

LUNCH

NO.9

JUNE 1972

25p

DIALOGUE WITH MAUREEN DUFFY

RAPE OF THE MIND—TOM BARKER

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

POSITIVE THOUGHTS ON CHE



NEWS

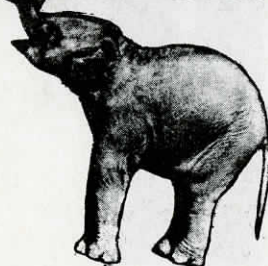
LETTERS

PICTURES

EVENTS

DIARY

Lunch



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CONTENTS	PAGE
EDITORIAL	3
DIALOGUE WITH MAUREEN DUFFY	
Gini	4
POSITIVE THOUGHTS ON CHE	
Chris Brooks	8
CHEESECAKE	10
NEWSDESK	12
INTERNATIONAL SCENE	13
RAPE OF THE MIND	
Tom Barker	18
CHEZZLE ONE	
Ed. Boagni	22
DEAR SIR...	23
NATIONWIDE	
GROUP NEWS	28
PERSONAL ADS.	30

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

Publishers

EDITOR Gini Stevens, alias Ruan Bone

PHOTOGRAPHY Alan Louis
DISTRIBUTION Marc Connard
Printed by F.I.Litho Ltd
Pentonville Road N1.

Thanks for this issue are particularly due to V.Waldron, J. Marshall, J. Shenderey, Angus, Jo Abbot, J.& H. Hill, J.Potter, and last but by no means least, E. Boagni.

Correspondence

OUR ONLY TITLE AND ADDRESS:
LUNCH MAGAZINE 23 AVON COURT
KESWICK ROAD LONDON SW15 2JU.
NO CALLERS PLEASE.

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magazine

Available from Selfridges and all interesting newsagents or send 30p (post paid) for current copy to BCM/Seahorse, London WC1.

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Subscriptions

Post paid 6 months £1.50
12 months £2.80

GROUPS: Please do not overestimate the number you need. LUNCH is no longer available on a Sale or Return basis.

Payments

Cheques, POs should be made payable to LUNCH MAGAZINE. Single copies available at 25p.
LUNCH BACK NUMBERS 3 for 50p.

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EDITORIAL

If LUNCH is accused of being a 'liberal mind-wank' and CHE of watering down its commitment, by GLF friends, and yet we can be reasonable, unborring, instead of bawling people out and demonstrating merely our own egos and hangups - then I prefer the second to the first method of getting through. By all means, do away with the nuclear family, but have some constructive idea of what to replace it with.

My choice of parents would not be a gay girl and boy living together; my idea of freedom would not be allowing my child to have intercourse with either parent at whatever age. But I do not presume to represent anyone else's opinions.

Such thoughts occur as a result of a talk in St Anne's House, Soho, given by some very angry, some very high, GLF. For a start it's worth bearing in mind that the priest had organised these talks to enlighten people. There was nothing patronising in his manner, yet why should the audience be put down with gratuitous rudeness, insults, and highly subjective opinions that many others in GLF wouldn't subscribe to? Why weren't CHE there? Although admittedly, after a few tries, the audience gave up their genuine attempts to get through, only to be talked down; yet to the best of their ability they were trying to understand the predicament of gay people - including the rage and frustration.

Our worst enemy is usually ourselves. Much of what was said in Soho was invalidated by the fact that here was a perfect platform, freely offered, so why the need to rant. The audience were in a receptive frame of mind. Some nuns came and left after they had heard enough 'radical shit' to last them their celibacy - or perhaps they had to catch a bus home.

As a woman, to hear men lecturing me on my own sexuality (of which I'm aware thanks!) and using it as an irrefutable argument into the bargain, so that afterwards, when I wanted to talk to people in the room, they turned away half embarrassed (not as GLF might think - proving their oppression point) but through sheer embarrassment that lesbians had been used as 'objects', generalised about in highly personal terms. Who wants to dispute whether women 'bring each other off' better than a man can, 'men's total irrelevance' or the comparative excellence of a homosexual over a heterosexual relationship. Heterosexual, I may be as good as you, but I don't flatter myself I'm any better! Not all heterosexual relationships are oppressive and male-dominated! Why fall into the trap of generalising. Individuals vary.

I am angered at the senseless abuse of a genuine effort to understand the homosexual's position in society. It was obvious that although one of the speakers had a baby daughter, both had merely espoused the women's cause to suit their Gay Liberation arguments and patently disliked women. I don't like being 'used' and I disapprove of homosexual fascism. Homosexuality - any sexuality - is but one facet of our total personality.

JUNE LUNCH

This month LUNCH's exclusive interview is with Maureen Duffy. Our purpose is to stimulate your interest by asking articulate people with definite views, their opinions from a fresh angle - whether they happen to be famous, straight or gay, or otherwise.

THE PRICE

LUNCH costs 20p. The 25p. stamped on the cover represents the retail price ONLY. Do not be taken in. If you don't support, subscribe, buy LUNCH, how do you expect us to survive? We are making palpable progress. Thank you for the support so far, those who have. Stay with us! Don't pass one dogeared copy of LUNCH around. Take out a subscription!

dialogue with



maureen duffy

MAUREEN DUFFY IS A NOVELIST, PLAYWRIGHT AND POET OF GREAT DIVERSITY, STRENGTH AND LYRICISM, WHO HAS NEVER MADE A SECRET OF HER HOMOSEXUALITY. ALTHOUGH IN THE MIDDLE OF HER SEVENTH NOVEL - AND WITH ANOTHER COLLECTION OF POEMS ABOUT TO BE PUBLISHED, SHE CONSENTED TO SPEAK TO THE EDITOR OF LUNCH IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW.

'I was born in 1933, the year of Hitler's rise to power and the Loch Ness monster! By a curious accident in Worthing, Sussex - where my mother and father were living temporarily, although my father was Irish.

Q: Are you hung up on the fact that you are illegitimate?

'I don't think so. Obviously it's a strong factor in the ultimate pattern of my personality - it's bound to be. And it does have odd effects, which I can trace from time to time, that make me think - "Ah yes - I can see what that one's about!"

Q: Such as searching for a father figure?

'No. I'm over that one, although I had that when I was at college, and before when I went searching through the Catholic Church. No - more curious effects - like being unable to remember people's surnames, I think through some feeling that mine doesn't really belong to me.'

'I think it would get rid of some of the Freudian hang-ups if children had more than two parent figures to rely on; a non-blood parent might prove far more dependable. It's vital to change sex education in schools and that children be given proper facts and discussion on homosexuality and all sexuality. What's ludicrous is that a good proportion of the teaching

profession are either overtly homosexual, or repressed so and yet it still isn't discussed in school.'

MARRIAGE AND SCHOOL

'Not until I was about 27 did I discover homosexuality was possible! (Which is another reason for ensuring that it's well-taught in schools!) There was a sort of conspiracy of silence all the way along. While at school they said things like "James I had many favourites!" which meant absolutely nothing except that he had some best friends' whom he went around with and gave jobs to!'

'It would have been a help then to have realised about bisexuality (the duality in everyone). I was brought up in a very puritanical age when it was still considered terribly daring to go to bed with anybody. Mercifully a lot of that has changed.'

Q: Do you object to the use of the word 'homosexual'?

'Well it's very long and cumbersome and lesbian sounds like a disease. I'd prefer to get rid of such terms altogether.

Q: Why did you get married?

'I certainly never intended to. I swore not to as a teenager - that I didn't agree with marriage, then married when I was 22, which both of us hated, but were pressured into it by a very peculiar set of circumstances

Q: Are you aware of the 'gay scene' having changed tremendously in the last decade?

'I hope so, but then so have all 'scenes'. The general emancipation of human beings has gone forward, and homosexuals have been carried along with it.'

Q: Do you think there'll be a backlash? Or might not some of the exhibitionism cause a return of Victorian prudery?

'Only if there's a general backlash. If there's a big movement against heterosexual pornography, and the expression of all kinds of sexuality in plays, films, books, and moves to bring back capital punishment and (mistakenly) reinforce concepts of hardline law and order - obviously Gay Lib. will be jumped on as being one of the undesirable manifestations.'

CAUSES

Q: You never needed to be a camp follower, or take up causes. Why not?

'I think that's totally untrue; everything I've written has, in a sense, 'taken up a cause'. If you mean I've not needed to join organisations like GLF or CHE - that's so. I tend to take up other causes, like animal welfare, or the Labour party. It's simply a question of priorities, coupled with the fact that no-one's ever asked me. I'd be quite prepared to attend a meeting and answer questions about anything, my poems, attitudes etc.,

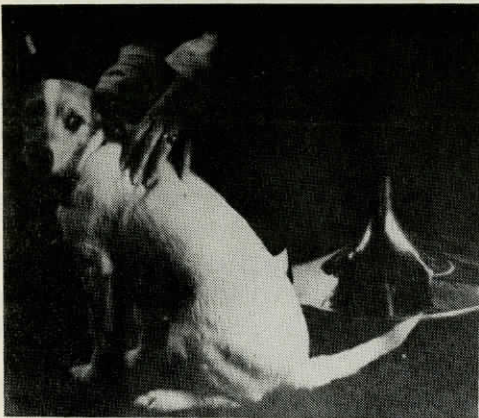
'I was involved originally with Arena Three (the lesbian magazine) but so disliked the way that it was going - constant discussions on whether men or those in drag would be admitted - that I backed out. I felt I'd do more good by treating such themes in my books and by living a fairly open life. I've treated different aspects of sexuality in all that I've written.'

TOTAL SEXUAL LIBERATION

Q: You ought to join CHE, if you're not averse to the idea!

'Certainly I approve of CHE's concern with altering the law. But in a way there's a sense in which campaigning for homosexual equality is a non-cause, or just a corner of the total cause - at the moment when the whole country's in such a mess of greed, misery, underemployment and underpay. Total sexual liberation is what's wanted. One's constantly afraid that by pressing for one particular kind, the others will get left out; terribly important things like the abolition of state marriage. I don't like to restrict myself simply to one aspect of liberation. Apart from anything else, if you attempt to speak in some other field (as I feel I must) then you're likely to get the old comeback "This isn't your field; this isn't your scene; what qualifies you to speak etc.?"

You pick the cause you feel strongest about, with only a certain amount of time to devote. As it happens, I'm particularly interested in animal welfare, into which I put what little energy I've left. I believe in better deals for dogs!'



HOMOSEXUAL GHETTOES

Q: Can you explain the tremendous apathy among Kenric-style women to join mixed sex organisations like GLF and CHE. They just don't seem to want to get involved or get out of the ghetto.

'Because I think there's a definite physical and psychological basis to such a fear. Emotionally and physically I think they're frightened of rape.'

Q: Even now that women are clued up enough as to be almost dominant?

'I don't believe the ones in a certain age group who may join bodies like Kenric are necessarily far more clued up. It depends largely on your first few years of life - how you were indoctrinated until the age of ten or so. It remains a physical fact that it is extremely difficult for a woman to rape a man and extremely difficult, unless she's been trained in judo, for a woman physically to fight off a large man. In our society, it's still mainly the man who makes the running.'

Q: I should have thought that was changing rapidly.

'Yes, but not in time for the woman who's been brought up with it. Naturally somebody emancipated and young enough isn't going to feel this, but a lot of ladies who used to join Arena Three and Kenric were in their late 40s/50s and would have been brought up in the old image.'

'I'm very against the ghetto - although I can see its use - in that if you feel weak and miserable you may need it for a time (which is after all one of my themes in The Microcosm). We're still in the intermediate stage, but eventually the ghetto has to go.'

'I wrote The Microcosm a very long time ago now - I began it in 1964 - it was published in '66. The attempt then was to clear the ground and get things moving.

Q: It certainly did - and for me personally! But how did you reply to the hundreds of lonely women who have written to you since in desperation?

'Depending on the tone of their letter, I write back to them what they seem to need, and put them in touch with some society that I think can help them. It's a bit difficult now when the societies are so fragmented. You have to try and estimate which one's going to collapse next!'

THERAPEUTIC ORGANISATIONS

'It seems there must be organisations for those still isolated and suicidal - a counselling service. Isn't the obvious answer to run them off the rates? Local councils and government support should be given to the voluntary social service organisations, like the Samaritans; rather than have a specifically homosexual one, there should be one covering all problems, and then one can siphon off the homosexuals. Apart from anything else, I think some might actually be put off from contacting a purely homosexual organisation, especially if part of their problem was that they had not come to terms with their homosexuality yet.'

GENDER ROLE - PLAYING

'We still move in a society where men and women are brought up to play separate roles. Parents and schools are still imposing this (less and less, I agree, as parents grow more and more confused) but still only a very small minority who read papers like The Observer or Sunday Times and belong to a particular stratum of society escape it. Most working class girls and boys are still brought up in exactly the same conformist way, that is constantly being reinforced by television advertisements. Money would not be spent on them unless these were still working and they do work because people are still brought up to play roles. All right, there is a tiny margin of women's lib, intersex and so on - but it doesn't affect 75% of the population yet or touch people who are brought up rather strictly in the country and it doesn't touch the working classes. I can't see the slow process of erosion taking less than 20/30 years. Alas, it all hinges on the nuclear family and state of marriage.'

