

State/National

Central Park may receive 27 miles of apricot nylon art

NEW YORK — The artist who built a cloth fence across California and "wrapped" a million square feet of the Australian coast now wants to transform Central Park into a \$4 million piece of art, using 27 miles of saffron and apricot-colored nylon.

The blowing structure that the artist named Christo proposes to build with 11,000 steel gates and miles of nylon, would wind through the park like a stream.

But first, he must get approval from the parks commissioner, who has "a lot of anxiety" about the scheme. Christo already has built a running wall of cloth over 24 miles of California countryside and "wrapped" a million square feet of sea off the coast of Sydney, Australia.

Several months ago, he proposed his latest project to Gordon Davis, New York City's parks commissioner. Davis' understandable reaction: "You've got to be kidding."

When Christo insisted he was serious, Davis told him, "You'll have to do a lot of proving to me to convince me you're not kidding."

Christo, a Bulgarian-born artist, has since been proving his intentions to Davis and a lot of other skeptics. He has been meeting with local community boards and landmarks commission members. Slowly, the decision

is coming back to Davis, who expects to have a final answer within the next two months.

"I feel just like before my first date in high school," Davis said Monday.

"I've got sweaty palms, a lot of anxiety, and a lot of ambivalence."

What has Davis worried is not only the size of the project but its implications. "I accept it as a work of art of considerable significance," he said. "But my consideration is whether it's good for the park. It won't only be in the park ... it will be all over the park."

"The park itself is a work of art, and he wants to put a work of art on it."

The size and complications of the project don't seem to faze the one-name artist. His running fence in California involved 110,000 pounds of steel cables, 800 tons of concrete and 2 million square feet of nylon fabric.

Christo also insisted it will not cost the city a penny. He plans to finance the \$4 million in raw materials by selling sketches of his preliminary drawings of the project and will erect it with the help of 1,200 unemployed youths who will be paid by Christo.

The park will be transformed, if Christo gets his approval, for two weeks in October, 1983.

Give an ostrich for Christmas

DALLAS — At one end on the fiscal scale, men's crew socks retail at \$6.50 (\$7.50 for women). At the other end, there is a ring — a very nice ring — for \$295,000.

Between those two extremes, there is all manner of rich and exclusive items in the annual "Neiman-Marcus Christmas Book."

The "his and hers" gifts is where everyone turns first, and it's a bit of a stunner this year: baby ostriches.

"With ostriches in residence you could have one-egg omelet parties, gather the shed plumes for decoration, stage ostrich races, learn the original Watutsi dance (derived from their flamboyant courting ritual), receive quill pens for writing, turn them loose on the grasshoppers in the corn field, convert the eggs into decorative items," Neiman says.

"Of course, if you're a condominium dweller, you can add them to the collections of your favorite zoo or wildlife park."

There's a Martin guitar made from Brazilian rosewood, spruce, Abalone Nacre and gold that Neiman's says has the sound quality of a seasoned instrument.

"For those who know C.F. Martin's craftsmanship, this is a trophy at \$9,500," Neiman says.

Across the page from the guitar, there is a limited edition of the book, "Coronado's Children," by legendary Texas writer and historian, J. Frank Dobie. The book, filled with tales of lost mines and buried treasure, is printed on handmade paper from Italy with 22 Karat gold illuminated capitals, handmade Mexican bark paper covers and a leather spine.

"Only 300 available, at \$700 each," Neiman says.

The Bob Hope record collection combines three records and a photo-

biography in a teak-framed cover box for \$40.

"This remarkable set, selected from the private collections of Mr. Hope, is a history of comedy in your hands," Neiman says. "Forty-six famous people from past and present join Bob in excerpts from radio, records, TV, film and live appearances."

Bernard Kliban — the B. Kliban who draws the cat cartoons — drew the cover for the Christmas Book. It shows a caravan of camels, carrying rainbows tied to their backs, led by Santa Claus, under a night sky filled with gaily colored stars and meteors.

The catalogue offers 300 signed and numbered prints of the cover for \$250 each.

Radiation floods kill cancer

BALTIMORE — A unique way of delivering high doses of radiation to inoperable liver cancer is adding months to patients' lives by shrinking tumors, and doctors say the technique may work against other cancers too.

The treatment, developed by Dr. Stanley E. Order of the Johns Hopkins Cancer Center, floods cancer cells with continuous lethal radiation for days or even weeks while sparing normal tissue.

The process capitalizes on increasing knowledge about the body's immune system disease defenses. Scientists hitch radioactive iodine to an antibody that, when injected into the blood stream, seeks out specific cancer cells but largely ignores the rest of the body.

Most of the initial experiments have been devoted to liver cancers that have progressed beyond the stage they can be treated by surgery and for which anti-cancer chemicals are not particularly effective.

Order reported on the development at a news conference Monday and said 11 patients have been treated. Incorporated so far. Eight received some benefit, and dramatic decreases in tumor size have been reported in seven of the patients. Five patients are still living, one 15 months following treatment.

People with advanced liver cancer normally live three to seven months after initial treatment. Order said the average length of survival following the new treatment has been 11 months.

In one woman, 38, a tumor that occupied 69 percent of the liver shrank following treatment so it took up only 18 percent of the liver. She lived 27 months following treatment before dying of cancer that had spread elsewhere.

Order, whose initial work has been published in medical journals, said his medical team is now working on purifying the antibodies so they will zero in even more intensely on the cancer cells. This, he said, should give the tumor even larger radiation doses while diminishing radiation to surrounding tissue.

Experiments also are beginning on inoperable lung cancer, a childhood nervous system cancer called neuroblastoma and multiple myeloma, a cancer of blood-forming elements.


