

# OBITUARIES

NEW YORK NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1992

## Malcolm Michaels, 46

By Curtis Rist

STAFF WRITER

Malcolm Michaels, a legendary Christopher Street transvestite who called himself Marsha P. Johnson, was found dead floating in the Hudson River on Monday, and was believed to have drowned accidentally a few days earlier, friends said yesterday.

Michaels, 46 — who preferred both the name Marsha and the use of the feminine pronoun “she” — led a roller coaster ride through three decades of gay liberation. He participated in the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969, worked as a model for Andy Warhol’s “Drag Queens” series, and spent most of his life as a prostitute and panhandler on Christopher Street.

At the core of a life that could redefine the word “turbulent,” a longtime friend, Richard Skinner, found a “wonderful, warm and open person” who befriended an astonishing variety of people.

In the 1970s, Michaels was occasionally at odds with the mainstream gay liberation organizations, which did not necessarily accept his image as “a frumpy housefrau one day, all glittery and in heels the next.”

But in the end, he was honored during Gay Pride Day two years ago with a ride in the limousine that leads the annual parade. Michaels wore a suit and tie.

A memorial has been scheduled tentatively for July 26 at Duane United Methodist Church on 13th Street, at 3 p.m.