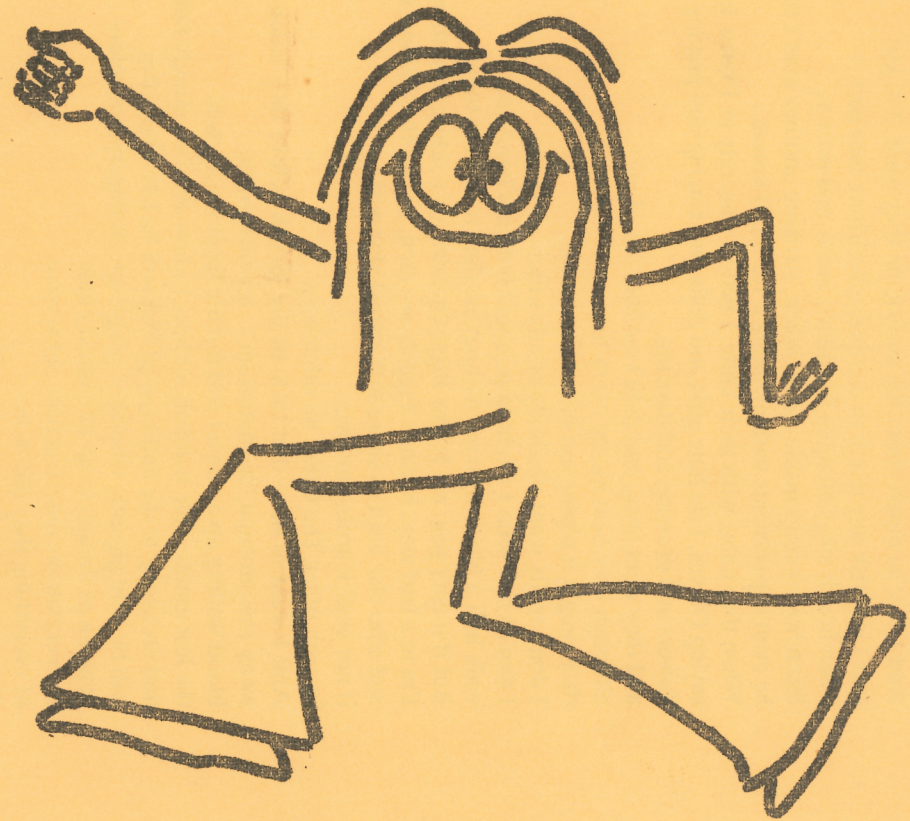


DEC/NOV. 73
No. 6.

11/1/74

MELBOURNE



"IT'S GONNA GETCHA
FOLKS"



Newspaper no 6

NEWS

3

"Gay american psychologists come out at Montreal meeting"
(condensed from "The Body Politic")

MONTREAL--For the first time in the 81 year history of the American Psychological Ass., lesbian and gay male psychologists organized to fight oppression from their fellow psychologists. The more than 150 psychologists present insisted that homosexuality be recognized as a viable alternative lifestyle rather than as a sickness. Among the demands were that the APA support the right of lesbian mothers to raise their children; that the APA work to eliminate all forms of discrimination against gay people, particularly in the areas of mental health services, education, and employment in the APA's own Central Office; and that homosexuality be removed as an official psychiatric diagnosis.

FERRI--After complaining about sexist radio programs on the local station, Sharon, Bev and Kate were given a half hour time slot for a women's liberation program.

MELBOURNE??--Good ol' Mel. has been suggested as the venue for the forthcoming National Gay Conference.

ADLAIDE--Jon Ruwoldt is establishing a Gay Liberation Bookservice (called "Dr Duncan Revolution Bookshop) on a co-operative, nonprofit basis. The undertakings of the shop are: 1) No pornography, blatantly sexist or ripoff material will be stocked.

2) While first consideration will be the economic survival of the service, next consideration will be the pockets of women and gay men in Australia.

3) The service will endeavor to maintain as much contact and cooperation with the women's and gay movements as possible, and will endeavor to act on their suggestions and advice.

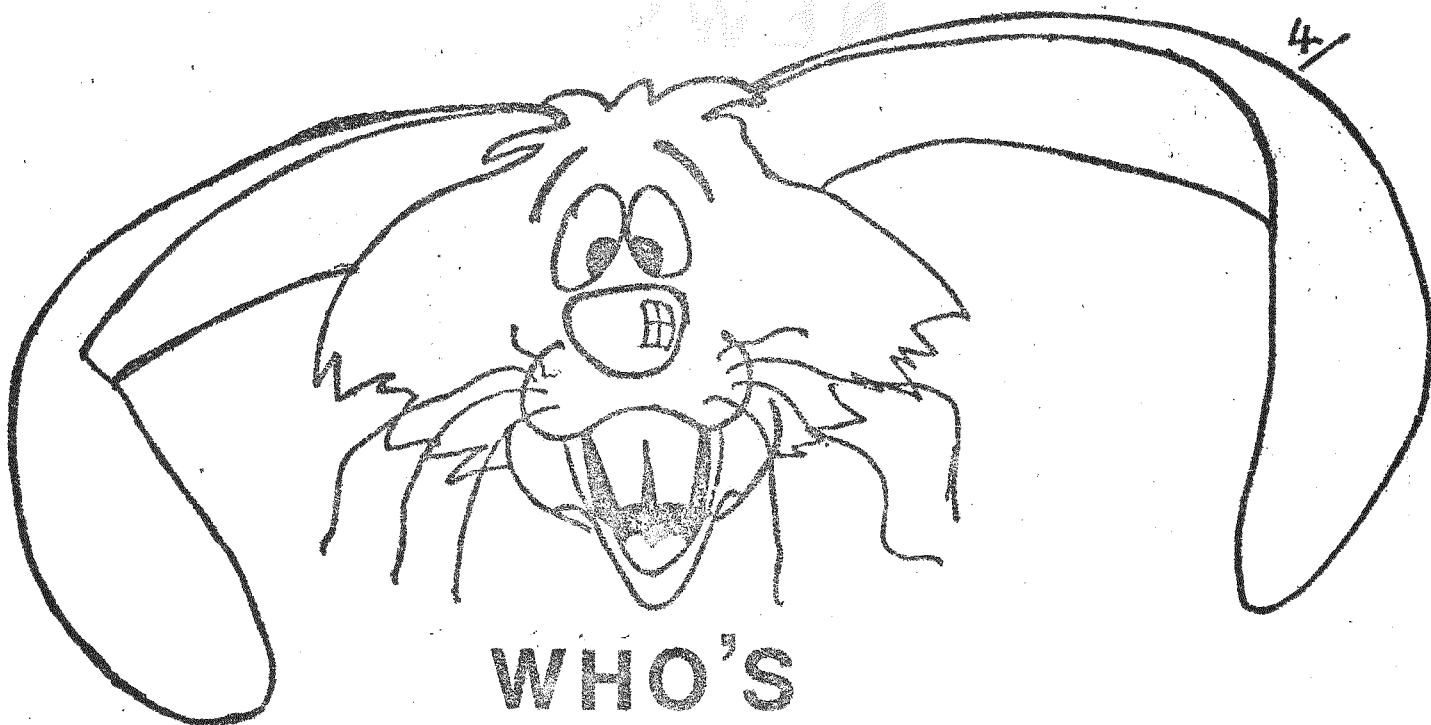
4) The service will incorporate material from the women's and gay movements in Australia and overseas.

