

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, 1955

- PART 2 -

continued from other side of poster

HELLO! MY NAME IS PHYLLIS LYON, AND THIS IS MY WIFE DEL MARTIN.

WE HELPED FOUND THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, THE FIRST LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S.

THE DOB FINALLY FOLDED IN 1970, IN PART BECAUSE OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE MORE CAUTIOUS OLD GUARD AND THE NEWER, MORE RADICAL MEMBERS.

THE DOB HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE, HELPING PIONEER LESBIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COLLECTIVE ACTION AND IT WAS TIME FOR A NEW GENERATION'S APPROACH.

BUT WE NEVER SLOWED IN OUR OWN ACTIVISM!

WE BECAME INCREASINGLY DISENCHANTED WITH THE MORE CONSERVATIVE MALE "WOMPHILE" GROUPS WITH WHICH THE DOB HAD BEEN INTERTWINED.

THE FINAL STRAW WAS AN EVENT IN 1970 WHEN THE MEN DIDN'T BRING A SINGLE WOMAN UP ONSTAGE!

SWEETIE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS LETTER I WROTE TO 'THE BOYS'?

"GOODBYE TO THE MALE HOMOPHILE COMMUNITY. GAY IS GOOD, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH, SO LONG AS IT IS LIMITED TO WHITE MALES ONLY. AS I BID YOU ADIEU, I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR OWN DEVICE. TAKE CARE OF IT, STROKE IT GENTLY, MOUTH IT, FONDLE IT, AS THE CENTER OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS, IT'S REALLY ALL YOU HAVE."

HAAAAH! I THINK YOU'RE REALLY SPEAKING TO THEM IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE!

WE WERE THE FIRST LESBIAN COUPLE TO JOIN THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) IN 1967.

THIS WAS A SCANDAL BECAUSE THE "COUPLES MEMBERSHIP" WAS ONLY DESIGNED TO GET HUSBANDS INTO THE GROUP! THEY CANCELED THAT MEMBERSHIP TYPE IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

BUT WE CONTINUED TO FIGHT FOR LESBIAN INCLUSION IN THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT, WHICH INITIALLY LABELLED US AS THE "LAVENDER MENACE."

EVENTUALLY, DEL BECAME THE FIRST OPEN LESBIAN ON THE NATIONAL BOARD OF NOW.

OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES, WE FOUGHT HARD FOR WHAT WE BELIEVED.

WE WROTE BOOKS AND HELPED FOUND MANY SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS SUCH AS:

- COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOSEXUAL (1964)
- S.F. WOMEN'S CENTERS (1970)
- LESBIAN MOTHERS UNION (1972)
- ALICE B. TOKLAS DEMOCRATIC CLUB (1972)
- COALITION FOR JUSTICE FOR BATTERED WOMEN (1975)
- LA CASA DE LAS MADRES (1976)
- NATIONAL LESBIAN FEMINIST ORGANIZATION (1978)

Books shown: *Battered Wives* (Del Martin), *lesbian wom* (Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon), *Lesbian Love and Liberation* (Phyllis Lyon).

WHEN MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM BEGAN ISSUING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LICENSES IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 2004, DESPITE IT BEING ILLEGAL AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL, WE WERE THE FIRST COUPLE TO BE MARRIED!

ONLY A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT VOIDED OUR MARRIAGE.

DEL IS 83 YEARS OLD AND I AM 79. AFTER BEING TOGETHER FOR OVER 50 YEARS, IT IS A TERRIBLE BLOW TO HAVE THE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS OF MARRIAGE TAKEN AWAY FROM US!

AT OUR AGE, WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME!

LUCKILY, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE WAS LEGALIZED IN 2008, AND WE WERE ONCE AGAIN THE FIRST IN LINE AT CITY HALL.

TWO MONTHS AFTER, DEL PASSED AWAY. FLAGS IN SAN FRANCISCO WERE FLOWN AT HALF-MAST IN HER HONOR. PHYLLIS DIED IN APRIL, 2020.

BUT WE'LL BOTH BE PART OF S.F. HISTORY, THE HISTORY OF LGBTQ RIGHTS, AND THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, FOREVER!

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, 1955

- PART 1 -

HELLO! MY NAME IS DEL MARTIN AND THIS IS MY WIFE, PHYLLIS LYON.

AS A COUPLE WE FOUGHT FOR DECADES FOR THE RIGHTS OF LGBTIQ PEOPLE, WOMEN, RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES, THE POOR, AND OTHERS.

WE HELPED BEGIN THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, THE FIRST LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES, HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1955.

WE ACTUALLY MET UP IN SEATTLE, BUT I CONVINCED DEL TO MOVE BACK DOWN TO SAN FRANCISCO WITH ME.

SHE DROVE DOWN ON FEBRUARY 14TH, 1953, ARRIVING AT MY PLACE ON CASTRO STREET AT 11PM.

I'M SORRY I'M SO LATE! THE DRIVE TOOK FOREVER.

WELL, YOU STILL MADE IT ON VALENTINE'S DAY, THAT'LL MAKE OUR ANNIVERSARY EASY TO REMEMBER.

IN THOSE DAYS, IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS TO BE OUT. THE ONLY PLACES TO GATHER WERE THE BARS, BUT THERE WE WERE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF THE POLICE HAULING EVERYONE OFF TO JAIL FOR SAME-SEX DANCING OR TOUCHING.

WE FELT ISOLATED, SO WHEN WE WERE APPROACHED IN 1955 BY A YOUNG FILIPINA WOMAN NAMED ROSE BRAUNBERG WITH THE IDEA OF STARTING A SECRET LESBIAN SOCIAL CLUB, WE JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY!

IT BEGAN AS A GROUP OF EIGHT WOMEN, AND OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS TO COME UP WITH A NAME.

WE COULD CALL OURSELVES THE AMAZONS!

