

July 75

n o t t i n g h a m

a n d

d e r b y

c h e

C H I M A E R A

EDITORIAL

Now is the time for all good members to book for the 3rd Annual Conference! Sheffield being almost on our doorstep, we have the minimum number of excuses for not going and making Conference '75 a great EVENT. I particularly hope to see most of the women in contact with our group making an effort to get there. The Women's Campaign Committee have ensured that you have more prominence in workshops and discussion groups than ever before; this opportunity is too great to be missed.

The Law Reform Bill presentation has got off to quite a good start, thanks mainly to Richard being prepared to stick his neck out. Radio Nottingham and Radio Trent have given us air time; a small article has appeared in Nottingham Evening Post following a Gay Alliance meeting on the subject and a feature article is due in the Derby Evening Telegraph. From the latter interview we are taking the feature writer to our next Housewives' Register meeting in September. If you want to help CHE with this but don't want to campaign in a radical way, please write to your MP asking him or her to consider giving support to the Bill if it gets before the House. Please let us know if you have written; or, if you don't want your name and address attached to any letters, let us know and we will write for you if you tell us who your MP is. Don't spend a year making this decision, but let us know as soon as possible.

My address remains the same (Wheathills) until the end of August, but Hilary is now at 3, Belmont Road, Kirkby in Ashfield (tel. Mansfield 752909). If you forget this, you can always reach us via the PO Box.

Gay Alliance meetings seem to be doing well. From the first of these Street Theatre was born; having 'done over' Nottingham Festival we have been asked to perform(?) at the next N.A.C. demonstration and also at Sheffield. Plans are also afoot for Goose Fair.

Joining Derby Womens Group in London for the National Abortion Campaign Demonstration in June, we gave our new banner a good public airing. It obviously caught the eye of Gay News, although you have to know Ian and I quite well to recognise us. The anonymous hand on the banner pole belongs to Carole, who really ought to have been in the shot 'cos she did the banner making - both ours and the Women's Group.

I did it today! 'Came out' to my boss! Need I say that she was in a crisis situation herself over a marital disaster. How to choose your moment for instant acceptance!

I seem to have a lot to say this time, but I am delighted to see how many items in this newsletter have been put together by the women. More please; every woman can write and I'd like to have lots of articles to choose from.

Meanwhile,

Love and peace to all,

Heather.

 PROGRAMME

JULYTUESDAY 29th JULY TRIP TO JERUSALEM

The first meeting we held here was found to be very enjoyable so we are repeating the experience. Some of us will be there from about 8 pm. The pub is on Castle Road opposite the People's College at the foot of Nottingham Castle.

AUGUSTWEDNESDAY 6th AUGUST GAY ALLIANCE MEETING

Our People's centre meetings turned into Gay Alliance meetings a couple of months ago, but this is the first time we have had the opportunity to call them that in our programme. These meetings have already initiated several new ventures - you can read about them later in the newsletter. From here on the meetings will be held at 8 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. At the People's Centre, of course, 33, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

FRIDAY 8th AUGUST COFFEE EVENING at BERYL'S

Ring Heather or Ian for directions on how to get there.

MONDAY 11th AUGUST PRE-CONFERENCE CONFERENCE.

Quite a few of the group will be going to the Annual CHE conference in Sheffield. If you are going, come along to this meeting and discuss what your group intends to do about conference proposals, Nottingham Gay Street Theatre, or anything else. If you're not going, come along just for the coffee. 8 pm at Ian and David's, 64, Fabis Drive, Clifton Grove, Nottingham.

THURSDAY 14th AUGUST GARRICK EVENING from 8 pm in DERBY.

The pub is at the corner of Ashbourne Road and Uttoxeter old Road. The Green Lane was not at all popular as an alternative to the Garrick (in fact, after an hour or so, we moved on to the Garrick) So here we are again. An opportunity to demonstrate that GAY DERBY LIVES!

WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST GAY ALLIANCE MEETING

At 8 pm. at the People's Centre (upstairs).

TUESDAY 26th AUGUST TRIP TO JERUSALEM from 8 pm.

The directions are given above.

SEPTEMBERMONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER MANSFIELD/KIRKBY GROUP

As you will read later in the newsletter Hilary and others are trying to initiate meetings for those in this area. Advertisements are being placed locally and in Gay News so if members in this area attend they should see some new faces as well as all those who can travel over from Nottingham and Derby. The meeting will be at 8 pm at Hilary's:- 3, Belmont Road, Kirkby in Ashfield.

 PROGRAMME (Continued)

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER GAY ALLIANCE at 8pm THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE

TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER MEETING

This time a small group of us will be going to speak to the Burton on Trent NHR. If you'd like to come along, give one of the committee a ring.

THURSDAY 11th SEPTEMBER GARRICK EVENING from 8 pm in DERBY.

MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER MEETING.

Chester CHE got a paragraph in Gay News when they actually spoke at an NHR meeting. This is our sixth (with more to follow). Today it's Yoxall (Yoxall? Where's Yoxall? By Sept. 15th we hope to have located the place) Again, if you would like to come along ring one of the committee.

WEDNESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER GAY ALLIANCE at 8 pm PEOPLE'S CENTRE.

SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER CHE'S GENERAL SECRETARY ALAN CLARKE

Will be talking to us at 8 pm, in the Albert Hall Institute, Nottingham. The Institute is that mock-tudor building on the junction of Parliament St., Maid Marian Way and Derby Road. The actual room will be indicated inside the entrance. I expect that most of us will move on to one of the clubs afterwards.

TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER TRIP TO JERUSALEM from 8pm

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 1st OCTOBER GAY ALLIANCE AT 8 pm THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER GAY ALLIANCE DISCO at THE YORKER.

The Yorker is on Mansfield Road, Nottingham, near to the Victoria Centre. The Disco is from 8 pm to 11.45 pm. Tickets are 35p and can be bought in advance at most meetings through August and September though a few will be retained to sell at the door. Please remember that although the disco goes on 'til 11.45, the management of the Yorker are obliged to close their doors to any newcomers at closing time - 10.30.

 Although it's not specifically printed in the programme, we should make it clear that after most Gay Alliance meetings and speaker meetings we move on to a pub or club afterwards.

 We want to have more parties! Is there any raving lunatic who lives not too far out of Nottingham who will allow us to take over his/her place for the evening. A "Yes" will be rewarded with eternal gratitude and bottles of carpet shampoo.

