANNUAL REPORT

GALOP


THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE ON AUDIO CASSETTE. CONTACT GALOP FOR DETAILS

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Acknowledgements

The cartoons in this report have been taken from Phobia Phobia by David Shenton.

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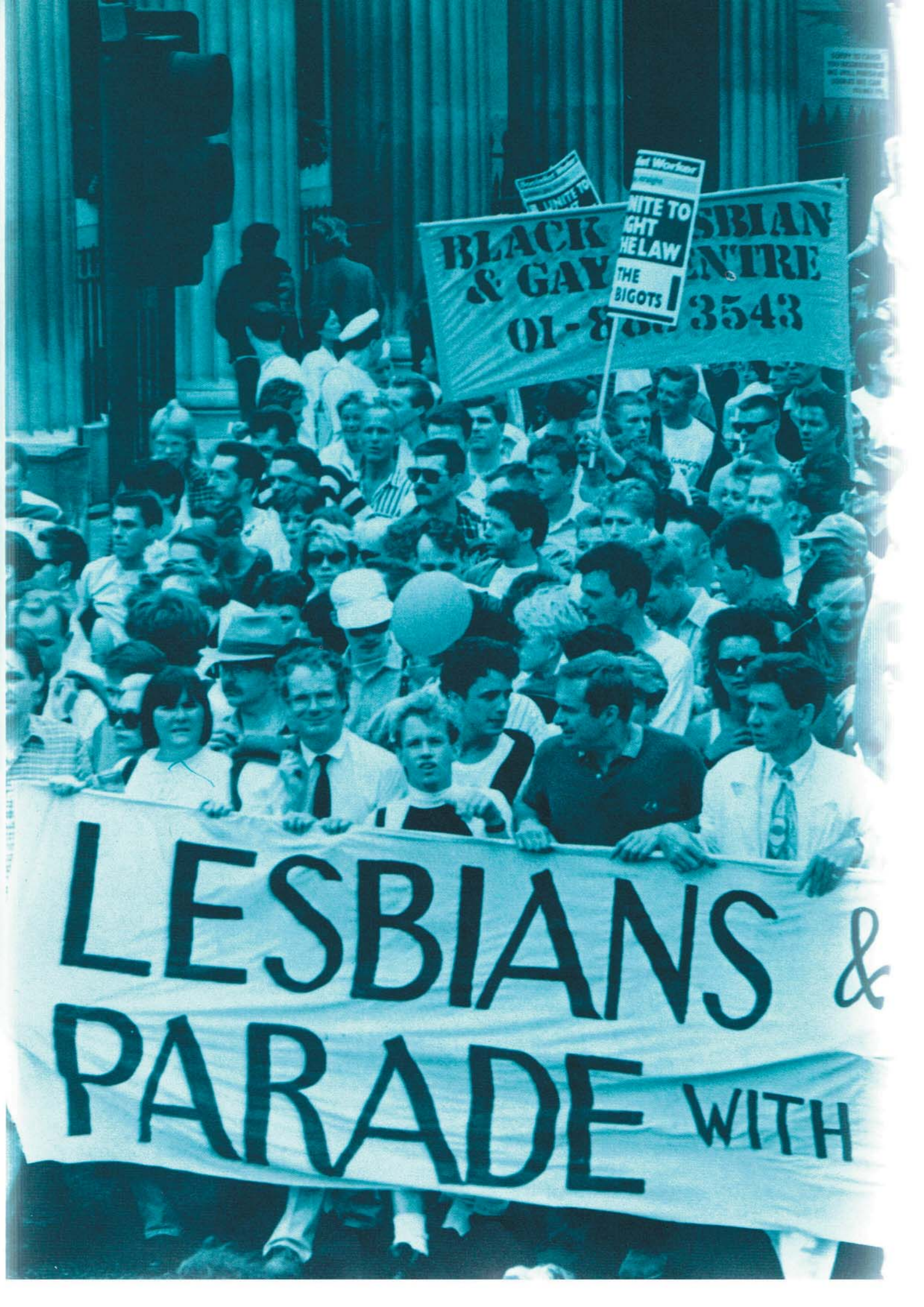
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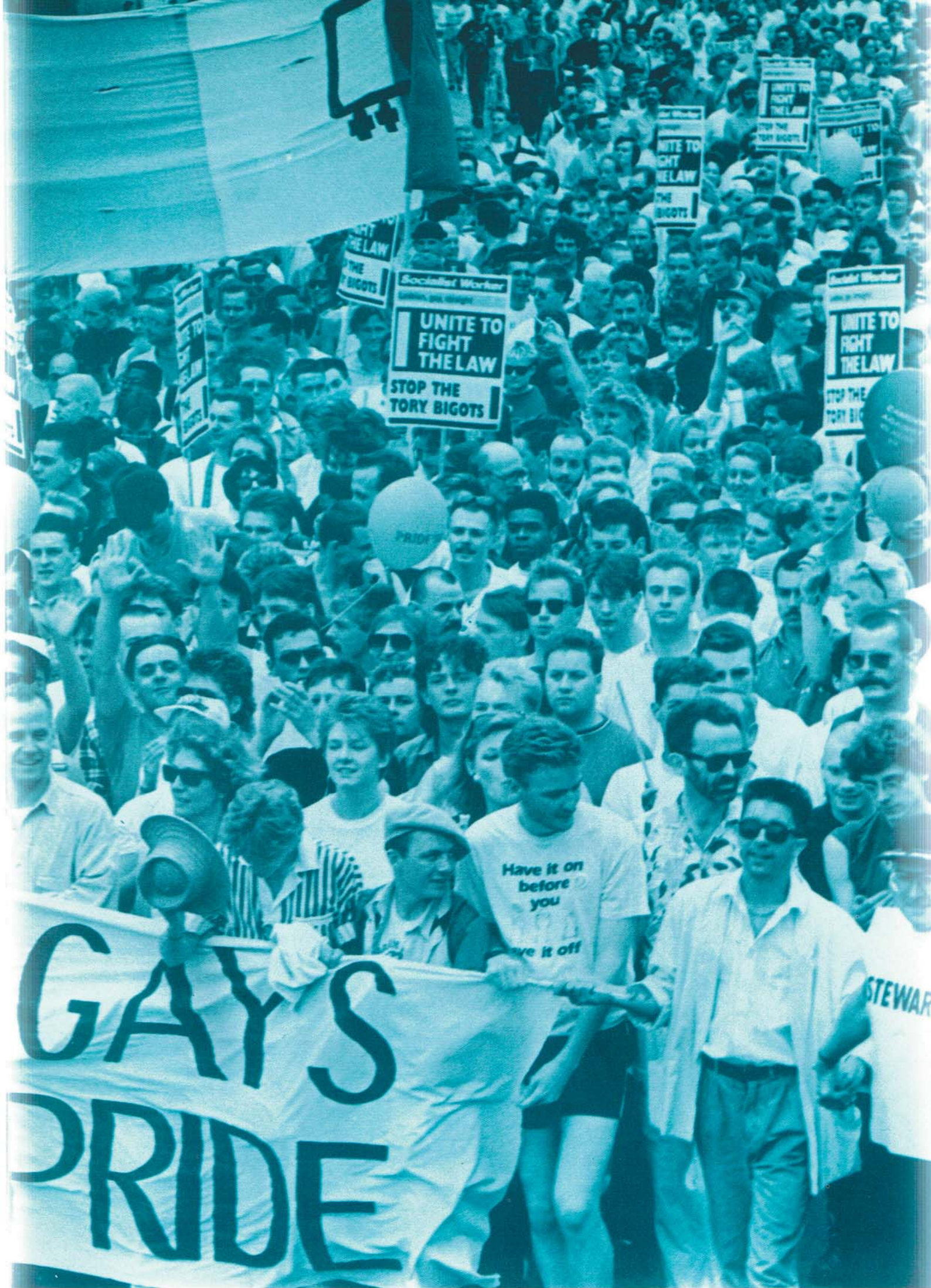
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NITE TO FIGHT HELAW THE BIGOTS

HAPPY TO GIVE YOU INFORMATION WE WILL PROVIDE HOWARD THE GAY FRIENDLY ONE



CONVENOR'S INTRODUCTION

1987/88 WAS A YEAR IN WHICH GALOP consolidated its position as one of the most high-profile and respected gay organisations in London.

The media frequently sought out our views on violence against gay men and police practice, and GALOP has assisted in several TV programmes, *Network 7* and *Kilroy* for example, and the organisation has been quoted in newspapers ranging from the *Independent* to the *Gulf Times*, as well as the gay press.

The year has seen a number of alarming developments. Violent attacks on gay men have become increasingly commonplace and have featured organised gangs waiting outside gay pubs with bricks, bats, coshes and chains. A staggering 28 per cent of GALOP's casework during the 1987/88 was concerned with providing assistance to victims of violent attacks. The police response to this wave of "queerbashing" has ranged from the excellent to the extremely insensitive.

GALOP is calling for a more coherent strategy to tackle the problem, involving the logging of anti-gay crimes as a separate category.

