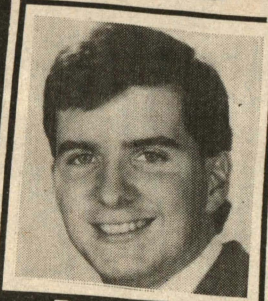


# Gay prostitute opens up his heart to SUNDAY WORLD...



Report by EDDIE ROWLEY

# Why I went

GAY prostitute Michael talked to SUNDAY WORLD this week about his life as one of

Dublin's "Quay Queens".

The 20-year-old revealed how he sold his body and sex services to homosexuals on Dublin's infamous Burgh Quay gay prostitution beat.

## I want a sex-change and

## I want to marry a man

THE petite bleached-blond, known on the Dublin gay scene as "Debbie", revealed to me this week why he's going to London to have a sex-change operation.

Homosexual Michael told me: "I think I'd have a better chance of surviving in this country as a woman and I think I'd make a better woman than a fella".

He plans to take the boat to London, sign on the dole and go on the game in Earl's Court.

He reckons he can have the sex-change operation done through the social welfare in England, but if there is a long waiting list he'll go to a private clinic. "It'll cost me about £2,000", he said.

### Dresses

And he wants to marry a "straight" man. "Yes, I'll like that", he said.

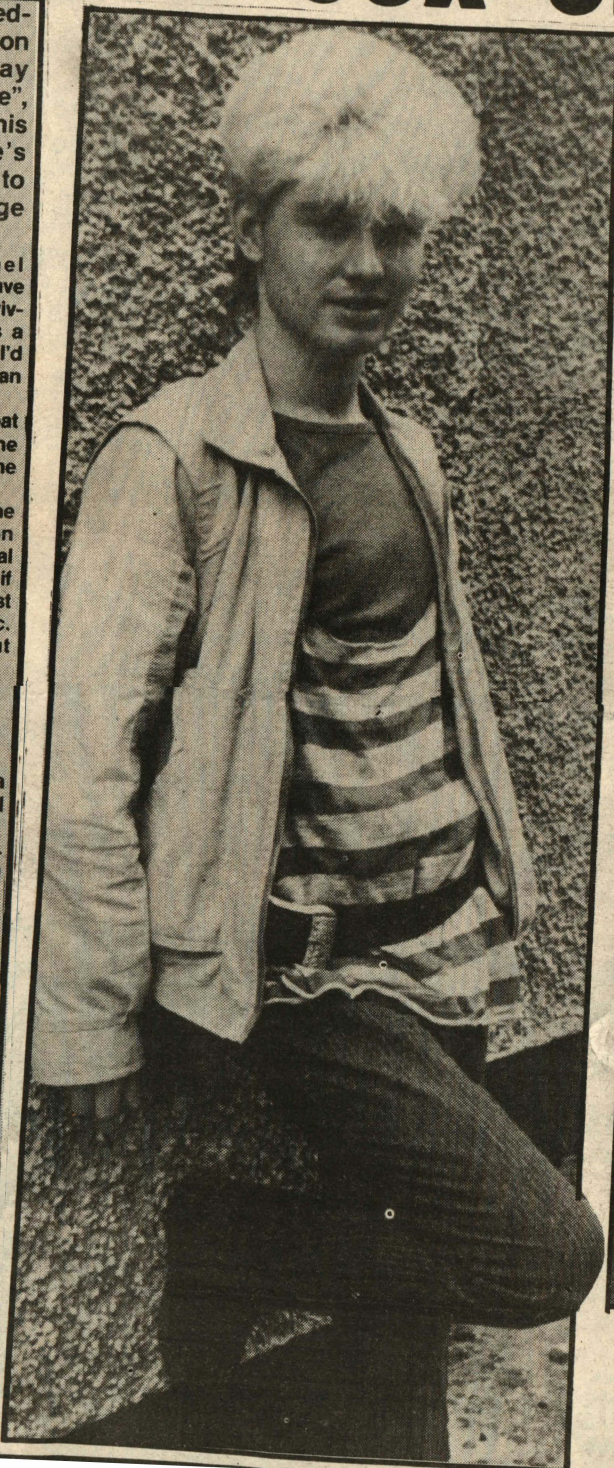
When he puts on his make-up and sexy dresses and hits the pub scene, Michael reckons he turns many a male head.

