

gay liberation newsletter



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A number of people from Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney have got together to compile a book about Homosexuality and Gay Liberation in Australia. Penguin are interested in publishing it at this stage. The format of the book at the moment involves the following sections:

- I. History and origins of the political lesbian and homosexual movements,
- II. The ways we are oppressed (institutionally and socially), including particular examples,
- III. The types of sub-cultures and life-styles we have evolved as victims of oppression,
- IV. Gay Liberation activities and theories in Australia.

Anyone interested in the book is invited to contribute:

- (1) articles on any parts of the above areas (up to 3000 words)
- (2) any information that seems relevant - written or by word of mouth, no matter how trivial. This information can remain anonymous if you prefer. Please contact any of people below for this purpose.

So that we can begin to put the book together, we need to know whether you are interested in being involved in writing anything or contributing any information by the end of September.

Ingay love and liberation

on behalf of the Book Collective

Barbara Creed
252 Rae Street,
North Fitzroy.
Victoria.
Ph: 4897830

John Lee
Box A 76,
Sydney South,
New South Wales.
Ph: 512654

Jill Matthews
35 Carter Street,
Thorngate,
SA. 5082
Ph: 446260

Gay Women's Group

The Gay Women's Group meets every Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., in the Women's Centre, 16 Little La Trobe Street. We have formed two women's consciousness-raising groups which meet at 8.00 p.m., on Sundays. One of these groups is closed, but the other is open to new members. Any woman who is interested in attending the open consciousness-raising group can get further information at one of the Tuesday meetings or by ringing the Women's Centre (347 1564).

Law Reform Group

The Law Reform Group is a new group which aims at securing the repeal of all anti-homosexual laws, and the provision of civil rights legislation for gays. Although many of the laws which must be repealed are directed only at male homosexuals, law reform is not exclusively a men's issue.

Gay Liberation is not a reformist organization, and we do not expect that law reform by itself will make much difference to the lives of gay people. But law reform should not be seen in isolation from our other aims. There are three reasons for working for it. Firstly, if we can make life easier for even one or two sisters or brothers, that is worth doing. Secondly, law reform is already on the agenda of Federal Parliament and we don't want another Act like the South Australian one, a meaningless gesture, we want an Act which reflects the needs and the views of gays. Thirdly, and most importantly, the law reform issue offers the opportunity to start a national debate about homosexuality, and we have everything to gain from this.

The law reform group has agreed on an initial list of concrete legal proposals. We will modify and add to these as we go along. We are going to duplicate the list together with the statistics of homosexual "offences" in Victoria and distribute this information to all Gay Liberation members.

Our campaign will concentrate on members of Parliament (State and Federal, Labor and Liberal), A.L.P., branches and trade unions. We are arranging an informal meeting where members of Parliament interested in law reform can hear the views of homosexuals. This will take place in September, possibly during Gay Pride week.

The next meeting of the Law Reform Group will be at 7.00 p.m., on Monday the 13th of August, in the Coffee Lounge of the Melbourne University Union Building (look for a group of people wearing Gay Liberation badges). Everyone is welcome to come along.

GAY PRIDE WEEK

September -

Sydney Gay Liberation proposed the idea to all homosexual groups in Australia to have a national Gay Pride week in the second week of September, Melbourne Gay Liberation agreed that this was a good idea - publicity about us to homosexuals who have never heard of Gay Liberation, publicity to straight making them more aware of homosexuality. We don't know if other states are planning to hold Gay Pride Week, apart from Sydney and us, but it would be great if it could be national.

At present Gay Pride week sounds fantastic this is what has been discussed.

- A week of activities ending with a demonstration of 500 people in the city on Friday night and a dance in the city afterwards.
- Fosters all over the city
- Leaflets - city square every lunchtime
 - schools
 - camp pubs
 - factories
- Action against the Christian Union and Outreach because of their anti-gay liberation.
- Sending two large, excellent articles on homosexuality (relevant to shrinks) by Rex Rohmer and Robin Linkler to 1,000 shrinks, social workers etc., in Melbourne.
- A gay poetry reading.

