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BAMF! Productionz

<http://bamfproductionz.wordpress.com/>

bamfproductionz@gmail.com

BASHBACK!

AN UNOFFICIAL ZINE



**COMMUNIKES AND OTHER
DECADENT DELIGHTS**

Discl@imer: This zine was not produced by Bash Back!

This zine was assembled in May 2009

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Fiery Firmament by JLA

Fiery firmament, a torment forming
over the brow of a weeping angel:

new skin of a child,
eyes of wet obsidian
a smile ten thousand

stars only envy;
and dissolving
in dark matter
shattered flesh

scattered on silent winds
she makes a beautiful orbit
burning through boundless night ...
yet one voice calls her homeward
out of dreamtime, awakening
in ether unfolding singed wings
(lovely stranger take my hand)
she shivers, cold as comet ice
(lost daughter of heaven)
escapes the well of darkness
and slips through gulfs of time
(to my arms, lovely believer).

Hope, ever the dimmest constellation
rises slowly with the truth of morning
on every world, breaking free
from the realm of black eternity
and so will she ...



Below: Skinni Twinn. Photography by Will St Leger

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Queer Quiz by the Discourse Police

1. What is Queer?

a. A verb

b. Against all oppressions

c. Your wettest dreams

d. Anti-assimilationist

e. Your grandma Olivia

f. Intersectional

g. Always in a process of becoming

h. Gender fuck!ing

i. Unbounded desires

j. Anti-normative

k. Bashing back

l. So fucking hot it might explode at any second

m. Dynamic

n. A threat to authority and hierarchy everywhere

o. Sexy

p. Indefinable! Fuck the discourse police!

q. All of the above

r. Other – Please Specify_____
2. What isn't queer?

a. Marriage

b. The military

c. A synonym for GLBT

d. The HRC

e. Racism

f. Gentrification

g. Trans-exclusion

h. Stable identities

i. Homonormativity

j. Assimilation

k. "The Gay Community"

l. A niche market sector

m. All of 'em fuckers!

n. Other – Please Specify_____

can tell, Bash Back! practices intersectionality and a total opposition to all oppression better than any groups I've been involved with over the years. I'm sure Bash Back! is far from perfect and that there are ways and instances in which it has not lived up to this description. But damn, it seems like BB! has a fucking good sense of what solidarity and intersectionality are really about. smash all oppression. solidarity means attack.

For unconfined desires
For decadent destruction and chaotic creation
For the courage to make total destroy of all oppressions
For neither doing nor being but becoming
For unknowable destinations and discovering new pleasures
For communities in resistance, solidarity in rage
For the kind of love that inspires me to embrace who I am becoming and to enjoy the adventure
And lots of other good shit

M♡D LOVE of BAMF! Productionz

p.s. The thank you note:

I <3 Bash Back
For challenging more than just homonormativity and "GLBT" consumerism and assimilation and the exclusiveness of the so-called "gay community" (i.e. rich white people in monogamous relationships)...
For challenging more than gentrification and corporate sponsorship of pride parades...
For challenging more than the gender identity exclusion practiced by the HRC...
For doing more than showing up in the streets at the conventions...
For doing more than standing up to those "god hates fags" people and fascists in general...
For doing more than fucking with the Mormon Church...
For doing more than honoring Duanna...
I <3 Bash back FOR ALL OF IT and so much more
This is what solidarity and intersectionality is all about

pathology do for me at that moment? How was there a choice? My attacker didn't give a damn about my "ethical values." Shortly after that incident I learned that someone I really admire once had to fend off some attacking armed neo-nazis with a flashlight before I knew him. I'm so glad that he had that flashlight and was prepared to use it and that today I am lucky enough to consider him a friend and mentor. And it was shortly thereafter that I heard about Bash Back! and that has made a crucial difference for me.

Part Three: solidarity, identity, politics

One evening last summer just before the RNC, a friend told me that he doesn't feel comfortable in any other organizing spaces that are not explicitly queer because he feels he is not welcomed and is treated as "just too faggy" in his own words. Even though he has broader and more all-encompassing politics (for lack of a better word) and believes deeply in intersectional praxis, he still sticks to queer organizing only because that is where he feels safe and wanted. I've been involved in various groups but none of them could be considered "identity politics," except maybe two attempts to form an Anti-Racist Action type org at my school. I'd always felt like organizing based around specific identities lacks a totality that I desire and can't achieve intersectionality in practice. Yet I felt a great deal of privilege in that moment when my friend said that to me because I had never felt "too queer" for broader movement spaces, especially anarchist ones. In general politically-radical spaces have felt like the most safe spaces for me in society. And I cherish that. But it doesn't go far enough and if I get faggier, I might be out of luck. Those spaces may be relatively safe for me at the present, but they aren't empowering spaces for everyone and they need to be. A revolution entails nothing less. Otherwise, fuck 'em. Let's create something better together. But anyhow, while I was interested in Bash Back! from the moment I heard about it, I remained skeptical for awhile. Lot's of groups say they're against all oppressions and that they believe in intersectionality but the practice always falls short. I'm not crediting Bash Back! with actually achieving my chimerical desires of "politics," but it has changed my mind about what spaces and types of groups can best work toward a total praxis of anti-oppression. I now readily admit that I have no idea. I'm not giving up on class struggle anarchism completely, but I'm definitely getting increasingly frustrated in those spaces and gravitating toward the idea of social war. What I'm trying to say here is that I have been impressed thus far with the way Bash Back! has not singularly focused on queer identity as a discrete category but has focused on gentrification, capitalism, the state in general, and all police brutality. From what I

From *Toward the Queerest Insurrection* by the Mary Nardini Gang

Some will read "queer" as synonymous with "gay and lesbian" or "LGBT". This reading falls short. While those who would fit within the constructions of "L", "G", "B" or "T" could fall within the discursive limits of queer, queer is not a stable area to inhabit. Queer is not merely another identity that can be tacked onto a list of neat social categories, nor the quantitative sum of our identities. Rather, it is the qualitative position of opposition to presentations of stability - an identity that problematizes the manageable limits of identity. Queer is a territory of tension, defined against the dominant narrative of white-hetero-monogamous-patriarchy, but also by an affinity with all who are marginalized, otherized and oppressed. Queer is the abnormal, the strange, the dangerous. Queer involves our sexuality and our gender, but so much more. It is our desire and fantasies and more still. Queer is the cohesion of everything in conflict with the heterosexual capitalist world. Queer is a total rejection of the regime of the Normal.



BASH BACK!

is a gang of radical transfolk, queers and deviants of all stripes. When police and bigots bash us on the streets, we fight back. When politicians and pharmaceutical companies profit from our misery, we choose to resist.

We oppose heteronormativity, assimilation, capitalism, the state, and all other oppressions.

**We want a world of orgy, beauty and freedom.
We want liberation - Nothing less!**

BASHBACKNEWS.WORDPRESS.COM

had not had previous commitments to other groups and could have been with you wonderful folks in the pink and blue bloc. Here's to getting even more decadent and rebellious in the future!

Part Two: pacifism, self-defense, violence

Warning- this section is definitely the shittiest so feel free to skip ahead or turn back now

Hearing about the actions of Bach Back! and reading the communiqués and such has helped me to finally fully break free from the confines of liberalism and pacifism. I've been an anti-capitalist for a long time and I've considered myself an anarchist for a while now, but until this summer I was stuck in what I would call an "open-minded" pacifist logic (there is probably a better term for this but bear with me). What I mean by "open-minded" pacifism is that I didn't condemn violence and I didn't feel that I had the right to tell other people when violence is right or just. I respect other people's right to make decisions about survival and how to best fight oppression based on their own experiences and contexts. I viewed pacifism/self-defense/violence as a question of personal choice and I felt like "ethically" it was the wrong choice for me personally. Not to get all into victimization pathology shit, but I do think that the experience/memory of being repeatedly sexually abused as a child by someone much bigger and stronger than me at least in part led me to conclude that fighting back was pointless as it had been in those situations and that it only gave the attacker more pleasure. For a long time I just accepted this conclusion that I had formed when I was still pretty young that violence was harmful and that self-defense was pointless. Once I got a bit older, I considered it a privilege to be a pacifist while I recognized that not everyone had that privilege or would make the same choice as me. So herein lies the liberal choice bullshit that doesn't recognize that methods of survival and fighting oppression aren't really free choices and ethics don't mean shit. I've been queer bashed plenty of times but I had been lucky enough not to face serious physical harm. So I'd always just brush it off and avoid confrontation. When it came to fight or flight my reaction was always flight and I had been lucky enough to have the opportunity to get the hell out of there. Then last summer someone tried to kill me after interpolating me as a lesbian based on my gender performance (I don't identify as anything more specific than queer but whatever) and there was no escape route. Luckily others were around and intervened and saved my ass and I survived the situation shaken up but physically unharmed. What the hell did my pacifist



The author as a Lost Boy or possibly a BAMF pirate. Pink shoes? Check. Heart pattern on clothes? Check. Brandished Weapons? Check. Fierce? Check.