 P.S. NALGAY the NALGO Gay Group are holding a disco at the Yorker on Saturday August 2nd. All group members are invited. Details from Howard, Geoff or Richard - if you can't find them, just turn up.

 EVENTS PAST

It's been a busy, enjoyable and encouraging past couple of months for some of us in little ol' NDCHE (possibly, we believe, the most successful CHE group - up yours, Tel Airs) We've had a lot of fun and I think we've got a lot closer to each other and are working much better together.

Apart from the group events our cats had 12 kittens and Cherry's had 3. They're all beautiful and we have no objection to our kittens being adopted by gays. So if anyone wants a furry little child substitute give us a ring.

Back to business. We did lots of fun things. Dr Martin Haley PhD.(at last) gave a party at which almost everyone got extremely pissed except Heather and I and we found the whole thing very amusing. Thank you, Martin baby, I hope your stair carpet wasn't ruined.

A new pub venue for the group - The Trip - was very successful and is being repeated in future programmes. The Chegay disco, while only attended by about half of our maximum of 100, was much enjoyed by those who turned up. There was a really good, friendly atmosphere. The room at the Yorker was fine and the bar staff very friendly - they even had a bop themselves. The music, courtesy of Mr D.Edgley, was of its usual high standard. Thanks David, for all that work. To those that didn't go you missed a good evening. Come to the next one, we need your money.

Ian, Sue and Poppy won the car rally, beating 5 other cars in the process. I am still amazed by their success, I had my 4p on Cara and Co. It was nice to see lots of people, and particularly lots of women, on the rally who we don't often see at CHE events.

There were lots of not too familiar faces at Ian and David's coffee evening too, plus lots of old faithfuls. A video tape of the World in Action programme on Milton Keynes CHE was shown. It was a good evening, with a choice of entertainment at the end - La Chic or the Brides of Dracula - not a lot of difference in their effects on the nervous system.

Our one and only speaker, Glenys Parry, gave a fascinating talk on Gays and Psychiatry to 18 people - 9 of each, I'm delighted to say. It's a pity everyone didn't hear her because I think it's a very important subject for us all. Glenys told us that treating homosexuals as sick rather than evil was a great and relatively recent liberal step forward! She talked at some length about the campaign within the health service to stop the treatment of gays as sick people in need of a 'cure' and instead to orientate the treatment to helping them to accept their homosexuality as a valid way of life to which no guilt or shame should be attached. We also discussed the fact that Glenys had come out at the interview for her job as a clinical psychologist and how this has had no adverse effect on her job with regard to the attitude of her clients and colleagues. She's by no means the only person to have done so and it seems that coming out at work may well not always have the terrible consequences that many of us envisage. Although at the moment, I think it will always put additional pressure on us.

All this led into a discussion of the situation of gays in the armed forces where discovery results in dismissal and sometimes enforced psychiatric treatment. We are having a further discussion on this subject in the next programme and hope that anyone interested and/or with information on the subject, personal or otherwise, will come along as there are members of the group who are enthusiastic

 EVENTS PAST (Continued)

about doing something to remedy the situation and would like support and information. All in all it was a very rewarding evening with much food for thought and, unlike chartered accountants, not at all boring.

4 of us went on the National Abortion Campaign rally and found a large number of other gays on the march. Ian's article covers this, so I'll shut up about it.

Our NHR talks continue with success and I did one on Battered Wives and got some more dates for CHE including one return visit. Anyone like to come along?

The other great events of the past two months, and I think the most encouraging of all, have been the formation of Nottingham Gay Alliance (comprising CHE, Nottingham GLF which grew out of Gay Soc., Lesbian Liberation and assorted individuals) and the birth of the now famous Gay Street Theatre. The Gay Alliance meetings, held in the People's Centre, have brought together lots of lovely people and, with one exception, have been really good, lively meetings. The one exception was adversely affected by the presence of a bored and embarrassed Evening Post reporter.

The Street Theatre grew very rapidly out of Gay Alliance and so far has made its presence felt twice in Nottingham. We have also been invited to perform at the Sheffield Conference and we have plans to do something on abortion with the Nottingham Women's Liberation Group and also to do something at Goose Fair. The Goose Fair event particularly could do with a lot of support from those not specifically taking part in the theatre itself, as we would like in some way to demonstrate our numbers and state our support of the Law Reform Bill.

Our first appearance transformed 8 of us into Robina Hood and her Gay Folk and we wandered, to the music of a recorder, down to the square for the opening of the festival. There we amused a lot of people, horrified the Robin Hood society, disturbed the police considerably - they eventually told us to go home and put some decent clothes on! We distributed 1,000 leaflets, including ones to the Lord Mayor and HER lady Mayoress! We also managed to get an interview on Radio Nottingham and 8 letters for and 1 against in the Evening Post. On the second occasion a slightly different and larger group handed out 2,000 leaflets on the Victoria Embankment on the night of the firework display and then took La Chic by storm.

Well, we all enjoyed ourselves dressing up outrageously and being very silly. I also felt a great sense of support in all of us going into a potentially hostile situation with only each other to rely on. As a result, I personally, and I suspect that I'm not alone in this, have developed a large amount of respect and affection for my fellow performers and this makes a lot of difference to other events. We'd love to have some new recruits, whether you want to brave the crowds of Nottingham (and you don't have to be brave, believe me) or just help with ideas and preparation.

That's about it. I think things are definitely looking up. If you're just sitting at home reading the newsletter month after month, why not jump in at the deep end and come along and join the fun.

 WOMEN'S NEWS

Due to all sorts of happenings the separate meetings seem to have backslid. Now that we are all more settled I hope we can achieve some continuity. The Green Lane House did not seem at all popular in Derby, so Carole and I are hoping to start regular meetings again when we have moved house at the end of August. This time we shall be on a bus route, which is always a help. Meanwhile, why don't those ladies interested come along to Derby Women's group (Women's Lib NOT Gay Lib, although we know it means the same thing). We now meet every Tuesday 8 pm at Trent Social Club in Charnwood St., having achieved the apparently impossible and been banned from the Green Lane House!

Char's Lesbian Liberation meetings in Nottingham will also be resumed, now that exams are well over. Please phone her (Nottingham 75985) for details of when and where they will happen.

