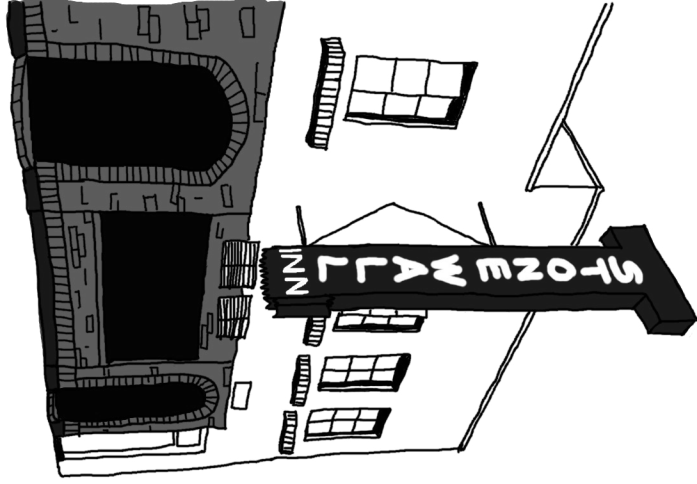


The Stonewall Riots



The group violently resisted the police, throwing coins and bottles at them. Eventually a kick line formed – the police retaliated with batons.



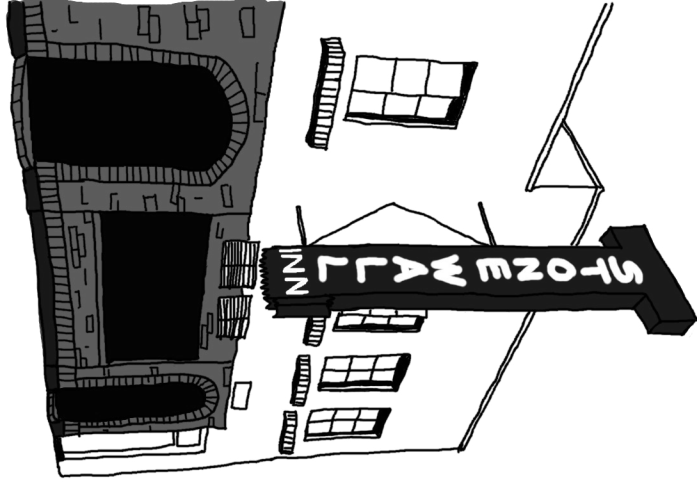
*We are
the Stonewall girls* ♪

Typically the police would tip off the Mafia-owned bars about raids in advance. That did not happen on June 28, 1969.



In a raid, police officers would line up the patrons, check their ID, and then "verify their sex". Female police officers would take customers dressed as women to a bathroom and have them undress, and anyone who was assigned male at birth was arrested.

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Why don't you DO SOMETHING?

and the riots began.

When the police tried to force a butch woman into the wagon, she looked at the bystanders and shouted

By the time the first police wagon had arrived to take the bar patrons to the station, the crowd had grown to at least ten times the number of people who were arrested.

In the 1960s, NYC had several anti-LGBT laws in place. Holding hands, dancing, or kissing someone of the same sex was illegal. It was illegal to wear clothing of the opposite sex.

Very few establishments welcomed gay people, and those that did were often controlled by organized crime. The Mafia bribed the police to ignore Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street, which lacked a fire exit and running water to wash glasses. The owners were also likely blackmailing the wealthier customers.

However it had a low entry fee, was one of the few gay bars that allowed (a few) drag queens, and was possibly the only gay bar left that allowed dancing. As such, it was a frequented bar.



There were roughly 200 people in the bar that night. People in line refused to produce ID. Those dressed as women refused to go with the officers. The police began arresting people and called for police wagons.

The raid did not go as planned.

The raid had started at 1:20am, and by 4am people had dispersed. Thirteen people had been arrested and four police officers were injured.

Five days of protests and clashes with police followed.

The following year, pride parades were organized to commemorate Stonewall – a tradition that has continued to this day.



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