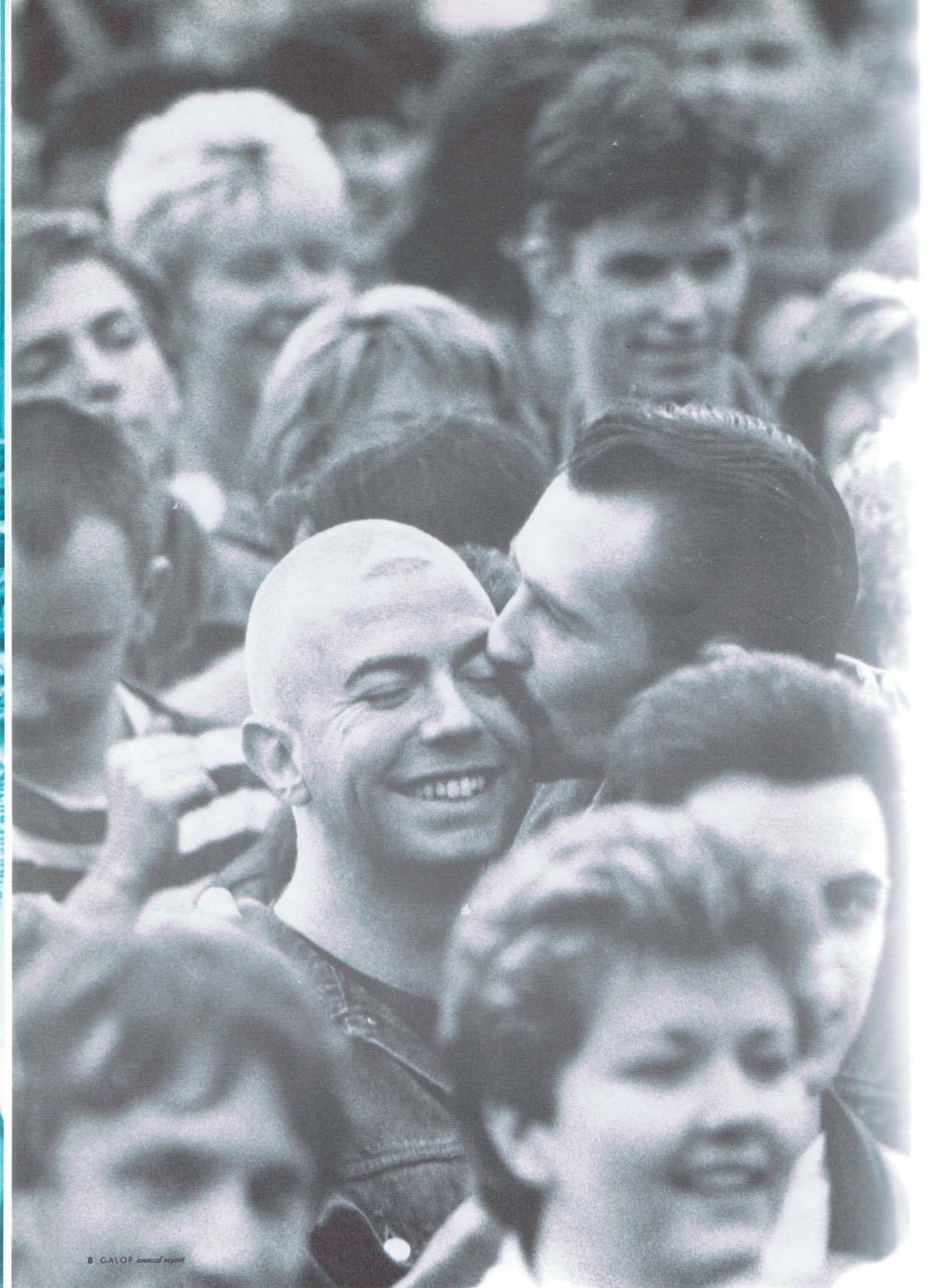
Another disturbing trend has been the increasing use made by the Metropolitan Police of local authority byelaws. These have been used against gay men in place of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act. The effect of this strategy has been to deny some gay men the right to trial by jury.

The Metropolitan Police's use of the 1986 Police Order Act has also been a cause for concern. Although section 5 of the

act, making someone guilty of an offence if he "uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour" was designed to deal with soccer hooligans, some of the first prosecutions under this section were of lesbians and gay men arrested on an anti-Section 28 demonstration in January.

GALOP's role as a research organisation has developed during the year and, in addition to improving our use of statistics, we are contributing an article on AIDS and Policing to an academic study: *HIV/AIDS: the practice and politics of discrimination*, and we have made submissions to the Law Commission on the use of bindovers (see articles based on this research below).

Despite fears that Section 28 of the Local Government Act, or the political atmosphere generated by it, could threaten the funding of lesbian and gay organisations, the London Boroughs Grants Committee approved a grant for 1988/89 at the same level as our funding for the previous year. Officer described GALOP as: "an efficiently run organisation that is providing an important service to gays who, because of the hysteria surrounding AIDS, are particularly vulnerable to attack." ●



casework

THE FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE OF THE CASES THAT HAVE BEEN reported to GALOP during the last year. We are certain their experiences are not unique, and that the incidents we have recorded form the proverbial 'tip of the iceberg'.

POLICE MALPRACTICE

Accounts of police indifference and hostility are common, and we have also heard accusations of sheer incompetence and unprofessionalism. It is quite apparent that many police officers are unable to stop themselves from displaying their prejudices when dealing with gay men, whatever the circumstances. In a large percentage of calls we received there were complaints of name calling and abuse from officers. This is unacceptable and would not be tolerated in any other publicly funded organisation. Unfortunately the Metropolitan Police Force is largely unaccountable and such behaviour usually takes place in circumstances which do not permit later charges to be proven. There has been *some* good news. We have been contacted on a few occasions by people who wanted us to know that they have received very good treatment from the police. However, it must be borne in mind that one would *expect* to be treated politely and with sympathy by the police as a victim of crime and it is a measure of the distrust with which the police are viewed by many gay men that such treatment should be reported as extraordinary.

There have also been greater efforts made by a handful of senior officers to improve their image and reputation within the gay community. Meetings have taken place between some Community Liaison officers and members of the Gay Business Association and area 2 (east London) has appointed a gay liaison officer. However, with more substantive changes in everyday behaviour such initiatives could look merely cosmetic.

The names of people and some locations have been changed to preserve the confidentiality of GALOP's service.

■ A minicab driver was taking a fare from central London to Queensway when he was stopped at Oxford Street by 4 police officers. They asked to see his documentation which he presented; it was all in order. However, he was then asked by one officer: "Are you queer?"

The driver replied, "Do you mean am I gay?"
"Whatever you like to call it."

"It's none of your business!" At this point the officer asked the passengers to get out whilst muttering to the driver "You lot should be fucking locked up." The PC then proceeded to carry out a thorough search of the car, eventually finding a screwdriver which he questioned the driver about. As the driver was explaining he was thrown against a wall, handcuffed, bundled into a police van and taken to West End Central Police Station. There he was charged with possession of an offensive weapon.

■ In December the Greenwich Lesbian and Gay Centre was visited by officers from Woolwich Police Station. They informed the portering staff employed by the property company who own the site that the centre was 'no longer to be funded or administered by the London Borough of Greenwich' and therefore the centre 'may be in illegal occupation of the premises.' This of course was quite untrue and it was assumed by the workers and council staff that the police were pre-empting the passage of Section 28 (which in any event is a civil and not criminal offence and is therefore not within the jurisdiction of the police). Despite correspondence between the council and the police there was never any satisfactory explanation provided for this.

■ Alan was having a drink in a south London gay pub with two friends. His friends were talking to each other so he started talking to two other men sitting on a table across from them. They told him to "piss off." Later, when he went to the bar one of

them was also buying a drink and said to him "you're very lucky, you were trying to chat up my mate — he's straight. Alan said o.k. and sat down.

A little later on the two straight men joined Alan and his friends and whilst one talked to Alan the other spoke to his two mates. The man who sat with Alan told him he had a knife in his pocket which he pressed into his side and for the next twenty minutes he humiliated Alan. He was made to say, amongst other things, "I am a dirty queer bastard" over and over. All this time Alan's friends were unaware of what was happening as he was told to keep smiling. Eventually one of them realised that something was wrong and went to the barman and asked him to call the police, but he refused. Alan's friend then demanded the telephone to call himself. At this point Alan was attacked by the man with the knife. He was pushed to the floor and kicked in the head, as he tried to stand up and he was head-butted and kicked again.

Eventually Alan and his friends escaped and they rang the police from a call box along the road. Despite waiting 35 minutes no police car or officers arrived. It was only later when Alan arrived at a friends house that he discovered a number of knife slashes on his back. They rang the police again that night but they seemed 'uninterested.' And despite several calls and visits when he was told they would get back in contact with him the police never did. They didn't even take a statement because there were apparently no witnesses, although he'd told them his two friends were there. Alan said a major problem was the unavailability of the officer attached to his case.

■ Jack stopped at a public lavatory, well known as a cottage, on his way home with his lover in the early hours of a Monday morning. He nipped into relieve himself and then drove off. As Jack was driving along he noticed an unmarked car which had been parked outside the lavatory following him. He became quite worried and thought that the occupants of the car chasing him could be 'queerbashers.' As the chase continued the car following him made no attempt to flag him down with its lights or with hand signals. Eventually Jack was stopped by no less than six squad cars. He was then subjected to a great deal of anti-gay abuse, one officer grabbed him by the arm and asked "You're a poof aren't you?" Another officer said "Weren't you that DJ in C... five or six years back? You were a queer then." He was charged with failure to stop at a red traffic signal. Jack vehemently denies this; he had deliberately avoided streets with traffic lights as he is a bus driver, with a clean licence, and knows the area well.

Eventually Jack was physically ejected from the police station when he attempted to make a complaint about the treatment he'd received.

■ Six friends had just finished a meal in East London. They left the restaurant and were making their way peaceably along the road when a police van stopped nearby. Four police men got out and asked one of the group, Terry, if they would have a word with him on the other side of the road. He started to cross the road and said "OK. What's it all about?" Then without any explanation he was thrown into the van and driven off, leaving his friends completely dumbfounded.

Eventually Terry's friends discovered that he was locked in a cell at a local police station. He was held for two and a half hours before being released without charge, although section 4a of the Public Order Act was mentioned (A person is guilty of an offence if he uses towards another person threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour). He was told he had 'an attitude problem,' the police didn't like the way he looked at the occupants of the van.

As one of Terry's friends commented later, "The incident

seemed to me like something from a South American 'dirty war' — people kidnapped off the street for the 'wrong attitude', hair too long or scruffy, women wearing trousers, etc. But it did not happen in some far-off dictatorship."