WOMEN'S LIBERATION IS POLITICAL

'I view Women's Lib in much the same way as Gay Lib. I'm prepared to agitate and have constantly, through the best means I know - my own life and work. Certain things sicken me beyond belief, but they seem to me to be political causes, that can best be achieved through the advancement of socialism in this

country. For instance, in a local South London paper there were three lots of jobs for women. Forty hours a week in a packing factory - £12 a week. In one the management had been terribly nice; they'd allowed the women to leave work at half past four, so they could get home in time to shop, look after their children and cook their husbands' meals. by allowing them only half an hour's dinner break. This kind of thing should be dealt with by the trade union, by general socialism.'



'While there is high unemployment, it's extremely unlikely, no matter how much posturing goes on, that women will be given truly equal opportunities for jobs and money. You can't enforce it and in any case where are the jobs? They simply don't exist. So you've got to provide sufficient jobs and decent salaries almost before you can begin, otherwise you want all those women kept out of the labour pool. You want enough of them to go out to work thinking they're just earning 'pin money', but that they're basically wives and mothers, so that they'll provide cheap labour. You want the rest kept at home and as you've got to give them something to do, you continue to convince them they're wives and mothers!'

Q: Do you think a better system is a possibility. or are you cynical about the prospects?

'I'm an optimist by temperament, although I become deeply depressed by different aspects from time to time.'

Q: It strikes me you work out what you feel strongly about in your writing. Your play 'Rites', put on at the National Theatre three years ago was bloodcurdlingly powerful!

'I've written several others since Rites but the theatre is sheer hell. It's so difficult trying to get things put on, unless you're constantly in the theatre and chatting people up.

WORKING CLASS CONFORMISM

Q: There is a cliché that the class barrier is non-existent among homosexuals. I no longer define people as working-class, middle-class etc. and feel others don't make these distinctions either. But occasionally you come across someone who has a hangup who'll say "What's CHE or GLF doing for me. I'm working-class." How do you get through to them if you're middle-class? They're so conformist, and you feel you must apologise for being middle-class.

'I think it's merely being realistic to acknowledge the facts of our social life still. I'm working class and was always brought up to call relations' lovers 'auntie' and 'uncle'. Nobody really minded, except for when there was the odd flare-up. Mum's boyfriend was always Uncle Ron or whatever. It was a rather convenient working-class convention. It gave them a status, like workmates, to have everyone's role defined.'

Q: Environment undoubtedly conditions one. I had a 'liberal intellectual' upbringing, I suppose. I didn't call anyone auntie or uncle because my mother would have scorned the idea, but you did, so I can understand your experience differs from mine. You haven't a hangup about being working-class - I don't think I have for being middle-class - yet the minute one starts talking about it, one becomes so involved. Others get embarrassed, if they're even aware of it.

'I think I have got quite a few hangups about being working-class. It's difficult to think what they are on the spot of course. But there are lots of times when middle class accents drive me up the wall. It's fine with someone you know. But if you're in the street, or a shop and you hear this middle-class twang and clang you think 'Oh Gawd!' But I'm not sure if it's simply a class thing or whether it's accentuated because of being a writer and particularly interested in sounds anyway. (ED - Professor Higgins syndrome!) I can accept that someone with, to me, an unfortunate voice, may be perfectly sympathetic, and of course this can cut both ways. I suppose it is a literary concern.'

'What worries me more is that language is becoming so commonplace and jargon-ridden. People no longer know how to use language which has imagery. This is a loss from all the classes and you end up with a sort

of mid-Atlantic television-ese, with a bit of technical jargon flung in. When people lose their particular dialect, they tend to replace it with jargon - for instance this hideous radical jargon at the moment - 'Male chauvinist pigs' and leftist slogans. I was glad to see Richard Neville knocking it the other day in the Evening Standard, although I think 'Come Together' is really quite funny. Phrases like 'freak the pigs' gradually come to mean nothing after their initial vitality is lost; the ineptness of the word 'gay' for example, when homosexuals are rather less so, than anyone else!'

NOVELS

1962 That's How it was
1964 The Single Eye
1966 The Microcosm
1967 The Paradox Players
1969 Wounds
1971 Love Child

POEMS

1968 Lyrics for the Dog Hour
1971 The Venus Touch

PLAYS

1962 The Lay-Off
1966 The Silk Room
1969 Rites
1970 Villon
1971 Olde Tyme
1971 Solo

POSITIVE THOUGHTS ON C.H.E.

chris brooks

Although I am one of those terrified gays who worries that the walls have ears, my employer will sack me, that I'll be blackmailed or visited by the Mafia if the fact gets out, I should imagine that twenty years from now homosexuality will be an acceptable, and perhaps even a desirable condition, due to overpopulation rather than political movements.

THE WOULD-BE HOMOSEXUAL CAREERIST

A number of gays would like to work full-time for CHE or other homophile organisations. They are at best potential martyrs, and at worst drama queens. At best they might provide a sort of homosexual trade-union (with themselves banner-waving at its head); at worst spend their time plotting, writing 'confidential' letters, tape-recording conversations and calling special meetings. Having seen how ridiculous the organisation can look from within, those people who would like to become our paid representatives on the National Executive, and how obstructive some people are over fund-raising, I shudder at this thought.

CLASS BARRIERS AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Q: Is it a myth that anyone can sleep with anyone but this doesn't necessarily enable you to relate to each other outside bed?

'If you're a middle-class man you can pick up a pretty sailor in exactly the same way that you could pick up a prostitute, but I don't think that really does anything towards integrating class levels. Similarly you wouldn't usually marry the pretty factory girl, because there's be so little you'd be able to talk about. Education is the real leveller.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

This at present allows someone to sit for three years representing you and me. Except for a brief meeting or mere paragraph, we may not know who the people standing are. How can anyone be a truly national representative? Three years is a long term for a bad representative and quite long enough for a good one. CHE somewhat tends to 'eat up' its active 'doers'. My feeling is that the National Council should be the body responsible for major decisions; the EC should execute the NC's wishes.

THE DOERS AND THE OTHERS

One London group is currently without a chairman, or has been until very recently. No one would take responsibility for that group - not even its members. This is a terrible indictment. No doubt everyone has a 'good reason' for not doing anything, but those same people complain bitterly about the fact 'nothing is happening'. When it does, they have 'good reasons' for not attending. One of the good reasons for not taking on responsibility is that people may 'find out'. They are afraid of the, largely imaginary, persecution.

PERSECUTION AND DISCRIMINATION

While one should not deny that these exist, a lot is of our own making, and those with enough courage can often break down barriers.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Recently two gays living together in London went to the local council and managed to get themselves onto the housing list. They registered as living together as if man and wife. They now have a two-bedroomed council flat in London. Perhaps that is how the Dutch began to house gays. Two men cannot get a joint mortgage based on their joint incomes. However, I know a couple who managed to obtain such a mortgage by discussing things with a building society manager. Incidentally the couples were not members of CHE or any other group until after the events described. Had they been so, they might have been convinced of the impossibility of their task. Such is often the pessimism overhanging members.

Pairs of gays can frequently be seen holding hands or walking arm in arm in London. Nobody seems to worry. One wonders how much discrimination is imaginary.

LABELLING ONESELF

Many think it a good idea to wear badges so that people are forced to recognise the fact they are gay, in the same way as one recognises a black. One doesn't wear a badge saying one is a Roman Catholic, Jew or vegetarian - because first of all one is a human being. One's deviation is only a part of oneself, which gays tend to forget. Self-labelling seems laboured, unnecessary and artificial - also likely to antagonise people.

ANOTHER FACET OF DISCRIMINATION

From a financial point of view being gay is an undoubted advantage. Even with tax concessions and his wife working, few heterosexuals can expect to be as well off as the average gay couple. Most of these manage to buy a property, run at least one car, take holidays abroad, go to the theatre as often as they wish, and entertain frequently, by the age of thirty; heterosexuals usually attain this level (if ever), nearer fifty. In some countries unmarried people over twenty-five pay a higher rate of income tax: not so in Britain.

FINANCE AND CHE: PROPOSAL

We want a club in London. We want an advertising campaign. We want changes in the law. £1 per week from 400 London CHE members would raise £20,800 in one year. We could all afford that, if we are working. Bringing up a family - even with allowances and tax concessions - would cost much, much more. How about the idea? In one week we could raise more than has been in the coffers of the fund-raising committee since its inception!

THE FAMILY

Many fear that their family will 'find out'. Certainly if one's parents are old or refuse openly to accept the situation which should be obvious to them, then it would be unwise and unkind to tell them. However, the lies one invents in such a situation do not make for a good honest relationship. Insincerity may possibly exacerbate things, should they find out. Parents, after all, know about one's other deviations. Who knows, more of us than we think may have parents like Rose Robertson.

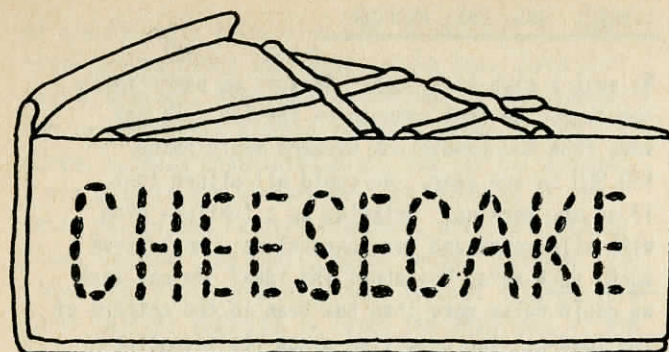
THE MARRIED GAY

Many people marry and have children without realising their homosexual natures. Bisexuals must be in the worst position of all; one is expected to be one thing or the other, not both! Society is singularly unkind to these people and their wives and children.

There is another type of homosexual who deliberately marries and has children for the sake of his family, his career and respectability. This is cold-hearted and callous. Everyone suffers, including the homosexual himself and his friends 'on the side'. For a homosexual to marry, as if heterosexual, is to inflict pain deliberately and run counter to nature. The Prime Minister is a good example of an unmarried man who has a successful career. How would any of us feel about having a homosexual parent who wanted us merely for appearance' sake? A home where one parent is homosexual is an inadequate one. A pair of homosexuals, however, might make good parents but it would be difficult for their adopted children to talk about them - "My dad and..."

CHRIS BROOKS

ED - What about women? Replies, please!



A year ago I knew nothing about the gay scene. I had no contact with it beyond my own happy partnership and a subscription to a lesbian magazine.

And that's how things would have stayed if the magazine hadn't announced a meeting... to be held in the very same restaurant where seven years previously my bird and I had first met. The coincidence was too much, we had to go along.

So I got my first sight of the sapphic scene and discovered that not all lesbians wear collars and ties, use brylcreem or live in beautiful downtown Bayswater.

They were like any other cross-section of society; pretty and plain, bright and dull, smart and frumpy, sharp and slow - a fairly average bunch of people.

That they didn't have two heads or go around wearing placards proclaiming their proclivities sufficiently emboldened me to join a gay club. There I found many of the birds positively glamorous and the consequent upsurges of adrenalin did wonders for awakening my awareness of the gay scene.

Turning up at the magazine meetings was the next step in my social turnabout and from a friendship that developed there came my gay party debut. The party was great and one of the guests arranged a return bout for the next Saturday, someone else the week following, and so on. Gay invitations escalated while straight life lagged and previous social commitments fell away. Then - a few parties later - it was my bird and I offering the hospitality. We really enjoyed giving that party... for the first time we didn't have the worry of matching numbers which matched anyway because by now we knew the gay guys as well as girls.

About this time it was suggested that I interest myself in the female infiltration bit happening in CHE. From there it was an obvious step to latch on to the Women's Group. I don't really know what we are meant to be about - but it's a great group and meetings are fun.

When the group threw a party my involvement was such that I rashly volunteered a supply of food and turned out a mess of taramasalata that proved too rich for at least one Cheesecake's stomach. Sorry!

But even this culinary setback didn't get us drummed out of CHE. On the contrary, we've been invited to join yet another group that meets in our area, so that's a whole new bunch of people to get to know.

As I said: just a year ago I knew nothing about the gay scene. Can't a lot of good things happen in a year?

