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GAYZETTE

Newsletter of the mixed gay movement LIBRARY

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NEWS

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CONSPIRACY CHARGES THROWN OUT

The charges of conspiracy to corrupt public morals against the nine gay men who were prosecuted by Delta Task Force last November were thrown out at the committal hearing at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on 10 May.

Magistrate Wheelhouse ruled that the offence of conspiracy to corrupt public morals does exist, but that there was insufficient evidence to sustain the charge in this case.

The decision marks a victory for free speech as the charge related to the mere discussion of pedophilia in the context of the Pedophile Support Group.

Two of the men face other charges which have been committed to trial on 4 June. An additional charge of 'publishing an obscene article' against one other man has been adjourned indefinitely.

The ruling by Mr Wheelhouse that the charge of conspiracy to corrupt public morals exists still does not establish the offence in Australia law, as magistrates' courts' decisions are not binding on other courts. Mr Wheelhouse is widely regarded within the legal profession as one of the more conservative magistrates.

Heavy burden of costs

The magistrate ruled against a submission from the defence lawyers that the Crown pay the defendants' legal costs. This would have required the defence counsel to prove that the charges amounted to a malicious prosecution, he said.

The Legal Aid Commission had earlier declined to assist the defendants at the committal stage, in spite of submissions by the defendants that there was a prospect of a successful defence being mounted at the committal. The Legal Aid Commission advised them to plead not guilty, and reserve their defence until the trial, even though the Commission's funding guidelines allow for granting aid for committal hearings in special circumstances, such as when it is in the public interest to do so. Legal costs for the defendants ran to some thousands of dollars.

Good news is no news

There has been no media attention given to the outcome of the committal hearing. Journalists and television cameras were present at the court in large numbers, but apparently lost interest when the charges were thrown out. This was in stark contrast to the media blaze given to the police press release and press confer-

ence last November, when the Sun newspaper, Truth and 3AW radio commentator Derryn Hinch sought to inflame public opinion against the defendants.

The damage done by the initial prejudicial publicity has been compounded by the resounding silence now that the charges have been found to have no substance. The defendants suffered threats and harassment when their names were printed in the Herald, and shown on the Channel 7 news and read out over Derryn Hinch's radio programme. Two defendants lost jobs as a result of the publicity, and another two suffered severe discrimination in their workplace.

Another casualty of the media hysteria was Alison Thorne, who was force-transferred to non-teaching duties after she spoke in defence of the civil liberties of the nine men, a stance which has now been further vindicated.

Many people, including some in the gay community, were misled by the publicity into believing that the charges related to sexual acts with minors, rather than the mere discussion of the subject of pedophilia. Others accepted at face value the false suggestions of international kiddy porn rackets operating on a grand commercial scale. The reality makes a mockery of these claims, just as investigations of the alleged abuse by arrested men of World Vision, the foster parent organisation, made nonsense of Delta Task Force's allegations.

The Sun newspaper must bear particular responsibility for this unethical reporting. They gave page one prominence to the issue on three occasions - the initial arrests ('Police Smash Child Porn Ring'), Alison Thorne's remarks ('Sex-at-10 Teacher Outrage'), and the World Vision allegations ('Charity Used for Child Sex'). Apart from a small, page 18 retraction regarding World Vision, they have not made the slightest effort to correct their false and inflammatory reporting.

Support

There were numbers of supporters of the defendants - family, gay activists and others - both inside and outside the court. A picket on the second of the two-day hearing focused on the issues of free speech for gays, the methods used by Delta Task Force (spying and entrapment), and the selective use of laws against gays.

Money is urgently needed to assist the defendants, three of whom are unemployed, with their legal costs. Donations can be sent to GLRC, PO Box 35, Fitzroy 3065. Cheques should be made to 'GLRC 5th November Fund'. There is a fundraising victory party at the Kingston Hotel on 29 June. See Whats on for details.

MEXICAN CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Prostitutes and gay people have been the targets of a wave of repression in Mexico City. In mid-March police began rounding up people from the streets, gays (gay and non-gay), baths and restaurants. "The very first night they started doing it they took along one thousand people," according to Augusto Jorge of the Grupo Nueva Batalla Mexico. Resistance by gay groups working through left parties and the media appeared to quell the police attacks initially, but the roundups resumed within a week.

