

the gay trade unionist

newsletter of the nsw gay trade unionists' group

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Police Tactics Costs Man His Job

LONDON: A homosexual man claims he has lost his job as a result of police methods during the investigation into the disappearance of a local schoolboy. He also claims dozens of other gay men were facing charges unrelated to the inquiry but resulting from it.

At 3am, on a warrant for drugs and stolen property, police smashed into the man's flat. The man, Alan Hawkins, and his non-gay lodgers were taken to Kensington Police Station where one of his lodgers was forced into allowing a medical examination. Alan was interviewed until mid-morning, and was cleared from any suspicion of connection with the case. Alan pointed out that he looked nothing like the suspect they were looking for, and that he was not a pederast. It appears that police raided his flat because they knew that he had a police record for a homosexual offence and a marijuana conviction.



WE'VE NO ACTUAL CLUES AS TO WHO DID IT INSPECTOR, BUT ELEVEN POOFTERS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS ALREADY AS A RESULT OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS — SO THE CASE IS REALLY GOING VERY WELL SO FAR.

P.T.O. →

March 22nd 1980 - Our Day of Action

We will be assembling at our float which will be parked in the vicinity of Town Hall at around 10am. The March will start about 10.30am and the plan is to go marching around town ending up at Town Hall to catch trains and whatever to Bondi. The fun is just beginning!!! The Bondi Pavilion will be the venue then for:-
FESTIVAL : 2pm - 6pm DINNER : 6pm - 8pm DANCE : 8pm - midnight

March 25th 1980 - Our AGM 6pm,

At CAMP, 33A Glebe Point Road, GLEBE. What is the future for the group in the 1980's? Bring along your ideas, something to drink, and, if applicable your overdue dues (\$10). See elsewhere for proposed motions and agenda.....

POLICE TACTICS Continued

During his time in the cells, Alan alleges police phoned his employers, a national bank in London, and told them that he was being held in connection with the schoolboy case. They also said that he was homosexual.

When he reported for work the next day, he was given a months pay and told to leave immediately.

Alan, however, won't be fighting the dismissal. He says that there is "little point in getting a bad name" for himself fighting the dismissal.

Your services are no longer required

"I have just reassessed the situation regarding workload and it is my unfortunate duty to tell you that your services will no longer..."

So you smile to yourself, "I was going to leave anyway," you say, "I'd had enough." But you suspect you know other reasons that may have caused this sudden reassessment. You are a lesbian and a feminist. You are a threat. You suspect you are being discriminated against because of these things; because you have been blatant. You feel cast in the role of the trouble maker. You try and grope with the terms "trouble-maker" and "assertive woman". But you come up with the end product: "threat".

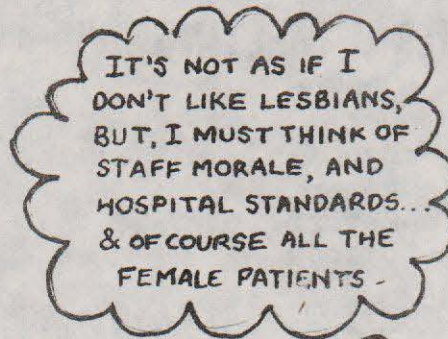
So, over and over it goes in your brain, "Can I pin anything on these shits?" But you know you haven't got a leg to stand on. Can you let what appears to be blatant discrimination slip by, fuck up your life - without making some small noise? You can't win, but you may throw a few wild punches at their kneecaps. (You keep trying to maintain a sense of humour.... but you know the term "humourless feminist" all too well, too). What have you got to laugh about really? But if you didn't laugh, you know what'd happen! Feminists can't be sappy!! Oh, no.

So what DO you do? Feeling a bit like you've been cut adrift on your own self-contained life/death raft, you seek a few comrades. Together you may be able to create a few waves. You begin telling people-allies. They say "Oh really? Yeah, bad isn't it? What happened? I knew someone else who....."

There you sit, simmering, wanting to explode, to act, to rant, and suddenly you realise how "on your own" you are. Yes, you've rung the union; the anti-discrimination committee to be told, "I'm sorry it doesn't look like we can do...."
Your friends and political allies are complacent.

You know that if your boss had said, "You're a raving lesbian feminist activist, you threaten me and you make me sick. Get out and never show your perverted face here again," people may then take up your cause, publicise it, act upon it, stir up a whole lot of shit over it. Here you truly are the victim. You head for the gallows alone. Who really gives a damn so long as their pay packet arrives on schedule?