TOO DYKEY. HOW ABOUT THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS?

HUH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT'S BASED ON AN OLD FRENCH POEM ABOUT LESBIAN LOVE, AND IF ANYONE QUESTIONS US, WE CAN SAY WE'RE A POETRY CLUB!

WITHIN A YEAR, THERE WAS A SPLIT IN THE DOB, WITH US WHITE-COLLAR WOMEN WANTING TO BECOME MORE POLITICAL AND THE WORKING-CLASS WOMEN WANTING TO KEEP THE CLUB LIMITED TO PRIVATE SOCIAL EVENTS.

THEY WENT AND STARTED A NEW GROUP AND WE BEGAN THE LADDER, THE FIRST NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED LESBIAN MAGAZINE TO PROMOTE OUR BELIEFS AND CREATE COMMUNITY.

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, WE WERE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, IMMORAL, AND SICK. WE COULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED AND GIVEN SHOCK TREATMENT! SO THOSE WERE THE ISSUES WE TOOK ON.

THE LADDER CONTAINED CONTRIBUTIONS BY ATTORNEYS, PSYCHIATRISTS, AND DOCTORS, AS WELL AS POETRY AND SHORT FICTION.

PHYLLIS EDITED THE MAGAZINE UNTIL 1963, INITIALLY UNDER THE PSEUDONYM ANN FERGUSON.

I'M KILLING OFF ANN IN ISSUE #4!

I'M ASKING LESBIANS TO LIVE OPEN LIVES, SO IT'S TIME TO PRACTICE WHAT I PREACH AND USE MY OWN NAME.

THE DOB AND THE LADDER WERE LIFELINES FOR WOMEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE WERE ALSO FAIRLY ASSIMILATIONIST, IN COMPARISON TO THE LATER GAY LIBERATION AND FEMINIST MOVEMENTS.

THERE WAS AN ONGOING DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER WE SHOULD WEAR PANTS IN PUBLIC!

VS.

BUT THAT'S WHAT SAVED US WHEN THE VICE SQUAD SHOWED UP AT OUR CONVENTION IN 1960, WHICH WAS THE LARGEST LESBIAN GATHERING IN THE COUNTRY UP UNTIL THEN.

OK, LADIES. BREAK IT UP! IF WE CAN EVEN CALL YOU THAT...

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, OFFICERS? WE'RE JUST SITTING DOWN TO LUNCH.

WELL, WE... UM...

DO YOU ADVOCATE WEARING MEN'S CLOTHES?

THEY DIDN'T DRAG US TO JAIL BECAUSE WE WERE WEARING DRESSES.

LOOK AROUND YOU. DOES IT LOOK LIKE IT?

continued on other side of poster

JOSÉ SARRIA'S CAMPAIGN, 1961

- PART 1 -



HELLO!
MY NAME
IS JOSÉ
SARRIA!

IN 1961,
I RAN FOR THE
SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS.

I WAS THE
FIRST OPENLY GAY
PERSON TO EVER
RUN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE
IN THE UNITED STATES AND
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST
LATINO TO TAKE OFFICE
IN SAN FRANCISCO
IF I HAD WON.

WHICH I
DIDN'T SAY
TO SAY.



HOWEVER,
I DID ESTABLISH
THE EXISTENCE OF A
GAY VOTING BLOC, WHICH
CHANGED SAN FRANCISCO
POLITICS FOREVER AND
ALLOWED FOR THE ELECTION
OF HARVEY MILK OVER
15 YEARS LATER.

AND EVENTUALLY
I BECAME AN EMPRESS,
WHICH IS FAR MORE
FABULOUS THAN A
SUPERVISOR!

IT ALL BEGAN
WHEN I RETURNED TO
SAN FRANCISCO AFTER
SERVING IN THE ARMY
DURING WWII.



I WAS ARRESTED
DURING A RAID ON
AN ALL-MALE BAR.

DANCING, KISSING, OR
EVEN HOLDING HANDS
WITH ANOTHER MAN
COULD LAND YOU IN
JAIL IN THOSE DAYS!

WITH A "MORALS" CHARGE
ON MY RECORD, IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE
TEACHING JOB I WAS
STUDYING FOR, SO I TRIED
DRAG TO MAKE MONEY.

I DECIDED TO
BE THE MOST
NOTORIOUS
IMPERSONATOR
OR HOMOSEXUAL
OR FAIRY OR
WHATEVER
THEY WANTED TO
CALL ME...



AND I
WOULD GET
PAID FOR IT!



BLACK
CAT
CAFE

I WAS HIRED AT
THE BLACK CAT,
AN INFAMOUS
BOHEMIAN BAR.

I HAD A NICE TENOR VOICE
AND MOVED QUICKLY FROM
WAITING TABLES TO HOSTING
AND ENTERTAINING.



I WAS BILLED AS
THE "NIGHTINGALE OF
MONTGOMERY STREET"

I GOT UP, TOLD MY
STORIES, SANG MY
SONGS, AND IT
WAS FANTASTIC! I
DID FOUR SHOWS A
NIGHT, AND WE WOULD
HAVE TWO OR THREE
HUNDRED PEOPLE!

MORE,
MORE!

BRAVO!

SING US
SOME MORE
'CARMEN,'
JOSÉ!

OK, OK,
YOU'VE HAD YOUR
FUN, BUT NOW I WANT
TO TELL YOU SOMETHING
IMPORTANT.

GAY IS GOOD,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!



THESE DAYS,
AROUND 50 GAYS ARE
ARRESTED EACH WEEK IN
SAN FRANCISCO!

BUT THERE'S
NOTHING WRONG WITH
BEING GAY... THE
CRIME IS BEING
CAUGHT!

ACROSS THE
STREET IS A JAIL FULL
OF GAYS ARRESTED
THIS VERY NIGHT...



