
SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT
STREET HOMOSEXUALS IN TORONTO STREET HOMOSEXUALS IN TORONTO
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A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR STREET ACTIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Join a GAY Group. The Body Politic lists them all in the back.

Phone 923-GAYS every week. They have a Community calendar and will keep you up to date on all GAY activities.

As soon as you hear of any attacks on GAY people, of any police raids or police attacks on GAY people or GAY institutions:

- find out whats happening
 - call one of the GAY groups
 - phone 923-GAYS
 - phone Glad Day Bookstore 961-4161
 - phone Pink Triangle Press 977-6320
 - phone MCC 532-2333
 - phone Womens Bookstore 922-8744
 - find out if there's going to be a demonstration, rally, etc.
 - if there is, GO TO IT. PARTICIPATE. DEFEND YOURSELF.
 - CALL ALL YOUR FRIENDS. Tell them about it. Get them to go.
 - Have them call everyone they know.
- THERE IS STRENGTH, UNITY AND SAFETY IN NUMBERS.

Demonstrations always will be an important form of protest. It is different from other forms of warfare because it invites people other than those planning the action via publicity to participate. Demonstrations are basically non-violent in nature.

Numbers of people are only one of the many factors in an effective demonstration. Often the critical element involved is THEATRE. Come to a demo prepared:

- make signs
- bring flags or coloured cloth
- wear a costume
- make banners
- decorate yourself
- wear slogans on your clothes (use masking tape or other sticky tape)
- MAKE A NOISE... bring noisemakers, drums, whistles, horns, tin cans, bull horns, sticks to knock together (also handy for other purposes), etc.

BE CREATIVE!

Remember, the props you bring can be used for SELF DEFENSE and PROTECTION too!

Carry your flags, banners and posters on BIG, HEAVY sticks.

Dont dismiss demonstrations because they have always turned out boring. They dont have to be. THEY'RE NOT. they're exciting. they're fun. they're a HIGH! You and your group can always plan a demonstration within the demonstration that will play up your style or politics more accurately.

ALSO DON'T TEND TO DISMISS DEMONSTRATIONS OUTRIGHT BECAUSE THE REPRESSION IS TOO GREAT. DURING WORLD WAR II, THE DANES HELD STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE NAZIS WHO OCCUPIED THEIR COUNTRY.

COME OUT FIGHT BACK COME OUT FIGHT BACK COME OUT FIGHT BACK NOW!!!

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FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T GO TO DEMONSTRATIONS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE RECOGNIZED, GO PUBLIC OR GET YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPER

- come out anyhow
- wear a mask (good Theatre)
- wear a scarf over your face or dark glasses
- more effective...as part of your self-defensive clothing, wear a motorcycle helmet, army surplus helmet, goggles, gas mask, a balaclava, etc.
- ...also, stick in the middle of the crowd
 - keep on the sidelines of any action
 - don't stand in front of the speakers platform
 - hold a poster in front of your face
 - avoid the media

It can be done. The ones who get their pictures in the paper or on TV are the ones who shout the loudest, jump the highest, act the most radical. BUT THEN WE HOPE THAT SOME DAY EVERYONE CAN SHOUT AND JUMP AND BE RADICAL WITHOUT FEAR. Thats what the demos are all about.

DRESS The clothing you wear should offer you the best protection, yet be light enough to allow you to be highly mobile. CS and CN are the most common types of tear gas dispersibles. Sometimes they are combined with pepper gas to give better results. Pepper gas is a nerve irritant that affects exposed areas of the skin. Clothing that is tight fitting and covers as much of the body surface as is possible is advisable. This also offers some protection if you are dragged along the ground. Gloves come in handy as protection and if you want to pick up gas cannisters and throw them back at the pigs or chuck them through a store window.

your shoes should be high sneakers for running or boots for kicking. Hiking boots sold in army surplus stores serve both purposes and are your best selection for street action. Men should also wear a jock strap or protective cup. Rib guards can be purchased cheaply in sporting goods stores. Shoulder pads and leg pads are also available, but unless you expect heavy fighting and are used to wearing this clumsy wear, you'll be better off without it.

Try not to wear long, flowing scarves or dangling pierced ear rings. They give the pigs and punks too much to grab on to and can really hurt if yanked. Heavy, solid rings are good though. Leave your purse and wallet at home. Take only what money you'll need and leave your I.D. at home. The pigs have been known to visit your home after finding your lost I.D. at the scene of a demo.

Everyone should have a helmet. Your head sticks out above the swarming crowd and dents like a tin can. The type depends on what you can afford and how often you'll be using it. Old army helmets are good- they're cheap, offer ear protection, have built-in suspension to absorb blows- but they're HEAVY. Construction helmets are light weight and have good suspension- but they offer no ear protection, can crack or dent if hit repeatedly, and need a chin strap to hold them on. The U.S. M-I army helmet seems to be the best but they too are heavy. Aside from their expense, motorcycle helmets are the best. Its rare for one of these to crack under repeated blows. Get one with a removable face guard- you might want to wear a gas mask with it.

