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Mark Calhoun

ON HIS 3RD
ANNIVERSARY



The Holiday Season

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our patrons, friends, and staff, for a wonderful year.*

*We wish you a very merry Christmas;
may we all bond our friendship further in the year to come,*

1978

See inside for our SPECIAL HOLIDAY MENU and hours!

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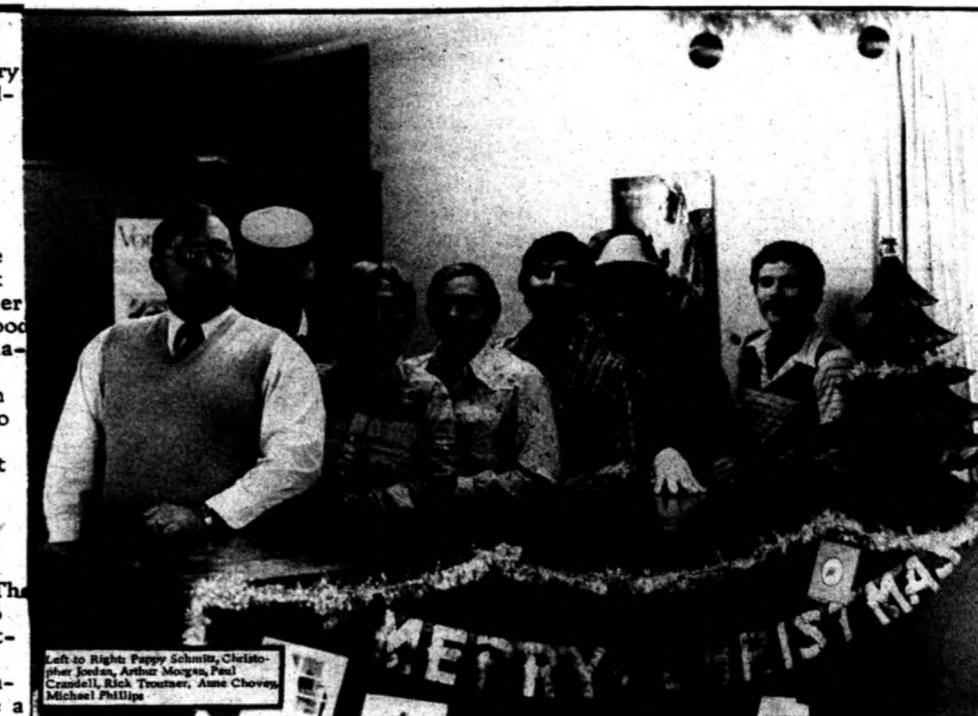
Welcomes The New Year

Bob Hendry AT LARGE

Empress Vera - In Memoriam

San Francisco, parts of Ohio and the Eastern tip of Long Island were saddened last week by the sudden death of Vera Mundane, Empress XXXVII de San Francisco, High Priestess of the Folsom Oracle, Serene Lady of the Streets, Grand Patroness of the Glory Holes, Royal Receiver of Free Drinks at various bars, Exalted Daughter of the Dildo Society of America, Divine Passer of bad checks and Lover of Almond Roaca. The cause of her late majesty's death still is not certain. However, it is believed that she succumbed to an overdose of plant food that someone put in her Margarita. She was attending a costume ball at the time and was dressed as a gigantic boston fern. It had to be gigantic for as we all know Vera weighed close to 300 pounds sans scepter, sans crown. With the passing of the last Empress of San Francisco, a glittering era has come to an end. The future high priestess of the Folsom Oracle was born Chester "Butch" Mundane in East Marpizan, a suburb of Ennu, Ohio on July 29, 1959. His early childhood was marked by extreme poverty. Two weeks after he was born, his father lost his job as a glove compartment inspector at the local Edsel plant. It drove him into deep periods of depression and eventually suicide. His mother had to work longer and harder hours at the Marpizan Pizzeria. It paid off for in just five short years she was promoted to head garlic taster. Soon everything at the Mundane household smelled like garlic. Even the Kellogg's Rice Crispies tasted like an Italian gourmet meal. It was around this time that Chester stopped kissing his mother. Adversity struck again. The pizzeria was firebombed by a band of terrorists and once again Chester's dear mother was jobless. But not for long - she landed a position as an Avon Lady. Now the breakfast cereal tasted like Essence of Gardenia. In June of 1977, "Butch" Mundane was graduated from the Clara Bow Memorial School. His mother was a top executive at Avon now and it was her wish that Chester attend college. Chester, however, had other plans for the future. He really wasn't proficient at anything except getting into drag and going jewelry shopping with his mother. And so for the next few years or so he occupied his time by reading any book that he could find that dealt with royalty. Even at this early point of his life the future was beginning to reveal itself. However, knew where his destiny lay. He knew East Marpizan, Ohio was no place for dreams of grandeur and glory. He could never be an Empress in Ohio where they couldn't tell the difference between Ermine and Saran Wrap. June 3, 1983 was the day that was to change his life forever. During a visit to a nearby plant, his mother fell into a vat of cologne (Forbidden

Lust) and drowned. Chester was semi-grief-stricken but thanks to his mother's large estate, he was also very rich. She left him everything including her wardrobe, jewelry and eyelash collection. Chester bade farewell to East Marpizan and came to San Francisco where he felt that he would be truly appreciated. Soon after his arrival he began investing, investing - and investing. Within five years, Chester, now Vera, owned six bars, a dildo factory, two used leather shops and a chain of combination blood banks and laundromats called Plasmatarias. Vera was very wealthy and she loved it. Now, at last her vision of becoming an Empress was about to be realized. Her six bars sponsored her and the money flowed just as fast as the champagne at the campaign cocktail parties. The election of Empress was held on Sept. 10, 1988, and there was no doubt as to its outcome. It was Vera in a landslide. The new Empress of San Francisco lost no time in asserting her authority. Shortly after her coronation she pressured the Council Royal to appoint her Empress for life with the power to name a successor. The council members realized they had been taken but there was nothing they could do for Vera owned just about anything and everything that was gay in San Francisco. She was a conglomerate and to oppose the royal will would amount to nothing less than economic suicide. With her opposition quieted and her position secure, Her Imperial Majesty went about the task of serving her gay subjects and at this she was remarkably successful. The early years of her reign were marked by stunning achievements as Vera lavished her vast wealth on countless projects that benefited San Francisco's gay population. On April 25, 1993 she closed the dildo factory and turned it into the country's largest V. D. Clinic. The Empress was generous by nature and her many humanitarian acts were turning her into a legend. Her admirers were legion. On July 22, 1995, the Council Royal, by unanimous vote, declared that Empress Vera Mundane was to be the only person in San Francisco holding a royal title. All other titles were hereby abolished and Vera reigned supreme. She donated \$100,000 for the construction of the Vera Mundane Home for Retarded Transvestites in October of 1997. On May 8, 1998, the Vera Mundane School for Glory Hole design opened on Polk Street. But by far the most memorable event of her illustrious reign came only last month during the festivities celebrating Vera's tenth year on the throne. It's no state secret that Vera had a passion for bartenders and she slept with most of them. After last year's tragic fire at the Woodshed which took 17 lives - including 3 bartenders; she decided to erect a monument honoring all those who toil in bars for low wages and questionable tips. The moment came and it was indeed a solemn one. She came to dedicate the Tomb of the unknown bartender at the corner of 6th and Folsom - the site once occupied by the Woodshed. Vera gave a brief speech and at precisely 11:30 AM that warm September morning, a sad Empress, dressed in black, slowly ascended the marble steps leading to the granite tomb. On it was inscribed the following: HERE LIES IN HONORABLE MEMORY A BARTENDER KNOWN ONLY TO GOD AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE. As her majesty lit the eternal flame at the base of the



Left to Right: Peggy Schmitt, Christine Smith, Arthur Medina, Paul Chiodini, Alan Trueman, Anne Chaves, Michael Phillips

Season's Greetings

tomb, an honor guard made up of members of the Myrna Loy Memorial Uniform Club fired a twenty-one gun salute. We didn't know it then but this was to be Empress Vera's last public appearance. Of Vera's funeral it could be said that she would have approved. What it lacked in taste it made up for in style. An estimated crowd of over 5,000 jammed the parking lot at the Church and Market Safeway to pay somber tribute to a beloved Empress. The medium high Requiem Mass was highlighted by a disco version of Schubert's "Ave Maria" beautifully rendered by the glee club from the San Mateo Lesbian Truck Drivers Alliance. Royalty from other realms throughout the west came to offer last respects to one of their own. "Mad" Martha,

Doris Delicious, the 4'2" High Priestess IX de Modesto and Fresno arrived in a tasteful shopping bag from Macy's Misty Dew, the Princess Royal of Watsonville looked chic in a clear plastic jump suit accented by a black armband and Tupperware handcuffs. Alas, royalty will never be the same for who can ever replace dear Vera. Vera's coffin of aluminum and glass was taken to its final resting place in a smart 1941 Nash hearse. Burial was in Gumps window where Vera will be on permanent display. Unless of course they decide to sell her. In which case the price will probably be around \$595.00 plus tax-coffin optional.

THANK YOU

FOR READING "MECCA"

HAVE A WONDERFUL

HOLIDAY SEASON

MARK CALHOUN

SHOWTIME

BY DAN TURNER
& JORDAN LEAL

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

"Everyone who says Merry Christmas should be boiled in his own pudding," says Scrooge in the ACT production of Dickens' classic A CHRISTMAS CAROL directed by Laird Williamson. William Patterson is an irascible Scrooge and his penny-pinching antics and his heartless capitalism are humbug with humor. He is a likeable old miser and even lovable when repentant.

The set unfolds like a giant clock as if time were a collage of strong boxes and safes to be unlocked and freed of fetters. As in T. S. Eliot, "past and future are in time present." Shadows of things that will be and have been converge in close encounters of a third kind. Dickens' ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future invade reality as tangible beings from outer space - to warm the inner space of Scrooge's heart.



Sydney Walker
as Scrooge

Old Fezziwig, played with sprite by Daniel Davis, bubbles over with Christmas spirit. His wound-up gait and turned up wig contrast with the shuffle walk and white shag head of Scrooge. Fezziwig behaves the way Scrooge should, "shining like a good deed."

Scrooge gets the chance to see how good he can become and how rotten. Would that we all had insights of such magnitude while dreaming through the night.

Some of the scene transitions were a little awkward and a more inventive lighting scheme would have helped establish more exciting ghosts. The ghost of Christmas future should be more frightening. Overall Dickens' characters come to life and his change of heart story is a warm reminder of the holidays.

JOHNNIE RAY
By Jordan Leal

After twenty years of near obscurity, Johnnie Ray emerged in a "triumphant return" at the Venetian Room that, unfortunately, ranged from embarrassing to acceptable. His musical roots are his own blend of Country-Western with fifties' rhythm and blues, combined with his inimitable style that earned him the title "Prince of Walls."

His choice contemporary material is simply beyond his grasp. "You've Got a Friend" has never been hacked to pieces so before. That and others made the show's opening extremely weak. However, once Ray returns to home base, the performance greatly improves. His country medley was quite capably presented.