Hilary and Pat, now settled in Kirkby, are hoping to get a similar situation going for people in the Mansfield area. Anyone nearer there than Nottingham, phone Hilary (Mansfield 752909) or write to her via the PO Box and ask for details.

Heather.

 BEFRIENDING

It will always be impossible to hold meetings that everyone in the group can get to (they may be inaccessible for transport or any other reason). It means that for some of our members that even though they belong to CHE, they are still very much on their own and out of touch with others.

To get over this, it has been suggested that we have a group phone and penpal scheme. A list will be got together and sent to everyone on the list with each issue of the newsletter.

If you would like to take part then write to me before the next newsletter. You may give as much or as little information about yourself and your interests as you wish.

Please support the idea and help make it work.

Write to me c/o the P.O.Box. The address is:-

P.O.Box 82,
Nottingham,
NG1 1ET.

Love,

Hilary Stafford.

P.S. Anyone in the MANSFIELD area!

We would like to start some meetings around here if people are sufficiently interested. If you are, please drop me a line via the PO Box. If you can offer any ideas about where or when you would like to meet as well - even better! There are details about a preliminary meeting in the programme.

 THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The following conclusions can be drawn from an analysis of the returns:-

- 1) Members of this group are not very keen on returning questionnaires about CHE. (About 15% of members replied)
- 2) Members of the committee are even less eager to return questionnaires - after all, 1 out of 7 is 14.28%!
- 3) The returns were too few to allow any statistical significance to be placed on the minutiae such as preferences between particular gay clubs and pubs.
- 4) The only general trend that was clearly apparent was that several Derby members were dissatisfied with the Derby meetings. Nearly all of them complained that practically no one turned up to meetings in Derby. Certainly attendance at Derby meetings has been very variable - between 3 and 25 at the Garrick, for example.

We can't force you to turn out, but it is pointless having frequent meetings in Derby as we used to do if no one from Derby is there. As an illustration, I can mention the T.A.O. meeting at the Friend's Meeting House in Derby earlier this year. 18 people attended - an adequate number, though the meeting was interesting enough to deserve far more. Of these 18, 12 were from Nottingham, 4 were (in the words of the questionnaire) 'Other' and 2 were from Derby.

Support the Derby meetings and you will get more Derby meetings to support.

I.B.M.



'Look, Rastus, look—Daddy won't half cop it wearing Mummy's dress while she's up the boozer. . . .'

EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WAY, I'M GETTING LESS AND LESS SEXIST (I HOPE)

Every time I watch a nice pair of tits or a beautiful pair of thighs wandering down the road I realise that I've got a long way to go to overcome my own sexist attitudes. Now sometimes I can fool myself into believing that I'm indulging myself in pure aesthetic pleasure no different from admiring a good painting. But if I'm honest, I know damn fine that where I'd really like to admire those tits and thighs is in bed.

I'm not advocating a grey and dreary situation in which even looking at someone attractive is classified as degradingly treating that person as a sex object. I'm just trying to make myself and the rest of us examine my/our attitudes to the familiar pastime of watching (and possibly fucking) the talent.

Unfortunately, we have all been well and truly conditioned. Our heads have been filled to bursting point with society's beliefs as to what men and women are and are not, do and do not. We have all had defined for us what is and what is not an attractive and fuckable woman/man.

Ideal women have long, shapely legs, flat stomachs, slim waists, firm uplifted breasts, sensuous mouths, straight noses, bedroom eyes (with long lashes to flutter) shiny flowing hair - on their heads of course, the only other permissible hair being pubic and that should not wander up on to the stomach or down on to the thighs. Oh! They also smell of the sea or the nicer smells of the English countryside or lust inspiring perfume - they never, ever smell of themselves.

Men have a little (but not much) more leeway. They can be slim, but not skinny or well built, but not fat. However, slim thighs and nice little buttocks score extra. They can be smooth or hairy bodily (extremes are appreciated) and head hair can be any length as long as it's "well groomed". They can smell of bottled virility or they can smell of themselves (as long as the latter originated very recently). The only real essentials are a big cock, obvious virility, good features and that important element MASCULINITY. A fat wallet helps too.

Youth is essential to both sexes, although some men may get away with mature charm if they happen to possess that last quality, the overweight wallet.

So far 90% of us have had it or rather will never get it and seem doomed to celibacy, masturbation or prostitution. As an alternative, we settle for lesser mortals, but we still keep the ideals in our heads. But we, the 90%, must not be downhearted; we may not make the ideal woman or man physically but we can still make it emotionally. If you're female, passive, illogical, sentimental, impractical, love to be dominated and think the greatest goal in your life is to get married and live for and through your husband and kids. If your happy to hand over many of your legal rights to your husband; give him a licence to beat you (unofficially) and rape you (officially); give up your own name in order to be known as Mrs John Smith by other people and as Mum by Mr John Smith and kids. If you're those things then well done! You're a well adjusted female member of society (but incidentally, according to the shrinks you have all the attributes of a psychologically sick "adult" - perhaps women never grow up).

If you're male, dominant, great decision maker, father-figure, solid as a rock, aggressive, ambitious, practical, protective

 EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WAY..... (Continued)

unsentimental, cool, competitive, just, wise, and superior of course, then you've made it - a real he-man. That is of course, if you've got the right attitude to sex. It's a bit schizophrenic, but you'll work it out: (A) women are to be fucked. ALL women are available to you. If they refuse they're being provocative. Attractive women are on this earth for your pleasure. Have a good time, but don't get involved.

(B) Your wife is there for you to fuck (it's best to get a virgin, so she doesn't know you're not a great lover). She's around to keep you together body and soul. If she so much as looks at another man your rage is perfectly justifiable.

Women, your body is all important, "Keep young and beautiful if you want to be loved". A man whistling at you, a man groping you, a man fucking you is a compliment. Forget your mind, take care of your body - please your man. Fake an orgasm, take care of his ego. Never say no unless it's to get him later because he can't stand the strain of all that lust. But don't say yes because it's immoral, no man wants a woman who's been around. Catch yourself a man, have kids, clean, cook, fuck when he wants to. Stick to your place, it's well defined - let him stick to his. Devote your life to your husband and kids. Support them. Be fulfilled.

Now if only we were all like that we'd have a nice, cosy, safe, stable society. AAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRGGGGG!

