

alga NEWSLETTER

Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc

PO Box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052

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TRIVIA TRIUMPH!

Over seventy members and friends joined us for the inaugural ALGA Fundraising Trivia Night at the Northcote Bowls Club in Melbourne on the 28th November, 1998. The evening was fun and successful: we raised over \$800, signed up new members and even took bookings for next year.

The questions asked were all queer related and included low and high culture, sport, film, music, politics, art and literature, and history (of course). Who am I questions demanded knowledge of diverse figures such as teletubby Tinky Winky, performer Dana International and politician Harvey Milk.

The over-educated Shirelles emerged triumphant, while The Bears took the wooden spoon. Black and Violet took out the award for best-dressed table (or should that have been best-laden table?) with their purple theme and an abundance of food. Throughout the night, we gave prizes for the silliest and wittiest answers, many of which are attributable to The Bears. Some of these include:

What is the name of the George Michael song inspired by his recent encounter with Police?

Zip me up before you go go

Name the author of *In Translation*

Pauline Hanson ("please explain")

Who recently said "I never masturbate anymore without calling my lawyer"

Bill Clinton

What is the title of Greg Louganis' biography?

'Muff Diving is not my thing'

Name the NSW women's cricketer who publicly alleged that she was being discriminated against at selection because she was heterosexual.

The only one called Mrs

Who co-wrote and starred in the 1993 US film *Go Fish*?

Rex Hunt

What is the name of the architect who initially designed the Sydney Opera House and about

whom an opera was subsequently written?

A V Jennings

Thanks to our many generous sponsors, this was a prize-filled evening: our friends took away with them books, cinema and comedy club tickets, CDs, videos, and vouchers for haircuts, meals, books and Wills. Prior to the event, Ana Kokkinos kindly signed "Loaded" film posters and Christos Tsiolkas signed copies of his novel "Loaded"; these highly sought after items were raffled. On the night, The Actors' Showcase generously donated a full term of acting tuition valued at over \$500.

The date for ALGA Trivia 1999 will appear in the next Newsletter. We hope to see new and familiar faces at this event which is now a highlight of the ALGA calendar.

Jodie Joyce

BE SEEN WITH THE ARCHIVES!

This year we will be out and about again. Feel free to join us, or just pop over and say hello.

MIDSUMMA MANIFESTATIONS

Sunday January 17: Open Day 2-5pm

Visit the Archives in its basement home, at 6 Claremont St, South Yarra (VAC) and see some of what we have to show. Books, magazines, posters, badges, videos. peruse the collection and meet the gang that collects and preserves it.

Sunday January 31: Pride March

We'll be there with our banner and our t-shirts. Join us!

Sunday February 7: Carnival

We're at site number 8, right near the main entrance. We'll be showing our wares and chatting to/up passers-by. Why not be one of them?

CONTEXT CONFERENCE

On 17 October last year, a Melbourne-based community organisation called 'Context' held a day-long conference titled 'Where the Wild Things Are', to look at issues affecting young people and sexuality, focusing on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Graham Carbery and I were invited to speak about the 20th anniversary of the publication of *Young Gay and Proud*. Graham and I were part of the collective of the Melbourne Gay Teachers & Students Group that produced *Young Gay and Proud* in 1978.*

Context is a 1990s successor of the Gay Teachers & Students Group – and it was interesting for Graham and me, who had not been directly involved in gay teachers' issues in the last 10-15 years, to hear what was going on now.

The conference opened with addresses by two confident young people, who had been out for some time as lesbian and gay in their respective schools (both were now at university having left school the year before). What was remarkable to me was that they had both achieved a degree of equilibrium in schools that I would not have expected to be especially friendly to young gays or lesbians – a catholic boys school and a co-ed private school. The coming out path wasn't without its hassles, but it seemed that active support from teachers had been a key factor in making the transition. Both agreed that they couldn't have done it without the support of friends (inside and outside school). In the young man's case, such was the level of teacher support that he was instrumental in having discussion of homosexuality introduced into all Religious Education units in the school's curriculum. Similarly the young woman was involved in setting up a forum for raising gay issues within the school. I know there were students who came out and survived at schools in the mid-1970s, but I don't think the circumstances were comparable with the stories being told by the young speakers at this conference. The few '70s examples that come to mind were students who were in progressive schools, or their coming out was part of a broader political radicalism, usually in their last year of school. That took enormous courage, I have no doubt, but surviving several years as an out student in a more conventional school is something else again. I was delighted to hear that at least for some young people, the practical support is there to make it possible for them to live whole lives.

One of many interesting workshops at the

conference was a panel from the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), and it too highlighted changes between now and 15 years ago. The P-FLAG panelists spoke about their families stories, how nothing prepared them for the revelation of their children's homosexuality, and how they were going about providing support for parents in similar situations to themselves. In the early 1980s I attended one or two of meetings of the fledgling parents of gays group in Melbourne and recall that many of the parents were still reeling from revelations of their children's homosexuality. P-FLAG now is a much more confident organisation, as is the gay movement generally. Support for the traumatised parent is still a priority, but so is advocacy for their gay and lesbian children, and I find that very encouraging. At the Context conference there was discussion of how parents can best break the cycle of ignorance, whereby prospective parents can begin to prepare themselves for a healthy acceptance of sexual variety in their children. One parent remarked that it had occurred to her that almost all children are brought up heterosexual, and as long as that's the case, there is going to be a painful situation to deal with for those children who do not fit the norm. There was heart-felt recognition of the closeted child's pain, as well as the parent's shock at the time of disclosure.

