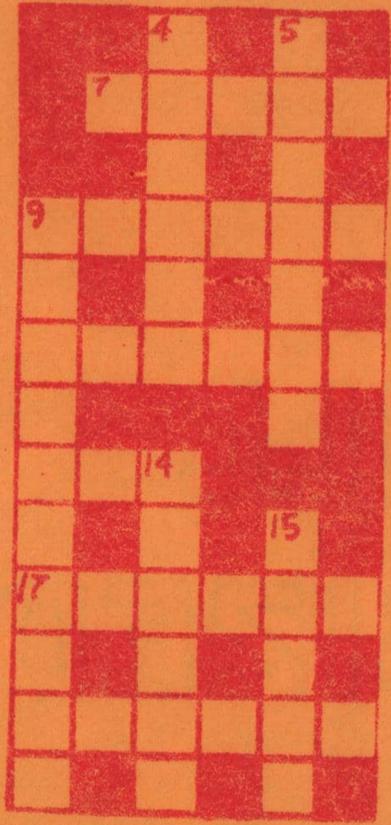
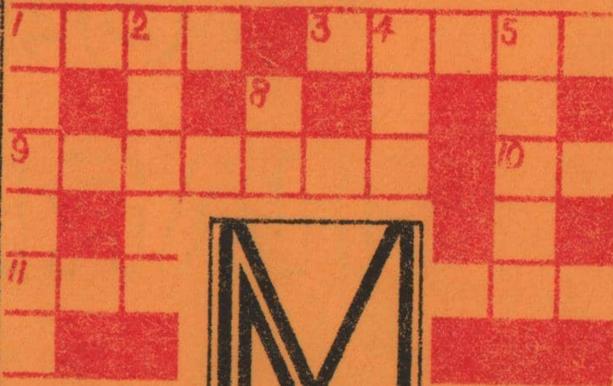


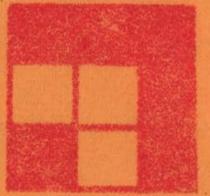
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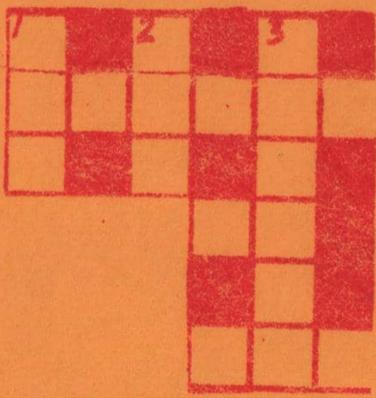


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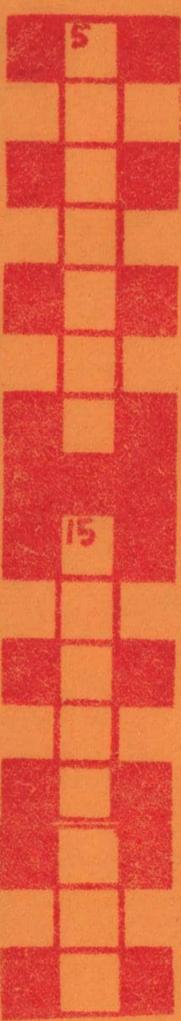


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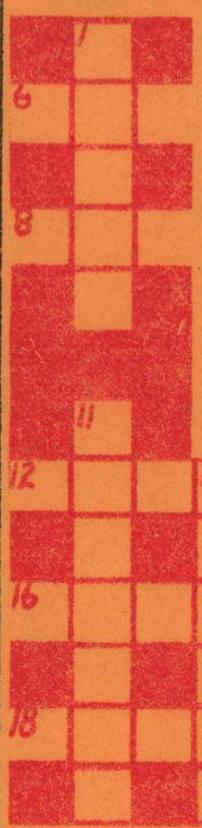
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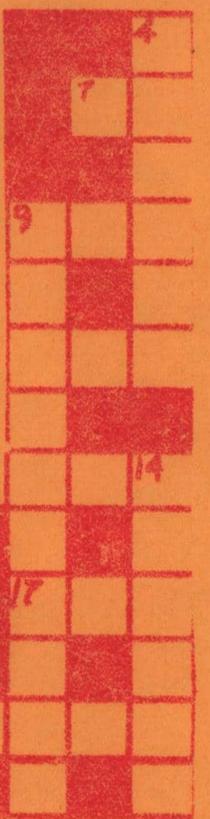
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NEWSLETTER FOR THE DERBY, NOTTINGHAM AND MANSFIELD CHE GROUPS

About 4 years ago the Nottingham CHE group had between 40 and 50 members. Today the Nottingham CHE group has between 40 and 50 members. The difference is that 4 years ago the members covered an area between Leicester, Derby, Lincoln Sheffield and Leeds, while today only a few members live more than 5 or 6 miles out of Nottingham. Those areas once associated with us have formed their own CHE groups one by one.

Recently we had the division of the Notts/Derby group into the three areas of Mansfield, Derby and Nottingham. Is this proving successful? As far as I can gather, the split has resulted in increased attendance and increased involvement in all three areas.

On a different level we have had another 'split'. After the parts of the Newsletter which recur in every issue you will find that the articles that follow are divided so that those from each of the three areas are grouped together.

