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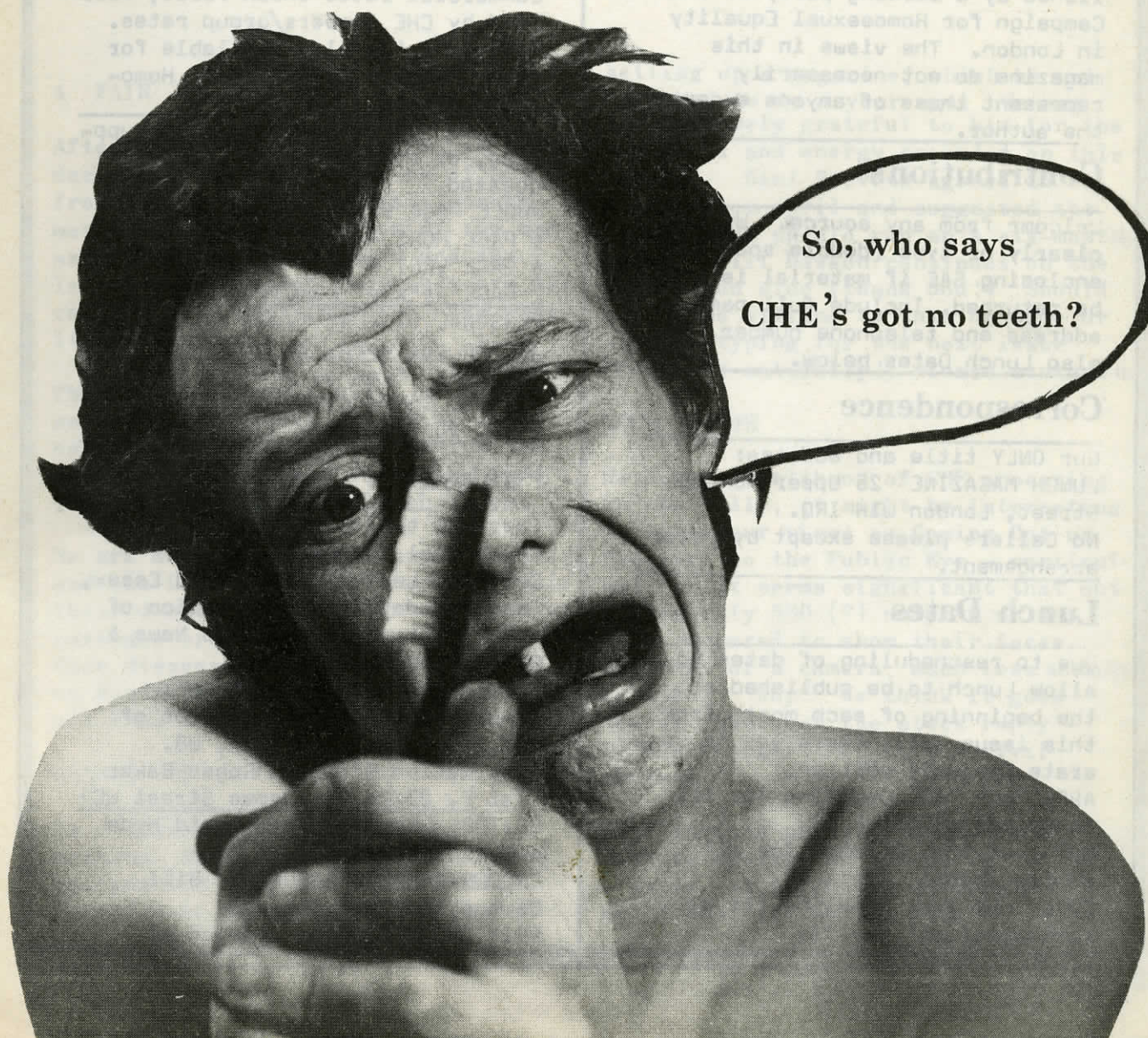
CHE LIVES!

Inside- Bob Sturgess, Defender

36 page-packed issue

Newsdesk - Letters - Diary

Group News & Events



So, who says
CHE's got no teeth?

Lunch

Number 6 February/March 1972

LUNCH is a monthly magazine published by a working party of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality in London. The views in this magazine do not necessarily represent those of anyone except the author.

Contributions

Welcome from any source. Write clearly or type (double spacing) enclosing SAE if material is to be returned. Include full name address and telephone number. See also Lunch Dates below.

Correspondence

Our ONLY title and address:
LUNCH MAGAZINE 25 Upper Montagu Street, London W1H 1RQ.
No Callers please except by prior arrangement.

Lunch Dates

Due to rescheduling of dates to allow Lunch to be published at the beginning of each month from this issue only, there was no separate February edition.
APRIL out 7th. Deadline for all contribution March 18,
MAY out 5th. Deadline for all contributions April 15.
JUNE out 2nd. Deadline for all contributions May 13.

Subscriptions

PERSONAL Post paid rates; 6 months £1; 12 months £2.
GROUPS Lunch is now available on a Sale or Return basis, but please do not overestimate because of financial reasons.
COMMERCIAL Please apply to Bill Dawson at Lunch for rates.

Payments

All cheques PO's should be made payable to the LUNCH MAGAZINE a/c.

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Commercial rates shown first, followed by CHE members/group rates. Reduced rates also available for other members of Nat. Fed. Homophile Groups.

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Publishers

There are twelve CHE groups based in central London, other in Croydon, Lewisham, Kent and Essex. For more detailed information of activities, see the Group News & Events pages.

For London Committee of CHE:
Membership Secretary Wilmot of Mar, 19 Ansdell Terrace, W8.
Information Officer Roger Baker Flat F, 23/24 Gt. James Street WC1

EDITORS Roger Baker, David Hyde and Gini Stevens.

PRODUCTION/DISTRIBUTION Bill Dawson and Marc Connard.

PRINTERS FI Litho London N1

A Fair Price Change of Editor from this coming month Exposure to the Public Eye

A FAIR PRICE

After much deliberation, it has been decided to put up the price of LUNCH from this issue. The vast improvements in the presentation of the magazine, plus growing costs and the latest heavy postal increases are all contributory factors which have made it necessary.

The increased price will, we hope, ensure our financial security and enable us to continue improving the magazine; eventually employing more sophisticated printing techniques.

We are most grateful to Angus McGill, and the London Committee of CHE for their donations, which have helped us purchase proper files, and a gummed-tape dispenser for parcelling LUNCH on distribution day - which saves us all that endless licking!

CHANGE OF EDITOR

At a recent LUNCH working party meeting, David Hyde announced his resignation. He now felt he had achieved his original intention of

setting up a magazine, which he volunteered to do a year ago. We are all extremely grateful to him for the hard work and energy expended on this venture. Gini Stevens agreed to be editor from April and suggested the appointment should run on a six-monthly basis. Bill Dawson continues on the Production side (thank God!) Should anyone be willing to take on some or all the typing for the next issue (for love naturally!) please contact us

YOUR VIEWS

With the likelihood of CHE appearing on the telly, it might be interesting to have your views on Coming Out or Exposure to the Public Eye - particularly as it seems significant that out of possibly 500 (?) only 30 or so were prepared to show their faces in front of a camera, much less actually to speak. Why? We think it goes deeper than just the stock reply - 'I'm a teacher!' or 'I'm a civil servant!'

Also invited are your ideas on a monthly Profile of someone. For example, if given the choice, who would you like to see done?

Some Thoughts on Hearing a Pseudo-Marxist Phonograph

THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE GLF BY LAURENCE COLLINSON IN THE LAST ISSUE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE REACTIONS RANGING FROM DISMAY AND ALARM TO EXCITEMENT AND HORROR. HERE Bob Sturgess PRESENTS HIS REPLY, AND HIS REASONED WORDS REFLECTING THE MAJORITY CHE VIEW.

BOB STURGESS

So markedly different is Laurence Collinson's experience from my own, and from that of my CHE friends, that it is hard to believe he is talking about the same organisation. Neither in my group, nor in other CHE groups to which I've been invited to speak, have I been aware of members being sad, blinkered or ineffectual. On the contrary, they have asked constructive questions and have contributed, after the talks, to refreshingly undocinaire discussions of a high order.

Is it conceivable, do you suppose, that the time Mr. Collinson spends on his GLF activities has perhaps precluded him from attending as many CHE meetings as he would wish - or not wish? It's perfectly true, of course, that at recent open meetings the emphasis has been on constitutional matters, but this is true of most fast-growing organisations at a comparable stage of development. We in CHE like to keep our members, and have found that to do so requires a measure of ordered administrative effort. It rather looks as if Mr. Collinson has neatly fallen into his own trap by doing precisely what he accuses CHE members of doing to GLF, namely of panning another organisation on insufficient evidence; a nice case, it

would seem, of the pot calling the kettle black.

Quite which meetings of CHE Mr. Collinson has attended is not certain, but what is so super-abundantly clear that you could bet your last KY tube on it, is that something bugs him so much that he has allowed it to distort his judgement; something which, for him, is the source of all unrighteousness, the ground of his spleen, his favourite bête noire, and that something (yes, you've guessed it) is Authority. Hence, no doubt, his affinity for an anti-authoritarian Nirvana like GLF and his, shall we say ambivalent attitude to an organisation like CHE that prefers, for the moment at least, to achieve its aims within the existing social structure.

DEMOCRACY

For some time now, CHE has been the all-too-passive subject of the sort of petulant attacks, so faithfully mirrored in Mr. Collinson's article, ranging from snide innuendoes ('ineffectual') to open denunciations about being 'middle class' and the rest. It's becoming rather a drag to hear a small, but vociferous, chorus - a kind of verbal Angry Brigade - trot-

ting out the familiar dog-eared generalisation (I was going to say 'arguments', but thought better of it) on the same old pseudo-Marxist phonograph, and it's surely time that we in CHE exorcised them once and for all.

