Gay Promotion Under Attack

by Sarah Hey

On December 8th, 1987 Dame Jill Knight (Conservative MP) inserted an addition to the Local Government-Bill proposing that NO aspect of lesbian and gay life should be promoted by councils.

Chris Hodgson of the University's Lesbian and Gay Society explained the implications of the amendment known as Clause 28, "It bans the funding or promotion of Homosexuality by the local authority. This means no lesbian and gay pubs, no literature in libraries, no funding for self-help and theatre groups - as most are subsidised by local authorities."

In the words of Dame Jill Knight the clause states: A local authority shall not:
- Promote homosexuality or publish material for the promotion of homosexuality;
- Promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship by the publication of such material or otherwise;
- Give financial or other assistance to any person for either of the purposes referred to in paragraphs above.

The clause was inserted at Committee Stage on December 7th, debated in Committee on December 8th and came before the full House of Commons on December 15th. Last Monday it went to the Committee Stage at Lords.

Chris added "Our only hope now is the Committee Stage at Lords. We are fighting the campaign against the odds, but we are determined it will be defeated. It is a massive attack on the liberties of lesbians and gays - There has been nothing on that scale since the 60's."

The society are organising events in protest against the Bill including mass petitioning and leafleting in Liverpool City Centre, and had a Day of Action around Campus yesterday including a lobby of the City Council at the Town Hall.

From today there will be regular meetings to organise action at 6:30pm in Allerton Room 3 and on February 20th there will be a national demonstration in Manchester. This will include a march and a festival and rally at Free Trade Hall at 3.30pm, where there will be speakers and entertainers including: Neil Kinnoch, The Communards, Victoria Wood and Ken Livingstone. Coach tickets are available from Chris Hodgson in the Welfare Office.


director = Apartheid Awareness Campaign

The Anti-Apartheid group is organising a Namibia Day and a South Africa Day on February 17th and 18th respectively, hoping to attract students' awareness of the present situation in both countries. On the 17th there will be a meeting in the Stanley Theatre in the Old Union at 7pm with a speaker from the National Association of Namibian Students (NANSO). This is a unique opportunity to find out what is going on in Namibia, given that there is virtually no press coverage of events there. (South Africa has illegally occupied Namibia since 1966 with a garrison force of more than 100,000.) Thursday 18th sees a debate in the Gilmour Hall at 12.45pm on South Africa, and on both days there will be displays and information in the Union foyer. The group also holds a stall in the foyer every Friday selling loads of Anti-Apartheid merchandise, and has information on local events.

Wing Commander Stoddart, to the Residences.

The final phase of the Oxford Street Accommodation was officially opened by Wing Commander Kenneth Wherry at Merseyside. This latest phase of the project and students being so close to the city centre, with students and are also let out for the vacation.