FREEDOM PARADE

looks good

by Angela Keyes Douglas

Preparations are underway to celebrate the third anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion-Chris-

Becoming a traditional outpour- gay bar. ing and affirmation of gay pride gay militance.

last week of June in 1969, when the bar.

Street riots in August of 1971) also. lasted for over a week and within a few days after the Stonewall noon of June 25, it wil start at

and the words gay power and gay ing up in front of City Hall, where liberation became familiar to mil- reviewing stands will have been set lions of people.

The Stonewall bar was more or

and gay militance the celebrations parade this year and may have on the committee." observe the first act of violent from '2000 to 10,000 participants' This happened at the Stonewall co-chairperson on the Christopher ted by the second Christopher parade will be televised and filmed.

Scheduled to begin on the after- zed. exploded Gay Liberation Fronts Pine and Montgomery streets and gays who feel that the parades began to form throughout the USA follow a 22-block long route wind-

"We hope that many of our gay topher Street Riots with marches less a sleazy hang out for hookers, sisters will participate," said and parades similar to those held street transvestites and younger Humphries. "The parade would in several cities in 1970 and 1971. gays, a social center more than a be far more relevant if it represents all gy people. We hope San Franciscowill hold its first that gay women will work with us

According to statements appearaccording to Robert Humphries, ing recently in the gay press, gay women have generally denounced bar in Greenwich Village in the Street West parade committee, the parade as being "male-orien-"Due to the unique nature of the ted" and are not in support of it. gays fought back against a police parade we expect around a quar- Opposition to the parades is also raid and locked the police inside ter of a million people to observe coming from some elements of it", said Humphries. He said gay liberation, who feel that the The Stonewall Rebellion (repea- that it was quite possible that the parades this year co-opt the "spirit" of the Stonewall Rebellion and are being commerciali-

> give gay people a bad image, or will set back attempts at law

> However, the San Francisco and Los Angeles parades have the support of dozens of gay organizations including thse which are generally viewed as most conser-

> all-inclusive, and open to any and everyone--all types of gays.

In the earlier parades, both in New York and in LA many gays demanded that transvestites and transexuals not be permitted to tion of transvestite and transexual militant groups. In New York although TVs/TSs were NOT permitted to march by parade organizers. Lee Brewster's Queens Liberation Front marched anyway.

Ironically, the Stonewall riots were fought mostly by transvestites and transexuals-the "effeminate" types. At one point queens wrote 'butches where are Other opposition is coming from you now that we need you?" on the sidewalks during theroits. (They come out once a year on June 25...)

attire worn by gays in last year's parade led to the defection of der of the Gay Liberation Front ticipants in its demonstration. LA, who will participate in the San Francisco parade instead. Theoretically, the parades are Kight was largely responsible for the '70 and '71 parades in LA.

Kight said that some gays ob- mos may happen in foreigh nations ject to the "dirty shirts" worn also. by gays although the shirts were actually tie-dyes. The conservative gays in LA have expressed culty whatsoever by gay groups participate, and led to the forma- hopes that gays participating in it in Los Angelesand San Francisco.

would be well-dressed march in neat rows, and carry American flags.

The LA parade will be led this year by the Reverend Troy D. Perry homosexual minister and founder of the gay-oriented Metropolitan Community Church.

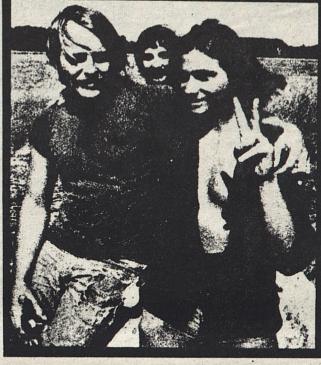
A dedicated gay activist Perry has organized and led dozens of marches and demonstrations in the past.

San Francisco is going all-out to show up LA this year, and In Los Angeles, criticism of the floats, limos, marchers and a lot of surprises are planned.

New York has optimistically Morris Kight an associate foun- predicted as many as 50,000 par-

Gay groups from Canada and other states of the USA, plan to participate in both the LA and San Francisco demos. Some de-

Police permits for the parades were obtained without any diffi-



GAY FREEDOM DAY

to the San Francisco Board of bring up the resolution. Supervisors Monday calling on the

been promised personally by Sup- snapping turtles!"

A resolution will be presented ervisor John Molinari that he will

The resolution has sat on the mayor to proclaim Sunday. June mayor's desk all the past week 25. "Gay Freedom Day" in the without being signed Broshears said. 'Hell the mayor has signed Ray Broshears, president of the resolutions calling for begonia Gay Activists Alliance and official days, and snapping turtle days. I for the Christopher Street West suppose he doesn't think gay people parade June 25, said that he has are as significant as begonias or