The address is:

The Gay Liberation Bookservice,
DR. DUNCAN REVOLUTION BOOKSHOP,

Box 111, P.O. EASTWOODX,

S.A. 5063



WHO'S SICK??

FROM : THE REPORT ON HOMOSEXUALITY TO THE SYNOD OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF SYDNEY.


Recommendations-

The Homosexual and HIS problem

It is clear from the argument of this report that we are calling on homosexuals to cease from practising homosexual acts. Irrespective of how strong the urge to overt homosexuality may be we believe this decision must be taken. We further call on homosexuals to make any practical adjustments to their circumstances (i.e., in their job, their circle of friends, reading habits, or places where they frequent) that will help in implementing and maintaining this decision. We would also recommend that they seek the assistance of qualified Counsellors whose continuing support and therapeutic recommendations could prove invaluable.

..... ad nauseum

FROM : A MAY DAY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Revolution went that-a-way  comrade!

At a May Day committee meeting, some gay women raised the question of women and homosexuals in the may day march and the incident of this years breakaway may day march. After mumbling something about hippies and anarchists disrupting things, one of the vanguard ventured the opinion that he could not see what relevance some minority groups (Women????) had to THE MOVEMENT and why they should be represented at the may day march.

The East is really PINK!!!!

DILDOS

5

& DOCTORS

On Wednesday 10th October Sue and I fronted up at the Queen Vic. Hospital to talk with a group of 4th year Monash medical students who were studying the problems of women in this male-dominated, neurotic society. We were asked to speak as lesbians - so we thought! For 10 minutes we stood at the back of the lecture theatre waiting for acknowledgement. Talk about a conspiracy of silence. Suddenly it occurred to us that we might be in the wrong room, might have arrived on the wrong night, or might have been asked to talk as women's liberationists. We decided to throw out a few subtle hints. We raised the level of our conversation, paused significantly and said in loud voices - L E S B I A N S. No response. The students were still discussing whether or not they thought the course had been a success. 'LESBIANS', we yelled. A few heads turned. Eventually we interrupted (twice) with 'We have been asked here to speak as lesbians'. Eventually we were transferred to the front of the room. First question: 'I think I'm liberated as a male, but tell me, why do you bother to go to the trouble of finding a dildo when you could have a man?'

I won't bother to relate the other questions although some of them are 'beyond belief' - to coin a well-known phrase. (e.g. 'Why do you look attractive?' - presumably lesbians must be so 'ugly' they can't get a man so must find a woman-as-substitute.) What I have set out, however, is a copy of some of the statements in the medical student's handbook. They help explain the appalling ignorance amongst doctors on the topic of homosexuality, and sexuality in general.

SEXUAL DEVIATIONS : A PSYCHIATRIST'S COMMENTS William H. Orchard.

'Perhaps 70% of anglo-saxon women have problems of sexual frigidity in the sense that they do not regularly experience vaginal orgasm during sexual intercourse!.

(I wonder how the other 30% manage it.)

'Today there is more appreciation of the convincing brilliance of Freud's exposition and all comprehensive psychological theories of sexual abnormality today are centrally based on Freud's concepts. Most psychiatrists today would agree that, for instance, when a homosexual male sucks the penis of another male that part of the explanation must lie way back at the first year of life when sucking and so called oral activity is such a prominent source of pleasure. Behind the duo, man sucks man, is the unconscious equation, baby sucks mother. Here we see what on the face of it is a fantastic notion, namely, that penis equals breast!.

'The male homosexual is understood not as someone who primarily loves men but someone who is terrified of women. All perverted people are regarded as having this central fear of the genitals of the opposite sex'.

6

'The second group of perversions are also centrally based on fear and are the group where foreplay activity takes primary importance over genital union! (His italics)

(just consider the assumptions underlying that one)

'There are many forms of perversion but the big six are:

1. Homosexuality
2. Perverted Exhibitionism*
3. Voyeurism
4. Perverted sadomasochism*
5. Fetishism
6. Transvestism '

(* I wonder what the difference is between perverted and unperverted exhibitionism and sadomasochism)

' Most people can recognize the sadistic pleasure implicit in the behaviour of the frigid, rejecting woman, the offensive intrusiveness of the Peeping Tom, the lack of concern about the effects of his actions in the exhibitionist, the contempt of the active male homosexual when he buggers a man and symbolically turns him into a woman or a baby'.

(I don't think he likes women either)

'It can be imagined how painful it is to have the anus dilated; however, some passive homosexuals are so masochistic that they have a sexual orgasm concurrent with the pain of penetration'.

'Homosexuals, whose self-destructiveness is often fantastic, frequently describe thrills. Most of them know where they can meet another homosexual without danger to themselves but many still compulsively prefer to dart into public toilets and proposition a stranger ... there is even more relish if they know a police car is cruising in the area'.

(He must be kidding)

'The incidence of suicide is very high in homosexuals'.

(no doubt driven to it by their doctors)

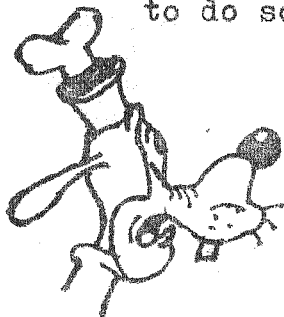
'Another feature of most sexual disturbance is that most people with sexual difficulties do not regard their problem as a curable disease. Most people do not have sufficient healthy guilt about their illness to seek professional help'.