David.

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PROGRAMME

DERBY

- TUESDAY NOV. 2nd BUSINESS MEETING at Jo and Glen's. 8 pm prompt.
25, Valley Road, Littleover.
- WEDNESDAY NOV. 3rd Carole's bright (but not exactly original) idea.
Meet at 7.30 prompt. We will go on to the gym
at Etwall hospital. I know this is only 3 days before the Forum,
but I think if Nottingham people can get across it will be a
very positive thing to do at this time. (see page 11).
- FRIDAY NOV. 5th BONFIRE PARTY at Philip's. Bring some wood, some
fireworks and some booze. Fire to be lit at 7.30.
- SATURDAY NOV. 6th THE NOTTINGHAM FORUM
- MONDAY NOV. 8th DISCUSSION at Carole and Heather's. 8 pm.
- WEDNESDAY NOV. 10th SOCIAL MEETING in the upstairs room at
The Tiger Vaults. 8 pm onwards.
- FRIDAY NOV. 12th ICE SKATING at the RINK in NOTTINGHAM. Meet at 8.
- MONDAY NOV. 15th COFFEE EVENING at Philip's. 8 pm onwards.
- WEDNESDAY NOV. 17th SOCIAL EVENING at DERBY PLAYHOUSE BAR.
(The Eagle Centre) 8 pm onwards.
- MONDAY NOV. 22nd DISCUSSION at Carole and Heather's at 8 pm.
- WEDNESDAY NOV. 24th Tiger Vaults SOCIAL EVENING from 8 pm.
- WEDNESDAY DEC. 1st Derby Playhouse Bar SOCIAL EVENING from 8 pm.
- THURSDAY DEC. 2nd COFFEE at Marian's from 8 pm.
- TUESDAY DEC. 7th BUSINESS MEETING at Jo and Glen's. 8 pm prompt
- WEDNESDAY DEC 8th SOCIAL EVENING at the Tiger Vaults from 8 pm.
- FRIDAY DEC. 10th SKATING at the NOTTINGHAM ICE RINK at 8 pm.
- MONDAY DEC. 13th COFFEE at Philip's. from 8 pm.
- WEDNESDAY DEC. 15th SOCIAL EVENING at Derby Playhouse bar
(The Eagle Centre) from 8 pm.
- MONDAY DEC. 20th DISCUSSION EVENING at Carole and Heather's
at 8 pm.
- WEDNESDAY DEC. 22nd Tiger Vaults Social Meeting from 8 pm.
- MERRY CHRISTMAS
- WEDNESDAY DEC. 29th SOCIAL EVENING at the Derby Playhouse Bar
from 8 pm.
- THURSDAY JAN. 6th COFFEE at Marian's from 8 pm.

 PROGRAMME (Continued)

MANSFIELD

EVERY WEDNESDAY Meet in the Lounge bar of the White Swan in Sutton in Ashfield. Everyone welcome.

NOVEMBER 5th BONFIRE PARTY at Bill and Ron's in Ravenshead. Charge of 50p for food and fireworks. Bring a bottle. For directions ring Hilary and Pat at 755000 and we'll send you a map or give you verbal directions.

NOTTINGHAM

THURSDAY NOV. 4th COFFEE AND THINGS at Ian and David's from 8. 64, Fabis Drive, Clifton Grove, Nottingham.

SATURDAY NOV. 6th THE NOTTINGHAM FORUM

WEDNESDAY NOV. 10th LA CHIC from 9 pm. Remember that these meetings begin in the upstairs Cocktail Lounge, which you get to by going up the stairs immediately on your right as you come in.

FRIDAY NOV. 19th A speaker from the MARRIAGE GUIDANCE will be talking to us at 8 pm PROMPT at the CVS. (31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham) Remember that you have to ring the bell to get in.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 24th LA CHIC from 9 pm (see above)

TUESDAY NOV. 30th COFFEE and talk at Richard's from 8 pm. 13, Balmoral Road (off Forest Road). Bring a bottle if you want to.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 8th LA CHIC from 9 pm. We'll probably have to discuss the next programme this evening.

FRIDAY DEC. 17th COFFEE + mince pies and a diversion at Ian and David's from 8 pm. 64, Fabis Drive, Clifton Grove, Nottingham.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 22nd LA CHIC from 9 pm.

WEDNESDAY JAN. 5th LA CHIC from 9 pm.

N.B. If you look at the Derby Programme you will notice that some people will be coming over on a couple of Friday evenings to go skating at the Nottingham Ice Rink. Why not join them? The dates are Friday Nov. 12th and Friday Dec. 10th, both at 8pm.

We are hoping to have a trip to Lutterworth (Where? Well, it's about 40 miles down the motorway and takes about 40 minutes to get there from Nottingham) to visit some friends and have a film show. None of your 8 or 16mm with Parkinson's disease; this is a home cinema with Stereophonic sound and Cinemascope! The choice at the moment is between Polanski's Macbeth, A Fistful of Dollars and One day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch. We were thinking of taking two or three car loads down one Saturday evening - details will materialise later.

