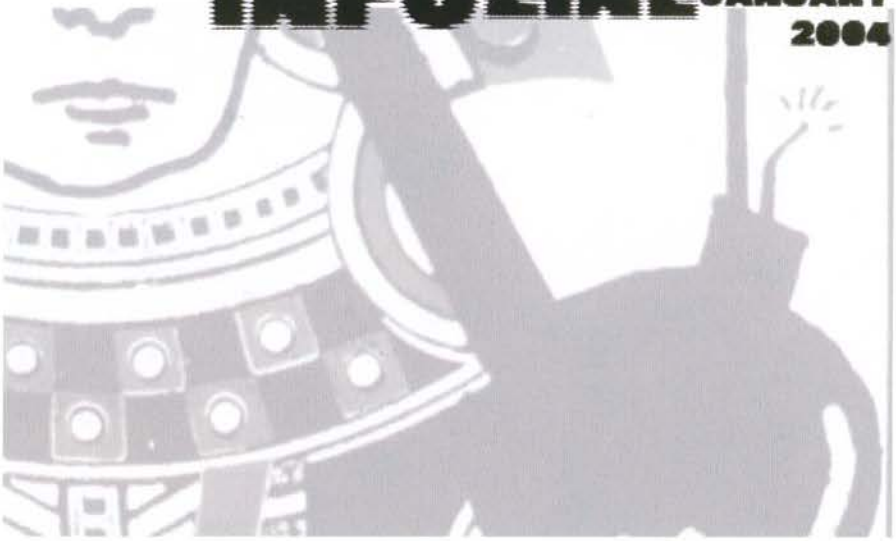
QUEERUPTION INFOZINE

JANUARY 2004



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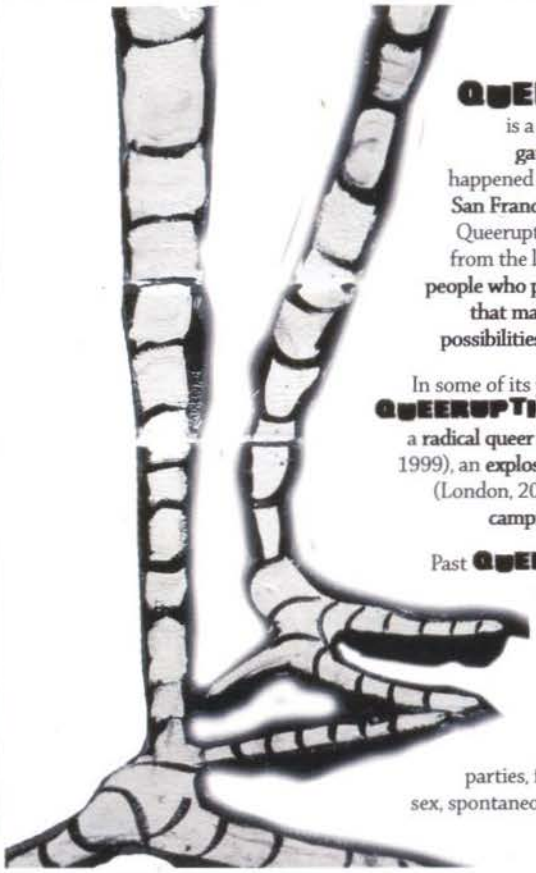


QUEERUPTION is a **free DIY radical queer gathering** that has so far happened in **London, New York, San Francisco**, and **Berlin**. Every Queeruption is a little different from the last one, shaped by the **people who plan it**, the **community that makes it happen**, and the **possibilities of each new location**.

In some of its previous incarnations, **QUEERUPTION** has been dubbed a **radical queer encuentro** (New York, 1999), an **explosion of sex and politics** (London, 2002), and a **great queer camping trip** (Berlin, 2003).

Past **QUEERUPTION**s have included shared vegan meals, political discussions, direct actions, skills workshops, bands, spoken word, dressup and cabaret, dance parties, film screenings, radical sex, spontaneous haircuts, **and more**.

