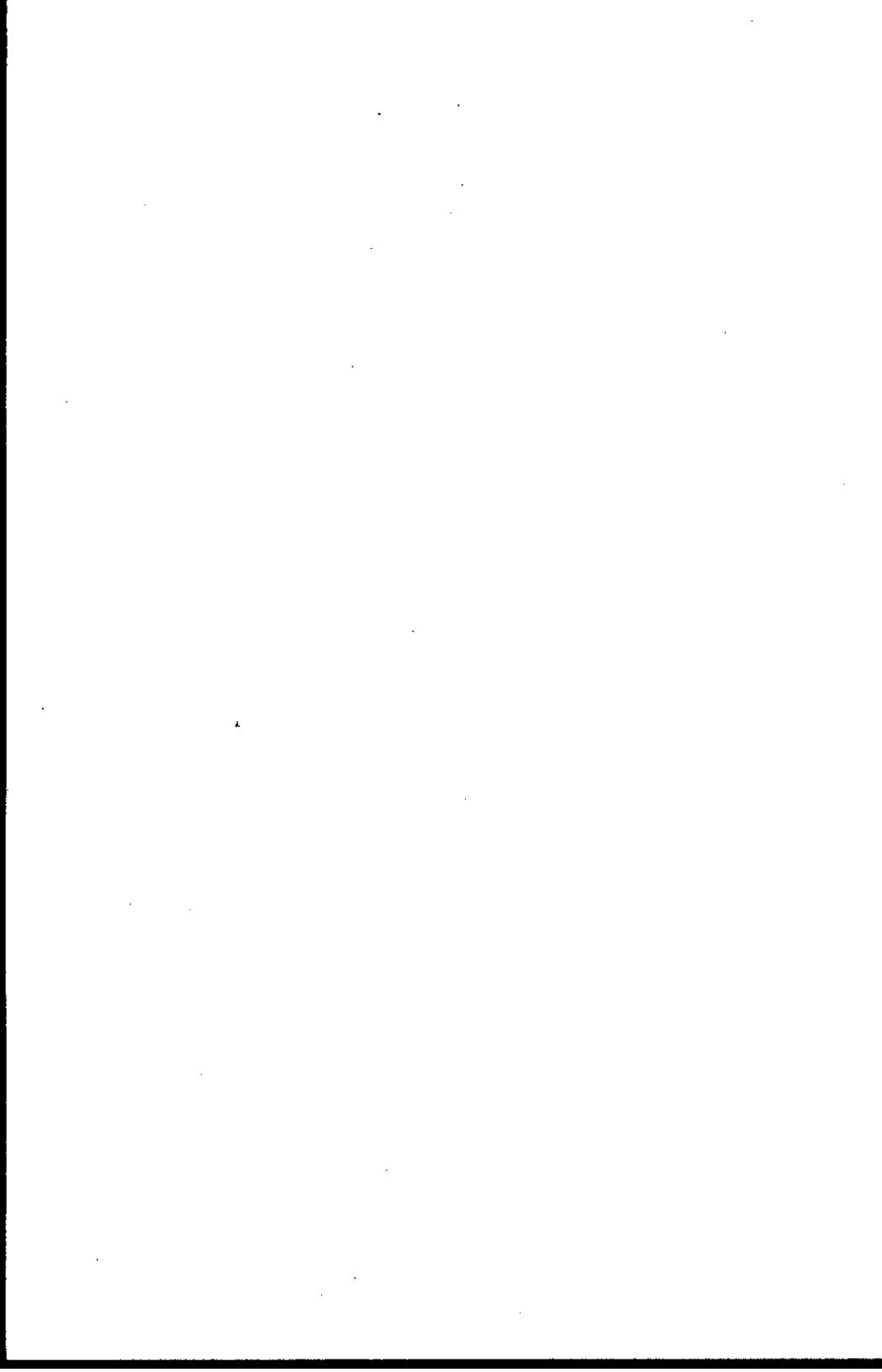


**a second collection  
of radical queer moments...**



# the stories this far:

(in no particular order)

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\* these moments in queer history are not subject to chronological order. The decision not to arrange things in such an order is intentional. Chronology suggests things have come and gone where we believe many things continue to be very much present and important. Chronological order also often suggests progress, and I do not believe moving forward, when the world is so fucking backwards, is a step in the right direction...

Greetings!

It has been neat to travel across the united states and canada seeing the first edition of this zine popping up here and there. The montreal anarchist bookfaire, the wooden shoe in philly, punk house bathrooms, queer collective libraries, college women and gender studies lounges. It has always been fun to see where these liberated copy machine historiographies end up...

But it makes me think more and more about the question, who is history for? Why go through the trouble of meticulous research, editing, formatting and printing? Why does this project feel so important for me, and who else is going to care enough to read this? And even if someone does read this, what does it activate?

I see young (and old) gays all around me obsessing over gay marriage as if its going to cure AIDS, stop anti-queer violence, provide all of us uninsured queers with health care, and reform racist immigration policies. When in reality it will simply consolidate power, money and property amongst already privileged gays, not to mention champion coupling over more dynamic ways of being in relationships. I cant help but think that if us younger queers had access to the radical histories we have all come from, we could see other more brilliant queer futures than those promised by my neoliberal models of inclusivity. The same models that push those of us at the furthest margins, queers of color, crip queers, HIV+ queers, trans folks, sex workers, homeless queers, working class queers, etc., even further away...

Perhaps if we put these memories in action we can see the struggle for mainstream heteronormacy as inherently violent and destructive to our queer cultural heritage. If these memories were put into action, perhaps queer teenagers would resist the gay marriage boot camps being rammed down their throats by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign and demand safer schools, safer housing and direct access to culturally competent sex education and safer sex supplies instead. If these memories were in action, maybe we could be looking to dismantle the military industrial complex, not joining it. If these memories were in action, maybe we would be making queer families in infinite combinations of lovers and friends. If these memories were put into action, perhaps we could adequately challenge Obama's new HIV/AIDS prevention campaign that is nearly devoid of queer content even though queer men (particularly of color) account for roughly 75% of new HIV infections in the united states. Can our radical queer histories really provide the necessary ground from which to make our most radical dreams and desires a reality? I don't know... But this is a place for me to work from and hopefully others too.

And again, this 'zine is not an attempt at a complete and definitive radical queer history, although it includes 8 more pages of information than the last version. Such a goal is neither possible nor desirable. Also, this zine is not all original work. A lot of the pieces are gathered from here and there, plagiarized at will to shed some light on our histories that are all to often hidden, distorted, erased, and lost. Replicate at will, photocopy like crazy, and teach each other. We've got lots of learning to do!

Thanks again to friends and family, in the queerest sense of the word, for helping put together pages, researching, editing and printing this project! Out of the closets, and into the libraries!

with heart -- conrad!

# IT'S TIME TO END THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT AS WE KNOW IT

*lets deal with real issues!!!*

***Queer to the Left*** is a Chicago-based multi-racial group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people committed to working in coalition with queers and non-queers to promote economic, gender, racial, and sexual justice. Our current work focuses on building affordable housing and promoting fair community development that does not undermine important community institutions; fighting to abolish the death penalty; and fighting against US war making.



