

# INCONSISTENT

## LEWD

THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE WITH SEX ON THE BRAIN

Show me  
your nuts.

Huh,  
women!



This Issue:

How to have sex with complete strangers.

How not to let them know you're having sex with them.

How to remove any embarrassing stains.

(Or, if you prefer, the INCONSISTENT Con Book)

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## A HEARTY WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Some things never change - my underwear for a start. Another thing that never changes is the Incons. Like the previous two events we hope we'll be showing you the same zany time with all the fun, excitement (weather permitting) and thrills as always, but with fewer fatalities. However, this Incon has a shadow cast over it because - gulp - it will be the last Incon ever. No more shall we bring you our own brand of madness, so make the most of it. Have a ball.

Some people have mentioned to me after the previous events that we at Incon tend to go on a bit about sex. The question often asked is, "are you obsessed?" In answer I have to say no, just so tragic that we never get any. We do, however, like to hear about other people's experiences. It is good, after all, to get it out in the open. Sadly, my local constabulary have always held a dim view of me doing this and my criminal record is soon to be released in weekly instalments with a free ring binder - which sounds awfully painful to me. So you won't be surprised to learn that there is more sex at Incon 5 - god, I wish we'd thought of using that line in the advertising.

Still, as I was saying, here we jolly well are again. We've spent a lot of time working on this con and we do hope that you have a great time. I know we had fun putting it together.

Goodbye and farewell.

Gary Starr



(SFX: Sniffing and much flapping of waving hankies)

# THE GUILTY

## **Gary Starr - Chair**

Gary is not a Chippendale - he is more your easily stackable cheap white plastic patio furniture commonly seen around bar-b-queues with a can of beer. In a futile attempt to appear younger than he is he frequently uses the word "Cool" to denote that something is funny, good, bad, indifferent - the meaning to be implied from the angle of his eyebrows and the tone of his voice. He is not a Trekkie. Gary is responsible - for everything - it's all his fault, OK?

## **Helen Archer - Programme Co-ordinator**

A hot-blooded Welsh woman who is still on the run for burning holiday homes, Helen has the misfortune of being Gary's woman. She was sucked into this whole SF thing by the horrible coincidence of working with Simo. She has recently given birth to a kitten so please be kind to her in her present condition of starry-eyed freak of nature.

## **M J (Simo) Simpson - Programme Inspiration**

Simo also uses the word "Cool" for similar reasons to Gary, but with slightly less need. He is known for his soft spoken words of wisdom and comfort at all times. A little shy and introverted, he has nevertheless struggled to overcome this handicap by MC-ing all the Incons. He is also a feelthy pro working for SFX, when he can be spared from MacDonalds and his collection of porno mags/videos.

## **A J (Dop) Shepherd - Video Programme & Publications**

Master of Fannish Trivia and owner of many obscure videos, Dop is not Gary Starr's love child. Having done much of the original work on Dave Hodges' computerised "Hitchhikers Guide", Dop is astounded at the monster he helped to create. Once a child of the industrial North, he is now a high flying computer programmer and southern pooker living in Croydon.

## **Julia - Publications & First Aid**

Nubile and sexy with naturally curling unnaturally brown hair, Julia's hobbies are no longer running science fiction conventions, giving up chocolate and vegging out in front of the TV not watching videos on her video recorder that doesn't work. Desperate for a new job she will do almost anything for lots and lots of money so long as it requires very little effort, brainpower or talent.



### **Al - Ops Champion & Partition Wall**

Surprise winner of the Incon 1 Sumo Basho Championship, Al is known for being ridiculously fit and healthy. He likes to stroll into fitness centres, sit next to desperately striving red-faced and gasping people and do twice their speed with apparently no effort whatsoever. Al stands out from the rest of the Committee who are all couch potatoes and much shorter - and ladies, he is single!!

### **Claire - Treasurer & Membership Secretary**

Claire has long hair and blue eyes which have a tendency to pop out on stalks when she is upset by something. She wears her glasses specifically so that she can peer over them at people in an intimidating manner. Her hobbies are counting money and counting money. In her spare time she helps to govern the country.

