

SEMINAR - WORKSHOPS

No.1 - 22nd/23rd March.

THEME: "Conditioning in Education & the Mass Media."

Speakers will include: Chris Poll (Can.)
Josepha Sobski (Syd.) Dilys Kevan and
Tess Lee Ack (Melb.) + others.

Venue: Carslaw Building, Sydney
University.

Registration: \$2:00
8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

No.2 - 26th/27th April.

THEME: "Conditioning in the Family and Society."

Speakers will include: Anne Summers
Lesley Rogers (Melb.) Kay Daniels (Tas.)

No.3 - 31st May/1st June.

THEME: "The Lesbian in the Workforce."

No.4 - 5th/6th July.

THEME: "The Homosexual Mother."

No.5 - 2nd/3rd August.

THEME: "Homosexual Relationships"

No.6 - 6th/7th September.

THEME: "Civil Liberties & the Lesbian."

For:

- a) Registration by Mail, and/or
- b) Further information;

write to Box 5074 G.P.O. Sydney 2001.
or phone - (02) 827 3063/ 827 3810.

International
Women's
Year

WOMAN

SECOND
CLASS

LESBIAN

THIRD
CLASS

e n m d r i s s

d r i s s



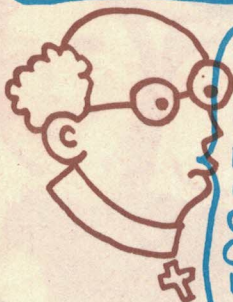


MY DAUGHTER HAS SAID SHE'S A LESBIAN. SILLY GIRL! HOW CAN I STOP THIS NONSENSE

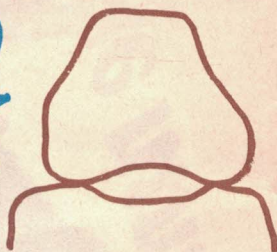
ONE OF MY STUDENTS IS BEING HASSLED BY THE OTHER KIDS WHO'VE FOUND OUT SHE'S A LESBIAN. HOW DO I HELP HER?



I LEARNT THE OTHER DAY THAT ONE OF MY YOUNG PARISHONERS IS A PRACTISING LESBIAN. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY I CAN'T LET HER CONTINUE TO WORSHIP IN MY CHURCH CAN'T YOU?



I AM A LESBIAN WHY DOES THE SOCIETY FROM WHICH I EMERGED SHUN ME?



These questions and a myriad of others on the same topic are being asked through-out Australian society every day, however, very few honest answers are forthcoming.

The topic "HOMOSEXUALITY" is generally ignored or greeted with derision - our society refuses to go beyond what religion, the law, the mass media & psychiatry equate with "good", "right" & "healthy".

Clearly there has been a need for an educative programme directed towards an examination and reassessment of the beliefs held by society about accepting the potential and life-style of the female homosexual.

For lesbians to take their place in society with dignity and equality we must remove all discrimination against them.

CAMP(NSW) has been aware of this need since its formation in 1970. We have challenged the attitudes and structures of society which have reinforced homosexual oppression. This year, International Women's Year, we shall be using a grant from the Australian Government in a concerted effort to:

- a research the position of the female homosexual in Australian society, and
- b formulate and conduct an educative programme to change current attitudes.

Lesbians labour under the double oppression of being women & homosexual. A series of six weekend seminar/workshops, designed to pinpoint the specific nature of this oppression and to formulate programmes to combat it, will be held in Sydney during IWY.

The seminar/workshops will be open to all interested people. The intention of this introductory pamphlet is to advertise these seminars and also to raise some of the issues pertinent to the position of the female homosexual in Australian society.

to the mother we say ~

Of course you were upset when you discovered that your daughter was a lesbian. Society puts pressures on parents to bring up their children according to an accepted set of values, and one of these values is the nuclear family. As a result you had always expected that your daughter would marry and bear your grandchildren.

It is disturbing for you to find that she won't fit into this pattern, and you are worried for her. Worried that she will be rejected by her friends and by society; and worried that this rejection may not be hers alone - for you may have to share it with her.

But you and society must accept that there is a continuum of human emotions from heterosexuality through bisexuality to homosexuality, and that the people with these emotions should be free to express them in friendship, in relationship and sexuality.

All your daughter asks is the freedom to love as she wishes and to have that love recognised as valid and dignified. You are her mother, so she will depend upon you for your love and support, even when this may mean your having to re-examine the attitudes which you have held about yourself and about her for so many years.

to the teacher ~

Your very influential task is to guide the development of your students to help them realise their full human potential. To do this, you must present to them the full range of human emotions and life-styles. By discussing homosexuality in a rational way and as a valid family pattern you will eradicate much of the ignorance and prejudice which has given rise to the troubles your student is having with her classmates.

You will need to spend time in counteracting those values instilled in students which are oppressive to homosexuals, for after all these values will have been accepted without question. Your being aware of alternative life-styles and your ability to discuss relationships both homosexual and heterosexual will do much to relieve the oppression with which lesbians are currently forced to exist. There is a great need for acceptance during adolescence, and here the teacher can act in two ways. By support and encouragement of the lesbian she can help her to be accepted by her friends, and at the same time help her to accept herself with the dignity which is the right of all humanity.

For the lesbian herself one of the greatest needs is to be able to identify with other homosexuals, and to realise that she is not alone in the world. You can direct her to CAMP, where her growth and acceptance of herself will be encouraged. She should not be stunted by the rejection which she feels at the moment.

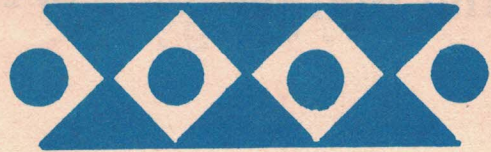


to the clergy ~

No! There is no reason for your not allowing your lesbian parishioner her full place in your congregation. You must seriously re-examine your own biblical interpretation and open your mind to christian experience through the ages. This will show you that the rejection of practising homosexuals which has been perpetrated by churches for centuries is not validated by the sources upon which these churches have relied.

Church members are not looking for a series of rigid rules, but are people involved in the human struggle. They are not looking for proclamations which can unerringly state "This is Right, That is Wrong". They are people who need to be assured that they have been made in the image of God, and the expression of their sexuality makes no difference to this. But still churches are prepared to insist that only in male-female relationships can humanity express itself. Humanity is much broader than this.

We urge you to consider the proposition that by spurning all relationships which are outside the nuclear family pattern you are placing limits on the ability of people to love, thereby negating the principle upon which christianity is supposed to be based.



to the lesbian~

Isn't it strange that the society in which we grew up - the society which moulded us - is able to forget us and cast us away. We are different; but we were formed by that society in which we are now told we have no place. Yet we are not the product of some far-distant planet - we belong here.

This same society is worried about our presence - there have been countless studies conducted about homosexuality, and yet there is no feasible explanation of our presence. Our question remains - "What does it matter?".

By assuming that there is a reason for homosexuality society is trying to tell us that we are all heterosexual; but we know differently. We know that society is made up of sexual people, to whom the short suffixes of homo-, hetero- or bi- have no meaning. We must continue to insist that humanity equals sexuality.

As lesbians we cannot accept what society offers, but we can accept ourselves for what we know ourselves to be.

