

March 1981

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NOTTINGHAM CHE NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME: MARCH 1981

- WED. 4TH Polytechnic Labour Club: we are invited to send speakers to address this group at the Clifton Site of the Poly at 7.30pm. Another volunteer is still required: if you are interested, contact Chris Richardson for details.
- THUR. 5TH Business Meeting at CVS at 8pm.
- SAT. 7TH Pancakes, Pizza and Potatoes Party at Alan Melville's, 19, Fernwood Crescent, Wollaton. "We start at eight and toss till late" (I quote!) Bring yourselves and a bottle apiece and thrill to the delights of Orgasmatron II.
- WED. 11TH Nottingham Gay Music Group, meeting at Flat 4.11, Victoria Centre (Chris Cook's). I don't know what the theme for the evening is, so come prepared for anything.
- THUR. 12TH A talk on "Gays and Witchcraft" at CVS at 8pm.
- SAT. 14TH CHE National Council in Liverpool. Remember that any local CHE member can attend this, even though the group has only one vote. Contact Mike Raymond or Chris Richardson if interested.
- TUES. 17TH A Trip to Nottingham Ice Rink, to partake of the delights thereof. Meeting beforehand (up to 8pm) in the Old Cricket Players on Barker Gate - it's by the side of the Ice Rink itself. Last time we went it cost about 75p including skate hire, so pad your elbows, knees and bums and join the fun.
- THUR. 19TH Business meeting at CVS at 8pm plus Programme Planning.
- THUR. 26TH Richard Digby-Day, the new director of the Playhouse is coming to talk to the group. He was originally invited to talk about the Playhouse's (no longer) forthcoming production of "Bent", but what he will talk about now we don't know. It still promises to be an interesting evening. At CVS at 8pm. People intending to come and listen should arrive promptly: it's discourteous to a guest to have his opening remarks interrupted by a succession of late arrivals.
- FRI. 27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. CVS BOARDROOM at 7.30pm (Note earlier time than usual) See details elsewhere in the newsletter.
- SAT. 28TH Gay Rights at Work Conference in Sheffield. See Chris Richardson if you are interested in going.

PROGRAMME: APRIL 1981

WED. 1ST Vincent is going to be in court and has extended a cordial invitation to any other member to join him there. See Vincent for details.

THUR. 2ND Business Meeting at CVS at 8pm.

MON. 6TH Meeting for those working on the idea of a Speakers' Kit. 8pm at the CVS.

You will receive the rest of the programme for April on the information sheet for that month. The Deadline for the next edition of Chimaera will be SATURDAY 25TH APRIL.

For those who are new to Nottingham or to the CHE Group, the initials CVS stand for Council for Voluntary Service and its address is 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

This is the address from which Nottingham Gay Switchboard operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7-10pm. The phone number is Nottingham 46881.

VISITORS TO CVS

At the last Switchboard general meeting some concern was expressed over the reception of people who arrive at the CVS for the first time. If you go down to answer the door, please bear in mind that the person there may not have come to meet CHE and may be feeling nervous and apprehensive. Ask them whether they have come to talk to a member of the Switchboard or Friend and if this is the case then make sure that they are passed on to someone suitable - they may not have the name of a particular person to see.

If they have come to see what CHE is like, then try and find one of the group's officers who can tell them what the set up is. If there is none available, then do make the person welcome, offer them coffee etc. But remember that at this stage they may not want to reveal too much about themselves and may not take too kindly if they are overwhelmed with questions of too specific a kind. A poor reception received by first-time visitors when they have come up those stairs will certainly influence their view of CHE and may well colour their ideas about other gay groups and gay people in general, possibly with the result that they may never try to contact any again and so suffer intolerable loneliness and frustration in consequence.

It's also the case, of course, that the stranger at the door may be nothing to do with the Switchboard or CHE - after all, we are not the only group that uses the CVS - but it still goes without saying that a polite and friendly manner can still pay dividends, even though they may not be so obvious.

A brief note from John: will anyone who intends to claim any expenses from the group please make sure they do so by the Business Meeting on March 19th at the latest. If not, they won't get the money as he has to close the accounts and get them reconciled and audited within the next week!

WHERE'S THE HANDBAG?

There's no prize for this quiz other than an inner glow of smug self-satisfaction.

Roger has sent presents to five relatives who live in different parts of the country. Name and locate each relative and say which present he/she received.

1. Brian does not smoke and the handbag was not sent to Cornwall.
2. The record was given to the relative in Wales, who is not Roger's cousin.
3. Walter, who is not Roger's uncle, lives in Norfolk.
4. Roger chose the book for one of his cousins.
5. Roger's brother is married and now lives in Hampshire.
6. Mary does not live in Cornwall.
7. Geraldine received the handbag.
8. The wallet was not given to Roger's uncle.

