

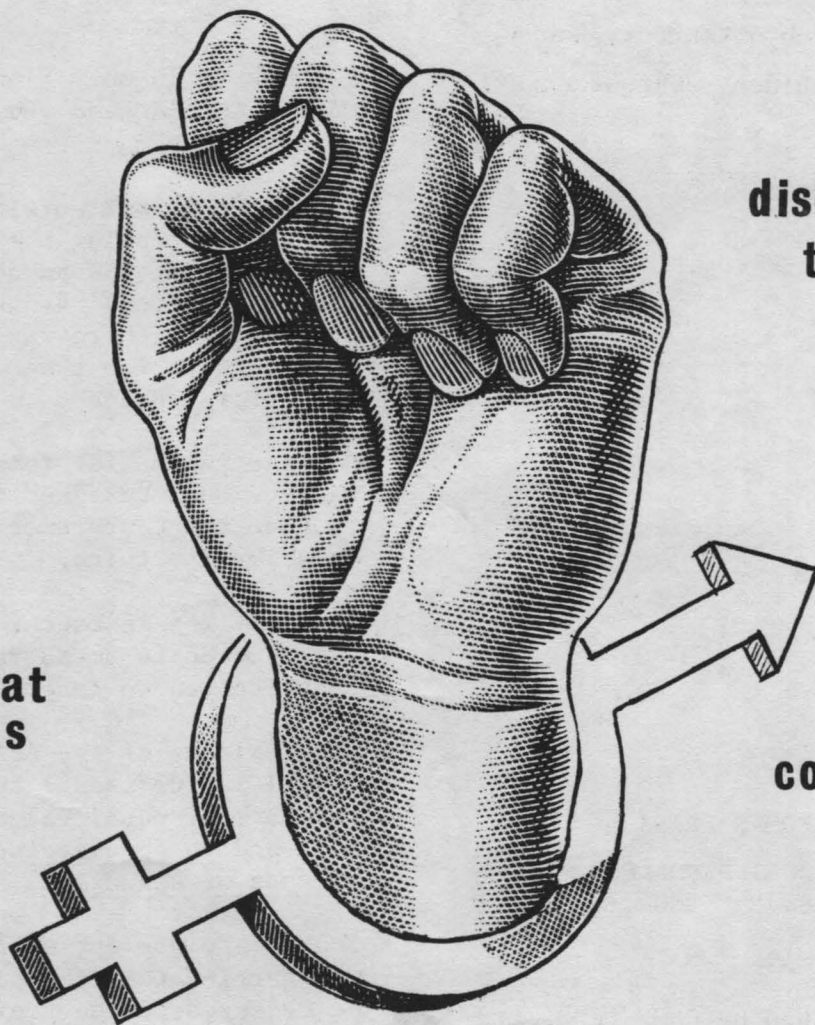
CAMP INK

psychiatry

discrimination
tribunal

the law that
nearly was

conferences



Number 38

September 1976

CAMP INK



LETTERS

Editorial Collective:

Pamela Griffith, Robyn Kennedy, Robyn
Plaister, Terry Goulden, John Greenway.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Joe Foster
John Greenway
Peter de Waal
Mike Clohesy
Gaby
Cecily Davis
Jennifer
Bernard Nicholl
Kym Skinner

I think it is only right as a member of
CAMP I should send you the following
report.

I spent the last working week (24th to
28.5.76) attending the Annual Conference
of the PSA of NSW as a delegate for the
Library Officers' Branch. The other
'public' gay there was Lance Gowland who
was delegate for the Plant Diseases Act
Inspectors' Branch.

Now the reason for this report - I think
Lance should be asked to submit one too -
is that the Conference touched on
homosexuality twice.

In the first instance, it came up when
Lance moved to amend rule 2 (i) of our
Constitution to read:

(The objects of the Association shall be,
by all lawful means) to secure equal pay
for work of equal value, irrespective of
sex, and to oppose discrimination on the
grounds of sexuality.

The debate was cut short by a motion which
was carried that the proposed amendment
be referred to the Registrar General. He
considered it the following morning and
ruled that since the amendment seems to
be introducing radically new matter into
the rules, it should be rejected for the
time being until proper thinking is done
on it.

I believe this decision would have been
much more harsh had there been a Liberal
Government in Macquarie Street.
Anyway, it shows up clearly the bank-
ruptcy of knowledge of homosexual people
enjoyed by heterosexuals and the legal
profession!

PRINTED BY : EVERYWOMAN PRESS

5 KNOX STREET, CHIPPENDALE.
Ph. 212-3828. 2008.

CAMP INK is published by CAMP Lobby Ltd
for CAMP NSW.

Address: GPO Box 5074
Sydney, 2001, NSW

Telephone: Phone-A-Friend
(02) 660-0061
Club Rooms
33A Glebe Point Road
Glebe.
(02) 660-0080.

In the second instance, the Conference touched on homosexuality when Lance formally moved his Branch's motion on notice that:

..That the definition of family under the Regulations be amended so that "family" means two or more persons who have lived together on a permanent and bona fide basis for two years or who are married, including children who may be part of these family structures.

Provision should be made in the Regulations that payment will only be made to the family of an officer or employee where the family is found to be dependent on the officer or employee. The PSA to make representations to the Attorney General for the setting up of a family register. ..

I seconded the motion. I spoke to the motion from a prepared text - a copy of which I've attached to this letter. The motion was rejected by a very small majority and the speeches for the motion were very well received in comparison with those against. It must have been the silent and ignorant majority that voted against it.

There is the possibility that, with better preparation, we shall be more successful next year.

....Joe Foster

"Mr Chairman and Fellow Delegates,

I believe this to be one of the most important motions to come before the Conference. I refer to its central proposition that we need a new definition of what makes up a family.

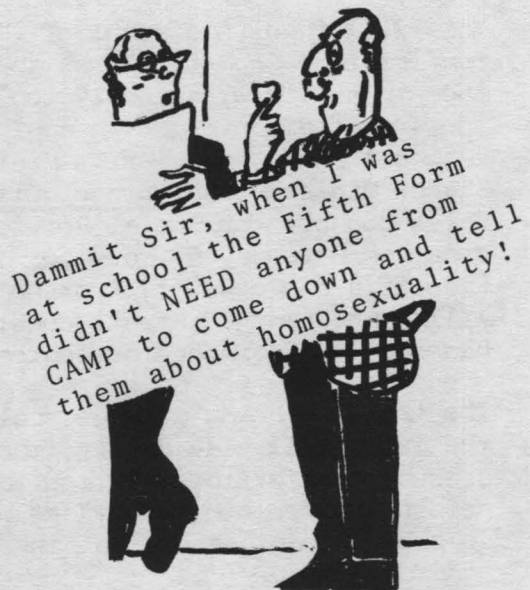
I think, for too long, the PSA tends to regard itself as some sort of nursery in which the mythical one man copulates (this is the clinical word ins't it?) with the virginal one woman to beget those freaky 2.5 children! Too often, the PSA regards itself as a plant for the assembling of the nuclear family. The PSA tends to forget that a large percentage of its membership consists of people who are not only single but who are likely to remain so. Many of those people regard the single life as more challenging for them, more creative for

them and, in these times, perhaps much more responsible. These people freely choose to remain single. Now, as it happens, many of these people are homosexual. So be careful of what you say. Let's not snigger and carry on as if homosexuality is just something that happens on TV or, at any rate, somewhere else. No, it happens here and now and it affects all of us.

I therefore strongly believe that this Conference should accept Motion 179 as a point well taken. For one thing, a new concept of the family will lighten the tax burden carried by single people of all ages for too long.

In any case, let's start thinking about these issues. Let's be prepared for the 21st Century. Well, let's not strain ourselves - let's be prepared for the 80's!

I think it's time the PSA did something exciting, something controversial. But, more importantly, it's time the PSA started looking after the rights of all, stress all, its members.



Tribunal on _____ 27-28 November 1976

Homosexuals and Discrimination

You perhaps will ask why a tribunal, why not a homosexual conference, why not an anti-discrimination seminar or workshop for that matter. Having attended a number of the above gatherings, I always went away with the feeling that very little active education of 'straight society' about our discrimination and oppression had taken place. That negative feeling of not having 'done' anything, became suddenly very positive in my mind. I also was inspired by the involvement of Jean-Paul Sartre, whom I admire, in the Vietnam atrocities tribunal held in Stockholm. This made me aware of the value of holding our own tribunal. By doing that we could draw attention to the discrimination and oppression suffered by homosexual people.

The New South Wales Government is being pressed to introduced anti-discrimination legislation which protects the rights of homosexual people. As part of our education programme around this topic, CAMP has decided to hold a "Tribunal on Homosexuals and Discrimination".

This will involve a panel of five tribunalists. So far we have confirmation from three who, because of CAMP's valuable work with them in the past, are only too willing to participate in the bringing forward of discrimination against homosexuals. They are Jim Cairns, MP and former Deputy Prime Minister; Senator Arthur Gietzelt, ALP Shadow Minister and Bridget Gilling, Vice-President of the New South Wales Council for Social Services. The tribunal will be hearing evidence on Saturday 27 November 1976 of instances of discrimination (specific and general) from homosexual people. On Sunday the tribunal will hand down judgement, consisting of a report and recommendations, based on the evidence presented.