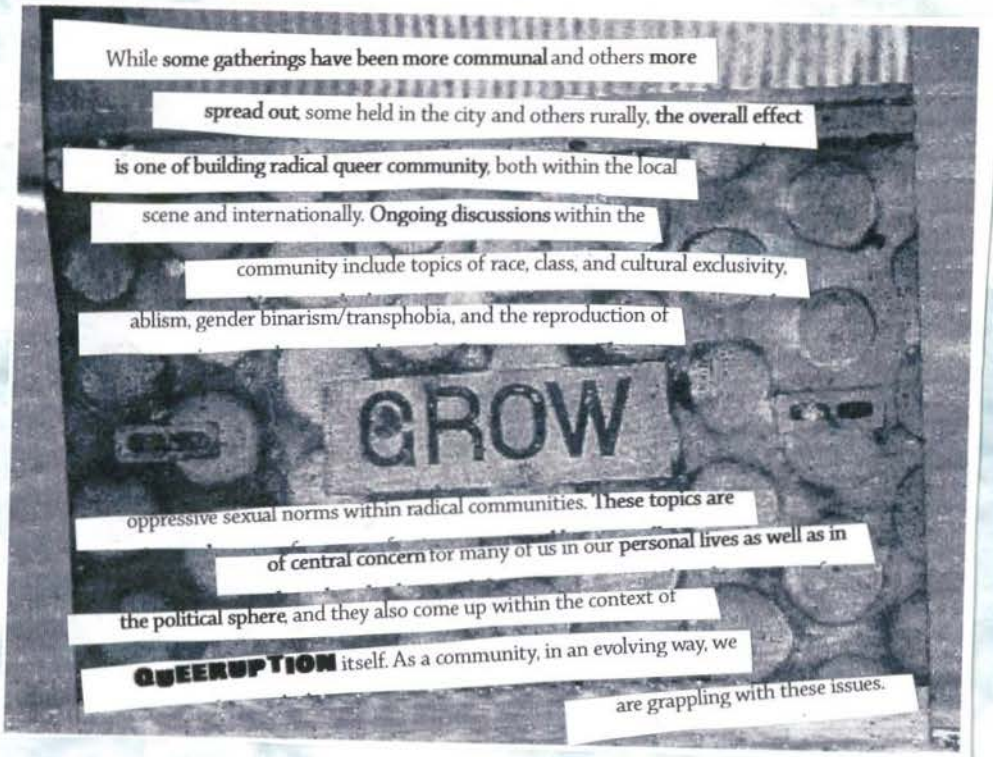
The first **QUEERUPTION** happened in the Spring of 1998, when about a hundred queers spent a weekend together in a squatted building in South London. The goal of the organizers was to make a politically inspiring and educational gathering that was "open to all, and was about us all taking initiative, creating and participating, instead of just consuming a lifestyle sold to us."

Since then, **QUEERUPTION** gatherings have happened in New York, San Francisco, London again, and Berlin. In London and Berlin, Queeruption took place in a single location where everyone who wanted to could live together communally.

In San Francisco and New York, the gathering was spread throughout the city space, with events, meals, and accommodation in different locations. In London it was possible to squat a building, use it for one week, and then exit, leaving it once again an anonymous, unused space.

In New York and San Francisco, queeruptors were welcomed into a variety of venues, including warehouse collectives, clubs, art galleries, infoshops, an alternative college campus, and individual homes. In Berlin, the political crackdown on squatting made it impossible to house everyone together centrally, so the gathering was held outside of the city on squatted land.

While **some gatherings have been more communal** and others **more spread out**, some held in the city and others rurally, **the overall effect is one of building radical queer community**, both within the local scene and internationally. **Ongoing discussions** within the community include topics of race, class, and cultural exclusivity, ablism, gender binarism/transphobia, and the reproduction of



oppressive sexual norms within radical communities. **These topics are of central concern** for many of us in our **personal lives as well as in the political sphere**, and they also come up within the context of **QUEERUPTION** itself. As a community, in an evolving way, we are grappling with these issues.

