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**Instructions:** Put the paragraphs in the appropriate order to reconstruct the text.

**The Origins of Gay Pride Day: the June 1969 “Stonewall Rebellion”\***

\_\_1\_\_ A. The Stonewall Inn in N.Y.C.’s Greenwich Village was the site of the famous 1969 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) “Stonewall Rebellion”.  The June 1969 rebellion against New York police repression lasted five inconsecutive nights from Friday 27 June to Thursday 3 July and gave rise to the modern LGBT liberation movement. Each year this breakthrough event is commemorated with Gay Pride Day festivals all over the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ B. This was the socio-historical context at the time of the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969. Historical conditions were ready for the birth of the modern-day LGBT liberation movement and Stonewall took on a symbolic, mythical importance as a fundamental turning point for the LGBT community in the U.S.A. and in the world, with the emergence of a collective and individual identity based on gay pride and dignity. In a famous quote from one of the Stonewall veterans: *“There had been race riots, women’s riots, all sorts of anti-war riots, and now it was time for the homosexual riots”.*

\_\_\_\_\_ C. After the Stonewall Rebellion, the banners of the young gay liberation movement became visible at virtually every movement demonstration. Shortly after the rebellion, Black Panther Party leader Huey P. Newton issued a revolutionary statement calling for unity with the gay liberation movement. The Young Lords Party (a militant left-wing Puerto Rican group) and other left organizations formed internal lesbian and gay caucuses. Leaders of the United Farm Workers union also offered firm support for gay rights.

\_\_\_\_\_ D. Armed with only the change in their pockets, bottles and rocks, they fought the police, forcing them to retreat and barricade themselves inside the Stonewall bar for almost an hour. The telephone and electrical lines were cut, the windows smashed, and the police were left in the dark, with their guns ready to shoot their way out if necessary. An improvised molotov cocktail was thrown and the crowd began ramming the door of the Stonewall bar with an uprooted parking meter to try to get their hands on the cops. Finally the Tactical Police Force showed up: for 45 minutes the protestors had held the police trapped in the Stonewall Inn! The police reinforcements in time cleared the streets but the next day the news of the rebellion spread.

\_\_\_\_\_ E. The 1960s were a decade of mass movements and rebellion which challenged the patriarchal-capitalist W.A.S.P. status quo and permanently changed U.S. culture and society. U.S. historian Eric Foner called the ‘60s the decade of “the rights revolution”.

In those years, the Afro-American Civil Rights Movement fought Jim Crow segregation and racial oppression, serving as an example for other ethnic liberation movements among Latinos, in particular Chicanos and Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans. The anti-war movement opposed U.S. military aggression abroad, and *in primis* the war against Vietnam. In the ‘60s the modern feminist movement was born alongside the radical organizations of the New Left. The ‘60s counter-culture (e.g. the hippies) challenged many traditional cultural norms, such as deference to authority, organized religion, militarism, racial attitudes, male/female sexual double standards, and consumerism.

\_\_\_\_\_ F. The Stonewall Rebellion was commemorated by the first Gay Pride marches in the U.S.A. on 28 June 1970 in New York City (ca. 5-10,000 marchers), Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and at least four other US cities. Since then, Gay Pride Day has been celebrated on the last Sunday or other dates in June in more and more cities around the world. Popular slogans on Pride Day include: "We're here, we're queer, get used to it!" and “Stonewall means fight back!”

2

\_\_\_\_\_ G. In March 2000 President Clinton agreed to add the Stonewall Inn to the National Register of Historic Places and in June 2016 President Obama declared the Stonewall Inn, Sheridan Square Park and the adjoining area a National Historic Monument. Gay Pride Day and “the legacy of Stonewall” continue to play an important role in challenging heterosexism and homophobia and the systemic inequalities and injustices they create. The Stonewall Rebellion showed the LGBT community and their allies that it is possible to fight the system, to resist injustice and discrimination, and ultimately to achieve rights, dignity and pride as citizens and human beings. “Stonewall means Fight Back”!

\_\_\_\_\_ H. The first night the rebellion had been spontaneous, but not the following four nights. Violent confrontations between police and the LGBT community and their supporters continued, with the participation of militants of the Black Panther Party, Yippies, and various radical and new left parties and organizations. Gay author Edmund White told of how on one of the nights of street fighting, some young Afro-American heterosexuals put their arms around him saying “We are comrades.”

\_\_\_\_\_ I. The night of 27 June 1969 was a very hot, muggy Friday night. In the Stonewall bar people were dancing when shortly after midnight the lights came on. Everyone stopped dancing and the police morals squad and its inspector entered. The police began to try to identify for arrest the sexual identity of cross-dressers, and people were rounded up, taken out of the bar and pushed up against the police vans and the park fence. The mood quickly changed from angry passivity to militant defiance when a woman dressed as a man resisted arrest outside the bar and was body slammed by a police officer. This woman’s resistance and the act of police violence galvanized the rest into action and the people rebelled.

\_\_\_\_\_ J. There were many gay leaders and activists who played a fundamental role in all of the ‘60s movements for rights, peace and social justice, but their sexual identity remained invisible. There was not yet a movement for LGBT rights. An LGBT identity, individually or collectively, had not yet emerged and their basic rights were denied. By law homosexuality was a crime in every state except Illinois and files were kept on gay people by the FBI and local police. There were laws against cross-dressing in many states and LGBT clubs and other meeting places were routinely raided, people were arrested and their names printed in newspapers. In the ‘50s and ‘60s thousands of men and women were arrested, imprisoned, fired from their jobs, and put into psychiatric hospitals, their lives ruined. People were driven to suicide.

\_\_\_\_\_ K. The Stonewall Rebellion was sparked when an N.Y.P.D. morals squad undertook a raid of the Stonewall Inn, a supposedly Mafia-owned dance bar on Christopher Street in Sheridan Square in New York City's Greenwich Village.  What began for the police department as simply a routine "fag-bar" raid quickly escalated into five, inconsecutive nights and early morning hours when LGBT people and their allies decided to literally fight back. African American, Latina and white drag queens, transsexuals and butches, were in the front lines of the rebellion.

\_\_\_\_\_ L. In 1969 in New York and much of the rest of the U.S.A., it was illegal to cross-dress and also for men to dance with men, although in N.Y.C. women could dance with women!  It was also illegal to sell alcohol to homosexuals and gay people were obliged to frequent clandestine, often Mafia-owned and operated bars, whose owners paid off corrupt policemen. Gay youth, often runaways from unaccepting families, usually did not need IDs in Mafia-run bars.

\*Based in part on an article in *Workers World,* N.Y.C. (date unknown).