

CHIMAERA

NOTTINGHAM CHE NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME: JANUARY 1981

- MON 5th Discussion of the forthcoming P.I.E. Trial. At CVS at 8.00 pm. This should be of interest to all gay people whether 'campaigners' or not, as the reaction of our free and responsible media will be crucial to the gay movement in this country.
- WED 7th General Meeting of the Nottingham NCCL group at the Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way 8.00pm
- THUR 8th Business meeting at the CVS at 8pm.
- MON 12th Bring your jumble to CVS for the Jumble Sale on Saturday.
- THUR 15th As above.
- TUE 13th Ten Pin Bowling Evening. Meet at the Old Cricket Players on Barkergate between 7.30 and 8.00pm. It costs about £1.
- WED 14th Nottingham Gay Music Group. A Hoffnung evening at Mike's, 19, Thomas Close, St. Ann's 8.00 pm.
- SAT 17th Jumble Sale at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road during the afternoon. All offers of help welcome. See John, Mike or Chris.
- TUE 20th Nottingham Gay Switchboard Quarterly meeting at CVS at 8.00pm.
- THUR 22nd Business/Programme meeting at CVS at 8pm.
- SAT 24th Trip to Leicester to visit the Dover Castle pub and Spots Nightclub. Meet in the Dog and Partridge from 7.00 leaving at about 7.45pm.

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| PROGRAMME: CONTINUED |
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TUE 27th Pub Games Evening at the Forest Tavern, Mansfield Road. The bar concerned is at the back on the left-hand side of the passage. Meet from 8 pm onwards.

THUR 29th Meeting to discuss the proposed Speaker's kit. At CVS at 8.00pm.

Here's slight advance notice of a February meeting: -

SUN. Feb 1st Earl Grey, Muffins, Strawberry Jam are some of the compensations you might get if you brave another of Mike's quizzes. The address is 19, Thomas Close, St. Ann's, Nottingham. The time is 4.00 pm.

For those who are new to Nottingham or to the CHE Group, I must point out that the initials CVS stand for Council for Voluntary Service and its address is

31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

This is also the address from which Nottingham Gay Switchboard operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7-10pm. The phone number to ring if you need to use it is 46881.

During the last fortnight there have been two problems associated with the Switchboard which may have led to difficulties for people who do not visit the CVS often and so won't necessarily have been aware of the situation. Firstly, the phone line (i.e. 46881) was out of order on a couple of evenings, but has now been mended by the GPO. Secondly, the economies that the CVS, like many organisations, have been forced into have led them to close the CVS building over Christmas and the new year and this again meant that the Switchboard has not operated during those times. This state of affairs has been advertised in the newspapers where the Switchboard normally places its ads., but I am sure that some people will still have been confused.

Another word about the Switchboard. We will probably be starting another training course for Switchboard Operators fairly soon. If you are reliable, have a fair experience of the gay world, are capable of following written instructions, are 'together' about being gay, have some commonsense and can express yourself fairly clearly then you will probably do quite well. If you have any questions over this then ask John, Mike or David (Edgley) and also remember that you are welcome to come along to the Switchboard Quarterly meetings to find out what the Switchboard is doing.

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| CAMPAIGN REPORT |
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John Clarkson Defence Campaign.

As most members will be aware, John was acquitted of the charge of 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace' at the resumed hearing at the Guildhall Magistrates Court on 3rd November.

The outcome of the trial was welcome as far as it went - the Magistrates nevertheless bound John over to keep the peace for a year. However, the opportunity to appeal against a conviction was obviously denied us, and we failed in our objective of securing a successful appeal in the Appeal Court which would have set a useful legal precedent throughout the country. The Police and Magistrates in Nottingham may be less keen on using the Public Order Act in alleged cottaging cases in future but the effect will be negligible elsewhere.

Self Defence.

This has not been forgotten. A number of people have asked to be kept informed and classes will begin as soon as an instructor can be found.

Lesbian Mothers Movement.

The Lesbian Mothers Movement was represented at the Midland Gallery when the film '^{In The Re-Subjects} Not in front of the Children' was shown there a few weeks ago, and an account was given of the difficulties placed in the way of lesbian mothers who want custody of their children following divorce or separation.

We are in touch with the L.M.M. and an article by them will be appearing in a future edition of Chimaera, probably in February. Meanwhile the Nottingham group of C.H.E. has made a £10 donation to their funds.

The aims of the Lesbian Mothers Movement are summarised in a resolution passed at a conference on lesbian custody earlier this year:

'This conference, viewing with grave concern the noticeable increase in the number of custody cases coming to judgement in which lesbian mothers have lost custody of their children, believes that bias in these cases should be recognised and combatted. This conference has now set up a group entitled LESBIAN MOTHERS MOVEMENT to co-ordinate a national network.

This conference further resolves:

- a) To approach relevant agencies to draw attention to this matter and petition for justice to be shown to lesbians in court;
- b) To consider using the media with a view to obtaining balanced coverage of the issue at local and national level;
- c) To raise the issue with international agencies to make information available concerning cases of custody and lesbian mothers;
- d) To compile a dossier on the subject, particularly on cases in which lesbians have obtained custody where lesbianism has been

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the issue in the case;

e) To provide support for individual mothers who are involved in custody cases.'

Further information can be obtained from: Julia Griffiths or Gloria Carter, 33, St. Lukes Crescent, Totterdown, Bristol 3, Avon. Telephone 717702 (Bristol)-incoming calls only.

Your Rights On Arrest.

