EXPRESSIONS OF PRIDE

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She sat there with her legs crossed, the lashes of her mascara-coated eyes beating like the wings of a hummingbird. She was angry. She was so upset she hadn't bothered to shave. A day old stubble was beginning to push through the navajo makeup. She was a he. A queen of Christopher Street.

She had no idea what these blackmailers had turned her from a transvestite to lesbian against her will. She had only one desire—sex. The police report had said even one of her private gay clubs, the Stonewall Inn at 17 Christopher St. in the heart of a three-block homosexual community in Greenwich Village.

Queen Power raised its Montecarlo at the door in front of the Stonewall Inn. She was not surprised to find a police officer had been called to her front. She had—no, it was not a homosexual.

The third glass shot out the smoke from the stonewall, the Stonewall bashed in with a bright, glinting light. With this pattern worked to the sounds of a juke box on a square dance floor surrounded by booths and tables. The last of a good band was heard and the singer, or whatever, was always kept busy. As the dance opened up to the booths and tables. For nearly two years, peace and tranquility had reigned supreme for the Alice In Wonderland grandstand.

The Final Last Friday

Last Friday the privacy of the Stonewall was invaded by the police. They were not alone. They were accompanied by a group of women. The group consisted of a man in drag. The man in drag was Queen Power. She was angry. She was so upset she hadn't bothered to shave. A day old stubble was beginning to push through the navajo makeup. She was a he. A queen of Christopher Street.

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Jack Nichols pickets at Independence Hall for first Annual Reminder (left)
Picketers at the Annual Reminder (right)
Two men (Jim Fouratt at right) holding Christopher Street Liberation Day banner, 1970. Photograph by Diana Davies. NYPL, Manuscripts and Archives Division, Diana Davies Papers. Copyright Diana Davies.
HISTORY OF THE TERM “PRIDE”

- From Old Late English
- Had cognates in Kentish (*prede*), Mercian (*prud*), Old Norse, Old Swedish, Old Danish
- Personified as one of the seven deadly sins
  - Medieval artists used lions as a representation of pride, and later the term pride came to be used to describe a group of lions
Liberation Day – 1970 is more than just the First Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. It signifies a year in which a new spirit has entered the struggle for homosexual freedom: a new spirit both militant in tone and revolutionary in orientation. Homosexuals at last have realized that they must be able to be liberated by publicly espousing the system; freedom is never given – it must be taken. Also, many homosexuals have come to realize that it is the system itself that persecutes us. This is what Gay Liberation is all about.

During the past year the Gay Liberation Movement has grown from one small group fighting out of the shadows of the Stonewall Riots to many groups, some large, some small, all over the country. There are now GLFs in New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Berkeley, Chicago, Seattle, New Brunswick (N.J.), San Jose (Calif.), and many others. Each group spontaneously, driven by the needs and anger of the homosexual community in each area.

What will it all come to on Gay Day? It is our hope that the day will come when homosexuals will be an integral part of society – being treated as human beings. But this will not come overnight. It can only be the result of a long hard struggle against bigotry, prejudice, persecution, exploitation – even genocide. The homosexual who wants to live a life of self-fulfillment in our current society has all the cards stacked against him. Gay Liberation is for the homosexual who refuses to accept such a condition. Gay Liberation is for the homosexual who stands up and fights back. And, as we in the words of Nietzsche, “what does not destroy us makes us stronger.”

What’s On

The big event is, of course, the March and Gay-In on Sunday, June 28th. The assembly will be at Sheridan Square from 12 Noon until 3:00 P.M. At 3:30 we will start off – along Christopher Street, then up Eighth Avenue to the Sheep Meadow in Central Park for the Gay-In. The Gay-In will last until sunset. Below are other GLF activities:

Saturday, June 27th

- "Gays in Action" at Washington Square Park (12 Noon to 3:00 P.M.)
- "GLF 1970" at Sheridan Square (12 Noon to 3:00 P.M.)
- "Gay Day in Central Park" at the Sheep Meadow (3:30 P.M. to sunset)

Sunday, June 28th

- "Gay-In at the Sheep Meadow" (12 Noon to 3:00 P.M.)
- "Central Park Gay-In" (3:30 P.M. to sunset)
“‘Covering oneself’ [is] the natural expression of shame.”
– Oxford English Dictionary
EXPRESSIONS OF PRIDE

Self-Determination and Naming

Building Community

Social and Artistic Expression
In her 1994 book *Transgender Nation*, Gordene Olga MacKenzie described the term transgender as “self-generated and not medically applied and [not] a term of disempowerment.”
“They recreated themselves as people they chose to be, not people they were told they had to be.”
–Michael Bronski, *Culture Clash: The Making of Gay Sensibility*
Vernita Gray (right) and the first Chicago Gay Liberation rally in 1970 (left)
Bisexual rights activist Brenda Howard
“Leaders promoted silent vigils and polite pickets such as the Annual Reminder in Philadelphia. Since 1965, a small, polite group of gays and lesbians had been picketing outside Liberty Hall. The walk would occur in silence. Required dress on men was jackets and ties; for women, only dresses. We were supposed to be unthreatening.” –Activist Fred Sargeant
Bisexual rights activist Brenda Howard
Dyke March in San Francisco, 1993 (right); Trans March in Portland (left)
“[Martin Rock’s] call to gather in mutual support was received by lesbian and gay people as a welcome respite from overt rejection and from the subtle ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ mood in other areas of society and some churches.” – Richard Lichty, An Increase in Time
“It is hoped that...through being open and unapologetic about its position, Germantown Mennonite church will continue to be a shining example for the inclusion of all oppressed groups within the Anabaptist tradition.” – Joe Miller, 1992 Dialogue
“Read any number of coming out stories and you will discover that many gay men and lesbians first identified their sexual feelings and desires after reading something about homosexuality.”

—Michael Bronski, *Culture Clash*
GAY LIBERATION DANCE
THE BLUE GARGOYLE
57th & UNIVERSITY
DEC. 10 8PM $100
“[Pride is] a consciousness of what befits, is due to, or is worthy of oneself or one’s position.” – Oxford English Dictionary