When I was a kid I used to fantasize a lot about being one of the Lost Boys in Neverland. I realize now that that story is fucking racist and colonialist, but in my subversive appropriations, that crew of boys was a band of insurgent queer anarcho-communists (without that label of course, but in practice). Tinkerbell was pretty fucking rad too. I’m twenty-one now but I’ve been thinking about those day dreams a lot lately and I think I’ve kind of come full circle back to that fantasy. For those who need a refresher on the story, courtesy of wikipedia:

The Lost Boys are a crew of orphan boys brought to Neverland by the fairies by using their fairy dust and flying there. Lost Boys do not want to grow up and so remain in Neverland, where time has no meaning. They reside in tree houses and caves, and live for adventure. They are a formidable fighting force despite their youth and they make war with the pirates, although they seem to enjoy a harmonious existence with the other inhabitants of Neverland. The fairies in Neverland are the primary magic users. They are allied to the Lost Boys and against the pirates. At one point the story reads: "After a time he [Peter Pan] fell asleep, and some unsteady fairies had to climb over him on their way home from an orgy.” Pretty fucking hot, eh? Of course Disney ruined the queer anarchist potentialities but I’m stealing back my fantasies and reinscribing the subversive content. Seeing BB! out in the streets at the RNC in the pink and blue bloc with glitter and wings and such battling the pirates (delegates and the

police and the Westboro folks)¹ reminded me of the Lost Boys and the faeries and in some ways reignited my childhood fantasies in a way that I didn’t think was possible in “the real world” and in my adult life. The anti-capitalist bloc and funk the war were fine and all, but after seeing the video of BB! at the RNC I wished I

¹ The author actually thinks pirates are pretty cool, but for the sake of the Peter Pan narrative analogy they are cast as the bad guys. The author regrets this error and will write a love letter to pirates in the future.

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.

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.



LIBERATION



NOT STATE SANCTION

Bash Back! Makes Me Wet:
a love letter in three parts and a thank you note

To those of you who read the subtle and prepared to vomit at some corny shit please swallow and continue reading. Ok then. While the thank you note (from a comment I posted on infoshop news on the Lovelle Mixon thread) may indeed deserve some vomit and or ridicule the love letter itself isn't terribly sappy.

I sat down to write with the idea that this was going to be some sort of love letter to Bash Back! but that felt like pointless hero worship or a celebrity crush. Bash Back! can't liberate me any more than a vanguard party or some NATO "peacekeepers." So fuck that. However, Bash Back! has changed the way that I think about myself, process through certain memories, and it has inspired me to embrace my wildest desires and discover new ones. This is really more of an autobiographical narrative in fragments than a love letter but who says love letters can't be fragmented self-centered narratives? But yeah, maybe I'm just on an egoist trip.

Bash Back! continually smashes any ideas I have about "politics," "identity," and "anarchism," doing-being "queer" and even who I think I am (gasp!). And I love you all for that. That ongoing process of decadent (self-)destruction forces me to embrace the liminal spaces and the instability of being necessary to grasp at orgasmic moments of (self-)liberation and lust after my metamorphosizing insurgent desires. And this is coming from someone who has never been involved with Bash Back! and whose knowledge of BB! comes from the internet (primarily BB! news). I write only as a fan and not as a participant but no other organization that I know of or have participated in has made me feel this challenged and excited at the same time. I feel very fortunate to finally be able to attend one of your convergences and I hope folks where I live will want to form a chapter. Let's get decadent Twin Cities!

So alas, the narrative shit...

...

...

...

...

....Oh the anticipation...

- There is no such thing as a totally Safe Space. In attending this convergence you are taking a risk in order to learn. You may find yourself outside your comfort zone.

- Assume positive intent

- Everyone (including you) will make unintentional mistakes

- Be aware of the effects your behavior has on others and accept responsibility for it.

- Expect to be confronted by others if you make a mistake



Queers Bash Back

by Adhamh Roland of Riotfolk! Collective

www.riotflok.org

pacifism's over-rated
vigils aren't creative
and conflicts are escalatin'
in every school and home and state
and if you're queer than you are hated
at least daily berated
in a system created
for those well assimilated
not for the liberated
the freaks, queers, or agitated
who are subject to assault
murder, ridicule, and rape
and if we want this shit to change
than survival's our first tactic

OUT OF THE CLOSETS, INTO THE STREETS
QUEERS BASH BACK

it's a movement of preservation
and mutiny of celebration
against those whose concentration
is hetero-normity
your body is a weapon
to be used at your discretion
but so are bats and pool cues
WHEN QUEERS BASH BACK

fists aren't just for penetratin'
whips aren't just for copulatin'
speaking of cops it's pretty blatant
that they'll be hearing from us too
stone wall was a riot
and i just don't buy it
when someone tells me that anger's
not an appropriate way to react

true it's love i'd rather be makin'
but lives have been taken
no more queers in gutters, gauntlets, gallows
bleeding, raped, or slashed
arm yourselves with more than truth
when QUEERS BASH BACK!

- Be assertive if possible. Speak to the person you have a concern with and be direct
- If you need help negotiating a situation, find a Vibes Watcher to assist you.

2. Respect others' physical, mental and emotional boundaries.

- Always ask for explicit verbal consent before engaging or touching someone. Never assume consent, especially if drug/alcohol use is involved. Highly intoxicated people are always considered non-consenting.
- Don't assume the race, sexuality, gender, history with violence etc. of others. Instead, ask if someone is open to engaging in dialogue about identity. Don't take it personally if someone doesn't want to answer a question. Try asking a Vibes Watcher instead.

Special note on gender assumptions

This convergence is a place where everyone should feel empowered to choose their own gender. If at all possible, find out what pronouns people prefer or use neutral pronouns such as 'they' or 'z'. It is also important to separate terms for peoples' genitals from their gender. We're born with our genitals but we get to choose our genders. Genitals can be referred to on an "internal/external" continuum as opposed to a "male/female" one.

- Respect the confidentiality of others. You are welcome to share what you learned at this convergence, but not names or identifying details of other convergence participants.

3. This convergence is a cooperative learning environment

- We are all here to learn, and we all have something to offer
- Clarifying questions are encouraged
- Respect diverse opinions, beliefs, and points of view. Share ideas rather than judgments.

Use 'I' statements as much as possible to state your reactions or your experiences.

Creating Safer Spaces at the 2009 Bash Back! Convergence

Safer Space is an essential part of every radical event. We believe that Safer Spaces are inviting, engaging, and supportive environments in which all people feel comfortable behaving genuinely. BB! Convergence participants have different communication styles, personalities and opinions, and come from diverse racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. In order to foster this kind of temporary community space, people must respect each other and actively look out for the well being of all those attending this convergence. Supporting the most vulnerable members of our community is one of our goals. This is why we define safer space as survivor-centric space (which is a space that prioritizes survivors' needs). We choose to say "Safer" Space rather than "safe space" because we acknowledge that no space is entirely "safe" for everyone. Some events may push people's boundaries more than other events. It is important that folks listen carefully to others experiences and act on what they hear. It is our hope that the guidelines below can enable us to support each other in exploring our own experiences and boundaries. Bash Back! strives to allow participants to learn new things at their own pace. We'll provide a Quiet Room for folks to use when they need some quiet time to process or rest. Practicing active consent is essential for Safer Spaces. For the duration of the convergence, consent is defined as a clearly asked question followed by a clearly stated yes.

Guidelines for Creating Safer Space at the 2009 Bash Back! Convergence

1. Respect your own physical, mental and emotional boundaries.

- Stay attuned to your own needs
- Feel free to leave workshops at any time, for any reason
- If something doesn't feel right to you, please speak up. You may not be the only one who feels that way.
- If you don't want to talk or answer a question, say so
- Don't wait for someone to "get the hint." Try to vocalize what you need.

