

DYKES ON BIKES

Internationally, and around the United States, in many big cities each year, **Dykes On Bikes** start Gay Pride Parades, Dyke Marches, Gay Games, and other LGBT events. They are leading pride parades around the world from San Francisco to Melbourne, Paris, London, Tokyo, Toronto, Sydney, Zurich, Tel Aviv, and Greece.

Gay Pride Parades are opened traditionally every year by the Dykes on Bikes. These are Lesbians, some calling themselves Grease-girls, on Motorcycles, often two to a bike, driving in circular and sinuous patterns, carrying the LGBT Rainbow Flag, and moving forward after each pattern, with the rest of the parade following. There is lots of Leather and some girls are bare breasted with just metal or paint covers on their nipples.

They most likely were originally put at the front of the parade for logistical reasons and have remained there as a symbol of LGBT pride, defiance, liberation and empowerment. The contingents are fiercely independent and self-reliant in the “Do it yourself” and feminist traditions and have been studied as a social phenomena as a “complex, multilayered form of consumption-related cultural resistance that raises awareness of social injustice and discursively informs social meanings in everyday life outside the festivals.”¹

The term specifically was coined by actual dykes on bikes at the first gathering at the 1976 San Francisco Pride parade. At the time, I was in The California Maritime Academy, which was located nearby, but I still didn't even know what Gay was. Only in the largest cities could something like this happen. Most people still thought you were better-off dead than Queer. The only “OUT” people were in the Gay Ghettos of San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago and a few others. There were few jobs you could hold and be openly Gay.

The Dykes On register their name 2003, and it was Their trademark of the use of the



Bikes attempted to as a Trademark in refused in 2004. wererefusedbecause word Dyke, despite



their accepting trademarks like “Biker Bitch,” “Whore,” “Evil Pussy,” “Queer Shop,” “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,” and “Queer as Folk.” After years of court battles, in November of 2006, they were able to prove to United States Patent and Trademark Office that “Dyke” was NOT offensive to the Lesbian Community, and they were granted the Trademark.

Here are some links:

[1Wikipedia on Dykes On Bikes](#)

VIDEOS OF DYKES ON BIKES

[Photos from the 2009 Olympia, Washington, Pride Parade](#)

[FaceBook](#)

[San Francisco](#) [Australia](#)

[Seattle](#) [Phoenix](#)

[Atlanta](#) [Detroit](#)

[Denver](#) [Pittsburgh](#)