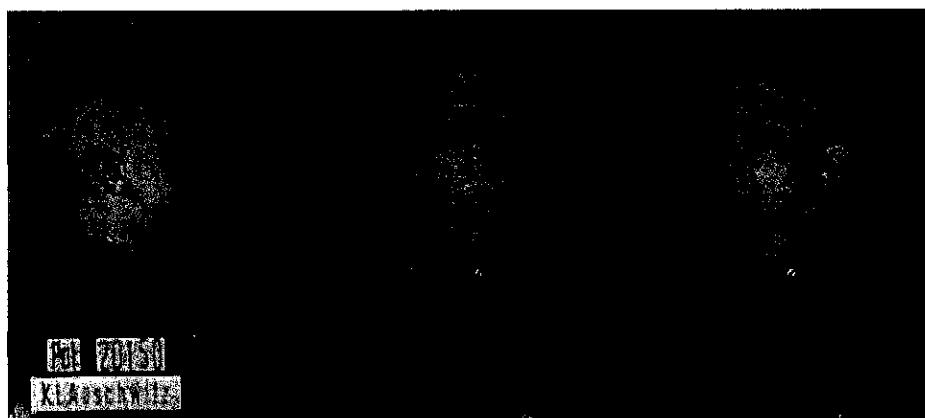


Before the beginning of World War II, homosexuals in Germany, especially in Berlin, enjoyed more freedom and acceptance than anywhere else in the world. However, upon the rise of Adolf Hitler, gay men and, to a lesser extent, lesbians, were two of several groups targeted by the Nazi Party. Beginning in 1933, gay organizations were banned, scholarly books about homosexuality, and sexuality in general, were burned, and homosexuals within the Nazi Party itself were murdered. The Gestapo compiled lists of homosexuals, and they were compelled to sexually conform to the German norm. More than one million homosexuals were targeted, and at least 100,000 were imprisoned under the policy of "Extermination Through Work". German soldiers also were known to use gay men for target practice, aiming their weapons at the pink triangles their human targets were forced to wear. Estimated deaths of gay men imprisoned in concentration camps vary from 15,000 to 600,000. Homosexuals in camps were treated in an unusually cruel manner by their captors, and were also persecuted by their fellow inmates. This was a factor in the relatively high death rate for homosexuals, compared to other "anti-social groups".

An account of a gay Holocaust survivor, Pierre Seel, details life for gay men during Nazi control. In his account he states that he participated in his local gay community in the town of Mulhouse. When the Nazis

gained power over the town his name was on a list of local gay men ordered to the police station. He obeyed the directive to protect his family from any retaliation. Upon arriving at the police station he notes that he and other gay men were beaten. Some gay men who resisted the SS had their fingernails pulled out. Others were raped with broken rulers and had their bowels punctured, causing them to bleed profusely. After his arrest he was sent to the concentration camp at Schirmeck. There, Seel stated that during a morning roll-call, the Nazi commander announced a public execution. A man was brought out, and Seel recognized his face. It was the face of his eighteen-year-old lover from Mulhouse. Seel then claims that the Nazi guards stripped the clothes of his lover and placed a metal bucket over his head. Then the guards released trained German Shepherd dogs on him, which mauled him to death.

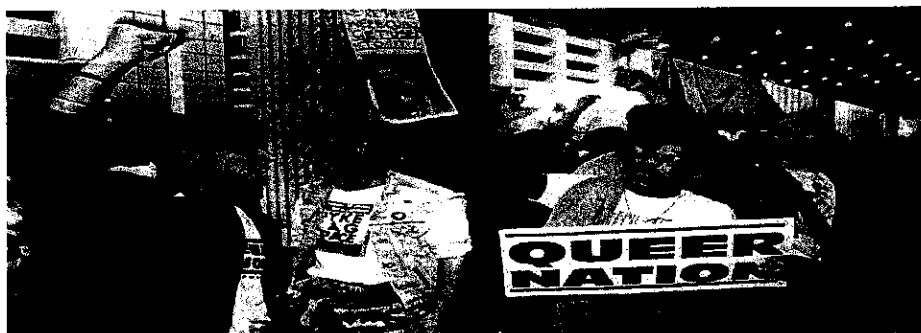
After the war, the treatment of homosexuals in concentration camps went unacknowledged by most countries, and most men were even re-arrested and imprisoned based on evidence found during the Nazi years. They were forced to serve out their sentence for being homosexuals under paragraph 175. It was not until the 1980s that governments acknowledged this episode, and not until 2002 that the German government apologized to the gay community. This period still provokes controversy, however; and in 2005, when the European Parliament drafted a resolution regarding the Holocaust, mention of the persecution of homosexuals was removed after debate.



# the LESBIAN AVENGERS



The Lesbian Avengers was originally founded in New York in 1992 by a group of lesbian activists from ACT-UP. The purpose of the group is to identify and promote lesbian issues and perspectives while empowering lesbians to become experienced organizers who can participate in political rebellion. The Avengers are inclusive and work with and for women of all colors and classes; bisexual, heterosexual, and queer women; and trans and intersex folks. Emphasis is placed highly on turning energy into action, and using that energy constructively against heterosexist, homophobic, heteronormative, classist, racist, sexist, and generally oppressive forces and institutions in society and our own community. There are about fifty-five Lesbian Avenger chapters, five of them international. There is no national organization or structure, and each chapter is locally founded and operated. Each chapter of the Lesbian Avengers works in collaboration on major events like the annual Dyke March and larger, national protests, as well as in coalition with other progressive groups in their communities. Turn energy into action. "Be the bomb you throw."



Queer Nation was founded in March 1990 in New York City, USA by activists from ACT-UP. The four founders were outraged at the escalation of anti-gay and lesbian violence on the streets and prejudice in the arts and media. One of the four was a survivor of anti-gay violence.

On March 20, 1990, sixty queers gathered at the Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in New York's Greenwich Village to create a direct-action organization. The goal of the unnamed organization was the elimination of homophobia, and the increase of gay, lesbian and bisexual visibility through a variety of tactics.

The direct-action group's inaugural action took place at Flutie's Bar, a straight hangout at the South Street Sea Port on April 13, 1990. The goal: to make clear to patrons that queers will not be restricted to gay bars for socializing and for public displays of affection. More visibility actions like this one became known as "Queer Nights Out."

Although the name Queer Nation had been used casually since the group's inception, it was officially approved at the group's general meeting on May 17, 1990.

Queer Nation's popular slogan "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it." was adopted and used by many in the LGBT community. Aside from its militant protest style, as opposed to the more reformist gay rights organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign or the Log Cabin Republicans, Queer Nation was most effective and powerful in the early 1990s in the USA, and used direct action to fight for gay rights. They also worked with AIDS organization ACT-UP as well as WHAM! and were the birthplace of Queer Action Figures. Even though never officially disbanded, most sources agree that Queer Nation no longer exists.

Queer Nation is credited with starting the process of reclaiming the word queer, which, previously, was only used in a pejorative sense and Queer Nation's use of it in their name and slogan was at first considered shocking.

Queer Nation is also linked to several controversial incidents in which closeted public figures were outed as gay or lesbian. Queer Nation's reasoning was that ending this "hypocrisy" benefited gays as a group because it let them know there actually were gay people in influential places, and promoted gay rights by forcing the outed and the organizations they belonged to take a stance on issues concerning gays. Many in the gay community did not agree with Queer Nation's radical tactics and favored a more assimilationist course of action.

# Queer Liberation Army

The Queer Liberation Army formed as a spontaneous reaction to the growing political and cultural backlash against queers in America. We are here to liberate this country's queers from a far right bent on destroying them, a Democratic party willing to blame them, and a mainstream gay/lesbian movement willing to give up on basic human rights for all queers in exchange for marriage rights for some. We will achieve our aims through the creative use of mass media, demonstrations, non-violent direct actions, the speaking of truth, the use of humor in a bleak world, the pursuit of pleasures as multiple as we are, and a fabulously queer style in the face of ugliness. We also seek to strengthen and build alliances with other movements for social justice that are sympathetic to our mission.