LET'S JOIN
HANDS, EVERYONE, AND
LIFT THEIR SPIRITS WITH
OUR OWN VERSION OF
'GOD SAVE THE
QUEEN'



GOD SAVE US NELLY QUEENS!

AND LESBIANS!

BUT I KNEW THAT SINGING
IN THE STREETS WASN'T
ENOUGH TO END THE
CONSTANT HARASSMENT
OF OUR COMMUNITY.

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP
THE POLITICIANS FROM
ATTACKING US WAS
TO JOIN THEM.

I DECIDED
TO RUN FOR
THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS!

continued on other
side of poster

JOSÉ SARRIA'S CAMPAIGN, 1961

- PART 2 -



continued from other side of poster

HELLO THERE! I'M JOSÉ SARRIA.

IN 1961 I DECIDED TO THROW MY HAT IN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THE FIRST TIME AN OPENLY GAY PERSON HAD RUN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE IN THE U.S!



AND ALL WHILE STILL DOING DRAG AT THE BLACK CAT BAR...

I WAS THE HARDEST WORKING QUEEN IN SHOW BUSINESS!

I HAD ALREADY CREATED THE LEAGUE OF CIVIL EDUCATION (LCE). WE WERE REGISTERING AND ORGANIZING GAY VOTERS TO PROMOTE GAY POLITICAL POWER.

I EVEN MET WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, THOUGH THAT DIDN'T GO SO WELL.



I ESTIMATE THERE ARE 10,000 GAY VOTERS IN THIS CITY, AND I'M GOING TO RALLY THEM TO VOTE OUT POLITICIANS WHO TREAT US LIKE TRASH!

HAHA! YOU'RE A FOOL!

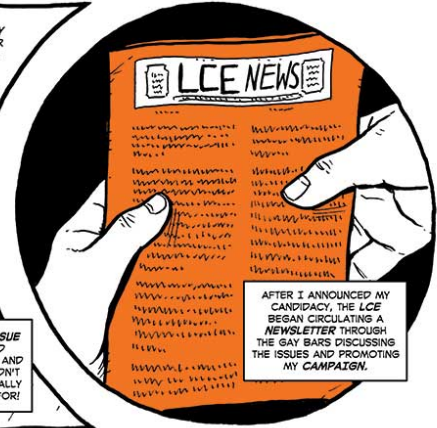
YOU'LL NEVER ORGANIZE THEM!

I NEEDED 35 SIGNATURES AND A PARTY ENDORSEMENT TO RUN FOR SUPERVISOR AND I HAD A HARD TIME GETTING EITHER.

BOTH PARTIES REFUSED TO ENDORSE A KNOWN HOMOSEXUAL AND EVEN MY FRIENDS WERE AFRAID TO SUPPORT ME PUBLICLY.

WATCH ME!

BUT I THREATENED TO SUE THE DEMOCRATS AND BLACKMAIL MY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES IF THEY DIDN'T STEP UP... AND EVENTUALLY I GOT WHAT I ASKED FOR!



AFTER I ANNOUNCED MY CANDIDACY, THE LCE BEGAN CIRCULATING A NEWSLETTER THROUGH THE GAY BARS DISCUSSING THE ISSUES AND PROMOTING MY CAMPAIGN.



AND OF COURSE, I SPOKE FROM MY PULPIT AT THE BLACK CAT!

OK, NO MORE SONGS UNTIL I'VE SAID SOMETHING IMPORTANT!



GAY PEOPLE ARE LIVING DOUBLE LIVES, AND IT IS PERSECUTION!

WHY BE ASHAMED OF WHO YOU ARE?

UNITED WE STAND, BUT DIVIDED WE FALL. ONE BY ONE!

PREACH, JOSÉ, PREACH!

NOW PAY ATTENTION, HANDSOME. YOU SHOULD LEARN THIS.

YOU WON'T ALWAYS BE BEAUTIFUL, YOU KNOW, AND YOU'LL NEED SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WHEN THE PLUMBING GETS RUSTED!

I'LL VOTE FOR YOU, JOSÉ!



THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE ONLY 9 CANDIDATES FOR 5 OPEN SEATS? WE CAN WIN THESE SEATS...

ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THESE GOOD-LOOKING GENTLEMEN ON OUR SIDE!



ON THE DAY OF THE DEADLINE, 24 NEW CANDIDATES WERE ADDED TO THE BALLOT BECAUSE CITY HALL WAS TERRIFIED I WOULD WIN!

STILL, I WAS 9 OUT OF 33, AND GOT OVER 5,600 VOTES!

THIS FORCED POLITICIANS TO REALIZE FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT A GAY VOTING BLOC EXISTED, AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO THINK TWICE BEFORE PROMOTING ANTI-GAY LAWS.

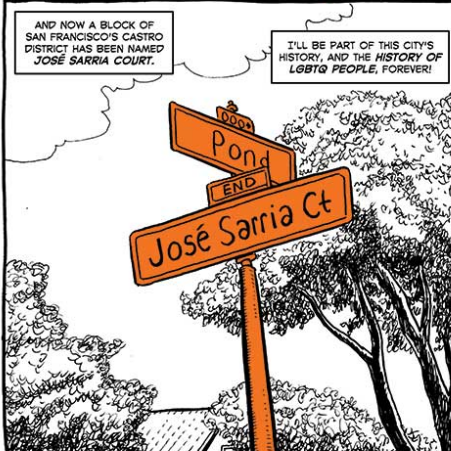


THE BLACK CAT WAS FINALLY SHUT DOWN AFTER YEARS OF POLICE HARASSMENT AND LEGAL FEES, BUT MY ACTIVISM CONTINUED.

I HELPED FOUND THE SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (SIR) AND THE TAVERN GUILD.

I CROWNED MYSELF EMPRESS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND IN 1965 FOUNDED THE IMPERIAL COURT.

I DIED IN 2013, AND WHAT A FUNERAL IT WAS!