Toward A More Colorful Queer Future by glitterspit

Over the last few years mainstream gay advocacy groups have focused their efforts on one issue, a panacea to seemingly solve all forms of inequality that gays are faced with: marriage rights. With the passage of Proposition 8 this summer in California, many people's hopes that gays would achieve full equality in this country were dashed. What was even more distressing, however, was the wave of racist backlash against people of color in California, who were accused of being the cause of Prop 8's passage (this is a completely unfounded claim, as studies have shown). When I look at the actions of HRC, GLAAD, and other mainstream gay advocacy groups from the past years, they make me sad to call myself queer. In particular, their perpetual focus on marriage rights as the most pressing issue facing queers, the only obstacle blocking the road to full equality, is an awfully myopic and misguided claim. To assume that marriage is the main issue all queers should be organizing around automatically constructs an essentialized version of a gay person, when the very existence of queer people should be to contradict and confront essentialism everywhere. In as much as anarchists say that "our dreams won't fit in your ballot boxes," queer bodies and experiences are too, well, queer, to fit in the state's centuries-old definition of marriage. For queers to appeal for marriage is to desire assimilation into a heteronormative conception of sexuality, gender, and relationships, things which the state should have no business regulating or legislating in the first place. What scares me even more about assimilation is that it compels us to ignore the structures of power and interaction of power dynamics in this country, because supporting marriage is supporting a means of institutional oppression. Historically, marriage was never rooted in religion, but rather it was a way for the state to regulate the transfer of property from a womyn's family to her husband, effectively binding the wife into a slaveholding document wherein she too became part and parcel of the man's life possessions (Mrs. is a possessive form of Mr.). For queers to appeal to an institution that has historically oppressed

womyn (as well as non-whites) baffles me.

Assimilation has a precedent, and it always ends up with the same results. Assimilation pretends to seize power for an entire identity group and instead simply reconfigures the structures of power in society and correspondingly redistributes privilege in a way which capitalism, patriarchy, or any other dominant ideology can accommodate. In this instance, wealthy, white, monogamous gay couples who agree with the gender binary stand to benefit, which leaves out the majority of queers everywhere. In fact, the "struggle" for assimilation, through marriage campaigns, actively silences every other queer who is not a member of this elite, privileged gay vanguard (as they have so positioned themselves), but who is enmeshed in the intersectionality of oppressions we are faced with everyday. As Audre Lorde once said, "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." Where does a black lesbian womyn fit in the gay marriage campaign? An FTM trans immigrant from Latin America? A genderqueer working-class sex-worker from the rural Midwest?

Assimilation into state-sanctioned heteronormative and patriarchal institutions such as marriage and the military is not an option - why would we want "equality" in a state that denies those equalities to other citizens based on race, class, gender (identity), nationality, religious affiliation, etc...? Marriage rights aren't the problem - marriage, and any form of institutional oppression, is! Mainstream gay activism is based on an outdated notion of change which is polite and gradual, a change which holds the door for the power-holders who will proceed to walk all over it, a change which actually reinforces the existing power structures it pretends to oppose. As a radical queer, I see myself as part of a larger struggle for equality, but not the state's liberal definition of equality which hinges on white supremacist notions of individual rights and self-determination. No, I work for radical equality through collective liberation from all oppression. Where was the HRC in July 2007 when Victoria Aurellano, the inmate of an ICE detention center and an immigrant transwoman, died of AIDS, shackled to her bed after being denied medical treatment? Was it a gay rights issue? An immigrant



NATIONAL RADICAL QUEER CONVERGENCE
MAY 28TH-31ST 2009

LIBERATION



NOT STATE SANCTION

Anarcha-Queers! Trannies! Fairies! Perverts! Sex-Workers! Sex-Radicals! Allies!

Bash Back! is ecstatic to announce a national radical queer convergence to take place in Chicago, May 28th through May 31st of 2009! We're pleased to invite all radical queers to join us for a weekend of debauchery and mischief. The last weekend of May will prove to be four solid days of workshops, discussions, performances, games, dancing and street action!

We'll handle the food and the housing. Ya'll bring the orgy, riot, and decadence!

Lubing up the social war, Bash Back!

rights issue? Or was it an issue of a legal system which reinforces white supremacy and patriarchy at all costs? In our public struggle, dividing our bodies, choices and lives into neat categories of LGBT makes it that much easier for capitalism to slowly accommodate some by extending privileges, while continuing to invent new ways to marginalize others, all the while marketing to every new compartmentalized niche identity. The time has come to realize how queer liberation is, always has been, and must continue to be bound with the liberation of all oppressed peoples everywhere. No matter if you are a white lesbian or a Filipino MTF transperson, an injury to one is an injury to all, and to effectively achieve victory, we must constantly remind our aggressors of this, our promise of solidarity.

There was a time when queers didn't ask for change, they made it happen. A time of militant, organized queer resistance to state power, when *truly* fierce trannies, dykes, fags, drag queens, and all other gender traitors battled cops in the streets instead of asking nicely. A time of White Night Riots, Stonewall, Sylvia Rivera, and the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries. I believe that time is due for a comeback. We are beginning to look beyond the superficial, the figureheads, and peer at the privilege that keeps them in place. Even still, we can see that the dummy power-holders are not the ultimate problem, rather it is the coercive power bestowed upon them which perpetuates the systems of structural oppression, and it is this power we must seize and abolish.

[A terrific example of this is the insistence of neoliberalism to "disorder"ize everything that doesn't fit with the mainstream culture - nary 50 years ago, homosexuals had a "disorder"; while they, trans individuals are considered to have "gender identity disorder," and the persistent research into a "gay gene" ominously forebodes eugenics in the form of designer babies.]

BASH BACK! MKE CONFRONTS NAZI SCUM @ PRIDE FEST

In the afternoon of Saturday, June 7th. Bash Back! and other anti-fascists confronted the neo-Nazi group, the National Socialist Movement, who had come to protest Milwaukee's Pridefest. The leaders of the LGBT Community asked that people simply ignore the Nazi threat to our communities. These same leaders ensured that police would be in full force to defend the NSM and to arrest and assault those who came to oppose the Nazis. In short, the organizers of Pridefest and the "leaders" of the LGBT community sold out all of us. Neo-Nazis are not a group of passive Christians who want only to condemn our abstract souls to hell. These people want us dead. If given the chance, they will kill us. Nazis (uniformed and otherwise) have murdered thousands upon thousands of trans and queer people, and millions of others. We haven't forgotten their intentions. We haven't forgotten of what they are capable. We will never allow their tyranny again. We will never accept any threat to our bodies and our community. The same people who ask us to ignore these thugs, demand our composure and complacency when our friends and lovers are murdered. The "leaders" of this community have shown they will never stand with those they claim to serve. They would rather see well-protected neo-nazis than a well-defended queer and trans community. Nobody will protect us if not ourselves. In the last year, reported violence against us had risen by 25%. One queer or trans person is murdered every eight days in this country. Nazis move freely into our neighborhoods to terrorize us on the streets. Police brutalize queer and trans people on a regular basis. Yet still, the supposed leaders and politicians of the LGBT community do nothing and ask us to do the same. When will we bash back? *Bash Back!>*

DENVER: QUEERS DECRY WELLS FARGO

On January 30, 2009, queers and transfolks of Bash Back! Denver led a queer revolt against Wells Fargo to decry the bank's institutionallyracist and classist banking practices. The action coincided with NGLTF's Creating Change Conference, the largest LGBT organizing gathering in the country. Wells Fargo donates \$50,000+ annually to NGLTF. In Denver and elsewhere, Wells Fargo has worked to institutionalize white supremacy and reinforce poverty by offering predatory loans specifically through branches located in poor communities and neighborhoods of color. Wells Fargo has also actively withheld millions of dollars in back wages owed to Chican@ workers for more than 50 years and funds the construction of ICE detention centers through GEO group.

On the day of the action, bank security agents stood outside the door while multiple motorcycle cops were stationed across the street and two plainclothes police watched from unmarked cars. With a low turnout from conference-goers and the high police presence, the action failed to meet its goals of disruption. It did, however, meet and surpass its goals of awareness by distributing hundreds of fliers around the conference, drawing attention from the police and the bank, and talking directly to the director of NGLTF, who approached Bash Back! operatives about the action. Wells Fargo's efforts to maintain a "gay-friendly" image by sponsoring NGLTF have been undermined by queer muckraking by Gay Shame and others.

In response, NGLTF has made efforts to cover it up by removing the bank's logo from its website and hiding the bank deep in its list of donors. Another funder of this year's Creating Change Conference was CH2M Hill. Headquartered here in Denver, CH2M Hill Corporation is in the business of war and disaster-profiteering. They have received cushy no-bid contracts from the US government in Iraq, New Orleans, and tsunami reconstruction. As the US government's war on black people around Katrina has shown, disaster and war go hand in hand with privatization and profit. In related news, inmates in a West Texas detention center have staged two uprisings in the past six weeks to demand proper medical care. The detention center is privately owned and run by the GEO Group, of which Wells Fargo Bank is one of the largest single stockholders. (More info at nnirr.blogspot.com)

And in July 2007, the inmate of a similar ICE detention center, an immigrant transwoman named Victoria Aurellano, died of AIDS, shackled to her bed after being denied medical treatment.

