

NEWSLETTER FOR THE MANSFIELD, DERBY AND NOTTINGHAM CHE GROUPS.

I find it rather disconcerting that so few people are interested in gay rights - until the time comes when they are confronted with an issue that involves them personally. I would have thought that the long term results of Mary Whitehouse's prosecution of Gay News would be obvious: that if she succeeds she will then try her hand against the gay clubs, CHE, other gay magazines, gay switchboards etc., ALL OF WHICH ARE ILLEGAL if we care to interpret literally the generally neglected minutiae of the law.

We are therefore trying to offer a little help towards GN's legal costs. Derby group have already held a fund raising party. Nottingham group are selling tickets for the Gay News Benefit at La Chic. The Date is Sunday, May 15th and the tickets are £1, all of which goes to GN. We have already sold 40 to people from the Mansfield/Derby/Nottingham groups. Regardless of whether you can actually get along on the night, be prepared to buy a ticket,

David.

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PROGRAMME

NOTTINGHAM

THURSDAY MAY 5th SOCIAL EVENING at TONY'S from 8 pm.

The address is Flat 4, 19 Pelham Crescent, the Park, Nottingham.

WEDNESDAY MAY 11th LA CHIC from 9 pm.

Remember that we meet in the upstairs cocktail lounge.

SUNDAY MAY 15th GAY NEWS BENEFIT EVENING at LA CHIC

Tickets are £1 in advance, slightly more at the door. All the door money goes to GN. NB. the club is open from 7 to 11.30 this evening, but no one will be let in after 10.30pm.

FRIDAY MAY 20th SOCIAL EVENING at RICHARD'S from 8 pm.

The address is 13, Balmoral Road, off Forest Road, Nottingham.

THURSDAY MAY 26th COFFEE AND DISCUSSION at the CVS.

As you know, those on the phones are here from 7 to 10pm. You are welcome to turn up between those times. The address is 31a, Mansfield Road. The buzzer is getting still more temperamental, so you may have to ring it several times.

FRIDAY MAY 27th COACH TRIP TO SHEFFIELD.

Details will be given at the preceding meetings.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1st LA CHIC from 9 pm (See above)

FRIDAY JUNE 10th SOCIAL EVENING at IAN AND DAVID'S from 8pm

The address is 64, Fabis Drive, Clifton Grove, Nottingham.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15th PUB EVENING at the STRATHDON from 8.30pm.

We are going to try this out as an experiment. We will be using Samantha's Bar. You go in the main entrance, take the lift to the 1st floor and the bar is opposite the lift exit. Free peanuts!

FRIDAY JUNE 24th SOCIAL EVENING at ROGERS. from 8 pm.

For those who don't know how to get there, ring one of the Nottingham contact numbers for details.

THURSDAY JUNE 30th COFFEE AND DISCUSSION at the CVS (See above)

SUNDAY JULY 3rd MYSTERY RAMBLE IN DERBYSHIRE (or, if the weather is bad, this will be transmogrified into a trip to York). Meet at the CVS at 9.30 am - leaving at about 10 am. If anyone is interested, names please to Tony or David S. BEFORE JUNE 24th.

WEDNESDAY JULY 6th LA CHIC from 9 pm (See above)

MANSFIELD

EVERY WEDNESDAY Meet in the Lounge Bar of the White Swan in Sutton in Ashfield.

PROGRAMME

DERBY

- SUNDAY MAY 1st MAY DAY CAR RALLY - meet in Markeaton Car Park at 3 pm.
- WEDNESDAY MAY 11th SOCIAL EVENING at the PLAYHOUSE BAR 8.30pm.
- SUNDAY MAY 15th HINGE AND BRACKET are appearing at the Playhouse Starts 8pm. Hilarious entertainment and worth a visit.
- TUESDAY 17th MAY BUSINESS MEETING at CHRIS' at 8 pm.
The address is Rear 25 Shardlow Road, Alvaston.
- WEDNESDAY MAY 25th SOCIAL EVENING at the GARRICK 8.30 onwards.
We are using the Lounge Bar.
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 1st COFFEE EVENING at CHRIS' 8.30pm onwards.
Rear 25 Shardlow Road, Alvaston.
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 8th SOCIAL EVENING at the PLAYHOUSE BAR 8.30 pm.
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 15th SOCIAL EVENING at the GARRICK LOUNGE BAR
from 8.30 pm.
- TUESDAY JUNE 21st BUSINESS MEETING at CHRIS' at 8pm.
Rear 25, Shardlow Road, Alvaston.
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 29th SOCIAL EVENING at the PLAYHOUSE BAR
from 8.30 pm.
- WEDNESDAY JULY 6th COFFEE EVENING at CHRIS' from 8.30 pm.
Rear 25, Shardlow Road, Alvaston.

BURTON ON TRENT

Burton on Trent does exist, it was mentioned in the Domesday book and besides its Statutory Fair held once a year, has been host to 7 fortnightly meetings of CHE, the first of which was held on the 27th January, for members registered at Derby who find extra comradeship meeting closer to home.

At present none of us wish to cut ourselves off from Derby firstly because we like the community spirit, and secondly because we are few in number, although there are sufficient to make worth while the hospitality provided by the evening's host. Anyone wishing to come along must follow the golden rule, contact Derek, TEL: B-O-T 212673, who will tell you when and where the next meeting will take place.