There are a number of variations on this homespun theme (e.g. that we suffer from 'cliquishness and from a 'horrible interest in the sayings and doings of well-known homosexuals'), but one in particular seems to be that we attempt to run our meetings democratically - i.e. in a way that offers everyone a fair hearing; and if that involves raising the odd point of order - so what? Better, surely, than a point of disorder. It follows that, if all are to get something from a CHE meeting, no single individual must be allowed unduly to press his views at the expense of others; this, in practical terms, is what we mean by 'equality' and true brotherhood. All too often, it's the very person who talks most often, and at greatest length, about the 'Right to Freedom' who abuses it most - for others; not himself. In principle, there's much to be said for the sort of unstructured meetings favoured, for instance, by GLF but, if they are to be productive, they do call for exceptional self-restraint and a high degree of social tolerance on the part of all the participants, since it only takes one cat to rout a hell of a lot of pigeons and ruin the discussion for everybody else. (And to achieve even the current level of sustained national effort, in a politically unstructured context, would demand an immeasurably higher - Utopian? - level of individual responsibility than is required by our present, more structured system. To recognise this is not to be 'middle class' or 'ineffectual' or 'blinkered' - merely realistic).

And it is precisely because CHE is realistic enough to recognise how woefully few of us measure up in practice to such high standards that it is content to apply well-tried procedures to

its meetings, and we are fortunate in having members who do not feel so threatened that they see the well-manicured hand of Authority behind every committee action or chairman's ruling.

PEACE AND LOVE

This should not be taken to imply that the bulk of GLF members are not realistic; indeed, their nose for social hypocrisy is as gratifyingly keen as their readiness to do something about it. Like Mr. Collinson, I also count myself a supporter of GLF and it would be churlish - and unrealistic - to deny that, if we hold our heads a little higher today than we did a couple of years ago, it is, as John Chesterman wrote in a recent letter to The Guardian in no small measure due to the 'courage displayed by GLF 'in the face of superstitious prejudice' and to their 'simple demand for human dignity.

At GLF meetings, and at their smaller groups, one has been struck not only by a very strong sense of brotherly concern (which finds immediate practical expression when someone gets busted on one of the more rumbustious assignments), but also a feeling of real personal involvement, which CHE might do well to emulate a little more. 'Let there be peace, love and brotherhood within our ranks and let it please begin with us', exhorts GLF's current diary sheet and, in truth, these qualities are very apparent across a breathstopingly wide spectrum of political and social activities; although they admittedly achieve something less than their full flowering at the politicians' Wednesday stomping ground in Powis Gardens.

It is much more with Mr. Collinson than with GLF that I take issue; neither the content nor the tone of his article seem to me to do justice to either CHE or GLF.

Whilst it is true that GLF does

have an Older Members' Group, it's also the case that CHE tends to attract a higher proportion of older people than GLF. It's hard for younger people to appreciate just what an effort it can be for an older male or female homosexual to attend a meeting at all; many of them have the greatest difficulty in admitting even to themselves that they are gay, much less to others. To have that trauma compounded by being in effect told by the All Saints politicians that the social values by which they were brought up are no longer 'relevant', must be more than many of them are prepared to swallow.

We in CHE should therefore be proud of the fact that we appeal to all age groups equally (which, pace Mr. Collinson, includes people from - dare I say it? - the upper echelons of society), and can claim in this sense to be a thoroughly representative homophile organisation.

BEHIND THE SCENES

To label CHE 'middle class' is demonstrably untrue. We are not. Classwise, our membership is in fact pretty broadly-based, and there is no evidence to suggest that CHE is any less representative of the country's socio-economic groupings than it is of its age-groupings. If, by the term 'middle class', Mr. Collinson and his brothers are referring to the (relatively) competent way we handle our meetings, they have chosen the wrong epithet: the most structured of all meetings probably take place behind the Kremlin walls. A liking for orderliness and a concomitant distaste for anarchy belong not to any particular class, but to all reasonable people.

CHE has also been accused, by the trigger-happy Mr. Collinson, of failing to TAKE ACTION. Has it not occurred to him that demos, 'direct action' and picketing, although perhaps valid in

a limited tactical sense, constitute only one of many forms of action and that the decision, say, of a senior civil servant to join his local CHE group is in itself a radical action? Isn't it time he realised that over-much, or misdirected, militancy can be counter-productive, and that his own brand of verbal bludgeoning (so reminiscent of the kind visited last year by his fellow-choristers on the long-suffering Jimmy Saville show) is liable to delay, rather than promote, enlightenment among the straights? Has he forgotten that the sexual freedom that he now presumably enjoys under the 1967 Act results from precisely the sort of quiet 'behind-the-scenes' proselytisation that he goes out of his way to denigrate?

Persuasion is, on the whole, a gentle art, and the first requirement, for our success, must be our readiness to give as much understanding and tolerance to straights as we hope (and GLF DEMANDS) that they give to us. In their view, homosexuality poses a very real threat to the family unit, and it will take much patience and restraint on our part to help them come to terms with their fears. With this goal in mind, group chairmen are now beginning to invite along doctors, priests and other welfare workers from outside, and I am happy to report that the dialogue between 'us' and 'them' at a recent Group 7 meeting I addressed in Croydon proved most fruitful.

GURU NEEDED

Might it not be profitable for GLF and CHE to explore the possibility of working together in this area of public education? It could be argued that what we need is some glorious Pope John-like-guru-figure to make us not only come together (difficult though that can be!), but also work together in a spirit of gay ecumenicalism; we are as yet too insubstantial a minority to afford the luxury of too much divisiveness and public

squabbling.

Instead of using his liaison role to identify and explore the common ground that undoubtedly exists between GLF and CHE, Mr. Collinson seems content to tell us where we get off and to lay the GLF ethic on the line by fiercely flourishing before us the basic premises on which it rests (namely, the twin bugaboos of Authority and Male Domination) without, however, giving any sign that he understands the genuine idealism and selflessness that lie behind them, (and with which many CHE members are in sympathy) - or indeed, the real case for RADICAL ACTION (which I'll be happy to sell him at 20p. per word, CASH).

Mr. Collinson defends his (I hesitate to say GLF's) anti-Establishment line on the grounds that we are so conditioned from infancy into 'surrendering' to the Authority figures of parents and teachers that, as adults, we take it as 'natural' to follow the dictates of Law, Church and State 'even when their rules appear to run counter to our personalities or desires'. Mr. Collinson may not be a married man, but has he never noticed how lost and unhappy small children can be when they lack all direction? Can he be blind to the way many of yesterday's hippies have turned against the directionless 'freedom' of their own early youth and become even firmer with their own children than their own mums and dads ever were with them?

As for his triple-headed hydra of Law, Church and State, has it not occurred to our friend and brother that the Law exists to protect him from the (I hope, for his sake, not altogether academic) possibility of rape? and that he doesn't have to go to Church unless, that is, his brain has been washed considerably cleaner than that of the vast majority of his fellow-countrymen; and that, for all its acknowledged shortcomings, Britain is still a more tolerant country than

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almost any other in the world?

RANDOM FISTFULS

Like any other society, ours is not short on blind spots, not the least of which has been its almost comical over-reaction to homosexuality. And, whilst I would not wish to impugn the sincerity of either Mr. Collinson or of GLF, would he not agree that a political system is much more than the sum of its blind spots (providing obviously, it hasn't got a rash), and that to envisage gutting the whole edifice for the sake of a patch or two of dry rot is itself an over-reaction of the very kind he is condemning?

At the other end of the political spectrum, Mr. Collinson rightly instances Nazi Germany as the distastefully extreme example of a modern authoritarian society. But has he ever thought how it came into being, and that it could only have flourished in the political vacuum that arose from the progressive emasculation of the very democratic checks and balances, not to mention points of order, which he finds so suspect in our present social structure? In the final analysis, that is their raison d'être: to protect society from the bloated self-esteem of a few fanatical ego-tripping little Hitlers. If Mr. Collinson and his more radical soul mates seriously presume to replace the present social system with something better, they will have to do a great deal more than toss off random fistfuls of jeremiads. Yes, we know that Gay is Angry, as well as Good, but Anger has many faces. I don't fall about myself at the way this country is run, but find it infinitely preferable to any alternative non-systems to which I've so far been exposed.

If GLF is going to carry any real political weight (as I very much hope will be the case), it will have to think through, and be prepared to

defend with facts, not rhetoric, an exponentially sound blueprint for an alternative (unstructured?) society. Come that particular dawn, Mr. Collinson may well have my vote. In the meantime, he can hardly be surprised if CHE, and other organisations, continue to operate within the present framework.

In seeking to defend GLF's second premise (male domination), he comes out with the startling proposition that the state believes 'the present concepts of masculinity and femininity to be essential to maintaining the (military) status quo' on the ground that 'if...men have the possibility of being tender and loving,,,towards other men, who is going to war to fight...and kill other men?' Well, our gay brothers, the Spartans, for a start: has our Knight Errant never heard of the Theban Band? And how does his new theory account for all the great homosexual military leaders of history?

By what twist of absurdist logic does he maintain that, for this purpose, it can only be homosexual, not heterosexual, love that results in a man being 'tender and loving'? Does Mr. Collinson really believe that Nelson, for example, was any the less 'tender' for loving a woman, rather than a man? If Emma had undergone a sex change and the object of Nelson's philandering affection had been Lord, not Lady, Hamilton, are we really to accept that Nelson would have become so 'tender' and 'loving' towards the younger and dollier frogs on the enemy ships, that he would have lost us Trafalgar? If Mr. Collinson is to usher in the Third World, he must do better than this, or the tablets from Mount Sinai will be a long time coming.

