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The Villager

Letters To The Editor:

I happened to walk by the Sixth Precinct last week during their demonstration against the Mayor's wage offer. Frankly, I was infuriated.

If I hadn't some pressing business to attend to, I would have certainly counterdemonstrated with two signs. One would have asked:"WHY ARE OFFICERS THE ONLY ONES TO PICKET THIS PRECINCT?" The other would have simply demanded:"DO YOUR JOB!! THEN ASK FOR A RAISE!"

Indeed, I had intended to do exactly that upon returning about a half hour later but by that time the brief protest and "photo opportunity" had ended.

I'm left to wonder if I had done so, what would have happened? My outrage was based on a continuing anger I feel for the Sixth Precinct's refusal to adequately investigate the murder of my roommate and dear friend, Marsha P. Johnson.

When we marched on the Sixth Precinct during the summer of 1992, the thirty or so of us were met by a line of eighteen police officers and kept from getting any nearer the station house than Bleeker Street. It was weeks before a promise to be heard by the Precinct Commander given on the day of the demonstration was finally kept.

I have a complete video record of this entire event which, hopefully, will be incorporated in documentaries on the lives & struggles for justice by historic gay figures. After all, the gay liberation movement grew out of protests against Sixth Precinct corruption, misconduct and brutality.

Circumstances & the relationship between the Sixth Precinct & the gay community have certainly improved since 1969. I'm sure most of the officers serving Greenwich Village are good, honest, decent people. I personally know some of them & count them among my friends. That's just all the more reason to make sure bad public relations policies (i.e. "Don't Protest Here!") are changed & sloppy police work (Marsha P. Johnson Murder Investigation) be corrected.

Andy Wren