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POLICING
GROUP**

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casework

a new disciplinary
offence for the police

statistics

fabrication of evidence

byelaws

sexual offences and
convictions

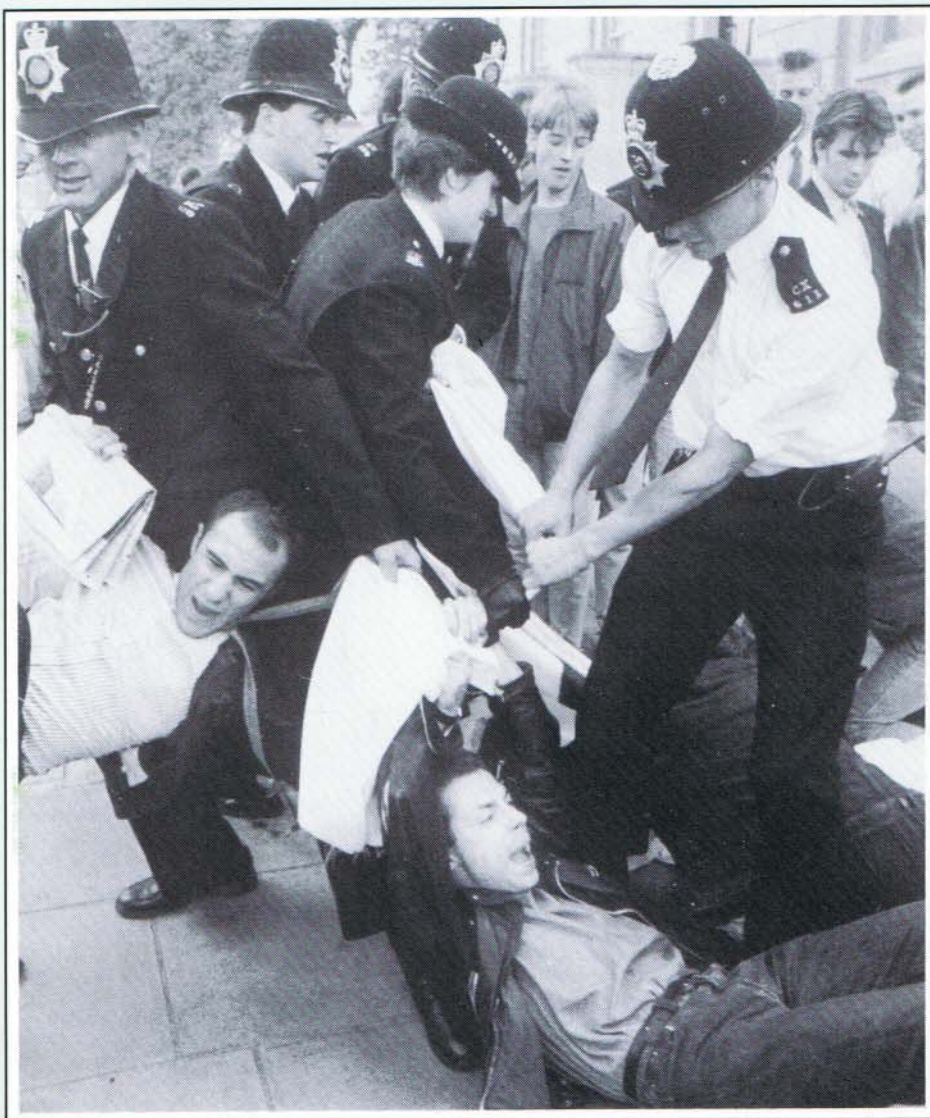
police operations and
accountability

financial report

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5 T H A N N U A L R E P O R T

GALOP

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Acknowledgements

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DAVID JAMES

David James, the gay radical solicitor and leading member of GALOP, died on Sunday 23rd April 1989 aged 37. He had been living with AIDS related illnesses for some time.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1978 and first practised law in the barrack town of Colchester where he attracted nationwide notoriety for his spirited defence of a serviceman accused of a gay sexual offence. In 1982 he moved to London and worked at Tottenham Law Centre specialising in juvenile crime. While at the Law Centre he played a central role in coordinating the defence campaign of numerous anti-fascists arrested in Tottenham during a National Front demonstration. From 1985 he worked as a criminal law advocate on his account.

He was an active member of GALOP almost from its inception in 1982. As GALOP's secretary and then its Convenor he steered the organisation through some difficult early years and by his single minded determination and consistent hard work he ensured its long term survival. In particular he led the successful appeal against its cut in funding in 1986 and was the uncredited author of most of its early publications. He gave his time unstintingly to the organisation and was always ready to advise and support GALOP's workers. In the best tradition of the radical lawyer he frequently gave his services free, notably when he defended many of those arrested at the 1984 demonstration in Rugby and when he defended the "Kissing Couple" arrested outside Brief Encounter in 1986.

He had been a keen yachtsman and was a trained sailing instructor. He was involved for many years in his local Labour Party and more recently had been active in Frontliners. His friends and lovers will also remember him as a man who could be madly outrageous. Whether he was swanning around Glydebourne or serenading Parisian gendarmes with "I love a man in a uniform" he had a rich appreciation of everything camp.

contents

- 7** introduction
- 9** casework
- 12** a new disciplinary offence for the police
- 14** statistics
- 16** fabrication of evidence
- 17** byelaws
- 18** sexual offences and convictions
- 20** police operations and accountability
- 22** financial report
- 24** GALOP publications
- 25** how GALOP can help you
- 25** how you can help GALOP



introduction

IN 1988-89 GALOP MAINTAINED ITS PROFILE AS AN important service organisation for London's gay community. Our caseload has increased by over 50% and we were often consulted by the media and research organisations. The publicity agency Wolff Olins approached us during its investigation into the public image of the Metropolitan Police: we were interviewed at length, and felt we had an instructively different light to shed on the Met.'s relations with London's gay population.

The year saw Section 28 of the Local Government Act become law. Whilst lesbian and gay organisations have continued to thrive, the first signs have become apparent of incipient self-censorship by some councils which have refused to fund lesbian and gay projects, despite legal opinion to the contrary. Lothian Council's decision not to fund the "Lark in the Park" celebration is a case in point. The Section and the persistent misinformation around HIV & related illness marked out the limits of popular representation of homosexuality, and it is significant that the passage through Parliament of the Local Government Bill coincided with a particularly bad month in terms of reports to GALOP of violent incidents against gay men.

The police as usual have played an ambiguous role. There seems to have been a decision taken at a senior level inside the Metropolitan Police, and in other forces, to crack down on gay men cruising or having sex "in public". Our statistics show a doubling in percentage terms (a tripling in absolute numbers) of calls from men arrested in these circumstances. Calls have come from all districts of the Met., often telling of purges that have netted quite extraordinary numbers of men. In Harrow, 94 men were prosecuted; in Richmond more than 150 men were charged with byelaw offences.

This decision to allocate considerable resources to a judicially unimportant crime (though with devastating consequences for those convicted) may not be directly linked with the passage of Section 28, but it is certainly consonant with the aims of that legislation in enforcing the strict provisions of the Wolfenden Report around the public expression and representation of homosexuality. In the absence of a proper system of police accountability, we can only speculate on how police decisions and priorities are set. Certainly, it is insufficient to defend such decisions with obfuscatory language about "com-

plaints from the public" when no third party is ever brought to court as a witness. It is to the discredit of the Met. that it has always refused to discuss the use of their discretion in prosecuting such "victimless crimes" and it has not cultivated a more open and fruitful relationship with the gay community.

