

No.3 November 1971 10p

London's Plan to Cover Expansion

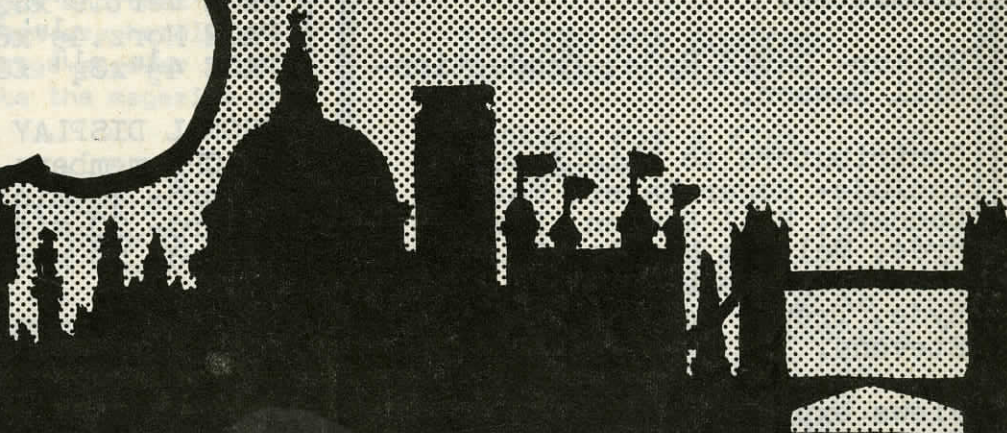
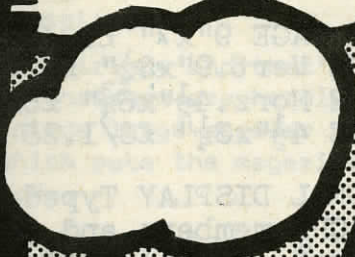
NATIONAL FEDERATION

INAUGURATED

4 pages of news



THINKS-
AND IS THIS
WHERE THE
STORY REALLY
BEGINS?



MEANWHILE IN LONDON...

LUNCH

No. 3. NOVEMBER 1971

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Views expressed in this issue do not necessarily represent those of CHE or its London Committee.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Lunch has only one address at- 25 Upper Montagu Street London W1H 1RQ; no callers without prior arrangement please.

Letters and Contributions should be addressed to The Editor.

Group News & Events should be addressed to Alan Wiggins.

Orders and Distribution queries to Bill Dawson 01-262 8387 10am to 5pm only.

LATEST DATE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS & FEATURE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS-

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER

ADVERTISING

DISPLAY- Own design must be supplied. Designwork as requested charged extra. CHE groups only adverts can be simply typed out free of charge. Commercial rates shown first, group rates second.

WHOLE PAGE 9"x7" £10/£3.50
 $\frac{1}{2}$ PAGE Vert. 9"x3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " £6/£2.50
 $\frac{1}{2}$ PAGE Horz. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " £5/£2.25
 $\frac{1}{4}$ PAGE 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " £3/1.25

PERSONAL DISPLAY Typed ads in box. CHE members and groups 1p per word- 20 min; Commercial 3p per word- 20 min; Private 2p per word- 20 min.

PERSONAL CHE members and groups free of charge; Commercial 2p per word- 20 min; Private 1p per word- 20 min.

Usual conditions apply as to standards etc. Payment in advance only please. Cheques or Postal Orders payable to LUNCH.

ONE STEP TOWARDS OUR SUCCESS

The most eventful, and what may also prove to be amongst the most important 12 months of CHE's existence is now behind us.

What of the future? "People Not Paper" represents much time and hard mental effort into putting CHE's house in the London area on a more sound basis.

As yet, the majority of members still sit on the sidelines waiting for something to happen, without realising that they themselves ARE CHE. Meanwhile it is up to a handful of members to keep the show going.

Is that easy? Judging from the experience of this magazine, it is not; it must indeed be tempting for many of the Chairmen and their committees to give up their work. Far too often they are heard to say that of all the members in a group, only one quarter turn up regularly at meetings.

Not exactly inspiring- and that's the grass roots. Chairmen are hardly encouraged to place large regular orders for LUNCH, which puts the magazine in serious jeopardy.

To date, more than £33 is owing the Editor who has paid production costs out of his own pocket. There is no guarantee of subsidy for LUNCH from any source whatever, CHE or otherwise.

If this experience is repeated throughout CHE at different levels then it might be a feasible suggestion that CHE is in danger of folding up in the not too distant future. Certainly this is the case with this magazine.

On the credit side there is a handful of dedicated men and women who gen-

uinely wish to serve CHE's interests and see its aims fulfilled. These aims are supposedly backed by each and every member of CHE which is still small enough for everyone to have a say in its running.

However, the fact remains that the ordinary member only seems to regard CHE as a service organisation. A pity. Because every member should be prepared to pull his or her weight and take an active interest in what's happening, even though its only at group level. Otherwise, this could not only be the end of LUNCH but the finish of CHE as a progressive body.