As we know, brothers and sisters, we're not all like that. Thank God? It may seem that this is all pretty irrelevant as it's about heterosexuals. What, you may ask (but I hope you don't) has it got to do with gays? Well, the problem is that we, all of us, have got this shit in our heads and it's fucking up our lives as well as theirs. We have got to fight like hell and get this rubbish out of our brains, stamp it into the dust, destroy it and replace it with something which is true for us.

These sexist attitudes are basically untrue for heterosexuals too, but many of them conform to their defined roles never consciously questioning them or recognising the source of their stress, while obediently perpetuating the myths. However, some heterosexuals cannot, or will not, conform. Women in particular are beginning to revolt forcefully having at last recognised to some extent what they are fighting.

We gays are fighting exactly the same thing, but many of us have not yet realised it. A report from an international meeting held in Amsterdam recently found that "The European representatives other than England, saw sexism as the basis of discrimination against gay people and that women's liberation was a prerequisite to gay liberation." I don't believe that law reform will ever solve our problems. Statutory equality is all very well; we may not get arrested, but we'll still be despised, abused, beaten up, subtly discriminated against and oppressed.

Look at our situation now. Lesbians are put down because they are 'unnatural' women. Firstly we don't want a man (positively sacrilegious). Secondly we are (they say) masculine, sexually aggressive, insensitive and totally lacking in maternal feeling - not real women. The latter is absolutely bloody lies. We don't fit into their definition of women, but we are the same in our emotional variations as straight women, we only differ in our sexuality. It's that sexuality, the fact that some of us obviously

 EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WAY..... (Continued)

take sexual initiative (a male preserve) and get sexual satisfaction without there being a cock involved that freaks sexist men. Hence the great myth that all lesbians are either butch or femme and that the butch makes love to her femme with a dildo. I've never even seen a dildo.

Gay men are despised not for wanting other men, but because in doing so they are not masculine - not real men; somewhat feminine, god help them. Fairies, pansies, poofs - gay men are put down because they have actually chosen to be like that despised creature woman. Gay men become, to some, a huge joke (what better put down than derision) To others they are sub-humans, letting the male side down and no good for them to fuck; fit only, and fair game, for bashing.

So the stereotype gays are butch dykes and the queens. They are put down by straights and, god help us, by gays with exactly the same bloody awful attitudes.

Brought up in the belief that all relationships are male/female, gays have unconsciously made that true for themselves as well. Most of us to some extent role play and there are many people heavily into being butch or femme/queen. It's bloody sad. We really have more opportunity than straights of being what we really are, of having equal relationships and it's being thrown away. Look at the way many of us have adapted to society's male-female stereotypes. Femme lesbians and butch men, while unable to conform sexually, conform with a vengeance to the physical and emotional definitions of their sex. Butch lesbians and queens adopt the physical and emotional definitions of the opposite sex. Why is it that they often seem to adopt the worst, most obvious characteristics of those stereotypes? They are the worst lies. Butch gays can be butcher than butch straights and 'feminine' gays are more feminine than most heterosexual women I've met. Why bother brothers and sisters? You're real gays without all that. You're putting yourselves down by despising what you really are. Why adopt the attitudes of the people that despise you? Look at heterosexual society living that life you're trying to copy, they're bloody miserable and unless we try to change their attitude they will never accept us. Forget their stupid rules and make your own. We must look at ourselves and be what we want. We must be ourselves. No one in the world is better or worse than you or me, no matter what sex, sexuality, education, wealth, colour, size of cock or tits or anything else.

We are all people, whether we are women or men; gay or straight; black, yellow, red or white; socio-economic group 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5. And we are all active, passive, dominant, dominated, competitive, unambitious, logical, illogical, sensitive, insensitive, cold, warm, 'masculine', 'feminine' (lets abolish those terms) etc. as the mood takes us.

Many gay men and women, adopting male attitudes, too often fuck bodies, not people. That's what I mean by treating someone as a sex object; not just looking at a nice pair of thighs, but wanting to fuck or fucking that pair of thighs rather than that human being. or one step worse, fucking someone even though you despise them, just because you fancy a fuck - like straight men who fuck 'tarts', gay men who fuck 'stupid little queens' or gay women who fuck gay 'tarts'. It happens the other way too; I and I know I'm not alone in this, used to treat men this way - hating them for the way they

 EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WAY(Continued)

were treating me and playing their game, fucking them and chucking them away. It wasn't worth it for me. All I'm trying to say is fuck who you like but respect them and care for them.

All society is oppressed by sexist definitions of what we should do. Every activity, attitude, almost every last thing is defined in terms of masculine and feminine. All sexist roles are shitty - I'd hate to be a heterosexual male, I'd hate to have to be that much more of a bastard. Some of us are, however, more obviously oppressed than others. We can only change the situation and free ourselves by trying hard to be less sexist and influence those around us to do the same.

Conditioning is hard to exorcise, but if we want to be free to be ourselves (and there's already a lot of space to move into if we take it) we must fight hard against our conditioning and try to find the truth of what we're about, recognise the value of other individuals, find new values for ourselves and live them.

Yours emotionally,

Carole.

P.S. I tried hard not to be patronising or put down any of my gay brothers and sisters with a right-on-er than thou attitude. If that's how it reads to you I'm sorry. It's not intentional.

 WITH LOVE AND KISSES

What's in a kiss? A kiss can be beautiful, tender, seraphic, captivating, voluptuous, sensuous, absorbing, enchanting, ravishing, rapturous, thrilling, ecstatic, abandoned, sobering, magical - it can also be an utter bore if you're not kissing the desired object.

There's the kiss of welcome, the kiss of parting, the long, lingering loving kiss, the mutual, the one-sided, the stolen and so on.

Millions have been made delirious with joy by this kissing; millions have been plunged into utter despair by lack of. But, when you think about it calmly, what, after all is there is a kiss? You pout your lips slightly, part them, touch lips, cheek, neck, or other parts of the anatomy and the job's done. But..... that's when you think about it calmly.

A chap named Haliburton once said: "A kiss fairly electrifies you; it warms your blood and sets your heart a beatin' like a bass drum and makes your eyes twinkle like stars in a frosty night. It ain't a thing ever to be forgot."

Some folks are very particular whom they kiss. Take the example of the distinguished elderly gentleman who honoured his parlourmaid by inviting her into his bed; when afterwards the girl tried to kiss him goodbye, he indignantly forbade her this 'disgusting intimacy'.