 CONTACTS

Contacts for the three groups are as follows:-

MANSFIELD

Hilary and Pat. Mansfield 755000.

DERBY

Heather (Joint Convenor) Derby 511651.

Philip (Joint Convenor) Derby 752260.

Fiona (Treasurer). Ripley 45579.

NOTTINGHAM

Richard (Joint Convenor) Nottingham 74870.

Tony (Joint Convenor) Nottingham 49137.

David (Treasurer) Nottingham 216447.

The publishable address for Nottingham Group is:-

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

On the subject of contacts, the Gay Advice Service which the Nottingham group runs at the People's Centre needs to keep its lists of useful addresses, organisations, social facilities etc. accurate and up-to-date. If you have some news that we might not have heard of, please let us know. One of the most frequent questions we get asked is about 'gay hotels' in Nottingham. As far as we know, there aren't any - though we (and the management of La Chic) have come to the conclusion that the Musters is both cheap and lacking in aggro for gay people. Any further information would be welcome.

Though the 'official' closing day for applications to attend the Nottingham Forum has passed, I'm sure that if you wrote off to Mary Riddell at the Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service, 31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham and enclosed your £2, you could still get in. (Though if you're reading this after November 6th - forget it).

I'll remind those who are going along that the thing starts at 10 AM at La Chic and that we are supposed to 'assemble for coffee' at 9.45.



MAKING LOVE IS LIKE SKIPPING.
YOU CAN'T DO IT ALL DAY LONG.



 WHAT HAPPENED

MANSFIELD

Here in Mansfield we have hit on a snag to the projected plans for the future of the group.

As we reported earlier this year, we had spoken to Peter Allen the then co-ordinator of the Kirkby Community Association and in the discussions we told him of our plans in using the Associations facilities. Apart from meeting rooms, we would have an independent address for use in advertising, a place for meeting or befriending and an opportunity to involve the CHE group with the other community based groups using the association. Peter told us that a number of people in the 'singles' group and the 'single parents' group were in fact gay, so our group would be useful, helpful even.

The possibility of CHE joining the association had been discussed before our application and the response had been more favourable.

Peter has since left and the association has kept us waiting two months for a reply to our application. It has arrived and we are dismayed at the shoddy demonstration of gutless cold feet. To quote:-

"Your letter (of application) was read at the last association meeting where it was felt that whilst our links with the community are to say the least fragile, it would be dangerous for the project to adopt further controversial issues..... "

Needless to say after this dismal diatribe they urged to explain that they supported the aims of CHE and were disappointed that they were not able to help at this time. Not only that but they suggest, no doubt as a salve to their consciences, that we try the bigger community project in Sutton. This is a few miles away and the darling project of the Council. As such it is a very public project and there is no privacy for a group when necessary. This could be disastrous for our members.

We have of course zapped the Association already, giving them a few gut feelings about the let down. We have, briefly, told them that our members are part of the community too; that our links are a damn sight more fragile than any other community group and that their excuses are just another kind of discrimination against gay people. We have not had a reply yet, but we do not intend to let the matter rest.

We appeal to everyone in the Nottingham and Derby groups to spare a little time and write to the Association and support us. It would be a tremendous help.

Our group is growing steadily and needs an alternative place to meet.

Write to: Kirkby House Association,
 Kirkby House,
 Church Street,
 Kirkby in Ashfield.

Hilary.

 WHAT HAPPENED (Continued)

NOTTINGHAM

As our meetings at La Chic have been a regular part of our programme for some time, I've been trying to think of ways of describing things that I've said before in different words. As I can't, I won't - apart from mentioning that at one meeting oval, hairy Welshperson Griffith Vaughan Williams alighted to inform us of the possibility that Nottingham would be used as the venue for the next CHE Annual Conference. At the time of writing, this has been translated into at least a probability if not yet a certainty.

Both of our speaker meetings were quite well attended and though some people remarked that the GLF speaker had the impact of a blancmange, the situation with Dick Wilson was rather different. I really gained the impression that he would follow up some of the points we raised. In particular, we mentioned the idea of getting a general statement from the Council that they would not discriminate on employment because of sexual orientation. This was met with the useful suggestion that it would be best received if it was made through a big union such as Nalgo, which already supports us.

Richard has spoken to a large group of Nottingham Samaritans and hopefully this will help to further the contacts which we have established over the past few years. One result of that meetings will be that 2 or 3 of those Samaritans involved with liason between us will come to La Chic to talk with us on November 10th.

Richard, this time with Ian, discussed the counselling of gay couples with a group of people from the Marriage Guidance service. This group as a whole will have the chance to follow this up when they meet the speaker from the Marriage Guidance on November 19th.

At the moment, we are showing signs of relief that the Nottingham Forum "Homosexuals as People" is not going to be a disaster in terms of attendance. On October 20th there had been over 50 applications to attend and we expect more to arrive before the event itself. Also our long awaited Access radio programme has arrived and in order to 'stimulate spontaneity' we have been given only two weeks notice in which to produce the programme for Radio Nottingham.