"Such a night" a black song which he introduced to white radio stations in 1956 (and which was removed by the networks as too lewd and suggestive) was approaching show-stopper quality. All this built to the inevitable "Cry," and there can be no doubt that only

Johnnie Ray can perform it as it should be done. The audience roared approval and brought him back for an encore. If only the show as a whole could be nearly as moving, rather than merely building up to one number.

Ray's show here runs through December 21st, and he appeared with Phil Harris at the annual Christmas show at Laguna Honda. Ray is substituted for Bing Crosby this year.

DICK SHAWN
The Second Greatest Entertainer...
By Jordan Leal

For a grueling two hours Dick Shawn presents a completely brilliant, engrossing one man show as a third rate comic in a fourth rate night club. It is a demonstration of unquestionable genius. The show is divided into two acts, the first being the comic's preparation for his act, the second the night club act itself. What is particularly interesting is that each half is divided in two, the first part in the comic's mind, the second as he really is to everyone else around him. For the first scene Shawn talks to his "mirror with a crack in it" on the stage's fourth wall. For forty-five minutes he delivers non-stop insights to politics, sex, toilet training, human curiosity, and a crash course in human nature. What seems a string on non-sequiturs becomes an incredibly tight, well-constructed monologue that serves as the basis for the entire show.

Those of you who remember Shawn as the lead for the "Springtime for Hitler" show in the Producers will especially enjoy the opening of the second act, an all-out parody of the typical Las Vegas club act. After the show, I talked with Shawn about how he conceived the show. He was quick to point out that he took the material that bombed in Vegas and put it into a theatre presentation. The nightclub audience, he pointed out, is too diffused, the minds are going in too many directions. A theatre audience, though, concentrates its energies and thoughts on what he is doing on stage. The results are obvious. The show played Boston for three weeks, but was extended for ten. Here, the show took a brief break but came back. Suddenly Dick Shawn finds himself a very popular performer with requests for dates in many cities.

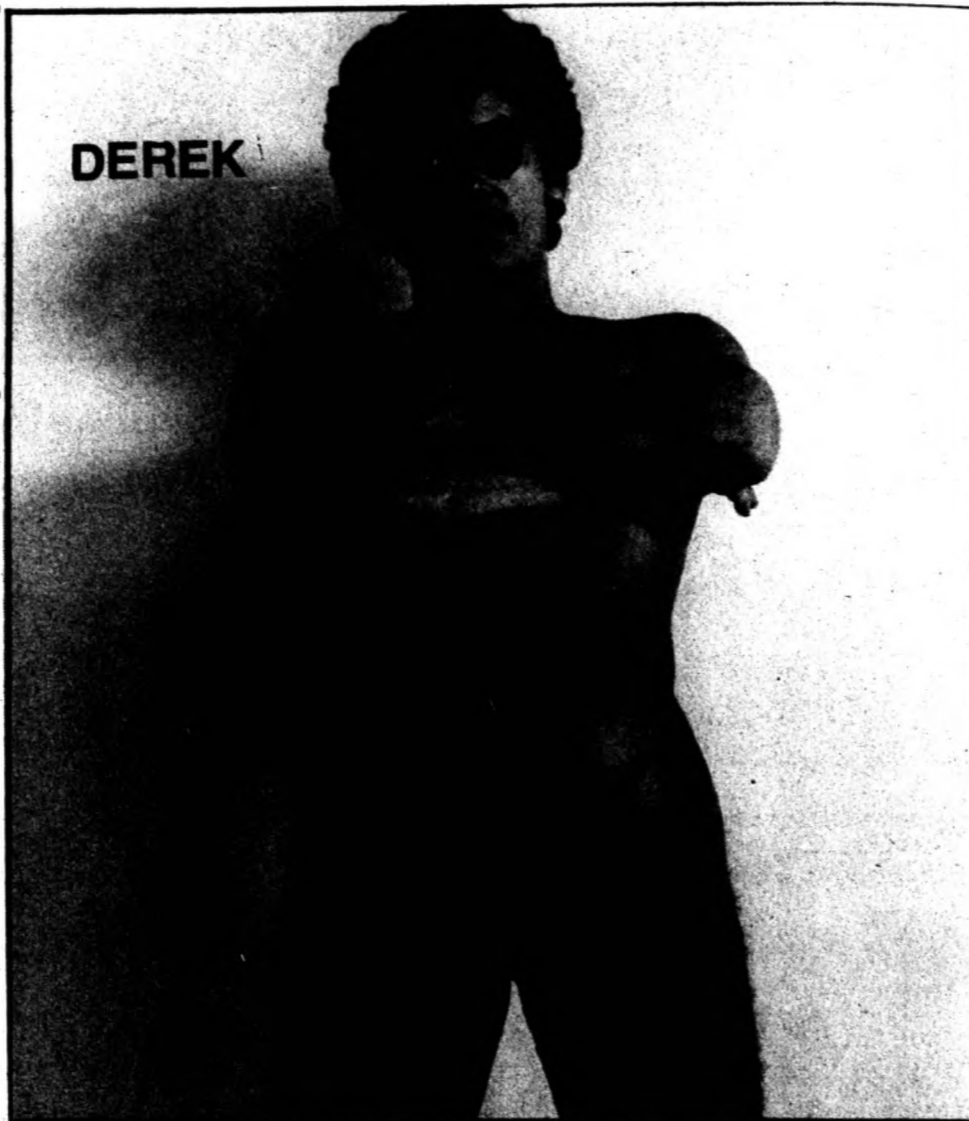
"The 2nd Greatest Entertainer..." continues through January 15th, and is one of the finest performances we'll probably see at the Alcazar for some time.

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DEREK



JUMPPING
AROUND
TOWN
WITH
MIKE SCHIMTZ

I don't know about you, but I have been up to my butt in Christmas wrapping paper and tree tinsel these past few days. I start my Christmas shopping in July and in December, I still have some to do.

Each year the gift list gets longer and longer. I thing next year I will make a donation to my favorite charity and do it in the names of all my friends and just send out Christmas cards saying what I have done. But even that can be a trifle expensive, what with the high cost of Christmas cards and stamps. Oh well, it is the GIVING SEASON. The bars are so beautiful this season. Some of the decorations are just out of this world. I just love the beautiful tree at The New Bell Saloon, and of course, the warmth of Boo and his staff is delightful to bask in. The music of David Kelsey is to die for and the sparkling personality of Kish

is something to make New Year resolutions about.

Buzzby's is a wonderland of gayly decorated packages and Christmas wonder. Trock and his gang have done a bang-up job. I know that the staff worked long and hard to get the effect that they did. It is truly a delight to go in there for a drink and some dancing.

Speaking of dancing, ALFIE'S is still going great guns. I just love that place. Manuel has a very hot place there and with Tish's help and the help of all there hard working staff, it will be a very merry place to spend part of your exciting Christmas holidays.

Of course, one of the more delightful places to do some wonderful holiday dining is Lennie Mollet's 527 CLUB on Bryant. He has some kind of special almost every day of the week and the price is right and the food is heavenly. He also sets one of the best brunches in San Francisco.

Went to Sarah Dash's opening at the Mocambo. The lady is something else. Go see her, anywhere you can, anytime you can. It is wonderful the way she seems to sing just to you. You'll love it.

Enjoyed a wonderful brunch at the GALLEON last Sunday. They really have wonderful food and service. The brunches start at 10 in the morning and go on until 6 in the evening. Their dinners during the week are a delight to the palate as well as the wallet. Drop by and give it a try. You'll love it.

Another wonderful place for fun and eating is BRADLEY'S CORNER down on Cole near Haight. A truly wonderful place with friendly, warm people.

Con't on Page 24

LENNY MOLLET'S 527 CLUB

DON'T MISS THE
BEST BRUNCH
IN SAN FRANCISCO

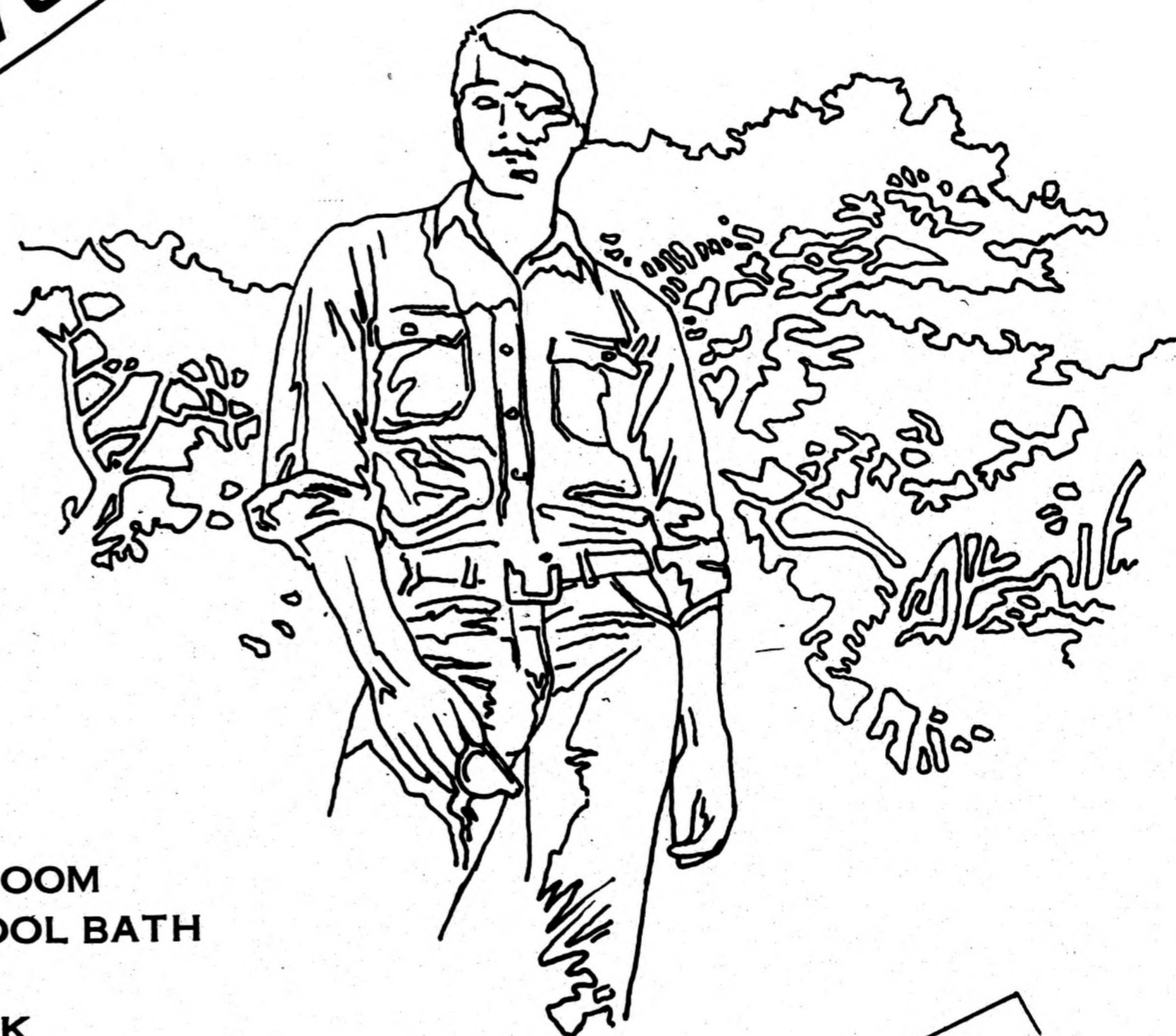
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This is MECCA



mark calhoun

MERRY CHRISTMAS, everyone and I hope that you all have a wonderful one. Please don't forget the People's Fund Christmas Dinner at the Community Center on Christmas day beginning at noon, and if you can help with a donation (Ham, I understand, is being served, this year) provide a little of your time, I'm sure that the experience will enhance your personal feeling of the "spirit of Christmas". Mr. Bob Ross is at the helm again this year, and so you know it'll be an exceptional day. However, a big THANK YOU to those businesses, organizations and individuals who have already contributed to help make this year's People's Fund Christmas Dinner another resounding success. God Bless You All!