To succeed, LUNCH alone needs a minor army on a REGULAR basis. Reporters for group news and events; national coverage of conferences etc. in which we have an interest. One person from each group collecting orders and keeping in contact with us would solve that very sticky problem of distribution. Another couple of typists are needed who have machines with small (elite) characters- though not necessarily this particular style. The use of an addressing machine would be of great help once a month, & someone to stick stamps etc.

LUNCH can succeed- and that's one step towards making sure of CHE's success.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO SHARE A FLAT?

Looking for a flat to share?

If you have any sort of permanent accommodation to offer, or you need somewhere to live, ring CHEAB on 01-289 3695 weekdays 6-7pm & we might be able to help you. (CHE members only.)

CHEAB CHE Accommodation Bureau

Special 2½page summary of 'PEOPLE NOT PAPER' - on London's proposed new structure.

FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS A WORKING PARTY CONSISTING OF MICHAEL MOOR, BRIAN SEWELL AND PETER ROBBINS HAS BEEN PREPARING A SUGGESTED STRUCTURE FOR LONDON CHE. TO HELP THEM IN SPECIAL AREAS THEY CO-OPTED WILLIAM BLACKLEDGE (Fund Raiser), COLIN DARRACOTT (Student Organiser), & JOHN SAXBY (Chairman of Group Ten).

THEIR 22 PAGE REPORT IS CALLED "PEOPLE NOT PAPER", A TITLE INDICATIVE OF WHERE THE EMPHASIS LIES. THIS IS A CONSIDERABLE SUMMARY OF THAT REPORT- ALL TITLES USED ARE AS THEY APPEAR IN THE REPORT, AND IN THE SAME ORDER.

INTRODUCTION It is made clear that the report is only a suggestion for a possible future for CHE in London, that CHE is, and should remain, distinct from other homophile or related bodies, although links with them are not to be discouraged. The gestative period is ~~over~~ ~~and~~ ~~CHE~~ ~~should~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~

over, and CHE should organise itself properly.

PRESENT DILEMMA This can be summed up in two ways- that "Challenge is the Way Ahead", and that "Example is the Path to Equality". It is considered that each should be accepted as complementary to each other.

LONDON AIMS A well defined structure for administration is proposed to cope with the inevitable increase in the size of CHE in London, and to provide

greater flexibility, and to encourage potential members to join and take an active part in the organisation. This structure is as follows-

LONDON COMMITTEE	
<u>London Chairman</u>	
<u>Deputy Chairman One</u>	Fund Raising Org. Recruiting Secty. Press Officer Secretary Treasurer
<u>Deputy Chairman Two</u>	Task Force/FRIEND Students Org. Other Wkg. Pts.
<u>Deputy Chairman Three</u>	Convenor Central " North " South " East " West " Womens Grps.
ALL GROUPS	

CHAIRMAN A political and titular head is proposed who would "...come from the highest possible echelons of society" and who would inspire the whole organisation down to the grass roots. He would attend quarterly meetings at Group Chairmen level and monthly meetings at Convenor level; also all public meetings and rallies to ensure a clear, accurate and consistent image to the public.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN To allow for the increase in volume of work, three are recommended.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (ONE) Co-ordinator of
all facets of adminstr ation.
UNDER HIM- TREASURER - to avoid the

danger of a lack of central funds, all subscriptions from members in London would go to him direct. He would have responsibility for subsidising Working Parties, Group activities, and assisting groups in the process of formation; SECRETARY; RECRUITING SECRETARY: would have a Master Index of all London members; PUBLICITY OFFICER; FUND RAISING ORGANISER.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (TWO) Co-ordinator of all committee work; Director of all Working Parties which would meet quarterly. He would present their immediate needs to the Committee to ensure that "...funds are shared fairly and as deemed necessary". Only Task Force/FRIEND and the Student Organiser would have direct representation on the Committee.

UNDER HIM- TASK FORCE/FRIEND- taking pride of place in the long term "...in its essence it is one of the legs on which this organisation stands"; LUNCH- should be divided into three groups each producing an issue in rotation; GAY LIASON GROUP- should be developed to spread CHE's name worldwide and to encourage interchange of membership with overseas bodies; LEGAL STUDIES- needs developing to provide help for members in difficulty; CLUB PREMISES- (See later in the report.)

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (THREE) Involved with the grass roots- observing and advising groups. Would have a second copy of the Master Index of London members. UNDER HIM- CONVENORS; ALL GROUPS- minimum number in each should be six, with the maximum determined by the group itself. Chairmen would attend monthly meetings of the Committee and area meetings with the Convenors.

