

## SUBCOMMANDER MARCOS IS MORE THAN JUST GAY

*In April The San Francisco Chronicle quoted Subcommander Marcos, voice of the Zapatista Revolutionaries in Chiapas, Mexico, as saying that he had worked in a San Francisco restaurant but had been fired for being gay. The pro-government Mexican press cried scandal—a queer revolutionary! The Zapatistas responded with the following communique:*

“About whether Marcos is homosexual:

“Marcos is gay in San Francisco, black in South Africa, an Asian in Europe, a Chicano in San Ysidro, an anarchist in Spain, a Palestinian in Israel, a Mayan Indian in the streets of San Cristóbal, a gang member in Neza [a huge Mexico City slum], a rocker in the National University [a folk music citadel], a Jew in Germany, an ombudsman in the Defense Ministry, a communist in the post-Cold War era, an artist without gallery or portfolio. . . .

“A pacifist in Bosnia, a housewife alone on Saturday night in any neighborhood in any city in Mexico, a striker in the CTM [the giant pro-government union federation, which virtually never authorizes strikes], a reporter writing filler stories for the back pages, a single woman on the metro at 10 p.m., a peasant without land, an unemployed worker . . . an unhappy student, a dissident amid free-market economics, a writer without books or readers, and, of course, a Zapatista in the mountains of southeast Mexico.

“So Marcos is a human being, any human being, in this world. Marcos is all the exploited, marginalized, and oppressed minorities, resisting and saying, ‘Enough!’”