



NEWSLETTER

Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives Inc. PO Box 124, PARKVILLE, Vic 3052. Newsletter No 8, October, 1992 ISSN 1037-3756

EDITORIALS IN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS RELATED TO HOMOSEXUALITY

Recently we published an annotated list of editorials from Australian newspapers related to homosexuality. The purpose of this list is to provide a research tool for people investigating the representation of, and changing attitudes towards, homosexuality in the print media in Australia.

The list contains 388 entries, taken from 59 publications, covering the period 1949 to the end of 1991. These editorials comprise just under one percent of the Archives' total collection of newspaper clippings (about 40,000). We recognise that our collection of editorials is unlikely to be comprehensive and welcome information about relevant omissions. However we consider the list to be a significant indicator of both public attitudes towards homosexuality, as well as the print media's role in forming them.

Already the list has attracted wide interest with a number of copies requested from all over the country. Copies of the editorials list are available either in printed form or on floppy disk (Word Perfect 5.1) at a cost of \$10. Copies of the data disk will be provided upon receipt of a 720K floppy disk.

LESBIAN AND GAY PROJECT KIT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Over the past year or so the Archives has received an increasing number of letters from secondary school students wanting information on various aspects of homosexuality. We try as best we can to provide them with the information they want but sometimes the request has been so detailed that it had been beyond our capacity to provide all the information requested.

Students demand for information on homosexuality is likely to increase in future so we have decided to put together an information kit which will deal with some of the most commonly talked about aspects

of homosexuality which secondary students might find useful when tackling school projects. It is in the interests of the lesbian and gay communities to ensure that relevant factual information is made available to anyone who asks for it. Although the kit will be written with secondary school students in mind it should be useful for any member of society.

The idea is to prepare a series of loose sheets on specific issues relevant to homosexuality and homosexual lifestyle. When requests are received for information we will forward appropriate sheets. This approach has the advantage of enabling us to update material on particular topics as the need arises without having to reprint everything. One essential aspect of the kit as we see it will be the need for a selected reading guide for each topic.

Here are some of the topics that may be covered:

- What is homosexuality?
- How do you know if you are homosexual?
- Coming out.
- The history of law reform in the various States and Territories of Australia.
- Age of consent throughout the various States and Territories of Australia.
- When and where did the Gay Liberation movement start in Australia and what were its aims and major achievements?
- The development of the commercial lesbian and gay scene throughout Australia and the range of activities.
- Current issues of concern to homosexual activists e.g., Tasmanian law reform, anti-violence work in NSW, Equal opportunity legislation in Victoria, Federal anti-discrimination legislation in defence forces.
- Homosexuals and the church.
- History of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Writing has already begun and we plan to have material available on several of the topics by the beginning of the school year in 1993. We are hopeful that funding will be forthcoming to support this project and we will be investigating that possibility shortly.

THE BOB BUCKLEY COLLECTION

Late in 1991 the Archive received a bequest of books etc., from the Estate of the late Bob Buckley, who, at the time of his death, was Australia's leading theoretician on Leather/SM Sexuality.

Material about Gay SM is poorly represented in the Archive's collections and this gift has partially filled a lacuna in this section of the Archives.

The gift consists of eight novels by Larry Townsend and eighteen books of SM stories, edited by Larry Townsend. Among the authors are contributions by two Australian writers, one by "Aussie Joe" and two stories, with accompanying drawings, by Bob Buckley, under the non-de-plume David Macbeth. There are half a dozen photo books of men in bondage, whipping, mummification, dildos, nipple piercing and cock and ball torture. And finally, the fascinating, terrifying RFM forty-four page catalogue of Dungeon Devices. This volume is illustrated with drawings and construction notes on how to make the devices.

Bob Buckley was a member of a diverse group of Clubs and he received newsletters from the Chicago Hellfire Club, Shackles, GSMA (Gay SM Activists) and *Illustrated Man* - for gay tattooed men and their admirers. The Ball Club's quarterly magazine *Total Involvement* (a leather journal), contains articles and stories by Bob Buckley. The newsletters of mixed gender SM Clubs, i.e., Janus and the singularly named *Sandmutopia Guardian*.

Erotic aberrations in his collection are *T.A.I.L.* (Total Ass Involvement League), the *Enamamannual*, *Shocking News* (the use of electricity in SM) and *U-Nik International* (Modern Day Eunuchs). Other items include four folders of personal letters to and from overseas correspondents; photocopies of six short stories by Bob Buckley and folders of erotic/pornographic drawings.

