

July 1970

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE NOTTINGHAM GROUP OF CHE - JULY 1979

At the moment of typing it looks as if the heavens are going to open on the Gay Pride Week Picnic - obviously the Wrath of God.

You will find a buff coloured sheet at the end of the newsletter giving some up-to-date details of this years CHE Annual Conference, which takes place this year in Brighton. And now on to matters which are neither far afield nor celestial:-

From a campaigning viewpoint we have got to concentrate carefully on what can be summed up in two words: 'Priorities' and 'Realism'. If anyone asked me whether I thought that the group was trying to do too much with its limited strength and facilities, then I would have to answer "Yes." The current rash of frayed tempers and proliferation of half-organised events are caused by too few people having their energies spread too thinly over too wide an area. Later on in the newsletter, Chris has written about a meeting where some of our priorities may be sorted out. We must recognise our limitations and realise that a smaller number of endeavours successfully carried through would attract more people to our cause, while a large number of partial successes, near misses and flops put potential new members off and serve to exhaust and frustrate our most valuable and hard-working campaigners.

David.

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY AUGUST 24TH.

PROGRAMME

JULY

- TUES. JULY 3RD Meeting at HUNTER'S WINE BAR on Maid Marian Way 8pm.
MON. JULY 9th Joint DISCUSSION with Nottingham Gay Switchboard Lesbian Group at CVS at 8pm.
THUR. JULY 12th BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm. (31a, Mansfield Rd)
FRI. JULY 13th A Representative from the NUJ on Nottingham News is coming to talk to the group. CVS Boardroom 8pm.
THUR. JULY 19th A CAMPAIGN REVIEW at the CVS at 8pm.
SAT. JULY 21st OLD RECORDS EVENING/chat and things/at RUTH & JAN'S Flat 4, 15 Newcastle Drive, The Park. From 8pm.
WED. JULY 25th DISCO AT THE HEARTY GOODFELLOW. Top floor. From 8.30pm.

AUGUST

- WED. AUG. 1st Some of us are going to see 'TEETH AND SMILES' at the PLAYHOUSE at 7.30. For this performance two tickets are available for the price of one.
THUR. AUG. 2nd BUSINESS MEETING at the CVS at 8pm.
SUN. AUG. 5th GAYLA at DAVID & IAN'S. Well, actually it's just tea on the lawn (if sunny) or indoors (if not). There will be a buffet. Bring a bottle if you want to. There will be chat, music and perhaps silly games later on. 64, Fabis Drive, Clifton Grove from 3pm.
WED. AUG. 8th COFFEE and GAMES at Mike's. 19, Thomas Close, St. Ann's from 8pm.
THUR. AUG. 9th PROGRAMME MEETING (i.e. to decide what we are doing in Sept. and Oct.) at the CVS at 8pm.
WED. AUG. 15th PUB EVENING at the BELL (Back bar) from 8pm.
SUN. AUG. 19th A TREASURE HUNT ON FOOT. Meet at 25 Sherwood St., Annesley Woodhouse at 6pm.
WED. AUG. 22nd DISCO AT THE HEARTY GOODFELLOW. Top bar from 8.30pm.
THUR. AUG. 23rd BUSINESS MEETING at the CVS at 8pm.

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND: CHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BRIGHTON.

There are another couple of meetings that you may wish to go to.

- THURS. JULY 5th GAY PRIDE WEEK COMMITTEE MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
TUES. JULY 17th GAY SWITCHBOARD MEETING at 7.30pm. at 126, Mansfield Rd. (though in fact you get in off Huntingdon St. where the number is 120 - I thnik... I also think)

What is LINK? Will it be made public, or will it creep up on us like the creature from the Black Lagoon?

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I have never written a "letter to the Editor" before, but I was so annoyed and saddened when I read the last edition of Chimaera, that I felt I just had to make some sort of protest.

I refer to the bottom of page 6 of the May edition, which was reminiscent of the worst excesses of the gutter perss, It was snide and nasty, and its position on the same page as a serious letter left me feeling very angry.

The person who arranged the layout of that page should feel very ashamed indeed,

Yours faithfully,

Peter Lockwood.

Congratulations on your splendid May Newsletter. I've scarcely seen such a detailed, professional and interesting Newsletter from any CHE group,

Robert Palmer

(CHE Chairperson)

CONTACTS

Nottingham CHE Group

- Joint Convenors: Pat McLernon and Ruth Thompson
- Treasurer: Mike Raymond
- Membership Secretary: Tony Barker
- Campaign Officer: Chris Richardson
- Women's liaison: Ian Corfield
- Gay Lobby: Andrew Hibbert
- Chimaera Editor: David Edgley

CHE information can be obtained by phoning:-

- Ruth and Jan - Nottingham 42913 or
- David and Ian - Nottingham 216447 or by phoning

NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD (Nottingham 46881 Mon.& Thurs.7-10pm) or by calling in at the above at the times stated. The address is:-

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

BUSINESS MEETING: MAY 10TH 1979

1. It was noted that Professor Smith (of the Criminal Law Revision Committee) has again declined to meet the group until after publication of the working party Discussion Paper.
2. It was agreed that the Lesbian Group be known as Nottingham Gay Switchboard Lesbian Group.
3. After discussion it was agreed that collection boxes for Gay Switchboard were not to be used at the monthly discos.
4. Letters received: -
 - a) Ian Thorpe - asking for suggestions/advice on opening a shop in Nottingham catering for gays.
 - b) City Information Office requesting details about the group to bring their records up to date.
 - c) Tutbury Housewives Register - asking for speakers.Plus - first issue of GLIB magazine - for and by gay people.
5. Letters sent:-
 - a) Reply to Ian Thorpe suggesting meeting with him.
 - b) Letter to John Clarkson re CHE notepaper.
 - c) National Office re voting card for National Council and requesting 200 tape/slide kit leaflets.
 - d) Letters sent to new members of CHE and those not seen regularly.
 - e) To Nottingham Evening Post - an application for CHE to be included in the new Citizen's Guide.
 - f) Reply to Tutbury NHR accepting their invitation.
6. Mike Raymond read out a statement of CHE's accounts since the AGM.
7. Advertising: CHE's ads. are in Nottingham News and CHAD. It was agreed to defer discussion on advertising until the next business meeting.
8. S.T.E.P. Scheme: it was agreed that Chris would write to invite the new leader of the City Council and the Chairman of Leisure Services Committee to meet the group.