The meetings which have been held on Thursday evenings, have followed a relaxed agenda, the emphasis being friendship and communication, and there should be no reason why this should not continue. For the future we hope to be able to arrange regular meetings at a local pub, coffee evenings etc., but these have yet to be decided upon.

John

CONTACTS

Contacts for the three groups are as follows:-

MANSFIELD

Hilary and Pat. Mansfield 755000

DERBY

CHRIS (Secretary) Rear 25 Shardlow Road, Alvaston, Derby.
The door is in the alley at the back of the shops opposite the Blue Peter.

PHILIP Derby 752260.

NOTTINGHAM

Richard (Convenor) Nottingham 74870
David (Treasurer) Nottingham 216447
Tony (Social Organiser) Nottingham 49137
Howard (Political Activities) Nottingham 600266
Bob (Gay Switchboard Coordinator)

The publishable address for the Nottingham Group is:-

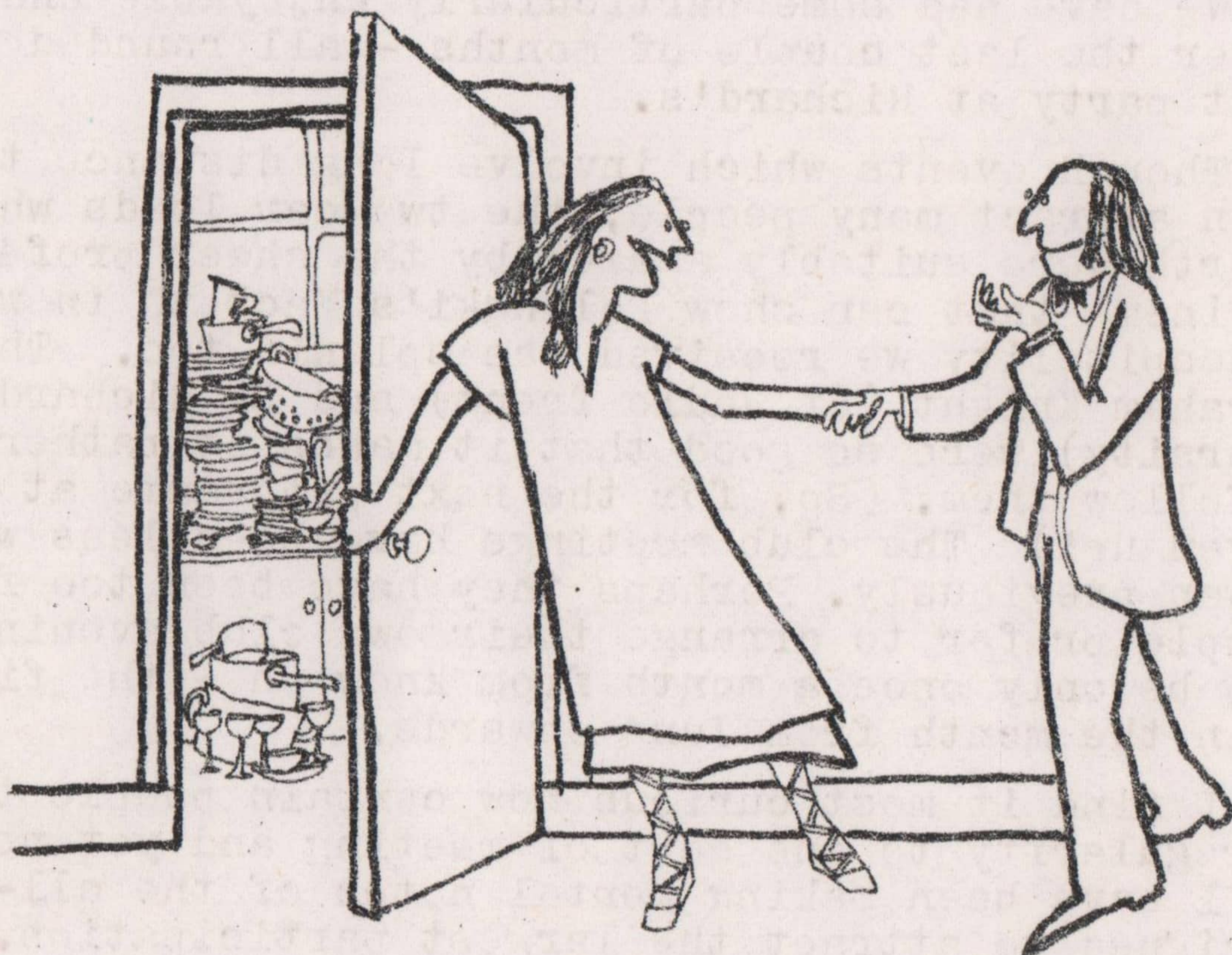
Nottingham CHE, c/o 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

The Gay Switchboard operates from the above address every MONDAY and THURSDAY from 7-10pm. We now have a new phone number

NOTTINGHAM 46881

N.B. The next CHE National Council is on June 18th in Preston. Details will be discussed at future meetings. A few people from the group usually attend these events and if enough people go to make sure that the numbers are equivalent to car-fulls it helps to reduce everyone's expense and liven the boredom of the journey.

