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# CHIMAERA

## NOTTINGHAM CHE NEWSLETTER

### PROGRAMME

#### JULY

- THUR 2ND Mr. Richard Digby Day (Nottingham Playhouse Director) will be talking to the group about the Playhouse and possibly about the play 'Bent'. At CVS at 8pm.
- SAT. 4TH Gay Pride March in Huddersfield. At present there are no official arrangements, so ring Nottingham Gay Switchboard 46881.
- SAT. 11TH CHE Visit to La Chic - Part Two. This was originally proposed for the 4th, but with the Gay Pride March on that day we have put it back a week. I suggest meeting early in the Hearty Good Fellow - as it may be more crowded than usual.
- THUR. 16TH BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm.
- FRI. 17TH Hard/Easy/Serious/Silly Music Quiz at David and Ian's (64, Fabis Drive, Clifton Grove, Nottingham - take any Clifton Bus from Broadmarsh, or tel. 216447 for details) There will be a little to eat and drink (bring more of the latter if you wish). From 8pm. Transport back into town is available.
- THUR. 23RD Programme meeting at CVS at 8pm. Can we have some people with some bright ideas, or some bright people with some ideas.
- FRI. 24TH PUB OUTING to the FERRY INN at Wilford. Meet 8pm. A no. 40 bus which starts outside the Flying Horse will take you to the Meadows, so get off there (at The Cream Horn) and walk over the new foot bridge and you are there.
- THUR 30TH BUSINESS MEETING at CVS at 8pm. "



PROGRAMME CONTINUED

AUGUST

SUN. 2ND A Treasure Hunt will take place, starting from the Council House at 5.00pm. A clue - the Convenor will be planning the Hunt, so take a survival kit just in case.

SUN 16TH A half day Mystery Day and Picnic will be arranged. More details in the next programme.

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For those people new to the group or to Nottingham, the initials CVS stand for Council for Voluntary Service and are the premises that are used by CHE and by Nottingham Gay Switchboard. The address is:-

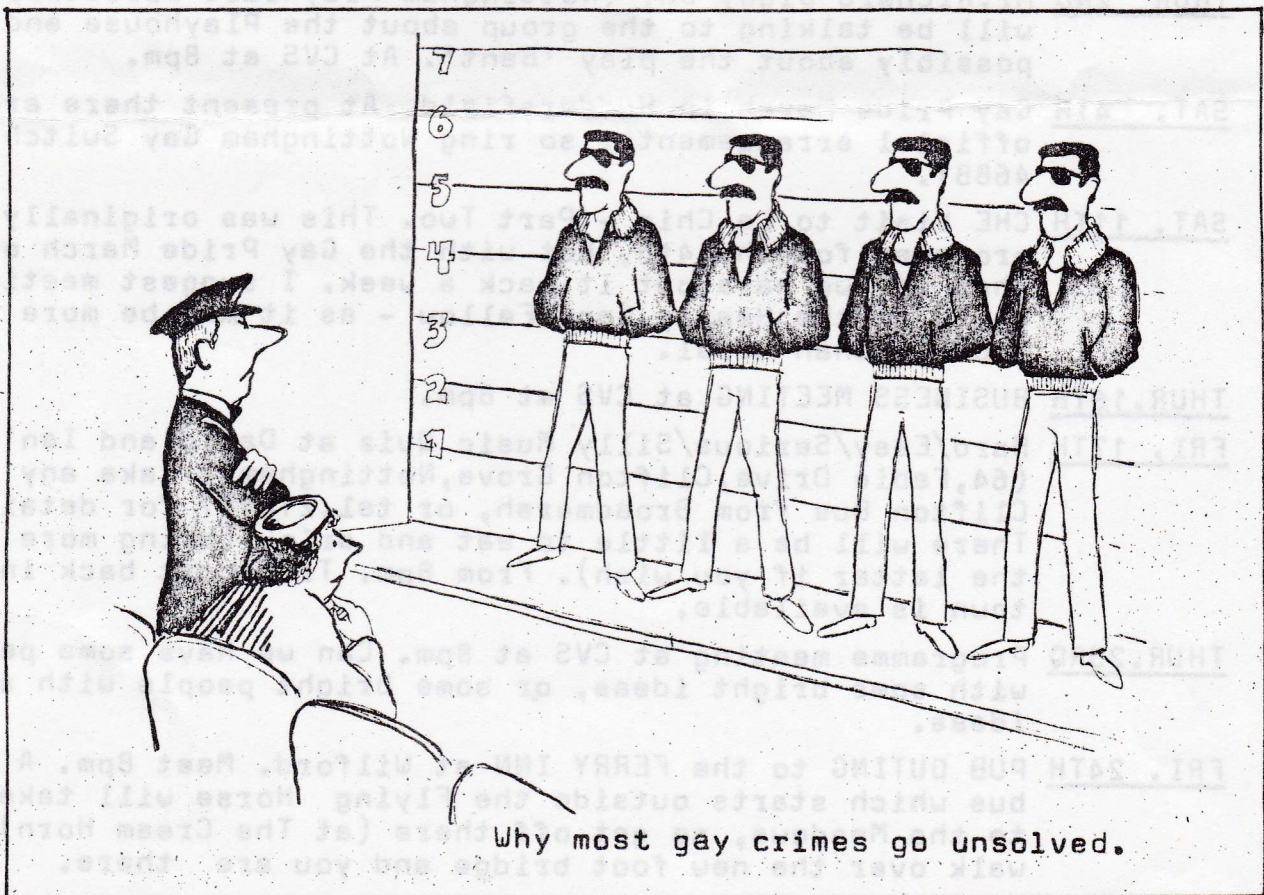
31a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham

