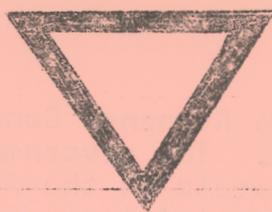


Melbourne Gay Liberation



NEWSLETTER NO 1.

JUNE 1973

Newsletter and Contact Group

Melbourne Gay Liberation has been going on for over a year and during that time an enormous number of people have passed through the meetings. Some people come only infrequently; this newsletter is intended as a monthly news sheet of Gay Lib events and happenings so that everyone who has had any contact at all with Gay Lib will have some idea of what is going on.

The general intention is that this newsletter should be a fairly brief thing written at the Contact Group. Unfortunately the Contact Group has not been meeting since the Centre has been closed down. The next Contact Group meeting is on Monday 11th June, second floor, Union House.

Friday Night Meetings

Friday night every week we have the Gay Liberation general meeting in the Union, Melbourne University. We've been doing this for over a year - and it's now getting very dreary and people aren't coming any more - little wonder why. We've come to realize through experience, that we can't expect too much of these meetings activity, action, discussion re Gay Lib just isn't on at the big Friday night meetings. Gay Liberation isn't that large meeting, we shouldn't get disappointed because those meetings don't achieve much - we have the contact group, the gay womens group, the publications group, the people who run the dances - these groups are on about Gay Lib much more than the meetings on Friday.

But we can use the meetings as a social thing (until we find a new centre, when Friday night meetings will not have to fulfill that need). This Friday 8th we are having a party with grog supplied in the Barry Humphries Room (groan, sorry) Arts South, Melbourne University. We'd like everybody to come along. A map is included in this newsletter

Radicalesbian

The National Conference will now be held at Sorrento on the 6th-8th July. The cost will be \$14.00 for board & meals. For further information contact The Gay Women's Group, C/- Box 85 Melbourne Uni or through the Women's Liberation Centre, 16 Lt. Latrobe Street, City, Ph. 347 1564

Gay Women's Group

Tuesday nights

8.00 p.m. Women's Centre

16 Lt. La Trobe St, City

Law Reform Proposals

* Dr. Moss Cass announced last week that he is to present a private members bill on homosexual law reform. We don't want this legislation to be as restrictive as the Hill Bill of S.A., or the British law or our position will not be any better. Write to Moss Cass C/- Parliament House, Canberra, praising him for his proposal, but making sure he knows what you want in the way of law reform, tell him about your reservations on law reform tell him about other measures that would be beneficial to homosexuals - employment non-discrimination, police harassment etc. Law Reform - remember female homosexuals have no laws against them (except indecent display etc) but it hasn't made their position in society any better than male homosexuals.

We've got to get in with our support, and opinions before the Church, D.L.P. etc start campaigning against H.L.R. write to Moss Cass, your Federal members, all of them!

P.S. EVERY QUEER HAS A RIGHT TO LIFE! JOHN GORTON HAS ALSO COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF H.L.R.!!

EMPLOYMENT ACTION

The Federal Government has plans to set up a panel to investigate employment discrimination. On behalf of Gay Lib Tony Crewes wrote72

to the Attorney General asking why homosexuals weren't included on this panel. The government would be more likely to take action if individuals also wrote to the Attorney-General and/or the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cameron) complaining.

Senator Murphy,

15th May, 1973.

Dear Sir,

In "The Age" of 7.5.73 there was a report that the Federal Government was setting up a committee which would examine employment discrimination against minority or oppressed groups. Included amongst these groups are apparently black, women, migrants wtc. but no mention is made of homosexuals, male and female, who are one of the most discriminated against groups in Australia, be it by employers or anyone else.

The Gay Liberation movement is extremely concerned that homosexuals are apparently not to be considered by this panel, or included on it. This type of government action against employment discrimination is long overdue in Australia and we know of many cases of blatant discrimination against homosexuals, as do other homosexual rights' organizations. Although homosexual acts are still illegal right across Australia, being homosexuals apparently isn't yet homosexuals are being discriminated against in employment all the time, in all areas of work, if they are at all open and natural.