LUNCH

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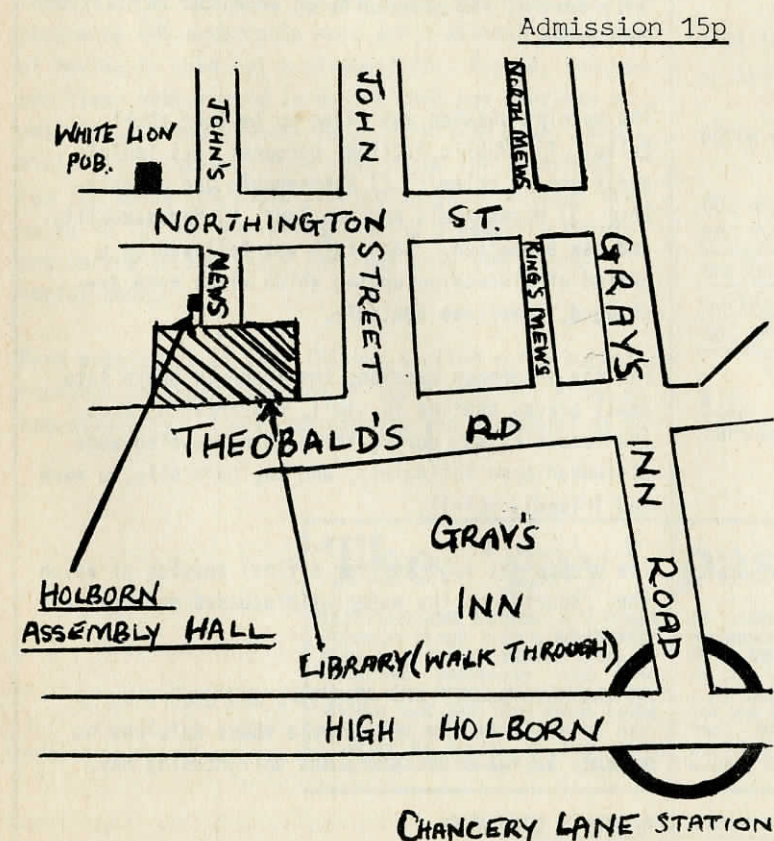
"SPEAK UP AT THE BACK!"

AN OPEN FORUM FOR ALL LONDON MEMBERS
ON THE CAMPAIGN'S AIMS AND POLICIES

FRIDAY 23rd JUNE 1972, 7.30 pm

at Holborn Assembly Hall, John's Mews, Northington St, WC1

This will be an opportunity to say what you think CHE should be doing and how it should be doing it. You will also have a chance to meet members of the new London Co-ordinating Committee and put questions to them



Holborn Assembly Hall is situated behind Holborn Central Library, Theobald's Road, WC1, and (until 9.00 pm) may be reached through the Library entrance hall. If you arrive after 9.00, walk round the block to John's Mews.

The nearest Tube station is Chancery Lane on the Central Line. Buses 19 and 38 pass the door. Routes serving Gray's Inn Road, Southampton Row and High Holborn bring you within walking distance.

There are adequate car parking facilities in nearby streets.

NEWSDESK

EVENING NEWS, Wednesday, May 10, 1972

The ARRAN column

I AM trying to assess my priorities in terms of loyalty: I have decided and without difficulty this list.

1. The Queen.
2. The High Court of Parliament, the supreme authority of the land.
3. The Law, whose job it is to interpret and execute our Acts of Parliament.
4. The Christian churches.
5. Local Governments.
6. The armed forces together with that law-enforcing organisation, the police.
7. The Unions; and equally low down the list Women's Liberation and Gay Lib. Sorry to bracket you, darlings, with the Trade Unions. I can't make up my mind which will mind the most.

L.S.E. TEACH-IN

LIVELY GLF MEETING DESPITE TOO FEW 'STRAIGHTS'

Despite acceptances from a hundred people and organisations, when it came to the day, not many more than a dozen 'outsiders' turned up at the Teach-in on Homosexual Liberation at the London School of Economics on May 6.

The Teach-in, held conjointly by the Gay Liberation Front's Counter-psychiatry and LSE groups to enable GLF to 'rap' with professional and private people 'concerned with the ethical, legal, political, social, and educational aspects of homosexuality' was nevertheless felt by most of the hundred or so people present (including several CHE members, two psychiatrists, two doctors, and a number of medical students) to have been both educational and entertaining. Even a proportion of the large GLF contingent felt that the Teach-in helped them to clarify some of the principles on which GLF activities are based.

The morning session was taken up by four short talks: 1) Public fiction, personal fact (mainly about gender roles); 2) Homosexuals and psychiatry; 3) Homosexuals and the law; 4) Homosexuality and sex education. Each talk was followed by a period of discussion during which views were exchanged, sometimes heatedly.

For the afternoon session, the teach-in broke into small groups meeting in small, comfortable rooms. The issues raised during the morning session were discussed more intimately, and in, generally, a warm and friendly spirit.

The groups met together for a final session at which they reported on the material discussed during the afternoon.

In the opinion of this reporter, and according to the comments of the many people whose opinions he sought, it was an exciting and enlightening day.

LAURENCE COLLINSON

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE: AMSTERDAM

'Spring in the Gay Capital of the year came a little early'..... if you like big-headed campery.

I arrived in Amsterdam one damp, drizzly, Sunday morning after a very calm but wakeful night crossing. So where is the COC welcoming committee? At home in bed with his boyfriend and the other two parties they met at the club last night?

'Sunday is obviously a bad day to arrive,' I tell myself. Still, one quick phone call will soon cure that. After all, what's so uncivilized about nine o'clock Sunday morning, even if you didn't go to bed until four?

Anyway. Two hours, several cups of coffee, breakfast and a shower later, I am ready to hear all COC's news and what's more the others by this time are in a fit state to tell me.

Quite a lot has happened in the COC since I was last there. First and most importantly, this time they accepted my CHE membership card and I avoided the hassle of having to take out a six-monther. Second, the upper floor (which used to be offices) now provides a well-lit, friendly snack bar; committee room; and dimly-lit television room just right for smooching. You can spend the whole evening up there without ever going to the bar and without being a member - drinks are served in the snack bar, but only sherry and Amstel beer.

More meaningful is that COC has carried out a market research programme in Utrecht about people's views on homosexuality. The questionnaire was so worded as to

reveal those who were practising homosexuals or who had had homosexual experiences. The full details of the project were not available at the time, as the results were still being studied. The project was undertaken on March 28, 1972. Another study is to be carried out on May 22nd in the northern section of Amsterdam. I hope my friends will let me have copies of the report. It will make interesting reading, seeing how attitudes have changed over the last twelve years of legality, if indeed they have.

Amsterdam is, for my money, still one of the freest cities going, for gay people or any other group which would in most parts of the world be considered deviant. The Dutch seem to take their sex life for granted and the subject isn't so hype over there.

As clubs go, COC and DOK are still the tops. Or if you are a gay freak (most of whom are under twenty-one), go to the S.O.O.S - a cellar dive with drinks, free dancing and smoke.

I'll try to keep you more informed on Amsterdam; or better still - see the place yourselves.

PETER WRIGHT

COC branches exist in most major cities in Holland.

COC CLUB: KORTE LEIDSEDEWARSSTRAAT 49a

Bar/Dancing open every day 9p.m.-2a.m. (3a.m. Sats.)

Coffee Bar open from 4p.m.-Midnight daily

COC Office open 9a.m.-5p.m. (not weekends):

Secretary, FREDERIKSLEIN 14

N.B. There is news of a branch of DOK opening off Carnaby Street... Information, please?

The 'gay' pastor

SAN CARLOS, Monday.—William Johnson stood before 96 Clergymen and lay delegates from 19 churches yesterday and told them why "my gay life style" should not bar him from being ordained a minister.

After 2½ hours of discussion Johnson, 25, had the votes of

62 delegates to endorse his ordination on June 25 as the first known homosexual pastor of the United Church of Christ. Johnson said he had worked for the church and had affirmed his homosexuality to the parishioners and was ready to accept the consequences. (UPI.)

EVENING STANDARD, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1972

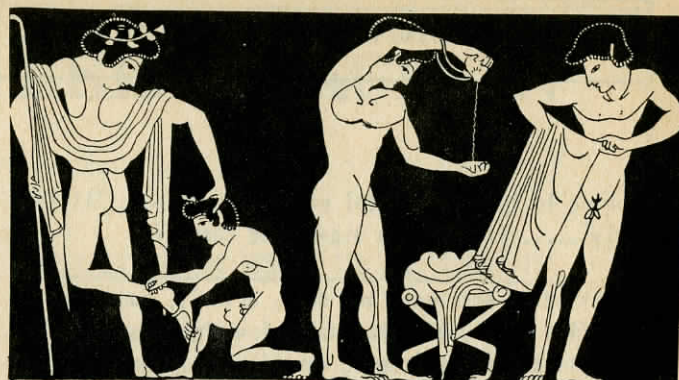
Working in Oslo for a few days last month gave me a chance to explore briefly the Norwegian equivalent of CHE. It rejoices in the formidable name Det Norske Forbundet av 1948, has a permanent mailing address in Postboks 1305, Oslo, and a telephone number - 67 29 36: there is also a charming Gay Lib secretary called Miss Kim Friele, who can be telephoned at 27 10 03.

I didn't know any of this when I went, but my hospitable friends took care to find out at once in which direction my tastes lay, and though theirs were more conventional, they gleefully introduced me to the popular trottoirs, and took me to the weekly Wednesday ball held by the gay fraternity in a building in central Oslo belonging to the Liberal Party, more or less opposite the main police station in Møllergata. The dance is held every week - a discotheque on a stage dominating a very large room, flanked by elegantly-dressed tables with lamps or candles, and smaller rooms to the side for those who wish to escape the din: people range from eighteen to eighty, and from the wilder excesses of C and A Modes to the soberer tones of Burton's. They are incredibly friendly and physically overwhelming with their back-slapping and hugging, and one is made to feel part of them at once.

There is no conflict between the organisations - the main difference lies in age - both are socially oriented. Admittedly the political and social climate in Norway is tolerant, and there is no need for lobbying and leafletting - but then some of us wonder if it is needed in England; the absence of hysteria and paranoia was a refreshing change.

I also felt that perhaps we in London have made a terrible mistake with our petty little autonomous groups, and that a fraction of the effort expended by a dozen group committees might achieve a weekly event in London for all members. My brief experience in Norway was hardly an in-depth study of the organisations there, but on the basis of it I think it might be helpful to have a liaison study with European groups like CHE to see how they keep their houses in order - their memberships are much larger than ours, and they hold them - have we perhaps bitten off more than we can chew?

BRIAN SEWELL



NOT ONLY PLATO BUT ALSO ALEXANDER THE GREAT....

(EXTRACT FROM THE GUARDIAN: REVIEW OF 'INSIDE THE COLONELS' GREECE')

'The Colonels' piety goes hand in hand with an obsession with sexual morality. Unquestionably the most zealous in this respect is Colonel Ladas. Fired by an implacable hatred for homosexuals, he personally led police raids on homosexual haunts when he was the effective power in the Ministry of Public Order.

His other great passion is for Greek antiquity. "No other people have any philosophers...The Greeks have said everything...Foreigners can only imitate them."

A weekly magazine published an article on homosexuality through the ages, which pointed out that most of the worthies of classical Greece had been homosexuals. Ladas issued a furious denunciation, had the offending journalists arrested on the spot, and brutally beat them up in his own office.

Later, taking exception to the way in which the BBC Greek Service had dealt with the matter, he issued a statement: "The BBC's commentator has taken it upon himself to defend the culprits...Given that, according to this pornographic article, homosexuals support each other, the untimely action of the BBC becomes intelligible."

The journalists were acquitted after they offered documentary proof that the contents of the article were true.

Ladas was flabbergasted to learn that not only Plato and Aristotle had devious tastes - for, after all, they were intellectuals from whom that sort of thing might be expected, but also Alexander the Great - a soldier, and a kind of prototype Colonel. The episode made the junta a laughing stock.'

HINTS ON BEFRIENDING

MICHAEL BUTLER, OF THE SAMARITANS, RECENTLY GAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS ADVICE AND EXPERIENCE - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HOMOSEXUALS IN DISTRESS - TO SOME ASPIRANT BEFRIENDERS IN CHE.

The aim of befriending, he said, was to supply an attitude of warm, caring concern to someone who was isolated, fragile, or bruised and battered by the gay scene. Such a person should be assisted out of a condition of dependence towards self-determination. The befriender should become redundant as soon as possible. "Befriending" is NOT the same as "Friendship": it is rather helping a person, who may have lost the gift of reciprocity, to "thaw out".

Michael Butler spoke of several critical points in the life of the homosexual when he might have special need of befriending: in his teens, when society first expects him to "womanise"; in his 20's, when he finds his heterosexual contemporaries marrying; in later years, when he faces the fear of growing old alone.

The distressed homosexual can exhibit panic or paranoid symptoms; he may have nightmares, pathological or religious guilt and a sense that "No one has done or felt as I do and, what's more, nobody cares". Confession to parents, psychiatrists or clergymen can often be worse than unhelpful.