- A Gay Liberation meeting with the politicians in favour of homosexual law reform (to be arranged).
- A demand on the Students Union at Universities to support Gay Liberation.
- Similar demands on the Trade Union Movement and all radical groups.
- A festival of drag.

Sounds good but it will only work if we all participate, otherwise it will be Gay Embarrassment Week. Anyone interested in any of this, or with other suggestions, bring it up Mondays at the Contact Group, or at a Friday Meeting.

THE PRESS

Homosexuality is just the latest craze it seems, if one takes advice from the "Age" and the "Australian", since the last newsletter over 10 separate articles specifically on homosexuality have appeared in the press. Its rather amazing, and great to read them all at once. At last there is even something relevant to us in the hetero press.

JULY 10 AGE "HOMOSEXUALS MAKE VERY GOOD TEACHERS, and are probably a safer choice from the morals standpoint, a British psychiatrist claimed today. This was included in a booklet "Homosexuality" published by the British Medical Association. Few adult homosexuals are attracted sexually to young children, he writes, and even if they are they have so much to lose that they are more likely to exercise extra control over themselves - homosexuals can and do make particularly good teachers any way well have a special affinity with the young".

JULY 9 HERALD P. 3. "HOMOSEXUAL LAWS FILLED. Pamphlets calling for the repeal of discriminatory laws against homosexuals were today handed out to A.L.F., federal conference delegates.

People from circus camp, Queensland University called for a Royal Commission into all forms of discrimination against homosexuality and the removal of all discriminatory laws regarding homosexuality."

JULY 23 AUSTRALIAN "LIBERAL VOTES IN FAVOUR OF HOMOSEXUALITY. Queensland Circus Camp handed pamphlets to Queensland Liberal Party delegates at the State Conference calling for Party votes in favour of Homosexuality.

The Liberal Party passed a motion in favour of the removal of all discriminatory laws regarding homosexuality.

JULY 12 / GE "SURGERY TO ALTER THE BRAIN (psychosurgery) frequently used on homosexuals to change their sexuality (sick heb) has been declared unconstitutional when practised on convicts and mental patients in Michigan US. The action could set a precedent for every state. It was outlaw because a mental patient or a convict could be subjected to more official pressure than would a person at liberty to consent to such an operation, the judges said. The judges said, the psychosurgery was very risky and of uncertain value.2

JULY 14 AGE P. 3. large photo accompanied article - shortened here.
"MAN IS MARRIED AS A WOMAN.

Two men have been legally married in Whyalla, South Australia as Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hutchinson-Quinn. Wife Kim - formerly Kieth - has been using hormone drugs for 4 years and next month will see an Adelaide specialist for a sex change operation.

Husband Peter says he has been a homosexual since childhood. ...Now that we are making things public I expect some pressure will be put on me, (he works at the steelworks), but I can fight it. And if anyone gets nasty with kim they answer to me."

JULY ? AUSTRALIAN SERIES ON MORALITY

"Young people today aren't satisfied if they only turn out to be heterosexual"

WHAT CRIM?

JULY ? AGE ATTITUDES TO OUR LOVE ARE IGNORANT -LESBIANS.

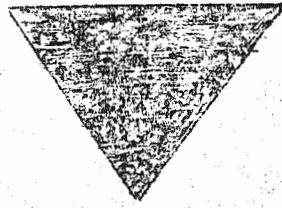
"Two lesbians who were married in June by a Congregationalist minister granted interviews to the press to support the minister, who has been criticized. They were not married legally by in a "covenant of love" ceremony by Rev. Schoenmarker in Perth.

They claimed most people were ignorant in their attitude to homosexuality."

JULY 12 AUSTRALIAN "WAAF Lesbians inquiry.

Mr. Barnard, Minister for Defence has ordered a full report on allegation that two women were forced to leave the W.R.A.A.F., after accusations of homosexuality. The woman alleged they were hounded, bullied and interrogated for long periods, and told to ask for a discharge from the W.R.A.A.F. None of the forces have a definite policy on homosexuality but many senior officials would not condone it under any circumstances, or giving that homosexual relationships in the force would lead to serious discipline problems and security risks."

gay
pride
week



sept 7-14

GAY PRIDE WEEK NEWS. NO. 1.

AUGUST 73.

WHY GAY PRIDE.