The police have been more effective in investigating two horrific murders of gay men. Men have been charged with the murders of Robert Russo and John Hudspith, both murdered in separate incidents in North London in late 1988. Yet even here, witnesses and those interviewed by the police report contradictory responses from officers. Whilst the police have been eager to gain the confidence of gay men in order that the investigation might proceed, nevertheless officers have displayed rudeness, unnecessary threats and an almost prurient curiosity toward irrelevant aspects of the victims' and interviewees' sex lives. The gay community has in general acted in a responsible and civic-minded way, but the police have squandered that goodwill by acting in a cavalier and insensitive fashion. Callers have expressed a wariness about helping the police in future.

These consequences seem inevitable until the police break with the habit of seeing gay men only as potential criminals whose sexual practices somehow make them inferior beings, not quite citizens at all. The police must come to see that the gay community is just that: a section of the "general public" with specific problems and needs and with particular and legitimate demands on them. Without this, relations between the two will remain fraught.

GALOP has managed to supply London's gay community with an invaluable service for seven years, but that service is threatened by our financial position. Our grant from the LBGU has remained static for two years, and this year we will receive no allowance for inflation. The upshot is a looming deficit. We trust that gay men who have used our service, and those who realise the importance of what we do will find ways to contribute to GALOP with hard cash. Become a member, or make a donation. Every little helps.

Our financial position entails that this annual report will be the first one that we have had to charge for, but we hope that our readers will regard the information and argument as worth the cost.

casework

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE SORT OF CASES GALOP deals with. We know that they are not unusual nor exceptional. Gay men are especially vulnerable when it comes to violent attack, and get a raw deal from the police and legal apparatus.

POLICE MALPRACTICE

There are persistent themes in our clients' criticisms of the police. They allege that the police arrest on spurious charges, fabricating evidence and intimidating defendants. It is also claimed that the police stop and harass gay men merely because they are gay. Most often, the complaint is that the police are rude, offensive and given to insulting remarks about the gay men they are dealing with. There are few means available to check this sort of gratuitous abuse, and there is a strong case for an explicit disciplinary offence of anti-lesbian and gay discrimination to be included in the Regulations that govern officers' behaviour.

■ Ian was walking home after a long day at his office. He got lost on his way to Vauxhall Bridge, and was wandering around a block of flats. He was stopped by two officers in a police van and asked what he was doing. The officers refused Ian's explanation and bundled him into the van. He was told that he was "a little fag with an attitude". When he asked where they were taking him, the officers replied, "Somewhere, perhaps just down a side street." He was taken to Rochester Row police station. He tried to see the numbers of the officers, but they were wearing yellow cagoules, which obscured their uniforms. He tapped one of them on the shoulder, and received the retort "Don't touch me, you bender". He was then strip searched, made to sign a form that he was not allowed to read, then released without charge.

■ A South American man was arrested for gross indecency. Despite his having a permanent residence permit, and a verifiable address in this country, he was held on remand for a week, before being released on a surety of £50, an extraordinary procedure for such a trivial charge.

■ James had been drinking at the Comptons pub in Soho. He left to go home and was stopped by two officers, who asked him, "Do you like your gay clubs?". He answered, "Yes", and the

officers then muttered some remark, which he couldn't quite catch. James said, "Why aren't you out looking for Marie Wilks?" (the M50 murder victim, whose killer was still at large), whereupon he was grabbed by the officer and forced into a police van. James maintains that he was very roughly handled, receiving bruises and cuts, and a possible broken wrist. Whilst in the van, he was held on the floor, with his arm twisted up his back, while officers rested their feet on him as a gesture of contempt. At the police station he was questioned at length in a very aggressive fashion, had remarks made to him to the effect that he had AIDS, and was put in a cell with three other men who were screaming and shouting. The police announced that they would charge him being drunk and disorderly, but eventually released him at 5.30 am.

■ David and John left the Black Cap pub in north London and were having an argument as they walked toward the tube station. A police van stopped and they were arrested, taken to Kentish Town police station and made to sign a caution, for disturbing the piece. They adamantly maintain that, though arguing, they were not shouting nor making a disturbance. They claim that the police were very heavy handed and abusive. Such epithets as "Queer bastards", "Fags", "AIDS Victims" were bandied about, and David was asked "Do you like fucking him up the arse?". They were arrested at 12.15am, and released just after 4.30 am.

■ Peter was arrested with his boyfriend for kissing in the street. Three woman police officers claimed that they had received complaints from "girls" about this, though the young women in question were not brought as witnesses. They were held overnight, having been arrested at 3.40 am, and appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court where they were charged with "drunk and disorderly behaviour" and fined £75 & £10 costs.

VIOLENCE

Violent attacks against gay men are still a high proportion of our caseload. In real terms, figures have increased over the last year, but we are still far from being in a position where the real incidence of of assaults can be assessed. The police have made no moves toward changing their recording methods in the light of the recommendations in our last report. It will be up to the gay community itself to find ways of measuring and

documenting the violence against us.

■ Tony was waiting with a friend for a bus to a gay club in south London. A group of eight youths approached, and before he knew what was happening, Tony was being punched and kicked. Eventually he managed to get away, and limped off to Streatham Common. Someone came over to him and asked whether he was alright, and then started punching him again as did the attacker's mates. Tony passed out briefly, then managed to get to a friend's home and rang the police, who were solicitous but unhelpful of apprehending the attackers since Tony could not give a full description. His injuries comprised bruised ribs, contusions, cuts and abrasions.

■ Stephen too was waiting for a bus after leaving a gay pub. He didn't see his attacker, who threw him against a wall, knocking out five of his teeth. His assailant then repeatedly stamped on his hands, as if to break them. Stephen blacked out, and next remembered wandering around in a daze. He couldn't say whether there was more than one assailant, but he recalled that he was abused and called "*Queer cunt*" and other derogatory terms.

■ John was approaching the London nightclub Heaven with two friends, when he saw a group of people fighting near the door. At first he thought it was a friendly tussle, but when he got nearer, he and his friends were attacked. One of his friends managed to escape, but John was kicked and punched. The nightclub bouncers did not intervene, later maintaining that they thought it was just a fight, not a queerbashing. The thugs, twelve in all, were shouting "*Queers, poofers*" etc, and as they ran off they were kicking and punching people, including a plainclothes policeman, who followed them, radioed for assistance and managed to apprehend three of the assailants. It turned out that the thugs were football supporters, down for the day to watch Leeds United play at Wembley, and had parked their van at Kings Cross, and had set out to go queerbashing. The police apprehended the rest of them and arrested them. None of them were drunk, and they knew exactly what they were doing. They were charged with affray, on the grounds that no one could identify their attackers, although John maintains that he could identify three of them, but that the police were uninterested in this, because, he felt, it would cause complications.

The coda to this affair was that the attackers appeared in court some months later, and the judge directed the jury to acquit on the grounds that the identification evidence was unsound. The thugs walked free.

■ Michael and his friend were walking back from the Croydon Playhouse, at about 11.30 pm, with their arms around each other. Two skinheads jumped them, began to punch and kick them, shouting "*Queer scum*" and "*AIDS Bastards*". Michael and his friend managed to escape, and ran to the train station, where they were sheltered by the ticket collector, who told the attackers that the police were on their way. By this time there were about fifteen skinheads, in their early twenties, male and female, surrounding the ticket collector, screaming and shouting. The ticket collector, to his credit, managed to outface them, and Michael and his friend received no further injuries. However, they both had suffered severe bruising to their legs, and Michael's friend had received a black eye.

