

A monthly publication of the
Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club

Toklas Float Brings Cheers in 'Rights' Parade



Toklas presents Willie Brown, Carol Ruth Silver, Art Agnos and Anne Daley.

The Toklas club had the political "biggies" on its float in the Gay Freedom Day Parade. Over 200,000 participants welcomed the Toklas "stars"—Assemblymen Willie Brown and Art Agnos; Bill Maher, Board of Education member; Anne Daley, personal secretary to Sheriff Richard Hongisto; and attorney Carol Ruth Silver, supervisorial candidate.

"Human rights are everyone's rights"

was on the float banners, which also featured the dome of City Hall.

Thousands shouted "Willie! Willie!" to get Brown's attention; others called out, "Thank you, Art!" and "Right on, Willie!"

Gertrude Stein was portrayed by Marin County entertainer Patricia Bond. Alice B. Toklas was Janet Graham. Gertrude and Alice appeared to have stepped directly out of history in their authentic costumes.

Chuck Prince sat at the Toklas booth in the Civic Center which carried the club banner. He registered many people to vote and signed up new members (including Jack Campbell, director of the Dade County Coalition).

Fifty people participated in creating and promoting the Toklas entry in the parade—the entry that delivered the key speaker to the Civic Center stage: Assemblyman Willie Brown.

Paper roses covered the float and were carried by some of the politicos aboard. This was a take-off on Gertrude Stein's "A rose is a rose is a rose."

Walking beside the float were many Toklas members who distributed cookies and shouted out a call that people on the sidelines get politically involved. (Heard above *all* the shouting were Cappi Patterson and Dick Walters.)

Those walking beside the float passed out thousands of Alice B. Toklas cookies which had signs stuck in them which read, "Alice B. Toklas is high on human rights!" Some spectators sniffed the cookies before eating them—suspecting that Alice's original mystery ingredient, marijuana, was present. (It was not.)

Difficulty arose at the last minute when a trucking firm, evidently overbooking its reservations, cancelled the large flatbed truck the club had ordered. Frantic phone calls produced a small truck.

A Bake-In was held on Friday before the parade at the Delancy Street Foundation. Three Delancey cooks, including chef Booker Morley, assisted the Toklas volunteers in a five-hour baking session. Assisting were Virginia West, Tom Lindsey, Barbara McElwell, Robert Carmack and Patterson.

Club members who assisted in building the float and marching in the parade included Oscar Villavicencio, John Hall, Scott Grant, Carl Heiman, Everett Young, Jack Trujillo, Adria Garabedian, Peter Seymour, Duke Smith, Anne Daley, Rob-



Cappi Patterson marches with float.

Cappi Patterson took the leadership early in creating the impressive Toklas entry. She invited scores of politicians to participate, planned and organized the creation of the float, set up and assisted the Delancey Street cooking session. Most important is that Cappi followed the project from beginning to end with a warmth and sense of humor, that were often tested by crisis.

Cappi is one of several straight women who belong to Toklas. She is best known in Democratic circles as a campaign manager. Her most recent triumph was her successful campaign that placed Bill Maher on the Board of Education.

erto Esteves, Bob Quinn, Jim Foster, Mike Lipte, Tina Walters, Steve Walters, Lyn Fitzpatrick, Phil Martin, Ron Norberg, Robert Carmack, Doug DeYoung, Richard Payne, Mike Newton, Al Spangler, Jack Simo, Frank Fitch, June Tischler, Larry Eppinette, Steve Badeau, Ron Bentley, Joe Cook, Gary Miller, Peggy Bennington, Jean Marcoox, Robin Bruce, and Paul Denning. David Stahlman made the black armbands with centered pink triangles.

Chuck Prince was at the Toklas information booth in the fair, which had been organized by Frank Fitch.