You wonder at kicking up a stink because, anyway, you're glad to be out of an oppressive situation. But when it was all going on - the times when you really felt like hitting out - you found that your work colleagues were non-supportive and self-interested. Even your work union was half-hearted because they were powerless. Straight to the anti-discrimination committee you go. You can't prove they were dismissing you because of your sex. Rather your politics (feminism) and the way you assert those politics in dealing with others. Back to being a threat. I believe that in many instances gays and feminists are discriminated against because they threaten straights and the system. To prove this is a long, costly, and tenuous fight with your employer.



Gays are finding themselves in this situation frequently. The complacency of the gay "community" astounds me. How many people must lose their jobs in this insidious, fool-proof fashion, before we band together and ACT to protect ourselves? I am not a legal expert, but there must be something that can happen, even in the form of picketting employers who use these tactics. Let's act now.

by Kath Cantlon

(Reprinted from the Melbourne Gay Community News February 1980)

On a brighter note!

A letter to GAYPO - the UK Postal Workers Gay Group goes like this.....

I thought I'd mention a recent nasty experience I went through and the reaction of those at work. I had the misfortune last year of being caught by the "Old Bill" with another guy, shall we say in a compromising position in a parked vehicle in a lonely spot. Anyway it went to the courts and, having always been the one for fighting I decided to take it further, to the Crown Court. The short and sweet of it was that we won - the case was thrown out of court. A few months later the police came over to our social club at work, and needless to say, the news leaked; I suppose they bore some kind of grudge having lost the case. Anyway the beauty of it is, it's made no difference at all with my colleagues here; one gets the few queer jokes being cracked in the rest rooms, but as soon as I enter the room the laughs turn to a sort of embarrassment - I get the impression that they're ashamed at having laughed in the beginning.

- MIKE (Radio Operator).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1980

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 1979 AGM
2. Secretary's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Motions on Notice.

CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION



2. The aims of the group shall be:
(e) DELETE

4. There shall be an executive composed of:
DELETE (a) to (d)

AND INSERT

- (a) SECRETARY: Whose tasks shall be,
 1. Maintain a register of names and addresses of all members of the group.
 2. To receive and despatch all correspondence on behalf of the group.
 3. Pass on to the NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR, all relevant news obtained through correspondence.
- (b) TREASURER: Whose tasks shall be,
 1. Maintain a bank account on behalf of the group.
 2. Prepare a balance statement for all Group and Executive Meetings.
 3. Prepare a detailed statement for AGM's.
- (c) COORDINATOR: Whose task shall be,
 1. Chair meetings of the group.
 2. In consultation with other members prepare an agenda and despatch same to all members at least 7 days prior to a meeting of the group.
- (e) NEWSLETTER: Whose task shall be,
To publish and distribute a newsletter on behalf of the group, in consultation with other exec. members.

INSERT

- 5 (a) Should an executive member not attend 3 consecutive general meetings without prior notice, her/his post will be deemed vacant, and an election held to fill the vacancy.
11. DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP AND EXECUTIVE:
DELETE from It ..to ..10.
INSERT: It is permissible for this Group to be dissolved or incorporated into a nominated gay rights organisation or gay rights organisations by members, and this procedure shall be as for clause 10.
All money and resources of the group shall be donated to a nominated gay rights organisation, or gay rights orgs.

2.,4.,5(a).,and 11. moved John Witte.

5. General Business.

PLEASE NOTE: There will light refreshments available before, during and after the A.G.M.

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION: A Series

5: How Australian Unions Work - Part 3 The Australian Council of Trade Unions



MEMBERS

There are around 1.8 million members of unions affiliated to the ACTU and its state branches.

AFFILIATED UNIONS

Members belong to Federal or State unions. These unions affiliate to the ACTU and elect members as delegates to the ACTU congress. In each state, State unions and State branches of Federal unions affiliate with the Trades and Labor Council and elect delegates to attend the weekly meetings of the T. & L.C.'s.

STATE BRANCHES

So each State Branch of the ACTU is the State Trades and Labor Council or Trades Hall Council. Each state TLC has its own ACTU Executive Member who is elected by members of the affiliated unions of the TLC. The TLC meets weekly or fortnightly to determine for unions and carry out ACTU policy. There are also Provincial Trades and Labor Councils scattered around each state.