LOCAL GROUPS By September 1971 there were over 500 members in 10 groups in the London area, with only 'local' group, based at Croydon. Any reorganisation must be seen against an increase in membership of up to 1,500 by September 1972 at the present rate of growth. Central groups are seen to have one

PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY

POTENTIAL MEMBER → London Box No. →
RECRUITING SECRETARY → Membership form
out & returned to → AREA OR CENTRAL
CONVENOR (subs to London Treasurer;;
name to Deputy Chairman Three) →
Induction and then details to → GROUP
SECRETARY → Notification of **first**
meeting to → ENROLLED MEMBER.

major disadvantage- the long distances and expense of travel to some members. One major asset is thought to be the anonymity which they offer. To avoid unnecessary splitting up of successful central groups, a date should be settled from which members could be offered the choice of central and/or local groups, the latter initially based on the areas with most members, currently being- Ealing-Acton; Kensington-Chelsea; Hampstead; Clapham-Balham-Tooting.

WOMENS GROUPS A convenor should be appointed as soon as possible, with a voice on the London Committee, and women should be offered the alternative of an ordinary group and/or a Womens group, as soon as one is set up.

STUDENTS GROUPS These must be actively encouraged.

SUGGESTED LOCAL GROUPS These would form a natural extension of the 'pilot' groups (See above.) These are-

North- HAMPSTEAD; ENFIELD; ISLINGTON;
FINCHLEY & BARNET; HENDON;
EDGWARE; WOOD GREEN & HORNSEY.

South- CROYDON; WIMBLEDON & MITCHAM;
BALHAM & CLAPHAM; LEWISHAM &
GREENWICH; BROMLEY & ORPINGTON;
BRIXTON & CAMBERWELL;
STREATHAM & NORWOOD.

East- LEYTON

6 West- KENSINGTON & FULHAM; HAMMERSMITH & CHISWICK; RICHMOND; ACTON & EALING; WEMBLY & HARROW HOUNSLOW; KINGSTON.

FINANCE "London we feel should assume as quickly as possible the responsibility for its own membership campaign, its own publicity and its own box number." The London Treasurer would collect the total CHE membership fee from each London member, and forward the national part of this to Manchester monthly, together with details of the new members.

CHE HEADQUARTERS & CLUB It is urgent and imperative that a club be set up as soon as possible; premises "...should be ours from the onset either on freehold mortgage or on a sufficiently long lease to guarantee satisfactory resale on a short term basis. RENTED PREMISES ARE OUT." (Capital letters where used appear in the report as such.) In order if priority- and taking into account finances- premises should include A Quiet Room/Library/Writing/Members; Committee Room; Quiet Games Room; Noisy Games Room; Snack Bar; Bar; Shower Room; Recruiting Secretary's Office; Counselling Room; Recruiting Secretary's Bed-Sitter with telephone. WAYS AND MEANS "In the immediate future an account LONDON CHE CLUB should be opened. The club should be registered under the Friendly Societies Act...". Finance could come from "Life Membership; Founder Membership; Donations; Bequests; Interest -Free Loans; Stocks and Shares."

OLD PEOPLE These must be allowed for in any plans, in particular those of Task Force/FRIEND.

DISABLED Likewise, efforts must be made to contact all persons who may be blind, deaf, War or accident disabled, Polio victims etc. etc.

NOTES ON IMPLEMENTATION Many of the above ideas, if acceptable to the London Committee, would require amendments to the constitution; a special working

party to look into this is proposed. An Annual General Meeting of all London members at the end of the financial year is suggested for the election of officials within the outlined structure.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEES OF ENQUIRIES FOR THE FUTURE CHE and Pornography; Do we Shut the Door on Pederat?; CHE and Old People; CHE and the Disabled; A CHE Sports Centre; CHE Holiday Schemes.

Cheesed off with alternative London Cheesecake

Listen to this definition of CHE. 'Recently changed their name from Committee for Homosexual Equality to Campaign for Homosexual Equality since formation of GLF. Middle class conservative group holding social evenings once a month. Church of England Bishop as President.' (News to me - how about you?!)

If you want more of the nasty tendentious soup, Augustus, as ladled out in this year's ALTERNATIVE LONDON by a group of rather smug GLF, get a load of this:-

'Homosexual freaks in GLF do not use the usual pubs and clubs that straight homosexuals use, simply because they refuse to subscribe to the plastic exploitative scene created and perpetuated there. They believe that in the straight homosexual world, people tend to treat each other purely as sex objects and do not relate to themselves as people. This is destructive and becomes yet another form of oppression, a particularly nasty situation as the oppression is coming from homosexuals themselves.'

I quite agree! What a nasty situation! How obtuse of me not to have noticed before that members of CHE, KENRIC etc. all regard each other as sex objects. Personally I like spilt hairs and uptight generalisations in my soup, and isn't it wonderful to learn we've graduated to being straight homosexuals?

To do him justice, Nicholas Saunders himself was very concerned about the emotive homosexual chapter, but since nobody else came forward with a considered article in time - this was the retrogressive result.

Please send me in any relevant information, so as to project a correct image for next year's edition. Homosexuals apart - ALTERNATIVE LONDON contains much useful information, not available elsewhere. There's twice as much in this as in the previous edition. If anyone wants copies, apply to 788-8943.