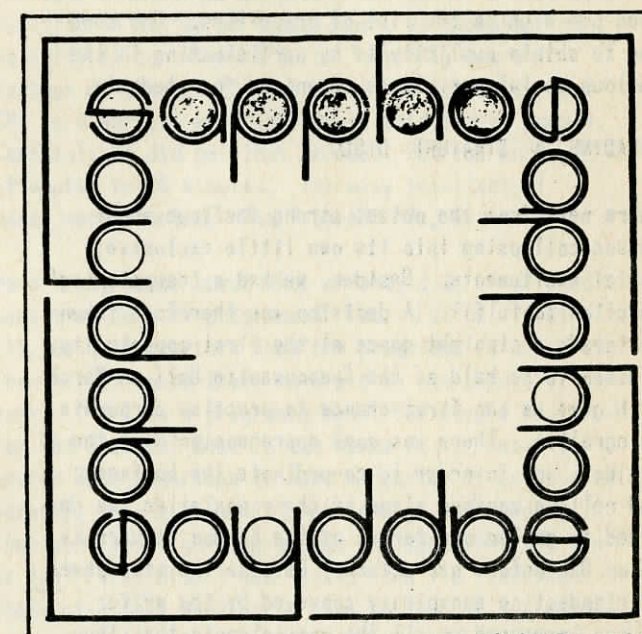
The befriender should aim at introducing his "client" to a milieu in which contacts can be made and which offers the possibility of the eventual establishment of happy, stable relationships. However, there are some clients who will never respond to befriending. Others will require very careful handling in the "defrosting" process. They may become clinging, demanding or wildly promiscuous. Consequently, the befriender needs protection so that he need not become overloaded, too involved or emotionally drained. If, at any time, he feels that he is getting into deep water, he must not struggle along on his own in a worsening situation, but rather ask for help.

One type of person who can be very troublesome is the psychopath, often not specifically homosexual himself, but who nevertheless comes into contact with homosexuals. Mr. Butler listed the signs whereby such people can be recognised and urged a great deal of caution in dealing with them.

A good befriender would allow the client to grow away from him at his own pace. Progress towards this should be reviewed periodically. Details of the befriender's own private life should not at first be given, nor should money be lent, as this makes for continued dependency. The befriender should not make decisions for the client. It is a mistake to patronise the person befriended.

The befriender should be stable, not taking on more than he sensibly can. He should also be humble, recognising that it is a privilege to have the happiness of some fragile person entrusted to his care. Above all, he should never lose sight of the fact that he is a member of a team of helpers and should never neglect to use the help available, should he run into difficulties. Painstaking, patient and sensible befriending can achieve a great deal.

HENRY ROBERTSON



gay women read Sappho
send £1.50 for 6 issues
BCM/Paral, London WC1

GROUP FIVE : PROGRESS REPORT

PIONEERING THE MAIN OBJECTIVE.

Over the last few months, Group 5, the London Youth Group, has found itself a new direction and purpose in life - pioneering the aims of CHE.

GAYSOC

A major plank in our platform of activities has already been laid: the establishment of Gaysoc at London University. This has attracted the attention of the campus media; also GLF Youth and Education Group has joined, with advantage to everyone. Gaysoc has an enormous task ahead of it in organising students in the London area, but a good start has been made, and, given the continued attention of the media, the momentum with which we began should be maintained and strengthened.

Two of Gaysoc's declared aims are to build an 'integrated' social life and facilities for students and young people at the university. Integration has been put high on the list of priorities. One sure way to obtain publicity is by participating in the various social activities organised for students.

INVADING A STRAIGHT DISCO

There were from the outset strong feelings about Gaysoc collapsing into its own little exclusive, social excitements. Besides, we had a 'campaigning' function to fulfil. A decision was therefore taken to invade a straight dance at the first opportunity. A disco to be held at the Commonwealth Hall on March 17th gave us our first chance to practise corporate integration. There was some apprehension over the project, and in order to co-ordinate the business and relieve various minds of their anxieties, we decided to gather our forces at the London University Union Bar before our attack. Despite the atmosphere of clandestine conspiracy conveyed by the writer, it was impressed on all the participants that they were there to enjoy themselves.

All told, seventeen members of Gaysoc went along to the Commonwealth Hall disco. (Two went to the Commonwealth Hall in the middle of Holland Park, where they found themselves less integrated than ever.) Naturally, we had the floor to ourselves - well, not really - but we certainly managed to dominate the

scene. Pleasing was the reception given us by the 200 other people at the dance. However, the dark forces of discrimination unfurled their banners towards the end of the evening - perhaps they hadn't found the courage, or hadn't recovered from shock earlier in the proceedings - and various officials at the dance decided to make flutterings to protect the sensibilities of their young wards. According to a 'spokesman', some twenty young ladies had complained about the behaviour of young men at the dance. We didn't think that such charges could be levelled at us, but the man remained adamant: we were definitely the objects of complaint. Unfortunately, the young ladies weren't around to testify. Perhaps we should come to the conclusion that they were originally young men who had been transexed in order not to make the spokesman look ridiculous. One never knows; next time we try this sort of thing some lads may be dragged out to give some substance to these allegations of female complaint. It should make a good headline. Another objection to our activities was that straight couples didn't copulate on the dance floor, the reply being that if they weren't copulating, then what were they doing? - and anyway gay couples didn't copulate either - but it would seem that different criteria apply to gays. Active resistance to insistence on desistance made our point to the various officials, and the evening ended an enormous and enjoyable success.

Gaysoc has a number of ideas up its sleeve to spring on its by now very suspicious public; at the moment we are experiencing a pleasant feeling of anticipation in our activities, so people won't be disappointed.

SEEKING PERMISSION TO LECTURE IN SCHOOLS

Back at the Group 5 corral, the long-term objectives of the group are now being launched. The first of these, which in many eyes must take priority, is an attack on the educational system. In co-ordination with the CHE Radical Students Conference, members of the group are to write to as many secondary school headmasters as possible between March and April asking that we be allowed to address senior pupils on the subject of homosexuality. With several hundred schools to deal with, we do not expect to work wonders in sex education overnight; but a start is being made (almost 200 schools). The result of our endeavours will be published later.

DAVID HYDE

TWO CHEERS FOR THE TELLY!

Did you watch the programme on 3 May? Your boss had bidden you to a drinks party? Well, it was on at an awkward time, I agree. A pity. But it's all on film, so you may get another chance.

What did I think of it? To be honest, I didn't really think about it at all, not to begin with. I just revelled in seeing so many of my friends on the screen and kept making asinine remarks like 'How young Tony looks!'; 'Is that really Roger - how "furry" he's got!'; 'I bet that's the back of Tom's head, but what is he doing?' 'Ah. Here's our Glenys; this'll be good.' Then, too, the very idea of CHE being given almost the whole of a TV programme was so beatific, that what CHE had chosen to do with it, or how well or badly it was produced didn't, at first, present itself to what I am pleased to call my mind. When the whole thing was over I and the three CHE members who had been watching it with me all sat back, saying 'Great, fine, excellent!' It was afterwards doubts crept in...

What actually happened, you ask? Well, it started off with an introduction from Bob Mackenzie. No, of course he's not a member of CHE. He had to link this programme with the one that had gone before, which had dealt with Wolfenden and the 1967 legislation. He also summarised the history, aims and present strength of CHE. Very cool and judicious he was, but it was all good stuff. A commentator then took over and we had shots of Peter Katin's concert, of Tony Ryde, Rose Robertson, Allan Horsfall and Glenys Parry being interviewed, of an induction meeting chaired by Roger Baker and of people socializing in a bar afterwards. We heard the answers given by the people interviewed but neither saw nor heard the interviewer; the commentator told us what questions had been asked. I got a bit tired of him.

What questions were people asked? Why they had joined CHE in the first case and why, if we were all that keen on integration, we ran discos and discussions attended almost exclusively by homosexuals? I can't remember much more. You should really have watched it yourself.

Anyway, the subjects themselves were first rate, although Tony's interview was fragmented and, throughout the programme, we were constantly getting cross-cuts to Peter Katin's nimble fingers on the piano keys accompanied by the reassuring civilities of Chopin. Yes, of course I appreciate Chopin, but I



TONY RYDE

feel the programme was overburdened with the idea of showing what a nice normal lot we are. (!Homosexuals are, such sensitive people, dear.)

Perhaps, because the programme was one of a series entitled 'A Matter of Conscience', we expected the majority of our viewers to be 'socially aware': perhaps we thought they needed to be convinced that CHE is a serious movement run by intelligent people. Certainly we did get that across. But too much was attempted in 25 minutes. Too many intellectual hares were started. Was I bored? No, not at all.

Have I any ideas about what we should do if offered more time on a TV programme? Yes. Let us, first of all, be quite certain whom the programme is aimed at. Then let us concentrate in depth on one aspect of our work. I'd like a programme meant for people who prefer The Grateful Dead to the Étude in A. And I'd prefer Rose Robertson to have a quarter of an hour to herself. And a complete programme on befriending. Then what about getting across the idea that CHE can be fun? (Oh, didn't you know?) And I'd like some shots of a mass meeting to give an idea of our numerical strength. You wouldn't agree to that? Your boss might spot you? Well, let's have a show of hands, even if we can't have a show of faces. And if some of the hands look as if they'd be better at lifting grand pianos rather than playing them, that would be all to the good!

VIVIAN WALDRON

RAPE OF THE MIND ?

TOM BARKER

TOM BARKER IS A WRITER WHO HAS ACTUALLY UNDERGONE AVERSION THERAPY AND EMERGED ON THE OTHER SIDE, WITH HIS SENSE OF HUMOUR AND INTEGRITY OF MIND INTACT. HERE IS AN ACCOUNT OF HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHICH RAISES QUITE A FEW QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO US ALL.

'You're in good health?'

'As fit as a fiddle.'

'Apart from - '

'Yes.'

The double chin folded thickly over the spotless white collar as he took another look at my file.

'You're 27 now?'

I nodded nervously. 'I hope - ?'

'No, it's a good age; a good age - in principle.'

'In principle?' I asked, gulping.

'I can afford to be selective, yousee, as a lot of chaps hear about my work and ask to be treated...'

The little pig eyes looked at me appraisingly. 'Did she know?'

'Who?'

'Your former fiancée.'

'Oh - Bridget. Yes, I told her I was - like this.'

'And it made no difference?'

'None whatsoever.'

'In love with you, was she?'

'Yes.'

'It's always the same,' he sighed, making a few more notes in the file. 'These girls think they can change a fellow better than we can or, to be more accurate, better than we hope to change him. It's only quite recently that we've begun applying aversion therapy to - this particular area.'

There were flecks of dandruff visible round the shoulders of his impeccably-cut suit. 'What did you feel about Bridget physically?'

'There was just that one area I didn't go for.'

'You weren't put off by her body, taken as a whole?'

'No.' He seemed relieved and somehow reassured.

'Not in the least,' I added, pressing home my advantage.

After making more notes, he slowly massaged his podgy, well-manicured hands as if washing them with invisible soap. Then he came straight out with it:

'DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE CURED?'

'Yes, I do. Very much...'

This interview had been in 1967.

My engagement had been broken off; for two years I'd 'fought' sex and transferred my energies into buttering the Sunday toast at parish breakfasts. I had no gay friends and felt guilty, isolated - and highly dubious about the passage of a certain Private Member's Bill. Anything that promised to change all that, any promise of a 'cure' for instance, was clearly to be grasped with both hands. A lot hung in the balance for me that morning in Wimpole Street.

'Do you have any pictures of men that attract you?' he was asking. Puzzled, I answered: 'I do have one or two.' (Could it mean he was going to accept me?) 'You'll need to bring more than that to the hospital. We'll have a bed for you in a month's time.' He was standing up now, offering me his hand. Hurriedly, I asked him where I could obtain more pictures. He gestured vaguely eastwards: 'I understand that Soho purveys material that caters for most needs.'

It was a long trudge from the bus stop to the hospital and I stopped halfway to sit on my portable typewriter and read the paper. I suddenly became aware of someone watching me from the shrubbery and quickly moved on - to peals of geriatric laughter. A group of men with spades over their shoulders crossed my path, their eyes glazed - all of them, as I later discovered, long-stay occupants. 'You new here?' asked a young man as I entered Ward C (Males).

I nodded.

'In on an order, are you?'

'No, voluntary.'

'What's the problem? You don't have to say, of course. Drugs, drink, sex?'

'That sort of thing. And you?'

'Heroin. They're trying aversion on me. My name's Steven, by the way.'

'I'm Tom. Where is everyone?'

'Away for the weekend, mostly. John'll be in the library. You wearing Y-fronts? 'Cos if you are, he'll be after them. Lock them up at night, that's my advice.'

'What on earth for?'

'Cos our Johnny's a homosexual fetishist; he's hooked on Y-fronts at the moment. He's quite harmless, really; not a patch on Tim.'

'Tim?'

'Specialises in sports cars, he does. Picks the lock and drives off. Quite a lad, our Tim; he'd do anything for you. That's his bed over there. Next door to him is Mr. Shepherd, who can't keep away from horses.'

'Another sex case?'

'What are you on about? Mr. Shepherd's too old for sex. He's a gambler - compulsive-like. When he began aversion, we expected the doctor to lead a horse down the ward. They've got to play it for real as far as they can, you see.'

'Who's that pressing his face to the window?'

'Poor Brian. Wake you at three in the morning and swear blind the doctor's, staring through at him in the moonlight. He's a schizzy, but you can't tell him that. At least he's less trouble than Colin, who flies into rages and has an I.Q. over 160...'

'Is that a doctor down there in the white coat?'

'AT WEEKENDS? Get on. They'll all be out playing golf - the consultants anyway. Old Sourpuss down there isn't fit to clean the shithouse let alone - quick! Put your bags on the bed next to mine, he's coming over, the fucking bastard.'

