

# WEEKLY BRIEFS

## CES to stop HIV-positive 'outing'

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) believes the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) will amend its policy on HIV positive clients after meetings with Employment Minister Simon Crean last week. Although the CES no longer asks all clients whether they are HIV positive, it continues to inform potential employers if it knows a client is HIV positive. "The current policy is based on curiosity rather than any need to know," AFAO President Tony Keenan said. Crean's office is reportedly willing to change the policy so that HIV positive clients would no longer be outed by government—*Mathew Jones*

## Dempsey killers in court

The couple charged with the August 1994 murder of 34-year-old Sydney gay man Stephen Dempsey appeared briefly in Manly Local Court on 14 June. Richard William Leonard, 22, and his girlfriend Denise Shipley, 19, will next appear on 28 June. Leonard claims he shot Dempsey with a bow and arrow after the victim allegedly made a homosexual advance at Deep Creek Reserve in Narrabeen. The pair were arrested on 3 May in Brookvale. Shipley has been charged with being an accessory after the fact.

## Research aims to know transys

The working lives and experiences of tranny sex workers are being researched by the Australian National University. Researcher Jim Watson told *Capital Q* that some work has been done to broaden understanding of transgendered people. "Other research has focused on female and male prostitution," he said. "But virtually nothing has been done to understand the lives and work of tranny sex workers. In research terms, it's a blind spot. It shouldn't be, and I hope this project changes that." Watson said when completed, the research will give something back to those who participated. "This kind of work requires honesty and trust on both sides. I will not betray that trust. I hope to give something positive and meaningful back in the finished product." —*Norrie-May Welby*

## Feminism, AIDS campaigns awarded

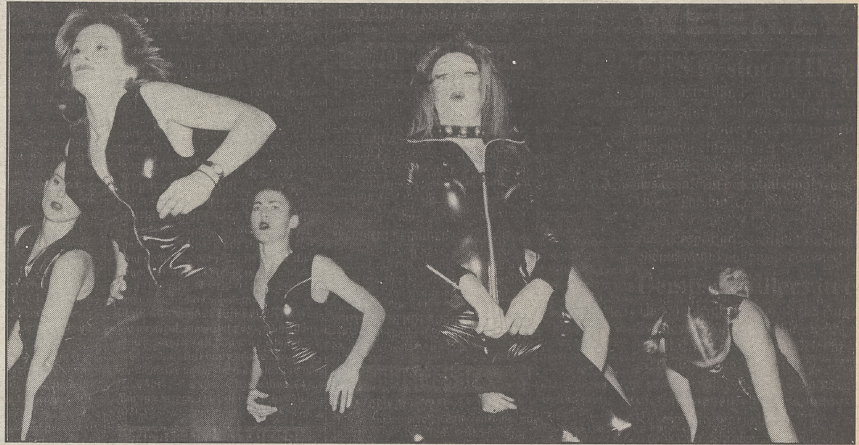
Former Health Minister Neal Blewett was this week awarded the highest civilian honour in Australia, the Companion of the Order of Australia, for his role in developing the first National AIDS Strategy. Also honoured in the Queens Birthday list was former Fairfield Hospital nurse, Barbara Pollett, who was instrumental in setting up training for Victorian AIDS Council Support volunteers. Leading Sydney feminist Eva Cox, who founded the Women's Economic Think Tank, was also honoured.

## No show at Uni Council: Nile

More than 100 vocal Wollongong University students last Friday protested against the appointment of "morals" campaigner Fred Nile, MLC, to the University Council. Nile, however, failed to attend the first scheduled meeting. The student representative of the Council, Neil Trivett, said although Council is ultimately unable to have a view on the appointment, he expressed the protesters concerns to the meeting. Trivett's motion was seconded by the Chancellor, and it will be passed on to the NSW Legislative Council. A pro-Nile group, calling themselves Students for Free Speech, has since formed on campus, Trivett said. Nile's posting was approved by 27 votes to four in the Legislative Council. Under ALP policy, openly gay MLC Paul O'Grady was forced to vote in favour of Nile's appointment.

## Brisbane gets flooded with Pride

Twenty-one gay and lesbian floats paraded through the streets of Spring Hill in Brisbane on 11 June, much to the dismay of the Liberal and National parties. The Queensland Opposition declared the Jeimbra Carnivale street parade "unnecessary". Opposition leader Rob Borbridge claimed the event was definitely not something that most Queenslanders wanted to see. Liberal leader Joan Sheldon said: "We don't need that type of thing here." Expecting a backlash, organisers said they tried to keep the event low-key. ☐



**Pastel gets down** More than 4,000 people attended the AIDS Council of NSW's annual fundraising party at the Showgrounds last weekend. The crowd was treated to two shows by Bernina Bod, Cindy Pastel (above) and others, including fifty volunteer dancers from the gay and lesbian community. ACON expects to tally up the amount The Party raised at its next committee meeting, and will make the official announcement in the next few weeks. *Photo: Jeff Hudson*

# Lesbian Line left hanging on

by Vanessa McQuarrie

A weekly counselling, support and 'drop-in' service for lesbians new to the community is facing a "crisis situation" after it was advised last week to vacate its current premises in Leichhardt.

