

259 Brunswick St,
Fitzroy, 3065
Ph. 41-4926, 8-11 p.m. nightly

We're taking advantage of a free mailing to get this bulletin out ~~free~~ to all on the GLF mailing list. (The October-November Newsletter should be out in about two or three weeks). Primarily this mail out is to inform you of a meeting at the Centre this Wednesday with people from the Black Resources Centre. This meeting has been initiated by some Gay Liberationists who have been involved in the campaign against the oppression of blacks by the Bjelke-Petersen regime in Queensland. More about that in the circular enclosed.

It is timely however that we communicate with all on our mailing list, for although Gay Liberation doesn't have an official membership, it has become accepted that those on the mailing list have an interest, and should have a say in decisions of major importance. One such issue is now upon us, namely the sacking of Mike Clohesy, Secretary of CAMP NSW, from his position as teacher in a Catholic secondary school in Sydney (details on the attached sheet). The issue was discussed at last Thursday's General Meeting of Gay Liberation, but the small attendance didn't inspire us to feel that the decisions made adequately represented Gay Liberation. The attached sheet describes the outcome of the General Meeting. Briefly, we want all the gay organizations in Melbourne to be signatories to a letter of protest to the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne, for the principle at stake, the right to come out and keep one's job, is surely not a sectional one. A meeting on this Tuesday, 4th November, has been called to achieve this. At this meeting it is likely that tactics will be planned in anticipation of the possible reactions from the Catholic Education Office. Then at a later date, tentatively set for THURSDAY WEEK, 13th November - BUT PLEASE PROMISE TO CONFIRM - a meeting will be held to formulate action in the light of the Catholic Education Office's reply. The last Gay Liberation G.M. decided that if the Office's reply is unsatisfactory, or if we don't even get a reply (we expect one or the other), then a public demonstration and leafletting of a Melbourne Catholic Church is warranted. Please try to come to the meeting on tentatively set for the 13th. That's when we'll know where we stand.

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FINANCES ARE GRIM:

Maybe it was the scare of the raid at the party before, or maybe people didn't know it was on, but our last party didn't attract many people. This is bad news when we are, as at present, depending on funds raised through parties to pay the rent. The takings scarcely paid two weeks rent, when we counted on at least four. Payment of the October rent has all but emptied the bank account.

The next party is on Saturday, November 23th. Try and keep it in mind.. and spread the oword. The Centre has been cleaned and decorated, thanks to Meredith. That alone's worth paying \$1 for! And of course, donations are always welcome (see form below).

P.S. We weren't visited by the Cops this time. Just before the t party we received a response to our letter of complaint to Police Headquarters about the raid of the October party. This will be reported in the next newsletter. Chief Inspector Ewart of the C.I.B. undertook to inform Fitzroy C.I.B. that "Gay Liberation is prepared to do its own policing of drugs". But he made it clear that we were far from immune from further raids, so the warnings of the last newsletter must stand. For your sake and ours don't bring dope into the Centre.

SUMMER CAMP

A few people in Melbourne and Geelong Gay Liberation are keen to organize a camp, probably the first weekend in *Dec*. We are currently checking out hostels and campsights, and hopefully will have finalized arrangements by the time of the next newsletter. If you're interested you can keep in touch with developments by retfuning the circular below.

NAME:.....ADDRESS.....POST CODE.....
PHONE.....BEST TIME TO CONTACT.....
ANY PREFERRED VENUES?.....

PLEASE RETURN TO Summer Camp Organizer, C/- 259 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, 3065

GAY WOMEN'S WRITERS GROUP

Margaret Bernasconi is trying to start a Gay Women's Writers Group. It would meet Saturdays, 4.30 p.m. for readings, study discussion. Phone Margaret on 323-1987 if interested.

