

GLF presents program despite RPCC chaos

While the rest of the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention was looking for a place to happen, gay men and women from around the country were meeting, arguing, dancing, shouting, even occasionally sleeping...together.

Starting on Thanksgiving Day, almost 300 gay people met in an effort to define their relations with each other, the rest of the movement, and the "straight" world.

The effort was not easy. There are many divisions separating gay people, even revolutionary gay people, from one another. The gay men who identify themselves as "femes" don't want to feel put down by the "butch" anymore. The transvestites and transexuals effectively raised the consciousness of their brothers and sisters who had ignored or even mocked their situation. Most gay women met separately from the gay men. Third world gay men also held several separate caucuses.

Internal divisions disappeared when gay people got together in the Friday evening rally at Malcolm X Park, however. Joining the almost

7000 revolutionaries in the park, the gay contingent gathered and marched toward the front of the rally. Forming a tight circle, they chanted, "Gay power to the gay people," "Go left, go gay, now pick up the gun." The cry of "Out of the closets and into the streets" reportedly led at least one Panther member to fear that the chant would make people do just that - but his fear proved unfounded, and his effort to hush the gay people was unsuccessful.

Divisions were also minimized at a mass Thanksgiving dinner at St. Stephen's Church, in the collective effort during the convention to feed hundreds of hungry mouths - including those of Yippies and others meeting nearby at American University - and in supporting the brothers busted during a brawl in a bar which would not serve gay people.

On Saturday, the gay men decided to accept as their basic position a 16-point platform developed by a third world caucus of New York GLF. This was an extension

and elaboration of the platform written by the male homosexual workshop at the plenary session of the RPCC in Philadelphia. The statement in its present form will be discussed by local GLF groups in the coming months, and a final document will be prepared at another national meeting to be held sometime next spring, to be organized under third world leadership.

Some of the points apply generally to all people in this society, such as the desire for "the abolition of the institution of the bourgeois nuclear family," and for "a free, non-compulsory education system that...presents the entire range of human sexuality without advocating any one form or style." There is also a call for "the liberation of all women."

Others are more specific to the oppression of gay people, and especially third world gay people, such as exemption for third world and gay people from the present military.

Included in the demands is this aimed at the larger movement:

"We demand immediate non-discriminatory open admission/membership for radical homosexuals into all left-wing revolutionary groups and organizations, with the right to caucus.

"We believe that so-called comrades who call themselves revolutionaries have failed to deal with their sexist attitudes. Instead, they cling to male supremacy and therefore to the conditioned role of oppressors..."

Forms of sexism within the gay movement were dealt with, as well. One form, brought to the attention of some of the gay men for the first time, was the attitude toward transvestites - persons of one sex who dress in clothes of the other - and transexuals - persons with characteristics of both sexes, some of whom undergo operations to physically become one sex.

Representatives were present from several transvestite-transexual groups, who presented demands for an end to discrimination within the gay world as well as outside.

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BEYOND: Did you hear that Niece Liza she's getting three other puppies. What would you do?

I just don't know Angela, let's ask Rover.

I think we should go down there and piss on the bastards!

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