The phone number of Nottingham Gay Switchboard is 46881 and the Switchboard runs from 7-10pm every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF CHIMAERA WILL BE SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST.

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CHEMISTRY AS IT IS TAWT:

The main impurity in the gas is carbon, which can be removed by flirtation.

Sodium is so dangerous that it isn't handled by human beings at all, only by Chemistry Teachers.



## CAMPAIGN REPORT

On Thursday May 7th I gave a talk on CHE and answered questions about gay life and activities for about two hours in S.E. Derbyshire College of Further Education. The group concerned was made up of 29 nursery school nurses and two lecturers. Three of the nurses had elected to do a project on Homosexuality. Besides the talk they had a questionnaire which brought forty replies from passersby in Wheeler Gate one lunch time. Save one, the reactions of the nurses was favourable as were the bulk of replies to the questionnaire. It is possible that we will receive the actual forms used to make our own assessment though the size of the sample is so small as to make it of passing interest rather than anything usable.

On Monday June 1st a demonstration of Karate as self-defence has been arranged for members of the gay community between 8-9pm at ST. George's Church Hall, the Meadows. Class membership and times will then be arranged. The eventual cost will be £1 for a 1½ hour session per week. Although eventual membership of the Karate Union of Great Britain is a requirement at £5/annum, this will not be necessary for a couple of months, by which time it should be clear to individuals whether they wish to continue. David Rigby and his wife who run the classes are both Black Belts and David seems very welcoming to the notion of classes for gay men and women under potential threat. He tells me that the classes can be adapted to the individual so that age and relative lack of physical fitness should be no barrier. Karate suits can be supplied through the association at £10 (in the shops they range from £18 to £25). However, here again for beginners there is no need to have them and payment terms for the unemployed can be arranged.

As a sporting activity and a social occasion the formation of such a group has much to commend itself besides the spreading of skills in self-defence among gay people. I hope that many of you will take full advantage of the classes. Although full-scale training is the best form of defence both practically and psychologically, it may be possible to arrange a short course in street fighting for those unwilling to undertake a full training in Karate.

Arrangements are being made about an attempt to re-book the Teachers' Centre, which we hope will be successful in view of the new administration.

A number of cottaging cases under the Public Order Act are known to be taking place and there remains a possible commitment to fight one of them through Appeal should the occasion arise. Members who come across such cases should urge the individuals to contact group officers to see if we can help them in this.

Nationally though there is no immediate campaign, the decision in the John Saunders case may require action shortly. Otherwise the work of gathering information is of vital importance and members who have information for the three commissions on Employment, Medicine and Prisons should not fail to write direct or through me to the officers named in the CHE Broadsheet.



