

NOGSOG NEWS

MAY 1984

PROGRAMME

- FRI. 11TH Pub crawl. Meet at the Forester's Arms 8 pm.
- THUR. 17TH Programme meeting at 8.15pm at the CVS to sort out what the group will be doing in June.
- SAT. 19TH Minibus trip to Legends (Birmingham) - this will cost £5. See Peter Dufton as soon as possible if you are interested.
- FRI. 25TH Video evening at Mike Raymond's, 19, Thomas Close, St. Ann's. 8pm prompt.

N.B. Nogsog's AGM will be on June 7th (Thursday) at 8pm at the CVS and it is important that as many of you as possible attend this event.

Remember that the regular group meetings are on Thursdays at the CVS (31a, Mansfield Road) from about 8 pm onwards. I should point out that we are running a bit low on tea and coffee, so if anyone can obtain some for us 'cheaply' then we would be grateful.

THE HIPPODROME

I have just returned from a trip to London's Hippodrome gay Monday night. Entry to the club is £5 or £3-50 with the voucher cut from HIM or Capital Gay. Once inside the club it is obvious that it is in a class by itself. The decor is black and silver/chrome. The club used to be a theatre and the dance floor, which is roughly circular, is in the middle with seats arranged around and sloped up the further you get from the dance floor.

Everything is done to the highest standards and nothing is out of place - there is someone walking round all night sweeping up the cigarette ends etc from the floor, so the place does not get scruffy as the night goes on. If you want a drink then go up to one of the many bars and you will be served immediately, or ask one of the many attractive waiters to fetch you a drink. Indeed, they will offer you a drink if you look empty-handed.

There is a slight problem with the drinks. Prices start at £1-25 for half a pint of lager. The house wine represents good value at £6 a bottle. The club claims to have the world's biggest laser, which is computer controlled and capable of some fantastic effects. The lighting is also first class - seven huge pillars lower from the ceiling and six large panels open up on each of these to reveal a remarkable array of lights. Around the dance floor there are something like 200 spot lamps and the whole thing just has to be seen to be believed.

After that lot Part II looks like nothing more than someone playing around with a couple of torches. There is a fair-sized restaurant, though I did not try it. During the evening there were three separate acts:- a trapeze artist; a snake charmer and a dance group Old Aunt Agatha, who appeared on "The Tube" a couple of weeks ago. Altogether, the club provides a great change from the run-of-the-mill gay clubs, but if you want to get drunk take your bank manager! Next time you are in London, call in - I promise you won't be disappointed.

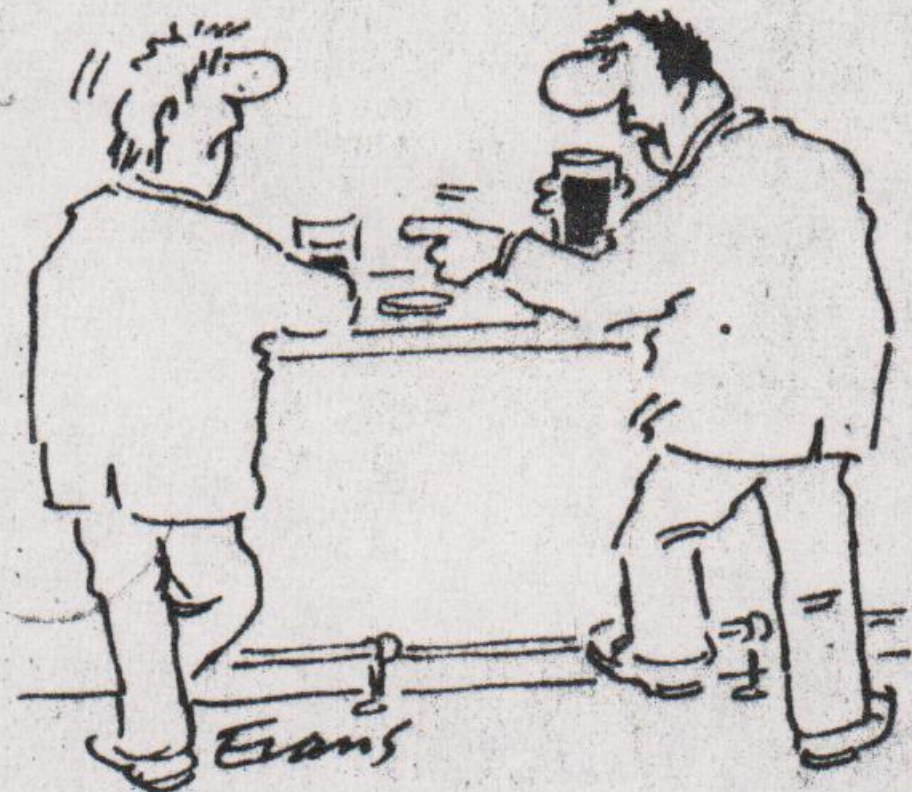
Perry

...likely to offend

I must protest at the BBC's presentation of homosexuals in *The Other Half* (Angus and Tony, 29 February BBC1). There was an assumption in the very choice of subject that such an arrangement was today socially acceptable and moral (as apart from being merely legal). This certainly may be true in the corridors of the Beeb but to many thousands and millions of licence-payers (the vast majority, in fact) homosexuality is just an unnatural practice.