We do not practice single-issue politics, because there is no single-issue oppression.

In resistance to the non-profit industrial complex and the prison industrial complex alike,

Bash Back! Denver

BB! STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO EVICTED THE RCP

Yesterday, March 14th, the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) was forcibly evicted from the San Francisco Anarchist Book Fair. Surprisingly some “Anarchists” have criticized the move and have even defended the Maoist’s right to free speech. These Anarcho-Liberals have gone as far as to suggest that throwing water on the RCP’s literature is violence. Soon after the incident, the RCP started a petition denouncing their eviction. Dozens of so-called “Anarchists” signed the petition.

These Bash Back!ers think the petition is a fantastic idea, and we want to thank those who signed the petition of a historically heterosexist organization. Now we know whose side you all are really on.

Until 2003 the Revolutionary Communist Party held the position that Homosexuality was a product of Capitalism. Lesbians, they claimed, were a reaction to the sexist society that Capitalism created. Gay men were a reflection of patriarchy and the dominant bourgeois culture. After the Revolution queers would be eradicated.

The RCP and other state communists are not allies of Queer people or Anarchists. While we do admit there are bigger and better battles to fight, any space that is safe for the RCP is not safe for Queer people. Respect should not be shown to bigots masquerading as revolutionaries. They are our enemies, and should be treated as such.

Freedom of speech is a liberal construct. Oppressors already have their stage. The oppressed must steal it from them.

We want to thank those who evicted the RCP and destroyed their literature. We also want to give a big Fuck You to everyone who signed that stupid fucking petition.

-Some Pissed Off Members of Multiple Bash Back! Chapters-



BASH BACK! CHICAGO MAKES SPLASH AT DYKE MARCH AND CORPORATE PRIDE

DYKE MARCH

Nearly 50 people joined the Bash Back! contingent at the Dyke March on Saturday June 26th. Behind a banner that read, Bash Back! Against Gentrification the radicals chanted slogans against the prison industrial complex, assimilation, and the HRC. Radical Cheerleaders Chicago and Bash Back! brought a much needed message of militant resistance to Homonormativity to the crowd of over 1000 people.

GAY PRIDE

Bash Back! had a blast at Gay Pride on Sunday showing pride-goers that being queer is more than floats with men in skimpy outfits. W assembled on Halsted shortly after 11 in our designated space, bringing with us our contribution to the parade, a cage containing everyone’s favorite mayor, Richard M. Daley. Like his father before him, Dick has presided over some of the worst police brutality in the country, including the Jon Burge case during his tenure as State’s Attorney. In light of Chicago’s Olympics bid, Amnesty International even came out with a report that cited queerbashing cops as a primary reason that Chicago should not hold the Olympics in 2016. In addition to that, our wonderful Mayor’s record of cutting AIDS funding, funding for the Rape Crisis Hotline, and support for the rapid gentrification of Chicago nieghborhoods, prompted Bash Back! to bring Daley’s crimes to the forefront and insist that he be locked up as soon as possible. We also distributed barf bags to parade-goers just in case the blatant corporate nature of pride didn’t sit well in their stomachs. Toward the end of the march, we joined the GLN (Gay Liberation Network) in confronting some of the jesus-fascists behind a well-stacked line of police officers. Although the Chicago Police roughed up some of our members (shocking, i know), we still managed to have a dance party in front of the fascists and beat our bucket drums till you could barely hear the cries of “You’re going to hell, homo-nazis!” and “Your hero Heath Ledger sent me a message from hell! Repent!” from the christian bear with the bible and the megaphone. Overall a fun time was had by all and an important action in the face of the dual threat of the growth of hetero-supremacist bigotry and of assimilationist trends in the LG movement.



SOLIDARITY WITH ALL COP KILLERS

On March 21st, Lovelle Mixon shot five police officers, killing four before dying in the gunfire. In Oakland we see the fabric of capitalist normalcy being ripped to shreds. Daily instances of racist police violence are transformed into rupture and thrown back in the faces of our oppressors. In January, days of rioting followed the police-murder of Oscar Grant. This week, people danced in the streets as cops were shot. At the hospital, others snuck into the emergency room to chant that the shooting was vengeance made actual upon the police. People rallied to honor the memory of Oakland’s newest folk-hero. Oakland, reterritorialized as a terrain of war against the social order.

In 1959, we fought the street-battles with the police as they harassed queers at a donut shop in Los Angeles. In 1966, police brutality against street queens in the Tenderloin mutated into queens beating cops with their purses. In 1969, a seemingly-ordinary police raid on a queer bar in new york, erupted into four days of sustained rioting. In 1979 we burnt cop cars in the streets of San Francisco. We meet queerbashers with bricks, mace and batons.

To bash back, is to reverse the flows of power and violence; to explode the hyper-normal into situations of previously-unthinkable revolt. We thus find the deepest affinity with all who fight back against the affective poverty and oppression of this world.

As the police and media work to defame and slander Lovelle Mixon, we express our total solidarity.

Until every queerbasher is beaten to a pulp and police are but a memory.

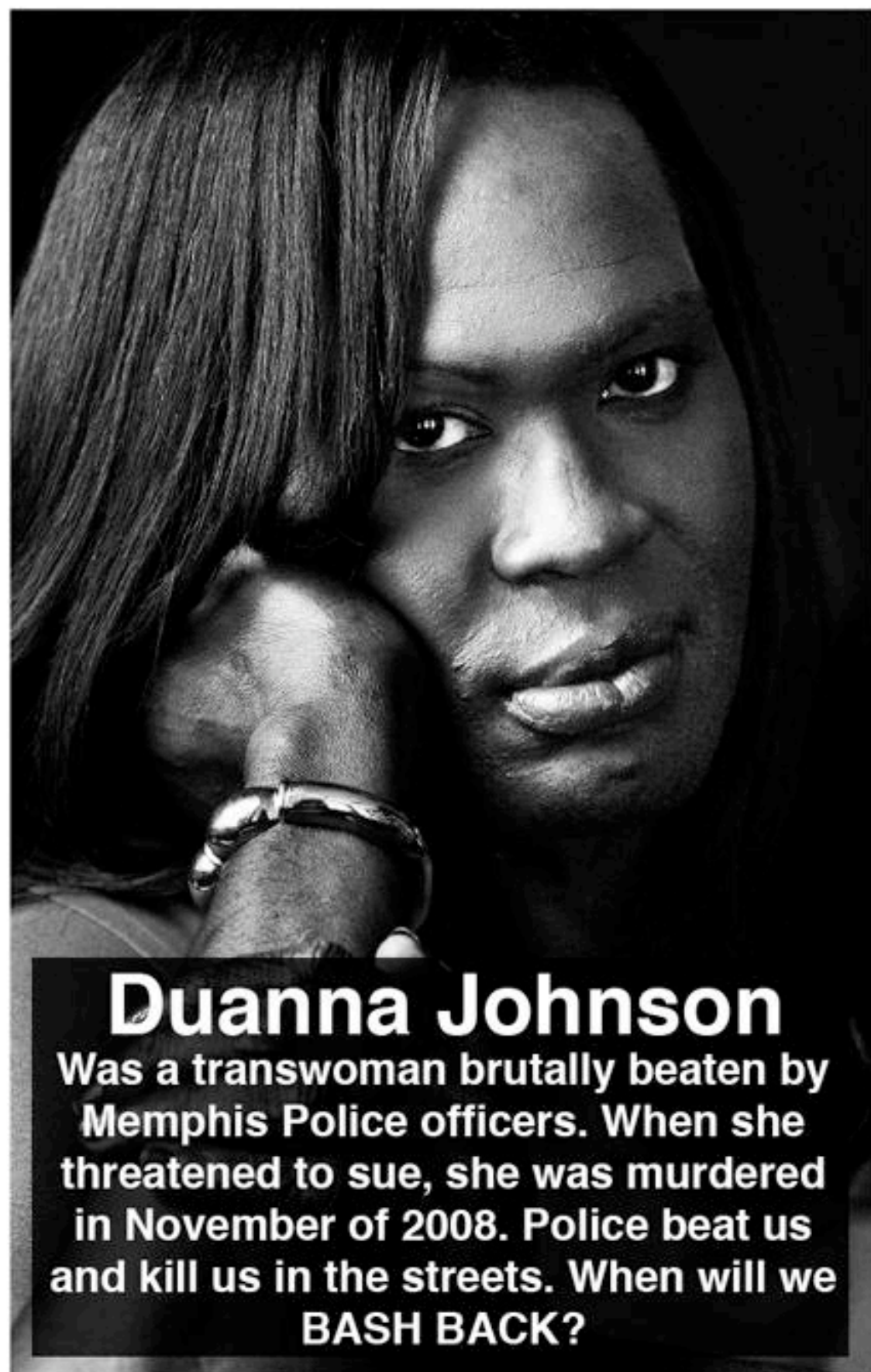
Yours for the social war,

-an unknowable cell of Bash Back!