DRAGON quotes ⁷

"Society's resistance to permissiveness...may attract new hostility to homosexuals who may be lumped with the rest as undermining public morals."

IAN HARVEY. TO FALL LIKE LUCIFER.

"I would be forced to warn homosexuals that it says in the Bible that homosexuality is wrong. I believe that we should love everyone, but I prefer to believe what God says to what the Gay Liberation people say."

PETER HILL. FESTIVAL OF LIGHT.

..."males behave indecently with males...this leads to them being filled with injustice, mischief, rapacity, malice, envy, murder, rivalry, treachery, malevolence,..."

GUESS WHO? (Answer at foot of page)

Legitimate

GAY INTRODUCTION BUREAU (GIB)

offers help to men over 21 & women over 18

please write to 99a Park Lane London W1

8 ..."nowadays one gets couples of the same sex living in a stable way with a relationship very similar to that of a married couple without children. We should stop treating homosexuals as weirdies...."

REV. JOHN HUNWICK. EVENING STANDARD
25.5.71.

..."in outward appearance such unions could well have much of the character of heterosexual marriage. The two would live together and depend on each other to varying extents, financially, psychologically, socially, emotionally and presumably also sexually."

S. NEWMORE. ROMAN CATHOLIC TEACHER.
GUARDIAN 5.10.71.

..."with the menace of the population explosion making H. Bombs look like toy pistols it is not the homosexual who constitutes a threat to society but the ordinary married couple with more than two children."

LETTER IN EVENING STANDARD. 28.4.71.

DRAGON'S TAIL

"Male fans danced naked to the waist with flimsily dressed girls in the hot sunshine."

ARE THERE NO LIMITS?

.....

(Answer: St. Paul. Romans 1. 28-30)

Please order your copy of
LUNCH as far in advance as
you can. Its cheaper through
your Group- or we can post
it to you direct. Next issue
out DECEMBER 17th!

CHEz Défarge

Roger Baker

Madame Defarge sighed and put down her knitting. She glanced at the small gilt clock on the marble mantelpiece. Five minutes to go. She glanced with approval around the room. Bowls of roses in profusion filled the air with a heavy scent which blended with the spiral of thin smoke rising from a joss stick which she had lit to cover the smell of marijuana.

The lighting was dim and romantic, the Tiffany lampshades casting elegant coloured shadows on the life-size drawings by Tom of Finland that hung on four walls of the room. Her nude feet - soft, supple, white - sank into the thick furry rug, her scarlet toenails like ten drops of blood.

The doorbell rang, pealing out the first notes of the Dies Irae. Madame Defarge rose, but before answering glanced at herself in a full-length mirror in the hall. Her tight, black crystal-studded dress clung to her sensuous shape; she smoothed it over her hips with a murmur of satisfaction. A tall, handsome young man stood at the door. Madame Defarge beckoned him in and accepted his hat, his brief-case, his umbrella, his tie, his jacket, his shirt, his vest, his trousers, his shoes, his socks, his pants and conducted him into the sitting room.

"But I wanted to go to Croydon", he said nervously.

"Nonsense", she replied handing him a delicate glass brimming with a full dry Gewurtztraminer, "you are destined for somewhere quite different."

She sank soundlessly to the floor at his feet and gazed soulfully into

the blazing fire. The doorbell rang. Madame Defarge rose, but before answering glanced at herself in a small mirror hanging in the hall. She fixed one small silver sequin onto her right cheek. A tall handsome young man stood there. She beckoned him in, relieved him of his apparel and conducted him into the sitting room.

"But I wanted to go to Croydon", he said nervously.

"Nonsense", she replied handing him a heavy goblet of slightly sweet Gumpoldskirchen, "you are destined for somewhere quite different." Deftly she rolled a reefer and was about to hand it round when the doorbell rang. Dies Irae it pealed, echoing through the warm, scented rooms.

Quite soon there were forty-six young men in Madame Defarge's room. Empty wine bottles rolled on the floor scattering their dregs onto Casa Pupo rugs, nine reeferers were being passed around and twelve of the young men in turn tried on Madame Defarge's dress.

Dies Irae pealed the bell.

"Croydon" they cried.

"Somewhere quite different", she replied.

Dies Irae.

Croydon...

... different

Madame Defarge put the original sound-track recording from Sophia Loren's film of Aida on her Bang und Olafson stereogram and began to dance to the strains of Ritorna Vincitor.

When her expected party of two hundred and four handsome young men was complete, she turned the record off and clapped her hands for silence. The

dancing ceased, the reeferers were extinguished, the wine glasses set aside.

Madame Defarge drew her wild silk robe around her, ran her long fingers through her thick black hair and her blue-painted lips curved into a smile of infinitely seductive tenderness.

"You are all here", she said, "to learn more about CHE."