### **Noel - Tech Ops & Security**

A recent graduate of the Tregenza School of Tact and Diplomacy (Hons), Noel has worked for British Telecom for many years making an avoidance of management training into an art form. He is large and cuddly and refuses to be the Easter Bunny, although he offers to "go at it like a rabbit" with any female who crosses his path.

## **MYSTERY GUEST OF HONOUR**

As usual, Incon continues its nouvelle approach to the Guest of Honour dilemma. There is a GoH - honest - would we lie to you? Your mission, should you wish to undertake it, is to spot who he/she/it is. When you have located the being in question, approach them with a copy of this book clasped firmly in your left hand. Fall to your knees and and kowtow. Shake her/his/its appendage with a firm grasp and announce in loud, clear, bell-like tones "You are the Inconsistent Guest of Honour and I claim my free drink". If you are correct in your guess the Committee will provide you with a free drink. If you are wrong you win the ~~rockery~~ mockery of your peers.

# The Programme!

## PROGRAMME ZIPPY

**Opening Ceremony** - In which everyone is introduced.

**Halloween Party** - Spooky fun and merriment! Featuring: Chris O'Shea and his fun balloon animals (which will then be humanely culled), pork pies in custard and doughnuts on strings - messy fun with Claire and the SFX Bran Tub, full of the stuff the magazine doesn't want to keep.

**Summoning Santa** - Jim and Simo conjure up a typing error using their pentagram processor.

**Confessions** - Jim presents a cross between the Spanish Inquisition and a dodgy Saturday evening game show.

**Easter Church Service** - The Reverend Jim leads our prayers and nails us to a cross. Featuring Salami's last dance.

**Gopher Training** - Simo and Bazooka attempt to make real men out of you (particularly the girlies). Games include: Standing up the music stand; carrying drinks under fire; sorting out Smartie colours; stacking and unstacking chairs and counting higher than two!

**Fuck Off, Mr Chips** - Are schooldays really the best days of your life? Esther, Wag and Heidi debate the point.

**Wom** - Grab your wombat (and indeed your wombles) for the first ever International Wom Tournament. Your umpires: Chris & Jess.

**My Cat's Just Died** - An excuse workshop (or is that "an excuse for a workshop"?) with Gary & Helen.

**Octarine's Last Supper** - Our Lord Frankie and twelve of his disciples point out that Judas didn't have a starter but Matthew had pudding and coffee.

**Biblical Disco** - Appropriate fancy dress encouraged NB There is an absolute ban on any jokes about "moving in a mysterious way". Also featuring *Rob Miller's International Chick-Stamping Frenzy*

**I Wish I Hadn't Said That** - Captain Tactful and the Diplomacy Kid (aka Plum and Noel) discuss foot-in-mouth disease

**St Valentine's Hour** - True love is fostered by the gushingly romantic Helen and Sorensen

**Why We Hate the English** - Bloody foreigners (specifically Helen Meike and Bacon) strike back

**The Ten-Minute Time Machine** - Mike Abbott and Wag discuss what they would do if they could visit the past or the future for a very short period of time. Or something

**Fannish Ashes** - It's back! The annual Octarine -V- ZZ9 team challenge. Your quizmaster, as usual, is Simo. His glamorous scorer is Hillary.

**It's a Terminal Head Injury** - Eddie "Dop" Waring and Stuart "Simo" Hall, assisted by Rob "Rob Miller" Miller lead you in *jeux sans safety helmets*: the sackrace in bin-liners the egg &

chicken race, to determine which really did come first; the always embarrassing Dads' race; tossing condoms of water around; and a special mini-marathon: impersonate Rob Miller!

**Pub Quiz** - Gary asks you questions about pubs.

**What's My Perversion?** - Jim and Simo with a variation on an old TV Show. Watch out for those mimes!

**The Gong Show** - Dop is our very own Chuck Barris, presenting the worst variety acts in fandom!

**Dune or The Sand of Music** - Presented by Reductio Ad Absurdum (ie, Ian Sorensen & Phil Raines). A musical treat not to be missed.