AND NOW A BLOCK OF SAN FRANCISCO'S CASTRO DISTRICT HAS BEEN NAMED JOSÉ SARRIA COURT.

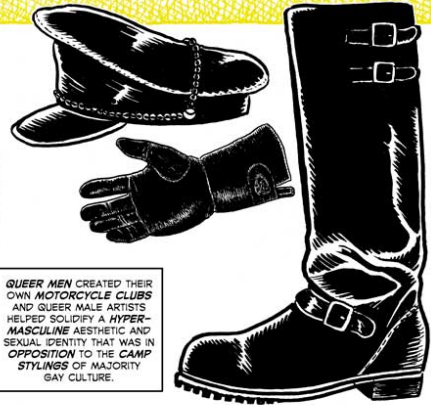
I'LL BE PART OF THIS CITY'S HISTORY, AND THE HISTORY OF LGBTQ PEOPLE, FOREVER!

TOOL BOX BAR, 1963

- PART 1 -



LEATHER CULTURE DEVELOPED OUT OF THE BIKER SCENE THAT FLOURISHED IN POST-WWII AMERICA.



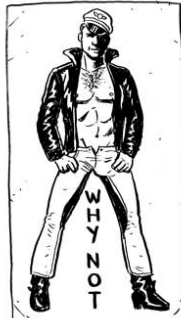
QUEER MEN CREATED THEIR OWN MOTORCYCLE CLUBS AND QUEER MALE ARTISTS HELPED SOLIDIFY A HYPER-MASCULINE AESTHETIC AND SEXUAL IDENTITY THAT WAS IN OPPOSITION TO THE CAMP STYLINGS OF MAJORITY GAY CULTURE.

THE FIRST SAN FRANCISCO BAR DEDICATED TO LEATHER WAS THE WHY NOT, WHICH OPENED ON ELLIS STREET IN 1961.



IT WAS QUICKLY SUPPLANTED BY THE TOOL BOX, WHICH OPENED THE NEXT YEAR AT 4TH AND HARRISON, ESTABLISHING THE SOUTH OF MARKET (SOMA) NEIGHBORHOOD AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S EPICENTERS OF LEATHER CULTURE.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS, MANY BARS, BATHHOUSES, AND CLUBS POPULATED SOMA'S MIRACLE MILE...



...ALONG WITH NIGHTLY CROWDS OF MEN ON BIKES AND IN BLACK LEATHER AND DENIM.



IN 1964, LIFE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED THE LANDMARK STORY, "HOMOSEXUALITY IN AMERICA," THE FIRST TIME THE SUBJECT WAS COVERED BY A MAJOR PUBLICATION IN SUCH A WAY.

IT WAS A DEEPLY FLAWED AND BIGOTED PIECE, BUT IT INCLUDED A DOUBLE-PAGE SPREAD OF THE INSIDE OF THE TOOL BOX AND CLAIMED SAN FRANCISCO AS THE GAY CAPITOL OF THE COUNTRY.



UH... HELLO? CAN I GET A BEER, PLEASE?

SURE THING, BUDDY. NEW HERE, HUH?



YEAH, JUST GOT IN YESTERDAY.

YOU'VE GOT THAT WIDE-EYED LOOK OF A GUY WHO JUST WALKED INTO A GAY BAR FULL OF BIKERS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT OUTFIT ON IF YOU'D WALKED IN WITH SNEAKERS INSTEAD OF BOOTS. THEY COULDN'T WOUND UP IN THAT BUNDLE HANGING FROM THE CEILING.



WOW!

UH, I MEAN... I'VE JUST BEEN REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING HERE.



LET ME GUESS.

YOU SAW THAT LIFE MAGAZINE ARTICLE AND KNEW YOU NEEDED TO MOVE TO SAN FRANCISCO?

YEAH!

IT WAS THAT PHOTO, WITH ALL THOSE MAINLY GUYS IN FRONT OF THIS SEXY MURAL...

ALONG WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHER GUYS...



WELL, I WAS IN THAT PHOTO. AND I PAINTED THE MURAL.

WHAT? SERIOUSLY?

NAME'S CHUCK ARNETT. I'VE BEEN MAKING ART FOR THE OTHER LEATHER BARS POPPING UP, TOO.

YOU SHOULD SEE THE LEATHER DAVID MY BUDDY MIKE CAFE' IS MAKING FOR THE NEW PLACE, FE-BE'S.

WE'RE TRYING TO BULP SOMETHING HERE IN SF... A HAVEN FOR MEN LIKE US.

EVER SINCE I CAME HOME FROM THE WAR, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE KIND OF BROTHERHOOD I USED TO HAVE IN THE NAVY.



HAI WELL, YOU WON'T GET DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FOR THAT HERE, BUT YOU COULD STILL BE THROWN IN JAIL.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN WE MIGHT HAVE VICE IN HERE. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE MONITORS BY THE RESTROOMS.

continued on the other side

TOOL BOX BAR, 1963

- PART 2 -



continued from other side of poster

QUEER MEN FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY ATTRACTED TO A HYPER-MASCULINE STYLE FLOCKED TO THE TOOL BOX BAR IN THE SOUTH OF MARKET DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO.



SAN FRANCISCO, WITH ITS HISTORY OF QUEER SEXUAL EXPRESSION AND LARGE NUMBERS OF MILITARY AND VETERANS, WAS A FERTILE PLACE FOR THIS EMERGING LEATHER CULTURE.



THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER VETS IN HERE.

FOUND A NEW HOME AMONG THEIR BROTHERS HERE.

TONS OF GUYS DISEMBARKED IN SF AND NEVER LEFT.

YOU A VET, TOO?

NAH, I WAS A DANCER.

I WORKED ALL OVER UNTIL I GOT SICK OF IT AND ROODE MY BIKE OUT HERE IN 1960.



YOU STILL GOT A DANCER'S BODY, CHUCK. YOU KEEP IN SHAPE.

