

Alice Reports

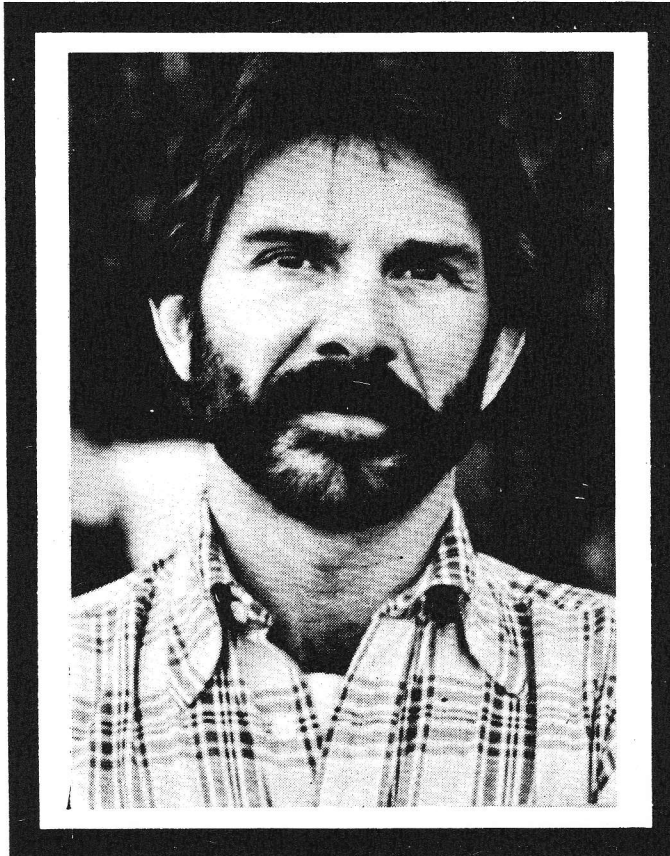
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ALICE MOURNS FORMER PRESIDENT ROBERT CRAMER

FOUNDER OF SAN FRANCISCO'S UNIQUE CABLE CAR AWARDS

I remember my first major Lesbian/Gay Community event - The Cable Car Awards, February 1983. I had just been elected Co-Chair of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration committee the previous November, and I started to hear about this big, fabulous formal event which I would be attending as part of my "official" duties as Co-Chair. I had never seen anything like it: Crowds of brilliantly attired men and women moving up the stairs of the Kabuki Theatre in Japantown, shaking hands, being targeted by campaigns to vote for various candidates



MOST OFTEN HEARD STATEMENT ABOUT BOB CRAMER BY THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HIM ON THE CABLE CAR AWARDS, THE PARADE, AND THE ALICE DINNER:

"BOB REALLY KNEW HOW TO GET THINGS DONE!"

FORMER ALICE PRESIDENT ROBERTO ESTEVES, ALSO REMEMBERS THAT "BOB WAS THE ONE WHO MADE A POINT ABOUT THE NEED TO INCLUDE EVERYONE, ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE (IN THE CLUB); HIS HEART WAS ALWAYS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AND HIS IDEAS WERE ALWAYS 'PC'."

for the people's choice awards - positions like favorite bartender, columnist of the year. . . I was amazed by the elegance of the tables people had set up for the evening. It was the companionable picnic ambience of Opera in the Park, combined with the glamor of the Oscars! This small town girl was very impressed! The next year, I was on stage as one of the presenters - The Parade was about to be "retired" to the Hall of Fame to give something else a chance to win Event of the Year (an honor which should have gone only to the Cable Car Awards themselves). At any rate, I got to see the other side of things, spend hours down at the theatre on Saturday rehearsing where and when we would enter, and for how long do our awards announcements. Of course there was tension and confusion and fervent dread that something would go wrong at the last minute, but the artistic director of this whole thing never let emotions get out of hand or ruin the mood of celebration which was his ultimate goal. With the Cable Car Awards and the special benefit performances of "La Cage aux Folles" and "Cats" which raised money for AIDS-related services, Mr. Cramer brought us many fabulous nights of high quality entertainment through the years. He will be greatly missed in the Lesbian/Gay Community and throughout San Francisco.

.....Linda Boyd, editor