■ Jeff was walking through the council estate where he lives one Saturday afternoon when a young man deliberately pushed into him. He carried on walking and the youth shouted after him "Haven't you got any manners?" He then ran up and attacked Jeff shouting, "You're one of the queers on the estate." Jeff was beaten about the head and was treated in hospital for concussion and bruises. The incident was reported to the police (who took an hour and a half to arrive) and Jeff told them he'd been 'queer-bashed.' They said they'd keep an eye out for the youth responsible, although they seemed to Jeff to be uninterested. The next day Jeff saw his attacker and telephoned the police who told him they had already spoken to him, he'd admitted beating him up but the police had decided to take no further action. The young man was apparently well known to the police as he had a long criminal record but he'd not committed any previous assaults. Jeff believed that the police were implying that his attacker doesn't normally beat people up and only picked on him because he is gay which somehow excused him.

Jeff decided not to press charges as he was concerned that as he had to continue to live on the estate he might face some sort of retribution.



■ Brian is a headteacher. He was walking home, when he suffered an attack of diarrhoea. He rushed into a lavatory in a British Rail station, and remained there for a good half hour, feeling nauseous and dizzy. He got up to leave several times, but each time was forced to sit down. He had suffered from these attacks before, and had been receiving treatment and medication from his doctor for the complaint.

Two Transport Police officers knocked on the door of the cubicle, displayed their I.D. and arrested Brian. He was taken to a room on the station platform and then to the local police station. No charges were laid then, though Brian overheard a discussion in which officers talked of charging him with 'something that will stick', nor was any statement taken from Brian. Eventually he was charged with persistent importuning. In court, the police claimed that Brian had been under observation for two hours, had repeatedly approached men, masturbated in front of them, knelt down on the floor to peek under doors and so on, all of which they had observed from a broom cupboard at the top of a flight of stairs leading from the toilet. Defence counsel dismantled this fabricated edifice in short order, demonstrated with appropriate photographs that the officers could not have seen what they claimed to have seen, and pointed up the omissions and contradictions of their evidence. Brian was acquitted, and is now in process of suing the police for malicious prosecution and false imprisonment.

■ Colin had been out for a drink and as he was leaving a south London pub he agreed to share a cab with a stranger. Once in the taxi the other man pulled a knife and directed the driver to a derelict industrial estate. After the taxi had left the man attempted to sexually assault Colin and then mugged him, stealing money and valuables.

Colin then managed to escape and ran to a nearby housing estate where after knocking on several doors he was able to use a telephone to call the police. After 45 minutes he rang again as nobody had turned up and an officer advised him to make his own way to the station as "it's only 5 minutes down the road." Colin left for the police station but his attacker had been lying in wait and again assaulted him before running off. Colin arrived at the police station where he says officers were very rude and uninterested. He had to wait several hours before they took a statement.

VIOLENCE

Assaults on gay men comprise 28% of our case load. Violence against gay men is certainly on the rise, and the type of violence is changing, becoming more gang-based and systematic. The police clear-up rate of anti-gay crime is very poor, and even where arrests are made, acquittals are common. Many gay men believe that the police are not seriously interested in anti-gay crime, and that victims of violence are also victims of injustice.

■ 3 friends were on their way out for the evening when they were attacked and beaten up. The following is an account of this vicious attack written by one of them.

At 11.25pm William, Peter and myself (David) left to go to a West End club. Approaching the (underground) station we saw a gang of approximately 10 youths congregated around a motor bike. As we walked through the entrance we were verbally abused by them but continued to walk down to the platform at —. We walked to the far end of the platform to avoid trouble but were followed by 4 of the youths. I was approached by the largest of them who said, "Did you give me a dirty look?" I replied "no," and he said "I'll teach you to mess with me." He threw me against the railings and clenched his hand around my face tightly. Before I knew it my two friends had been kicked to the ground and were repeatedly punched and kicked. The largest one threw me aside and punched me on the side of the head. I tried to reason with him but his intoxicated state was apparent by his breath. One of the others then grabbed me and shook me violently demanding my money. I said I had none and again I was punched.

The largest one then returned, punched me in the mouth and when I fell down he kicked me once in the side of the head and once in my neck. He then headed in the direction of my friends who by now were in a bad state. I jumped up and whacked the largest with an umbrella to clear my way through. I ran to get help as no one on the platform would assist us. There was no ticket collector in the box so I ran to the ticket issuer in a frenzy. I asked him to call the police immediately, which he did not do and he called the ticket collector. He followed me down onto the platform as the 4 youths ran in our direction. They had given up on the others because I had gone to obtain help. The youths therefore had to pass me to make their exit from the station. I asked the ticket collector to help me as it was obvious what was going to happen. He stood still with a grin on his face. 3 of the youths then punched me as they ran out and the largest one stopped to talk to the ticket collector.

I stepped back a bit in fright and the ticket collector asked the attacked what had happened instead of the attackee. The large one then said "He molested my little brother," pointing to me (the ticket collector called the victim 'scum' at this point). The ticket collector then contacted the approaching train with a smirk on his face and the youth ran off shouting "I'll get you." I ran back to my friends and saw that William was saturated with blood. When the tube pulled in the driver looked out and giggled at us as we helped William onto the tube. No attempt (to help) was made by any London Transport official despite requests.

I can only fully identify the large youth who attacked me. He was a 6ft skinhead who was very heavily built, but muscular not flabby... he had something wrapped around to punch me with — perhaps a belt. The others were all smaller and louder than him.

■ On three successive weekends at the end of November, people leaving a south London pub were attacked by a gang of youths from a local housing estate. Several men were injured, and in the last incident the thugs wielded coshes, bicycle chains and a baseball bat. This time, the gang was fifteen to twenty strong, and five gay men were hurt, one of whom suffered a broken knee, a suspected broken nose and multiple cuts and



JUSTIN LEIGHTON

bruises. The police were notified by a friend of the injured man, who ran to the local police station. He was taken back to the scene of the crime in a police car and dropped off, but the police car merely drove away. On contacting the police station some days later, one of the men assaulted was told that there was no record of the attack.

■ John contacted GALOP to inform us of the campaign being waged to frighten him and two friends from their homes in a Southwark housing co-op. The boyfriend of one female resident of the co-op applied unsuccessfully for a vacant flat. Instead the flat was allocated to a gay man. Shortly afterwards a 'campaign' was started to frighten the gay man and a gay couple who are also members of the co-op from their homes. At first there was verbal abuse, then a brick was thrown through the couples window and a van used by one of them for work was damaged. A few days later posters appeared all over the local area reading 'AIDS WARNING' and in the language of Chief Constable Anderton spoke of a 'growing cesspit of Homosexuals and AIDS carriers...', it went on to give the addresses of the gay men and urged local people to complain to the co-op and the council. The gay men then informed the police and were told, to their horror, that the antagonist had in fact previously served time for manslaughter!

Although the police were sympathetic they wanted to wait before taking any action in the hope that he would do something which they could 'put him away for.' Hardly encouraging for the unwilling victims! Although the man disappeared shortly afterwards (but not before a large piece of wood was thrown through the window of the couple's flat) the situation had degenerated to the extent that co-op members started a night-time vigil to protect the gay men and catch the assailant and, by now, his gang of supporters.

OTHER CASEWORK

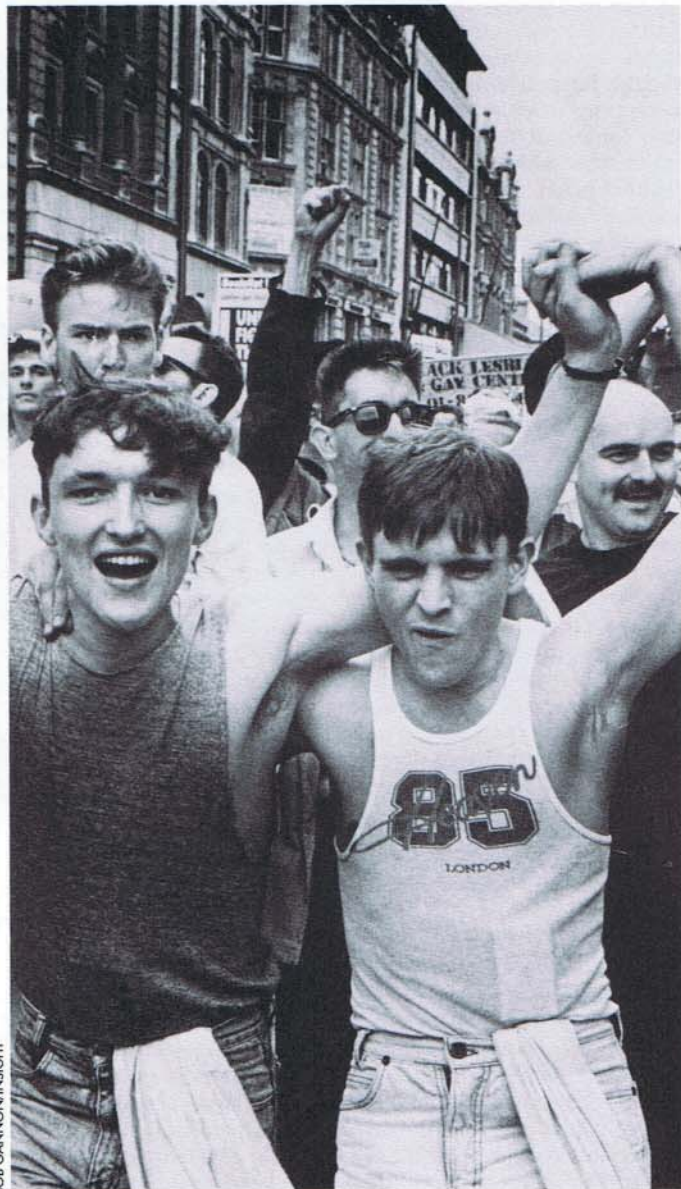
Perhaps because of our increasing profile, GALOP has also been contacted on other matters not strictly related to the Metropolitan Police, but nevertheless indicating how gay men are discriminated against in their treatment by state authorities.

