

# NOGSOG NEWS

MARCH 1984

## SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- TUES. 6TH Ten pin bowling. Meet at Barker Gate Bowling Alley at 8 pm. It costs 96p per person for a game and the cost of shoe hire is 25p.
- THURS. 15TH Programme Meeting (to sort out what we will be doing in April and beyond). This is at the CVS at 8.5pm.
- FRI. 16TH Bring-a-Bottle Party at Perry's 79, Percival Road, Sherwood - from 9/10ish onwards.
- TUES. 20TH Video Evening at Tim's. This starts at 8pm PROMPTLY - late comers may miss the naughty bits. We are hoping to get 'Blade Runner' this time. The address is 15, Mapperley Hall Drive, Mapperley Park. If people feel like bringing a bottle (beer or wine) it would help to make the evening even more enjoyable.
- SAT. 24TH This is a provisional date set for a Minibus trip. 'Heaven' has been suggested as a possibility - fuller details can be obtained from Mark Palmer.

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N.B. Apart from the events listed above, please remember that anyone is welcome to call in at the CVS on any Thursday (from about 8 pm onwards) for a chat and a cup of coffee.

I believe that one or two people have, or still are, turning up at the Foresters on a Monday night - this, however, is no longer a regular group meeting as it was in the Autumn.

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For those of you who are confused about what the CVS is, it is the Council for Voluntary Service Offices at 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham where the group regularly meets. It is also the address from which Nottingham Gay Switchboard operates. If you need to contact the Switchboard they can be reached any Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7 to 10 pm by phoning either 411454 or 476714.

The following article was written for the Christmas Newsletter, but it was too late for the deadline. I was told that Peter and Simon would go berserk (i.e. slurp their coffee and crack their knuckles) if it wasn't printed. Though the temptation was great, I have finally given in.

### TRIP TO MANCHESTER

Our minibus 'cruise' was to the High Society Club in Manchester and as we arrived earlier than expected we visited the Rembrandt - a gay pub/hotel. The pub has a Victorian-Western style decor and was packed mainly with REAL MEN (Does this mean men who wear orange elastic macs over their bike gear? - ED) and a few wimps. We left around last orders time and made for High Society. The club has a very high camp thirties Deco mirror decor which suited Miss Mirrors Simone down to the ground. In fact there were mirrors everywhere, making Simone's personal vanity mirror redundant. The drinks were at club prices and there was a small snacks area. The dance floor was so tiny that it was soon swamped as the club filled to capacity, but the disco was very good - far superior to Part II's.

Some members weren't content with what High Society had on offer and decided to go and look for 'bargains' elsewhere - at Hero's, from where Simon resumes the narrative.....

As High Society was far too plush for a sleaze like me, we decided to check out Hero's. When we got there I'm surprised they didn't hand out stick-on moustaches for us clean shaven visitors - talk about Clonesville! The club itself is a cross between Whispers (as was), Spots and Heaven. Very dark. Much darker than part two and muggins spent five minutes cruising a hunky piece of wall. Must remember to wear mummy's tiara next time to reflect what little light there is.

To get back to the point, the club is fairly large with three bars - one which didn't have draught beer. The dance floor was a decent size and was packed solid so we didn't even attempt to have a quick jig. The music was very loud - très bump!bump! but seemed up-to-date with the latest disco releases. No Frank Ifield, much to my disappointment. Clone Zone have their shop in Hero's selling the usual T-shirts, vests, cockrings, greetings cards etc. and if you have some money to spare it would be the perfect place to buy your Christmas presents from. Do you think Mummy would welcome a 'My face leaves at midnight - be on it' T-shirt?

There was also a restaurant - which we didn't visit - and plenty of room for sitting and having a fairly quiet chat or whatever people do in these places. The cloakroom staff were polite and had put three articles on one coat hanger, saving us some money. Speaking of which, the bar prices were average for a club.

Unfortunately the hands of the clock simply whizzed around and not wanting to suffer the embarrassment of turning into pumpkins in public, we left the ball in a flurry of lace a taffeta. Right, that's all for now, I'm off to find my other glass slipper - I simply can't think where it is!

Thanks, Simon, perhaps you might bump into Perry while looking for that glass slipper - I hear that he's been back to Manchester five times since our visit; I can't imagine why ..... and I've never been one to gossip, but .....

Pete

"I have nothing against gays. Many of them are highly talented and successful people who are prominent in the artistic professions. Many of them vote Conservative. they do not need hand-outs. "As for the lesbians, I have no sympathy for them at all. They all seem to be socialists. They have also succeeded in giving feminism a bad name. They do not deserve any support from the taxpayer."

Coun. Bryan Cassidy, quoted in *Hendon-Edgware Independent*. (Gordon Hayward, Middlesex.)

## Going gaily to the grave

SAN FRANCISCO'S thriving (and politically powerful) homosexual population already rejoices in its own banks, churches, bookstores, theatres, car dealerships, medical clinics, musical groups, 200-odd bars, and other business enterprises. Now members may go gaily to the grave.

America's first 'homosexually-orientated' low-cost cremation and burial

service, the Lambda Funeral Guild, has opened on Market Street, the main thoroughfare of the nation's 'gay Mecca.'

'Yes, I've been told a gay mortician is unnecessary as well as bizarre,' says undertaker Tom Simpson, 39. 'My response is that gays face many troubles when one of their number dies. Relatives, who've treated the guy or girl like an outcast for years, suddenly arrive to claim the body. People who really cared are pushed

aside, given no time to grieve or remember.'