The tribunal being a large scale education programme, we feel that the media will play a very important role. Therefore it should be present most of the time the taking of evidence goes on. However, people who feel that they are unable to give evidence while the media is present can demand that the 'court be cleared'.

The tribunal will take place at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium, University of New South Wales.

We hope that a very large number of people will attend the tribunal; this includes guests who are especially invited. Lists of people to be invited are at present being draw up. If you can think of some person that you feel would get some benefit out of the tribunal, then let us know.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE TRIBUNAL:

a) If you wish to give oral evidence before the tribunal about homosexual discrimination, however trivial you might think it is, or on behalf of someone else, then contact us straight away.

b) You may only wish to give written evidence of your homosexual discrimination case. If that is so, then contact us immediately. We can help you document your case.

If you like to do either (a) or (b) there will be no need to disclose your name or address in public. We guarantee complete confidentiality.

c) You may feel that you are not able to give oral evidence because of your shyness for example. We will have counsel assisting the tribunal, who has great experience in making people feel at ease.

d) You may only like to come and listern to the various discrimination cases that will be presented to the tribunal. Tell all your friends about the importance of the tribunal, because the outcome of it will put the New South Wales Government and for that matter the Australian Government on the right track.

e) Donate some funds towards the running of the tribunal. CAMP's treasurer will keep separate accounts for the tribunal so at any time you will be able to find out what the financial position is.

Peter de Waal
Actions Group
02 827 3063 AH

HOMOSEXUALS IN EDUCATION

REPORT ON :

National "HOMOSEXUALS IN EDUCATION" Seminar
June 26, and 27; Melbourne University.

This seminar was arranged by the homosexual conference collective in Melbourne and was funded by the Australian Union of Students. The aim of the Seminar was to explore and determine ways of combatting the anti-homosexual nature of the Australian education system.

Over 200 homosexuals attended the seminar. They came from all fields of education, high school and tertiary students, trainee teachers, teachers, librarians and academics.

The seminar was arranged well - the agenda gave everybody a chance to speak. There were open forums with a few papers being given at the beginning as a lead-in. This was followed by a speak out and then workshops on areas such as : -
 coming out in the education system,
 positive and negative effects,
 small campus/small town problems,
 why is the education system anti-homosexual,
 how we are forced to treat ourselves to survive, eg, 'camping it up', etc.

The workshops on Sunday were the most productive as they lead to resolutions and the forming of ideas on how to approach Teachers Unions, anti-discrimination boards, etc,

The following ideas came out of the workshop on "Coming out in the Education System".

The bad effects of coming out within the system are the obvious ones of loss of job which leads to both personal and economic hassles. Loss of job also jeopardises the gaining of employment elsewhere. Some people that have come out within the system "camp it up" and thus present only the stereotype view of a homosexual, which we are trying to eradicate. Other people that have come out have been sent to a school where the children are of the opposite sex or else sent to country areas.

The other effect of homosexuals coming out is that the other homosexuals within the institution feel threatened, thus withdrawing support and sometimes criticising homosexuality to throw suspicion away from them.

The good effects of coming out; no longer do you have the pressure to conform to heterosexuality, you can be more open, feel at ease and thus your personality would come through more. This leads to greater authenticity within the classroom which is better for the students. The workshop also realised that everyone plays roles within the classroom and perhaps we should be trying to eradicate any role playing. Students seem to know which teachers are homosexual and therefore if this fact is verified, it will eradicate some of the ridicule.

It was felt that if one teacher broke the ice it might encourage others to speak out and also give homosexual students someone to identify with in a heterosexist institution.

Following are some of the motions arising from the Seminar.

"That this Seminar recommends to the NSW TTA and Teachers Federation and equivalent bodies in other states, that a campaign be mounted as soon as possible against the use of medical examinations which discriminate against homosexual trainee teachers. And that this motion be communicated to the NSW TTA, NSW TF, equivalent bodies in other states, and the AUS Regional Education Collectives.

That this meeting recommend that:

- a) the Homosexual Conference Collective give consideration to act as a coordinating body of all gay organisations at state level;
- b) that similar collectives be set up in states where they do not yet exist; and
- c) that close liaison be maintained between all state collectives.

That a fund be established and administered by one of the gay groups with the help and co-operation of all gay groups and hopefully teachers' unions to provide financial assistance to those dismissed from jobs on grounds of sexuality and to help in subsequent campaigns for re-instatement and or court cases.

This conference totally rejects the myth that homosexual teachers are any more likely than heterosexual teachers to become sexually involved with students. We also reject the use of coercion and force in any area of teacher-student relationships. We assert the validity of sexuality of young people and non-exploitative relationships with people of any age. We call on teachers unions and education departments to defend homosexual teachers against discrimination, particularly against insinuations of corruption of young people.

That the National Seminar on Homosexuals in Education recommend that the Education Department of the AUS, in consultation with the AUS Homosexual Collective produce and circulate a kit outlining the processes involved in the organisation of:

- a) campus homosexual groups, and
- b) campus campaigns,

and for the information to be included on available resources, and how to organise seminars and conferences.

That this seminar on homosexuality in education demands of all governments that they legislate so that discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual preference be made illegal.

This national "Homosexuals in Education" seminar, demands the financial and political support of homosexual teachers and students by all Australian teachers' unions.

In particular we demand:

- a) support for any teacher, trainee teacher or student victimized on the grounds of their homosexuality,
- b) an end to the anti-homosexual bias of sex education programmes, school counselling practices, library and curriculum content,

c) freedom of speech and writing for homosexual teachers, trainee teachers and students,

d) recognition of de facto homosexual relationships for postings,

e) public disclosure of a teachers' homosexuality should not constitute a "misconduct".

f) homosexual 'offences' which have no heterosexual equivalent should not be punished by the Tribunal,

g) support for homosexual students against bullying and ostracism,

h) active attempts to eradicate ignorance about homosexuality and the presentation of homosexuality as a valid lifestyle to all students, homosexual or heterosexual.

That copies of all motions ratified by this conference be sent to relevant bodies (Education Departments, Universities, CAE's etc) with a request that note be taken of the call for the adoption of anti-discriminatory policy by all such bodies.

The following is a talk given by Gaby during the "Speak Out" at the "Homosexuals in Education" seminar.

When I first "came out" as a lesbian on television about four years ago, my life changed drastically. It changed in two ways. Firstly, I had made a political commitment to the issue of homosexuality which entailed not only being open about my lesbianism but also working out how I could work toward some form of attitudinal change toward us as homosexuals. One of the things I have been doing is talking with various groups in the community on homosexuality. The other way my life was changed was people's reactions to me as an open homosexual. My parents were most upset, especially about my openness - they were also very worried that I would pervert my young brother. A lot of heterosexual friends viewed my homosexuality purely sexually because when we sat together we would be looking at people and they would say: "would you give her one ?"... I stopped seeing them after a while. Some of my homosexual friends

felt that I was pressuring them to be open about their sexuality too.

At the time I felt very isolated and found the new lifestyle difficult to adjust to, but I thought I was coping quite well considering the circumstance. So I thought I was emotionally prepared to face groups of people to talk on homosexuality.

What I did not know was that although on the one hand I was emotionally strong enough to be open about my homosexuality, the negative experiences due to my openness rendered me vulnerable in other emotional spheres.

When I went out as a speaker on homosexuality I did not realise at first that people often expected a very masculine woman. And since I didn't fit that stereotype I was sometimes met with disbelief and they would ask me questions like: "have you slept with men? Did you like it? Why are you a lesbian?". Indirectly, what they were saying was that lesbians are butch dykes and anyone who does not fulfill that description is not a real lesbian.

This kind of response to me affected me in my private life. The dresses I owned stayed in the wardrobe or were thrown out. In public toilets I could not look in the mirror to see if my hair was in place because I was too afraid to appear to care about my appearance - that was being female in our society. I did everything possible to make me seem less "feminine". I was also affected as an educator. I became defensive and aggressive. Having pet answers to questions was one way:

Q: "What do lesbians do?"

A: "Anything from stamp collecting to truck driving."

This behaviour kept me at a distance from the group thus avoiding being vulnerable to personal interrogation about my identity.

One day however I had a look at myself. I saw a woman who was afraid of being labelled "female". I saw a female who hated being a woman. In avoiding what was regarded "female" clothing and behaviour patterns, I was running away from an illusion of woman and not giving myself freedom to find myself. Not only did I find that I disliked myself as a woman but also that I disliked other women.

This put me in a **dilemma** about being an educator on homosexuality - how could I expect anyone to accept me if I did not accept myself. So I listened to one of my own talks. Hearing myself say that it was a common myth that homosexuality is a gender confusion (ie that lesbians are men trapped in women's bodies) made me realise that I must have swallowed the myth myself. I must have felt that to maintain my homosexual identity I had to deny anything resembling a female identity. Realising this made me come to terms with the fact that **LESBIANS ARE WOMEN** and I began to feel comfortable in myself as a woman. This change in me affected me as an educator on homosexuality. I stopped reacting to how people were treating me and was relaxed enough to listen to what people were saying, so that it was possible for an exchange of ideas.