Panic! At least 10 lines left and nothing to fill them. Would you be interested in learning of the question that confronts the people of Barrow in Furness? They are being asked to think of a name for their new hospital. This suggests to me a ceremony where the Marchioness of Barrow in Furness smashes a specimen bottle against a bronze bedpan and exclaims "I name this hospital 'Gladys' and may God bless all who ail in her."

 DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS

We expect this newsletter to be full of interesting and thought provoking articles, so we thought to draw some threads together from the events of the past few months.

We are having difficulties maintaining the identity of CHE at the CVS, where we are swamped by members of Friend and those CHE members who give their first loyalty to Friend over the operations of the Gay Switchboard. The reason behind our independent advertising was to channel CHE enquiries to CHE, but as to our knowledge, no member of CHE who is not also involved with Friend is allowed to answer calls we felt that giving the address only would circumvent this problem. This advertising has not been successful, so we need advice now on how to continue with it in the future. Please write or phone, and if you phone Switchboard insist on speaking to either of us, but preferably contact us at home.

Chris is making a valuable contribution to Gay Rights in the campaigning work he undertakes - but who exactly he is doing it for is vague to us: whether it is for CHE, Gay Switchboard, GAN or Gay Pride or even generally. We feel that a commitment to CHE is a commitment to CHE and should be first and foremost to CHE in any conflict of interests between gay groups of which an individual has membership.

Now, here you will ask - shouldn't we all be working together co-operating, we're all working for the same thing etc. Ideally this is so, and we do try to co-operate and work with other groups. We support Gay Switchboard financially, paying half the room hire charges AND donating all the proceeds of every monthly disco to it, as our share in its organisation. In return we are not even allowed independent CHE access to the phones. So much for working with and co-operation, and unfortunately the attitudes demonstrated here are inevitably the attitudes of most gay men to Lesbians.

It is also important to point out that while we are theoretically all working for the same thing, this is not so in practice. FRIEND is not allowed to campaign on behalf of any particular group, but CHE members are committed to this - how do these people who belong to both rationalise their positions? We think we know, and we know that CHE suffers. Gay Switchboard is also intended to be non-partisan, but when we as CHE members are called to answer an enquiry both ourselves and the people we speak to are told not to waste time. How much telephone counselling goes on on behalf of FRIEND we wonder?

Despite our letter to John about the use of CHE notepaper after the AGM and requesting the convenor's manual, he has not replied or handed anything over apart from the correspondence file. We feel now that we are being deliberately kept in ignorance. This is apparent in the extent of decisions taken in what amounts to secrecy, which affect CHE without CHE being consulted. We hear after the event about contacts with Nottingham News, with the Odeon Cinema for a display during the showing of Nighthawks, about Radio Nottingham's offer of time for a 15 minute documentary: the plans are all settled by the time these matters are reported to ourselves or to a CHE meeting and it seems obvious to us that even officers of CHE are putting the interests of other gay organisations first.

 DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS

They should ensure that CHE has a strong voice in all co-operative activities, but how can we co-operate under these conditions - no one, it seems, will co-operate with us. Apparently, we are not trusted to sell tickets for Gay Pride Week events!

Without the vociferous and physically present support of members, CHE is in danger of being taken over by other interests. If you have any vestige of commitment to gay rights, not only in terms of campaigning but of coming along to social and business meetings, then please do so. If not, then we and you must question the relevance of CHE to gay people in Nottingham. It is only by joining in our activities that we can become a powerful and dynamic group again; that our awareness of the necessity of campaigning can be extended. Remember - coming to a gay meeting is campaigning, talking there is campaigning, and active campaigning to MPs, leafletting, talking to Samaritans, Social Workers and other groups all bring us to a new sphere of increased confidence about ourselves and our sexuality.

Finally, please do support us and the Gay Switchboard Lesbian Group in our joint talk shops, set up specifically in response to an AGM request from Richard Webtser (he didn't come either). Perhaps in discussion we can realise and start to counteract some of the problems we face, both together and between us as men and women - and then take our views out to the public.