(He lamented as he checked his falling bank balance)

(The above extracts were taken from an article by Orchard which he gave to The Australian Rationalist Society and which is published in their magazine of the same name, Vol.1. No.4.1070)

NB. Needless to say 'lesbianism' wasn't mentioned once in the article. I doubt if the omission was due to the fact that Orchard doesn't regard lesbians as perverted. I think we ought to do something about that man.

Barbara. (Good)



Free Speech for Gays

Threatened

BY BRETT TRENER

Since Monday October 29, when an article appeared in the Melbourne afternoon daily newspaper, The Herald, "revealing" that speakers from the gay liberation movement had been speaking by invitation at some Victorian high schools, a small campaign has developed among the press and some conservative politicians to create a scandal around the issue with a view to stopping such speakers being allowed to visit schools.

The Herald's "revelation" was hardly startling, for some years the inviting of outside speakers to schools has been at the discretion of the principals of the individual schools. It is hard to believe that the press and the Liberal politicians are unaware of this fact. It is more likely that the highlighting of the visits by gay speakers at this time is nothing more than an attempt to make some cheap political capital by appealing to the irrational prejudices against homosexuals which are unfortunately still widespread. Also, it could well be part of a campaign to close the schools to speakers expressing any point of view which is opposed to that of the present Government. Socialist speakers have often been invited to speak at schools and that probably irks the defenders of capitalism who see the schools as their means of training people to accept the status quo.

The campaign against the gay liberation speakers has been based in the main on crude prejudices. Obviously the capitalist politicians and the press are confident that anti-homosexual feeling will be sufficient for them to have their way and that they don't have to exert themselves too much with putting forward real arguments.

The Herald on Tuesday October 30, carried a long review on page two. Headed, Gay Talks Dangerous, it consists of the substance of an interview with the principal of Carey Baptist Grammar School, G. L. Crammer. Crammer says that boys could "go the wrong way" as a result of gay liberation speaking to them. (It seems that Crammer, like Queen Victoria, cannot even think that girls also might "go the wrong way").

The Melbourne daily The Age is also hard pressed to justify its stand against the gay liberation speakers. In an editorial on November 2 it states: "But Gay Lib is a cultist deviation with a tendency to seek recruits wherever it can find them, particularly among adolescents. Members of the cult have few qualifications as lecturers to students.

This is merely a more polite repetition of all of the old prejudices and slanders against homosexuals: that they prey on children etc. The Age's editorial writers know that such an approach is irrational so they softened theirs as much as possible, even to the extent of saying that they favor homosexual law reform, (obviously with the proviso that homosexuals are denied the right to put their ideas forward in schools and presumably the right to be teachers.)

Lectures planned by the Gay Activists Alliance in Adelaide have been attacked by a senior psychology lecturer, Flinders University, Dr John Court. His objection was similar to Crammer's. Impressionable adolescents could be swayed towards homosexuality as a result of these lectures.

Jon Ruwolt, speaking for the Gay Activists Alliance said that GAA was planning lectures similar to those in the eastern States. He said "We are definitely not out to convert anyone.

"Our idea is to get over the real taboo that exists among homosexuals and other students in our schools.

"We want young adults to see the other side of the coin — how the homosexual feels and lives in the society."

The South Australian Education Minister said that the department had granted autonomy to the schools and he had confidence in the schools to handle such matters. He agreed with the argument that "the proper place for students to learn about homosexuality was in carefully researched sex education classes which presented a balanced view by people trained in the profession of teaching."

The Australian on October 31 also reported on a statement by Martin Smith, gay liberation candidate in the coming NSW State election, that gay liberation members had lectured on homosexuality in 30 schools without opposition. The lectures were given at the invitation of either the headmaster or a senior teacher.

Smith said one of the key planks in his election platform would be equality in sex education courses with the acceptance of homosexuality as an equally valid form of sexual and emotional expression.

"We are not trying to tell the children homosexuals are any better or worse than heterosexuals. We make no moral judgements — we leave that to the children."

Why are the religious authorities, the press and the right-wing politicians so

Free Speech for Gays Threatened (contd.)

8

vocal in support of a stand for which they are incapable of producing any rational arguments? All three have a stake in maintaining the nuclear family as the predominant social unit. It is profitable for them and it ensures that the vast majority of the workers are so preoccupied with their struggle for the necessities of life that they have little opportunity to consider the real nature of the society in which they live. Part of this propping-up of the nuclear family includes the inculcation of the idea that heterosexuality within marriage is normal and that other forms of sexual relations are disgusting perversions.

The fact that some people live in misery and some are driven to suicide by the conflict between what they are and what they are taught that they should be, does not bother the capitalists and their servile

religious functionaries any more than does their murder of thousands of people in areas such as Vietnam in times when their rule is threatened. What they want is a stable society which provides the most favorable circumstances for maximizing profits.

So, when people begin to explain the real nature of capitalist society and its institutions and mores the capitalists attempt to silence them. This cannot be tolerated. People of any age should be free to discuss human sexuality, particularly in schools which should be striving to develop the creative potentialities and capacities for thought of the students who attend them. Those who want to close the schools to certain points of view only reveal their lack of confidence that the ideas which they support can withstand critical examination.

