

## Tales of raided party

Almost as disturbing as the questions raised about the police raid of the New Year's Eve fund-raiser is the careless way you misrepresented the events that evening (editorial, "The party's over," Jan. 11).

The "obligatory cover charge" you cited was in fact a suggested voluntary donation. We were happy to give what we could to benefit Visual Aid, a worthy charity. This event was a private party, and our invitation was shown at the door.

Inside, we were able to purchase cranberry juice, grapefruit juice, soda or a health drink served in plastic cups. We stayed about three hours, enjoying great music, dancing, a happy crowd and fabulous entertainment. At no time was alcohol offered.

We left the party at about 3:45 a.m. to check our car. Returning about 20 minutes later, we were shocked to find the party organizers standing outside in the drizzle, trying to protect themselves and thousands of dollars worth of personal sound equipment from the elements and from rough handling at the hands of the San Francisco Police Department. Police we observed were hostile and threatening. When we asked for ID or badge numbers, we were refused, and it was implied that if we didn't leave at that moment we would be hauled in along with the rest.

We made our way back to our car, hurrying past the crack and heroin dealing action that is rampant and apparently condoned by the SFPD. What a sad end to what was otherwise one of the best New Year's celebrations I have ever attended.

**S. STAFFORD**  
San Francisco

SFPD raid

You end your editorial with the words, "Let's hope the answers come swiftly." There is one question that can be answered immediately, to the question, "Were you there?" The answer is a definite no.

I'm sure the answer is no because I was there. Had you been, you would not have penned an editorial composed almost entirely of what must be either lies or hallucinations.

The donation at the door was just that — a donation. No one was turned away for lack of funds. It was not a public event. It was an invitation-only private party held at the residence of one of the organizers.

No liquor license was required because there was no bar stocked with beer and champagne. Caterers were selling spirulina, fruit juice, soda and cookies.

Exits were clearly marked and accessible, and there were 38 fire extinguishers distributed throughout the space. There were no candles in the hay room.

This was a peaceful, private and

well-organized event until the police showed up. The raiding party proceeded to insult, attack and injure the unresisting guests. They were looking for trouble, and when they didn't find it, they made it.

The "ugly words" used by the officers included, "Don't breathe on me, faggot, you might have AIDS."

The "bitter complaints of brutal behavior" you refer to so condescendingly were made in response to such acts of excessive force as choking to unconsciousness a man who requested to see the officers' badge numbers. The brutal behavior also included a two-fingered jab into the eye sockets of an HIV-positive young man who inquired (yes, loudly) why his friends were being treated like this.

Evidence indeed. Swift answers. No, you weren't there.

**JORDY JONES**  
San Francisco