

SEX LIB DEMONSTRATION



by Michael Delaney.

I'd say that there would've been roughly 150 of us all told. And that's not bad for starters. We gathered outside the Sydney Town Hall and proceeded to organize and/or be organized with banners, leaflets and balloons. And there was a spirit amongst us that just kept on growing as we got it together. Not all that obvious at first because everybody was still a bit doubtful — a little unclear as to what was exactly happening; a wee bit anxious about what could happen if things didn't turn out well. But we stuck it out amidst the confusion of the ABC concert goers massing into the Hall.

It was Thursday — 27th July 6.30 pm. As part of the 'Sex Lib' week sponsored by C.A.M.P. we had 'come out' to try and reach people. We'd forsaken the closets and left our ghetto. We marched.

It started off in chaos but then that was half the fun. There was this great feeling. We were proud and we felt strong. We had our personal differences but not when it came down to our oppression. And then there was the energy — adrenalin was high. We were all high on the feeling. It was full on solidarity. We were

united in our aims and that's the way it stayed. And the feeling grew.

There was Gary and John — prattling and S-T-I-R-R-I-N-G. There was Gabby — screaming her arse inside out leading the chant: '2-4-6-8 Gay Is Just As Good As Straight'. There was Richard and Rusty waving their banners right into the faces of bewildered Thursday shopping folk. There was Peter and Chris and Bill and Tony and Paul and Andrew and James. They were shouting and screaming their voices hoarse: 'H-O-M-O-S-E-X-U-A-L'. We'd surround and absorb passers-by and assault them with a flurry of slogans, badges, leaflets, posters, balloons and pamphlets. We'd scatter through the crowd and hurl ourselves in through hotels and department stores: 'Gimme a 'C' — Gimme an 'A' — Gimme an 'M' — Gimme a 'P' ... what does it spell? 'CAMP' ... what does it spell? ... 'CAMP' ... who is camp? ... 'US' — 'US' — 'US'. And the feeling continued to grow.

We marched — up Castlereagh and down King; up George and into Wynyard Park. We were happy: 'Out Of The Closets And Into The Streets' — 'Out Of The Beats And Into The Streets'. Everybody was moving and feeling the magic. And it was magic —

make no bones about that. It was the magic that came from our togetherness. We were brothers/sisters fighting for our rights to be who we please.

There was about 150 of us. According to statistics there'd be around 100,000 more in Sydney alone. We touched a lot of people that night — making them a little less sure of themselves and their attitudes. We probably shocked a whole lot more just by openly confronting them in the streets. We had energy. We had a spirit that warmed us and made us strong. We could've gone on all night the way we felt on Thursday 27th July.

There were acid-eaters and men of the Cloth, university lecturers and rock 'n' roll crazies, freaks and civil servants, nurses and secretaries and laboratory assistants and lawyers and students and housewives. But we were united. We were asserting ourselves and agitating to demand our God-given rights as human beings.

There was about 150 of us in that march. I'd really like to know where in the fuck the rest of you were. We — as a group — are waging a battle for our identity. It is a battle that demands the complete support of every homosexual in the community. You cannot expect the changes we require

if you are not prepared to become personally involved. There just isn't any other way.

Open your eyes wide and look around you. Take a good long look at what is happening. Ladies and gentlemen — there is a revolution under way at this very moment. It's a full on socio-political revolution that touches every last one of us. We have been oppressed for far too long in too many different ways to just sit back and let somebody else do all the shit-kicking. Call it counter-culture — call it what you like. But it is there. Whether you like it or not — we are inadvertently part of the revolution. And it's growing stronger by the minute. We are there with the dope smokers and Women's Lib — with the black minorities and the Jews. We are a minority and we are oppressed.

'Coming Out' and confronting the current social/political/religious attitudes is an incredibly difficult step for each member of the homosexual community. But it is a step that must be taken if you want to retain your self-respect. Everyone of us must come to terms with our oppression in our

own individual way. 'Coming Out' — however — is unavoidable.

Campaign Against Moral Persecution produced the following leaflet in an attempt to further our aims:

'The oppression of homosexual men and women is but one facet of the suppression of sexuality and the expression of sexism in our society. Books, films and newspapers are censored and banned because of their sexual content. Women are discriminated against because of their sex. Homosexual men are persecuted, bashed and murdered. Homosexual women are either held up to ridicule or have their very existence denied.

Five years ago in Britain the Sexual Offences Act was passed. Heralded as legislation which would liberate the homosexual, it has done nothing to end the oppression. Homosexual men and women in Australia want more than an equivalent to this farcical concession to their demands. Would an equivalent to the British law have prevented the bashing of homosexuals in Sydney? Would such an equivalent law prevent outrages like the murder

of Duncan in Adelaide? Would such a law prevent men and women from being fired from their jobs because of their homosexuality? Would such a law prevent the suppression of virtually all serious discussion of homosexuality in the media and the schools? Would such a law put an end to the fear and guilt in which a hung-up heterosexual society now forces many homosexual men and women to live?

The churches label homosexuality as an abomination, as morally depraved and sinful — and this is what they teach society. The medical profession labels homosexuality as a crippling personality disorder — and this is what they teach society. As a result of this and a general reluctance to rethink archaic attitudes, the public reacts to homosexuals with a mixture of openly expressed hostility and pitying tolerance.

We refuse to accept the labels that society tries to pin on us. We are tired of asking for the 'privilege' of being 'tolerated' by society.



WHAT WE WANT NOW

1. Abolition of all laws governing sexual behaviour between consenting people.
2. Recognition of homosexual couples by the State so that economic and other benefits can be shared.
3. An end to discrimination against single people.
4. Legislation outlawing discrimination in employment on the grounds of sex or sexual orientation.
5. Education of the public to greater understanding of homosexuality by its inclusion in school sex education programmes.
6. An end to all forms of discrimination and persecution based on sex or directed against the free expression of sexual preference.

There's a revolution taking place and we are at the centre. Get involved. Power to the People.