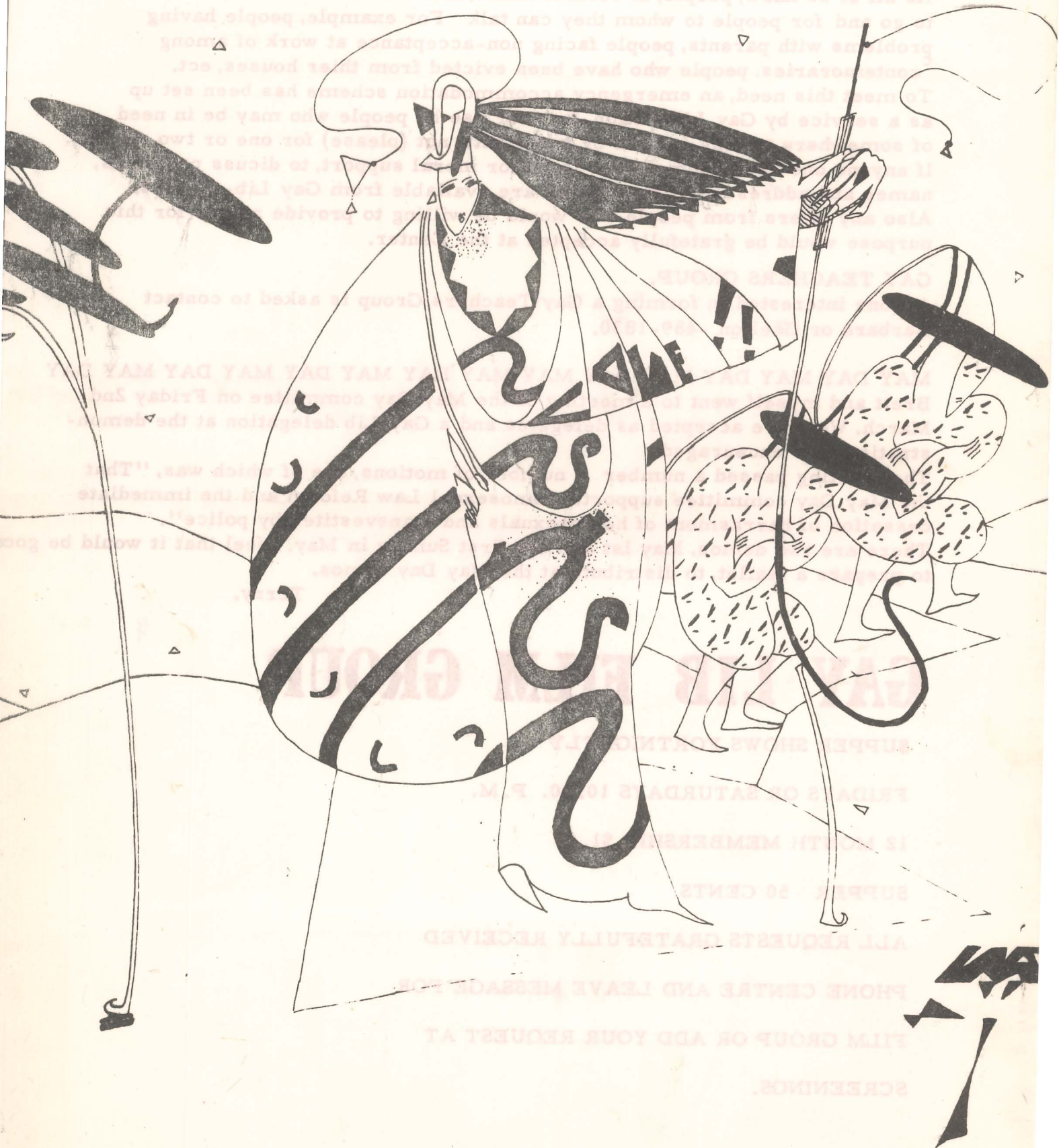


GAY LIBERATION NEWS LETTER

- MID MARCH '74.

(Detail from "The Courtesan Ruoma in the White of Night".)



GAY LIBERATION is NOW on the TELEPHONE.....41. 4926.

If you wish to join a CR group, need a crash pad, want information, or wish to talk to someone, the phone is attended between 8. 00p. m. and 11. 00p. m. every night, particularly Friday and Saturday nights, and many afternoons.

**CRASH PADS.**

As all of us know, people, at certain times, feel the need for somewhere to go and for people to whom they can talk. For example, people having problems with parents, people facing non-acceptance at work or among contemporaries, people who have been evicted from their houses, etc. To meet this need, an emergency accommodation scheme has been set up as a service by Gay Liberation. It is for use by people who may be in need of somewhere to stay for one or two nights, not (please) for one or two months. If anyone one needs somewhere to go for moral support, to discuss problems, names and addresses of crash pads are available from Gay Lib-41. 4926. Also any offers from people who would be willing to provide rooms for this purpose would be gratefully accepted at the Center.