■ A young man who had recently returned from Europe where his parents are stationed with the British Army described how, in his absence, there had been an investigation by the Military Police into allegations by a 'straight' US serviceman with whom he had once slept that he had been indecently assaulted and raped by the caller. Obviously, had these allegations been proven criminal prosecution would have followed; this did not occur. Instead he received, via his parents (his father was called into his superior's office and informed about the situation) 'orders' banning him from all UK military bases in Britain and Europe. Although the caller has done nothing wrong he has been prohibited from visiting, let alone staying with his parents.

■ Two Australian gay men were in transit from a holiday in Europe. Their luggage went on ahead of them and was opened by British customs officials, who confiscated several gay magazines, even though the men were not intending to stay in England.

■ In two separate incidents in September and October, immigration officials detained two gay men from the US. In the first case, the man was detained for six hours, with immigration officials saying they would refuse entry to him. No reason was offered. In the second, immigration officials searched the man's luggage, discovering a diary from which they found out that the man was gay. The diary also mentioned that the man had had a negative bloodtest for the presence of HIV antibodies. The man was held for three hours whilst officials considered whether he was "medically undesirable". Eventually he was permitted entry. ●

policing the



BOB GANNON/INSIGHT

IN LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT WE INCLUDED AN ARTICLE ON THE policing of licensed premises, particularly to highlight the 'rubber gloves' raid on the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. It is also likely that for many gay men any contact with the police will occur on the 'scene'. Violent incidents occur in and around pubs and clubs as a matter of course, but as we discuss elsewhere in this report, there are particular problems for gay venues.

The raid on the Royal Vauxhall Tavern was seen by many people as merely an exercise in harassment; it does seem that gay pubs and clubs are viewed by the police as places where sick people, in mind and body, meet. Although not as controversial as the raid on the Vauxhall Tavern the police did raid and close Frolic nightclub in Catford in south east London in September 1987. These raids clearly effect the relationship between the Metropolitan Police and the gay community, and whilst we are singled out for special attention it is likely that hostility towards the police and a lack of co-operation with them will be the result.

Frolic was raided by the police at midnight 19th September 1987 and has not re-opened as a lesbian or gay club since. Over thirty officers were involved in the operation and they detained club goers for up to two hours taking the details of 35 people to present as evidence against the club owner and management for alleged license and membership irregularities. The club had operated for nine months as a straight venue with the same license, opening hours and membership procedures as would later get it into trouble. Then it opened several gay nights and the raid followed within a couple of months. It looked suspiciously antagonistic that the raid took place on one of these gay nights. The officers involved in the raid were bullying and hostile according to staff and customers, and there were reports that at least one WPC was wearing rubber gloves. If Frolic had broken the law then police action was perhaps reasonable, but the manner of the raid and subsequent events are a cause for concern. Why did the police take nine months to act? Mr Sinclair, the owner, said that he'd been led to believe that the licence was in order by both the chief licensing officer at Catford police station and the local authority.

Why were so many officers involved in the raid? Surely a frank discussion with the owner would have been more appropriate, especially given the otherwise trouble-free history of the club. Why take the details of so many people, and what, despite the assurance of the Chief Superintendent of Catford Police Station, has become of this information? The membership irregularities arose from the statutory condition that a private club must allow forty-eight hours to elapse between an applica-

'scene'

tion for membership and the admission of that person. If this were to be enforced around the country few clubs would still be operating.

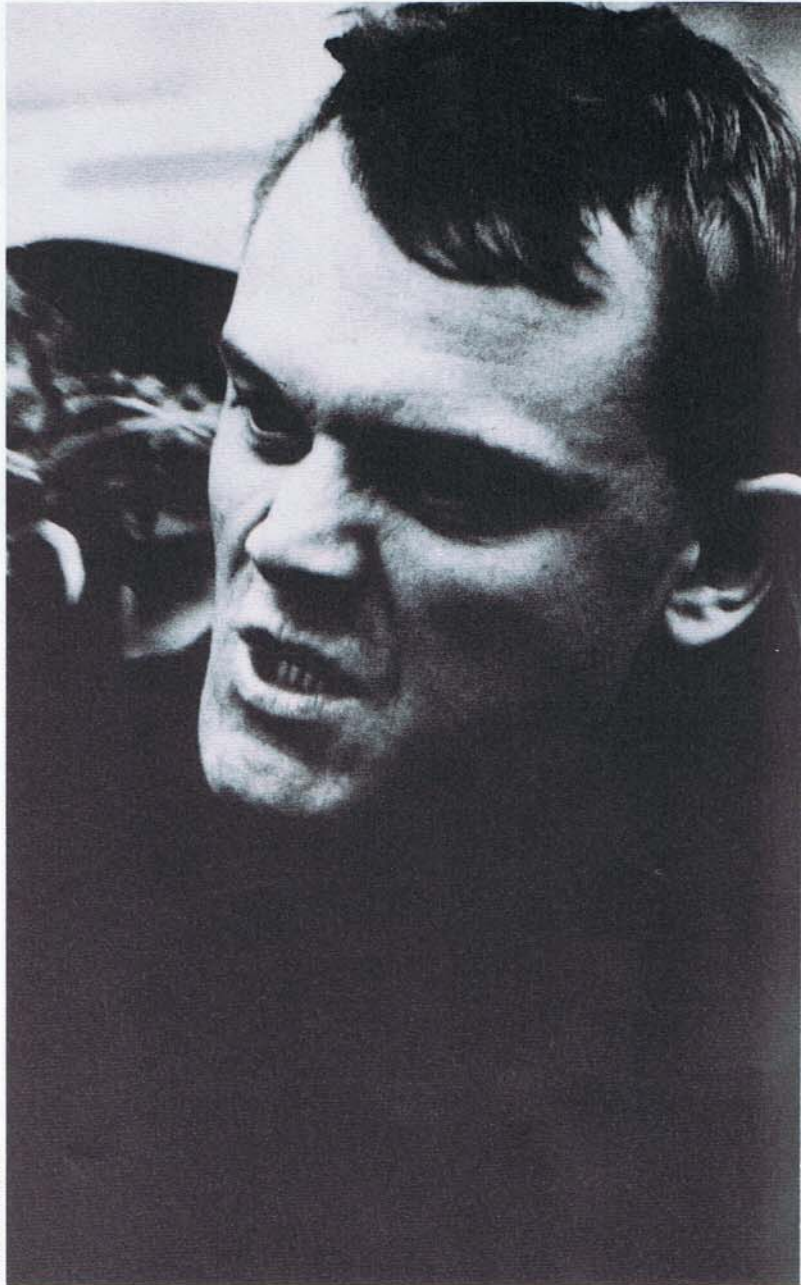
Following the raid Mr Sinclair reported several incidents of harassment by the police towards him. On one occasion he was stopped driving away from the club because his license plate was "a quarter of an inch out of place". Mr Sinclair reasonably complained to the officers concerned and as a result he was arrested and charged with using insulting words and behaviour. There had also been a burglary at the club and over £1000 worth of alcohol was stolen. Mr Sinclair was threatened with arrest for obstruction because he would not allow the police entry to the club until he arrived there himself (the investigating officers were those who subsequently arrested him for insulting words and behaviour).

On October 3rd there was a second raid during a private party held by the owner. A fight had broken out and the police were informed. They arrived after things had settled down but still forced entry into the club rushing, apparently, straight down to the toilets — to look for immoral behaviour? Mr Sinclair, who had refused them entry to the club, was arrested, as were two lesbians who tried to intervene, on charges of obstruction and public disorder. One of the women was severely bitten when a police dog was set loose on her. The charges against the women were dropped in court but they were both bound over.

Mr Sinclair attended several court hearings concerning the licensing infringements (the membership irregularities were dropped) and his application for a license transfer to his managers. On October 12th the police, whilst maintaining that the license was not in order, could not produce any evidence to prove this. They also stated that they opposed the application for a license transfer. The case was adjourned. On this occasion the press and public were, illegally, excluded from the hearing. This was later explained as a mistake on the part of a court clerk.

On the 24th October the police again failed to produce their evidence — a 'missing piece of correspondence' between them and Mr Sinclair. They also stated that their reason for opposing the licence transfer was that they considered anyone associated with Mr Sinclair to be equally unfit to run the club. They were granted a further adjournment. The hearing due to take place on November 24th was again adjourned and by this time the mounting costs forced the reluctant owner to abandon his plans. Mr Sinclair estimated that his total costs were approximately £60,000.

Two other examples of police action are worth mentioning.



CORDON RAINSFORD

On 12th March the Royal Vauxhall Tavern was besieged by a large gang of thugs. Several suspicious young men had entered the pub at about nine pm and the landlord called the police. They left without incident only to return an hour and a half later in a twenty-five strong gang. The terrified customers were locked in by the management whilst the thugs attempted to break through the doors. They threw bricks and stones smashing several large windows and some panels in the door. Although the police were called they took nearly half an hour to arrive and failed to catch a single person even through the gang only dispersed with their arrival.

The second incident is an example of rather petty harassment. On Sunday 23rd August two policemen, one in uniform and one plain clothes officer, were seen hiding behind a wall observing customers as they left the Traffic pub in south Islington. "Don't make it too obvious", whispered one officer hiding his helmet under his arm, as his plain clothes colleague moved towards the crowd and started mingling. A few minutes later one customer went to relieve himself in a more secluded spot and was promptly seized by the officers who radioed for a van to remove the arrested man. ●

galop statistics

WE SAID IN OUR LAST ANNUAL REPORT THAT "STATISTICS ON THE policing of gay men in Britain are hard to come by". Things have not improved. As we discuss elsewhere, the police obdurately refuse to monitor incidents of anti-gay crime, and the sexual offences that gay men are most commonly charged with are not statistically broken down by the sexual orientation of the "offender". All of this means that we have only a very rough idea of patterns of policing, and of the changing trends in crime against gay men.