You, as a homosexual male or female, should be proud of your homosexuality - or if you are a bisexual you should be proud of the homosexual part of yourself. You should be as proud and as obvious as are heterosexuals about their heterosexuality.

But homosexuals are put down so much that most gays are not proud, but (in different degrees) ashamed and scared to let the straight world know of their homosexuality.

We are not even allowed to show affection to one another in public! Some homosexuals say we don't even need to show affection in public!

We have to give support to each other against the many anti-homosexual abuses and acts camp people receive every day. We have to ignore what straight society says about us - especially the doctors and psychiatrists - so much as our own individual experience goes, we know that their reference to us as sick etc. is totally untrue.

We have to show other homosexuals that we are happy to be homosexual, and that we won't change for the law, our parents, the church, the psychiatrists. We must give other homosexuals (within the camp scene and those who have never contacted another homosexual) the opportunity to enjoy their homosexuality - so crucial but something denied to many homosexuals.

ARE YOU PROUD TO BE GAY?

You say why should I be screaming about how I'm camp when heterosexuals don't scream about being straight. But they do scream about being straight the whole time - television, jokes, advertising, school, marriage, all applaud heterosexuality and put down homosexuality. Then you say why should I tell the people I work with, or my parents, or the butcher - I only need to tell my close friends. We believe that it is so important to remind everyone you are a homosexual - COMING OUT - for yourself so you won't be subjected to anti-homosexual acts against yourself, and so other homosexuals who haven't come-out or are not confident of their homosexuality can realize other people are homosexuals and that they enjoy it. Sexuality, whether heterosexuality or homosexuality can't be separated from our personality and our thoughts - our homosexuality doesn't only evidence itself when we are screwing but the whole time - we shouldn't try to restrict ourselves by restricting our homosexuality to certain 'safe' times.

GAY PRIDE WEEK.

Nationwide. Very Big. Involving more homosexuals in Australia than any other organized activity. Not restricted to one group of homosexuals. Involving all groups. It is also going to involve those heterosexuals who identify with the gay movement against the oppression of homosexuals - that's important as it is too easy to view all heterosexuals as our oppressors when these are people who are questioning and changing their attitudes towards us.

As a homosexual, you need to involve yourself and your friends in Gay Pride Week. We need to involve ourselves in thinking about our homosexuality and questioning the anti-gay attitudes straight society holds and which result in our fears, doubts, worries about being homosexual. We don't have fears, doubts, worries because homosexuality is wrong - IT'S NOT - we have worries because of the anti-homosexual attitudes this society has.

We also need to have lots of fun. Gay Pride Week is really a homosexual celebration - a public celebration which will reach homosexuals and heterosexuals.

It won't be a celebration the whole time - we can't ignore the disgusting actions taken against homosexuals every day. Being proud will also mean being angry at our oppressors and demanding that they change.

ACTIVITIES.

Friday 24th Aug.		Meeting, Graduate Lounge, Melb.Uni. Union. 2nd. Floor.
Friday 31st Aug.		Meeting to Co-Ordinate Gay Pride Week activities. Graduate Lounge, Melb.Uni.Union House, 2nd.Floor.
Friday 7th Sept.	9.00	Gay Pride Inaugural Dance. Melbournian Receptions, Block Arcade, City. \$1.50
Sunday 9th Sept.	1.00	Gay Picnic. Botanical Garden, meet at Kiosk.
Monday 10th.	8.00	Gay Poetry/Films. Guild Theatre.
Tuesday 11th.	8.00	Gay Parents Meeting. All Parents Welcome. Union House, Melb. Uni.
Wednesday 12th.		Gay Speak-Out. Public Meeting, venue and speakers to be announced.
Thursday 13th.		Schools Day, Leaflets, talks at High Schools.
Friday 14th.	5.00	Gay Pride Demonstration. City Square. Celebration Party afterwards, Melbourne Rec.

PLUS leaflets everywhere, in the city everyday,
Press coverage.
Spontaneous gay actions.
Surprises.

If you want our newsletter (free) or if you would like to contact us for any reason please write to us.

Authorised by: Melbourne Gay Liberation, Box 85, Union House,
Melbourne University, Parkville, 3052.