Coffee evenings have continued to be enjoyable, though the last one led indirectly to an odd experience. One of our members was making his way to Tony's when he noticed a man of considerable girth lying face down in the middle of the road. As it was rather dark and foggy in the Park and fearing somewhat for the gent's safety, our thoughtful member attempted to drag the prone form towards the kerb - only to discover that he was adjusting a stopcock in the road.

David.

 WHAT HAPPENED (Continued)

DERBY NEWS

I assume from 'The Group' point of view that the most important event recently was our official 'recognition'. You are all members of a proper CHE group now, so expect triplicate amounts of paperwork in future. At our last business meeting Roland Willden resigned his post as publicity officer. Many thanks to you Roland for your achievements. In his place the numbers present voted in Chris Leigh, a relative newcomer to Derby, but no newcomer to the gay movement.

Disappointment over the non-happening of Peter Legge's talk, but these things tend to occur. We hope to arrange a new date for the New Year. Our first Campaign Visit to a National Housewives Register Group also had to be postponed; the hostess for that evening was unable to hold the meeting then - reason unknown. Another event to still look forward to.

Ice skating seems to be one of the latest hobbies, also kite flying has become popular among the women of the group. You too can have a Peter Powell Stunter for Christmas!

Our discussion evenings are still well attended and, I think, fruitful as well as enjoyable; social evenings vary somewhat. Those who attended the business meeting will note a change of venue. Instead of The Garrick, a group of us decided whilst sitting in the Playhouse bar that we had found a pretty good spot. Not only is there no juke box; there is no Muzak. We think that you will all like it, but if not I'm sure that you'll let me know.

Finally the beautiful column in the Derby Evening Telegraph headed 'Gay News request rejected'. Some of you have read and hopefully acted on the comments put forward by Councillor Green of Derby County Council Leisure Committee. I have written reply on behalf of the Group and have sent a copy of my letter to the man in question. I hope that others have written too; it is one way of getting across to Derby.

The cast of 'Any woman can' have also written as they felt doubly insulted by the placing of their review, which accused them of whitewashing the subject of lesbianism, beside the ignorant bigotry of Councillor Green's outburst. One member of the cast, actually from Long Eaton, has tried to reach him by phone to invite him to see the play. This was not successful but she fully intends to visit him to deliver a personal invitation.

If you feel as angry as we do - ring us certainly, but also write to the papers too; they won't print your name and address if you don't want them to.

Heather.

THE TRIALS OF TERRACED LIVING

Not putting it too tritely, I hope the first night in our new house felt like bliss. Our very first home, our bastion against the storms, our haven of peace and similar things. Anyway, you get the general picture. It just couldn't have felt better if it had been Buckingham Palace with a couple of Da Vincis on the wall.

That first morning waking up to your own four walls. Coffee followed by deep sighs of satisfaction. The 'county laird' feeling strolling around his estates with his dogs and shotgun tucked under his arm. My ambitions always did exceed reality but thankfully never left me completely in the skies.

Home. Then of course home has to be maintained to remain home and not to descend into a leaky hovel. Now on the subject of leaks we could offer some friendly advice - plug them up quickly.

It all began one sickly morning with the arrival of Mr Lewis, the damp course man. He had previously been to tweak up the edges of the wallpaper and give us a candid estimate. Carefully repeating the words electronic, circuit, platinum and osmotic in case I didn't understand and then telling me I wouldn't understand.

With Pat's arrival he visibly sighed with relief. "Ah, the boss?" A remark he noticed, with all his salesman expertise, that drifted through the air like a lead balloon. Still, back to that morning. I for some reason was ill and not feeling any better for Pat's loving ministrations - tonic water and milk of magnesia. Mr Lewis unloaded the drill and got to work drilling holes around the walls. Quite an experience when your stomach is already heaving and any reminders of dentists, however small, can about devastate you. Luckily for me he disappeared for two hours and I could drift back into dreamland - until he returned and drilled around the kitchen. By this time Pat had remembered something she desperately needed from Nottingham and was waving me a hearty farewell down the street. But I was up and consigned to the kitchen to make endless cups of tea and soothe the terrorized felines.

The living room was heaped with the contents of the pantry and was absolutely unpassable. Mr Lewis gabbled on, frequently answering his own questions, and cheerfully hacked off the wet plaster until he was sitting in a positively glorious mess. Then as if God must have heard me, Mr Lewis' mate arrived. Terry. Between them they left the place fit to live in.

Now I must diverge here for a moment. You see Terry bore an amazing resemblance to someone we know. An absolutely amazing resemblance. Without the day old beard and hairy chest, that is, before us stood Carole. We still can't get over it.

Anyway, Terry returned 2 days later to sort out the chaos left by Mr Lewis and as he was fixing the earthing rod in the front room he found quite a horror story under the floorboards.

 THE TRIALS OF TERRACED LIVING (Continued)

I admire the calmness now of those placid brotherly features as he told me he used to be a joiner and he knew rot when he saw it. All I saw was a void opening up in front of me. The floor and my cheque book.

Since that fateful day I tiptoe gingerly across the room to put a record on and never, absolutely never, stamp my feet. The next episode is its removal and concreting, but for now an ominous looking leak in the kitchen obsesses us. We fixed some offending guttering, but water was coming in. Calling Mr Lewis, who appeared 3 hours later to inspect. After some keen bartering he left a huge can of bitumen paint a some of money for which he wheeled of Pat's moped - which wouldn't start incidentally.