The current threat to queers doesn't come just from right wing evangelicals and neo-conservative politicians, however. The Democratic Party has also declared open season on queers. Immediately following the latest Democratic party electoral debacle, Dianne Feinstein (D, CA) said that same sex marriage "gives (conservatives) a position to rally around. The whole issue has been too much, too fast, too soon. People aren't ready for it." John Kerry's co-chair of gay and lesbian outreach, Jeff Trammell, concluded that "(t)he big lesson... (is) figuring out how to talk about issues in a way where you're not for or against gay people." The real lesson of this election is that there's little point in queers supporting political parties that have absolutely no ethical commitment to providing human rights to all American citizens. The Dems have no vision of social justice in this country or for the world. They support the war, the military economy and the current systems of class, race, and gender/sex hierarchies. To paraphrase Gore Vidal, the U.S. continues to have a one party system with two right wings. The Queer Liberation Army asks all queers to stop blindly following the Democrats (roughly 75% of gay and lesbian voters supported John Kerry – a candidate who has done little to extend the rights of queers in this country – in the most recent presidential election) and to demand real representation by parties and candidates that support human rights for all, not just the rights of wealthy, white, married, heterosexuals.

The Queer Liberation Army has also formed as an alternative to mainstream gay and lesbian organizations which are increasingly conservative in their approach. By focusing almost exclusively on the issue of same sex marriage, mainstream gay/lesbian organizations have ignored the needs of most queers and worse, supported the current sex/gender apartheid by agreeing that the only valuable relationships are those that mimic the heterosexual marriage models. The fact that a number of mainstream gay/lesbian organizations are currently courting the likes of ex-New Jersey governor James McGreevey – who throughout his career sought to benefit from the trappings of heterosexual marriage while doing little for

the queer community - as a potential public face is but one recent example of how misguided the actions of many mainstream gay organizations have become.

The Queer Liberation Army hereby declares war on the far right, the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, mainstream gay and lesbian organizations and anyone else who blocks full equality for queers.

**These are our demands:**

We demand that rights and privileges be detached from marital status, and that family relationships be defined by the people in them, not the state. People's rights in relation to health insurance, social security benefits, hospital visitation, inheritance, child custody, adoption, and other issues should not be determined by their willingness or ability to participate in a fundamentally unequal system such as marriage.

We demand that all children be allowed to learn about their bodies and sexual health unfettered by political and religious doctrines that turn pleasure into shame and well-being into disease.

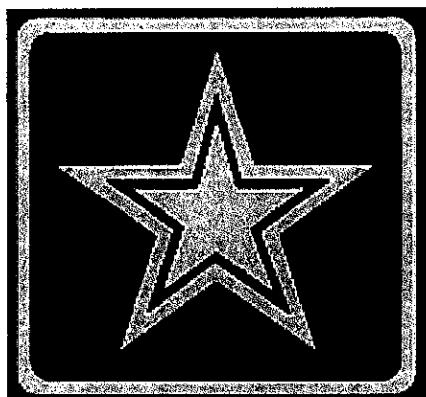
We demand that the medical and psychiatric professions stop enforcing sex/gender apartheid through the creation of false diseases and the denial of medical care.

We demand an end to anti-queer violence and intimidation.

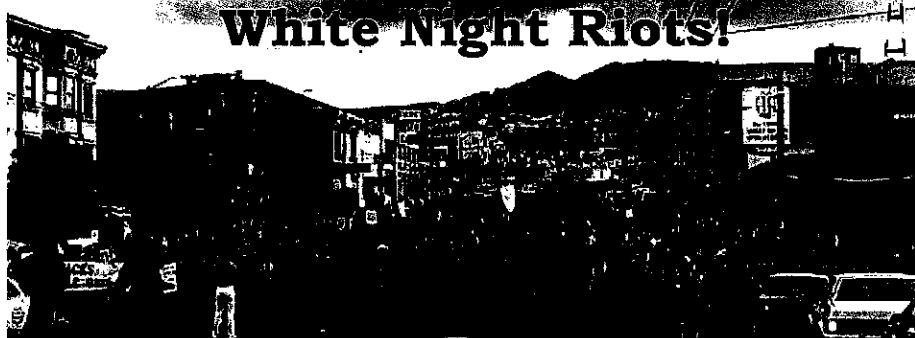
We demand full equality in all spheres of American life.

The Queer Liberation Army is fighting to unite all of us into an army of queers—a mass of people willing to live- not die or kill- so that human diversity can prosper.

The U.S. Army wants you for their unjust war in Iraq, but why be cannon fodder when you can join the Queer Liberation Army and fight for peace, justice, truth, and pleasure.



# White Night Riots!



## Timeline...

*10 Nov 1978* - Dan White resigns his elected position on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors.

*27 Nov 1978* - Dan White entered San Francisco City Hall through a basement window, went upstairs, and shot and killed Mayor George Moscone and Gay Activist/Supervisor Harvey Milk.

*May 1979* - Psychiatrist Martin Blinder testified in court that White had been depressed, which led to eating junk food: Twinkies and Coca-Cola. This further deepened White's depression, since he was an ex-athlete and knew that the food was not good for him. This was evidence of his depression that prompted his murder spree. This celebrated diagnosis became known as the "Twinkie defense."

White's depression was used to establish grounds for a successful diminished capacity plea; and therefore White was judged incapable of the premeditation required for a murder conviction.

*21 May 1979* - Dan White is convicted of the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter and is sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison. The queer community revolts...

a personal account:

As evening approached, a crowd gathered at Castro and Market. We were angry. We wanted the world to know we were angry. We took over Castro Street and stood around with no idea of what we should do. Eventually the crowd moved into the intersection of Castro and Market.

Traffic came to a standstill. There were only a few policemen present and they did nothing more than observe the scene. As time passed, the crowd grew larger, eventually exceeding 1000. TV News trucks arrived. More police arrived. Amid the shouting and whistle blowing, there were shouts from the crowd. "CITY HALL" became the rallying cry.

We began moving down Market toward City Hall, getting louder, growing larger, picking up momentum. The crowd had become huge by the time we reached the Civic Center. There was nothing to do, no one addressed the group, no one gave any instructions. But something had to happen. We were much too angry to just end the demonstration. Some people near the entrance began pulling the wrought iron grillwork off the doors and using the pieces to break the glass. One person was seen entering through a broken basement window. They started a fire using papers on the desk in the room. City Hall was trashed. Several hundred police in riot gear stood in formation at the corner, watching the activity, but they were not allowed to respond, a wise decision on the part of the administration. For some reason they had parked police cars at the other end of the block. No one really wanted to destroy City Hall. They just wanted to make a statement. However, when the Activists went after the cars, cheers of approval came from the crowd. A dozen police cars were torched. Car horns and sirens from the burning cars added a chaotic note to the smoky night air.

Seemingly appeased, some began heading back to the Castro. Others feared the inevitable retaliation and hurried off into the night. At some point after the crowd thinned, the police were unleashed, and heads began to roll. Battles erupted everywhere and many fought back valiantly. Tree limbs and parking meters and pieces of asphalt were used as weapons. These were queers fighting for what they believed in. Police suffered nearly as many casualties as the resistance. The people were eventually driven from the Civic Center and the slower ones suffered the wrath of the overzealous officers. They pushed people down to Market Street where many store windows had already been broken.

Castro street was full of people relating stories, debating the issues, licking wounds. After Midnight dozens of police arrived. They had been humiliated earlier and were here to even the score. They gathered at Market and started moving the crowd down toward 18th. We were in no mood to comply. Many of them weren't wearing badges or name tags!

They came to our neighborhood to get even. They formed a line and moved us half way down the block. It became evident to all, even to those who had stayed in the Castro and away from the riot; WE WERE AT WAR WITH THE POLICE!