Gay groups in other countries are being urged to publicise the situation and to send protest letters direct to the Mexican President. These would support the protest activities leading up to the gay pride celebrations in Mexico at the end of June. Gay groups have collected 41,000 signatures

(41 is a symbol for gay in Mexico City), and plan to present these direct to the president after the 6th Gay Pride March on 30 June.

All letters should be addressed to Sr Presidente de la Republica Mexicana Miguel de la Madrid Murtado - Palacio Nacional - Mexico, DF, Mexico. If possible, send a copy to Grupo Nueva Batalla, Nazas 52 Esq Sena - 00500 Mexico, DF, Mexico; or to Grupo Lambda, Baja California No 71 - Mexico, DF, Mexico.

-from Paz Y Liberacion

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GROUP OF THE MONTH

AUSTRALIAN GAY ARCHIVES

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There's the oral history project: a collection of taped interviews with lesbians and gay men, about gay life in the bad old days. Hopefully one day this will be published in book form. Also the poster collection is being sealed in laminate to preserve them forever; and of course there's the general sorting of raw material that comes flooding in. A welcome flood it is too, as people around Australia clean out their closets and send all the lesbian and gay male related material to the archives.

As well as two rooms of Archives stuff downstairs, there are two rooms of gay related books upstairs. This is the library of Christ's Community Church and it's full of gay and lesbian novels, histories and much more. It is planned that this collection along with a couple of others eventually become part of the archives.

The Gay Archives is at 144 Adderley St. West Melbourne (Ph: 328 1238) and it's an interesting place to visit. I wonder why I waited so long, and certainly will go back soon to feast my eyes on more.

Bill Calder.

V.A.A.C. NEWS

With this issue of Gayzette we include a copy of V.A.A.C News 2, the newsletter of the Victorian Aids Action Committee. V.A.A.C. has just had a major breakthrough in its negotiations with the State Government and the Health Commission. Late last year the State Government established an AIDS committee under the umbrella of the Health Commission. V.A.A.C failed in its attempts to gain representation on this committee which was for the so called experts.

However V.A.A.C. has just received notification that its submission for a liaison committee has been accepted. The brief of this new committee is to liaise between the gay community and the Health Commission. The liaison committee is comprised of three members of the Health Commission AIDS Committee and three members of V.A.A.C.

The AIDS committee has been instructed to consult with the AIDS liaison committee before firm recommendations are made to the Minister of Health and the Health Commission.

V.A.A.C. is elated about the breakthrough and is hopeful that the committee will be effective.

All lesbians and gay men are invited to hear reports from V.A.A.C. and have input into the process at the Victorian Aids Action Committee's quarterly public meetings. V.A.A.C will have a stall at the Stonewall Festival for people wanting more information.

RADICAL, CHRISTIAN AND GAY

A conference is proposed for the end of this year or the beginning of next year for lesbians and gay men who are interested in exploring the relationship in their lives between being gay, christian and involved in radical politics.

It will be a time to talk about our own lives and draw strength from being together as well as talk about issues such as: Liberation Theology: a gay perspective; Capitalism, Patriarchy and the Church; Sexuality and Spirituality. We want it to be time of much talking, but not just talking. For the gathering to be really successful it must be aimed at developing strategies for action within the Church and the world.

If you are interested please contact Katie Weedon or Marcus O'Donnell PO Box 206, St Kilda South.

LIKE TO SING

The Stonewall Collective would like to have singing at its June 30th rally. If you would like to be involved in an Ad Hoc choir for the occasion, to sing the masses in song, please contact us on 3863452. We would also love some theatre for the rally too. So if you have any ideas please let us know.

10th GAY CONFERENCE

The Tenth National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexual Men will be held on Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September this year in Brisbane.

