

GAY LIBERATION

Australia is just seeing the beginnings of Gay Liberation which has made so much progress in America. Gay Liberation is an attempt by gay men and women to free ourselves as individuals from our own hang-ups and to bring to an end the direct oppression from our society: the beatings and murders, the police harassment and imprisonment, the job discrimination!

Gay Liberation challenges not only traditional sex roles, where it is linked with Womens Lib, but together with other liberation movements of students, radicals, hippies and blacks it refuses to accept the traditional standards of establishment capitalism.

We are children of straight society. We still think square. Much of our sexuality has been perverted through mimicry of straights and warped from self-hatred. The depersonalisation into "butch" and "bitch". Justifying ourselves by gay "marriage". The "closet queens" desperately trying to appear straight. Those who feel obliged to trizz and wrist flap. The person who will go to bed once but won't develop any gay relationships. The guy who only likes to get off in toilets and behind bushes.

Gay Liberation, like Womens Lib, is concerned with making sex a means of creative expression and communication between real people. Sex is often directly aggressive and attempts to depersonalise people. Sex is often directly aggressive and attempts to depersonalise people. The "male chauvinist" who assumes that women play subordinate roles and are less human than himself. The division into homosexual/heterosexual, a concept forced upon us by society not something based on personal response. Learning how to be open and good with each other sexually is part of our liberation.

Loving each other is a good thing, not an unfortunate thing. Homosexuality is not just a makeshift in the absence of the opposite sex; it is not just hatred and rejection of the opposite sex; it is not just genetic; it is not just the result of broken homes. Homosexuality is the capacity to love someone of the same sex.

Oppression by straight society begins with growing up feeling alone and singled out as "queer" by parents, friends and teachers for non-conformist behaviour. We are told not to talk to strangers or to accept rides. Television, billboards

and magazines put forth a false idealization of male/female relationships and makes us wish we were different, wish we were "in". We're told that homosexuals are just unfortunate.

Homosexual relationships are illegal. The bulk of the social work/psychiatric field sees homosexuality as a problem and treats us as sick. Employers let it be known that our skills are acceptable only if our sexuality is hidden. Business, industry and government will generally dismiss someone found to be a homosexual. The draft and armed services will not accept us. Parasites run oppressive bars and dances for their own profit.

Gay Liberation wants to get away from possessiveness, elitism, inflexible roles and personal inequality. We want to define a new pluralistic, rolefree social structure for ourselves. It must contain both the freedom and physical space for people to live alone, live together for a while or a long time, either as couples or in large numbers. Liberation for gay people is defining for ourselves how and with whom we live, instead of measuring our relationships in comparison with straight values. We must be free to live our own lives in our own way.