Said Michael: "I've had fellas lookin' at me sayin' 'Isn't she lovely!'. Little did they bleedin' know it was a fella under the dress.

"I've even had fellas walk me home to the door, just to prove something to myself, and they never copped on that I was a fella.

"Mind you, you'll try your luck with fellas. I've often tried my luck with 'straight' fellas and I'm proud to say I've converted a few".

He says he's often called "Alexis" by his gay friends. "But I'm not A bitch, I'm THE bitch".



• Michael — he reckons he can have a sex-change operation on the dole in London, and then he'd like to marry a man.



• Burgh Quay toilets — the main pick-up point for male prostitutes.

"I became a prostitute to survive; you can't survive on the dole here. But I'm proud of the fact that I've got the guts to go out and be a prostitute," he told me.

A gay transvestite, who is known on the Dublin gay scene as "Debbie", he became a prostitute at the tender age of 15, when he hung around the male loos in Eyre Square, Galway, touting for business.

### Authority

His first forays into the seedy male prostitution racket were during his short-lived term as trainee chef.

"I packed in the chef's course. I just can't take authority," he said.

Soon afterwards Michael made his way up to Dublin and found shelter in a boy's hostel.

A friend, whom he met in the hostel, introduced him

to a gay prostitute.

Said Michael: "He took me down to the gay prostitute's beat in Burgh Quay one night and showed me the ropes. I realised it was easy money.

"I had gone through a number of jobs, including hairdressing, chef work and chair making. But I just couldn't hold down a job, I couldn't settle.

"When I got into the groove on Burgh Quay I was often turning over £700 a week easy. I also started doing the clubs and pubs.

"Prostitution is easy money; you can go out when you like, come in when you like — if you're working for yourself.

"You make a lot of money and your time's your own. And you don't have to do anything if you don't want to do it".

He revealed that he charged the gay punters £50 to £100 to stay the night with them.

"They were usually well-to-do men and they'd take me back to city hotels to spend the night with them. I've stayed in the Gresham, Shelbourne, Jury's, Blooms and the North Star. They've also taken me back to numerous B&B's around town", he said.

### Dangerous

He also offered other services to his male clients. "I did hand jobs and blow jobs at £20 to £30 a trick".

Michael admitted that it was often dangerous. "I've had a knife pulled on me once or twice by clients. You get clients who are not willing to pay for your services. They pick you up, take you off in their car and pull into a secluded spot. But when you ask for the money first they try to get their thrill for nothing.

"I may be small, but don't be deceived — I can handle myself. Anyway, I found it easy enough to fend them off — they don't have much room to manoeuvre in a car."

## The 'quay Queens' and their closet clients

THERE are 14 male prostitutes working on the Burgh Quay gay beat, according to Michael.

"We're known as the 'Quay Queens'," he revealed.

The 'Quay Queens' parade their bodies on the gay beat each night, seeking out the lonely homosexuals from the city and country areas who patrol the area in their cars looking for sex.

Said Michael: "Most of them are 'closets' — gay men who are concealing their homosexuality from their families, friends and colleagues. Some of them are even married.

"And, yes, quite a lot of them are farmers who come up to the city from all parts of the country; men in their 50s and 60s".

The clients are directed in their cars to a secluded area. "Each prostitute has his own laneway and hideout to take a client," he said.

### Attacks

All the male prostitutes, he says, get on well together. "There are so few of us, we stick together" he said.

But Michael revealed that "straights" — heterosexual men — often attack them on their beat.