On March 26th, Bash Back! operatives dropped a banner from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union. The banner read only: “We (heart) Lovelle Mixon”.

R.I.P. Lovelle Mixon



DNC: QUEERS AGAINST CAPITALISM! TRANNIES FOR TUMULTUOUSNESS!!

Queers Against Capitalism! Trannies for Tumultuousness!!

Bash Back! against corporate power and mindless consumerism. Assimilationist, capitalist politics are not looking out for the interests of queer and trans folx. Reject economic oppression and celebrate real alternatives to hetero-normative capitalism.

On Monday August 25th of the DNC the streets of denver are going to get queered up. Radical queer and trans folx will crash the parties and fundraisers to demand no business as usual. The Democrats (straight and gay) will be out on the town to bask in the glory of their mainstream politics and corporate sponsorships. We too will be out on the town. Maybe we'll feel like checking out where the stonewall democrats are partying.. Or maybe we'll visit the HRC's corporate donors.. Where ever we end up, we're gonna smash their spectacle.

Show the dems what a real party looks like (one where you don't need \$1000 to get in the door)! Wear your pink. Bring some black. Wear your cutest capitalism-smashing shoes. Bring your cutest tumult-causing tools. Make anti-capitalist banners, noise makers, music and whatever else you can imagine will be useful to smash the spectacle of corporate queerwashing.

Against Capitalism!: interested parties will gather at 6pm at civic center park. Keep on the lookout for spritely elves in orange bandanas who will be giving out top-secret information on a couple of the choicest fundraisers and parties in Denver. Most of these parties will be starting after 9 or 10, so that gives folks and affinity groups a chance to chill for a few hours, finalize their plans, dress for success, mingle with the crowd. Or folks can play some of the fun direct action games we'll have set up from 6-8 that night, to get some last-minute training before going into action.

For Tumultuousness!: When they least expect it, at the appointed time monday night, we'll emerge from the shadows to reconvene in downtown and get down and dirty. What surprises and successes will the night hold? That depends on you and what you bring to it.

MILWAUKEE: BASH BACK! DROPS BANNER IN MEMORY OF DUANNA JOHNSON

On the frigid night of November 20th, a cadre of bash back!

miscreants in Milwaukee dropped a banner from a bridge that read "R.I.P. Duanna" in memory of Duanna Johnson, a transwoman murdered by police in Memphis. The 20th was national transgendered day of remembrance and we couldn't

let the atrocity of Duanna's murder go unrecognized. Let it be known to all racist, transphobic thugs, "your days are numbered". Act up! Bash Back!

PHILLY: BASH BACK! DISRUPTS TRAFFIC IN RESPONSE TO TRANS KILLINGS

In response to the recent murder of Duanna Johnson, Philly's incompetence in trying Erika Keels murderer, and to show our love to all the Trans Folks who lost their lives to hate. Bash Back Philly took to the streets in our first action to mark the beginning of our existence.

As people left the hollow towers that cover our world in shadows to go home to another day of gray. We here at Bash Back Philly had a different plan for them. Slowly block by block we reclaimed the streets, blocking traffic to leave the pink body out line of our murdered family and the words "Stop Trans Murder" passing flyers to raise awareness to the most recent of our people's murders and the lack of respect our city shows for us. As the snow and rain beat down on our backs we continued our Reclaim The Streets avoiding potential arrests and angry cars trying to run us down. The People out in the streets were with us though which was inspiration enough to continue our action. Passerby's, Wage Slaves, and of course upper class gays were all there learning that our queerstory, is not all about San Francisco. That we are everywhere and we will not lose our lives and family without a fight.

This Message brought to you by Bash Back Philly (the city that cracked the Liberty Bell)

Bash Back! Memphis Kicks Off Avenge Duanna Campaign

In the evening hours of Saturday, November 22nd, anonymous BB! Memphis operatives called in to request that a hearse, a casket, and a dozen pink daisies be delivered to Officer Bridges McRae, Duanna Johnson's attacker, as he dressed for church on Sunday.

A note attached to the flowers read;

"See you soon...
-Duanna
BB!"

Officer Bridges McRae is responsible for beating Duanna

Johnson with handcuffs and fists just months prior to her "mysterious" death. It is clear that McRae and others in the notoriously anti-trans/queer Memphis Police Department had it out for Duanna. Bash Back! News, clandestine queers, and above ground activists know that the MPD murdered Duanna.

Anyone who denies this fact is living the bubble that Bash Back! is dedicated to bursting.

DNC: BASH BACK! DEMO AGAINST HRC

Tonight, August 26, at around 7pm, four members of BASHBACK! were detained with one arrested while demonstrating against a Human Rights Campaign party.

According to one witness, the four were approaching the demonstration in a group and police called them over and began to question them. Approximately 10 police in full riot gear surrounded the four and then searched them, took their names, and held them for about 30 minutes at the intersection of E. Colfax Ave. and Clarkson St. Police ran their names through their computer and found an outstanding warrant against one demonstrator. The person was arrested at the scene. Members of I-Witness Video and Indymedia gave the arrestee the legal number (303-830-0277) and were able to record the detention and arrest. The other three were released.

According to their flyer, BASHBACK! was demonstrating against HRC because, "Instead of supporting a united queer community, the Human Rights Campaign **dumped transgender people** from the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill banning discrimination based on sexual orientation but not gender identity."

The flyer continues, "HRC's betrayal of trans people is just the tip of an oil-slicked iceberg. Since HRC receives funding from **Shell, BP and Citibank**, you can bet their vision won't stray far from **corporate agendas**. And that includes **the Iraq War**. Rather than saving the lives of queers here and in Iraq, HRC fights to **stockpile the military with queer fodder** for Bush's Crusade."



“ACT UP, BASH BACK!” AN ANALYSIS OF THE RADICAL QUEER ORGANIZING SURROUNDING THE RNC AND DNC.

"Act up, Bash Back!"

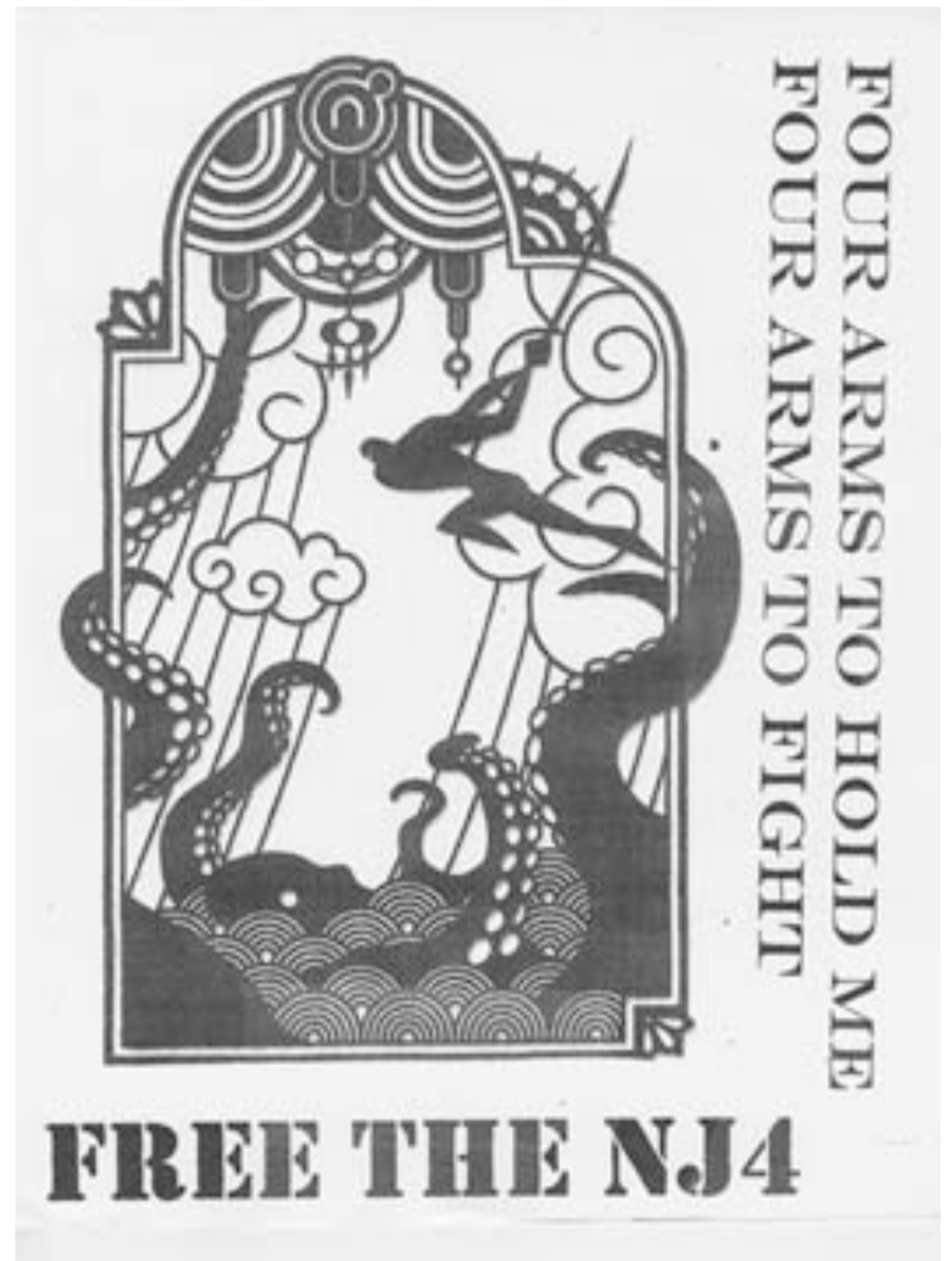
An analysis of the radical queer organizing surrounding the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