■ Derek was in a cruising ground near Reading when he was attacked from behind, and then spent six days in intensive

care, and is now permanently blind. He remembers little of the incident, but other witnesses enabled the police to catch the perpetrators, one of whom was jailed for eighteen months, the other fined and given a suspended sentence. Derek has nothing but praise for the local police and thinks he received excellent treatment from them.

■ Brian was walking down a street when he was attacked by three white youths wielding knives. He was slashed badly, and needed twenty stitches. He lost two pints of blood, and was forced to stay in hospital overnight. He now suffers from tremendous nervous problems, chain smokes, sleeps fitfully, and is afraid to go out at night. Whilst the police were initially very helpful, they subsequently wanted to use him as "bait" in a stakeout to catch the assailants. Brian felt this was highly insensitive, and he refused for the simple reason that he was afraid that he would be further injured.

■ Jason suffered harassment over a period of six weeks. He had letters pushed through his letterbox, saying that he was a "*Fucking queer*". The letters were often accompanied by dog excrement. It got so bad that he fled his bedsit to live with his boyfriend in Birmingham, who unfortunately tired quickly of his insecurity and demands for reassurance and threw him out. On returning to London, Jason had a brick thrown in his face by a group of kids and was hospitalised overnight. He adamantly refused to go to the police, because he felt that it would make matters worse, and that they would start asking him questions about his sex life, given he was under twenty one. Instead he was becoming more and more depressed and talking of suicide.

■ Carl had been drinking in the Two Brewers pub in south London. He left with a friend and went to a nearby fastfood bar. Almost as soon as they were inside, three youths came in after them, yelling "*There's the queers, get them.*" They started to beat Carl up. The woman behind the counter joined in with, "*AIDS carriers, queers*". Carl was pulled outside, and his friend was trying to help, when a police car pulled up. There was some scuffling, before Carl was shoved into the car by one of the officers. There was another gay man in the car already who had just been walking down the street. Carl's friend tried to intervene, saying that the officers had the wrong ones, and grabbed one of the assailants to indicate who the queerbashers were. The officer in the car ignored this, and rolled up his window, nearly trapping Carl's friend's arm.

They were taken to the police station. One of the queerbashers was brought in and left by Carl, who became, in his own words, "hysterical" at this. Carl was bruised, shocked and sobbing, but was offered no medical attention. He also asked for a solicitor, but did not get to see one. He was put in a cell, and held there till 4.40am, having been arrested at 1.30am. At that point he was brought out, and made to sign a caution for obstruction else "*he'd be in court and have a conviction*". He tried to explain what had happened, but eventually bowed to pressure and signed, as did the other, quite innocent gay man, whereupon they were both released.

Later that evening he went back to the fastfood place to try and find out if anyone knew of the attackers, but was told to get out.

■ Colin was walking home in the early hours of the morning, when he was set upon by six youths aged, he estimated, between seventeen and eighteen years of age. He recognised one of the youths, whom he had spoken to on a number of

occasions, and knew Colin was gay. The result of the attack was that Colin was punched to the ground, and was kicked in the face and back, until he passed out. His glasses and watch were smashed. The attack took place only 100 yards from the local police station, to which Colin staggered when he regained consciousness, bleeding profusely and with both eyes nearly sealed shut. He spent the night in hospital, and was discharged only to be housebound for the next week as he was virtually blind. His eyesight recovered but he was afraid to go out, for fear that the youth who he knew, and who hung out in his neighbourhood might see him, and more violence ensue. He had persistent nightmares and was terribly depressed. "I don't know which is worse, the attack or the aftermath", he said. The police had been helpful and were on the point of arresting one of the youths involved. Colin's only complaint was that when the police had taken him in a car to the local shopping precinct where the youths hung out, they had allowed the youths to see into the car, and possibly to identify him, so that he feels he might be in greater danger from further attacks than before he started to aid the police.

■ Darren suffered a campaign of harassment at his home on a south London council estate, solely because he was gay and was identified as such on his estate. His flat was broken into twice, and on another occasion his hallway windows were smashed when he refused to open the door. His door and doorframe were kicked in on several occasions, and he received innumerable threatening phone calls, forcing him to change phone numbers twice. The fire brigade and ambulance service were both sent, without reason, to his flat. On many occasions he was threatened, punched and kicked, and he had money and jewellery stolen. Darren was admitted to hospital twice for unrelated conditions, which nevertheless were felt to be exacerbated by the months of misery, and on one occasion he was rushed to hospital after taking a mixture of alcohol and sleeping tablets, the latter prescribed because he was unable to sleep because of anxiety about his situation. The nadir of this campaign of terror was when he was stabbed in the leg by one of the youths on the estate. Fortunately, with the assistance of GALOP and other agencies he was rehoused and the problem has abated, but Darren lives in fear that should the fact that he is gay become known on his new estate, he will again become the target for systematic violence and abuse.

AIDS

The use of HIV and AIDS as a further stick to beat gay men with both by assailants on the street and by the police is well attested. The following are merely instances of this particular form of abuse.

■ An AIDS Community Support Unit had rehoused a client in a flat in a council block. He was subsequently brutally attacked by a group of vigilantes from the estate, who have also submitted a petition to the local council. The council in turn has served the client with an eviction notice, apparently on health grounds. When the client was attacked, the police refused to enter the flat, because of AIDS, and have since seemed unwilling to investigate the assault. Obviously, the assailants are from the estate and the client could identify them, but so far the police have refused to take action.

■ Luke was returning from a concert at the Royal Albert Hall, and was being driven home by a friend. They stopped at a toilet in Streatham, and Luke went to take a leak, whilst his friend sat in the car outside. He had only been in the toilet for a matter of seconds, when the police kicked open the door of

the cubicle and arrested him and the man in the next cubicle. Luke was taken to the police station, but did not make a statement. He was then informed that the other man "had AIDS" and that everyone would have to have blood tests. Luke replied that the other man's seropositivity was irrelevant as they had not been doing anything. The police also kept up the pressure on him to plead guilty to gross indecency as he was Australian and they would "take away his passport". In the end, Luke was released on bail, without a blood test and without having made a statement. The police were completely wrong, and any attempt to forcibly take a blood sample without the consent of the defendant could be seen as assault

■ Clive had a row with his boyfriend Mark, who called the police. There was clearly some exaggeration of the seriousness of the argument, since some three van loads of police arrived at the flat. A sergeant manhandled Mark, almost throttling



him, took him off to Notting Hill police station where he was charged with "disorderly behaviour". He was kept in the cells overnight and convicted the next morning in the local magistrates court. Whilst he was kept in the cells, Mark was told "Don't bite me you AIDS ridden bastard, or I'll smash your teeth in." When, Mark emerged from this ordeal, having only had access to a solicitor by phone, he was badly bruised and shaken, but clear that he would sue the police for his ill-treatment.