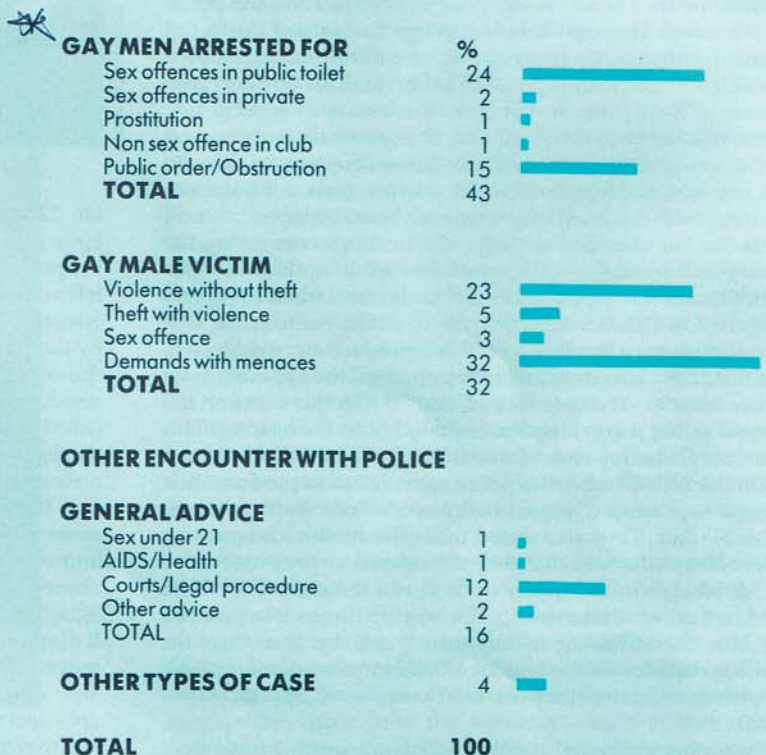
It is still not possible to quantify the increase in violence against gay men, even though we are certain that "queer-bashing" is on the increase. We are aware from our calls of sudden swoops and purges of well-known toilets and cruising grounds, where many tens of men will be arrested in a short period of time. Why those decisions are made, however, whether because crime clear-up rates need a boost or what is never clear.

What our system of logging calls does, is to give a schematic outline of the sorts of encounters gay men have with the police. We have to stress that the figures refer only to the number of enquiries we have had on certain issues.

They do not correlate with incidents on a one to one basis. Quite often we will have one call which will cite a number of incidents, or a number of arrests. Our figures necessarily understate matters.

Additionally, underreporting is endemic. Callers who contact us are only a small fraction of those arrested for sexual

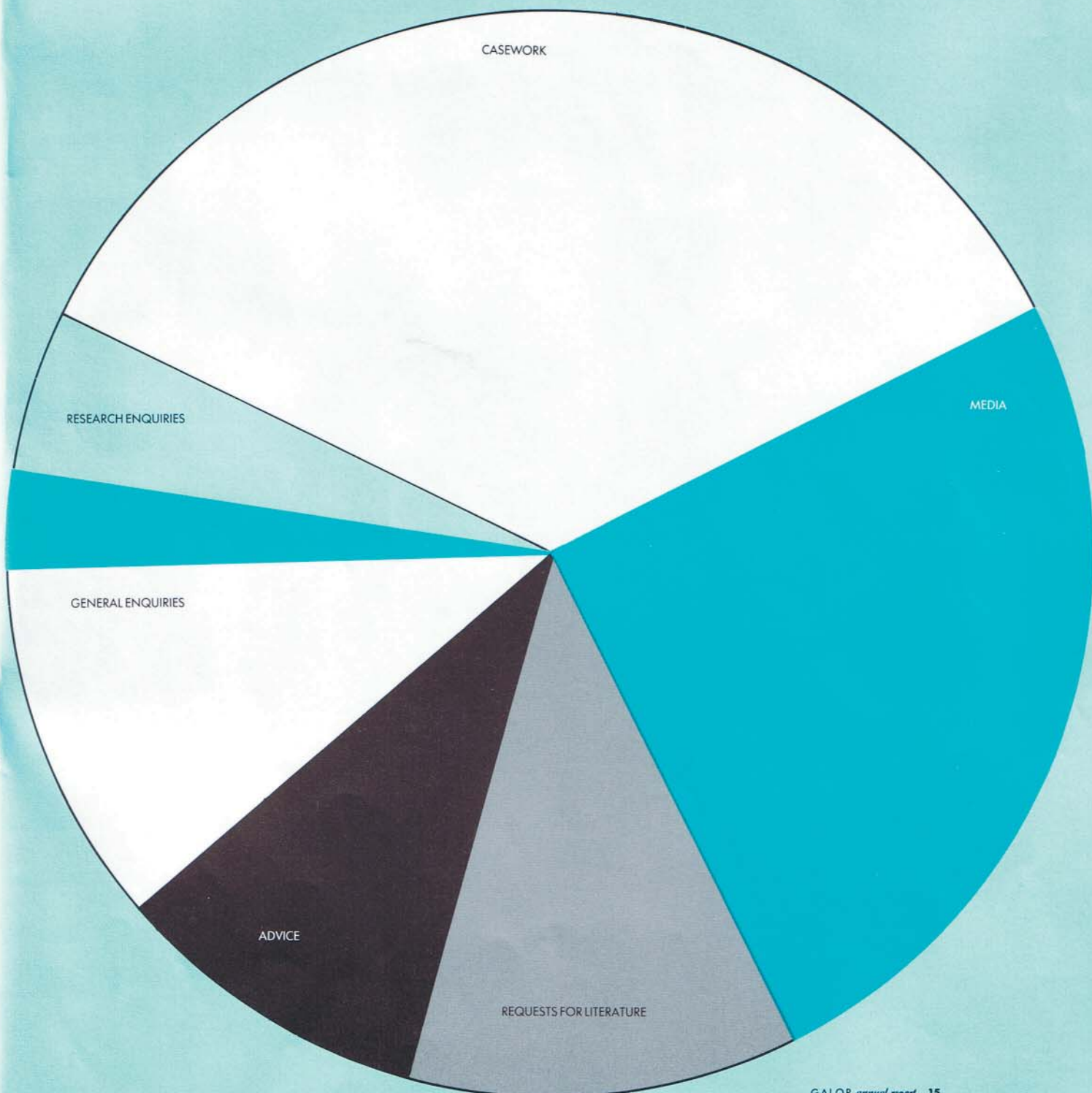
GALOP CASEWORK APRIL 1987 TO APRIL 1988



offences and are often the most "out". Many, many more men go through their prosecution as quickly as possible, pleading guilty "to get it over with". They rarely ring us or any gay organisations. Similarly, because police attitudes towards gay men are so suspect victims of queerbashing often do not report the crime to the police. Even if they did, the failure to log anti-gay crime separately means that there are no statistics with which we could supplement our figures. Anti-gay violence is extremely widespread but very little comes to public attention. ●

GALOP ENQUIRIES APRIL 1987 TO APRIL 1988

	No.	%
ADVICE	100	9
REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE	134	12
MEDIA	279	25
CASEWORK	407	36
RESEARCH ENQUIRIES	53	5
REQUESTS FOR GALOP SPEAKERS	38	3
GENERAL ENQUIRIES	114	10
TOTAL	1125	100





police monitoring of anti-gay

AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO NATIONAL STATISTICS FOR ANTI-GAY crime, and in their absence it has been easy for the police, and others, to claim that such crime is negligible. Any claims to the contrary by non-statutory agencies such as GALOP have been treated as dubious and challenged on methodological grounds. The aim of monitoring would be to demonstrate the incidence and extent of violence and harassment of lesbian and gay men in order that appropriate police resources can be allocated to its curtailment and to the prosecution of perpetrators of that violence and harassment.

The method of monitoring would be straightforward. A separate administrative category, *anti-gay crime* could be established, and incidents logged accordingly. All police stations would be required to document the incidence of such crime in their area and statistics would be gathered nationally and published annually. The monitoring could be carried out over a period of time so that longer term trends could be established, and the procedure reviewed at the end to gauge its efficacy, the way in which it is being operated, and the consequences for policy that flow from it.

Demands for monitoring are not about creating a special type of criminal offence, nor, as the police will no doubt argue, are they about creating a "privileged" class of victim. Rather it is about establishing the vulnerability of a particular community, and demanding appropriate policing in the light of these findings.

What we are trying to capture with the notion of anti-gay crime is crime where the primary motivation for the crime is the fact that the victim is seen to be gay. We would want to include all those "crimes of of hatred", generically known as queer-bashing, as well as abuse, harassment, threats etc. We wouldn't want to include those crimes where it is incidental to the case that the victim is gay. Burglary, for instance, of a gay man's flat would not count as anti-gay crime, though were there vandalism, say, and anti-gay abuse were daubed on the wall, then there would be an argument for designating the particular crime as

anti-gay. Sexual assault could also be included, as could certain murders.

Similarly, we would want to include attacks on the property of gay men, or on gay venues where the motivation for the affray or the damage was because the house, premises or club were owned or frequented by gay men. Simple "muggings" would not be seen as anti-gay, "muggings" of gay men in cruising grounds would, and so on.

Police officers might have to use their discretion in some circumstances, but the bulk of offences should be easily sortable, especially if a greater weight were given to the victims categorisation of the offence. There seems no greater subjectivity or imprecision involved here than in other exercises of police discretion or judgement.

violence

HISTORY

Last year, as a consequence of the series of attacks on and around the London Apprentice, we made a series of approaches to the Home Office, the Commissioner of the Metropolis and City Road Police Station briefly laying out the arguments for a monitoring project. The scale of the violence in Shoreditch, a particularly sympathetic officer in City Road and concerted pressure from the community led to a limited exercise in monitoring, but this was terminated after a few months with the somewhat laconic judgement: "little would be gained from introducing additional administrative measures to monitor such attacks when they appear to be so infrequent" (Letter from Dep. Asst. Comm. G. Wyn-Jones, 14 Oct. '87). This was just as a new spate of attacks was breaking out.