And his conclusion? 'What many homosexuals do not realise', asserts our blithe pundit,....'is that...Western society, as it is now constituted, is

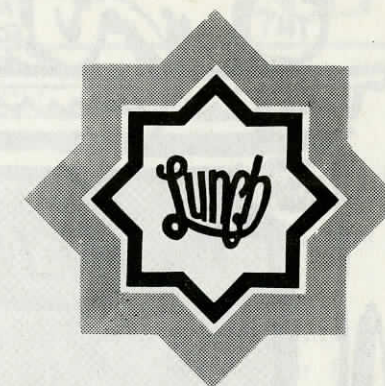
never going to hug us to its manly bosom. Tolerate us, maybe, accept us never.' How lucky the man who can be so unblushingly doctrinaire! How blessed the person to whom intellectual doubts are such strangers! In support of this highly tendentious dictum, he adduces a ragbag of (mainly gender role) pontifications, of the kind already examined, and uses them to dress out what is at best a highly personal hypothesis to look like an eternal verity.

THE REAL WORLD

If anything, I should have thought the evidence was all the other way. Already, as Bernard Levin has so brilliantly demonstrated in The Pendulum Years, this country has proved itself capable of the most staggering mental reorientation in the fields of contraception, adultery, divorce, abortion and homosexuality. On the latter subject, society's views have changed more in the past ten years than in the previous two thousand (excepting, perhaps, the delicious lapse into licentiousness during the Restoration) How, therefore, can Mr. Collinson be so sure that this rate of public enlightenment will not only be maintained, but actually increase and that, by the late seventies, the homosexual will be so déjà vu as to be accepted by society as readily as the divorcee has been hugged to society's manly bosom over the past decade? At least let his iconoclasm be reasoned.

Pull off those doctrinaire blinkers, Laurence, and take a look at the real world.

And, if you should still find yourself unendurably oppressed and threatened by this 'authoritarian', 'sick', 'savage' and 'male-dominated' society of ours, take solace from the fact that the cemeteries of Europe are packed with your brothers and my brothers, who gave their lives to buy you the freedom to emigrate to Tangier, or set up a gay commune in Tunbridge Wells or sail round the world in a beer barrel.

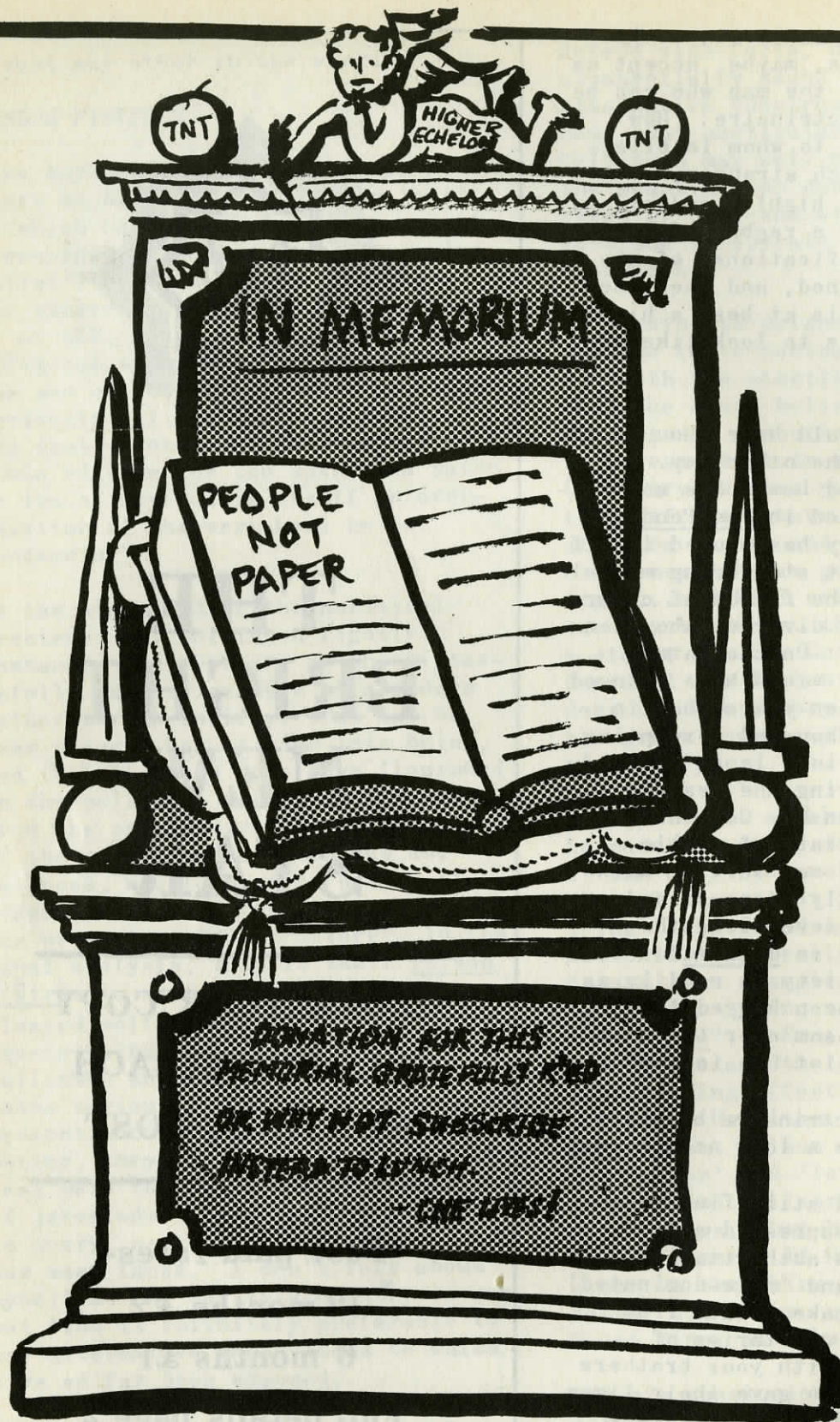


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Full details page 2



NEWS

FROM THE KENSINGTON POST

"Magistrate...was told that...was seen by police committing an act of gross indecency with another man in the public toilets. When taken outside the other man decamped and despite a chase made good his escape."

- like he threw his glass slipper at them?

ANALYSIS GROUP

Anyone who's read Eric Berne's best-sellers, Games People Play and Sex in Human Loving may be interested in attending the London Transactional Analysis Study Group.

T.A. is a system of therapy based on a theory of personality which recognises three types of ego states: Parent, Adult and Child. The system includes structural analysis, T.A. proper, game analysis and script analysis. Further information may be found in Berne's two other books T.A. in Psychotherapy and Principles of Group Treatment.

As an Associate Member of the International T.A. Association, my aim is to provide a series of friendly, informal meetings for those who have a special interest in the system. The group is not intended for psychotherapy but as a forum. Meetings may take the form of discussion of a specific topic, e.g. the nature of prejudice, followed by more general commentary. Members of the I.T.A.A. in California and visiting London may be invited along.

Hopefully the first meeting of the group will be held in central London in April. If you are interested and have any special ideas, please contact David Porter, 3 Somerfield Road, Finsbury Park, London N4. 2JN.

RING THE CHANGES

Oyez! Oyez! The London Students Group has now ceased to be a silent member of CHE and has changed its name to Youth Group.

For some time now the group has been in a state of unrest. In fact, internal politics finally reached a climax, resulting in a revolution. Leads rolled and the group has been totally reconstructed.

There is no longer a chairman. Instead the duties are shared by five people. The new offices are:- Membership Sec. Treasurer, Group Rep. Activities and Action Group Organisers. The Group Rep. will liaise with Head Office and represent it at the LC etc., The Membership Sec. will look after new members, and meetings, social functions etc. will be arranged by the Activities Organiser. With this new democratic structure we hope to be able to really get things done to further our campaign.

The Action Group has not been idle since it was formed, about 2 months ago. It has already run a very successful leafletting campaign. Approximately 1000 leaflets advertising CHE were distributed all over London. Places visited include East End pubs, Earls Court, Whitechapel Tube and the Essoldo Cinema (showing 'Some of my best friends are..') This proved good fun, even though we were ejected from London Transport's property by a big, butch policeman. Results so far are promising - a 2% instead of the usual 1% response obtained in the past by CHE.

The next project, already underway, is to display posters in all the London and surrounding Universities and Coll-

DESK

ages. We hope for as much co-operation as possible from the Students Unions. The aim is to recruit a nucleus of members in each college so as to start new students groups themselves, which we hope will result in the formation of several groups throughout London.

Meetings and social functions for the next few months are full of goodies to suit all tastes. Two parties, visits to pubs of historical interest, theatres and cinemas are arranged, as well as several eminent speakers. Not many Sunday afternoons will be left free with trips to Kensington Palace, New Gardens, Summerhill School, to mention a few.

The Youth Group is open to anyone under about twenty five. If interested in joining us, contact membership sec. Tom Barry 102 Walton Road, East Molesey Surry.

NEW GROUP CHAIRMEN WANTED TO FURTHER EXPANSION IN LONDON

There are now twelve London CHE Groups. With the exception of Croydon, all these groups are based in central London. Many members have, over the last year, expressed a need for groups to be located geographically and it was a prime recommendation in the report People Not Paper that this should be done.

Consequently a study of density of members was made and a decision made to form local groups as soon as possible. It was found that the most likely areas of London would be Kensington, Hampstead, Balham, Clapham, Islington & Harrow. This move is in direct re-

NEWSDESK

sponse to members' requests & is not an attempt to decimate the existing groups. In fact it would be admirable if individuals felt themselves able to support their own central group and a group up in their own area as well.

But groups do not spring out of thin air and none of these local groups can happen until members are found who are prepared to convene them.

So will any member who is (a) prepared to convene a group in any of the areas mentioned (b) prepared to support one of these groups

please contact their own group chairman or, if they are not attached to a group, contact me (Roger) at 242-2638. We want to get these new groups under way as soon as possible.