It is unfortunate that the city has seen fit to be such a "hum-bugger" on the Christmas decorations this year. Of course it's due to the hideous fire at the Yacht Club at the Marina, last

year. Nevertheless, although limitations have been set for decorations, the human imagination has taken hold and brought us some very interesting and unique creations and a trip downtown will attest to that fact. The store windows are beautiful and the inside decor is really very lovely. Notice this year the use of Poinsettias in great abundance. They truly are the Christmas Flower.

Thanks to Reva and Associates, we were all able to see the "Nutcracker Suite" currently playing through the holiday season at the opera house. It was a wonderfully marvelous experience and if you've never had the opportunity to enjoy this lovely ballet, indeed do so! The production is by far the most elaborate and expensive in the United States. The sets, lighting, costumes and orchestra are absolutely breath-taking and superbly done by the very excellent cast and talented backstage crew. Do make it a must next year.

Just a word about those Hot chestnuts that are being sold around Mecca. The project is annually sponsored by the San Francisco International Community Festival Council and the net proceeds benefit the San Francisco Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner at the Housing Authority Hotels and Senior Citizens Centers around the city. So... buy some of those delicious chestnuts and enjoy knowing that you are helping someone enjoy a Christmas that probably wouldn't happen if it weren't for this worth-while project. This year's edition of the Headless Ball was a phenomenal success and the Emperor and Empress of Modesto walked away with almost all the top prizes. Congratulations to them and their designer for one helluva beautiful creation which many people of the Christmas Decorations in the Starlight Room. 'Twas nice to see Supervisor Harvey Milk and Senator and Mrs. Milton Marks in attendance. And a special treat was the presence of their daughter, Carol (my very special love), who is home from College (Vermont... of all places) for the holidays. The MCC choir was heaven as usual and Randy Johnson kept the evening flowing with his excellent smooching. If you missed it, you missed a real goodie. The STARLIGHT ROOM is celebrating New Years this year with a "Baby Diaper Contest" and we're giving away \$50.00 to the winner. The party

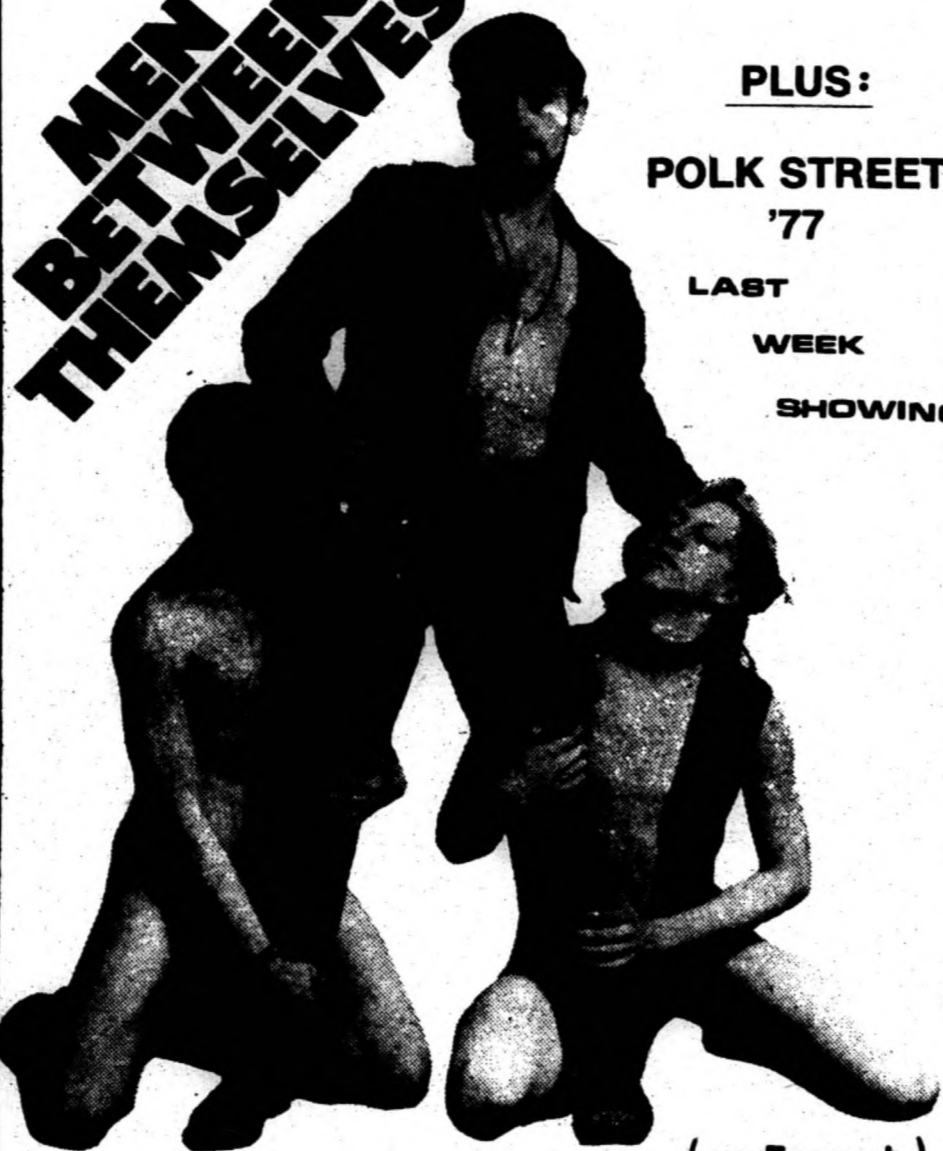
begins at 9PM New Years Eve and FREE hats, leis, noise-makers, FREE Champagne and FREE buttons. There is a modest \$1.00 door charge which will benefit the MCC choir. We have lined up some of the City's more colorful and popular personalities as judges and everyone is invited to attend and/or enter the contest. Diapers will be provided, however decorated diapers will probably score the highest points. We're looking for the "1978 New Year's Baby" and he could start the year being \$50.00 richer. We hope to see you all there for what we think will be gobs and bobs of fun and one helluva big hoot. As I mentioned in my last column, this issue marks my Third Anniversary writing "This is Mecca". As I reflect back, a lot has happened in this city in the past three years, and it's been real fun, if not interesting, to write a

column. I am proud of my CABLE CAR AWARD which I won two years ago for the "Columnist of the Year" and I have endeavored to make the column one of interest, information and one of a positive approach to living in such a great, wonderful and exciting city which is home for a lot of great, wonderful and exciting people. Special appreciation goes to Dennis Charles who, in the first place, asked me to write a column. And I thank the Kalendar staff for their help, although it would be nice for all of us writers if there were more proof-reading (Even though my original copy is sometimes not always filled with correctly spelled words) But I've been assured that this will happen. So... as I've said in each column... Thanks for taking the time to read "Mecca", and please know that I honestly do love you

Con't on Page 20

SF PREMIERE!

MEN BETWEEN THEMSELVES



PLUS:

POLK STREET '77

LAST

WEEK

SHOWING

(in French)

Starring J.F. LAFFITTE • GIVVY HEAD • J.C. PATRICK
MICHEL HENRI • PAUL LARTVIERE • ARNAUD de GRAY
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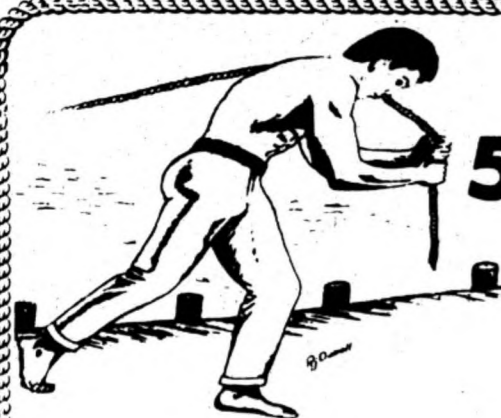
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EVE PARTY

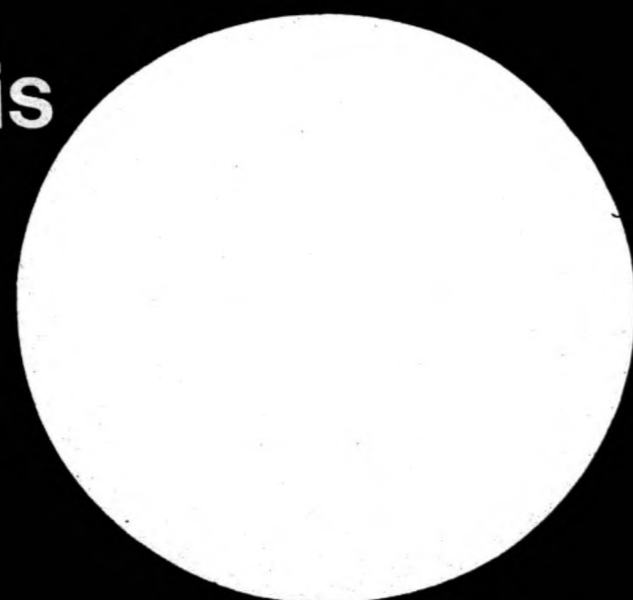


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of this



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At the Door \$25

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Open Bar 9PM to 2PM

Disco Marathon 9PM to 6AM

Champagne at Midnight

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In And Out Privileges

Afterhours Admission \$2

Does not include breakfast 3AM

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Kalendar

OF
EVENTS
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Sat 24

- Jose's Opera-Chez Jacques-Hansel & Gretle
- Pride Dance-9PM-2AM
- Mocambo-Anita Day-9 & 11PM
- Disco Dancing-Full Moon
- Movies- Nob Hill Cinema



Sun 25

- GAY COMMUNITY CENTER- 330 Grove Street. Christmas Carols by MCC Choir. Free Free Christmas Dinner-11:00 AM
- Club Frisco-Dance Contest-\$50.00 in Prizes
- Chicken Dinner-Boot Camp - 10PM

Mon 26

- Tai Chi Class-Gay Community Center- 330 Grove Street. 6-8PM
- Movies- Spartan Cinema
- HOT-HOT-HOT !!! ALFIE'S



Tues 27

- POLK GULCH SALOON-Party for RUTH @ 8:00PM
- Disco Dancing on Polk Street-BUZZBY'S BUZZBY'S BUZZBY'S
- Phone Booth - Mexican Dinner-6-10PM
- Mr. B's - 60 6th. St. --ORGY

Wed 28

- Movies --NOB HILL CINEMA
- Hot Music @ FULL MOON Disco California & Polk
- "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" Opera House



Thurs 29

- 1808 Club- COME and enjoy.
- Disco Dancing-ALFIE'S
- Spartan Cinema- Flicks

Fri 30

- DANCING- FULL MOON'
- Movies- Nob Hill Cinema
- Spartan Cinema- PORNOPORNOPO

Sat 31

- The following is only a partial list of the hot places to go on New Year's Eve. Go and Enjoy. Happy New Year from the KALENDAR.
- Caracole, Liberty Baths, Ramrod, I-Beam, Bear Hollow, 527 Club, The City, The Brig, Oil Can Harrys Full Moon, Badlands, P.S., Galileo Gordon's, Jackson's, Mocambo.