The Home Office failed to respond at all and the Commissioner's office judged our proposal tersely and emphatically: "Your comments on violence against gay people are noted. However, it remains the policy of this force not to record separate statistics on anti-gay attacks: to do so would be impractical and unreliable" (Letter from Det. Chief Supt. A. Kilkerr, 6 Jan 88).

The response, then, of the British police is derisory, framed

on two arguments: a) that anti-gay violence is too infrequent to warrant attention and b) that recording it would be impractical and unreliable.

OTHER COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCES

The Netherlands

The Amsterdam police say that anti-gay violence is not frequently reported, but, unlike the Metropolitan Police, they put this down to the difficulty gay men have in coming forward and reporting crime against them, since they expect a poor response. The Dutch strategy is to work in close cooperation with established gay groups, and within the force two officers have been appointed in each of the eight police districts with special responsibility toward the gay community. Their role is to see to it that statements can be made by victims of anti-gay violence in a "tactful and sympathetic way". Underreporting is a problem, but the Amsterdam police hope to gain a greater understanding of its extent by cooperative methods and their example is being taken up by forces across the Netherlands. As yet we have no assessment of this strategy by Dutch gay organisations.

The USA

In San Francisco and Boston demands have been successfully made on local police forces.

In the Mission district of San Francisco which includes the Castro, there is close cooperation between gay community groups and the local police, (where 30 of the 150 officers are out as gay): the police provide those groups with details of gay related police reports so that they can assist victims. In turn victims are encouraged to report crimes to the police, and the local District Attorney urged to prosecute in cases that might otherwise be dropped.

In Boston, after extensive media coverage of the subject, the Police Department's Community Disorders Unit, which "tracks and investigates crimes motivated by ethnic, racial and religious bigotry" has broadened its mandate to include anti-gay violence. Crime report sheets will be changed to include an "anti-gay crime" box check, and officers will be trained to "sensitively identify and investigate" such incidents.

The National Lesbian and Gay Task Force conclude: "*Although police statistics will most likely never reflect the true prevalence of anti-gay/lesbian incidents, they will at least provide the official recognition of the problem that is necessary for an adequate official response*"

MONITORING RACIAL ATTACKS

In Britain the monitoring of anti-gay attacks is commonly analogised with the monitoring of "racial incidents" which the Metropolitan Police already carries out. The annual publication of these statistics has been used to political effect. Last year's, which indicated a 30% rise in racial attacks, did grab the headlines and was an occasion for concerted criticism of police failure to protect Black communities. But police monitoring of racial attacks has been subject to a number of criticisms by the Black community:

- the category "racial incidents" is too broad and does not specify tightly enough racial violence. A 'racial incident' is any crime which a victim, the police or a third party wishes to record as much, and this gives too much latitude. Figures are distorted, and often arrests recorded actually include black people.
- there is systematic underreporting of racial harassment

and violence: a Harris survey indicates that only 5% of racist attacks were reported to the police. Attacks in the London Borough of Newham recorded in this poll exceed those reported by the Metropolitan Police. Real figures for assaults must therefore be astronomical.

- complainants to the police are massively dissatisfied with police response, and the separate monitoring of racial incidents has done nothing to assuage their frustration.
- Monitoring has not improved arrest rates or successful prosecutions against the perpetrators of racial attacks, suggesting that monitoring has nothing more than a cosmetic effect in terms of reallocating police resources and priorities.

PROBLEMS & PROSPECTS

Underreporting

With current police attitudes towards gay men and prevailing prejudices against homosexuality, it is unlikely that the majority of anti-gay crime will be reported, and hence any figures that the police produce will only hint at the extent of the problem. Many victims of harassment or assault will not want to identify themselves as gay and they may have a number of compelling reasons for remaining silent. They may fear that their family, friends or workmates will find out they are gay if they tell the police. And even if they are out they may fear telling the police — it is clear from our casework that police officers often find investigating sexual offences more rewarding in terms of convictions than the onerous task of clearing up crimes of violence etc. This motivates officers to pay the wrong sort of attention to victims of crime who come out as gay, and is an added reason for gay men to remain silent about their orientation.

Misreporting

The corollary of the last point. There needs to be training of officers so that they are aware of the possibility of anti-gay motives for certain sorts of crime: otherwise inertia, prejudice and even calculated desire to minimise the recorded incidence of anti-gay crime will distort the figures.

Monitoring & Prosecution

As Newham Monitoring Project have pointed out about racial attacks, monitoring per se that is not linked to a willingness of the police and Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute, and of magistrates to convict, can only be a cosmetic change that will do nothing to create confidence inside the gay community that the police take sympathetic note of our interests. The recent instance of the failure of the police prosecution against the four assailants of Andrew Macdonald near the Bell pub underlines the importance of this linkage. (In this case, the police did arrest the assailants but failed to carry out appropriate identification procedure, with the result that the magistrate had no alternative but to dismiss the charges against the four attackers). Otherwise we run the risk of allowing the police to point to monitoring as meeting our demands about taking anti-gay crime seriously, whilst in reality their practice is ineffective and toothless.

To avoid this, we must make the demand for monitoring part of a broader strategy on the part of the gay community. This should include our own monitoring of anti-gay violence and police and legal responses to it, as well as campaigns inside our community to minimise risk. Our constant effort must be to make the police accountable for their policing of our community, and to prevent their shirking that responsibility. ●

police deny trial by jury

ANYONE WHO IS CHARGED WITH EVEN A MINOR GAY SEXUAL offence such as "persistently soliciting" (cruising) or gross indecency (eg mutual masturbation in a public convenience) has the right to a trial by jury. If the case comes down to a straightforward conflict between what an individual says and what the police say, it will almost always be in the defendant's interests to opt for trial by jury as magistrates tend to believe the police.

GALOP has discovered that the police in several divisions in London are now charging men with offences created under local byelaws or under the Public Order Act, which do not carry the right to jury trial, when the allegations against them would clearly support a charge under the 1956 Sexual Offences Act. They are therefore being denied the right to jury trial when Parliament has clearly indicated that it regards such allegations as so serious that men should always be able to challenge them with all the protection that a jury trial can provide.

■ X was arrested in a public lavatory in the City of Westminster. He was charged with an offence of "committing an act of indecency with any other person" under 23. He strongly denies that any offence took place and "certainly intends to plead not guilty". The bye-law in question was passed under an Act of 1933 — over thirty years before male homosexual acts were legalised. Not only does the offence deny the defendant the right to jury trial, but it consists of only simple indecency — a lesser act than gross indecency required under the general law of the land.

■ Y was arrested in a public lavatory in Richmond. He was charged with remaining there longer than was reasonable for the

purpose. He insists that he did nothing "indecent", but merely paused to look when he saw a man (whom he later discovered to be a policeman) simulating masturbation. As soon as he stopped to look he was arrested. He was bound over and ordered to pay costs.

The byelaws vary from borough to borough. They were often passed decades before gay sex was decriminalised in 1967, and were simply overlooked at the time. In some cases they were passed in boroughs where the current administration now publicly supports gay rights. In many cases there may be grounds for arguing that the byelaw itself is invalid or that the use of it against gay men is illegal. Even more inappropriately the Public Order Act offence of "insulting or disorderly behaviour" was never intended to be used for gay sexual offences at all. It was passed in 1986 supposedly to stop "unruly gangs of youths terrorising old ladies on council estates".

In some cases the police have suggested that they are doing the defendant a favour by charging under a byelaw rather than under the Sexual Offences Act because the penalties are lower. It is true that most byelaws carry low fines — about £20 is common, though breaches of some byelaws can carry a maximum fine of £400. However, for many men it is the stigma of having a criminal conviction for a gay offence and the fear of exposure that are bigger worries than the size of the fine. Furthermore if the conduct is admitted the man may be offered a bindover with a surety far greater than the maximum fine under the byelaw, just as if he had been charged under the general law. The important advantage for the police — and the reason that they are only doing themselves a favour — is that those men who choose to fight the charges are denied the fundamental right to jury trial. The police know that byelaws make for quick, easy, no fuss, no bother convictions.

GALOP is calling for

- the Director of Public Prosecutions to issue guidance to the police and instructions to the Crown Prosecution Service that where an allegation would support a charge under the Sexual Offences Act, byelaws or the Public Order Act should not be used instead.
- London boroughs to repeal all byelaws used against gay men
- lawyers to support gay men in challenging the legality of the byelaws. ●



DAVID SHENTON

1987/88 WAS A CRITICAL YEAR FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN IN Britain as a result of the government's controversial legislation which prohibits local authorities from the "intentional promotion of homosexuality".

When this measure — Section 28 of the Local Government Act, 1988 — was first proposed in December 1987, it was rightly seen by its critics as a major reversal in the process of acceptance of lesbian and gay sexuality. Coming as it did, as popular tolerance of homosexuality was under attack through orchestrated panics around AIDS, Section 28 seemed to indicate a state sanctioned discrimination against homosexuals. Since the bulk of GALOP's funding is from local authorities, through the London Boroughs Grants Scheme, we feared that the organisation's future was immediately threatened by the new legislation.

section 28

But, after widespread protest at home and abroad, the government withdrew the subsection that posed the greatest threat to voluntary organisations dependent on local authority support, ie the paragraph that stated "*local authorities shall not give financial or other assistance to any person or organisation for these purposes ie promoting homosexuality*". The law, that came into force in May 1988, now forbids local councils from "intentionally promoting homosexuality" and from teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".

The London Boroughs Grant Unit obtained a legal opinion on Section 28, and concluded that the legislation should not prohibit the continuing funding of organisations like GALOP. However, a new condition of funding is that we, and other voluntary sector groups, make an undertaking not to use LBGU funds for the promotion of homosexuality. This is already a retrogressive move, in that the absence of a clear definition of "intentionally promote" makes it difficult to know what voluntary organisations are undertaking not to do. The general direction from having made such a nebulous undertaking, though, has to be one of self-policing and self-censorship leading to a narrowing of the range of services provided for the lesbian and gay communities. This consequence follows regardless of whether successful cases are brought under the legislation against local authorities. Section 28 remains a severe threat to our communities.