(Reprinted from "Direct Action" no.51, Nov. 8 1973)



Gay Liberation arrives at Berri

VFR SBI44 REP=
BERRI SA 20 4.13P

GAY LIBERATION CENTRE
259 BRUNSWICK ST
FITZROY VIC

GAYS INVADING SCHOOLS HEADLINE NEWS BERRI RIGHT ON
GAY LOVE AND POWER

SHARON

(259) 22

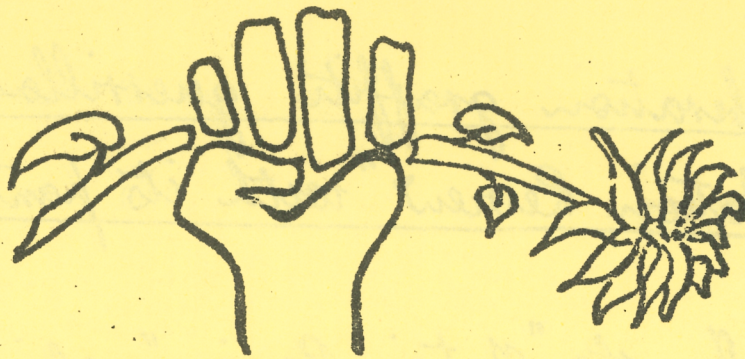


AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

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SPRAY CAN VS. SEXIST CANCER PEDDLERS

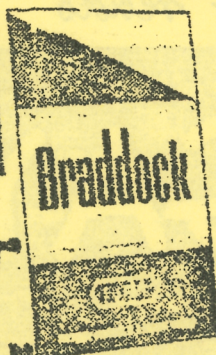
The recent mind- fuck (publicity) campaign pushing Braddock by saturating Melb. with garish billboard ads, in the worst macho style, was greeted with a spontaneous outburst of spray-painting. Almost all the ads in the city and the inner suburbs (and a lot of outer ones) were suitably culturally re-orientated. In their paranoia the ad men covered up the alterations of some city billboards only to have them resprayed even more vigorously, again and again.

It is not too hard to get the message from such male macho drivel - Light up a faggot! - Be a (chauvinist pig) man!

As a result the Braddock ads have almost all gone, but there are lots of others pushing the same crap. To rent a billboard costs a lot of money, but a spray can is very cheap and spraying sexist ads can be fun and educational - just don't get caught!

Braddock

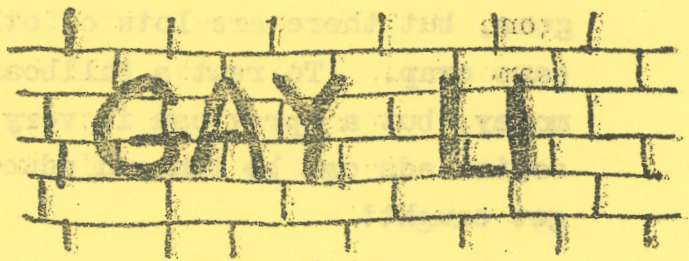
...not mild
BUT SEXIST.



Gay liberation graffiti guerrillas catch 19
the "Nation Review" with its pants down.

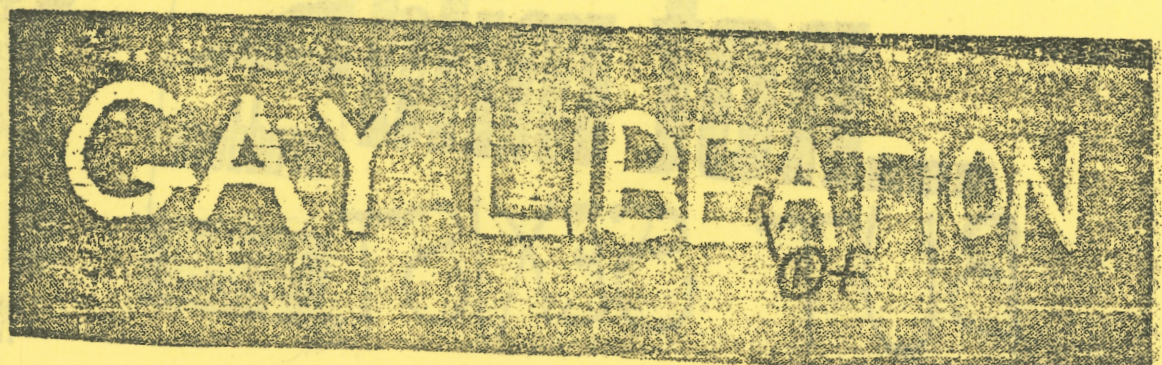
In the "Nation Review" which featured photographs of our picnic at the Botanical gardens in the centre fold, John Hepworth made some insulting comments about gay liberation wall slogans:

"It being gay pride week and all that sort of thing - as you may have noticed from our cover and centrespread - there's a fair bit of plugging for the homo way of life on the walls round town these days. Pretty dull stuff most of it. Things like POOFTA POWER and HOMO IS HAPPY. But there's one that might catch your attention, which is:



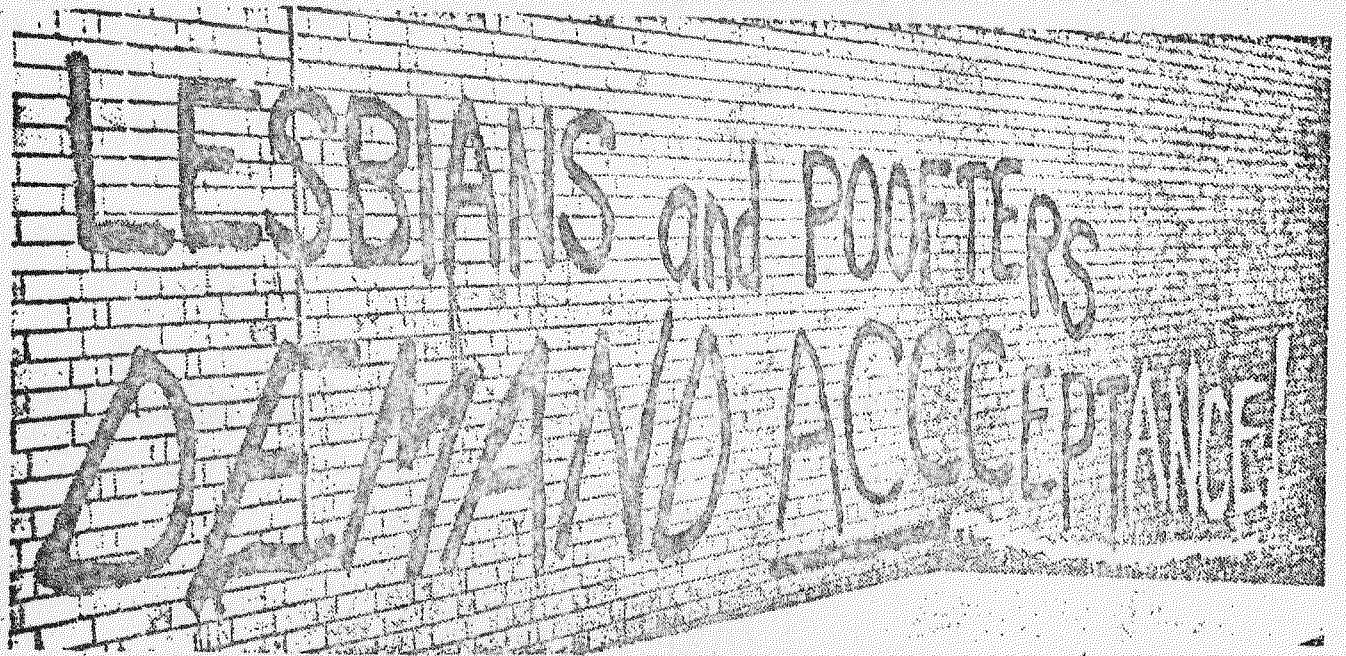
"It's just that you can't help wondering - what happened?"