AND GOD CREATED WOMAN IN HER OWN IMAGE

I can give you a recent example where a man said he could accept his friends etc. as homosexuals BUT if his one year old son turned out to be homosexual he would be upset. Instead of jumping on him (like I used to) by saying that if he really accepted homosexuals then he would not be upset if his son was one, I chose to ask him a few questions. I asked him what else would upset him if his son chose to do it. He said that he would not want his son to work in a factory rather than going to a university - he listed a whole lot of things he did not want his child to be. We carried on the discussion talking about parent - child relationships. How parents often want to mould their children into what they want them to be. The man suddenly realised what he was really saying. He said that he would be disappointed if his child were a homosexual because he wanted his child to be heterosexual. He realised that as a parent he was trying to control another human being which he had no right to do.

What we did in that group was illustrate the connection between attitudes to homosexuality and attitudes to children. Understanding the connection between your attitudes to homosexuality and other issues is a valuable educative tool because people can then see homosexuality not as an isolated issue but one that is part of their own lives.

It interested me to see how a change in my personal life changed me in my political life; in other words, they became the same. I feel it has been only recently, in the last year or two, that I have come to terms with what the slogan means: "THE PERSONAL SHOULD BE THE POLITICAL". Yes, living up to your ideology. I feel that for years my politics were ahead of my personal. You do not realise it because words are much easier to say than they are to feel. It is also very difficult to talk about these things because you just do not know how many people have been through this to understand it.

Because in the early days there were very few of us who did come out publicly as homosexuals, we did not really know what was going to happen to us emotionally. On the one hand it is easier to cope with (say) parental rejection because we expected it and had a homosexual movement to support us. On the other hand we do not really

know what is going to happen to us emotionally. When we decide to live a political lifestyle being open about our homosexuality.

We did not really know how it was going to affect us in our daily lives, constantly being aware of our homosexuality and constantly telling people that THEY CANNOT PRESUME EVERYONE IS HETEROSEXUAL. All of us have been affected in our own way. Because the strain of living on the outside world was too great, some chose to hide their homosexuality in some spheres and not in others. Some chose to relate to the opposite sex. Some chose to live in homosexual ghettos and isolated themselves from the rest of the community.

Whichever way our open homosexuality has affected us, we must always remember that homosexuality is not only a personal issue but also a political one and that most people see homosexuality only as a personal issue. That is why when we face the world as an activist we risk being attacked and questioned, on a personal level. We also risk taking these attacks personally, ourselves.

- GABY.

.....A I R L I N E S.....

AREN'T THE ONLY ONES TO CATER

FOR UNDER - 25S.

young camp

Saturdays 2 pm 33A Glebe Point Road.

Ring 660 - 0061 for details.

National Homosexual Conference

The Second National Homosexual Conference was, for me, a stimulating and enjoyable weekend. I was reserved about becoming involved, originally, because of feedback from friends who attended the first Conference, and felt it to be ambivalent and indefinite in its approach toward the issue of sexism as the most relevant and basic problem facing us.

While this attitude was apparent in some of the people at this conference; I came to feel very assured by the feelings expressed by many of the people involved in the workshops and the plenary I attended.

Saturday was by far the most interesting day for me. The workshops I went to were all worthwhile and profitable for many of us. I could see individuals and small groups here and there who were obviously interested in their discussions. The exchange of experiences of people from widely different physical and social environments was a real educational experience for me and other friends.

The dance on Saturday night was by far one of the best I have ever been to, both in atmosphere and numbers.

Sunday was, perhaps, a profitable exchange. I didn't feel the best to start with, and also I didn't like the structure of the plenary session. It is too hard for individuals to communicate in-depth, and there isn't enough time for issues to be covered in any real detail. Also, the session was on Sexism; a very profound and complex issue to approach at any time; and I came away thinking that while the confrontation between differing opinions was worthwhile, there was not sufficient dialogue to make the exchange constructive.

In future I believe much more time should be given to the issues of sexism and also ageism and the format of the plenary sessions should be changed so that there is more chance of real debate and discussion.

One last thing I would like to mention is how much I enjoyed meeting some of the individuals who attended the conference. I had the pleasure of hearing about the experiences of some New Zealanders and the people who came along to our coffee shop at CAMP NSW on the Sunday night were such obviously sincere and involved people that talking to them was a very pleasant way of ending the weekend.

KYM SKINNER

Following are the motions passed by the final plenary session of the Second National Homosexual Conference. CAMP NSW is especially happy to see the acceptance of sexism as being a basic cause underlying our oppression as homosexuals. We feel that the motions passed by the conference fully vindicate our stand.

Motion 1.

That we see the need for an independent national gay archives.

We recommend that the movements publications and correspondence be regarded as historically important and that a copy of every item published (whether Magazine, Paper, Pamphlet or Badge) be kept in a central place; and that records of group activities should never be neglected or thrown out but instead passed on to another group for safe-keeping.

We agree that TWO copies of every Magazine, Pamphlet, Paper, Poster, Newsletter or Badge produced by a group be sent to the National Library in Canberra and similarly ONE copy of everything be deposited in the local State Library for safe-keeping.

Persons with private collections of gay movement material should make every effort to catalogue and index their collections.

Motion 2.

That this conference call for the validity of the homosexual lifestyles to be included in education of health workers and for the removal of heterosexual bias in course structure and content. We abhor the lack of health facilities and public information for homosexuals.

Motion 3.

This conference condemns the social stereotyping of dress; each individual should be able to wear what he/she wants.

Motion 4.

That this conference urges that homosexuals who are members of Trade Unions take legal action over any cases in which a worker is discriminated against because of his/her sexual preference.

Motion 5.

That this conference urges all homosexuals who are members of Trade Unions to form homosexual caucuses within or across those Trade Unions.

Motion 6.

That this conference demands the Australian Government and each of the six State Governments pass equal employment opportunity Legislation which prohibits employment discrimination according to sex or sexual preference.

Motion 7.

That this conference calls upon the A.C.T.U. to publicly state it's opposition to discrimination against workers on the grounds of sexual preference and to actively support ANY worker so discriminated against.

We also demand that the A.C.T.U. call on it's affiliated unions to ensure that none of their members be discriminated against in their place of employment because of sexual preference.

Motion 8.

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOGNISES SEXISM AS BEING THE MAJOR CAUSE OF OUR OPPRESSION AS HOMOSEXUALS AND THAT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SEXISM AND THE DESTRUCTION OF PATRIARCHAL SEXIST SOCIETY IS VITAL TO HOMOSEXUAL LIBERATION.

Motion 9.

That planning collectives for future Conferences include men and women if the Conference is to be designated a National

Homosexual Conference.

Motion 10.

That this Conference resolves that a definition of sexism must take into account the power structures in a particular society in which the phenomenon exists.

Motion 11.

That we the members of the Second National Homosexual Conference declare that we are united in our belief that the decriminalisation of all consensual homosexual behaviour must be effected immediately. We further demand that adequate legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of gender or sexual orientation be enacted.

Motion 12.

That the National Homosexual Conference calls on the NSW Labour Government to promote and facilitate as a matter of high priority the removal of legal and administrative discrimination against homosexual women and men.

Motion 13.

That we call on the NSW Labour Government to direct the Department of Education to end its policy of instant dismissal of teachers who reveal their homosexuality.

Motion 14.

That the next National Conference include a plenary on "Homosexuals in employment and in their unions".

Motion 15.

That the next National Conference incorporate as two of the basic premises of the Conference that women are suppressed by men in this society and that the homosexual movement must support Women's Liberation.



THE LAW THAT NEARLY WAS

Joseph Winter looks back at the Parliamentary debate that tried to make lesbianism illegal

In the midst of the national debate centred upon the present laws which penalise certain male homosexual acts, one of the major cries from the reformist lobby is 'Why should there be a law against male homosexual acts when there's none against female ones?' It is, of course, a very good question and one which over fifty years ago a completely different set of individuals debated with a completely different aim in mind. For in the final hour of August 4th, 1921, the House of Commons declared acts of gross indecency between females to be illegal.

The clause embodying the idea had been inserted into the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, with Government approval, by a Conservative member, one Frederick Macquisten, a Scottish lawyer. Under the heading of 'Acts of indecency between females', he motioned that:

"Any act of gross indecency between female persons shall be a misdemeanour and punishable in the same manner as any such act committed by male persons under section eleven of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885."

It will be recalled by the more erudite amongst you that section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 was the brain-

child of Henry Labouchere, editor of *Truth* (sic), and was the section which had rendered acts of *gross indecency* between males of any age illegal, even in private. Up until the passing of that Act, only sodomy, as distinct from gross indecency, had been illegal. It was the Act which had caught Oscar Wilde and the effects of which were to be felt right up until 1967—and even then they were only partly curtailed. Mr Macquisten's aim was to extend its effect to female acts as well, he being of the opinion that such an extension was a measure "*long overdue in the criminal code of this country.*" In justifying his measure, he asked which member of the House was not unacquainted with the "*undercurrent of dreadful vice and degradation, unchecked and uninterfered with*" that was blighting modern social life. He drew on his own personal experiences, relating how the home of a friend of his "*had been ruined by the wiles of one abandoned female, who had pursued his wife.*"

Whilst everyone in the House agreed how awful and dangerous the conduct of such 'abandoned females' was, however, some members were not sure of how effective the law might be in stamping out this "*very objectionable vice.*" "*If we could have put it down of course we would have put it*



down long ago" pointed out a Labour member, Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, but "you can't make people moral by Act of Parliament . . . For one conviction that could be got in ten years, you may have, on the other hand, endless blackmail."

