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National Gay Conference

A NATIONAL GAY CONFERENCE

JANUARY 25 to FEBRUARY 4

GARRAN HALL, CANBERRA

\$5.75 a day, including meals;
subsidies to be worked out.....

Now that structuralism, elitism, egoism and powerism have been confronted by the dissolution of Sydney Gay Liberation into spontaneously formed action groups, and sexism has been combatted by the women retiring to our feminary, why start the old "come together" record again? Or is the idea of a national conference just another innovation arising from the present atmosphere of inventiveness? In fact both questions miss the mark --- the conference is neither an attempt at reconciliation on a grand scale nor innovation for its own sake.

We know, more or less, what's happening here -- who can work with whom, where we agree and where we differ. But, with the exception of spasmodic individual contact, we know very little about the ideas, activities, hassles and plans of other gay groups throughout Australia. Essentially then, the conference is intended to remedy this deficiency by pooling information and creating avenues for communication. And the communication will not be Sydney Gay Liberation talking to Adelaide or Melbourne Gay Liberation, etc. but rather gay liberationists from all groups and places taking

stock of where they're at, where they're going, and how they're getting there. Moreover, by making personal contact with gays from other areas, consolidating action on specific issues or events, eg. Gay Pride Week, must necessarily be facilitated.

Another important aspect of the conference will be the generation of media interest both before and after as well as at the actual time in Canberra. In fighting social oppression, bringing ourselves before public attention is inevitably an effective tactic but by presenting ourselves in Canberra at the present juncture, we will be highlighting the fact that our demands go far beyond that of legal otoleration.

In terms of format, the business side of the conference will be split 50/50 roughly between papers/discussion and workshops. In an attempt to cover as broad a spectrum as possible in the papers we have devised the following categories: history and theory of gay liberation; personal oppression; external oppression and the homosexual in present and future society. For the purposes of time allocation at the conference written papers should reach the conference org-

anisers by the second week in January. If, however, you do feel inspired to present a paper, let us know as soon as possible so as to prevent duplication, overlapping etc..

The organisation of workshops, etc will occur at the conference itself as people feel, the need to get together about specific interests. Such interests could be of long-standing eg. producing newsletters, establishing service centres, or could arise from the discussion sessions themselves. Again, if you have any suggestions or motivation for conducting a

workshop ...

And last but not least, social activities. A party and a dance are on the agenda at present and other events can be organised on the spot, depending on the wishes of those there.*

You will be hearing more about the conference as the organisation progresses. In the meantime contact the Gay Liberation Front Centre, 33a G ebe Point Rd., Glebe for any further information.

--DARELLE PINCH