I DO MY BEST. AFTER ALL, I'M ON MY FEET ALL DAY RUNNING DRINKS FOR GRUNTS LIKE YOU...

I HOPE YOU GET A CHANCE TO GET YOUR FEET UP AT NIGHT.

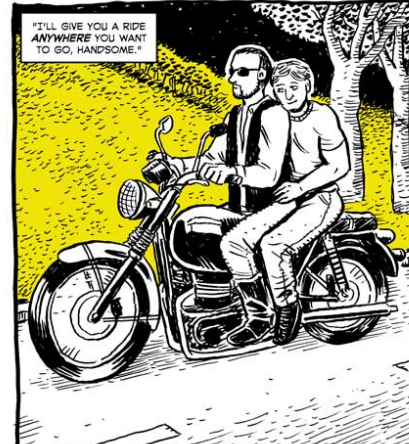
OH YEAH. DON'T YOU WORRY...



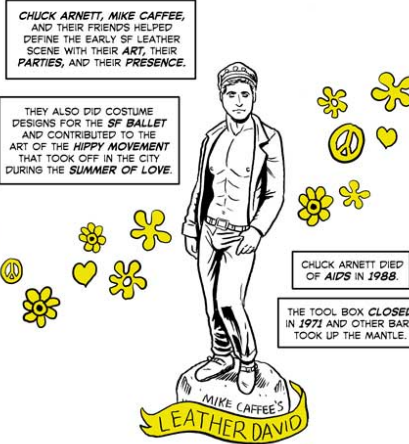
SAY, MY BUDDIES AND I HAVE A PLACE BY DOLORES PARK. WE THROW AFTERPARTIES THERE WHEN THE BAR CLOSES.

THAT SOUNDS AMAZING! SAY, CAN I GET A RIDE WITH YOU?

THERE AREN'T ANY RULES AGAINST MEN TOUCHING EACH OTHER AT OUR PLACE, THAT'S FOR SURE!



"I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO, HANDSOME."



CHUCK ARNETT, MIKE CAFFEE, AND THEIR FRIENDS HELPED DEFINE THE EARLY SF LEATHER SCENE WITH THEIR ART, THEIR PARTIES, AND THEIR PRESENCE.

THEY ALSO DID COSTUME DESIGNS FOR THE SF BALLET AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE ART OF THE HIPPI MOVEMENT THAT TOOK OFF IN THE CITY DURING THE SUMMER OF LOVE.

CHUCK ARNETT DIED OF AIDS IN 1988.

THE TOOL BOX CLOSED IN 1971 AND OTHER BARS TOOK UP THE MANTLE.



THE BUILDING WAS MOSTLY DEMOLISHED, BUT FOR TWO YEARS THE MURAL WAS STILL INTACT AND VISIBLE FROM THE STREET.

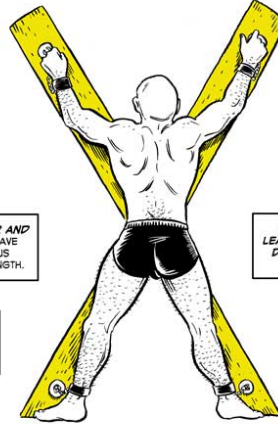
ITS MEN LOOKED DOWN AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEY HAD HELPED TO MEMORIALIZE.



THE LEATHER SCENE IN SF FLOURISHED UNTIL THE AIDS CRISIS HIT, KILLING THOUSANDS OF LOCALS AND LEADING TO THE SHUTTERING OF MANY OF THE SOMA BARS AND ALL OF ITS BATHHOUSES.

STILL, THE SF LEATHER AND KINK COMMUNITIES HAVE SHOWN TREMENDOUS RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH.

LEATHER WOMEN, TRANS FOLKS, PEOPLE OF COLOR, AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY HONORED AND GIVEN THEIR DUE.



THE COMMUNITY CREATED THE ANNUAL FOLSOM STREET AND UP YOUR ALLEY FAIRS, AND HONORED ITS PIONEERS WITH THE LEATHER HISTORY ALLEY.

IN 2018, THE WORLD'S FIRST LEATHER AND LGBTQ CULTURAL DISTRICT WAS FORMED SOUTH OF MARKET.

LEATHER CULTURE IS A PILLAR OF SAN FRANCISCO AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ITS FUTURE!



COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOSEXUAL, 1964

- PART 1 -



Gay is Good

Gay is Good



THE COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOSEXUAL (CRH) WAS FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1964 TO "PROMOTE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND HOMOSEXUALS."



CALIFORNIA HALL



THE CRH DECIDED TO HOST A MARDI GRAS-THEMED NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY IN 1965 AT THE GLAMOROUS CALIFORNIA HALL.



IT WAS THE FIRST PUBLIC GROUP TO USE THE WORD "HOMOSEXUAL" IN THE TITLE, AND SOUGHT TO EDUCATE THE CLERGY ON THE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE SUFFERED BY LGBTIQ PEOPLE.

THIS WAS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ITSELF AND SIX OF THE LOCAL "HOMOPHILE" GROUPS FIGHTING FOR LGBTIQ RIGHTS, SUCH AS THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, MATTACHINE SOCIETY, AND THE SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (SIR).



IN 1965, CROSS-DRESSING OUTSIDE OF HALLOWEEN AND SAME-SEX DANCING WERE ILLEGAL IN PUBLIC, AND THERE WERE REGULAR RAIDS OF GAY BARS.

THE CRH CONSULTED WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT BEFOREHAND AND GOT ASSURANCES THAT THE POLICE WOULD LEAVE THE DANCE ALONE.

THINGS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED.



continued on other side of poster

COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOSEXUAL, 1964

- PART 2 -



Gay is Good

Gay is Good



continued from the other side of the poster

THE COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND THE HOMOSEXUAL (CRH) WAS FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1964 TO "PROMOTE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND HOMOSEXUALS."