We look forward to seeing you,

Love,

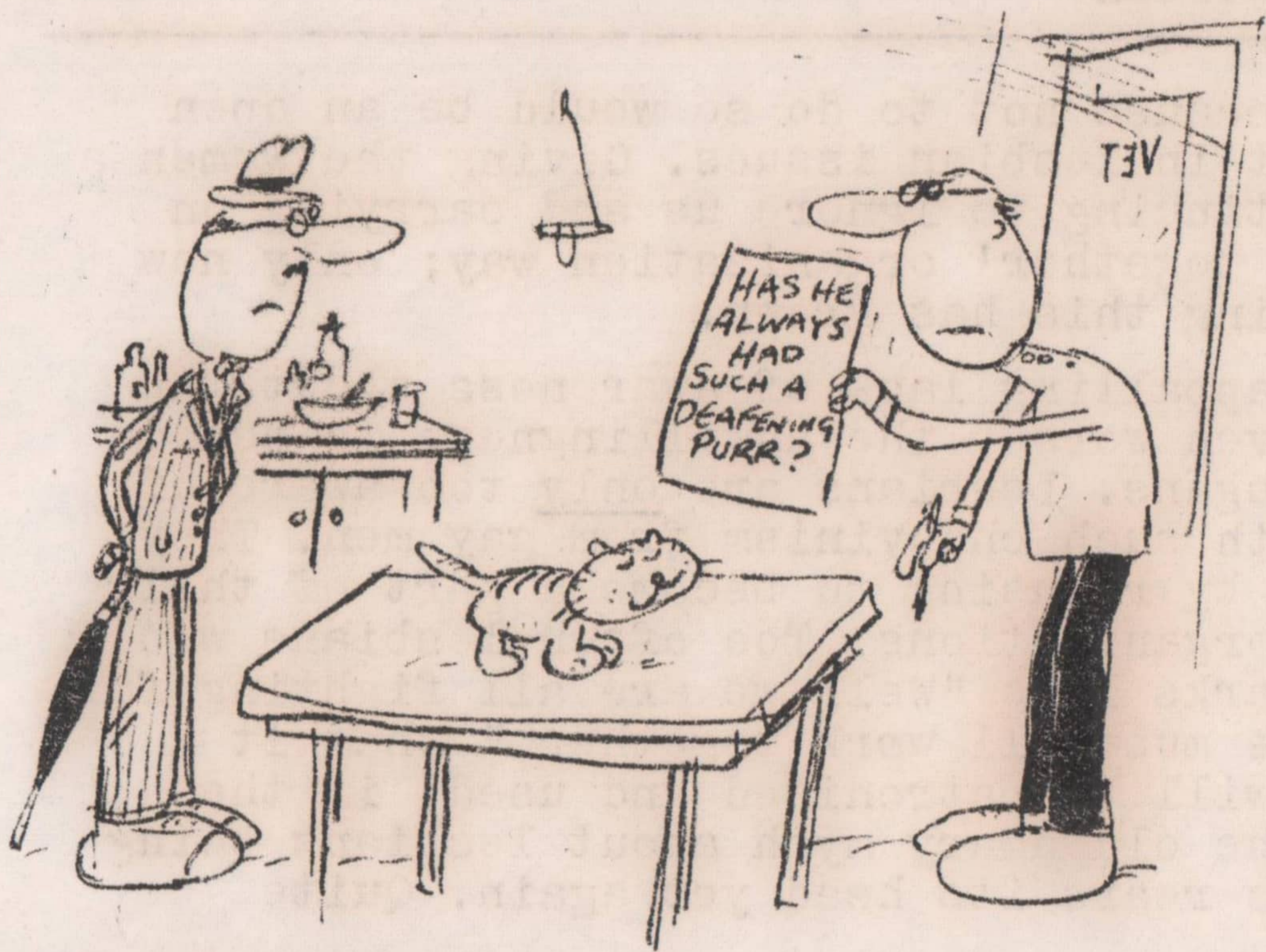
Ruth and Pat.

 AN ARTICLE

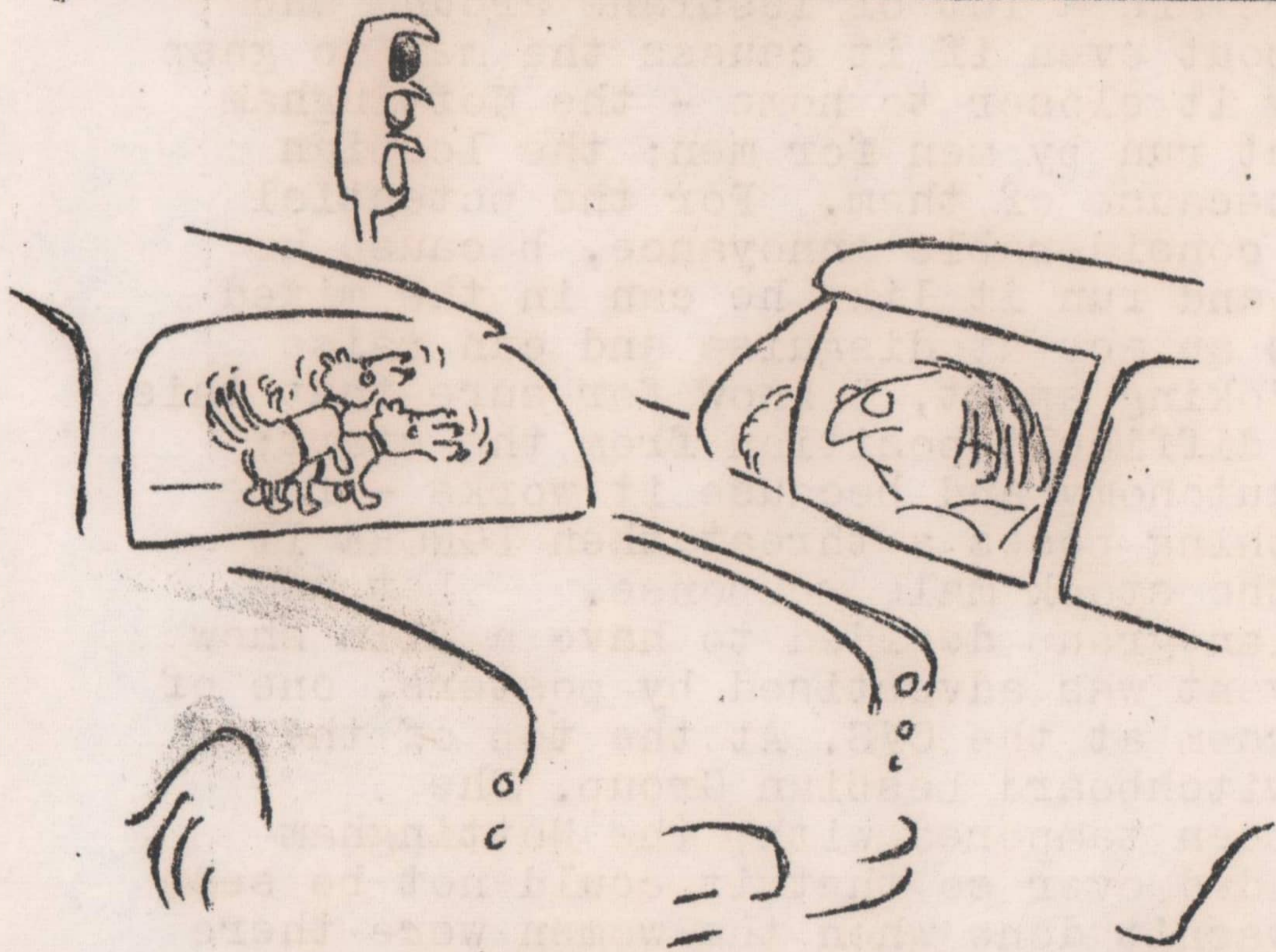
I could title this simply: Why I will not be feeling any pride in the coming Gay Pride Week. It could equally be called: What goes on behind the scenes at Nottingham Gay Switchboard. Finding out what is going on is indeed very difficult if you happen to be the CHE group Convenors or the Switchboard Lesbian Group. The problem could be summed up as rampant sexism - the very subtle undermining variety. It means being nice to the women, but ignoring them. This is by no means a localised phenomenon or anything new in any of the National Organisations. It's effects are disastrous. Alison Hennegan, former CHE executive member and Organizer of Friend says this in Gay News no. 169 page 22:-