With the neighbours ladder Pat tentatively climbed on to the kitchen roof and set to work. She is tickled pink with her expertise, so if anyone needs anything covering with bitumen paint just ring us.

Now of course we wait nervously for the next downpour and we carry on planting our spring bulbs.

Hilary (Mansfield).

 ANY WOMAN CAN

I have been hearing about this play since Southampton with cynicism and very little enthusiasm, but, as Derby Studio Theatre had booked it, I felt it my duty as a fairly up front gay to attend. I mean, we know that Derby CHE only contains 1 in 20 of the splendid apathetes we breed in this area.

It gives me somewhat shamefaced pleasure to admit that I was totally wrong; in fact I went back the next night for a second dose. I actually enjoyed it, whilst I wriggled a bit uncomfortable at some very familiar lines I thought my own private property. I watched a few others squirm too!

Now I look forward to the future productions from this company and hope that they return to this area frequently. It has been an enormous pleasure to meet the members of the cast. Thank you, the lesbians of Gay Sweatshop; right on with your plans for the future; come back any time.

Heather (Derby)

 OUT

What do you think about our new magazine? What a splendid, if horrific portrait of an obscene phone caller on the cover to complement Liz Stanley's realistic analysis in the centre. I was particularly enraptured by Roger Depledge's article on 'Cutting the bumf'; why can't I write like that- that's exactly how I feel. Rather than continue to eulogise each article separately, I will just say thank you to the editors for giving us something worth reading from CHE National at last.

Heather (Derby)

 RABBITING ON AGAIN

Well I think that the discussion groups have been a good thing and the numbers who turned up have been staggering. OK. so we've got somewhere and pulled the barriers down a bit, but I don't really feel that it's enough - well it's not enough for me anyway. So I think that in addition to continuing the discussions we should have occasional afternoons or evenings together where the emphasis is on non-verbal communication. I don't know whether explaining further will whet your appetite or put you right off, so I'm not going to say much about it except that if you still feel that there are large distances between us and would like to do something about it, please come along.

None of the games/exercises/experiences or whatever you want to call them will be compulsory, difficult or unpleasant. In my own experience, I have found that there isn't anyone who I've spent any time with in the sort of simple things that we'll be doing who I haven't felt warmer towards and closer to afterwards, and there have been a lot - gay, straight, female and male. Incidentally I've never found any of it a great sexual turn on, so if that's what you're after forget it, and if you're worried about that - don't be.

I thought that the first evening should be mixed, which I (and I tend to be as separatist as any of you) have never found to be a disadvantage - and then we'll see how it goes.

Anyone from the 3 groups is welcome. The more people the easier it is and you don't need to know each other.

Wednesday November 3rd will be a warm cuddly and exhilarating evening.

Carole(Derby)

 GAY AND CHRISTIAN - IMPOSSIBLE???

To many people it is impossible to be both homosexual and a Christian, and this view finds expression in the oft repeated statement from church leaders that it is all right to be a homosexual as long as you don't indulge in any form of homosexual behaviour. To my mind this shows a superficial knowledge of God, the Bible and of the nature of human sexuality.

To be a homosexual Christian is, of necessity, to have a foot in both camps, for one is required to work out a Christian ethic for homosexual morality in a situation that often denies the need for any morality at all, as well as to defend the right of homosexuals to be as they are in the very citadel of persecution.

The church has so often been wrong on moral issues in the past (the burning of witches, slavery, the position of women) that it is statistically likely to be wrong again. The condemnation of homosexuality derives from grossly misunderstood passages in the Bible which apparently condemn homosexuality outright. However, what the church fails to do is to distinguish between those who are homosexual and those who choose to be so. (Perhaps you have to be gay to understand that one.) In her hysteria the church fails to read the small print, taking verses out of context, both Biblically and historically, and goes on to deny God her attitude to some of his people.

 GAY AND CHRISTIAN - IMPOSSIBLE??? (Continued)

Likewise, anyone who says that it is all right to be a homosexual so long as you don't do anything fails to realise that there is no 'thin red line' between being and doing, both for the homosexual and the heterosexual. A relationship can be sexual without being genital, and where anyway would one draw the line between the sexuality expressed in a handshake, a kiss, or? So to ask the homosexual to refrain from sex is nonsense, unless one really means to live in complete isolation from all contact with humanity. An idea so barbaric as to be worthy of Screwtape himself.

In a similar manner, many gays having been persecuted for so long, now reject the church and all morality with it. In this they are at least more honest than their heterosexual brethren, who still pretend. But surely we must have some morality, if only because our human nature cries out for one or two deep relationships rather than a succession of one night stands? If we rush too quickly into bed we are quite likely to fall out with a bump!

Throughout the country, gay Christian groups are springing up under a variety of banners, eg. Gay Christian Movement, Quest, Open Church Group, Friends Homosexual Fellowship, Reach. Some just call themselves the Newtown Gay Christian Group. Their objects are broadly to encourage and support the gay Christian, to educate the denominations to a better understanding of homosexuality and to provide unprejudiced advice and counselling where necessary.