The theme of the conference is 'Common Ground', with the aim being to strengthen the gay community by accepting diversity within our various groups. The conference collective is calling for papers and workshop proposals for the conference. Workshop proposals should be accompanied by the name of a person prepared to run the workshop. The collective would like a brief outline of the workshop proposal if there is no paper to accompany the workshop. Deadline for papers and workshop proposals is 30th June. Any material and enquiries should be addressed to 10 NCLHM, GPO Box 2030, Brisbane QLD 4001.

The Melbourne collective has issued a brochure detailing travel arrangements to Brisbane, and will be arranging a fare pool to assist those on low income. We will also be organising a bus for people to travel together to Brisbane, which will probably be leaving on the morning of Wednesday 29 August and arriving in Brisbane on the afternoon of Thursday 30 August. Further details can be obtained by writing to 10 NCLHM Melbourne Collective PO BOX 108, Nth Carlton 3054.

GAY STUDENTS

The Technical Teachers Union of Victoria is producing a special issue of The Tech Teacher for Stonewall. They would like to include writing by gay secondary school students. If you know any out gay students who could help out please ring Tech Teacher editor Phillip Carswill on 4292422. The deadline is Tuesday 12th June.

STONEWALL

A CULTURAL/POLITICAL EXTRAVAGANZA FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN & THEIR FRIENDS MON. JUNE 25 - SUN. JULY 1, 1984

ESCORT A ROCK

Although Stonewall Week officially is from Monday 25th June - Sunday 1st July, the actual spirit of Stonewall will be ignited a week earlier at the NSWborder in Albury: Sydney Angays, in a gesture of interstate solidarity are building a giant paper-mache rock in the design of the Stonewall emblem. On Sunday 17th June, the rock will be transported from Sydney to Albury on the back of a truck, where a party of excited Melbourne cyclists will meet it. At the state border there will be a ceremony to symbolise the handing over of part of the Stonewall spirit from Sydney to Melbourne. (something that has been lacking in Melbourne over recent years). In the week following, the party of cyclists and cars will escort the rock through the closeted areas of country Victoria at a rate of 50 - 60 km per day. The eventual destination will be the Burke St. Mall, arriving there at lunch-time, Monday 25th June to officially open Stonewall Week.

Anyone wishing to join the party, as a cyclist or driver, either for the entire week or merely the final week-end can contact Bill Calder 380 8834. Businesses or individuals who can't take the week off, but possess healthy bank balances are invited to sponsor a cyclist (\$50), or the rock itself (negotiable).

SAY "YES" "YES" "YES" "YES" "YES" TO THE STONEWALL ROCK.

YES ☐ I wish to participate in the great rock escort. I will be there for the entire week/part of the week. I wish to come along as a cyclist/non cyclist.

YES ☐ Please send me more information.

YES ☐ I want to sponsor a cyclist for \$50.

YES ☐ I want to sponsor the rock. Please contact me to discuss this.

YES ☐ I want to donate \$_____ as part sponsorship of a cyclist

YES ☐ Below is briefly outlined the product, business or ideology I want my cyclist to endorse.

YES ☐ Enclosed is a cheque for \$_____. (Cheques payable to 'The Stonewall Collective, P.O.BOX 334 Fitzroy 3065.)

in June 1969 the gay community in New York responded decisively with 2 days of street demonstrations and riots. to a police raid on the Stonewall Inn. this is one of the first examples of organised lesbian/gay action and is seen as one of the significant events in the birth of the gay liberation movement. so June 26 is celebrated all over the world as gay pride day. it is marked by parades, demonstrations and festivals.

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WHAT'S ON

Tuesday May 15th

- * Directions - for young gays are having a dinner and film night. Contact Kris 5274152 or Gavin 8194653.

Thursday May 17th

- * Public Forum on National Security and Civil Liberties, addressed by Senator Gareth Evans Attorney General of Australia. Follows a special general meeting of the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties 6 pm MLC Theatre, 1st floor 303 Collins St Melb. (corner of Elizabeth and Collins Streets) Forum is open to the public.

Saturday May 19th

- * Outrage Party for 'Outrage' subscribers from 9 pm at 331 Gore St. Fitzroy.

