

APRIL 25 1976

MELBOURNE GAY LIBERATION NEWSLETTER

259 Brunswick St. FITZROY  
Ph.: 41-4926

THE GAY LIB CENTRE IS CLOSING DOWN -

COME TO OUR

# FINAL PARTY

## Fri. 30th April 8pm

AT 259 BRUNSWICK ST. FITZROY

AND

HELP PAY OUR DEBTS!

R.Y.O

ADMISSION \$2

WE REGRET, NO MORE NEWSLETTERS

(See "Future of Newsletter" inside)

BUT WE HOPE YOU WILL

# Subscribe to 'Speaking Volumes'

THE MONTHLY PERIODICAL OF  
DR DUNCAN BOOKSHOP IN ADELAIDE.

FOR A NATIONAL COVERAGE OF  
FEMINIST & GAY NEWS

See subscription rates on inside cover of "Speaking Volumes" (Min. rate \$2\*50 p.a.)

I am on the Victorian Gay Liberation mailing list and now wish to subscribe to "Speaking Volumes". Enclosed is \$

NAME: . . . . . ADDRESS: . . . . .

Return to Dr Duncan Bookshop, 140 Hyde Park Rd, Hyde, SOUTH AUSTRALIA



CENTRE TO CLOSE - NOW WHAT?

The "Gay Lib Crisis" meeting on April 15th was attended by about 20 people who decided that the Brunswick St. Centre should be closed. There are many reasons, but the essential ones are economic:

- a) no likelihood of raising the necessary income without further drawing on personal funds. The gay people with brains for money-making aren't in Gay Lib.
- b) the low level of activity at the Centre in recent months doesn't justify a legal commitment to pay \$1,600+ over the next year.

One suggestion was that we (i.e. those present) each pledge an equal proportion of the \$1,600. This was rejected on the grounds that those who do the work shouldn't be paying the bills as well. When this happens, as it has recently, it raises the question Whom does the Centre exist for? We speak of a movement, yet increasingly it seems that all gay political activity is done by and for a handful of Old Gay Lib enthusiasts. Recruitment into the movement is non-existent. To what extent does this indicate our assumptions about the nature of homosexual oppression have become dated? One view expressed was that the social climate has changed just enough for most gay people not to need Gay Lib in the way we did in 1971-72. The absorption of gay lib ideas has taken the edge of the worst oppression - and life, if not great, is at least tolerable: an expanded commercial scene and greater frankness and less need for secrecy in "straight" society.

A Party has been organized for this Friday, at the Centre to pay off remaining debts, about \$200.

The discussion of What Next for Gay Lib? was suspended for a fortnight (till Thursday, 29th April) to give interested people a chance to consider what they want and what they are prepared to do to offset the disadvantages of leaving the Centre. In particular, these are seen as:

- a) the loss of the Gay Liberation listing in the telephone directory, and therefore the facility for phone contact/counselling. Although the Counselling Service run by Society Five may meet the counselling needs of gay men, there is no counselling available for lesbian women unless they know to contact the Women's Centre.
- b) the loss of a base for organizing new groups, protests, campaigns, etc. It seems Gay Lib activity has always happened in bursts, according to who's free to devote time and energy, and what the issues of the day are. For example, between the Conference last year and January this year there was quite a lot activity (although stemming from the initiatives of a few): Gay Teachers Group meeting fortnightly, Clohesy campaign, newsletters, banner-making, Gays Against Fraser, activities supporting Black Liberation Movement. The issues are still there if we want to look (e.g. those Ventures Commercials), it's just motivated, energetic people that are so scarce.

As a means of fulfilling both these functions at a lesser cost, some people favoured Gay Lib renting a cheap room equipped with a phone. A tentative offer of such premises in North Melbourne has been made. This still leaves unanswered the question of who wants a Centre badly enough to work at it and/or pay for it. This is the business of Thursday's meeting.