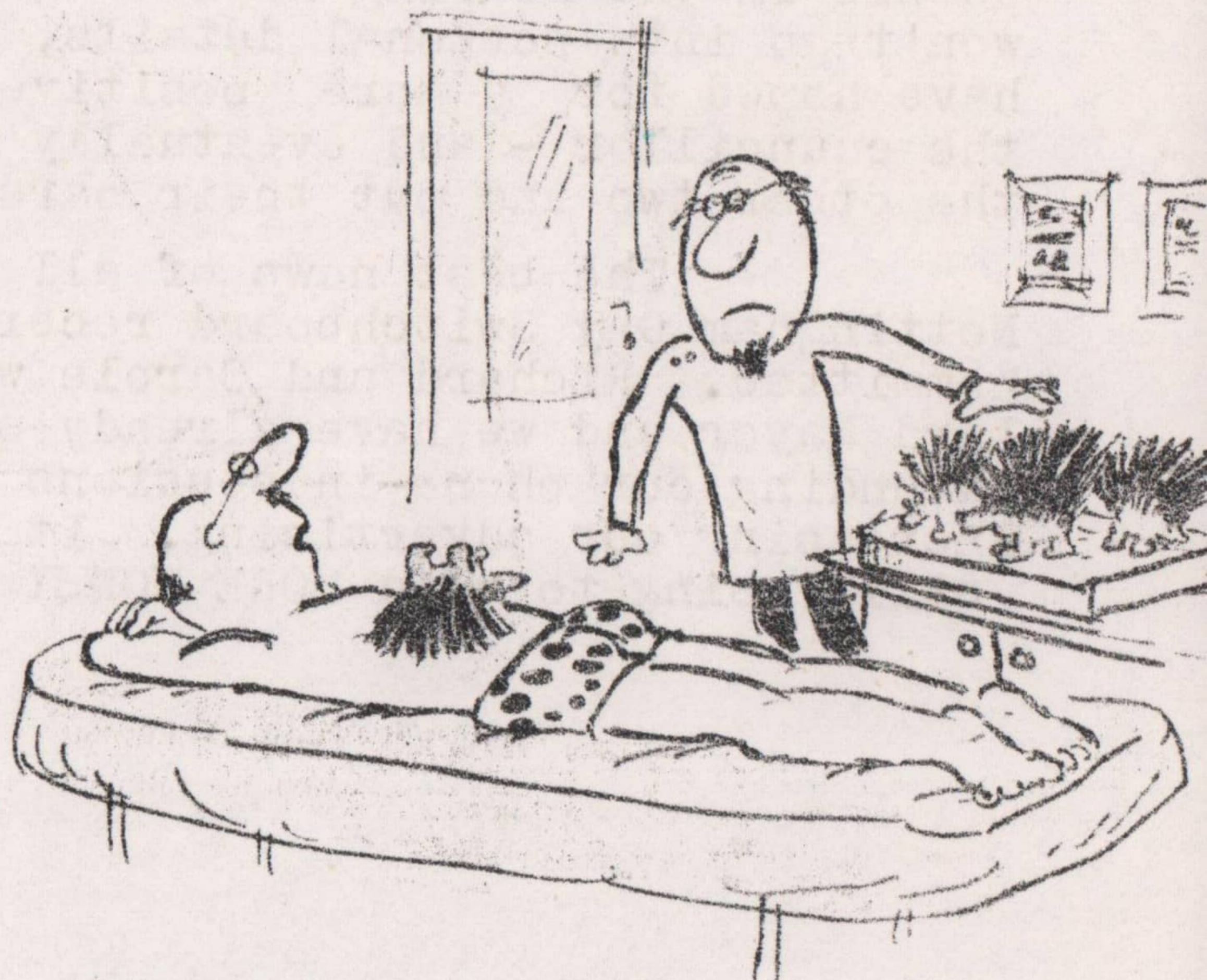
Bad editing has left me with a space to fill. I'm not used to this - it's quite traumatic. What ever could be used to fill a blsnk space? Think! A hot-air balloon in the shape of Margaret Thatcher? 30,000 sugar mice? A 20 foot high model of Pope Paul in green blancmange? Really, I don't know why I am wasting my time with such speculations - which are both impractical and unnecessary as I can always fall back on my amateur typists last resort, which, of course, is yet another row of asterisks.



"I've got a tremendously interesting tactile experience for you . . ."



"A basic sum not in breach of Phase Two, plus a retrospective differential mark-up to be negotiated—or your lives."



"Excuse me asking, but where did you study acupuncture?"

 WHAT HAPPENED

NOTTINGHAM

We have had some particularly enjoyable and interesting meetings over the last couple of months - all rounded off by an excellent party at Richard's.

Though events which involve long distance travelling cannot often attract many people, the two car loads who went down to Lutterworth were suitably amazed by the sheer professionalism of a home cinema that can show Polanski's Macbeth in wide-screen 35mm. The hospitality we received was splendid too. The talks given by Graham Knight (of Radio Trent) and Dr Richard Dyer (of Keele University) were so good that it makes it rather difficult for us to follow them. (So, for the next programme at least, we have given up!) The club meetings have been less well attended than previously. Perhaps they have been too frequent; perhaps people prefer to arrange their own club evenings. Anyway, they are to be only once a month from now on - the first Wednesday in the month from June onwards.

