

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

June 14, 1977

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Since the defeat of the Miami gay rights referendum on June 7 there have been numerous demonstrations and meetings organized in cities across the country. Gay rights coalitions are being formed in many cities to respond to the defeat of the Miami referendum and the increased attacks on gay rights. Many of these coalitions are organizing activities in response to speaking and singing engagements being set up for antigay leader Anita Bryant. These actions have been reported in the Militant.

Along with the protests already being planned, the annual Christopher Street actions, which are being held June 18-June 26, will become an important focus around which there will be a broad response to these attacks.

In some areas the SWP and YSA have been participating in the coalitions and organizations planning these actions. In New Orleans, for example, SWP and YSA members played an important role in helping the gay rights coalition discuss out what types of actions should be organized when Anita Bryant comes to town.

In other areas we want to talk to gay organizations and find out what activities are planned to counter the antigay campaign. In most areas there are new openings for us to become involved in the groups and coalitions planning and building these activities. Where coalitions have been formed, they have been able to gain wide support for gay rights, including participation from women's liberation groups, the National Organization for Women, Black organizations, and campus groups. The head of the AFL-CIO council in San Francisco has spoken out in support of gay rights, and even Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, sent a letter to Miami's mayor in April stating his support for the gay rights ordinance.

In addition to being involved in these coalitions, SWP branches can hold forums on gay liberation and the meaning of these attacks. Campaign statements that we've issued have received a good response, and SWP and YSA members have spoken at rallies and demonstrations. Comrades from New Orleans report that they have been selling fifteen to twenty copies of the Militant at the weekly coalition meetings.

The Militant will be continuing its coverage of the attacks on gay rights and the activities being planned. The issue dated June 24 will carry reports from several cities on gay rights activities, and will report on the upcoming Christopher Street Liberation Day activities. The issue dated July 1, which will be sold at the Christopher Street actions, will have an article on the meaning of the Miami defeat.

Comrades should inform the Militant of any local attacks that occur and actions that have taken place or are being planned so that they can be reported in the paper.

Comradely,

*Mary-Alice Waters*

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National Office