

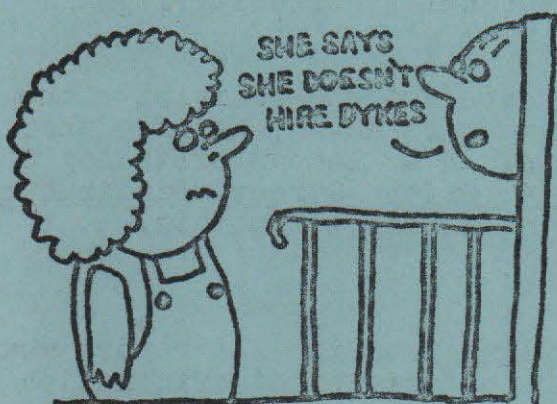
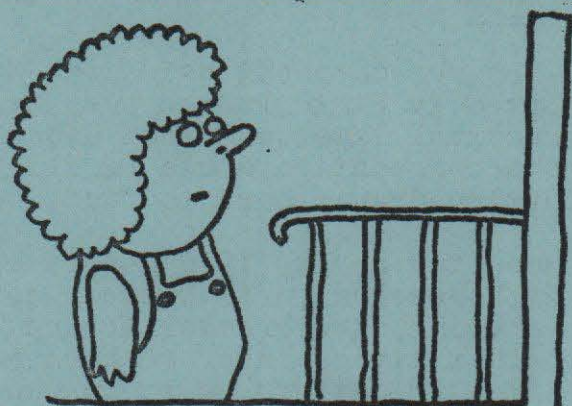
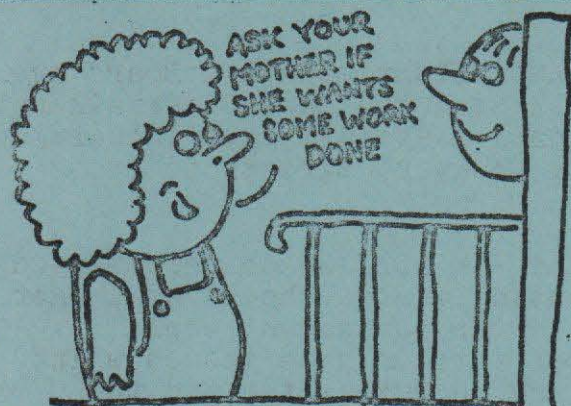
the gay trade unionist

newsletter of the nsw gay trade unionists' group

PO Box 71, Newtown 2042

ISSN 157-0099

registered for posting as a publication - category "b"



NSW ADB Report

The media has recently been reporting details of the Anti-Discrimination Board's Report, which will be formally tabled in Parliament later this year. As well as reporting on discrimination on the grounds of age, religious or political conviction, physical handicap or mental disability, membership or non-membership of trade unions, the ADB has been empowered to report on homosexual discrimination. Briefly, the report will urge:

1. Major reforms to the laws regarding homosexuality. At present gay men face a gaol sentence of 14 years.
2. That it should be illegal to refuse someone a job, or to sack someone, purely on the basis of his or her sexual preference.
3. That it should be illegal to refuse someone a service or accomodation because of his or her sexual preference.

PHONE - IN

A phone-in type survey, conducted last February, has provided the Board with statistics of discrimination against homosexuals in NSW.

1. 72% had experienced anti-gay prejudice from the community, families, or friends.
2. 53% had experienced discrimination in employment.
3. 29% in the law & law enforcement.
4. 14% in schooling or education.
5. 9% in accommodation.
6. 7% mentioned the financial advantages available to heterosexual married couples that homosexual couples are denied.

NEXT MEETING !!

TUESDAY 26th February 1980.

6PM 7 Edward Street, WOOLLAHRA.

Eats provided! Bring \$2 for donation.

The callers were aged between 16 and 60, 2/3 between the ages of 21 and 35. 28% had been married and 15% had had children. 80% of the callers were male.

COMMENT

If the recommendations of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board are adopted by State Parliament, it will mean the end of certain anti-homosexual laws, and that discrimination against gays in services and accommodation would be illegal. However, threats to its adoption aren't hard to find.

Commenting on the 1978 Report of the NSW ADB, which recommended that homosexual acts between consenting adults should no longer be a crime, the Premier Mr Wran said the Government would consider giving Labor members a free vote on some issues which related to matters of conscience. And we have witnessed the concerted uproar of the Churches and the Festival of Light against any moves, both in Parliament and in the unions ie the NSW Teachers' Federation, to promote gay equal opportunity/rights policies.

