



GAYZETTE

Newsletter of the mixed gay movement
19 DEC 1986
SYDNEY

P.O. BOX 108 CARLTON NORTH 3054.

Registered for postage Category B No.

EDITORIAL

We have started this newsletter to give a voice to the mixed gay movement - lesbians and gay men working together. We believe that the way to achieve our liberation as gays is through a broad, mixed gay movement. However we do support the autonomous organising of the oppressed and will promote such activities through this newsletter. We will not publish anything that is sexist, racist, ageist, anti-worker, ablebodied, or anti-sex.

GAY RELEVANCE

This collective, through its newsletter, will encourage the growth of the autonomous gay movement and the strengthening of links with other progressive movements. We recognise that these links exist and are embodied within our own movement. Our movement is made up of women and men, aboriginal, ethnic, third world and anglo gays, young and old gays, gays in political parties and trade unions, gays who practise many different types of sex - we are diverse. Therefore gay relevance is difficult to determine. Our first priority will be to publish items which come directly from the mixed gay movement. Other items will be considered by the collective and decided upon a case by case basis within the framework provided by our guidelines.

SIZE AND CONTENT

This newsletter will not expand beyond its economic means. Our emphasis will be on content rather than flashy production. We will publish what seems important for people interested or involved in the gay movement. It is not intended as competition for, but rather as a supplement to already existing lesbian or gay male publications; to provide communication between gay groups; to inform each other of what we are separately doing.

We are all active in gay groups and wish to remain so. We do not wish Gayzette to become a monster that consumes us, so we will be limiting space to four A4 sheets, our priorities being:

1. What's on information. This is because we wish to encourage lesbians and gay men to be involved in actions, that will help make the world better. All listings must state whether a venue/event is accessible to disabled gays. Where there is a question of limited space we will publish events in the priority of
a) mixed gay events b) lesbian only events
c) gay male only events d) feminist.

2. Brief action-oriented news items
3. Access This section is to provide information on the different social, political and support groups in existence: their aims and objectives. We will include a 'group of the month' report. If space permits, we will then publish:
4. Letters and feed-back on Gayzette. Letters should be marked 'for publication', and not exceed 300 words
5. Feedback on events mentioned in previous Gayzettes.
6. Promotion of mixed movement activities.
7. Items not included in other gay male or lesbian publications.
8. What's on items for non-specifically gay events at the discretion of the collective.

GAYZETTE COLLECTIVE

Gayzette is being produced by an open collective, membership of which is obtained by attending two consecutive meetings and retained by consistent attendance thereafter. It will be produced on a rotation basis by two collective members each month.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

We are seeking information about gay groups you may be involved in, letters and news items. Any editing of news etc. for space or other reason will be done in consultation with the author.

Inserts (leaflets etc) are welcome, to be included at the discretion of the collective on the basis that they:

- a) Do not bump up the cost of postage.
 - b) are gay-related, non-commercial
- Where necessary, people could also be asked to give about one hour's labour to help with additional collation time required for the inserts as a condition of inclusion.

Send all contributions to Gayzette PO Box 108, Carlton North Vic 3054 before the first Monday each month. (Deadline for next issue is Monday 7 May).

COLLECTIVE CLASSIFIED

At the moment we are a collective of five, all of whom have been involved in publishing newspapers. Three of us were founding members of Gay Community News. We have provided individual descriptions below:

~~Alison: I am a 24 year old fat lesbian.~~

I first got involved in mixed gay movement politics in 1979 when I was involved in organising the Fifth National Homosexual Conference. I have attended every national gay conference since and also helped organise the Ninth. I was a member of a revolutionary party that was not much good, but now I am a member of the fabulous Freedom Socialist Party - the only Socialist Feminist Party in the world. I'm also involved in the Women's Movement and politically identify as a Trotskyist, Socialist Feminist, Lesbian. I am currently on the Stonewall Collective, am a victimised lesbian teacher, love Sydney with a passion, and have my phantasies about butch older women.