**He's Dead** - Gary and Dop and a load of old Dad's Army videos. Or something.

**Zen Fireworks** - Safer, cheaper and more impressive than real ones.

### **Wheel of Programme:**

*Masonic the Hedgehog* - Frankie rolls up his trouser legs and shakes our hands; *Rollerball Just a Minute* - Simo presents a radically new version of the Radio 4 game show; *Pro-Celeb Ranting* - Filthy pros Simo and Jane Killick have a go at each other; *Fun Things to Do in Zero G* - Gary considers the practicalities of it all; *Gary on the Toilet Part 2* - Gary talks ~~carp~~ crap.

**Sit on My Knee, Little Girl** - Featuring Helen as the little girl and Gary as the accursed accused.

**Roast Turkeys** - DJ Crapmaster Simo presents the worst Christmas non-hits of all time, as well as the ever-popular

Barbara Cartland and Northampton records.

**Stand By For Auction** - Simo persuades you to part with what few pennies you have left.

**Closing Ceremony** - Now go home!

## **GEORGE**

**It's Grim Oop North** - The weekend gets off to a non-controversial start as Dop points out that Southerners water their beer, while Amyl argues that Northerners have ferrets down their trousers.

**Food Plus Sex** - Everyone's favourite equation examined by the delicious Alison and the scrumptious Jess.

**You Sad Bastard** - Pseudonym and John Campbell Rees lead the chorus of *(Sing if You're) Glad To Be Sad*.

**'Ann Summers' Party** - Helen and Jess hand round the catalogues and lead us in some very rude games. Men are allowed to attend.

**Good Sex Rough Guide** - Or the Good Rough Sex Guide, depending on how Bug and Pam are feeling (and, indeed, who they are feeling).

**Dream Demons** - Gary and Hillary examine exactly what does happen if you eat cheese before you go to bed.

**Chocolate Workshop** - In which the lovely Julia will actually show you how to make chockies. Messy - but fun!

**Word Origins** - A look at the roots of language - or possibly the language of roots - with Mike (bad)'Attitude' Abbott and Jane'TV Zone' Killick.

**Redesigning the Human Body** - The human body is a wonderful thing, especially if it belongs to Pam Wells or



Anne Stokes, who will sort out a new anatomy for you (if you're lucky).

**Nostradamus Interpretation** - Exactly what did the Big N mean by "And the goat shall lie down with the wombat?" Ask Jim and Dop.

**Xenophobia For Beginners** - Frankie and Chris, Fandom's two most conciliatory men, point out everything that's wrong with bloody foreigners.

**St David's Hour** - Leeks, daffodils and closed coal mines with Helen, Noel, John Campbell Rees and Rhodri James.

**Bonk & Talk Dirty to Me** - Not nearly as exciting as it sounds (although it may be), this is a session of sexy parlour games with top supermodels Jim and Alison.

**PC Censorship** - It's political correctness gone maaaad! cry Ian Sorensen and Rob Newman.

**What Would You Say to a Little Whine?** - A chance to taste some fine wines (and possibly indulge in old Morecambe & Wise gags) with Claire and Helen.

**Simo's Porn Panel** - Um, Simo watches some porn. And you can too. A chance to watch such classics as "The Madam's Family" and "Quantum Deep". Paper bags not included.

**Whatever Happened to the Likely Sads?** - Two old gits (Plum and Wag to their friends) reminisce about how fandom was all fields when they were lads. Or something.

**Talking Bollocks** - Gary, Dop and Simo will by now be thoroughly arseholed and will witter amusingly about complete rubbish.

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**St Andrew's Hour** - Thistles and kilts ahoy with Ian McSorensen and Fiona McAnderson.

**Alien Abduction Panel** - Gary and Shelley explain what to do if you're abducted by little grey blokes with big slanty eyes.