We feel that we have as strong a case to be included within the scope of this study/legislation/committee as the groups mentioned. Would it be possible to arrange an interview with you on this matter, which we regard very seriously, when you are next in Melbourne?

In anticipation,
Yours Faithfully,
ANTHONY J. CREWS,
MELBOURNE GAY LIBERATION.

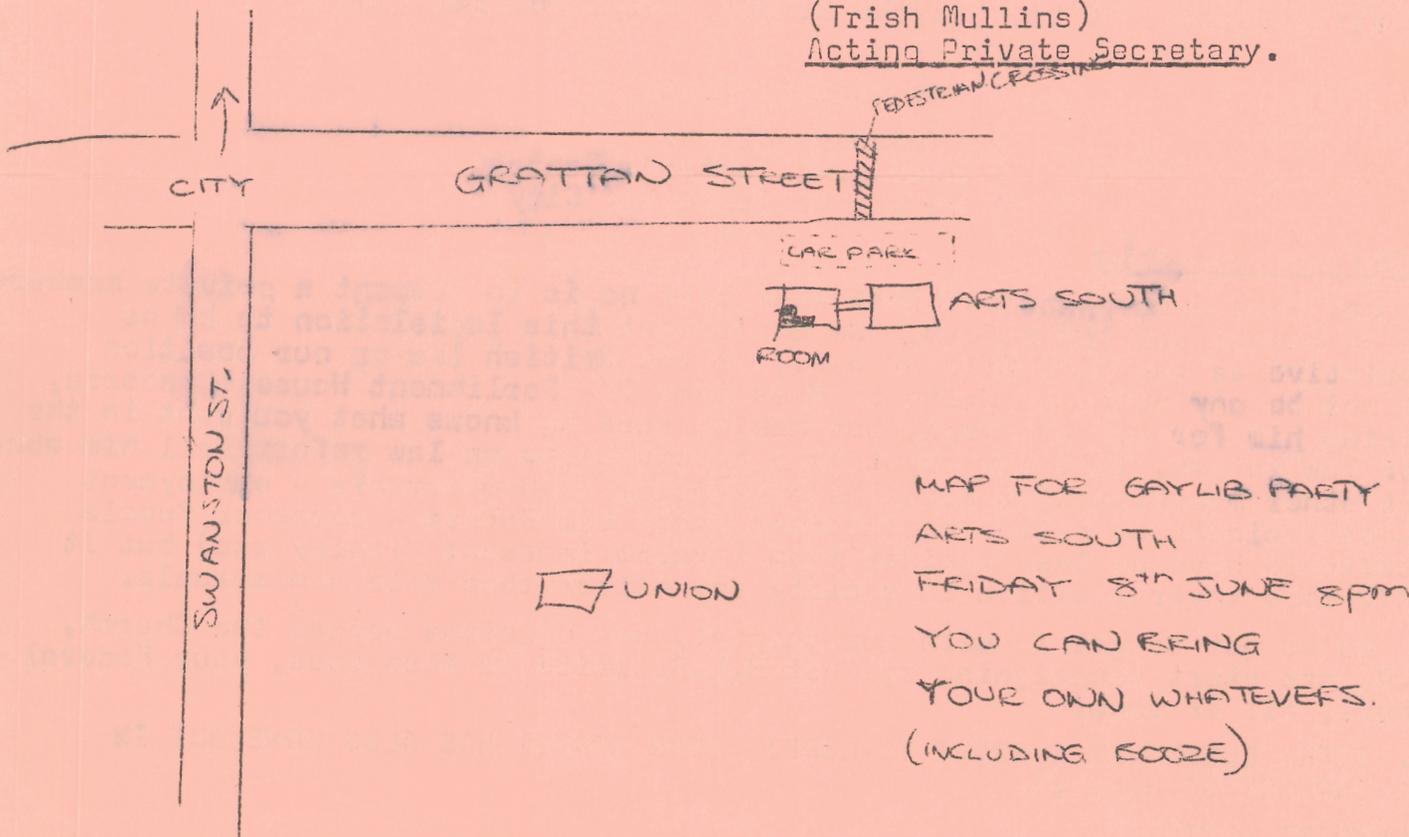
Dear Mr. Crewes

23rd May, 1973.