How many of us remember our first kiss? A Victorian booklet on Love, Courtship and Marriage recommends that the first kiss should be taken without being asked for and goes on to say that a scuffle sufficient to lend the affair excitement is almost sure to follow.

 LOVE AND KISSES (Continued)

My first kiss was delivered by the head girl at a school rather like St. Trinian's - there was no scuffle but plenty of excitement. She was called Olga: a tall, Nordic type with flashing white teeth and rather penetrating blue eyes. She had obviously done this sort of thing before, but we got rather tangled up in our tennis racquets and I stepped on her boater (a humiliating experience for a 13 year old virgin). From then on I walked around in a trance-like state with Sonnets from the Portuguese tucked under my arm. I was even dropped from my exalted position in the cricket team as wicket keeper because I kept dropping the ball. What did I care about the bloody ball? - I was too busy having an ogle at Olga who took Grecian dancing instead of cricket and could be seen just outside the cricket pitch prancing about in a flimsy, light green garment. Needless to say, I failed my exams that term - and every term after that owing to this preoccupation with kissing (in fact this kissing lark seems to have been my downfall throughout life) - and wanted to commit hara-kari in the loo when Olga went off to university (you'll note that she was a great academic success) but was saved from this ghastly fate by a gentle, delicate nun who became very interested in my charcoal drawings.

There are numerous poems with kissing as the main theme. I seem to remember reading somewhere that D.H. Lawrence disliked kissing and physical contact. You wouldn't think so to judge from his writings. In Lady Chatterley's Lover he gets quite carried away by physical thoughts. And what about Mellors, the hero of L.C.L. making daisy chains and twining them around private parts and sticking tufts of fluffy young oak sprays into navels? One of his kissing poems is written in the daisy chain vein - chains of kisses:

I close your ears with kisses and seal your nostrils
 (He's always bunging up somebody's orifices)
 Round your neck you'll wear - nay, let me work -
 A delicate chain of kisses.
 Like beads they go around, and not one misses
 To touch its fellows on either side.

When he lapses into the vernacular I get a bit confused. I live on the borders of Lawrence country and my neighbours have this same homely speech; but, as I don't often see my neighbours and come from Devon anyway, it's not surprising that I get confused and don't really understand what he's going on about:

Ah wanna kiss thee, tha trembles so!
 Th'art daunted, or summat.
 Tha arena very flig ter go
 Dost want me ter want the again?
 Nay, though, there's hardly owt left o' thee;
 Get up an' go!
 Or dear o'me, say summat (I love that bit)

As far as I know, Frau Frieda was the only female in Lawrence's life. Tommy Lodge, a poet born around 1556 had two women named Phillis, or he dedicated two poems to the same woman. It's called Phillis 2:

 LOVE AND KISSES (Continued)

Love guards the roses of thy lips
 And flies about them like a bee;
 If I approach, he forward skips
 And if I kiss he stingeth me.

The following anonymous poem is about a poor soul who obviously regrets doing what she did, and it all started with a kiss:

But had I wist, before I kist,
 That love had been sae ill to win;
 I had lookt my heart in a case of gowd,
 And pinn'd it with a siller pin.
 And O! if my young babe were born,
 And set upon the nurse's knee,
 And I mysell were dead and gone,
 For a maid again I'll never be.

Providing one feels an attraction, a kiss can have a devastating effect, but the kiss of love - well, that's another matter:

I live all in you and I die without you:
 At your approach my heart beats fast within me:
 A pleasing trembling thrills through all my blood,
 But when you kiss, O! 'tis not to be spoke.

In every grade of society there is kissing. Go where you will, in what country you will, you're certain to find kissing. It pre-existed, still exists and always will exist. So, if you see someone you like a lot, give 'em a kiss and don't worry too much about the scuffle that will ensue - it will only lend enchantment to the affair!

by Aquarius (Inspired by G.P.)

 FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Recently the committee received a request in all seriousness which asked us to suggest a few recipes for a forthcoming CHE cookbook. How about this one for the Annual Conference - it's from ideas for cooking on a large scale by the Western Guides and Outfitters Association.

Elephant stew:-

Cut elephant into bite-sized pieces. This takes about two months. Add enough brown gravy to cover and cook over a kerosene fire at 465°F.
 Serves 3,800.

'Heads it's the chocolate sauce.
 tails it's the gravy!'



 ROLE ME OVER

Perhaps you are as tired as I am of the 'Petticoat Line' style of reporting that accompanies any description of what women do. But consider the reverse:-

TROUSER POWER AT T'MILL

Gordon Bassett, Editor of the Men's column of the Daily Strumpet, reports on the picketting of Cozicoms - the flowered long-johns firm.

It's everybody out and "Needles down, boys!" here at Cozicoms, as this dispute enters its fourth day. Managing director Brenda Von Gallstone still refuses to budge in her veto on the employment of men to work the newly installed Cross Layer Reversing steam shuttle.

To get the Men's angle, I went first to the gentlemen's snug at the Whore's Bed, where a union meeting was in full flow. Tempers were clearly running high as blonde, vivacious Alf Hackforth (23) - known to his workmates as Bubbles - addressed the throng. Sipping elegantly at his Brew XI, Alf declared,

"If women can operate it, so can men! You've all been brainwashed. Twenty years on the crocheting line has addled your brains! Get out there and show those women who wears the tights around here!"

The cheers that followed swiftly gave way to hysterical screams as a file of wives strode in, led by an irate Mrs Ethel Hackforth. With intermittent swipes from her crash helmet, she biffed her husband through the door and into the side-car of her Norton 500, while shouting:-

"Silly bleedin' man, get back to your needles - if you go on meddling with things you don't understand, you'll have another one of your hot flushes!"

At the factory a handful of men were still at their crocheting machines. I spoke to grandfather of three, Bertram Collis (38-38-44).

"Well," said glamorous grandad Bert, "I think it's unnatural. There are some things a man was meant to do and fiddling around with the insides of this new-fangled gadgetry isn't one of 'em. Besides, what if your cufflinks dropped in it?"

But the final word must remain with Ms Von Gallstone as she said:-

"Men! I've just about had my fill - only last week I spent £3,000 bloody quid repairing the damage they did to our canteen floor with their bloody three inch boot studs. If you think I'm letting the ultimate achievement of white-hot technology be cocked up by a bunch of scatty men then, my boy, you can think again. Anyway, they'd only get their moustaches caught in the gears."