**Reservoir Cluedo** - Miss "Claire" Scarlet and "Professor" Plum go to work on Tarantino's favourite board game.

**The Internet** - Dop and Martin Easterbrook take a bloody big vacuum cleaner to the World Wide Web.

**Dry T-Shirt Contest** - Design a stylish and fashionable garment under the watchful eyes of Marcus and Anne Stokes.

**New Year Resolutions** - Bug and Chris O'Shea make promises that we know they ain't gonna keep.

**It's Your Round** - The traditional Incon beer tasting with top pissheads Gary and Noel.

**St Patrick's Hour** - Shillelaghs and shamrocks with James Bacon and Jason Joyner. Featuring the infamous Guinness dancing.

**Year of the Wombat Launch Party** - What exactly is the Year of the Wombat? Chris and Jess explain all.

**Coffee Tasting** - Claire grinds the beans to help you get over the wine and beer tastings.

**Crap Ads and Spin-offs** - Dop and Black Panther examine the most useless, pointless and tasteless limits of the advertising and marketing industries.

# HOTEL FACILITIES

For those of you at this year's Eastercon, this hotel is only a three-star hotel and consequently, unlike five-star hotels where everyone is meant to be rich enough to pay room service £2.50 for a cup of coffee, there are tea- and coffee-making facilities in all the bedrooms. There is also a mini-bar in some rooms which is likely to be too expensive for scum like us, so be warned unless you are (a) rich and (b) really desperate for a drink.

## Food

The main restaurant and the Saddle Room are both situated beyond the bar in the opposite direction from most function rooms - to the left of Reception as you walk into the hotel.

**Breakfast** will be served from 8 to 10 am on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and from 7 to 9:30 am for anyone staying until Tuesday.

**Lunch** (cheap and cheerful stuff with a counter service) will be available in the Saddle Room between 12 noon and 2pm.

**Dinner** will be available between 5 and 7 pm.

The hotel have also undertaken to provide some late-night snacks; we can't promise you chip butties at midnight this time, but you won't starve...

There will, of course, be vegetarian options for both lunch and dinner.

## Drink

The bar will open at 11 am every day, and will not close in the afternoon if there are people around who want to drink. I think this means it will not close in the afternoon. It will remain open in the evening/early hours of the morning as long as there are sufficient people wanting drinks sufficiently regularly for it to be easier to have a bar-person than to ask residents to get drinks from the night-porter. The hotel has an entertainment licence until 2 am so you're probably OK till then at any rate. Please note, however, that after normal pub chucking-out time the bar is meant to be a service for residents only; you may be asked to show your keycard which may be a way for those of you staying elsewhere to get bought a lot of drinks

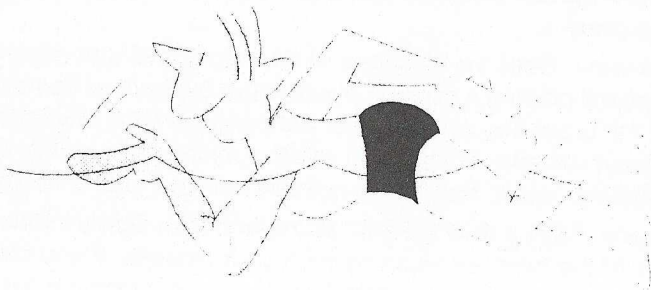


## Leisure Facilities

The hotel has a rather groovy leisure centre across the car park (it's right by the A66 so please wear a towel over your bikini in order to avoid causing road accidents). The leisure centre is available free of charge to all residents of the hotel (you'll need to provide your keycard, and indeed to swap it for a locker key). It is open from 8am to 8pm at weekends, which will probably include Monday as it is a bank holiday, and from 8am to 11pm on other days. There is a swimming pool with a little spa bath thingy, a fairly impressive fitness centre with some fairly impressively fit people (take Al with you to cow them into submission) and some sunbeds (or should this be "a solarium"? Somewhere you can expose yourself to nasty rays of light which make you look like a piece of toast and which can't possibly be good for you, anyway) for which you'll need to pay. Instruction is available for the fitness machines!



The important thing to remember about the leisure centre is that it has a lot of private members who pay for the opportunity to use it and can get pretty pissed off by the hotel guests spoiling the R&R routine. (We can't possibly be worst than the hordes of pre-pubescent boys who were charging about at all hours when we came to the hotel for the run-through, but let's not try to compete with them.) Hotel guests have equal rights with other members to use all the facilities in the leisure centre, but as ever please try not to be an arse; they can't be expected to understand why you want to have such desperate fun, so just look at it from their perspective and only try to drown them if they ask if we all wear pointy ears.