Since November of 2007, a gang of trannies, queers and miscreants had made clear their intentions; they were going to fuck up the conventions. From as early as discussions at NCOR in march, the criticism was made that organizing around the conventions was somewhat irrelevant to queer anarchist struggle.

True. Struggles for queers have largely, rightfully so, been rooted in the desires and needs of queer bodies. From Stonewall, to the white night riots, to STAR, to the battles with AIDS; the struggles of radical trannies and queers have always involved matters of empowerment and immediate survival. In that context, it is understandable why many queers would not be quick to put a year of work into the RNC or DNC. After all, our bodies would still be in prison and we'd still be killed on the street without regard for the events of four days in St. Paul and Denver.

We get that. But we don't live in 1969. Queers aren't engaged in four-day-long street-battles with police anymore. We haven't burnt cop cars or attacked capitols lately. We aren't occupying federal buildings, and public sex in enormous squatted buildings is sadly a matter of envious nostalgia for our generation. Rather, we have the banal regurgitation of heterosexuality and patriarchy in the form of campaigns for marriage and military service.

Understandably, we needed a reason to get excited. We



On August 18, 2006, seven young African American lesbians traveled to New York City from their homes in Newark for a regular night out. When walking down the street, a male bystander sexually propositioned one of the women. After refusing to take no for an answer, he physically assaulted them. The women tried to defend themselves, and a fight broke out. The women were charged with Gang Assault in the 2nd degree, a Class C Felony with a mandatory minimum of 3.5 years. Patreese Johnson was additionally charged with 1st Degree Assault. Three of the women accepted plea offers. On June 14th, 2007 Venice Brown (19), Terrain Dandridge (20), Patreese Johnson (20), and Renata Hill (24) received sentences ranging from 3 1/2 to 11 years in prison.



Street Harassment

Dwayne Buckle, who attacked the women, sexually propositioned Patreese and followed them down the street, insulting and threatening them: "I'll f**k you straight, sweetheart!" In 2005, Sakia Gunn, a 15 year old black lesbian from Newark was stabbed to death on a street corner after rejecting the advances of two men.

Gentrification

Imani Henry explains in "Lesbians sentenced for self-defense": "For trans people and LGBT youth of color, who statistically experience higher amounts of bigoted violence, the impact of the gentrification [in Greenwich Village] has been severe. As their once-safe haven is encroached on by real estate developers, the new white and majority heterosexual residents of the West Village then call in the state to brutalize them." (*Workers World*, 6/21/07)

Pathologizing Women of Color

According to the New York Times, "Justice Edward J. McLaughlin of State Supreme Court in Manhattan, showed little sympathy for the women's contention that taunts from the filmmaker, Dwayne Buckle, had left them no choice but to defend themselves." He quoted the nursery rhyme, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me." (6/15/07)

Legal Lynching

Lynching has been used to repress communities and normalize violence against women of color. Charges such as "Gang Assault" with mandatory minimum jail sentences function in the same way. Judges and State's Attorneys use these laws discriminately to inscribe deviancy onto particular people. Thus, it comes as no surprise that women of color continue to be the fastest growing prison population. (www.sentencingproject.org)

needed a chance to position ourselves as a force. We needed to feel strong. Above all else, we needed to find one another as individuals who wanted this world's head on a platter - we needed folks to dance with atop the rubble.

The author of this tragically incomplete analysis cannot attest to anything that happened in Denver, but really hopes someone else will.

While fun, and a worthwhile experience, what happened with the Bash Back! blockade in the streets of St. Paul was neither outstanding, nor as wild as it could have been.

A lot of shit was put in the roads; shit in the roads got broke, one persyn was arrested, another got fucked up by a horse. The blockade created a situation the kept busses from entering the excel on Kellogg for about 40 minutes. Later, folks got into a few scuffles with the Westboro Baptist Church. Oh, and a terrified and bewildered corporate journalist got a great story about a 'funnel cloud' of tire slashing, cop terrorizing, genderfuckers.

From the perspective of this participant, more could have happened. The conflict could have been escalated, and the ante could have been upped. I can say, though, that standing down a charging line of horse cops, linked arm-in-arm with friends and lovers in their sexiest attire has left me with a certain taste for conflict - a taste not easily satisfied.

Over a year in advance of the conventions, it was articulated that the most important reason to organize against them lied in their potential as catalysts to create lasting networks and to escalate social conflict in this country.

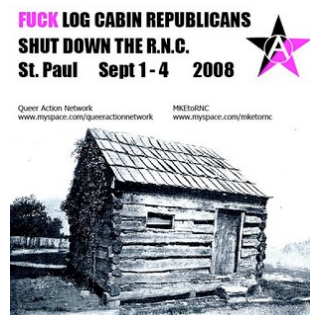
For this reason, the conventions were an enormous success for Bash Back! and for radical queers. Bash Back! as a network, was born entirely out of anti-convention organizing. This organizing made possible the outrageously successful Radical Queer Convergence in April, and the formation of a slew of new queer groups throughout the country. There are now Bash Back! groups in at least six cities or areas (Chicago, Denver, Memphis, Michigan, Milwaukee and Upstate New York), as well as crews of radical trannies and queers in several other towns.

To be clear, the relationships and networks we've built are here to stay. We've fucked one another, we've slept on each others' floors, we've sat for hours in lovely parks applying glitter to our costumes. That doesn't go away after four days. The only place we're going is forward.

The work we've done to create a network of queer and trans anarchists has been amazing. Now the next few months and year will truly tell how well we've done. We have a lot of momentum and a lot of passion. With that, we have an opportunity to invigorate and embolden queer organizing in this country.

We don't intend to let that opportunity pass.

We know what we've want, and in the flurries of kicking horses and streams of pepper-spray, we've found others who want it just as bad. We have only one direction: the queerest of insurrections.



BASH BACK! COMMUNIQUE #69

To our fabulous anarchist-comrades and fellow radicals alike:

As you are well aware, Bash Back! Has been fucking shit up fierce- and looking damn sexy in the process. Queer and Trans insurrection is hot right now; we've been infecting this country with something a lot more meaningful and glittery than obama fever. New chapters are springing up all over the country. As expected, the reaction has begun hitting back. Harassment, intimidation, and other forms of persecution are intensifying on behalf of both agents of the state and citizen fuckheads. Known houses are frequented by marked and unmarked cars. We are receiving a constant stream of threats. Police have contacted three different individual's parents in Milwaukee as well as others in Lansing; unable to pin any charges on us, their questions instead focused on gathering information pertaining to our organizational structure, personal relationships, as well as other things. Since the situation is as such, we are making a call for solidarity. We hope your unending support will manifest itself thru attacks even more sparkly than ours. We wish to say to you and our oppressors that any and all forms of repression only work to intensify our efforts. We will not stop until all capitalist, statist, and hetero-normative institutions are destroyed, and the ruins bedazzled.

Until sodomites are squatting the white house;

Yours from the wettest wildest dreams you've ever had, Bash Back!

Bash Back! Communique #666

BASH BACK! NEWS RESPONDS TO DEATH THREATS

To those who have threatened to kill us in the passed week:

You have put us in camps.