During Senator Murphy's absence overseas, I acknowledge your letter of 15th May, 1973, concerning discrimination against homosexuals.

Your letter will be brought to the Senator's attention on his return.

Yours sincerely,
(Trish Mullins)
Acting Private Secretary.



"THE GAY RAY" (incorporating Gay Rays)

The second issue of the paper (first one was out in December '72) is on the layout table now. It should be out by the next dance.

Distribution: Sales at the dance at Gay Lib meetings, and at select Melbourne bookshops which will be advertised in the Review. We aren't taking subscriptions, as we can't be definite about the number of issues per year. We'd be grateful if people from interstate who get this newsletter could distribute The Gay Ray interstate - to their own meetings, dances or perhaps in bookshops. We'd sell you Gay Rays at 10 cents each, you can sell them for 20 cents.

Next issue The Gay Ray number 3 is half way written, but we need more contributions. We have enough money and contacts do actually print the paper, but the paper lacks contributions, poems, short stories, articles, graphics, photos etc.

The Publications Group which produces the paper, is going to meet to discuss the third issue on Thursday 17th June, 18 Barkly St, Nth. Fitzroy, 8 O'clock. We really need everybody who was involved with No. 2 and new people interested in writing etc. for No. 3.

* * * DON'T FORGET QUEENS AND DYKES * * *

Friday 8th June Gay Lib Party 8 p.m. University.
(Gay Liberation Friday night meetings after this one will continue 8 p.m. 2nd floor, Union House, Melbourne University)

Monday 14th June Contact Group 8p.m. Union House, and every Monday after.

Tuesday 12th June Gay Women's Group. Women's Liberation Centre, Lt. Latrobe Street, and every Tuesday.

Thursday 14th June Publications Group, 18 Barkly St, Nth. Fitzroy.

Friday 22nd June Gay Liberation Dance 9 p.m. Melbourne Receptions.
Block Arcade.

6th-8th July Radicalesbian conference. Sorrento.

ADDRESS - Box 85, Union House, Melbourne University.

A STATEMENT BY

RADICAL LESBIANS

Men define lesbian as sex between women. They have fostered the myth that lesbians are ugly and turn to each other because they were not good enough to get a man.

We find this definition oppressive because it denies that women are capable of loving each other as people. It does not accept that a relationship between two women can be as fulfilling, as unique and as worthwhile as one between a man and a woman.

We Gay women know that it can.

And we know that women are worthy of our total commitment - love, energy, sex - all of it.

Society demands that a woman devote herself totally to one man in the institution of marriage. But it denies us the freedom to give the women we love any more than friendship.

Why should a woman be worthy of

less commitment than a man?

This attitude exists because women are not considered to be as important as men.

We believe they are.

Lesbianism is directly relevant to women's struggle for self determination and for control over our own lives and bodies. Together we are fighting against the oppressive sexist system which forces us into pre-determined sex roles.

We lesbians, because we stand outside the basic unit of society - the nuclear family - challenge, by our very existence, the sexist structure of society.

In this system relationships between men and women involve power, dominance, oppression and enforced role playing. In this game it is men who have the power.

In our Gay relationships we have found some escape from the pressure to play the self-destructive feminine role. And from the pressure to play harmful heterosexual games in which the man has the entire system of male privilege to back him up.

A woman who is totally independent of men - who obtains love, sex and self-esteem from other women is a terrible threat to male supremacy.

That is why we lesbians are oppressed.

That is why we are proud of our love.

XXX

(The Gay Women's Group can be contacted through The Women's Centre
16 Little Latrobe Street, City. Phone: 3471564