At the risk of having gay rights

Don't get me wrong - I don't mind them being gay - I just mind them being happy!



campaigners infringing my freedom with loud protest, I believe homosexuality is a misfortune to be treated with sympathy but firmness and not an option for 'open-minded' people. All the insincere cant about undefined sexuality cannot alter the fact that homosexuality is specifically condemned in the Bible...

But how sadder still it becomes when responsible agencies like the British Broadcasting Corporation feature such gross human abuses on a par with natural marriage. Over the last 20 years or so our society has slid towards smut and disintegrating family life. That regress has been charted in the backward steps of the BBC from Lord Reith to Kenny Everett... I for one grudge the money extorted from me to support this body which decreasingly represents what I regard as national moral values...

Bruce Knight Gardner

Aberdeen

Gaiety

THE Gay community in West London are now feeling a little more cheerful, because things seem to be happening over the 'Pretty Police' whom I wrote about a few weeks ago.

The chaplain to the Bishop of Kensington had lunch recently at New Scotland Yard with senior officers to discuss the alleged harassment and arrest of homosexuals by exotically dressed policemen.

But the concern in one area of Scotland Yard does not seem to be shared by other departments in the same building. In a recent case, counsel for the police said two officers 'should not be police officers, but should be in prison,' if they were lying.

Earlier this year, a 35-year-old man pleaded not guilty to a charge of importuning in Earls Court. At the trial, the judge, told the jury that it had to decide who was lying - 'someone clearly is.' The prosecuting counsel, told the jury the defendant should be convicted on the evidence of the two policemen - 'if not these two officers should not be police officers but should be in prison.'

It took the jury just 30 minutes to decide that the defendant was innocent, and presumably doubted that the two men should be police officers.

But even though prosecuting counsel attacked them in such strong terms, Scotland Yard has told me that no disciplinary action of any kind - not even an internal inquiry - is contemplated.

US team 'finds Aids virus'

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

SCIENTISTS believe they have found the virus which causes Aids, which could lead to the development of a vaccine and a cure for the disease which has already killed nearly 2,000 Americans and 22 people in Britain.

Called human T-cell leukaemia virus type III (HTLV III), it affects white blood cells called T cells in the immune system. It is the breakdown of the immune system which leaves Aids victims open to the infections that kill them.

The discovery, by Dr Robert Gallo and his colleagues at the United States National Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School is reported tomorrow in *New Scientist*. The details will be published in *Science* magazine.

Dr Gallo has found antibodies to the virus - showing that the victims have been infected by it - in 88 per cent of Aids patients tested so far, compared with only one in 200 healthy patients.

The scientists are now working out the structure of the virus in the hope of designing a vaccine. It may also be possible to develop a method of curing people by injecting them with the antibodies.

Dr Richard Tedder of the Middlesex Hospital, London, said that the discovery could enable doctors to control the spread of the disease by identifying sufferers in the early stages and warning them to abstain from sexual intercourse.

"We will be able to answer questions like when do people become infected, when do they develop the symptoms, and what proportion of patients are infected."

Dr Gallo found antibodies to HTLV III in a quarter of homosexual men with no evidence of Aids: either they had fought off the disease, or most disturbingly, they have yet to develop the clinical signs.

Dr Spence Galbraith, the director of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre who is monitoring the spread of the disease throughout the UK, said yesterday that there had been 27 cases in London, four on the South coast, three in the North-west, and two each in Bristol, Cardiff and Oxford. The numbers include 33 homosexual or bisexual men, three women, and two male haemophiliacs.

DIXIE MAKES IT A GAY DAY

RADIO One's newest DJ Dixie Peach is promising listeners a gay time when he takes over the station's 10pm spot on Saturday.

Until recently Dixie, who says he is not gay himself, hosted a show on Radio Caroline which was particularly popular with gay people. He tells me: "I started

getting lots of record requests from gays after I read out a letter on the air from a listener complaining that I wasn't playing enough dedications for them.

"I'll have a small spot for lovers' dedications on my new programme and I'd like a response from gay people because they are very much part of our society."

I never thought the day would come when I longed for just one Royal to be homosexual.