"Over the years I find my belief hardening that those gay enterprises which fail to attract women fail because, deep down, they don't wish to succeed."

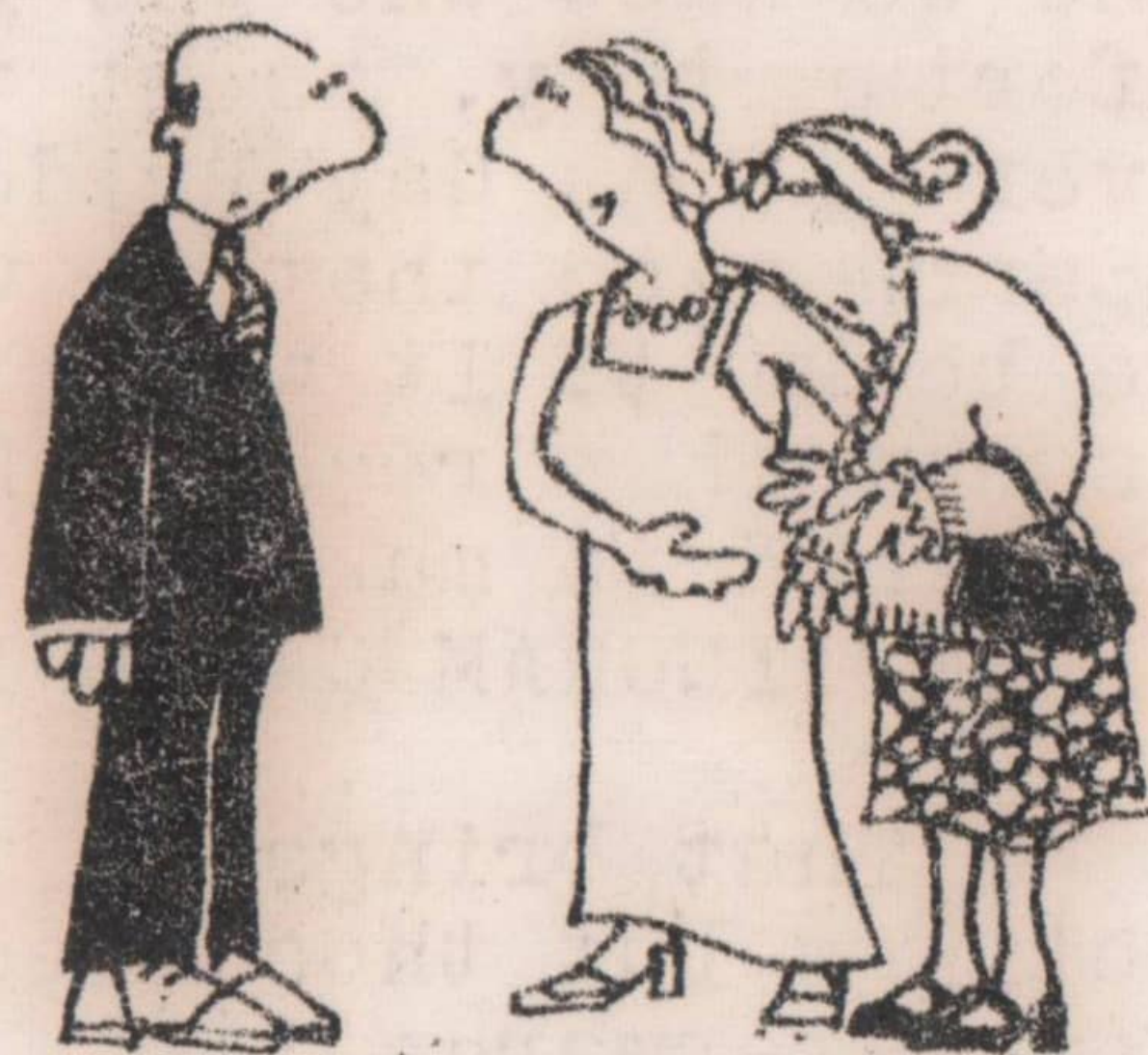
After years of my own experiences in working in the national organisations, I would fully endorse that remark. Whatever lesbians have contributed to Friend and CHE has been used to fight simply for the rights of gay men. It is as true today as it ever has been and the Nottingham Gay Switchboard is yet another sad example. There was a time in the national organisations that men could be open about their disinterest and dislike of lesbians, but nowadays it would be a risky business.