Lesbian Line was asked to leave its space at the Everywomens Health Centre because the owners plan to close down and sell the building by next month. Member of the Lesbian Line Collective,

Narelle Northwood, told *Capital Q* that the organisation had paid the Centre a token rent over the past ten years.

Lesbian Line has been part of Sydney's lesbian community for 15 years, Northwood said. "Basically, we're used as a stepping stone for women who are coming out to move into the scene," she said. The service receives between 15 and 20 calls each Friday night, as well as up to twenty messages throughout the week, Northwood estimates.

The Collective this week began a mail-out to various community groups, requesting the use of any available space. "We're in a bit of a spot, because we are pretty low on money - not that we've ever really had any", said Northwood. "Now we have to re-locate, and we're pretty low on energy as well."

The Collective had previously approached the Lesbian Space Project, requesting that a donation of \$1,000 be returned following the "tranny de-

bate". The request had been denied, Northwood said.

Currently, the eight-member Collective comprises only four women. "We're trying to get the word out that we've supported the community for fifteen years, and now we'd like any women who've come through Lesbian Line, or who just want to help out, to give us a call."

The Collective would welcome any ideas or assistance, and can be contacted on 550 0910. ☐

# Police seek clues to murder

Police are appealing for help from the gay and lesbian community as they try to trace the final movements of Kenneth Brennan, who was found stabbed to death in his Elizabeth Bay home at midnight on 11 June.

Police believe Brennan, 53, knew his killer. His body was found lying in a pool of blood in the lounge room by his lover, [NP215], who returned to the couple's Onslow Avenue flat at 5.20pm on 12 June.

The state of the apartment indicated a violent struggle had occurred, police said. A long-bladed knife, which police later confirmed was the murder weapon, was found in the bedroom. Brennan died of fatal stab wounds to the chest.

A Kings Cross detective told *Capital Q* that it is likely that Brennan knew or had just met his killer, and had invited the person into the flat. He said that it appears Brennan had had sex with his murderer. Police are however working

on the theory that robbery was the motive. Some cash was reportedly missing from the flat.

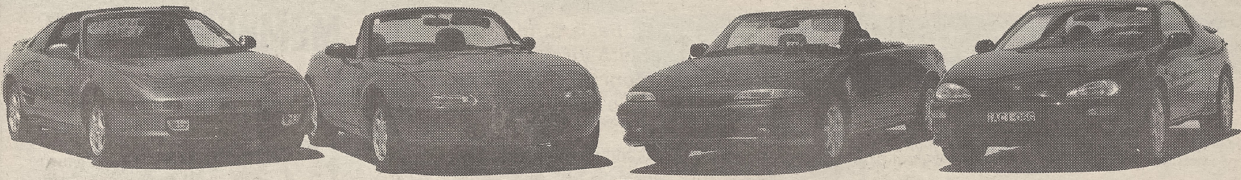
Brennan, a school teacher who worked at Ultimo, was last seen when he left a friend's home at Woollahra on Saturday evening. Detective Senior Constable Damien Loone, of Kings Cross police, has appealed to the gay community in a bid to discover where Brennan may have gone after 10pm on Saturday and early Sunday, the day he was believed to have been murdered.

Brennan and [NP215], 25, had been together for five years. Senior Constable Loone said [NP215] had been interviewed, but was not considered a suspect.

Detectives and Homicide Squad will doorknock the Elizabeth Bay and Kings Cross areas in a bid to find clues to the attack. Anyone with any information is urged to contact police on 265 6233 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. ☐

Large selection of late model, low kms, pre loved sports coupes, targas and convertibles.

**FREE** car alarm when you mention this ad.



## Frank Crott Sports Cars



Competitive Finance and Insurance T.A.P • David or Anthony on 560 8444 • 356 Parramatta Rd Petersham • Open 7 days

"Police Seek Clues to Murder." Capital Q Weekly, 16 June 1995, p. 3. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/UXOGYH976693612/AHSI?u=slnsw\\_public&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=1c650a2a](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/UXOGYH976693612/AHSI?u=slnsw_public&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=1c650a2a). Accessed 16 Sept. 2022.