





# Convention Scenes



Florane Sclar,  
Chairperson



Art Hambach,  
Master of Ceremonies



President Bill Fabrey



Karen Jones



Bunny Peckham



Florence Pearl



Eileen Lefebure, John Chase,  
and Joyce Fabrey



Table No. 6



Dancing at the Saturday night party



Cathy McLain, Jim Burke,  
and Liz Fisher



Joyce Fabrey and Peggy Greensfelder  
presenting Barbara Anderson...



and Daniel Duarte with  
their door prizes



Liz Fisher presenting Ernest  
Harf with his raffle prize



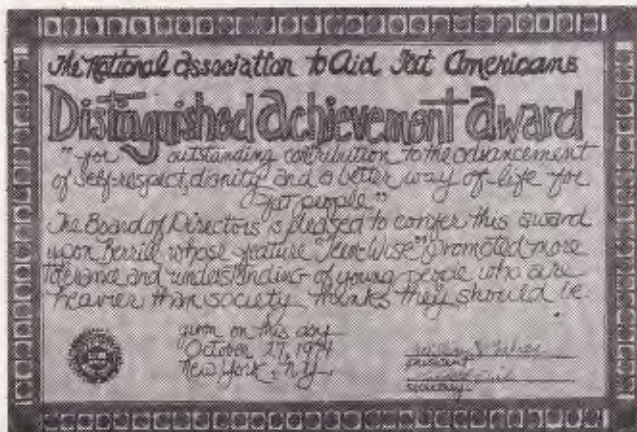
Bill Fabrey presenting a FATS is  
beautiful button to Florane Sclar



## DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GIVEN AT CONVENTION

The 1974 Convention was the scene of the conferring of NAAFA's second annual awards. Three Distinguished Achievement Awards were given, "for outstanding contribution to the advancement of self-respect, dignity, and a better life for fat people".

Robert Half, of the personnel firm Robert Half Associates, received an award "for his recent study of weight and job discrimination", the results of which were widely printed in newspapers and magazines. Sy and Barbara Ribakove, writers and reporters, received one jointly for their "excellence in reporting as exhibited in their article in Lithopinion magazine entitled "Our Biggest Minority". Artist John Berrill, creator of the "Teen-Wise" and "Gil Thorp" strips, received an award for his 2/10/74 "Teen-Wise" newspaper feature, which "promoted tolerance and understanding of young people who are heavier than society thinks they should be."



12"x18" award designed and made by Cathy McLain, Art Director



ROBERT HALF SCORES AT CONVENTION

Robert Half

Convention speaker Robert Half, himself a NAAFA member, treated those present at the Sunday Banquet to a speech which included an actual videotape of his recent appearance on the TV show "To Tell the Truth." NAAFA members watched the color TV monitors and saw TV host Garry Moore read the following introduction: "I, Robert Half, am here to plead the cause of the largest minority group in this country: the fat American. Overweight individuals suffer the discomfort of tiny movie theater seats and body-bruising subway turnstiles. They find it almost impossible to find clothes to fit...but worst of all, they are actually discriminated against in business hiring. As President of a personnel placement firm, I have made an intensive study...clients request a slim employee...In surveying 15,000 executives I made the startling discovery that...only nine percent were over ten pounds overweight!"

Mr. Half showed his listeners the remainder of the show, and then made some interesting points about weight and the job market. While emphasizing that the job situation is very unfair, not only to fat people but for anyone with certain other characteristics (short, bald, lame, foreign accent, minority religion or race, female, over 40 years old, etc), he gave some practical tips on how a fat person can overcome the problem and project a good personal interview. Mr. Half's remarks are to be covered in more detail in another issue of the Newsletter in the near future.

MARVIN GROSSWIRTH: FAT PRIDE THREE YEARS LATER

Marvin Grosswirth

After explaining to a smiling NAAFA audience that he is a member of nearly every minority group on Robert Half's list, Mr. Grosswirth went on to say that even though fat people have far to go to achieve equality, that the situation has improved in certain respects since NAAFA was formed in 1969, and since his book Fat Pride was published in 1971. Some of his examples were: relaxation of standards of dress and appearance, yielding to individualism; publication of Fat Can Be Beautiful by an M.D. (Dr. Abraham I. Friedman); use of a slogan "FATS is beautiful" by a computer company (see photo); and toned-down claims by reducing clubs, all events which were unlikely five years ago.

CONVENTION '74: SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

William J. Fabrey, President

The fifth annual NAAFA Convention was one of superlatives. It lasted longer, had more activities, cost more, had louder music (live), required lengthier preparations, was more of a "sweat" to keep running smoothly, had more spirited debate, and left its planners in a greater state of exhaustion than ever before. Many of us were left with the impression that after five years, NAAFA is still not ready for a costly, two-day affair, although the Saturday rap sessions were free.

