

Flag facts:

1 mile long
 3 times the height of the Empire State Building
 52.8 football fields
 Weighed 7,000 lbs. (3.5 tons)
 Took 121 days to build
 Existed for only 40 days
 Required 10,000 people to carry it

**LESLIE FEINBERG,
 TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST**

Leslie Feinberg is a standard-bearer for diversity. Self-described as an old-gay butch and longtime transgender activist, Feinberg came out in the early '60s (pre-Stonewall) in Buffalo, New York, and has never looked back.

Active in all types of progressive politics—homelessness, joblessness, women's rights, anti-racism and, of course, gay rights and rights of transgenders—Feinberg sees a calm before the storm right now. "There is a commonality of issues that will link all oppressed peoples and can help us define ourselves," she says.

Feinberg is the author of *Stone Butch Blues* and is currently adapting the novel as a screenplay for Against the Tide Productions. After speaking to the crowd at the Great Lawn, Feinberg flew to Miami to receive the American Library Association Award for Gay and Lesbian Literature.

**ACT UP MARCH,
 JUNE 26, 1994**

While the vast majority of us were participating in the Stonewall 25 International March on the United Nations, there was another (unauthorized) march going on. ACT UP, the group dedicated to keeping people with AIDS and AIDS funding a top priority, staged a protest march up Fifth Avenue, past St. Patrick's Cathedral and its homophobic cardinal.

At Sheridan Square, at 8:30 am, the police had already begun to set up their barricades. The ACT UP people were beginning to organize and, by 9:45 am, politicians Ruth Messinger and Tom Duane arrived.

At 10 am sharp, the police moved away the barricades to allow the marchers passage to the street leading to Washington Square Park and Fifth Avenue. Human barricades of ACT UP marshals

formed against the police line, as the police walkie-talkies crackled: "They're going to move!"

A red Mustang convertible with a sign on it saying "Stonewall Vets" joined the group as onlookers cheered. The four drag queens in the car were living testimony to the riots.

ACT UP member Brian Griffin led the parade, crying out, "We have to find a cure for AIDS. Our loved ones are dying! Join us behind the banner!" The crowd became larger and larger as it traveled up Fifth Avenue.

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At St. Patrick's, on 51st Street, the parade came to a stop as members staged a "die-in" by lying down in the middle of the street.

Ultimately the 5,000 marchers joined the U.N. march at 57th Street and Fifth Avenue, entering the park to join in the celebration of the Stonewall anniversary.

MOON DANCE

The Purple Moon Dance Project is a dance company that celebrates lesbian dancers of color. The company made its New York debut as part of the Gay Games Cultural Festival.

Dancers performed "Overlapping Clothes" (in Japanese it means to sleep together). The intimacy and expressiveness of the dance struck a chord with the audience, which responded warmly.

Jill Togawa, born in Hawaii and now living in California, has a clear vision of her company. "In our work, we celebrate our lives as women who love women."

"Lesbians have told me that seeing our work has changed their lives. Being part of that change is an important part of why I created the Purple Moon Dance Project."

**IN CONCERT AGAIN:
 BENEFIT FOR
 HEARTS AND VOICES**

Hearts and Voices is a not-for-profit corporation that provides live performances to ease the isolation and suffering of hospitalized people with AIDS.

The show opened with Liza Minnelli and Billy Stritch, and ended with Eartha Kitt. From the very

start, the energy from the stage crackled through the air. Other highlights included Julie Halston sharing some of her domestic secrets—such as Joan Crawford's views on child rearing. Andre De Shields with Debra Byrd, Frieda Williams and Joel Silberman, reached deep into the soul. The out-rageous comedic talent of Steve Hayes was a show stopper.

The whole event was an outpouring of love, sensitively and skillfully directed by Miriam Fond.