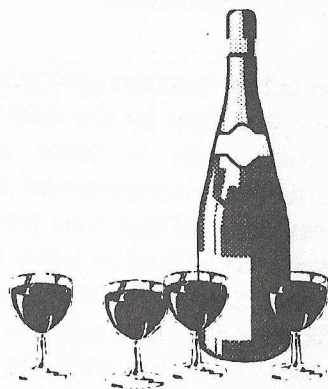


# TASTING

## HOW TO TASTE ANYTHING

1. Put the thing in your mouth
2. Swallow
3. Your taste buds just do it. Amazing, huh?

What? You wanted details?



## HOW TO TASTE WINE

1. Enter room, take card with mystifying boxes and hunt for something to write with. Write your name on the card.
2. Assume a vague air of other-worldliness. Your mind should be on higher things, on the bounteous grape, on the dew-tinged vine in the sunrise, on the earthy peasants squelching about in the vats, and on whether your vocabulary is sufficient to describe the full glories of the nectar you are about to sup. Well, you get the idea. Your mind should not be clearly and unashamedly focussed on where the next drink is coming from; you are, however, allowed these days to admit that you quite like wine, actually. Men may be hearty about their wine-tasting but should also be able to talk bollocks at great length (not something I've ever observed men having a problem with). Women, on the other hand, should be a bit scatty, leaving their minds on a high plane and their umbrella on the bus with the wonder of it all, and breathily excited. Yes, just like Jilly Goolden.
3. Approach the wine with an air of concentration, so as not to disrupt its inimitable psychic aura. Or fall over, assuming you've sampled several before this one.
4. Select your wine. You may make as much of a song and dance about this as you choose, but remember that there are uncouth thirsty people behind you.
5. Let the helpful person who has just given you the wine put something on your card to prove it.
6. Gaze at the wine. Observe its colour. Hold it up to the light, aiming if at all possible to avoid pouring it into you eye or down the back of someone else's neck. Turn the glass this way and that watching the wine shimmer. Groove to the amazing patterns of light and shade running through the liquid as it turns - assuming, again, that this is perhaps not your first drink of the day.
7. Smell the wine. Take a delicate sniff at first and then slowly inhale to let the full flavours of the bouquet wash through your sinuses. If you can breathe more clearly afterwards, check carefully that you are holding a glass of wine

and are not in fact just about to knock back a slug of Vicks Sinex. Do not exhale in a similar gusty way, lest you snot all over the glass. However, exhaling somewhere at this point may be a good idea.

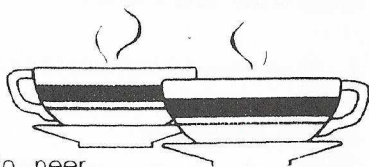
8. Sip the wine delicately. Let a little of it roll over your tongue, savouring the first delicate droplets and continuing to take in the aroma
9. Take a larger sip, letting the full flavour wash over you and enabling you to think up a really excessive and lyrical description of what you've just drunk.
10. Actually, if you were doing this properly, you'd spit it out now. But we know what you're like. Go on, knock it back.
11. Fill in the little card you're bound to lose by the time you've had a few. Write down the country you think the wine comes from, what grape(s) it is, what area/vineyard/vintner/slope it comes from if you want to get really swanky, whether you liked it or not, and any ridiculously flowery phrases with which you wish to describe it.
12. Sluice your glass out with some water (disposing of the water carefully in a bucket afterwards) and, if you like, sip some water and nibble a water biscuit to cleanse your palate.
13. Repeat steps 2 to 12 for other wines
14. When you have sampled all of the wines available, replace your glass on a table, hand your card in to one of the helpful people behind the tables and go on to be cohesive somewhere else in the convention

### Good Words to Use in Wine Tastings

Fruity, flowery, cinnamon, oak, spicy, crisp, jasmine, dew, apple, citrus, smoky, woody, peaty, creamy, burnt, roasted, nutty, grassy, peach, apricot

Poignant, delicate, cultured, happy, bouncy, zingy, sensuous, erotic, exotic, fascinating, wondrous, piquant, risqué, animated, vivacious,

Reminiscent.



