

C O L U M B U S C I R C L E

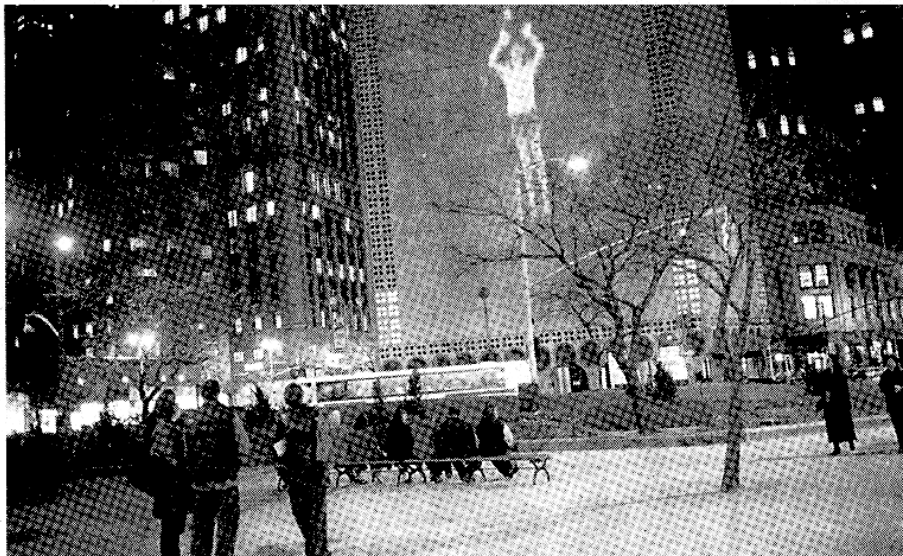


BUZZ

A Lot of New Yorkers With Their Heads in the Clouds

THE SETTING On Thursday night at 2 Columbus Circle, 432 people were truly able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Creative Time, a nonprofit arts organization, presented Chris Doyle's "Leap," a video projection of New Yorkers from all five boroughs jumping skyward on a 60-foot screen. It was a "Honey, I Shrank the Kids" moment as crowds watched giant projections of men, women and children bounding into the air and disappearing over the top of the building into the night chill.

THE BUZZ Lori Houlihan of Lexington, Ky., cradled her 5-year-old son, Murphy, as they watched the King Kong-size projections. It was the first time they had seen anything like this. "Murphy's favorite was the woman in the bathing suit," said Ms. Houlihan as her son stared. A volunteer explained to a gaggle of viewers that the jumper in the bathing suit was a 1978 Playboy bunny named Monique who had found a new career as a competitive body builder. In a deep Southern drawl, Ms. Houli-



Aaron Lee Fineman for The New York Times

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han tried to get her son's attention. "Look, Murphy, it's like all the people are jumping up into heaven," she said as a leaper holding a newborn baby soared and disappeared.

When an M5 bus roared around Columbus Circle, heads turned to-

ward the video screen and riders pointed to the outsize images.

Elizabeth Emsbroek and Lawrens De Knijff, vacationers from the Netherlands, watched in amazement. "We actually thought it was going to be people jumping from one

building to the other," Mr. De Knijff said. As the images faded in the glare of headlights, his girlfriend added: "It's too bad the lights are so bright here. It's like having a slide show in your living room with the lights on."

Nearby, Sherry Schaeffer and her nephew James Cardinal, who was visiting from New Jersey, gestured and laughed. "It looks like they're all looking for Donald Trump," said Ms. Schaeffer, pointing to the Trump building directly across the street.

Two Clevelanders sat on a bench and chatted. "People from Cleveland are a lot less rushed and a lot more nosy than New Yorkers," said Shawn Lewis, a college student. His friend, Care Haewdiges, added: "He's

right. If this were happening in Cleveland, everyone would stop and gawk. Half of these people rushing by haven't even noticed the show." As she spoke, a building-size grandmother leaped into the stars.

KIMBERLY STEVENS