

**ON AWARE'S
CHANGING SLANT TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY
AND
COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION
IN RECENT YEARS**

Constance Singam – on Male Chapter

Constance Singam, Jan 2008 AWARE newsletter to members

“I think a **Third Wave of feminism is evolving to appeal to the sensibilities of a new generation – to a 21st century sensibility, if you want to call it that. AWARE has to change and it is starting to change. **A member of our Male Chapter, Bert Bjarland, is starting a Gender Awareness Group for men.** Bert has led gender awareness groups for over twenty years so it should be an interesting experience. The group’s first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 7:00pm in the Discussion Room at the National Library Level 8.”**

Comment to readers: Bert Bjarland is a long-time gender Finnish activist and a expatriate to Singapore.

Bert Bjarland Views – on deconstruction on male gender

http://www.euowrc.org/01.euowrc/10.euowrc_fi/02.fi_ewrc.htm

Bert Bjarland, leader of AWARE Male Chapter:

“A profeminist men's movement is not an anti-men movement but is aware of the need to **deconstruct male gender & male heterosexual hegemony & dominance in order to achieve its goals. “**

Comment to readers: Incidentally, AWARE's Constitution never had a “Male Chapter”. Male Chapter was setup without approval from any General Meetings.

Constance Singam, President of AWARE speaks at Pride Singapore

Advertised in AWARE's newsletter, Aug 2008:

Indignation 2008: Queer women within feminist Singapore

Singapore's 4th annual Pride Season is coming again this month, hosting a variety of events. One such event is a talk given by AWARE's president, Ms. Constance Singam. She will shed some light on the place of queer women within the feminist movement. Talking about political and historical context, difficulties negotiating for respect and diversity, her personal experiences and the future, this talk is not to be missed.

Date: Saturday, 16 August 2008

Time: 7:30pm, Venue: 72-13, Cost: FREE

Comment to readers: Pride Season is the Singapore nation-level Gay Celebration

Invites Alex Au to give talks to women on HIV

AWARE report

Talk on HIV in Aug 2005:

In summing up , to battle HIV infections, within both the gay community and women, perhaps the approach which should be taken should include the following:

- Cautious use of legislation to deal with deliberate criminal (defined very carefully) transmission of HIV
- Decriminalization of homosexuality which might then lead to greater openness and willingness among the closeted gay community to come forward for testing.



Comment to readers: Alex Au, a local gay activist, is neither a medical professional, or an expert in health.

On Comprehensive Sexuality Education - Advocating Homosexuality

2009 AGM Election Speech by Mathia Lee, AWARE Ordinary Member and a Comprehensive Sexual Education trainer:

- **“we provide the (CSE) workshop for these students, 20 at a time, and we reach them for 3 hours at a time”**
- **“But for the rest of the year, 300 days, there are teachers who are telling them that homosexuality is wrong... and that’s not really what we want”**
- **What we are going on to do next is to do teachers’ workshop.**
- **We want to be able to change the mindsets of people who influence other people**

On Comprehensive Sexuality Education

15 schools outreached by Comprehensive Sexual Education (Year 2008)

AWARE's CSE Trainers in 2008 includes:

- **Mathia Lee**
- **Tan Joo Hymn**
(Founding member of local LGBT website "SAFE" website)

**Target audience:
School children, 12-18 yrs old**

**COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

*Extracts from
Trainer Manual*

The following are statements about each word that trainers can use to explain why the words should be in this particular category.

- 1. Anal sex** – can be **healthy or neutral** if practiced with consent and with a condom.
Pre-marital sex – people might place pre-marital sex as negative, but it **is really neutral**. The key is whether the couple is aware of the consequences and responsibilities and is ready for them. Sex with girls under 14 with or without consent, is considered as statutory rape. Sex with girls under 16, with or without consent, is considered as carnal connection.”

Homosexual – people have different preferences for their partners.

Homosexuality is perfectly **normal**.

Comment to readers: That homosexuality is normal is still being debated. However, the CSE presents only a single view. “Neutral” suggests “ok”. Why is sex practice taught and promoted to this age group if sex with girls under 16 is illegal?

