LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE WEEK

There are 20,000 lesbians and gay men in Cork.
Do you laugh at jokes about queers, fairies, poofs, lessies and steamers?
Why do you think they're funny?
Irish society sees any sexuality as dangerous, and ours as evil.
Why are we considered evil?
Why are you afraid of us?
We are not child-molesters , perverts, sick,sad, pathetic, unnatural or apologetic.
We are your sisters.
We are your brothers.
We are your mothers.
We are your fathers.
We are your friends and co-workers.
We are perhaps you.

Claiming Identity

DISCRIMINATION

Lesbians and gay men are discriminated against in every aspect of their lives. The barbaric laws which criminalise gay men still remain and mock this society's pretence at valuing civil liberties. A more subtle way of controlling people is to threaten their jobs and it is at work that lesbians and gay men are most under pressure. Most of us cannot risk losing our jobs and so we have to conceal our sexuality from both co-workers and employers. Young people are particularly vulnerable to anti-gay prejudice because they get so little support from parents, teachers etc. Discrimination also means that we cannot get access to social facilities such as pubs and discos. It is often difficult to get space to hold meetings. There is a widespread covert policy of supressing information which we need. Books and magazines are either censored by the state or else not stocked by libraries or retail outlets. The media generally refuse to accept advertisments for our telephone services. Publicly funded agencies such as youth services ignore the needs of our community.With anti-gay prejudice being reinforced by church and state it is not surprising that we live with the threat of physical violence and that lesbian mothers will usually lose custody of their children.

Given these obstacles it is easy to see why there is not a powerful network of lesbian and gay activists. But some some progress has been made. Through different struggles we have been involved in there is now a growing and more confident lesbian/gay movement A united campaign has been set up on the basis of four demands:

* THE REMOVAL OF ALL ANTI-GAY LAWS
* EQUAL JOB-OPPORTUNITIES
* EQUAL CUSTODY RIGHTS FOR LESBIAN MOTHERS
* A POSITIVE APPROACH TO LESBIAN AND GAY SEXUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

In Cork we have also made progress. Since 1976 there has been a local branch of the Irish Gay Rights Movement which provides social facilities at the Phoenix Club. A telephone information and advice service is operated from the Phoenix Club. There are now lesbian and gay collectives actively involved in broad movements for social change. Cork organised the first National Gay Conference in 1981. We are active in the Trade Unions, and in 1982 the Cork branch of the local government union passed a resolution supporting equality for lesbian and gay workers. Later that year the Congress of Trade Unions followed this lead.

DISCRIMINATION

Recognising the great needs that exist in our community we have begun to organise a broad-based lesbian and gay community project. The aims of the include the development of:

* A community and resource centre
* An expanded information/befriending service
* A youth group
* Educational service to develop community awareness
* Health and self-defence groups

CONTACTS:

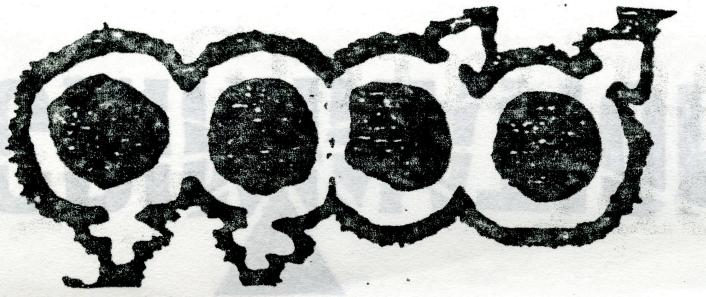
LESBIAN COLLECTIVE
Meetings every thursday at Quay Co-op, 24 Sullivans Quay, 967660

GAY COLLECTIVE
Meetings every thursday at six o'clock: Quay Co-op.

IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Socials on Sat. and Sunday at 4A MacCurtin Street.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
P.O. Box 1, Cork.
TEL: (021) 505394

BOOKSHOP
Quay Co-op, 24 Sullivans Quay.



LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE WEEK

There are 20,000 lesbians and gay men in Cork.
Do you laugh at jokes about queers, fairies, poofs, lessies and steamers?
Why do you think they're funny?
Irish society sees any sexuality as dangerous, and ours as evil.
Why are we considered evil?
Why are you afraid of us?
We are not child-molesters, perverts, sick,sad, pathetic, unnatural or apologetic.
We are your sisters.
We are your brothers.
We are your mothers.
We are your fathers.
We are your friends and co-workers.
We are perhaps you.

Claiming Identity

Recognising the great needs that exist in our community we have begun to organise a broad-based lesbian and gay community project. The aims of the include the development of:

* A community and resource centre
* An expanded information/befriending service
* A youth group
* Educational service to develop community awareness
* Health and self-defence groups

CONTACTS:

LESBIAN COLLECTIVE
Meetings every thursday at Quay Co-op, 24 Sullivans Quay, 967660

GAY COLLECTIVE
Meetings every thursday at six o'clock: Quay Co-op.

IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Socials on Sat. and Sunday at 4A MacCurtin Street.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
P.O. Box 1, Cork.
TEL: (021) 505394

BOOKSHOP
Quay Co-op, 24 Sullivans Quay.