Despite Steven's protestations, the male nurse ushered me firmly out of the ward into a small single-bedded room, complete with writing table.

I was handed another photograph.

'Do you still find him attractive?'

'Yes,' I answered stubbornly through the taste of fresh vomit. 'Yes, I do.'

'Don't you find it disgusting, wanting to sleep with a member of your own sex?'

'Not if I find him attractive; it's sleeping with a member of the opposite sex that - goes against the grain,' I replied gently.

'Isn't it time you straightened yourself out?'

I looked up at him, and thought how well the white coat went with his blond hair and clean-cut, intelligent face. We must have been about the same age. He was a practising Christian, engaged to be married. I envied his fiancée. As Junior Houseman, he had been deputed by Mr. Wimpole Street to do the dirty work.

For the better part of three weeks now, he had been giving me lengthy pep-talks after my twice-daily apomorphine injections - and it was getting him down; there was puzzlement and a tinge of resentment in those clear, blue eyes.

'That'll be all, nurse.'

Old Sourpuss slowly gathered the syringe, needle and remains of the emetic phial into a container, thinking dark thoughts about the iniquity of treating queers at public expense. As for giving them a room of their own, in which to type plays for the theatre at all hours - well, all he could say was he was glad he was retiring soon.

'That'll be all, nurse.' The door closed. 'Can't you see how sterile it all is...?' There was a hint of desperation in his tone. 'How can you achieve the sort of creative fulfilment we were talking about in a relationship with - another man?' I could understand the theory behind his approach - the verbal bullets of moral uplift, fired when one was physically and mentally under par, combining with the cross-association of 'perverted' sexual attraction objects with physical feelings of nausea. In practice, the method proved counter-productive in my case and resulted merely in entrenching me more deeply in my 'untenable' position. Although one (the social?) part of me wanted to be cured, the small boy deeper down was gleefully amassing piles of stones to sling at the attackers, and was damned if he was going to be proved wrong or unseated by such transparent tactics.

That Tuesday was a bad day for the hospital medics. I emerged into the ward to peals of maniacal laughter. It was Steven, away up there on his first 'high' for many a long week. Every throbbing vein in his face radiated triumph and release. He came over and slapped my back: 'Do you know what, Tom?' Apparently the aversion routine had got scrambled. Instead of his usual heroin jab, followed, after a few minutes, with the second neutraliser, Old Sourpuss had got his needles mixed up and given them in reverse order. 'I'm high, Tom, AND THEY CAN'T BRING ME DOWN!' It was too much. In our different ways, we had 'won' the day, and the small boys in us laughed uncontrollably till tears streamed down our faces.

Beneath the laughter, of course, lay tragedy. To the casual observer, Roger would have appeared a normal healthy youth in his early twenties. It was about a month after the Steven episode, and Roger

had just arrived in our ward to begin aversion treatment for advanced drug addiction. 'I can't believe it - you look so healthy.' Casually he stripped off his shirt and held out his arms. 'See those veins?' 'Sure -'

'Go on, feel them.' They were sclerous, like perished rubber. 'It's the same all over my body. There's not a single vein left I can get a needle into.'

'Is that why you - ?'

He nodded in a matter-of-fact way. 'Yeah. If I hadn't come here, I'd have been dead in three months.'

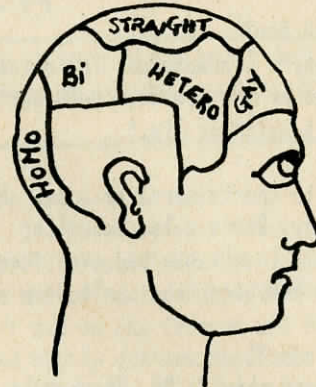
Whenever I'm exposed to purists' strident (and often ill-informed) inveighings against the 'immorality' of aversion therapy for everyone, I can't help thinking of Roger, and the many like him, who have been helped to lead happy useful lives. After all, there's not much morality in death.

Such events brought home to me just what a battlefield our ward really was - underneath all the glibness, immaturity and irresponsibility. The doctors were fighting against very heavy odds, and they knew if no one else did. Could it be that like Steven, and later Roger, I too was putting up neurotic defences against help and treatment? Or was I the only person in the ward not in need of help? (To think of everyone but oneself as being sick and to 'blame' the doctors for their 'misguided' efforts is after all very much part of the syndrome of deep disturbance, as doctors know to their cost.)

The unresolved doubts raised by these questions afforded sufficient motivation to continue with the second phase of my treatment, which comprised a lengthy period of post-nausea psychotherapy. This entailed attending as an out-patient for once-weekly sessions over a period of 2½ months. As an aid to self-discovery, I was sometimes given the disinhibiting drug methedrine and (occasionally) LSD.

My new doctor was a woman and she helped me most, I think, in getting me to recognise some of the defences I had been putting up against life and to distinguish between misemotion and true feeling. (It's very difficult for me to be really angry with people nowadays because it usually hits me a few seconds after blast-off that it's my own inadequacies/misemotion/prejudice that I'm projecting onto the poor blighter. Not only has this saved me a lot of wasted energy, but it minimises the feeling of upset when other people are angry at me!)

In retrospect, I'm grateful for my therapeutic Odyssey; it did me no harm and quite a lot of good. On the other hand, I am still homosexual and, what's more, I fully accept and enjoy this state of being. Largely, because I don't see it as in any way incompatible with the achievement of a full and happy life.



Aversion therapy has shown good results (at symptom level) with fetishists, exhibitionists and compulsive gamblers; but not with transvestites, alcoholics or homosexuals - which last condition has appeared 'less fragmentary' (and therefore, less susceptible to 'treatment') than the other conditions. To my knowledge, aversion therapy is little used, now, in the field of sexual deviancy owing, no doubt, to the poor results obtained. In the areas where it is still used, it will obviously prove less beneficial - as would any form of treatment - if applied compulsorily, and can have positively damaging effects if the subject is not first selected with great care (not alas always the case).

On the 'disease theory' of homosexuality, on which aversion therapy is predicated, I have an open mind. It is a field richly mined with people's bruised egos and reason comes a poor second to emotion - or misemotion. In an antagonistic society, it is very difficult to disentangle cause from effect, and much research remains to be done. What little evidence there is seems to favour the traditional view - and it is surely not valid to seek to rebut this on the ground that it could not apply to as many as one in twenty of the population! We must do better than that.

Meantime, in the vacuum of ignorance, everyone's having a field day. Predictably, it's the straights who mainly favour the disease theory and the gays who oppose it; and those who oppose it most shrilly tend to know least about the psycho-pathology of sexual deviancy. Plus ça change.....! For many, including myself, the question is largely academic. There's so much else to get on with...

DOWN (continued)

12. Gets in cinemas cheaper
13. Inscription on pillar-boxes, circa 1380?
14. Deoxyribonucleic Acid
21. Prawn Madras, Jambalaya, or Toes, perhaps?
22. The poet's initials
24. Could the Bismarck go both up and down?
26. Song gets another one up - to A
27. Some heterosexual women - sometimes!
28. Poem about an Idiot in Russia
29. Rascal sailor
30. Rehearsal and Rockingham: where?
31. Public notice pasted by Yoko?
32. Amu Darya
34. Recovery Administration and Rifle Association
35. The door, could be
37. Of clubs, Guynemer & von Richthofen
38. And so on, and so on
43. Achieve status
44. Mary, Anne and Edward II
46. Thanks a lot! No look-ing up
49. Joint complaint
50. Stop singing - it sounds eccentric!
51. Faithful Saxon
52. Eyesore
53. Well-known homophile organisation
54. 1935, in Madrid
55. Navy or Nursing College
57. Give a dog a bone - to Cerberus, perhaps
58. A hot mess, notwithstanding
60. The other alternative

GAY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

One of the more astonishing phenomena of recent years has been the emergence of homophile organisations in country after country around the world. There are now about 250 separate groups in the USA alone - running clubs and counselling services, and engaged in various other activities such as pressuring presidential candidates (Senator McGovern has promised legislative reforms if elected). But the USA is not alone. Mexico has a 'gay' organisation, and groups are active in New Zealand, Australia, Scandinavia and most European countries. A new monthly newspaper, Gay International News, edited by members of both CHE and GLF, covers all this activity, as well as more exotic items, such as the report from Bangkok that drag queens there are demanding marriage rights. The paper is available from Gay International News, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1 - 10p a copy, including postage.

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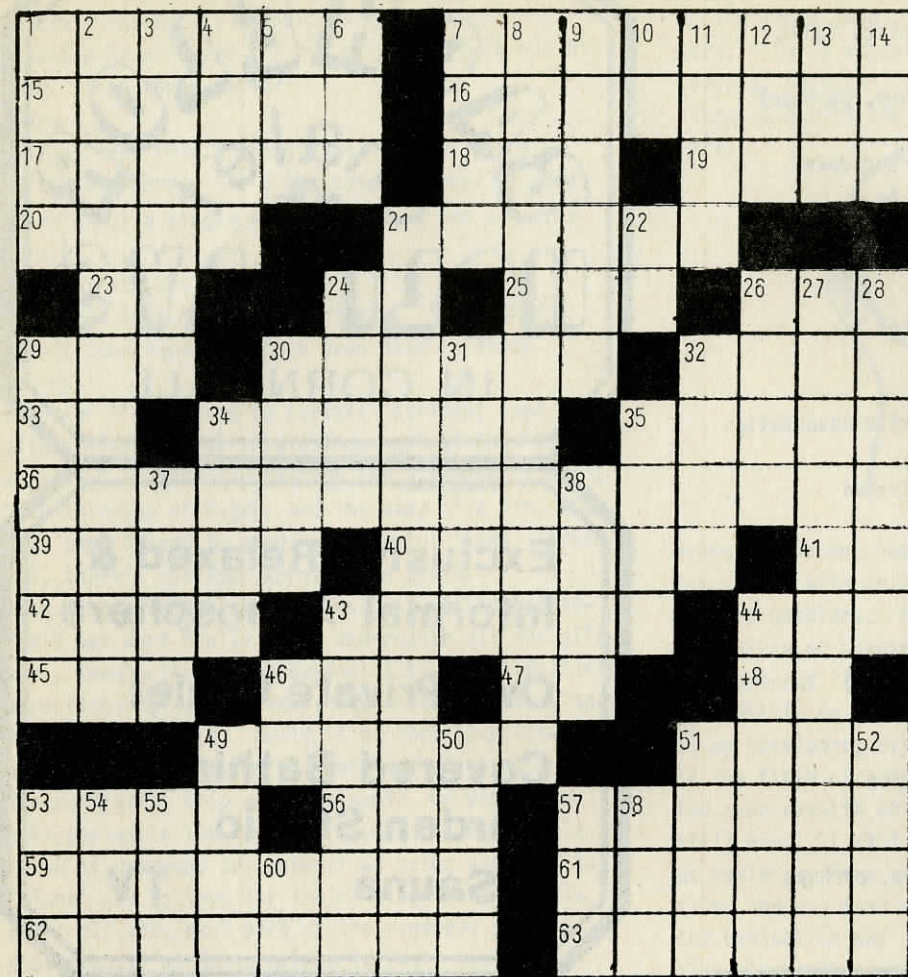
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CHEZZLE I

by eduard boagni



The CHEZZLE is, hopefully, unique in that it combines British features (anagrams, cryptic clues, red herrings) with American (no one-way letter squares, prefixes, abbreviations, foreign and multiple words used freely) and with CHE-LUNCH arcana. £3 to the first correct solution opened at noon, July 14, 1972; if no correct solutions, a 'jackpot' will be started. Address: CHEZZLE #1, 23 Avon Court, Keswick Road, London, SW15.

36. Gemini?
39. Crème, other than mentha
40. Miss Page's - earrings, say?
41. Follow as?
42. Re: pasts of eats
43. Junkie fan
44. As
45. That old thing!
46. Cycle or angle, maybe; not sexual yet
47. Titanic's and/or Lusitania's ends
48. Alternative to 'them'
49. 'There's a sucker born every minute.' Said who?

ACROSS

- 1,7. EC member
15. (C₁₈H₃₄O₂), salt of
16. Proverbially, the remedy for initial failure
17. Large floodlight; single bulb
18. Seaport of New Guinea? Sounds poetic!
19. To W. Samoa as 18 to NG
20. LUNCH editor
21. Moonlight, for example
23. Non-existent district of London?
24. Either way, an interjection
25. Steam Yachts with a Greek prefix?
26. Native Australian in Finland?
29. Native of Shropshire - would he have joined CHE?
30. Tried harder
32. Toward the mouth. Zoological!
33. Like, over forty-one?
34. What have Beethoven's Seventh, Tchaikovsky's Sixth, Bizet's First, Sibelius's Second, Brahms's Third & Mozart's Fortieth in common?
35. Able was I ere I saw...! Thus state, Napoleon!