People came from every direction to join the resistance and we moved the invading forces right back up to the corner. They appeared to be leaving but they somehow regrouped at the corner of 18th and Castro. We stood and watched as they marched into the Elephant Walk, smashing windows, doors, tables, chairs, bottles, and peoples' heads. Some victims needed to be hospitalized. These police were vicious. They were out for blood.

The rioting police cost the City a fortune in Lawsuits and Investigations. The FBI even looked into it. We had no reason to apologize for our

action. We had been pushed beyond our ability to swallow any more hatred and we did what we had to do.

*6 Jan 1984* - Dan White is paroled from Soledad Prison after serving 5 years and 1 month in prison. White's release was carried out with great secrecy. The afternoon before his scheduled release, he was transferred 200 miles south to a facility in the Tehachapi Mountains north of Los Angeles. The next morning, he was handed over to the Los Angeles Parole Department that had arranged an apartment for him somewhere in LA.

Several protests were held in San Francisco the day of Dan White's release from Soledad Prison including a rally at Union Square where some speakers called for the public to punish White, while others expressed their hope for his death.

*Jan 1985* - After serving his year of parole time in Los Angeles, White was allowed to return to San Francisco. Mayor Diane Feinstein publicly asked him not to return to The City, but he did.

*21 Oct 1985* - With a garden hose hooked up to the exhaust pipe of his 1970 Buick Le Sabre, Dan White commits suicide in his garage.



Destination centre d'achat, clinique de beauté? À l'inverse des milliers de gais et lesbiennes qui marchent gentiment dans la direction indiquée par les leaders, les Panthères roses et toujours plus de monde ont décidé désormais de désobéir à ça. Au capitalisme rose. À l'hétérosociété. Aux règles des genres binaires. À toutes les lois ennemis de la liberté, de l'égalité. Et aux ennemis d'une Terre verte, sans frontière étatique et sans frontière sexuelle.

\*\*\*\*\*

Heading for the shopping mall, or the salon? The Pink Panthers and, as time progresses, many others, have decided to march in the opposite direction from the thousands of gays and lesbians who are apathetically following the leaders. The Pink Panthers have decided to not obey. Disobey pink capitalism. Hetero-society. Binary gender rules. To disobey all laws that are enemies to liberty and equality. To disobey the enemies of a green earth, and to defy borders and sexual frontiers.

**Naughty North** is a movement not a market! We are committed to celebrating our queerest selves while resisting the devastating violence inherent in the consumer driven assimilationist gaystream. We will defend ourselves against the brutal silence of isolation thru a diverse and dedicated network of action oriented friends and lovers. We will not deny our anger or fail to recognize the links between queer struggle and challenging power. Naughty North is a defiant orgasm in the face of oppression: all are welcome to get off with us!

- 2007

# NAUGHTY NORTH!

## Points of Unity

- We will build friendships and alliances across urban and rural boundaries, celebrating our diversity and micro-cultures while breaking down isolation. Through campouts, work parties, dance parties, sleepovers, farm days, etc, we will create and share a positive queer experience.
- We will not only critique targets like corporations, but we will also expose inconsistencies within our social groups and so-called "communities", in order to grow more toward our radical ideals. Whenever possible, we will use theatrics, humor and satire to communicate and to critique ourselves.
- Fighting racism, classism, misogyny, heterosexism, transphobia, ableism, capitalism and all other hierarchies is a central purpose of Naughty North, not an add-on. We will work to create a space where radical queers can challenge these hierarchies and build alliances with other oppressed peoples willing to struggle with us.
- We are committed to inter-generational struggle. Radical queer history has been systematically distorted, erased and disappeared by the AIDS genocide and fear. We will re-learn and teach these histories to inform our present and push the boundaries of a new queer activism.
- We will confront notions of shame from both the Christian Right and the mainstream gay and lesbian community.
- Assimilation is death through erasure. We oppose all forms of assimilation, especially gay marriage and inclusion in the military industrial complex.
- Our (direct) actions will not only be fierce and critical, but fun and empowering.
- We will create a radical presence at queer events and a queer presence at radical events.

<http://thenaughtynorth.blogspot.com>

# Prisoner Correspondence Project

The Prisoner Correspondence Project is a collectively-run initiative based out of Montreal, Quebec. It coordinates a direct-correspondence program for gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, gendervariant, two-spirit, intersex, bisexual and queer inmates in Canada and the United States, linking these inmates with people a part of these same communities outside of prison. In addition, it coordinates a resource library of information regarding harm reduction practice (safer sex, safer drug-use, clean needle care), HIV and HEPC prevention, homophobia, transphobia, coming out, etc. The project also aims to reinstate prisoner justice and prisoner solidarity as a priority within queer movements on the outside through events like film screenings, workshops, and panel discussions which touch on the broader issues relating to criminalization and incarceration of queers and transfolk.

The Prisoner Correspondence Project is a working group of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at Concordia University.



<http://prisoner correspondence project.wordpress.com>

## **Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism (QUIT!)**

was founded in early 2001 by members of LAGAI-Queer Insurrection and individuals formerly associated with DAGGER (Dykes & Gay Guys Emergency Response), which was active during the first Gulf War.[citation needed] According to the Anti-Defamation League, the group "supports divestment, the right of return for all Palestinians, immediate Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories and describes Zionism as racism."



\* February, 2002--QUIT! participated in the National Student Conference of the Palestine Solidarity Movement on the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

\* June, 2002--QUIT! "initiated" a " 'No pride in occupation' anti-war contingent that marched in solidarity with the Palestinian people" in San Francisco's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride March.

\* August, 2002--25 members of the group reportedly "took over" a Starbucks in Berkeley in protest of the firm's stores in Israel and CEO Howard Shultz support for Israel.[1]

\* June, 2003--The screening of an Israeli film, Yossi & Jagger, at San Francisco's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is disrupted by QUIT! activists. The protest "outraged" Yossi Amrani, the Israeli Consul General and caused a minor local media flap.

\* June, 2003--QUIT! begins its campaign against the cosmetic company Estée Lauder outside of a Macy's department store in San Francisco. The company is targeted because of Ronald Lauder's, the company's founder, support for Israel and his service as president of the Jewish National Fund.



### Why do we call ourselves the RHA?

“Beware the Radical Homosexual Agenda!” That’s the Right Wing’s rallying cry. It’s meant to conjure a legion of pink-clad, poly-loving, left-of-left queers who are threatening to invade Small Town America. Well, that description sounds sort of nice to us, too, actually. Except for the invasion part—’cause we’re also anti-imperialist. And besides, we’ve been in those small towns and everywhere else all along.

### Who is the RHA?

We’re queer folks of diverse ages and backgrounds who are based in the New York City metropolitan area. We’re gender-queers and run-of-the-mill homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals.

### What is the RHA all about?

If you listen to the Human Rights Campaign or the liberal politicians, you’d think all queers wanted to sign their life away to Uncle Sam or get “married” and have kids. But queer liberation reaches way beyond these issues.

The queer liberation groups of the 60s and 70s had much broader social visions. They were anti-war, they fought for economic rights and agitated for free speech and a greater vision of democracy.

In the downsizing of our dreams that occurred during the last several decades, mainstream LGBTQ groups have forgotten these connections. They’d rather feed queer soldiers to Bush’s war than fight the military-industrial complex. They forget that, even more than marriage, the majority of queers also need affordable housing and health care. And this is convenient for these groups and politicians, since they’re underwritten by corporations whose very existences are threatened by steps towards economic equality and a more egalitarian democracy.

# Gran Fury

was an activist/artist collective that came together in 1988. The group was formed as a spin-off from the original group ACT UP. They took the name Gran Fury as it was the specific Plymouth model used by the New York Police Department. The name was also meant to reference their anger towards the police. The group was formed as ACT UP's unofficial project, and used the same strategies as a protest group.

