

## 2nd Calamari Bash/

## Squidding Around

RICHARD STONE

**H**ow anyone can feel affection for something that looks like it just got stepped on is beyond us. Yet a small but dedicated band of local squidophiles called Friends of the Calamari has taken up the cause of the clammy cephalopod and made the species guest of honor at the Second International Calamari Festival, which slithers into existence from noon to 8 pm this weekend at and around India Joze.

This year's festival will be like last year's, only bigger. Calamari commandant Tom Brežsny and his crew have thrown in everything but the kitchen sink, and they only saved that to clean the ton of squid festival-goers will be dining on. Beside the 20 plus examples of international calamari cuisine and the newly concocted squid burger, there will be:

- stories, songs and dances performed by 35 locals, including a squidi-fied version of Handel's *Messiah* and the world's first "Squidotape."

- calamari creations, including fashions and accessories from B. Modern and assorted *objets d'art* with a molluskous motif.

- a squid parade, squid Olympics and a libation to the squid goddess at the end of the Santa Cruz Wharf.

As you can tell from the listing above, this so-called festival is nothing but an all-out attempt to exploit the lowly mollusk for all it's worth, which is not much. But GOOD TIMES has learned that the little slime sticks are mad as hell and won't be taking it much longer. In our efforts to get to the bottom of this story (you have to get to the bottom to find squid), we obtained a rare interview with the leader of the calamari revolutionary movement, Ernesto "Soy" Dinero.

**GOOD TIMES: Senor Dinero, we'd...**

Soy Dinero: *Generalissimo* Dinero, please. Mama's gonna read this.

**GT: OK, Your Sliminess. Now, we'd like to know just exactly what it is you're fighting for. Or against.**

Soy: I raise my tentacles in struggle against the imperialist powers that enslave my brothers and sisters in casserole dishes and crock pots all over the world. I fight for de right of my people to roam the oceans as free squid, able to look other sea creatures in the eye before they eat us.

**GT: But isn't it true that the squid race is only fit for fishbait and appetizer trays?**

Soy: Is not true my people only good for appetizer. We good for main course, too.

**GT: That's the second time you mentioned being somebody else's meal. How do the squid survive this feeding frenzy?**

Soy: Is no problem. We fool around a lot, make babies faster than everybody make us dinner.

**GT: And that's enough to keep the species going?**

Soy: Worked great for last half million years.

**GT: Besides cheap nutrition, what does your culture have to offer us?**

Soy: Contacts.

**GT: Contacts?**

Soy: Sure. You know those giant squid you always hear about, the ones that look like a submarine with a lotta arms?

Well, they on first-name basis with all de other big fish. Whales, sharks, groupers, you name it, we in touch. You know, squeak squeak stuff. Like Flipper.

**GT: What the hell do we want to talk to some fish for?**

Soy: Hey, some of them pretty good conversationalists. Have to be—hard to write things down underwater.

**GT: Any last words?**

Soy: Si. Where can I get some good seafood in dis town?

Those who can't wait for the start of this Calamari Festival can get in the spirit early by watching (or joining) a Chinese New Year-style Squid Parade, starting Saturday at 10:30 am at the end of the Santa Cruz Wharf and leading to India Joze.

Admission to the festival is \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children and seniors (price includes entertainment and "all the ambience you can eat" but not food). For more info on the event, call 427-3554. •



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Clockwise from top: Denise Nevin as Squid Vicious; Mark Taylor shows off his calamari codpiece; Libia May proves she's a real squid fan; Tracy Smith models the slimy look



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