Sun 1

- BOOT CAMP- Chicken Dinner
- Club Frisco- Dance Contest-\$50.00 in Prizes
- We need some competition so come and join the festivities.....
- HAPPY HANGOVER!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mon 2

- Boot Camp- Jockey Shorts Contest-10:00 PM
- Movies - Nob Hill Cinema-It's hot.



Tues 3

- JIM OSTLUND- Court Meeting-The Cellar--7:30 PM
- Phone Booth- Mexican Dinner-6-10 PM
- Enjoy an Evening at the Sutro Baths-----
- 1808 Club--Lounge and Back Room--Hot time-Hot men.

Wed 4

- SUTRO BATHS- Appealing Apparel Night
- Liberty Baths-Discount Night-\$3.00 Rooms-\$2.00 Lockers
- Mr. B's - ORGY!



Thurs 5

- PHONE BOOTH- Home Style-6-10 PM
- Spartan Cinema--Line-Up of Great Porn.
- 1808 Club- HOT every nite of the week.
- Disco Dancing- Full Moon

Fri 6

- PHONE BOOTH- "Western Electric Band"--9:30-1:30
- 1808 Club --HOT-HOT-HOT



Kalendar

PULL OUT SECTION



PREMIERES DECEMBER TWENTY EIGHT THE NOB HILL

THE STRANGER...
THE FOREMAN...
THE HUSBAND...
THE FATHER...
THE SON...



FRED HALSTED **RICHARD LOCKE**

starring **FRED HALSTED • RICHARD LOCKE** and Mike Morris
Jared Benson • Guillermo Ricardo • Clay Russell • Lou Davis • Steve King
Aaron Taylor • Robert Snowden • Keith Anthony • Ken Brown • Rob Carter
Stan Braddock • Georgina Spelvin as 'Billie' & The Wrecking Corps.

written/directed by **JOE GAGE** produced by **SAM GAGE** music by **AL STEINMAN** COLOR and SURROUND SOUND

SURROUND SOUND

ASK ANY BUDDY

© JOE GAGE FILMS

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CASTRO CHRISTMAS

'Twas the day before Christmas
and all thru the place,
not a creature could be stirring
'cause someone was sitting on his face.

The young men were hung...
and all were bare
if they weren't hung, God knows
they'd never be there.
My trick in his leather
and I in my chiffon
had just settled down
to getting it on...
When out on the street there
rose such a noise
We thought someone was busy rolling
the boys.
I went to the window
and threw open the shutter
to see who was making such
a noise in the gutter...
And what to my wond'ring eyes
should appear
but this hunky number
(who was really a dear).
He sprang to the door
and rang the bell...
I hoped it wasn't Avon he was trying to
sell.

He said not a word
but went gaily to work
he filled all the stockings
even one for my roommate (the jerk)...
Into each stocking and panty hose
he put a joint and a lavender rose...
His eyes so glassy... his smile so merry
I knew our pusher was a real kind of
fairy.
His work he finished in the twinkling
of an eye
He was gone out the door before I
could offer our special Christmas Pi.
He jumped in his car but leaned out
to yell
"Here's something I want you to remem-
ber well...
On downers, on uppers, on acid, on
hash,
Take one of each honey and you'll
have a bash!"
Then I heard his exclaim as he swished
out of sight...
"Get down to the clinic by the dawn's
early light."



INTRODUCTORY OFFER

GOOD THRU JANUARY 30th

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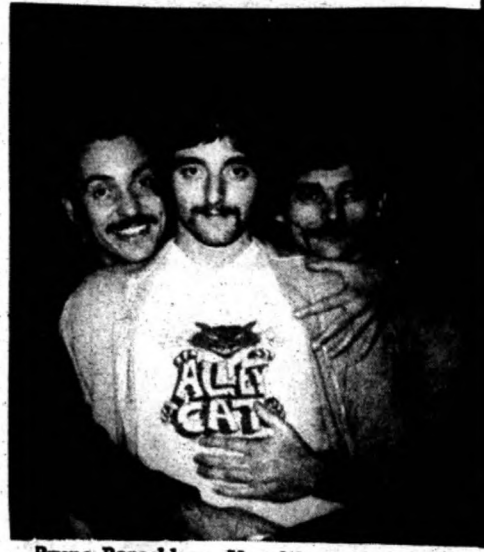
"FISH" Wins Pool Title

THE BRIG (1347 Folsom St.) was packed as 17 tournament hopefuls entertained spectators in competing for the big one -- the 1977 San Francisco Invitational Pool Championship. Truly a tournament of champions, this event was open only to previous tourney winners.

"A game played with balls driven by cues on a rectangular table," as defined in Webster's Dictionary; however, on the night of December 13th it was hardly just a "game," but rather an expression of a way of life for 17 pool players who received invitations for the City Championship, by respective-ly winning individual bar tournaments. In adjudicating ties, playoffs were utilized for the top five trophy winners and, the tie-breaking system used for the remainder of the field was at "the point of elimination."

In a 6-hour, grueling double elimination process "Fish" (an alias, but certainly a respected pool name) emerged on top of the field with an impressive 8-0 record. To watch this man shoot is pure delight. He bears no scales or fins, but as the name implies he grace-

fully maneuvers himself around the table searching for any hidden shot; seeks to get it indirectly; and, draws it out with precise execution. Thus,



Bruno Bereshboy, Ken Marquis, Jerry Lane of the S.F. Pool League.

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on the mark
by Mark Brown

OTHER LEAGUES
Did you know that there are three other gay bowling leagues in our city? The Community League is in its ninth year with the group moving from Park Bowl to Japan Town Bowl two years ago. Thirty-two teams play in this Monday-Nite League making it the largest of the four.
Two new leagues were formed this fall both at Japantown Bowl. Dingy Don was responsible for the Wednesday nite league. There are fourteen teams and they call themselves "THE LIBERATED FIVES." Don was also instrumental in the planning of the Thursday afternoon league. The twelve teams that take part are called "THE BALL BUSTERS."

A LITTLE OF THIS AND THAT
We have a new free athletic referral service called the community sporting association. For information and inquiries about all sports activities and functions in our city call 864-3445, Ext. 770. The association was set up to help you to get involved in the sports of your interest.
Everetts Basketball Teams season starts January 9th, in the cities park and recreation league.
The second annual community basketball team vs. Police All-Stars for charity will be held in June.
Remember, the final deadline to enter a team in the community Softball League for the 1978 season is January 7. The League meeting will be held at the Mint, 1:30PM
The best of luck to the Oakland Raiders in the NFL Playoffs.
The best of Luck to Char (Chuck Morrow) on his running for Empress of San Francisco.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

PARK BOWL UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Park Bowl, Home of San Francisco's oldest gay Bowling League (the Tavern Guild) will be under new management as of January 1st.
The new owners, Jim Mullin, Don Strain and Bill Strain are planning on making the lanes into a bowling center for the gay community. The gentlemen have many new activities and events in the planning stages to build the interest of the bowling community.
Park Bowl is located at 1855 Haight St. The Wednesday nite Tavern Guild League has reached the half-way point of the winter session with the completion of its mid-season position round. The standings after thirteen weeks

TEAM	WON	LOST
The Mint	27 1/2	11 1/2
Hard on Leather	26	13
Dignity	24	15
Everett's	22 1/2	16 1/2
Bradley's Corner	22	17
Cafe' Biarritz	21	18
Oil Can Harry I	21	18
Sentinel	21	18
The Village	21	18
Versatile Five	20	19
Pendulum	19 1/2	19 1/2
Galleon	19	20
Twin Peaks	17 1/2	21 1/2
Leather Forever	17	22
Ambush	16	23
Three Plus Two	15	24
Silver Sage	14	25
Oil Can Harrys II	7	32

MARK BROWN



Flipping the Pages
By Christopher Jordan

THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE
By Isabelle Holland
Bantam Books, \$1.25
This is not a new book. It was written in 1975... and yet, the story is more relevant than anything I've read in a long time. The book was written by a woman... and written for a teenage audience. Even so, it is really worth your time.
The story is centered around a fourteen year old boy... Charles. In what could have been a stereotypical situation, we find Charles in an oppressive home situation surrounded by females, two of whom are antagonistic to his dreams

Don't On Page 24

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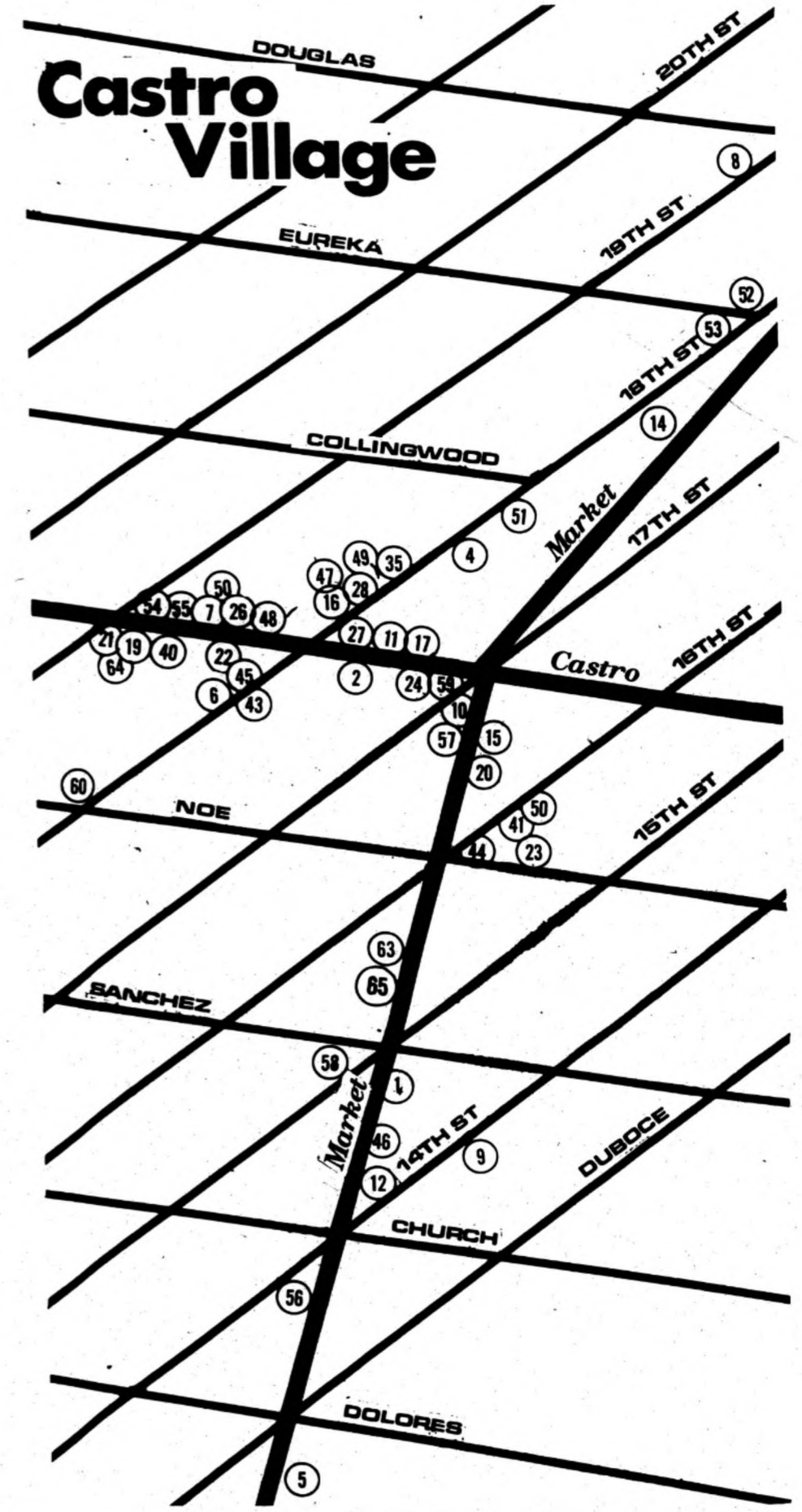
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UNDER THE MISTLETOE