Bill: I'm a little bit of a meat eater, non-smoker, who lives in a mixed gay/straight women/men household and fantasises about handsome young men.

Helen: I am a 29 year old gay woman, a lesbian who's in it for the sex, an open femme, a closet vegetarian and a secretarial liberationist. I am a Japanese shadow puppeteer and avid cyclist. I don't have a television or a stereo but I am a coffee addict and have my own cappuccino machine. I have been on the fringe of the gay movement for seven years and in the thick of it for five years. I am disillusioned with love and politics but keep getting involved up to my neck.

Marcus: I am a 23 year old skinny gay male who gradually came out over 1983. I attended the 1983 conference and got involved in the gay movement, always having been a sucker for movements and meetings. I have a continuing love-hate relationship with organised socialism and organised christianity, having spent two years working for a progressive Catholic tertiary student movement (yes, there is such a thing), which trained me as an activist and 'publisher'. Now I am a part time waiter in an all night restaurant and a part time student of women's history at Melbourne Uni. I'm still looking for a fascinating, useful job for two days a week that pays great money. I used to live in a household of nine, but now live with one other - a lesbian friend who also used to work for aforesaid movement. Having had an adolescence consumed in piety, I'm now living it up these days, always on the look out for well built young blonds.

Gary: I am a 36 year old gay veteran of a 12 year on-and-off relationship that began in a Gay Lib working class born and middle class educated; self-confessed small time with a mania for consistency, healthy respect for the former teacher and now a happy crat; been around the gay movement too long to have many illusions keep getting drawn back into work in open collectives, desecism and a rampant individualism.

NEWS

Request for support from WA Gay groups in West Australia have called on friends in Victoria to help stop the WA Labor Government from enacting a discriminatory law of consent. The recently moved private member's Bill to decriminalise male homosexuality proposes an age of consent of 18 years for male sexual conduct, compared with 16 for heterosexual conduct. The government has retreated from its platform of legal and social equality for gays, by allowing one of its members to sponsor a private Bill which contains a discriminatory provision. Letters should be sent to The State Secretary of the 84 Beaufort Street, Perth, WA. Letters to Perth's daily/news, The West Australian, would also help. WA 6000 St George Terrace WA, 6000). A background information sheet can be obtained from Gay PO Box 108, Carlton North, 3052 by telephoning Gary Jaynes on 1159 (best time around 8 am).

Gay room for lesbians.

At a meeting on March 28 it was decided to form a lesbian group at Melbourne University. Gaysoc, which appeals to everyone, is predominantly male. It was approached and agreed that there will be a women only day at the Gay room will be available for lunchtime drop in all day. If you would like further information about the group, contact Christine Stewart, Education and Welfare Officer c/o SRC.



Supplement to Gayzette No 1,
April 1984

7 April 1984

Dear friend,

Enclosed is the first edition of a new Victorian publication, 'Gayzette; newsletter of the mixed gay movement'.

A complimentary copy of 'Gayzette' is being sent to all Victorian registrants at the 9th National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexual Men.

The organising collective of the 9NCLHM has authorised the use of the conference mailing list for this purpose, which it regards as consistent with the policies of the collective.

The mailing out has been done by collective members.. Our mailing list will not under any circumstances be handed over to persons not associated with the collective.

We hope that you will find 'Gayzette' a useful vehicle for communication among men and women of the mixed gay movement. If you would like to keep receiving 'Gayzette', fill in the slip on the back page, and return with the appropriate amount.

In gay solidarity,

Helen Pausacker

Gary Jaynes

For the collective

Encl

9th National Conference of Lesbians & Homosexual Men

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY UNION BUILDING 2 - 4 SEPTEMBER 1983
P.O. Box 334, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065



A CULTURAL POLITICAL EXTRAVAGANZA FOR LESBIANS GAY MEN & THEIR FRIENDS 19-20 JUNE TO 1 JUNE 1991

STONEWALL

Stonewall: a political / cultural extravaganza for lesbians, gay men and their friends arose out of a workshop at the Ninth National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexual Men. A group gathered there felt it was imperative that something should happen in Melbourne to commemorate the Stonewall riots of 1969, which symbolise the beginning of the modern gay liberation movement. All over the world the end of June is celebrated as Lesbian / Gay Pride Week.