Well, if Mr. Hepworth has had the energy to walk the quarter mile from his Rowlyn St. office to this wall in Roden St., he will see the sign now reads



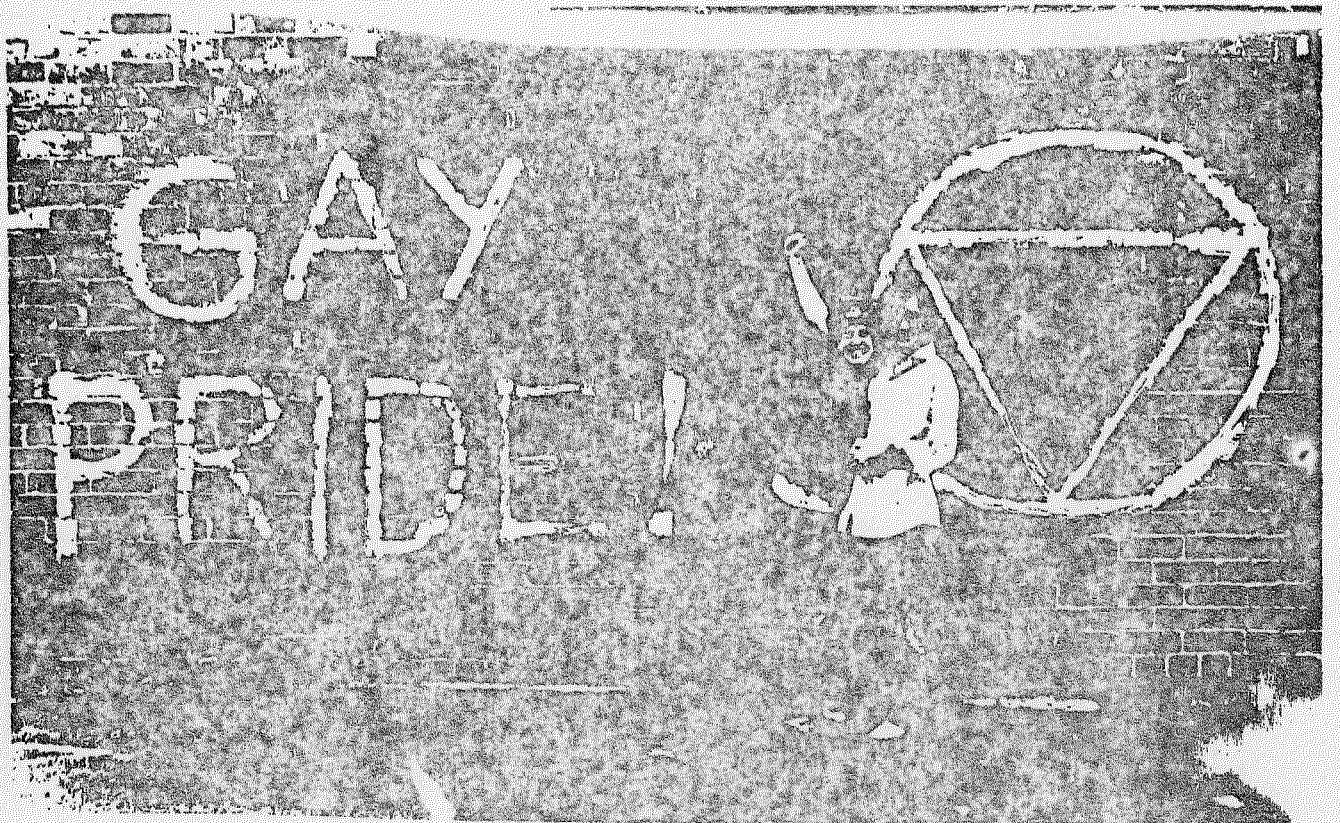
with the 'R' suitably added beneath.

Another sign which needs some modification ¹¹
is:



Apart from this graffiti guerrilla being too generous with her/his C's, the spelling on most paintups around is very good, considering how stressed you can feel when spraying your message on a wall.

But as for Mr. Herworth's claim that gay liberation graffiti is "pretty dull stuff most of it", the following pages of slogans photographed recently in inner Melbourne show just how biased and lazy this reporter from the "Nation Review" really is: -



12
Psychiatrists and doctors
oppress homosexuals.



GAY LIBERATION NOW
BAN EXAMS



CITY OF FITZROY
Elderly Citizens' Centre

POOFTE RS
ARE PROUD



SEMIST MALES MUST GO

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN!

MEN
Join gay
liberation!

CRICKET IS HOMOSEXUAL!

Every child should be
wanted. Support abortion
on demand!

Poofters
are proud!

EFFEMINISM
IS GOING TO CHANGE
YOUR LIFE!

SISTERHOOD IS POWER



LESBIANS ARE LOVELY

Kick the male habit
the patriarchy is inside you!