## CAMPAIGN REPORT (CONTINUED)

Work on the Speakers' Kit is presently in the hands of those given various areas to explore. This is likely to be lengthy and still needs basic discussion and decisions about its aims. The attitudes of major institutions, such as the churches, educational bodies and the medical profession are so fluid at the moment that a simple summary of the latest positions is likely to be outdated very rapidly, whereas a fuller expose of opinions and attitudes might be unwieldy. As the Speakers' Kit is hoped to be a major contribution from Nottingham CHE to the gay movement, your views would be welcome,

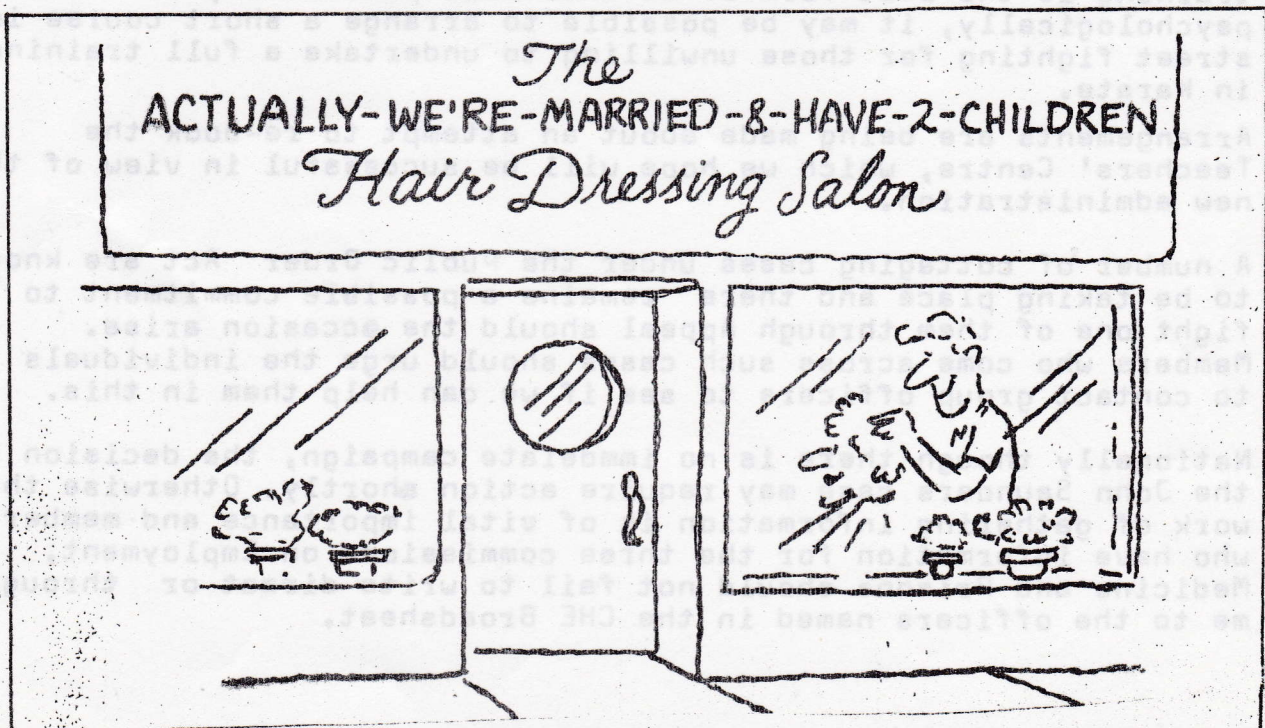
Alan Furness

## A GRANMA BY POST

A few weeks ago the letters column of the Evening Post was blackened by a nauseatingly anti-gay letter from Mary Bintles. I am sure that amongst you many blister at her slimy banter. (Her sentiments ran by tramlines through the religiose school of hypocrisy). For Mary to try blame sin on gays was bad enough, but some of us sat in trembly anticipation of further vitriolic screeds.

Instead, we had defences of man's liberty from correspondents Bryan T. Smile, Berty M. Snail (that nimble satyr), Albert Minsy, Meryl B. Saint (the inventor of Barley Mints) and Myrtle Bains. Lesbian Myrt. actually suggested that the whole thing might be a hoax from the masterly nib of Tim Barnsley. Blimey! (rants your editor) could such a wheeze be possible??

Embry Stalin





## TONY'S TEASER

I had such a lot of replies to my competition in the last issue of Chimaera. From Buck House I received the following:-

Diana and I thank you most warmly for the de-luxe edition of Chimaera, which you sent us on behalf of your campaigning secretary as a wedding present. Di and I are going to have a look at it every night in bed after we're married. Once again, many thanks - have a good di!

