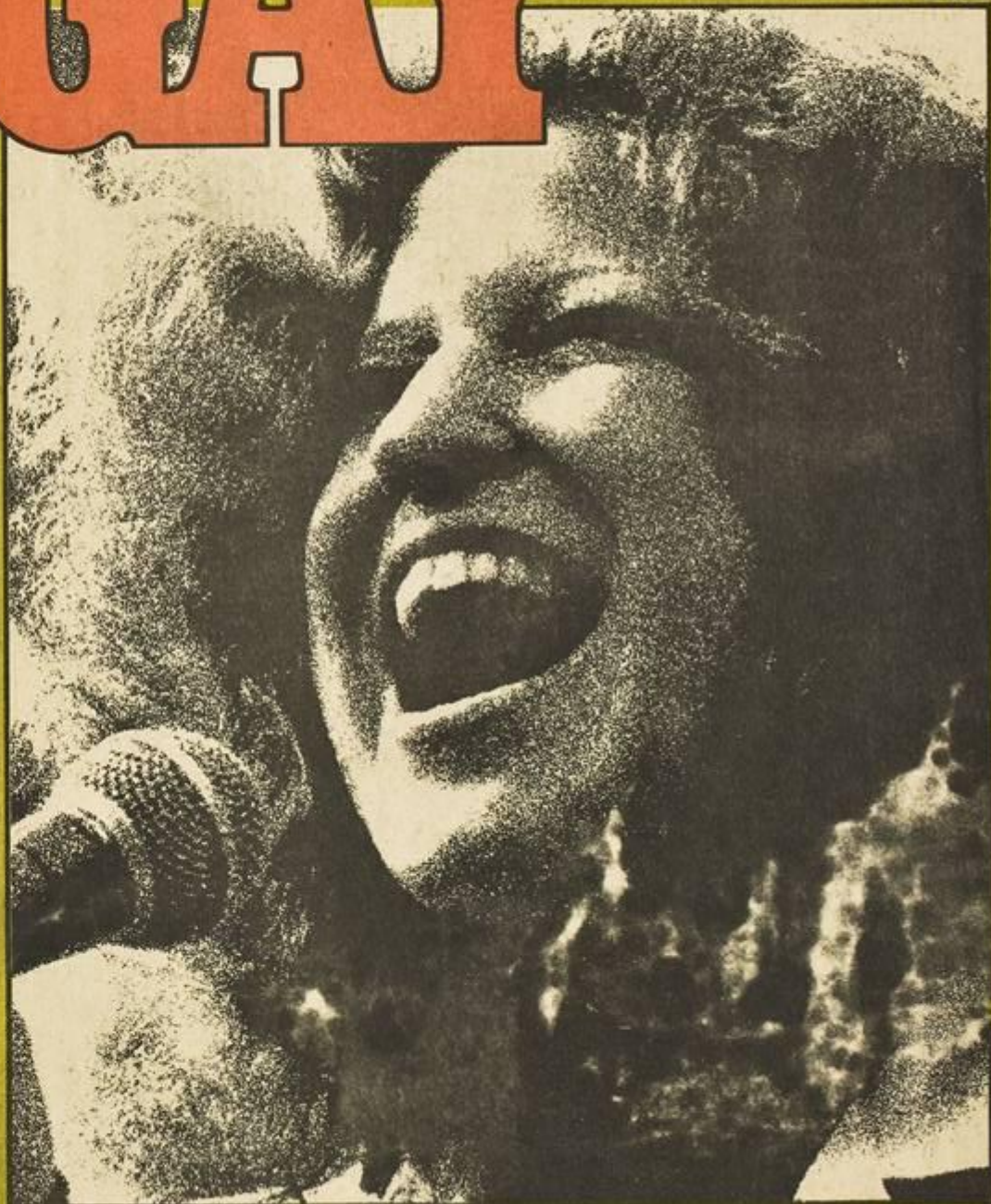


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Behind the Lines on Gay Pride Sunday

The hostility that broke out during the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade could have been much worse. As it was, Ray "Sylvia" Rivera, the mentally-disturbed, destructive leader of Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries (STAR), which on Sunday, June 24th, consisted solely of Rivera and one confederate, managed to cause constant commotion and eventually succeeded in laying her hate trip on the annual gathering of love in Washington Square Park.

Rivera forged ahead of the march at 19th Street and Seventh Avenue with her one supporter and their STAR banner. When Jean DeVente, the parade's grand marshal, told Rivera to get back in line, a squabble broke out halting the parade. Rivera attacked DeVente, tore the clothing and bloodied the throats of two other marshalls who came to her aid.

Finally, the police intervened. Many members of the Committee wanted John Paul Hudson, chairman of CSLD Committee, to give the officers the go-ahead to arrest Rivera. Hudson, being in a politically sensitive situation and perhaps fearing that arresting Rivera would make Rivera a "martyr" and himself a villain, asked the officers to forego making the arrest.

Then Rivera grabbed the glasses of Walt Doran, a marcher, and threw them to the pavement breaking them in front of the police, Hudson and several other marshalls. Doran started demanding Rivera be arrested and the police went in



PHOTO BY ERIC STEINER JACOBS

LAYING HATE TRIP on audience, oppression-sickness victim Ray (Sylvia) Rivera shrieks.

half-hearted pursuit until Hudson convinced Doran not to have Rivera seized. Doran's glasses cost \$40.

Later, Rivera, wanting—as always—to be a "STAR," tried to storm the stage. She was rebuffed but kept trying, gathering some supporters from the crowd around her. A mini riot was in the process of developing backstage. A few people even started throwing punches.

Then Hudson and the others bowed to pressure and allowed Rivera on the stage when he proceeded to harangue the crowd, calling them "motherfuck-

ers" and attacking them for being middle-class, white and unconcerned about all the third world, transvestite gays who were thrown in jail for being prostitutes and frequently raped while incarcerated.

Rivera reportedly works as a prostitute himself while in drag. Most of those gay prisoners she spoke of earn their living in the same manner, fooling male customers as to their real sex while having quickie sex for a few dollars.

Rivera believes the gay liberation groups should endorse all this and also

be militant about demanding "the operation" for all those who want to change their sex.

Rivera's speech set off a series of speakers, each taking the others to task. Jean O'Leary of Lesbian Feminist Liberation read a statement attacking a couple of female impersonators who she said impersonated women for the amusement of men "for entertainment and profit." O'Leary was roundly booed by the crowd, although the impersonators had received a very cool response.

Then Lee Brewster, head of Queens Liberation Front, attacked O'Leary and the lesbians as a bunch of uptight "bitches." This sent the militant lesbians in a frenzy.

But it was all still only the tip of the iceberg. The fight had been brewing for months, even years. Rumors before the parade had it that the radical lesbians were going to pelt any drag queens with eggs.

In turn, Lee Brewster said that if they did so, he was going to go to the Human Rights Commission and challenge the legality of the Lesbian-Feminist Liberation Front having "women only" socials and activities at the GAA Firehouse.

Things never got that bad but "fringe" groups and a mental case managed to dampen a lot of spirits and remind those present that there is a lot of sickness and much too much hate within New York's small gay community.