The names of the relatives are:-

Brian, Geraldine, John, Mary, Walter.

The relationships are:-

Aunt, Brother, Cousin (female), Cousin (male) and Uncle.

The homes are in Cornwall, Cumbria, Hampshire, Norfolk and Wales.

The presents were: Book, handbag, pipe, record and wallet.

Mike Rossé

PEACE MARCH IN SHEFFIELD

Sheffield Peace Liaison Committee has organised a demonstration for Saturday 14th March. Its immediate demands are "No to Cruise Missiles" and "No replacement for Polaris". The long(er) term aim is the complete removal of all nuclear weapons throughout the world. The march sets off from Carlisle St., Sheffield at 11.30am to head towards the Oval Hall where a rally will be held. The speakers will include Bruce Kent of CND and Neil Kinnock MP. There will also be poetry readings and theatre productions.

Further information can be obtained from the Committee's secretary Jim Coleman, 126, Station Road, Sheffield. Tel. 0742 693658

THE QUIET LIFE

Maintaining Standards by Peter Whalley (Radio 4, 21st January)

It appears that only one teacher, Louise, knows that her colleague Clive Baxter is gay. A totally false accusation by a schoolboy that Clive has 'sexually assaulted' him comes close to wrecking his career.

Word about the allegation, and the police search for the boy who has now run away, quickly gets round the school. This results in a phone call to Clive - "Hello pouf, got any little boys with you tonight?" - writing on the blackboard, and the subject of homosexuality in Ancient Greece being raised by a sixth-form student in a lesson on Plato.

In a confrontation with Clive, the Headmaster says, "Are you claiming that the fact that you are homosexual and a schoolmaster are not connected?" Clive thinks on this and starts to believe that there is a link; he tells his lover, tax inspector Harry, that he gets his kicks out of teaching boys. He says he has only now allowed himself to accept this, and so, although the boy has now been found and has admitted that his allegations were false, Clive decides he can no longer teach. (Clive is later persuaded to carry on teaching. Why? How? Well, he would have had to find other work, move away to do so, and "It's Harry I can't leave", he says.)

The play was, unfortunately all too realistic. I found it hard to find any of the characters at all desirable. The Headmaster was happy to think he was getting rid of a gay teacher. Louise gave private support, but mainly because Clive was the only teacher she communicated with. Harry was very much in the closet and thought he had to try so much harder at everything because he was gay.

Clive was the most infuriating person of all, still believing that things would be OK if everything was made to appear 'respectable'. The play ends with a teacher still seeking signatures for a letter to the council opposing cuts in education. As Clive Baxter again refuses to sign, the teacher says accusingly "What is it you are after - just a quiet life and promotion?" Of course, the unspoken answer is "Yes". Behind this is the idea that by not getting involved in controversy, by keeping your nose clean, you will reap some sort of (personal) reward.

The teacher collecting the signatures for the anti-Cuts letter appeared as the most 'right-on' character during his two appearances. But where the hell was he when Clive was under attack?

Reviewed by Tim Barnsley.

NOTTINGHAM CHE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will take place in the Boardroom at CVS on Friday 27th of March at 7.30pm. and all members are strongly urged to attend.

The business of the evening will fall into three broad categories: reports from group officers; election of new officers; and general discussion of basic policy etc, for the coming year.

If any member has any particular topic that they would like to see discussed, please let Mike Raymond know by Saturday 14th March so that it can be posted as part of the Agenda by the 17th. Other topics can be raised during the AGM itself, but it is at the discretion of the meeting as to whether they are discussed.

Nine volunteers are needed to fill the group's full complement of officers, namely:-

- Convenor
- Treasurer
- Campaign Officer
- Gay Lobby Officer
- Social Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Women's Liaison Officer
- Caring Officer