### HOW TO TASTE COFFEE

1. Raise yourself from a slumped heap to peer, bleary-eyed, across the room
2. Allow your nose to twitch, grimacing as it sets off your headache again
3. Sniff the air desperately
4. Crawl across the floor to the source of the coffee
5. Whine pathetically until someone gives you a cup of it
6. Add milk and/or sugar if you have no taste or discretion left at all



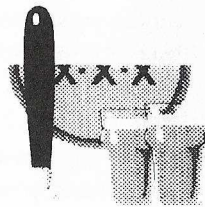
7. Sip, slowly, remembering that coffee is hotter than wine and whatever it was you were drinking last night, and consequently cannot be drunk as quickly.
8. Attempt to locate the card you were given when you arrived, and write down the country you think the coffee came from, any added ingredients to make it taste different, whether you liked it and anything else you can think of.

### **Good Words to Use in Coffee Tasting**

No, it's OK, we don't really expect you to be able to use words in the state you're in

### **HOW TO TASTE BEER**

1. Assume Real Man/Serious Drinker's pose, clasp beer glass firmly in the right hand.
2. Take a hearty swig and smack your lips.
3. Go "Bleugh!" and spit the vile stuff out.
4. Repeat until it finally dawns on you how revolting beer is.



### **Good Words to Use in Beer Tasting**

Ugh, yuck, please give me something else to drink.

Er... maybe you'd better get someone who actually likes beer to write this one.

### **HOW TO TASTE BEER - 2**

Right, ignore all that guff above. This is an event for real people, not those poncy, nose in the air wine types. We don't go in for all that slurping around and spitting good ale all over someone's shoes and the floor. There is only one way to taste ale, and this is it:

1. Delicately fill tankard to brim with the elixir of life.
2. Raise to the sun to take in the delicate texture and thank the lord for inventing hops.
3. Knock it back - preferably in one.
4. Tell your friend it's his/her round and lean against the bar whilst your internal organs do the tasting.
5. Repeat above until rat arsed.
6. Tell everyone in your loudest voice about some embarrassing episode in your life and make them promise not to tell anyone else.
7. Regret doing this for the rest of your life.

Right, I think you've got the hang of it now. Cheers.

## WHAT TO DO IN DARLINGTON - HAWAII OF THE NORTH

Attend Inconsistent – Incon 5. Well, that's about it really.

Okay, I lie. There are lots of things to do around here. There's ... um ... the ~~Trainspotter's~~ Railway Museum and ... um ... the Aysgarth Falls and ... um - look, I didn't want to do this bit, anyway. Someone else was going, I can't possibly repeat it and there's nothing to it really so why don't you just write it yourself. And another nail is hammered into the art of delegation's coffin. So, if you want to know what there is to do in Darlington, use your initiative. There will probably be glossy leaflets in Reception with touched up pictures taken on the one day of the year when the blizzard stopped for long enough to get a clear shot of whatever it is. Consult the staff -

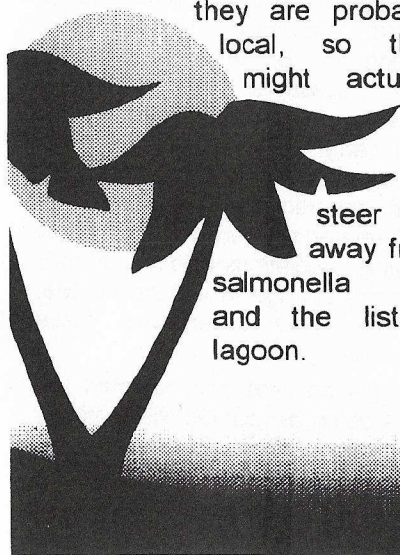
they are probably local, so they might actually

steer you away from salmonella city and the listeria lagoon.