There is so far no group in the Derby area, though I personally am a member of the Staffordshire Open Church Group which holds monthly meetings in various parts of the county. If you are interested in the formation of a local gay Christian group or would like further information about the Staffordshire Group, please let me know. They will, incidentally, be holding a Retreat at Stone on 15/17th April 1977, when anyone will be welcome to join us.

Charles Baker, 12, Windmill Drive, Marchington, Uttoxeter, Staffs.
Tel. Marchington 587.

I think there is a comparison to be made between a certain event and subsequent events that are taking place in Northern Ireland and now spreading to other countries, and the ideas of CHE.

Two women in Northern Ireland, sickened by death, fear and violence in their everyday lives, have started a peace movement which is growing in numbers and sympathisers day by day. These two women have faith and a great deal of courage to face their adversaries and put up with the insults and jibes that are hurled at them.

Likewise in CHE we must have the faith and courage to do what we know is right and not to be deterred by those who would wish us ill. We must spread the word that gay is good through our everyday meetings with other people.

Kenneth (Derby)

 GAY RIGHTS AND THE POLITICAL EXTREMES - A DAY OF SHAME

Sept. 12th, 1976 ought to go down in the diaries of the Conservative, Liberal and Labour parties as a day of shame. This was the day when the Communist Party of Great Britain, based on Marxist-Leninist principles, adopted a policy supporting the equality of homosexual people with heterosexuals, both legally and socially. The policy statement supports:- homosexual equality in the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the legalisation of homosexuality in the armed forces and merchant navy, reduction in the 'age of consent' to bring us in line with heterosexuals and the repeal of laws which discriminate against homosexuals i.e. where similar heterosexual conduct is legal. The Communist Party also strongly opposes the idea that homosexuality is an illness, requiring aversion therapy. There are many minor reforms also included in the wide ranging statement made by the CPGB.

The CPGB was founded in 1920 to propagate the principles of Marxism-Leninism in this country. Many of its founder members previously belonged to the Centre-Left 'Social Democratic Federation' - the word Communist being adopted in 1920. Since then the CPGB has succeeded in gaining only 3 MPs (S. Saklatvala 1924-31, W. Gallacher 1935-50 and P. Piratin 1945-50) Since 1950 the Communist presence in parliament has been nil. Could they now be turning to minority groups for support, having failed to convince the majority of the public? They are (and perhaps quite rightly so) equating sexism and anti-homosexual bigotry with the reactionary attitudes of capitalism, perhaps, in order to gain gay support of revolutionary ideas. The CPGB is well aware of the homosexual's fears of the consequences of fascism and Nazism establishing themselves in this country and is offering an alternative form of government which would be strong enough to overcome the fascist threat and simultaneously change the laws in order to give complete equality to gay people. For many gays this idea must seem irresistible but we must all realise that democracy (as we know it) is not only threatened by fascism, but also by communism.

Other gay people, however, will view the CPGB policy statement with much caution, seeing this as the first rung of a ladder leading up to a communist-dominated Britain. Hopefully, this is not the case, but if this idea is correct, the ground in Britain at this stage is fertile enough for the seeds of communism and fascism to spring into life.

Let us analyse the facts about Britain in 1976. We have inflation (yes it rose to 13.9% last month) we have high unemployment (about 1½ million people) and we have just applied for another massive loan from the IMF. What does this remind us of? Yes - the Weimar Republic in Germany and the crisis it faced in the early 1930's, culminating in the establishment of a National Socialist regime under the dictatorship of Hitler. The Nazis gained power after a savage battle with the Communists, and homosexuals, as a minority, paid dearly by being forced to wear pink triangles and by being herded like animals into extermination and labour camps. We must be aware of these dangers and ensure that nothing of this sort happens here. Mr Callaghan warned us that Government failure could lead to dictatorship of the Right or Left. The method favoured by the extreme Right is the 'Weimar' method, whereby the economic ills of the country are attributed to minority groups

 GAY RIGHTS AND THE POLITICAL EXTREMES - A DAY OF SHAME

ie. Jews, Coloured people, homosexuals etc. The extreme left-wing method usually involves 'creeping slowly to power' perhaps with the aid of minorities initially, but eventually winning over the majority.

Perhaps the CPGB's support is the 'thin end of the wedge' and soon the major parties will follow suit. If this does not happen, the fascist backlash may occur. The fascists spread their evil policies by attacking minorities as 'a threat to our beloved Britain and the British way of life' and, in doing this, the deception of a large number of people is achieved. The fascists are clever at presenting themselves as a defence against Communism - ie. "Franco saved Spain from communism in the period between 1936 and 1939" - Many of the public, incredibly even some gay people, rally to the fascist cause, believing their actions to be patriotic. However, this is the sort of patriotism that Britain can do without. Proof of 'scapegoating' can be found in Argentina and Chile, where homosexuals are accused of being 'communist spies' and 'an impurity in the nation which must be eradicated'. I believe that homosexuals in these countries are tortured and tied up to posts in the street with cards around their necks stating that they are homosexuals. This is evil and must not happen in Britain at any price.

