The Gay Vigilantes arm themselves
Daily News Special Service

SAN FRANCISCO (AAP): In Miami they call themselves the Lavender Raiders, in Seattle the Lavender Patrol. Here in San Francisco the Gay Vigilantes prefer the name Lavender Panthers.

Across America gay militants are becoming incensed by the increasing number of mob attacks by youths on homosexuals and gay bars.

And gay leaders accuse the police of generally ignoring their complaints of violence—even, in many cases of tacitly encouraging such attacks.

So they have begun their own armed street patrols, determined to fight off the rat packs.

"We'll show a lot of ignorant youths that gay people are not weak, silly and passive," said one militant.

Lavender Power has recently come to Seattle and Miami and now the Gay Alliance of San Francisco announce formation of the Lavender Panthers.

Three-man patrols armed with sawn-off shotguns will go out in violence-prone areas of the city. They will wear silk uniform shirts with panther emblems on the backs and red and lavender armbands.

The development is especially significant because San Francisco is regarded as the gay mecca of America—with 50,000 members of gay groups and scores of gay bars.

The police and the community are reputed to be more tolerant of homosexuals here—but that reputation has been a little muddied.

Gay Alliance spokesman, the Rev Ray Broshears, held a press conference with a shotgun in his hand this week. He was flanked by two of his lipsticked and rouged troops, also armed.

"We are urging all homosexuals in San Francisco to arm themselves," he said.

"The police look the other way when we're attacked so we have no choice but to defend ourselves."

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"Was it very crowded at the cabaret last night?"

"No, not under my table."

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EDITORIAL

A special general meeting convened at the Clubroom on the 16th July 1973 agreed unanimously that the Campaign is to become an incorporated body.

The reasons for this decision are manifold, however in brief, Incorporation will mean that we will become a legal entity as from date of Incorporation.

This means: one, members, as well as the committee are protected against any legal action taken against the Campaign for debts contracted. Two, the financial structure of the organisation is protected against unauthorized use of funds, e.g. members wishing to bequeath property or money to the Campaign by deed or in their will are able to do so without fear that those assets may be squandered for the benefit of an individual.

Three, the Campaign will be able to acquire real property, "a house or land" in its own name.

Four, the Campaign has the ability to sue, 'or be sued', to sustain rights of property, or to conduct other civil suits in a court of law.

Recent events have shown that this is a most necessary move. In future it would be very much more difficult for individuals to milk our organisation of much needed funds.

H.B.