QUEERUPTORS are active and support each other in a wide variety of political projects, including **Black Laundry** (queers against the Israeli occupation), **Gayten-LGBT** (queer safety, visibility, and solidarity in Serbia), **Anarchist People of Color** (building a revolutionary anarchist people of color movement), **Queer Mutiny** and **Gay Shame** (creating queer alternatives to political apathy and cultural consumerism), **Indymedia** (international, community-based alternative media), **Paper Tiger TV** (challenging and exposing corporate control of mainstream media), **Women on Waves** (providing safe, legal abortions in countries where it's illegal), **PISSR** (trans rights campaign to legalize unisex public bathrooms), the **Noborder Network** (opposing border fascism in the EU), **Disarm DSEI** (protesting Europe's largest annual arms fair), and numerous campaigns against the propagation of **state terrorism**, **economic globalization**, and **wars without end**.

www.noborder.org

www.blacklaundry.org

www.gay-serbia.com/gayten_lgbt

www.papertiger.org

www.dsei.org

http://actagainstwar.org

www.indymedia.org./en/index.shtml

www.gayshamesf.org

www.pissr.org/aboutus.html

www.illegalvoices.org/apoc/

www.womenonwaves.org/index_eng.html

QUEERUPTION is a DIY **event** in that every person who attends is **ideally a participant**, whether that means cooking, performing, making a workshop, doing first aid, planning a political action, or helping to clean up when the party's over.

QUEERUPTION gatherings are **free and donation based** No one who organizes, performs, screens a film, or makes a flyer for the gathering is paid, and no one is turned away from any event or accommodation for lack of funds. As much as possible, space, meals, materials and equipment are acquired by **donation and innovation** -- but some aspects of the gathering **inevitably cost money**.

The next **QUEERUPTION** is planned for **Holland**, June 1 to 7 2004, followed by one in **Australia** in early 2005. A related queer gathering is also being planned for **Serbia** in July of 2004. The money raised by the Bay Area Queeruption benefits will help provide the **space**, **meals**, **materials**, and **equipment** for these gatherings. Money will also go toward a **travel fund** for queers from non-EU (i.e., economically sanctioned) Eastern European countries.