■ Matthew and Alex were walking home from Earls Court. They were quite drunk and in high spirits. Alex was "swinging on a car door handle", when he was stopped by a police officer. They were both arrested and taken to Chelsea police station, and charged with attempted theft under the Criminal Attempts Act. They were put in a cell after being searched. Alex is HIV positive, and has AIDS related complex. The police confiscated his AZT, which they sent for analysis. He

was interviewed and said that he was happy to accept a charge of being drunk and disorderly, but not that he had attempted theft. However, the latter charge was laid. In discussion of AIDS the police were very insensitive and abusive. Questioning Alex they said, "So you've got it [AIDS]?" Alex said, "No, I've got ARC." "Well," the police replied, "it's the same thing, you just don't know when you're going to die." To Matthew, who has an obvious facial disfigurement, one officer said, "I suppose you've got it too". On being told that Matthew was in fact seronegative, the officer said, "Well, what's that on your face then?". Both Alex and Matthew felt that the police were so heavy because they were gay and because of AIDS. They also felt that there might have been anti-Irish sentiment at work too.



a new disciplinary offence for the police

considers making such discrimination a disciplinary offence, prohibited by the Regulations that govern police conduct.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most persistent complaints levelled by lesbians and gay men against the police is that officers act in a discriminatory and insulting manner towards them. GALOP's casework over the last five years has revealed two broad categories of unacceptable police behaviour:

- the use of abusive or insulting words and conduct:

Patrick was assaulted outside a gay pub. When he telephoned the police he was arrested. He complained at the police station about being called a "nancy boy, poofter and queer" and said his treatment was a perversion of justice. An officer told him "I hate poofters and enjoy perverting justice". When he complained that he ought not to be photographed and fingerprinted until convicted, he was told, "Shut up or we'll send you to Brixton [prison] where you'll be able to mix with other hairy-arsed queers".

- the neglect of victims of anti-lesbian and gay crime:

Larry received a black eye and a fractured skull when he and other customers in a gay pub were attacked by eight straight men. He asked police officers who were outside to stop the fighting and protect the customers being attacked. He was told, "What do you expect? You're a queer in a queer's pub." Larry told the officer that his taxes paid the officer's wages, only to be told, "Fuck off before I nick you for being drunk and disorderly."

At present such discriminatory behaviour is rarely taken seriously by senior officers, and redress is almost impossible to obtain.

This article (a condensed version of a new GALOP report)

A DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE?

The form of disciplinary offence of discrimination on the grounds of lesbian or gay sexuality considered in this report is extremely narrow. It is modelled closely on the existing offence of racially discriminatory behaviour, which does not add that much to the offences of abuse of authority and improper conduct, but, nevertheless, explicitly cites racial discrimination as grounds for disciplinary intervention.

Discrimination on the grounds of lesbian or gay sexuality, which offence is committed (without prejudice to the commission of any other offence) where a member of the police force:

- while on duty, on the grounds of another person's lesbian or gay sexuality, acts towards that other person in such a way as is mentioned in paragraph 8 (abuse of authority); or
- while on duty, on the grounds of another person's lesbian or gay sexuality, acts in respect of that other person in such a way as is mentioned in paragraph 4 (neglect of duty); or
- in any other way, on those grounds, treats improperly a person with whom he may be brought into contact while on duty.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE NEW OFFENCE

The gains from the inclusion of such a disciplinary offence are:

- 1) The police will benefit from being seen to recognise that discrimination against any group is wrong.

2) Discrimination on the grounds of lesbian or gay sexuality by the police would be recognised as a different and more specific kind of offence than the more general abuse of authority.

3) It suggests an undertaking on the part of the police to act in a forceful way against such discrimination.

4) What is 'improper' and not also 'abuse of authority' might be vague, but there is a useful widening of the scope of impermissible behaviour

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE NEW OFFENCE

There are a number of arguments that might be used against the adoption of the measure.

1. Likely reservations by the police

The police are notoriously reluctant to open up their ranks to scrutiny and accountability. Any move to introduce a new constraint on the behaviour of officers will be resisted as a matter of course. This was so with the introduction of the offence of racial discrimination which was met by disclaimers of racism in the force and the need for new disciplinary procedures. There were also suggestions that it would only be invoked by malcontents and troublemakers. All of these arguments were rejected by Parliament when it accepted the inclusion of the offence in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. However, it is possible that they will be dusted off again. We can reply by claiming that it is necessary for the police to win back the confidence of lesbians and gay men, lost precisely by the sort of discrimination the new instrument seeks to proscribe.

Although we would argue that the current legislation of sexual activity is itself discriminatory, nothing in our proposed offence would permit the charge of discrimination to be laid against officers for enforcing this legislation. The police would preserve their discretion to enforce the law on gross indecency or importuning.

2. Adequacy

The issue of adequacy is part of a more general debate on the nature of the police. The claim is that the whole system of accountability and regulation is so inadequate that no mere tinkering will do any good at all. Only a thorough overhaul of the police force as a whole would suffice. The short response must be that only small achievable aims are on the current agenda. Even if our measure is no panacea, the gain of recognition of discrimination on the grounds of sexuality is a real one.

3. Practical Effectiveness

The practical effectiveness of the measure may also cause some concern. The number of officers disciplined under the racial discrimination provisions of the Regulations is astonishingly low, there being only one substantiated case in 1987.

This may partly be because it is the police themselves who formulate the complaint, often putting a complaint under the



head of general abuse of authority. We might expect a similar administrative sleight of hand around discrimination on the grounds of sexuality and thus arrive at a purely cosmetic change, without real effects on the abuse and harassment in question.

4. Specificity

A slightly different argument against the creation of a new offence is that it misconstrues the basis of the Regulations. The code, so this argument runs, should set out a broad framework for police behaviour and indicate the general principles of reasonable conduct that officers must adhere to, rather than try to specify every impermissible prejudice. There may be some important areas for which specific guidelines need to be set down: corruption for example, or conflicts of interest. But an officer's attitude or conduct toward individuals cannot be rigidly regulated. Sexism, homophobia, and other prejudices might all be pointed out as needing specific attention in the Code of Practice, but without denying concern in these areas, it could be held that compiling an "official list" is counterproductive: the longer the list, the stronger the presumption of exhaustiveness, and the greater the sense of unmentioned areas as unimportant. This argument concludes that officers should be encouraged to think and act justly, not act merely to rigid rules.

CONCLUSION

It is our firm view that there is a widespread problem of discrimination by police officers in London against lesbians and gay men. Such behaviour, we believe, is one major cause of the undoubted crisis of confidence between lesbians and gay men in London and the police. Whatever the pros and cons, the introduction of the sort of disciplinary offence discussed above has the potential to improve relations between the police and an increasingly alienated minority, without preventing lawful police work.

statistics

IN EACH OF OUR ANNUAL REPORTS WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY emphasised the incomplete nature of our statistics. We are not a statutory organisation, and there is no duty on anyone to contact us. Our callers, as the above breakdown suggests, are a self-selecting group, but are clearly prompted to use our services, or to report incidents of crime against gay men to us, when the existence of GALOP is brought to their attention. This has usually been as a consequence of our advertising in the gay press, by hearing our name on local radio, by reading our publications etc.