The argument of blackmail, of course, could be, and was, in the campaign leading up to the 1967 Act, widely used with regard to male homosexual acts. However, no member, if he did realise this, was courageous enough to mention it to the House. On the contrary, the lawmakers rallied to the Macquisten standard. Sir Erpest Wild, a future judge, struck a blow against modern decadence when he admonished those MPs who presumed to know better than he did. It was "idle to deny . . . that there are many people in society who are guilty of it" he declared, and while the dangers of blackmail were very real, it was, on the other hand, foolish "not to punish a vice when it can be proved to exist. This vice does exist, and it saps the fundamental institutions of society."

Not satisfied with merely establishing the existence of this "very real evil" Sir

Ernest then launched into a detailed description of how this contagious disease was chipping away at the very foundations of Pax Britannica. "In the first place it stops childbirth because it is a well known fact that any woman who indulges in this vice will have nothing to do with the other sex. It debauches young girls, and it produces neurasthenia and insanity. Anyone who is really interested in the punishment of vice would desire that the law be clothed with power which can only be exercised if there be proper proof to put down a vice that must cause our race to decline."

Well. After a warning like that, who could dare raise a voice against it? The Empire on which the sun never set was threatened. Beating the Kaiser's Germany was not enough: a new menace had arisen which had to be stopped before all England had succumbed to its "neurasthenic" grip. The clause was passed by 148 votes to 53, and it was left to the House of Lords to kill it.

This it did with remarkable swiftness. Opening the attack, the Earl of Malmesbury declared that the clause hadn't been sufficiently studied and he was supported in this by the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Lord Desart, who had during his occupation of that position initiated the proceedings against Oscar Wilde. He pointed out that such a serious amendment to the law should have been introduced by the Government itself and not by a private member. What Lord Desart failed to add there was that section 11 of the 1885 Act was also a private member's measure—thus proving that people believe what they want to believe, and do otherwise with what they would prefer to forget.

"We all know" pleaded the Lord, "of the sort of romantic, almost hysterical friendships that are made between young women at certain periods of their lives. Suppose that some circumstances gave to some young person who knew of it the idea: 'How easy it now is for me to make a charge. Perhaps they do not know what the law is.' Do you suppose any woman with anything in the world to loose would ever face such a charge as that? It would not be a question

of defending themselves against it, it would be a question of facing it, of being brought into a public court to meet a charge of that kind. I believe that blackmail would not only be certain, but that it would be inevitably successful."

Again, it is worthwhile noting how their Lordships ignored the youthful relationships that often exist between young boys.

However, so convincing were the arguments ranged against the clause that the Archbishop of Canterbury rose to his feet and declared himself convinced that the clause was worthless. The House immediately agreed and the clause died from lack of support. Never again was there an attempt to pass such a law.

What is most interesting in the debates on this measure is the arguments that were used to oppose it—arguments which apply with equal emphasis to acts between males. No one in either House dared point this out. Moreover, no voice was raised in defence of homosexual love itself. The clause was opposed not because that affection which it was designed to prohibit was regarded by the opposition as something worthy of defence, but simply because it would be ineffective in destroying that affection. Not a word was spoken in defence of what was truly at this time in history the love that dare not speak its name.

REFERENCES: Hansard, House of Commons debates, volume 145, columns 1799-1807 (August 4th, 1921). Hansard, House of Lords debates, volume 46, columns 567-577 (August 15th, 1921).



parliament

WILL THE NEW BROOM SWEEP CLEAN - in our State Parliament ?

When parliament met on May 25, 1976 our Attorney-General, Mr Walker, was asked some questions in regard to the criminal law, by the previous speaker of the House, Mr Cameron. Since the ex-speaker has passed on the wig and gown of that office, he seemsto have taken on the role of watch-dog over the States morals, while positioned on the opposition front benches. Mr Cameron had no less than four questions for Mr Walker.

Had the Attorney-General spoken about the criminal law and some of its anomalies which are "sometimes inaptly referred to as victimless crimes", he asked. Mr Walkers short reply to the question was "yes". Mr Cameron's use of the word "inaptly" seems to indicate that even when mutual consent has been established between people, in order to use each others bodies for pleasure, this should always remain a crime.

Did Mr Walker think about "a review of such crimes" ? continued Mr Cameron. The positive answer of the Attorney-General was encouraging but without any substance. It could well be that the level of awareness of the Attorney-General needs to be raised, to a level where "review" will be changed into abolition. Because "review" of the criminal law, has in other places always turned into law reform which in the long run is as oppressive, if not worse, than leaving the law as it stands.

Could the House take it for granted, questioned Mr Cameron, that if a review of the criminal law was done, the community would retain "some control over" what would and would not be acceptable to the community ? To which the Attorney-General, disappointingly, answered "yes". How would Mr Cameron measure disapproval of the community in regard to homosexual conduct ? The latest Gallup Poll seems to indicate that at least 68% of both men and women agreed with the legalisation of homosexual acts.

The results of the Poll indicate to me that a vast number of people in Australia are prepared to give homosexuals control over their own bodies and lives.

If the review of the criminal law goes ahead (do we really want to encourage it on the above basis) could the Attorney-General assure us that the "sensitive" nexus between the criminalising process and the Judaic-Christian ethic is retained? Once again the Minister answered "yes". It would appear that our parliament is more and more becoming a bastion of the right wing of the religious institutions we have in this State.

Is the parliament not meant to be the House of the people, where laws are framed in order to protect people and give them rights and liberties? It is evident that Mr Cameron only wants to cater for what he thinks to be respectable and acceptable, in a society that is pluralistic.

....Peter de Waal

sources: Hansard May 25, 1976 Page 29
THE SUN February 9, 1976,
Page 11.

A group of lesbian feminists are organising a Lesbian Festival/Conference tentatively scheduled for the 6th - 10th January 1977, at Minto, NSW. There will be accommodation for 100 and plenty of room for camping. We hope to have discussions, music, crafts, poetry, workshops and lots of fun and excitement.

For more details and registration forms write to: "Festival", c/ CAMP NSW, Box 5074, G.P.O. Sydney 2001, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

psychiatry

PAPER PRESENTED AT SYMPOSIUM
"PSYCHIATRY LIBERTY AND THE LAW
TOMORROW"

June 5, 1976

As background to my paper, let me share with you the situations which have faced and continue to face me as a homosexual in this society.

I was born to parents who, like their counterparts everywhere, had internalised the belief that I was their property, and that the only possible destinations for their property were marriage or celibacy. Parents who, therefore, were devastated when confronted with the fact that I had not fulfilled their expectations; was homosexual; happy as a homosexual and had every intention of living as a homosexual. I, like my homosexual sisters and brothers, had to come to grips with the options of lying to my parents, or enduring great suffering while they learnt to accept my homosexuality.

I was subjected to an education system whose unerring object was to fit me for my only possible role as dominant husband and provider, and thus ridicule any other alternative as unnatural. Despite these pressures to the contrary, I fell in love with two men and now share a family relationship with them.

I have however, no terminology to describe my relationship to them, I face the possibility of 14 years imprisonment for taking part in sexual activity with them, I can not display my affection for them in public for fear of being charged with offensive behaviour and/or being assaulted by those whose sport is poofta bashing, by males who have had any tenderness knocked out of them by a society which tells them that men are strong and dominant. I have to watch as the dependants of nuclear families receive benefits from the community, while the dependency of one of the members of our family receives no recognition, I have to read that the members of a committee advising the previous State Government think that I would cause psychological damage to children.

I decided after completing my university degree that I would like to share some of the knowledge of French and France I had acquired at university with secondary school students. I took a job as a teacher. Some months after commencing the job, having devoted myself to it, I had the audacity to reveal publicly that I am homosexual. By losing the job I loved, I re-learned the lesson that so long as we homosexuals shut ourselves away and pretend to be something we are not, we will not suffer. So long as we are honest, we will suffer.

What does psychiatry say of all this ?

Psychiatry says I am sick.

Psychiatry says I am a deviant.

Psychiatry says my lifestyle is unnatural.

Psychiatry says I am curable.

Society is not the problem, says psychiatry....I am the problem.

How did psychiatry come to this conclusion?

Psychiatrists noticed that many of the people presenting to them were homosexual and that the homosexuals seemed to have problems adjusting to society. We have a label for this group, said the psychiatrists, anyone who cannot adjust to this society must be "mentally ill".

If the same research method were applied to all sections of the community, they would all be labelled as mentally ill, for the psychiatrists sees representatives of all sections of the community. Of course, if any study of a group in society takes as its sample group a subgroup which classifies itself as sick, then an invalid result would occur.

Let me stress the point. The only evidence that the homosexual lifestyle is less valid than the heterosexual has come from the evidence of people who have classified themselves as sick. Who wouldn't begin to wonder about themselves if society saw them as a nobody, and if they were confronted with the situations I have described earlier.

