

Youth gang taunt: 'Fuck the dyke!'

A 33-year-old Newtown woman was menaced by a gang of 30 male youths in King Street on her way home from this year's Sleaze Ball.

Originally motivated by robbery, the attack escalated as the youths, aged between 15 and 18, surrounded the woman chanting, 'Fuck the dyke!'

After stealing the woman's wallet the gang surrounded her car, thumping on the panels until she was able to drive away.

On the eve of a new summer campaign, the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project has a

number of fresh reports of violence against lesbians:

- A 33-year-old part-time student from St Peters has been subject to over 20 obscene phone calls at all hours of the day and night over a six-week period. The woman, who believes she knows the identity of her harasser, came home to a message on her answering machine on October 8 (International Lesbian Day) with a man's voice saying, "This is a concerned citizen. Cheer up you fat mole, you fucking dyke, before you get fucking hurt."

- Dyke Bootscooters have been targeted by men drinking at an inner-city hotel.

- A schoolgirl who challenged anti-lesbian remarks made in class by other students has since been harassed although she is undecided about her sexuality.

- A lesbian living in a public housing project is seeking a new home after on-going physical and verbal harassment from neighbours.

The Anti-Violence Project wants to hear from lesbians who are attacked or harassed. Call Nicole or Helen on 360 6687.



Pride puts 'safety first' after attacks

Following a spate of vandalism, abuse and harassing telephone calls, Pride has opted to remove the words 'lesbian and gay' from the sign outside its Surry Hills premises.

Pride's board has undertaken a review of its safety measures to discourage further incidents and alleviate possible dangers to staff and users.

On the weekend of the football grand final, the Pride signage was found broken and vandalised in the street. Bottles have been hurled at the building and staff harassed by "prank" telephone calls.

Pride's executive officer, Bronte Morris, confirmed she has sought advice from the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (AVP), and Surry Hills

police, who agreed to step up patrols in the area.

South Sydney Council has been asked to improve street lighting.

Morris admits the Pride board was reluctant to take the "retrograde" step of removing the words 'gay and lesbian' from the sign.

"But it's a safety issue first," she told LOTL.

The centre opened in June, and about 25 community groups make regular or occasional use of the building. It is understood at least one organisation cancelled arrangements to use the venue at night, concerned

about poor lighting in the car park. Morris said this is being addressed and describes the incidents as entirely random, "nothing premeditated".

AVP convenor Bruce Grant said, historically, many lesbian and gay organisations had reported problems with random harassment. The AVP recommends community organisations undertake careful safety audits.

In December last year, a gay man was attacked about the head with a bottle and robbed in the Hutchinson Street area, in the early hours of the morning. His ear was severely lacerated

and he was hospitalised. The AVP has no other records of lesbian and gay hate attacks near the Pride centre.

— Kirsty Machon



Pride chief Bronte Morris... retrograde but necessary.

TEEN SEX SCANDAL

(from p.3) Published by the Young Christian Association (YWCA), as many as 40,000 copies of the 24-page booklet have been distributed to schools through the government's Public Health Commission.

While critics have branded the booklet as pandering to the 'gay agenda', commentators like political columnist Jane Clifton, writing in the *Sunday Star-Times* called *Sisters* "a milestone in social and sex education in New Zealand".

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