Gran Fury did not have a formal structure, but had a strong sense of unity towards the AIDS pandemic. The group was formed to address the lack of action towards finding a cure for AIDS. The group was formed as an affinity group within ACT UP, and had their own publication, "LET THE RECORD SHINE". The group had members from ACT UP coming together as an art collective. The publication included a full color version of the Silence=Death flag, and a already existing version of the Silence=DEATH, however, under the title "Silence=DEATH". The group also created silhouettes of "AIDS criminals" - political figures who had done nothing surrounding or misrepresented the AIDS issue. The quote "Silence=DEATH" is a quote from each person's own perspective on the AIDS crisis that shows their view on AIDS. The lead figure in the quote is the president of the time, Ronald Reagan. His quote was "I have done my best to represent his years of silence on the AIDS issue".

They also aimed to push various individuals, such as Ronald Reagan, New York Mayor at the time Ed Koch, and John Cardinal O'Connor to address the AIDS pandemic in more practical, open way, as well as to inform the public on the importance of safer sex and clean needles. Often their works, originally acted as posters and were used in collaboration with the still existing group ACT UP. By the early and mid-1990's the group had found it hard to make simple works surrounding the AIDS issue, and had starting using more text which had made it hard for the group to shock and relay their messages as effectively as before. In 1994, after the death of member Mark Simpson, the group disbanded.



Bash Back! formed in 2007 with a small group of Radical Transfolk, Queers and Allies organizing against the Republican National Convention. In April of 2008 over 100 radical Trans/Queer/Allied folk met in Chicago to formulate plans against the RNC/DNC and to start a long lasting network. Anyone who agrees with the Points of Unity can start a Bash Back! Chapter.

In November of 2008 Bash Back! folks infiltrated the Mount Hope Church, an anti-queer mega church in Lansing Michigan, disrupting services with screaming, banner dropping, glitter throwing, fire alarm pulling and of course, smooching. Soon after the action the group received tons of press calling out the Mount Hope Church on their participation in ex-gay ministries, "hell houses", and other anti-queer doings.

### POINTS OF UNITY

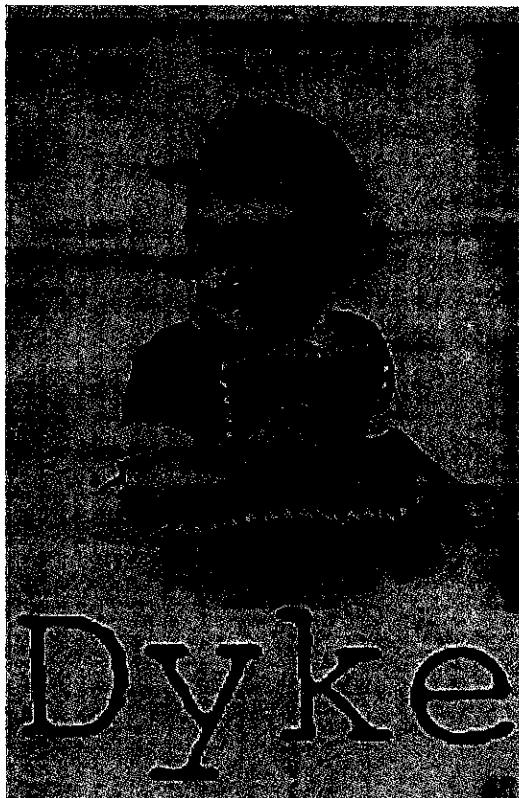
Members of Bash Back! must agree to:

1. Fight for liberation. Nothing more, nothing less. State recognition in the form of oppressive institutions such as marriage and militarism are not steps toward liberation but rather towards heteronormative assimilation.
2. A rejection of Capitalism, Imperialism, and all forms of State power.
3. Actively oppose oppression both in and out of the "movement." All oppressive behavior is not to be tolerated.
4. Respect a diversity of tactics in the struggle for liberation. Do not solely condemn an action on the grounds that the State deems it to be illegal.

Active in New York City from 1991 to 1995, fierce pussy was composed of a fluid and often-shifting cadre of dykes. Adamantly low-tech, fast and low-budget, fierce pussy relied on modest resources: old typewriters, found photographs, their own baby pictures, and whatever material they could get donated. Much of the work was produced using the equipment at their day jobs. Emerging during a decade steeped in the AIDS crisis, activism, and queer identity politics, fierce pussy brought lesbian identity directly out into the streets in a manner characterized by the urgency of those years.

## FIERCE PUSSY COLLECTIVE

fierce pussy wheatpasted their posters and printed and distributed stickers and t-shirts throughout the city. Their other projects included re-designing the bathroom at the Gay and Lesbian Center, a greeting card campaign directed against the policies of Cardinal O'Connor and Senator D'Amato, and a moving billboard/truck. For Gay Pride 1991, fierce pussy renamed streets along the parade route after prominent lesbian heroines using stenciled and spray-painted street signs.



# LAGAI - Queer Insurrection

<http://www.lagai.org>

## Who We Are

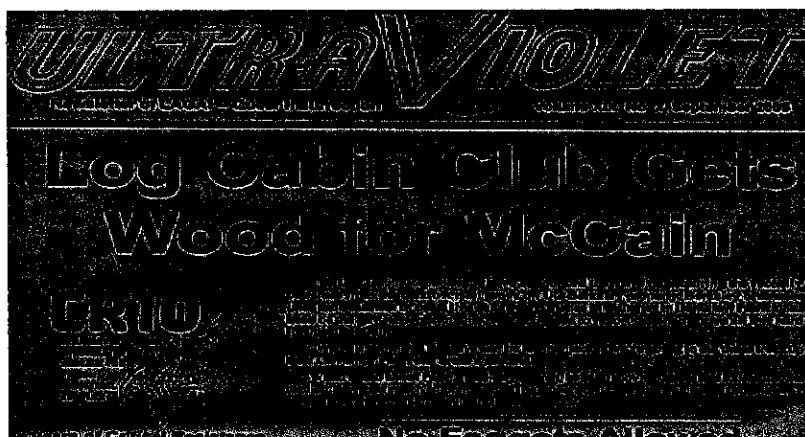
We are a small independent radical queer activist group. We started in 1983 as Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention and have been through a bunch of name changes, but kept our acronym, even though no one can figure out what it stands for any more. We are so grassroots, you almost can't find the root. We get no grants (well, okay, we got two small grants from Resist about five years ago), have no staff, don't lobby, don't try to control the gay movement. We work on local San Francisco/Bay Area issues and national and international issues. We are the proud publishers of UltraViolet, an every-other-monthly free newspaper.

## What We Believe

We are anti-authoritarian, anti-militarist, pro-feminist and anti-racist, and we demand that queer issues never be put on the back burner. We will accept nothing less than full civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, but we believe some rights are not worth fighting for. We do not think queers or straights should be in the military of a society like the u.s., or probably any government, and we feel that the queer liberation position is to oppose marriage as the central institution of patriarchy, not to try to get married ourselves.

## What We Do

We do poster campaigns and small direct actions, and participate in larger demonstrations and organizing coalitions. We are active in protests against war, the death penalty and police brutality, in the Justice In Palestine Coalition and the struggle to save social security and workers' rights.





One of our main goals now is to destroy the Human Rights Campaign, because I'm tired of sitting on the back of the bumper. It's not even the back of the bus anymore — it's the back of the bumper. The bitch on wheels is back.