Why then does the psychiatric label still persist? Why it is that psychiatrists continue to offer aversion therapy to homosexuals to turn them into vegetables; that homosexuals are committed to psychiatric institutions because their families cannot cope with their homosexuality; that psychiatry continues to support community attitudes against homosexuals?

It is because psychiatry is an arm of the dominant culture, with a vested interest in maintaining that culture by oppressing minorities. By exploiting the respect and power which psychiatry has in the community, it maintains the myth that there is a single 'normal' sexual orientation, viz., heterosexual. Because people assume that this myth and the medical classifications of deviations from the norm are scientifically based, it is very difficult to overthrow them. I repeat that there is no such scientific basis. The only basis is the wish of psychiatry to maintain the status quo.

What would psychiatrists do if it were accepted, as the Radical Therapist collective argues, that paranoia is a state of heightened awareness because most people are persecuted beyond their wildest delusions, that those who feel at ease are insensitive; if it were accepted that depression is the result of alienation of human from human; that violent anger is a healthy reaction to oppression; that schizophrenia is an experience saner than "normality" in this mad world; if it were accepted that homosexuality is one among a number of possible valid and fulfilling lifestyles? In brief, psychiatrists would need to radically re-assess their approach to their task. So, to maintain their positions, psychiatrists deceive the oppressed about the nature of their oppression. They do this by making their clients believe that the cause of their troubles lies with them, not in society.

Let's look at steps the psychiatric profession in this country has taken to liberalise its views on homosexuality.

We find but two of significance. In 1972 the Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists passed a resolution strongly condemning community attitudes & laws which discriminate against homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private. No mention of the blame which must be sheeted home to psychiatry for supporting those attitudes and laws. No mention of the emotional, loving aspect of the lives of homosexuals.

The other "liberal" step has been to begin referring clients to the homosexual group in which I am active, CAMP NSW. But we only see the clients when the psychiatrists have given up in frustration and the client is thoroughly confused.

There have been calls today for us to modify our criticism of psychiatry. As one who daily suffers oppression, who daily feels the adverse effects of my classification as not quite normal, I cannot modify my criticism. I believe that informed attack is necessary, indeed long overdue. For I fear that modifying our examination of the operations of psychiatry in our society means that we fail to understand its role and what it is really doing to people.

Simply because a situation exists does not make it good. Unfortunately, that is believed too often in Australia. There is a strong reluctance and inability to radically assess our society. We always play it safe and take a moderate line. I think the point was well illustrated by Greg Woods comment that Szasz's views would not be accepted politically - the concern is not whether Szasz's views are correct, but whether they are safe. This is probably so because changes are usually recommended and implemented by those who benefit from the existing system, not those who are its victims.

If there is a role for psychiatry in our community, it consists of psychiatrists making their clients aware of the roots of their oppression. The oppressed continue to be oppressed because they do not understand their oppression, because they feel alienated and powerless. Psychiatrists should be making them aware of their oppression, and should be putting them in touch with the homosexual movement so that they can take action, in concert

with their oppressed sisters and brothers, to overcome the source of the problems. For our problems do not lie within us, they lie within an uncaring, oppressive society.

.... Mike Clohesy

* * * WOMENS' DANCE * * *
WOMENS' DANCE *** ** WOMENS' DANCE

At the Cellar, Old Union, Sydney University.

On Friday the 1st of October

7.30 pm - 1.00 am

\$ 2.00 B.Y.O.G.



Surely, young man, you know it's unlawful to dress as a woman ?

Womens' News Service, July 1976

coffee shop

What sort of image does CAMP have, even amongst our own members ? Do many of us know all the areas in which CAMP is involved, or the services we provide ? Sometimes even the Executive finds it hard to keep up with it all!

One area is always well in the limelight because it is our "shop-window" to the outside world: the "coffee-shop". For many people it has been the first contact with CAMP, and sometimes with gay life. It is therefore important that this contact is such that it invites return visits.

For some time our tenancy of 33A has hung in the balance, but it has now become firm and we can look forward to a reasonable period of time in the premises. With that uncertainty removed, the House Group has found it worthwhile to redecorate the coffee-shop. For a number of weekends the whole place resounded to the noise of hammers, slapping of paintbrushes, and the usual carry-on of a dozen or so faithful helpers - with startling results. Gone are the different and dull colours of the badly painted walls - hidden by opulent-looking wallpaper. (some people claim it's upside down, but that depends on your point of view) Gone are the old dilapidated work benches that masqueraded as tables, rough, wobbly and with nail-heads sticking out; replaced by tables, complete with neat fresh covers and set up with chairs to form a cosy, intimate atmosphere. Gone is the raucous, hideous, money-gobbling juke-box; re-laced by an amplifier, speakers and a record-player so we can provide our own music. This is to be expanded with another turn-table, cassette player, microphone and a control panel to give full disco provisions. The old green chairs have been lovingly hand-painted to new colours, and we've found we're running out of chairs to seat the multitudes on some popular nights. So if you have some standing around that you no longer need, bring them down; or give us a call and we'll arrange to collect them.

The coffee-shop is open each night from 8 pm and serves a variety of refreshments. Friday night is specially recommended for new members and is a social night - lights not too low, music not too loud, so we can sit around and talk, circulate and get acquainted. Many people who ring Phone-A-

Friend for information or advice come in on Fridays because a number of the phone-people are there, too.

Every alternate Saturday night is a Party Night - lights are lower, music is louder and there is room for dancing.

Pop in next time you're in the neighbourhood. We'd like to see you there!

33A Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Phone:
660-0080 or 660-0061 (Phone-A-Friend).

CAMP CLUB ROOMS & COFFEE SHOP

- # Executive Meeting every second Monday night at 8 pm.
- # Open every night - also Saturday afternoons.
- # TV lounge, cards, darts, chess, etc.
- # Fortnightly parties - ring Phone-a-Friend (02) 660-0061 for dates.
- # Women's social night and discussion group Wednesday nights.
- # New Members' Night Fridays 8 pm.
- # Young Camp Saturday afternoons 2 pm.
- # Open discussion Group alternate Mondays - Phone-a-Friend for dates.
- # Actions Group: Alternate Wednesday nights at 8 pm.

33a Glebe Point Road, Glebe.
(Near Broadway)

teachers

NEWS RELEASE

25th July
1976.

FROM GAY TEACHERS' GROUP.

The passing of an amendment to a motion on "Abolition of Sexism in Schools" at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Secondary Teachers' Association amounts to the first significant recognition by elected delegates of any Victorian teachers' union of the fact that homosexual people exist in schools, as teachers and students, and that they are oppressed.

The Annual General Meeting endorsed a Principle which now reads (the underlined sentence is added as a result of the amendment):

"That the VSTA adopt as a policy objective the abolition of sexism within the Association's areas of concern. This A.G.M. views sexism as including the oppression of any person on the basis of sex, and homosexuals (men and women)."

The amendment is based on the argument that homosexuals are victims of oppressive gender stereotyping. Homosexual men and women are punished in our society for contradicting a fundamental of sexist ideology: that "real" men and "real" women may not relate sexually to members of their own sex. As such homosexuals must be considered victims of sexism, the arbitrary assignment and enforcement of social roles according to gender.

The practical consequence of the amendment is reflected in the statement of "Implementation", which now becomes:

- 1) This A.G.M. instructs the VSTA to set up an open sub-committee on Homosexuality to recommend guidelines for branch discussion and action.
- 2) This A.G.M. instructs the Open Sub-Committee on Women and the Open Sub-Committee on Homosexuality to recommend guidelines for branch discussion and action.
- 3) This A.G.M. urges branches to use one of their curriculum discussion days to critically examine sexism within their own school.

- 4) This A.G.M. instructs the VSTA through the OSCW and the OSCH to establish criteria according to the principles of non-sexism for the purpose of rating textbooks used in secondary schools in all subject areas.

schools

From the Civil Liberty Newsletter No 67
July 1976 Issue

SEXISM IN SCHOOLS

The CCL has made a detailed submission to the NSW Inquiry into Sexism in Schools.

In particular, the CCL urges:

- a) rapid phasing-out of all sex-segregated schools;
- b) removal of sexist attitudes and practices in vocational guidance counselling;
- c) Abolition of discriminatory practices in employment and promotion of teachers;
- d) Emphasis on non-sexist personal development courses (including full information on contraception and abortion;
- e) better and more extensive treatment of sexism in teacher education courses.

The CCL submission points out that a matter which has thus far not been confronted by educators in traditional circles is the bias against and oppression of homosexual men and women, girls and boys, at all levels in the education system. The problems caused by social sex role stereotyping, and the propagation of those roles through the educational system, are of major concern to homosexuals. Thus, much of the critique offered of the status of women in education applies also to the homosexual.

It is necessary to rewrite school texts not only to remove the sexist bias presently there, but also the hetero-sexist bias. It is essential to recognise from the earliest stages in the schools that homosexuals and homosexual relation-

ships do exist, that children have homosexual parents as well as single parents and unmarried parents and heterosexual couples and communal parents. It is necessary to recognise that children and adolescents have homosexual relationships, and also that many of them go through a heterosexual relationship which they will grow out of in adulthood.

