

NOGSOG NEWSHEET

NOVEMBER 1984

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- THUR. 8TH A talk by members of Nottingham Gay Switchboard about what the Switchboard does, its problems and successes. This will be at the CVS at 8.30pm - try to be prompt, please.
- THUR 15TH Programme meeting - to sort out what the group is going to do over the next month or so. At the CVS at 8.30pm
- WED. 21ST Pub night at the Foresters. Meet in the Lounge bar from 8.30pm.
- SUN. 25TH A walk in the Strelley area. Meet at Gatsby's at 1.30pm.

ADVANCE NOTICE for December

- FRI. 7TH Meeting with the Leicester Group for a 'skittles challenge'. This will be at the Blacksmith's Arms, Loughborough from 8pm onwards - it will cost £1-50 for a game and refreshments.
- WED. 12TH Coffee evening at David Lowe's. This is provisional - confirmation and further details will follow in the next newsheet.
- SAT. 22ND Perry's Christmas Party at 52, Church Lane, Selston. From 9.30pm onwards - bring TWO bottles.

Remember that in addition to what is listed above, anyone is welcome to turn up on a Thursday night at the CVS for a chat and coffee. I think that the likelihood of coffee is much greater than for the past few weeks as the CVS have taken substantial steps towards rehabilitating the kitchen (which was damaged by floods). For those new to the group, the CVS is 31a, Mansfield Road.

Your Treasurer reminds those who are reading this that they should have paid their subscriptions by now. If you have forgotten, or you hope that we have forgotten - well, we haven't, so cough up. Give them to David Lowe.

This newsheet can be as brief, or as long as required. As you will see overleaf, some people have given me some recent extracts from newspapers - please keep them coming, but also the occasional article or cartoon or puzzle would help. Believe it or not, I was looking through some of the old newsletters and on several occasions they were 20 or more pages long.

Tories 'take a stand against Permissive Society'

HOMOSEXUALS are to be banned from working for a council.

As a storm broke over the move last night Rugby council's Tory leader said: 'We have gone along with the permissive society for too long.'

Farmer and father of four Mr Gordon Collett added: 'We are calling a halt. It's time a stand was made.'

Labour councillors and 'gay rights' campaigners reacted furiously, and the town hall union Nalگو ordered an inquiry.

The 49-strong Tory-controlled council decided by one vote to change its 'equal opportunity' policy for hiring staff. It had decreed that all applicants would have a fair chance irrespective of sex, race, marital status—or sexual orientation. The last phrase has now been dropped.

By KEITH COLLING

The ban applies to both sexes, and 53-year-old Mr Collett said: 'In future any homosexuals will not be employed by the council. They may have excellent qualifications and may be the best applicant but they will not get the job.'

'The council has got to set a standard. We may lose some able men and women but it is a risk we must take.'

Tory colleague Mr William Carr, chairman of the personnel committee and a senior member of the working party which formulated the policy, said: 'We would not employ a known rapist in the typing pool.'

'There is a tendency among some Left-Wing councils to employ a policy of reverse discrimination where they actively encourage lesbians and male homosexuals. We wanted to avoid that. We shall not ask applicants if they are homosexuals but it is a factor which may

become considered if they appear so.'

The council employs 600 people, including 270 Nalگو members. There are no known homosexuals and Mr Carr promised: 'There will be no witch hunt. We are protecting our employees by not planting someone in their midst who might be a disturbing influence.'

Labour councillor Mr Jeffrey Coupe said: 'I am ashamed at this irresponsible motion. People who subscribe to this view forget that heterosexual crime is much more prevalent than that committed by other people.'

A spokesman for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality said: 'This is an absolutely monstrous piece of discrimination.'

Mr John Daly, general secretary of Nalگو, warned that the council could face a battle at national level over the issue. Councillors had displayed a total lack of understanding, he said. 'The attitudes and ignorance expressed at their meeting show why equal opportunity clauses with reference to sexual orientation are so important.'

Rugby rejects

AS a happy heterosexual, I have no personal axe to grind against Rugby Borough Council's decision to ban homosexuals and lesbians from working for them.

I would like to point out, though, that by this criterion, Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Somerset Maugham, Noel Coward, Lord Byron, Tchaikovsky, Plato, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and, if we are to believe the evidence of the sonnets, Shakespeare, are just a few of the individuals who would have been deemed not good enough to work for Rugby Council!

Before complaints that some were married or had affairs with women, I agree that in some cases their sexuality was ambivalent and they had a perfect right to be so—unless they were applying for a council job!

Name and address supplied.

A telephone poll conducted by Mercia Sound radio station attracted more than 2,000 callers wanting to give their views on Rugby Council's decision to ban gays from council jobs.

It is not a scientific sample or a cross section, but nevertheless a massive 72 per cent said the council was wrong and lesbians and gay men should enjoy the same employment rights as heterosexuals.

And now the local paper, which has itself strongly supported local lesbians and gay men, has launched a second poll.

The *Rugby Advertiser* has asked its readers to answer Yes or No to the question: "Should Rugby Council refuse to employ homosexuals?"

The paper says it wants to "let the council know what the people really think".

Victorian

The *Rugby Advertiser* has already made its own position clear in a leader column which said of the council: "Their prejudice carries scars of the Victorian era..."

"The reasoned argument of some of their colleagues went unheeded and by today the council has found itself the target for national criticism.

"... surely this situation calls for moderation and tolerance."

Fizzling out

But a swift promise of help from NALGO, the National and Local Government Officers Association, seems to have come to nothing.

Mike Foxwell, convener of the Coventry and District CHE group, said: "The local NALGO are not doing anything. It looks as if it is fizzling out on the trade union front."

THE EXPANSION of the Californian pink economy continues unabated. A new brewery, Wilde's of Sacramento, has launched its Oscar Wilde lager, brewed, says company spokesman Lee Nichols "specifically for homosexual tastes." The test launch is in San Diego. If it works out there, further plans are for the world gay capital, San Francisco.

Charity allowed 'gay' in title

THE word Gay, meaning homosexual, has been allowed in the title of a registered charity for the first time.

Gay Bereavement Project, which helps homosexual men and women when their partners die, has been registered by the Charity Commission.