NEW LOCAL GROUP

A new local group has, in fact, been started and it covers the Blackheath, Lewisham, Catford area. Existing and new members who would like to support this should contact the chairman, Mrs Rose Robertson, 16 Honley Rd, Catford, SE 6 (698-1815).

SUNDAY GROUPS

Again, one or two individual members have told me that they would like to see a group that meets on Sunday set up. And I feel that there are members who are not attached to groups simply because week evenings are impossible. I should like to know if there would be adequate support for setting up

NEWSDESK

a Sunday afternoon or evening group in central London.

CONVENING GROUPS

Anyone who comes forward to convene a group, either in a local area or on a Sunday, need not feel that he or she will automatically have to be chairman. The important thing is to get everyone together for a meeting at which subsequent officials and plans can be discussed.

INTEGROUP

Though a younger organisation than either CHE or GLF, Integroup is already attracting considerable attention. The first experimental group was formed by Tony Cross at Catford, nearly two years ago. The idea was to bring together in one organisation a mixed male and female membership, 50% homosexual and 50% heterosexual. The first year of its existence, though it inevitably had problems, showed that the idea was both workable and worthwhile.

Since the more formal organisation of the group in Autumn 1971, and its acceptance as a genuine homophile organisation, despite its considerable heterosexual membership, by the new National Federation Of Homophile Organisations, Tony Cross has been asked to address a number of other groups of people on Integroup's aims and objects. As a result a second Integroup has been formed in Golders Green under Keith Gilley's chairmanship. The possibility of them forming in other areas is being considered.

Many interesting discussions have been held, enlivened by the 'on the spot' reactions of straights to gay

ideas. Gay members have been accused of undue self pity and exaggeration of their problems, and from such accusations a more rational statement of gay problems has often been achieved. Straights have shown us that many so called gay problems are universal. One main fact established is that intolerance of gay people is based on fear of something unknown and apparently beyond understanding.

The majority of Integroup members are convinced that the answer must take the form of an intensive, prolonged campaign of public education, which is of course the basic principle behind most of CHE and GLF action. However Integroup feels its advantage to be testing its statements on its own straight members before placing them before the public. For this reason, Integroup's statements are likely to be milder than CHE's or GLF's. This is no bad thing, there is room for statements of every flavour. One day the public may realise that the mild opinions of Integroup, the moderate opinions of CHE and outspoken ones of GLF are all simply different versions of the same basic truths.

A leaflet describing Integroup's aims is now available from the secretary, Chancery Lane, Beckenham, Kent, but please send s.a.e. if possible. Any straight readers of LUNCH who would like to attend an Integroup meeting are welcome. Please write or phone Tony Cross at 01 698 5186 for the Catford, South London Group, or Keith Gilley at 01 458 1348 for the Golders Green, North London Group. Gay readers with straight friends they'd like to bring along are equally welcome but again please write or phone first.

SEXIST LANDLORD SHAKES CHE

The following letter has been received from CHE H.Q.'s landlords:-

'We have received some complaints from ladies occupying offices in our Kennedy Street premises, in that some of the male member staff of the offices, are using the ladies toilets. Will you please inform all your staff that under no circumstances will this be allowed.....'

NEW DISCOS

Mike Winter, the non-stop disco-king of the East End, tells us there's another scene going now. It's at the King's Arms - 213, Bishopsgate (corner of Finsbury St) and happens every other Monday. Count from March 13.

Meanwhile the already established disco at the Father Redcap, Camberwell Green recurs every Thursday & Sunday. Mike is organising the occasional special Disco here to benefit some worthy cause or other. His first was on Feb. 21, which was in aid of St. Katherine's. The next on March 21 for some as yet unspecified beneficiary.

STUDENTS TAKE NOTE

The National Union of Students Scottish Region is proposing a motion at the NUS Conference in Birmingham next month. The full text is as follows:-

"That this Conference deplores the continuing discrimination and active police harassment

against homosexuals - particularly young homosexuals - in the UK. Conference adopts as a matter of policy that there shall be an early removal of remaining legal and social inequality.

"That this Conference notes the decision of NUS Scottish Region to support the SCCL & the Scottish Minorities Group in their campaign for sound legal reforms in Scotland, and extends its support to the NCCL, GLF and CHE in their struggle for freedom for all people who are discriminated against because of their sexual orientation".

The proposition comes from Heriot-Watt University. It is essential that local student/youth groups ask their delegates to the NUS Conference to speak and vote in favour so that the NUS adopts a strong supportive policy towards gay people. London can be confident that its own rapidly developing student group will take appropriate action.

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see page 2

FIRST IMPRESSION

Not out of curiosity but from a genuine interest in the people, the cause and the lecture to be given by Dr. Weissmann on Adler's Theory of Individual Psychology, I went to the meeting with mixed feelings. Although I thoroughly support the basic aims of CHE, I was somewhat apprehensive at the thought of being the only heterosexual (so far) present in the audience. I say 'so far' because it became apparent there were several there who had been married, with children, and been what is called 'normal', before becoming 'abnormal'.

I have known many homosexuals (nearly all men) over a period of years and regard homosexuality as a different sort of normality, to be respected as such - not a perversion or something distasteful.

On entering the meeting, the first impression was of the sharp division of the sexes - the men sat together in groups as did the women. I wondered and still do, why? Here they had mutual interests, aims, problems and understanding. Yet they were separate, apart. Are the problems of the homosexual man so different from those of the woman? Does the one offend the other from deep-rooted psychological reasons; do they plainly dislike each other; do they not want to see 'the other side of the coin'? Is it easier for a homosexual woman to communicate with a heterosexual man than with a homosexual? To an outsider and comparative ignoramus, all these questions immediately went through my mind.

Dr. Weissmann spoke first about the basic Freudian school of thought. He stated from the outset that he

would welcome questions, many of which came at inopportune moments, at times disrupting the flow of thought with irrelevances. He in turn proceeded to ask his audience questions. Here I must admit to more than mild amusement. In reply to the lecturer's questions I have never heard such a resounding of complexes and inhibitions! Does common sense also fly out of the window when anything psychological is discussed - being replaced by misused technocrat's language?

Dr. Weissmann's explanation of basic Freudian theories and the philosophy of Adler struck home more than once to members of the audience. From time to time I found myself nodding agreement and, on looking round, saw the same response evoked elsewhere. Yes, we were all part of it - some applied to all of us; different bits to different people, naturally.

After the meeting ended, some members floated swiftly away, but others stayed to discuss the talk. And here I saw the break-down of the sexual division, regardless of which, people had become people.

Valerie Hutton

EVERYBODY'S WELCOME AT A
CHARRINGTONS PUB - IT'S A
FRIENDLY HOUSE...

Almost a year ago, when the newly formed Croydon group were searching for suitable premises as near as possible to the town centre, we found one, a seemingly friendly pub: Charrington's 'The Cherry Orchard'. In passing, let me stress that if no other lesson is to be learned from this murky take, it is always best to inform the proprietor exactly who

NEWSDESK

you represent, rather than vaguely mutter about it's being a group meeting to discuss current affairs!! At the time we thought it propitious to conceal our true identity; during the whole 8 months period the management never asked us to divulge any further information.

It was not long, however, before some of us sensed a rather unpleasant undercurrent in our dealings with the licensee. It was about our 2nd or 3rd meeting that he informed us we could no longer buy our drinks on a sale or return basis, for consumption in our meeting room, and at the next one we were told he could no longer serve or take drinks upstairs. Members will also recall negotiations invariably past a bloody great Alsatian which roamed the corridors, and often the heating facilities were spartan; in fact it was usually the licensee's wife who made sure that we had some warmth. (Up women! Ed.)

For quite a while we had been thinking about a reserve meeting place, as members had remarked on the somewhat furtive approach. At the December meeting, several of us observed policemen snooping around the building, and a late arrival actually saw two constables listening in outside the door of our meeting room.

Again, nothing was mentioned by either party as to any irregularity; the committee felt it best to 'play it cool' and to make it a priority to find alternative accommodation - before what seemed inevitable, occurred.

Thus we come to the cold January night of the 4th, when the first arrivals at The Cherry Orchard were greeted by the landlord with the information that we were no longer welcome

on the premises. There was no mincing of words. The landlord said he wanted none of us. (Apparently an invitation to the December meeting had come into his possession, naming his premises as the venue for Spartacus subscribers to join our group to hear Spartacus' owner, John D. Stamford talking about his magazine.) Hastily the meeting adjourned to a member's flat, where 35 of us crammed into his living room; at least we had a meeting despite the unpleasant start.

Shortly afterwards the group secretary wrote a strong letter of protest, both to the directors of Charringtons, and to the landlord of 'The Cherry Orchard'. Eventually replies were forthcoming; the one from the directors reading as follows:

"I write to acknowledge your letter dated 12 January 1972. The provision for a meeting is entirely at the discretion of the licensee concerned, and we therefore have to inform you that we do not propose to take any further action on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
A.R. Baxter, Director."

On the 10th February a letter was also received from the divisional sales director of Charringtons, apologising for the delay in answering our letter to The Cherry Orchard's landlord, saying they were very sorry to inform us that they were unable to alter the decision made by him. The secretary had enclosed copies of the new blue CHE leaflets in each letter, but no mention of their having received them was made in either reply...

So far the story ends happily; we have now acquired new premises in a local church hall where those responsible for lettings are fully aware that we are CHE members. However, we would welcome suggestions as to any further dealings with Charringtons, as

NEWSDESK

we are anxious to take the matter to board level.

WALLACE GREVATT

NO CLOUDS OVER MANCHESTER

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Manchester Homophile Society has had a lot going. After 9 months our paid up membership is at 80, with an average weekly meeting attendance of about 40. Everyone has been kept busy with involvement in the following:-

1) The Burnley Club Issue

2) The Reuben Book

Our campaign against the American book, 'Everything you always wanted to know about sex: but were afraid to ask, by Dr. David Reuben, has been in operation now for about two months and has involved.

