

Melee followed by peace

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Thousands of homosexuals celebrated the birthday of slain gay leader and city Supervisor Harvey Milk in a peaceful demonstration just 24 hours after the conviction of Milk's killer sparked a melee at City Hall.

The celebration Tuesday of Milk's 49th birthday drew some 5,000 people to the Castro Street area, heart of the city's homosexual community of more than 100,000.

Milk and Mayor George Moscone were shot to death Nov. 27 by former Supervisor Dan White, whose conviction Monday for voluntary manslaughter was regarded by many as too lenient.

The riot that ensued injured 160 people, cost the city \$1 mil-

lion in damages and other expenses and left the City Hall area a glass-strewn shambles.

Police Chief Charles Gain took full responsibility for police actions during the riot, although many of his men grumbled that Gain was too restrained in dealing with rioters.

Restraint

"Without doubt some of my men wanted to move against the crowd and articulate their anxiety and frustration. But moving at that time was not the wise thing to do," Gain said. He said 59 officers were injured in the riot, and 12 patrol cars were set ablaze.

The morning after the riot, a calculated calm prevailed between police and the gay com-

munity as the birthday celebration approached. Mayor Dianne Feinstein pleaded for peaceful cooperation.

After several brief speeches by gay leaders, balladeers sang tunes lamenting Milk's death. Celebrants, some bearing lighted candles, filled the street and sat on window ledges and roof-tops.

Many businesses and bars closed early, and some hired special security guards to protect their premises against looting in the event of further rioting.

Some gays carried signs denouncing the verdict, and a few leaflets were handed out protesting the police actions, but many urged calm despite anger over the slaying of Milk.

A first: gays attend prom

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Randy and Grady went to the high school prom in matching light blue tuxedos, red rose boutonnieres and silver pierced earrings.

The youths Tuesday became the first acknowledged homosexuals ever to attend a high school prom together in the United States, the National Gay Task Force said.

Police were on hand in case threats against 17-year-old Randy Rohl and his date, 20-year-old Grady Quinn, were carried out, but no problems were encountered on as planned.

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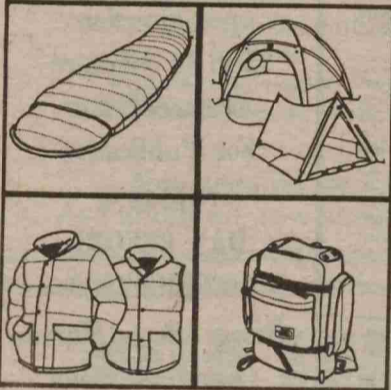
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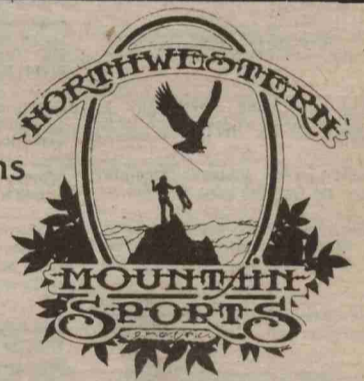
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