Order said that in theory, all forms of human cancer should be susceptible to this new form of therapy.

But Dr. Albert H. Owens, director of the Johns Hopkins Cancer Center, emphasized the new technique is not a cure-all or "magic bullet"

for cancer, but he said, "We are very excited about our initial observations."

"This is a brand new modality," Order said. "It will take us a number of years to see how far we can go with this."

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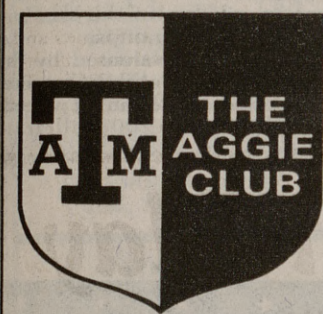
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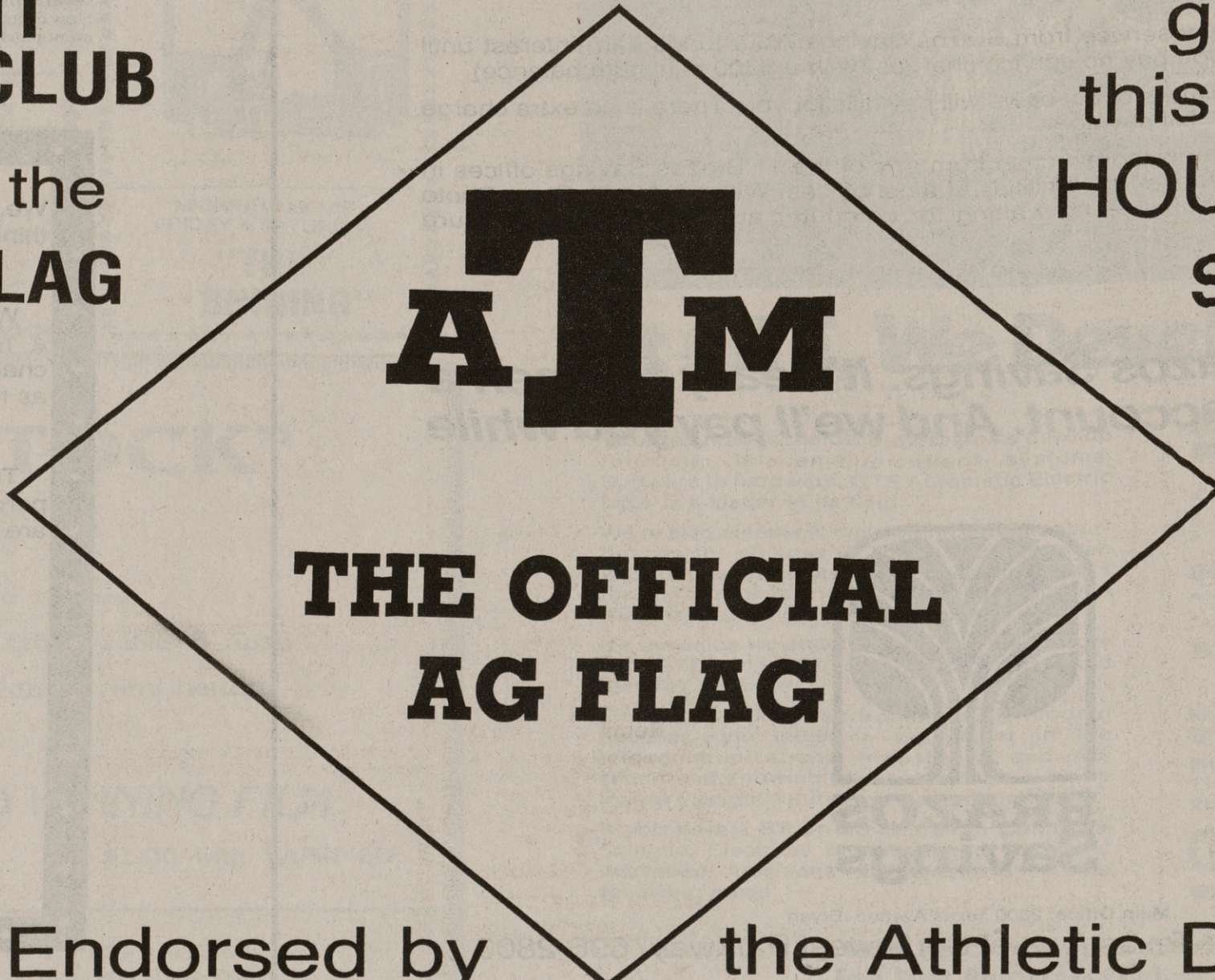


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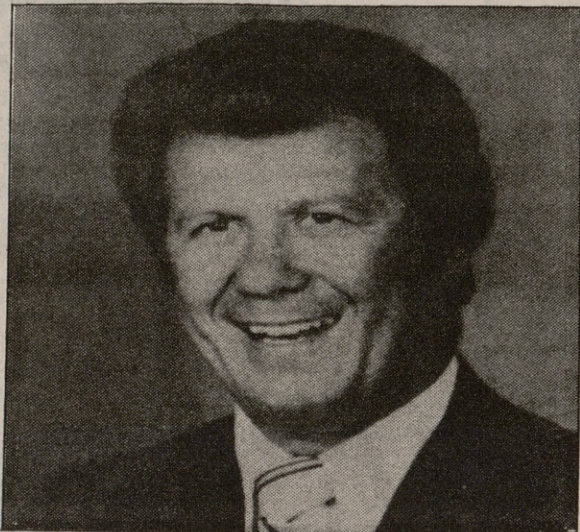


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