



Examiner/Gordon Stone

Founder John Maher greets Georgi Cusimano of Denver and Jim Herbert of Midland, Texas, at his party

# Delancey Street says goodbye to greed

By Norman Melnick  
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Delancey Street President John Maher slammed the greed of landlords at a closing-down Halloween party for his Union Street family-style restaurant yesterday.

He declared that the closing of his unique, decade-old restaurant, staffed by ex-convicts who belong to his prisoner rehabilitation organization, could revive the movement for commercial rent control in San Francisco.

"For us, we'll survive," said Maher. "It'll hurt us badly but we'll survive. But some little shoemaker down the block, some little grocer, what does he do?"

"Delancey Street invites you to a Halloween party," said the sign over the restaurant at 2032 Union St. yesterday, "with the landlord playing the part of the vampire... This world famous institution and model of job training programs has been closed by greed."

Landlord Dr. Roger Greenberg, a

San Francisco plastic surgeon, did not come to the closing bash. Maher said he wants to raise his rent from \$2,500 monthly to \$6,700.

His office said the doctor was out of The City at a medical meeting and was not scheduled back until Monday.

Supervisor Nancy Walker agreed with Maher. She said she and Supervisors Harry Britt and Doris Ward were talking about drafting a new commercial rent control ordinance, one that would avoid the pitfalls of the model that was dumped earlier this year.

"I think the need is definitely there," Walker said. "The question is to get legislation that will be supported by other supervisors and that will stand up in court if it comes to a legal challenge."

She said such legislation would be regarded as just by those "who've been out in The City and have seen what rents are doing to the stores."

Delancey Street member Frank Hickey, who served time in San Quentin, among other institutions, said: "I'm

kind of mad about it. We have gotten a lot of people decent jobs based on training in this restaurant.

"More than that, we've generated a lot of good will with the public and on Union Street. We've convinced people that ex-cons aren't weird. Hey, they're normal people."

Outside, on the pleasant patio, the six-piece John Coppola Jazz Band performed and the familiar antique double-decker Delancey Street bus was parked at the curb.

In the restaurant tables were laden with crab and tuna salads, finger sandwiches, relish trays, and pumpkin and pecan pies. Beer, wine and liquor were served. The restaurant had a one-day-only license to serve liquor.

District Attorney Arlo Smith came by to pay his respects, as did police Capt. Frank Jordan and Planning Commission member Sue Bierman.

In April, said Maher, Delancey Street will reopen just for lunch or brunch at its Fulton Street and Eighth Avenue facility.