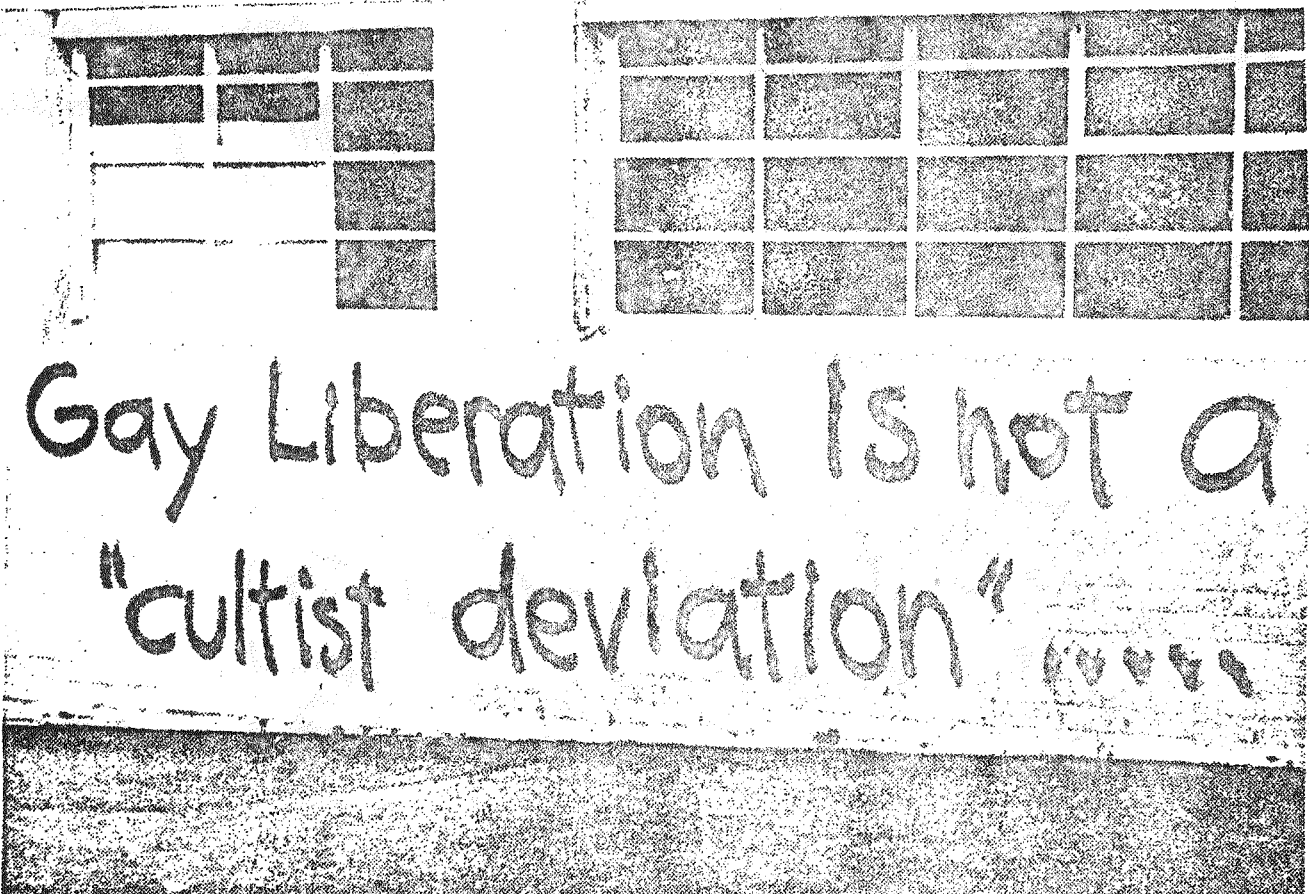
Pictured in the
page of the "Nation
Review" office after
an evening visit
by gay liberation
graffiti guerrillas
recently.

The ferret
is a fucker!

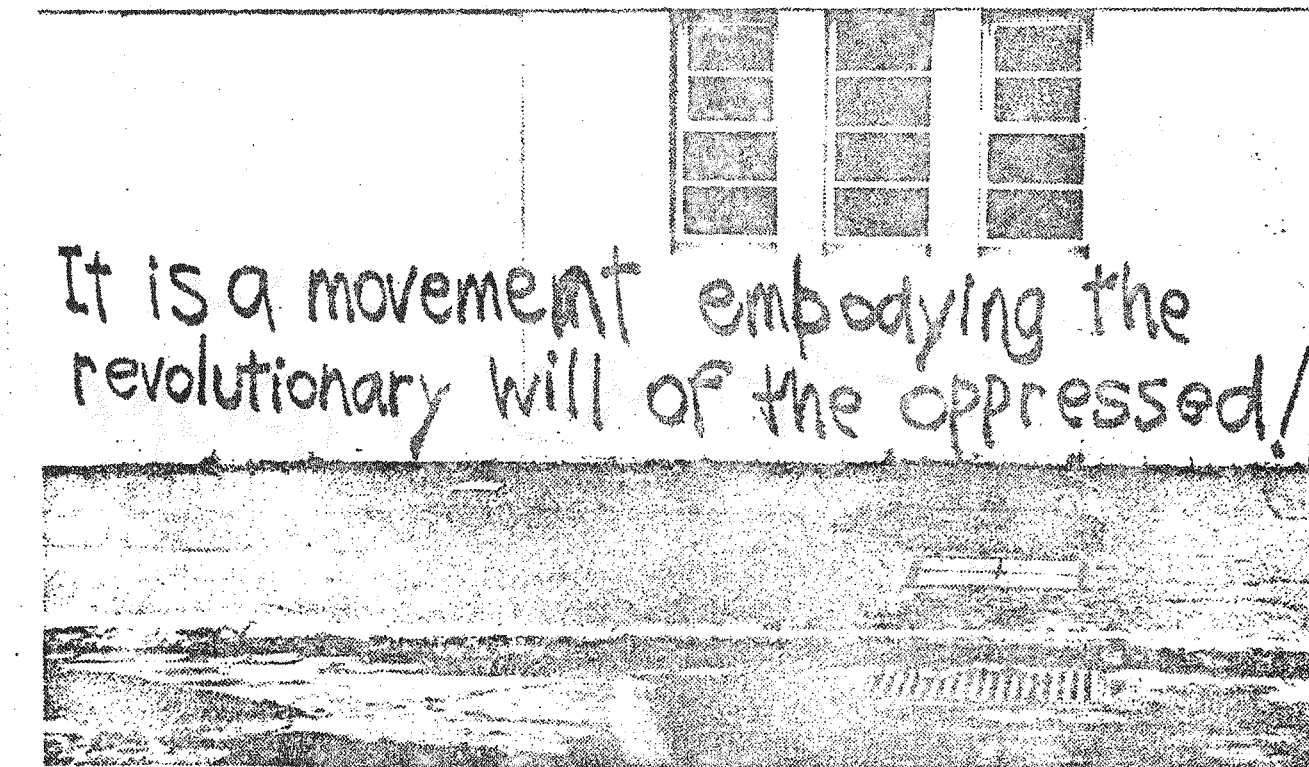
John Hepworth
is heterosexist
and ignorant!

