

# How They Celebrated

By Mitchell Thomas

There was a laughing, hollering, foot-stomping explosion of jubilation at San Jose's Safari Room last night.

People started to pour into the east San Jose night-spot in mid-afternoon, as soon as word got around that Angela Davis, just acquitted of murder, kidnap and conspiracy charges, was going there for a victory celebration.

By mid-evening, about 600 people were crowded into an overflowing room designed for perhaps 200.

### GIFTS

They were black and white, young and old, many of them bearing gifts for their liberated heroine.

A woman who identified herself as Elsie Alexander turned up with a huge salad of watermelon, canteloupe and grapes because, she said, "Angela said she wanted some fruit salad."

Champagne and other libations flowed in torrents, and there was a heady aroma of burning hemp in the air as repeated shouts of "beautiful, just beautiful!" burst through the high-decibel soul music of a three-man combo called Dawn and Sunset.

### 'GREATEST'

"This is our greatest night ever," exulted manager Ron McGowan of the Safari Room.

"Everybody's celebrating because of Sister Angela," said bartender Chuck Jackson.

At least 100 of the celebrants milled around outside, drinks in hand, mixing with kids on bicycles and women carrying babies as they waited, hour after hour, for Angela herself to turn up.

There was something of the atmosphere of an old-fashioned movie premiere

as the crowd cheered arriving celebrities — Miss Davis' father, Frank Davis; her sister, Fania Jordan. . .

### JURORS

Five of the jurors who had found Miss Davis innocent were there, all of them being treated as heroes.

"Beautiful," people kept saying to them, "just beautiful."

Manager McGowan said the phone had been ringing all afternoon as people called in their congratulations.

He cut the prices of drinks in half for the occasion. California champagne was going by the case.

### ROAR

A thunderous roar went up when the crowd discovered Miss Davis suddenly in its midst just before 10:30 p.m.

She had slipped in through a back door, surrounded by a cordon of bodyguards, and all at once was there in the middle of the crowd, smiling and accepting ovations.



By Vincent Maggiora

Miss Davis, accompanied by Franklin Alexander, her defense committee coordinator, gave a salute

Franklin Alexander, coordinator of the National Committee to Free Angela Davis, jumped onto the stage and shouted:

"We are going to dance all damned night long because we are happy!"

### TOURNAMENT

Rumbling through the noise of the party were the sounds of bowling balls from the alleys in the same building, where the state women's bowling tournament ground on without interruption.

As the bowlers went somewhat grimly about their business, one tournament participant who refused to give her name told a reporter the tournament was not to be linked in any way with the Davis party.

"We have," the woman said, "nothing in common."





*UPI photo*

**Angela Davis and her mother embraced after the defendant was discharged**

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