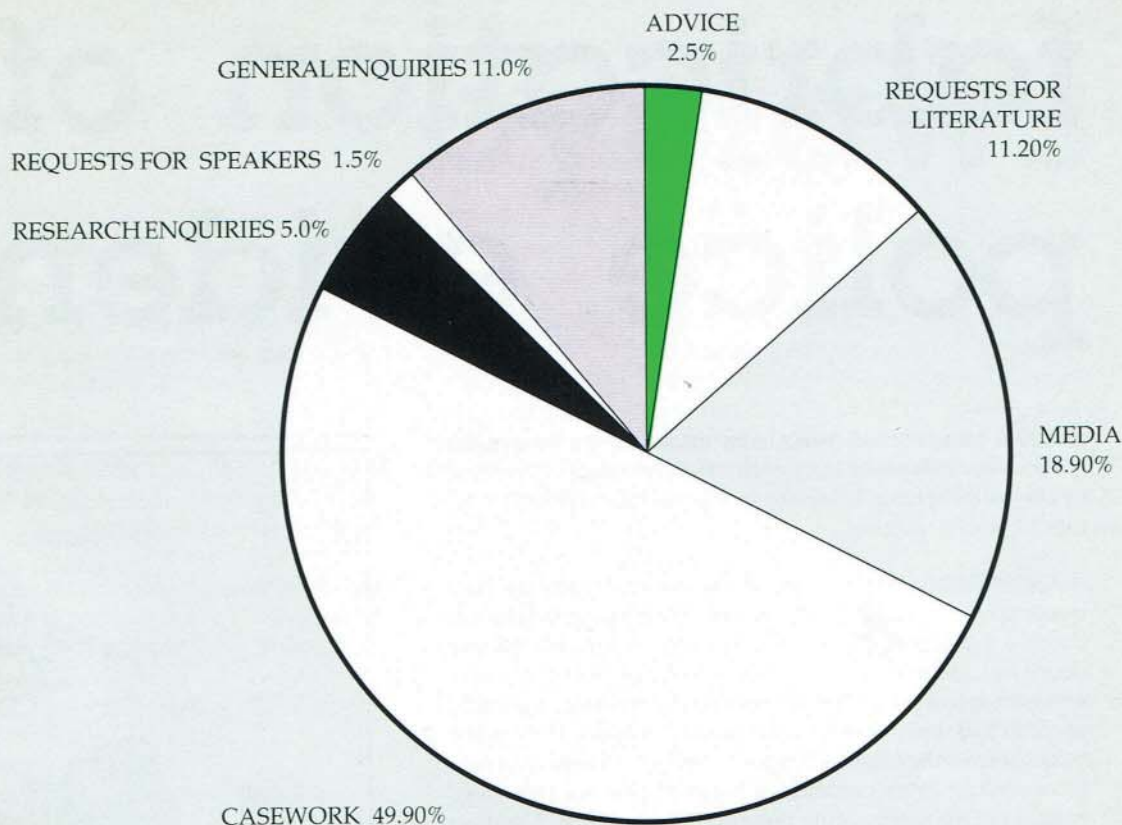
All that said, we can draw some conclusions from this year's statistics. Firstly, our casework has increased by some 52.6% on last year, indicating a high profile in the community, and a general satisfaction with the service we provide. Secondly, calls concerning sexual offences have doubled in percentage terms, and tripled in actual numbers. This suggests that the police have started to pay much more attention to gay men as potential criminals, devoting relatively large resources to "victimless crime", putting many public toilets under surveillance rather than using uniformed officers to deter possible offenders. This echoes the crime figures published by the Metropolitan Police which show an increase of 34% in convictions for indecency between males. The use of byelaws, first reported in our previous annual report continues (see the article in this report) with all the risks of injustice we point out.

Thirdly, we note that whilst, as a percentage, calls concerning violence have reduced, in absolute terms they have increased. Last year also saw a spate of particularly brutal murders of gay men.

Again, we should point out the desperate need for hard statistics on the incidence of anti-gay crime, and the incidence of anti-gay victimisation in general. National surveys must be carried out if we are to give the necessary factual underpinning to our arguments.

GALOP CASEWORK APRIL 1988 TO MARCH 1989

	CALLS	%
GAY MEN ARRESTED FOR:		
Sex offence in public	296	47.7
Sex offence in private	3	0.5
Prostitution	6	1.0
Public Order Obstruction/Drunkenness	24	3.8
Other Offences	35	5.5
GAY MALE VICTIM:		
Murder	27	4.4
Violence	101	16.3
Violence with theft	14	2.3
Demands with menaces	2	0.5
GENERAL ADVICE:		
Sex under 21	13	2.0
AIDS/Health	2	0.5
Search of premises/ Courts/Legal Procedures	9	1.5
Disclosure of Convictions	10	1.5
Other Advice	39	6.1
OTHER ENCOUNTERS WITH THE POLICE:		
	40	6.4
TOTAL	621	100



TYPE OF REFERRAL: 38% self referrals or via friends
 25% advertisements in gay press
 20% other gay organisations
 7% other organisations
 10% unknown

**GALOP ENQUIRIES
 APRIL 1988 TO MARCH 1989**

	CALLS	%
ADVICE	32	2.5
REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE	142	11.2
MEDIA	239	18.9
CASEWORK	621	49.9
RESEARCH ENQUIRIES	66	5.0
REQUESTS FOR SPEAKERS	20	1.5
GENERAL ENQUIRIES	140	11.0
TOTAL	1260	100.0

Explanation of categories:

the breakdown above is of the calls we have received over the last year. The categories are fairly self-explanatory: "**Gay men arrested**" indicates calls from men arrested for the offences cited. "**Gay Male Victim**" indicates calls from men who have been victims of the crimes cited, or in the case of "**Murder**" were concerned about or had information to offer about the crime. "**General advice**" indicates those calls where we have been rung for advice on specific questions, indicated in the list that follows. "**Other advice**" indicates calls asking about miscellaneous legal matters too various to cite individually. "**Other encounters**" indicates calls concerning police harassment, complaints about rudeness and so on, which are not tied to specific charges. "**Media**" enquiries were from the press, TV and radio. "**Research**" enquiries were from individuals or organisations wanting information, reports or analysis. "**General**" enquiries were about GALOP, what the organisation does, what times the phone line operates etc.

fabrication of police evidence

GALOP'S MONITORING ROLE HAS ENABLED US TO GATHER quite clear evidence of the systematic fabrication of evidence by the police in cases involving men arrested in public lavatories for sexual offences.

A solicitor who regularly represents men charged with these minor gay sex offences commented: "The scope for the unchecked fabrication of evidence is wide. Invariably the evidence in 'cottaging' cases consists of almost identical statements from two police officers with no independent testimony to confirm or indeed deny what they have to say. Ironically, this is despite the fact that the police will often make reference to 'complaints from members of the public' or to an outraged member of the public being present in the lavatory. Needless to say such independent third parties are never stopped, questioned or asked to make statements to the police. The way that the evidence is structured clearly gives *carte blanche* to the police to fabricate if they so wish."

Where fabrication of evidence appears to have occurred the police officers involved undoubtedly had their own motivation. Men contacting GALOP have expressed a variety of reasons why they believe they were arrested. Spending a little longer at the urinals than was deemed necessary; returning to the lavatory too frequently, for example a man fixing his car washed his hands several times, only to find himself charged with importuning; wearing gay badges; dressing in a certain fashion and so on. The assumption is made that they are gay and that they are up to no good. Even though no offence has been committed the police feel entitled to fabricate evidence and lie to the court to support their allegations. The rationale for their actions seems to be that if there had been no intervention by the police an offence would certainly have been committed.

These arguments of course beg the question how can we be sure that it is the police, in these cases, who are lying? GALOP believes that certain recent trends lead to this conclusion. It has become increasingly common for arrests in public lavatories to take place as a result of large scale operations mounted by police where a particular lavatory is kept under surveillance by the same officers for a two or three week period. (See *'Police Operations and Accountability'* for further comment). Two examples of such operations occurred in south London. Both operations resulted in a substantial number of arrests. In the former case *every* caller to GALOP referred on to a lawyer gave instructions that the police officers involved in that operation had fabricated evidence against them. In the latter case *every* caller accepted that what the police said was (basically) correct. These examples, it is submitted, can only be explained if it is accepted that the officers in the earlier operation - and it



fabricating evidence.

