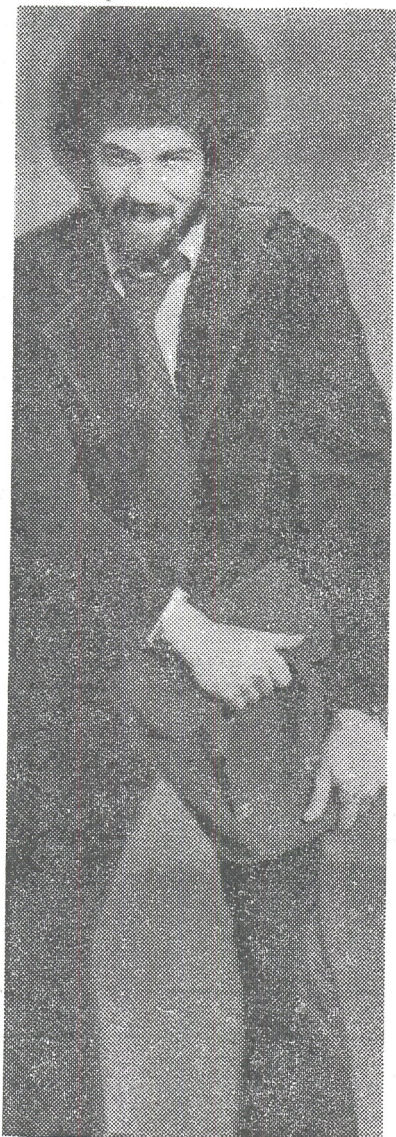


Colson Hit With Pie at Fairmont

By Maitland Zane



Jayson Wechter took the pie out of his bag

Former Nixon aide Charles Colson was hit in the face with a chocolate cream pie in the dignified Fairmont Hotel yesterday.

The thrower was Jayson Wechter, 26, a freelance writer who last year ran for San Francisco supervisor on a "need for better pastrami" platform. Wechter said he hit Colson "because Jesus came to me in a dream and told me Colson was a fraud."

Colson, 45, spent seven months in prison for obstructing justice in the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. In 1975, while in prison, he said that he had a religious conversion and became a "born again Christian."

Wechter cornered Colson in an elevator at the Fairmont after Colson gave a Bible breakfast talk to several hundred tycoons of the exclusive Young Presidents' Organization.

Wechter said that he and three friends purchased two pies from Ahrens Bakery for the occasion. He carried one in a green shoulder bag and a companion was toting a second pie "in case Jayson missed with the first one."

"Colson came out of the Gold Room, where they had the prayer breakfast, and got into an elevator. Wechter said, 'It's now or never,' I thought. So I said to him, 'Mr. Colson — one more thing.' He turned and I caught him on the right cheek."

"He said 'Jesus forgives you.' And I said, 'Jesus told me to hit you with a pie because you're a fraud.'"

The pie-flinging caused a commotion in which the walls and carpet of the elevator got smeared. Wechter was hauled off to the hotel security office by a Colson aide, Mike Cromartie. Colson meanwhile left to catch a plane.

The hotel sent Wechter on his way after he volunteered to pay the cost of cleaning up the mess. Susie West, of the Fairmont's publicity office, said that no charges would be brought.

Asked at his apartment on Frederick street across from Kezar Stadium why he really assaulted Colson, Wechter said:

"So I can tell my grandchildren — if I ever have any — how proud I was to hit one of the Watergate conspirators."