SKI GOGGLES or the FACE VISOR on a crash helmet will protect against Mace but will offer no protection against chemical warfare gases- like tear gas. Many people use gas masks- the kind with replaceable, active chemical filters. If you don't have a gas mask, you should at least get a supply of surgical masks from a hospital supply store and a plastic bag filled with water and a cloth. A handkerchief or bandana always comes in handy at any demo.

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Make photocopies of this and pass them out at each demonstration.

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GAS... properties, effects, protection, first-aid

CS (tear gas)- fat soluble gas with peppery smell and tear and
** nausea agents

- dispensed by cannisters, plastic grenades*, fog machines, helicopter and spray truck devices
- produces copious tears, burning around eyes, coughing, difficulty breathing, nausea, harassing sting and reddening of exposed areas. Sting can last up to two hours.
- Protection- remove yourself from the gas area. DO NOT RUB eyes, wash out with dilute boric acid or eye drops like Murine. If none, use water. Wipe exposed areas with mineral oil. If none, use water, then alcohol.

CN (tear gas)- milder than CS, smells like apple blossoms. Water
** soluble

- same effects as CS but no nausea or stinging
- Protection- remove yourself from the gas area and wash with water. First-aid and dispensation same as CS.

HC (smoke) - heavy dense smoke, camphor-like smell

- heavy dense smoke, campfire-like smell
- slightly irritating to eyes and nose, used mostly to scare crowds
- dispensed by grenades, pots, fog machines
- no protection needed. Goggles are the best first-aid.

MACE - a liquid composed of CN, kerosene, general propellant, and oxidizing agents

- and oxidizing agents
- dispensed by propellant cannisters for person-to-person combat
- sharp pain if hit in the eyes. Burning sensation of other areas hit. Nausea and possible vomiting if swallowed.
- Protection- wash out eyes with boric acid solution (see CS) or water if not available. Other area should be washed with alcohol to reduce burning.
- First aid- Goggles, vaseline can be applied to exposed skin areas beforehand. If you use vaseline and get sprayed, wipe off vaseline with a rag and wash your face.

** First-Aid for CS and CN... Gas mask, wet towels or handkerchief, surgical mask and tight fitting clothes.

* Grenades unlike cannisters explode. If they do so near your face, they can cause very serious burns. Protect your eyes. They can be hand thrown or fired from a rifle or granade launcher.

A super antidote for CS and CN gases ... Mix 8-10 eggs, 1 cup water, and a teaspoon of baking soda in a bowl. Beat mixture well. Keep refrigerated in small plastic bottles until a demonstration. Wipe the stuff on your face before a gassing occurs.

IN A DEMONSTRATION: use the buddy system to keep track of each other. If someone is caught by a pig, others should immediately rush to the rescue if its possible to do so without sustaining too many losses. If an arrest is made, someone from your buddy-group should take responsibility for seeing to it that a lawyer and bail money are taken care of. Never abandon a member of your group.

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IN A DEMONSTRATION: WATCH OUT FOR STRAIGHT PUNKS AND CREEPS!

SPRAY PAINT- Handy for making quick posters and banners. You can make exciting, washable T-shirts by cutting out a thin cardboard stencil with an exacto knife or whatever, placing the stencil over the T-shirt, holding the stencil firmly in place with tape, tacks or rocks, etc. and then spraying with a light coat of spray paint...in one or more colours. Works great and is easy to do. Slogans and symbols can be sprayed on rough surfaces such as brick or concrete walls (and police cars) that are a real bitch to remove unless expensive sandblasting is used.

ANTI-TIRE WEAPONS- Don't believe all the bullshit tire ads that make tires seem like the Supermen of the streets. Roofing nails spread out on the street are effective in stopping a patrol car. A nail sticking out of a strong piece of wood wedged under a rear tire will work as effectively as a bazooka.

SMOKE BOMBS- Smoke bombs and flares can be purchased fairly cheaply from theatrical or industrial safety supply stores.

If you're grabbed by the wrist, pull down hard and quick on your attackers thumb. If you're grabbed around the waist or neck, grab the thumbs or another finger and sharply bend it backwards.

Don't use your fist...use JUDO CHOPS. Aim hard for the centre of the chest cavity six inches above the belly button; the Adams apple; the back of the neck at the top of the spine; the spot directly below the nose and above the upper lip and/or the side of the head in front of the ear.

After any police/pig action...WRITE LETTERS. To the mayor, your alderperson, your MP, your MPP, the police chief, the police commission, the newspapers...everyone. And phone and write the media to let them know what you think of their coverage.

STREET HOMOSEXUALS IN TORONTO...SHIT!...FIGHT BACK...GAY RIGHTS!