If you can't make the Thursday meeting but have got something to say, phone or write to us by then.



## FUTURE OF THE NEWSLETTER

There will be no Gay Liberation Newsletter until further notice.

You have received a complimentary copy of "Speaking Volumes", the monthly periodical of Dr Duncan Revolution Bookshop in Adelaide. The news supplement at the back contains a national round up of feminist and gay news. We urge you to subscribe by sending (at least!) \$2.50 to the Bookshop.

The Victorian section is edited by Gary Jaynes and Laurie Bebbington. Any material for publication should reach the editors by the end of the month. The addresses are: Gary Jaynes, C/- 259 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, 3065 (or the new postal address of Gay Lib when it is known)

Laurie Bebbington, C/- 97 Drummond St., Carlton, 3053

Gary Jaynes is interested in convening a Publications Collective for disseminating gay news and ideology in Victoria. If such a collective forms, then the Gay Liberation Newsletter may resume. In the meantime we hope you'll find an adequate coverage of the Victorian gay news in "Speaking Volumes".

# The H.E.L. Report

Just before the last State election, the Homosexual Electoral Lobby (a coalition of several gay groups in Victoria) sent a questionnaire to all the candidates asking them to state yes/no answers to 10 questions on homosexuality. These covered the rights of homosexuals under the law, in employment and housing, sex education in schools, and so on.

Only 24% of the candidates replied (even though they were each supplied with return addressed envelopes), and most of these were A.L.P. candidates.

Question 1 asked whether they'd vote to support legislation to bring homosexual conduct into equality with heterosexual conduct, and below is a break down by Party of the answers to this question. We also allotted each candidate a points score, e.g. bonus points if they would actually introduce homosexual rights legislation, as well as vote for it. Here are the results:

PARTY	NO. OF CANDIDATES	NO. WHO REPLIED	% WHO REPLIED	AVERAGE MEAN SCORE (MAX. 100)	NUMBER WHO SAID "YES" TO Q. 1 (SEE ABOVE)
A.L.P.	103	43	42	75	40/43
Liberals	103	7	7	41	3/7
National Party	28	2	7	67	2/2
D.L.P.	47	4	8	10	1/4
Aust. Party	3	3	100	87	3/3
Socialist Workers	2	2	100	97	2/2
Tenants Rights	2	2	100	85	2/2
Workers Party	4	3	75	43	2/3

### SOME POINTS ARISING FROM THE CANDIDATES ANSWERS

1. Judging from the inconsistency of replies to 2 questions, many didn't understand that any reform of the law which says homosexual conduct must be "IN PRIVATE" would STILL DISCRIMINATE AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS. No law says heterosexual conduct must be in private. At worst heterosexual conduct in public is controlled by the "offensive behaviour" regulations.
2. Those candidates who supported legislation to de-criminalize homosexual conduct, also supported legislation to protect homosexuals' rights in employment and housing.
3. The most favoured age of consent for sexual behaviour (regardless of hetero or homo) was 16. Several candidates remarked that any fixed age of consent was unsatisfactory, because "maturity varies greatly between individuals"; but none favoured abolition of age of consent.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

"I enclose for your information a copy of "Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics"...With reference, to homosexuality, the document points out that it is an intrinsically disordered act and has been described as a penalty for rejecting God. Under Pope Saint Pius V (1565-1571) homosexuals were punished by burning to death at the stake.

Yours truly, (sic.)"  
DLP CANDIDATE

" ..For the sake of normal society, abnormal relationships should be squashed...Expose a rotten apple to other apples and the rot spreads.. Cut out the rotten part...and you have an unwhole apple, yes, but one that will survive in this State with proper protection."

DLP CANDIDATE

"I don't believe it is necessary to answer in detail because I disagree totally with all you represent".

