# CAPITAL GAY

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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY GAY MEN

## New York stages a 'second Stonewall'

# CARS BURNIN PRIDE RIOTS

## LONDON PRIDE – PHOTO SPECIAL

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NEW YORK'S Christopher Street rang to the sound of new rioting on Saturday night as lesbian and gay men reacted furiously to anti-gay feelings in the city. Windows were smashed, the American flag burnt, and cars overturned and set alight, exactly twenty years on from the original Stonewall Riots.

New Yorkers were once again confronted with the spectre of thousands of gays taking their anger onto the city streets.

The riot began, appropriately enough, at the Stonewall Inn, scene of the watershed events of 1969. More than 2,000 lesbians and gay men had gathered at the Inn for a light-hearted re-enactment of the original riot. As part of the event, members of the crowd spilled onto 7th Avenue and held up the traffic. Tempers frayed amongst drivers, and one, screaming anti-gay slogans, drove his car into the crowd, injuring four people.

#### Snapped

The crowd snapped. Furious men and women beat against the car, which sped off down Christopher Street pursued by a mob. Stopped at an intersection, the driver and his two passengers fled from the car, running to a nearby theatre where they hid.

When the crowd caught up with the car, they smashed it apart, later burning it out, and then surrounded the theatre. The police arrived, and managed to remove the car's occupants, taking them to the nearby 6th Precinct, but a thousand-strong crowd followed.

The crowd remained peaceful, if angry, until Deputy Inspector Julia Thompson, Commander of the 6th Precinct, announced

that: "This was not an anti-gay bias incident, and the car owners will not be charged with such an offence."

#### 'Sensitised'

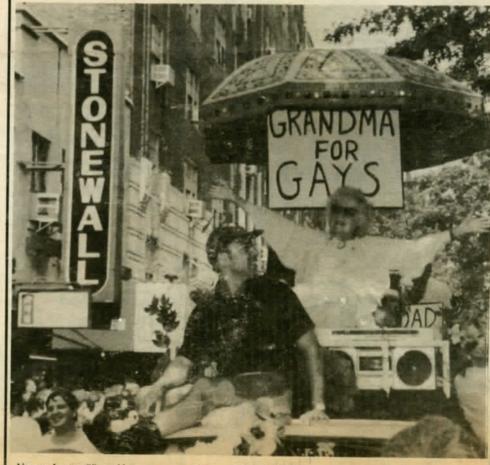
Again lesbians and gay men reacted with fury. They smashed windows in the police station, and burnt the American flag, as more gay men and lesbians arrived on the scene. Eventually, the police agreed to charge the driver with a hit-and-run offence, though at no point did they attempt to arrest any of the demonstrators. Other incidents of window-breaking and carwrecking occurred throughout the night.

By Sunday morning, the damage to Christopher Street had been repaired, and the city was able to assess the impact of the mini-riot. Gabriel Rotello, Editor of Outweek, New York's new gay newspaper, pointed to the differences that twenty years had made:

"Laws were obviously broken

"Laws were obviously broken on Saturday night, but the only ones arrested were the cardrivers. New York's police have become sensitised to the lesbian and gay movement, and were warned not to provoke trouble. Twenty years on, and with the advent of ACT-UP here, we no longer play the passive role."

## Parade passes the site of Stonewall



Norma Isaacs, 88, and her son passing the site of the original Stonewall Riots last Sunday. They joined a record 200,000 New Yorkers celebrating Pride, who followed a 'Lavender Line' down 5th Avenue to a giant fireworks display over the Hudson river. (Photo AP)

Keep up to date with Capital Gay every week!

Pride comes before us all

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# Pride '89

MORE than 25,000 people filled Kennington Park to bulging point at this year's Pride 89. Despite one of the dullest March routes in living memory, 18,500 men and women celebrated their sexuality by walking from Hyde Park to Kennington Park in sweltering temperatures in sweltering temperatures, joining thousands more gathered for the Carnival.

Hundreds of stalls jostled for attention, whilst the Market

Tavern beer tent helped slake thirsts.

The police kept a low profile throughout, making eight arrests for public order and drugs offences.

(Photos Gordon Rainsford, Chris Woods, and Wanda Goldwag.)





JOBS...JOBS...JOBS...JOBS...JOBS...JO

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## Pride '



Go-go boys beat the sun

Simon Orton braved the heat of the Pride celebrations at Ken-nington Park to dance for four hours in aid of London Lighthouse. Eager volunteers helped towel them down during their permitted breaks, as the two men sweated to raise £233.64 from their sponsors, Centaur, the rubber and leather company. They were joined in the evening by drag entertainer Zsarday.

Photo Special













## Pride '89











#### Amongst the many banners carried on this year's Pride Parade were the were following:

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