(i) Giving out leaflets aimed specifically against the book and on homosexuality in general.

(ii) Asking Manchester's major booksellers to withdraw the book from their shelves. (A number have done so but although others were sympathetic, and allowed us to display posters on their premises, they felt unable to remove the book from sale.)

(iii) Inserting leaflets into copies of the book. (e.g. "the opinions represented in this book are not those of the majority of psychiatric/professional people")

We are hoping that the anti-Reuben book campaign will eventually become national and that the publishers will withdraw the book once and for all.

3) The Football Team

In an attempt to free ourselves from a particular 'gay image' the society has formed its own football team. Whilst not quite up to Man.

NEWS

United or City standards yet (those readers who cried, "What standards?" should kindly leave the room!) we hope to take on Leeds GLF and London GLF in due course and expect to give them both a good licking! (They mean to win the game. Ed.)

4) Pantomime

At Christmas the society produced a pantomime for the deprived children of the University Settlement. Support for the venture, both moral and financial, was given by the University, to which we would like to express our thanks. Although one or two of the puns might have been over the audience's head (both children and adults) it was all great fun.

Apart from these major items the Society has held numerous parties and discos as well as hand-in-hand walkabouts in the town.

RADICAL STUDENTS' MEETING

'Young CHE rules o.k.'

The theme of the first 'radical students' meeting to be organised by CHE set the scene for putting some not so woolly radical ideas into action, in a really concerted and determined way. Concerted because those who attended the meeting were members of both CHE and GLF, from Manchester, Leeds, Trans-Pennine, London, Durham, Liverpool, Cambridge, Sheffield, Reading and Loughborough groups. (MHS played host at the Young CHE Conference held at the end of January) The issues involved decisions for action.

The introductory pamphlet distributed at the meeting described the purpose of the Conference. "To discuss the radical alternative to both CHE and GLF in their existing forms." and

DESK

went on "This doesn't mean that we want to discuss the formation of an alternative structure, but an alternative approach, way of working; therefore we seek to interest and involve people who are members of either or both organisations, but who are in some way dissatisfied with the way they work."

The Conference consisted of two sessions, the first being devoted to discussion of this pamphlet and the criticisms/proposals it made.

In criticising CHE it was claimed that the organisation was over socially orientated, bureaucratic (in the sense that it has a formal structure for decision and policy-making - at a national level) and is not well known. ("Almost everybody has heard of GLF; almost nobody has heard of CHE") Against GLF it was claimed that it "is an 'exclusive' organisation as it has rigidly defined its membership and ideology, demanding at least formal adherence to a revolutionary view of society - and involves a total rejection of that society and its institutions. Whether this is right or wrong is not what we want to talk about; what we're interested in is its consequences, one of which is that it can never have a very wide or large membership, because a lot of people can't accept this viewpoint - and yet either they don't know about CHE or are put off by its apparent lack of political action." Furthermore it was claimed that GLF was overconcentrated in (and with) London.

These faults within each organisation led to the development of a stereotyped member of each, it was claimed. The CHE stereotype is "middle-aged, middle class, publicity-hating and scared of "coming out" in any way". His or her equivalent in GLF was

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described as "revolutionary, middle class by education or birth, under thirty and very much "come out" - a declared homosexual and proud of it."

"What the homophile movement should be talking about is how to make CHE a more radical force, so as to attract into it all those people who are anything other than revolutionary. This would allow GLF to become a smaller, more cohesive group of committed revolutionaries and stop it from being held back (if it is) by its non-revolutionary elements."

BEFRIENDING SERVICE A RADICAL ACTION

"The example cited of the work which a radical non-revolutionary group could perform was of the Befriending Service. "The Befriending Service is a radical action because the principle underlying it is that homosexuals are in lots of ways the best people to help other homosexuals. By getting doctors, social workers, psychiatrists etc., to refer people whose only or main 'problem' is that they're gay (i.e. they're lonely etc.,) or people who have more problems but can be helped by contact with gay people. This is a radical departure from the situation where people are "treated" for being homosexual. About the most radical thing we could do would be to make sure that wherever there was a group of gay people, there was also a Befriending Service liaising with all kinds of professionals."

In summing up the pamphlet declared "There are many other radical policies to be put into action. Some would be directly political, others like the Befriending Service, at first appearance would seem to be more social in character. Our aim at the Conference is to discover what they are and how

NEWSDESK

to put them into action.

CHE ONLY AWAITS RADICAL MESSIAH.

In a separate pamphlet Paul Temperton (General Secretary) stated, "the main point I want to make is that CHE can be the radical alternative, that it does want political action, that it needn't be a wish-wash over-bureaucratic monolith. All it needs is a few more radical people...who are prepared to work, throw their weight about a bit, take advantage of the structure which is already in existence, just waiting to be exploited. And some ideas and constructive suggestions - which I hope today's Conference will produce."

The first session ended in general agreement that a radical alternative was a definite possibility. The second session aimed at producing the "ideas and constructive suggestions" which Paul Temperton had mentioned.

SOME SUGGESTIONS

(1) It was generally agreed that CHE must involve itself with other groups (such as Women's Lib. and Schools Action Union) to further the interests held in common with such groups.

(2) A number of different groups around the country agreed to leaflet the schools in their area and organise informative meetings where people could discuss homosexuality. It was up to each group to decide whether it held the meeting in isolation or in conjunction with other organisations - thus enabling wider issues to be discussed.

It was also agreed that CHE national support should be sought for this campaign, which will take place during the week ending March 10th.

Each group will subsequently send

a report of the results of its activity and an overall report will be issued to the press and those participating.

(3) The low percentage of women in CHE (6%) was undesirable. The female members of CHE and GLF present claimed that many gay women are tired of the clubs and pubs and seek something more, but just do not know about CHE. One way we could increase our female membership was by contacting Women's Lib.

(4) On the subject of publicity, an outline of the CHE Bulletin, a description of LUNCH, 'Come Together' and the Leeds Broadsheet, as well as a preview of Andrew Lumsden's newspaper (as yet unnamed) was given. The newspaper, it was said, was aiming to come out fortnightly, and would contain no large, commercial, gay ads and would have a national circulation.

After the Conference a disco was held in Manchester Town Hall. Manchester University CHE's appreciation goes out to all those who attended the Conference and helped, by way of their interest and the reasonable expression of their views, to make it such a success.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

to NEWSDESK for inclusion
in the April Lunch is
MARCH 18.



London's GRAND MASKED BALL

Photos by Alan Louis
Bill Wright reports

It doesn't need anyone from LUNCH to tell you that a quid doesn't go far these days; when it comes to a good evening out it hardly pays for the price of a West End cinema ticket! Happy to say, then, that those who went along to the first London CHE Dance, the Masked Ball at Fulham Town Hall at the end of January, were rewarded with a very happy evening; an excellent band, cabaret, courteous attendance from the staff of the hall together with an ample supply of free leaflets from NCCL and the GLF.

Having braved a rather cold evening everyone there found it all well worth-while. For many, as for the Fund Raising Committee of London CHE, it was a 'first', but any initial shyness soon wore off amongst friendly smiles and greetings from people met at other CHE meetings and events, as well as those from one's own group. Hardly a wallflower throughout the evening, out of the couple of hundred there - surely the sign of a successful dance?

Trevor Hall's Music Box provided the music - bang-slap-up-to-the-minute sounds, with all the most recent numbers in their swinging style. An





Top- MC Cy Morris, Organiser William Blackledge. Below- Group 8. Bottom- The Band. Opposite page- Cabaret with The Funny Affair and audience.



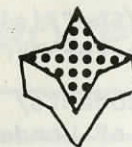
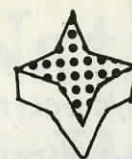
excellent choice. Their brisk style and variety of arrangements showed in the abundant applause at the close of numbers, all too rare lately. Somehow the band went off for a break at the wrong time, but people were enjoying themselves getting to know one another and the band were soon back on the floor. Then the real break, and with it the cabaret spot.

Drag acts are interesting, if only for their variety; happily The Funny Affair combined to offend no one, yet amused and entertained an expectant audience, soon drawing applause for witty new words to old favourites, besides some good new ones. One of these, about Doodle-de-Doo (YOU know!) (I don't! Ed.) on the Underground and other places won rapturous applause - and deservedly so.

A few prizes were handed out - not much imagination here - and what a pity so few wore masks; some people had gone to a great deal of trouble to wear really attractive ones. I shall certainly make a bee line for the next CHE dance, and I know I won't be the only one! Congratulations to William Blackledge, Michael Yelland and all concerned.



Postcard size copies of these photos may be obtained by writing to Lunch. Please state which page number, and position of photo when ordering; allow about 14 days for delivery. Post paid, each print is 12p.



Lunch Diary

MARCH - APRIL 1972

If you are not a member of a group you wish to visit, it is advisable to check before setting out, as dates are liable to change.