- Sylvia Rivera

## Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries (STAR)

STAR was founded in New York City in 1970 by Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. Sylvia is a well known Stonewall veteran, and was one of the street queens who helped escalate Stonewall from a routine police bust of a queer bar to a revolutionary call for greater LGBT activism and political organization. At the time Sylvia was a 20 year-old



street queen and Marsha was late 20s. STAR originally stood for Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, written S.T.A.R. The idea was to create a living space for young queens on the street. They got an old abandoned house on the lower East side from the mafia and set up S.T.A.R. House, which survived about 2 years. All the members lived collectively, with Sylvia and Marsha hustling to get money for food so that the younger girls would not have to go out on the street.



**Capitalism get you down?**

**Gender binaries make your teeth hurt?**

**Join Queer Fist!**

Queer Fist, an anti-assimilationist, anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian street action group, came together to provide direct action and a radical queer and trans-identified voice at the Republican National Convention (RNC) protests. We continue using creative methods to fight the right-wing agenda.

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# The Combahee River Collective

Black Feminist Organizing in the 70's and 80's

We are a collective of Black feminists who have been meeting together since 1974...involved in the process of defining and clarifying our politics, while...doing political work within our own group and in coalition with other progressive organizations and movements.... [W]e see Black feminism as the logical political movement to combat the manifold and simultaneous oppressions that all women of color face.

Our politics evolve from a healthy love for ourselves, our sisters and our community which allows us to continue our struggle and work. This focusing upon our own oppression is embodied in the concept of identity politics.... [T]he most profound and potentially most radical politics come directly out of our own identity...[t]o be recognized as human, levelly human, is enough.... Although we are feminists and Lesbians, we feel solidarity with progressive Black men and do not advocate the fractionalization that white women who are separatists demand.... We struggle together with Black men against racism, while we also struggle with Black men about sexism.... We are socialists because we believe that work must be organized for the collective benefit of those who do the work and create the products, and not for the profit of the bosses.... We need to articulate the real class situation of persons...for whom racial and sexual oppression are significant determinants in their working/economic lives.... [O]ur Black women's style of talking/testifying in Black language about what we have experienced has a resonance that is both cultural and political.... No one before has ever examined the multilayered texture of Black women's lives.... "Smart-ugly" crystallized the way in which most of us had been forced to develop our intellects at great cost to our "social" lives.... We have a great deal of criticism and loathing for what men have been socialized to be in this society...[b]ut we do not have the misguided notion that it is their maleness, per se--i.e., their biological maleness--that makes them what they are.

## STONEWALL RIOTS

On Saturday morning, June 28, 1969, not long after 1:20 a.m., police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in

Greenwich Village. A number of factors differentiated the raid that took place on June 28 from other such raids on the Stonewall Inn. In general, the sixth precinct tipped off the management of the Stonewall Inn prior to a raid. In addition, raids were generally carried out early enough in the night to allow business to return to normal for the peak hours of the night. At approximately 1:20 AM, much later than the usual raid, eight officers from the first



precinct, of which only one was in uniform, entered the bar. Most of the patrons were able to escape being arrested as the only people arrested "would be those without IDs, those dressed in the clothes of the opposite gender, and some or all of the employees".

Details about how the riot started vary from story to story. According to one account, a transgendered woman named Sylvia Rivera threw a bottle at a police officer after being prodded by his nightstick. Another account states that a lesbian, being brought to a patrol car through the crowd

put up a struggle that encouraged the crowd to do the same. Whatever the case may be, mêlée broke out across the crowd—which quickly overtook the police. Stunned, the police retreated into the bar. Heterosexual folk singer Dave van Ronk, who was walking through the area, was grabbed by the police, pulled into the bar, and beaten. The crowd's attacks were unrelenting. Some tried to light the bar on fire. Others used a parking meter as a battering ram to force the police officers out. Word quickly spread of the riot and many residents, as well as patrons of nearby bars, rushed to the scene.

Throughout the night the police singled out many effeminate men and often beat them. On the first night alone 13 people were arrested and four police officers, as well as an undetermined number of protesters, were injured. It is known, however, that at least two rioters were severely beaten by the police. Bottles and stones were thrown by protesters who chanted "Gay Power!" The crowd, estimated at over 2000, fought with over 400 police officers.

The police sent additional forces in the form of the Tactical Patrol Force, a riot-control squad originally trained to counter anti-Vietnam War protesters. The tactical patrol force arrived to disperse the crowd. However, they failed to break up the crowd, who sprayed them with rocks and other projectiles.

Eventually the scene quieted, but the crowd returned again the next night. While less violent than the first night, the crowd had the same energy as it had on the previous night. Skirmishes between the rioters and the police ensued until approximately 4:00 AM. The third day of rioting fell five days after the raid on the Stonewall Inn. On that Wednesday, 1,000 people congregated at the bar and again caused extensive property damage.

# *Gay Shame*

## *a virus in the system*

GAY SHAME is a Virus in the System. We are committed to a queer extravaganza that brings direct action to astounding levels of theatricality. We will not be satisfied with a commercialized gay identity that denies the intrinsic links between queer struggle and challenging power. We seek nothing less than a new queer activism that foregrounds race, class, gender and sexuality, to counter the self-serving "values" of gay consumerism and the increasingly hypocritical left. We are dedicated to fighting the rabid assimilationist monster with a devastating mobilization of queer brilliance.



- We will express outrage through symbolic actions in order to inspire ourselves to confront power dynamics and disseminate information.
- We will not only critique targets like corporations, but we will also expose inconsistencies within our social groups and so-called "communities", in order to grow more toward our radical ideals. Whenever possible, we will use humor and satire to get our points across and to critique ourselves.
- We will call out the greed and consumerism inherent in mainstream gay identity. We are dedicated to fighting capitalism and its resulting inequalities.
- We will go beyond theorizing to make our actions not only fun but also empowering.
- Our goal is to serve as a catalyst to encourage people to take direct action and civil disobedience further.
- Our goal is to create a home for the culturally homeless.
- Assimilation is erasure. We resist assimilation in all its forms.
- Fighting racism, classism, misogyny, heterosexism, transphobia, ableism and all other hierarchies is the central purpose of GAY SHAME, not an add-on. We will create a space where radical queers can challenge these hierarchies.

# The George Jackson Brigade

The George Jackson Brigade formed in the crucible of prisoners' rights organizing which came out of the civil rights movement and mass anti-war protests of the 1960s. In its three years of existence, it claimed 11 bombings, as many bank robberies, and one prisoner's liberation. Targets included the Department of Corrections, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as different corporate offices. The ideology present in the group was the same that has been espoused across the country: society's most oppressed members allied with college educated youth who refused to continue their class and white skin privilege. In the case of the Brigade, women took center stage, queers challenged straights, convicted communists with college degrees and a black man who enthusiastically aided whites.

The story of the Brigade takes place against a backdrop of the domestic activism of Black, Chicano, Native American, gay and white prisoners and armed struggle in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. Also documented is the FBI's infiltration of women's land and the lesbian community (in pursuit of Katherine Powers and Susan Saxe) and political abuse of the grand jury process.

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act." - George Jackson

## **queercore/homocore**

Queercore is a cultural and social movement that began in the mid 1980's as an offshoot of punk. It is distinguished by a discontent with society in general and a complete disavowal of the mainstream gay and lesbian community and what those involved believe to be its oppressive agenda. Queercore expresses itself in DIY (Do It Yourself) style through zines, music, writing, art and film.