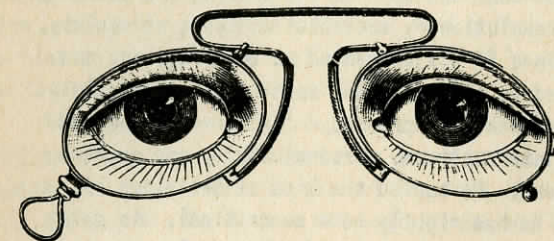
51. Those Viet-Nam offensives
53. Concern, can be loving
56. Kind of comb. Some engine!
57. Fleet, Greek or Queer
59. Quick troll; never again?
61. Not Saki, but wrote a lot of short stories
62. Fellow member
63. Café - but liqueurs, most likely

DOWN

1. Synthesizer
2. Manhattan, Buffalo, Niagara Falls - or very upset
3. How Santa stopped?
4. Rikki-Tikki, what's your surname?
5. '___, missa est.'
6. Watch out for this form of entrapment
7. Good man depressed? In France
8. Drag
9. Accomodating little beast
10. 'A long, long way to run,' according to J. Andrews
11. Stuck in F Major?

MB ← Turn back for clues down

Dear Sir



WHAT EQUALITY IS IT THAT WE WANT?

As a brand-new reader and CHE member I was most interested in Simon Benson's article in your April issue and Pete Goodwin's in No. 8.

Through CHE we assert our right to social and legal equality. But even when this principle is granted, two problems remain. First, community standards. What equality is it that we want? Are we really seeking to establish homosexual marriage as the norm (with all the consequences as regards property, inheritance and divorce that are implied by state recognition of such unions)? On a different tack, do we really want to encourage tasteless and indiscriminate near-intercourse in public for everyone or (like Hugh Corbett) the reverse?

Second, personal standards. At the least, those of us who are committed Christians have got to reconcile our deep spiritual experiences with our equally deep emotional experiences; we have to get ourselves and our lives in perspective, and try to understand what we are called to be and to do. This may seem at first sight to affect only a minority of CHE members (though every CHE member knows what it is like to be in a minority). But in fact all of us, whatever our faith or lack of it, need to sort out our moral attitudes to our own sexuality.

CHE is the only homosexual organisation within which such issues can be rationally explored, and from which contact can be made with those religious and humanist leaders who are ready to take our problems seriously. Until such contacts have been tried and seen to fail, let us hear no more of the idea of a 'gay church' for Britain. Instead, let us build up the work of the Jewish Liaison Group, the Christian Churches Working Party, and if necessary, similar bodies for Muslims, humanists and Buddhists; and look

to them for help, not only in solving the problems of the individual, but in clarifying the issue of standards for the whole homosexual community.

TAN BUIST
London, SW15.

ED - Congratulations on the best letter this month. W.H.Smith 50p token will be sent shortly.

SOCIAL EVENTS: SYSTEMATIC LONDON MONTHLY INFORMATION SERVICE?

For some months I have become increasingly disillusioned with the lack of communication within the CHE organisation.

Chairmen and secretaries are not kept informed sufficiently with forthcoming activities, fund-raising or otherwise. Asked for relevant details they are unable to give any. We read of functions in LUNCH too late to reserve the dates and others that arouse interest are cancelled or postponed without notice. It is all rather a negative and haphazard way of running a society.

How can necessary funds be raised when March went by without one big event and nothing in April until the 28th? I was particularly interested in the Art and Photographic exhibition which was to have taken place in March, according to the December issue of LUNCH. On making enquiries I was told this had been postponed until October, with no mention of this to the groups or in the April issue of LUNCH.

I wrote to the fund-raising officer, as I am told others have done, but received no reply. It appears he has since resigned. Is there no social committee to handle enquiries?

Without a systematic monthly information service from the various active committees to group chairmen and LUNCH, CHE is never going to gain any momentum. People all too quickly lose interest and stop attending meetings. This is already happening in some groups.

Any society relies on the support of its members but they will not give this unless properly encouraged by those who hold office. To 'fight' any Campaign an 'army' is needed and this army must have effective leadership.

Looking to the future - could we have a much more effective communication service please. This is so important.

DESMOND MASTERS
GROUP 4.

LETTERS

CAMBRIDGE: an answer to IAN HARVEY

Ian Harvey certainly does not make things easy for himself. The irrational, provocative, and inaccurate account he gave in April's LUNCH of the meeting in King's College, Cambridge on March 2nd closely parallels his behaviour at the meeting itself. But before commenting on what happened I must first put the facts straight.

Ian Harvey's confusion about the purpose of the meeting may well result from his not having been invited in the first place but himself asking if he could join the panel. The purpose of the meeting was not to discuss pornography but the threat to the emancipation of women and homosexuals posed by the Festival of Light, the Commission on Pornography, and the illiberal puritanical backlash to which they were pandering and which they were reinforcing. Ian Harvey is even confused as to who organised the meeting. In fact it was Cambridge Women's Lib. and Gay Cambridge, which is a joint CHE and GLF group.

Although a group from London did attend the meeting much of the behaviour to which Ian Harvey objects came from Left wing socialist revolutionaries from King's College who have no connection with either CHE or GLF. And while both Lord Longford and Ian Harvey were 'attacked' it should be made clear that those attacks were entirely verbal, and not physical.

Undoubtedly the meeting was noisy and there were frequent interruptions, but that is a risk to be faced at any public meeting and could only have been prevented by strictly controlling admission or by using strong-arm tactics to silence or remove people acting disruptively. Maybe Ian Harvey would sanction this. I would not. There certainly was a vocal minority present determined to use the meeting as a political platform but that did not account for all the noise and interruption by any means. Ian Harvey was as guilty of irrational sloganizing as anyone but from a different political perspective. I felt he was deliberately provocative and certainly nearly all his interventions provoked uproar. By comparison Lord Longford got an easy passage. And Antony Grey and Donald West's contributions were quite mildly received.

Much of what was said at the meeting was based upon a revolutionary socialist analysis of society. Sometimes it was presented as interruptions and shouted as slogans. But sometimes it was calmly and coherently expressed. Ian Harvey responded with interruptions, personal abuse, and extreme rudeness. He copied the kind of behaviour of which he has rightly been so critical. In doing so he aggravated an already disorderly situation. He invited himself to the meeting. He did not know who was organising it. He did not know what it was about. He had nothing constructive to say. He would have done better to keep his mouth shut.

BERNARD GREAVES,
Cambridge.

IN REPLY TO IAN HARVEY

As a member of GLF Cambridge and GLF London for the past fifteen months, I feel I have to reply to criticism of GLF in your April edition of LUNCH. The statements made by Mr. Ian Harvey were totally inaccurate. I was at the meeting to which Lord Longford came, but from his article it seems Mr Harvey was at a completely different meeting!

Firstly he points out that the meeting was ten minutes late. This was in fact caused by Lord Longford not arriving on time. Secondly, to the best of our knowledge there is no such group in existence in Cambridge called the Gay Action Group. Thirdly, the young men supposedly dressed as Danny la Rue were in actual fact all members of Kings College Cambridge Street Theatre Group, and were not from London. We had never seen them before and they were certainly not invited by us to attend the meeting (but as Mr. Harvey points out the 'Prince of Anti-Porn' was there, and a few months previously a similar display occurred at a debate in the Union) They were also not homosexual, but this is irrelevant. Are we now to become Gay chauvinists!

In fact I am the lady who was outraged and I DO NOT belong to Women's Lib. Mr. Harvey is incoherent and immature and as far as I am concerned the only title befitting his article is 'Harvey-Chauvinism'

LETTERS

He mentions the fact that one of the topics discussed during the meeting was failure of education, and then goes on to point out that a high proportion of the audience were well qualified to speak on that subject - come off it Harvey!

He also mentions that he participated in an earlier discussion in Cambridge to which he was invited to speak. Chaotic was not the word, for at this meeting Mr. Harvey was extremely rude, and the consensus was immense relief at his leaving to go back to London! According to Harvey, we in GLF are a collection of unbalanced, irresponsible people - some of whom could be described as 'nut cases'. (Perhaps we were nut cases to drive and hitch all the way from London to Burnley, myself included?) Surely the fact that a man of his age and apparent education should come out with such a statement is a sign of his own irresponsibility and immaturity!

RELYING ON M.P.'S SUPPORT?

He suggests we ask our MP's for help. I remember not long ago a Cambridge lady standing as a Liberal candidate (I think in Petersfield) writing to Jeremy Thorpe advising him not to support homosexuals as she thought people would not vote for a party supporting homosexuals. (The poor lady obviously did not realise that even we 'poor' homosexuals vote - some of us - Liberal!) I really do not think that my local MP here in Cambridge would even entertain the idea of meeting GLF and CHE, if the replies to Bernard Greaves' idea of addressing schools is anything to go by!

Mr. Harvey points out that Leo Abse and Lord Arran show themselves to be sympathetic. Surely by now CHE and GLF have shown that we do not want sympathy. Mr. Harvey's whole idea of the kinds of change needed and how to obtain them is naive. Homosexuals will only obtain so called 'rights' by demanding them loudly - not by kneeling down and begging to Members of Parliament who earn £5000 per annum!

WHY WE STAGED A SIT-IN AT NOTTING HILL GATE

Not so long ago in Notting Hill Gate, GLF were being charged 20p per pint of beer, as against 14p for heterosexuals. We eventually staged a sit-in at the pub concerned; the police were called and

said that they could not eject us for wearing our badges. The landlord had to ask us all to leave, one by one (300 of us) which, when we refused, the police carried us all out quite peacefully, accompanied by the strains of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' being sung by our brothers and sisters already removed, sitting outside the pub.

Next week we were charged 14p per pint and allowed to come and go as we pleased, badges or not. Surely the fact that the landlord gave in after seeing our sheer determination and lack of concern about being arrested for our sexuality shows that this kind of action works. Weeks previously (and in fact this drove us to the sit-in) we used Mr. Harvey's tactics and were literally laughed out of the pub and told to stop being bloody silly queers!

In discussing the political views expressed at the meeting by some members of the audience, Mr. Harvey makes use of a typical reactionary device. Seeing opposition to our present economic and political system he assumes support for that prevailing in the Soviet Union and its satellites, failing to note that there are actually in existence forms of society different from any of these e.g. Cuba. Mr. Harvey does not conceive that we might be advocating a form of society which does not at present exist. His idea of the possible is confined to the actual.

GLF has helped a considerable number of people meet other gays and become more aware of their sexuality e.g. awareness groups, think-ins, discussions, parties, dances, and just by generally wearing the same clothes, and being the same kind of people - not the person our parents told us to be afraid of! I'm very happy to be a member of GLF and hope it continues to do the good work.

This letter is purely my own personal view. I don't presume to speak for the rest of the GLF group in Cambridge!

Finally I would like to agree with what Glenys Parry said in the TV programme on CHE, that 'I like being homosexual and I would not want to change.' Right on, Glenys!

PATRICIA A. JONES
Cambridge GLF

LETTERS

THE REACTIONARY PACIFISM OF HUGH CORBETT

The first impression one receives on reading Hugh Corbett's letter is the detached air of smug complacency that comes from one who finds he can live his sexual life well within the limits of the law and expects everyone else to do the same. There, by the Grace of God, goes Mr. Corbett. But although he may wish to enter the twilight zone of reactionary pacifism, he should remember there are thousands of homosexuals in this country who do not; those who have suffered innumerable indignities because of our iniquitous laws and who are prepared to support any action that will bring about a speedy reformation. 'Militancy' is simply a generic term used by those who are not prepared to watch the world go by.

Readers' eyes must have popped when they lighted on some of the small print in Mr. Corbett's cleverly constructed little diatribe.

"Laws are framed, justifiably, in the interests of the majority". Oh, really? They are nothing of the sort. They are framed by a powerful minority to keep the powerless majority in its place. Is it in the interests of the majority that a 25 year old man does not go to bed with a boy of 18? The answer is no. The majority could not care less, which is the reason the law remains unchanged. The moral arguments seem not to concern Mr. Corbett at all, apart from his pathetic obsession with good and bad taste (which is absurdly out of place in this context).

"Clamour about discrimination, equal rights - the voicing of demands is not only moronic but destructive". How comforting for Mr. Corbett to absolve himself of the charge of being thought a destructive moron! Barring children; heterosexuals can go to bed with whom they like and when they like, hold hands in the street and frighten the horses if they want to. We can not; and any clamour we might make would be fully justified if it were to frighten MPs, lawyers, doctors, psychiatrists, churchmen - and others of that ilk who subscribe to establishment codes of conduct - into a realisation that they are not entitled to exercise some sort of Divine Right in judging others.

"....they (homosexuals) must show themselves ready and deserving, and convince sceptics and critics that they are responsible citizens possessing reasonable standards of decency and morality...." Well! This is really the most shitty load of "Yes,

Sahib" philosophy it's been my misfortune to clap eyes on in a long time. (Was it lifted from an 18th-Century book of sermons?) The operative word of course, is "they"; that tells all as, indeed, does the use of the Third Person in Hugh Corbett's article. I have not the time at the moment to dissect this disgusting claptrap, but earnestly hope Hugh Corbett will have the humility to forgive himself for ever having uttered it.