"What about the wankers"



"I don't know - I've gone right off aversion therapy"



"Mr Thragford has been interested in transvestism from the word go"

AN ARTICLE

Women are doggedly mentioned because not to do so would be an open declaration of lack of interest in lesbian issues. Giving the women a mention is just a ploy for continuing to ignore us and carrying on in the usual sexist 'all boys together' organisation way; only now the number of organisations doing this has grown.

It indicates to me the appalling lack of awareness about the basis of gay oppression; and even worse, the unwillingness to become aware beyond a few gay lib. slogans. Lesbians are only too aware of their oppression when faced with such chauvinism from gay men. They usually express that awareness by refusing to become a part of their own oppression by joining the organisations. Too often lesbians who do try are flannelled with remarks like "Well we are all fighting for the same thing, aren't we?" "We must all work together." What it means really is that lesbians will be patronised and used; if they realise this and fight back, the old hoary myth about lesbians being a nasty bunch of trouble makers rears its head yet again. Quite honestly, I've heard it all.

I'm pretty sure that there are a lot of lesbians around who know exactly what I'm talking about even if it causes the men to gasp in horror or denial. Let's bring it closer to home - the Nottingham Gay Switchboard. It is in effect run by men for men; the lesbian group survives despite them not because of them. For the potential 'Empire Builder' this must be a considerable annoyance, because he cannot get in the lesbian group and run it like he can in the mixed groups. (Unless of course, he is an ace at disguise and can raise the pitch of his voice a bit). Joking apart, I know for sure that this means the lesbian group is in a difficult position from the start; it is resented because of its autonomy and because it works - free from male interference. If something poses a threat then IGNORE IT or KNOCK IT - that seems to be the stock male response. Let me illustrate the point. The lesbian group decided to have a film show about lesbian parents. The event was advertised by posters, one of which was put up in the coffee room at the CVS. At the top of the sheet it read: Nottingham Gay Switchboard Lesbian Group. The following week that poster had been tampered with; the Nottingham Gay Switchboard bit had been folded over so that it could not be seen and the poster pinned back. It wasn't done when the women were there but someone knows something about it. I wonder who? Obviously someone doesn't like the lesbian group to be recognized as part of the Nottingham Gay (mens) Switchboard.

Now to the organizing of Gay Pride Week. I think one or two things are worth a mention here. Again the lesbian group was referred to as the Nottingham Lesbian Group - which we are not. This time we knew who was responsible and the 'error' was pointed out. Unfortunately, as it turned out it was too late to change the top cover of the Gay Pride Week local booklet - so we were told. It appears also that it was too late to change the information within the booklet! It wasn't actually, because the 'inside' information was not then ready. However, the same mistake was made. For those concerned in making silly mistakes, I will say it again. WE ARE THE NOTTINGHAM GAY SWITCHBOARD LESBIAN GROUP. I hope that is clear enough.

That brings me to my next point. The gist is that 'we will have meetings but those decisions we disagree with - well we'll change them afterwards.'

AN ARTICLE

At a collective meeting for Gay Pride Week it was decided that every group involved in the Switchboard would have half a side of A4 to explain who it was in the booklet. The decision was for reasons of economy with the printing and paper. You might think that was clear, but if you have a copy of the booklet take another look. You will find that FRIEND, Gay Switchboard and Gays Against the Nazis have more or less a whole side each. The Lesbian group - 12 lines I believe, or thereabouts; 2 lines more than Shades night club. It is clear to me that there are certain people who think they are above the Collectives decisions; that they can simply go away and steer the whole thing to their own vested interest. Every group could have written a whole side of A4 - if they'd known about the doctored decision making that goes on behind the scenes.

There seems to be a lot of that going on, by those with a particular interest in Switchboard and FRIEND. The lesbian group and even the CHE convenors are kept uninformed - until it is too late; they are then accused of not taking an interest! This has happened with local radio coverage of Gay Pride Week. Guess who gets the mention? You got there before me! Gay Switchboard, FRIEND and CHE (only the convenors didn't know about it until it was all arranged - cosy). The lesbian group? "We couldn't include everyone - we didn't have the time." Just as an exercise say: Nottingham Gay Switchboard Lesbian Group. It didn't take long, did it? I was told that other groups had to be excluded too - i.e. it wasn't gay prejudice against lesbians. The point that is missed by all these high-flying gay activists is that it is recognised policy - if nothing else - in CHE to encourage and support lesbian groups. They must be aware that national organisations are usually understood to be men and - the belief that only men are homosexual. It is therefore important that any lesbian group is mentioned specifically. "There wasn't time for everyone." There wasn't time for the lesbian group they mean. The belief in the national organisations that only men are REAL homosexuals is obviously quite strong.

Well, we come back to Alison's remark. The gay enterprises fail to attract lesbians because, deep down, lesbians aren't wanted. You said it sister!

My view about the men concerned? All I can say is shame on you. You don't know the meaning of Gay Pride.

Hilary,

Nottingham Gay Switchboard Lesbian Group.