Context is arranging for a resources kit arising from the conference to be issued by the middle of 1999. The group is contactable c/- Michael Crowhurst, 1/28 Cumming Street, West Brunswick, 3056. Tel. 9386 0397, or email: m.crowhurst@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au

Gary Jaynes

*A paper by Gary Jaynes, 'Young Gay and Proud – 20 years on' is available from ALGA. Cost \$3.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

As flagged in our last newsletter, the Archives has bestowed its first Life Membership.

The recipient was Graham Carbery, founder and mainstay of the organisation over twenty years. At the Anniversary Dinner, friends of the Archives saw Graham given a certificate, a plaque and a garden gnome in AFL whites (Graham having been a footy umpire in between his various other occupations) and were treated to a series of gracious and only slightly cruel speeches. The dinner itself went exceptionally well and gave many Committee and volunteers to meet members we might otherwise never get to see.

ENDING HATE VIOLENCE

The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (NSW, Australia) is hosting an international conference, Ending Hate Violence against Lesbians and Gays, in Sydney at the time of the VI Gay Games in the year 2002.

It is circulating a set of draft proposals on the purpose of the conference and key planning matters. This draft paper is designed to stimulate ideas and provide a focus for discussion about the 2002 Conference. All responses and ideas about how the Sydney Host Committee goes about achieving what's in the discussion paper would be most helpful.

Responses will be received up until 28 February 1999. After which time the Sydney Host Committee will incorporate all feedback, where possible, into the plan. This document will then form the basis of a strategic plan to begin the process of planning for the conference in 2002.

The draft planning framework for the conference is at the 2002 conference website:

<<http://www.eagles.com.au/~avp/2002/>> or can be downloaded directly as a 'word' file from <<http://maya.eagles.bbs.net.au/~avp/2002plan.doc>>.

Send comments on the draft to the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, PO Box 1178, Darlinghurst NSW 1300, Australia; <<mailto:avp@eagles.bbs.net.au>> by 28 February 1999.

AUSTRALIA'S HOMOSEXUAL HISTORIES

As part of its twentieth anniversary celebrations, the Archives sponsored Australia's first national gay and lesbian history conference over two days in November.

Some sixty people attended from as far away as Western Australia, with a specially good contingent from South Australia. There were more than twenty papers presented covering a wide range of gay and lesbian, queer, camp and tranny moments in Australian history. We did queer theory, 1970s' activism and the lives of the distinctly unfamous. Invited speakers reflected upon the 1960s, 70s and 80s (the 1990s was a no show, which may or may not be significant!)

ABC radio's national history program, Hindsight, prepared a one hour episode which went to air a few weeks later and generated quite some interest.

We are making efforts to have the papers

published and are likely to stage the event again next year.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Melbourne Uni History Department, which sponsored the Friday night drinkies and the efforts of Gary Jaynes and Keith Stodden in particular, who staffed the registration desk for much of the two days.

DONATIONS

The Committee would like to express its gratitude to those who have renewed your subscriptions for the year and wants to add its special extra thanks to the following people who have been able to make donations as well:

L E Bebbington, \$120.00; Murray McLachlan, \$10.00; Tom Adami, \$30.00; Gordon Balfour, \$20.00

ACCESSING THE COLLECTION

We have been working also to make the collection more accessible by producing indexes to the various parts of the collection.

Various members and volunteers are or have been working on cataloguing the books, the ephemera, the audio tapes, the posters and the personal collections. All of these are still in progress and we can expect to have them completed over the coming year. The Home page project is well underway and will provide a high profile international face for the archives as well as holding and making accessible most of the indexes.

QUEER SPOT

Each fortnight in *Brother Sister*, the Archives publishes a snippet from the rich and tawdry tapestry that is gay and lesbian history. For your pleasure, a sample follows.

October 1971: Australia's first ever gay demo took place outside Liberal Party headquarters in Sydney. The protesters were opposing preselection for a prominent gay-hater. Some seventy or eighty lesbians, gay men and their supporters gathered with pink helium-filled balloons and streamers complementing the more traditional placards and banners. Even the placards were not above a little humour with comments such as 'Don't let the wowser spoil the party' and 'Cameron hates homos, but he'll sure b-g-r the Liberal Party'. For the first time ever, gays had taken, if not to the streets, then to the off-street laneways of Sydney.

Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives

Thesis Prize

for the

Best Fourth Year Thesis

in any discipline, on any aspect of

Gay, *Lesbian,*

Bisexual,

Transgender, *Queer*

EXPERIENCE

Entries will be judged by a panel
established by the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives
and the prize of \$250 awarded in December 1999
for a thesis submitted during 1999

For more details, contact the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives by telephoning
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