MARCH

- Mon 6 London CHE Groups 9,10
Chilterns CHE/London GLF
- Tue 7 London CHE Group 3/Croydon
CHE
- Wed 8 London CHE grp 4/Liverpool
CHE/Sheffield CHE/London GLF/
Manchester GLF
- Thu 9 Manchester CHE Students/Jew-
ish Research Grp of London
GLF
- Fri 10 London CHE Students, Grp 2
- Sat 11 Kent CHE
- Sun 12
- Mon 13 Wirral CHE/Cardiff GLF
- Tue 14 London CHE Grp 3/S Herts CHE/
Croydon CHE/Trans-Pennine
CHE/London CHE Students
- Wed 15 Sheffield CHE/London GLF/
Manchester GLF
- Thu 16 London CHE Grp 8/Integroup
of London/Chilterns CHE/
Manchester CHE Students/Jew-
ish Research Grp of London GLF
- Fri 17 London CHE Students

- Sat 18 Trans-Pennine CHE
- Sun 19
- Mon 20 London CHE rp 10/Cardiff GLF
- Tue 21 London CHE Grps 3,6/Birming-
ham CHE
- Wed 22 London CHE Grp 4/Sheffield CHE/
London GLF/Manchester GLF
- Thu 23 Manchester CHE Students/ Jew-
ish Research Grp of London GLF
- Fri 24 London CHE Grp 2, Students/
- Sat 25
- Sun 26 London CHE Grp 8 (Country Walk)
- Mon 27 Croydon CHE/Cardiff GLF
- Tue 28 London CHE Students, Grp 3
- Wed 29 Sheffield CHE/London GLF/
Manchester GLF
- Thu 30 London CHE Grp 8/Integroup
of London/Manchester CHE
Students/Jewish Research
Grp of London GLF
- Fri 31

APRIL

- Sat 1
- Sun 2
- Mon 3 London CHE Grps 9,10/Croydon
CHE/Cardiff GLF
- Tue 4 London CHE Grp 3/Croydon CHE
- Wed 5 London CHE Grp 4/Sheffield
CHE/London GLF
- Thu 6 Manchester CHE/Jewish Research
Grp of London GLF
- Fri 7 London CHE Group 2
- Sat 8
- Sun 9
- Mon 10 Chilterns CHE

This Diary is as accurate as circum-
stances permit. COPYRIGHT Lunch
Magazine, London.

Nationwide Group News & Events

GROUPS LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

BIRMINGHAM CHE

MEETINGS 21 March CONVENOR Denis
Platt INFORMATION from Denis 0902-
752637 or Douglas 021-706 9818.

NEWS CHE has opened up again in Bir-
mingham. The first meeting held on
January 25 was chaired by Douglas and
went very well. Just over a third of
CHE members circulated in the B'Ham
area turned up. An informative talk
was given by Peter Norman on the aims
and policies of CHE. A film programme
was announced. These had been started
jointly with GLF and are now carried
on by them. This raised the question
of involvement with them, and a lively
discussion followed, most members sup-
porting co-operation with them in social
activities and questions affecting the
Gay community, whilst disassociating
from the political-social aims of the
GLF in the re-structuring of society
etc. The initial meetings will have
to concentrate on developing a
friendly social atmosphere without
which the group will not be viable.
The coffee break saw a start to this,
and when we adjourned to the pub
afterwards, this became a reality. It
was decided to hold informal gatherings
in the pub between the main meetings.

CARDIFF GLF

MEETINGS every Monday, 7.30pm in the
upstairs room, Blue Anchor, St Mary St.
(Monument End) SERVICES 24hr emerg-
ency service INFORMATION from Rights
& Information Bureau, 58 Charles St, Cardiff.

CHILTERN CHE

MEETINGS at Friends Meeting House
High Street Berkhamstead. CHAIRMAN
Roy Saich INFORMATION from Roy at
Chesham 4538

CROYDON CHE

MEETINGS 7 March 'Conservation' Talk
by Margaret Wingfield a prominent Lib-
eral 7.30pm at the Unitarian Church
Hall; 14 March Piano Recital on records
7.30pm at Jim Sewell's flat; 27 March
Annual General Meeting at Unitarian
Church Hall 7.30pm; 4 April 'Frighten-
ing the Horses' by George Melly of the
Observer 7.30pm at the Crocodile Rm.
Greyhound Hotel Croydon. INFORMATION
from Wallace Grevatt Reigate Sy (74)
43555.

NEWS Both Campaign and Social activ-
ities are expanding as group further
consolidates; useful contact with the
local Samaritans. Unitarian Church
Hall now to be our monthly meeting
venue (in centre Croydon). Well-
attended, thought provoking, happy
evening of contrast held on Jan 31
with Bob Sturgess as speaker.

SHERTS CHE

MEETINGS 2-3 week intervals March 14
Social with Chilterns CHE. INFORMATION
John Kernaghan 21 Park Close Hatfield
Herts. John is Chairman of the group.

NEWS We have had several lively
meetings with discussions on a variety
of subjects ranging from what individ-

uals can do to further CHE aims, awareness groups, social service etc. We hope to set up future meetings with speakers from various organisations and services to discover what is being done and what needs to be done.

INTEGROUPS

MEETINGS 16 March 'Sexual Deviants In Literature' a discussion. Alternative Thursdays thereafter All at 7.30 for 8pm at Unitarian Meeting House 41 Bromley Road Catford London SE6. CHAIRMAN Tony Cross SECRETARY David Waterhouse INFORMATION from Tony Cross 01-698 5186 (6.30-7pm any evening) See also Newsdesk article.

EAST KENT CHE

MEETINGS 11 March in Canterbury. SECRETARY Brian Hart INFORMATION from Brian at 1 Trinity Road Folkstone Kt. NEWS Have now formed a working party to thrash out a group constitution; the Chairman has successfully established contact with the Director of the Samaritans (Medway). Currently investigating other community links Secretary has established reputation as a bold pamphleteer!

LIVERPOOL CHE

MEETINGS 1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the month in the upper room, Gazebo Coffee Lounge 21 Duke Street Liverpool 1 at 8pm CONVENOR to be elected at AGM 1st March. INFORMATION-see bottom this par. NEWS Valentines Fancy Dress party well attended and colourful. Joint ventures with Manchester and Trans-Pennine groups planned. Membership still growing and attendance at meetings now never less than 40-often much higher. Befriending Service (we cannot think of a better name!) gathering momentum. Separate students/youth group now in operation with several members attending both groups. Good relationships with local Samaritans and recent circular to Anglican clergy produced nothing

but favourable results, including offer of rooms in the Cathedral (they will be the National Council meeting venue). Next approach will be to the Catholic clergy, then contacts with schools/youth clubs for invitations to give talks etc. Members recently participated in two teaching sessions on homosexuality at an Anglican social work Training College.

INFORMATION from Gordon Gibb 120 Edinburgh Road Liverpool 7.

LONDON CHE

LONDON GROUP 1
MEETINGS first Friday in month CHAIRMAN David Smith INFORMATION 01-837 4161.

LONDON GROUP 2
MEETINGS usually first and third Fridays in month. No other information at time of going to press.

LONDON GROUP 3
MEETINGS every Tuesday CHAIRMAN Brian Sewell INFORMATION from Secretary Stephen Walker 01-402 4489. No other information available at time of going to press.

LONDON GROUP 4
MEETINGS second Wednesday in month 8pm at Coachmakers Arms, Marylebone Lane, London W1. CHAIRMAN Len Kelly INFORMATION from Len at 01-602 6397
NEWS At the January meeting Emrich Weismuller, Chairman of the Adlerian Society, and a Harley Street Specialist, addressed over 50 members and guests (see Newsdesk 'First Impression'). A sequel occurred at a member's flat later in the month. He compared Adler and Freud and their views on homosexuality. In February the Rev Peter Ball from Centre, Marylebone, talked on 'Their Problems or Ours'. He stressed the need for homosexuals to care for one another, and touched on High Anglican attitudes from which it would appear that homosexuality is still officially regarded as a sin. These and many other related points were freely discussed.

LONDON GROUP 6
MEETINGS third Tuesday in month. CHAIRMAN Ken Glazier
NEWS A lively meeting in January took the form of a discussion with 4 GLF members. They found great sympathy for their militant views within the group, and more than a few eyes were opened.

LONDON GROUP 8
MEETINGS 2nd & 4th Thursdays in the month. CHAIRMAN Basil Ferron INFORMATION from Basil at 01-876 1009
SPECIAL Sunday March 26 A seven mile walk in Kent- all groups invited. See Knole and the Pencil Tree; sample cheapest beer in the UK at the Buck's Head, Godden Green; Climb One Tree Hill (or go round it if you like!) Tea at Blighs Hotel, Sevenoaks. Total cost about £1.25 Details from Vivien Waldron 15 Bolton Gdns London SW5 01- 370 1896

NEWS Have been meeting recently at the Spartan Club with moderate attendance, but found noise from the other half of the club frequently overpowering. From beginning of March will be meeting regularly at The Two Brewers Upper ST Martins Lane WC1 Recent successful meeting with Tony Cross of Integroup who spoke on its aims, which broadened into lively 2-way discussion of great interest.

LONDON GROUP 9
MEETINGS Social evenings first Friday in month. CHAIRMAN Richard Stanwell No other information available at time of going to press.

LONDON GROUP 10
MEETINGS first and third Fridays in the month at Two Brewers Monmouth St WC1. No other information available at time of going to press.

LONDON STUDENTS GROUP
MEETINGS alternate Tuesdays and Fridays with occasional outings. 10 March Dr J Bancroft of Oxford Univ. "The Social Implications of Homosexuality"; 14 March Rev. Murray Grant "To-

wards an Ethic for Homosexuals"; 17 March Visit to the Rehearsal Club (Note over 21's only); 28 March Dr T Schlicht leading discussion on New Ideas for Group 5 (that's the Students Groups London group no.) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Tom Barry PROGRAMME SECRETARY David Porter INFORMATION concerning membership, Tom Barry at 102 Walton Road East Molesley sy. Concerning Programme David Porter at 3 Somerville Road London N4.
NEWS See Newsdesk "Ring the Changes" and "Analysis Group".

LONDON GLF

MEETINGS every Wednesday at 7.30pm All Saints Hall, Powis Gdns. Nottingham Gate, London W11. INFORMATION from GLF 5 Caledonian Road London N1 01-837 7174
Jewish Research Group

JEWISH RESEARCH GROUP
MEETINGS every Thursday at University of London Union Malet Street London WC1 INFORMATION from Simon Benson c/o GLF 5 Caledonian Road London N1

MANCHESTER CHE

MANCHESTER TOWN

MEETINGS monthly as advertised in the Newsletter. Liaising with the students group to form Befriending Service. INFORMATION from Barrie Kenyon through CHE HQ Manchester.

