

1992

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UNWANTED



**SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL HAMES
HEAD OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS SQUAD**

SHATTERED LIVES, OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES, INNOCENT DEATHS

*THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS SQUAD IS NOT MERELY
ENFORCING THE LAW BUT TRYING TO EXTEND CENSORSHIP*

"Operation Spanner" cost an estimated £3 million. It was supposed to target a large-scale vice ring involving snuff videos. In fact, the only result was the conviction of 14 gay men for consensual sexual activities that harmed no one and a legal precedent which now criminalises ordinary sexual behaviour - such as love bites.

The attempt to ban the book "Modern Primitives" failed. However, book shops are now effectively restrained from stocking works dealing with variant sexual practices because the police are using their powers of seizure under the Obscene Publications Act so frequently and indiscriminately.

Media hysteria was created and public attitudes hardened when Hames attacked safer sex educational materials, including "The Gay Man's Guide to Safer Sex". This is a dangerous step towards further restrictive legislation and potentially extends the domain of the "obscene" into essential HIV-prevention information.

The OPS use the threat of prosecution to restrict the free distribution of literature and suppress variant sexual cultures. Their operations feed the media's appetite for scandal, and the resulting moral panic is used to justify their continued existence. Europe survives without these draconian laws.

of
'Outrage's'
leaflet
distributed
at
National
Council of
Women
Meeting
where
Hames
was one
of the
speakers.
(Just
Sister)

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Jim 'Outrage'

This man is guilty of inspiring moral panic - There is no legal confusion over educational films/videos about sexa and health education. All these films are certificated.

Why did your superiors force retraction of your comments on importuning near children's playgrounds? Is this because you have an obsessive interest in child pornography as a cover for your real descriminatory agenda?

As a policeman, why do you not properly assess the evidence? Why should you believe the words of Ted Bundy (a convicted mass murdere and liar, who claimed protection on the grounds that he was a victim of pornography) and dismiss the evidence of the recent Home Office report (the Cumberbach report) that says there is no proven link between pornography and violence?

Is it true that the Obscene Publications Squad will raid the homes of individuals on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations of child pornography? Example: operation Zipper in Brighton where a man's life was ripped apart by a domestic raid and subsequent harrassment - but no evidence was found and an agrieved employee was found to have placed a malicious allegation.

Why do you particularly target individuals of sexual minorities? What proportions of domestic raids are against heterosexuals, homosexuals, and (mre recently) sado masochists?

Why do you raid and intimidate small bookshops and distributors and not larger fish (such as Smiths & Waterstones) who stock much similar material (ie Della Grace's "Love Bites" book of lesbian photography, or "Modern Primitives"? Surely this is political intimidation.

UK already has the most restrictive laws against free speech and free information (including pornography) - how can you claim to be confused about the effective application of these laws.

Why are you here? Why does a public servant spend so much time and resources on public platforms talking pure politics - at such a high cost to the tax payer?

Why did you comment on Hampstead Heath being "colonised by gays"? Your are establishing yourself as a policeman of morality - not of the law. Were you really looking for obscene publications in the shrubbery?

How can you justify your complicity with the Manx Government in their attempts to maintain their illegal legislation (in flagrant breach of European community laws on homosexuality)?

Dear David,
these are some of the questions
we 'fired' at Haines during the Outrage zap.
Best wishes
forwards

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(Back-side)

THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY

The Obscene Publication Squad should not try to change the law or public opinion through their campaigns. Nor should they target the lesbian and gay community. Police regulations state that members of the police force are required to abstain from any activity that is likely to interfere with the impartial discharge of their duties or which is likely to give rise to the impression among members of the public that it may so interfere.

In spite of this, Michael Hames regularly speaks on political platforms such as Mary Whitehouse's National Viewers and Listeners Association, which advocate the extension of censorship and the criminalisation of lesbian and gay imagery.

He and fellow officers gave evidence to the Isle of Man Parliament, almost persuading them to maintain their illegal discriminatory laws against lesbians and gay men. They said that the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK had led to an increase in crime and prostitution, and "no-go areas" for heterosexuals.

BUT THE OBSCENE ABUSE OF POWER

Their operations ruin innocent lives. In Operation Zipper, a Brighton man was raided by 9 officers on an unsubstantiated tip-off. His life was torn apart, but the police found nothing on which to prosecute him. There were 70 such operations in 1991 alone, amounting to a quarter of the OPS's work. In these searches they have even seized items like leather jackets from people's homes.

All this is an arbitrary application of the law to target people innocent of any crime other than offending the sensibilities of a bigoted minority. Today they target gays and lesbians - who knows who they will target next.

We are all members of the community whom the police are obliged to protect. We are part of one society with varying desires and requirements, but with a common right to co-exist.

INFORMATION IS POWER AND IGNORANCE KILLS.

OUTRAGE!

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