However, depending on what you wanted to get out of such a convention, this one was either a success or a failure. Mr. Half and Mr. Grosswirth gave excellent speeches, as expected. My speech was marred by lack of preparation; I naturally hope that some of my comments were of interest to the assembled members.

As always, the models showed how clothes for women should really look. The women of NAAFA (those who participated in the fashion show and those who watched) looked their beautiful best! Women take note: Appearance isn't everything, but it sure helps to make life more interesting. To NAAFA men who missed the Convention, I can only express my condolences.



Some of the models were: Eileen Lefebure, Ellen Dobson, Pearl Miller, and Liz Fisher



FAT SANTA CLAUS UNDER ATTACK

In the famous poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas", Clement Moore created a Santa who had "a broad face and a little round belly - that shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly. He was chubby and plump..."

Unbelievably, now Dr. Frederick J. Stare, chairman of Harvard University's department of nutrition, says, "The image of a roly-poly Santa Claus is a bad example for Americans."

Jean Nidetch, of Weight Watchers fame, asks: "How can any fat man, including Santa, smile when it's almost certain that his feet hurt and probably that he has heartburn?"

About the only bright news in the otherwise dreary facts above (provided in an article by Steve Harvey of the L.A. Times/Wash. Post News Service on Dec. 23, 1974) is that the standard Santa suit is made for the "big" man only. And that Ken Rowe of Western Temporary Services, the nation's largest supplier of Santas (!) is "only too happy to send out big girls as Santas" provided they are not too small to fit the standard suit. Aside from the novel idea of a female Santa, it's nice to hear about a job where a fat applicant isn't discriminated against. At least, not until Dr. Stare and Jean Nidetch have their way.

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LETTERSAPPROVES FAT FEMINISM

Dear NAAFA,

I was glad to see some space in the Newsletter finally devoted to the relationship between weightism and sexism. Although I fully respect Joyce Fabrey's right to her own opinion, I must disagree with the point of view expressed in her editorial; it is my feeling that the connection between the fat pride movement and the women's movement is too strong to be dismissed. The feminist movement needs to be educated about fat people's struggles, and the fat movement needs its consciousness raised about feminist struggles.

If NAAFA denies an open forum to its members who wish to discuss fat feminism, I will not renew my membership.

Mary E. McDermott  
Orleans, Mass.

[ED: To the best of my knowledge, NAAFA has no intention of denying discussion by members on the issue of fat feminism. Articles and letters will continue to be published in the Newsletter on this subject, as they are submitted.]

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FEMINISM A SEPARATE ISSUE

Dear NAAFA,

In response to several items in the Sept-Oct issue of the Newsletter, particularly Karen Jones' article, it seems to me that NAAFA should stay out of

other causes. I see no conflict in individual NAAFA members being active in other movements, although it might create an image problem if officers were. However, if NAAFA itself takes positions on other issues it will inevitably alienate members who disagree with the position taken. I seriously doubt if we are strong enough to afford that.

I think occasional articles like Karen Jones' are all right in the Newsletter provided they express a range of opinions and carry a disclaimer (as hers did) from representing NAAFA policy. Other than that, I think Joyce Fabrey's remarks summarize my position very well.

In fact, I wonder if NAAFA may itself have too narrow an ethnic basis. We appear, for example, to have little or no black or Latin membership. Yet strictly informal observation suggests to me that black and Latin women tend to be heavier than white ones. I suspect that they may not join NAAFA because fat is less of a difficulty in their own communities, and perception of its effect outside their community is masked by the more visible racial or cultural discrimination.

In summary, as far as issues are concerned (NAAFA has other functions also), we should seek the widest possible base to fight the single issue of size discrimination.

We obviously don't have the funds to sponsor medical research, but perhaps we could arouse the interest of the medical profession to guide some of it in new directions. For example, if for one reason or another one is going to remain fat, what are the healthiest ways to do so? Is being fat more dangerous for some people than others, etc?

To close, I hope a future Newsletter will have coverage of the convention; it helps those of us out of New York to keep up with NAAFA activities.

Kirk Stephens  
Norman, Oklahoma

[ED: The ethnic background of NAAFA members is unknown, since it is not questioned on the membership application (naturally). NAAFA's Constitution says that there will be no restriction on the weight, race, religion, age, or sex of applicants for membership. However, casual observation based on letters from members, and attendance at meetings indicates that Blacks and Latins as well as people of other ethnic backgrounds do join NAAFA.

Medical research described by Mr. Stephens is already under way, although not as extensively as we would like to see.]

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ANNOUNCEMENT

In February 1975 The New York Chapter will hold a Valentine's Day Dance. So mark February 8th on your calendar and make plans to attend. For those who wish to help - contact Joyce Maloney, Saxon Hall, 62-60 99th Street, Rego Park, N.Y. 11375

Note: The above announcement has been inserted at the request of the chapter concerned, and paid for at the classified advertising rate. Similar paid announcements for other chapters will be carried if submitted at least three weeks before the publication date.