You have imprisoned us otherwise.

You bombed our bars and clinics.

You helped passed anti-Gay legislation

You have killed us in the streets and beat us in your schools.

And that one time when we were 13 you let us jerk you off in your tree fort.

So get the fuck over it!

Trans and Queer Folk face threats of violence on a daily basis. We have dealt with this shit our entire lives. As a result, we find your rhetoric to be unoriginal and frankly a bit stale. Furthermore, your yelps of legal repercussions, hell, and even murder do not deter us. They just fuel our fire, baby.

Bash Back! is devoted to exposing, confronting, challenging, and smashing our oppressors to itsy bitsy pieces. We're fixing to tear this world of heteronormative control to shreds. We are everywhere and will meet you at every opportunity. There are now BB! Chapters in Milwaukee, Chicago, Colorado, Memphis, Upstate New York, Lansing, DC, Philly, and Olympia. It won't be long before we come for you.

(Shout out to the non-BB! radical Queermo groups in NYC, Maine, SF, and other places!)

We know that you call us terrorists because our very existence terrorizes you. This makes us proud, but you ain't seen nothing yet. Nevertheless, we must remind ourselves that your bizarre delusions are not enough to liberate us from patriarchy. One day, soon enough, the secret Tranny sleeper operatives posing as your spouses will wake, and oh what a day that will be!

So you want a real social war? Bring it! We can fuck you up while we're fucking each other. We pack heat in our bedrooms and on the streets. Bet you can't do that, KKK.

-Bash Back! News

Greetings ass-pirates and carpet-munchers,

As we're sure you've already been made aware, the newly elected president of the United States has committed to repealing the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, and will allow queers to serve openly in the military. In the past, we at Bash Back!, have been extremely critical of queer military service. We've been known to refer to DADT activists as "racist, assimilationist fucks" or "imperialist tools" or simply "what fucking idiots". Those familiar with our past position on the issue will be surprised to learn that we have had a change of heart.

We are now completely in favor of queer military service! We have come to several realizations and applaud the repeal of DADT for the following reasons:

The military has BIG weapons. In our efforts to arm queers, BB! crews have been working to obtain insidious amounts of pepper spray and other self defense weapons. However, if our operatives can infiltrate the military, we will have access to bigger and better toys (not to mention the training that goes with them). We're already fierce as fuck, imagine us with military training.

After doing some research on the issue, we've discovered that right wing christians, politicians, and military officials are in consensus on the fact that queers in the military will completely compromise unit cohesion, battle readiness, and the overall strength of the armed forces. Being that Bash Back! opposes militarism, imperialism and ALL forms of state power, we are ecstatic about the opportunity to destroy the military from the inside!

We've been watching a lot of military porn and reading a healthy amount of "barracks" themed erotica lately. Needless to say we've developed a bit of a collective military fetish. Our walls are already covered in pre-cum at the very possibility of the orgies we can instigate once we're bunking up with a bunch of sex-deprived sailors. In short, thank you, Barack Obama and the assimilationist gay establishment!

Truly yours,

the birds of a cumming storm, Bash Back!

BASH BACK! DC CONFRONTS HRC ASSIMILATION

On Saturday Bash Back! DC paid a visit to the HRC’s lavish annual fundraising dinner.

Radical queers and trannies descended upon the forces of gay assimilation today at the convention center where the HRC’s annual fundraising dinner was held. At \$250/plate, we sex workers, genderfuckers, transfolk, queers of color, and allies certainly had no place at the hrc’s table, so we had our own party outside, one in which everyone was welcome rather than only white ritzy-looking upper class cisgendered men. While it seems that many dinner-goers this year were supportive of trans rights (or least willing to give token support), attendees were more than a little unsure about the place of working class and queers of color. One woman even said that marriage rights were the “last step towards gaining full equality in American society.” Maybe that’s so for the kind of folks that can afford this dinner, but for queer street kids getting kicked out of gay neighborhoods and queers of color being denied community resources, liberation can’t be obtained through the marriage lobby.

Assimilation will not save us, it will only end in the decimation of our community. Society must change to accommodate us, queers and transfolk must refuse assimilation and cultural erasure at the hands of the homonormative gay elite and build a world where we can liberate ourselves.

For dance parties amidst the ruins, dandee lyon of bb! Dc



OLYMPIA: UNDERGROUND CELL OF BASH BACK! TRASHES MORMON CHURCH...AGAIN

We had a great last night sneaking about in snow covered Olympia.

We paid another visit to the bigots over at the Mormon Church. We covered their building with messages in spray paint, such things as “there is no sin in your desire”, “love who you want to love and love how you please”, “sex is fun! It’s not shameful”, “queer and trans insurrection” and many, many, many, many others. We also left them a surprise, it’s a pretty big one, we think they’ll notice it within a few days.

The Mormons are an atrocious bunch and, well, it just felt amazing to fuck up their holy place, especially on an early Sunday morning with the snowflakes glistening in the street lamps. They have been so active in suppressing their flocks sexual urges through instilling bankrupt ideas of morality and shame, we hope that a few people read that and went home to commit loving acts of sodomy.

We’re also pretty fucking fed up with the way those Mormons have been giving us queer and trans people so much shit, they treat us like we’re some sort of plague that they need to quarantine before it spreads. When actually this plague is something innate in us as humans, you can’t quarantine us, cause we already exist inside of everyone. We are desire, we are freedom, we are acting on urges and possibilities, we are passion, we are a break from the routine, from the expected, from the drudgery, we are the nibble on your earlobe, the sex in the forest or the kiss under the stars. We are sexy, sexy, anarchists.

Around the world people are breaking away from their dreary slumber, rejecting the tediousness of their boring lives and finding meaning in attacking systems of misery. Let this be a call out for more actions, bigger ones, and bigger still. We want nothing from their world to stand, we want to create our own world, where everything is possible and everything is permitted.

We did this in solidarity with those sexy Greek rioters we’ve been hearing so much about. Damn, those kids really know how to turn us on, they get us all warm inside on these cold winter nights. We wish we could grab a few of those Greeks by the balaclava and just... well you know...

More attacks to cum.

An underground cell of Bash Back!

BASH BACK! OLYMPIA TRASHES MORMON CHURCH

Bash Back! Olympia Trashes Mormon Church

Last night, under the veil of fog, we visited the Church of Latter Day Saints. We left their locks glued with anarchist messages scrawled in spray paint over their boring veneer.

We did this to show our solidarity with all who are resisting heterosexism everywhere, hopefully to spur them into action; and also because we are angry at the amount of money and propaganda that the Mormon church pumped into the homophobic Proposition 8 campaign. From their disgusting commercials to their despicable sermons to those gross lawn signs, we are sick of this parade of bigotry. The Church has to pay.

We as anarchists are opposed to marriage but we see that this blatantly anti-gay act as a threat to all us gay, lesbian, transgendered and queer folk. The Proposition 8 campaign was used as a medium to instill homophobic fear into the population of California so as to squash queer culture, it is dangerous to let these actions go unchecked and not confronted.

Liberating our sexual fantasies and desires is dangerous to this rigid system, because free people enjoying themselves in a plethora of ways sexually will eventually want to enjoy themselves in other areas of life too, capitalism doesn't want sexually liberated people because they ask too many questions and may not show up to work on time (or at all).

The Mormon church (just like most churches) is a cesspool of filth. It is a breeding ground for oppression of all sorts and needs to be confronted, attacked, subverted and destroyed. The church reinforces sexism, transphobia, homophobia, racism, capitalism, and leaves it's members emotionally wounded and unable to engage in critical thinking. The Mormon church teaches us to hate our bodies, not to trust ourselves or our desires. This ends up deforming us as healthy sexual and communal beings. This is unacceptable.

This is a few reasons why an affinity group of the Olympia, Washington Chapter of Bash Back! decided to attack their church with glue and paint. Let this be a warning to the Mormon church, dissolve completely or be destroyed. The choice is yours..

~BASH BACK! OLYMPIA

CHICAGO: BASH BACK! LIVENS UP MATTHEW SHEPARD MARCH

The Rally.

Last night, a couple hundred people held a rally and march in Chicago to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard. Much to the dismay of some of the more mainstream elements in the crowd, Radical Cheerleaders Chicago performed on stage at the the rally in front of a large banner that read, "We're Here, We're Queer, We're Anarchists, We'll Fuck You Up!" However, a large portion of the young people up front and other march organizers enjoyed the fabulous display of resistance.

The March.

30 radical TransFolk, Queers and Allies marched behind a sparkling silver banner that read "Bash Back!" We banged on pans, blew whistles, screamed, moaned, and chanted. As to be expected, some liberals in the crowd were infuriated when people began chanting, "We're Here, We're Queer, Fuck the Police!" and "When the Police Attack, We Bash Back!"