Charles

and from a Lady in Colchester:-

Thank you for sending me a copy of the last Chimaera. I am afraid I am unable to complete your competition. However my perusal of the magazine did give me the opportunity to see the splendid work you are doing in Nottingham. I have spoken to your splendid Chief Constable, who will no doubt be paying you a visit and to put a stop to all your antics, you hunch-backed little turd, you disgusting pervert!

Yours in Christian Love,

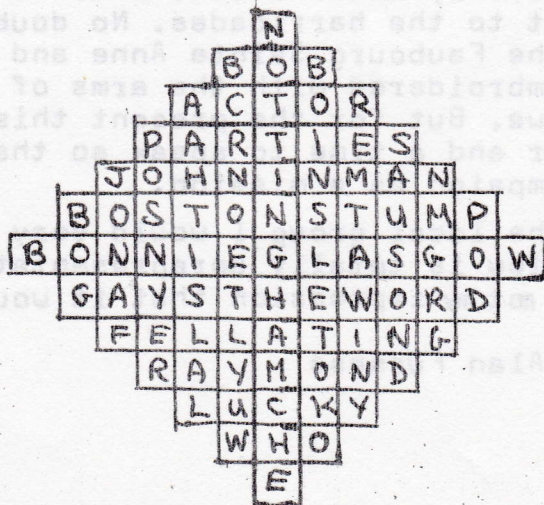
M.Whitehouse (Mrs).

and finally from Derby Road came this letter:-

Thank you for sending me a copy of Chimaera. You must have taken my name from the letters column of the Evening Post. I was unable to do your competition, but I do hope you will keep me on the mailing list for further issues. May I point out that I have a whole series of letters coming up in the Post during the next few weeks - mainly about the disgusting activities which will doubtless be taking place at La Chic - Part Two. Don't miss them.

Mary Bintles (Ms)  
alias Brian Smelty  
alias Martin Byles

Seriously, though, folks, I received NOT ONE answer to my crossword, so that £5 was not won. I didn't think it was particularly hard - you all thought it was! Still, never mind: I'll try again later. In the meantime, here's the solution.



Tony.



WHEN IS A CAMPAIGN NOT A CAMPAIGN?

On the basis of Tim Barnsley's letter in the last issue the N.W. convenors did not oppose the Manchester march, they merely "did not recommend it". There is a difference. Marches and rallies seem to have two effective uses. On the occasion of a specific act or acts of oppression they serve to focus opinion. I note that the CHE National Executive is supporting the transfer of the Gay Pride March to Huddersfield in this connection. The other purpose is consciousness raising among the participants, a kind of political masturbation which can be fun, doesn't send you blind but is not everyone's ideal. Marches are only one possible tool available to the Gay Civil Rights movement. I enjoy them occasionally but I doubt whether they convert the unconverted. Traditionally in British politics they have largely though not exclusively, been a tool of the radical left and are associated with confrontation politics. CHE contains elements drawn from the whole political spectrum of British politics and probably the majority are apolitical. There are still many valid and valuable campaigning contributions to be made. Information gathering and dissemination through letters, pamphlets and speaking engagements; reports to Royal Commissions; financial and other support for test cases before courts at every level, these activities and many others in which CHE is massively engaged and which take up the bulk of time are more likely to achieve the permanent changes in social attitudes which are the ultimate aim even beyond equality before the law.

It is a long, tedious and frustrating business to change the ingrained prejudices of millenia. Similar campaigns in the past against slavery, child exploitation or the criminalisation of religious non-conformity have suffered from similar difficulties. Their success, so great that the struggles are all but forgotten, is a good foundation for our hopes. In the meantime the march with banners "Stop Gay Oppression Now" is a valid release for individual frustrations and occasionally politically useful, while the real work goes on. I feel that many 'thinking gay men and women' will agree with me and continue to give their support to CHE.

That said I must admit that as Tim has stated in meetings, there is a grave fault in the lack of serious discussion among members about gay issues, our opinions on what it is or would mean to be gay. Information about our enemies should be balanced by correct information about ourselves. Also, however difficult, our present political situation locally is relatively easy. It could change so that confrontation is our only alternative. I do not think that CHE members would be the last to the barricades. No doubt Michael Demi-Tasse would raise the Faubourg Sainte Anne and from the closets would come the scarves embroidered with the arms of Anderton, Whitehouse and Pole-Carewe. But for the present this seems a time to gather stones together and a time to speak so that we are perhaps not so much a campaign as a mission.