MANCHESTER STUDENTS

MEETINGS every Thursday in the Univ. Union, others arranged less formally; visitors welcome, overnight accommodation available. INFORMATION from Glenys Parry 061-224 3446.

MANCHESTER GLF

INFORMATION Angela Cooper 061-434 3124. No other information available at time of going to press. Meets Weds.

SHEFFIELD CHE

INFORMATION until further notice, please contact group through CHE HQ Manchester.

NEWS There are now two groups in Sheffield, both organised by a single Committee of four people. Group One is intended for the more conservative members; Group Two- very much in its infancy- will be active on the campaigning front.. There's no GLF so it is hoped that CHE Group Two will provide a constructive outlet for militant potential. Membership for this Group is being largely recruited from the Univ. and the Polytechnic. There is a third, independent Gay group in the city with which we are now co-operating. We are already dealing with large numbers of people, and recent advertising is increasing our CHE membership.

Sheffield is a peculiar city in that, with a population of over 4m there is virtually no 'established' Gay scene. This may ultimately make the progress of the equality/liberation easier than in cities where a large proportion of the self-accepted homosexual population has, for many years, been subscribing to a well established, well rooted, scene. Or, it could be that the absence of one has resulted in an especially low level of self-awareness among homosexuals in Sheffield, which may prove to be an even greater obstacle than the breaking of the ghetto mentality of a strong establishment Gay scene. Either way, there are vast numbers of isolated, demoralised homosexuals here, and we are aware that 3 puny groups can do little to help these people. But it's a start, and we're ambitious. Already we are working upon a really exciting project, which, if successful, would be able to spread information and give help on a much greater scale than any local CHE group could. No details of this can be given yet on this, but we hope to report Sheffield CHE as a precedent in the near future.

TRANS-PENNINE CHE

MEETINGS 14 March meeting with the Huddersfield Samaritans in or nr. H'f'd. to discuss attitudes and possible co-operation. 18 March Day visit to York with the Teeside group (joint outing). INFORMATION from Ted Clapham, Convenor, through CHE HQ Manchester.

WIRRAL CHE

MEETING 2nd Monday of the month. INFORMATION from Convenor, Peter Thrower 29 Kingsland Road Birkenhead LA2 9NN 051-652 8788

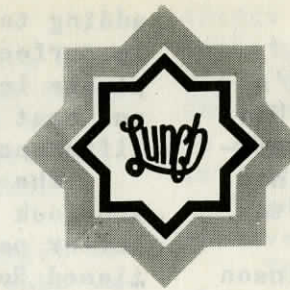
To all group officials and members of homophile organisations throughout Great Britain:

The circulation of Lunch is now exceeding the 1,000 mark across the country. Many of our readers- not by any means all of them CHE members- follow the progress of groups listed in this magazine.

The Group News & Events and Diary is not confined to CHE activities alone, following the trend for the entire magazine. Many readers live in parts of the country where there are no homophile groups, nor likely to be for some considerable time, but occasionally make visits to those parts where there are groups, and would like to visit them.

Lunch appeals to ALL groups to send it information regularly, on a monthly basis. We never print what you do not want us to; only what you tell us we can. Where possible, groups might appoint someone to do the job each month- it would not take long!

Lunch is available for sale to anyone who wants to sell it on a sale or return basis. But if you do, please do not overestimate the number of copies you require. Please see order form on back page.



Letters to the Editor 25 Upper Montagu Street London W1H 1RQ

Dear Sir,

What a pleasant surprise to read Laurence Collinson's article in the January issue. However, it had the combined effect of capturing my interest and making me very angry. His arbitrary description of the GLF philosophy certainly gave me some information I was not aware of, and enabled me to clear in my own mind why this 'organisation' indulged in the particular form of activity it chooses. But he is not telling us anything new when reminding us that we are all indoctrinated from infancy, and continue to be so throughout our lives- by the pernicious socio-cultural set-up we find ourselves in.

When comparing attitudes of the two organisations (CHE and GLF) he is mistaken when he says GLF indicate their criticism of the social structures and hopefully imply that society is sick etc. I believe that all the GLF activities achieve is to prove that they, the GLF, are the sick ones. I agree with him when he says we in CHE are 'cautious' and probably blinkered in our outlook towards society; at least some of us. Nevertheless, I feel our approach, our aims and objectives are far more realistic. We in CHE- and GLF- could profit by paying attention to the rather humble activities of Tony Cross' 'Integroup'. We would certainly do well to emulate some of their ideas, if not join forces with them.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance that articles like Laurence Collinson's should be published in our magazine, and not suppressed. I firmly believe that an attitude of flexibility and tolerance are qualities we should practise as well as preach. My group and I sincerely hope that you will publish further articles by Laurence, and anybody else who chooses to write in such a stimulating and provocative way.

Yours, etc.,

Basil Ferron
Convenor, London CHE Grp 8.

Dear Sir,

I was impressed with Laurie's GLF article in the last issue. His clarity of style and sincere commitment gave us a helpful insight into ideas which have proved elusive to many.

In the same issue John Levinson wrote on Awareness Groups. These are now actually meeting in CHE; so I am banging a big drum and shouting "Roll up, Roll-up!"

Contact may be made through John (435-6177), or Roger Baker (details on Information page).

Yours,
M. Brown, S.W.19.

Firstly let me thank the brothers who allowed Robert and I to hand out the NCCL Leaflets at the Dance on Friday 28th January at Fulham Town Hall; also, thank you very much for letting us go up after the ticket office had closed down - we really appreciated the gesture. It goes a long way in breaking down barriers between GLF and CHE members. We are, after all, brothers and sisters all fighting the same fight in our own way.

You in CHE can tackle things in a way which many in GLF would find alien and vice versa, but this in no way should invalidate the work done by both groups.

This leads up to my main criticism - which unfortunately concerns two separate people at the Fulham Town Hall Dance. I don't know their names, but they will know themselves. The first is the brother in the dinner suit who did the announcements from the stage. He very reluctantly announced the Gay Lib. Dance at the Hammersmith Town Hall for the following day, and did so in a manner which was nasty, offensive and begrudging. This is the pettiness which I hope is not shared by the majority of your members. There is enough hate and nastiness in the world directed at Gays without our

adding to the dung heap. None of us is perfect or would claim so, but please let a spirit of love prevail and cast out social and political differences.

The second concerns the brother who took charge of the door at the latter part of the evening. He questioned Robert and I about the NCCL leaflet, and during the course of the conversation said, "I don't believe in it. People who go into lavatories and public parks deserve all they get. The police are well within their rights!"

Wow! That really is a mind fuck. Where is his head at? I have just come out of prison for refusing to pay a fine for an 'importuning offence'. That type of attitude is all I, and other brothers, who have suffered this type of state brutality, need. This is another state of mind which I hope is not shared generally by CHE members.

These two incidents I hope are only isolated cases of personal thinking. If they are shared by the vast majority of your members then all I can say is that we in Gay Lib. have a double battle, and the second one is going to be harder than the original,

Yours etc.,
Michael Lynham, S.W.5.

Ed. - With regard to the first point, considerable nastiness was forthcoming from GLF about CHE daring to have a dance the night before theirs. London took great pains to ensure we were not going to tread on GLF's toes by running some other event in 'competition'. GLF took the trouble to arrange their dance after they had been informed of CHE's plans.

Sir,

I wish I had,
but I didn't;

Peter did. *

Mark Connard, W.6.

* LUNCH apologises to Peter Robins for attributing his 'Jake's Progress' to Marc Connard. Pleased to see that Marc doesn't want apologies as well!

DEAR SIR

I should like to take this opportunity to correct what I assume to be a misunderstanding on the part of Laurence Collinson in his otherwise instructive article on GLF (LUNCH, last issue)

In it he infers that members of CHE are vetted in some way to make sure they are suitable and 'unlikely to present an awkward or embarrassing image of homosexuality to the 'straight' world'.

This is not true. It is CHE's national policy that the only qualification required of a new member is that he or she supports the aims of the organisation. There is, I know, a still small voice within CHE that wishes to see some sort of selection system introduced ("to keep out the mad and the smelly" is the exact phrase), but the National Executive will not tolerate such an idea, not it is hoped, would local conveners or chairmen.

Roger Baker
23/24 Great James St.
W.C.1.

DEAR SIR

Apart from the childish cover, it was most heartening to find LUNCH No.5 rising above the 'society-column' style gossip about the Winter Fair and so on, and giving us instead at least three articles which must have made readers think seriously about what we are really trying to achieve. I mean Laurence Collinson's contribution on GLF, the article about awareness groups, and John Shackleton's letter. The three are closely related.

I'm sure Laurence is right in saying that most CHE members have no real idea of GLF's analysis of society which leads them to take up the position they do; those members who, like me, have no GLF group in their areas would do well to study GLF's Manifesto. Most of us would agree that many

things are wrong with our present society - unemployment, poor housing, etc., and I suspect that a lot of CHE members are involved in "attempts to create a society worth being equal to", through their Political Parties, or Trades Unions, in peace groups or whatever.

The nature of such attempts at change will vary with individual views on what changes are required and on what is preventing their achievement. For example, if I were a black man in South Africa today, the change I should require would be an end to white supremacy, and the only way of bringing that about would probably be violence.

But the situation of homosexuals in Britain today is by no means so clear-cut, the oppression is not clearly defined, nor so great. Much of it is unintentional, and many of its victims are scarcely aware of it. This is where awareness groups could be so important - in clarifying people's ideas on their own situation in an atmosphere, as John Levinson points out, free from preconceptions and in which everyone's contribution is paid equal heed.