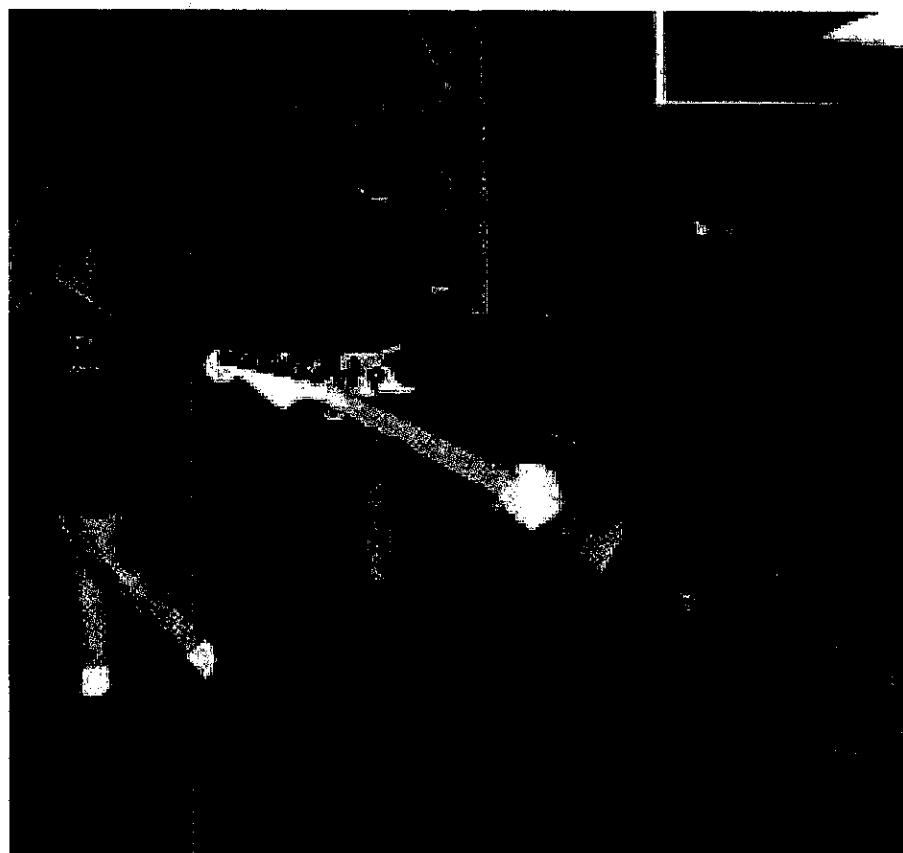
J.D.s, created by G.B. Jones and Bruce LaBruce, is widely acknowledged as being the zine which launched the movement. At first the editors of J.D.s had chosen the appellation "homocore" to describe the movement but replaced the word homo with queer to better reflect the diversity of the scene as well as to disassociate themselves completely from the confines of gay and lesbian orthodoxy. The first issue was released in 1985, with a manifesto entitled "Don't Be Gay" published in the fanzine Maximum RocknRoll following soon after; inspiring, among many other zines, Holy Titclamps, edited by Larry-bob, Homocore by Tom Jennings and Deke Nihilson, Donna Dresch's Chainsaw, and Outpunk by Matt Wobensmith, these last two later functioning as music labels. These zines, and the movement, are characterised by an alternative to the self-imposed ghettoization of orthodox gays and lesbians; sexual and gender diversity in opposition to the segregation practiced by the mainstream gay community; a dissatisfaction with a consumerist culture, proposing a DIY ethos in its place in order to create a culture of its own; and opposition to oppressive religious tenets and political repression.

Influences vary for each musician, zine editor and filmmaker involved, but it is doubtful that queercore would have come into existence without the atmosphere surrounding the early punk years. Performers at that time either conspicuously played with conceptions of gender, such as Wayne County (now Jayne County) of Wayne County & the Electric Chairs, and Phranc from the aptly named Nervous Gender or, like Pete Shelley of Buzzcocks, Darby Crash of The Germs, members of The Screamers, The Leather Nun, Malaria! and other bands, were not interested in hiding their sexuality.

It was the confrontational attitude and shock tactics of the punk and industrial scenes that Queercore employed, rather than activism, or politics, or the mainstream approval and major label deals that gay and lesbian musicians of that time courted, since those involved in the queercore scene weren't seeking the acceptance of society, be it homosexual or heterosexual, but rather to condemn it.

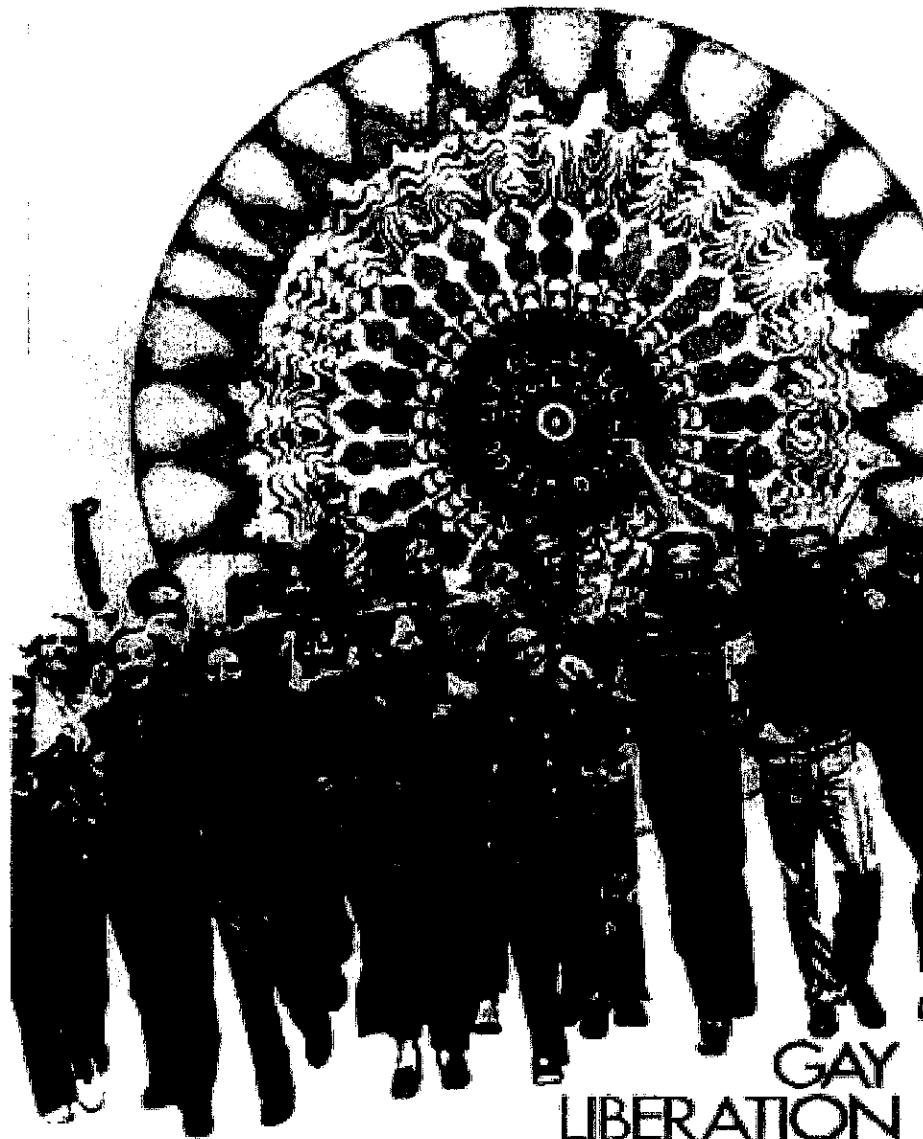
As with punk, queercore culture existed outside of the mainstream so zines were crucial to its development. Hundreds of zines formed an intercontinental network that enabled queercore to spread and allow those in smaller, more repressive communities to participate. The DIY attitude of punk was integral to queercore as well. In the 1990s, as the availability of the internet increased, many queercore zines, such as *Noise Queen* could be found online as well as in print. The queercore zine label Xerox Revolutionaries run by Hank Revolt, was available online and distributed zines from 2000 to 2005. Queercore forums and chatrooms, such as QueerPunks started up. The Queer Zine Archive Project is an internet database of scanned queer zines that continues to grow.

