

CONVENTION CONFUSION

The Convention:

A Brief Summary

Nov. 26, 1970

Ken Dudley and I arrived in Washington at midnight. The GLF collective there received us with great warmth.

Many factions of Gay Liberation met at St. Stephens on Thanksgiving Day to get together a format for the Revolutionary Peoples Constitutional Convention. Many ideas were given and put down in various ways.

The Nuclear Family was a topic for many different views. Some were for the destruction of it. Others were in favor of changing it. And still others were saying that to abolish the nuclear family would be throwing the oppression back onto the oppressor, whereas we are trying to stop all forms of oppression, which is something they don't want to do.

Another discussion was on Transvestites and Transsexuals - would this be a subject for the workshops at the convention.

Members from L.A. and Boston left the meeting of GLF groups. We must get together as a whole group from different cities and states, not as one or two people trying to get on each other's nerves, saying "you're straight because you have no gay consciousness" or "because of your beliefs you're a sexist chauvinist pig, etc."

We were in the middle of a Third World meeting when two white gay guys walked in and asked us to join a general group meeting to discuss the fact that the Black Panthers asked us to come liberate Howard University.

I think that the men in all the factions of GLF are beginning to realize the oppression created by society upon them in the male/female role of a homosexual. No workshops were made for the convention because of these two areas of consciousness raising.

Two GLF groups (including the Third World Organization) read a list of demands as a guide line for the workshops at the convention.

The general meeting broke up for dinner. During dinner people were having general rap sessions about the different groups that were represented at the convention and about the topic that was being discussed before dinner, people's ego tripping and the wearing of dresses and make-up. We broke up after dinner and went back to our respective sleeping accommodations. Nothing was accomplished at St. Stephens that day. Some of us went back to a 'Third World Caucus' meeting at the Commune after dinner.

This meeting was chaired by a "Third World Brother" named Victor. The topic was "How can we 'Third World' members relay to the other sisters and brothers our message about the repression society has placed upon us as 'Third World' people?" The discussion stopped briefly when all non-Third World were asked to leave. There was a small confrontation between Black and White members of GLF over whether or not the Whites were 'Third World' people. After they left, we asked, "What is the reason for a Third World Caucus? Why are we here?" We decided that it was because GLF couldn't relate to non-Whites.

Ken, a GLF member from Detroit, asked "Can any non-Black of the Third World Caucus relate to any other brother or sister in the room on a human level?" A few answered, others remained silent. The meeting was adjourned until Friday, when everyone would be at American University for the convention.

Nov. 27, 1970

Today the women are going to All Souls Church to register for the workshops and sleeping quarters at Trinity College. The men were to go to American University to register. On the way to the Commune to get a ride to the Church, some brothers said that no one was registering at the Church, so we all went to where the men were supposed to stay for the convention, and where we, too, finally registered.

The gay men stayed at Kays Spiritual Life Center. A general meeting took place on the topic What were the workshops for the convention going to be about. The way this meeting went, everyone, except for a very few people were bickering over Who's the Most Revolutionary. Some of the brothers left the center saying that until the group could get itself together, they didn't want to bother with all the lack of organization that was going on.

Nov. 28, 1970

Almost all factions of GLF are now having meetings. They have divided themselves into groups by city and are attempting consciousness raising. This is utterly ridiculous. For the past four days I have been trying to relate to my brothers in GLF. In more ways than one I have, but for them to relate to each other is like trying to milk a very dry cow!

They have very little unity, if any. I, as a Lesbian, am ashamed of them. I see that if they want to get together they must get into their own city group.

Terry

FREE THE PORT HURON 4,987!

There are at least five thousand gay men and women in Port Huron. We're getting together. Thirteen of us turned out for the last meeting. We need you, next time. We meet at 811 Pine in Port Huron, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 8:00 PM. Call 982-3023. Come on out!