"The Living Daylights"
- a capitalist ripoff!

"The Age" also came in for its just deserts with this slogan sprayed in Fences St. opposite the paper's editorial office: —



Gay Liberation is not a
"cultist deviation"



It is a movement embodying the
revolutionary will of the oppressed!

What is Sexism ?

by Dennis Altman

Not surprisingly for a movement concerned with sexuality, Gay Liberation has come to use the word sexism almost as a talisman, a word to be thrown at anyone whose views we don't like. As Gay Liberation has increasingly divided, and the all-male centre at Glebe Point Rd., led it to becoming virtually a male movement, it seems to me important for us to come to terms with what we really mean by our use of the word.

Sexism is most commonly used to mean the institutionalised subordination of women to men, and such is basic to much of the way our society is organised. Nor can gay men claim any exemption from the attitudes that are involved. Although it seems to me that much of the oppression of gayness is bound up with the oppression of women - for masculinity and femininity in our society are largely evaluated in heterosexual terms - many gay men fail to perceive this, and the women are right in claiming that we as gay males are often strongly sexist.

If this is to be overcome it will have to be overcome by men, just as we see fear of homosexuality as a problem not for us but for the dominant heterosexual. But even were it overcome I suspect that there is a fundamental difference between the meaning of homosexuality for women and for men in our society that will tend to make full cooperation difficult. In a male dominated society homosexuality is a way for women to assert themselves against the dominant male ethos; it becomes an act of self-assertion. For men homosexuality is however a partial abdication from the male privileges - sometimes compensated for by either a super-butch parade or by mocking women through traditional camp drag. (I might note that I also recognise the validity of radical drag, where what is not mocked are women but rather the sex role expectations of our society.)

Given the above gay women can relate to their straight sisters in a way that gay men cannot relate to other men - although at the same time we need to become aware of the number of ostensibly straight men who are opening themselves up to close emotional and sometimes physical relations with other men. In a society based on male supremacy/ female subordination, it seems to me impossible for one gay movement to avoid the clash; far better to openly admit it and for us gay men to probe our own sexism.

But sexism has come to be used in other ways amongst gay liberationists. Some men have extrapolated from the critique of the women's movement to attack as sexism all forms of sexual objectifications and the traditional gay world bars, beats etc. Thus Gay Lib is said to be sexist because men who come to Glebe Pt. Rd are judged first by their appearance,

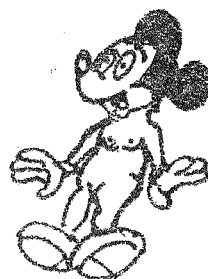
their fuckability. Sexual tensions are rarely discussed in our perennial debates about what's wrong with the movement; they are, however, a constant underlying factor.

Whether to perceive people as sex objects is always sexist (and by extension bad) seems to me a questionable proposition; it depends too much on circumstances. For those of us who have come out of the beat/bar/impersonal cock-sucking scene it becomes important to escape this, to be able to relate to people on other than a sexual (and especially a genitally sexual) level. For ~~others~~ others who come to Gay Lib with virtually no sexual experience the discovery of being appreciated as sex object might be liberating.

It seems to me mistaken to seek to deny that we do perceive people in sexual terms, but rather that a more attainable goal would be to expand our appreciation of the sexual potential in all others, so that we begin to break down the stereotyped view of what is sexually attractive. And perhaps we need to carry over a similar attitude to bars, beats and baths (?). For unless gay lib can offer an alternative to these - and as yet all we do provide are occasional dances, motivated mainly by a need for money - we are hardly in a position to attack them. For many people just becoming aware of their own sexuality going into a gay bar can be a liberating process, a first step towards self-acceptance, and it is a major weakness of the movement that we provide no better alternative for such persons.

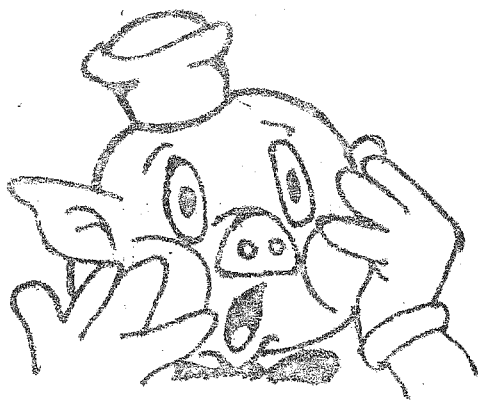
There is a strong case for recognising eroticism and most of us would benefit from being free to openly express sexual interest in others without fear of rejection. Too many people sit at a gay lib meeting as at a church, afraid to relate physically to each other. In the past derogatory comments have been made about gay lib becoming a "meat rack". True enough. There is an equal chance of it producing a new puritanism in which we feel inhibited in expressing affection and warmth.

Perhaps the real assumption that we need break down - one carried over from the old gay world - is that close relationships require fucking. At various times gay liberation has tended to impose a new conformity which demands an end to coupling- and above all to monogamy - and a preoccupation with "getting off" with as many people as possible. Now this can, for some, be a liberating process. The reverse may also be true. I have begun to perceive over the past few months that not getting off, the understanding that the erotic component of relationships need not necessarily lead to genital sex, can also be liberating. Not that I would want to impose this on others as a norm. Whatever term we use the creation of norms of behaviour that become equated with "higher" levels of consciousness is oppressive, and to this extent Sasha is right.



Any discussion of sexism as part of the internal workings of gay lib need start with an exploration of the sensual and erotic dimensions of the way we inter-relate, and the possibilities of expanding our abilities to relate to more people in diverse ways. I was struck by a comment in the English journal Gay Marxist that "we go to GLF because we are lonely." Whatever happens to Gay Liberation in the future it is worth bearing in mind that this is what brings people to it originally.

from gay lib news, GLF Sydney



wot! me sexist ?