So a Collective was formed, a public meeting held and the work of preparation began in earnest.

We decided on our rather long-winded title after much deliberation because we felt it expressed our aims and beliefs.

Stonewall: Placing ourselves in the gay liberation tradition that the 1969 riots represent.

Cultural / Political: Because we believe that the two cannot be separated.

Extravaganza: Because we want it to be a dynamic event reaching large numbers of people especially straights and closeted gays and because we want it to be lots of fun as well.

Lesbians and Gay Men: Because we want both women and men to be represented forcefully in all aspects of the events.

And Their Friends: Because we believe that any struggle for liberation can never be an isolated one and we want to align ourselves with all people who are struggling to create a more just society.

Already plans are well under way and many groups and people have expressed their support and interest. We are planning:

- * A Film Festival in association with the State Film Center and hopefully other cinemas.
- * An Art and Photography Exhibition.
- * A Late Night Revue in association with the the Playbox Theatre.
- * A Gays in Trade Unions Dinner.
- * The Launch of a New Book About Gays in Indonesia.
- * A Rally and March terminating in an afternoon-long festival / fair, with exhibitions, films, forums and a dance.

A full program will be published and distributed widely in early June.

The tasks ahead are exciting and challenging but rather daunting for our small collective. If Stonewall is to work we need your help. If you are interested in contributing in any way please fill in this form and return it to us.

I am interested in contributing to Stonewall by:

☐ Becoming a member of the organising Collective. Please notify me of the next meeting.

☐ Exhibiting in the art and photography exhibition.

☐ Organising a display, forum, stall, workshop etc at the fair / festival.

☐ Making a donation of \$..

☐ Other (please specify)

Please return to PO Box 334 Fitzroy.

Name

Address

Phone

BACKGROUND TO ATTACHED PETITION CALLING FOR

ALISON THORNE'S IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT TO TEACHING DUTIES

On Monday 7 November 1983, Mike Edmonds called Gay Legal Rights Coalition (GLRC) spokesperson Alison Thorne during recess on a red phone at her school for 3AW's 12.30 Report. This phone was paid for by the staff for the private use by staff. The practice of giving out work numbers is widespread and accepted. This call was in response to the GLRC's condemnation of the action of the Victoria Police's DeltaTask Force in raiding a Melbourne house and charging several men with the anachronistic offence of 'conspiracy to corrupt public morals'.

During the course of the interview, Thorne discussed the present age of consent and questioned whether it was always relevant. Incidentally, this opinion was echoed by Mr Justice Kirby, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, who asked, 'whether as a society we couldn't find a more rational basis as in the civil law which looks at the maturity of the person rather than an arbitrary chronological age'.

She did not speak as a teacher, but closing the pre-recorded interview, she happened to mention she had a class to go to. This remark, although it was not part of the interview, was edited into the report.

The next morning Derryn Hinch replayed a brief cut of Thorne's interview, concentrating on the post-interview remark. Then an unprecedented campaign of vilification began.

The attention in the media shifted from the police beat-up to the wickedness of a teacher's exercising her right to free speech. The 'Sun' set the style: 'SEX-AT-10: TEACHER OUTRAGE', was the headline, and they sent out two reporters to find some parents who would give them some 'immediate outcry'.

Meanwhile Liberal MP Walter Jona began stirring. On the Tuesday he asked in Parliament what the Government was going to do about a teacher who was, he misleadingly claimed, 'publicly advocating sexual relations between young children and adults'. The next day the Education Minister, Robert Fordham, defended a teacher's right to 'advocate a reduction in the age of consent'. He noted that there was no suggestion that the classroom had been used for such advocacy.