One crucial matter is simply the right of homosexual teachers to teach. At present this right is not recognised by the Education Department. While the Department refuses to admit that any teacher has been sacked or not employed because he or she is homosexual, there is good reason to believe that this has happened. Certainly the Department has not been prepared to give an undertaking that the sexual orientation of teachers is not in itself relevant to their employment.

NEW ZEALAND GAY RIGHTS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 23 through 25, 1976

WELLINGTON.

For information: GAY LIBERATION
P.O. BOX 9561
WELLINGTON.
NEW ZEALAND.



RELATIONSHIPS



We are professional consultants who are concerned to provide a personal and ethical facility for the individual who desires a genuine relationship.



To obtain an understanding of our clients and of their specific needs, we assess relevant aspects of their personality, temperament and of their personal background. We also determine the social and political attitudes held by our clients and record their general areas of interest and sexual preferences. Camp clients may prefer to work with a camp consultant.

From the information obtained, together with personal knowledge each consultant has of the individual, we introduce our clients only to persons who are potentially compatible.

YVONNE ALLEN

AND ASSOCIATES



HUMAN RELATIONS CONSULTANTS.
63-65 Crown Street., East Sydney.

Phone: 31 1620.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30-6 pm

Sat 8.30-1.30 pm

ENQUIRIES FROM CANBERRA
WELCOME.

HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES?

(WNS/Nation Review)—An Australian homosexual, Anthony Sullivan, 34, from Sydney is leading a campaign to get the United States' immigration service to recognise same-sex marriages. A year ago Sullivan married a 28 year old Los Angeles clerk, Richard Adams, at a legally recognised ceremony in Boulder, Colorado. Only a handful of gay couples have been legally married in the United States.

However, Sullivan and Adams have not been able to convince the authorities that as a foreigner married to an American, Sullivan is entitled to permanent residential status. Three months ago the US immigration service ordered Sullivan to leave the country on the grounds that the couple had "failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots".

The language used in the ruling brought an immediate outcry from the powerful gay movement in California which is now supporting Sullivan's test case against what they're terming the country's "discriminatory" immigration laws. When the "faggot" ruling was announced, some 200 members of the gay liberation movement marched in protest on the Los Angeles headquarters of the immigration service. There was similar outrage among a number of state and federal politicians on the west coast forcing the authorities to review the case and discipline the author of the offensive letter.

Still, once again the immigration service ordered Sullivan's deportation, this time because the marriage was not bona fide as "... neither party to the marriage can perform the female functions ... a union of this sort was never intended by congress to form a basis of a visa petition".

But the couple are not giving up and now they're being helped by the American Civil Liberties Union which has appealed against the deportation order.

"If we lose the appeal, we've got legal support to go as far as the supreme court if it's necessary to defeat these bigoted immigration laws," says Sullivan. "The US constitution demands equality," he adds, "if we win our case then all gay people in this country will be able to marry."

The struggle, the pair say, involves the right of same-sex couples to file joint income tax returns, inherit each other's property and seek family medical insurance as well as to obtain immigration equality.

Sullivan and Adams met when the Australian visited the US four and a half years ago, and soon afterwards they decided to live together. Originally, Sullivan got around the immigration laws through a marriage of convenience to an American woman who was a friend of the gay couple. "But that marriage was annulled," said Sullivan, "when Richard and I decided to come out into the open about our relationship. A gay person shouldn't be penalised and deported for being truthful."

Both were involved in the gay liberation cause. Sullivan, as the manager of a book store at the Gay Community Resources Centre in Los Angeles. In April last year Sullivan and Adams were married in Boulder, Colorado after the county clerk ruled there was no gender identification in the state's marriage laws.

The marriage was performed by two ministers from Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, an organisation that operates several churches in Australia.

Sullivan and Adams believe that there are only eight couples in the United States whose homosexual marriages are legally recognised. They say the only place where there's anything like this going on is Sweden, where gays can keep an alien lover in the country even without marriage.

Sullivan hopes that if the US courts accept his marriage, then the Australian Government would have to do likewise, under international law. "We have every intention of asking the Australian Government to extend to Richard any benefits due to the spouse of an Australian citizen," says Sullivan. If this occurs, it'll be a personal triumph for him.

Roger Allebone

Womens' News Service,
July 1976

HOMOSEXUAL ELECTORAL LOBBY — A REVIEW

(WNS/Speaking Volumes)—Obviously the great majority of candidates in the Victorian State Elections think that there aren't many votes in queers . . . yet. Only 24% of them bothered to reply to the attitude questionnaire sent out by the Homosexual Electoral Lobby. And this was with a fortnight to reply and a stamped return address envelope thrown in.

Most of the replies came from ALP candidates, but before enthusing over that, it's sobering to note how few of those came from sitting members. Perhaps a better measure of the real support for homosexual law reform in the ALP is the extreme difficulty Barry Jones (Labor MLA) had in getting the parliamentary party's permission to put that extraordinarily moderate private member's bill last year. And remember that the parliamentary party refused to be bound by the fairly liberal policy on homosexuality endorsed by the State Conference of Branches in 1975.

There were 10 questions asked, covering the rights of homosexuals under the law in employment and housing, sex education in schools, and so on. The vital one, at least for our immediate purposes, was Question 1, which asked whether they'd vote to support legislation to bring homosexual conduct into equality with heterosexual conduct. Below is a breakdown by party of the answers. We allotted each candidate a points score, e.g. bonus points to sort the sheep from the goats, if they would actually introduce homosexual rights legislation, as well as vote for it. Here are the results:

Party	No. of candidates	No. who replied	% who replied	Average mean score (Max.100)	Number who said "yes" to Q. 1 (See above)
ALP	103	43	42	75	40/43
Liberals	103	7	7	41	3/7
National Party	28	2	7	67	2/2
DLP	47	4	8	10	1/4
Aust. Party	3	3	100	87	3/3
Socialist Workers	2	2	100	97	2/2
Tenants Rights	2	2	100	85	2/2
Workers Party	4	3	75	43	2/3

Some points arising from the candidates' answers

1. Judging from the inconsistency of replies to two questions, many didn't know that any reform of the law which says homosexual conduct must be "IN PRIVATE" would STILL DISCRIMINATE AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS. No law says heterosexual conduct must be in private. At worst, heterosexual conduct in public is controlled by the "offensive behaviour" regulations.
2. Those candidates who supported legislation to decriminalise homosexual conduct also supported legislation to protect homosexuals' rights in employment and housing.



3. The most favoured age of consent for sexual behaviour (regardless of hetero or homo) was 16. Several candidates remarked that any fixed age of consent was unsatisfactory, because "maturity varies greatly between individuals"; but none favoured abolition of age of consent.

Quotable quotes

"I enclose for your information a copy of 'Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics' . . . With reference to homosexuality, the document points out that it is an intrinsically disordered act and has been described as a penalty for rejecting God. Under Pope Saint Pius V (1565-1571) homosexuals were punished by burning to death at the stake.

Yours truly, [sic]"
DLP CANDIDATE

"... For the sake of normal society, abnormal relationships should be squashed . . . Expose a rotten apple to other apples and the rot spreads . . . cut out the rotten part . . . and you have an unwhole apple, yes, but one that will survive in this State with proper protection."

DLP CANDIDATE

"I don't believe it is necessary to answer in detail because I disagree totally with all you represent."

WORKERS PARTY CANDIDATE

"An independent candidate has publically inferred that I am a homosexual - should be interesting to read his questionnaire and comments".

ALP CANDIDATE

The results of the lobby certainly don't inspire great hopes for the immediate prospects of the campaign in Victoria to remove legal discrepancies between homosexual and heterosexual conduct. On the face of it you'd expect the attitudes of those candidates who didn't even reply to be even more anti (or less pro) than those who did. But until we get information about the attitudes of sitting members we won't really know. Maybe they're just neutral, or afraid to stick their necks out, or maybe they're simply lazy. It's planned to make personal approaches to many of these to find out.

Nevertheless we don't doubt the lobby was worth doing. It was a successful co-operative venture between all the gay organisations - still a fairly new experience for us in Melbourne. It got some good media coverage (although we'd like to know why the *Herald* reporter's quite extensive interview never appeared in print). And perhaps most important was the interest and support that it evoked in the gay bars when we collected money, and later when we circulated the results.

All in all, with the experience of this campaign behind us, next time HEL should be a hell of a lot harder to ignore.

Gary Jaynes

Womens' News Service, July 1976

New Zealand

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY.....

CAMP NSW is presently engaged, with several other homosexual groups in Sydney that form the Homosexual Rights Coalition, in attempting to influence the new State Government to repeal all homosexual laws. Some people are also pressing for the setting up of a Parliamentary Inquiry into Homosexuality, in which State MP's would sit to receive evidence from interested groups. They feel that this would be good publicity as well as first-class education for our law-makers.

It may be instructive to see how a similar action fared in New Zealand. Recently a number of New Zealand Gay Activists visited Sydney for the 2nd National Homosexual Conference, and we were fortunate in having David Russell, Editor of Gay News in Auckland, and Robin Duff, of CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) in Christchurch, at a CAMP Executive meeting. The following is the substance of their report:

The NZ Parliament consists of 84 delegates, elected in their own electoral district. There is no Senate or Upper House. A Private Member's Bill was introduced by Mr Venn Young, members for Taranaki, a predominantly rural area. The substance of the Bill was that it proposed to legalise homosexual contact between consenting adults (over 20!), in private. It also sought to introduce penalties for homosexual soliciting and prostitution, which up to that time had been defined in female terms only, and did therefore not apply to gay men. Furthermore, it sought to sharply increase penalties for "child molestation" (a child being anyone between 10 and 14 years of age). The penalties for offences against 16 - 20 year olds were to remain unchanged.

The immediate reaction of the (then) Labour Government of Mr. Rowling was to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to take evidence and provide material and information for the MP's to base their vote on and to offer suggestions for rewording of the Bill. So the various gay organizations started to prepare their cases for submission in great spirits.

The Committee sat for 15 months, collected 214 submissions (150 against, 64 in favour), and scores of people gave evidence. Of those against, most were letters from individuals, strikingly similar in style and content, which gave rise to the suspicion that they might have been inspired by the same source (i.e. the Society for the Promotion of Community Standards, the NZ equivalent to the Festival of Light). The submissions from institutions all came from religious bodies. Of those in favour, some were from individuals, but most were from organizations such as SHE (Sisters for Homophile Equality), Gay Lib., CHE, Homosexual Law Reform Society, the Law Society, the Justice Department, and various Student Organizations.

As an exercise in public education it was largely a failure: much public discussion had resulted when the Bill was first introduced, but when the evidence was being gathered and the re-drafted Bill introduced, most newspapers were reluctant to go over the whole thing again. During the sitting of the Committee, most newspapers only reported the "anti"-statements after filtering out their worst inconsistencies. Usually there was not a mention of the gay persons or groups that gave evidence, hence it was only the opposition view that was publicised. Only one exception to this must be mentioned: the NZ Herald gave a fair though limited coverage of both sides.

As a means of educating the parliamentarians it fell down also. Although some MP's occasionally came to look at the evidence, there was no indication that any of them had read the final report of the Committee before the debate re-opened. In fact, it seems that even the Committee members didn't read all of the material submitted to them.

Basically, the Report was submitted in the form of a new draft Bill, largely identical to the original, except that one of the Committee members, Mr. Wall, moved an amendment that the mentioning of homosexuality in the presence of minors (those under 20!) be made punishable, with the sole and express exception of psychiatrists, parole officers and ministers of religion. This amendment was to be introduced as an appendage to the Bill, as his was a minority Report (one out of the seven Committee members).

The debate itself paraded all the tired old images of Sodom and Gomorrah let loose on the innocent populace, and it showed that the work of the Committee had made not one iota of difference - it was obvious that most members had not even looked at the Report. So much for the education of Parliament! Of course there are some enlightened people: the Chairperson of the Committee, Dr. Bassett (Labour) was a strong supporter of the Bill and of homosexual equality.

The Bill failed on the second reading by 39 votes to 34. Of the 84 delegates, 21 were missing. A striking example of moral cowardice, or Parliament as a hotbed of cold feet! Not that the NZ gays were sad about the failure; in the words of one of the CHE leaders: "We're far better off now than we would have been if the Bill had passed".

Moral ? Don't bother about Parliamentary Inquiries. They're specially designed to pigeon-hole the subject, and there is no mileage in it as far as publicity or education is concerned. There is more than enough similarity between the NZ Parliament and character and our Australian counterparts, to point very clearly to the same result.

John Greenway.

USA

PARENTHOOD REVOKED

(WNS/Majority Report)—An upstate judge has transferred custody of a four-year-old girl from her mother to her father saying that a woman has a right to be a lesbian, but that lesbians do not have the right to raise children. Although defense attorney Barbara Strunk presented expert psychiatry testimony that the child is not aware of her mother's homosexuality and that even if she were it would not be harmful to her, the judge held that the child was emotionally disturbed because the mother is a lesbian.

The mother, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been prohibited from visitation rights as long as known homosexuals are present, and from involving the child in any publicity. The case is being appealed in the Appellate Division in Rochester. Costs have already exceeded \$600 and are expected to reach \$2,600, with the appeal. Contributions may be sent to "custody case" GCAS, Box 57, Elmwood Station, Syracuse, NY 13207.

From GAY RAIDERS..Philadelphia

June 1976

HOMOPHOBES & GAYS CELEBRATE
ANOTHER PENNSYLVANIA FIRST

Mark Segal, Director of the Philadelphia based Gay Raiders today presented a PROCLAMATION to the gay community of Pennsylvania declaring "GAY PRIDE WEEK" on behalf of Governor Milton J Shapp.

The Proclamation was presented during the Gay Pride Rally in Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia.

The Proclamation believed to be the first issued by any State Governor was written by Mark Segal and revised by the Governor's staff. The Proclamation reads in part, "Since emerging from anonymity, gay men and women have devoted much time and effort in educating the general public. Gay men and women seek equal rights in employment, in housing and in the law." The document went on to state "Gay men and women are determined to develop community integrity, to stand up for their rights, and to encourage their community to take its rightful and responsible place in society, and join with others in seeking an end to prejudice, persecution and discrimination. "As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby express my support for equal rights for all minority groups and for all those who seek social justice, and dedicate GAY PRIDE WEEK to those worthy goals".



If a system is
making its people
sick should we
attempt to cure
the people and
place them back
into the system,
or should we
change the system?

-Ernest Mann.

Gay psychologist dies at 33

Mark Freedman, a San Francisco gay activist and contributor to **The Body Politic**, died on July 21 after suffering complications which resulted from a severe case of hepatitis. He was 33.

The last article Mark wrote for us was published in issue # 24. It concerned aspects of the phenomenon of homophobia - the irrational fear of homosexuals, a concept which he helped popularize.

Once during a conversation, he told me that he believed in the importance of popular education, and his writing reflected this concern.

He was an academic, and held a doctoral degree in psychology, but he attempted whenever possible to translate the jargon of his discipline into understandable prose.

Besides his writing for gay periodicals and the publication of two books (with a third in progress at the time of his death), his most important effort in the area of popular education was an article in the highly influential monthly magazine, **Psychology Today**. Along with others, Mark had finally pressured that publication to print in its March 1975 issue his article on homosexual psychological functioning entitled "Far from Illness: Homosexuals May Be Healthier Than Straights".

Through this endeavour he no doubt reached scores of readers, both gay and straight, who might not otherwise have ever read anything positive about homosexuality. There was criticism, much of it from other gay activist scholars, that his analysis was too simplistic. Because it reached so many people with the message that gays are not psychologically marred, it transcended whatever its theoretical failings might have been.

As a community, we should not lament the passing of a gay "hero" or authority on homosexuality, but the demise of a brother and comrade in arms. For me, this represents the first time an openly gay person whom I have known has died, and I can not help but think somehow that is significant.

I pause to remember Mark and his contribution to our struggle. And to renew the resolve to continue it.

by Herbert Spiers □

Body Politic/ September

Feminism & Sexuality Conference

16 - 17 October '76

Melbourne Uni. Union

- ★ politics of heterosexuality, lesbian feminism, lesbian separatism, can you be a feminist heterosexual? are there feminist lifestyles?
- ★ self-help, politics of contraception, drug companies and the female market, menstruation, menopause, hassles like infections, depression, madness,
- ★ relationships, pressure to be labelled, choice, jealousy dependancy and private property, romance/love, relating to men, manhating, relating to women problems of lesbian relationships, social approval, pleasure/pain, emotion
- ★ autonomy, lifestyles, independent woman as rugged individualist, "the woman in your life is you", self-image, masturbation, orgasm, performance principle, fantasies, how we see other women, patriarchal images, misogyny,
- ★ sexuality and class, propaganda for heterosexism, "what Playboy has done to us?" schools, religion, clothes, black women's perceptions, racism through sexuality,
- ★ children's sexuality, sexuality and age,
- ★ rape, prostitution, strippers, violence and exploitation of sexuality.

Any woman is welcome to attend, write a paper, contribute to the film screenings, visual arts display, be involved in the women's party.

Papers

If you have any ideas on the above topics or others you think relevant to the title of the conference please write them down and send them to us. Papers will be printed for the conference if they are received by October 6.

Child Care

Child care will be provided. Those coming with children should make arrangements for food if basic health food provided for the conference is not appropriate. Bring toys if you are able. Please let us know by October 11.

Accommodation

We can guarantee accommodation if we are notified by October 11. Bring a sleeping bag if you can. If possible those offering accommodation should attend the registration session on Friday, October 15, at 8.00pm in the Mixed Lounge, (1st Floor, Melbourne University Union).

Registration Fee

We have decided on \$4.00 as a registration fee to cover venue hire, printing papers, entertainment, refreshments, child care and other conference expenses. The \$4.00 fee applies to everyone including students and social security recipients. High school students will be charged \$1.50. If you are penniless contact the Collective. Limited subsidies for women from WA, NT and North Queensland are available. Contact the Conference Collective before October 6.

Please return completed form with cheque or postal order to
*Sexuality Conference Collective, c/o AUS, 97 Drummond St.
Carlton, Victoria 3053.*

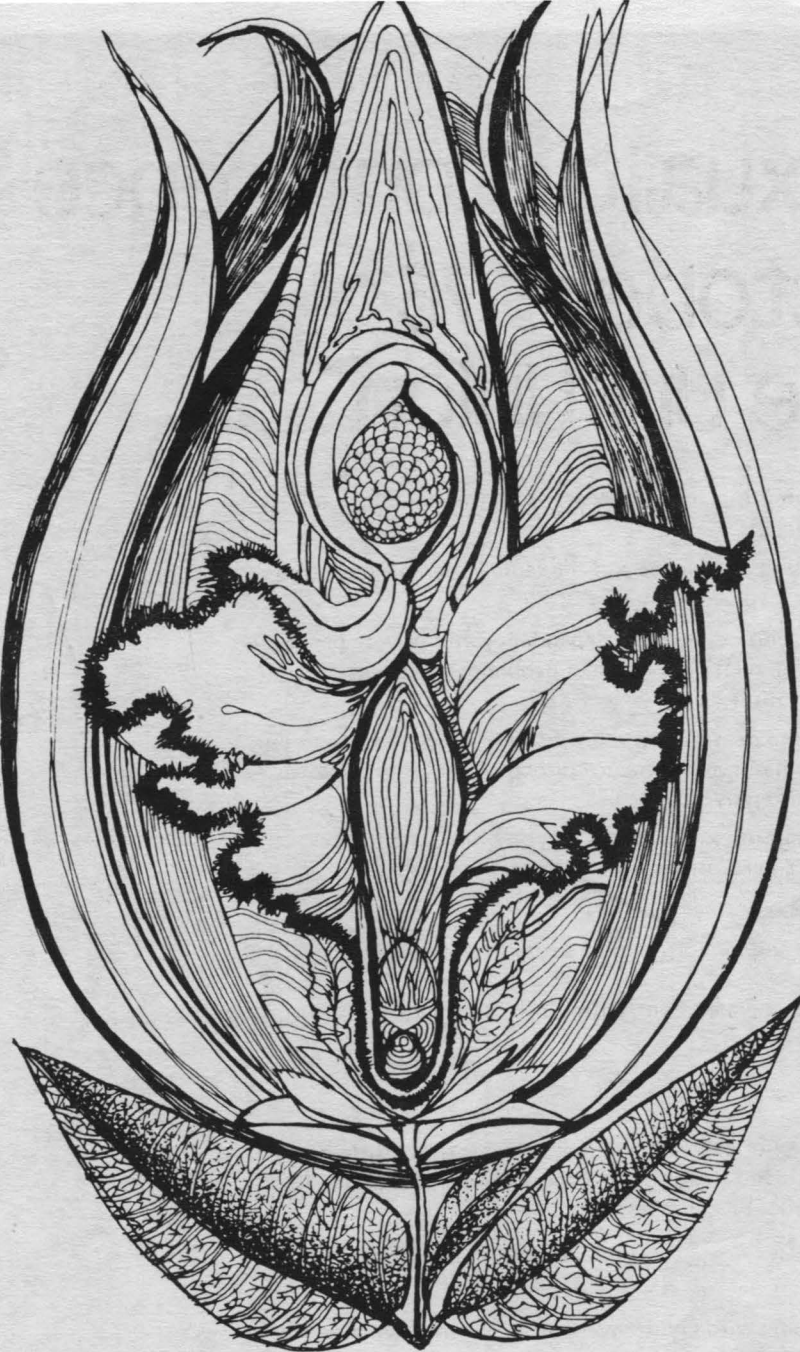
POETRY

ONCE AGAIN

My departure
 Was for Monday
 I am going I said
 And you laughed
 Youll not leave
 Come to bed
 We'll make it up
 And eat Icecream and Liqueur
 Not again I said
 Youve worn me out
 With your Reconciliations
 What will you do
 Without ME
 You mocked
 Even then I saw
 Love
 Fear
 Yearning
 In your golden eyes
 My guts leapt inside
 With brutal joy
 You!
 Ha!
 You....I can do well
 WITHOUT
 I bled inside
 The iron in my soul
 White hot
 With love
 with revenge
 The song of Cycadas
 And high moon

Like the Datura scent
 You crept in
 And paralysed my will
 Your power burnt
 The scars of anger away
 Like two bits of gold
 We fused.

....Bernard Nicholl



Betty Dodson

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....POST CODE.....

I attach the registration fee of
 \$4.00

\$1.50 (High school students)

I require/can provide accommodation for Friday/Saturday/
 Sunday nights. (Delete where applicable)

I require child care for..... child(ren) aged.....

I am/am not writing a paper.

Topic:

You crossed the wild stream
and crept through the forest
quiet as a star.
Suddenly you are here.
Lesbos.
Caravan in the desert.

- Would you like a cup of tea?

....Cecily Davis

As the sun rises over glorious horizons
You come as birth does,
I wish that I came into your time
You mean everything to me.

Changing, moving in a circle
I see your face in all of my dreams,
Smiling, laughing at shadows
When I see your face I know what it means.

Wishing, hoping, chasing the shadows
Did I see your face in the crowd?
How can I forget you?
For you are what creation is meant to be.

....Jennifer

REVIEW

ROOMMATES CAN'T ALWAYS BE LOVERS.

by: Lige Clarke and Jack Nicholls.

The co-authors of this book have had extensive experience in writing: first as "columnists" for the New York satirical magazine SCREW, and later as editors of their own newspaper GAY, the first freely homosexual paper for the gay "masses". Their first book: "I Have More Fun With You Than Anybody", gave their own early histories with fascinating sidelights on the start of the Gay Liberation movements in the U.S. In this book they take a representative sample of letters from readers, with their own replies. Each "batch" of letters is concerned with a specific

topic, and these are separated by an insert, in which they give their general views on that topic.

Their position is quite liberated - not only do they reply to the letter in the appropriate manner, but they also go beyond that in raising their readers' consciousness to greater awareness of the larger issues. This often ranges far beyond the original scope of the letter. Readers are constantly advised/exhorted/encouraged to see themselves as whole people and not to concentrate on one aspect of their personality. Sexism, often rampant in the letters they received, is more or less gently rebuked and exposed for the insidious danger that it is. They take particular care with people who obviously have been suppressed and wounded by society's attitudes into a negative view of themselves, by supporting them and encouraging their positive aspects.

The style is mostly light, and serious where it needs to be. This book would be useful and enlightening to many people, specially those who could identify with some of the letter writers. Those new to the camp scene can gain an insight into the many and various manifestations of that scene, and it will help them to form a positive attitude with respect to many of these. Few of the letters were from women, probably because publications like Screw and Gay have a very small female readership, and also because most people prefer to write to their own sex on topics of such an intimate nature.

I liked the book for its easy style, its variety of topics, the attitude of the authors. It is now available from the Australian agents, Hutchison Group (Aust) Pty Ltd, who supplied us with their copy, apparently of the English publishers, St. James Press of London. The recommended Australian retail price is \$ 10.30. The original American version, published by St. Martin's Press of New York, was available from Dr. Duncan's Revolution Bookshop in Adelaide some time ago: present stocks and price not known but should be worth checking.

John Greenway

CONTACT...

Camp women in Qurindi area living here or just passing through may like to contact DEL at P.O. Box 237 Qurindi.

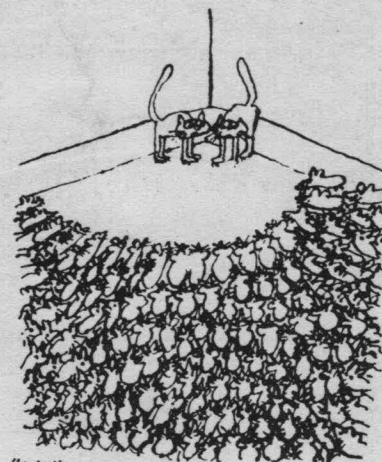
Gays in Grafton/Coffs Harbour area, or weary travellers passing through, please contact: Cecily Davis, c/ Corindi P.O. Maybe we can form a group.

P007

CAMP GUY, early forties, wishes to get in touch with other Central Coast members of CAMP.

BOX NUMBER REPLIES. Replies to box numbers must each be accompanied by three (3) 18¢ stamps and be addressed to:

The Advertising Editor.
CAMP INK,
G.P.O. Box 5074,
Sydney, NSW 2001.



"Well, don't just stand there
..... negotiate!"

ADVERTISING RATES.

Personal ads: 5¢ per word; minimum 50¢.
Use of box number: 50¢ payable by advertiser; three (3) 18¢ stamps to each reply.

Commercial ads: 10¢ per word; \$1.00 minimum.

Display ads: Send copy to Advertising Editor for a quote.

CAMP LOBBY LTD for CAMP NSW.

Application for membership.



BLOCK
LETTERS
PLEASE

Name: _____

Address: _____

-----Postcode-----

I enclose: \$ 15 - 1 year membership (wage-earner) *
 \$ 7 - 1 year membership (non wage-earner) *
 \$...- Donation

* Cross out whichever does not apply.

Cheques, postal and money orders should be made payable to CAMP Lobby Ltd, and marked NOT NEGOTIABLE. Send to The Secretary, CAMP NSW, Box 5074, GPO, Sydney 2001. Receipts will not be issued unless specifically asked for - your membership card will be mailed to you in acknowledgement of your fee.

Enquiries: Secretary (02) 827-3063.