I find it most curious how certain people turn up with clockwork regularity to one sort of meeting and yet never appear at others. I have been making mental notes of the all-purpose meeting designed to attract the largest participation. I think that this would involve a Business Disco on ice, with soup, vicars and Shostakovitch.

You may have seen a splash about 'No problems here' in Gay News, which referred to our conversations with Notts Police, who said that there had been no prosecutions for 'cottaging' in central Nottingham. GN printed it as plain 'Nottingham' and later produced a minuscule correction when we asked them to be more precise. This was emphasised only last week when we received a request for help from someone who had be 'done' for 'cottaging' on Carlton Road.

The liason which we established with the Police a few months ago has already been tested out. We were contacted by someone whose flat was being vandalised and the vandalism was directed at him because he was gay. We contacted the police, people in the Housing Department and the local councillor. I won't go into personal details, but simply say that we could not have hoped for a more positive response from the Police and the councillor - and eventually from the Housing Department after the other two had put their oars in.

The best news of all was the cheque for £100 which the Nottingham Gay Switchboard received from the Nottingham Karnival Kommittee. Richard and Carole were handed the cheque by the Lord Mayor and we have already started to put it to use by extending our phone-in sessions to a second night a week and by increasing our advertising. It goes without saying that we are still going to need MORE MONEY in the medium term.

David (Nottingham)

 THE DOMESTIC FRONT

About two weeks before the deadline for the newsletter I start thinking that I really ought to try and do something; at about the same time my brain seems to go numb and inspiration is stone cold dead. For what you are all about to receive my the Lord give you the strenght to reach the end.

On the domestic front the house has been getting a face lift; major alterations ceased with the new window in the front room and since then we have been painting downstairs and removing the odd old shelf. The passing of the old sash window wasn't with any tears or feelings of regret. One of the previous owners had long since painted it up beyond any unsealing and opening. It was hardly surprising that the floor had gone rotten; the only ventilation being through the letter box and in gales when we had visitors. We were without curtains and a few strips of wallpaper for a few weeks but as we are not used to leaping around in the altogether in the front room I guess it didn't matter (with the drafts and my bad back too.....) The crunch came when we decided to have a party on Good Friday. Pat had bought a Black and Decker drill; the plan being that I should use it to put up a new curtain rail for starters. Now Pat and things electrical don't get on. I'm sure she had visions of it roaring into life and undoing the composure, so rather than take any risks I accepted the role of drill-user. That was until I climbed on the chair and realised I couldn't reach the top of the window. Pat would have to do it.. Fortified with a bag of pear drops and a cup of tea she climbed up to drill at arms length. The curtains are up and Pat still does not like electric drills.

The next planned job is some new shelving. However before that could go up the old one would have to go. It would be hard to imagine a simpler job, but whoever put up the shelf meant it to stay for posterity. The job began in one of Pat's impulsive moments and I disappeared upstairs out of the way. After five or so minutes, Pat's voice fair wailed up the stairway "Love... I think you ought to come and look at this." I knew something was wrong, it was just how wrong that worried me as I dropped whatever I was doing and went to investigate. Pat was standing in the middle of the living room looking deathly pale and helpless. Where the shelf had been was now a gaping hole about two feet square; the wallpaper just managing to hold together two feet square of broken plaster. Once that was cleared out we were down to the bricks with a plastering job on our hands. Now we had had a professional builder in to do some plastering before and while he had been chattering away I had been carefully watching how it was done. (Either natural curiosity or just the Jew in me..... those who know me can decide which). Pat was planning to go to the DIY warehouse in Kirkby when I remembered that the firm that did the front window did plastering and they were only 50 yards down the street. Bag of plaster for 20p and we were away. I I say so myself Pat did a good job. I'd make a bloody good foreman too.

The week Pat chose to decorate I was struck down with a bout of lethargy. I managed one wall and gave up. The day I did the skirting boards and paintwork Pat went out. The room looks very good but I've yet to get around to the gloss coat.

 THE DOMESTIC FRONT (Continued)

The party was something of a celebration, a ceremonial opening if you like, and naturally hardly a soul noticed. The morning after, the neighbours were in a very threatening state of mind. We had considered ourselves very good about finishing the music (loud) at an early hour and relaxing to Ella Fitzgerald for the whole of the Cole Porter song book. Obviously it wasn't early enough for them and the language floating across our garden was a sight more colourful than I felt at the time. We put our coats on and went for a drink. By Sunday morning we had fully recovered and spent a lazy day watching TV. Maybe others watched the epic "Jesus of Nazareth"? Afterwards we very righteously went out for a drink to the Badger Box. Anne had arrived not long before us feeling equally choked and was promising herself a brandy. She had been talking about it to the bar maid - Jesus of Nazareth that is - and told us the next gem.

Barmaid: "I was watching it till 8 o'clock. How did it end?"