Come to think of it, what is this man doing in CHE, anyway? Would he not feel more at home joining the Bachelors' Society which indulges in such heady delights as stately progressions round newspaper printing works, breweries and pickle factories?

DAVID SMITH
London SW17:

GREENLEAVES IN ISOLATION?

What kind of isolation does Julian Greenleaves live in? (See May LUNCH) He has obviously never met the kind of people with hang-ups and worries which are just likely to be reinforced by the glib lies Dr. Reuben has made in his book. Meet some of these people (convening a group's a good way), and you pretty soon realise that they are neither slow-witted nor lacking in sense. They are quite simply ignorant (non-pejorative sense) and there must be a great many who would seek to remedy their ignorance by reading a book such as Reuben's, which bears a stamp of medical authority. Besides which, it is precisely because the book, in dealing with homosexuality, deals only with sex that some of us are most concerned. If you were young and innocent (or any other age and innocent, for that matter) how would you come to terms with being homosexual if your only knowledge of homosexuality was from a book which presented it as lustful encounters with no deeper feeling? If we lived in Dr. Reuben's gay world, I'd venture to think we'd be worthy of the discrimination we at present decry. So, all right, the difference between urging the 'voluntary withdrawal' of a publication and its censorship is a rather semantic one. But perhaps we can see the petition and the campaign to have the book withdrawn as an attempt to put our point of

LETTERS

view, rather than a real attempt to censor. CHE is all the time trying to give limelight to the 'correct' view and this was a good platform for it. You cannot expound enlightened opinion without condemning that which is unenlightened.

And, finally, a word on stickers. Some people seem to react to them with hysteria! I am personally more in favour of putting an informative leaflet in a book (which I did, in many - with permission), but - I do not see any harm in stickers - I do not even see that they 'deface' books; nobody is forced to stick them anyway. Two members of the Liverpool Student Group received permission from one bookshop manager to put stickers in Reuben's book, so I don't think they can be that bad.

Far from being hysterical about the book, I am sure our fault was in acting too slowly, too late. Had we done nothing, there would have been cause for complaint...

ROBIN BLOXSIDGE, LIVERPOOL, 8.

AT A LOOSE END WITHOUT LUNCH EVENTS

My subscription to LUNCH has been completely worthwhile and I shall most certainly renew it when the time comes.

I should have been at a complete loose end during my recent visit to London had it not been for the branch programme announcements in LUNCH.

I should also like to thank those members of London CHE who have been so kind to me, even if it was only a smile in a pub. And the two jolly good meetings that I was able to attend.

Regrettably, I must remain anonymous but those who know will know!

FROM A COUNTRY MOUSE
(Name and address supplied)

ED - So please keep up the vital supply of accurate information for the benefit of other country mice or strangers to your area.

DISAGREEMENTS AMONG CHE MEMBERS

I think all members of CHE London should be aware of the sort of difficult situations that arise between certain members who undertake responsibility.

The particular situation I refer to exists between two people on the LCC. All London Group Chairmen will have received letters from these two parties explaining their reactions to each other.

Frankly I find it very difficult to understand why this sort of action and consequent reaction should occur in the first place.

We are all members of the same organisation - in it, to all intents and purposes, because we agree with its aims and objectives. The members who undertake specific responsibilities, I would assume, do so because they feel they have something to contribute to CHE. Moreover, I would go further and say that these members also believe that as we - CHE - are in our infancy, we need to develop and grow, in order to enable us to be strong enough to achieve, at least some of the aims. It is a matter of common sense, therefore, that by being united, we ought to be in this position quite soon.

Alternatively if members and groups of members continually disagree (this is natural) and as a result 'throw in the towel' in a huff, as it were, I cannot visualise us getting anywhere.

I would recommend that the new LCC make it their prime aim to seek ways and means of preventing these minor disasters from occurring. Letters of complaint expressing anxieties and implying hidden accusations, in my opinion, should not be encouraged - formal channels of communication should be provided, so that anxieties and 'accusations' are denuded of their subjective content, and those towards whom these are directed will not feel compelled to react in such an impulsive way.

The two concerned, in my opinion, are extremely competent men - and both have a great deal to offer our organisation: it is a great pity to lose the services of either, just because we are unable to cope with temperamental clashes or clashes of any other sort, without preventing disastrous results.

BASIL FERRON
CONVENER, LONDON GROUP 8.

Nationwide Group News

CROYDON CHE

Welcome everyone on their day trip to the Bluebell Railway and Brighton. Cost £1 each. Details from Tony Naylor 16 Honley Rd S.E.6. 698 1815.

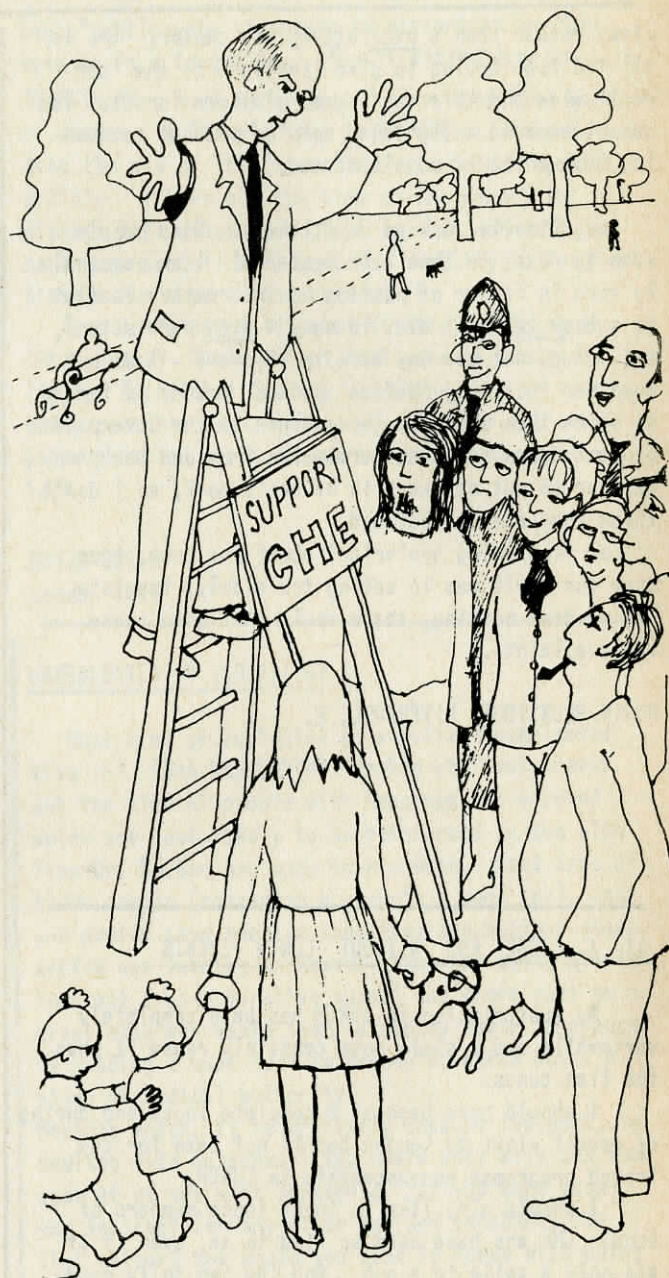
LONDON 8 CHE

CHE - A WALKING CLUB

Group 8 has already organised walks in Kent, Surrey and Buckinghamshire. Most participants have survived and many have asked for more, which are planned.

If you will send 20p to Joe Carter at 29, Alexandra Grove, Finsbury Park, N4, he will send you an individual notice about each of the next five walks. You can still come on walks even if you don't do this, of course. But you may not hear about them until it's too late. What you all can do is to lick your biro and write very blackly in your diary 'CHE Walk' on the following Sundays: July 9, Aug. 20, Sep. 24, Oct. 29. There'll be more. How about offering to lead one?

Group 8 are proposing 'taking a stand' (some kitchen step ladders, in fact) at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park 3-30 p.m. Sunday 25th June. Speaker: Vivian Waldron, hopefully supported by an audience of CHE members. (Group 8 members will naturally be in full attendance) Any additional offers to take the stand will be more than welcome. All CHE members are invited to come along and heckle, at least! A rehearsal will take place at Group 8's meeting on Thursday, 22nd June at the Two Brewers. It's hoped that this may be the first of a series of such appearances during the summer months. Some may be on weekday evenings. We will also need people willing to hand out CHE leaflets to non-members. For further information contact Vivian Waldron 370 1896, or Basil Ferron, 876 1009.



Members of Group 8 would like to thank all the CHE members who came to our social evening on Thur. 20th April at the SPARTAN Club and gave it your wholehearted support. We intend making this a regular occurrence at two/three monthly intervals. Dates of these will be published in LUNCH.

LONDON 10 CHE

GROUP 10 are having a day trip to Brighton (see Diary) on Sat. June 24. Leaving Horse Guards Ave. at 9 a.m. To book, send £1 (no refunds) and see to Jimmy McKeown (Group 10) 17 Freeland Rd. London W5 3HR. Cheques, P.O.s payable to him. First come, first served.

HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON CHE

HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON GROUP are happy to announce their birth - Weight 12 gents, 1 lady - For details see Regular Group Meetings. We had a very successful first meeting and will welcome other members of the family to our next main meeting or at the more intimate weekly gatherings.

LONDON WOMEN CHE

LONDON WOMENS GROUP. Eight members of this group descended on a GLF women's meeting in Soho to try and interest some of their members in CHE and compare notes. One has already been to a Group 10 meeting. Our main area in common we found was isolated people and decided to refer such people to any or all of the existing homophile groups. We intended to join our sisters in a drink after the meeting, but they walked so fast we lost track! We weren't so enthusiastic as them in wanting to billet the 'sexist' film 'Diamonds are forever'.

SCOTTISH MINORITIES SMG

Members of CHE are honorary members of SMG while visiting Scotland and are very welcome to all SMG events. These take place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee and Inverness. Ring John Breslin, Nat. Sec 011 771 7600 (24 hr answering service) for information.



CORRECTION We apologise for attributing the £30 profit for running a New Year's Eve Disco to Group 8 (who haven't complained - Ed). It was Group 6 who were in fact responsible.

TRANS-PENNINE CHE

Most groups have a social life of their own, but what about as a whole. The National Council forms an opportunity for representatives of the groups to meet. There is usually a social event provided, but the boggy of serious business is there lurking in wait for the unwary. There is now a cure for this - THE CHE JAMBOREE, planned for June 11 in Southport and free from fiendish traps. Everyone can come. It is not elitist. And dull care will be banished for the day.

The Jamboree is the brainchild of the Trans Penn. group, but is intended to be a focal point for all CHE members, wherever they live, although geography will mean that the North of England will be the most accessible constituency.

JUNE 11th is the day. Things will begin at 1p.m. with a mammoth Crazy Golf Competition: or perhaps you'd prefer to 'do-your-own-thing' on the beach. Picnic tea, followed by a get-together dance in the Queen's Hotel, Southport, when a band/cabaret and buffet supper will be provided. There will be a bar too.

Get tickets as soon as possible: tea is 25p - the evening Get-Together 75p. Joint tickets £1. Send your money to Ted Clapham, 156 Halifax Rd. Todmorden Lancs. (Todmorden 3102)

WINDSOR CHE

Windsor wishes to extend a warm welcome to any visitor in the area. June meetings include June 1st Social at Bolters Inn, Lower Cookham Rd. Maidenhead at 8p.m. June 21st Paella meal in Sunningdale. June 23-25 Hope to arrange a week end exchange with another CHE group. July 1st Barbecue at Sunningdale.

COMPETITION NEWS

Design a Christmas Card for LUNCH. Entries in by AUGUST 14. Prize for chosen design.

EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR LAST MONTH'S CAPTION COMPETITION. NOW OPEN TO JUNE 14.

LETTERS

LUNCH MUST NOT LOSE ON THE DEAL

When I paid my annual subscription to LUNGH, each copy, about half its present size, cost only 10p so I feel you are losing on the deal.

I think highly of the magazine and am confident in its success. I therefore enclose a cheque which will rather more than atone for the deficiency of my subscription.

Good luck,
ONE OF YOUR CONSTANT READERS
London SW5.

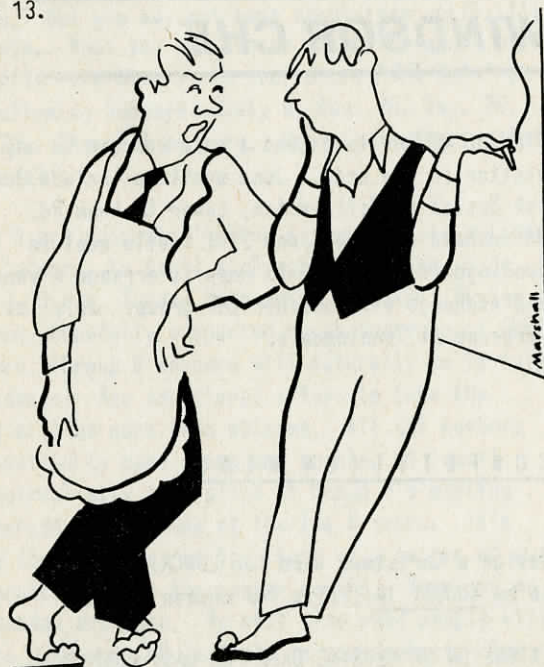
ED - THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO THE DISCO ORGANISERS

May I say through this magazine a warm thank you to the organisers of the recent 'Full Moon Disco' for their efforts in arranging such an event.