by Mike Schmitz

Having survived Thanksgiving at Grandma's, and after only two weeks of daily visits to your analyst, you are now bravely facing the most deadly of all holidays, CHRISTMAS. 'Tis the season during which people who haven't spoken to you all year now bow you over with cheery greetings; doormen who have openly snubbed you the rest of the time, now bow and scrape to you with warm smiles on their face. Your secretary who hasn't arrived at work on time for the past 11 months is now not only on time, she is even early and the office boy whose smart mouth has been a thorn in your side (mentally) is now polite.

At home, you have begun to receive Christmas cards from relatives you were sure (with any luck at all) where dead; old lovers and recent tricks who's memory has been foggy for months suddenly not only remember your name and address but "how wonderful" you were. Of course, you begin receiving things like Aunt Jennies rum-soaked fruitcake (the smell of which has convinced your mailman that you are a drunk), a plaster of paris disk embedded with the hand print of your sister, Mary Agatha's little boy's hand; 43 pounds of the grittiest fudge known to man from the old sea hag down the hall; gallons of cheap booze from all the salesmen that you've suffered through during the past year and letters the size of manuscript from your mother, who has summoned forth all the blackmailing schemes she knows, trying to get you to come "home for Christmas." The only person who seems to hate you is the mailman and with each load of cards, you begin to hate him too.

Being the diligent soul that you are, you have made out your Christmas card list and your shopping list months in advance. What you have not done was buy the cards, nor addressed them, nor mailed them. Nor have you gotten a single gift yet and you had promised yourself last year that this year you would get all of your shopping done early, to avoid the rush. Forget it! So on a Saturday, a week before

Christmas, with checkbook and credit cards in hand, you sallie forth, filled with holiday spirit, cheery and happy (because you've had a brandy snifter full of cognac before you left the house), almost eager to face the challenge of the season.

First off, something for mother. For the past twenty years, you have given her a robe, some jewelry and something for the kitchen. This year, it is going to really be something different. With head held high, you charge into Macy's and immediately trip over a little boy in a quilted parka coat, sticky of mouth, and screaming at the top of his lungs for his mother, and you get stabbed in the backside by a little old lady with her umbrella. A great start. Making your way to the jewelry counter, you are ignored for twenty minutes by a clerk who is tall, thin, effeminate and suffering from a terminal case of acne. With a snap of his boney wrist, he shows you a tray of diamond bracelets... too costly... another tray of gold necklaces... still too costly... silverware... she has more than she needs... finally, he suggests that you either get her a silverplated toothpick (she wears dentures) or a years supply of geritol, you, like a salmon swimming upstream, make your way towards the kitchen department. Surrounded by the latest in small and large appliances, you can't help but wonder what women do during the day while all the appliances chug away doing the washing, drying, cooking, mending and cleaning... oh well, what to get mother? A microwave looks good but Jesus... that much for an oven... no way. On to the fur salon. Going there is an exercise in futility... the simplest fur stole is well beyond your purse. What the hell! She needs a new robe, some more costume jewelry and a new toaster anyway.

Now Dad's gift. You quickly decide to get him some cologne even though he still has 12 bottles of yet un-opened small-good on the topshelf of his closet. Perhaps a nice fishing pole? He hasn't been fishing for ten years but

he'll like it. Now for sisters Mary Agatha, Suzanne Magnolia, Mary Agatha has been married for four years and has five kids and another on the way. For her, a years supply of mill-towns. For Suzanne Magnolia, who has been living with a man twenty years her senior for two years, a years supply of birth control pills plus an autographed copy of THE JOYS OF MARRIED SEX by some unmarried female professor who is undoubtedly still a virgin. Brother-in-law, Harry gets a quart of scotch and a tie to match his taste, AWFUL.

After one or two more purchases, a diamond ring for that special person which you will be paying for it long after they are gone, and a sweater (two sizes too small) for your secretary, in her favorite color, puce. A junky but flashy L.D. bracelet for the office boy, you hail a cab, settle back into the seat, give him the location of your favorite watering hole and begin to mentally add up your spending, while the cabdriver swears at traffic, white-lights, pedestrians and the snow that is starting to fall.

After several refreshing drinks, you plunge into the biting wind and head for home. By now there is an inch of slush on the ground and it is fast turning to ice. Any hope for catching a cab is now non-existent. Finally, with your last ounce of strength, you let yourself into your place and collapse into a chair. After a few minutes of rest, you light the fire in the fireplace, slip into warm slacks and a comfortable sweater, pour yourself a brandy and sit down by the fire to reflect on past Christmases. The early years were filled with the wonder of the tree, Santa Claus, visiting relative sleeping with six other strange cousins, marvelous foody smells pouring forth

Con't On Page 24

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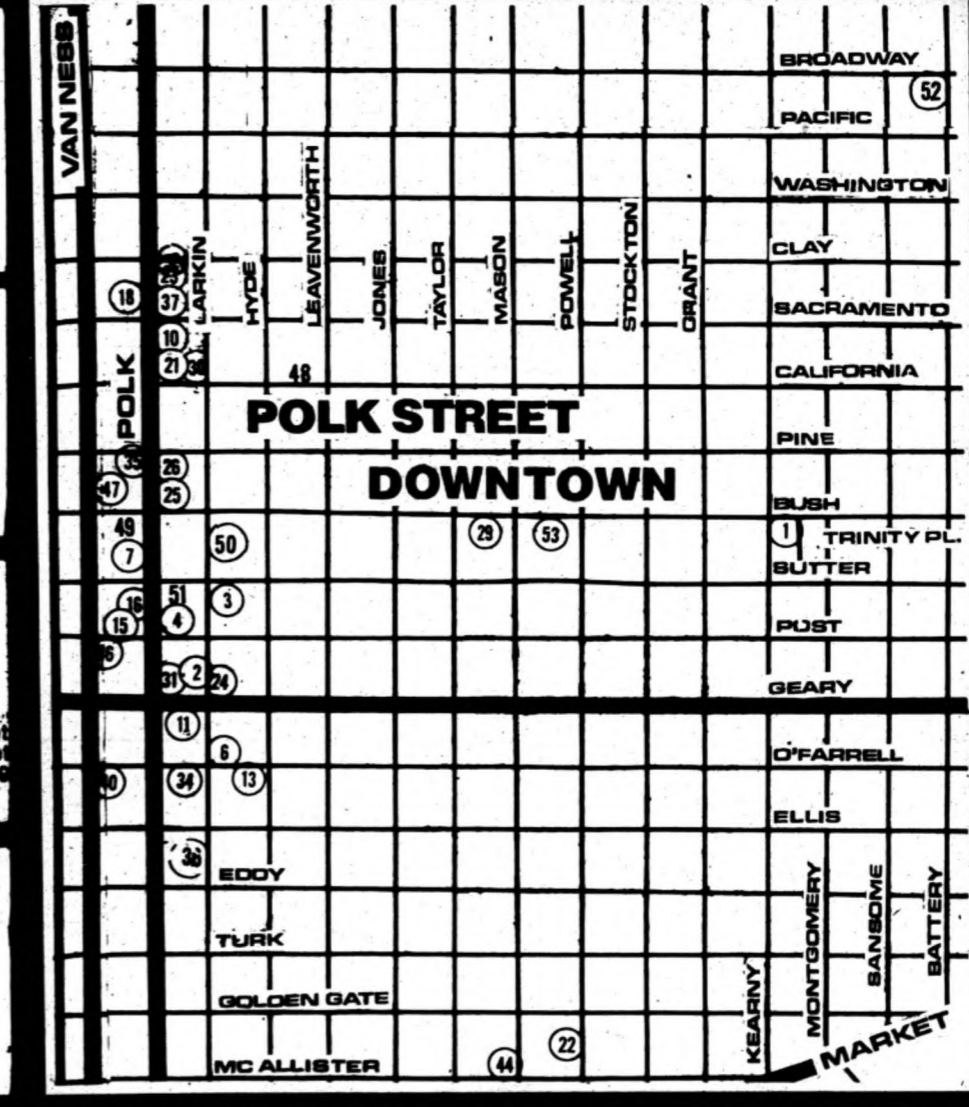
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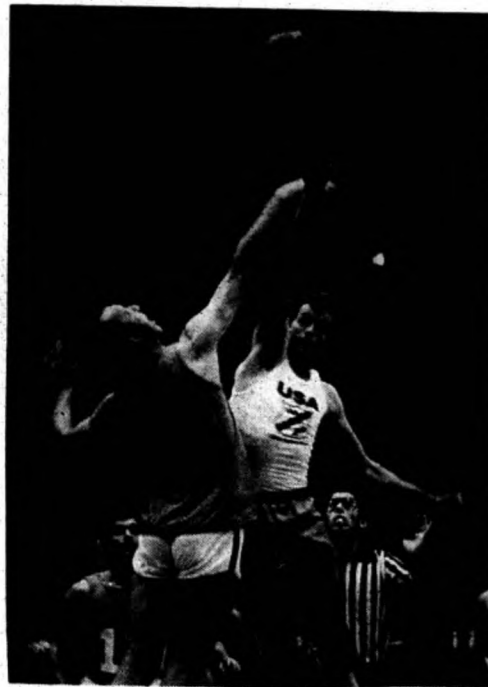
by Tuffy

SAN FRANCISCO BEATS LOS ANGELES WIN FIRST CALIFORNIA CUP

The weekend of Dec. 10th and 11th ushered in a new era of sports competition for gay athletes and fans in California. In hard fought battles, the USA-SF gay athletic club defeated all-star football and basketball squads from Los Angeles, while splitting volleyball contests. Blue and Gold USA uniforms dumped the red and white LA football team 22-8 at Mission High on Saturday. After holding LA on their first possession, the USA team exploded for an 80 yard touchdown on its first offensive play. Quarterback Tom Waddell (ex-Olympian) threw the bomb to right end Mark Mason, and the USA team never trailed.

