



RED AND LAVENDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST LESBIANS/MALE HOMOSEXUALS

No. 5 March 18, 1977.

Apparently the primary objective of this campaign is to protest against the N.S.W. Education Department's refusal to employ homosexual teacher, Greg Weir. However, the issue extends far beyond this and should be the concern of all socialists.

The govt. imposed veto on Weir's teaching career is a reaction against his being a homosexual activist; obviously the state bureaucracy and bourgeois society in general can afford to contain (in fact must) closet homosexuals, but any one person who openly defies this socially sanctioned order of silence is automatically ostracized.

Greg Weir is "just" one more example of a person being punished for refusing to comply with this form of political and ideological blackmail. So long as a situation of isolated individuals speaking out continues, so will this form of repression. It also serves to discipline all teachers and student teachers. In order to overcome this "extra"-victimization of individuals, it is essential that organized groups maintain a constant protest against all forms of oppression and exploitation. The greater the number of those actively involved in struggle against the ruling class, the state machinery and every kind of ideological repression, the more difficult it will be for our oppressors and their agents to select particularly "dangerous" individuals.

The fight against the oppression of homosexuals is an essential part of all revolutionary activity waged against patriarchy and capitalism. Sexist ideology and sexist institutions, particularly the family and schools, provide a vital bastion for a society whose ruling class derives wealth and power from wage-labor and the unpaid labor of women. Homosexuals break up the divided roles of the sexes & the dominance of men and the submissiveness of women. This threatens the accepted division of labor - wage-labor performed by men, the breadwinners, and housework by women.

The liberation of homosexuals and women, the major victims of sexism, is a necessary component of the overall struggle we are engaged in. The elimination of Weir is analogous with the repressive measures implemented against all militant men and women in the workforce.

Supporting struggles such as these helps to release women and homosexuals from their chains, and so adds to the revolutionary forces.

There are many examples like Weir's in NSW. - Penny Short in 1974, Michael Clohesy in 1975. There have been many 'quiet' victims eliminated from educational institutions because of their sexuality.

The homosexual movement has placed great hope in the ALP government. Wran and Walker have quietly given the indication that the middle ages will soon be over. But look what is happening: under the Archbishop's pressure and the influence of the Festival of Light and headmasters of private schools, the Wran government is likely to exempt educational institutions from the Anti-Discrimination Bill. This would legitimize discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexuality, politics and religion in education. That's a real reform for us! Such are the illusions of placing hope in politicians and parliament! So under Wran the position of homosexuals worsens - how does this happen?

We have already discussed the point about the way sexism (male dominance) is now a necessary part of the organisation of production in our society. So passing any legislation - even strong, well-intentioned laws - will not change the situation basically.

In Britain, decriminalisation of homosexuality meant that police used different laws to arrest or harass homosexuals, and more bashings occurred.

We socialists argue that the only way forward is to politicise the question of the oppression of women and homosexuals in a revolutionary way. This means that when the working people seek their own interests, part of their demands and slogans will be the liberation of women and homosexuals.

The first point is that parliament helps those who own the productive forces and maintains their interests — which include control of the workers and maintenance of profit rates. We should place no hope in parliament.

The second point is that the ALP is voted in by the progressive people — working people and sections of the middle class, but it depends on capital — the industrialists who employ most people in this state. That is why at present the government fulfills no hopes of those who voted for it, but continually caters to the boss's needs, hoping they will not be antagonised by any of its "radical" changes. How will we get a political party which will really represent our needs by changing this society which is the cause of so many crises and so much repression?

We must understand the reason why parliaments have never worked for us in Australia, NSW, or anywhere else. The class struggle between the capitalists and the workers dominates all capitalist history and effects all aspects of our lives one way or another. We have pointed out that here how it effects Greg Weir, homosexuals and women in particular.

We must build a political party based on this understanding, and carry the class struggle through to the point of real change — the transition to socialism.

DATES

The Socialist Lesbians and Male Homosexuals meet alternate Mondays at 8pm at CAMP, 33a Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Next meeting is on March 28th.

Socialist L & M. Homosexuals FORUM : "IS THERE LIBERATION THROUGH NSW PARLIAMENT?"

- the Anti-Discrimination Bill
- the Victimless Crimes Seminar

SUNDAY APRIL 17
MAY 8

CAMP 33A GLEBE PT. ROAD

3.30pm