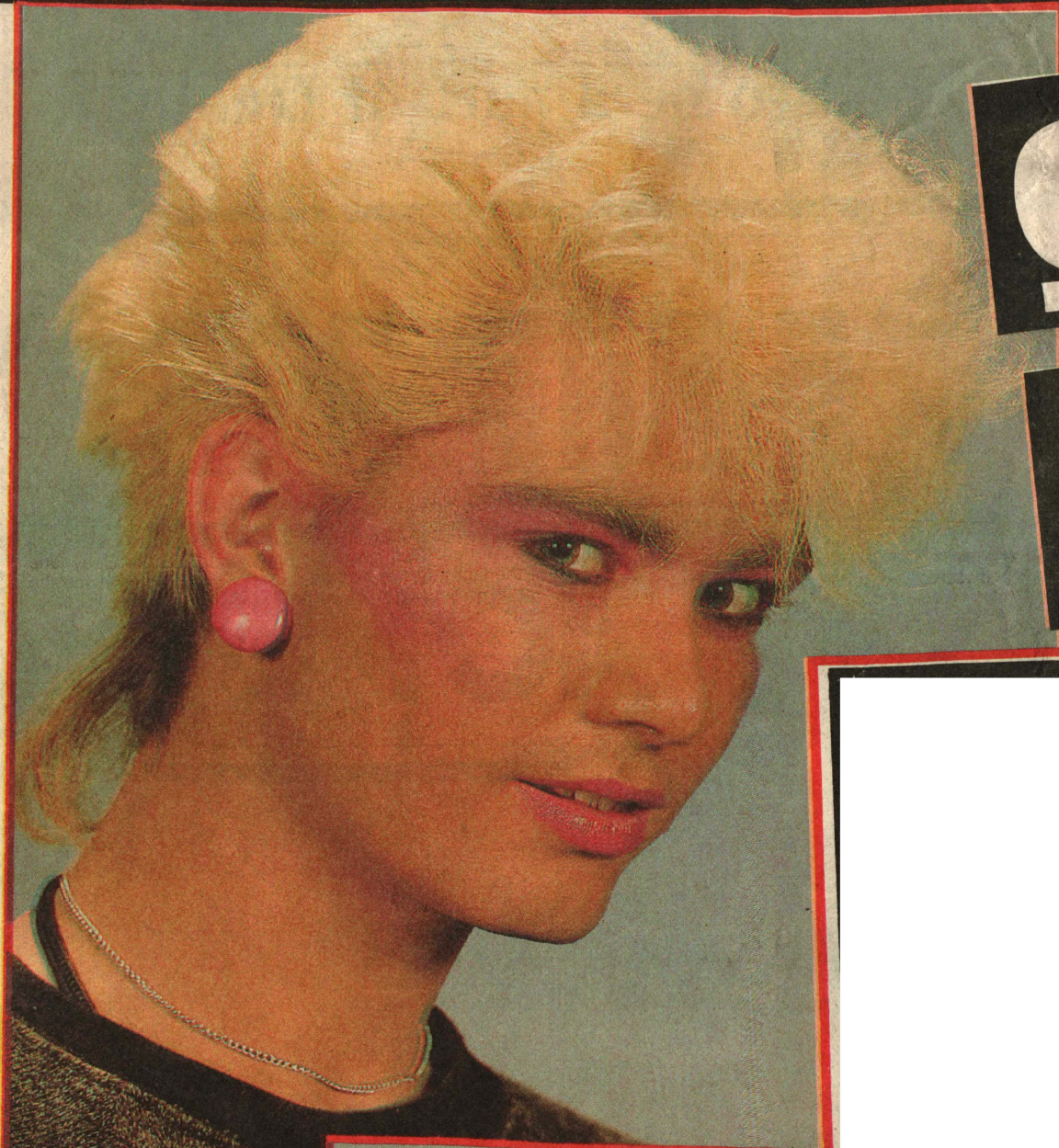
I've had straights coming down and beating me up on Burgh Quay".

He usually starts touting for business at around 9 o'clock in the evening and often stays out until 3 o'clock in the morning. "But I might go to the pub for a few drinks in between".

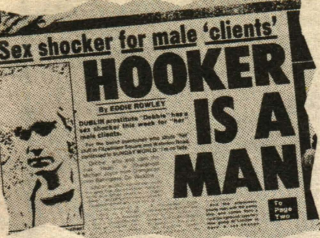
During the day, he says, a number of young boys are on the game at Burgh Quay.

Michael revealed that there's another gay beat at Palmerston Park, Rathgar, "up where Garret FitzGerald lives" and three gay prostitutes are also working in the Phoenix Park.

# on the game



• Michael, alias "Debbie" in his make-up pictured by TOM McELROY.



• Flashback to last week's SUNDAY WORLD Page One.

LAST WEEK in an exclusive story, SUNDAY WORLD revealed the secret life of "Debbie" -- the male prostitute.

We revealed how he worked the massage parlours in the guise of a woman and how he posed as a female prostitute to pick up clients who did not realise they were playing around with a man.

Today "Debbie," alias Michael, lifts the lid on the gay prostitution racket and tells why he wants to be a woman.

• We have agreed to omit Michael's surname at the behest of his family.