Though at first there was an uncertain start, it soon turned into a very enjoyable evening. Let's hope it's not too long before the organisers arrange another disco, perhaps in the not too distant future.

BILL RAMSEY
Group 13.



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE WORLD'S COMING TO. DEAR
-ALL MY RUDDY KIDS ARE GROWING UP NORMAL"

PERSONAL

SMALL FLAT or one large room needed for 2 Spaniards within easy reach Islington. Ring V. Waldron, 370-1896

1. FOR RENT late July: Comfortable Bedsit. Share kit, suit discreet gent. 3 mins. station. Please write: Yarrow, 75 Elmstead Rd. Seven Kings, Essex.

2. WANTED: Unlined grey flannel shorts, waist 28-32" Write Norman BM/GCZY, LONDON WC1V 6XX.
BERTIE POLYBLANK Grp. 6 has Dble. Room, 2 single beds (£3.5. each indiv.) in mod. flat. Use bath. kit. rented TV. Nr. Stepney Grn. Station. 709-7709.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE: Grp 1. member has furnished rooms to let in his Edwardian House overlooking Tooting Graveney Common (SW17)abt. 12 mins. Tooting Bec underground (Northern line) & bus routes. Wd. suit responsible CHE members (M) bet. 20-30. Tel: 769-7965, or write to Box No. JUN/1. All letters answered.

ALL GAYS are welcome at:
'Highley House, Church St, Highley, Nr. Bridgnorth, SHROPS. Tel: Highley 250. Please ask for Alison Stewart.

EXPERIENCED CHAUFFEUR seeks full-time post anywhere in U.K. Would consider position of chauffeur/gardener. Cryer, Bourne House, Bourne End, Bucks.

0050 RAILWAY ENTHUSIAST-member of Gt. Western Society, Som. & Dorset Circle, who gives talks on canals & railway preservation offers help to anyone wishing to get Railway or Transport Group off the ground.

PERSONAL

ADVERTS MUST COMPLY WITH USUAL STANDARDS. 2p. a word (10p an ad. to reg. subscribers - 15 wds. max. (Over 15 wds. 2p. rate) 40p. box number monthly.

CHE MEMBER (F) N.H. employee needs unf. acc. at low rent. Easyreach Hackney Rd. Phone: Ruth 985-3185

IS LIFE DULL? Bring back the sunshine. CHE JAMBOREE, Southport Sunday June 11. Details Trans-Penn Group News.p.

IT IS WITH REGRET THAT WE HAVE TO ANNOUNCE THE SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. DON CROSSLEY OF THE PAPERBACK CENTRE. 150 MERTON RD. WIMBLEDON SW9 The Centre is now closed, but any inquiries to his close friend Derek Walker, 20 Boundaries Mansions, SW12 8EZ.

Existing stock is being cleared and we are offering The Occasional Man (by James Barr of Quatre foil fame) at £1.00 post free (original price £1.50).

GLF GROUPS REGULAR MEETINGS

GLF OFFICE: 837 7174
5 Caledonian Rd N.1.

Contact above for following groups
ACTION THEATRE WORKSHOP

AWARENESS: Usually Fridays

CHURCH RESEARCH: 2.30pm Sundays

COMMUNES: Usually Fridays

COUNTER PSYCHIATRY: Alt Sundays 8pm

DANCE & ENTERTAINMENTS

GENDER LIBERATION

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON: Sundays 3pm

LEGAL RIGHTS

OFFICE COLLECTIVE: Mondays 6pm

YOUTH & EDUCATION: Mondays

CAMDEN: Thursdays 7.30pm Forrester's

Hall 5 Highgate Rd NW5

EALING: Tuesdays 7.30pm 8 Court-

field Gdns W12 Contact Bill

997 5898

HARROW: Mondays Contact Evenings

Alex 422 7890/Peter 864 1953

ICE BREAKING: Contact 267 0064

KILBURN: Sundays 7pm Flat 2 Teign-

mouth Lodge NW2

NIGHT WORKERS: Thursdays 2pm 93a

Goldborne Rd W10 969 3173

NOTTING HILL GATE: Wednesdays 7.30

pm All Saints Church Hall Powis Sq

W11.

SOUTH LONDON: Thursdays 7.30pm

Minet Library Knatchbull Rd Brix-

ton SW9.

TRANVESTITES & TRANSEXUALS: Tues.

8pm Vestry All Saints Church

Powis Gdns.

WEST LONDON: Thursdays 7.30pm White

Lion Putney High St SW15

WOMEN'S: Wednesdays 7.30pm St Annes

House 57 Dean St W1. Contact

837 4502

BIRMINGHAM: Thursdays 7.30pm Peace

Centre 18 Moor St Ringway.

BRISTOL GAY LIB. Meetings & discos

regularly. Contact Gay Lib. Soc.

University Union, Queens Rd.

Bristol BS8 1LN.

CARDIFF: Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. Blue

Anchor St Mary St. Contact Cardiff

44441

SWANSEA: Contact Pidgeon Hole G.

Student Pidgeon Holes Union House

Univ. College Singleton Pk.

OTHER REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS

GAYSOC: University meeting. Details

s.a.e. Gaysoc University of London

Union Malet St. WC1.

JEWISH LIAISON: Contact Simon Ben-

son 37 Loveridge Rd London NW6.

SAPPHO: 1st Monday in month Museum

Tavern Museum St. London WC1. Mag-

azine meetings with guest speakers

Sappho c/o BCM/petrel London WC1.

JULY

SAT 1st WINDSOR CHE Barbeque

Sunningdale. Details later.

TUE 4 Croydon Grp. CHE 8.p.m.

Talk by actor John Bresun.

SUN 9 Grp. 8 CHE walk.

DIARY

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE

PLEASE SEND US DATES FOR THIS!

THUR 1 Windsor CHE social, Maid-

enhead.

FRI 2 GLF Dance, St Pancras Town

Hall 8-12p.m. Tickets 50p.

SAT 3 National Council Meeting

Bristol. Trans Pennine CHE walk

& musical evening at Pendle.

SMG Social Club.

SUN 4 CHE Group 8 walk in Bucks.

WED 7 GLF Disco, White Lion, Putney

High St.

FRI 9 GLF Dance, Kensington Town

Hall 8pm-12. Tickets 50p.

SAT 10 SMG Social Club

SUN 11 CHE JAMBOREE Southport.

Starts 1pm See Group News. Ends

with Evening get together

MON 12 CHE GROUP 4 Talk by

Quentin Crisp-at Coachmakers Arms.

7.30 p.m 20p.

GLF Disco White Lion Putney High

St. WED 14.

SAT 17 Croydon CHE Day Trip to

Bluebell Railway & Brighton.

MON 19 CHE Group 10 Summer Evning

out. Albert Memorial 7.30pm.

TUE 20 Grp. 6. 7.30pm talk by

a 'social worker'.

WED 21 Windsor CHE Sunningdale.

GLF Disco White Lion Put. High St.

THUR 22 Rehearsal Group 8's 'stand

FRI 23 CHE MASS MEETING, Holborn.

GLF Dance Fulham Town Hall 8pm-12.51

SAT 24 Grp. 10 CHE trip Brighton

SUN 25 Speakers Corner. 3.30pm

Come & support Vivian Waldron on

soapbox, Hyde Pk.

WED 28 GLF Disco White Lion Put.

High St.

FRI 30 GLF Dance Fulham Town Hall

8pm-12. 50p.

WOLVERHAMPTON. Alt Tuesdays & Sundays. Convener Denis. Details CHE HQ Manchester.

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality started life in 1964 as the North Western Committee for Homosexual Law Reform, changing its name after 1967. Organising CHE on a national scale began mid 1970. Now well over 2500 members meet regularly in more than 30 groups all over the country for serious talks, discussions and a wide variety of social events. Each group within CHE is autonomous and sends two chosen representatives to a National Council. National policy-making is undertaken by an Executive Committee whose members are elected on a democratic basis. Membership of CHE is open to everyone, homosexual or not, costs £1.50 per annum and includes a National Bulletin. For full information write to The Secretary C.H.E. Kennedy Street, Manchester 2.

CHE in London

In the London area over 600 members meet in 13 groups. In addition to their involvement in CHE, nationally, each group contributes to a central London Committee which exists to coordinate various projects, which include Legal Studies, Central Premises, Fund Raising, Large-Scale Social Events, Outside Speaker's Panel etc. Further information from Roger Baker, Flat F, 23-24 Great James Street, London WC1; Membership enquiries to Wilmot of Mar, 19 Ansdell Terrace, London W8.

REGULAR CHE MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please notify us of any changes.

LONDON

C.A.—Coach Makers Arms, Marylebone Lane, W.1.
T.B.—Two Brewers, Monmouth St., W.C.2
GROUP 1. 1st Friday 7.30pm Usually T.B. but check. Chairman G. Vaughan Williams 736 6602
GROUP 2. 3rd Friday T.B. 7.30pm Chairman David Bell. Details s.a.e. Sec. Martin George 62 Manor Drive N20
GROUP 3. Alt. Tuesdays T.B. Details ring 723 6931. Stanley Marcus.
GROUP 4. 2nd Wednesday. C.A. Chairman Bill West. Sec. Robert Buggs 609 2995
GROUP 5. YOUTH GROUP. Mem Sec Tom Barry 979 8215. Activities Sec. Jim Haley 385 7246.
GROUP 6. 3rd Tuesday Royal Scottish Co. Fetter Lane. Chairman Ken Glazier Sec. Charles Murdoch 289 3695
GROUP 8. 2nd & 4th Thur. T.B. 8pm Check Chairman Basil Ferron 876 1009
GROUP 9. 1st Monday T.B. Sec. John Davies 20 Conway St. W.1.
GROUP 10. 2nd & 4th Monday 7.30pm T.B. Chair man John Saxby. Sec Angus Easson details ring 560 2739
GROUP 11. 1st Thur. T.B. 7.30pm Chairman Peter Robins Sec Charles Micklewright.
GROUP 12. 1st & 2nd Thur. 7.30pm T.B. or C.A. Check Geoffrey Baggott 638 9919
GROUP 13. 2nd Friday C.A. Convener Richard Nicholas 603 0507
CROYDON. Unitarian Church Hall Friends Rd Croydon Details Tony Naylor 698 1815
EALING. 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7.30pm Details Harold Goldspink 16a Queens Parade W.5. 997 4505. Sec David Pierney 841 0999
HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON. 1st Sunday 7.30pm. Details Jonathan Marks 107 Plimsoll Rd N.6. Derek Brookfield 7 Briston Grove Crouch End N.8.

ILFORD. 1st & 2nd Friday 7.30pm. Friends Meeting House, Bush Rd Leytonstone. Convener Peter Wright 599 7489
KENSINGTON. 2nd Tuesday. The Rose, Fulham Rd. 7.30pm. Sec Marie Clifton Chairman John Stanton 937 2704
KILBURN. Sundays 7.30pm. Details Alan Louis 35 Montrose Ave, Queens Park, NW6, 960 1591. This group covers people living in Harlesden, Willesden, Paddington, Notting Hill Gate.
LEWISHAM. 1st Monday Coffee Rm St Lawrence's Church Bromley Rd SE6. Details Rose Robertson 698 1815.
ELSEWHERE
BIRMINGHAM. Carrs Lane Church Centre. B'ham 4. Convener Denis Platt 0902 752673. Information Douglas. 021 706 9819.
LEEDS. Convener Henry Giles Leeds 628607. Sec David Young. Information David Morley 7686. Details in Leeds Group Newsletter.
LIVERPOOL. 1st Wednesday. Chairman Robin Bloxside. Information Gordon Gibb. 120 Edinburgh Rd, Liverpool 7. L7 8RE
SMG. Every Monday. 23 George Sq. Basement Edinburgh. Convener Ian Dunn. Sec Michael Coulson. 9 Moray Place, Edinburgh 3. Information National Office 214 Clyde St., Glasgow G14JK. 041 7717600
SOUTH ESSEX. Last Wednesday. Basil-don. Information Chairman John Shaw South Benfleet 3706.
SOUTH HERTS. 2nd Tuesday Convener John Kernaghan 21 Park Close, Old Hatfield, Herts.
TRANS-PENNINE. 1st Wednesday 8pm Merchants Hotel, Darwen St. Blackburn. 2nd Thursday 8pm Huddersfield & Kirkburton Labour Party 2 Station St Huddersfield. 3rd Thurs 8pm various places in Lancs. Details Convener Ted Clapham Todmorden 3102
WINDSOR. Approx 4 meetings each month. Maidenhead/Sunningdale/Windsor. Convener Mike Harris 82 Dedworth Rd Windsor Berks. Inf. Peter Saunders Ascot 24138.