WORKERS PARTY CANDIDATE

"An independent candidate has publicly inferred that I am a homosexual - should be interesting to read his questionnaire and comments"

A.L.P. CANDIDATE

The Law Action Coalition - comprising people from Gay Liberation, Society Five, Metropolitan Community Church, Acceptance and The Salon - is working to bring homosexual conduct into equality under the law with heterosexual conduct, not because this in itself is an adequate reform (it's not), but as a necessary first step towards repeal of the anti-homosexual laws.

The Coalition welcomes your support, including financial, and would especially like to hear from any people who've experienced legal persecution in connection with their homosexuality. All information will be treated as confidential.

Contact: Society Five, Box 1801, G.P.O., Melbourne, ph. 489-2059.

or Gay Liberation, C/- 259 Brunswick St, Fitzroy (mail will be forwarded to new address when known).

### WOMEN'S BAR IN RICHMOND

A Women's Bar is now operating in the Barleycorn Hotel in Johnson St. Richmond (off Victoria St. between Church and Burnley Sts), on Saturday nights, 7.30 - 12.00 Cover charge of \$2 includes cost of supper, drinks are bar prices only. The all women band "Screaming Heap", will be performing there regularly.

We don't usually publicize commercial activities but have made an exception here because of the scarcity of women's meeting places. We'd be interested to hear what you think about this one.



**RITA RIGHT ON:**

## RADICAL POLITICS

*(The following is a partial transcription of a meeting I attended last week. I felt it was very important, so I am printing it instead of my usual column on advanced political theory.*

RR)

**CHAIR** — The general meeting of the Radical, Revolutionary anti-racist, anti-capitalist anti-imperialist, anti-discrimination, anti-smog Lesbian Feminists will come to order. As you recall, last week, we voted to set aside today's business in order to devote the whole meeting to a discussion of the topic, "How do we reach the masses?" ... The chair recognizes Susan Savedwoman.

**SUSAN SAVEDWOMAN** — Yes, I think one of the reasons that our group has dwindled to a handful is because of the name of our group. It turns a lot of new people off, and most don't even come at all. For example, a lot of bar people don't like the word "Lesbian". They prefer the word "gay". I propose we make a change.

**CHAIR** — That's a very good idea. All in favor of Susan's proposal raise your left hand ... The motion carries unanimously. Will the secretary note that the name of our group has been changed to the Radical, Revolutionary, Anti-racist, Anti-capitalist, Anti-imperialist Gay Feminists. The chair recognizes Frances Freedom.

**FRANCES FREEDOM** — I think a lot of our problem is that we keep ourselves apart from the masses. When we go to the bar, we all sit together. I think we should try to make contact with the "bar people".

**WANDA WOMANKIND** — We've tried it before, but they refuse to associate with us. They insist on dancing in couples even though we always try to pull them into circle dances, they won't listen to us when we tell them how stupid roles are, and when we start singing the Women's Army Song during sexist slow songs, they give us dirty looks.

**SUSAN SAVEDWOMAN** — We really must do a consciousness-raising on those people. I propose we do a guerrilla theatre zap action in there this weekend.

**WANDA WOMANKIND** — Yes. I think we should get lavender spray paint and go into the bathroom and paint "Everyone in this place is a sexist pig" and "Sisterhood is Powerful" on the walls.

**FRANCES FREEDOM** — I'll help.

**RITA RIGHT** — Me too.

**CHAIR** — Good. Wanda will take responsibility for this action aimed at bringing about communication with bar people. Are there any more suggestions for the group in its outreach to the masses? ... The chair recognized Nancy Nottaslave.

**NANCY NOTTASLAVE** — Yes. I think our problem is that we ignore new people who come to this meeting. Several new women a week show up, none of us speaks to them, so they never come back. I see two new women sitting over in the corner who haven't said anything at all this evening. I'd like to hear from them: why they're here and what they'd like to see this group do.



**NEW PERSON** — My name's Nicki and my old lady, Suzie, and I thought we'd come and see if you guys can help us out. I got fired yesterday from my job as foreman at a factory because they found out I'm gay, and I want to know what I can do to fight it.