The ability of the extreme Right to brand homosexuals as potential revolutionaries and a danger to democracy could be dealt a severe blow if one or more of the major parties adopted the gay liberation issue as official party policy. This is why Sept. 12th should be a day of shame for them. Many gay voters will have no idea how to vote at the next General Election. After all, the Conservatives seem to be non-starters in gay liberation, the Liberals seem to be divided and even the Labour party has no official gay rights policy. The truth is that the CPGB has taken the lead in the gay rights race by adopting it as official party policy.

Many people, though feeling disillusioned with the Labour Government, dare not vote Conservative for fear of a delay in law-reform, and understandably so. These are the gays who dream of being liberated, of living in a society free from communism, fascism and creeping socialism (which could lead to state control of all industry etc). They dream of liberation in a truly democratic society - not with the aid of an extreme left party such as the CPGB.

Gay people must unite and hammer the major parties until one or more comes out in our favour. We can always vote a major party out of power if we disapprove of its policies and its methods - with the communists, I'm not so sure. Perhaps an increase in the communist vote (with indications of gay support) would frighten the major parties into taking action. This would be a good thing, but as repressed people we can little afford to play around with political extremes - even the extreme left. We must attack the so-called three 'democratic' parties with demands for support. Let us not wait for a General Election - the action is needed right NOW.

Anthony (Derby)

 COMMENT

This really is all a bit bleeding heavy. I mean, I know the sun's stopped shining, but can't we have a little light-heartedness and glad-to-be-gayness and all that.

Carole(Derby)

 SOMETHING SILLY

- A for orses.
- B for lamb?
- C for thIGHLANDERS.
- D for dumb.
- E for you wash behind your ears or I'll smack your legs.
- F for vescence.
- G for crying out loud.
- H for his own.
- I for E for (E for I for, let's call the whole thing off)
- J for oranges.
- K for teria.
- L for leather.
- M for sis.
- N for lopes.
- O for the wings of a dove.
- P for relief.
- Q for hours and hours.
- R for Askey.
- S for zando.
- T for 2.
- U for Fox.
- W for doggy.
- X for ces string vests, only £6 per gross.
- Y for mistress?
- Z for is a balmy breeze.

And now for a few words for our younger readers:- Gurgle, gloop.

Etta-Molly Geest (Nottingham)

RAG BAG

A recent letter to the Guardian neatly summed up the present state of the law relating to soliciting and to sex with under 16's. It read:-

"Mr X importunes Mrs Y, who is having sex with Master Z.
Verdict: No offence.

"Mrs X importunes Mr Y, who is having sex with Master Z.
Verdict: they can all be prosecuted."

After the Long Eaton Advertiser's banner headlines about a magistrate's muddled thinking over gays (in the context of a gross indecency case) we complained to the editor. Our letter stated that the paper's treatment seemed to suggest agreement with the JP's remarks and then we went on to suggest some reasons why gross indecency took place and how its incidence could be reduced. The editor replied that he refused to comment on our statements, but that the advertising columns of the Moth Eaton Advertiser were open to us.

Under a heading "Gays in the Classroom" the Guardian ran the following paragraph in its Education section.
"In the debate concerning education and the rights of the homosexual, the gay school pupil appears until recently to have been almost totally ignored. Estimates put the number of homosexuals in Great Britain as around 4 millions, yet most schools and youth organisations work on the assumption that either they have no gays among their clients, or that somehow, unlike everyone else, gays do not become aware of their sexuality until they have reached the age of consent."

"We shall have to wait for the posthumous publication of the 'full-frontal' autobiography of Lord Bradwell (the Linda Lovelace of Lancing, Oxford, Fleet St., Westminster, High Anglicanism and High, Low and Louche Left) to find out what may have been in the holiday entries Evelyn Waugh tore from his school diaries because they contained "a very great deal that could not possibly be read and was really too dangerous without being funny." Though it would not be too difficult to guess. Waugh also destroyed his diary after a particularly depraved homosexual phase at Oxford." The Times Literary Supplement.

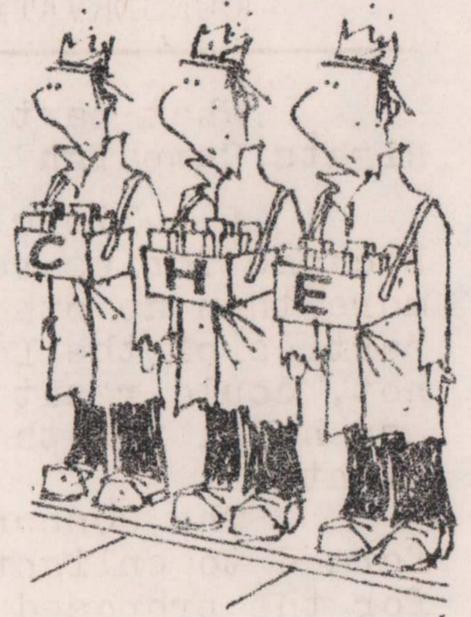
I know that Nottingham students are having a rough time finding accommodation, but things must really be getting bad for the Evening Post to report that "Lindisfarne will be performing at Tent Polytechnic."

