



RED AND LAVENDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST LESBIANS/MALE HOMOSEXUALS

No. 4, March 7, 1977.

GREG WEIR - VICTIMIZATION OF HOMOSEXUAL TEACHER

In September last year Greg Weir was spokesperson for the Kelvin Grove Teachers College Lesbian & Male Homosexual group which was under threat of being banned by the college board. The battle for the right of the group to exist was won, but Bird, the Queensland education minister said that the students involved in the group shouldn't assume employment by the education department. Greg graduated but was refused employment, even though bonded to the education department. No reason was given.

The action by the education department is a monstrous attempt to intimidate members of the group and their spokespeople.

Greg Weir and other campaign organisers urge people throughout Australia to promote the campaign through their unions, organisations and groups, as well as writing to newspapers and the education minister (The Honorable Val Bird, Minister for Education, C/- The Old Treasury Building, Queen St., Brisbane). They also suggest an approach to the New South Wales Education Minister seeking assurances that this sort of action does not occur here.

The campaign is being waged on several fronts at present. AUS is backing Greg in taking the education department to court for breach of contract, and the case seems fairly watertight with the education department certain to be ordered to pay damages, or forced to employ him. If the legal case succeeds it will set a precedent and have ramifications for when the department considers other disciplinary action against students.

It is hoped to expand the campaign to a national one making demands on State and Australian governments about the employment of homosexual people without discrimination because of sexual preference.

A petition is being circulated for signatures. The organisers are trying to disseminate as much information as possible about the issues involved. Forums are being held at universities and CAE's in Queensland as well as talks with unions and the TLC, seeking support.

So far the Queensland Teachers Union, fingers burnt over the dismissal of teachers smoking dope last year, has been reluctant to make any statement, saying that because Greg has only provisional registration as a teacher, he is not eligible for membership of the union, and they cannot act on his behalf - Catch 22! But there are sympathetic people on the executive who may act if the Australian Teachers Federation, of which TU is an affiliate, makes a policy statement, which seems likely if the campaign gathers enough momentum.

If the government succeeds in its vendetta against homosexual teachers, the Socialist Lesbians/Male Homosexuals will be the only group to stand up to the government. The government is a predator to the Socialist Lesbians/Male Homosexuals, which is why the covert poster bashing which goes on in schools and colleges around Australia.

Red and Lavender is published by the Socialist Lesbians/Male Homosexuals, Sydney. News stories, happenings, and articles from socialist lesbians and socialist male homosexuals valued at 750 words or less. Subscriptions \$2 a year (make cheques payable to the 'Socialist Lesbians/Male Homosexuals'). Donations towards Red and Lavender and other activities welcome. All correspondence to Socialist Lesbians/Male Homosexuals, P.O. Box 155, Broadway, 2007, N.S.W. The red and lavender symbol is a trademark of the group.

We must mobilise the support of our homosexual sisters and brothers for our comrades in post-secondary campuses throughout Australia.

Further information on Greg's case can be seen at the Socialist Lesbian and Male Homosexual Group meetings at CAMP and at meetings of all interested to plan the Sydney campaign.

A RALLY is to be held in Sydney on Thursday 24th March from 4.30 to 6.00pm, assembly at TOWN HALL SQUARE. The next meeting of the campaign committee will be held at CAMP, 33A Glebe Pt. Road, 3.30pm on Sunday March 13th.

Neil Fitzgerald

SEMINAR ON VICTIMLESS CRIME

The seminar discussed drunkenness, vagrancy, suicide, prostitution, drug abuse, and homosexuality. Almost 600 people attended the seminar on homosexuality but the media stayed away in droves. It is obvious from the way the media in NSW did not report on the seminar or on CAMP's tribunal into discrimination that there is a deliberate policy to ignore our movement. We suspect the FOL is behind this conspiracy of silence.

The ABC and TRIBUNE did give a reasonable coverage to the seminar. The Australian reported on the drug abuse discussion and Rev. Lance Shilton's paper on homosexuality.

Mick Clohesy gave the homosexual rights coalition paper; he explained our support for a "Michigan Bill" and our view that sexism is the major cause of homosexual oppression.

Ronald Conway, a psychologist, gave a paper recommending "tolerance" and "understanding", law reform not law repeal, he was critical of the radical aspects of our movement and urged us to be patient etc.

Rev. Lance Shilton gave his usual rave against homosexuals, quoted the bible, and reminded us of the fall of the roman empire. Most of the audience had a good laugh but he was insulting at times. He argued that to legalise us would lead to recognising gay marriages, homosexuals adopting children, and the subject being taught in schools (loud applause).

He warned us that the family must be protected because it was "natural" and homosexuality is "unnatural".

Lex Watson provided interesting statistics and examples of homosexual prosecutions and persecutions. He did not support the Michigan Bill and it was interesting that under questioning, Frank Walker, the State Attorney General said he supported Lex Watson's policies and he was against the Michigan Bill.

The Seminar was educational and worthwhile but the oppressive laws are still there and we need to encourage a wider discussion of the issues. Our liberation will not come through parliament.

Lance Gowland

DATES

March on the Anniversary of Sharpeville - March 21.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH - March 12, assemble at Domain, 10.30am.

Demonstration against Royal Tour - Govt. House, 11.00am, March 13.

Greg Veir Campaign March - March 22, Town Hall Square, 6.30pm.

DANCE at Glebe Town Hall, Saturday March 19. \$2 BYOG.

SOCIALIST LESBIANS/MALE HOMOSEXUALS meet 14th and 28th March, 8pm, CAMP.