

WEAR YOUR GOWN ALL YEAR ROUND

by Leo E. Laurence

The Pigs were protecting the Drags from the Guerrillas. The Drags were more scared of the Guerrillas than the Pigs. The Guerrillas wanted to liberate the Drags from the Pigs.

Confused? So were the hundred spectators last Saturday night watching the Seventh Annual Beaux Arts Ball at the Merchandise Mart in San Francisco.

Halloween and New Year's have historically been the only times of the year the pigs permit the hundreds of "Drag Queens" in San Francisco to come out of their closets and into the streets without getting busted.

Despite the popular stereotypes, drags are a small percentage of the total homo-bi-sexual community. On a "normal" curve of that community, the drags would be at the super-feminine end, the leather bike-boys would be at the opposite masculine end, and the majority would be in the middle, almost "straight" looking.

I don't dig drag myself (can't imagine being a bearded lady?), and I've been gay since my Navy days in the early 50's aboard San Francisco's "own," the USS

Coral Sea.

But, by God, I do feel the drags should have the right to do their thing; not just twice a year, but every day; not just at a drag ball, but at work, school, church, and on the streets.

"Wear Your Gown All Year Round!" chanted the Gay Guerrilla Theatre freaks during the demonstration by the Gay Liberation Coalition outside the ball opposite Fox Plaza.

The protest was focused on the Tavern Guild of San Francisco, sponsor of the dragging event. TGSF is part of the Gay Establishment, and its members operate over 100 Gay Ghetto Bars and restaurants in the Bay Area.

"Gay Bars Are Walk-In Closets" read one picket sign. "The Tavern Guild is doing as much to delay (homosexual) freedom as a thousand repressive laws on the statute books," said a protest leaflet.

The pigs were visibly worried. There were several hundred demonstrators and spectators outside the ball.

Every drag arriving in big, black, bossy Cadillacs sparked shouts from the demonstrators, and one pig told me: "Christ,



Boosting Drag At Queen's Ball

how do we handle these queers if a riot starts. I can't club a woman, even if she is a man."

Trouble didn't break out. But it was clear that the Gay Establishment needed pigs to prevent the Guerrillas from invading the drag's balls.



photos by Bil Paul

Building For Free

Fifteen Free University people want to build a community House, Daycare Center or whatever as part of a People's Architecture

class.

Some of the Free U people already have some experience with design, concrete, electrical, car-

penry, civil engineering, etc.

They want to learn all the building skills from each other as they build.

If you want to learn building skills, if you have or know of cheap or free building materials, if you can share a truck (especially with a winch), if you or your group already has the land, the Free U architects are willing to design and build your community thing free.

Call: Peoples Architecture, 1940 B Bonita Street, 849-2577, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.


Sign For Liberation

The week of Nov. 3-7 is the last week to sign up for classes at the International Liberation School.

The ILS "trains organizers for the revolution." Classes are offered in medical skills, legal aid, self defense, politi-

cal education, and organizational skills.

For further information about the ILS, call Linda Morse at the People's Office, 549-3977, or drop in at the People's Office, 1925 Grove St., Berkeley between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.



FEAST OF FRIENDS

Featuring

THE DOORS

Midnight, Oct. 31

The San Francisco Film Festival
Masonic Hall

A Hwy Production

URBAN SURVIVAL Rent Strike

Please fill out questionnaire

1. Name _____
2. Address _____ Phone _____
3. Type of housing you have: (a) single room (b) room with board (c) studio (d) apartment (e) flat (f) entire house (g) other _____
4. If an apartment, flat or house, how many bedrooms? _____
5. How many people live in your living unit? _____
6. Unit is furnished _____ semi-furnished _____ unfurnished _____
7. Who manages building? (name & address) _____
8. Owner of building _____
9. Total number of units in your building _____
10. Approximate age of building _____
11. Do you consider your building to be (a) brown shingled (b) modern rickety-tacky (c) a solid & nice modern building (d) a large, older solid building (e) other _____
12. Length of your lease _____
13. Did you have choice of length? _____ How much rent for a shorter lease? _____
14. Total monthly rent for your unit \$ _____ per month
15. What utilities are included? (a) none (b) gas (c) electricity (d) garbage (e) water (f) other (specify) _____
16. Has rent increased within the last two years? _____ How much within the last year? _____ How much the year before? _____
17. Cleaning deposit? _____ Refundable? _____
18. Other deposit? _____ Refundable? _____
19. Do you have any grievances about your living unit and/or landlord? _____

20. Are you willing to work as a Tenants Union organizer? _____ Other work (specify) _____

STRIKE PLEDGE

I pledge to support the Berkeley Tenants Union rent strike. I will withhold my rent as soon as tenants from at least 2000 units have signed this pledge and when a mass meeting of pledge signers has agreed to begin a strike.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Owner of building _____
 To whom do you pay your rent check? _____
 Number of units in building _____

Mail or bring completed questionnaire/pledge to BTU at 1925 Grove

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