

GAY BOY AND THE SHERIFF

SCOT

WHO DARES WINS MAY 12, 1991 40p



They dance night away in sleazy bar

● THIS is homosexual Stephen Conroy, whose friendship with a sheriff is being investigated by the Serious Crime Squad.

● Conroy, 21, has spent several hours at Police HQ in Edinburgh being questioned about dinner dates with the sheriff and the night they danced at a gay disco.

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SCOT probe the queer case of gay boy and the sheriff

WE DANCED CHEEK TO CHEEK IN DISCO

Cops quiz Stephen over pics

A SHERIFF'S amazing friendship with a young homosexual is being investigated by the Serious Crime Squad, the Sunday Scot can reveal today.

Detectives grilled failed businessman Stephen Conroy, 21, about claims that he had photos which allegedly show the sheriff in a compromising sexual position.

The friendship of the sheriff — who cannot be named for legal reasons — emerged when the Fraud Squad quizzed Conroy after he went bust owing £150,000.

The Lothian and Borders police team — headed by Detective Inspector Ian Irvine — have been ordered not to discuss the case.

Grilling

But after a month-long investigation by the Sunday Scot we can reveal that Conroy was quizzed by police about his ties with the sheriff, which began when he was 16.

During the grilling — which went on for hours at Police HQ in Edinburgh — Conroy was asked about:

- The night he danced cheek to cheek with the sheriff at a gay disco at Edinburgh's Blue Oyster Club.
- The existence of pornographic photo-



POLICE HQ where Stephen was quizzed



COME DANCING...the bar in Edinburgh where they danced

sexual relationship." Designer created Conroy got to know the sheriff through his work with a legal firm, which he joined in 1986.

And their friendship blossomed when they met at the Blue Oyster Club.

Assault

Conroy said: "I was drunk one night celebrating a pal's birthday."

"I recognised the man at the sheriff. I am gay. I have danced with straight and gay people."

"You would have to ask the sheriff what he is. That's his business."

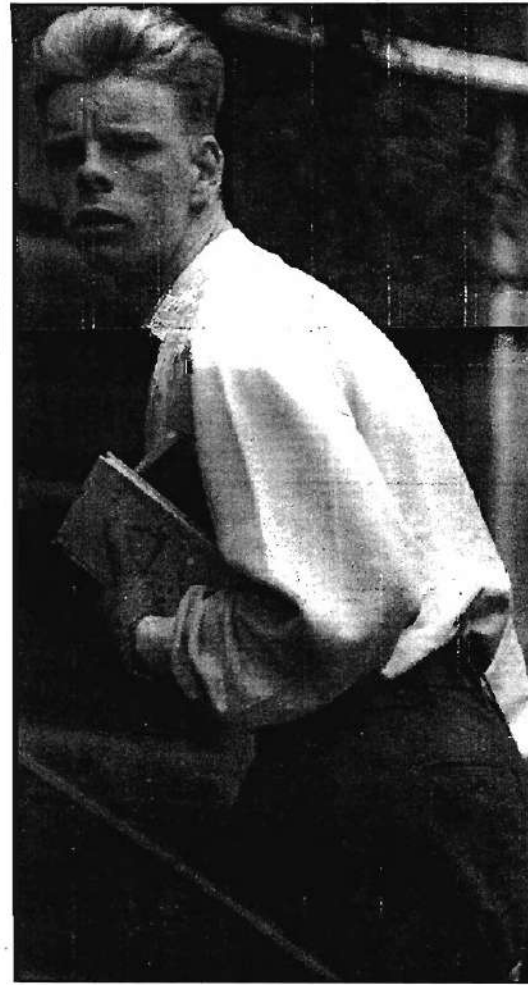
When the Sunday Scot first approached Conroy's home, Darnac Andrew McLoughlan said the 600 sq. Metres later, five policemen arrived in two police cars saying they had been called to a "major assault and disturbance".

The officer said: "We knew why you want to speak to him."

"He won't speak to you. But we'll ask us to find out who you are."

Conroy later agreed to be interviewed — providing no photographs were taken.

He confirmed he had been quizzed initially by the Fraud Squad, but he was later recalled to



QUIZZED...self-confessed homosexual Stephen Conroy

police headquarters in Petter Avenue where an interview was tape recorded with Det. Insp. Irvine.

Conroy added: "My love told me that he was interested in the allegations and the sheriff said which I know nothing of."

Debits

They ran up joint debts of between £150,000 and £200,000, on five mortgages and a business in the city's High Street.

On January 5 this year control of their financial affairs was taken over by Edinburgh Sheriff Court.

Conroy said: "It was not all my debt. I had to save the business when Kevin walked out on me."

Conroy said the ex-partner claimed that "I was interviewed by the police."

"I had never been interviewed, interviewed between me and Irvine."

"Stephen told me about the photograph of the sheriff when I lived with

him. I told the police I had heard about it, but I have not seen one."

"I did see him dancing at the Blue Oyster Club, and he boasted about how friendly he was with the sheriff."

Shaken

"I was interviewed at first by Detective Inspector Mike Soutter of the Fraud Squad."

"They called me back to meet Irvine in interview room 4 at Petter police headquarters."

"He asked me a few answers and asked me who else I had been introduced to through Stephen."

Det. Insp. Irvine was shaken when he asked about the investigation.

He said: "You must realise I cannot talk to you about anybody involved in a case."

Another senior detective added: "We've all been told in no uncertain terms to say nothing."

When we asked if Conroy and Crawford had been quizzed over allegations of mortgage fraud, the official police spokesman said: "We can confirm that there is an ongoing investigation into mortgage fraud."

'The sheriff was well known on gay scene'