Jona kept pushing, not only in Parliament, but also outside, where his inaccurate remarks are fortunately not protected by privilege. On Thursday 10 November, in Parliament, Fordham reiterated 'that in a democracy all citizens have certain rights and opportunities of putting forward their views on issues of concern to society as a whole.' However, the Government caved in to the pressure, and Thorne was transferred to administrative duties, despite her excellent record, and the support she had received from many at her school, and from her union, which had described demands for her dismissal as 'highly irresponsible and sensationalist'.

The issue at stake is the right to free speech. This should be a fundamental right. By being, in effect, punished for exercising her right to free speech, Alison Thorne was denied it. To show that free speech is permissible in this state, Alison Thorne must be reinstated to teaching duties immediately.

Anything less than reinstatement to teaching duties would make a mockery of the Labor Government's often repeated commitment to human rights. The subject matter of Thorne's remarks is and must be irrelevant to her right to make them. Freedom only needs defending because it is denied: freedom to express only popular opinions is no freedom at all.

24th February 1984
5th November Defence Committee
P.O. Box K485
Haymarket
N.S.W. 2000

Dear Group,

We are sending you this letter to try and enlist your support in fighting the charges against the Australian Pedophile Support Group. On the fifth of November 1983, the Delta Task Force of the Victorian Police raided the Australian Pedophile Support Group. Seven men in Melbourne and one in Sydney were simultaneously apprehended. The men are to appear in court in March 1984 to answer charges of conspiring to corrupt public morals. "Conspiracy to Corrupt Public Morals" is a common law charge that was invented 1962 by an English judge. It has never been challenged in an Australian court and there is considerable doubt as to whether this law would stand up in court. If the police win this case and the law is upheld it will be a severe blow to civil liberties in Australia. A group presently meeting to discuss a controversial issue could then be similarly charged. This case is about freedom of speech and assembly. These people have been charged for talking about pedophilia and could go to gaol for up to fourteen years for that.

There are various other civil liberties issues raised by this case. A workshop on Pedophilia at the National Conference Of Lesbians and Homosexual Men in 1983 was set up to consider the complex moral and political questions surrounding this issue. This workshop was infiltrated by police spies. Speeches from this workshop and the Conference plenary session were taped and this information is to be used by the police in their prosecution. A police informer, posing as a pedophile, infiltrated the Melbourne Pedophile Support Group and attended and taped meetings for nine months and also acted as an agent provocateur. Delta Task Force also promoted and participated in a media campaign of disinformation and hysteria designed to discredit and prejudice the rights of the arrestees.

Whatever one thinks about the issues surrounding pedophilia, there is no doubt about the meaning of these events for civil liberties in Australia. If the courts legitimize these tactics and this law, such abuses of police power could occur whenever it is politically convenient to silence some group or other. We ask you to collect signatures for our petition and send them to us so that we can forward them to the Premier.

Members of the Fifth Of November Committee have written a number of articles and leaflets on the subject of child/adult relations and the charge "Conspiracy to Corrupt Public Morals". If you would like copies of these or would like to talk to us about these issues, please write to us and we will arrange it.

Yours faithfully
5th November Defence Committee

PETITION

To the Minister of Education:

We strongly support teachers' rights to make public comments on all issues that may concern them and heartily endorse the ALP's policy commitment to 'repeal those sections of the constitution which prevent teachers... from exercising citizens' rights of free speech and public comment'.

We therefore praise your early support of Glenroy Technical School teacher, Alison Thorne's right of free speech, and greatly deplore your subsequent backing down and transferring her to administrative duties in the face of media instigated political pressure.

We condemn the trial by media of Alison Thorne and we call for her to be reinstated immediately to teaching duties.

[illegible]

Please send to the address below when signed.
Authorized by Gay Legal Rights Coalition.
PO Box 35
Fitzroy 3065.