 TO ALL CHE MEMBERS

Due to circumstances fast going beyond our control the Committee have been forced to pass these measures:-

EXCESSIVE ABSENCE: Due to the excessive number of absences during the year, it has become necessary to adopt the following rules and new procedures.

1. Sickness No excuse. The Committee will not accept a Doctor's Certificate. If you are able to go to your doctor, you are capable of attending meetings.
2. Death (Your own) This will be accepted as an excuse. The Committee, however, would like at least two weeks notice, since they feel it is your duty to train someone else for your position.
3. Death (Other than your own) This will no longer be accepted as an excuse, since there is nothing else you can do for them, and, henceforth, no time off will be allowed for funerals. However, in case this should cause some hardship to some of our members, you may care to note that on your behalf the Treasurer has a special scheme in conjunction with the local council for lunch-time burials, ensuring that no time is lost from meetings.
4. Leave of Absence for an Operation We wish to discourage any thought you may have of needing an operation. Therefore, in future, no leave of absence will be granted for hospital visits. CHE requires that as long as you are a paid-up member here, you will need all of whatever you already have, and should not consider any of it being removed.
You were engaged for your particular talent with all your working faculties and therefore to have anything removed would mean that the Committee would be getting less than we bargained for.
5. Visits to the toilet We wish to reduce this practice, which takes up far too much working time already. In future all members will go to the toilet in alphabetical order. For example:-
Those with the surname beginning with the letter 'A' will go from 8.00 to 8.05 pm., 'B' from 8.05 to 8.10 pm. and so on.
Those unable to attend at the appropriate time will have to wait until the following day, when their turn will come round again.

You may of course appeal - in triplicate - within two weeks of receiving this notice. All appeals will be heard in due course and summarily dismissed.

Thousands join abortion rally



June 21st and several bodies and banners collect on Derby Bus station for the trip to London and a demonstration by the National Abortion Campaign against the James White 'Abortion (Amendment) Bill. Our CHE members joined Derby Women's Group and others to meet up with around 15,000 more on the Embankment - eager to stroll across Hyde Park for a massive rally.

The march began at 3 pm. We soon learned that we were not the only gay group marching in support, but there weren't many of us. With Carole on one end of the huge banner she had made the night before and me on the other, Heather divided her loyalties and her help between the two of us. Chanting 'Women must decide their fate, not the Church and not the State!' we filed onward past a small counter-demo (S.P.U.C) of about 300 people in Trafalgar Square. Up the Haymarket and into Regent Street, Heather braved the ice cream peddler and risked an overdraft and a slipped disc to revive the rapidly wilting C and me.

Surrounded by an odd assortment of songs and chants, we held the N & D banner provocatively in the face of cameras at all angles - any one of them might have been the People - until we wearily trooped into Hyde Park 4 miles and 2 hours later. Rene Short gave a fine speech and vowed that the work would go on until the Bill was thrown out. Another speaker read out telegrams from all over the world pledging support. However, quote of the day came from a man at the start of the march. As we set off he called "Remember, James White is watching you." I hope you were Mr White. I Think you'll not forget us easily.

Ian.

 SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE by Eleanor Hamilton

"Frequently homosexual girls (more often called lesbians) are girls whose fathers stepped all over their wives and such girls, wanting no such treatment from a man, feel safer with girls, and gravitate to them.(Gravitate!Gravitate!!)

Some boys and girls simply drift into homosexuality for lack of adequate social experience with the opposite sex, a lack largely due to inadequate parental perception of what leads to healthy adult sexuality in other words homosexuality may be the path of least resistance for a shy boy or a shy girl - a path on to which he (or she) stumbles for want of encouragement to try the lesser known and therefore more difficult approach to a person of the opposite sex."

Now before anyone thinks that I am crazy, let me explain that this is a quote from a book I picked up in a local library. The mind absolutely boggles at the rather odd logic behind it. Anyone would think that homosexuality was an easy way out. In short, it is an absolute load of rubbish and one wonders how on earth it ever got printed, let alone on to library shelves for young people. It certainly was not the only one. Dr Spock had some equally strange things to say - for instance, how about this for a definition of deviancy?

"A sexual activity is often called deviant if some other pleasure than intercourse is its chief aim or if it is carried out between two people who are not of opposite sexes or if one partner is a child." "On the other hand, most deviations are only slightly off the usual track and both partners participate willingly." Thanks very much, kind sir. That is really big of you! I'm only slightly off the usual track - whatever that is.

Well here I have the answer to it all. The Cure. (If you aren't a boy or a girl, I cannot guarantee that it will work mind you.) I pray for forgiveness for the length, but it's an absolute gem.

"The best way is for any boy or girl to become UNLOCKED from homosexuality is to give himself or herself many opportunities to improve HIS relationships with the opposite sex. (Strange how 'himself' and 'herself' become 'him') Take pains to seek out tender and sensitive girls (if you are a boy) and thoughtful, kind boys (if you are a girl) and deliberately make efforts to know such persons well.

In the process of re-education (cure, that is) it does not help to deny your true feelings for persons of your own sex. If you steadfastly expand your experience with the other sex, you will find yourself orientated to the other sex (It's as easy as that, folks). Homosexuality will seem immature and less important."(?)

Now we come to the nitty gritty. The penalty if the 'cure' doesn't work.

"Since society itself is on the side of heterosexuality, the rewards are more personal; they are also social. You have more general acceptance, you feel a part of the human race instead of an outcast. You feel more loved."

 SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE (Continued)

It's all there. As a homosexual you will be an unloved rejected outcast. No one will be on your side, if you don't conform. BUT FEAR NOT! "Most homosexually inclined persons can be treated by psychotherapy today, although this was not always so."

If you think you are homosexual to the exclusion of heterosexual interests and activities (means sex, I should think) you would do well to consult a therapist, for while homosexuality is not a disease it is a condition that is likely to isolate you from the vast majority of other people."

This book is sick. If you weren't sure about what it meant to be gay before you read it then you knew after. The odd comments in brackets and in between quotes are mine, incidentally. Few books available are quite so blatant in their discrimination, but the message is clear to anyone who goes to their library for information about homosexuality. It's about time we pressed to have homosexual information written by homosexuals put on to the shelves. After all we are members of the public whom the library service is supposed to serve.