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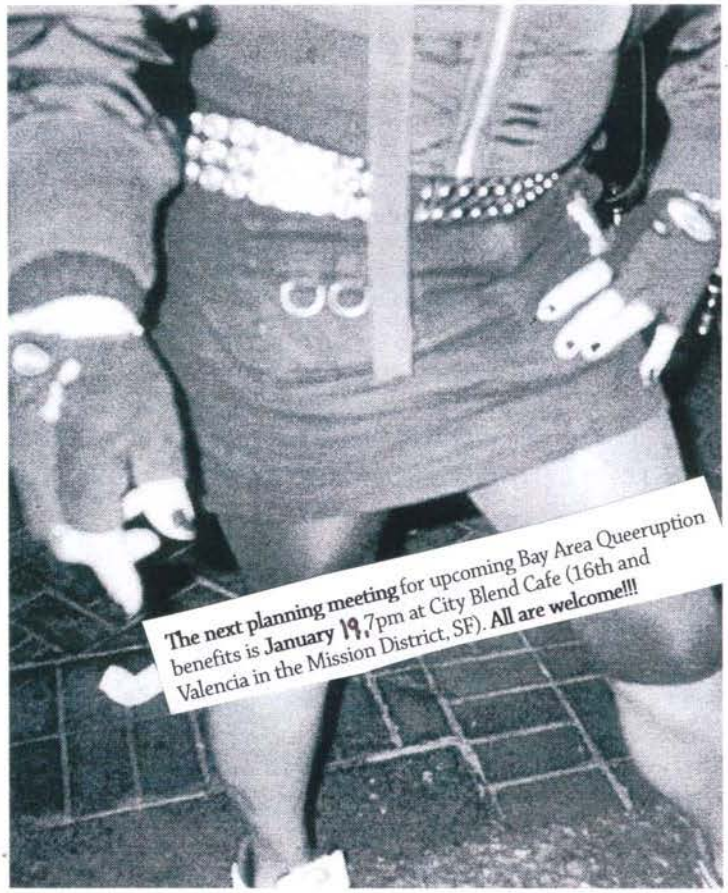
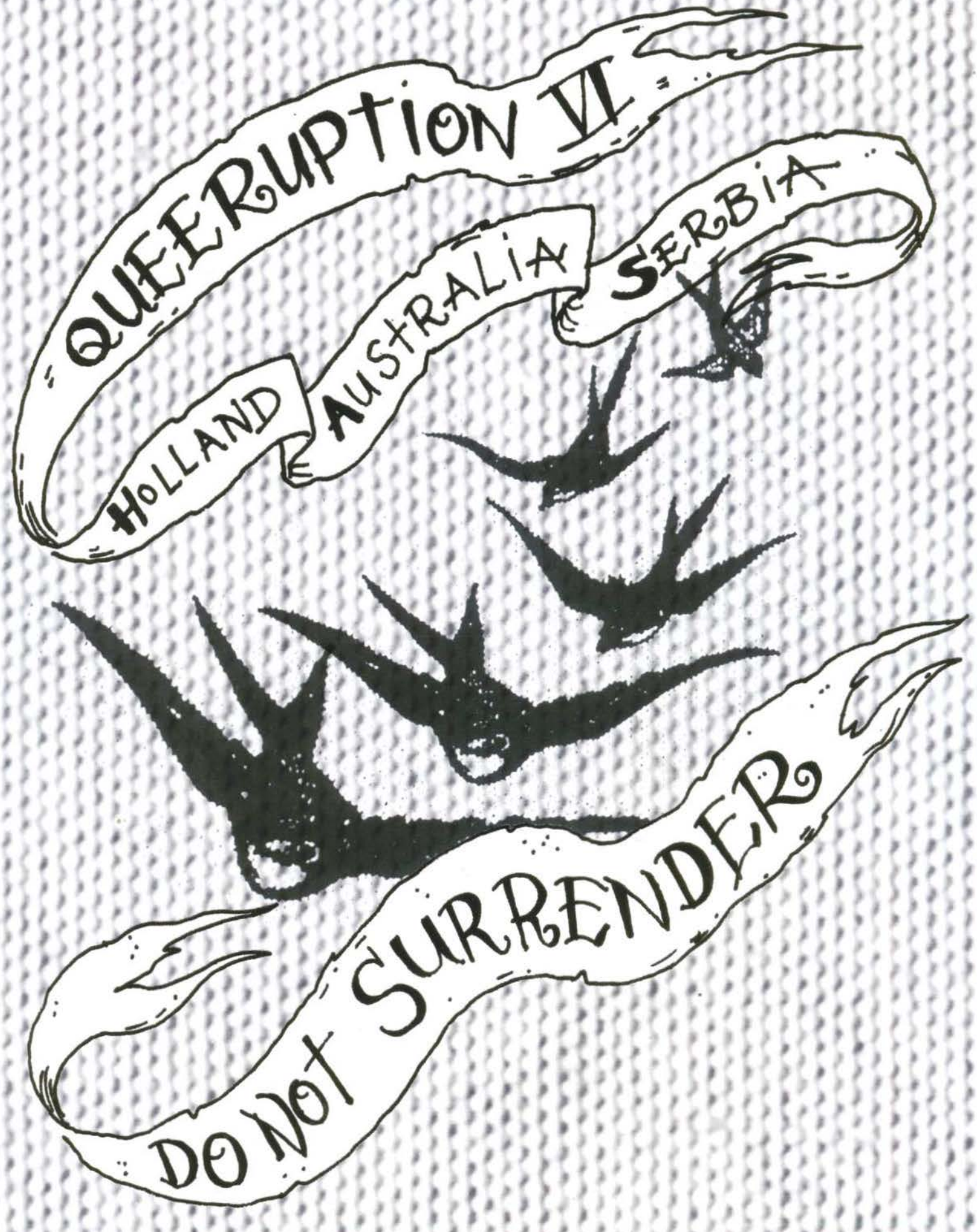
You can learn more about **QUEERUPTION** by visiting **www.queeruption.org** or by joining the international Queeruption listserv at **http://groups.yahoo.com/group/queeruption**



The next planning meeting for upcoming Bay Area Queeruption benefits is **January 19**, 7pm at City Blend Cafe (16th and Valencia in the Mission District, SF). **All are welcome!!!**

This infozine was put together by Athen and Fishious, January 2004. Most images are from street art, flyers, and zines found in San Francisco's Mission District. Many thanks to all the artists – those we know and those we don't. This zine is anticopyright. Please distribute free and wide.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