SCHOOL NEWS: Members of staff with false teeth are trembling at the thought of addressing one of next years new 1st formers called Zwislava Szkrzak - and we have already reserved a place among the castanets in the school percussion orchestra for Carmen Jones (I kid you not!).

BOB, DON'T DO THAT!

The Scene: Thursday evening at the CVS. Assorted persons are sitting in the discussion room drinking coffee and wondering who to talk about next.

Enter: Miss J.C. McWebster.

Hello, boys and girls. What a lovely surprise to see so many of you here tonight. Well, I thought we'd practice charades. Each of us will pretend to be somebody famous, and I shall guess who you are. Isn't that a lovely idea!

Stuart, don't drop litter on the floor.

Yes, I know it's a clean piece of paper, but we don't do that sort of thing.

Now, I want you all to stand up and do something interesting.

No, Tony put that back.

No, you can't hold Ian's thing.

Ian, we don't hit people with our GLF badge.

Well, we don't, that's why.

Well, because they are very expensive.

Now, I can see you have all taken up some interesting positions.

Yes, you have, Hilary!

Don't argue!

I shall now come round and try to guess who you are.

Well, Bob, you are Laurel and Hardy.

No?

Abbott and Costello?

No?

I give up. Who are you?

A waiter at the Savoy. Yes, I can see that now. Very good.

Malcolm, we don't hide people's matches.

Because it's unkind.

Well, Richard gets very angry when his matches disappear. Don't you Richard?

Yes, you do, you get very angry.

Richard, I'm telling you, you get very..... oh, never mind.

Now, who's next. Ah, Hilary, let me guess.

Queen Victoria?

No?

Florence Nightingale?

No.

Arthur Mullard?

BOB, DON'T DO THAT!

No. I give up.

Another waiter at the Savoy. What a lot of waiters the Savoy has tonight.

Mike, put that away please.

Well, we've all seen it before, that's why!

Well, I have!

Now, who's next? Ah, Tony! Who are you pretending to be?

Denis Healey?

No.

Margaret Thatcher?

No. I know, a waiter at the Savoy! Wasn't that clever of me....!

Oh, you're not a waiter at the Savoy. I almost thought for a moment

Well, who are you, then?

A gay person.

You're pretending to be a gay person?

Well, that's novel.

Dear me, it's pub time again, folks. See you at the HGF.

Oh, and Bob.....

.... don't do that!!

Tony.



 THE UNSPEAKABLE VICE OF THE GREEKS

In E.M.Forster's semi-autobiographical novel 'Maurice', the hero, whilst studying classics at Cambridge and translating from the Symposium of Plato, is enjoined by his tutor to "Omit all reference to the unspeakable vice of the Greeks!" You can no doubt guess the nature of that unspeakable vice!

The anecdote is apposite on two levels, firstly because it highlights the acute homophobia felt by the 19th Century, manifested in academic circles, traditionally bastions of free thinking and secondly because it was considered quite proper for a respected philosopher such as Plato openly to advocate homosexuality as the highest expression of human love in a work directed primarily to the education of the noble young men of Athens in the 5th Century BC.

However, before we all start yearning for a Tardis to take us back in time, we should do well to consider certain drawbacks of the period. Women were the property of their husbands exclusively and female adultery was punishable by death for the woman. Lesbianism, with the notable exception of the Sapphic circle on Lesbos, was almost unheard of, and was certainly considered improper. To be exclusively gay for a man was considered most unusual, since being a father was considered to be an integral part of a man's duty to the state. Bisexuality was very much the norm. Gay friendships were very closely tied up with the most rigid concepts of manhood and honour and the popular modern misconception that homosexuality is inextricably linked with effeminacy would have been laughed to scorn by the Ancient Greeks.

In a society so aggressive as that of the Greek city states of the 5th Century BC, where military service was the duty of all young men of noble birth, we read of numerous instances of army units entirely composed of pairs of lovers each striving to outdo the rest in fortitude and courage. Perhaps the most famous of these units was the Theban Band, all of whom perished during a local dispute. After the battle every Theban was dead, all facing the front, all without a wound on the back of their bodies. The Greek word often used for a lover was 'hetairos' which also means a companion in arms.

Whilst the evidence seems to suggest that bisexuality was the norm throughout Greek society, it seems to have been largely a pursuit of the wealthy aristocratic families, who had the leisure to indulge their tastes.

Homosexual prostitution was endemic and attractive slave boys were often purchased en bloc by enterprising business men for discerning clients!

So unless you happen to be a male bisexual with a taste for machismo and a deep seated urge to treat women as mere property, coupled with a disturbing penchant for hand to hand fighting, perhaps you may now think that the Tardis can remain the property of Dr.Who.

In conclusion, consider the lines of the lyric poet Theognis:-

"Happy the man who hunts all day
and at night sleeps with a beautiful boy."

Anyone interested in the period could well enjoy reading 2 very well researched novels about the period by Mary Renault. The first called 'The last of the wine' is about a gay couple living in Athens during the Peloponesian war at the end of the 5th Century BC and the second entitled 'The Persian boy' chronicles the story of a beautiful Persian eunuch who eventually becomes the lover of Alexander the Great.

Reay Warrener.

BITS AND PIECES

A MESSAGE



FROM MARY

MARY WARNS ...

"There is a conspiracy to hold a GAY PRIDE WEEK CARNIVAL on SATURDAY, JUNE 30th. So, if you're the sort who's likely to commit unnatural sexual acts....

DON'T go to TEMPLE EMBANKMENT AT 1.30 pm, when a disgraceful display of floats and flags will be setting off across London.

DON'T be in HYDE PARK AT 3.00 pm. They're planning a huge show starring the biggest names in deviant music.

How disgusting! Thousands of these types cavorting in the sunshine. Tut! Tut! Tut!