The San Francisco players completely dominated Los Angeles on defense, with defensive ends Mason and Dennis Hatmaker containing the LA rushing game, while linebackers Steve Holt & Bob Smith, cornerbacks A.F. Collins and Waddell, and safety Virgil Strong shutdown LA's passing game. The surprise of the weekend was the close battle the USA gave LA in volleyball. In the opening 2-man series, LA fielded their nationally ranked team of Centano and Lumelli. USA countered with Kimball and Goyette, and made it close 15-11, 15-6. The four-man USA team led-off the series with a 15-12 victory, followed by two close losses 15-9, 15-7, giving Los Angeles the point for volleyball. The six-man teams played their matches, even though the competition was determined already. In a thriller, the USA team won in overtime 17-15, and then demolished LA 15-3. Contributing to the USA's surprise performance were Doug Kimball, Joe Goyette, Tom Hay, Ritch McKinley, Dutch Garcia, Bob Bryan, Patrick Newray, Everett Bollen, Mark Warlick, and Jim Estes.

With the California cup tied in points 1-1, the USA basketball all-star team, picked from the gay basketball league run by the USA, randown the ramp at Kezar knowing that it was up to them to win the trophy for San Francisco. Up to this point, the California Cup battles had been reasonably close and hard fought, creating a wave of excitement throughout Kezar Pavilion as the two teams warmed up. The game began as it finished, the USA controlled the tip-off scored at will, and ended up blowing the LA team off the court 129-34!! A.F. Collins scored 43 points, Glen Mercier had 20, and Tag Wilson had a slam dunk and 13 points. Other players scoring for the USA were Tony Travis, Ray Chalker, Dave Lewis, Steve Holt, Dave Dedrick, Don St. John, Virgil Strong. The Chronicle-Examiner, and Channel



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- 2. LEATHERNECK 273 11TH ST. 626-3431 (F4)
- 5. END UP 6TH & HARRISON 495-9550 (E22)
- 16. OUTER LIMITS 853 VALENCIA 285-7911 (E21)
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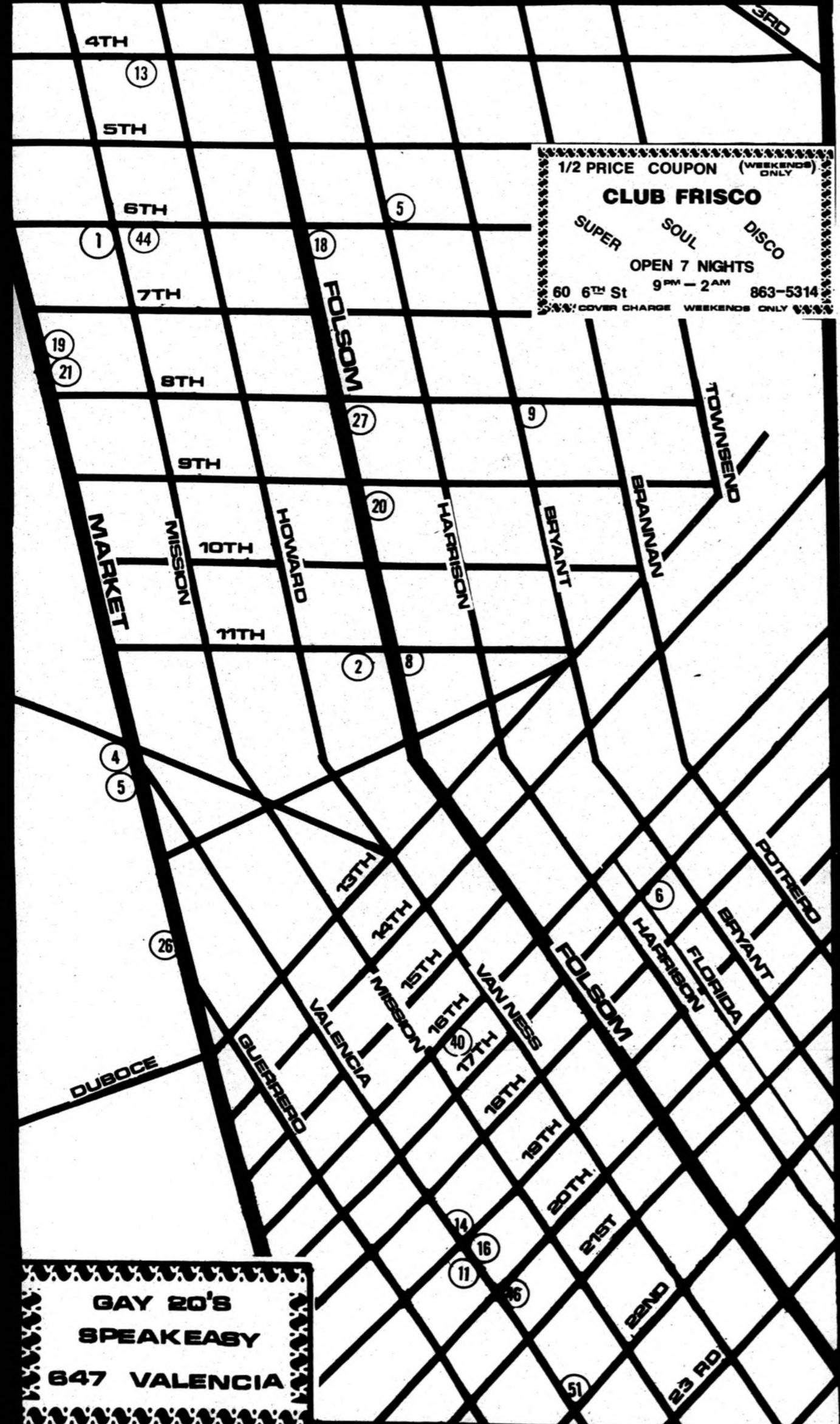
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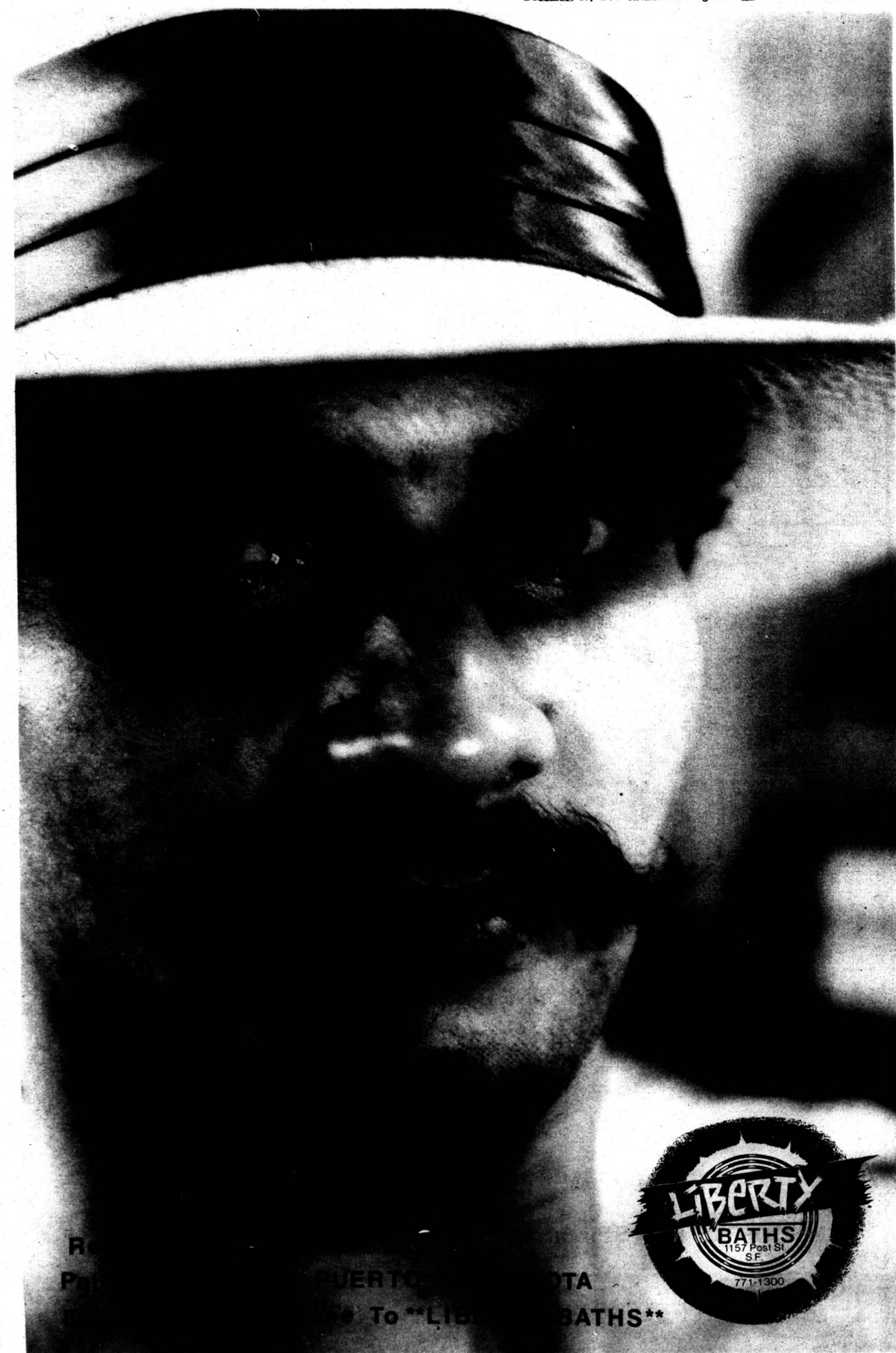
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SOUTH OF MARKET Buddy by Frank Benoit

My apologies to everyone for ignoring the last two weeks of November, but most of the events in Los Angeles were unexciting and that is where I was. I've been told that the Grand Opening Party of the BRIG was exciting and packed. And a lot of us know that the same bar was packed on Sunday for Donald and Damians Black Leather Party, which most certainly was exciting and fun. Of course the past two weeks have been eventful. On the Eleventh the GDI's held their Christmas party at the ROUNDUP, with videotapes of their last two Minsky's Shows. It's just coincidence that the bar changed its name the next day to become THE WATERING HOLE, a name suggested by VIC GALVAN. The fourteenth saw the CMC open meeting at FEBE'S, where Don Geist presented everyone who had signed the guest list with a special CMC/FEBE pin. The highlight of the meeting was their turkey raffle and everyone there wished they could see Richard's reaction when KYLE BINGHAM went home with a real live twenty-two pound turkey. Then on the sixteenth the CHEATERS, MONTEREY DONS and THE CYCLE-RUNNERS combined forces for a party at the WATERING HOLE. We were extremely glad to see Bill Bolger back in town--he says it is for good. Monday night both Febe's and the Watering Hole held their Christmas Parties back to back with absolutely everyone in attendance. Tonight, Friday the 23rd, the SAN FRANCIS CANS hold an open meeting at the WATERING HOLE and three lucky people will win assorted liquor, wines and beer as a result of the raffle they have been holding. New Years Eve, unless plans have changed drastically, the Recons have planned another New Years Bay Cruise, and the CMC come to our rescue on New Years Day with a Happy Hangover Party, admittance by invitation or by club overlay.