All these developments allowed queercore to become a self-sustaining and self-determined subculture, expressing itself through a variety of mediums independent from the straight and gay establishment.



# GAY LIBERATION FRONT

The Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was the name of a number of Gay Liberation groups, the first of which was formed in New York City in 1969, immediately after the Stonewall riots.



Activists taking part in the GLF were mainly interested in sexual liberation for all people, and were also intent on transforming other aspects of society such as the nuclear family. Many supporters of the GLF held the view that change would not come about unless current social institutions were dismantled and rebuilt without defined sexual roles and definitions of homosexuality. Prominent members of the GLF also opposed and addressed other social inequalities between the years of 1969 to 1972 such as militarism, racism, and sexism. Due to internal conflicts of interest within the organization, the GLF officially ended its operations in 1972.

The Gay Liberation Front was initially formed by thirty-seven men and women in light of the Stonewall Riots. The group's first demonstration in response to the riots was the organization of a candlelight march, in which they demanded an end to homosexual persecution. The GLF was not only dedicated to gay rights, but also to the broader social ideals which dominated the 1960's, including peace, equality and economic justice. Between 1969 and 1972, the GLF was an influential force, and ultimately consisted of more than 80 independent chapters across the United States and abroad.

The GLF's primary mandate was to oppose and fight against those institutions in society which had historically oppressed and demeaned gay individuals. Ideally, the GLF wanted to ensure that gay individuals were treated with increased equality. In order to do this, the GLF participated in and organized marches, demonstrations, speeches, confrontations, meetings, books and films in order to raise awareness of their cause and their struggle.

In 1970, the GLF represented itself as a movement "against conformity to arbitrary standards, for an open society in which each of us may choose his own way of life." The GLF, in addition to focusing on gay rights, essentially criticized American values and society in general, and became involved with other causes and social movements, including the anti-war and civil rights movements, and the fight to end racism and bigotry. Ideally, the GLF wanted to establish an open society, in which all individuals could express themselves freely, and it especially fought against machismo (the notion that masculinity is superior, and thus has a right to dominate), which the GLF felt oppressed all individuals in society – both straight and gay.

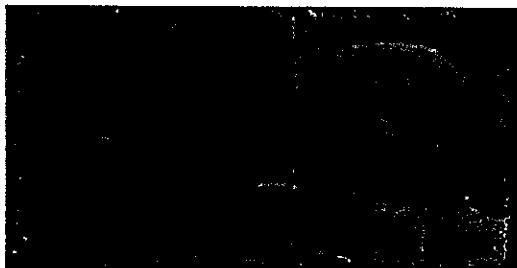


**ACT UP, AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power**, is a diverse, non-partisan group of individual, united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. We meet with government officials, we distribute the latest medical information, we protest and demonstrate. We are not silent.

We are loud as we confront those who stand in the way of the fight against AIDS. We've told Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Disease (NIADID) and the person responsible for overseeing the government's AIDS clinical trials that many of these trials are unethical, fraudulent and misdirected. We told Mario Cuomo that that inadequate funding for AIDS services is killing us and that it is unacceptable to balance the state budget with people's lives. We took on the pharmaceutical industry for attempting to make profits at the expense of the lives of people with AIDS. We made AIDS an issue in 1992 Presidential elections and held President Clinton responsible for the promise he made as a candidate. We are committed to protecting the lives and well-being of people living with AIDS.

We challenge anyone who, by their actions or inaction, hinders the fight against AIDS. This includes:

- ★ Anyone responsible for inadequate funding for AIDS research, healthcare or housing for people with AIDS
- ★ Anyone who blocks the dissemination of life-saving information about safer sex, clean needles, and other AIDS prevention methods.
- ★ Anyone who encourages discrimination against people who are living with AIDS.



## Compton's Cafeteria Riot

In the streets of the Tenderloin (S.F.), at Turk and Taylor on a hot August night in 1966, Gays rose up angry at the constant police harassment of the drag-queens by police. It had to be the first ever recorded violence by Gays against the police anywhere. For on that evening when the SFPD police wagon drove up to make their usual sweeps of the streets, Gays this time did not go willingly. It began when the police came into a cafeteria, still located there at Turk and Taylor, Compton's, to do their usual job of hassling the drag-queens, hair faires, and hustlers sitting at the table. This was with the permission of management, of course, but when the police grabbed the arm of one of the transvestites, he threw his cup of coffee in the cops face and with that cup, saucers and trays began flying around the place directed at the police.

The police retreated outside until reinforcements arrived. The Compton's management ordered the place closed and with that the Gays began breaking out every window in the place. As they ran outside to escape the breaking glass, the police tried to grab them and throw them into the police wagon, but they found this no easy task because the Gays began hitting them below the belt and drag queens smashing them in the face with their extremely heavy purses. A police car had every window broken, a newspaper shack outside the cafeteria was burned to the ground and general havoc was raised that night in the Tenderloin. The next night drag queens, hair fairies, conservative gays, and hustlers joined in a picket of the cafeteria which would not allow drags back in again. It ended with the newly installed plate glass windows being smashed up!

## **Out of Control**

Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners

Out of Control is a small, self-supporting committee of ten women in the San Francisco Bay Area. We formed in 1986 to organize resistance to the Lexington Control Unit for women. This was a subterranean, high-security prison in Kentucky that used sensory deprivation, mind control methods, and small group isolation in an attempt to "break the spirit" of the women prisoners. Out of Control joined with a national grass roots campaign of activists, churches, and various other human rights organizations to expose the brutality of the Lexington Control Unit. A lawsuit was brought against the federal prison by the ACLU. After 18 months the prison that housed two women political prisoners, one Puerto Rican Prisoner of War, and two social prisoners was closed.

Out of Control has been working on behalf of the 25 women political prisoners in the U.S. since that time. These women (five are out lesbians) are in prison for various reasons from opposing policies of the U.S. government through revolutionary activities, participating in the Puerto Rican Independence movement, Black liberation, American Indian Movement, to anti-nuclear activities, etc. We work in the San Francisco Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Communities, nationally, and internationally to educate people about political prisoners in the U.S. and about the horrendous conditions in U.S. prisons in general. We have done support work for people with AIDS in prison, and for battered women convicted of killing their abusers.

**Vanguard** - began in 1965 with the Glide Memorial Church, a radical congregation of the United Methodist Church. The church started open houses for young street hustlers and drag queens where the kids were able to form a social/political group. Over the next five years, the group held dances, drag balls and coffeehouses, published a newsletter, and organized two direct-action protests (Compton Cafeteria Picket and Street Sweep). In the early 1970s, Vanguard and the Street Orphans, a group of young lesbians, combined to form the San Francisco Gay Liberation Front.



## Lavender Panthers

The Lavender Panthers were a fierce team of gay vigilantes who took to the streets of San Francisco to protect other queers against homophobic attacks in the 1973. Formed by the Rev. Ray, a Pentecostal Evangelist and well known queer who himself was once beaten severely outside his gay mission center, the Helping Hands Gay Community Service Center. The Panthers patrolled the streets nightly with chains, billy clubs, whistles and cans of red spray paint (a substitute for forbidden Mace). Their purpose, as the Rev. Ray candidly put it, is to strike terror in the hearts of "all those young punks who have been beating up my faggots."

Besides the goal of halting homophobic attacks, the Lavender Panthers want to refute the popular notion that all queers are "sissies, cowards and pansies" who will do nothing when attacked. All of the Panthers know judo, karate, Kung Fu or plain old alley fighting. For gays without defensive skills, the Panthers held training sessions with instruction from a judo brown belt and a karate expert.