The issues seem clear-cut, so/
The women and men, and the social groups and the activist groups of the gay community must see the long term advantage of a short term expedient - unity. A forum organised by Lambda Listening CB Radio Group on March 9th, 2.30pm at 46 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst is a good opportunity for NSW's gay community to do this.

AND G.T.U.G.?

The task for gay trade unionists arising from the ADB report would be to publicise the extent of and the effects of discrimination to those who can bring about changes - politicians who can work to make overt anti-gay employment discrimination illegal; the Trade Union Training Authority who can begin programs to train union officials to effectively grapple with the problems of discrimination and members of trade unions and their leaders who could bring home the point that anti-gay, and for that matter anti-minority group discrimination is anti-union.

G.T.U.G. FUND RAISING PARTY:

In three words - a raging success!! In an effort which would put Telecom management to shame, the group raised \$155 - \$10 more than the amount budgetted for, for our float for the Gay Rights March on March 22nd. Our thanks to Wally and to all who donated the time, money and energy which made the afternoon a success.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "GTU" hopes to have the blue prints of the float for the March issue of "GTU".

CALLING ALL GAY MEMBERS OF THE NSW ACOA:

There are moves afoot to form a group of gay members of NSW Branch of the ACOA. If you know any other gay members of the union please tell them to contact this number after hours 36.1043.

U.K. NEWS.....U.K. NEWS.....U.K. NEWS.....U.K. NEWS.....U.K. NEWS.....

.....
:OUT OF YOUR ILLUSIONS AND INTO THE UNIONS!:
.....

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the English Gay Rights organisation, has drawn up 5 trade union objectives for lesbians and gay men for 1979-1980.

These have been drawn up on the assumptions that,

- :: The only effective way to fight anti-gay discrimination at work is through strong trade union action,
- :: The struggle to raise gay consciousness in trade unions has to take place at the grass roots level, by members of the union,
- :: It is important to defend members from discrimination at work by solidarity with their fellow workers.

The 5 objectives are:-

1. To build a greater awareness of trade unions amongst gay people by, for example, inviting local trade union speakers to meetings of CHE,
2. Taking up anti-gay discrimination issues at the local branch level. These range from discussions with supporters to motions of positive anti-discrimination policy,
3. Individual initiatives in the form of letters to unions and adverts. in union journals,
4. Pushing through the local branch, general policy statements for the National & District union conferences,
5. Branches urge trade union courses for unionists showing how gay people are discriminated against be set up.

.....
:ANTI-GAY BACKLASH IN U.K. UNIONS THE FIGHT CONTINUES:
.....

1. The National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Recently two branches of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), the largest union of public servants in the U.K., came to loggerheads regarding one Branch's homophobia.

Added to a letter to the London Borough of Harrow Branch's magazine expressing appreciation of a council's enlightened policy of offering tenancies to homosexual couples, was the Editor's comments: "Hardly a NALGO matter I should have thought. Any comments Readers?" The next issue of the mag. included a letter suggesting brain surgery for gays.

The two issues prompted a protest letter from the NALGO branch of Newham's Discrimination C'tee. The C'tee pointed out that the council housing of homosexual couples was that union's concern because:

1. 35,000 members of the union have predominately homosexual tendencies.
2. the union is opposed to all forms of discrimination, incl. sexual orientation & the council's policy and the efforts of the union in achieving it should be applauded.
3. the union has its own gay group which deals with problems for gays in the public service.
4. NALGO members in Housing departments deal with enquiries from homosexuals & therefore it is important that staff realise, understand and accept the situation as normal.

The Newham C'tee added: "We just hope that the letter you printed has not done any damage to any members in Harrow trying to come to terms with their own sexuality."

.....
:CIVIL & PUBLIC SERVANTS GAY GROUP FIGHTS BACKLASH !:
.....

Articles by the Civil & Public Services Gay Group(CPSGG) have been printed in the journals of the Civil & Public Servants Association and the Society of Civil & Public Servants. As a result, the journals have received and printed a number of blatantly and outrageously prejudiced letters in opposition. So 1980 sees the CPSGG beginning a letter writing campaign rebuffing the letters appearing in the journals and protesting through CPSA & SCPS branches.

.....
:GAY POSTAL WORKERS BATTLE UNION CENSORSHIP !:
.....

For the Gay Postal Workers' Group there has been some good news and some bad news recently. The good news, the Post Office Engineering Union (membership 124,700) have accepted the Group's advert for their journal, and as a result they received 150 enquiries.

The bad news. The Union of Postal Workers (membership 185,000) journal's editor has replied to Groups request for an advert in the journal along this line:

"homosexuality is a very personal part of an individual's private life, which has nothing whatever to do with their membership of the Union....it is not a matter which is within the trade union purview of the Union."