It has already increased GALOP's workload. In January, we provided legal observers for a demonstration against the section and subsequently offered advice and assistance to some of the gay men who were arrested on charges ranging from threatening behaviour to assault occasioning actual bodily harm. A surprisingly large number of defendants — ten out of thirty three — were acquitted when the cases came to court. The policing of the march was heavy-handed and provocative, in contrast to the low-key approach successfully adopted at a subsequent Section 28 protest and the annual lesbian and gay pride march. ●





JUSTIN LEIGHTON

bindovers: a case to answer?

BINDING OVER IS A LEGAL PROCESS THAT ALLOWS MAGISTRATES TO impose a penalty on someone even when they have not committed any offence. In theory it takes the form of a promise to "keep the peace and be of good behaviour" which if broken within a certain time will result in a fine or "surety". The Law Commission, a government law reform body, is looking at the whole question of binding over, and in March 1988 GALOP made a formal submission based upon our casework experience of the injustice this procedure can cause.

We made three main criticisms, that binding over is

- uncertain
- unfair
- improper

UNCERTAINTY: THE LIMITS OF THE LAW

Gay men find themselves discriminated against in many ways, including in their treatment under the criminal law. Many of the things that are permissible for heterosexuals are criminal for gay men. Given that this inequality exists, the limits of the law assume a special importance. If we must accept that the law only permits sex between men over twentyone and in private, then we are entitled to expect that to make a clear and definite boundary beyond which the law will not interfere. Other expressions of our sexuality such as holding hands or kissing in the street which clearly do not constitute sexual offences should not attract the criminal or quasi-criminal sanction of a bindover. If we have no other rights, then we are at least entitled to know what is legal and what is not.

UNFAIR: THE HALF GUILTY ACQUITTAL

There is a commonly held view amongst lawyers who defend gay men that, where magistrates find that a prosecution case has not been made out, the bind over will be imposed where they feel the accused gay man would have liked to commit the offence, or may possibly commit the offence in the future. This "feeling" on the part of magistrates is inevitably subjective and obviously may be conditioned by their individual prejudices and preconceptions. Often it may amount to nothing more than an assumption that gay men invariably wish to commit sexual offences. Thus, once magistrates have concluded that a man is gay, he becomes fair game for a bindover. The point is illustrated by the following two cases:

■ X was arrested for alleged indecent behaviour in a public lavatory. The magistrates appear to have dismissed the case because there was no case to answer. Nevertheless the defendant was bound over to keep the peace. He strongly denies the police allegation, and states the police evidence was a pack of lies.

■ Y was arrested for a minor sexual offence. Although found not guilty the magistrates bound him over for one year. His solicitor has advised him to sue the police and, his employers have offered to underwrite his legal expenses in pursuing a civil action.

In both cases we would argue that an acquittal should be the end of the matter. However, the imposition of a bind over following an allegation of a homosexual offence clearly demonstrates that the accused has not been exonerated and leaves the damaging stigma, that, although he was not guilty on this occasion he may have been guilty in the past or he might be guilty in the future. The personal or professional damage this can do to a man who is, say, married or who has a "sensitive" job can be catastrophic.

IMPROPER: CONSENT UNDER DURESS

The issue of consenting to a bindover may arise in two ways for gay men. A person is invited to "consent" to be bound over at the conclusion of a case, but his "consent" is not freely given since failure to comply results in immediate custody.

However, for gay men the reality of "consenting" often arises earlier in the process, when the prosecution proposes to offer no evidence on the charge to be brought before the court, in exchange for a defendant "consenting" to be bound over. In these cases the position of gay men in society may have a powerful influence on the defendant's perception of his freedom to refuse the offer. It will often be suggested to a man (quite wrongly in our experience) either by the police or even his solicitor, that by agreeing to a bind over the risk of publicity can be minimised. For many gay men the fear of exposure is infinitely worse than any formal penalty a court is likely to impose. And often the offer of a bindover is made in order to save a prosecution case, where police evidence is particularly flimsy. In a recent case in Highbury Magistrates the prosecution offered to drop all charges against a man, if he would consent to be being bound over. He refused the offer, fought the case and was acquitted. ●

Violence against gay men will often take the form of classic "queerbashing"; unprovoked and organised or premeditated violence attacks on gay men, usually where we meet or socialise, and motivated by the attackers' hostility towards the victim's homosexuality. GALOP told the Law Commission that the ordinary criminal law ought to be appropriate to deal with such incidents. However, gay men may also be subjected to two other sorts of situations where

A FOOTNOTE: QUEERBASHING

bindovers might be thought appropriate:

- domestic violence either within a "straight" family, as, for example, where a father beats up his son on discovering his sexuality, or within a gay relationship, as in a fight between lovers
- neighbour disputes motivated by anti-gay

sentiments.

In both cases, arguments can be given both for and against some form of preventative justice. GALOP's suggestion to the commission was that if they proposed to make special recommendations concerning domestic violence generally (as it has hinted), then the definition of "domestic violence" should be wide enough to give protection to gay men in whatever sort of home situation they live in.

stand well back!
We're going in...



DAVID SHENTON

aids & policing

THE AIDS PANIC HAS WAXED AND WANED OVER THE LAST YEAR, partly to the rhythm of the gutter media's hostile coverage. Sane, informed and rational comment on HIV infection and AIDS has been rare, and most of what has passed for discussion has been of the scaremongering, gay-baiting variety, best exemplified by the lurid, and contradictory, stories of the *Mail* group. ("Gay men say heterosexuals at risk to gain funds", "Heterosexuals at risk from dried semen on toilet seats" etc). Targetting of gay men has become something of a bloodsport for the tabloid press and the passage of Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act made the climate worse.

The Government's own health campaigns have had little impact on this efflorescence of homophobia, and the result has been an increased vulnerability for gay men from an ill-informed public, and from state agencies that wield tremendous power over our lives, often in ignorant and irresponsible ways. The police are no exception. In our previous Annual Report we cited examples of rudeness, insensitivity and downright hostility towards HIV+ men or People with AIDs, and examples of how officers have used HIV infection and the panic aura around AIDS as another means to intimidate gay men. Things have not improved.

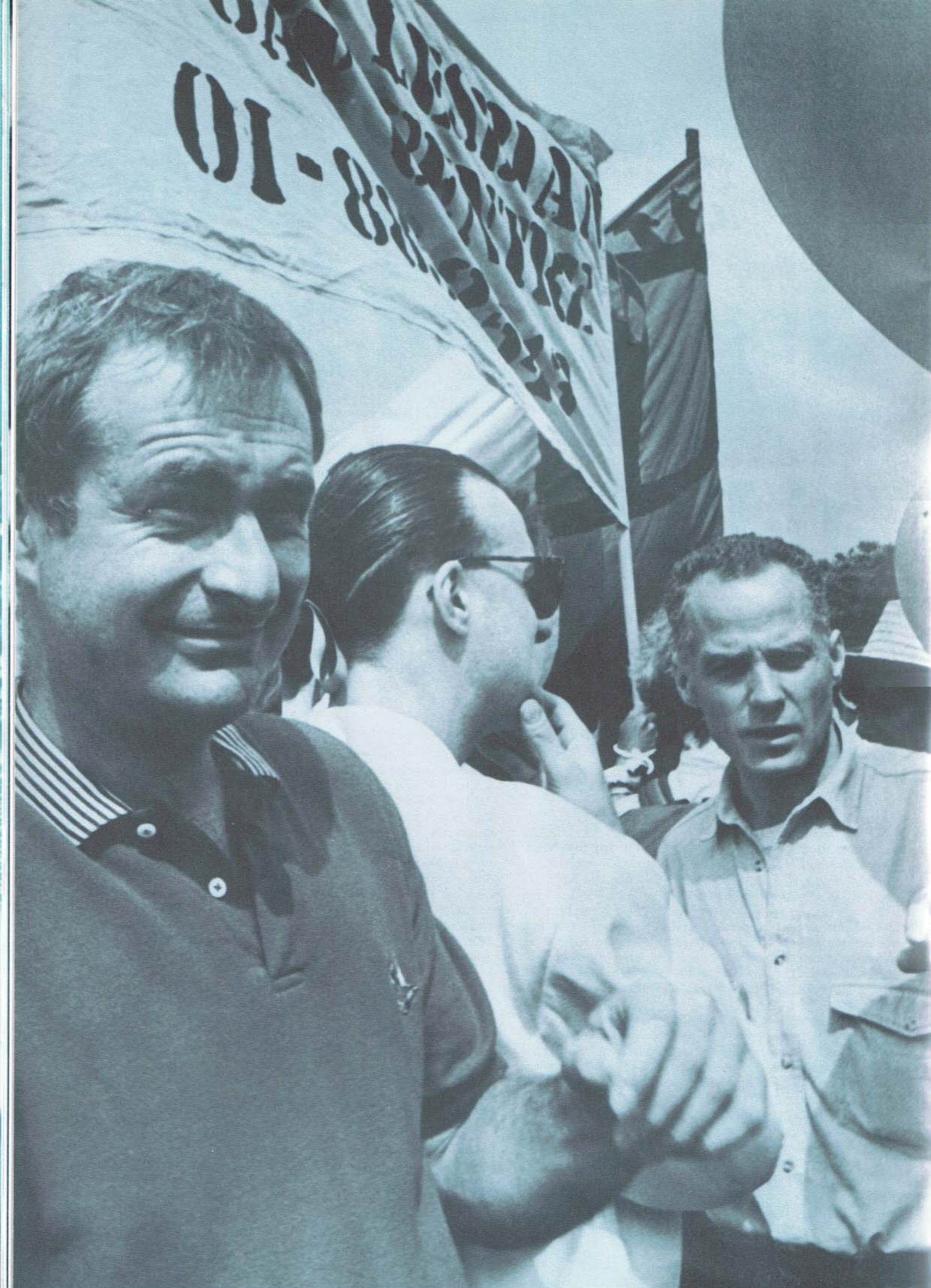
■ Recently, the Metropolitan Police changed its recruitment forms so as to make them, and their recruitment procedure, more accessible to applicants from black & ethnic minority back-

grounds. This was a progressive measure, very much pushed for by the Association of Labour Authorities. However, at the same time the Metropolitan Police introduced a question asking whether the applicant had ever been tested for "HIV (AIDS)". This was done without consultation with the ALA's lesbian and gay working party, or for that matter with any group within the lesbian and gay communities or those working in the HIV/AIDS field. The obvious fear is that this question is designed to exclude gay men, the very group which has behaved most responsibly since the onset of the AIDS crisis. The explanation from the Metropolitan Police that "training an officer costs a tremendous amount of money, a sum that we do not want to waste" hardly sounds sensitive to the issues of HIV infection, nor does it answer the charges of discrimination.

