

10 FRAME-WORKS A PRIMER ON GAY LABOR

UNION CONTRACTS had clauses against discrimination based on sexual orientation before legislation had ever been passed.

With ENDA stuck in Congress, union contracts are still the only hope against discrimination for many queers.



* It is THROUGH FIGHTING that people are TRANSFORMED. This is the time to bring up difference, not shy from it, etc.

lock-out... MONTH 2... If the union movement can encompass all sites of identity, people will stay when things GET HARD.



Gay establishments have LABOR RELATIONS



The union is the vehicle. Queers in unions are already organized.



Brands - often large and exploitative employers - market to queer people.

FIGHT THE ULTRA-RIGHT BOYCOTT COORS

HYATT → SUPPORT HOTEL WORKERS SLEEP WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE



* Speaking up about your PRIVATE LIFE is a necessary ingredient in convincing people to see the union as a place in which to TAKE RISKS.

Queers are particularly practiced in bringing the private into the public.



Queers are subject to economic injustice:

- Transnational queer couples denied citizenship rights through marriage
- Youth kicked out of families
- Lesbians → double wage gap
- Fewer partnership benefits (taxes, adoption, healthcare)
- Transfolks incarcerated at higher rates
- Discrimination in interviews and on the job

Queers can help the union movement understand the full complexities of economic injustice



EROTIC LABOR (a form of queerness) = a legitimate occupation that demands JUST WORKING CONDITIONS

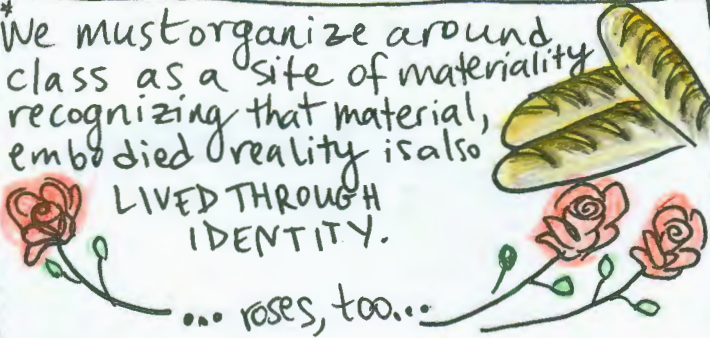
↑ "no pink" actions

BAD girls like GOOD contracts! LOCAL 790 - LUSTY LADY



We must organize around class as a site of materiality recognizing that material, embodied reality is also LIVED THROUGH IDENTITY.

... roses, too...



HISTORY HAS SPOKEN: Taking on queer issues has not weakened union culture - it has STRENGTHENED it.



* Props to Amber Hollibaugh in her interview "Sexuality, Labor, and the New Trade Unionism" in the Krupat and McCreey anthology "Out At Work" pages 72, 61, and 67 respectively. * In the same volume, Heidi M. Hooy's article on queer organizing at the Lusty Lady, page 11.