

“In 1968, our nation staggered through twelve cataclysmic months.”



‘1968’ - Part III

Courage

"I am a Woman - Not a Toy, a Pet, or a Mascot." (Signata at Miss America Pageant Protest)

The Miss America Protest

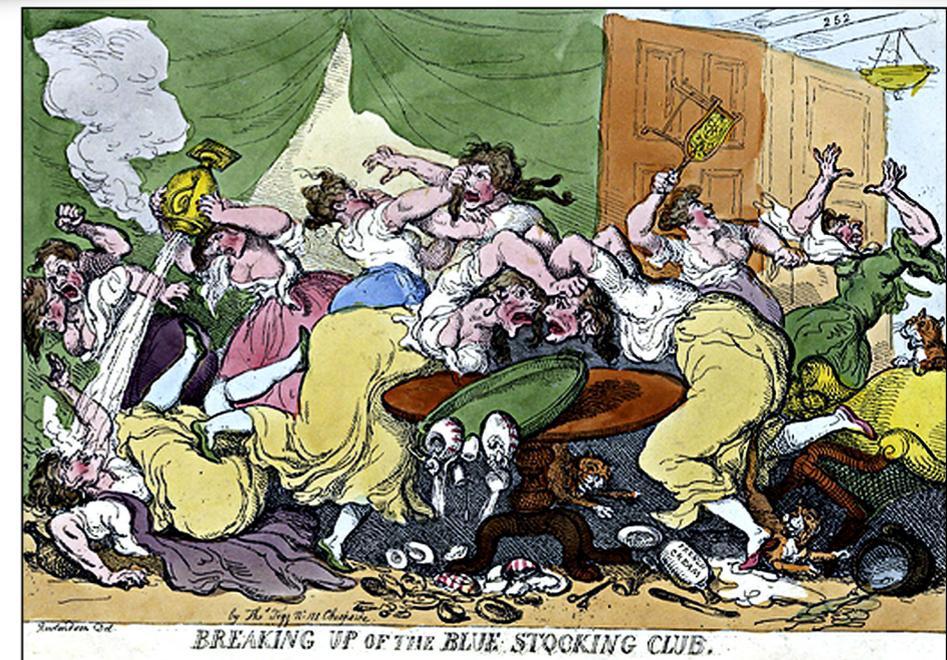
"IN JANUARY, as part of the antiwar demonstration, we held a torch light "funeral for the Burial of Traditional Womanhood, with a female dummy and a casket. We buried curlers, garters, and hair spray. I delivered the eulogy."
- Kathleen Sarachild, 64, led the protest at the 1968 Miss America Pageant and cofounded the radical grass-roots feminist group 'Redstockings.'

Redstockings



The Redstockings, also known as Redstockings of The Women's Liberation Movement... a radical feminist group that was founded in New York City.

The word is a portmanteau (multiple words or sounds that are combined into a new word) of Bluestocking (a term used to disparage feminist intellectuals of earlier centuries) and red (for its association with the revolutionary left).



*“Our grandfathers had to run. Run...
RUN... Run. My generation is out of
Breath. We ain’t running no more!”*

- Stokely Carmichael

The Black Panthers

“There is a higher law than government.”



KATHLEEN NEAL CLEAVER’S (below left) transformation from the daughter of a college professor to “stomp-down revolutionary” battling “domestic imperialism” was complete by 1968.

She’d dropped out of Barnard College and in 1967 moved to San Francisco and married ‘Black Panther’ leader and ‘Soul on Ice’ author Eldridge Cleaver (below left).

The next year, Eldridge would be involved in a shootout with Oakland police, and Kathleen would emerge as the public face of the ‘Black Panthers.’

A committed activist still today - she divorced the now-deceased Eldridge in 1987 - the 72-year-old Yale University graduate teaches law at Emory University in Atlanta.

“Four months after I get married, here’s my husband charged with three counts of attempted murder. It’s two day’s after Dr. King’s assassination... during the height of the Vietnam War. It’s madness, off-the-hook - you never knew, what was going to happen next.

But you make a decision when you join a revolutionary movement... what’s most important in the world - your private existence or the collective transformation of the community?

