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Dorian Corey's Death Leads to Mummy Find

NEW YORK—Dorian Corey, who was known as "legendary" within New York City's black transvestite demimonde, left more behind in his Harlem apartment than ermine and pearls when he died Aug. 28 of complications related to AIDS. While comb-



Dorian Corey

ing through Corey's wardrobe two months later, friends found a trunk containing a mummified corpse, in fetal position, wrapped in imitation leather.

Because the victim was not completely decayed, police were able to make a positive identification. "They embalmed him with material that blew up his fingers," explained Sergeant Hainuck of the New York Police Department, "so that they were able to fingerprint him."

The deceased, Robert Wells, had

been missing since 1968, according to police. He also had an extensive criminal record for rape, burglary and assault. Wells had been fatally shot in the head about 15 years ago, they determined.

Whether Corey shot Wells or not remains a mystery. No weapon was found. "It's an ongoing investigation," Hainuck said. We don't know how the body got there."

Corey, 56, starred in the award-winning 1991 documentary *Paris Is Burning*.

Most Black Gay L.A. Okay After Major Trembler

LOS ANGELES—Most black lesbian and gay institutions came through Southern California's devastating Jan. 17 earthquake in good order although there were a few disastrous exceptions. The quake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale, hit the Los Angeles metropolitan area in the pre-dawn hours and was felt throughout much of the Southland.

As a result of the quake, centered in Northridge, just north of the city in the San Fernando Valley, more than 40 people have been confirmed dead, medical officials say that over 500 people suffered serious injuries requiring hospitalization and officials estimate costs of the damage and destruction to exceed \$30 billion.

"A few books and papers fell out of cabinets and desks, but everything is okay here," said Vera [redacted] chief operations officer of the Minority AIDS Project, L.A.'s largest HIV/AIDS organization targeting people of color.

But Dignity House, the HIV/AIDS shelter run by MAP, didn't fare as well. According to house manager Darric [redacted] the wood and stucco house "has shifted off of its founda-

tion and the chimney has been dislodged from the house."

Although the facility can house up to seven clients, there were only two in residence at the time of the quake. Those two have been relocated to hotels until the extent of the damage can be assessed. "There was a gas leak that was discovered later that night, but that problem has been corrected," [redacted] said.

Rue's House, an HIV/AIDS shelter for women and children which houses 14 residents, suffered structural damage. "We have severe cracks in the walls of the building and the chimney was dislocated," said Rue [redacted] the shelter's founder. "Luckily, there weren't any injuries. Everyone came downstairs and huddled together until it was over." [redacted] has contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance.

Clients at the Carl Bean AIDS Care Center are housed in a structure less than two years old, built to withstand earthquakes. "The lights went out, but our backup system was in place and the emergency lights came on immediately," said Sandra [redacted] assistant director of the center. "Being situated next to an oil well, staffers at the center 'are well-trained for emergencies and disasters. We could have evacuated the 24 patients in a matter of moments, if it were necessary,' she explained. "The building did a 'cabbage patch' dance, but there wasn't any structural damage. All is well."

At the BLK offices, two table lamps were lost and books were thrown to the floor. Except for a minor water leak, there was no structural damage.

At the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, damage was also minimal.

"A couple of doors in the building came off their hinges and a few pictures fell off the wall," said Emery [redacted] acting project director of the AIDS Prevention Team, whose offices are at the BGLLF headquarters.