NATIONAL GAY INFORMATION SHEET

The National Gay Information Sheet was mooted at the National Homosexual Conference in August, and issue no. 1 has been published. It includes the most comprehensive list of gay organizations in Australia yet published, and, as a regular feature, a listing of events of interest to gay people all around Australia (from 10th of one month to the 10th of the next). The success of the sheet depends on groups and individuals submitting news and events (these are required by the 25th of the month before), and of course on people subscribing. Subscriptions can be taken out for \$3. Write C/- Gay Information Sheet Collective, G.P.O. Box 1154, Sydney, 2001.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY GOOD ARTICLES FOR REPRINTING?

Enclosed with this bulletin you'll find two articles that we think are valuable enough to have reprinted. If you come across any articles, or excerpts of books, that you think ought to be shared around, please send them to us. We particularly are material suitable for distribution on speaking engagements. There is little around that we feel happy about giving to school students, or sending to people writing about homosexuality for social studies projects.

DIARY OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, November 4th Meeting of representatives of homosexual organizations in Melbourne to consider letter to the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne.
- Tuesday, November 4th - 16th 10 p.m. nightly. A season of 3 homosexual films at Carlton Filmmakers' Co-op Cinema (near Readings bookshop, between Faraday and Elgin Sts). One is Barb Creed's film "Homosexuality - A film for Discussion". The others are "A Point of Departure", by Don McLennan, and "Urkish Baths" by Maya Frankel.
- Wednesday, November 5th Meeting with people from Black Resources Centre, at Gay Liberation Centre. See circular enclosed.
- Tuesday, November 11th Gay Teachers Meeting, to continue discussion/amendment of the proposed charter. 8 p.m.
- Thursday, November 13th Meeting at Gay Liberation Centre to consider the reply from the Catholic Education Office. PHONE TO CONFIRM THAT THIS IS ON. Subject to change at meeting on Tuesday 4th.
- Friday, November 14th Women's Dance at Lower Dining Hall, Melbourne University, 9 p.m. B.Y.O.
- Tuesday, November 25th. 8 p.m. Gay Teachers Meeting at Centre.
- Thursday, November 27th General meeting of Gay Liberation. Review of action on Clohesay case. What next? Also discussion of "Straights in Centre", in view of issues raised by newly formed Bisexual Group's request to use Centre for social functions and meetings.
- Saturday, 28th November Party at Centre. BYO. All gay men and women welcome. \$1 donation. Gay books on display and sale.

I WISH TO DONATE \$..... TO ASSIST PAYMENT OF CENTRE'S RENTAL.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

Melbourne Gay Liberation,
259 Brunswick St,
FITZROY, 3065

2nd November, 1975

NOTICE TO ALL MELBOURNE HOMOSEXUAL ORGANIZATIONS

You have no doubt heard by now of the dismissal on 13th October of Mike Clohesy, Secretary of CAMP NSW, from Marist Brothers, Eastwood, for publicly declaring his homosexuality. He appeared on a television programme to speak about CAMP NSW's submission to the Royal Commission on Human Relationships.

The Melbourne Gay Teachers Group sent a letter to the National Committee on Discrimination in Employment, urging it to intervene on Mike's behalf. But the reply says the Committee's procedure is to investigate and resolve allegations initially through the relevant State Committee (A case to the NSW Committee was already in motion in Sydney). Consequently there seems to be little that Melbourne groups can do to help Mike get his job back. However we can and should do everything possible to ensure that homosexual teachers in the Catholic system in Melbourne will not be victimized in the manner that Mike Clohesy has been.

Melbourne Gay Liberation has drafted a letter (see below) to the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne that requires the Office to state whether a similar occurrence is possible here. (It is clear that the directive to dismiss Mike came from the Sydney Catholic Education Office; the school's principal was merely its agent). We believe that the issue goes beyond the sectional interest of the respective homosexual organizations, and thus invite you to be a signatory to either this letter, or an amended version of it. A meeting is called for **THIS TUESDAY EVENING** at the **GAY LIBERATION CENTRE**, 8 p.m., for representatives of all homosexual groups to consider this letter and formulate tactics for any joint action that is seen as necessary. Last Thursday's General Meeting of Gay Liberation was in favour of a public demonstration and leafletting of one of the Catholic Churches in Melbourne if the response from the Melbourne Office is unsatisfactory.