But even if one came to conclusions about society, via awareness sessions, which were similar to those put forward by GLF, it is still a gigantic step to conclude, as Laurence does, that 'the ordinary processes of change are not working sufficiently quickly'. One of the reasons for the 'generation gap' is precisely that society is changing fast. Its institutions are being increasingly questioned and rejected on all sides, and there are very large sections of the community who share the belief that judges are not unfailingly wise, the Press not truly 'free', etc.,

The question is, how do we set about changing these things, and what alternatives can we offer? What kind of political system has produced or would produce, a 'freer' Press or wiser judges? Can such a system be

imposed upon an apathetic public by an 'aware' minority? It is in answering these questions that reformers and revolutionaries part company.

I believe that society can be improved through a process of gradual change brought about by argument and persuasion, using our existing institutions as a foundation. The success of any such argument must depend firstly on the willingness of outsiders to listen to it; but an argument put by obvious fanatics (the Communist Party, say, or Jehovah's Witnesses) is immediately suspect, and will be ignored. This, to my mind, is the danger of the 'street theatre' and public demonstration approach. Whereas a reasoned discussion at a meeting of the Townswomens' Guild, or in a Teachers' Training College, is far more likely to be listened to, and to provide its hearers with food for thought, even if they do not immediately agree with what is said.

I really cannot see that such an approach is 'humble-pie', - indeed I would say it took more courage to stand up alone and speak to such an audience, than to take part in a large and relatively anonymous public demonstration in a large city.

Finally, if CHE required its supporters to change their way of life, it would simply lose the support of those, like John Shackleton, who do not feel able, or do not want, to do so. As he has said, this would be a great personal loss for him, and the alienation of members willing to take on all the various unglamorous tasks he mentions would be a great loss to the homosexual freedom movement.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Norman
6B Cathedral Mansions
Huskisson Street
Liverpool, L8 7LP.

Dear Sir,

I was at the meeting at the "Coachmaker's Arms" on Friday, 4th February, when the BBC were in attendance. The meeting went off well and when the television people left we had an informal discussion.

The point was made that nearly all CHE members were middle class, very few working class, and those who were, didn't come to CHE meetings. I am a maintenance engineer, which makes me as much a working man as anyone. I know quite a few working class men in my area (Ilford) who are homosexuals, but when I approach them about becoming members of CHE? they decline. Some say they might join us but do not want to be known as a member of a group.

I should like to form a group in or around Ilford, making myself the convener if required, if I could get enough people interested. I would be very happy to hear from anyone living this side of London, who knows anybody who can help me form a group somehow.

I think it is about time the working man's thoughts were made known in CHE and would like to hear other members' views on this subject.

Yours hopefully,
George Jordan
Group 1.

DEAR SIR

May I comment on the contributions by Laurence Collinson and John Levinson in the January issue of LUNCH. Both these writers enthuse in fairly rapturous terms on different aspects of GLF. But in doing so they underline some of the weaknesses in the GLF philosophy. Whilst I applaud GLF's perceptive analyses of the homosexual's social conditioning, I question strongly the brand of political panacea they peddle. Evangelical fervour is no substitute for hard political thinking and it seems hypocritical to me to exchange one kind of

social conditioning for another when what we need is a plentiful supply of critical individuals.

Thus, under the euphoric influence of GLF, Laurence Collinson describes the GLF phenomenon as more than a mere organisation, but rather a 'way of life'. Now it seems to me that any casual observer of the 20th century political scene would have to be pretty naive to believe that such mass enthusiasm is any sort of guarantee of political success or of ultimate benevolence if success should accrue. Witness any revolution you care to name. Certainly my observations of people and politics have led me to be highly suspicious of enthusiasts who are aggressively specific in condemning the ills of society, but garrulously woolly in defining their misty visions of ultimate social bliss.

And why does GLF have to climb into bed with Women's Lib, Black Power et al., under a kind of blanket anti-establishmentarianism? (I offer anti-ism as a piece of CHE counter-jargon.) Does GLF really suppose that the long term interests of homosexuals are identical with those of all other anti-ist groups? Or could it be that those who are doing the hard political thinking in GLF see the homosexual minority as just another disaffected section of society to be harnessed to the all-embracing revolutionary bandwagon, ready for the last wild gallop down the never-ending road to the millennium? The last Women's Lib. extremist I talked to threatened me, half-jokingly, with castration, along with the rest of male mankind. Then she thought better of this and decided on a stay of execution until women had built up the sperm banks they would need to keep the supply of girls going. When I pointed out that they would have to allow a few boys to be bred for 'sperm-milking' she came back with the visionary statement that did we have to keep the human race going anyhow. You can't get more anti-establishment than that. All of which shows that if you have

extremist friends who needs enemies?

Of course society is in a mess. GLF is right, democracy is a pretty awful system of government, however it is run; but the other systems are worse. Without exception every form of social organisation requires that its members submit to some form of individual or group authority as soon as a need for concerted action is felt. There is always some loss of individual freedom for the common good. Complete self-satisfaction and group membership cannot be reconciled. It is never possible, or desirable, to avoid what Laurence Collinson condemns as 'rules (which) appear to run counter to our personalities or desires'. The alternative is jungle law and survival of the fittest. GLF is no exception to this, as we can see from John Levinson's article on awareness groups. The difference there is that instead of the rules of conduct being defined at a conscious level, they are sensed from the group's reactions and these are always led by dominant personalities. Any schoolteacher will confirm this fact, and the more 'progressive' and 'free' the children's environment, the more will the group consensus and effective action depend upon spontaneous leadership. The choice is not between authority and democracy or between hierarchy and anarchy, but between elected authority and spontaneous authority.

I quote John Levinson on awareness groups: "There is not and must not be an appointed, or self-appointed Chairman or Leader; democracy must flourish if the group is not to wither, and the stronger-minded members must recall their erring brothers to the facts of group-life and its purpose." Now who decides that a particular brother is 'erring' and who decides on the norm from which he is departing? What pressure is brought to bear and by whom, if the brother persists in his deviation?

In other words someone, some-

where, has predetermined what is the desired result of the group's co-operation and by use of the instrument of fear of group disapproval is manipulating the outcome and socially conditioning the participants. The resulting euphoria and evangelical fervour comes from having succeeded in keeping in with the group, at the expense of one's critical awareness. Is it not better to have a visible leader manipulating out front who can be challenged and held responsible for the actions he initiates in the group's name? Is it coincidence that when I travelled 50 miles into London to hear CHE's two experts on 'Awareness Groups' at a Group 2 meeting, neither turned up, and not a word of warning.

CHE may not be a way of life, but it is a way of getting things done.

Yours sincerely,
Pat Wilson
4 Millstream Close
St. Ann's Park
Faversham, Kent.

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on the standard of production and, more important, of writing, in LUNCH No.5; it is the first I have seen.

John Levinson's article about Conscienceness Raising Activity Groups deserves a brief reply. The CR activity he describes is not far removed from sensitivity (or T-Group) Training, which has had (and still has) a fashionable use in psychological and industrial training circles, particularly in the USA. The activity is very dangerous unless administered by trained and skilled personnel. (I am not one!) Some of John's suggestions for CRA go too far and I would warn anyone who is interested to be very, very careful. The therapeutic effect of these activities is balanced on a knife-edge; fall from it and you can damage people badly.

Yours etc.,
Barry Williams
Newcastle.

LETTER ARE WELCOME FROM EVERYONE...

Please note that the deadline for letter for the April issue is 18 March; those received after this date will be considered for the May issue.

Also please note that letters cannot be considered for publication unless the usual name of the writer and the town or city of usual residence is included. This is in accordance with normal publishing practice, and indeed Lunch has received letters congratulating us on upholding this practice.

PERSONAL

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TAROT-The life enhancer. Private consultations; lectures to groups. Tom Clarkson, Woking 62866.

CHE MEMBER, 33, wishes contact others with view to forming an informal London group interested in youth hostelling Weekend trips to home counties, hostels envisaged-possibly farther afield later. Non YHA members especially welcome. If interested please ring Geoffrey Baggott evenings or weekends 01-638 9919.

HAVE 2 PIANOS, want second pianist/s fairly catholic taste, but Liszt enthusiasts welcome. No diffident or pedantic types, or poor

oppressed females, please. Ring evngs 01 476 7980 .L.Lon.

GROUP CHAIRMEN. Could you please notify the CHE Women's Group of any speakers, talks, socials etc in which you think their inclusion could be mutually beneficial. The aim of this group is not only to recruit more women to CHE but also to infiltrate at present all-male groups and so balance out numbers. Please do not hesitate to ask our help support and assistance. Enquiries through Lunch or ring 01.788-8943.

WALKERS please note London CHE Group 8's walk in the Kent Countryside on Sun. Mar.26. See Group News pages for more details.

FREE to all members of Homophile groups-personal advertising in these columns. For larger money making events, take a display ad. or half, or even a full page-see inside front cover for reduced rates.

LUNCH regrets that owing to the uncertain state of the law at the present time on such adverts, appeals for friendship/companions etc. cannot be accepted for publication until further notice, however carefully worded and phrased.

LATER THIS MONTH the London Fund Raising Committee are holding a Super Wine and Cheese Party. Details will be available from your Group Chairman later. Do Come.

PUBLISHERS REPRESENTATIVE (32) Visits principal cities, would like to attend local groups & seeks acc. expense account. Bill George, 12 Clay Spring Close, Hockley SS5 5AW

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CHE and Lunch

The Campaign for Homosexual
Equality started life in 1954
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Organising CHE on a nationwide
basis began only in mid-1970,
and now about 2,000 members
across the country meet regu-
larly in more than 25 groups
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Each group within CHE is auton-
omous and sends two chosen
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is undertaken by an Executive
Committee whose members are elected
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Membership of CHE is open to
everyone, homosexual or not,
and costs £1.50 per year, which
includes a National Bulletin.

For full information, write to
The Secretary, CHE, 28 Kennedy
Street, Manchester 2.

Lunch Magazine is published by
CHE members in London, primarily
to serve the group interests of
CHE at a more personal level.
Its wider aims are to provide a
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