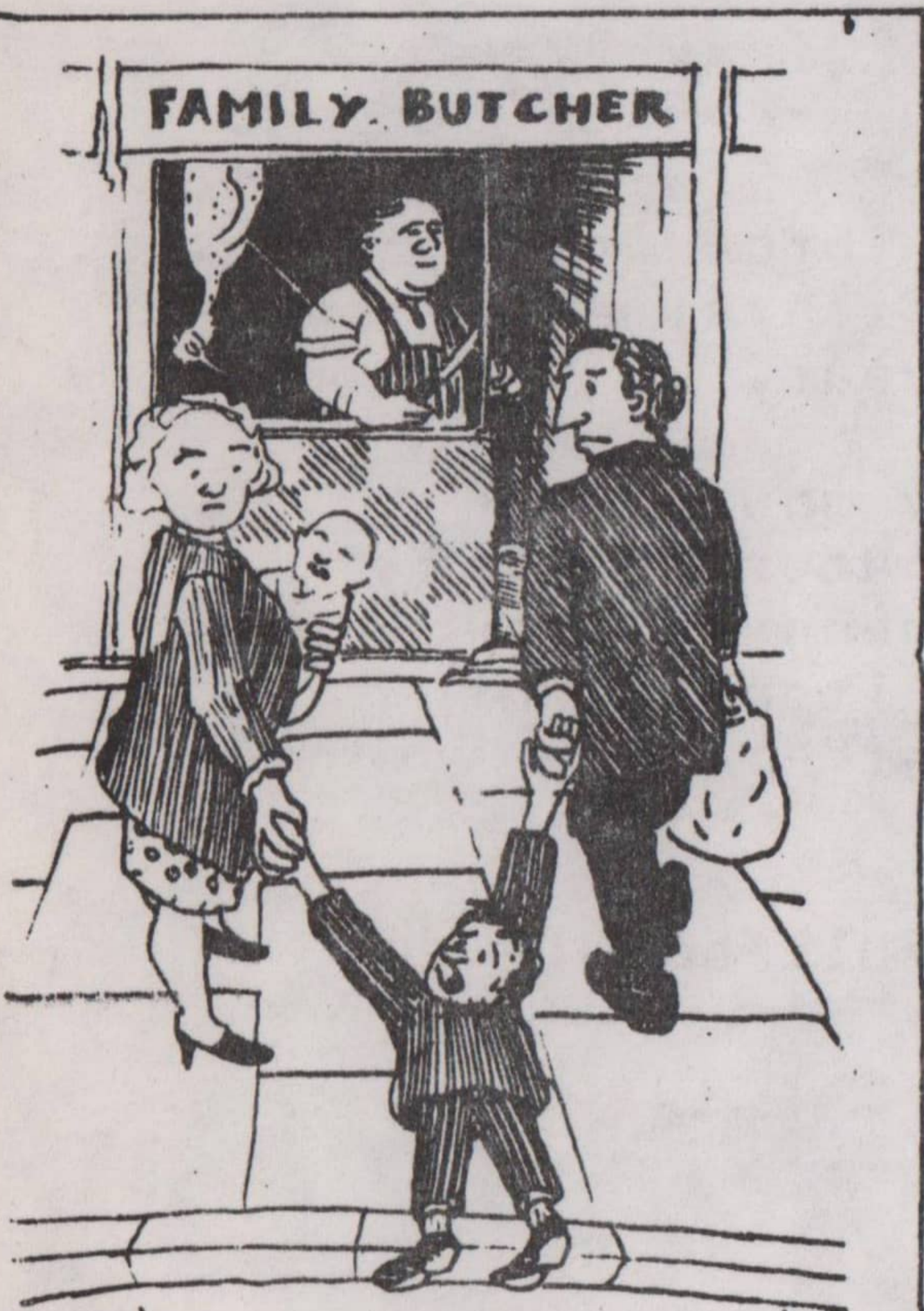
Nominations for these posts can be made at the AGM or beforehand. Nominations must be seconded and all three parties must be paid-up members. Nominees need not be present at the AGM, but must put in writing their willingness to stand for election. If you are interested in filling any of the above posts, then Mike can let you have some idea of just what is involved, and almost certainly someone will be willing to nominate you, so don't be shy about volunteering your services.

FILLING AWKWARD SPACES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

Here are some definitions that you may not find in your dictionary:-

RAUCOUS	Uncooked swear word.
SHAMBLE	Imitation male cow.
STAPLE	Tower of an Irish church.
SUPERSEDE	Excellent for growing flowers from.
TESTIMONY	Bad tempered coins.
WHOSE	A Scottish house.

ODDS AND ENDS



"Help!"



The cartoon to the immediate left should accompany the following domestic dialogue:-

"Mummy, I hate Daddy's guts!"

"Well, leave them, Dear, and just finish your greens."

As I have said before, the errors noted on scientific exam. papers are usually merely inept:-

"Is air a mixture or a compound?" "Yes."

Or even "Pass." (The Mastermind Syndrome)

Extracts from an essay on "My Favourite Holiday" gave scope for far more imagination:-

"We travelled from Dover to Calais by Fairyboat."

And "In the morning we went round Disneyland followed by Niagara Falls and after lunch we went to the Grand Canyon."

All you athletic types may be interested in the insert in "ORACLE" the Clifton Poly Newsletter, which reads "I am thinking of organising a Non-Squash Club Clifton Bisexual Squash Ladder - Simon Ladd T11" "Does he mean "Mixed"? Perhaps he doesn't. As an alternative, you may care to join the Gay Outdoor Club's trip to the Himalayas - see left.

On a recent visit to ASDA, I, as an innocent xenophobe, was amused to see a bottle of something called Cotes de Luberone on the wineracks. Perhaps it is to be served with the present that I got from some friends who have just returned from Los Angeles - namely a carton of Ultralube. This is perfumed with cloves and other spices. Unfortunately one smells as if one has been fucking a casserole.
