

Charity party held for South Bay's beautiful

by Salsa de Salmontes

"I'm kind of a liberal conservative, kinda flexible, you know," said Greg Esakoff. But I'm kind of disappointed. I paid \$50 outside to a scalper because I understood Devo would be playing live."

After sliding his arm around a svelte woman in black silks he added, "All and all I'm having a good time, though."

Esakoff's "good time" was the reason three Manhattan Beach residents paid out \$15,000 to sponsor a party at Annabelle's last Tuesday. The sign outside the popular Redondo nightclub read, "Devo Party - By Invitation Only," and drew the elite of the South Bay's high-steppers.

"The money is coming out of our pocket," said Andy Hewitt, one of the three sponsors of the party, and a self-proclaimed veteran of the Beverly Hills-Hollywood scene. "We're glad to do it. We've been throwing parties a long time and we've never asked for anything. We're just friends and fans of Devo. It's what you might call our hobby. It's so refreshing to get out of Hollywood. We've been in Manhattan just a little over a year."

The party might have been held outside of Hollywood but the South Bay locals were tuned into the tanned, spandex, glittered aura of Hollywood.

The five men from Akron, Ohio, whose musical theories of "devo-lution" resulted in the recent hit, "Whip It," were visible in a special roped-off section of seats accessible only to the very influential, wealthy, or beautiful. The main attraction was the seeming cornucopia of pushed-up, made-up, played-up women. According to Tom Robbins' fictional character Amanda, "Life is 97 percent style." Tuesday night, style reigned.

The network of those hip enough to be invited ranged from roller-skating



O lucky man, Rich Stash arrived at the party of the year adorned by Bunny Clones on each arm. Photo by M. J. Kapustka



These unidentified crashers, betrayed by their Midwestern boringness, were ejected shortly after this photo was taken. Photo by Con Miller

Over a thousand women were invited to the party which about 1800 people people attended. The male to female ratio is a closely guarded secret according to Hewitt. "I don't know if you noticed or not but there were a lot of Playmate centerfolds there. They're just friends of ours," he confided.

Admission was free and Devo's recor' label, Warner Brothers, was not involved financially although a few Warner executives attended. So why drop \$15,000 to give a party?

"It's a good way of thanking all of our friends, it's just fun," said the third party sponsor Alan Wurtzel. "The South Bay is an easy-going place...but when it comes to the evenings the only places to go are the local meat markets. Hollywood is turning into too much of a rat race. In the South Bay, people have fun, it's a real good beach life. Also, as you can tell, we love pretty girls."

Devo's members were also obviously pleased with the California lifestyle. Two members, Mark Mothersbaugh and Jerry Casale, are relocating to California permanently.

"We told them how beautiful the girls are at the beach," said Carlis. "They're believers now. The South Bay women are not the Hollywood girls."

Devo keyboardist/vocalist Mothersbaugh summed up his reaction to the South Bay by stating, "California is more Devo than I thought. I'm not a California person and the difference must be the specific type of corkscrew in their DNA chain."

The whole party was organized in a little over a month (coordinating the food, cake, video-recording equipment and invitations was "a lot of work," according to Hewitt). The only snag in the event occurred after the party ended at Annabelle's and moved to a private party on The Strand for just Devo and a few select guests.

"When the word leaked out we had to have three security guards at the house. I mean we gave the big party, what more did they want from us?"