Barrie Ward's visit to the group recently was well attended and found to be very interesting and useful. Most of us are probably unaware of the basic rights we possess and would have difficulty remembering them in a difficult situation such as an arrest. Rather than try to summarise them here I have a series of useful fact sheets in plastic wallets published by the National Council for Civil Liberties, including one on homosexuality and the law. These are a bargain at 40 pence and I have plenty for anyone who would like a set.

European Court on Human Rights.

Our letter writing efforts to get the Government to ratify the Article on the right of an individual to make a complaint against his or her government to the European Commission of Human Rights were not in vain. The Government at Westminster has now agreed to maintain this right for another period from January 1981.

Happy Christmas,

Chris. Richardson.

ODDS AND ENDS

Chris Cook's intriguing quiz which appeared in the last edition of Chimaera was won by the Editor (fix!). At this stage, I have forgotten the answers, but it was something like this:-

The Englishman had snails, the Ukrainian had the banana, the Spaniard had hiccups and the Swede was the good time that was had by all.

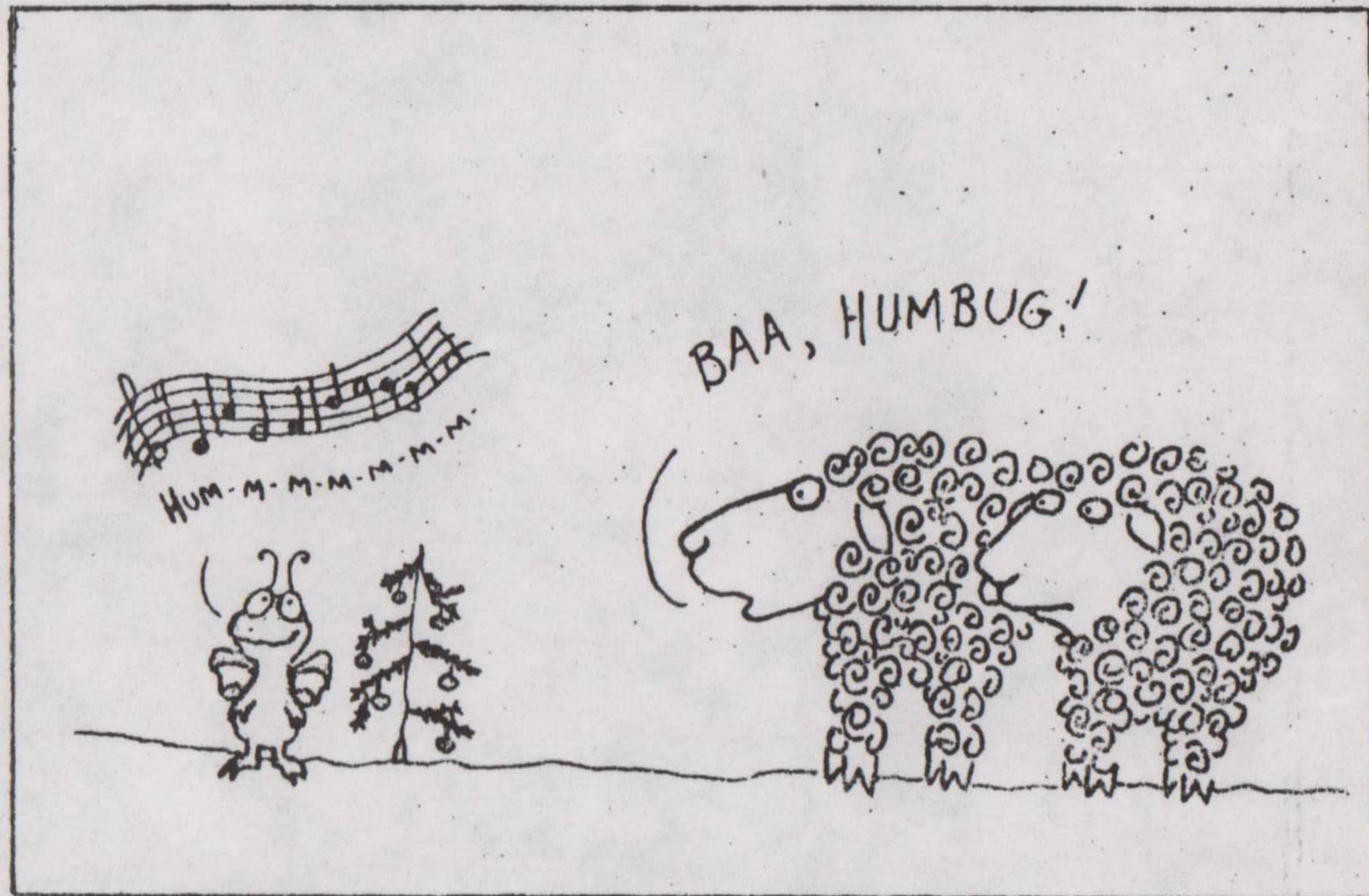
I bought a book on Great Operatic Disasters with my book token. The gist of it may be gleaned by taking a few extracts from the index:-

Animals, aggressive,
incontinent,
over-affectionate,
recycled.

Earthquake, effect on
donkey,

Swan, dangerous to
tenors,
falling,
precipitate boat,
stuffed.

Tosca, bouncing on
trampoline,
foiled by science,
shot.



I hope that you all had a happy Christmas. My favourite Christmas card cover was that one shown above.

I'll take this opportunity to thank Mike Rossi for a most ingenious and well-put-together quiz which we were given at Tony Barker's coffee evening. The quiz dealt in depth with the Pop music of the 60's and early 70's.

And that's all for this rather brief edition of Chimaera.

Perhaps the cartoon to the right will help people to remember that the DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION IS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST

