

CAMP INK

VOLUME 2, NO. 6

PRICE 25c.

APRIL 1972



MEDICAL ASPECTS OF V.D.

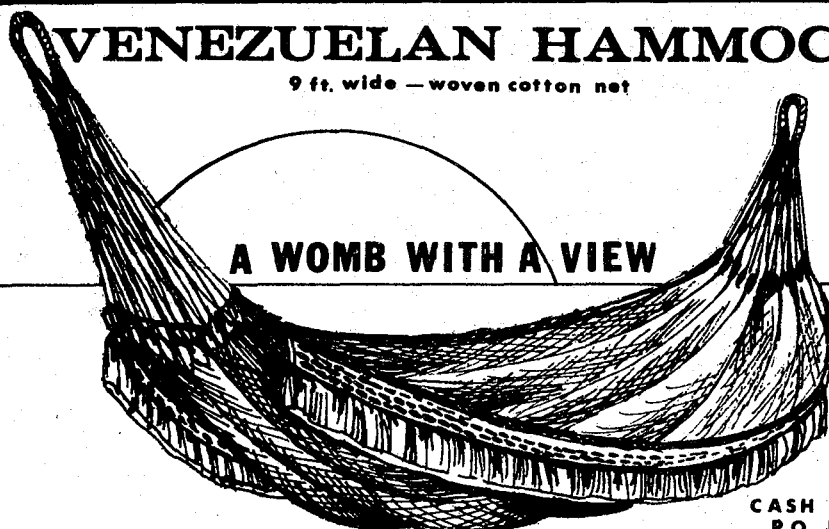
REVEALING MALE NUDE STUDIES — A superb collection of studies to appeal to the lover of the male figure — send for free proofsheets and details to Dept. CI, Art Pictures, P.O. Box 89, Manly. 1095. Send two stamps for postage.



1st floor, Crystal Palace Arcade,
690 George Street, Sydney.
PHONE 61:2604

VENEZUELAN HAMMOCKS

9 ft. wide — woven cotton net



A WOMB WITH A VIEW

SCARLET WITH BEIGE FRINGE — \$29.50
NATURAL WITH RED FRINGE — \$27.50

CASH OR COD
P.O. BOX 411
POTTS POINT 2011 N.S.W.

CAMP SLOGAN CONTEST CLOSES THIS MONTH

Entries so far include:-

Camp is Cool.
Bent is Bonza.
Homos are People.
Admit Camp

Send your entry to:
SLOGAN CONTEST
BOX 5074 G.P.O.
SYDNEY. 2001.

YOU COULD WIN A PRIZE!



WOMEN JOIN CAMP TOO!

CAMP INK

Volume 2, Number 6

April 1972

Articles represent the view of the writers and are not necessarily the views of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution.

Publisher: Campaign Against Moral Persecution,
Box 5074, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001

General Editors: Christabel Poll and John Ware

Queensland Editor: Paul Lucas

A.C.T. Editor: P. Stuart Foss

Western Australian

Editor: Hadrian Brookfield

N.S.W. Editor: Lex Watson

South Australian

Editor: David Lock

Poetry Editor: Stefanie Bennett

Photography: Philip Potter

Business Manager: Frank Paysen

Typesetting: Students' Union, University of N.S.W.

CAMP INK is the official monthly publication of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution.

The Australia-Wide Society was formed in July 1970 to work towards a better understanding of homosexuality and a redefinition of the homosexual's place in the community.

CONTENTS

3. The Editors
4. Some Medical Aspects of V.D.
6. Adelaide Scene
6. D.O.B. Reorganises
7. A Dark Look at "The Sun" by Robert Acton
8. Protest from Phillip Adams
10. Melbourne Scene
10. Perth Scene
11. Sydney Scene — In Out & Around the Syndrome
13. Coming out at Work
14. Minnie Drear
15. Inside Looking Out with Axel
16. Poems
17. Letters

THE EDITORS

Over a year ago we reported grave suspicions that the newspapers in Australia had an "official policy" of refusing to give CAMP coverage. At that time we were concerned about the papers refusal to report our challenge to the then Minister for the Navy, Mr. Killen, over the dismissal of a number of sailors, reportedly for homosexual activities.

Since then our suspicions have been confirmed that it is policy of a number of newspapers not to mention CAMP and its activities or indeed the activities of any organised group whose aim is to change nineteenth century attitudes to sex.

First there was the case of the "Australian's" refusal to accept an advertisement lodged, on behalf of CAMP, in Melbourne.

More dramatically there was the failure of newspapers to use the coverage they collected of the demonstration organised by the N.S.W. Branch at the time of the Berowa Liberal Party preselection.

Then there was the rumour, confirmed by a member of the staff of the "Sydney Morning Herald", that there was in existence a memo stressing that CAMP and organised homosexuals were not to be mentioned favourably, the reason being that the "Sydney Morning Herald" was a "Christian" newspaper. (One doubts that if Christ were today to make his stand on understanding and acceptance, he would merit a mention in this "Christian" newspaper.)

Finally there was the "Sunday Australian's" refusal to accept an ad worth \$90, from the Western Australian Branch.

The "Australian", interestingly enough, gave us a great deal of coverage in the early days. But since Adrian Deemar was sacked as Editor, its policy has been remarkably inconsistent. While the "Sunday Australian", referred to above, refused our ad the "Australian" which is to all intent and purposes, the same paper accepted and ran the same ad the following Saturday.

So far these have been slights by omission, they simply haven't covered us.

To these we now add a slight not by omission but by commission. A "sympathic journalist" has sent us cuttings from two editions of the Sydney based "Sun-Herald" of 12-3-72. We have circled the two offending words. We leave it to you to guess which was the later, that is, amended edition.

Call us paranoid if you will but first test the reality by asking your local editor.

thousand men and women who took part in the hour-long march through city streets.

American poet Rod McKuen was also among the marchers.

McKuen, who flew from Canberra specially to take part in the march, said he hoped the day would come when there was no Women's Lib or Gay Lib.

liberation," he said.

In another incident during the march, a young man threw a carton of eggs filled with red dye at a youth on a truck decorated with Women's Lib slogans.

Some of the dye hit the youth, Phil Gregory, a 19-year-old university student, in the eye.

thousand men and women who took part in the hour-long march through city streets.

American poet Rod McKuen was also among the marchers.

McKuen, who flew from Canberra to take part in the march, said he hoped the day would come that there was no Women's Lib.

In another incident during the march, a young man threw a carton of eggs filled with red dye at a youth on a truck decorated with Women's Lib slogans.

Some of the dye hit the youth, Phil Gregory, a 19-year-old university student, in the eye.

SOME MEDICAL ASPECTS OF VENEREAL DISEASES

— or —

How to tell whether you've got it, by somebody who never had it but who knows all about it.

2nd Part of a two part series.

The first point that any doctor should make when discussing venereal diseases is that they are almost always **completely curable** as long as treatment is carried out at a fairly early stage. The second and very important point that must be made very clear is that venereal diseases often go **completely unnoticed** by the people who have them. Lack of knowledge of actually having the diseases is the greatest single factor involved in their spread. A third point of interest is that, except in rare instances, venereal diseases are only transmitted through intimate sexual contact, usually either vaginal or rectal intercourse. (The toilet seat bit is a story that nobody believes anymore!). Another fairly obvious point is that female homosexuals very seldom contract venereal diseases.

The two most common venereal diseases are gonorrhoea and syphilis, and these are both potentially very dangerous if they are left untreated. A third very common disease is non-specific urethritis which causes symptoms in the penis that are identical to those that may be caused by gonorrhoea. However, this disease is not serious and is not necessarily venereal and is seldom contagious. There are other less common and less serious diseases, such as genital warts, that may be classified as being venereal, but because they are sufficiently evident to the patient for him to seek medical advice, they shall not be discussed in this article.

GONORRHOEA

Gonorrhoea is by far the most common of all the venereal diseases. It is also by far the easiest to cure, and in the majority of cases it is evident to the patient. However, in a rapidly increasing percentage of cases it is not evident, and in rare instances, it is quite difficult to cure.

It has been estimated by some authorities in the United States that up to 80% of vaginal gonorrhoea (female front passage) and rectal gonorrhoea (back passage) goes unnoticed by its carriers. The same authorities estimate that up to 20% of gonorrhoea in the penis is now unnoticed by its carrier. These are very recent figures and they

indicate that gonorrhoea has undergone a significant change in character and is now often less obvious to the patient than it used to be. However, if people were aware of the slight symptoms that may occur, the above figures would undoubtedly be lowered, and consequently, the prevalence of the disease in our society would be greatly reduced. On the other hand, complete irradiation will remain a very difficult problem, as the disease may be transmitted during the incubation period of from 2 to 7 days following intercourse, when symptoms have not yet developed. The cardinal symptom to watch for is a **change from the normal**. The key word is change. Any change from the normal should warrant immediate sexual abstinence, and if the change is still detectable after three days, the opinion of an experienced and sympathetic doctor should be sought. The following comments will help in self detection of gonorrhoea.

Urethral Gonorrhoea (Sick Dick)

Symptoms usually start from two to seven days after sexual contact, but may not be noticed until much later in some cases. Often the first symptom is a **burning sensation** when passing urine, but the cardinal symptom is a **discharge of pus** from the end of the penis. It may or may not be accompanied by the burning sensation, and the pus may be of any colour and of any quantity. Occasionally, much more severe symptoms, such as pain and bleeding, occur but most often the symptoms are quite mild. The slightest discharge, that may be undetectable except for a stain on the underclothes, may very well be a symptom of

gonorrhoea. Even a slight itch at the tip of the penis may be a symptom if it persists. Repeated attacks of urethral gonorrhoea, particularly if untreated, may lead to an urethral stricture and inability to pass urine.

Rectal Gonorrhoea (Jack in the Box)

or (Jack in the Male Box)

This condition is quite common in male homosexuals and of course can also occur in heterosexual females who occasionally have rectal intercourse, or in whom the infection has spread from the vagina. The symptoms of this condition are usually less obvious than those of urethral gonorrhoea. Probably in the majority of cases, the symptoms are not sufficient in themselves to cause the patient to seek medical advice. However in a severe acute infection, the symptoms are quite obvious and include the following:

The patient may desire to pass a motion more frequently than normal and when he goes to the toilet, he may pass very little other than pus and mucus. He may develop a very itchy anus and this may progress to a very sore and inflamed one which prevents further rectal intercourse and may even go onto abscess formation. Less severe cases may cause only the production of a small quantity of pus which appears at the very beginning of the daily motion and which is usually coated over the very first part of the faecal stool. The pus is usually whitish-yellow or yellowish-brown.

Very mild cases may produce no symptoms at all or merely a slight increase in anal mucus secretion, and therefore may go unnoticed. On the other hand, it must be clearly pointed

For everybody's sake, anyone who suspects that he or she may have caught V.D. should not have sexual intercourse again until they have been declared cured by a doctor.



out that mucus production may be quite normal. A large proportion of the population normally produces some mucus at the beginning of their stool. Also mucus production is usually increased for about 48 hours after rectal intercourse.

Therefore, the only advice that can be given for detection of early or mild diseases is to watch for a change. Watch for any change that is constant or progressive.

Gonorrhoea in the Female

(Jack in the Female Box)

This condition is similar to rectal gonorrhoea in that it also usually goes unnoticed. The classical symptoms are a yellowish vaginal discharge and a burning sensation when passing urine. In severe cases, the discharge is profuse, the burning quite severe and the whole genital area and lower abdomen become inflamed and even peritonitis may occur. However, severe cases are rare and in the majority of cases, the woman either notices nothing, or merely a slight increase in her normal discharge, or perhaps a change in colour of the discharge from white to yellow. Here again it must be remembered that women vary in the amount of discharge that they normally produce, and therefore, the advice given for early detection is to watch for any persistent change from normal. The discharge may not be due to gonorrhoea, as there are several other very common infections which may cause the same symptoms, and only your doctor can tell you which one you have. If you think you could have been in contact with gonorrhoea, make sure you tell your doctor this, because it may not occur to him if you have an innocent face. Remember, gonorrhoea in females will usually result in sterility if not treated fairly promptly.

and only your doctor can tell you which one you have. If you think you could have been in contact with gonorrhoea, make sure you tell your doctor this, because it may not occur to him if you have an innocent face. Remember, gonorrhoea in females will usually result in sterility if not treated fairly promptly.

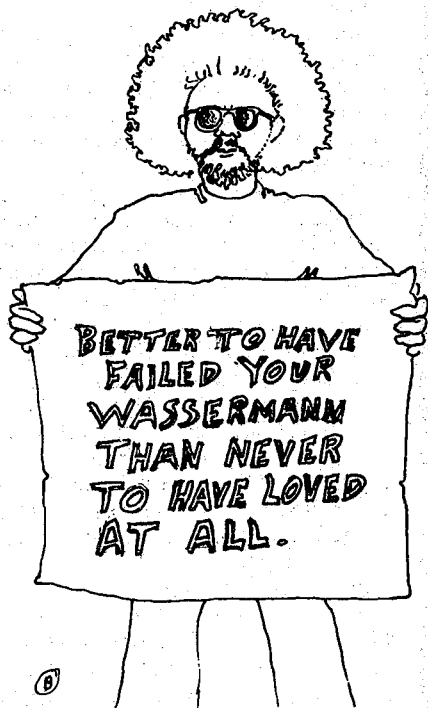
Other Complications of Gonorrhoea Infection.

Gonorrhoea may also cause ophthalmitis (red, sore eye), arthritis (painful joints), endocarditis (heart disease), and hepatitis (liver disease). These conditions are rare but very serious and have to be treated most vigorously.

NON SPECIFIC URETHRITIS

The symptoms of this disease are now indistinguishable from those of

mild urethral gonorrhoea. It used to be said that gonorrhoea was painful and produced a lot of yellow pus and that N.S.U. was painless and produced a small quantity of white pus. This distinction can no longer be made and in the case of mild urethral discharge, even your doctor cannot tell you which one you have unless he actually tests the pus. N.S.U. is harmless but often difficult to cure.



SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a frightening and potentially crippling and lethal disease. It is particularly frightening because it may produce no symptoms or signs whatever in the early stages, and the diagnosis may not be made until it is too late to prevent grotesque tissue destruction and even death. The disease is usually transmitted by intimate sexual contact, but may be transmitted in some cases simply by kissing. If symptoms do develop, they usually manifest themselves in the following pattern:

Primary Stage

From ten to three months after sexual contact a single hard, painless ulcer or "sore" develops at the site of contact. However, this sore is very variable in appearance and there may be more than one. The sore may occur practically anywhere, but common sites are penis, vagina, anus, rectum, lips and mouth. These sores are called "chancres" and of course are not noticed if they occur in the vagina or the rectum, and they may not be noticed in the mouth. The chancre will heal slowly over two or four weeks

without any treatment, and will usually leave a scar.

Secondary Stage

This usually occurs about six weeks after the primary stage but it may occur later. It consists of some sort of generalised skin rash which is sometimes associated with shallow "snail track" ulcers in the mouth, and joint pains, and a feeling of "unwell". Secondary syphilis can also cause wart-like lesions in the genital region and these may be confused with simple genital warts. The rash varies in its appearance and again will disappear without treatment. Thus, even if the primary and secondary stages do reveal themselves, the patient may not be worried and therefore may not seek medical attention, and thus he enters the latent stage.

Latent Stage

This stage may last up to 20 years and during this time the patient has no symptoms. Nevertheless, chronic, progressive, destructive changes may be taking place in every part of the body, thus leading to the tertiary stage. On the other hand, many cases of syphilis do not progress beyond the latent stage and no serious destruction of body tissue ever takes place. In some cases the disease even appears to subside altogether without any treatment.

Tertiary Stage

The effects of this final and horrifying stage of syphilis may not become obvious until 10 to 20 or more years after primary infection. It can affect every part of the body and the variety of its symptoms are boundless and could not possibly all be mentioned here. It is sufficient to say that every part of the body may be slowly destroyed, causing such things as large cavernous ulcers of the skin, complete destruction of joints, heart failure, paralysis and insanity. Death is usually finally caused by syphilitic heart disease.

FREE TREATMENT AVAILABLE AT

★ ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS

★ HEALTH CLINICS

Advice in Regards to Syphilis

Syphilis is on the increase in our community, and this is probably a direct result of the existence of our permissive society. Because it is such an insidious and hidden disease, we must all be very diligent and conscientious in an endeavour to detect and cure the disease. As syphilis is passed onto the unborn child, it would seem reasonable

that all couples who are contemplating marriage, and who have had previous sexual experience, should be tested for syphilis (and cured if necessary) prior to marriage. Anybody who leads a fairly promiscuous sex life should be regularly tested for syphilis even if there is no suspicion of the disease. For these people, testing should be done every 3 months. It is only in this way that the spread of the disease can be minimised.

The following final advice is for those who get it, and for those who have been in sexual contact with somebody who has it. If you get it, you must start treatment as soon as possible, and you must remember that you have a very grave responsibility to endeavour to inform everybody from whom you could have got it, and everybody to whom you could have given it. All contacts should be tested and treated if necessary. You must be completely guided by your doctor in these circumstances.

Detection of Syphilis

Fortunately, the detection of the disease is usually easy, and routine testing involves only a simple blood test. The small inconvenience and the small cost of this are surely worthwhile. If you are not in a medical fund and you do not have much money, the test can be done without charge at any public hospital or at any venereal clinic. Nobody has any excuse for failing to have regular blood tests if they are at risk. Most cases of syphilis in recent years have been detected by routine blood tests on people who have had no symptoms whatever. Any promiscuous person who fails to have regular blood tests is revealing a gross lack of responsibility, both to himself and to the community. Remember, the disease is totally curable.

EVEN A
QUEEN
CAN GET
THE CLAP!



Adelaide Scene

Now four months old, the S.A. branch of C.A.M.P. has found its feet and is beginning to make some impact on Adelaide's mass media. Despite our lack of a headquarters, membership is now well over one hundred, while many more have been brought into contact with our objectives and working groups through our dazzling array of social functions — regular dances, film evenings, picnics, and even a Festival Garden Party at one of Adelaide's stately homes planned for 19th March.

On 18th February was held our first general meeting for the adoption of a constitution and the election of a ten-member committee to coordinate activities for the next twelve months. Adelaide University's Campus Camp is also getting under way with the beginning of the academic year.

The month of February saw our emergence into the arena of public debate. First radio interview was on Station 5AD, with Chairman Warren being subjected to a series of grossly slanted questions, concerned mainly with the alleged dangers of child molestation, from conservative journalist Stewart Cockburn. Although Cockburn declared he was in favour of law reform, his own attitude to homosexuality was, he claimed, 'controlled fear' — a position which he then expounded by means of a seemingly endless reminiscence of what might have been his first sex experience if he hadn't run away. Faced with this nonsense, it was hard to keep discussion on a rational level, but generally Warren managed quite well and after this baptism of fire he was easily able to handle his second encounter with a sympathetic interviewer on 5DN a few weeks later.

Further interviews, with ample time and a liberal approach, have been promised by Anglican and Methodist Sunday radio programs within the next few months.

Advertisements for C.A.M.P. have been accepted without difficulty by the evening News. The morning Advertiser has also shown unexpected goodwill. Letters from C.A.M.P. representatives have been published and three committee members were given a lengthy interview, though the resulting article was disappointingly brief and (unintentionally) misleading on several points. On the following day a second article ('Prison no solution say clerics') gave the views of S.A. church leaders on homosexual law reform. All were in favour in varying degrees, the strongest support coming from the Congregationalist leader while the Catholic Archbishop was the most hesitant. Most interesting was the 'conversion' of Anglican Bishop Reed who last October had declared himself opposed to changing the law and now gives his qualified support ('While I condemn the sin, I am extremely sorry for these unfortunate people'). Altogether this can be taken to mean that although the heads of the major churches may not actually campaign for removal of the existing legal penalties, they will not oppose reform if this is proposed by the State Government. This is a welcome contrast with the strong opposition offered by some sections of the church to S.A.'s liberalised abortion law.

So things are moving at last. In sophisticated Sydney this degree of exposure and debate would no doubt pass unnoticed, but in conservative Adelaide we feel we've come quite a long way.

D.O.B. REORGANIZES

The New York Daughters of Bilitis ratified a new constitution and by-laws last year, changing the organization from a traditional president-vice-president hierarchy — under which members complained that most of the responsibility and work devolved on very few women — to a system of co-chairwomen and collectives.

Three co-chairwomen, Rose Jordan, Lyn Kupferman, and Martha Jane Steffen, replace the president. Two agenda co-chairwomen, will conduct meetings.

A new membership policy has been

instituted, with dues based on income. All members are expected to work in at least one collective. Major decisions must be approved by the vote of the membership present at a Thursday meeting.

Forced to vacate their loft headquarters at 141 Prince Street by the end of October, DOB voted on September 23 to enter into negotiations for a larger space. At GAA's invitation, they planned to hold their general meetings in the Firehouse if they failed to get new space in time.

a dark look at THE SUN

by Robert Acton

This article is prompted by Axel's comments on the apathy of the Sydney Morning Herald toward homosexuality. (CAMP INK Dec/Jan issue)

Society Five of Melbourne is in a position to support the observations made by Axel and to sympathise with our Sydney brothers and sisters.

The Publicity Committee of Society Five have successfully placed with most Melbourne dailies and local rags an advertisement on behalf of the Society. The Melbourne Sun steadfastly refused to accept this advertisement for publication. Upon calling personally at the office of the Editor of the Sun our Publicity Committee Convenor was informed that "It is not the policy of this publication to accept such advertisements."

Illustrated are two advertisements which apparently are acceptable for publication. One, for the erotic film "percy", which leaves little to the imagination; the other a straight ad. for another publication **People**. This ad offers promise of quasi-sexual stimulation per medium of the book **Mirrors of Venus**. This book is a prize for successful entry in a promotional competition for **People**.

The aim of both ads is obviously to cater to the sexual interests and pleasures of a predominantly heterosexual public. Could we not say that our representative has been shown a policy at the least inconsistent? Perhaps the Editor would have us believe that such inconsistency is justified by the maxim "Might is Right" — society being in majority heterosexual.

One could be forgiven for going on to assume that the Sun does not regard homosexuality as an existing concern of society, but, as a social disease simply the province of law enforcement. Its implementation of a policy that refuses to accept and recognise the existence of an organisation pledged to alleviate the problems encountered by homosexuals in the community is too much akin to the primitive premise: "I do not see it, I do not recognise it; therefore it does not exist."

We bear no malice to ads as such. In the case of **Percy** the writer personally regards it as a very clever peice of attention-getting publicity. Our approach is directed towards the Sun

Which exhibits such a policy of social discrimination in its daily publication. It is interesting to note that both of these ads are directly concerned with social pleasure and leisure, a right which is not to be denied to anyone. No doubt many members have seen **Percy** and read **People** and found them to be a source of leisure and enjoyment.

However, our own humble ad. was not concerned with pleasurable diversions. Our aim was not to solicit patrons for fun and games, but to learn of and become aware of people who were in need of personal help and assistance. Surely this is an act of value whereby a

R

This programme is for "restricted" audiences and persons over (6) years and under (18) years will NOT BE ADMITTED. Proof of age may be required.



Edwin Anthony had a very nasty accident.

And lost something very vital.

So they gave him Percy.

Now Edwin wants to know where Percy's been before.



Starring Hywel Bennett as Edwin Anthony.

And Percy as Percy.

PERCY

NAT COMEN Presents an ANGIO SMI Film a BETTY L. BOK / RALPH THOMAS Production

HYWEL BENNETT in PERCY
with guest stars ELKE SOMMER BRITT EKLAND
also starring DENHOLM ELLIOTT

SPOT THE MISTAKE

Can you spot the deliberate mistake on the cover of the current issue of **People**? You can win two superb photographic books from the Hamlyn group: "Mirrors of Venus" by Wingate Paine, "a study of excitement, joy and eroticism;" and "Made in Australia" by David Mist, which studies the beauty of the Australian woman.



People magazine offers you this unique opportunity to become the owner of two of the most superb photographic volumes.

worthwhile and an intelligent attempt is made to provide a service to society as a whole, both heterosexual and homosexual.

It is a source of disappointment to the writer that it is most unlikely that the Editor of the **Sun** will become aware of this article. It would seem apparent that his hands are tied by a dogmatic and narrow-minded policy fathered by his equally dogmatic and narrow-minded employer. It appears to be generally accepted that Fairfax Publications are affiliated with a political doctrine fostered by the ruling government power. Its attitude towards homosexuality is well-known to us all, despite the individual member who may dare to nurture thoughts treasonable to the Party. "You must toe the Party Line, Old Chap, don't you know!"

A careful reading of the Melbourne Sun and its bedfellows will reveal little food for thought. Intellect and enlightenment it would seem, are virtues exclusively the preserve of the ruling bodies. Joe Citizen must not be allowed or encouraged to think too deeply for himself, or horror of horrors, he will begin to ask questions!

It is to be hoped that Fairfax Publications and its employees may very shortly graduate from the restricted age group of the "R" classification of the community to which they claim to cater.

One may dream, or is that "unacceptable" too?

CAMP QUOTES

Should everyone found guilty of Oscar Wilde's crime be in prison, there would be a very surprising emigration from Eton, Harrow, Rugby and Winchester to the gaols.....

W.T.Stead.

Protest from Phillip Adams

Insofar as I can decipher his prose, Axel seems to be accusing me of a short-back-and-sides attitude to homosexuality (Vol. 1 No. 4). Not so. Or not quite so.

Ten years ago I began lobbying MPs for a Wolfendon-style enquiry into homosexual law reform. I even tried to organize a lecture tour by Peter Wildblood. Subsequently, and partly as a result of my efforts, the Victorian Fabian Society did hold a series of public lectures on the subject. And I distinctly remember talking to a number of homosexuals prominent in television, theatre and public life asking them to stand up and be counted. Sadly they declined.

*Later I tried to have both male and female homosexuality sympathetically treated in my film *The Naked Bunyip* only to run into the predictable censorship problems. And over the years I've written many articles urging homosexuals to organize themselves into a pressure group.*

*As a matter of fact, had Axel checked the *Camp Ink* files he'd have*

found that I was one of its earliest subscribers.

However, I do not see that my sympathy for homosexuals requires me to sign any sort of blank cheque. While there are many homosexuals who I like and admire there are others I find either irritating or despicable. In the same way I am pro-semetic but reserve the right to dislike the odd Jew if he happens to be obnoxious.

Which brings me back to the question of Ken Russell who may or may not be a homosexual. In my piece I criticized Russell for the hatred of women that can clearly be seen in certain of his works. In short I find his obscene treatment of female characters as odious and indefensible as the Vice Squad's treatment of inoffensive queens.

*As a matter of fact, *Camp Ink* might be interested in reprinting the attached article which I wrote for the *Australian* some years back. As I remember it appeared in a somewhat censored form.*

The Attached Article

Near a well-known gymnasium in Melbourne there's an underground public lavatory which its homosexual habituaries call the pop-up toaster. Near the Camberwell Town Hall there's another which caters to a better class of perve. With those small bottle green lenses set in the brickwork, it's called the crystal palace. A lonely lavatory by a suburban golf course is better known as Ida Lupino's road house. And near a big public library you'll find the Reading Room.

Giving witty names to these squalid, furtive hangouts is just one way in which the homosexual expresses the dichotomous nature of his character and culture. Another is found in the use of that key word 'gay'. It's not so much an adjective as a self-inflicted wound. How accurately it catches the brittle, forced quality of their social world.

Destructive Vindictiveness

The homosexual is a contradiction not only in social terms and sexual terms but in personal terms. While fervently identifying with the idealism

and romanticism of Oscar Wilde, he'll live a life of sexual opportunism, of destructive promiscuity. While pleading for community tolerance and understanding, he'll treat his fellow homosexuals with bitchy vindictiveness. While scorning the squares for their hangups and dishonesty — while insisting on the normalcy of his condition — the homosexual remains torn by guilt.

But sex is always a seething hot-bed of contradictions, no pun intended. As we know, Victorian prudery concealed Victorian pornography. Scratch a censorial politician and you'll often find a dirty old man. A few days ago I heard a bloke in a pub say "homosexuals is rats — they ought to be kicked to death" prior to delivering a paean of praise to the concept of mateship. Needless to say he was unconscious of the irony.

A Cruel Joke

Australians like homosexual entertainments. They crowd to "Boys in the Brand", "Midnight Cowboy", "Les Girls". Every Saturday night hosts at a thousand square parties do ballet dances (in pot-lid bras). At every other footy social the team will dress up in tutus and mince around the stage

to general hilarity. Australian television has long been decorated by comperes and comedians who make much of limp-wristed innuendos. It's all a bit of a giggle. But confront the same Australians with the reality of homosexuality — with one of the crueller jokes that can be played on the human being — and suddenly it's not so funny. Only in recent years has there been any softening of attitude, but there's been no softening of the law.

Homosexuals call the police "lily law" with a facetiousness that fails to conceal their fear. They know the law completely loses its cool when it comes to the question of their particular deviation. Where crimes like incest, rape and murder are defined in the statutes with admirable detachment, homosexual lovemaking is described as "the abominable crime of buggery" (ironically lesbianism is not illegal for the simple reason that those drafting the law found themselves unable or unwilling to explain to Queen Victoria just what Lesbians did). Taking their cue from this vehement phrase, many policemen make the harassment of homosexuals their own particular crusade. And methinks that in some instances they protest too much — but often their motives would not bear "psychiatric examination". Solicitors with experience of such cases report that in many instances the constables acting as "agent provocateurs" in places like the crystal palace take an interminable time in making an arrest.

Moral Danger

A few years back a man arrested in such circumstances "fell" from the first floor window of a police station and died his skull smashed on a fire hydrant. Whether or not he was a homosexual, he happened to be a brilliant leukaemia specialist. So what did society gain? I know of a case where a middle-aged school teacher who'd always suppressed his tendencies yielded to the temptations of a young policeman and was subsequently dismissed by the Education Department. Others have been under departmental pressure to resign even after acquittal, on the assumption that anyone suspected of homosexual tendencies presents a moral danger to the boys in his class. Apart from the confusion of homosexuality with pederasty — a quite different deviation — this is utterly illogical. To be consistent, any male teacher known to be a heterosexual should be dismissed, for

posing a potential treat to young female students.

As well as being hunted by the law, homosexuals are denied its protection in other matters. Queens are frequently blackmailed or bashed and afraid to seek police help. I know of one 'married' homosexual couple who have been robbed by hustlers on three occasions. First they were beaten up and then their flat was cleaned out. And because they were unwilling to report these occurrences to the police they were also unable to claim on insurance. Heads I win, tails you lose. And many Melbourne homosexuals live in terror following the murder of two of their number by known midnight cowboys. However, for all their fear they were more afraid of talking to police. This situation will continue as long as an archaic and absurd law remains in force.

I should make it clear that I don't believe that changing the law will do much to lighten the homosexuals' burden of guilt. He will still dread exposure to his family, his employers and his square friends. But it would certainly help. If nothing else, it would remove one excuse for the homosexuals' tiresome self-pity. And it would enable the homosexual society — and the individual homosexual relationship — to stabilise itself. Overseas examples make it clear that far from encouraging mass sodomy, changing the law tends to encourage more responsible behaviour on the part of queens. Going by British and Danish experience, the majority of homosexuals want to be as respectable and conformist as the majority of heterosexuals.

Plaster Ducks

Even as things are, many local queens try desperately to imitate the social mores of their heterosexual neighbours. I know of two — a plumber and a builder — who live together in a neat triple fronted brick veneer with all mod-cons. Their twin beds have chenille covers, the compulsory plaster ducks soar aloft on pastel paintwork. And on Sunday mornings they have open house for their all-male friends (Mavis, Cloe, Daphne and the rest) come around, drink beer and discuss the footy. They'd certainly celebrate a change in law with a few drag parties, but ultimately it would only strengthen them in their suburban resolve. By and large a change of law would help queens live with the community, even if it didn't make it much easier for them to live with themselves.

To define homosexual behaviour as criminal is as farcical as it's unjust. I might as well condemn celebrities. After all, their sexual behaviour is just as unnatural and exotic. And here's a terrifying thought for stalwarts of our vice squadrons. Might'n't throwing a homosexual into prison be rather like hurling brer rabbit into his briar patch?

A Murky Silhouette

To a large extent the homosexual can blame himself for his invidious position in the Australian community. We live in a time where political change in such areas comes about through the manipulation of elite opinion. For example, the mass of the population may approve capital punishment but few governments dream of hanging. Where other minority groups — the conservationists, the abortion law reformers and so on — have organized the committees of dowagers, clerics and other worthy's, the homosexuals have never given themselves a voice. Would the Wolfendon report in the UK have got off the ground without the courage and energy of men like Peter Wildblood? Certainly not. Politicians and others were initially reluctant to associate themselves with this cause, presumably fearing that their own masculinity would be questioned. But once intelligent, articulate homosexuals were willing to stand up and be counted, things got moving and the law was changed. Now in America, organisations like the Mattachine Society organise lectures, meetings and publish magazines to focus attention on the homosexual's plight. They even picket government offices for refusing to employ them. In contrast, Australian queens sit around feeling sorry for themselves. Not only do they lack a magazine or forum, but if a homosexual is willing to appeal on television its likely to be a murky

silhouette, a dramatic device that tends to make them look as sinister as their detractors could possibly wish. I have spoken to many leading and ostentatiously camp Australians of theatre and allied areas — people who are widely known as queens — but they are unwilling to take that next step, to initiate a useful public debate. If they did, they might find some parliamentary back-benchers with enough guts or eccentricity to champion their cause. Just as Wildblood in England.

Famous Poofsters

Homosexuals like to chant inventories of famous poofsters — Tchaikovsky, Michaelangelo, Plato and every other film star. They find security in such exulted numbers, genuinely believing themselves to be more creative, more sensitive than squares. They're not of course, although you could argue that they try harder. Perhaps because they can't have kids (a real emotional problem for many of them as expressed in such camp plays as Staircase and the alleged first draft of Virginia Wolfe). They try desperately to prove themselves in other creative areas. Certainly if we were to remove the homosexual contribution from theatre, design, fashion, television, decor and the Australian novel, we'd have a much duller society. I suspect that the homosexual contribution has been at least as significant as the much wanted influence of the migrant. Any way you look at it, they've got a case.

Right now we're all very cross about banned books, banned films. But when you think about it, perhaps we should be even crosser about banned people.

Phillip Adams
(Vic.)

Spartacus is coming

SPARTACUS is Europe's leading homosexual organisation. We have lots to offer you. A monthly glossy magazine, male nude photos, books, novels, posters, even camp Christmas cards. We have a problems service, and an International Gay Guide. Find out what we can do for you. Write: **Spartacus, 1st & 2nd Floors, 46 Preston Street, Brighton, Sussex, England.** Send \$1 for big range of illustrated Brochures. \$2 Sample copy of Spartacus magazine, or \$12.25 for a 12 issue subscription and membership. Spartacus is for you. Australian Spartacus is being planned. You can be a founder member of Spartacus Australasia — join now.

Melbourne Scene

Society FIVE in Melbourne is on the crest of a wave. Membership is growing fast and we are aiming at a target of 1,000 members before 1973 rears its ugly head.

Our additional new H.Q. at 170 Lonsdale Street (CLUB FIVE) is attracting hordes of people, especially to the swinging Saturday night dance. Numbers have picked up to 150 gyrating, twisting bodies. We in Melbourne are happy to say that we will be soon busting our seams, and that a move, we hope permanent, to bigger club premises is on the cards.

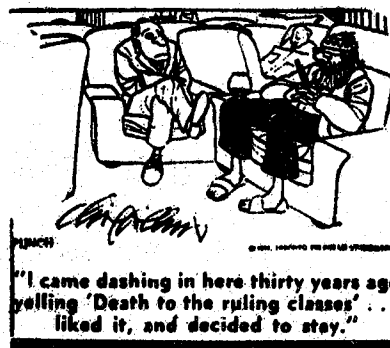
Our Lonsdale Street premises were the occasion for a special all-in discussion of the future of the movement in our beloved Victoria. Many misconceptions and ugly rumours were scotched, as members

were informed on all matters by a dedicated executive. Working parties were strengthened by added interested people. One important matter was an initiation of steps leading to the establishment (with support from a future general meeting) of a **LEGAL AID FUND**. This fund would be used for the purpose of raising bail for any club member under financial difficulties. There is a clear need for such a fund without our movement in Melbourne. The fund would be raised by a moderate levy on all members.

The media has been offering us opportunities — a member spoke of his experience of prison life, the Herald gave us an acceptable write-up in its ladies pages (very low-key!), and as a result a member appeared on a popular radio talk-back program the next day.

The gals of the club held a "ladies night" at the club, in which they entertained the buys. Brilliantly organized!

Society FIVE is alive and active.



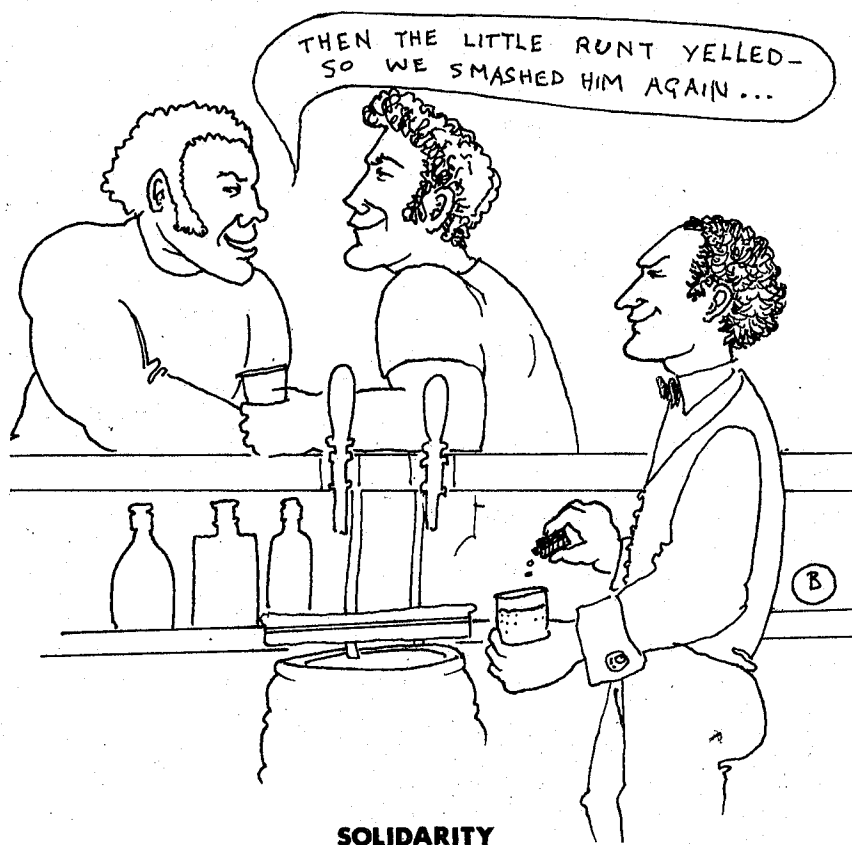
Perth Scene

This month has brought to fruition our law-reform group's six-months project — a 36 (foolscap) page report on homosexuality and homosexual offences, based on the Wolfenden report, updated for Australian conditions, plus suggested amendments to the WA Criminal Code. Copies were sent to all Members of Parliament and other interested people and organisations such as the Commissioner of Police.

Brian and the law reform group cannot be praised sufficiently for this mammoth task, which was completed at this period to give our MP's time for thorough study of the submissions prior to the date on proposed changes in the Criminal Code scheduled in the WA Parliament towards the end of March. We are all very hopeful of positive results and know that if the outcome is successful, this will to a large extent be due to the dedication by these few people.

Our activities range from the sublime to the ridiculous, but the idea to hire a two-carriage train to take 130 made people on a round-trip to Mundijong was a stroke of pure genius. Voted by all the most successful social event of the year, everybody had a ball.

We understand that the staff of the Mundijong Hotel are slowly recovering, but the locals will tell their incredulous grandchildren in years to come about That Saturday In February when THOSE people descended on the unsuspecting village. A similar trip is scheduled for 13th May. Next year we'll be charting the whole of the Indian Pacific and go East to show the flag.



Sydney Scene

In Out and Around the Syndrome

March was one of those months in Sydney when the political action — using the term in a wide sense — was outside the mainstream of what the mass media choose to call politics. Perhaps if they had had the initiative to conceive the idea, these events might qualify as part of a political social gossip column — you know the type of thing. 'Socially, March was an action-filled month. The right tone was set on February 28th when members were conspicuously absent from a forum at Sydney Uni and did not turn up from anywhere (the pun is entirely intentional.)' One could go on.

But March was an important month. The prediction made in February that Sexual Liberation was to be the 'in' topic for the Autumn and Winter of '72 is proving true, with a performance at Sydney Uni featuring that well known Gay Lib trooper Dennis Altman (whose book, *Homosexual: Liberation and Oppression* will one day be available in this country, long after a dumb *Time* review and the machinations of David Reuben (who?) have wrecked their havoc and passed into oblivion). This was hotly followed by a 'Sexist Oppression' forum at the ANU, and a non-descript turn at UNSW. Sex has always been a popular, indeed obligatory, topic at Uni orientation weeks, now only the emphasis has changed, and the audiences shrunk.

The two Sydney forums produced very different results, with the Sydney one gently disintegrating under a welter of dispute about whether or not the traditional Marxist revolutions would produce any semblance of liberation for sexually defined groups — women, camps, etc. Dennis said 'no', and used Cuba, USSR, and China as examples. Only the last was disputed by Ross Clarke (who at one stage had flashed his bare arse at the audience for reasons which remain totally obscure to all but himself, and assured all and sundry that he was devoted to his wife — which may have been relevant). The position of the

homosexual in China seemed good to none save Ross, and several in the audience quoted large lumps of articles from the *Vanguard* (see ILO in *Camp Ink* Dec. '71) to demonstrate this. He cracked up, and cracked that drugs and camp sex were undermining the fibre of the revolutionaries anyhow, which as Dennis pointed out was Mrs Askin's line (wife of our lovely Premier), and he left.

The UNSW performance was, incredibly enough, designed as a vehicle for Webster, a well known spruiker on Sydney's Domain. Someone seems to have the idea that it is right to pay this straight \$40 to come and tell people about homosexuality, and worse, that it might achieve something. Fortunately this notion was disabused by Liz Fell, who isn't camp and it shouldn't have fallen to her by default to do it, who told the assembled non-masses that it was quite ridiculous that camps could not or would not speak for themselves. The issue has been thrashed out before, it should not need this endless rehashing. But it seems to have raised the consciousness, which is a euphemism for guilt here, of the few camps who were present — and already members of the CAMP which is the stunning part — who now feel motivated to do something. What remains to be seen, but it will be interesting — we can't shelter in the reflected joy of a few leaders for ever.

But later in the week, back on the Sydney campus, that was more or less what we were doing. Dennis (see above) was back on his feet, this time from the audience, discussing the parallels between blacks and gays at a forum on black power in Australia. With the result that he was shouted down from the platform — the line was that blacks are more oppressed than anyone else (which is probably quite true) and therefore no-one else can understand them (which is debatable). It was clear that any support for black power in Australia from women's lib and gay lib was quite

unwelcome. Some were heard to ask later whether the left in Australia had to ape America as totally and uncritically as the right. The answer is yet to be given.

The action then moved off campus, which was about bloody time, and the better part of CAMP's law reform group were to be seen at a mass meeting (3000) at the Sydney Town Hall, at which, in order, Colin Clark, Bruce Smith of Moore Anglican Theological College, Norman Webb and Germaine Greer spoke about ZPG, birth control, abortion and women. Colin Clark, an RC economist did one of the more incredibly stupid, offensive, and ill-judged public performances seen in this town for many a year, and Norman Webb, who is a very liberal Methodist head of Wesley Uni College, did one of the best — it was so honest, so sincere (which is a word I normally hate), and so damned realistic. Germaine talked about morality, about responsibility, to oneself and others, and about women's rights. It seemed to me deeply relevant to us all. And at that meeting the Women's March was announced.

The March was nominally a national event, but with probably 2500 (estimates vary from 1-4000) Sydney's was much the biggest. It included a combined CAMP-Gay Lib contingent of indeterminate size (40?) marching under the two banners, which was their first ever truly public outing, being carried proudly and happily through Saturday shopping crowds in the city. By mistake, I am sure, the Gay Lib banner made the main photo of the Saturday evening *Sun*, owned by dear old Sir Warwick Fairfax. Despite the vitally important issues that the march was designed to propagate, abortion on demand, equal pay, equal opportunity for women, child care centres and so forth, the message ended up by being pure anti-sexism.

One woman, hot and annoyed that men could take their shirts off, but that

she shouldn't, did so. The police tried to make an arrest, and greeted by a barrage of shouts of 'Fuck the Pigs' promptly arrested several men, but refused to arrest a woman for the same offence — 'unseemly words' as our Summary Offences Act 1970 would have it. They also declined to arrest two women who, with a dignity and pride and understatement that was moving, openly and deliberately bared their breasts while breast feeding their babies before the assembled crowd. If you can ignore the fact that even this crowd readily used 'fuck' as an aggressive and nasty word, and it is hard, the message was still there — and it was in the form of a question. What is offensive, what is indecent, what is obscene? Why does society have such a hang-up about sex, a revulsion to nudity — which is apparently equated with sex. Why? Perhaps we should all have just chanted 'Bullshit. Fuck. Bullshit...' to test the reaction after Germaine's efforts in NZ. Perhaps we should pursue the question

asked by one woman — if a woman cannot go topless (ridiculous term) in public, why not sue the *Mirror* for publishing all those photos that it so astutely runs? There is not a logically intelligible answer to that one.

Then there was a fete at the Sydney branch's house in aid of Wendy Bacon and *Thor*, and CAMP of course, which was a raging success as an expression of solidarity, and of the whole syndrome operating together. It was also a financial success, a social success of sorts, and the drag worn — for those who are interested — was largely University scruffy, and no-one cared less. Sex, you see, does have its supporters.

A few of us turned up to attack a 'Christian psychiatrist' who talked about homosexuality at UNSW. He was clinically impartial, he claimed, but could not condone 'it' even so, and ended up being asked whether his label

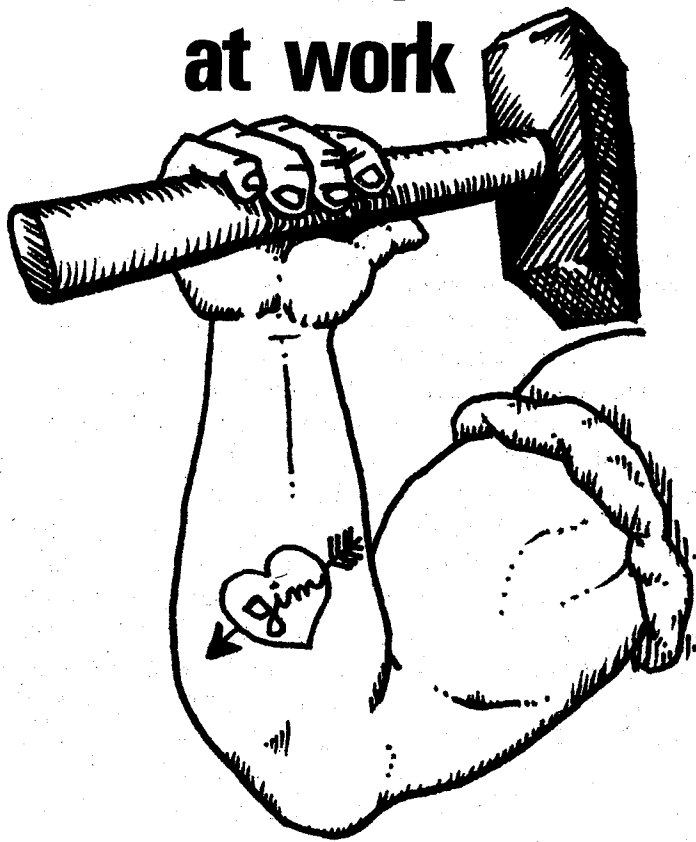
was a contradiction in terms, at least in his case. His name is Dr Bruce Peterson, and he claims to have had very few homosexual patients, which is something for which one can be thankful. Hopefully, he will now get even less.

Almost forgot — Jim Anderson, one of the London *Oz* editors recently tried for obscenity, was seen at the women's lib march, and wrote an angry Gay Lib letter to the *Review* recently. And Rod McKuen was at the women's march, but despite the chanted request to come out, he said he was not for women's lib or gay lib, but for individual lib — perhaps one day he will achieve it. It is obviously not easy for him now what with giving interviews for the press saying how he will one day find the right woman etc etc.

We hope the rest of the oppressed will turn out to support us to achieve individual rights.



coming out at work



One of the best experiences in my life has been coming out at work. I write this experience to encourage other gays to do the same. Our silence is submissive and destructive to ourselves and others who may be gay. Our coming out is breaking the societal values and discrimination against us. The gay movement is for coming out.

My experience of coming out at work is of special importance to gays in the movement because this is where Gay Power lies, in the working class. This is also where gays are most hidden and also where the majority of gays are. The gay movement must direct its voice not only to gays on the streets (a minority) but to the homosexuals in the work place who have the greatest strength.

Most gays are secret on the job, and those who have come out are used against the other employees. The gay foreman in the laundry where I work is loud and obnoxious, is talked about like a queer, and the bad jokes never end. Gays are easily used by the system to divide men from other men and women from other women. We must stop the oppression of working class gays.

The worst fear about coming out at work is the fear of not being accepted "as you are" from your co-workers. Will my friends turn against me is the worst thought I faced. To my surprise, not one of my friends turned against me.

My fear of not being accepted was less real than the background of societal discrimination and values against gay people. When I overcame my own fear of "what

they say about gays", I was able to accept myself in an open, conscious way. Then, instead of being ashamed of who I was, I was glad. I was glad to come out and proud to be gay. With this confidence I helped my co-working friends to overcome their prejudice. They have accepted me.

Coming out produced two weeks of curious and critical questions. These questions that came from both the young men and women were about Gay sex, Gays and the opposite sex, gay roles, etc.

Before I answer these questions here I will describe the events of how I came out. Three days before the Christopher Street West demonstration, I invited all the soiled linen men from the third floor to come to the Gay Dance being held that night. Their gay foreman and the big boss were both on vacation so I felt good talking to everyone. I didn't know who would come and who wouldn't. The one employee who did come, a lab assistant, I didn't know was gay until he asked me to dance.

Early the next week, when I was with the soiled linen crew, I was asked about the dance. Did I dance? Did I have a good time? Was I Gay? How long was I Gay?

Inviting my friends to the Gay Dance was the opener for me in coming out. I was good and ready and much relieved to be honest about myself to myself and to others. Coming out is the only way. It was also good to know that there were other gays where I work. In the last three weeks I have found several other gays at work, several in the laundry who are potentially gay.

The hardest question with implied criticism was, "How can another man turn you on?" I told several male workers not to tell me who I would love and who not. I asked, "Who said you can't love someone of the same sex?" He said that he wasn't telling me I couldn't, but he couldn't understand how I got turned on to another male.

I told him to try it. I also invited him to the next dance. He said laughing that he might come. I broke his hostility. It surprised me how easy it was.

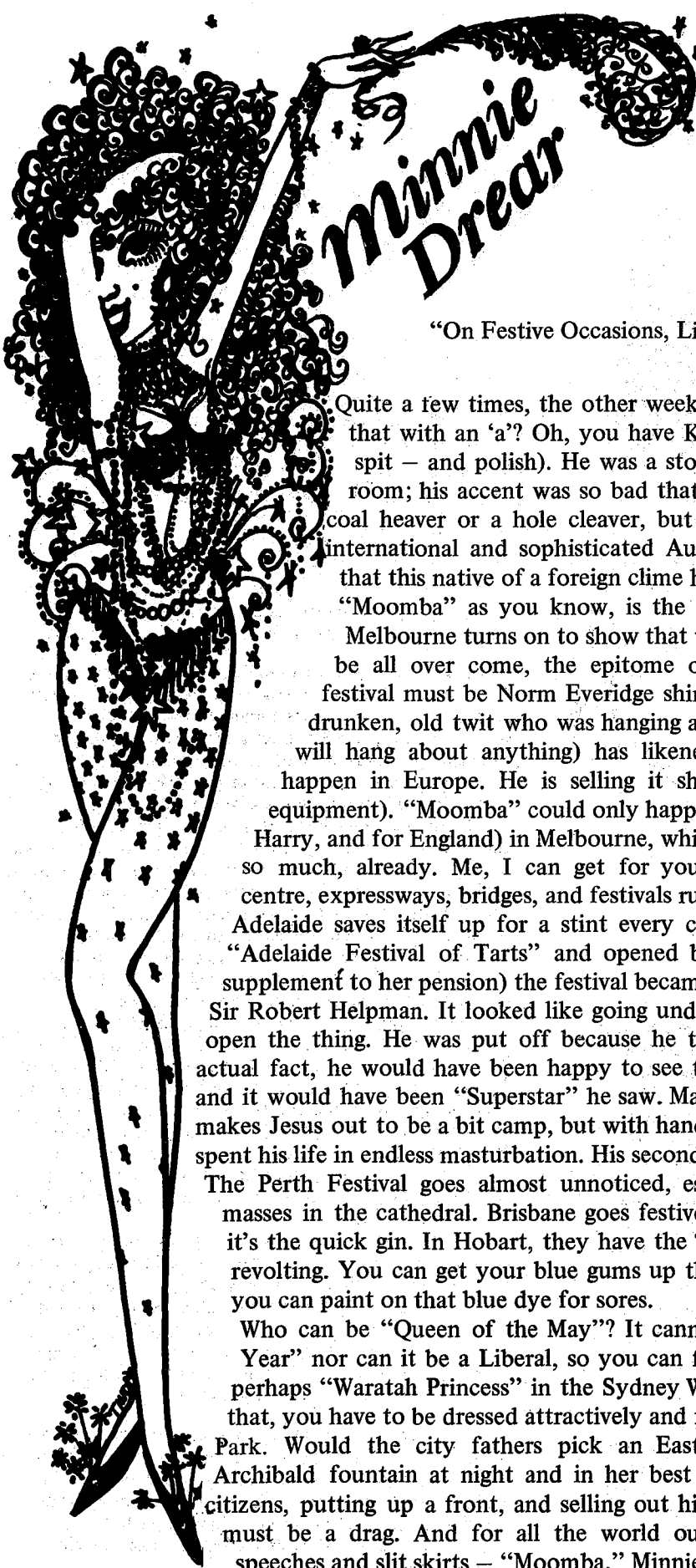
The question about gay sex is a personal question you don't have to answer in terms of what you do in bed. This question will embarrass you sometimes. I found it easier just to say that there are a wide variety of sexual acts that give the mind and body pleasure. Gay love can also be just as meaningful. I also explained that sexual freedom is only one aspect of the gay movement. We realize that to have freedom, to love whom we choose, it is necessary to have a free human society, where people can be themselves.

Another question was, "What role do you play, man or woman?" This question wasn't asked to put me down, I believe, but to understand why gays play the roles they do. It is a well known myth that all gays play the male-female roles. The male-female roles played by gays are just as bad as the roles of heterosexuals. A free human society will liberate men and women who are taught that women are passive and men aggressive.

The question of how long have you been gay was the easiest. "I have been gay for a couple of years, at least as long as I have been at Harbor. Any thought of homosexuality was pushed to the back of my head, as far as it would go. But it always kept coming back."

I'm now proud. All gays should be. Working class gays UNITE!

[Condensed from Gay Sunshine, August 1971.]



Minnie Drear

"On Festive Occasions, Light the Candle", suggests Minnie.

Quite a few times, the other week, I ran into a Polish seamen (do you spell that with an 'a'? Oh, you have KY on the end of it. All I usually need is spit — and polish). He was a stoker in a steamer, or a stroker in a steam room; his accent was so bad that I could not determine whether he was a coal heaver or a hole cleaver, but in either event, it reminded me of how international and sophisticated Australia is becoming, and how opportune that this native of a foreign clime had come during festival time.

"Moomba" as you know, is the Aboriginal word for embarrassment and Melbourne turns on to show that with a sudden, unexpected spurt you can be all over come, the epitome of embarrassment. The highlight of the festival must be Norm Everidge shining his torch on a very high tree. Some drunken, old twit who was hanging about an overseas beer festival (in fact, he will hang about anything) has likened "Moomba" to something that might happen in Europe. He is selling it short (but he might be built with lousy equipment). "Moomba" could only happen in Australia, and only (thank God, Sir Harry, and for England) in Melbourne, which is run on the principle: "It'll cost you so much, already. Me, I can get for you wholesale." Cheap and nasty Kultural centre, expressways, bridges, and festivals run every year.

Adelaide saves itself up for a stint every couple of years. Once referred to as the "Adelaide Festival of Tarts" and opened by the Queen Mum (for an undisclosed supplement to her pension) the festival became quite respectable under the auspices of Sir Robert Helpman. It looked like going under when the Asian chappie was asked to open the thing. He was put off because he thought he might have to see "Hair". In actual fact, he would have been happy to see the incredible number of scalpers about, and it would have been "Superstar" he saw. Many have criticised "Superstar" because it makes Jesus out to be a bit camp, but with hands that could raise the dead, He probably spent his life in endless masturbation. His second coming will bring the house down.

The Perth Festival goes almost unnoticed, especially in Perth. Thank God for rock masses in the cathedral. Brisbane goes festive with emergency states, and in Darwin, it's the quick gin. In Hobart, they have the "Blue-gum Festival" which sounds rather revolting. You can get your blue gums up the mountain, sucking something cold, or you can paint on that blue dye for sores.

Who can be "Queen of the May"? It cannot be someone who was "Father of the Year" nor can it be a Liberal, so you can forget the obvious choice — never mind, perhaps "Waratah Princess" in the Sydney Waratah Spring Festival. To be chosen for that, you have to be dressed attractively and femininely and be seen in Sydney's Hyde Park. Would the city fathers pick an Eastern Suburbs Auntie loitering near the Archibald fountain at night and in her best closet clobber? Leading the prominent citizens, putting up a front, and selling out his friends for personal and political gain, must be a drag. And for all the world our image is perpetuated in sycophantic speeches and slit skirts — "Moomba," Minnie burped.

Inside Looking Out with axel

AND DOES THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME?

The advent of the film of *Fortune and Men's Eyes* has not quite provoked the public discussion that the play did in Sydney. But it did coincide with a few pieces provoked by the Penal Reform Society, about overcrowding in our gaols, and a *Daily Telegraph* story of a man just released after 36 years in gaol, which referred to homosexual offences and rape. Further, it is clear that rape does occur even in the remand section of Long Bay. True, most of the 'homosexual offenders' in NSW are sent to our 'camp' prison at Cooma, and so are some of our more hung-up warders. And you know what the old liberal adage says don't you? Curing a homosexual by sending him to prison is like gaoling an alcoholic in a brewery. Charming.

DUTCH TREAT Holland has become a mecca for male camps, and here is one of the reasons. In 1971 the Uni of Amsterdam appointed a Professor of Minor Sexology, which means normal sex, which had never been academically taught before. In his inaugural address, he said a few things, like this — 'I should like to direct attention to one aspect of Western sexual morality which has been nothing short of disastrous in its effect on the development of medical sexology ... The domain of the medical practitioner ended at the bedroom door. The sole persons accorded the right of entry were Catholic priests as fathers confessor and, to a lesser extent, Protestant clergymen.' (Being celibate, this was right and proper, of course.) He also quoted, approvingly, Beaumarchais in the *Marriage of Figaro* thus: 'Drinking when we are not thirsty and making love at all seasons, madam, that is all there is to distinguish man from the other animals.' And Nietzsche, who had unequivocally exclaimed once that 'The reproductive urge is sheer mythology. Procreation is a frequent but incidental result of a particular way of satisfying sexual desire, not the intention of the act, nor its inevitable outcome.' But, naturally, I agree.

TURNING THE OTHER PAGE — in the medieval period, and from St Bonaventure's contribution to our views on contraception, comes this gem of theological thought. He believed that sex, even with one's wife, was 'virtuous' only if both partners hated it. Next month, a *Camp Ink* exclusive; how to eat more and hate every moment of it.

PREMIER QUALITY From that classic little tome, *Quotations from Chairman Henry Bolte*, comes one quote. 'I am opposed to the legislation of homosexuality as I am to the introduction of poker machines.' And I hope someone can see the connection.

But Sir Robert Askin, in his 1971 policy speech said this — 'My Government has carefully examined the whole position, including the South Australian experimental legislation on abortion, and takes its stand against tinkering with either abortion or homosexuality laws. We believe they are adequate as they stand, and that they cover emergencies.' Which is a quite amazing statement saying that they don't plan to make the law tougher. Thank you, so much, that makes me feel much better.

DRAFT BEER NOT BOYS was not a bad slogan in its day. The great pseudo hassle over Whitlam's 'draft resisting is not a crime' statement missed one major point. Those laws were never meant to be enforced, and the Government is more than somewhat loth to do so — they are there for their exhortatory value, as symbols, and to frighten people. The anti-camp laws are in the same boat. Despite a sizable number of prosecutions — one couple would easily commit three times the number of offences prosecuted in NSW in any given year, and there are perhaps 200,000 male camps in NSW. But to Sydney Uni's solicitors this was serious — they thought that the SU Campus Camp should not be allowed because it might encourage people to break the law. When the law is a joke, it should be treated as such and broken openly.

WHITER THAN WHITE Think about the concept of offensive behaviour. One correspondent to the February journal thought *Camp Ink* should not allow 'even one single word or illustration to be published which could be considered not acceptable by even one member of the Heterosexual community.' Since this would mean never mentioning homosexuality, for those people we are preparing special 18 page totally blank

issues of the journal. Let us ignore the problem of what is offensive — everything from people's dress sense to his nonsense offends me, but I can't prosecute those things — and look at what Germaine Greer told an Australia Party lunch about obscenity. She argued that none of us can be free, not camps nor straights, until we faced up to the reality of sex. Sexual ignorance is responsible for a great deal of the aggression in our society, not knowledge. And the US Presidential Commission on Pornography and Obscenity fully endorsed that point of view.

WELL IT ALL STARTED LIKE THIS...

To keep the research funds and publications turning over, the medical profession spends hours wanting to know how we happen. As though anyone cares; but if we must know, I want to know what causes *them* — all those dreary squares out there perverting on my psyche and chromosomes and what else. Now the *Bulletin* has run a piece on the most remarkable research ever done. I'll spare you the details, the relevant fact is that they tested three (3) male camps, one of whom was actually bisexual, and four (4) lesbians, and on that basis, they went out and told the world we were born and not made. No doubt their findings will be quoted endlessly to our disadvantage, when really they should just be sacked.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IS IN THE MIND OF THE BEHOLDER Professor McConaghy, of UNSW's Psychiatry Department, is known for his dabblings in aversion therapy for camps. That he is still at it is not news, what is the information that the Customs Department collects seized pronography in its library and allows it out for specialised purposes, like giving dirty pictures of boys to McConaghey to be accompanied by his famous electric shocks. This raises a very acute moral problem to my mind, which the relatively liberal Don Chipp as the Minister concerned should face.

He says that I cannot see porn unless I do so under conditions when it will only bring me pain, or see square porn which is of no interest. I can see porn so long as it produces what is governmentally considered the desired result. More than that, should the government be aiding such immoral practices as psychic castration? I say no. And I don't think he should be lending his name to attempts at thought control either.

Poems

Star and stripped banners and all that crap,
never got Hitler into a President's lap.
Come to think of it while writing this scrap,
there are poets in prison rattling their chains:
POETS, armed only, with chains.

(Stefanie)

CONFORMIST

FELICITY

is
long, sunny
mediaeval hair,
jeans,
a song
played out
by tapping
on a table;

whistle in the dark,
chewed husks
of sweet corn,
brown at the
belly
and shaving scars
on his shins

FELICITY

is a
Mediaeval Myth.

Gressier, 72.

FRAGMENTS

Gipsy girl
silver capped
and
booted
an aura of neon blossom /
When
you gazed at me
in
that
dingy
street
I love you.

A.G. 72

They said 'Walk wild.
Cartwheel down the street.'
He did. And saw discreet
laughter
hidden milk behind hooded eyes.
They said 'with your ragged feet
run over jagged glass. Sweet
faith will be your preserver.'
He ran
and bled
worse than a million birds and men
we burned from brazen skies.
'Now deny. Say love and God and dead.'
he said
and so shaped his own cross-tree.
'You are complete. Devour yourself.'

Obediently he ate,
then wept at the long-forgotten taste of
salted dust.

Veronica, 72.

SONG

What hearty winds have breathed
Over these foam-capped waves!
There, crashing on ancient mussled rock;
Gravestones for the gallant ships.

They now lie skeletons of the past
As if age had forged eternal sleep,
Along with the burly men
Who sailed them shore to shore.

Many ships! and so many men —
But 'she' lives always
Cradling her children gently
Within that watery womb.

And now the Albotross sails mightily
Over her hair, as it flows;
While the sub-mariner from port
Hears her calling him back.

Stubby, 72.

RESIGNATION

I wish to resign from
the human race, my
resignation to take effect
immediately.

If I must hold a position
wherein I'm obliged to act
as a drinkdispensing,
putter-oner and taker-offer
of pants in yo-yo motion,
then I want the humiliation
of being conscious of my
mechanical role to cease.

If my life,

as I live it is Reality,
I want no part of your reality.
I've been with the firm 25 years
and have made an attempt at
carrying / out / duties
even though, on occasions,
I may have made serious errors.
Do you agree my talents
would be better suited as
one of Mother Carey's chickens?
Yours defiantly and browbeaten —

D.L. 72

The Editors,

"From sexual deviation to writer's cramp, from fear of crowds to poker machine addiction, there's a cure available at a unique therapy behaviour unit at Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney. Geoffrey Griffith reports on his investigation into this rapidly developing science".

This was the introduction to the most damaging article I have seen for some time; it appeared in the rather poor brother of "The Australian", the "Daily Mirror". The article is concerned with the aversion therapy unit at Prince Henry run by Professor McConaghy, who has just returned from a rather successful tour of the U.S.A. I say "rather" because his more important lectures were zapped by the American Gay Libbers who consider this aversion therapist a successor to Eichmann.

I will not go into the actual physical and mental tortures which aversion therapy puts the homosexual through; I would just like to say that for all the trumpet blowing concerning this supposed CURE, I have yet to hear or read of a practising homosexual having this and becoming a practising heterosexual. (See the article in Camp Ink Vol. 1, No. 1).

The reason I claim this article to be damaging was the implication that there is a cure for homosexuality which will be taken as fact by both the general community and some homosexuals. It also implies that there is an actual sickness to cure in the first place. This puts a stigma on anyone who is trying to say to the community (as Camp Ink is) that we be accepted as equal human-sexuals. The article slights homosexuality by the continued use of words like "normal" and "accepted", and finishes on the note: "The more people we can restore to a happy normal life and rid them of their phobias, the more the community will benefit". This is the sort of thing that needs to be stopped by action which I hope will take a similar line to the American response.

This man, like Dr. Reuben, is guilty of refuelling the fires of society's ignorance concerning the myths which surround the homosexual. In an atmosphere such as this how can we really blame the square and, in part, the camp community for drawing wrong conclusions, especially when backed by men of supposed learning who have only been exposed to homosexuals under psychiatric care. If we took the heterosexuals under psychiatric treatment as representative of heterosexuality maybe we would have a similarly distorted view of squares.

John Gould (N.S.W.)

The Editors,

The latest Gallup Poll shows 1972 to be the year of decision for Homosexual Law Reform.

We have a Government which threatens a repressive Criminal Code and which is largely on the skids, and this is the time to join with all other forces who wish to bring about its defeat.

Many will regard HLR as the sole issue while others will consider it part of the general Lib movement relating also to censorship, divorce, abortion, contraception, and all other areas where our present rulers claim the right to intervene in private lives.

Once the Law claimed the right to punish religious unorthodoxy. That battle was won by our ancestors: it is time for this generation to win the next battle which is against the doctrine that sexual unorthodoxy merits savage, disproportionate, and hysterical punishment.

The Australia Party has announced its support for HLR, but unfortunately it will not win the election. However most of its preferences will go to Labor whose shadow Attorney-General is Senator Lionel Murphy who is openly in favour of reform.

For this reason even if it means changing the voting habits of a life-time, it is important to vote Australia Party (1) and Labor (2) in the hope of electing a Labor Government with Whitlam as Prime Minister, Murphy as Attorney-General, both knowing that part of their support came through the Australia Party which would then become the key to Labor's hold on office, just as the DLP keeps the Liberals in power today.

Everyone has one vote, but can influence many more. To speak, write, and work for the Australia and Labor Parties as the election approaches makes good sense, and one can do this on many grounds other than support for HLR itself.

It is fashionable to decry politics and with smug superiority to say that all parties are alike. This is the attitude of the ineffectual. Law Reform and politics are the names of the same game. It does matter and will make a difference whether the Attorney-General after November is Senator Greenwood or Senator Murphy as anyone who has corresponded with both will agree.

Anyone who fails to make a maximum effort to influence that decision is acquiescing in his own defeat and remaining an underling because of himself.

Ian McDonald
(N.S.W.)

The Editors,

I MUST address this to Imogen Bradshaw,

Friend, Sappho has nil to do with the Poetry Page. Writers of all kinds will agree with me that your very 'use' of her name immediately brings to mind your out-dated soft-headed values. Also, I conclude, your Batman readings do you justice.

Poetry is very much alive. It's becoming part of our everyday. Truly, I am sorry it cannot reach you. It's a sad state to realise you neither care nor understand what makes a poet. The names Rodney Hall, J. S. Harry, Bob Adamson, Tom Shapcott, Vicki Viidikas and Judith Rodriguez have helped shape Australia as have Corso, Ginsberg and Ferlinghetti in the U.S.A.

Homosexuals, agreed, have a lot to carry. But is there the comparison poets under-go in order to change the systems? The prisons, world wide are full of them, friend. The March edition of Camp Ink blasts out 'THORUNKA BUSTED AGAIN'. The Editorial should be read. Again, I doubt if you bother to read Editorials. Surely, it would never occur to someone like yourself what my name, listed as poetry ed., could do to my career. We yell loud and long for our rights yet squash any other minority for we are the ALL-Powerful hard done-by peoples. What utter rot! Your well-timed letter sickens. I expected it and am sure there'll be more to follow.

My job as Ed. is to give hope to the few gifted people — camp or not — to say their piece. You may have your say through 'Letters' but there it ENDS. Any poet to show promise, in dealing with me, will find himself/herself in the position to go onto other publications apart from Camp Ink. I'm looking for talent that can be cultivated to enrich a profession that speaks of feelings and law of mankind. A high goal. The kind of war only poets understand it seems, more's the pity.

It would mean little to you to know that my files now hold three prominent Australian poets. More will follow. You could well ask WHY they should bother with a mag. the size of Camp Ink when they can be paid a quick \$14 or more by the Australian or The Review. The answer is obvious. They happen to believe in what I'm doing. Most use pseudo; a shame. I'd like to see the expression on your face if these (under the unfortunate delusion that they show ability) pen-pushers put name to paper.

Stefanie Bennett
(Qld.)

The Editors,

It seems to me that the Campaign of your organisation Against Moral Persecution would gain clarity in its aims, and gain wider support among the public, if it concentrated on the following two themes (whatever auxiliary or subsidiary matters were also incorporated):-

1. **Freedom of speech and of the press, i.e. abolition of censorship**, particularly as applied to so-called **obscenity**, indecency, etc; although blasphemy, sedition, violence, libel, etc, could also be included in the campaign for abolition. Even censorship re military matters? As a positive alternative, if such is deemed necessary, (a) the equal right of reply/equal opportunity to put opposing points of view, and (b) a Board of Commendation (c.f. Censorship) to praise the good rather than condemn the bad, could be recommended and implemented.
2. **Equality for all sexes, however defined, before the law**, i.e. an amendment to the Australian Constitution should be sought to bring it in line with the recent amendment to the United States' Constitution as passed by the Senate, viz:- "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S., or by any state on account of sex." According to the Melbourne "Herald" (25/3/72) such amendment will give women equal rights with men; and "homosexuals and lesbians will almost certainly get the same rights, too." The Australian Constitution is currently under review by the Federal Government, so now is an appropriate time for interested parties in this country to put their case.

D. L. Humphries
(Melbourne)

The Editors,

I am in receipt of the March issue of "CAMP INK".

It was rather surprising to me to see published the account of "THORUNKA" and feel that cheap publicity of this nature is not the correct way to get on the right side of those that are responsible for the making of laws. Upholding people that deliberately break law is in my opinion not right.

(T.P.N.G.)