One person even asked us why WE were bashing the POLICE, after all they are here "to protect us." As this person is clearly ass-backwards some felt like it was not worth answering the person's question. Others quickly took up the chance, "Did you see the presentation at the rally of the cops murdering that queer kid?!" "I work with sex workers in this neighborhood. Trans and Queer sex workers are raped, beaten and arrested in this city on a regular basis. Get the fuck out of your bubble!" another person yelled.

As the march went on and began to be heckled by drunk, Yuppie, baseball fans a chant arose, "Die Yuppie Scum! We'll Fuck you in the Bum!" At one point the crowd even began yelling such fun slogans as, "Make Total Destroy!" and "We'll Smash Your Windows, Just Like in St. Paul!" (clearly parody).

Overall the evening was quite a success. A number of people were exposed to Bash Back! and seemed quite interested in our messaging. Others were outed as nothing less than assimilationist trying to co-opt true resistance into the Obama campaign.

One thing many Midwestern radical TransFolk and Queers have learned in the passed year of organizing, is cops have absolutely NO idea how to respond to a large crowd of pissed off Trans and Queer people. Lets keep it up. Remember our beloved sluts, do not hesitate! Fight on our terms.

To Fucking on the Corpses of Corporate Whores,

BASH BACK!

DC: BASH BACK! AT THE OBAMA'S INAUGURATION

Bash Back! cordially invites you to the marriage of the gay assimilationist movement to the State on January 20th, 2009. The gay ruling class has been committed to the State for many years, and this January they will try to make us all make the ultimate commitment to violent, oppressive institutions on the eve of a new Democratic Party regime. Yet few realize that this is an arranged marriage: the assimilationist elite have claimed to speak for all queer and trans folks, yet as outcasts and rejects of commodified, mainstream gay culture, Bash Back! Says NO! to marriage to the State. We know that whether a Democrat or a Republican rules over us, queer and trans liberation cannot be obtained by assimilation into institutions of straight privilege. Rather, we want a divorce from the State and from movements that have never represented our interests and never will. We invite all queer rebels and traitors to patriarchal norms to join us this January in the streets of D.C. in our wedding's best to say "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off!" to unrepresentative movements and the State.

Always the reception crashers and never the brides, Bash Back! DC



There were a few main points and goals of this action:

- To confront the oppressors that run the church and show them some of us are unafraid and will resist them. Calling them out IN FRONT of their congregation was an important part of that. Showing that we are angry with their destructive behavior was also an important part of the message.
- To provide a space for those who had been mentally tortured by MHC and other places similar to confront their “demons” and fight back! Their emotional health was a very real concern of this action.
- To show the youth we are not alone! With an action of great energy and helpful fliers we wanted to send a message of acceptance and understanding. We realize that thinking you might be queer in a church like that is terrifying. And unbearably lonely. By tossing out a thousand flyers we provided a way “out”. Or at least planted the seed.
- And to generate visibility to Bash Back!! To build momentum and give us energy to our movement. I think we nailed that one.



BASH BACK! RAISES HELL AT ANTI-QUEER MEGA-CHURCH

The Mount Hope Church is a deplorable, anti-queer mega-church in Lansing, Michigan. The church works to institutionalize transphobia and homophobia through several repulsive projects including organized “ex-gay” conferences and so-called “hell houses”, which depict queers, trannies and womyn who seek abortions as the horrors. Mt. Hope is complicit in the repression of queers in Michigan and beyond.

Bash Back! ain’t down with that. And so on Sunday November 9th, about thirty radical queers from Lansing, Chicago, Memphis and Milwaukee disrupted the church’s most well-attended sermon.

At noon, a small group of folks dressed in pink and black, equipped with a megaphone, black flags, picket signs and an upside-down pink cross began demonstrating outside the church. The group was extremely loud and wildly offensive.

The demonstration drew a majority of Mount Hope’s security staff outside to watch them.

Meanwhile, with the guards pre-occupied by the distraction, over a dozen queers had put on their Sunday-best and infiltrated the church’s congregation. At the signal that the guards had been lured outside, the infiltrators sprung into action.

A group stood up, declared themselves fags, and began screaming loudly. Upon hearing the loud interruption, other affinity groups went into action. A team that had been hiding under the pews in the closed-off balcony dropped a banner and pulled back the curtains to reveal “IT’S OKAY TO BE GAY! BASH BACK!”. Another group threw over a thousand fliers to the entirety of the congregation. The fire alarm was pulled. Queers began making out in front of the pastor. And within a matter of minutes, everyone had evaded the guards and made their escapes.

Bash Back! operatives, still hidden among the congregation observed a person screaming that Satan had come to Mount Hope, that the end was here, that the queers were everywhere. She then began speaking tongues. The dumbfounded pastor, after regaining his composure, went on to speak of the of decadent, depraved wolves that menace his flock of sheep.

Let it be known: So long as bigots kill us in the streets, this pack of wolves will continue to BASH BACK!

We are everywhere.

BB!LANSING: WHY MOUNT HOPE CHURCH?

A member of BB! Lansing explains why Mount Hope Church was the target:

Ok, so again I feel the message of Why we chose Mt. Hope is getting lost. Here again is the piece we crafted to explain.

What was that noise !?

Bash Back! responds to the backlash

In the past weeks there has been an unprecedented amount of controversy and reaction to the Bash Back! action at Mount Hope Church, in Lansing Michigan. Thanks to the media (who have failed to cover this with any amount of effort or concern for the truth), as well as incessant blogging. Many important pieces of information have been lost, and at times, changed completely. We would like to set some things..."straight"! In order to provide a full explanation, we will break this into parts.

- Why Mount Hope Church?
- Why these tactics and what did we hope to accomplish?
- Dispelling myths.

Why Mount Hope Church?

The first issue we would like to address is the nationally wide-spread question of, "Why Mount Hope Church?" (MHC) Good question. The first thing to realize is we did not just randomly pick a place, nor did we pick the biggest place. A lot of issues went into our decision; I will discuss the major ones: First, MHC's stance on queer identities. In their recent press release, Dave Williams (or D-Willy as we affectionately refer to him) states that they simply see being gay as a sin equal to any other, such as, lying or stealing. This is a sneaky way of getting off the hook. You can see for yourself that they take it much more seriously.

According to one of MHC nearly all forms of sexual expression (and specifically homosexuality) are considered "sexual addiction". Openly lumping homo's in with such sinners as peeping-Toms, flashers and even rapists!!! These "addictions" they work to "cure" through strict "support groups" such as Dunamai. And at times even send men to live in brainwashing camps such as Pure Life Ministries. They also organize with

other ex-gay organizations such as Love in Action, Homosexuals Anonymous, and L.I.F.E. Ministries. It is clear that MHC takes an active approach to repress queer identity and all forms of sexual expression outside of the Christian, straight, married and husband controlled structure. This ruins people's whole lives and families by making them repress their desires so completely that they grow to hate themselves and/or act out against or ignore their spouses and families. This church is nothing short of a disease in the community, and in the minds of those who attend.

"D-willy", Pastor of Mount Hope, (and personal enemy of Bash Back!) stated that he did not "choose to identify MHC as anti-choice". However, every Halloween the Church puts on the heavily protested "Hell House", an extremely offensive and yes RADICAL approach to shock people into their right wing belief structure. One of the rooms within this Hell House completely inaccurately depicts a womyn receiving an abortion. In the act, the doctor uses dirty tools, and horrible machine sounds play over loud speakers. With the presence of demons, and her screams of pain, one leaves feeling like they just witnessed a most violent atrocity. How is this not actively anti-choice?

Another important reason that MHC was chosen, was the deep personal tie many organizers have to the church. Some members of Bash Back! have been members of MHC. Others were raised in evangelical churches very similar in message and method. For them, this was a liberating step. A personal confrontation with those who had made the journey to adulthood and personal identity a struggle wrought with self-hate, repression, guilt and loneliness. All of which eventually evolved into healthy anger, strength, free sexual expression, and activism. This has helped to build a strong community within Bash Back! And we support their choice to confront those that would choose to put them back in that dark place of self-hate!

From here I could go into all the other reasons MHC should be confronted. For example, the undeniable fact that mega-churches are really just big business. Seen by the way they pressure their "congregation" (or audience) to buy their books and DVD's and other products. Or the incredible amount of money grossed by that church in a year. Another reason is the international church plantings. MHC has No regard for indigenous culture. There are dozens of reasons we chose Mount Hope Church.

What did Bash Back! hope to accomplish? Why these shocking tactics?