Rebecca West on women in America: "Women have such a bad time these that they naturally feel bitterness. Thanks to Freud the whole of the United States is covered with millions of grown men grizzling about the way they were treated by their mothers."
(Time Magazine)



GAY LIBERATION NEWSLETTERS

1) MELBOURNE GAY LIBERATION NEWSLETTER - monthly - free - send name and address to M.G.L.F., GPO, BOX NAME: MELBOURNE.

2) ADELAIDE GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER - "BOILED SWEETS", monthly - subs. \$2 pa. - Send name and address to P.O. BOX 111, EASTWOOD, S.A., 5063. NAME:

3) SYDNEY GAY LIBERATION FRONT NEWSLETTER - monthly - subs. \$2 pa. Send name and address to S.G.L.F., P.O. BOX 176, SYDNEY SOUTH, SYDNEY, NSW. NAME:

ADDRESS:

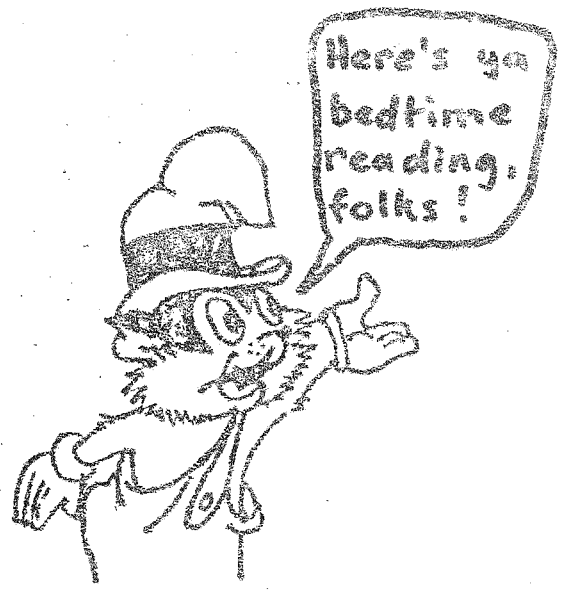
Vashti's Voice A journal of women's liberation

SUBSCRIPTION.

VASHTI'S VOICE.
P.O. BOX 132.
CARLTON, 3053.

Name.....
Address.....

PLEASE SEND ME 5 COPIES OF VASHTI'S VOICE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS. ENCLOSED IS \$1.00.



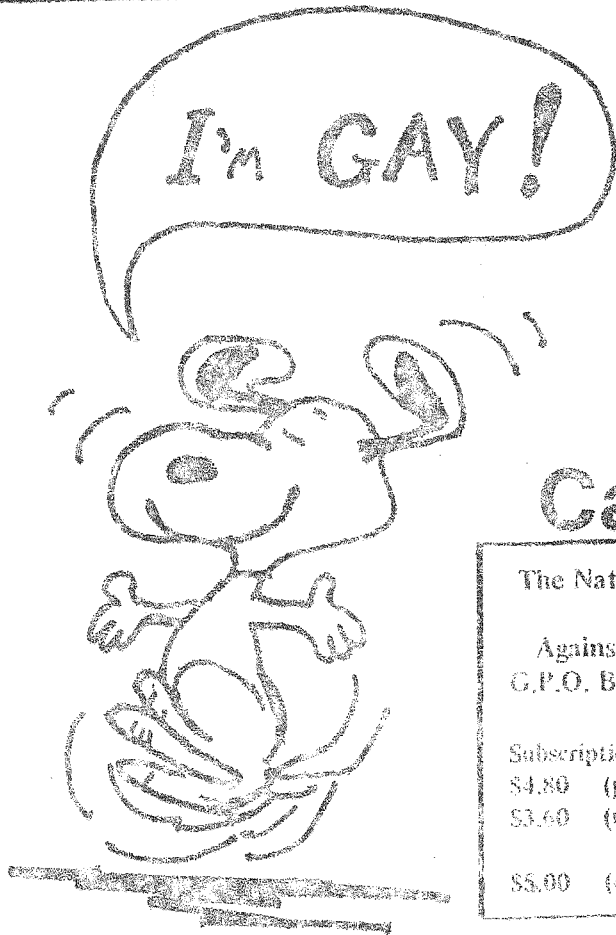
24

RADICAL LESBIAN PUBLICATIONS (MELBOURNE)
Melbourne Feminist Collection 1.

Monster: poems by feminist Robin Morgan.

Both publications 75¢ ea. Available from the
Womens Centre or from 27 Nicholson st. Carlton.

Society 5
wishes us all
a Merry Xmas
and God Bless!



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Campaign
Against Moral Persecution
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refractory girl

a women's studies journal -

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STOP PRESS

A National gay liberation conference?

Words 55	Please give full address to ensure delivery	AUSTRALIAN POST TELEGRAM
Charge \$2-35	TO SYDNEY GAY LIBERATION	
Time 9:30 P.M.	33a GLEBE POINT ROAD	
Wed. 11-12-73	GLEBE	STATE N.S.W. (not chargeable)
By wed morning		

CONFUSION REIGNS ^{HERE} REGARDING CONFERENCE DISQUIET OVER ELITIST ORGANISATION MALE ORIENTATION OF TOPICS VENUE DURATION COST BUT GENERALLY ACCEPTED CONFERENCE WOULD PROCEED KARL KRAUTSCHNEIDER REPORTS PEOPLE IN ADELAIDE PREFER MELBOURNE VENUE ALSO JOHN LEE RETURNING SYDNEY TO CANCEL CONFERENCE WHAT IS HAPPENING PLEASE

NOT FOR TRANSMISSION ADVISE IMMEDIATELY RAY BREARLEY
Sender's Signature *Ray Brearley* Telephone No.
and Address 259 BRUNSWICK ST. FITZROY VIC

Over the past week 2 telegrams were sent and 3 long-distance calls were made to try to ascertain the current stage of development in the organisation of the National Gay Liberation conference in Canberra, and also to resolve conflicting stories as to whether the conference would go on as planned.

(6 P.M. Monday Dec. 17)

At the time of writing, no replies or definite information have been forthcoming from people in Sydney. The only conclusion we can make is that the original information about the conference is doubtful:

" A NATIONAL GAY CONFERENCE
JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 4
GARRAN HALL, CANBERRA
\$5-75 A DAY INCLUDING MEALS;
SUBSIDIES TO BE WORKED OUT.....
PAPERS/DISCUSSION, WORKSHOPS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES "

(Sydney gay lib News, December 1973)