So, if you've any moral fibre left, hide yourself inside and above all....

DON'T COME OUT!!"

As you can see, some delightful -ful Mary Whitehouse beer mats have been produced to coincide with Gay Pride Week.

There was also a letter in this week's Guardian which suggested another line in personalised products - wax effigies of Margaret Thatcher and Geoffrey Howe from the 'Encircling Gloom Candle Co.' to light us through this Winter's power strikes.

Headline in the Daily Telegraph (5.5.79) "Elderly Budgerigar and limping Hedgehog abandoned by Salvation Army Bugler."

"I'm quite looking forward to camping in the Arts Quarters," said Norman St. John Stevas (the thinking woman's Larry Grayson) on the BBC Radio 4 PM programme.

Name a mammal that can fly. Answer "Cow."

What are 'plus fours'? Answer "A padded bra."

"Women wore iron corsets to give them tin waists" all from this year's examinations.

Did you see the BBC1 programme on Covent Garden? A rather irate Maitre de Ballet, who was rehearsing the corps de ballet in the Sleeping Beauty, was heard exclaiming in a booming lisp:-

"No, no, NO, NO! You must NEVER turn your back on a Queen."

 THE ADVENTURES OF TASTY McPHERSON: PART III

Bill and Ralph carefull locked up the flat. They decided to visit Jo and Liz to inform them of TP's arrest, discussing what had happened as they walked to the flat. The two women were shocked by their news.

"But why have they arrested her, TP isn't a criminal?" asked Jo.

"I think it's something to do with George," Ralph said.

"George?....who's ...oh, George. But that's fiction?"

"Apparently not," Bill explained, "There have been two murders in the last month, similar in many details to those TP used in her story, and they think she may be involved."

"Oh my God - we must get her out." Liz started to panic. "Jo, ring Priscilla, here's two pence, get down to the phone box. She'll know what to do."

"Why me?"

"You're dressed."

"OK."

Jo departed, crashing down the stairs, nearly falling over on the way.

"Now, you two," Liz began, "We must plan how to help her. We must all go down and explain about George.... perhaps it would be better to see what Priscilla has to say. What do you think?"

"I can't go," said Ralph, "I'm under age."

"Rubbish, you're 20 aren't you?"

"Not old enough unfortunately," Bill mused.

"So, you won't help?"

"Well I don't really see what we could do, under the circumstances," Bill turned away embarassed.

"There's only one thing that could...." Ralph stopped speaking.

"Yes?"

"I was thinking, if the murderer strikes again while TP is at the Police Station"

"What and awful thing to think of Ralph," Liz exclaimed, "But it would help. No, it's silly, how could we even ask him to do it, if we knew who"

"True. Well, we'll - er - spread the word around tonight, and, oh look at the time! We must go, Bill."

"Yes. Right. Goodbye Liz, I'm sure it will work out OK."

"Keep in touch. Goodbye."

Sergeant Nixon recovered from his faint with the assistance of a chair and a slurp of brandy (Medicinal Purposes Only) applied to his lips by PC Lakin, who was gently cradling the Sergeant's head in his hand.

"Alright, boy, I'm all right." Sergeant Nixon came round and brushed his helper aside.

"You had a bit of a turn, Sarge."

 THE ADVENTURES OF TASTY McPHERSON: PART III

"Tired, tired. All this overtime."

"Yes, Sarge."

"What's she done, anyway?"

"Who? Oh, her. Those gay murders, she's been writing about them in that paper. They think she knows something."

"She'd never do anything like that - you can tell she's innocent. No one who looks so beau... so kind could know anything about murder, boy. You get to know faces when you've been in this game as long as I have, you know."

"Yes, Sarge, I mean, no Sarge. She did write about it though?"

"Now Ms McPherson, we'll just go through that again."

"That's for the third time?"

"I believe so. We must get it right."

"Can I go home and come back tomorrow? Then you can go through it as many times as you like."

"It is tomorrow."

"Look, Inspector. I have a very important appointment with my agent on Monday morning. I'll come back after that? I'm so tired."

"I understand, Ms. McPherson - I think we can do that. You've been most co-operative, but I wonder if I should let you go?"

"I haven't done anything, I'm not going to do anything criminal. I promise....."

DC Smith came into the room and prevented TP from making any promises. He indicated that he wanted a word with his superior.

"Stay here, WPC Akropolis, I won't be long."

The two men went outside; the door closed.

"TP?" WPC Akropolis spoke quietly, tentatively.

"Yes." Tasty was surprised and intrigued at this unexpected approach.

"Look, I'm part of an organisation I mean a collective of, you know, lesbians. We'll help you all we can."

"Don't believe you." Some crackpot scheme, I expect, Tasty thought to herself.

"Heard of the Dykes Underground Movement?"

"No." I was right!

"I'll tell you....."

The detectives returned, this time they were smiling.

"OK. You can go home now, Ms. McPherson, but let this be a warning to you," D.I. Jones said enigmatically.

"I beg your pardon?" TP enquired.

"You are free to go, but take care. Akropolis, please arrange an escort to take Ms. McPherson to her flat."

"Yes, sir."

 THE ADVENTURES OF TASTY McPHERSON: PART III

As the two women left the interview room the D.I. whispered to Akropolis that another murder had been discovered, but that TP was still under suspicion. Sgt. Nixon was going off duty as TP and WPC Akropolis walked through the reception area. He did - after another rest and dose of brandy.

Ralph was missing. Bill searched the faces in the bar; he was going to the toilet he said, but he disappeared. Bill turned back to his friends with a shrug.

"Sod the little prick," he said.