April 1984

PETITION TO THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA

We, the undersigned, note that whereas the Delta Squad of the Victorian Police Force was set up to deal with child exploitation, it has in fact ignored the real exploiters and instead attacked the rights of free speech and organisation of gay groups, including the National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexual Men, through, in particular;

1. the use of spies and police informers,
2. the arrest, seizure of belongings and bringing to trial of people on the undemocratic charge of "conspiracy to corrupt public morals,"
3. a media campaign of disinformation and hysteria designed to discredit and prejudice the rights of the arrestees;

We therefore demand that;

- 1.the charges against the men arrested on November 5 be dropped,
- 2.the charge of conspiracy to corrupt public morals be abolished,
- 3.the campaign of police harassment of gay organisations be stopped, and
- 4.spying and agent provocateur procedures by police be made illegal.

[illegible]

Return to PO Box K485, Haymarket, Sydney, 2000.

day April 6th

- * On Guard; a girls' own adventure commences screening nightly at 5.45 and 7.30 nightly, Carlton Moviehouse 235 Faraday Street, Carlton. The movie is described as a fast moving adventure and features the music of Sydney Women's band, Stray Dogs.

WHAT'S ON

esday April 10th

- * An evening in celebration of women's peace struggles with Barbara Hartford from Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. 7.30pm, Uniting Church Hall, 130 Lt Collins St, City. \$3/\$1.50 concession. Childcare is available and the venue is wheel chair accessible. Women Only.

- * Gay Legal Right Coalition (GLRC) meeting. 6.30 pm. Gay Centre, 126 Franklin St. The meeting will discuss and plan action around the Victorian Equal Opportunity Bill, Community Employment Program, the defense of those arrested on November 11th and the Alison Thorne Victimization.

nesday April 11th

- * Technical Teacher's Union of Victoria Gay Teacher's meeting to discuss the implementation of the Australian Teacher's Federation gay rights policy. 8pm, TTUV Barn, Budd St, Collingwood. All TTUV members welcome.

iday April 13th

- * Stonewall Collective's film night to see Fassbinder's Chinese Roulette. 9.30pm, Longford Cinema, Toorak Rd, South Yarra. \$6/\$4 concession. For tickets phone Katie or Marcus 534-1983. Bill 380-8834.

turday April 14th

- * A campaign to achieve real equal pay for women is being launched. A seminar to develop this struggle is being held at the Mechanics Institute Corner of Sydney and Glenlyon Roads, Brunswick at 1pm. Donation \$1, Child care available. Women Only.
- * Developing personal and social skills in boys - a one day weekend in-service for male educators to look at male socialization and the development of interpersonal skills in boys. Also to discuss the position of males in relation to equal opportunities for females. The in-service will be held at Brunswick High School from 9am - 4pm.

Sunday April 15th

- * March with the Stonewall gay contingent at the PND rally. Assemble at 1pm for the North Western Radial march, corner Sydney Rd and Gratten St. Look for the Stonewall banner.

Tuesday April 17th

- * ~~Demonstrate in support of South African~~ women fighting apartheid. 12noon, South African Airways, Corner of Elizabeth St and Collins St, City.

- * Countering sexism for boys - meeting of a diverse group of people planning a series of booklets for use in schools. 7pm, Western Region Education Centre, 34 Kingsville St, West Footscray. Contact Colin Briton 314-3011 (BH).

Thursday April 19th

- * OutRage Easter Party. Ryders 135 Smith St, Fitzroy. 9pm-late. \$4/\$3 OutRage subscribers and One Night Stands members.

Saturday April 28th

- * A discussion about communications as an issue for the Socialist Feminist Movement. 2pm Jika Jika Community Centre, 1 Plant St, Northcote, Women Only.

Saturday May 5th

- * The Stonewall Collective proudly presents a "Gay May Day Dinner Dance". Come and celebrate, among other things, the birthday of Karl Marx. The dance will feature The Solidarity Band and you can get into the spirit by coming dressed as your favourite rebel. 8pm Kingston Hotel, Highett St, Richmond. Tickets must be bought in advance and cost \$14/\$10 concession. For tickets phone Alison 386-3452, Katie or Marcus 534-1983, Bill 380-8834.