THE CRH DECIDED TO HOST A NEW YEAR'S DANCE BALL IN 1965 AT THE GLAMOROUS CALIFORNIA HALL.



THINGS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED.

HERB AND EVANDER RUSHED BACK TO FIND THAT THE POLICE HAD ENTERED THE HALL AND WERE INTIMIDATING THE GUESTS, AS WELL AS DEMANDING THEY HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN WHEN THEY LEFT.

THE TWO LAWYERS AND THE MINISTERS WERE ABLE TO SNEAK OUT SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T HAVE THEIR IDENTITIES EXPOSED.

IN ALL, SIX ARRESTS WERE MADE THAT NIGHT.

THE CRH MINISTERS CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE THE NEXT DAY. THEY RIPPED INTO THE POLICE, AND THE PRESS RAN HEADLINES DENOUNCING THE ACTIONS OF THE SFPD.

THIS WAS A CASE OF DELIBERATE HARASSMENT BY THE POLICE!

THIS MARKED THE FIRST TIME THE SFPD RECEIVED PUBLIC PUSHBACK OVER THEIR REGULAR ABUSE OF GAY PEOPLE.

A NUMBER OF LEGAL CHALLENGES EMERGED FROM THE EVENT, BUT THE MOST PUBLICIZED WAS THE TRIAL OF THE LAWYERS AND NANCY MAY, WHICH CLAIMED THEY HAD DENIED THE POLICE ENTRY TO THE HALL.

25 OF SAN FRANCISCO'S MOST PROMINENT LAWYERS JOINED WITH THE DEFENSE. THE ACLU DID AS WELL. THE FIRST TIME IT FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQ PEOPLE.

WE WANTED ENTRY TO THE HALL TO CONDUCT SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

THEN WHY THE NEED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AS WELL?

DID YOU ASK THEM FOR PERMISSION WHEN YOU PHOTOGRAPHED THEM?

Officer Nieto, SFPD

Judge Leo Friedman

WELL, NO... BUT, A GREAT NUMBER OF THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN CRIME AND CAN POSE A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

I SEE. DID YOU GO THERE TO MAKE ARRESTS AS WELL?

NO...

AND YET YOU ADMIT PREPARING SO NUMBERED CARDS BEFORE-HAND WHICH WERE USED WHILE PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE AFTER THEY'D BEEN ARRESTED.

ON TOP OF THIS, YOU WERE IN FACT ALLOWED BY THE HALL MULTIPLE TIMES.

THIS CASE IS ABSURD!

THE DEFENDANTS WERE FOUND NOT GUILTY... BUT THE OTHERS FROM THE BALL WERE NOT AS FORTUNATE.

TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED FOR LEWD BEHAVIOR WHEN THEY STEADED EACH OTHER AFTER CLIMBING UP ON CHAIRS TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

THESE MEN WERE FOUND GUILTY, FINED, ONE LOST HIS JOB, AND BOTH HAD "MORAL TURPITUDE" PLACED ON THEIR RECORDS.

LATER IN HIS LIFE, REVEREND McILVENNA, WHO WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE CRH, WAS CANDID ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS FOR THE DANCE.

I HAVE TO BE HONEST. I INTENDED THIS TO BE A CONFRONTATION. WE EXPECTED THE POLICE TO OVER-REACT.

I'VE ALWAYS FELT A LITTLE GUILTY, BECAUSE I WAS USING THE PEOPLE.

LUCKILY, THE OVERALL EFFECT OF THE CRH DANCE WAS A HUGE STEP FORWARD IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS.

THE SFPD BECAME MORE RELUCTANT TO HARASS GAY PEOPLE. SAME-SEX DANCING WAS ALLOWED, AND A POLICE LIASON WAS CREATED FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY IN 1965, THE FIRST IN THE COUNTRY.

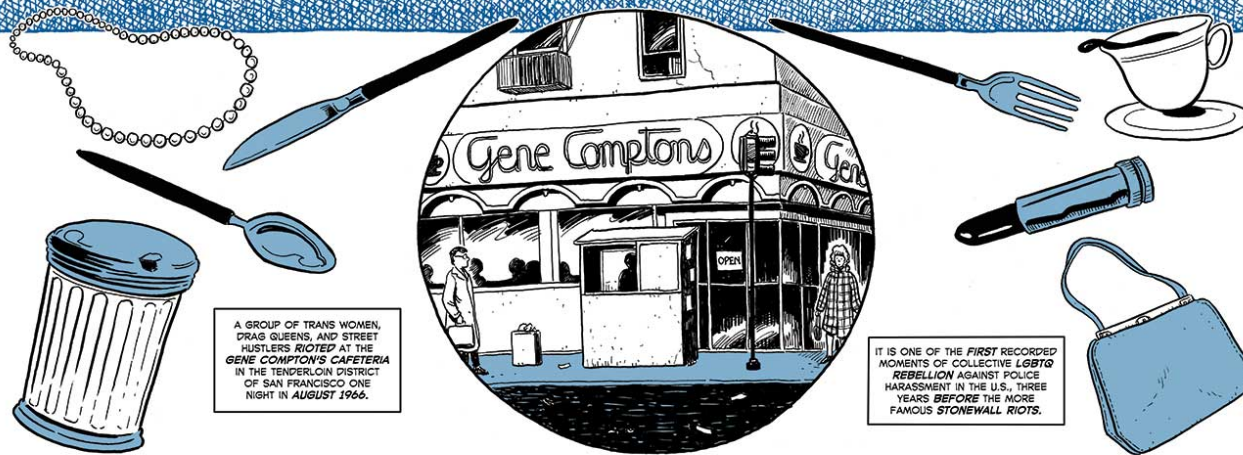
THE CRH'S ALLIANCE OF CLERGY, WITH ALL OF THEIR CULTURAL PRESTIGE, AND QUEER ACTIVISTS, WITH THEIR CONVICTIONS AND COURAGE, CHANGED THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF LGBTQ PEOPLE.

