

# SUMUS QUID SUMUS

"WE ARE  
WHAT  
WE ARE!"

There are an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 homosexual people in Perth. Call them pooftahs, lesbians, fairies, queens, queers or whatever you will. You may be a dago, a nigger, a wog .. perhaps you beat your children or a thief .. you could be guilty of any number of actions. The fact remains that homosexuals are people like you. "But not quite", you think! Look around you. Look at your friends. There is no need to look at yourself - you know your innermost thoughts. But you don't know the same of others, carefully concealed day after day. You may decide that no one you know could possibly be a homosexual. Some of them are! Statistically, one in 20 people are either latent or practising homosexuals. Some of the people reading this are latent homosexuals. Perhaps they don't know it, or wont allow themselves to recognize the fact. Others do, be they male or

female, married or single. They keep their thoughts and actions under careful control and make sure they don't get caught looking at a person of their own sex who they may find attractive. They fear discovery and ridicule, becoming the butt of jokes or parental problems. The work situation could also get difficult if their secret were discovered. Others have come out of hiding by making their homosexuality known, finding it easier to confront the issue and live with it. Like homosexuals, jokes and ridicule have been around for as long as humanity. As people become better educated they learn to accept, tolerate and understand the differences in people. Homosexuality is not frowned upon by the majority of educated people. Of course, there will always be a loudmouth who verbalises at great length the fate that should befall all pooftahs, lesbians and others he is not intelligent enough

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to understand. (The usual suggestion is that they be sterilised). If he had any brains at all he would realise the wisdom of the old cliché about bolting horses and shutting gates. By the same token, some of the people who appear to abhor homosexuals are in fact homosexuals themselves. Because of their fear of discovery, they go 'all out' the other way. They never make contact with other homosexuals but continue in their own private hell - alone! Which brings us to the use of the word 'problem' in reference to homosexuals. The only 'problem' is for the homosexual who wants to be heterosexual .. but can't! Otherwise it is hard to understand the logic of labelling homosexuals as a problem. Many people go through a homosexual stage in the process of growing up. They don't necessarily commit homosexual acts during the period, but any honest person will admit that the tendencies were there. Have you ever heard of a homosexual man attacking and raping another man .. or a boy child being severely damaged as a result of the ardour of a deranged homosexual male? This writer has yet to hear of

it, but after some years of close involvement with police and Court work I have seen and heard of such things happening to female children and adults at the hands of men with twisted sexual tendencies more times than I can remember. There is also a far greater proportion of incest (usually father, daughter) than the general public realises. This is not an attempt to justify homosexual activity. I do not consider it needs justification. It is simply an attempt to point out that homosexual people are not the problem popular belief labels them to be. Certainly homosexuals have their problems, as distinct from being a 'problem'. Who wouldn't have .. when their own natural instincts force them to take a course discouraged by the rest of society. Homosexuals may be in the minority but so were the jews!! Because of society, many homosexuals live their own private hell. Some opt out with suicide. Others are attempting to overcome the stigma automatically attached to being homosexual by confronting it and trying to do something about it. They are forming organizations such as C.A.M.P. (Campaign Against Moral Persecution). Why do you think the State Government is debating a Bill

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to legalize homosexuality? Because homosexuals who want their freedom, such as members of C.A.M.P., have petitioned politicians and other people in high places until some notice has had to be taken. Unfortunately, the wording of the proposed Bill before Parliament conjures up all sorts of visions. One can imagine two adult homosexuals meeting in the middle of Hay Street Mall on a Saturday morning and having a homosexual affair on the spot unless they were prevented from doing so by the words "in private". Homosexuals are people. Straight people wouldn't go so far either. (Apart from the fact that it would also be illegal for them to do so in public.) Another unfortunate aspect is the publicity homosexual campaign's receive, or rather don't receive, in newspapers. If a march or demonstration is held, it rates a mention but rarely more. No news editor is going to instigate better coverage or more searching studies on the struggle of homosexuals to attain their freedom .. in case it appears he has a special interest. The only way homosexuals are going to get the freedom they deserve is by getting off their backsides and

going after it - as a group. If those people who are so busy hiding their homosexuality came forward, they would discover that the majority of people are sympathetic to their struggle. You can't state your case until you state your position. If you don't believe me, but would like to try, go somewhere where you are not known, engage someone in conversation and after a while casually mention that you are a homosexual. Make it obvious you are simply stating a fact and not attempting a 'pick-up'. They will be surprised, yes. They would also be surprised if you told them you were an escaped lunatic, rapist or the Birdman of Alcatraz. They will not leave you on the spot nor will they announce your revelation to everyone in sight. Chances are they will want to discuss it with you .. because they want to know what makes you tick. If you want the public to accept something, take it to them. Explain it to them. Be honest and chase the bogies away. Most of all - stop hiding and live!

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Love seeketh not itself to please,  
Nor for itself hath any care,  
But for another gives its ease,  
And builds a heaven in hell's despair. - William Blake.

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