**Target audience:
School children, 12-18 yrs old**

**COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL
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CSE TRAINERS TO NOTE:

Avoid using the term 'husband' and use 'partner' instead, so it is more inclusive, e.g. homosexuals have partners, not 'husbands'.

CSE TRAINERS TO TEACH THAT BELOW STATEMENT IS FALSE:

Homosexuality is unnatural.

For a homosexual, heterosexuality may seem unnatural. We do not know what causes homosexuality, or heterosexuality for that matter.

Some scientific studies show people are born like this.

CSE TRAINERS TO TEACH THAT BELOW STATEMENT IS FALSE:

The chances of homosexuality increase because of childhood trauma, e.g. child sex abuse

**Target audience:
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If you are using sex toys, still use some form of protection, e.g. place a condom over a dildo and clean it as instructed.



Singapore Community Resource List

Version 7.0

New Groups Added:

- TwoQueensParty
- FCC women

General Resources

Pelangi Pride Centre

Community space and Library that operates out of Bianco (above Mox Bar and Café at 21 Tanjong Pagar Rd, #04-01). It is open every Saturday from 4 to 8pm. Events are run every 2nd Saturday of the month.

www.pelangipridecentre.org
contact@pelangipridecentre.org

People Like Us (PLU)

A gay activism and advocacy group

www.plu.sg/main/

Fridae.com

Gay asian commercial site that has articles and resources for gay Asians.

www.fridae.com

SAFE Singapore

Supporting And Empowering our lgbtQ friends and family - this group aims to provide a safe space for families and friends of gay persons to seek support, care and friendship.

www.safesingapore.blogspot.com

Target audience: School children, 12-18 yrs old

Instructions: Generate words related to sexuality and sex and categorize into positive / neutral / negative

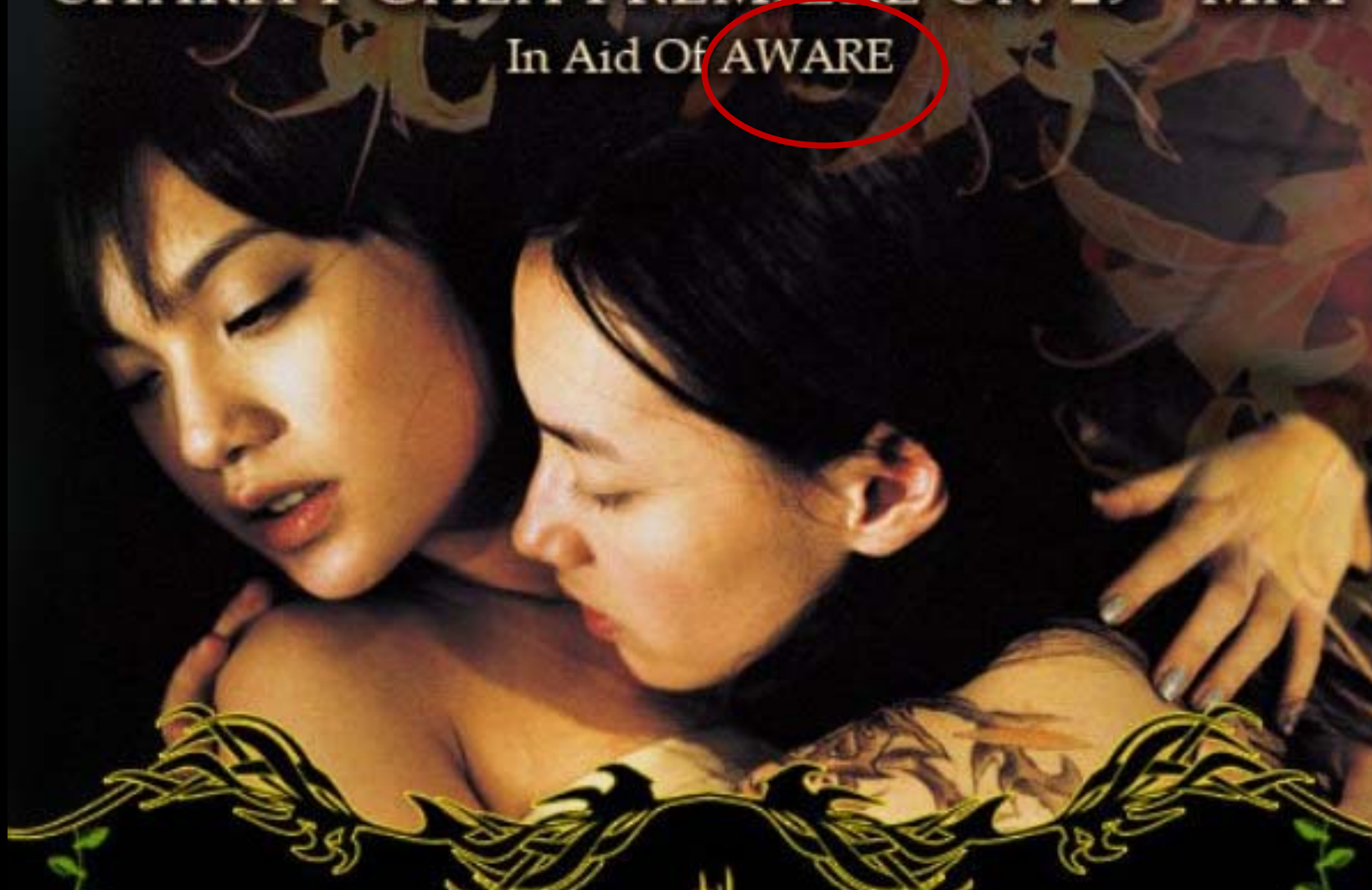
Recommended answer:

**ICE –BREAKER
USED IN AWARE
COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Positive	Neutral	Negative
Pleasure	Homosexual	Pain
Fun	Sexy	Teenage pregnancy
Orgasm	Pre-marital	Rape
Love	Anal sex	Violence
Foreplay	Virginity	Drugs
Condom	Pill	HIV / AID
		Sexually Transmitted Infections
		Power

CHARITY GALA PREMIERE ON 29TH MAY

In Aid Of AWARE



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SPIDER LILIES

Constance Singam,

In response to parent's complaint on
AWARE Lesbian themed movie, *Spider
Lilies*:

*“We embrace diversity and individual choices, and are glad Singapore is now more open to discussing diversity. That films such as **Spider Lilies** and **Brokeback Mountain** have been or are being screened is a reflection of this more open and, hence, more healthy situation.”*

(28 May 2007)

AWARE Events:

In Celebration of Mother's Day, 2006: Invites lesbian-friendly mothers and lesbian daughters to talk about their experience



***Male Chapter, 2008:
AWARE invites Bert Bartland, a
Finnish gender activist to start
the Men's Group for AWARE.
Wants men and expatriates to
have voting rights in AWARE.***

AWARE Events:

Constance spoke of membership recruitment in the month of July 2008, and also publicize at AWARE newsletters of her outreach to Queer Women at SGButterflies.

Issues by New EXCO with Staff Secretariat

- **EXCO email accounts deactivated / hacked (16 Apr)**
- **Bandwidth tempered with, causing website to be down (around 18 Apr)**
- **Outsourced IT company refused to take instructions except from Constance Singam and Old Guards though their contract is with AWARE (around 22 Apr)**
- **Prospective members could not register properly on website, some who registered were recorded with wrong gender or membership type**

Intimidation from activists



20 APRIL 2009

Operation Leper: Lois Ng & Studio You

Lois Ng was part of the group of 9 who took over the AWARE executive committee with the help of more than 100 surprise new members at its April AGM, in a non-transparent and hostile takeover that has extended to a full scale purge of key sub-committees and a communications lockdown in the organisation.

Operation Leper monitors who they are working for, which voluntary, social, or welfare organisations and enterprises they join, and who hires them - and suggests you too can exercise your power as a citizen to oppose and impose sanctions on the group of 9.

Lois Ng is a social entrepreneur who set up [Studio You](#). The outfit is a registered private company operating in the charity/welfare sphere, employing people with disabilities to make products, which are then sold commercially at various places.

Illusio: Operation Leper: Lois Ng & Studio You