Tuesday May 22nd

- * "From Drag to Dreams" 3RRR's Gay News and Music Show. Every second Tuesday 7 - 8 pm. 3RRR 102.7 KHz
Tonights show: feature on gay playwright/actor/director Peter Somerfield and his new play "Dee Jay View" about the last thirty years of Australian music and Culture.

- * GayDay Evaluation. A public meeting at Partners Tavern Dinning Room, 505 City Rd Sth Melb. To hear assessments and ideas on GayDay '84 Suggestions from the meeting will go as recommendations to the ALSO Board, for planning the next GayDay.

Saturday May 26th

- * SF '84 post conference discussion "Organization for the eighties: A Womens Union?" Princess Hill High School, Arnold St, Nth Carlton 1 pm Women only.

Sunday May 27th

- * Salon - A - Museat Stage Door Theatre 1 Wynyard St Sth Melb. 8 pm Tickets \$4 \$5 \$6.50. Women Only
This Month's theme: "Women in Publishing". A pannel discussion with reps from feminist presses book launch of Greater Expectations a source book for women and music from singer guitarist Helen Noonan.

Monday May 28th

- * Gay Readers and Writers monthly meeting At The Gay Room Melbourne Uni Rm 9 3rd Floor Union Building. 8 pm.
This Months book: Tales of the City by Amistead Maupin. It is not necessary to have read this to attend because the main purpose of the group is to provide info on a host of lesbian and gay male publications especially new releases. Wheelchair accesible.
Yearly membership \$5 Single meeting 50 cent.
Further info send self addressed envelope to PO Box 4 Parkville 3052.

Wednesday May 30th

- * Collective meeting for people interested in producing a booklet for use in secondary schools, that aims to counter sexism in boys. 7 pm WestEd, 34 Kingsville St. West Footscray. Contact Colin Briton 3143011 (wk)

Thursday May 31st

- * Technical Teachers Union of Victoria Gay Rights Committee. 5.30pm TTUV Barn, Budd St Collingwood. All TTUV members urged to attend.

Monday June 4th

- * Gayzette Collective meeting 7pm 79 Pigdon St Nth Carlton. All welcome. Ph Bill 3808834 or Helen 3477920

STONEWALL WEEK JUNE 24th - JUNE 30th

The following are definite details. More to follow in the programme which will be available free around the bars discos, Gayline, Women's Building etc Or send \$1 to Stonewall Collective PO Box 334 Fitzroy 3065.

Sunday June 24th

- * Salon -a - Muse presents an evening of lesbian culture details as above.

Monday June 25th

- * Gay Readers and Writers present a special evening to discuss literature about Stonewall details as above.

Tuesday June 26th

- * The Book Gays in Indonesia will be launched at the YWCA, Elizabeth St City, 7.30 pm There will also be a Javcnese shadow puppett performance.

Wednesday June 27th

- * A forum about Gays in the Rms2/3 YWCA Elizabeth St

Thursday June 28th

- * Film festival at State Mac Arthur Place City. previously unscreened male films. 7 pm 5 pm

Friday June 29th

- * Victory Party at the Hotel 55 Highet St Richmond \$2/\$4 Proceeds to help costs of men acquitted of to corrupt public morals

Saturday June 30th

- * Stonewall Rally 11 am 12 Noon Parade from City Melbourne Uni - dress in bring banners placards 1 pm a festival of lesbian activities Union Building University. Stalls Forum films entertainment etc. Wheelchair accesible Children provided.
8.30pm Mixed Gay Dance The Melbourne Uni Dance to the of lesbian Band Six of the the big hit og GayDay.

Friday July 13th- Sunday July

- * Fourth Women and Labour To be held at the University Queensland. The conference will deal with various issues around women at work. A major theme for this years conference will be racism and the struggle against racism. Registration forms with full details available from PO Box 99 St Lucia Qld "Talkback" a series of pre-conference bulletins are also available \$10/\$5

Saturday Sept 15th - Sunday

- * Lesbian Feminist Mothers holding a forum at Princess called "Bridging the Gap" Details to follow.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM FOR THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN MARCUS AND STEVE

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* \$6 employed, \$3 low income.