Gay Rights

Part 1
The 60-Year Struggle for Gay Rights

The Stonewall Inn  The Rainbow White House

1969  2015
Before 1969
Sumner Welles Forced to Resign

A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

WE ACCUSE

...SUMNER

WELLES

Those persistent whispers are all true!
He had that lavender stripe even when he was second in command of the State Department.
"We had to keep our sexuality a secret ... I could go down to the Village on weekends and hang out in gay bars. But you couldn’t relax in straight company. They would hate you if they found out. So you would say ‘I saw the gals in the Village, man, oh man they were hot.’"

“Columbia was not a welcoming place...If you were openly gay at Columbia they would send you to a shrink. Or kick you out. The basic attitude was, Go away.”
• Go to a gay bar in the Village and the cops could jail you. Reveal your identity at work and the boss might fire you. Open up to friends and most would ostracize you. Disclose to family and they could disown you. Walk down the wrong street and they’d scream out an F word: fairy, faggot, fruit, flower, flamer.”
General Hostility Toward Gays

Thought to be:

- Criminals
- Sinners
- Perverted
- Mentally ill
1950 Report of a Senate Subcommittee

- In describing the unsuitability of homosexuals for Government employment, the Subcommittee on Investigations asserted that it was generally believed that those who engaged in acts of perversion lacked the emotional stability of other persons and those perversions weakened the moral fiber to such an extent that they were not suitable for positions of responsibility. In addition, the subcommittee believed homosexuals tended to surround themselves with other homosexuals, and if such a person were to attain a position where he could influence hiring in the Federal service, “it is almost inevitable that he will attempt to place other homosexuals in Government jobs.” Finally, the subcommittee’s investigation concluded that “perverts will frequently attempt to entice normal individuals to engage in perverted practices,” and other employees should not be subjected to such influences while in Government service. In short, “One homosexual can pollute a Government office.”
Legal System Governing Gays in the 1960’s
Employment: Federal Government

“Persons about whom there is evidence that they have engaged in or solicited others to engage in homosexual or sexually perverted acts...without evidence of rehabilitation are not suitable for federal employment.”
“Sexual perverts have infiltrated our government in recent years and they are perhaps as dangerous as the actual communists.” Republican National Committee Chair 1948
Executive Order No. 10540

Sexual perversion grounds for investigation under the federal-security program.
Locating Gays in Government

• Information in employee personnel files

• FBI checks on arrest records & vice squad info

• Post Office help
Military Service

- 1949 "Homosexual personnel, irrespective of sex, should not be permitted to serve in any branch of the Armed Forces in any capacity, and prompt separation of known homosexuals from the Armed Forces is mandatory."

Thomas Dooley: Navy Doctor & Humanitarian
Harvey Milk: Navy Diving Officer
Private Sector Jobs
Immigration

Clive Michael Boutilier was a Canadian citizen who lived in the United States for several years. When he applied for citizenship in 1963, he admitted to homosexual encounters. The Immigration and Naturalization Service ordered him deported under a law permitting deportation of a “psychopathic personality.”

By a 6-3 vote the Supreme Court upheld the INS decision.
In 1969 Almost All States Had Sodomy Laws

*Gays*

*Lesbians*

Heterosexuals
Jefferson Tries to Lessen Sodomy Penalties

Thomas Jefferson wrote a law in Virginia which contained a punishment of castration for men who engage in sodomy.

Jefferson intended this to be a liberalization of the sodomy laws in Virginia at that time, which prescribed death as the maximum penalty for the crime of sodomy.

It was rejected by the Virginia legislature.
American Civil Liberties Union
Police Invoked Many Different Laws

- Disorderly Conduct
- Vagrancy
- Public Lewdness
- Solicitation
Gay Bars
Family Law
Gay Advocacy Before Stonewall

Harry Hay – founded The Mattachine Society

Daughters of Bilitis –Named for book, Songs of Bilitis
Stonewall Arrests & Riot
Homo Nest Raided, Queen Bees Are Stinging Mad

By JERRY LISKER

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 pancake makeup. She was a he. A queen of Christopher Street.