Every Thursday is CLUB NIGHT at the BRIG, with guest bartenders and special drink prices from 8 till midnight. January 6th the WARLOCKS hold an open meeting at FEBE'S at eight thirty. The year starts out slowly, but will speed up gradually heading on to the Twelfth Annual Motorcycle Awards hosted by the BARBARY COASTERS on February 18. If Christmas is a slow day, we understand that the BRIG is having Christmas nibbles on Christmas Day at the back bar. The pool tournament is still going strong there on Sundays, as is the one at the LEATHERNECK on Saturdays. Marcus hopes to have the ARENA open early in the year, as does the staff of the BLACK and BLUE. Watch for their announcements. Have a safe and merry Christmas and a Folsom New Year.

Con't from Page 6

and this beautiful city that we all call home. San Francisco or in short, "MECCA". That about wraps it up for this issue. See you next issue in 1978. Have a wonderful CHRISTMAS and may I wish you all a very happy, successful, health-filled and prosperous 1978. Those of you who I know personally, believe me... the pleasure is all mine and I cherish that so very much.

Much Love to you All...
Mark Calhoun

P. S. A very special note to Bobby Calhoun. I did for you what no other person in this town would do. I did for you, Bobby what I wouldn't do for others. You over-cooked your goose, and now you must eat it. I'm sorry that this has come to pass, but remember, it was your choice and yours alone. I tried. We could have won, but you chose to lose. And I'm sorry you decided that also. I hope that you have a better year for yourself...



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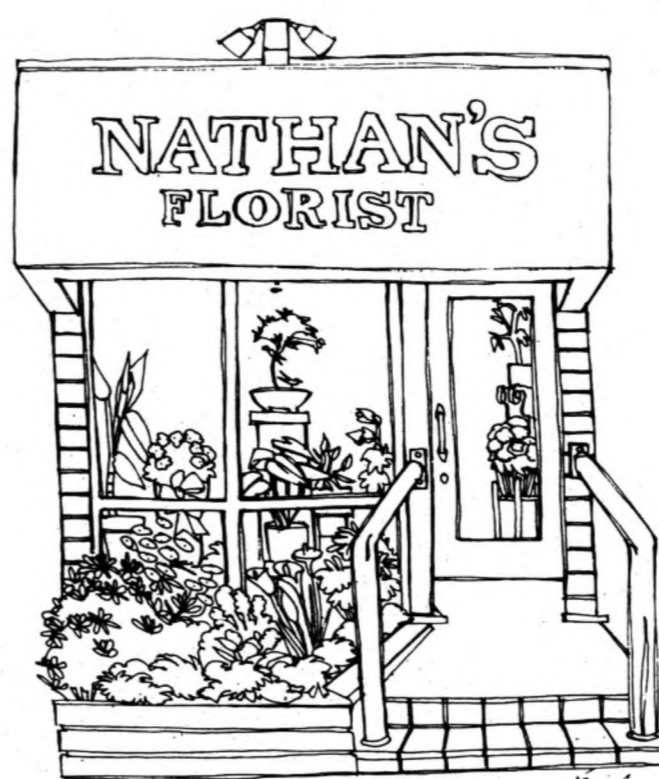
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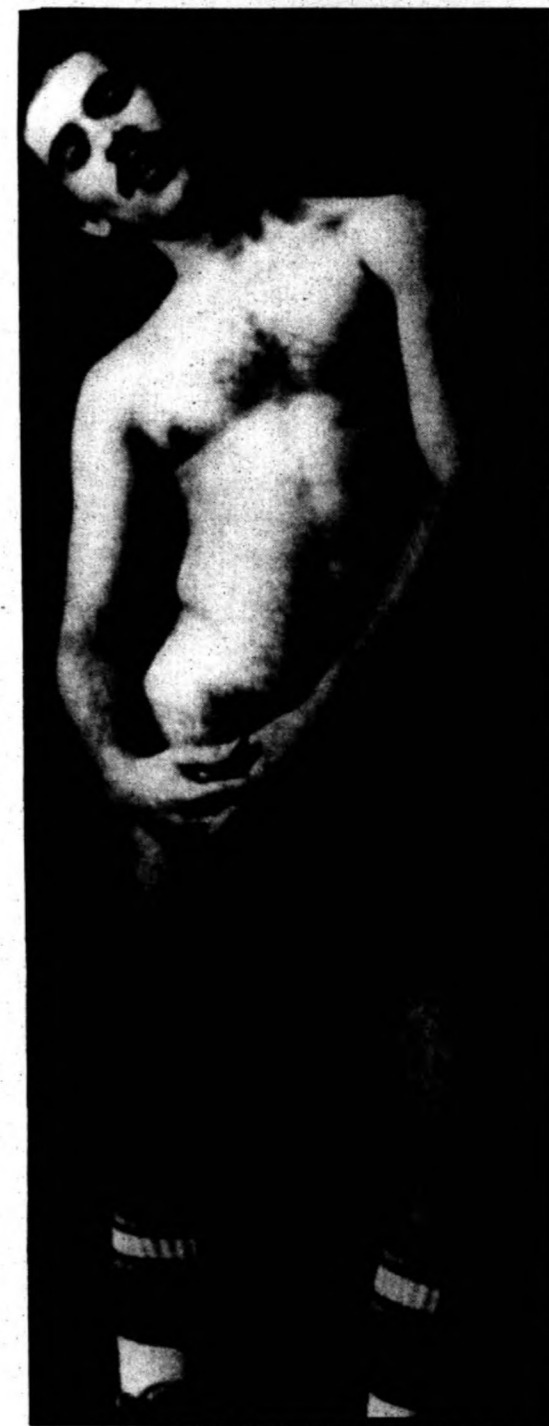
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movie trivia by mike schmitz

WITH THE CHRISTMAS SEASON UPON US, A LITTLE MENTAL BREAK WILL HELP RELAX YOU:

- Who played Trampas in the Gary Cooper version of the VIRGINIAN?
- Who wrote Lady Chatterly's Lover?
- Who was Lola Montez's most famed lover?
- Who played Vera Charles in the Rosalind Russell movie?
- Name the five stars of "There's No Business Like Show Business"?
- Who was "Baby Jane" in real life?
- Who played Gypsy Rose Lee on Broadway?
- What do Ethel Merman, Barbara Stanwyck and Betty Hutton have in common?
- Who was married to Tallulah Bankhead?
- In the old television series, My Little Margie, who was the old lady who lived across the hall?
- What aging and famed actress played Edie Phillips and Margaret Delorca in the film, "Dead Ringer"?
- Who played Andrew Jackson in the film, THE BUCCANEER?

- Who played Charlton Heston's wife in the PRESIDENT'S LADY?
- What do Basil Rathbone, Roger Moore, Ronald Howard, and Fritz Weaver have in common?
- Name the two stars of the film, THE RIVER OF NO RETURN.
- Who played Leslie the Great and Professor Fate in the film, The Great Race?
- On television series, Batman, who played the Black Widow?
- Who played Roxie Hudson's sister in GIANT?
- Who played the married couple in the picture, SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS?
- Who played Hurt Hatfield's lover and patron in the first version of A PORTRAIT OF DORIAN GRAY?
- What was the name of the DA on the popular TV series, Perry Mason?

Happy Holidays
FROM THE **PHONE BOOTH** 649-4683
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Bar opens 6 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY 12-25
Brunch 10 AM - 6 PM
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Brunch 10 AM - 4 PM Dinner 6 PM - 11 PM

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- Bar open 6 AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd
Brunch 10 AM - 4 PM Dinner 6 PM - 11 PM

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RESERVATIONS ARE SUGGESTED
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4 carried accounts of the series, giving the first state-wide gay competition well-deserved media coverage.

SKIING SEASON OFF TO WET START
With recent Sierra storms dumping beautiful powder snow, gay skiers are headed up to the Tahoe area ski resorts with good times on their minds! Cabin at Donner Lake and Incline are available and January's calendar is already filling up. Over the Christmas holiday a small advance party (Vic Benson, Bill Skeen, Scott Rubin and Mark Mason) will check out the prices, food, liquor, and social conditions as well as the slopes. Ron Ingleberg can be contacted at 621-2128 for further '78 information.

WRESTLING:
Joining boxing as one of the USA's

SEASONS GREETINGS
FROM
TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Happy
Holidays
FROM
BAY UPHOLSTERY

physical individual sports, wrestling begins in January, with Mike Click and Gary Prutsman as coaches. Instruction will be collegiate-style and after training and conditioning members will be involved in regulation matches.

GAY SPORTS PROGRAM:
As 1977 rapidly ends, San Francisco gay men and women can look back with pride, and forward with expectation about the organized gay sports in San Francisco. Ever since the USA-SF gay athletic club began in September there has been an explosion of events: football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, tennis, squash, racquetball, handball, sailing, skiing, ice-skating, hiking, and softball! Sports never before organized have been offered to the SF Bay Area Gays, and those of us associated with the USA are very proud of this development. In 1978 we'll add swimming, track & field, gymnastics and soccer—all coached by experts, and with our clubhouse at 597 Castro, we offer 12 hours per day of activities every day.

GAY SOFTBALL LEAGUE:
Tom Vindeen is serving as Interim Director of the GSL after the last league meeting. During the holidays Tom will contact Parks and Recreation about fields for the 1978 season. On Saturday Jan. 24th, members of the GSL will decide on officers, sponsor fees, etc. As part of the effort to handle the needs of inexperienced ball-players, the GSL will have 2 teams for beginners. The Western Addition Drug Clinic will sponsor one entry, and the league another. With the Castro Station and Emperor Jim, Tuffy's Sport Shop and Mr. CMC Jim Duncan, Alfie's and football star Mark Mason, Bear Hallow and their Colt model Manager Chuck, the GSL definitely will be fielding some exciting men and teams. Good Luck to Tom Vindeen and his CSL counterpart Mark Brown. It looks like softball can return to a state of decency now that nasty letters to the editor andirate phone calls have run their course.

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Mass, 1st Sunday of every month - 3 p.m.
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CATHERCIN

Con't from Page 21

22. On what football team would you find the FOUR HORSEMEN?
 23. Who played the society ex-stripper in the movie, PAL JOEY?
 24. In films, who played the original TARZAN?
- Scrabbled Star: LEHEN LEWETT - VEERS
1. Stanley
 2. Frank Morgan
 3. When The Moon Comes Over The Mountain
 4. Jane Wyman
 5. Eleanor of Aquitaine
 6. All played The Virginian
 7. Harvey Korman
 8. Raquel Welch, Faye Dunaway and Geraldine C haplin
 9. The Blob
 10. The Americanization of Emily
 11. They all have played John Wayne children
 12. a. Jane Fonda, b. Charlton Heston, c. Glenda Jackson, d. Rosiland Russell, e. Henry Fonda
 13. The Hope
 14. The June Taylor Dancers
 15. Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey
 16. Saint Francis of Assisi and St. Claire
 17. Oklahoma
 18. Three
 19. Alexandre Duma (fil)
 20. Tommy and Jimmy
 21. The Pajamma Game
 22. Connie Stevens
 23. Oscar Goldman
 24. The Nanny and the Professor
 25. a. The Thin Man, b. The Addams Family, c. The Doris Day Show, d. Star Trek, e. Green Acres
- Scrabbled star: Helen Hayes
- Prizes for this Movie Trivia can be won by taking your list of answers to The End Up at 6th and Harrison and give them to the bartender.