Bob Buckley became aware of Gay SM in 1977 - 1978, on a holiday in the U.S.A.. He began his apprenticeship in learning to "read a body". On his return to Australia, at Club 80, Sydney, Bob developed and honed his SM skills by enticing "victims" (his word) into a room he had hired. He engineered trust quickly in his Bottoms, for Bob Buckley possessed the expertise to take his Bottoms safely up to the limits of their endorphin "highs" and to bring them down safely.

In his idiosyncratic approach to Gay SM, Bob Buckley was adamant in his public statements and writings that Gay SM is a shared pleasure and that it involves the whole body and the mind (not just primary erogenous). His interpretations of the Gay SM scene were variously described as "intellectually stimulating, intriguing, infuriating, controversial" but never were they labelled dull and insipid.

Bob Buckley died of an AIDS related condition on the twenty seventh of August 1991. To commemorate and continue his work, in 1992 the (Australian) Leather Pride Association initiated the annual Bob Buckley Memorial Lecture. The inaugural lecture was given the theme, "The Spirit and the Flesh: Leather/SM and the Quest for Inner Peace". An edited version of this lecture appears in the May 29th issue of *Sydney Star Observer* (No 184) Pp. 26-27.

Kenneth Atkins

LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES GETS A HOME OF ITS OWN.

In December 1991, after years of raising funds the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York purchased a building for \$313,000 to provide an independent home for its priceless collection. Now, after months of renovations the building is ready to be occupied.

The building, as described in the June 1992 *Lesbian Herstory Archive Newsletter* sounds fantastic. It is a three story limestone townhouse located in the Park Slope neighbourhood of Brooklyn - close to a subway station and in an area where many New York lesbians live.

The Archive will use the first and second floors of the building. The third floor has been converted into a caretaker's apartment to improve security and enable day-to-day maintenance to be carried out more easily. There is also a basement which will house a darkroom as well as storage.

Although the building was structurally sound when purchased, renovations were needed before it would meet the Archives needs. Most of the renovations were done by volunteer labour. The major change that needed to be made was to make the building wheelchair accessible. The six steps at the front of the building meant that a suitable lift and ramp for outside the building had to be designed and built. The volunteer lesbian architects overcame the design

problems and all the necessary alterations have now been made. In addition an elaborate security system has been installed, including motion detectors and ground floor windows with shatter proof glass.

We offer our congratulations to the countless lesbians who have worked tirelessly, and for so long, to achieve this goal.

When I read the article below I thought it expressed succinctly the need for lesbian and gay archives in all countries. G.C.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY by Pat Johnson

One of the disadvantages lesbians and gay men have as an oppressed minority is the lack of a broad recorded history. No matter how far we advance in terms of acceptance and rights, we will always be denied this one thing. It is not that something we had has been taken away. Rather we lack a history because homosexuals of yesterday lacked a present. Sure, world history is filled with thousands of known and believed homosexuals and the temptation is always there to speculate on the bland nature of the world, its art, its literature, science and so on, had these figures never existed. But in so far as the collection of dead homosexuals constitutes lesbian and gay history, it is the history not of communities, but of individuals who were too often isolated, and accomplished in spite of their homosexuality.

All other groups have a history. Even groups which do not exist anymore have a history, if few people to recount it. These groups have been annihilated or assimilated. In reality so have lesbians and gay men, but with each generation we have replenished our stock thanks to our unique regeneration process like some paisley Trojan horse in the walled city of heterosexuality. This has assured our survival but done nothing for historical continuity.

(*Rites* Vol. 7 No. 8 Feb. 1991, p.9)

From a now defunct Canadian gay and lesbian magazine *Rites*

CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED

We would like to remind people that the Archives is able to place restrictions on materials donated. Any restrictions on access will be strictly adhered to.

PERIODICALS LIST UPDATE

Work is well under way on updating our list of periodicals. We hope to publish the new list by the end of October.

As at the end of September 1990, when the list was compiled, we had 344 separate titles in our periodicals collection and more than 8,200 items. We have been staggered by the massive increase in the number of new titles added to the collection since the last update we now have more than 550 separate titles and in excess of 13,000 items.

The new list will be more than 40 pages and contains a brief description of each publication, place of publication, commencement date, date of last issue (if no longer published) and details of the issues held by the Archives.

Users of the list, mainly researchers, have commented favourably on its detailed information and the ease with which it provides access to the material. It also helps us in quickly identifying the gaps in the collection.