A tentative date for the meeting to consider follow-up of the Catholic Education Office's reply (or lack of!) is set for **THURSDAY, 13th NOVEMBER**. Please phone Gay Liberation Centre, 41-4926, 8-11 p.m. any night, to confirm.

We regret the short notice, and hope that you will recognize the importance of acting before this issue is allowed to become dead and buried. We will be in touch with your organization on Monday night to confirm the meeting, and check your availability for Tuesday, 4th November.

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DRAFT OF THE LETTER WE INVITE ALL HOMOSEXUAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE SIGNATORY TO

Officer in Charge,
Catholic Education Office

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may have heard of the dismissal on 13th October of Mr Mike Clohesy from a secondary school in Sydney, Marist Brothers, Eastwood, because he appeared on a television programme to outline CAMP, NSW's submission to the Royal Commission on Human Relationships. In the programme he spoke about issues raised by the submission, and discussed his own homosexuality openly.

Mike Clohesy's competence as a teacher had not come into question before his television appearance; in fact there had been praise. He was dismissed purely for being honest about his homosexuality. A spokesman for the Sydney Catholic Education Office is reported to have said that the dismissal had the "full support of the Office", that "it is not a matter of whether this man is homosexual, but of his public statement".

A meeting of representatives of all homosexual organizations in Melbourne has decided to seek a statement from your organization about the possibility of a similar occurrence in Melbourne. In particular, we want to know whether your organization would:

- (a) refuse to hire a teacher who had publicly declared his or her homosexuality?
- (b) dismiss, or otherwise discipline, an employee who publicly stated his or her homosexuality?

We will interpret failure to reply to this letter by Wednesday, 12th November as meaning affirmative answers to both questions, i.e. endorsement of the Sydney Catholic Education Office's position.

A meeting of all Melbourne's homosexual organizations to further consider this matter is to be held on Thursday, 13th November.

We look forward to hearing from you by the 12th.

Yours...

I SUGGEST THIS LETTER SHOULD BE SENT REGISTERED MAIL

FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM A BULLETIN RELEASED BY CAMP NSW

A Current Affair, Monday 13th October 1975

A spokesman for the Catholic Education Office says that Mr Clohesy was sacked, not because he was a homosexual, but because he made this fact public to parents and children...

Radio 2 BL, AM, Wednesday 15th October 1975

Dr. John Walsh (for the Catholic Information Centre):

"..The reason he was dismissed was that he was a homosexual..."

A Current Affair, Thursday 16th October 1975, interviewed by Mr Peter Meakin, was James McLaren (for the Catholic Education Office):

Meakin: "So homosexual teachers in Catholic schools should keep quiet about the fact?"

McLaren: "Whether they should or they shouldn't, they know quite obviously that if they make it public, for whatever reason, they are going to lose their jobs."

PM: "The point remains: it's alright to be a homosexual teacher in a Catholic School? You're not going to have action taken against you?"

McL: "The Church does not incriminate or discriminate against homosexuals,

PM: "Isn't giving someone notice a form of discrimination?"

McL: "No, because, well, everybody discriminates..."

PM: "What advice would you give to homosexual teachers in Catholic schools? Would you like them to identify themselves?"

McL: "No, I can't see any point why a person's sexual activities have to be made public...The whole system would lose its credibility if it says one thing, but employs people who believe another.

PM: "...Are homosexuals an embarrassment to the Church?"

McL: "No, no sin is an embarrassment..."

PM: "Should a sinner be sacked?"

McL: "No, I don't think so...The policy of the Church is that they require more than just he be a good teacher. They also require that in his public life as a teacher he behave appropriately to his position...How can he fit into the Catholic teaching system when he conflicts with its teaching? It can't be done..."

Nation Review, 17-23 October, 1975, quoting the Catholic Education Office: "It is not a matter of whether this man is homosexual, but of his public statement. It's pretty obvious that there's a difference between a man being what he is, and what he publicly states himself to be..."

Look forward to meeting with representatives of your organization at the meeting on Tuesday,

In homosexual solidarity,

Gary Jaynes,
For Melbourne Gay Liberation.