

A CONFERENCE ON SOCIALISM, FEMINISM, GAY LIBERATION



A group of Sydney lesbian and gay male socialists has begun organizing a conference for the Anzac day weekend, 23-25 April 1983. We see this as a contribution to mark the centenary year of the death of Karl Marx.

NO TO THE POLITICS OF ISOLATION

Gay liberation is not merely a matter of legal reforms. In the workplace, in school, in the streets, we find ourselves fighting shoulder to shoulder with others in a common struggle: against oppression, war, Fraser, cutbacks, racism, cops, Wran, unemployment, the Christian Right....

What link-ups can we make? How does the economic crisis affect us and our struggle?

In the eighties the fight for lesbian and gay freedom around the world demands a more integrated understanding of class struggle politics. We have to make the connections to survive and go forward. The April conference can be a venue for discussions that can inspire, direct and inform our continuing gay liberation agitation.

ANOTHER NATIONAL CONFERENCE?

This conference is complementary and additional to the annual National Conferences of Lesbians and Homosexual Men. We need yearly gatherings for the whole lesbian/gay movement, allowing interchange of our quite diverse interests, views and backgrounds. We also need times for those who are socialists and feminists to come together to talk through our particular concerns, within our own political framework.

The April Conference will be open to anyone interested. We hope to attract people from the left, from the women's movement and from trade unions; comrades who are not gay, but who share our concerns. Since we need to move beyond the most basic questions, and limit the scope of our subject area in order to have a comradely, cohesive and constructive conference, we'll have to specify that those who are anti-socialist, anti-feminist, or hostile to the gay movement will not be welcome.

The National Conference on Socialism and Homosexuality in Melbourne in April 1981 voted to have a second conference in 1982 in Sydney. Due to pressing campaign commitments this year for both lesbian and gay male activists this conference had to be postponed twelve months.

WHAT WILL WE TALK ABOUT?

In three days we cannot do justice to the range of topics that could be raised for the conference. We want feedback and input from any one interested in the conference about what needs to be discussed. Where should our priorities be?

Suggestions to date are:

WORKPLACE POLITICS

rank and file groups; nurses; mass action and workplace agitation; railways; teachers; gays and unemployment; labour movement lobbying; public service unions; gays in service industries; gays in basic industry;

SUBCULTURES

the "respectable leader" syndrome; Mary Daly and the new wave of separatism; class analysis of the commercial gay scenes; from boycotts to choirs -- how we take our ideas to the bars; lesbian subcultures; forbidden fruits and perennial lifestyle controversies -- transgenerational sex, drag, s/m, porn....

GAY LIBERATION AND THE LEFT

workerism and the far left; balance sheets of previous and current revolutionary processes -- Cuba, Eastern Europe, USSR, Central America, Asian revolutions and gays from Phnom Penh to Pyong yang; the early gay movement and the dirt in the Marx/Engels correspondence; CPA and SPA; anarchism from syndicalism to feminism; the ALP left and reform; gays and left Australian nationalism;

ALLIANCES AND CURRENT STRUGGLES

campaigns around international solidarity and peace; what will a 1983 Labor government in Canberra mean for us; lesbians and gay men in the economic crisis; feedback from other campaigns -- land rights, abortion, jobs for women, wages and the shorter workweek, tenosynovitis, unemployment, cutbacks, women's services; gays and migrant communities; the autonomous movement strategy;

NOT THE CHURCH, NOT THE STATE

building a gay fightback: gays and the mobilizations against the Christian Right; socialists and international gay liaison--- IGA, ILIS, the International Year of Lesbian and Gay Action, the international Homosexual Prisoners Agency; the law and anti-discrimination campaigns in NSW; child custody campaign; Stonewall; police harassment campaigns; anti-censorship;

CONTACT US

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