

# Gays turn the other cheek

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Over the past year there have been many calls to violence by persons in the gay movement; violence directed against police repression, discrimination, exploitation, and oppression. There have been about a dozen incidents of violence during the year and a half since the gay liberation movement came into existence, beginning with the First Battle of Christopher Street in Greenwich Village—the Stonewall riot; when gays fought back against a police raid on a drag bar. In San Francisco, violence erupted between police and gays soon afterwards; in New York, the Second and Third Battles of Christopher Street last August left scores wounded and arrested. These were the major incidents of violence, and were all directed against the police. But on November 28, the gay revolutionary movement took a different turn, and the liberal gays are running for cover, recognizing that gay power has become very, very violence, and the days of demonstrations, rap sessions, and tv interviews are quickly fading. As the true significance of the Washington, D.C., action on November 28 begins to sink in, not only into the liberal heads of gays who will only go so far—who will give tacit approval of gay violence, even encourage it, but when it comes down are not around or have other things to do besides help raise defense money, etc.—but into the heads of the many straight people who consider themselves revolutionary, and have yet to fire a gun or do anything beyond mouth cliches or slogans, perhaps these liberals will also recognize the fact that gay power is deadly serious, and has taken on a Heaven Wind attitude, that of the kamikaze.

As we confront our oppressors, we find them to be of all colors, types, sizes, shapes and of all political strip-pings. Gays who went to Cuba recently found incredible oppression on the part of Cubans and fellow brigade members—who told them we will tolerate the gay movement now but take care of you after the revolution." Of course, this hetero supremacist attitude was used by Hitler, who was put into power by a gay organization—the Sturmabteilung. The SA was murdered by Hitler after he assumed power. There will be no revolution without us now; we are the revolution. Not only in the western hemisphere, but now in Europe, and soon, in the USSR. To compromise with heterosexually-oriented groups, who give de facto support to gay revolution only to use gays as cannon fodder is totally insane; and thousands of gay revolutionaries have recognized this over the past few months. What really happened in Washington, DC., not far from the White House? Four gay liberationists were refused service in a collegiate-type, heterosexually-oriented bar and grill, the Zephyr. All were male.

Two were Puerto Rican.  
One was Black.  
One was White.

Insulted and verbally abused by the management, they left, vowing to return with brothers and sisters later.

About 1:00 A.M., they did. Fifty gays descended upon the Zephyr and filled it. The management panicked; told everyone to leave. The gays began to exist, and while leaving, two Black gays were physically assaulted by security guards and macho male customers. Fighting erupted; windows were smashed, bottles were thrown, tables wrecked, the building was severely damaged. The fighting spilled into the street; two of the bar's managers were seriously injured; several gays suffered minor injuries. Media and police arrived, the media helping to halt the beating of two Black gays by police.

All power to the gay people! This was the battle cry. Outnumbered, many of the gays tried to escape; 12 of them in a van were stopped by police and arrested—charged with assault with a deadly weapon, illegal entry, and other felonies. Taken to several different jails, verbally abused and harassed by police (Third World gays suffered much more harassment than white gays), the gays kept themselves together, maintaining unity and collective strength, refusing to allow the police to intimidate them.

Police were amazed that gays had actually fought back so hard and so bitterly against discrimination, and

were of so many different types; drag queens, butches, fems—long hairs and short; several university teachers; all races, including Orientals; several gay GI's. They were later released on their own recognizance. Most of them are from other cities and were told to remain in Washington until the December 23 trial.

The GLF DC commune is providing housing and needs help. Money for legal defense is also needed. All support should be sent to: DC. DOZEN DEFENSE, 1620 "S" Street, Washington DC. 20009.

The local establishment newsmedia carried reports of the incident in overall articles about the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention, but the GLF action was not in any way connected with the disastrous, confused, disunited, manipulated and controlled RPCC. It was a spontaneous, unplanned and beautiful example of gay power as it is today; an example of the growing strength of the gay movement and a clear declaration of the fact that gay revolution is here and gay people will no longer tolerate oppression.

A rally called by the Black Panther Party the day earlier found about 400 gays doing their thing—and it became a gay power rally. It was on the same scope as the massive June 28 marches in LA and New York, only much more aggressive and militant. Gay power found confrontation at the RPCC, of course, although the Panther's leader, Newton, has come out in support of gay liberation, the Panthers as a group have deep-rooted hatred of gays, and many, many confrontations between gays, Panthers, and others occurred, and during one confrontation at American University between a gay and a straight Black, the straight pulled a gun and threatened all of the gays with death. Lesbians hardly bothered to relate to the RPCC; the Panthers had oppressed them so badly at the Philly conference that many of them have written off the BPP as just another—perhaps one of the worst—male chauvinist groups around. Lesbians charged that a Panther male had attempted to rape one of the gay women at the Philly conference, and confronted the gay men at the D.C. convention—calling them "Panther groupies." The gay men voted to back the Lesbian demands in full.

But no constitution was written or presented. Newton's followers simply stood around and waited for orders; hardly any food, shelter, or communication was available. But gay power made a Declaration of Independence on November 28, not with words or a printed piece of paper, but with their blood on streets.

But within the gay movement itself, something else has happened which is of great significance. Feminine-identified-males, including transvestites and transsexuals, have organized among themselves, such as STAR, Fems Against Sexism and many other groups, to confront the sexism of gay males.

Repressed by lame, male chauvinist pigs in the gay movement, including some of its founding father figures, tvs and transsexuals have no time to endure any more repression. No time to educate, rap, or play games with these pigs; and the word "off" is being used a lot now. These gay pigs who have played gay liberation for a year or so have quickly forgotten that drag queens started the gay movement—and when a group of queens tried to participate in the June 28 march in New York, had to overcome great discrimination to be included. And there are so very, very many of us, feminine-identified-males, who have assisted the gay movement in one way or another, often being misused and sacrificed by gay pigs, who see us as abominations, and there won't be any more discussion about it. Trans liberation is here; what it will become no one knows.

Even an Epsilon, as it says in *Brave New World*, even an Epsilon.