After that, what can you say? Pat's mum came over for dinner tonight and the TV has packed up. I know it's only habit, but from time to time I can't help but look over at the blank screen. Pat is imbuing herself with Family LPs and staring at the pretty patterns made by the disco projector on the front room wall; the cats realised it was a con and got bored a half hour ago. No doubt we will shortly be going out for a drink.

Hilary (Mansfield)

 GIVE US A RING

Encouraged by the last issue of the newsletter I thought I would offer some assistance to the Switchboard and though it's a change of scenery and a chance to meet one or two people, I have to say I find those evenings for the most part excruciating. Before I say more, this isn't so much the people there as the fact that for everyone, except those answering the phone, there isn't anything to do but sit. Three hours is like detention in school! What I would like to suggest is that the people answering the phone be able to do it without a room full of others listening and those who come up for a bit of company or waiting to do their bit answering go and sit in the coffee room. The reasons why are probably obvious.

Though this is a personal view, I find it hard to answer a phone call with other people there; a room full that is. Also to be considered is confidentiality for the caller and for the person taking the call. This is very important because although the majority of calls want only basic 'where to go' information, some really need to talk over their problems in some detail. It may indeed be the first time the person has spoken to anyone, and let's face it, the listening company can soon piece together the content of the call from the replies given by the person taking the call.

 GIVE US A RING (Continued)

The caller is not to know this except if he/she actually comes to the CVS to see someone and then it could be quite shock to discover others know. There may come a point when the person may not care and wants to talk with other people but that should be their decision. From the point of view of the person taking the call it is not easy to give 'intimate' or personal advice about sex for instance or involved problems with others listening. We don't expect callers to the CVS in person to discuss anything with a room full of people so can we give the people phoning the same privacy?

For those who like to come up there for some company or whatever the reason, it might be a good idea to have small discussion groups in the coffee room. There a plenty of topics that we could talk about relating to being gay; not only would this help spread information but would make the Switchboard into a supportive and ongoing experience for new people who have got past the initial stage of contact. Another thing it would be useful for is discussing the types of phone calls, particularly where they are difficult, so that other people can learn from experience. This is particularly relevant to anyone thinking of going on the answering rota. The people answering need support too and after a trying caller it is a good idea to talk it out over a cup of coffee away from the phone.

I would be interested in what others think about this and perhaps we can make it the first point of discussion; types of calls and confidentiality. I have amassed a fair bit of information on befriending and it is a crying shame not to make use of it with the Switchboard service. If anyone is interested to try this out, then I'll go ahead and duplicate some of it.

In the meantime I will sit and theorise as to why so few calls are coming in from women!

Hilary (Mansfield)

Hilary's article has crystallised what several people have been considering for a couple of months - in fact we started to put these ideas into practice when she called in at the CVS last Thursday. If there are enough people at the CVS who aren't on the phone rota for that evening, then we intend to take over another room for coffee and discussion.

On a trial basis we have put a couple of Thursday CVS evenings in the Nottingham programme and we will see how things develop from there.

One most important point. The numbers of people at the CVS on the Switchboard evenings (including people on the phone, helpers and visitors) is often in double figures. In these days of the 20p coffee bean, 2 cups of coffee for everyone means that we are running up large bills. You have been warned! Prepare to be charged a few pence for coffee from now on.

David (Nottingham)

 NOTTINGHAM'S YEAR

For the past few years we have produced a summary of the 'campaigning' activities of the local CHE group to coincide with the group's AGM. I expect that the following list is incomplete, but it will give you some idea of what we have done between April 1976 and April 1977.

Various members of the group have been involved in speaking to the following:-

- Postgraduate GPs at the City Hospital.
- The leader of the County Council.
- Nottingham Samaritans.
- Mansfield Samaritans.
- Nottingham Marriage Guidance.
- An N.U.T. Group.
- Representatives of Notts Police.

We have had 3 or 4 brief mentions on local radio and 2 full-scale programmes:-

- A 1½ hour phone-in on Radio Trent.
- A 15 minute 'Open Air' programme on radio Nottingham, made entirely by the group.

Miscellaneous outraged blasts have taken the form of letters to newspapers, MPs and a chain phone-in protest when the BBC cancelled a programme on Lesbians.

Early last year we became fully affiliated to the Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) and several offshoots have come from this:-

- The establishment of a twice-a-week Gay Switchboard at NCVS.
- The joint running of a large-scale Forum on Homosexuality (at La Chic) for local members of the 'Caring Professions'.