■ Danny was waiting for a night bus in Earl's Court. A police van pulled up, and Danny was arrested on suspicion of theft. He was taken to the police station and strip-searched. On discovering that he had Kaposi's Sarcoma lesions the officers loudly announced the fact to the rest of the station and Danny was put in a cell on his own and kept incommunicado for a number of hours. No charges were laid, and Danny is now suing the police for wrongful arrest.

■ R. was involved in a demonstration protesting at the *Mail on Sunday's* coverage of Masters' and Johnson's recent book on AIDS. As the demonstration was beginning to wind down, a van load of police officers arrived and began to hustle the demonstrators onto the other side of the road. R. felt that he had every right to continue his protest where he was and continued to walk up and down the pavement. He was loudly insulted by several officers, punched and arrested for obstruction. He was bundled into the back of the police van, and called a "Cunt" and "Bastard". At the station police officers were so rough in their treatment of R. that they caused a small cut on his ear, and one officer cut himself forcibly removing R's watch. At this R. advised the officer that he should get the cut cleaned because, he, R., was HIV+. This advice seemed to fall on deaf ears, so a little later, R. repeated his advice at which point panic seemed to break out. A doctor was called who informed R. that he intended to take a blood sample to check for AIDS. R. told him that he did not consent to this, and was told that force would be used. R. pointed out the strict illegality of this, and that such an improper act would constitute an assault. The doctor eventually relented, R. saw his solicitor and was released after being charged.

■ John was arrested and charged with gross indecency. Whilst he was in the station an officer searched his pockets. The officer put on a pair of rubber gloves before doing this. There seemed no good reason for this, save as a measure of contempt for gay men, expressing a fear that all gay men are potentially infectious. This incident recalls the raid on the Royal Vauxhall Tavern in 1987, where police officers wore rubber gloves, again as an intimidating and contemptuous provocation of the gay men using the pub. ●





financial report

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1987

INCOME	1987 £	1986 £
London Boroughs Grants Scheme	33508	—
GLC Grant — General Purposes	—	33827
Membership Fees	—	2
Donations	206	28
	<u>33714</u>	<u>33857</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Salaries	19015	21393
Employer's NIC	1956	2010
Office Rent	2287	1800
Insurance	75	97
Telephone	696	405
Postages	229	174
Stationery & Photocopying	471	584
Printing & Art work	4407	2280
Advertising	2636	721
Publications	47	48
Affiliation Fees	20	17
Volunteers Expenses	99	36
Travelling Expenses	546	101
Training Expenses	35	107
Auditor's Fees	328	385
Bank Charges	212	167
Depreciation	1638	811
Miscellaneous Expenses	356	297
Civil Rights Card Expenses	—	110
	<u>35053</u>	<u>31543</u>
	1339	2314
ADD:		
Capital Grant Received	1413	80
NET SURPLUS FOR ONE YEAR TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL FUND	74	2394

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1987

	1987 £	1986 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Equipment (see note 1)	3917	2278
Less: Depreciation	3917	2278
	—	—
CURRENT ASSETS		
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	266	381
Balance at Bank	7895	5321
Cash in Hand	81	122
	<u>8242</u>	<u>5824</u>
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	4715	2371
	<u>3527</u>	<u>3453</u>
EXCESS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES	3527	3453
REPRESENTED BY:		
GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	3453	1059
Add: Net surplus for Period	74	2394
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	3527	3453

NOTES:

● Fixed Assets of the Group comprise the following

ASSETS AS AT 1 APRIL 1986	COST	
Telephone Answering Machine	591.79	
Typewriter	1228.40	
Photocopier	80.00	
Furniture	378.00	2278.19
ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR		
Walkie-Talkies	219.87	
Computer	1418.55	1638.42
		<u>3916.61</u>

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

We have prepared annexed Balance Sheets and Income & Expenditure Account, together with the notes thereon, from the books, records, vouchers and information and explanations supplied to us and certify same to be in accordance therewith.

In our opinion, these Accounts, which have been prepared under the Historical Cost Convention, give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's affairs as at the end of 31 March 1987 and if its surplus for the year then ended on that date.

DATED 17 December 1987

SAUNDERS, WOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

● Accounting Policies:

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

b) DEPRECIATION.

Office equipment is depreciated 100% in the period of acquisition and related Capital Grants are credited fully to the Income & Expenditure Account in the same year.

GALOP PUBLICATIONS

THE FOLLOWING GALOP PUBLICATIONS are available on request. Either place your order by phone, or fill in the order form below and send it to us.

■ **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 may be a charge for postage and packing.

■ **GALOP GUIDE TO POLICE POWERS & YOUR**

RIGHTS — a 6 part, 24 page guide to police powers and your rights including those powers introduced by the Police & Criminal Evidence Act, 1984 (PACE). The New Statesman said of the guide: "Highly recommended. Easily the clearest such guide ... equally applicable to all people and organisations likely to have hassles with the police." The guides are £1.00 each plus 25p post & packing. For large orders — 25 or more — we offer a 25% discount, ie 80p each p&p.

■ **GALOP BULLETIN** — our bulletins contain news and information about developments in policing as they affect gay men. Bulletins are FREE — back issues of numbers 1, 2 & 3 are available.

■ **ANNUAL REPORTS** — this is our fourth Annual Report. You can obtain copies of our previous three reports or further copies of this one FREE of charge (though on large orders we may have to charge p&p).

■ **GAY MEN & BINDOVERS** — a response to the Law Commission Working Paper on Binding Over, and the way in which this procedure discriminates against gay men. Copies are £2 (inc p&p).

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Please send me:

_____ **BUSTCARD(S)**

_____ **GUIDE(S) TO POLICE POWERS & YOUR RIGHTS**

Small orders (less than 25) @ £1.25 each (inc. p&p)

Large orders (25 or more) @ £1.05 each (inc. p&p)

_____ **GAY MEN & BINDOVERS @ £2 each (inc. p&p)**

_____ **BULLETIN No. 1**

_____ **BULLETIN No. 2**

_____ **BULLETIN No. 3**

Please put me on your mailing list for the GALOP bulletin (tick box)

_____ **ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 1 April 1984**

_____ **ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 2 June 1985**

_____ **ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 3 August 1987**

_____ **ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 4 November 1988**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Membership: £2 waged, £1 unwaged.

Affiliation: £10

I enclose (fill in as appropriate)

■ A cheque/PO for £.....

■ An SAE (tick box)

Cheques should be made out to GALOP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please return completed forms to:

GALOP, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP



HOW GALOP CAN HELP YOU

SINCE ITS FORMATION IN JUNE 1982, GALOP has collected information on the treatment of London's gay male population by London's police. But GALOP is more than a monitoring organisation. We also offer a wide range of support, advice, information and education services.

TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE?

If you come into contact with the police in connection with any offence — cottaging, under-age sex, importuning, public order offences, whatever — we can help you.

■ **LEGAL ADVICE** — our workers can offer general advice and a sympathetic ear; many of our callers just want to talk to someone. For more detailed legal advice we can refer you to a suitable legal advice agency. We also maintain a list of solicitors who are experienced in dealing with gay cases. Anything you say to us is treated as strictly confidential.

■ **COMPLAINTS** — if you are unhappy with the way the police have treated you we can advise you on the complaints procedure and help you register a formal complaint. We can also advise on how to claim compensation if the police have assaulted you or otherwise abused their powers.

CRIMES AGAINST GAY PEOPLE

If a crime is committed against you or if you have information about a crime committed against another gay man we can help you.

■ **COMPENSATION** — victims of crimes of violence can claim compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. We can advise you on the best way to make claims and appeals.

■ **INTERMEDIARIES** — you may be reluctant to report a crime committed against you to the police either because you've committed an offence in the past or because you fear the police response to you as a gay person. We can arrange for intermediaries or sympathetic lawyers to assist you in reporting crimes to the police.

■ **COMPLAINTS** — if you want to make an official complaint about the way the police handled your case we can advise you on the procedure and help you with the complaint itself.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

GALOP collects information on the policing of London's gay male population to inform and educate Londoners about current police practice and its effects on gay people. To this end we have updated our popular Bustcard, produced a series of guides to police powers and your rights and we now publish a regular bulletin (for more details and how to obtain GALOP publications see the section on Publications later in this report). GALOP also keeps you informed through the pages of the gay press and the gay pages of London's listing magazines. GALOP can provide speakers for meetings and conferences (with plenty of notice!). We can also organise briefings for stewards on gay marches.

HOW YOU CAN HELP GALOP

YOU CAN HELP GALOP BY LETTING US know of any contact you have with the police or of any incident you witness that involves gay people and the police. Even if you don't need our help or don't want to take any action we want to hear from you. The more information we have the better the picture of policing in London we can build up, and the better we can help others.

You can help us by reporting any crime committed against you. Let us know how you felt about it; whether you reported it to the police and if not, why not; how the police responded; and how the case was dealt with when it came to court. If you witness any crime committed against another gay person, let us know — your evidence might be crucial. So phone us or write to us, no matter how serious or seemingly unimportant the incident may be.

Another way to help GALOP is by becoming a member. Membership is £2 for those in employment, £1 for unwaged, and entitles you to vote at AGMs, to stand for the management committee, and means you will receive free copies of all our publications.

GALOP also welcomes affiliations from organisations (£10) and all donations ●