

The Editors

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?.....

A few of the homosexuals who have written to us asking for details of CAMP INC have written back and said they do not want to join because they could see NOTHING IN IT FOR THEM. This attitude is difficult to understand and disheartening when encountered.

Have they not stopped to wonder why a homosexual, talking about homosexuality, attracted so much publicity?

Why is it so unique in Australia for a person to stand up and publicly declare he is a homosexual? Why is it so newsworthy? Why is it necessary for those who claim there is nothing in it for them to send us letters without a return address or to insist that if we contact them we do it in a plain, sealed envelope?

The answer is simple. Homosexuality is not tolerated in our society. A homosexual, to exist in this society, must in most dealings with the wider world pretend to be heterosexual.

The overall aim of CAMP INC is to bring about a situation where homosexuals can enjoy good jobs and security in those jobs, equal treatment under the law, and the right to serve our country without fear of exposure and contempt.

Will those who claim there is NOTHING IN IT FOR THEM, have us believe that they already enjoy these rights? Their secretive actions surely give the lie to this. Surely if such people bothered to look past the end of their noses, or that equally prominent protrusion on the lower half of their anatomy, they would realise that there is a great deal in it for them.

Homosexuals deserve to live as well as other Australians with allegedly more conventional sex lives. It is time we went after these things.

W(H)ITHER CAMP INC?

The success of CAMP INC will depend on your enthusiasm as a member. We invite you to participate actively in its development.

How would you answer the following questions?.....

Along what lines should CAMP INC develop?

What activities should be given priority?

What official stand should be taken on various issues?

What social activities should be planned?

What should be done for members living in isolated areas?

What can be done about the law?

What problems do you expect CAMP INC to encounter?

Naturally we gave considerable thought to these questions before we launched CAMP INC. Here are our ideas.....

We see CAMP INC as being Australia wide with CAMP INC providing the communication link between all members. In every major city we intend to establish a branch of CAMP INC. In the smaller towns, where a branch would be impracticable, we hope to encourage, at least, regular social gatherings.

The establishment of these branches (which will mean the hiring of club rooms) and the social gatherings in the smaller towns will help to alleviate the desperate sense of isolation that many of our members have voiced.

When it is financially feasible to hire these club rooms they could be staffed by members who are doing free lance work or have plenty of free time. They

should develop into places where members can drop in at any time for a relaxed chat, a cup of coffee or, licensing laws permitting a drink. If they have problems the club rooms could be the place to talk them out. Those with more serious problems could be referred to sympathetic psychiatrists, churchmen, lawyers and doctors.

The club rooms could house an information centre; a kind of clearing house for exchange discussion, legislation, court decisions, reports and research in the field. An integral part of this would be a special library consisting of books, clippings, tapes, papers, and films. This library and clearing house would provide information not only to our members but to the public at large. Indeed, an essential part of CAMP INC's activities must be to counter public ignorance about homosexuality. We have already made a modest start in this direction by speaking on request to various groups. But it is obvious that we need to build up a large pool of qualified speakers to talk on any topic related to homosexuality to church groups, schools, universities, clubs, hospital personnel, etc.

These objectives remain to be achieved. However, we do already have some services, apart from the magazine, which we hope members will make use of.

We have established a legal aid fund (to which donations are essential) so that as many police

prosecutions as possible can be challenged. This may convince the police that homosexuals are not "easy prey".

We offer members a mail order book service whereby they can have sent to them (under plain wrapper if required) any book that is reviewed in CAMP INK. We will also try to fulfill any orders for books that members may require, particularly those which are difficult to obtain.

A comprehensive bibliography is currently being compiled and will be available in the near future. Similarly, an Australia wide directory of gay bars etc, is being produced and will be available to members on request. This directory will, with the co-operation of members, be continually revised and kept up to date.

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As we stated initially, the success of CAMP INC depends on YOU.

You can help by among other things.....

Writing and telling us if you agree with our ideas.

If you disagree please tell us why and what you would have us do instead.

If you have had any difficulties with the law write and tell us about them.

If you have undergone psychiatric treatment we would be interested to know what form it took and what you feel you gained from it.

If you feel you have been discriminated against in any way because of being a homosexual, we want to know.

By relating your experiences to us you will not only help us in formulating policy but you may also help other members who find themselves in a similar situation. Needless to say membership files and all correspondence are treated in the strictest confidence. Your name will never be published or disclosed in any way unless you so wish.

Help to make CAMP INC a success by contributing letters, book reviews, cartoons, poems, and major feature articles. If you have artistic ability why not do a cover design or poster which could be sold to raise funds.

Send us any relevant press cuttings you happen to come across. We could pay a press cutting agency to do this for us but this would be very expensive.

Send in names and address of gay bars, etc, that you know of in your area and your opinion of them.

Talk your friends into joining CAMP INC.

Our chance of making CAMP INC a success lies in the fact that although we are all individuals we have one thing in common. We all appreciate the difficulty of being a homosexual man or woman in a intolerant society. We must channel this common element into a unified effort. If we can so unite we will change our society so that one's sexual and emotional preferences will be no more important than the colour of one's eyes. We will then be able to enjoy the rights to which we are entitled but now denied.

This will not be easy. It will take a long time.