THIS DEMONSTRATED THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL POWER LGBTQ RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS COULD WIELD...

AND FURTHERED SAN FRANCISCO'S REPUTATION AS A QUEER MECCA, WHICH WE ENJOY TO THIS DAY!

COMPTON'S CAFETERIA RIOTS, 1966

- PART 1 -



A GROUP OF TRANS WOMEN, DRAG QUEENS, AND STREET HUSTLERS RIOTED AT THE **GENE COMPTON'S CAFETERIA** IN THE TENDERLOIN DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO ONE NIGHT IN **AUGUST 1966**.

IT IS ONE OF THE **FIRST** RECORDED MOMENTS OF COLLECTIVE **LESBIAN REBELLION** AGAINST POLICE HARASSMENT IN THE U.S., THREE YEARS BEFORE THE MORE FAMOUS **STONEWALL RIOTS**.



IT WAS INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT FOR **TRANS WOMEN** AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF COLOR, TO FIND EMPLOYMENT, SO MANY TOOK TO **SEX WORK** IN THE TENDERLOIN.

THOUGH MANY OF THE GAY BARS THERE WOULDN'T ALLOW THE **QUEENS** ENTRY, THERE WAS STILL A VIBRANT COMMUNITY WORKING THE STREETS AND OFFERING EACH OTHER **SUPPORT**.



THE POLICE WOULD ASK YOU FOR **ID**; YOU HAD TO HAVE YOUR **MALE ID** IF YOU WERE BORN MALE AND DIDN'T GO THROUGH A SEX CHANGE. THEY WOULD PAT YOU **DOWN**...

AND WHILE THEY'RE **PATTING YOU DOWN**, OF COURSE THEY'RE **FEELING YOU UP**.



TAMARA CHING



COMPTON'S CAFETERIA WAS OPEN 24 HOURS AND WAS A RELATIVELY **SAFE SPACE** FOR THE QUEENS TO GATHER, GET A CUP OF COFFEE, BE **FABULOUS**, AND **CHECK IN** WITH EACH OTHER.

NO ONE KNOWS THE EXACT DATE OF THE RIOTS OR PRECISELY WHO WAS THERE...

...BUT APPARENTLY THERE WAS A **CUP OF COFFEE** INVOLVED.



HEY GIRLS!

COME OVER HERE! WE SAVED YOU A SEAT!

OPEN

LOVE THAT NEW LIPSTICK, SWEETIE!



THANK YOU!

I FIGURED I NEEDED A NEW COLOR FOR A NEW ATTITUDE.

SO, DID YOU ALL HEAR ABOUT **DIXIE RUSSO'S** STAND-OFF WITH THE POLICE THE OTHER DAY?

WHO?



YOU KNOW HER, SHE'S THE HEAD OF **VANGUARD'S** STREET QUEENS DIVISION.

THAT'S THE **GAY LIBERATION** GROUP THAT MEETS AT **GLIDE** MEMORIAL CHURCH.



WELL, APPARENTLY WHEN THEY **DENIED** HER SERVICE AT THE **DOGGIE DINER**, SHE BROKE A **SUGAR SHAKER**...

UH OH!

17 COPS IN RIOT GEAR SHOWED UP!

THEY SURROUNDED HER AND HER **VANGUARD** BUDDIES FOR **FIVE FULL HOURS**.

BUT EVENTUALLY THEY WALKED AWAY AND DIDN'T ARREST ANYBODY!

Continued on other side of the poster

COMPTON'S CAFETERIA RIOTS, 1966

- PART 2 -



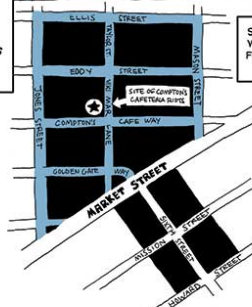
WITH THAT THROWN CUP OF COFFEE, THE CAFETERIA ERUPTED!

TABLES WERE OVERTURNED, SUGAR SHAKERS THROWN THROUGH WINDOWS, PLATES SHATTERED, AND EVENTUALLY THE FIGHTING SPILLED OUT INTO THE STREETS.



WE JUST GOT TIRED OF BEING HARASSED.

WE WANTED OUR RIGHTS!



SIX BLOCKS OF THE TENDERLOIN WERE DESIGNATED THE WORLD'S FIRST TRANSGENDER CULTURAL DISTRICT IN 2017.

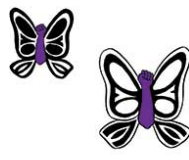
NOW, THERE'S A PLAQUE IN FRONT OF WHERE COMPTON'S CAFETERIA USED TO BE THAT HONORS THE RIOTERS OF 1966.



SO, LET'S RAISE OUR OWN CUPS OF COFFEE TO THAT COURAGEOUS QUEEN, WHOMEVER SHE WAS, WHO THREW THAT CUP THAT CHANGED S.F. HISTORY, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS, FOREVER!

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE, 1970

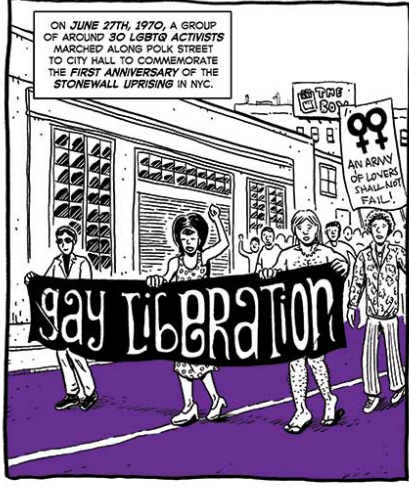
- PART 1 -



SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE IS AN ANNUAL PARADE AND FESTIVAL HELD EVERY YEAR DURING THE LAST WEEKEND OF JUNE.

