

FREE THE WASHINGTON TWELVE

On the morning of November 28th, 12 male gay liberationists from Chicago, Detroit, Washington D.C. and California were arrested in Washington D.C.

They were charged with assault, illegal entry and destruction of property. All were released on their own recognizance. Trial has been set for December 23rd.

The arrests were a result of a confrontation between 50 male gay liberationists and the management, patrons and security guards of the Zephyr, a fraternity-type, collegiate, heterosexually-oriented bar and restaurant.

Earlier in the evening, four male gays were refused service by the management. Two were Puerto Ricans, one Black, and one Caucasian. One was wearing a slight amount of make-up. They were told that no service would be given to them; they left, contacted gay liberationists attending the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention, and about 1 a.m. 50 gays arrived at the Zephyr. They entered the bar, sat down, others milled around, the management recognized the gays he had thrown out, and began shouting that everyone had to leave. Gays were mixing with straight patrons, and people began asking "who?" The management became frustrated and demanded that all leave. About 80 people were in the bar. The gays began to leave, then management, security guards and several heterosexual macho males attacked two gay Blacks and a gay Puerto Rican. The fighting escalated and became a free-for-all. Windows were broken, glasses were thrown, and the restaurant suffered major damage. Two of the managers were seriously hurt. Gays suffered minor injuries. The fighting spilled into the street, police arrived, media arrived. The police and bar managers appeared frightened by the presence of the media and the police. It released four people ~~xxx~~ they had arrested immediately. Police began beating two Black gays after the media had left. Other gays rescued the Blacks. A van full of gays fleeing from the hassle was stopped by police and these were the people arrested.

They were taken to three different locations, harassed verbally-called the gays "fags" and "fairies", were particularly abusive of Black and Puerto Rican gays, and "lost the keys" to the van. All were released on personal recognizance. Lawyers feel the police have no case. Gays reported that the police were amazed that gayshad actually fought back against oppression and that the gays refused to accept abusive treatment by the police while in jail, maintaining unity and collective strength.

Support of any kind is needed.

ALL POWER TO THE GAY PEOPLE!

GLF Washington D.C. 1620 NW 2 St. Washington, D.C.