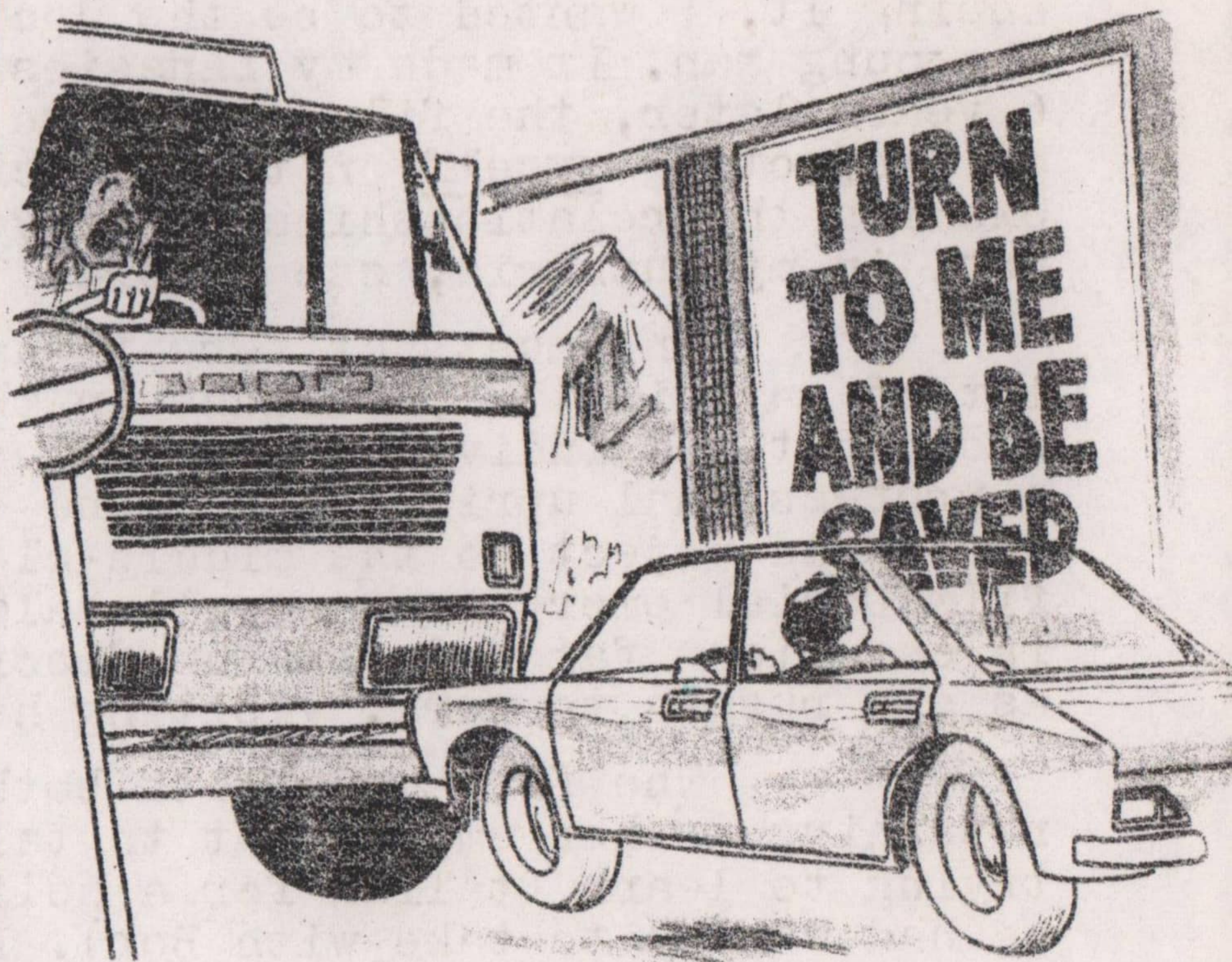
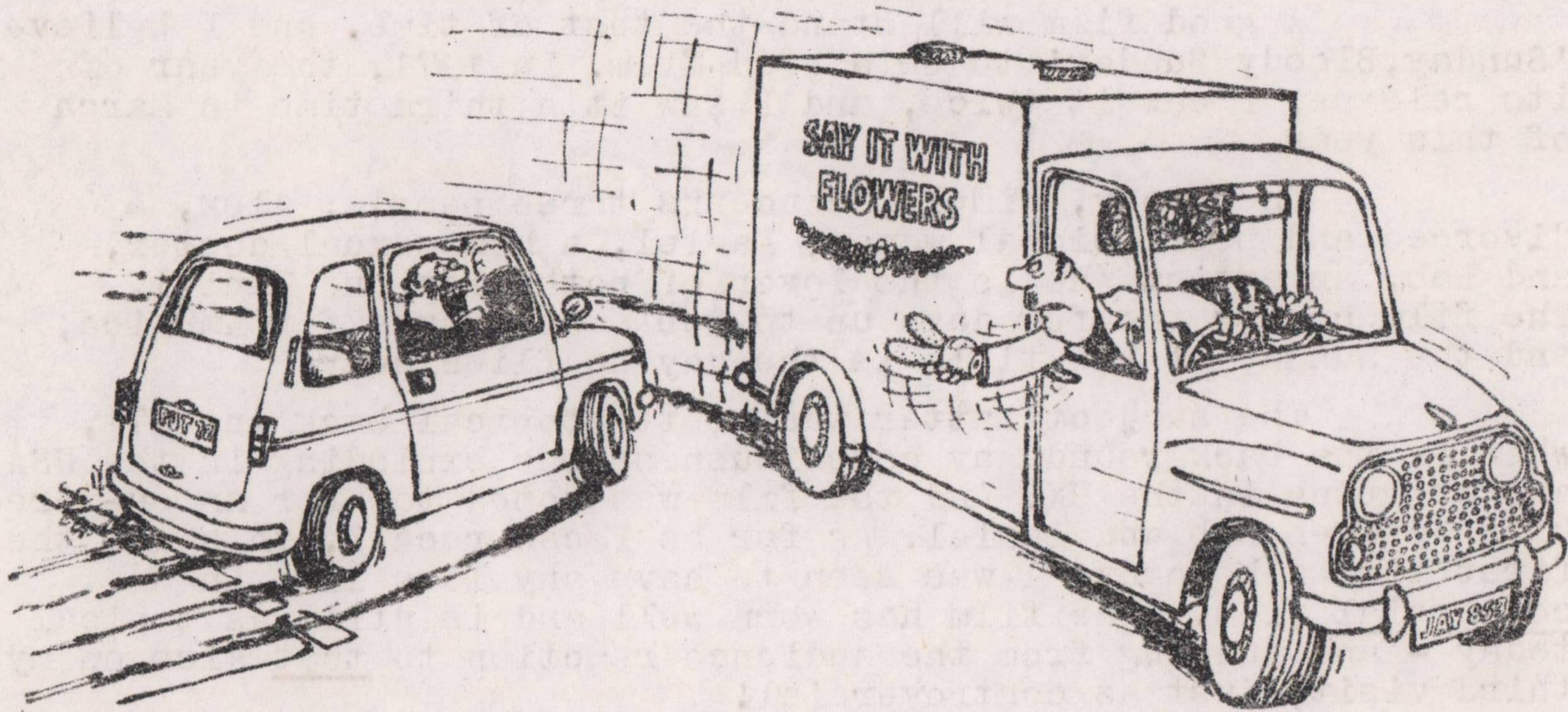
The Switchboard only became practical when we managed to gain advertising space in the Nottingham Evening Post - after years of refusals.