Sunday May 6th

- * March with the Stonewall Gay contingent and celebrate May Day. Assemble 1.30pm, Trades Hall, corner of Lygon St, and Victoria St. Look for the Stonewall banner.

Tuesday May 8th

- * ALSO public meeting to evaluate Gay Day 1984. 8pm, Partners Inn (formerly Meagher), 505 City Rd, South Melbourne.
- * People for Nuclear Disarmament Cabaret. Ryders Disco, 135 Smith St, Fitzroy. Ticket details from Sheril 481-1684.

Every Thursday Night

- * Gay Archives working bee and meeting 8 - 10pm, 144 Adderley St, West Melbourne. As the archives are housed here, visitors are most welcome. Contact PO Box 124 Parkville, 3052 or ph328-1238.

Every Friday and Saturday

- * Friday nights are Contact night at the Gay Centre, 126 Franklin St, City. The centre is open from 8pm - 12 and it is a chance to socialise in a friendly atmosphere. The gay centre is also open on Saturday night as a drop in centre.

GROUP OF THE MONTH

STONEWALL COLLECTIVE

Another meeting ends, and it's a rush to the nearest coffee shop. We mill around; grabbing tables and chairs, ash-trays; ordering coffees, toasted sandwiches and hot chocolates. It's a pleasant atmosphere; the wafting of smoke and sipping of coffee; a few jokes, some talk about the meeting, then more about the rest of the day. The tension goes. The business is finished. The dreams come out.

They saved the Franklin by going big. We'll do the same. We'll build a great, big, ginormous, paper-mache rock in Sydney and bring it on the back of a truck to Melbourne. We'll escort it from Albury with a calvalcade (?) of bicycles. (N.B. A particular rock is this year's symbol of Stonewall, so you'll have to find some of our letterhead to know what the hell we're talking about.) We'll have banners, and media, and camp the nights with closeted farmers. We'll hit the city mall on Monday 25th June - the start of Stonewall Week.

Extended season for a timely play. The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin will run for an additional fortnight at the Comedy Theatre in Melbourne finishing Saturday 14 April. The man play by Steve Spears, featuring a remarkable performance by Gordon Chater, has a lot to say about oppression, and especially the irrationality of conventional social attitudes towards intimate relationships between older and younger people. For a dramatisation of the excesses of Victoria Police's Delta Task Force one could hardly do better. Elocution plays 8.15 pm Monday - Friday; 8.15 and 5 pm Saturday; and there is a special matinee on Wednesday 8.15 pm. Costs: \$15.90/ \$10.90 concession.

This spectacle of spokes will kick off Stonewall Week - A Cultural/Political Extravaganza for Lesbians, Gay Men and their Friends, which is being organised by the Stonewall Collective. We need your help, because we're lazy and want to do too much work. Our next meeting is in the Gayroom at Melbourne (3rd fl. Union Bldg.) on Mon 9th April at 6 pm. If you miss that one ring Katie or Marcus 534 1983, Bill 386 3452 or Alison 386 3452. Lots of things are going to happen during Stonewall Week. There'll be a festival with stalls and forums, films and people and entertainment. There'll be a rally and march; a book launch and lots more. Also to help for all this, there's going to be a lot of things happening between now and then. Already there's been a cabaret, a theatre night. Coming up is a cabaret night (Fassbinder's - Chinese Room Fri 13th April) and a Gay May Day dinner dance at the Kingston. So come and join us.

P.S. The rock WILL roll.

The production team who put together this issue of Gayzette was Alison and Bill

I wish to subscribe to Gayzette.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

I enclose \$6/\$3*, being one year's subscription to Gayzette. Cheques made payable to Gayzette or GZ. Please tick this box if you wish your copy to be mailed in a plain envelope, otherwise it will be sent in a plain wrapper, stapled.

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