The points out that he completely ignores the existence of anti-gay prejudice at work, and the problem of the isolated UPW member.

The union's conservative views are now being challenged by the Group as a major activity for 1980.

.....
:FOR YOUR DIARY.....:
.....

- SAT. FEB 23 8pm - 1.00am Acceptance Answerphone Fundraising
Disco Dance. \$2 Acceptance Centre, 46 Oxford St.
Darlinghurst.
- SAT. FEB 23 Gay Churches are sponsoring a Gay Relationships
Forum. Sydney University. 2 - 6pm
- TUES FEB 26 GTUG MEETING 7 Edward St., Woollahra. 6pm
- SUN. MAR 2 6th National Homosexual Conference Planning Meeting,
3pm CAMP, 33A Glebe Pt. Road, GLEBE.
- SAT. MAR 8 7.30pm Boomerangs Talent Quest, Coronation Hall
Mascot.
- SUN. MAR 9 Sydney Gay Groups Speak Out. Lambda Listening Forum
on the direction of Gay Rights. 2.30pm Acceptance
Centre, 46 Oxford Street, DARLINGHURST.
- TUES MAR 11 Gays & Education Forum. 7.30pm Teachers Federation
300 Sussex Street, SYDNEY.
- MON MAR 17 Gay Teachers & Students Meeting 8pm CAMP Centre.
- TUES MAR 18 Gays and Political Parties. FORUM 7.30pm
Glebe Town Hall.
- SAT MAR 22 CITY STREET MARCH. 10.30pm Town Hall Sq.
2 - 6pm Gay Festival Bondi Pavilion
8 - Midnight Dance Bondi Pavilion.
6.55 "In a Good Cause" 2FC CAMP - a registered
charity.
- TUES MAR 4 GAY RIGHTS AT WORK FORUM George Hunt Room, Sydney
- TUES MAR 4 Trades Hall Goulburn Street, Sydney. 7.30pm
- TUES MAR 4 Speakers will include Alan Archer-Australian Consumers
- TUES MAR 4 Association and Di Minnis a C.E.S worker. Topics
- TUES MAR 4 covered will include, unemployment and its effects on
- TUES MAR 4 on gay people, unemployed gays and transsexuals and
- TUES MAR 4 patterns of employment in Oxford Street Gay Scene.

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION: A Series

4: How Australian Unions Work - Part 2

INTRODUCTION

Last month we looked at the way decisions are made by the average trade union in Australia. This month we'll cover the structure of the State Branch then look at the National Office of the average union.

STATE BRANCH - ORGANISATION

Branch Conference: may be composed of delegates elected by sub-branches plus the Branch executive. Items for consideration by Branch Conference must be forwarded from sub-branches or the Branch Council within a certain period of time before the Conference.

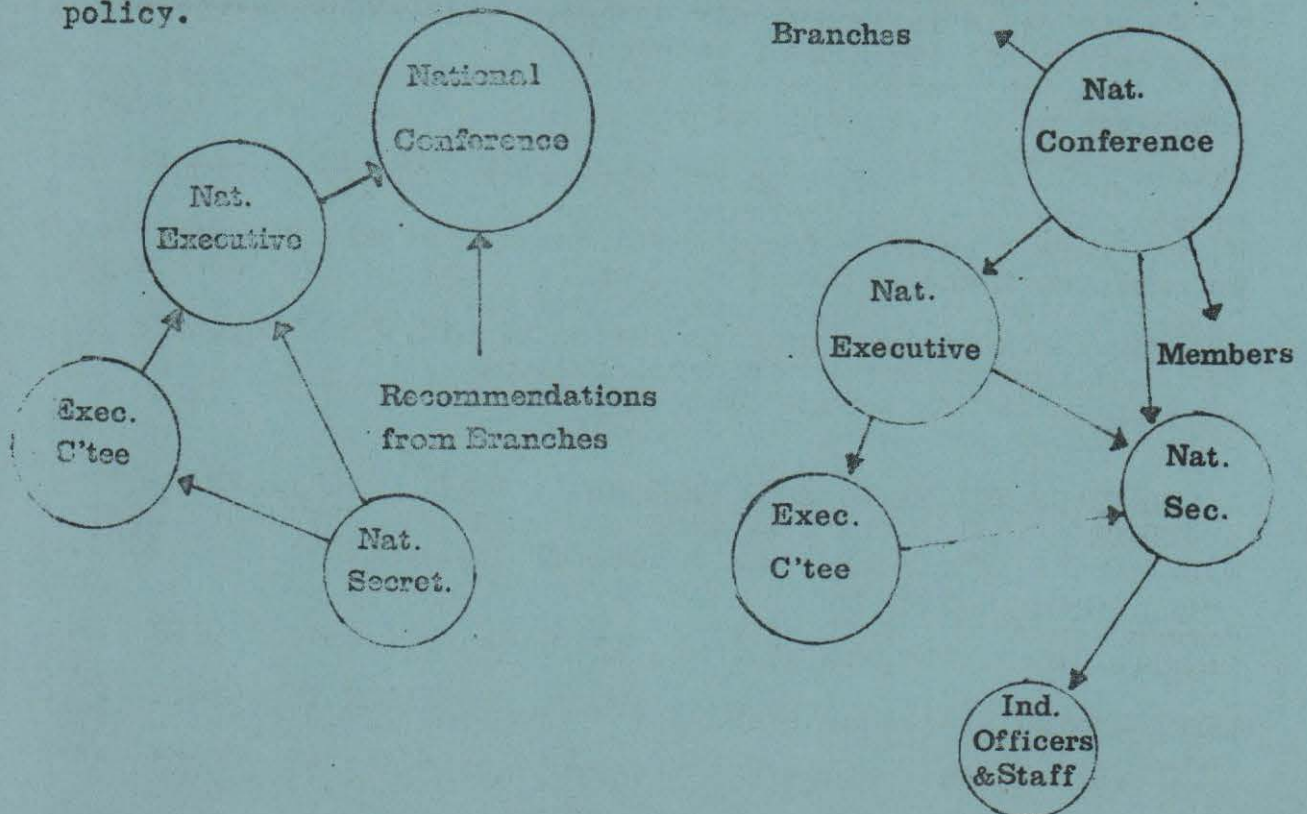
Branch Council: may comprise the Branch executive and delegates elected according to grade/geographical area/trade etc. Each meeting of the Council guides the general activities of the sub-branches & sections and is required to endorse decisions of the Branch Executive.

