

WHO ARE SUE AND SHIRLEY?



**WHY WERE THEY
ATTACKED BY THE COPS?**

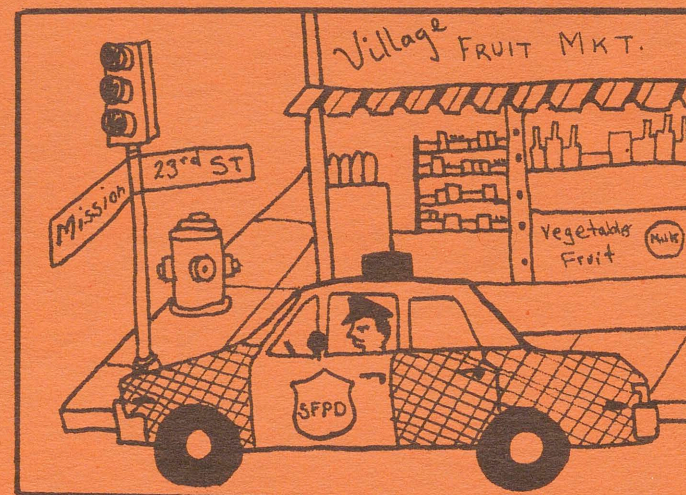
On January 21, 1979, as Sue and Shirley were leaving Amelia's, a women's bar in the Mission, they were verbally abused and roughed up by the police in front of many witnesses.

They were taken to the Mission Police Station and verbally and physically abused again. They were then taken to the City Prison at the Hall of Injustice where their abuse continued.

One woman was forcibly strip-searched by Sheriff's deputies including two male officers. They were denied phone calls for many hours.

They were not informed of the charges against them until they were released hours later. They were charged with resisting arrest, failure to identify themselves, and public drunkenness. The charges were later dropped. They had to seek medical attention.

Sue and Shirley are both lesbians. Shirley is a Native American, a mother and a grandmother. Sue had worked on the Gay Day Parade, and they had both come to Amelia's directly after a Gay Day Parade meeting.



WHAT DOES NOT BELONG IN THIS PICTURE???

The correct answers are: 1d, 2d, 3d, 4e, 5d.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER:

1. Why did Sue and Shirley get it?

- a. The cop was a Scorpio with penis rising.
- b. They deserved it.
- c. The cops ate Twinkies for dinner that night.
- d. The bar is in a poor neighborhood. They are women and lesbians, Shirley is Third World, Harvey Milk had been assassinated and it was open season on gays.

2. Why is this incident important over a year later?

- a. Sue and Shirley are suing the city. Maybe they will get a million dollars and throw an orgy.
- b. It's not important. With some gays on the police force our problems are over.
- c. It teaches us not to go outside unless we have to.
- d. It is important because people are still being terrorized by the police and Sue and Shirley are fighting back. People who fight back need our support.

3. What other things do the police do?

- a. Discourage real estate speculators from breaking up Third World communities.
- b. Protect you at all costs.
- c. Clean up the dog shit.
- d. Patrol Third World communities like an occupying army, harass young people in the Mission and on Polk St., help scabs break strikes, live out of town, beat their wives and other women, beat lesbians and gay men, take bribes, murder Melvin Black and more than 20 other black people in Oakland in 1979, trap prostitutes, evict old and poor people from the International Hotel and other places, marry Patty Hearst, kill Harvey Milk, murder Third World people all over the country, etc. etc. (continue from your own personal experiences).

4. Whose interest do the police in the Mission serve?

- a. The poor.
- b. Just Third World people.
- c. All gays.
- d. Rape victims.
- e. The same people who brought us BART,

housing speculation, the downtown high rises, Prop. 13 and Jarvis II, the death penalty, and who deny abortions to poor women and impose forced sterilization on poor and Third World women.

5. Who is LAPV?

- a. The Ladies Auxilliary of the Los Angeles Police Dept.
- b. A softball team.
- c. A group of political rhetoricians who meet monthly to howl at the full moon and write leaflets.
- d. Lesbians Against Police Violence is a group who organized around the police brutality against Sue and Shirley. We began with outrage over police violence against lesbians. We saw its ramifications everywhere in our society, against people of color (including Latinos in the Mission and Black people in Oakland), prostitutes, poor people, gay people and women. In our work, we are attempting to educate ourselves about our common enemies and take action against them.

STATEMENT FROM SUE AND SHIRLEY

This could happen to anyone. We wanted people to know that. A lot of people automatically assume if someone is harassed by the police, it's because they were doing something wrong. We didn't do anything except walk out of a gay bar. That was the sin or illegal act. If we'd been walking out of a place on Nob Hill, it wouldn't have happened. If we'd been absolutely staggering drunk, they would have said, "Where do you ladies live? Can we drive you home?" It depends on where you are, who you are, and what they think they can get away with.

You don't just have to worry about muggers and rapists. You also have to worry about the cops. We realize after our experience that they can get away with murder, because they've got the law on their side. What cop is going to testify against another for harassing somebody? When women wrote letters protesting what had happened to us, uniformed policemen went to their homes to ask them about it.

It's going to cost us at least \$6,000.00 for depositions and court costs, not counting lawyer's fees, but the cops have unlimited public funds at their disposal. They can have as many lawyers and investigators as they want.

We've been having a hard time finding witnesses. We have received little support from the bar owners. We feel that this lack of support is a form of police harassment because in order to run a gay bar, the owners must cooperate with the police. These are the same cops who are picking on the kids in the Mission. Who are the cops protecting? They're protecting rich people and their money.

The women jailers were really bad. To see women treat us like that was really horrible. It's total bullshit, this gay recruitment program. In order to survive in that organization, you can't fight it. If you are going to be a cop, you have to be a cop like they are a cop or you aren't going to make it. They will get rid of you one way or another. They will force you out of the police department if you object.

If one cop had objected to our treatment, I'm sure he would have received the wrath of the others, so I don't think it's going to be one bit of good to put gay people on the force. The peer pressure is so great, that if a gay person wants to stay on, they'll have to conform to the standards of the others.

We wish we had known before. We really had an awakening. We'll probably never be the same again.

Sue and Shirley need people to work on their case, and they need money.
Sue and Shirley Defense Fund: 1550 24th Avenue, S.F., CA 94122

This leaflet was written by Lesbians Against Police Violence
P.O. Box 23984, Oakland, CA 94623 Phone 652-3330, ext. 392.