Men arrested in public toilets, who are the victims of falsified evidence, often feel that there is little they can do to counter police lies. Many believe that when the case rests solely on a conflict of word the Court will automatically believe the police officer. GALOP's experience shows that this is not always the case. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of men who contest these cases in the Crown Court, before a judge and jury are acquitted. One of GALOP's lawyers commented: "Careful preparation of such cases is the key. If the police are lying then they rarely give much thought to the implications of such lies - which can often be shown up by photographs and plans illustrating the impossibility of alleged observations or by calling medical or other expert evidence to explain a defendant's behaviour or to contradict police testimony."

Following an acquittal, men who have been wrongly charged are increasingly seeking some recompense either by lodging an official complaint or by commencing proceedings against the police in a civil court. It is true that only a tiny proportion of complaints under the current Police Complaints Procedure are successful: in 1983 only 3.5% of complaints were substantiated and only 0.4% resulted in disciplinary action, but they are still constructive. Even if the complaint does not result in formal disciplinary proceedings it may cause the relevant officer to be barred from engaging in similar operations.

was the same two officers throughout - routinely fabricated evidence.

It is also increasingly common for men arrested in public lavatories to accept part of an allegation against them (and consequently plead guilty to the alleged offence) whilst adamantly denying other parts of police statements. Again this is suggestive of police officers regularly

byelaws

THE YEAR SINCE GALOP'S LAST REPORT HAS SEEN A dramatic increase within the London area of the use of local byelaws against men arrested in public lavatories and at well known cruising areas.

The most common examples are Byelaw 17 of the British Railways Byelaws which prohibits indecent behaviour on railway premises and has been used against men arrested at public lavatories at Victoria Station and Baker Street Station: Byelaw 23 of the Westminster Byelaws which prohibits similar behaviour within that London borough and a rather bizarre byelaw from Richmond which makes it an offence to remain in a public lavatory "longer than is necessary". In an operation which took place in spring 1989 over 150 men were charged with this last offence.

The disadvantages to defendants of the use of such byelaws are twofold. First, because the offences are deemed to be essentially trivial by the authorities responsible for the administration of the Legal Aid Scheme, legal aid is often not granted for such cases even when a defendant who has never been in trouble before, and therefore has no experience of the court system, is contesting the charge. The offences are considered trivial as they are invariably only punishable with a fine although this analysis ignores the potential damage to a defendant's character resulting from a conviction. A parallel can be drawn with the offence of travelling on the London Underground without a ticket. This too is only punishable with a fine and for this very reason the heavy advertising campaign, "*Get a ticket not a criminal record*", to discourage fare evaders emphasises the significance of the criminal record and its undesirable consequences.

Secondly such charges carry no right of trial at the Crown Court unlike the more traditional charges of importuning and gross indecency under the Sexual Offences Act. The significance of this is that the acquittal rate on the latter charges is far higher in the Crown Court (where a defendant is tried by a judge and jury) than in the magistrates' court (trial by a single full-time magistrate or "lay bench" of three magistrates). In the Crown Court between two-thirds and three-quarters of contested cases result in acquittal. In the lower court the figures for acquittal are much lower: magistrates are still ready to believe the police.

The overall result is that a defendant who is unrepresented because he has been refused legal aid and cannot afford his own lawyer and who understandably feels he has a small chance of success in the magistrates court comes under an overwhelming pressure to plead guilty even if he is innocent.

The dilemma is additionally confused by the lack of certainty over the status of a conviction for a byelaw offence - does it constitute a criminal record or not? GALOP has had a number of callers report that they have been reassured by

arresting police officers that they should simply plead guilty to a byelaw as "it isn't even a criminal record". Whether a conviction for a byelaw offence does constitute a criminal record depends on whether the offence is "recordable" or not for the purposes of the Police National Computer. The exact status of a byelaw offence is disconcertingly unclear - GALOP has experienced some such offences being recorded and some remaining unrecorded.

GALOP has been active in the past year in challenging the use of byelaws which so clearly undermine the civil liberties of gay men.

Firstly, a solicitor who has dealt with many such cases has built up a substantial body of legal arguments suggesting that such byelaws are either invalid or their particular use in cases of alleged indecency in public toilets is inappropriate.

The solicitor states: "Byelaws are made under what is often very detailed enabling legislation laid down by Parliament. Complex procedures have to be followed to ensure that a byelaw is valid. In addition, a byelaw cannot render an offence behaviour which is already proscribed by national law. Careful research has, accordingly, revealed flaws in these byelaws enabling legal challenges to be mounted against them."

At present there is a case before the High Court arguing that the Westminster byelaw referred to above is invalid or "*ultra vires*". A decision is expected in early 1990. Meanwhile other prosecutions under this byelaw have been suspended awaiting the High Court's decision.

Similar arguments against the British Railways Board Byelaws are being prepared arguing that the Railways Board lost jurisdiction over central London stations in the late 1960's with the creation of the London Transport Executive (now London Regional Transport).

A positive consequence of the preparation of these legal arguments are that the legal aid administrators have become more willing to grant legal aid for byelaw cases - accepting that such arguments cannot be presented by an unrepresented defendant.

Secondly, GALOP has approached a number of local authorities and asked them to consider repealing the byelaws, arguing that the proscribed behaviour is already adequately covered by national legislation and highlighting the manner in which byelaws are used to undermine civil liberties.

For the present there is something of a stalemate - the prosecuting authorities continue to use byelaws but their approach has to a certain extent been countered by effective legal argument and effective lobbying.

sexual offences and convictions

MANY MEN WHO CONTACT GALOP ARE CONCERNED ABOUT the effect a conviction for a sexual offence might have on their future. In the vast majority of cases the offences concerned are of a very minor nature. Offences such as gross indecency, importuning and local authority indecency byelaw offences are essentially moral crimes which have no obvious heterosexual equivalents. Such defendants are consenting partners in the 'offence' or are frequently encouraged to commit their crime by agents provocateurs.

Men facing prosecution for indecency crimes are subject to many pressures to plead guilty when they may in fact be innocent. Legal aid may be denied or unavailable and employing a solicitor or barrister can be very expensive. Many men have an understandable fear of publicity, and this is particularly acute if the case drags on. In such circumstances there is an obvious danger that some convictions will be simply wrong.

NOT GUILTY

Where the defendant is acquitted he is, in theory, released without blemish to his character and no repercussions should follow. However the police do retain a record of the defendant kept as 'Criminal Intelligence' which "...may, in exceptional circumstances, be disclosed to [certain] organisations...on the authority of an officer of Assistant Chief Constable rank, or above."

Of course there are circumstances where such a policy is a wise precaution, but there are worrying implications where senior officers hold their own firm views regarding the employment of gay men in schools or in other close contact with children.

GUILTY

Anyone convicted of a sexual offence inevitably faces consequences beyond those imposed by the court as a punishment. Unwelcome publicity may be the most obvious but it is not necessarily the most significant.

Under intergovernmental agreement, the criminal record of a potential visitor to a foreign country can be checked. The American Embassy told GALOP: "...[I]t is possible that a conviction for a sexual offence could render a person ineligible for a visa. All visa applicants are required to disclose all convictions, even those deemed spent."

Many job application forms contain a section asking for

details of convictions. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (ROA) determines the period of time a criminal offender is required to reveal details of his convictions. After this period (which varies according to the severity of the sentence imposed) the conviction is 'spent.'

EXCEPTIONS TO REHABILITATION

However, there are many different groups and organisations which are entitled to investigate the criminal past of an employee or member and in these circumstances there is no period of rehabilitation.

There are three methods which can be used to check the convictions or suitability of a candidate for a job or registration with a professional organisation.

List 99:

The Department of Education and Science (DES) List 99 is a register of those "teachers and other [LEA] staff whose work brings them into regular contact with children or young people under the age of 19" whose employment is prohibited or restricted on the grounds of misconduct. This need not involve a criminal conviction and may only involve "substantiated allegations of misconduct".