 Ariana Akropolis explained the DUM to TP on their way out of the police station. Jo, Liz and Priscilla had just arrived, so they all drove around to Jo's flat, listening to Ariana give a detailed history of her involvement with the DUM Collective.

"Fear not," she announced, as they parted outside the door to the flat, "We will find out who has committed this terrible crims. Be assured, our collective efforts will be directed towards this problem and its solution." She saluted and walked away.

"Funny bitch," TP observed.

"They might help," Jo suggested.

"Humph, and they might not. Good material for a story however." TP was looking very tired, and as they went into the flat, Liz guided her into the bedroom. TP hit the bedsprings with an almighty thud - the reverberations echoed down the hallway.

(To be continued)

Pat.

BUTCH LOOKS: From a review by Clive James of 'Looking Good' a 'macho' manual of personal grooming.

"Who would have dreamed that hot water softens the beard and makes shaving easier? I myself have always been careful to keep the face as dry and the razor as blunt as humanly possible, allowing the skin to lubricate itself with the red liquid that springs spontaneously into existence after the first few strokes.

This is one of the most dispensible books ever published. And wait until you see the photographs! Armpits like those you have never seen outside your dreams! Buttocks like wave-swept rocks! The snarling lip, the brooding gaze! I have wasted my life."

CAMPAIGNING

Thurs. 19th July is the time and the CVS is the place for a discussion on campaigning priorities and sharing the work to carry them out. At the recent NC at Colchester, we already found 3 priorities set out for us:-

1. Community Health Councils - seeking representation on as many in each group's area as possible.
2. Samaritans - securing better relations with them.
3. Opinion Poll - conducting a Poll in the streets on fairly innocuous questions with a few of gay relevance included.

We have already had a favourable response from the S. Nottingham Community Health Council as a result of their secretary's visit to us last year and the Samaritans are taking part in the Gay Pride Week Forum. So our main task will be the sorting out of the Opinion Poll.

Unfortunately it seems that we shall have a major confrontation on our hands with the County Council over the Education Committee's cancellation of our booking of the Teachers' Centre for the Forum. There is now a CHE petition circulating protesting against this.

It will need the maximum number of signatures. What other action needs to be taken will probably be discussed at the next Business Meeting and the Campaign Meeting.

One area where we can expect support for the petition is the Anti Nazi League. We have re-affiliated to Nottm. ANL. and the AGM is on July 3rd. We still need a delegate and if you would like to represent CHE, let Pat, Ruth or me know as soon as possible. There'll probably be about 100 people attending and one of our immediate aims should be to get their signatures on the petition. There'll still be time to get to Hunter's Wine Bar after the meeting.

Another area in which we ought to get support for gay rights is the Trade Union movement. All members will have received the well produced leaflet from National CHE which was circulated with a Broadsheet earlier this year and which summarises the ways in which gay rights in employment can be promoted through the Unions. One of our former members, Howard Hyman, did some pioneering work in NALGO, whilst he was in Nottingham and we might well discuss how we can, as individuals and as CHE develop the work that others have begun.

Gay Pride Week will probably be almost over by the time you read this, but there may still be time to get a ticket for the coach which leaves York House Mansfield Rd., at 8 am on Saturday June 30th. and departs London at Midnight. Only £3 return.

The National Abortion Conference was well attended and several CHE members offered accommodation. So there are practical ways in which CHE can make its revolutionary support of NAC a reality.

Did you know that Mapperley Hospital no longer practices Aversion Therapy to cure us of our 'sickness'.? They now have a delightfully titled remedy called 'Behavioural Modification' instead. The doctor who specialises in this has been asked to come and enlighten us about it in the Autumn.

Good Campaigning
Chris Richardson,
Campaign Officer.

TRY YOUR LUCK - WIN A PRIZE!

Convenors and group secretaries are in luck. If you play your cards right you can both win a prize. You already have a chance to take part in a Draw - one chance for every 10% of your group membership who register for Conference. And the prize will be two tickets for each and every social event. So boost your group's registrations and see where it gets you.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

So what will be going on at Brighton anyway? Probably the best social programme ever - and we kid you not. Friday evening starts off with a Grand Ball and Disco in the Corn Exchange (a building once seen never forgotten). Then there will be a Beach Barbecue (Gay Christians - please pray for fine weather). Also on Friday night, there will be a showing of either Word is Out or Nighthawks. And finally, before you totter off exhausted to bed, Gay Sweatshop are putting on a performance of Biggles and Algy.

Saturday lunchtime, Sussex University's Theatre Against Sexism are performing, and there's a tour of Brighton. Then on Saturday evening there is CHE's 10th Anniversary Grand Ball (hope you knew we were ten). There's another film show, Biggles and Algy again, and a rehearsed reading of the Oscar Wilde story.

Sunday - an organ recital at St Bartholomew's, and a guided coach tour of Sussex. Evening - the women of Gay Sweatshop. Monday's finale - a special feast and winding-down reception.

And remember - you get priority booking for all these events if you register - there will be higher prices for people not registered.

Booking forms for the social programme, together with all your other conference papers, go out with the Conference Mailing on 21 July. But only to those who have registered, of course.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST

The Women's Commission are arranging a special women's welcome. And there'll also be a creche.

THE POWER OF PUBLICITY

You can't do anything without publicity. So please put news about the Conference - and tell them what they're missing if they don't come - in your Group's Newsletter. And incidentally, the July BROADSHEET has practically the whole of the back page on Conference News, so you're free to use that (the Broadsheet Editorial Board has graciously waived all copyright restrictions). It also includes a registration form if you still haven't received them from any other sources.

BEDDING DOWN

There are still beds left in Brighton, in spite of the fact that there's been a strong booking response so far. But don't waste any time.

COME ON OUT, THE WATER'S LOVELY ! !