At last! At last! Supplies of stationery for the newsletter are beginning to come forth. Thank you Ralph, and thank you Heather for the paper and the envelopes. If anyone else can squirt some ink or flick a staple in my direction then do not restrain yourself.

David. (Nottingham)

 NOTTINGHAM GAY ADVICE SERVICE

As you probably know, Nottingham CHE has been running an irregular series of ads. in the Nottingham Evening Post for the past few months to publicise the Gay Advice/Counselling/Information sessions at the People's Centre on Thursday nights. As the ads. have practically tripled the number of calls and letters we have received, many of us have felt that additional evening sessions would be worthwhile - assuming that we have enough volunteers to staff them.



We hoped that the extra evenings would be next door at the CVS (for reasons outlined in the last Chimaera) and we approached CVS to see whether we could use a room and phone in their premises. The response was that we could have the room for three months free, but after that time we would have to consider making some payments. To pay for the room AND cover the ads. in the Post for any length of time would obviously be at tall order if the money was to continue to come out of contributions from group members. Also the Nottingham Forum "Homosexuals as People" is not exactly designed as a profit making venture and we are expecting to make some contribution to the overall expenses.

We have therefore had to consider ways of raising funds outside the group and at the moment two ideas are being followed up. The first is an application that we have sent in for a donation from the Student's Karnival. We are asking for £150 to cover the hire of the room plus the cost of our publicity; we will know whether we have had any success before January 31st. The second idea came from Dick Wilson (leader of Notts County Council) who advised us to apply for a grant from Social Services. Please don't let the possibility of money from external sources deter any of you from making your own contributions if you can - and if you can, send the money to:-

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

Whatever happens in the future, I'm feeling quite rosy at present as I've just had a letter containing an anonymous donation of a £10 note from "An Evening Post Reader."

David. (Nottingham)

 CONSERVATIVE GROUP FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY

What part has the Conservative Party to play in the Gay Rights Campaign?

I believe it has a very considerable part to play, because Tories react to their own party and against other parties more than do other political people. Thus the fact that the parties of the Left support gay rights, while the Tory Party may not, could result in alienating some Tories. It is therefore essential for the Tory Party to take a positive line on Gay Rights.

The Conservative group for Homosexual Equality has been formed to enlighten the party on gay rights and to gain support for the proposed legislation on homosexual equality.

Equality in the law and equality in practice are, however, not the same thing. It is clear that the opinion of Conservatives at all levels will have to be influenced if Gays are to be accepted in society completely.

Anyone who believes in Tory principles (such as individual freedom and responsibility) can help C.G.H.E. in its campaign to improve life for themselves, other gays and for the country as a whole. C.G.H.E. is not a group to divide gays, but a group which recognises the divisions of opinion and the need to prevent or heal any division on gay rights on party lines.

If you can help form an East Midlands group or wish just to help nationally in any way, you can write to me

Ian Stewart, 188, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 5JE.

 EGGTRACTS OF CHICK

Most of the rubbish below was pinched from the Nottingham Rag Mag.

 Jesus saves! (But Keegan scored off the rebound)

 When the Irish Uri Geller stroked a spoon, his finger fell off.

 And now, a few late arrivals at the Ball:-

Mr and Mrs Ube and their pornographic son Blue Dan.

Mr and Mrs Wallcarpet and their son Walter.

Mr and Mrs Ongatwilitte and their QC son Justice.

Mr and Mrs It (from Australia) and their English grandmother
 Pommie Gran.

Mr and Mrs Styrene and their pregnant daughter expanded Polly.

METANTATIPI - EMPRESS OF THEBES?

My education is being comprehensively broadened as our former grammar school is eaten away in yearly bites by an all-ability range intake. Last year I accustomed myself to the nervous shock of a transition from Vith form 'S' level (period 6) to 1st form remedial (period 7).

Eventually the misuse of words and the psychedelic spellings of the lower ability range take on their own perverted charm. It soon becomes clear that the writer of the above title was not referring to a relative of Queen Nefertiti, but to a dish made from animal protein and root vegetables enclosed in a pastry crust. Nefertiti's Spanish cousin was recently recalled by the request that our librarian received for a poster about someone called Two Ton Carmen. In some cases the inner logic remains hidden - can anyone explain why 'Beans and Tomatoes' should be the answer to the question 'What is a mammal?'?

The Sunday Times has recently run a series of similar, but more adult muddles, which included the priest who 'circumcised' a ghost and the case of the aeroplane pilot who shot out of his plane on an 'ejaculation' seat.

I remember distinctly a third form exam paper (by a girl called Nelly Cashmore) which contained a diagram of an electrical thermostat linked to a tube labelled 'gas supply'. Nelly was a girl who easily translated her verbal muddles into physical terms; she could cram into 5 minutes sequences such as showering herself with lime water, getting her thumb stuck in a boiling tube and setting fire to her lab. coat elbow. The fact that she now works in the world of finance is without doubt the TRUE reason for the falling pound. I'm sure that she is a relation of the Derby tykette who asked her mother for some money to buy a Kojak lolly from Gay Sweetshop.

David

DEADLINE

As the next Chimaera will have to be produced over the Christmas period the deadline will have to be a little earlier than usual. Articles and other contributions should be in by Saturday December 18th.