DES action for misconduct ranges from the issuing of mild, severe or grave warnings to the partial or total exclusion from "relevant employment." Some of those concerned may later be reinstated after a period of rehabilitation.

The List 99 procedure does enable the person accused of misconduct to make representations and the DES will accept assurances that the offence took place out of working hours, away from work, that no students or adolescents were involved, so that no implications can be drawn as to an individual's suitability. According to the NCCL, "in virtually all such recent cases the DES has not blacklisted."

The DSS Consultancy Service:

The DSS consultancy service is less formal and only of an advisory nature. It operates alongside the other arrangements "for the present" as it "may provide relevant information not available in police records of convictions". It is primarily concerned with people deemed to be unsuitable for employment in the child care field but has no power to prohibit appointments. The individual is informed and has the opportunity to make representations on the matter.

Police Checks:

The police checks procedure allow certain employers direct access to the criminal records of potential employees and student placements (occasionally including criminal intelligence) and details of convictions, bindovers and cautions are released. The volume of work involved has produced problems and lengthy backlogs. The National Association of Volunteer Bureaux (NAVbX) has reported delays of up to five months. The information provided by the police is, in theory,

causes for concern. Firstly, the myth that homosexuals are a natural threat to children still flourishes and the current system allows this prejudice full rein. Convictions for many minor sexual offences of the type described above are no reason in themselves for exclusion from youth work. The experience of GALOP shows many convictions should not be treated as reliable and thus the potential for injustice to be compounded is obvious.

Investigation into the backgrounds of local authority employees does not exhaust the use of the police checks proce-



confidential and after it has served its purpose it should be destroyed - although there have been worrying reports of lapses of confidentiality according to the NAVbX.

CONCLUSIONS

There is obviously a need for a system which ensures that children and other vulnerable groups in society are protected from abuse by their carers, paid or voluntary, and the current procedures partially fulfil this function. But there are many critics, particularly those who have to administer the checks (see NAVbX Police Checks Monitoring Group report *'There is a better way...'* and various local government reports, eg Camden, Haringey).

Seen in the light of the experience of gay men there are many

causes for concern. Firstly, the myth that homosexuals are a natural threat to children still flourishes and the current system allows this prejudice full rein. Convictions for many minor sexual offences of the type described above are no reason in themselves for exclusion from youth work. The experience of GALOP shows many convictions should not be treated as reliable and thus the potential for injustice to be compounded is obvious.

Investigation into the backgrounds of local authority employees does not exhaust the use of the police checks procedure. A whole range of different organisations take advantage of police checks. For many professional organisations any type of conviction can result in disciplinary action or disbarment. Finally, convictions for sexual offences have often resulted, via police tip-offs or press reports, in dismissal from employment even where the convicted man has no access to any vulnerable groups. In these cases it is the prejudice of the employer or the man's colleagues which has been the motivating force.

The issues raised in this article are explored in greater detail in GALOP's forthcoming report "Sexual Offences and the Consequences Beyond Conviction." £2.95 from GALOP.

police operations and accountability

GALOP HAS DETECTED A WORRYING SHIFT IN POLICE TACTICS with respect to the surveillance of well-known cottages* and cruising areas. Although "stakeouts" (generally where two to four police officers keep a public lavatory or other location under continuous surveillance for a two to three week period specifically to arrest men committing sexual 'offences') have occurred in the past there has been a marked increase in this

Kennington, which is in a separate division. He was clearly chosen because of his 'experience' gained in the Wimbledon cases but the decision to move him to a different area must have been taken at a super-divisional or higher level.

Since GALOP's last report stakeouts have occurred, within the London area, at, inter alia, Kennington, Balham, Harrow, Hendon, Hyde Park, Oxford Circus, Green Park and several London stations: Liverpool Street, Victoria, Baker Street and London Bridge. These last four locations are particularly interesting since the operations were mounted by the British Transport Police. Readers of this report may recall that questions were asked in the House of Lords at the beginning of 1989 about the lack of personnel resources within the British Transport Police following two murders at Holborn and Waterloo. At the same time, the Transport Police were devoting officers to surveillance duties at lavatories at Victoria and Baker Street (four at each location).

GALOP considers that these staff allocation decisions need to be exposed to public scrutiny. The police and prosecution authorities constantly justify these operations on the basis that "there have been complaints from members of the public" or because "the public needs to be protected" and yet such complaints never form part of the prosecution case against individual defendants arrested as a result of such operations. (see "Fabrication of Evidence" elsewhere). A large proportion of people living in London will have been the victims of minor crimes such as car theft, vandalism and burglary. These are crimes to which the typical response of the Metropolitan Police is that they do not have the personnel to properly investigate the matter and the victim will be given no more than a Crime Report Number and advice to make an insurance claim. It is likely that many victims of such crimes would be interested, if not perturbed, to learn that the police do have the personnel to carry out lengthy surveillances to detect what are essentially victimless crimes.

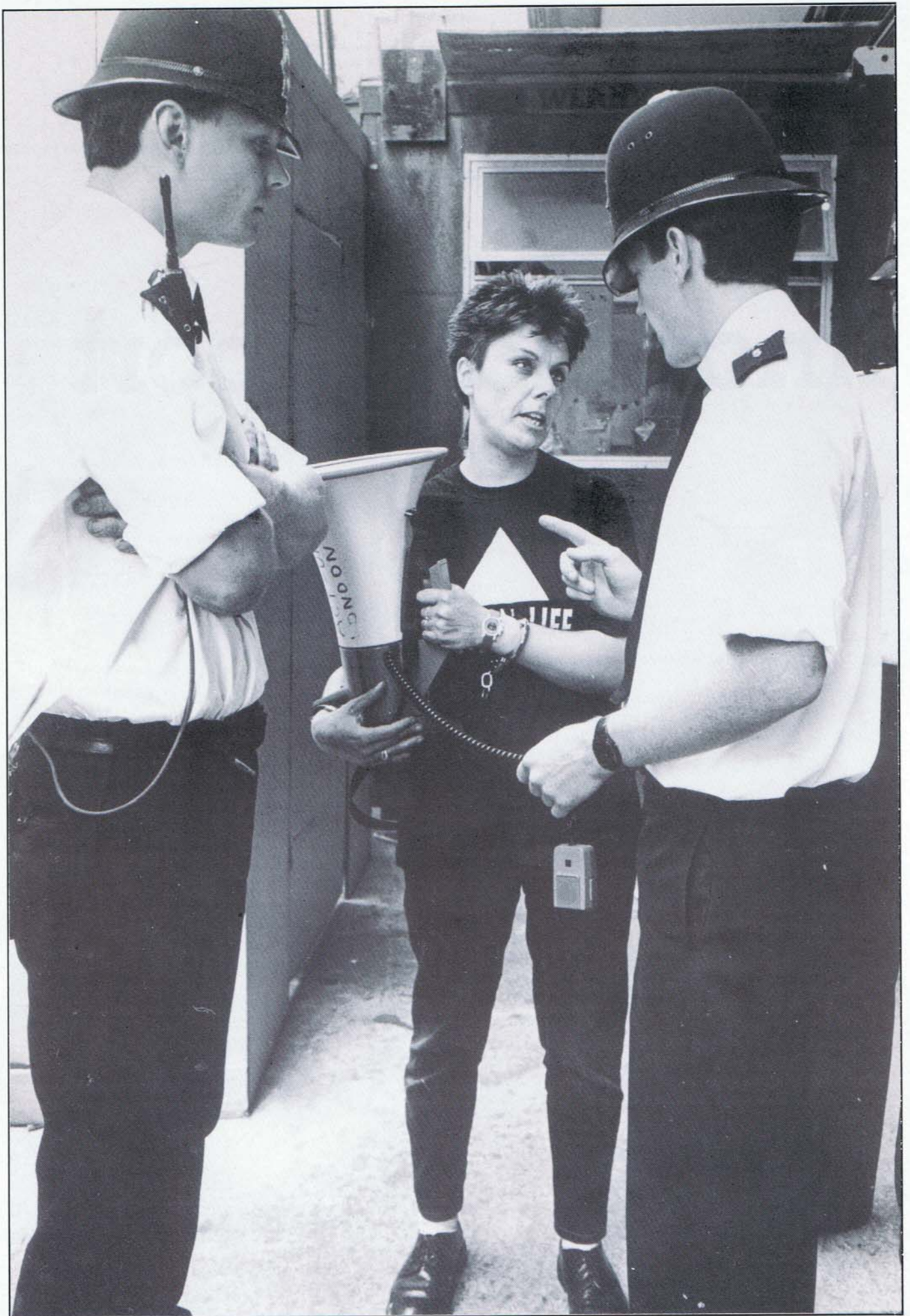
* A slang term for a public lavatory used as a sexual rendezvous.