The nearest place with food is just across the A1 (anyone for live action frogger?) where there is a Service Station selling meals and sandwiches. Otherwise, apart from the hotel, you might like to take the bus into Richmond (about 15 minute journey) where nearly every other shop is a pub and there are a number of restaurants.

Cash point machines. There is one at the services. It is a TSB takes-every-type-of-card-except-Lloyds-and-Barclays machine which (be warned) charges you 60p per transaction if you are not with the TSB. Other cash machines are available in Richmond.

There will be some information available in Ops for anyone who wishes to venture forth (bus timetables and a map of Richmond with cash machines marked on it). If you are heading off by car and have some spare seats and a generous nature we would ask you to offer lifts to those less fortunate, but only if you want to.





# CONVENTION CHARITY ACTION AGAINST BREAST CANCER (ABC)

## About ABC

Breast cancer is the main cause of death for young women. Each week over 300 women die from it in Britain. Virtually all breast cancer deaths result from secondary spread of the cancer cells to grow in other parts of the body. This spread, which generally has started before any cancer is detected, is the main problem; if we could control or prevent secondary spread, breast cancer should become a locally treatable disease. This is ABC's objective.

The Breast Cancer Research Group at the Middlesex Hospital in London has been raising money for research since 1988; in 1992 application was made for the Action against Breast Cancer to become a registered charity for the purpose of fund-raising for the Group. ABC was established by Dr Anthony Leatham, senior lecturer in surgery at the Department of Surgery, Middlesex Hospital and his wife Patricia. The President is Sheila Hancock OBE. The charity aims to raise funds for research and also to raise awareness of breast cancer in order to advance education in this area. ABC aims to raise a minimum of £200,000 every year in order to pay salaries and provide essential equipment and consumables (chemicals, test tubes, etc).

To date, ABC have discovered a new group of chemicals (complex sugars) closely connected to the ability of breast cancer cells to spread. They have also found similar chemicals in other cancers. They have started a laboratory, staffed by scientists working on the new

field of glycobiology (the science of how receptors and sugars control cells), specifically to understand and eventually to prevent the secondary spread of breast cancer. Their current work is focussing on two main areas: cancer molecules, where they are analysing new chemicals in cancers removed from patients and trying to induce immunity to specific chemicals in secondary cancer cells and progression; and diet, studying chemicals in food which stimulate or block the growth of cancer cells, which are similar to female sex hormones. They also hope in the future to do more work into the psychosocial factors of breast cancer, looking into the emotional needs of female patients.

## Recent Research

Last year a breast cancer susceptibility gene (BRCA 1) was isolated. Detection of this gene appears linked to a three-fold increased lifetime risk. Screening for BRCA 1 is likely to become available soon, creating significant potential problems; young women carrying this gene should be discouraged from seeking an immediate bilateral mastectomy. The value of having isolated the gene is likely to lie in identifying populations who may benefit from some change in diet or lifestyle, when we know better what these changes should be.

Wearing a bra was also reported last year as being associated with a higher risk of breast cancer. This is intriguing, particularly because of the impressively large study (quoted as 5,000). Unfortunately this has not yet been



scientifically tested, and needs to be externally evaluated by statisticians. Especially considering the, er, pronounced success of the Wonderbra, it remains unclear whether women will prefer to take whatever the risk may prove to be, or to adopt a flatter and squashier silhouette.

Apparently the majority of women with some family history of breast cancer have exaggerated perceptions of their own risk of this disease, and experience excessive anxiety, which could have wide implications when screening for the breast cancer susceptibility gene becomes available. A table based on USA figures for cancer incidence rates in 1987-88 is helpful in seeing the likely present risk and identifying changes in different groups (breast cancer may be commoner in the USA than in the UK:

By age 25: 1 in 1,960

By age 30: 1 in 2,525

By age 35: 1 in 622

By age 40: 1 in 217

By age 45: 1 in 93

By age 50: 1 in 50

By age 55: 1 in 33

By age 60: 1 in 24

By age 65: 1 in 17

By age 70: 1 in 14

By age 75: 1 in 11

By age 80: 1 in 10

By age 85: 1 in 9

Ever: 1 in 8

There has also been some recent research into the connections between X-rays and breast cancer. This risk has been known for many years, and much lower doses are used now than in the past - although there are still apparently very large differences in doses between

hospitals. It seems likely that this risk from X-rays applies particularly to younger breasts, with increasing evidence of risk of an aggressive form of cancer occurring in pre-menopausal women screened by mammography. More research is clearly needed in this area.