Hilary.

 "EVER SERVE YOU RIGHT"? (Hoffnung)

In recent weeks I have been investigating the provision of books on homosexuality in Notts. public libraries. As you may know, reliable and truthful information about homosexuality in books is a rare thing and librarians, while pretending a knowledge of all things (and all books in their library) are not always in a position to know whether all the information is correct.

Material is purchased for libraries by two basic methods. The first is in response to specific requests from a reader - where the information or novel is considered to be a useful addition, otherwise a book is borrowed through the British Lending Library or the request rejected (eg. in the case of 'light romances' etc) The second is by careful and regular perusal of newly published titles. In this case a librarian from each district looks at the books and prepares to say a few words on each at a meeting of librarians from all the branch libraries in the district. At these meetings the books are discussed and purchased according to the requirements of each library and the readership thereof.

It is appropriate here to consider how a public library sees its function within the community. There are four basic objectives which are widely recognised as helping to fulfill this function - ie. in provision of appropriate materials for education, information, culture, and leisure. How each librarian deals with these in her/his own particular area is up to the individual concerned, except where the activities require a County Council decision. (The hierarchy and politics of a County Council department and the relevant committee procedures are involved and jealously protected processes). This can explain why provision in certain subject areas is inconsistent between libraries within the same County.

There is also the ever present problem of money. This is of course, limited, and the cutbacks in public and educational

 "EVER SERVE YOU RIGHT"? (Continued)

spending will directly affect library stock. It may also be that for the sake of statistics (ie.keeping the County Council, and therefore the public, happy) a librarian will prefer to buy an extra 10 copies of a popular novel or biography and satisfy an overload of requests, rather than a controversial book, which may cause complaints. Yes, this is beginning to stink of censorshit.

No individual is free of this, and the librarian exercises a social and educational function in the application of censorship. Primarily this is to prevent cheap, badly-written and mis-informed material being presented to the public; but no doubt personal, legal, social or cultural motivations intervene, whether consciously or not.

So we come to the provision of material on homosexuality, novels with homosexual themes and other homosexual publications. Firstly, a librarian would want to provide reliable information in the basic subject area (incidentally, homosexuality is usually classified as Sexual Abberations, Sexual Deviations, Socio-sexual problems) and her/his own knowledge may be limited; so reliance will have to be placed on reviews and a quick perusal of the material. This is not always effective, but I have found no instance of downright censorship. Such material will be freely accessible to all public library users (If they dare take the book out under the stoney glare of the assistants eyes!) Secondly there is the provision of material written by and for homosexuals - eg Gay News. The main problem here is that I cannot visualise - with present attitudes (theirs and ours) - gay people coming into libraries and sitting down to leaf through Gay News.

I understand that it was suggested that stickers should be put into library books on homosexuality, or books on aspects of sexuality, which were considered to be mis-informed if not absolutely disgusting. Apart from breaking a bye-law, this is a sure way of antagonising those who will be only too willing to remedy the situation and have the power to do so.

I suggest an alternative. That we get together a list of books and other material which is fairly easily available, and that we, as gay people, can reccommend to librarians as being truthful and reliable. Then by writing to, or arranging an interview with the district librarians, we should present this list in contrast with the books they have within each district (list available by reference to catalogue) knowing why those books are unreliable and giving details, if necessary, of our own list. If this is done - approaching each district at about the same time, and also writing to the Director of Leisure Services, then they at least will have to give us some attention and hopefully public library provision of books on homosexuality will, improve.

Pat

MONEY I must thank those several people who contributed to the group's funds after my appeal last time. That helped pay for our PO Box. Since then bills have continued to flood in so any further donations from anyone else would be very welcome. Send them to Ian Corfield, CHE, P.O.Box 82, Nottingham NG1 1ET.

 DESPERATE STRAIGHTS

"She was doing it unto she; lovely for them but not for me."

So saith Ms Jill Tweedie in the July 14th Guardian. Confessedly one of the desperate straights confronted by the New Lesbian. The different kettle of sex as she puts it and reels off into a fabulous descriptive paragraph about Joans of Arc who have outrun the flames.

Approximately 3,000 words later she concludes that the militancy will turn the New Lesbian into her most dreaded bete noire, a man. She sympathises with poor Kate Millett, in her own assumption, a non-militant lesbian, about the pressure put on her to come out against her will. Yet she says she is filled with respect for any women who have endured the guilt, shame and horrors of being gay. Whether or not Kate Millett was pressured, the final choice was hers and she has come out.

She also thinks the New Lesbian image of militancy will undermine heterosexual women who need support in a difficult battle for equality against men they love - that heterosexual women will feel guilty about the independence from men that the lesbian obviously has. To be a radical feminist one must be lesbian and people are just trying it out because they think they ought (political lesbianism). We have swung from the situation where the lesbians had no place in the women's movement to one where lesbians are the vanguard of the women's movement. This is what Ms Tweedie is trying to say and somehow she considers this militancy a masculine trait.

I agree with her that political lesbianism will oppress women who are already struggling against male oppression. I also think that it will also oppress women who are lesbian simply through sexual orientation. Women who adopt a lesbian lifestyle as a matter of free choice to escape what they believe to be a greater oppression are unlikely ever to understand the situation of women who have no choice in the matter and who live as lesbians because they must - and have probably gone through, or are going through many years of distress and worry before accepting their homosexuality.

But why does Ms Tweedie confuse the issue with her own protestations of heterosexuality and bemused thoughts of breasts bobbling against each other, what turns her on, and how she can't gaze in adoration upon a you-know-what when she has a you-know-what herself.

Hilary.

 COMING OUT IN THE OPEN

In view of the interest shown over the World in Action programme on Veronica Pickles of Milton Keynes CHE, I think a lot of the group will be interested in the articles on the following pages, all of which are taken from the Nursing Times.

 COMING OUT IN THE OPEN (Continued)

The first thing to appear was the following article by Nicholas Bosanquet:-

Veronica Pickles has been in the nursing profession for about 8 years. After training as a student and as a pupil midwife, she now works as a domiciliary midwife in Milton Keynes.

