

Lesbians in the Examiner?

After weeks of receiving no phone calls, the Lesbian Line collective decided to try and place an advertisement in the Examiner. Although we knew the gay collective had been wrangling with the Examiner for months over the paper's refusal to accept their ad., at least (we thought) they couldn't throw the farcical argument of 'illegality' at us.

So, two of us duly went along to the Examiner offices to place the ad for Thurs 22 May. Mentally and psychically prepared for any number of extreme reactions and arguments we presented our proposed ad. But, no raised eyebrows, not a red face and we paid our £4.50 and went away again, much chuffed.

Thurs 22 came, and went with an obvious lack of lesbian line ad in the Cork Examiner (obvious to us). So, what next - we decided to go and ask them, why?

We were politely told by the woman at the desk that she had been instructed to give us our money back, and to tell us that it was against the Examiner's policy to accept this advertisement. We waited to

meet one of the supervisors and eventually talked with a Mr. O'Keefe who said that the Examiner did not have to explain itself and at the moment they would not print this 'type' of advertisement. When asked what he meant, as all we were offering was an information and counselling service, he conceded that they objected to the word lesbian and would not print an advertisement with 'that' word in it. - Shock, HOTTOT.

But the examiner does use the word lesbian. On Wednesday, May 14th L-E-S-B-I-A-N appeared printed in much larger type than would have appeared in our modest ad. A news story appeared about a woman, a lesbian, who was murdered in her flat in London. The examiner certainly was not shy of using 'that' word in this sensationalist context. Now, I don't know the crime figures for London but I am sure there is more than one murder a week, so why the Examiners interest in this one? Because they could spice up their paper a bit using the word lesbian, because they could titillate their presumed heterosexual readers with tales of her 'gay haunts'. So, what is the Examiner's policy towards lesbians, is it only to print stories about dead ones?