

EUREKA!

WEST AUST. MUM DISCOVERS CAUSE OF HOMOSEXUALITY

So far it has not made the major medical journals, though no doubt someone hard up for a topic for a thesis will get to it, but a Perth woman has come up with an entirely novel couple of ideas about what 'causes' homosexuality.

In her submission to the WA Royal Commission on Homosexuality, Mrs Celia Mary Lumsden Taylor, home duties, told them that the origins of homosexuality should be investigated, 'in order to allow people to grow up heterosexual if possible.' And she had a few ideas that might be followed up. She elaborated.

'One may remember that a child suffering from plumbism (lead poisoning) may show extraordinary "perverted tastes" in food. Could the rise of lead content in the air of cities have some such ill effect on adults? In ancient Rome (with no lead additives

to petrol!) one may object that the upper classes were very often homosexuals! — but an interesting fact is that they actually delighted in drinking a wine syrup reduced by long heating in lead vessels.'

So much for your city dweller and the classical Romans, but what about the mysterious East? Well, —

'If you wish me to say why I think it is a habit much more in some oriental countries, I would say I think it is because people there do not get enough to eat and they find physical relief in homosexual practices because it helps their digestion. That is a crude thing to say, but if you have ever been an infant's nurse you know that is an effect of altering the tension of a child's rectum.'

Lex Watson.

Australian Gays N.S.W. Teachers Murdered In 1975 Federation Acts

1975 was a good year for homosexual murders in Australia. There were at least four of them. Not that you would easily know — it needs a scandal of Duncan proportions to get the press interested. In fact in one case, in WA last year, there seems to have been a conspiracy of silence by the press and the authorities to suppress information and discussion.

In the WA case the assailant was acquitted on the grounds of provocation and self-defence. Apparently the man he murdered made a pass at him!

In the latest case in NSW, the trial has yet to be held, but at the coroner's inquest five men were committed for trial on a charge of murder and assault. A sixth man has had the murder charges against him dismissed and is now charged with being an accessory after the fact.

The murder occurred last October when four naval ratings and two other men went to the Manly Vale Hotel. They struck up a conversation with two men at an adjoining table because they thought they were homosexuals. They then invited them to a party and went to Curl Curl Beach. There the six bashed the two victims and left them unconscious on the beach. One recovered consciousness and crawled to a house. He subsequently spent nine days in hospital recovering. The other man was left near the water's edge and is presumed drowned by the incoming tide.

Unlike the other gay murders, in this case the hotel concerned does not have a homosexual reputation, nor apparently were the two victims homosexual. What is significant, however, is that the motive for the murder was homosexual.

Lex Watson.

In what is believed to be the first major decision by a union in Australia to protect the employment rights of homosexuals, the Teachers' Federation of NSW adopted a new policy at their last Annual Conference.

The decision was prompted by the sacking of Mike Clohesy last year, and is a major advance for the Teachers' Federation after their vacillation and refusal to act when Penny Short lost her teacher's trainee scholarship in 1974.

The TF motion strongly reaffirmed Rule 4A of their policy, which protected teachers against discrimination and then spelt out, for the first time some of the grounds on which discrimination was not to be acceptable. These are 'racial, political, religious and social grounds.'

The motion further extended the existing policy by demanding that all teachers when dismissed were entitled to a full, detailed written statement giving the reasons for their dismissal, and they called on the government to enforce this decision through legislation. There seems little likelihood that the NSW government will comply with this demand.



Mike Clohesy

Also following the Mike Clohesy sacking, a gay teachers group has been formed in Sydney, and it is hoped that in the future more of the teachers dismissed because they are homosexual will challenge their dismissals. There have been a significant number of such cases in the past, but because of the threat to future employment prospects they have steadfastly refused any publicity or challenge.

Lex Watson.

CAUGHT OUT

The court statistics for NSW for 1974 have recently been released. During that year, 114 men were tried for serious homosexual offences carrying penalties in excess of one year's gaol.

These figures thus exclude the bulk of the prosecutions for public toilet activities which usually bring a charge of offensive behaviour, indecent or obscene exposure, or occasionally loitering. It is not possible to separate out the homosexual from the heterosexual and other actions that led to such prosecutions. But there were over 400 indecent exposure prosecutions, and over 3,000 offensive behaviour charges that year.

Of the 114 men charged, 5 were charged with attempting to procure a male 'for an indecent act.' One of these was gaoled. Of the 49 tried before a magistrate, 2 were gaoled and all told 33 were found guilty.

Of the 65 tried before a judge, 28 were gaoled, four for one year or less, 5 for one to two years, 13 for two to five years, and 6 (all on buggery charges) for more than five years. Only three of the 65 were acquitted.

Lex Watson

7 Hours of sex debate in London

LONDON, Thursday. — Sex education was the subject of the Lords' debate yesterday — but in seven hours of speeches it moved to the family, to chastity, fidelity, the aims of the International Socialists and, especially, the work of the Family Planning Association.

The former Anglican clergyman, Lord Beaumont, of Whitley, highlighted the importance which peers attached to moral issues when he said: "Society is sick, not because we make love too much but because we love and make love too little."

Others had a different moral diagnosis.

Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh, said the International Socialists' little red book on education encouraged 12-year-olds to masturbate, to denigrate the family and rebel against

standards set by parents.

Accusing the Family Planning Association of referring young people to Gay Liberation for serious educational material he said: "The most obvious way to write off a country is to persuade children to become homosexuals."

Opening the debate, Baroness Elles' attacked the FPA for recommending brand-name contraceptives and also urged that a warning — like that on packets of cigarettes — be put on packets of contraceptives. It would show the failure rate.

The FPA was defended by Baroness Gaitskell, who said that, despite some foolish propaganda, it had made the lives of millions of women in Britain happier and easier.

(AAP)

LAW REFORM NEW BILL EXPECTED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

After the failure of a Law Reform bill in Victoria last year, discussions are continuing to hopefully lead to another attempt. The last bill was introduced by a Labor backbencher.

In Victoria it is official and binding Labor policy to support homosexual law reform, but despite this the parliamentary party decided to give itself a free vote. Hamer and his Liberals have said their government would never introduce h.l.r., but Hamer also says he would vote for it. 'Hamer makes it Happen?'

In WA, a second h.l.r. bill is expected early in 1976. The last bill failed in 1973, but led to the establishment of the WA Royal Commission into Homosexuality which presented a useful report a year ago.

The second attempt will be led by Grace Vaughan, a Labor MLC who has been having discussions with the CAMP people in Perth about the form of the bill. The content of the bill is not yet finalised.

Ms Vaughan still has to get caucus approval for a private member's bill, but in WA h.l.r. is binding policy and in 1973 all Labor MP's voted for the bill. On that occasion Sir Charles Court, now Liberal Premier, led the opposition and has said there is no way his government would support such a measure.

Lex Watson.



Campaign's harbor cruise was a swinging success! Ronnie and Richard of the support crew help Peter make it to the bar! Story and more pics later in this issue.

