

## LONDON DRAG SHOW

### 'REVOLTING'

"Mary", "Grace" and "Lolita" were actually Pete, George, and Eddie (or something like that), so that when Roger Hall, reporting for the 4-4-65 issue of NEWS OF THE WORLD, spied them at the Lord Ranelagh public-house, gyrating about in their best wigs and gowns for the "Queen of the Month" contest, he was shocked into writing:—"This Show Must **NOT** Go On!!!" But it did, for that evening anyway, so Reporter Hall got a brimming eyeful.

"Mary", it seems, was the incumbent Queen, who, according to Hall, clambered aboard a table, sheathed in glittering lame and with a gold-cardboard crown, and "mimed and wriggled his way through a pop-song," after which "Grace" was elected the new "Queen of the Month." "Then," continues Hall, "... came the most nauseating part of all. 'Grace' was crowned by the retiring Queen with the cardboard crown, received a large bouquet of flowers, and was kissed by him. At this point I'd had enough, and escaped into the night air..."

Later, however, he collared the operators of the house, who claimed not to notice anything extra-ordinary about the show—said there had been only one complaint so far, from a man astonished by the

apparition of a 'woman' in 'the gents.' In fact, the manager thought the whole thing "a bit of a giggle." Not so Hall, who says the tavern will "never have my custom, while they continue to offer this outrageous spectacle." The owners, subsequently consulted, are said to have taken a similar view. "We did not know this was going on and we will take steps to stop it immediately," they are quoted as stating. London readers—any more news?

From the pictures accompanying this story, the show may have been a bit crude. There are drag shows in the U.S.A. where wigs are somewhat unconvincing, and where stubbly beards clearly peek through the pancake makeup. But there are others where the drag queen raises 'her' art to a high degree of finesse, and doubtless London can match these also.