### **Why is Inconsistent Supporting ABC?**

We like breasts, on the whole. Those of us who have them rather want to keep them and would like as much as possible to be done not only to prevent the spread of breast cancer into other parts of the body, but to decrease the risk of developing breast cancer and to ensure sensitive and appropriate treatment for those people who do suffer from it. Those of us who don't have breasts (well, alright by this we mean men, and we know they do have breasts, but not generally as noticeably as women) are rather fond of other people's, both generally and specifically. And, of course, men can *get breast cancer too*.

### **Ways in Which You Can Support ABC**

In the first instance, you can put money into our collection boxes at the convention, bid for items in the charity auction, buy raffle tickets and participate in anything else we can think of to raise money for the charity. When you go home, you may wish to continue to support ABC, and can do so in the following ways:

- collect used stamps for them. Stamps should be complete and should have a narrow border of envelope around them. They should be sent to Watling and Cromeeke, 142 King Street Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8PJ. Please mark clearly inside the envelope that these stamps are for Action against Breast Cancer (ABC), and include your own name and address. We would appreciate it if you

would also explain you heard about ABC through Inconsistent.

- send them unwanted petrol coupons, which they can exchange for gifts to use at fund-raising events. These should be sent to ABC, Administrative Office, Fairview, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QJ. Again, we would be grateful if you would explain to them that you heard about the charity at Inconsistent.

- raise money in any other way you consider appropriate. ABC themselves

have a list of nearly 70 ways in which other people have raised money for them, which you may find useful.

### **Ways in Which You Can Help Yourself**

We have included ABC's own material on how to examine your own breasts which, whilst it may not be as much fun as examining someone else's, is likely to be more important in the long run. If you are worried about lumps or other changes in your breasts, consult your doctor.

## **FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF ALL PATRONS**

### **Do's**

Enjoy yourself

Join in the programme

Drink a lot

Eat a lot

Relax

Have desperate fun

Party on, dude

### **Don'ts**

Call me babe (I am not a gallant pig)

Swing from the chandelier (unless you can afford to pay for the damage)

Throw up in the foyer

Hurt yourself

Hurt anyone else - even if they are really asking for it

### **FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT SPELT OUT...**

Don't-be-a-silly-sod-don't-expect-us-to-bail-you-out-of-any-trouble-with-the-hotel-or-civil-or-military-authorities-which-you-have-plainly-brought-on-yourself-and-we-are-not-repeat-not-acting-in-loco-parentis-for-anyone-who-happens-to-be-under-18. So there. Look, just **don't** be an arse, OK?

### **FIRST AID**

There will be first aid cover for the whole weekend (lucky me - on call 24 hours a day). If you sustain an injury in a public area of the hotel, roll about on the floor, thrashing and wheezing and pointing to the afflicted part. This may not cause anyone to summon a first aider, but it will give the rest of us something to laugh about. A first aiders job is to apply plasters and say "there there" in comforting, motherly tones whilst castigating you for being such a daft bugger as to stick your fingers in the socket whilst standing in a pool of water. We are ready for every eventuality. For example, if you decapitate yourself I will stick your head in an ice bucket, apply a pressure bandage to your spurting neck arteries and rush you to the hospital after the usual 2 hour argument over whose car upholstery is to be ruined - in such a situation, even with the wonders of microsurgery, the prognosis will not be good, so I suggest doing your best not to decapitate yourself ... not even a little bit.

If you need a first aider, please contact me, Julia. I'll be around somewhere, quaffing quantities of cider and giggling in a most confidence inspiring manner. If I've gone to bed and it's an emergency, my number will be available from Reception - but it had better be important.