Lunchtime in New York

Trevor Scott

New Yorkers who like to enjoy their city never leave it for the mountains or lakes during summer; then Manhattan is at its emptiest and life is at its most unfrantic. The season is however extremely hot and airless and Londoners would be more comfortable there in Spring or Autumn, when oxygen sometimes drifts in from the Atlantic.

Money and the suspension of disbelief are the only prerequisites for enjoying New York! Nowhere is there a more astonishing assortment of people, observed against a more extraordinary backdrop. No other city cares less for the rest of the world, and its' narcissistic self absorption makes it fascinating to outsiders. Manhattan is uniquely, extravagantly itself and like that other island city, Venice, very romantic when the light is right.

Equip yourself with a good map: forget the subway, it's complicated beyond reason and often dangerous, and take buses. These run uptown, downtown and crosstown at 14th, 34th, 42nd 57th and 72nd streets and you can always see where you are. Make first

Group 10

CHAIRMAN John Saxby/MEETINGS
4th Monday in month-next 22nd
November Informal Discussion at
The Two Brewers Mornmouth Street
London WC2; also 13 December.

LIVERPOOL

CONVOR Peter Norman/MEETINGS
1st Wednesday in month-next
8pm 1st Dec. Roger Baker at the
Friends Meeting House, 40 Bal-
moral Road, Liverpool 6/INFORML
MEETINGS various-arranged ad
hoc by members & publicised in
the monthly newsletter/SOCIAL
EVENTS parties held on 3rd Mon
in month- temporarily suspended
owing to acute accommodation
difficulties/INFORMATION from
Convenor, 68 Cathedral Mansions
Huskinson St, Liverpool L8 7LP
(051)709 7504.

SHEFFIELD

CHAIRMAN Ian Everton/INFORMATION
from Chairman, 82 Harcourt Rd.
Sheffield S10 1DJ

888

Croydon- London CHE Grp. 7
Invite all members & friends
to a grand

CHRISTMAS
DINNER & Entertain
& Entertainments

at The Greyhound, Croydon,
(opposite the Fairfield
Halls) in the Regency Rm.

FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER 1971
Tks £2.50ea. from John
Eden 22 Tavistock Road
Croyden (enc. SEA please)

[illegible]

To the Editor –
Dear Sir,

Whether or not a report is submitted to Lord Longford (for whom I have great respect), it seems to me that the whole venture runs counter to the aims and objectives of CHE.

Few would disagree that for society as a whole homosexuality is, in some obscure way, bound up with pornography: 'deviation' is considered ipso facto pornographic. It is this prejudice that CHE must fight and, in my opinion, to admit publicly that we are in any way more interested in the subject than, in say, West Bromley Anglers' Association, can do our cause nothing but harm. You cannot attempt to break down a prejudice by tacitly agreeing with it. CHE members opinions have no right to special consideration: they should not be offered and, if asked for, should be refused. Any other course will only serve to bracket even more closely in the public mind homosexuality and pornography.

The point is made that CHE, if it is to have any backbone, must express opinions on matters of general interest. How I agree! But how unfortunate to choose pornography initially, with all its implications!

Might I also point out the danger of CHE becoming an organisation for "nice" people. It is a campaign on behalf of all homosexuals, nice or nasty, or it is nothing. I have observed disquieting signs of a form of snobbery creeping in. We, of all people, must be aware of the difficulties of living "outside": non-exclusivity should have a high priority with us.

Finally, we must also guard against the "Uncle Toms". For tactical reasons I think I agree that we should urge public acceptance. But we must be in no doubt that we are demanding it as a right; in short, we are unwilling to occupy the roles which society assigns to us; we do not apologise or excuse ourselves.

Fraternally yours,
Charles Murdoch

Dear Sir,

Very sincere congratulations on your first issue and of course we all know that 'from the little acorns the mighty squirrels get their nuts' - or something.

Actually, when one knows a little of the horrors of launching a new paper - the escalating costs and ghastly headaches involved, one can only be tremendously grateful for the combined efforts behind the launching of LUNCH.

I am taking a dozen copies of your second issue which I shall sell as a measure of my support of, and pleasure in, our paper. Also, I would like it made clear that I am not (as has been suggested by witty friends) donning Salvation Army drag and dashing into the Rockingham, Boltons or Colhearne on Saturday evenings, screeching 'Here's your lunch! Come and get it!! Not at all. I shall wear my old flowered Ascot hat, leather jerkin and jeans as usual (and then scream 'Here's your LUNCH, etc., etc.,')

All the very best for the bright
future, sincerely - R.F.Simpson, S.E.19

Letters must be addressed to The Editor, and to be considered for publication should include your full name and address.

DEAR SIR

Very glad to see in LUNCH 2 that CHE and GLF are getting together for a very important and, I hope, a very dignified and serious occasion. This being, of course, the wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph. It's wonderful to see that this will happen after all these years.

If there is anything at all I can do to help in organizing this then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
George S. Glenister
Secretary, Group 2.