**GAY TEACHERS GROUP.**

Anyone interested in forming a Gay Teachers Group is asked to contact Barbara or Gael on -489-1830.

MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY DAY  
Brett and myself went to a meeting of the May Day committee on Friday 2nd March. We were accepted as delegates and a Gay Lib delegation at the demonstration was encouraged.

The meeting passed a number a number of motions, one of which was, "That the May Day committee supports Homosexual Law Reform and the immediate cessation of harrasment of homosexuals and transvestites by police".

There are two demos, May 1st and the first Sunday in May. I feel that it would be good to prepare a leaflet, to distribute at the May Day demos.

Terry.

# GAY LIB FILM GROUP

SUPPER SHOWS FORTNIGHTLY

FRIDAYS OR SATURDAYS 10. 30. P. M.

12 MONTH MEMBERSHIP \$1. 00

SUPPER 50 CENTS

ALL REQUESTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

PHONE CENTRE AND LEAVE MESSAGE FOR

FILM GROUP OR ADD YOUR REQUEST AT

SCREENINGS.

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GAY LIBERATION RESOURCES CENTRE - read LIBRARY.

The basis for a Gay Lib LIBRARY has been formed with approximately 40 to 50 books, dealing with the changing consciousness of Homosexual people and/or novels by Women and Gay authors.

We do intend to extend this skeleton service to some comprehensiveness but to do so will appreciate any donations of the appropriate books and/or money. The Library will operate on a basis of trust as it is a necessary practicality, and as an alternative to the usual lack thereof in straight society.

People using the books will state their name, address, title of the book, and date of loan, in the Record Book provided for that purpose, similarly when the book is returned, the original entry is to be crossed out and dated. Loans will be for 3 weeks and renewable for a further 3 week period. Maybe, as the library is extended, especially with 2 or 3 copies of each book, this will be even more flexible. Magazines and photostats of articles from Medical, Religious and Political Journals will be available for Reference but not on loan. A donation of 10 cents per loan would be appreciated but not required from those of an impoverished state. This money will then be reused to add to the library.

Books generally available can be bought in Melbourne at a 25% discount, - others, imports, will be bought from the Doctor Duncan Revolution Bookshop (in Adelaide), which should be read as a move towards SOLIDARITY with out Sisters and Brothers, in Feminism and Gayness.

All suggestions and any assistance will of course be very welcome! - William.

- ♦♦ The A.B.C. Free-access Programmes for Minority Groups - that's US folks!! - wants to establish contact with said Minority Groups. If you're interested contact Barbara (489 1830) and Jocelyn (479 2695 - work/sometimes.).

RADICAL LESBIANS RADICALESBIAN RADICALESBIANRADICLESBIARADLES

MON. 18th March Radicalesbian PARTY at gaylib centre (women only)

MON. 25th March Action Meeting for radicalesbians at gaylib centre  
8pm - Topics - survey to gauge public opinion of lesbians etc.

MON. 1st April Theory meeting to discuss "WHAT IS A REAL LESBIAN"  
gaylib centre 8pm.

DANCE GAY DANCE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT DANCE ARE NOT FINALISED. KEEP WATCHING NATION REVIEW, MELBOURNE TIMES OR PHONE CENTRE.

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The POWER of LANGUAGE to OPPRESS or LIBERATE!

Our newly arrived at 'openness' in our homosexuality is closely related to our use of language & it's accompanying behaviour patterns. Many of us had/ have difficulty in handling the self-hatred & it's projections onto others, which the 'she', 'it', 'thing', language of the Closet implied.

If we are now aware of the destructive nature of that language the onus is on us to change our language so that it is non-exploitive in a non-sexist sense. The transition from a destructive 'Camp' language structure to a non-exploitive (of)feminist one will be long & traumatic. But that is no reason to avoid the issue or to avoid our sisters & brothers in the 'lows' that they may go thru.

A point on which Gay Lib & Woman's Lib is often criticised is that we're not very 'happy' or liberated... The point is that we are involved in guerrilla war with the sexism in ourselves & the outside world, -we're working towards the 'happiness' of a non-sexist existence, -we don't pretend to have succeeded, -YET!

If one accepts the exploitive nature of things as they are now, generally, one also tends to take certain things for granted. An example: X asks Y to sleep with X on a certain night -tonight. In a sexist framework that means -'Fuck?'. In an open, non-sexist situation it may simply mean warmth/ intimacy... The present sexist structures don't allow us to freely interpret so we don't benefit, as we could, from the insights such occasions afford. In the transition from exploitive to non-exploitive structures there can often be the confusion of confidence in one's interpretive 'powers'.

I can remember reading the Gay Lib Manifesto, in the Radical Therapy paper/back, in which a Gay brother said:- (..roughly) 'We must have as much patience with those of us reluctant to leave the Closet as we would afford ourselves'. Similarly, those of us reluctant to 'come out' could be more patient with us & any apparent 'unhappiness' or overly obvious enthusiasm.