As Campaign Officer of the local group I would very much like to be informed if this view is totally unrepresentative of the opinions of members. It's not my impression that it would be.

Alan Furness



ANAGRAMS LURE, KO!

As half this edition of Chimaera seems to be in anagram form here are some more to annoy you.

From the Political Arena we have:-

HEATHER G. TRAMCART  
ALF MICEHOOT  
EVITA SLEDD  
SIR WILLY.I.LASHEM

Then the Pornomaniacs:-

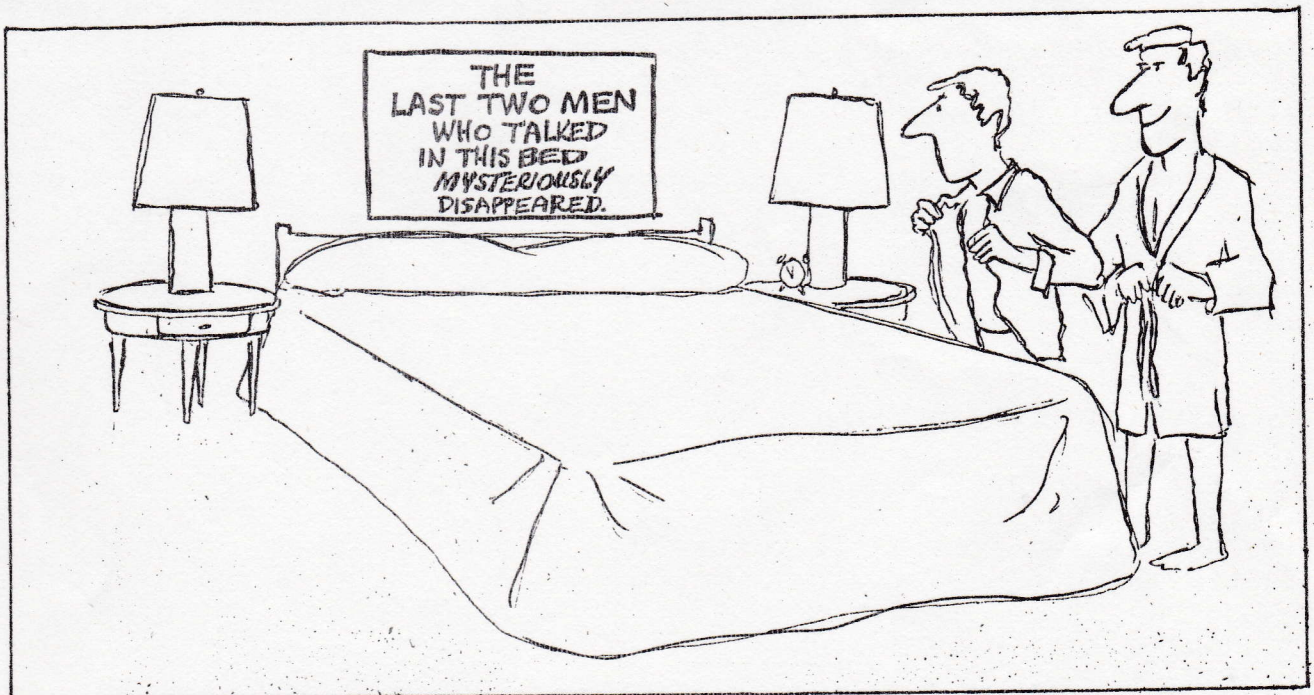
GORDON F.DROLL and HEATHER WYOMIUS

The topically happy couple:-

CYNDRIA ESPLANADE and LES NARCHPRICE

And from CHE etc:-

KERRY BATON  
HON. J.CLOAK SRN.  
LAURA S.FENNS  
CRICHTON NIVEN M.D.  
REV. ADAM NIDDS  
VELDA GIDDEY (and friend DIANE FROLIC)  
BARNY T. SLIME  
CHARMIAN MOLDEY  
CLINT BIFFONUBE



For those who insist on being abreast of, the latest news, may I report that "The National Sweet Pea Society held its Annual General Meeting in Byfleet (14.5.81). After the formal business the members, who came from as far afield as Devon and the Isle of Wight, discussed sweet peas. Lunch was followed by a sweet pea slide show; and tea, by films of sweet peas made in 1947 and 1953."