Dear Sir,

CHE is a movement for liberalisation, however intolerant some of its members may be. The Longford Commission is a movement, or part of a movement, against pornography, and through this against the permissive society. Toleration of homosexual conduct has grown during the period of the permissive society, against which general ideas are ranged most of Lord Longford's associates in the Commission and the Festival of Light. It is therefore perhaps rather strange and inexplicable that some leading members of CHE became suitors for the hand of the high-born puritan. Was it merely bravado - putting their heads in the lion's mouth or some such escapade? Had they completely forgotten that the Campaign needs more members if it is to buy and equip a headquarters of its own, and that one excellent way to deter new members from joining is to associate the Campaign with a group of narrow-minded, doddering fanatics?

Longford, rest assured, though partially gaga, retains enough political acumen from his long career, to know how to use CHE. and not let it

14 use him. Accordingly, his movement will use CHE's evidence, such as it may be, to strengthen his case. That case cannot conceivably do the members of CHE any good at all. Why, then, they should spend time, energy and even money, on furthering the work of the Commission, is an utter mystery; no dedicated saboteur of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality could have thought of a better way to weaken it. An adherence to a few principles would be entirely salutary for CHE; it would be better simply to state that this matter does not concern us as a movement, though it may concern us as individuals. As individuals we can still, happily, refuse to complete the questionnaire, thus making mincemeat of the entire fatuous enterprise. The Commission is not even dignified with official status, as many, bewitched by its aristocratic head, have assumed. There are better-established and more powerful bodies which we could well attempt to influence, on more appropriate subjects - the political parties, the British Medical Association, the London Council of Social Service, the teaching unions and so on. Our attitude should be one of self-respect and high principle (may one still suggest such things?) not cowering abjectly, waiting if necessary for centuries until our descendants see the light of day.

Call off this match - one of the parties has developed very cold feet.

John Cowell
Secretary, Group 4.

Dear Sir,

Tom Flanagan has certainly given us something to ponder over, and some apt quotations which might be profitably pondered over by you-know-who.

I, too, find it difficult to reconcile Christian teaching, which is not necessarily the same thing as the Church's teaching with repression.

continued page 18 col.2

NEWSDESK

LONDON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TONY

RYDE BACK AGAIN AT THE HELM

Tony writes-

It's an "in" phrase of course, but "it's all happening." People are becoming conscious of belonging to a movement. There's LUNCH, bringing the London Groups together, and the National Council which we are host to on December 4th. There's the new recruiting leaflet (available shortly) which sets out better than ever before what CHE is all about; with this we will be able to make sure people know about CHE, instead of wondering why they don't.

And there's "People not Paper", a work of real devotion from those who see the importance of getting the right structure for the London scene. We could easily continue to double our numbers every six months, but to do so would be pointless if it meant that CHE became less receptive and attentive to the ideas and aspirations of individuals. We must be able to pull together but without trampling on anyone. This is the problem which I think PNP goes a long way toward resolving.

Few of us know much about the Federation of Homophile Organizations yet. It was set up Saturday October 30th and CHE was one of the fifteen or so founding gay organizations. Its purpose is communication and co-operation between groups which have much in common but value their independence. CHE will have a lot to learn and contribute, but although we are possibly the largest single member organization we must take care not to stifle the others.

NEWSDESK

I am now back as London Committee Chairman, and am indebted to those who have carried the can while I had three months off. Not that one can keep one's hands off completely! In a general allocation of responsibilities to members of CHE's Executive, I got lumbered with fund-raising. You may think this will clash with our London Club Project. It's up to me to see that it doesn't, but I may get slightly schizophrenic at times. But while I think the club is vital, we must keep it in perspective, because to my mind it would be meaningless in isolation. It must be a part of CHE, not a substitute for it. So we must be extrovert and play our part on the national scene.

I rather fancy a series of rowdy-ish winter evenings where we do battle with some of those opponents that we all get paranoid about sometimes. We might even show Muggeridge we can be quite likeable. How about it?

'THE HOMOSEXUAL IN SOCIETY'-

Malcolm Martindale reports on joint CHE-GLF fringe meeting at the Liberal Assembly, at Scarborough.

An innovation at a party political conference took place at the Liberal Assembly at Scarborough this year at the instigation of Michael Steed (member of CHE Executive) with a "fringe" meeting jointly organized by CHE and GLF on 'The Homosexual and Society'.

The attendance was such that all eighty seats were occupied with many standing in the aisles. Under Michael's chairmanship, Glenys Parry

NEWSDESK

for CHE, ~~Geoff~~ Posner for GLF, and Bernard Greaves (Liberal Party Executive) each spoke. Bernard dealt at some length regarding the police harassment in Cambridge recently, which had gained widespread publicity in the local news media. He told how the police have now ceased drilling holes in skylights (which they officially denied). To deter people eyeing each other through holes in toilet walls they now tend to leave police cars outside conveniences!

The audience was extremely receptive and the questions which followed conveyed a high degree of understanding of the difficulties which face us.