Copies of the list will be available either in printed form or on floppy disk (Word for DOS, V5) at a cost of \$15 (including postage). Copies of the data disk will be provided upon receipt of a 720K floppy disk.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In addition to the valuable collection of the late Bob Buckley (see separate article) several other substantial donations of material have been received this year. John Willis, founder of the now defunct Christ's Community Church in Melbourne, donated a large collection of material relating to the church's activities. From Darwin, Dino Hodge sent us several boxes of material from Darwin Gay Society, together with numerous clippings from Northern Territory newspapers. Included in the material sent by Kimberly O'Sullivan, a regular Sydney donor and honorary archivist for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, were several issues of *Wicked Women* we did not have. Chris Smith in Adelaide had been gathering stuff together for ages and when a friend said he was coming to Melbourne Chris gave him two large boxes to deliver to us. Among

the wide variety of publications in Chris' donation were several newsletters that were new to us from groups that existed in Adelaide at different times in the past. Paul Drakeford in Melbourne gave us a large number of Australian and overseas magazines many of which we already had but there were several copies of publications we were missing as well thus enabling us to fill in some gaps in our collection.

A couple of significant donations were received from people who were prominent in the Gay Liberation Movement in Melbourne who wish to remain anonymous.

As well as donations from individuals we have always relied heavily on the support and goodwill of lesbian and gay organisations throughout Australia to send us free copies of material they publish. Without this support the value of the collection, as a reflection of our collective past, would be greatly diminished.

COMPUTER FUNDRAISING

We'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who donated to our computer fund. By the time you read this the computer will be in operation. Our first task will be to commence indexing the Australian periodicals collection. This is a huge task and we won't begin to see the results for at least twelve months. We will keep you informed on our progress in the next *Newsletter*.

We would like to acknowledge the support of all the donors:

Robert Barrow	\$50
Peter Duggan	\$30
Bruce Francis	\$25
Ian Goller	\$25
Ian Gould	\$100
Peter Krohn	\$25
Lesbian and Gay Solidarity Group - Sydney	\$25
Fabian Lo Schiavo	\$25
Jill Matthew	\$25
Melbourne Women's Liberation and Lesbian Archives	\$25
Peter Mullins	\$50
Kimberly O'Sullivan	\$50
Ian Purcell	\$25
Jeff Slingsby	\$25
Steamworks	\$100
Keith Stodden	\$25
Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras	\$100

Alison Thorne	\$25
Alan Woodruff	\$25
SUB-TOTAL	\$780

Don Baxter, David Bradford, Mitch Cleary, Brian Dowsett, Michael Galimany, Barb Hall, Walter Hillbrick, Bill Jeffrey, Colin Krycer, Ken Lovett, Bruce McIntyre, Rex Melville, Richard Peterson, Geoffrey Peterson-Wright, Trevor Sutherland,	SUB-TOTAL : \$630
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ANONYMOUS:	
P.B. \$50, P.G. \$30, L.K. \$25, J.H. & J.J. \$30, B.F. \$25, L.P. \$25, D.H. \$25, I.S. \$25, E.G. \$25, K.D. \$25, J.M. \$48, D.B. \$100, R.B. \$30	
SUB-TOTAL :	\$463
TOTAL :	\$1,873

WE NEED YOU!!

THERE ARE A RANGE OF TASKS AWAITING ENTHUSIASTIC WORKERS (all unpaid of course!) POSSIBILITIES RANGE FROM REGULAR ON-GOING JOBS TO ONE OFF PROJECTS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS - Phone: Graham 499 6334 or Mark 481 5304

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY STATUS - WHY ARE WE WAITING?

The Archives applied to the Federal Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories under Section 78 (1) (a) of the Income Tax Assessment Act to register as a cultural organisation for tax deductibility. After seven months waiting for a response we were told that we did not qualify. Meanwhile the Department has suggested that we apply to the Australian Tax Office as a public collecting institution under the provisions of Section 78 (1) (a) (xxvii). *Don't hold your breath but do send us your positive thoughts!!*

RENT IN ARREARS!

Since taking up our new residence in 1990 the Archives has been paying minimal rental. To assist with the construction and development costs we paid rent in advance to mid 1992 at \$40 per month. We are currently in arrears and would appreciate any donations to assist us to meet our commitments. Cheques can be made payable to ALGA Inc. c/o PO Box 124, PARKVILLE 3052

REMINDER - ALGA AGM October 29, 1992.