type of operation since the beginning of 1988. These stakeouts now account for the great majority of arrests for gay sexual offences in London.

The development is disconcerting as it suggests decisions have been taken at a fairly senior level within the Metropolitan Police to dedicate personnel to this type of operation without reference to the public or any controlling authority - which in London is nominally the Home Secretary.

That the necessary decisions have been taken at a high level within the Metropolitan Police seems to be confirmed by a situation which came to GALOP's attention in 1988. At the beginning of that year, the police in Wimbledon mounted an operation at a lavatory in their division which resulted in a substantial number of arrests. The sergeant in charge was later assigned, in July 1988, to take control of a similar operation in



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

financial report

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the group's affairs at 31st March 1989 and of its results for the year ended on that date.

CHALMERS & CO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

17 Charlotte Road
London
EC2A 3PB

4th October 1989

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1989**

	1989	1988
	£	£
INCOME		
Revenue Grant		
London Boroughs		
Grants Scheme	36,762	35,865
Membership	79	-
Publication Sales		
& Miscellaneous		
Income	308	137
	37,149	36,002
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Direct Costs:		
Salaries	24,453	23,276
National Insurance	2,594	2,389
Establishment Expenses:		
Office Rent	2,993	2,643
Insurance	121	75
Repairs & Renewals	6	-
Administration Expenses:		
Travelling & Subsistence	62	284
Volunteers Expenses	-	307
Training Expenses	-	505
Telephone	642	675
Postages	357	508
Stationery & Photocopying	1,602	1,934
Printing & Artwork	1,281	1,964
Sundry Expenses	144	1,128
Publications	481	241
Subscriptions	10	-
Advertising	1,843	488
Donations	-	50
Finance:		
Bank Charges & interest	110	254
Professional:		
Legal & professional	149	-
Audit & Accountancy		
Fee	380	357
Depreciation	34	-
NET DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	53	1,076

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 1989

	1989	1988
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Equipment	3,475	3,441
Less:		
Depreciation &		
Amortisation	3,475	3,441
	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors &		
Prepayments	260	415
Cash at hand & in		
bank	4,981	5,380
	<u>5,241</u>	<u>5,795</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors		
& Bank Overdrafts	2,843	3,344
	<u>2,843</u>	<u>3,344</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,398	2,451
FINANCED BY:		
GENERAL FUND		
Opening Balance	2,451	3,527
Net (Deficit) for		
the year	(53)	(1,076)
	<u>2,398</u>	<u>2,451</u>

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. 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 £2.50 each, inclusive of post and packing.

ANNUAL REPORTS. This is our fifth Annual Report. You can obtain copies of our previous four reports at £1.00 each & 35p postage & packing, and further copies of this report at £1.95 each plus 35p postage & packing.

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 £2.50, inclusive of postage and packing.

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS will include:

A NEW DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE FOR THE POLICE FORCE: a discussion document on the arguments for and against including a new offence of anti-lesbian/anti-gay discrimination in the regulations that govern police behaviour. Copies £2.50, inclusive of postage and packing.

GAY MEN & INDECENCY BYELAWS: a report on the discriminatory use of local authority byelaws against gay men by the police, with a series of policy recommendations. Copies £2.95, inclusive of postage and packing.

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE: some recommendations. A discussion of how the legal apparatus and local authorities might respond to anti-gay violence. Copies £2.95, inclusive of postage and packing

THE EFFECTS OF CONVICTIONS: a guide to the effects a conviction for gross indecency, or other sexual offences, could have on employment, visa applications etc. Copies £2.95, inclusive of postage and packing.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY: a discussion of the current system of accountability, complaints procedure etc. Copies £2.50, inclusive of postage & packing.



PUBLICATIONS

Please send me:

- BUSTCARDS
- GUIDE(S) TO POLICE POWERS & YOUR RIGHTS @ £2.50
- GAY MEN & BINDOVERS @ £2.50
- BULLETIN No. 1
- BULLETIN No. 2
- BULLETIN No. 3
- ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 1 April 1984 @ £1.00
- ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 2 June 1985 @ £1.00
- ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 3 August 1987 @ £1.00
- ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 4 November 1988 £1.00
- ANNUAL REPORT(S) No. 5 November 1989 £1.95

- A NEW DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE @ £2.50 inc. p&p
- GAY MEN & INDECENCY BYELAWS @ £2.95 inc. p&p
- ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE @ £2.95 inc. p&p
- EFFECTS OF CONVICTIONS @ £2.95 inc. p&p
- POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY @ £2.50 inc. p&p

I enclose (fill in as appropriate):

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Membership: £3.50 waged, £1 unwaged.
Affiliation: £12.50

I enclose (fill in as appropriate)

A cheque/PO for £.....
cheques should be made payable to GALOP

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

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

how GALOP can help you



SINCE IT'S FORMATION IN JUNE 1982, GALOP HAS COLLECTED information on the treatment of London's gay male population by London's police forces. 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 more 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 to 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 AND 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 publish occasional papers on different aspects of the law and criminal justice system as it effects gay men. 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 provide briefings for stewards on gay marches.

how you can help GALOP

YOU CAN HELP GALOP BY LETTING US KNOW OF ANY CONTACT

you have had 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 £3.50 for those in employment, £1.50 for un-waged, and entitles you to vote at AGMs, to stand for the management committee, and means you will receive a free copy of the annual report.

GALOP also welcomes affiliations from organisations (£12).

GALOP is currently facing a funding crisis and consequently we are appealing for financial assistance from our supporters. If you can spare a donation please send it; if you can organise a benefit all the better. Telephone GALOP and ask to speak to the fundraising officer for information or assistance.

PLEASE HELP IN ANY WAY YOU CAN

BANK STANDING ORDER

To: _____ Bank plc
_____ Branch
_____ Address
_____ Account Number
_____ Sorting Code

Date19...

Signature _____

In block letters please:

Mr/MsInitials.....

Address _____

Reference Number.....(for office use only)

Please pay

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

for account
GALOP (10756019)

starting (date of first payment)19...

and thereafter on the same day monthly/quarterly/yearly

Now please send this form to:

GALOP, 38, Mount Pleasant, LONDON WC1X 0AP for registration and NOT to your bank.