A positive outcome of this useful encounter, as far as London is concerned, has been three requests to CHE. for speakers at Young Liberal meetings. Early in November, Wallace Grevatt has been invited to represent us at the annual South East Young Liberal Conference at Margate

CHE BENEFIT CONCERT

Peter Katin has most kindly offered to give a piano recital to boost our national funds. This will be held in his Croydon studio for 70 members and their friends and will be followed by a wine and cheese party. At an inclusive price of £1 50 per head, this will be a painless way of making about £70.

The provisional date is Saturday December 11th at 7.30pm. For confirmation, further details and tickets, please contact Wallace Grevatt as soon as possible at Mill View, Wray Lane, Reigate, Surrey (Reigate 43555).

DISCRIMINATION APPEAL

We all know gay people are discriminated against - in employment and in finding and keeping accommodation (as individuals, or local groups of CHE and other homophile groups) - and harassed by the police.

But if CHE is to speak with authority on these subjects, it must have evidence to back up its words. And if we are to take action against discrimination, we cannot do without evidence (and members willing to fight discrimination).

Robin Bloxside has just been made responsible for "discrimination" by the Executive Committee, and he wants to get moving quickly on collecting information and evidence. Soon he hopes to contact all local groups about this but if you've been discriminated against - or know someone who has - and can give a clear account and/or evidence of it, please write to him c/o the CHE office (28 Kennedy Street, Manchester 2). Everything you say will be treated confidentially.

LONDON FUND-RAISING -

Michael Yelland reports on a new working party.

A small working group has been set up to initiate MONTHLY SOCIAL EVENTS for London CHE. This is part of the general fund-raising exercise towards a headquarters and club.

The events might be centrally run, or co-operatively between Groups, or individual Groups could put up projects of their own. At the moment we are thinking of things like dinners,

dances, theatre and coach trips, but we are open to all sorts of ideas.

If you have any ideas (or would like to help in a particular project) please contact your Group fund-raising representative (your Chairman or Secretary will know who this is). Alternatively, come to a meeting of the working group and develop your ideas there - phone me at 01-399-3414 for particulars.

F R I E N D

Task Force re-named itself at a recent meeting. Henry Robertson was there and reports

On the 14th October, there was a meeting in Kingsway Hall of CHE Task Force, chaired by Michaela Launder and attended by about twenty-five members.

Michael began by proposing that the name "Task Force", with all its associations outside CHE, should be scrapped in favour of - FRIEND - which would mean: "Fellowship for the Relief of the Isolated and Emotionally in Need and Distress". The new name was voted on and accepted.

The Chairman went on to report what CHE Task Force had done since its inception in April. He accounted for the lack of meetings by saying that Task Force was one group which could work without them. There were murmurs from some who felt disgruntled because although they had volunteered to join the group, they had been given nothing to do, and were ignorant of anything Task Force had achieved in the way of befriending. It was explained that so far Task Force had not been given enough to keep all its members occup-

ied, as CHE itself was so little known at present. It had not yet succeeded in creating a sufficiently widely known and favourable image of itself to attract many homosexuals with problems. Michael felt that part of his task was to act as P.R.O. for FRIEND, letting other organizations, which might help it, know of its aims and credentials. In this connection, he quoted the distressing fact that he had written to two dozen organizations about FRIEND, and only two had bothered to reply.

In his role as PRO, Michael has established good relations with the Samaritans and ACCESS, as well as the Probationary Service which often has to deal with young people who, through isolation merely, have committed foolish offences, and which has expressed concern over a growing backlash of public opinion against homosexuals. These organizations are pleased to know of the existence of CHE and sympathise with its aims.

However, the Prison Service is very much against homosexuals, so that it is not yet possible for members of FRIEND to visit homosexual prisoners simply as members of CHE; they may only do so if a prisoner writes directly to them.

Once we have made a good name for ourselves in the public eye, it will become easier to undertake more, but the image-making is the task of CHE as a whole, rather than simply of FRIEND.

Michael said that ACCESS, which was soon to be set up in premises of its own to cater for people with any kind of emotional or sexual problem, had agreed to channel towards FRIEND

any homosexuals whom, it felt, could best be assisted by our organization. It had been hoped that Mrs. Doreen Cordell of ACCESS would come to the meeting to give an idea of the aims of her organization, but she did not appear.

It was made clear that some homosexuals who appealed to ACCESS might have greater associated problems than FRIEND, as at present constituted, had resources to deal with, but that others could be befriended by our members. It was urged that, in order to assist in befriending, members of FRIEND should follow a Counselling and Befriending course, under the auspices of ACCESS, consisting of evening sessions once a week for a month. Counselling is dealing with a person's problem in depth, taking detailed notes, which may be handed over to a specialist helper or organization, if such is needed. Befriending is not simply "being a friend" - but rather "being a knowing friend".