Cont. from page 4

THAT SLY FOX, Cliff Newman of the NOB HILL CINEMA has something wonderful coming up. A new, exciting, different sexually wonderful new live show that will star Target-Falcon model, Matt Harper. This new live show has been in the works now for months and believe me when I tell you, the audiences will be coming out steaming after seeing the very hot Mr. Harper. The idea behind the show is also totally new and one of the greater fantasies ever to trip with. Met a whole group of charmers at Bill Jones' Suro Baths the other night. I was there with a visiting Kansasan, Don Albert, and I guess we both had a delightful time because I lost track of Don right after we entered the door and didn't see him until the next day. I love that place. It is not only relaxing but exciting and fun too. Give it a try.

Stopped by the OUTER LIMITS Saturday evening early and the place was quiet so I just had a drink and boogied but friends of mine told me later that the place was jumpin' later on that evening. It is always a giggy place and the drinks are the kind that warm a true drinking man's heart. Their dance floor is one of the best and the music is always hot. Say hello to Mel or Floyd when you stop by. I am looking forward to the Christmas Day Jockey Shorts Contest at the END-UP. Unfortunately, I've missed the last two and Vera Charles tells me that they had some of the hunkiest men in SF as contestants. I shan't miss any in the future. and you can take that to the bank.

After three or four hours of mad, hysterical shopping on Polk Street with that mad woman, Anne Chovey and that Dizzy Austin Lord we retired to a new shop on Larkin called THE STOP and had some wonderful steak sandwiches and subs. They are new on Larkin, just down from Oil Can Harrys and their food is quite tasty.

MARRIAGES are made in heaven



AFFAIRS in Real Estate are handled by Bill Ridenhour

MARY MARY REALTY 555 S. VAN NESS

Cont. from page 4

What with the relations and such visiting over the holidays, I am sure that like me, you will be wanting to get away from all that sweetness and light and get down with some good, old-fashioned grunting. The Place to do that is the intense 1808 Club on Market. It is a place where some of San Francisco's hottest and hunkiest men go to meet other hot and hunky men. It is the perfect place to work off all that holiday numbness. Keith, Dick or John will make you feel more than welcome. In the meanwhile, stop by WELCOME HOME and see Bess the most wonderful service-person in the city. She is fast, friendly, warm and delightful. Serving the most wonderful food in San Francisco, prepared just the way you like it.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. '78 is going to be great and you'll be a part of it.

P. S. (MICHAEL PHILLIPS, why are you practicing your pool shots every spare hour of your day? Could it have something to do with a certain man by the name of BRUNO BERESHNOY?)

Con't from Page 11

from the kitchen that was filled with Aunts, mother and grandmother, all busy and all talking about kids, cooking and diets; the living room filled with uncles, older brothers, booze bottles and half-full glasses, overflowing ashtrays and the blare of the television set that no one was watching; of having Uncle Lyle tossing you into the air and then playfully chewing on your ear to make you laugh; of grandpa having drunk just a little too much, sitting in an easy chair and singing old Irish songs and "Meet me in St. Louis, Louie" in a whiskey tenor; and Uncle Ronald boring everyone by telling them how much money he made last year. Of course, there's Aunt Evelyn who has just arrived from the coast with 19 of her 27 children and a handsome new husband who has all the girl cousins getting mushy.

Actually, you have two Christmases. One with mom's side of the family, with Grandma Louella and Grandpa T. A. and then another with Dad's side of the family, with Grandma Bertha and Grandpa Mike. They live on a farm and Aunt Wanda always can think up wonderful things to do when you got in the women's way in the kitchen, like using the scoop shovel as a sled and sliding down the hill behind the barn.

As you grew up, you slowly became aware of the snow job that your parents had done on you. You begin to realize that it had been very hard for them to scrape the money together to get the few gifts for you and your sisters, how much they had done without to make your Christmas merry. They had been so successful, you never realized anything but happiness. You are glad that you have them for parents. You wish that you could do more for them but they seem happy and content now and you thank god for that. Suddenly, you are homesick for them and you give them a call. Mother's voice comes over the line bright and clear. She is full of the bubbly joy she has every year as her favorite holiday grows closer. Dad, on the extension, sounds mellow and happy. Sisters are all going to be home for the big day and they assure you that while you are going to be missed, they feel that you are using your head for not trying to make home for the holidays, what with costs being what they are. After you hang up, there is a lump in your throat that will not go away. Suddenly the place seems so empty and you just have to get out. Wrapped warmly, you wander past store windows, all filled with merchandise and gay holiday wrappings. On every street corner there is a lass from the Salvation Army ringing her bell. On you wander and soon you find yourself in from a Church, a place that you haven't found yourself since last Easter. You go in and kneel and silently pray to a being you have not communicated with in months. You walk softly down

the aisle, the smell of candles, the odor of pine boughs and incense fill your nose, perhaps the true smell of Christmas. You look down at the figure on the wall and you wonder at all the changes he brought to the world.

As you leave the church, you somehow feel at peace with yourself and your world. Oh sure, in a couple of days, things will be back to normal but right now, you feel like singing and you do. "Peace On Earth, Good Will To All Men" MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE HAPPIEST OF NEW YEARS.

Cont. from page 11

if you are any sort of a pool buff you have heard of such legendary greats as "Minnesota Fats" -- by the same token, in San Francisco it's "Fish". Hence, when you see the name "Fish" go up on a pool bar backboard stick around and watch--you'll be in for a treat.

Similarly, Jerry Lane (6-2), Luby Pelletier (4-3), and Doug MacDonald (4-3), and Tom Gholson (3-2) capture 2nd through 5th place trophies, respectively. Three certificates were also awarded by the San Francisco Pool Association for special contributions made to city pool competition: (1) Michael Schmitz of KALENDAR for "excellence in coverage of SFPA;" (2) The Brig for "being an outstanding Bar Booster of the SFPA;" (3) and, John Ford for "services as a Sr. Referee."

In addition, rounding off the field with other players who managed to record at least one or two wins (with their respective bar tourney victory in parentheses):
6th - Bob McIntyre (Brig)
7th - Ron (Rainbow)
8th - Wayne Karmitz (Brig)
9th - Bruno Bereshnoy (Leatherneck)
10th - Jerry Pelouquin (Rainbow)
11th - "Larry" (Cinch)

Finally, any inquiries concerning next year's qualifications may be made directly to the San Francisco Pool Association, 2933 Ingalls, S.F. 94124. As a side note, Jerry Pelouquin became the first qualifier for the '78 Invitation--earning his berth in next year's event by having won the recent weekly (Wed.) tourney at the Cinch Saloon over a field of 32 players.

and desires. The fact that one of the females is his mother and the other is his sister leads a tacky touch but the story rises above the mundane. Charles' loneliness, his aims and still unformed ambitions... his growth as a human being and his first love are culminated in a bittersweet ending. His capacity to love is discovered in a summer filled with surprises... and a relationship with his teacher of that summer... a teacher who is preparing him for a school entrance exam, and, in reality, prepares him for the adventure of life ahead. The fact that the two of them compliment each other emotionally... and both fill a need in the other's life (yes, physically in one instance), makes for a poignant tale well told. No, this is not a sex book. It is a touching, moving story of needs, needs we all have (or had)... and their fulfillment.

I urge you, for a change of pace, to get a copy of THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE... a marvelous trip backwards to a time when we were all innocent and unformed.

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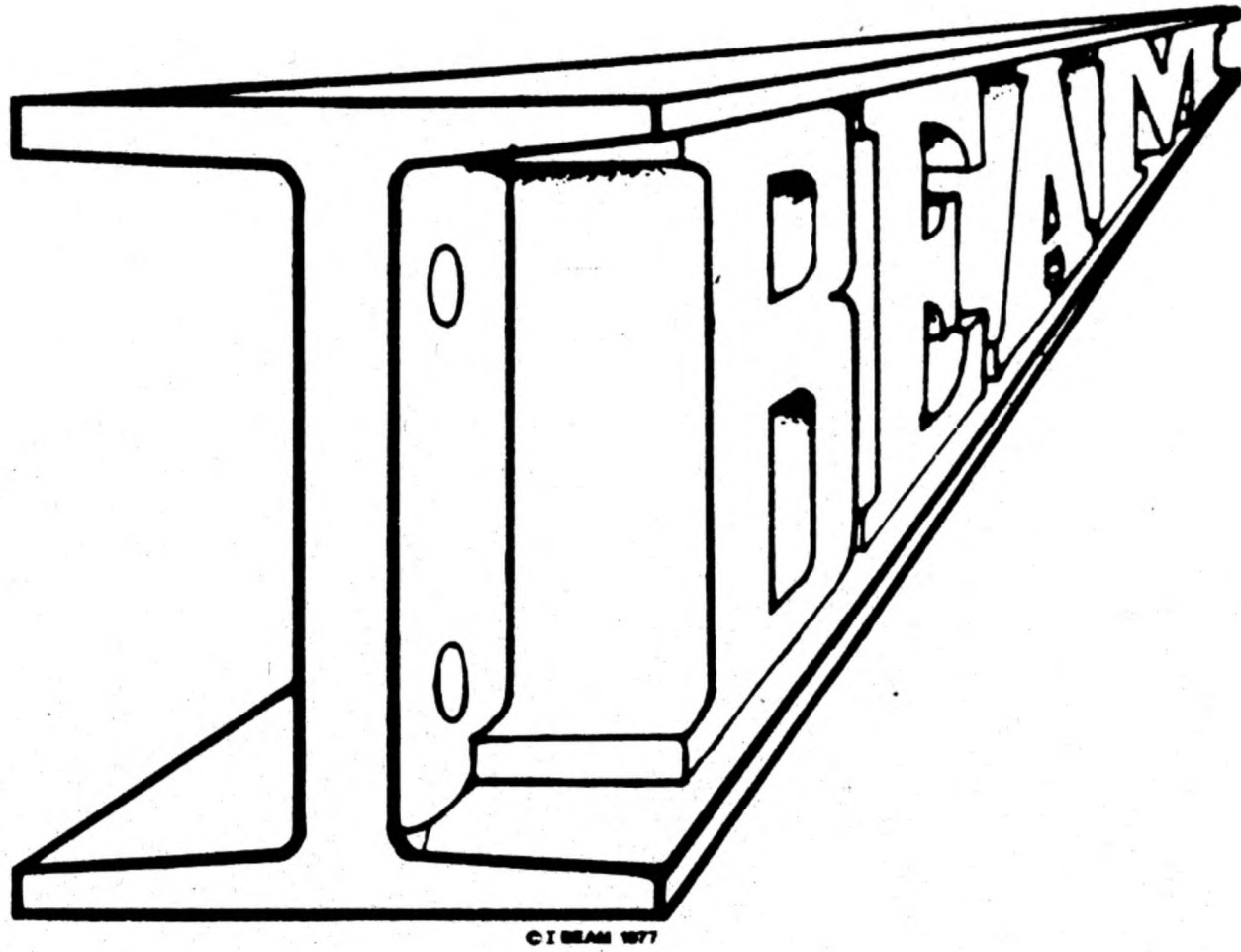
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