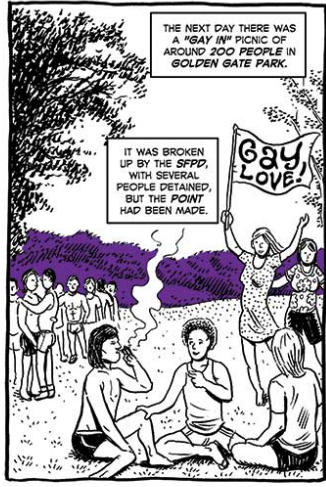
IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST LGBTQ GATHERINGS IN THE WORLD, AND ONE OF THE LARGEST EVENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THE YEAR 2020 MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SF PRIDE... THOUGH THE EARLY YEARS LOOKED VERY DIFFERENT FROM HOW THEY ARE TODAY.



ON JUNE 27TH, 1970, A GROUP OF AROUND 30 LGBTQ ACTIVISTS MARCHED ALONG POLK STREET TO CITY HALL TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONEWALL UPRISING IN NYC.

AN ARMY OF LOVERS SHALL-ING FAIL!



THE NEXT DAY THERE WAS A 'GAY' PICNIC OF AROUND 200 PEOPLE IN GOLDEN GATE PARK.

IT WAS BROKEN UP BY THE SFPD, WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE DETAINED, BUT THE POINT HAD BEEN MADE.

HEY MAN! WE'RE JUST USING OUR RIGHT TO ASSEMBLY HERE.

YOU PERVERTS NEED TO MOVE ALONG, OR WE'LL COME BACK WITH THE PADDY WAGONS.

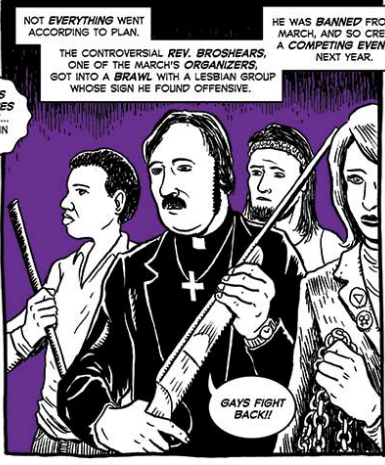
YOU SHOULD DISMOUNT AND JOIN US IN THE LOVE!

LEO LAURENCE
Parade Organizer



THERE WAS NO CELEBRATION THE NEXT YEAR IN SF, BUT IN 1972 THERE WAS ANOTHER MARCH THAT BOASTED 2,000 PEOPLE AND 15,000 ONLOOKERS.

THE CURSES HAVE BEEN SHOUTED, THE ROCKS HAVE BEEN THROWN, THE FIRES HAVE BEEN LIT AND PUT OUT... BUT THE GAY PRIDE BORN IN 1969 AT STONEWALL GOES ON!



NOT EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

HE WAS BANNED FROM THE MARCH, AND SO CREATED A COMPETING EVENT THE NEXT YEAR.

THE CONTROVERSIAL REV. BROSHEAR, ONE OF THE MARCH'S ORGANIZERS, GOT INTO A BRAWL WITH A LESBIAN GROUP WHOSE SIGN HE FOUND OFFENSIVE.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, HE SET HIS SIGHTS ON SOMETHING MORE RADICAL, FOUNDED THE LAUNCHER PATHERS, AN ARMED STREET PATROL GROUP TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST QUEERS.

OVER THE YEARS, FIGHTS HAVE RAGED OVER THE NATURE OF THE MARCHES, FROM RESPECTABILITY VS. PROTEST TO THE ROLE OF PEOPLE OF COLOR, WOMEN, TRANS FOLKS, THE POLICE, ETC.

IN 1980, THE GAY FREEDOM DAY CORPORATE BOARD VOTED TO ELIMINATE THE DECISION MAKING ABILITY OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, WORRIED THAT THE EVENT WAS TOO POLITICAL.

THERE WAS A VOCAL RESPONSE, AND A NEW LESBIAN/GAY PARADE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL COMMUNITY'S CONTROL OF THE CELEBRATIONS.



"THE PARADE IS THE GAY COMMUNITY FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE, AND IF IT DOESN'T LIKE WHAT IT SEES, IT CAN DAMN WELL LOOK THE OTHER WAY, BECAUSE WE ARE BEAUTIFUL, WE ARE REAL, AND WE ARE NOT GOING AWAY!"

REV. HUMPHRIES
Chair of 1972 Parade,
in 1980



GAY FREEDOM DAY BECAME SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE, AND HAS CONTINUED TO GROW IN NUMBERS AND SCOPE.

HARVEY MILK
SF Supervisor

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, WHOSE SUCCESS AS A REGION WHERE GAY PEOPLE ARE WELCOME IS A REASSURANCE TO OPPRESSED PEOPLE EVERYWHERE THAT AN END TO BIGOTRY CANNOT BE LONG DISTANT."

1978 PARADE COMMITTEE



continued on other side of poster

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE, 1970

- PART 2 -



JOSE SARRIA, DRAG QUEEN & ACTIVIST
PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL, 1995

TODAY WE MARCH,
UNABASHEDLY AND PUBLICLY,
TO DEMONSTRATE OUR NUMBERS
AND THE PRIDE WE FEEL IN
OUR IDENTITY AS
A PEOPLE!

UNITED WE
STAND! DIVIDED, THEY
CATCH US, ONE
BY ONE!



DEL MARTIN, ACTIVIST
COMMUNITY GRAND MARSHAL, 2000



LANI KIJAMANI, WRITER
PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL, 1994

ALL OUR
VISIBILITY IS A SIGN
OF REVOLT!



MARLON RIGGS, FILMMAKER
PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL, 1993

SILENCE KILLS
THE SOUL! IT DIMINISHES
ITS POSSIBILITIES TO RISE AND
FLY AND EXPLORE.