None of us threaten ourselves or each other what we do threaten is the destructive sexist dynamics in ourselves & in each the other. Remember, Life is a learning experience & we must remember to be genuinely 'gentle' with each other in our vulnerable moments.

-William (Arnold).

N.B. 'SEXISM' is the exploitive stereo-typing of each other to the advantage of a straight/ male/ white dominated patriarchy. 'Racism' is a similar phenomena perverting the family of 'man'.

# MOVES TO LAW REFORM

In addition to amendments to the Crimes Act and the Summary Offences Act, a Victorian anti-discrimination bill or bill of rights which specifically prohibited discrimination against people because of their sex or sexual orientation would be a vital part of an overall strategy for change. WEL is already drafting such a bill to cover all aspects of discrimination against women. A wide-ranging bill could be drafted to cover discrimination due to age, race, ethnic grouping, physical or mental disability, and should ideally be drafted by a coalition of people from these oppressed groups.

There is a strong case for broad changes in the Crimes Act in regards to sexual offences. The International Women's Day demand "Abolition of state interference in personal relationships; all laws relating sexual behaviour between consenting persons to be abolished." is one approach. However, such wholesale changes are not likely to be acted on quickly by Hamer, if at all. He would probably refer to the Crimes Act to the new Law Reform Advisory Council. This would be equivalent to shelving the proposed changes for a couple of years (if not for good), as the Council has been asked to deal with capital punishment and streamlining of law procedures as its first priorities.

Jocelyn has already done a lot of work on the Crimes Act and Summary Offences Act. With legal advice she has drafted amendments which make the law apply to homosexuals in the same way as it does to heterosexuals. This could well be a realistic starting point for changing the law in Victoria.

To bring about even minor changes such as these is going to be an uphill battle. A private member's bill is almost certainly doomed to lie on the notice paper while the government carries on with what (to it) is more pressing business.

An alternative is to work through the parties. Though Holding and Hamer both supported the Canberra vote for Homosexual law reform, the regulation that was passed merely made homosexual acts between consenting adult males in private not subject to the law. Existing state ALP policy on homosexuality is half-hearted to say the least, and reflects a likely split in labour ranks on the issue: "A State Labour Government will initiate an enquiry into the operation of existing laws relating to homosexual activity."

An approach which seems to afford law reform most meaning is one which changes in the laws relating to homosexuality are not sought in isolation, but are part of an overall strategy for change, including enforcement by police and the courts, and community attitudes.

Up till recently, the only laws which applied to homosexual offences in Victoria were state laws, but the proposed use of the Commonwealth Industrial Court to hear cases under the Senator Murphy's Human Rights Bill could change this. It seems important that we should be using our influence in Canberra as well as Melbourne.

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Unfortunately, the Human Rights Bill does not contain any provision for protecting people from discrimination due to their sexual orientation. The section on women's rights merely states: "No discrimination against women in any public office or activity". Senator Murphy has asked for suggested improvements to the bill: "Not enough people are making constructive suggestions. I want specific comments, not vague derogatory generalizations." (The Age, 5-2-74). It seems opportune for us to decide how we would like the bill changed, and then to contact Murphy. Perhaps several of us could meet him in Canberra.

Last week Ken Howard and I talked to David Bornstein, Labor MLA for East Brunswick, about the prospects for homosexual law reform in Victoria. Mr Bornstein's insights into parliament confirmed what we had been thinking - that the outlook for change is not bright, given the conservatism of many of the members and that homosexual rights is not a strong vote-catching issue. However, the spate of recent changes in the law in the ACT and the other states, and indications of strong groundswell support of justice for homosexuals amongst small liberalists at this time, are good reasons for us to be actively campaigning for change here in Victoria.

Mr Bornstein suggested we should get resolutions passed at Liberal and ALP policy committees, Young Labor and Young Liberal conferences, and the state conferences of the parties. Also he suggested we should arrange to meet personally every member of the parliament and put our case to each one.

This probably represents sufficient lobbying and hard work to give three or four of us a collective nervous breakdown. Also, it raises the question of the merits of radical versus conventional politics and their effectiveness.

In one way, it would be easier to convince parliamentarians if there was unity between the groups representing homosexuals. Probably they would be most swayed by a liberal "Victorian Homosexual Law Reform Association" with reformist politics and a bourgeois style, complete with prominent straights lending their names to the cause.

On the other hand, much of the strength of gay liberation does not stem from the uncompromising nature of our politics, and the clarity or our radical perspective. Maybe it would be more productive and satisfying for us to leave the compromising to Society 5 and CAMP while we press for more radical demands. It's hard to know.

These few disjointed thoughts certainly don't represent a definitive analysis of the politics of law reform, or an adequate statement of what gay liberation could be doing in this area. I suppose that I am writing this in the hope that a group of us can get together, evolve an analysis and a plan of action, and start working for change

DOCTOR DUNCAN  
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