EXECUTIVE

The 21 person executive of the ACTU meets regularly to implement policy as determined by the Congress. The executive are:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| The President | Full-time officers who hold office continuously subject to good conduct, and satisfactory performance of duties, elected by all delegates attending Congress. |
| The Secretary | |
| Two Asst. Secretaries | |
| Three Vice-Presidents | Elected biennially by all delegates attending Congress. |
| Six members from State TLC's | Each State Trades and Labor Council elects an executive member to represent the State TLC. |
| Seven members from industry groups and one from ACSPA group | Each affiliated union belongs to an "industry group" and delegates within each group elect their industry group executive member every Congress. The industry groups are: Building, Metal, Services, Transport, Food, Manufacturing, Australian Workers' Union. |

CONGRESS

ACTU meets every 2 years. The ACTU Congress is the governing body of the ACTU.

The delegates represent affiliated unions, State TLC's and Provincial TLC's.

There are over 700 delegates from 131 unions. The number of delegates from each union depends on the number of its financial members.

There are also 28 delegates from State and Provincial TLC's.

Congress determines policies which are binding on affiliates. It also elects ACTU officers and industry group representatives.

Council of Australian Govt Employee Organisations

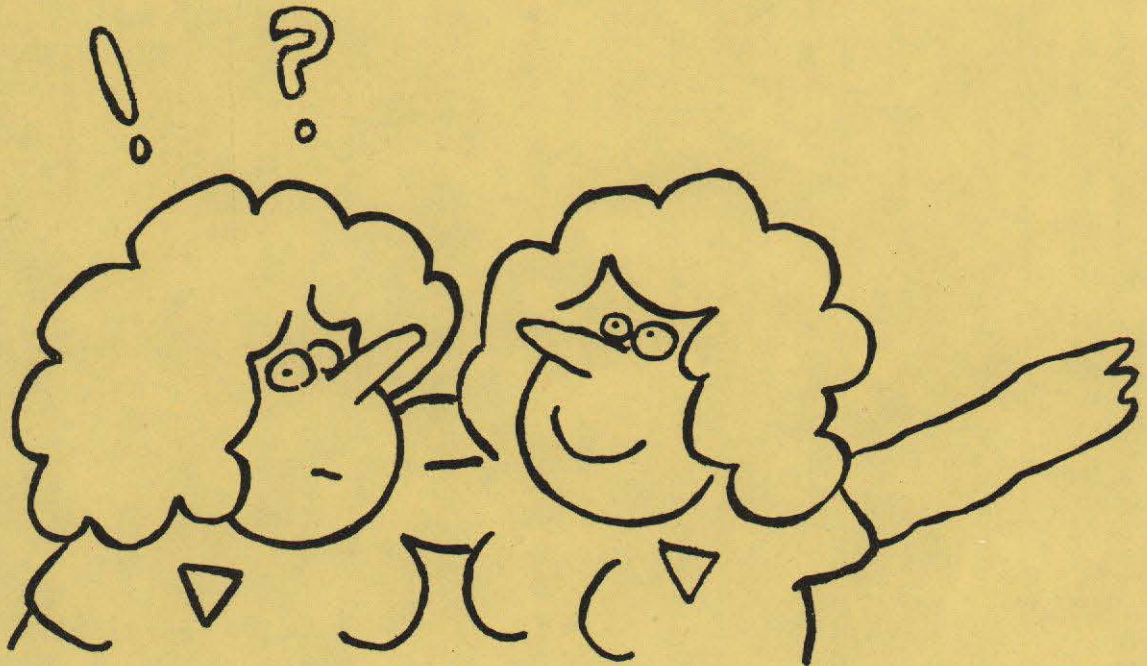
The Federal Executive of C.A.G.E.O. is elected from and by delegates from affiliated associations at biennial conferences. These conferences comprise members of the Federal Executive, delegates from affiliated organisations, and a delegate from each State or Territory Division of the Council. The number of delegates from affiliated union is determined by its membership. A full-time secretary is responsible for organising and managing a full-time secretariat of the Council. Divisions of the Council, comprised of two delegates from each Divisional affiliate, have been established in each State and mainland Territory.

NEXT ISSUE: Approaching the subject of gay rights at work.



nsw gay trade unionists' group?

is a non-party-political
group of gays working in
the gay community & in
the trade union movement
fighting all forms of
anti-gay discrimination
at work



po box 71, newtown nsw 2042

ph: 660.0061

name

address

phone no.

union

membership \$10 & \$2 unemployed subscription only \$3 & \$5 orgs.