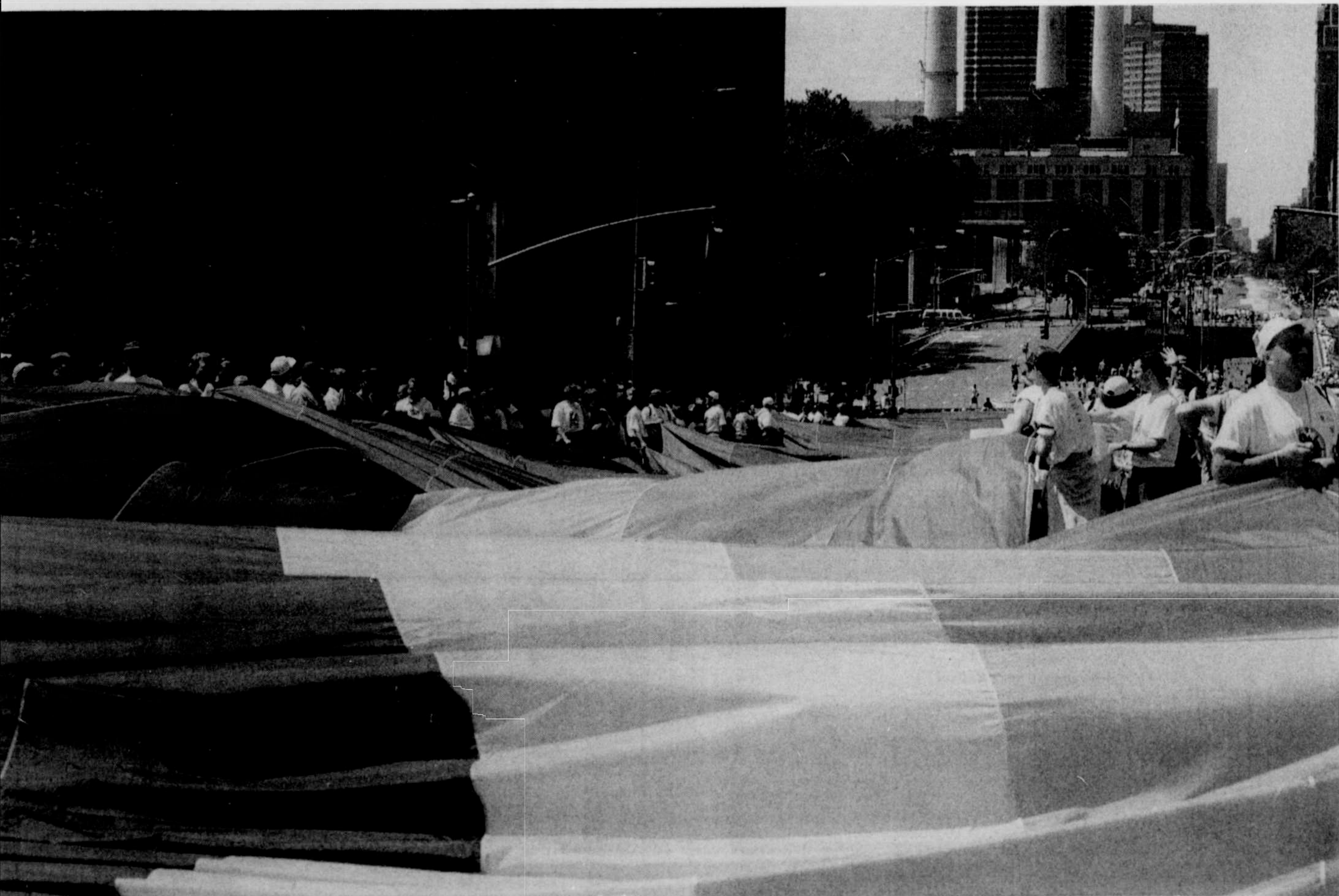
PRIDE FEST

Despite the hot and humid weather, crowds thronged to the Christopher Street waterfront to experience PrideFest, a street festival celebrating queer diversity. PrideFest was a three-day event sponsored by the Gay Games committee.

There were the usual array of food booths, from sausages to salads, and all sorts of rainbow chotchkas—flags, pins, T-shirts, jewelry, what have you. What really made the PrideFest worth a visit was all the special interest booths, from Gay Men's Health Crisis to the TV show *In The Life* to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation to Congregation Beth Simchat Torah to Stepping Out, as well as all the fabulous talent that performed at the HOP Stage Fest.

The performers included Lady Bunny, members of the *Angels in America* cast, Boy Bar Beauties, Outband, Sara Cyton, Jaffee Cohen and many others. The show went on all day.

PrideFest '94 also staged Dance 8, billed as the pride dance, on Saturday, June 25, on the piers. It was a magical, beautiful event that culminated in fireworks. The 20-minute fireworks display rivaled any Fourth of July celebration.



This year's Rainbow Flag is the largest ever created—one mile long

PHOTO BY PATSY LYNCH