**FRANCES FREEDOM** — You do have a problem, but more than you think. First off, calling your lover your "old lady" is very sexist and monogamous. Secondly, we are not "guys" we are women. And thirdly, you couldn't have been a foreMAN because you're a woman. Now what were you saying?



NICKI — What? Oh . . . I was saying I want someone to help me get my job back.

RITA RIGHT Don't you realize that gays will always be oppressed under capitalism? Unemployment is a necessary part of our economic system, and oppressed minorities get it the worst. If you really care about gays having jobs, you'll work for a Socialist Revolution.

NICKI — Look, I just want my job back.

SUSAN SAVEDWOMAN — How do you expect to fight for job freedom when you're not even free in your own head. You should join a consciousness-raising group to free yourself from sexism, roles, and your oppression as a woman.

WANDA WOMANKIND — And why would you want to be a part of a sexist, male-dominated factory? Factories were invented by men, eight-to-five jobs were invented by men, and hierarchies like having a foreMAN were invented by men. We've got to come up with entirely new, feminist, woman-identified, non-structures for us to work with,

NICKI — Look, I need a job to pay the rent NOW. If you don't want to help, we're splitting now.

FRANCES FREEDOM — Suzie — wait! Don't leave with Nicki. Don't you realize she oppresses you?

CHAIR — Order please! Let them leave. They obviously have no consciousness. Can we get back to the topic we were on before these people interrupted? Now who has some other ideas on how we can reach out to the masses?

Reprinted from "The Lesbian Tide", April, '73

NEWS FROM SOCIETY FIVE

- Thursday Nights for Classical Music

Society 5 invites people interested in classical music to "listening evenings" at the Clubrooms (270 Lonsdale St.) on Thursdays. Bring your own records if you like, the equipment is very good. Admission \$1 for non-members, members free.

- B.Y.O. Licence for 2 Nights

Society Five has been granted a B.Y.O. liquor licence for Friday (8 p.m. - 2 a.m.) and Sat. (8 - 12). The licence permits any person over 18 to drink alcohol in the Clubrooms in the stipulated hours. Open to members and non-members.

WRONG DATE FOR THE "EDUCATION" SEMINAR

The last newsheet publicized an incorrect date for the "HOMOSEXUALS IN EDUCATION" Seminar. It is now on the weekend of 26th and 27th June, at Melbourne Uni.

Planning meetings are open to all gay people working in the Education System (as student, teacher, admin. etc.) The next is on Tuesday, 27th May, at A.U.S., 97 Drummond St., Carlton.

Phone Peter O'Connor or Judy Munro for further info. on 347-7433.

GAY DANCE SATURDAY WEEK

Melbourne University Gay Society is running a Dance on Saturday, 8th May in the Trophy Hall (upstairs in the Beaurepaire Centre, Melbourne Uni.), 8-12. "Millionaires" will be playing.

MAY DAY MARCH

If you're interested in being part of a Gay Lib contingent at the March next Sunday, ring the Centre next Thurs., 41-4926, and ask for Helen or Gary.

RALLY TO "SAVE" THE TERTIARY LIVING ALLOWANCE

There's a strong chance that the Fraser regime is about to slash the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme.

Apparently Sen. Guilfoyle, as Shadow Min. for Education in Dec. 1975, purported as actual policy the abolition of T.E.A.S., to be replaced by a scheme of loans made by the University to be repaid in 3 years!

The Minister for Education, Sen. Garrick, refused to comment on the future of T.E.A.S., but on 29th April the Liberals meet in Canberra to plan their Education budget.

A small group of La Trobe students is desperately trying to alert the student populations on all tertiary campuses of the immanence of the slash. A mass rally is scheduled for Friday, at a time to be determined, in the City Square. Details can be got from the Contact Office at La Trobe Uni., 478-3122.