Simpson is a blond, blue-eyed all-American from Texas, where his father was also a mortician. There are, he says, about 20 million gays in America, 'all planning for a car, a house, whatever: they should plan for that final step, too.'

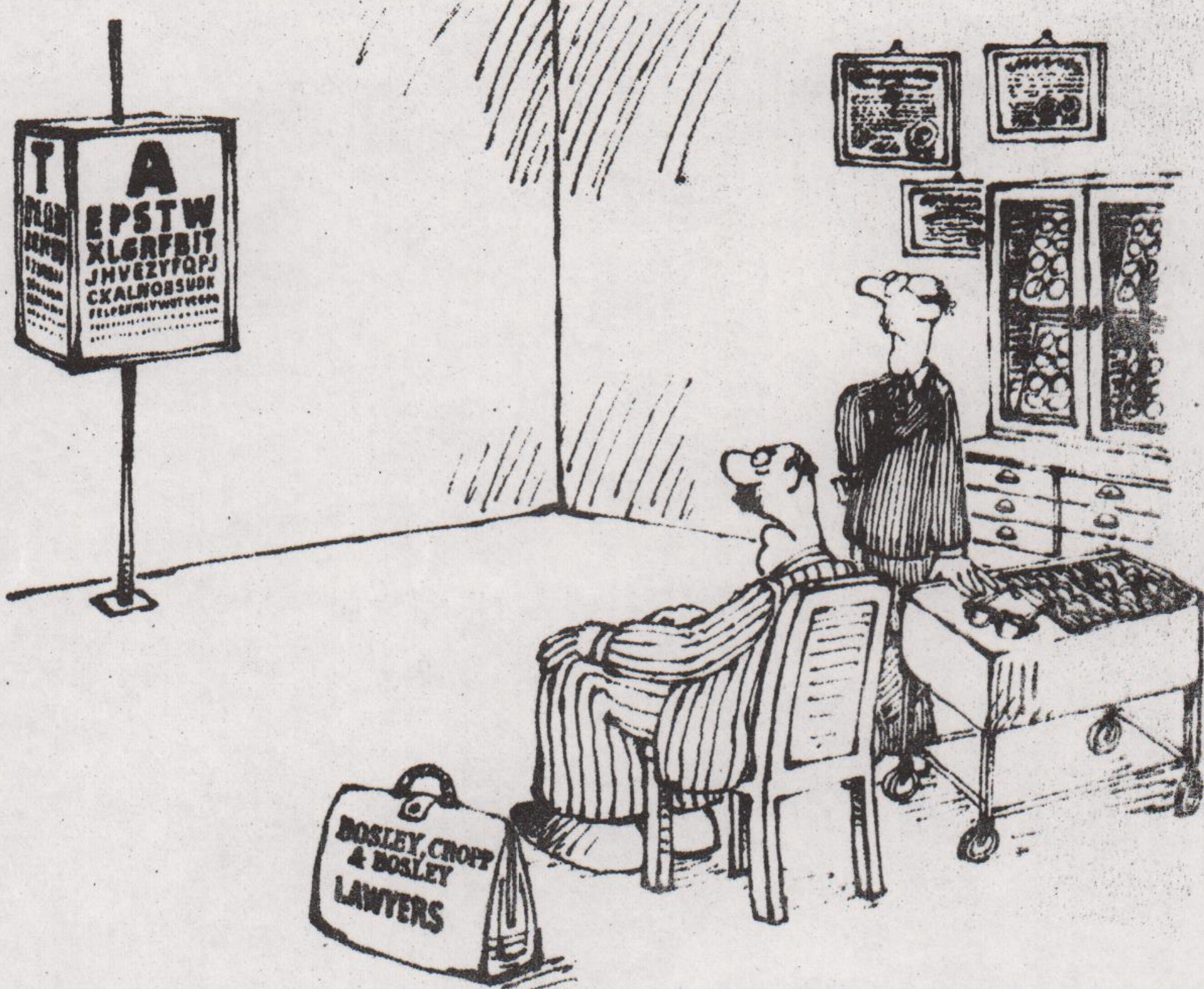
An Episcopalian, Simpson recognises that the gay life-style often involves flamboyant fantasies. All can be planned for in advance and stored in Lambda's files.

## Woman to woman

"AT LEAST if it was a bloke I could go and hit him". a husband told his wife, who had just announced her relationship with another woman. He didn't understand, she explains in *Our Lives: Lesbian Mothers talk to Lesbian Mothers* (80p from *Our Lives*, c/o South Manchester Law Centre, 595 Stockport Road, Manchester 13).

The authors bemoan the fact that lesbian custody cases make good press reading — but as only those which go to appeal are reported, the total number isn't known. But 1983 was a hopeful year for them. A judge overturned a 1980

order and said "the mere fact that a parent was a homosexual was no reason to refuse care and control of a child, and the children, aged seven and eight want to live with their mother, instead of their father and new wife."



"I'm afraid I can only read the bottom two lines"

EXTRACT FROM PART II'S RECENT NEWSLETTER

1984 promises to be an exciting year for Part Two, with quite a few changes and all for the better! First of all, in spite of rumours to the contrary, changes which have not been made:-

The Club has not been sold.

The Club is not going straight.

The Club is definitely not closing down.

Now, what about the genuine changes?

There has been a change of management, but the original founders and backers, Mary & Patrick Mooney are still 100% behind the Club, and with their son Nicholas as Manager, look forward to running the Club on a friendly but more efficient and business like basis, with all members welcome on an equal footing. However, Part Two still remains the only Club in Gt. Britain with a gay licence, and we hope it will continue to be so for many years to come.