Branch Executive: may consist of the Secretary, President and Vice-President.

Organisers: are elected or appointed to work in the field: increasing membership, meeting union reps and management to settle grievances, explaining policy to members, policing awards and regulations. They are also required to do some court work. For many of the members they are the most visible sign of the union's existence as an organisation.

YOUR UNION - A NATIONAL ORGANISATION

Most unions in Australia are nationwide organisations. You play your part in this organisation when you elect delegates to the National Conference as well as the National Executive. You also can play a part forwarding recommendations as to policy through the State Branch. Once the policy has been determined the various officers and the members are bound by that policy. Diagram (a) indicates the way in which recommendations are made to the various bodies. Diagram (b) deals with direction and policy.



(a) RECOMMENDATIONS

(b) DIRECTION & POLICY

Recommendations are made to the National Council/Conference from the State Branch (via Branch Council) from the National Secretary, the Executive Committee and the National Executive. The arrows in the diagram indicate the direction in which recommendations are made.

The circles are again drawn in different sizes in order of relative importance. The National Council/Conference is the supreme policy making body in a national union. Each State Branch is entitled to delegates to the National Conference/Council based on the membership of the Branch. Items for consideration by the National Conference/Council must be forwarded from State Branches within a specified time.

The National Executive may consist of Secretary, President and Vice-President. Each State may also be represented on the Executive and in this case the executive will also include seven councillors etc.

The National Office of a union also includes a number of research officers and organisers. The main function of the National Office is the making of Federal award applications and negotiating variations to them.

NEXT WEEK !! On the track of the ACTU.

Keep this in mind - NSW Gay Trade Unionists' Group Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA will include, (a) Election of Executive, (b) Changes to the Constitution, (c) General Business.

REMEMBER: ALL CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION HAVE TO BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE AGM. IE. THEY HAVE TO BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

For starters do these aims of GTUG correspond to your idea of GTUG??

- a) Recognise the constructive role of Trade Unions and Associations within the workforce, and encourage all homosexual persons to join their respective union and take an active interest in the affairs of such a body.
- b) To examine areas of discrimination within Trade Unions and Associations, places of employment, and in negotiated Indust. agreements and awards.
- c) To work in liaison with other oppressed groups, womens groups, aboriginal and ethnic groups.
- d) To draft a charter for the elimination of all discrimination in employment and actively seek endorsement of such a charter by all employers, governments and unions.
- e) To consult and co-ordinate action within Trade Unions and Associations to overcome discrimination.
- f) To organise an Annual Statewide Conference of Gay Trade Unionists.

A RED CROSS INDICATES YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE BEFORE THE AGM:
A RED CROSS INDICATES YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE BEFORE THE AGM:
A RED CROSS INDICATES YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE BEFORE THE AGM:.....

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday March 25th 6PM at CAMP, 33A Glebe Point Road, GLEBE.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE AGM.....