We have prevailed upon the local branch of NALGO to insert a clause in their employment agreements so that they will not permit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

We applied for a grant from the Nottingham Student's Charities Appeal fund - and got £100.

Thanks should go to the many members of the Derby and Mansfield groups who have been involved in a lot of the things mentioned above.

Ian (Nottingham)



"I'm sorry, dear fellow, but I happen to be far from convinced about this 'Grandmother's funeral' stuff."

 'SUNDAY' REVISITED

A good film will stand the test of time. And I believe 'Sunday, Bloody Sunday' to be a good film. In 1971, the year of its release, I saw it twice, and I saw it a third time in March of this year.

The story, simply, concerns three people: Alex, a divorcee and professional woman, Daniel, a homosexual doctor, and Bob, an artist who is the lover of both Alex and Daniel. The film covers the few days up to Bob's departure for America, and the Sunday of the title is the day he flies away.

The subject matter was pretty topical back in 1971, when in the background gay consciousness was exploding in the USA and stirring in the UK. And the film was noted too for an on-screen kiss between Bob and Daniel. As far as I can recall, this was the first time a homosexual was seen to have any love life in a commercial film. The film has worn well and is still as topical today - and judging from the audience reaction to that kiss on my third visit, just as controversial!

One point to bear in mind is that I, as a viewer, have changed over the years: in 1971, I had just made tentative contact with CHE, and had been introduced to 'Night Off', Nottingham CHE's predecessor. My gay life then was nil, mainly devoted to fantasies reading gay novels, being infatuated with someone in the dramatic society I attended. Then the film meant a lot to me: for, on seeing it, I wanted to be the doctor who was in (shared) love with the young man. It made my fantasies and infatuation concrete. Now, 6 years later, the film speaks to me in a different way: instead of projecting myself on to the screen, I can objectively examine the relationships portrayed and notice things that I did not, in my euphoria, see before.

One must not forget that this film was a release for a lot of gays in 1971, because in the past they had been shown as poor tortured individuals. In 'Sunday', Daniel is a good doctor, a professional upright man, fond of his Jewish family. Perhaps one could object to the middle-class image projected, but from the film Daniel emerges as a well-balanced person, while Alex's life is chaotic - fag ends on the floor, coffee made from tap water as she rushes to work, visiting her family irregularly.

The film ends with both Alex and Daniel deserted: Alex returning to her empty flat to talk to her toucan bird, Daniel trying to learn Italian for a holiday he hopes to take (and which he had wanted to take with Bob). Daniel speaks directly to the camera, saying that he had wanted 'someone courageous and strong, that Bob wasn't it, but that he was something'. After his speech, the final frame of the film shows Daniel smiling at the camera: we know that he will survive to fight another day!

Some questions creep in on a third viewing: why does it show a gay person losing out in a relationship yet again? (To be fair, Alex loses out too). Why does the camera close in on Alex's face when Bob leaves her to visit Daniel - as much as to point out that she has been hurt by Daniel's seeing Bob?

'SUNDAY' REVISITED

Why do Bob's relatives' children giggle at Daniel on the day Bob leaves? - an action which receives a stern glance from Daniel, but does it bode well for them to accept a similar situation in the future? But the main gap in the film is that no background is given for Bob, no explanation as to why he is attached to either party. I desperately wanted the film, third time around, to have included some discussion of the varieties of love. Why were the two worlds of Alex and Daniel kept apart? - especially when each knew of the other's existence in the life of Bob.

John Schlesinger, the director, has said it is a film about compromise, the acceptance of a little rather than a lot. And the film does present us with a recognisable human situation and leaves us to comment on it for ourselves.

