

BE YR OWN QUEERO

ZINE

Be Yr Own Queero brings you the best in LGBTQ activism, politics and culture by focusing on the personal stories of queer individuals. We feel that it's important to have strong and supportive queer communities and we are creating them where they do not exist. But it can't happen without **you** so be yr own queero and help build a better, stronger and more visible queer community in Wilmington!



the scene for those over the scene

Colonizing Queer America

by teknacolorninja

I know Wilmington doesn't come to mind when trying to find a hip, alternative queer community. When we have these widely recognized "queer cities" across the US, it's easier to flock to a setting that already has a strong community, rather than build one up. Why does San Francisco have to be a queer mecca? I'm just questioning the modern queer landscape of America.

We shouldn't have to feel like there are only certain cities or areas to go and be exclusively queer. We should be able to feel comfortable and have strong inclusive communities in any town across the US.

So how can we build up a queer community in a positive way? I suggest, that we all do some queer colonizing. A little bit of urban planning in your own neighborhood. Think about it. What if everyone you knew who was queer identified put up a rainbow flag in their neighborhood? How many flags would we see across America? How much more welcomed would one feel? It's not imperialism I'm talking about here, it's colonizing the queer America that already exists on the outskirts.

If we share our stories and show others what it's like to be queer in America, we can help educate and offset the misconstrued queer American lifestyle. Together, we can build up the smaller LGTBQ communities that the majority of us already live in, or are thinking about leaving. I encourage larger queer communities to reach out to smaller ones and make rainbow bridges, because together we are stronger. Just because Wilmington's scene isn't that flaming yet, doesn't mean it couldn't happen. **San Francisco didn't become queer overnight.**



What "queer" means to us

by bizzle

The LGBTQ community does not always agree on what terms they prefer and which ones they find derogatory. Recently it seems that we are reclaiming the terms that once were applied to us as insults. As our attitudes to these terms change so do their definitions. For our straight allies this can be quite confusing. Generally speaking most LGBTQ communities are accepting of most of the terms when used by "family." Outside of the community is where this gets a little trickier. So what does queer really mean - how does our community feel about the term? And maybe more importantly, how do we use these terms appropriately and positively?

For Be Yr Own Queero we use queer because it is an all-encompassing term that represents all of the identities in the LGBTQ community. An important aspect of the term queer is that it doesn't apply a specific label. The usage of the term queer in place of lesbian, transgendered, etc. could be compared to using the term partner to refer to one's significant other. It doesn't imply too much and is therefore less offensive to more people. The straight community could take advantage of using the term queer because of its current political correctness and avoid being potentially offensive.

>>> to read the rest visit beyrownqueero.com



410 BC is both a clothing company and an artist collective offering high quality, sweatshop-free clothing and goods released in limited quantities. **410BC.com**

Super Queeros

Gay activist site promises a network of artistic talent

excerpted from *Encore Magazine* article
By: Lauren Hodges - January 13th, 2009

IN 2007 LYNN CASPER CO-FOUNDED THE PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY GROUP BE YOUR OWN HERO (BYOH) here in Wilmington. Since then BYOH has produced a gay spinoff called Be Your Own Queero.

"Be Your Own Queero is founded on the same principles as the BYOH movement and maintains the same do-it-yourself ethic," Casper's partner, Selena Shissler, says. "We would like everyone in Wilmington, whether queer or queer-allied, to feel empowered and inspired to build their ideal community. In the spirit of BYOH, people can get involved with our current projects or propose their own."

Shissler and her fellow Queeros have recently been on the lookout for gay artists to feature online and elsewhere. "My goal in featuring art on the site is to give some much-needed exposure to local queer artists," Shissler says. "It's also a safe place for them to freely express themselves and get feedback on their work. Eventually, I would like to have art shows at the Community Action Center, where we hold many of our events, as well as other venues. I want to show that having a strong, supportive queer community is necessary, lest we all miss out on some great art. The site will also feature a weekly QueerArt post, which will highlight a different artist who was a Queero in their own time and now serves as inspiration to new generations of queer artists."



Be Yr Own Hero

activism & radical living in Wilmington
GET INVOLVED!

Really Really Free Market (RRFM)

1st Sunday of every month. 12:00 NOON - 2pm
@ the Community Action Center (317 Castle St)

Food Not Bombs

Cooks the night before the RRFM @ 6pm. Location changes each month until we get a permanent kitchen. Check beyrownhero.com

Critical Mass

Last Friday of every month. meet at 5:30
@ UNCW Clock Tower

Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm @ the Community Action Center (317 Castle St). Bring your ideas and watch what happens!

3rd Annual Hero Fest!

2009 will be the first Hero/Queero Fest so be sure to come to the monthly meetings to help plan or do whatever it is you do best!

[[Music]] dykes + fags

music for queers

Be Yr Own Queero and Ninjatronics present the **dykes + fags** podcast series featuring queer bands/musicians. If you are a queer-identified musician, please get in touch with us so we can feature your music on future episodes: info@beyrownqueero.com

[[What the Queeros are listening to]]



The Copenhagen based lesbian ghetto-funk, pop-slamming MC/DJ duo **Fagget Fairys** know how to get the dance floor bumping with their electro intellect. The creative duo met about a year ago and now they're engaged! The delish Danish queeros are currently on the Music For Dreams label.

>>>more @ beyrownqueero.com

Hercules and Love Affair are a disco revolution with something for everyone. Queeros Kim Ann and DJ Andy Butler made their debut last March. Antony Hegarty, gender bender and transadvocate has done several tracks with Herc. They are now fronted by Nomi Ruiz, a smoking hot transwoman. Check them out! >>>more @ beyrownqueero.com



Born and raised in Brooklyn, **Jane Bang** got into fashion design and visual communications when she moved out to L.A. This sexy lady has both African and Russian heritage and considers herself a liberal feminist with an indulgence for immoral excess. Bang's debut video, "Untame" was produced, directed and edited all by herself! Now that's talent. >>>more @ beyrownqueero.com

check out **videos** from all of these artists and more @ beyrownqueero.com

6 EASY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Attend every single **event** we host, or else! Check beyrownqueero.com up-to-the-minute information on our events.
2. Come to the **monthly meetings** on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 7 pm @ the Community Action Center (317 Castle St).
3. **Friend us** on MySpace, Facebook, Twitter...
4. **Spread the word!** Tell your neighbors and your grandma's best friend.
5. **Write** for beyrownqueero.com! Personal tales of troubles and triumphs or political rants and raves - you write it, we'll post it!
6. Or just leave some **comments!** It's easy and you can remain anonymous. Start a conversation, you could even win a prize!

BE YR OWN QUEERO!