Some people present felt that there was no way in which a person could be taught to be a friend and Michael concurred but pointed out that though our experience of our common condition gave us an advantage over trained social workers, the assistance to be gained from a course of training by ACCESS would be of added value, and when the suggestion was put in the form of a motion and voted on, it was passed almost unanimously.

Since April, thirty homosexuals, usually referred to FRIEND by group conveners, had been dealt with and, although some had problems greater than could be dealt with by CHE unassisted, none had been turned away

and several had been helped personally by Michael. Isolation was one of the greatest problems of the homosexual and it was this that FRIEND should set out to combat.

There was a feeling at the meeting that there was a great deal more good will amongst those in FRIEND than had ever been tapped, and the future of the organization promised well

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF

HOMOPHILE ORGANISATIONS-

David Hyde reports on its inaugural meeting in London last month.

Ike Cowan, leader of CHE in Nottingham, was given the task of setting up a study group to look into the possibility of forming a National Federation of Homophile Organisations.

At a meeting in London held on the last weekend in October, he presented his findings to the prospective members when they met at the Swiss Cottage Library.

The founder groups of the Federation are- Albany Trust; 30's Arts Society; New Group; Intergroup; CHE (nationally) Night Out- Nottingham; North East Womens Group; North West Womens Group; Pavillion Club- Nottingham; Scottish Minorities Group; Kenrick; Esquire Clubs Ltd.; Fabian Cowpers Group; Unit 3; Bristol Arts Group.

The purpose of the Federation is to give the various groups a united voice where they have common ground, and to help each group achieve its objectives.

The Federation has a proportional representational system for giving weight to the voting powers of its members,

the number of votes determined by the size of its membership.

Finance is also raised on a 'per capita' basis, although the amount required to be paid is reduced if an organisation decides not to accept full voting rights.

Anthony Gray of the Albany Trust is to be the first Chairman of the Federation.

One of the most heated questions discussed at the meeting was the admittance of commercial organisations to the Federation, and after some debate it was decided that this point should be settled by the committee.

The next meeting will be held in Nottingham, sometime next February.

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I have always been struck with the strength of Christianity in the Gay world, and I take it that there are many members of CHE who are neither interested in it nor desirous of being associated with it.

Assuming this to be so, I wonder whether we do CHE a service by merely knocking the Festival of Light? You state elsewhere that Lord Longford suggested that we might help his anti-porn campaign. It would have been constructive, perhaps, if he had suggested that we meet the Festival of Light.

Have we been invited to do so? If not, have we volunteered?

I am by no means an unqualified admirer of the Festival although I have some sympathy with what it thinks it is trying to do.

Perhaps we have little hope of making these people see what they prefer to sweep under the carpet, but we have none at all if we don't make an effort.

Yours, etc.,
Bill Mitchell.

PERSONAL

Rates for all advertisements are listed inside front cover.

CHE member writer & journalist in mid-40's with wide ranging interests wishes to share his very modern 2-bedroomed City flat with compatible professional man. Complete independence for both parties. £10 no extras. Landlord requires references. Call 01-638 9919.

AWARENESS (Consciousness-raising) groups are to be formed in CHE. An explanatory article will be published in a subsequent issue of LUNCH- meanwhile potential members may contact John Levinson 01-435 6177.

ELECTRONIC engineer, music lover needs self-contained accomm. at least 2 rooms. Prepared share house or large flat in S/SW/W/ NW London. Must be reasonable rent. Write BCM Box 312 London WC1.

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HAVE YOU READ the Homosexual Handbook yet? 281 pages only 72p. Free lists of other Gay books available on request. Paperback Centre (CHE) 150 Merton Road, Wimbledon SW19. (1/2

FREE TO CHE MEMBERS AND GROUPS advertising right here in the Personal Column of Lunch. For complete list of all advertising rates see inside front cover.

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GROUP ORDERS

From the December issue Lunch will only be available by post. We suggest that groups still get together to order because postage in bulk is always cheaper. For those meeting on the date of issue- December 17th- arrangements might be made to get copies to them. RATES-10p per copy, postage charged extra- we will invoice. Please do not order on a sale or return basis as we cannot order more than we can sell at present.

DECEMBER ISSUE OF Lunch

IS OUT FRIDAY 17th

DECEMBER. Contributions

and letters for inclusion

must be with us by Saturday

27th November!

CHE & Lunch

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality started life in 1964 as the North Western Committee for Homosexual Law Reform. It changed its title after 1967, and began organising CHE on a nationwide basis only in mid-1970.

Now 1,500 members meet regularly across the country in more than 25 groups for serious talk, discussion, and a variety of social events.

Each group is autonomous and sends its own chosen representative to a National Council. National policy-making is done by the National Executive which is elected democratically by members.

Subscription to CHE is £1.50 annually and includes a national bulletin. LUNCH magazine is published by members in London to promote group interests at a more personal level, as well as providing a platform of opinion for topics of interest.

Anyone may join CHE, homosexual or not. For more information please write to- CHE, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester 2, mentioning this publication.