To my mind two scenes stand out: when Alex (Glenda Jackson) and Daniel (Peter Finch) meet for the first time: an awkward moment beautifully acted, the faces conveying everything from the sardonic humour of the unexpected meeting to the pain that each of them has had a share in someone who has now left them. And the last shot of Finch's face staring at the camera with the beginnings of a smile, as if to say, 'Keep on trying, through all the pain it's worth it'. 'Sunday' is a film to treasure, and reflect upon in the memory.

Tony (Nottingham)

OPEN WIDE

CHE National Councils are a bit like a visit to the dentist, afterwards life seems just that little bit more pleasant. Usually they are just a filling between conferences to patch up a hole; however the last get-together amidst Oxford's dreamy spires and camera-clad tourists suggested future extraction of a few teething problems rather than mere palliatives.

Problem no.1. Wallace Grevatt, National Office's beavering groups representative resigned for health reasons. Predictably, the rule-book was flourished and procedural motions abounded. Unfortunately, all the Executive Committee's co-options have been taken up for the year and no new members are permitted. The solution? The rule book drifted out the window with the cigarette smoke, offers for the job were invited, our own Philip Hickson stepped to the fore and was overwhelmingly accepted. Thoroughly unconstitutional and wonderfully pragmatic. Good luck Phil!

Next was a little problem of a decision at the last National Conference to oust any group discriminating on the grounds of sex/age/race. Whoops! A fifth of the groups hadn't signed the no-discrimination pledge by D-day. The end of the road for Manchester Women's Group? London Youth? Black Country group is now renamed Walsall, so they are all right. Providence stepped to

 OPEN-WIDE (Continued)

the rescue in the form of an anticipated motion at the Nottingham conference permitting anomalies in certain cases. Solution? Defer the matter. Previous conference decisions don't count of course.

So what is significant about these two decisions? simply that they were practical solutions which took account of the realities of the problems; the fact that they contradicted the dotted "i"s and crossed "t"s of the rules was considered largely irrelevant. That is not to say that rules don't matter, but that they are only guidelines which may be rejected if the situation demands it.

The last part of the afternoon was taken up with the debate that will almost certainly dominate CHE over the next year or so. Much criticism has been made in the past of the 'over-centralised' organisation in CHE. A discussion document was circulated proposing a two-stage reform of CHE's structure. Briefly the first stage, which would have to be approved at the Nottingham conference, will give much more decision-making powers to the quarterly National Councils - subject of course to the overall sovereignty of annual conferences. The second stage of the proposal is a complete restructuring to be decided at the 1978 conference for introduction towards the end of that year. In place of the present single-member system where each individual joins nationally and then identifies with a local group, CHE would become a federation of more-or-less autonomous groups. Each person would join a local group which would be free to tune itself and charge subscriptions as it pleases. In turn, the group will make a block subscription for the membership of the federation and nominate a representative for national councils. There are many advantages and disadvantages to both systems which shall not be elaborated here; however the outcome will be of vital importance to the future.

During all these discussions there was a noticeable lack of self-analysis and 'what is wrong with CHE' which has become a regular feature of these meetings recently. The emphasis was on the 'ends' not the 'means'. An injection of optimism for the future was apparent which has alleviated some of the pains of the last few months. And there is a possibility of a new set of teeth.

The day ended with a lively disco. Result? A pain in the head.

Chris Leigh (Derby)

 DERBY REFLECTIONS

Spring is naturally the time of year for anticipating the future; as this is also the first birthday of the Derby group as a separate entity, it is appropriate to reflect on the efforts of the last year.

Derby has evolved primarily as a social group. Coffee and pub evenings interspersed with the occasional party, ramble or car rally have consistently filled the calendar. Ice-skating trips provided physical exercise for the athletic, a very successful series of discussion groups gave mental exercise, while Carole's 'encounter' evening satisfied those who just like being cuddly.

DERBY REFLECTIONS

Advertisements published in the Derby Evening Telegraph resulted in considerable response with some new members throughout the year and a switch to the Burton Daily Mail around Christmas produced quite a number of enquiries from these parts. Indeed the development of the Burton 'splinter' group has indicated one of the most promising areas for the future. A number of members have talked to other groups ranging from housewives to coalminers and further meetings are planned.

Total membership has remained around 40 during the year, remarkably evenly split between women and men, with attendances at events varying from a half-dozen to twenty-odd. However, the value of 'happenings' should be measured in quality rather than quantity - and there is much to the group's credit. The year ended with a very well attended AGM. Carole and Heather have stepped down for a much needed rest; they have consistently been the backbone of the group and deserve a special thankyou. Phil's hard work will now be directed toward CHE nationally with, no doubt, even more phone calls.

Chris has now taken over as Secretary, Fiona will continue to look after the money until Charles returns from foreign lands, while all the contributions for the newsletter should be directed towards Marion.

The last few months have been rather quiet, but better weather should entice mæ from their firesides and a period of consolidation is necessary. The greatest contribution the group has made is one that often goes unnoticed because it is gradual. The transformation in an individual from the first tentative meeting to growing self-awareness and confidence with new-found friendships.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE SATURDAY JUNE 25th.