Last autumn Miss Pickles applied to go on a health visiting course at the Milton Keynes College of Education and was accepted. She then asked for secondment and this was granted in February, after a 2-hour interview. The main reason for the long interview was that she had put on her application form under the section on voluntary work that she was ****active** in a local voluntary association of homosexuals in Milton Keynes. She felt that this had given her relevant experience in advising and counselling.

In May Miss Pickles was told that she could no longer be seconded. What had happened in the meanwhile to cause this change of mind? Senior nurses seem to have mainly been worried about a certain amount of local and national publicity which Miss Pickles had received between February and May as leader of the Milton Keynes Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

The area health authority, through its personnel officer, is not willing to comment at present. This is fair enough as Miss Pickles has appealed through the grievance procedure and there is to be a hearing on July 10th. But it is hard to follow the reasoning so far given for the most serious blow to Miss Pickles prospects in nursing, depriving her of an opportunity to increase both her professional skills and her pay by £1,000 a year.

The main reason given for withdrawing the secondment was that the publicity had 'adversely affected' her 'acceptability' as a health visitor in the district. Yet she has continued to practice as a midwife, with virtually no complaints. It is not clear why the authority thought she was still acceptable as a midwife and yet not acceptable as a health visitor. The authority should surely have at least waited to see what the public reaction would have been before jumping to conclusions.

But there are more positive reasons for opposing the authority's action. Many people will find it highly encouraging that a nurse was willing to stand up and be counted in an unpopular cause. Homosexuals - not least young homosexuals - face particular difficulties with themselves, their parents and society.

They often have to face considerable unhappiness. Legal penalties may have been removed, but society in general has little sympathy for homosexuals, whether men or women.

In a reasonable society, a person's homosexuality would be a private matter which would arouse little interest in people who were otherwise inclined. But we are not yet in this reasonable society and there are various special difficulties which homosexuals face.

A group which acts as a meeting point and social centre for homosexuals has an extremely important and worthwhile role to play, and it is greatly to Miss Pickles' credit that she got such a group going in Milton Keynes.

The AHA's objection was not, however, to the group, but to the publicity. But a strong case can be made that publicity of a dignified kind is both necessary and right at the moment.

 COMING OUT IN THE OPEN (Continued)

Any publicity which helps to show that homosexuals are ordinary people doing ordinary jobs, who want to form enduring relationships in their own way, is surely helpful publicity at present.

Homosexuality to the rest of us is a taboo subject which is mainly a source of dirty jokes. This kind of approach represents a great insult to millions of people in Britain alone and it is about time it was challenged once and for all, because it contributes to quite unnecessary amounts of anxiety.

Having seen Miss Pickles on television, read interviews with her and spoken to her at length, I am convinced that she has a serious purpose and has gone about it in a dignified way. I am convinced that senior nurses and officials have made a mistake here. We can only hope that the AHA appeals committee will see the light and quietly change the decision. Miss Pickles deserves congratulation for her willingness to stand up and be counted in an unpopular cause. Is the nursing profession really so rich in independently minded people that it can afford not to use Miss Pickles to the full?

This led to the following correspondence:-

1. I read Nicholas Bosanquets article on the plight of Miss Pickles and I, too, feel that it is time this so-called caring profession came up to date in its attitudes to homosexuality. I am a male homosexual, have the SRN, RMN qualifications and am ambitious. It is because of this latter that I would not dream of telling anyone that I am homosexual, even if I were asked (although probably I would not be since I am not 'obvious') But I have seen men and women who are obviously 'gay' pushed out by my employing AHA. If people who are supposed to care about and understand people do this to fellow humans how is the rest of society going to understand?

2. I cannot agree with Mr Bosanquet's attitude towards the AHA regarding Miss Pickles secondment for health visitor training. I like many others, understand Miss Pickles' way of life and this is entirely her affair. However, it would strike me that Mr Bosanquet does not understand the role of the health visitor and that quite a large proportion of her time is taken up with health education and with the counselling of young people who, at this particular stage in their lives, are very vulnerable. I agree that the profession is indeed short of independently minded people, but surely we are not so short that we have to appoint people to positions of great trust where there are opportunities to influence the young into abnormal sexual relationships which, in later life, may produce much mental torment.

3. A recent World in action programme centred around two articulate and intelligent girls, both nurses, who had the courage and honesty to admit publicly that they were lesbians. One of the girls in the programme had previously been accepted for a place on a health visitor's course. After her picture had appeared in a local paper she received a letter informing her that the decision to accept her had been reversed. Surely the fact that she is homosexual does not affect her capabilities as a nurse? We call the nursing a caring profession, yet the lack of care and consideration shown this girl seems to indicate that we little deserve this title.

 COMING OUT IN THE OPEN (Continued)

We'd like to think that the final cheering note had something to do with the Committee's letter to Barbara Castle in protest - but I would guess that it is a victory for sheer commonsense.

Patient's Association chairman Jean Robinson, a member of Oxford Community Health Council, brought up the matter of the 'civil rights' of health service staff in connection with the case of Veronica Pickles the midwife who has been refused HV training because of publicity she has received as leader of Milton Keynes CHE.

The CHC unanimously agreed that 'rights and working conditions of NHS employees' was part of their job and the Patient's Association is to contact every CHC to make this point. Meanwhile news came through that Miss Pickles has won her appeal. The Buckinghamshire AHA considered the case and decided that Miss Pickles should be sponsored for her training after all; she has accepted the offer and begins training in September.

 FINANCIAL CRISIS

In view of the financial crisis in CHE the following figure may be of interest:-

Population of the country	54,000,000
People aged 65 and over	14,000,000
Balance left to do the work	40,000,000
People aged 18 and under	18,000,000
Balance left to do the work	22,000,000
People working for the Government	9,000,000
Balance left to do the work	13,000,000
People in the armed forces	2,300,000
Balance left to do the work	10,700,000
Local council & Government officials	9,800,000
Balance left to do the work	900,000
People who will not work	888,000
balance left to do the work	12,000
People in prison	11,998
Balance left to do the work	2

You and I must therefore work much harder - especially you, as I'm fed up of running the place on my own.

 THE LAST WORD

HELLO SAILOR! Manuel Moreno was dismissed for using in his lessons literature containing references to his early sea life. (The Grauniad)

MUST TRY HARDER. At the age of 18 all the girls of the Masai Tribe are circumcised. This means that they have their heads shaved and put honey on it.

and

The novices slept between the older monks in order to gain experience.

(Both from 2nd form exams)