Last weekend the queens had turned commandos and stood bra strap to bra strap against an invading, armed, mounted Tactical Police Force. The elite police squad had shot down one of their private gay clubs, the Stonewall Inn at Christopher St., in the heart of a three-block homosexual community in Greenwich Village.

Queen Power reared its bleached bloody head in revolt. New York City experienced its first homosexual riot.

“We may have lost the battle, sweets, but the war is far from over,” Hepted an unofficial lady-in-waiting from the court of the Queens.

“We’ve had all we can take from the Gestapo,” the spokesman, or woman-spokeman, continued. “We’re putting our foot down once and for all.” The foot wore a spiked heel.

According to reports, the Stonewall Inn, a two-story structure with a sand painted brick and opaque glass facade, was a mecca for the homosexual ele-
little girls do when they get together.
The thick glass shut out the outside world of the Castle. Inside, the Stonewall bathed in wild, bright psychedelic lights, while the patrons writhed to the sounds of a juke box on a square dance floor surrounded by booths and tables. The bar did a good business and the waiters, or waitresses, were always kept busy, as they snaked their way around the dancing customers to the booths and tables. For nearly two years, peace and tranquility reigned supreme for the Alice in Wonderland clientele.

The Raid Last Friday

Last Friday the privacy of the Stonewall was invaded by police from the First Division. It was a raid. They had a warrant. After two years, police said they had been informed that liquor was being served on the premises. Since the Stonewall was without a license, the place was being closed. It was the law. All hell broke loose when the police were met with cheers of encouragement from the gallery.

The whole proceedings took on the aura of a homosexual Academy Award Night. The Queens pranced out to the street blowing kisses and waving to the crowd. A beauty of a specimen named Steve walked uncontrollably while being led to the sidewalk in front of the Stonewall by a cop. She later confessed that she didn’t protest the manhandling by the officers because one thing was just that her hair was in curlers and she was afraid her new beau might be in the crowd and spot her. She didn’t want him to see this way, she wept.

Queen Power

The crowd began to get out of hand, eyes witnessed, then, without warning, Queen Power exploded with all the fury of a gas atomic bomb. Queen, princesses and ladies-in-waiting began hurling anything they could lay their polished, manicured fingers at. Bobby pins, combs, curlers, lipstick tubes and other feminine items were flying in the direction of the cops. The war was on.

The lilies of the valley had become carnivorous jungle plants.

They ushered the patrons out on the street, the crowds just off with cheers of encouragement from the gallery.

The whole proceedings took on the aura of a homosexual Academy Award Night. The Queens pranced out to the street blowing kisses and waving to the crowd. A beauty of a specimen named Steve walked uncontrolably while being led to the sidewalk in front of the Stonewall by a cop. She later confessed that she didn’t protest the manhandling by the officers. She later confessed that she didn’t protest the manhandling by the officers because one thing was just that her hair was in curlers and she was afraid her new beau might be in the crowd and spot her. She didn’t want him to see this way, she wept.

Queen Power

The crowd began to get out of hand, eyes witnessed, then, without warning, Queen Power exploded with all the fury of a gas atomic bomb. Queen, princesses and ladies-in-waiting began hurling anything they could lay their polished, manicured fingers at. Bobby pins, combs, curlers, lipstick tubes and other feminine items were flying in the direction of the cops. The war was on.

The lilies of the valley had become carnivorous jungle plants.

They ushered the patrons out on the street, the crowds just off

New York Daily News
Stonewall Inspires Gay Activism

“Something about the least accepted, most marginalized segment of the gay male community—the men who dressed as women—engaging in physical combat, captured the imagination of both gay and straight observers. Although initial press coverage of the event ranged from contemptuous to condescending, gay/lesbian political response was immediate and strong.”

Rachel Kranz & Tim Cusick, Gay Rights
1970s: Two Steps Forward

One Step Back
Gay Pride Parade in NYC: Stonewall 1st Anniversary
The Mental Disease Myth Buster

Evelyn Hooker’s groundbreaking research exploded the notion that homosexuality was a mental illness, ultimately removing it from the American Psychological Association’s List of Mental Disorders.