This tremendous legacy of fighting against slavery is what we were keying in on. We were young, and we were trying new things, but we knew we had inherited a struggle.

We were reformulating how black people thought about the political process. So we were trying to break it down, like Bobby Seale would say: ‘Break it down to the real nitty gritty.’”



A group of Black Panthers gathered on Capitol steps to protest a bill that would make it a crime to publicly exhibit firearms "in a manner manifesting an intent to intimidate others." The protestors did not enter the building and they were not arrested.

“We want freedom. We want the power to determine the destiny of our black community.”

- From the Black Panther Party Pamphlet “What we want, what we believe.”



Tommie Smith (center) and John Carlos (right) showing the 'Black Power' salute during the 1968 Summer Olympics ... while Silver medalist, Australian Peter Norman wears an Olympic Project for Human Rights badge to show his support for the two Americans..

Mexico City Olympics



This statue is dedicated to San José State University alums Tommie Smith and John Carlos commemorating their silent protest... this world recognized protest action, was an iconic moment in the Civil Rights struggle in America.

"THE ACT OF THE GLOVE was about a need to be heard. After I won the gold, I thought many minutes about throwing both hands in the air, or wearing two gloves and doing nothing.

Then it hit me: just use one hand, voice it to God, and pray. On the victory stand, I turned right to the flag and then turned back, left, to the crowd.

These are military moves – very committed moves – because what I was doing was an American thing, freedom of expression.

After that a lot of black people used the victory stand as a platform to speak out. Still, after I got back, I was an outcast. My hometown really turned against my family.

That hurt me more than anything. Dead animals were put in the mailbox at our home. It tormented my mother, to the point that I believe it contributed to her death in 1970."



“We had to mobilize.”



“**I WAS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT UCLA** when high-school students in L.A. were getting frustrated by educational disparities and were talking about a walkout.

They needed help in organizing it. We had Cesar Chavez’s farm workers’ movement in the rural sector going on at the time, but we had not yet mobilized in the city ... not in large numbers by people of Mexican descent, so this city-wide protest was dramatic.

In the end what was significant was the change in the people. Looking at themselves as somebody who could actually stand up to the powerful – the police, school board members, and principals – this protest was very important to the movement.”

- **CARLOS HARO** (left), 61, retired assistant director of the Chicano Studies Research Center at UCLA.”



“Keypunch Operators were in high demand.”

*“A **key punch** (above) was a device (created by IBM) for entering data into punched cards by precisely punching holes at locations designated by the keys struck by the operator.*

The punched cards were sent to a second machine, called a verifier, that looked similar to a key punch. The verifier operator entered the exact same data as the keypunch operator and the verifier machine then checked to see if the punched data was the same.

*Successfully verified cards had a small notch punched on the right hand edge. There was a great demand for **key punch operators**, usually women who worked full-time on key punch and verifier machines.*

”

“A VOICE FROM 1968 – “In 1968 I graduated from high school. According to my father, girls didn’t need college. No sense asking my parents to add to the small scholarship I’d won. I consoled myself knowing I was the only one of nine siblings who’d made it through high school.

I took full-time job in a shoe factory and moved into my own apartment. I learned to juggle the money and make it last.

Eventually I got a job as a keypunch operator, and my salary doubled. My father was angry when he found out I was getting \$3.74 an hour, more than his hourly pay after 40 years on the same job as a truck driver.

I bought my first car, a 1954 DeSoto (below), and learned about car insurance. Although I was not ignorant of the political events that were changing the world, it all seemed far removed from me as a woman struggling to make my own way.”

- ANNE JASPER, 58, Newport, North Carolina.”



“50 Years later... 1968, the legacy of that volatile year is still being contested by many discussing a watershed point in American History. Many on the Right still view it as the epitome of all that was irresponsible, idiotic, and dangerous about the Sixties... while many on the fractured Left still mourn 1968 as the last great moment of revolutionary possibility.

The truth probably lies somewhere in between, but there is no doubting that something unique and potentially revolutionary happened around the world in 1968, something that continues to shape the present in ways that those involved in the protests could not have not foreseen, and that the majority of today's globally-connected younger generation is utterly unaware of.”

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