BAR

## Obversations on A Primary Election

We have just recently finished a hard fought political election.

We learned many things from it, we came away with some very good - some very positive things. And we found out some very negative things also. Such is the way of elections. The most important thing is to learn - and that we did.

I refer to "we" for it was more then just Harvey Milk running for the Assembly seat. It was a fight that many people from almost every community and sector of the city joined togeter. It was a known core of workers that brought together people who never knew each other existsed before. And it ended with a narrow defeat but with a new determination and a powerfull organization formed.

Here are some thoughts on that election. First, predjuice still exists in this city onothing new but is solid and based upon myths and fears it was beaten back in some very important areas. Every place that it was beaten back \*NAT. If there were any outstanding gains that were made it was the San Francisco Progress endorsing a gay person! Here is what had been regarded as the most conservative and most uptight paper not only rejecting the candidate coming out of Leo McCarthey's office but turning to a gay person as their choice. The paper had the option of No endorsement if it did not like Agnos and was "afraid" of its image in endorsing a gay person. But, and considering its readership, it took the step that no other major newspaper das ever done. There is no way of telling just how many barriers were broken by that one step. For once a barrier is broken then that many more people come on your side. Our hats must be taken off to th e Progress. It has taken the role of leadership in papers in this city. It will be interesting to see the policies of that paper over the next few years. It would be a fine thing to see the respond by gay communituy - and our xxxxxxxxx friends -

letting the Progress know that you kaxex understand and appraicate thier move. It speaks well that this paper was the "first".

On the other hand the Bay Guardian after urging us to make the race. After supporting us in the race. And after we ran a pretty good campaign pulled their support in the final week for the stangest of reasons. No longer will anyone ever be able to count of the Guardian in backing them in any cause. That support could vanish overnight out of weakiness or fear or whatever. The Guadian lost more then we lost in votes.

Positive gains: the Firefighters careing less what the nationall image is gave full support and funds to a gay person. Where who thers were afraid or whatever of thier image this small group put their full support into the race.

The local Teamsters - a far different cry from the national ones - once again gave a maximumn effort. It was an exciting thing to see the vocal support of Jack Goldberger and Alan Baird. More on these people in a letter issue. Positive gains. A handfull of Democratic clubs telling the power people "enough" and giving their support.

Positive gains. The number of new friends - people who cared more about the issues then about "who's going to win and let's join that side". The number of people who stood up in the face of all the political power on the other side should just who was who.

Positive side: Quentin Kopp - the only elected official in the city who understand the basic issues of the race. Who had more to lose then anyone. Who felt it more important to join the race then to watch from the sidelines. Quentin Kopp who got fully involved. Kopp became the winner. No matter what you may think about any one local issue - with him or against him - he had what no other elected leader had - the buts to get into a fight becasue of fundamental issues and not political sides or temportary issues. He entered because of the Right - anyone; sright - to runad the integruty behind that. That issue

surpasses all others. For once the fundamental rights are lost then the other issues are meaningless. We owe a great deal to Quentin.

COVERNOR BROWN Breaks his Oladge

out there it was almost done.

The most positive positive gain. With the endorsements of about every major political person, with the endorsement of alm ost every organizations and club, with the endorsemethof most of the "name community leaders , with the endorsemtn of the so called gay leaders, with unlimited funds, with in reality all the free printing Xx they needed, with Delancy street and others supplying the troops and workers, with people coming down from the speaker's staff to Sacrenmento to help, with the strong reminders to the uptight people that a homosexual was their opponent, they still almost lost! It took the Governor - breaking his word andpledge - entering the race in the last week to swing enoug votes for them to win. Gov. Brown sweept the distirct by an incredable vote. All it took was about 8-9 votes per precent to swing from us to them for the win. Based upon the Gov.s vote and the use of his name we feel that it was this last minute move that gave them the election. What that means is that a gay person - if the issues are argued and the candidate camapigns hard with a core of excelle nt volunteers - can do it. And that it took making the Governmer becox show that he is nothing more then another common politician to stop having the first gay person blected in the state. That speaks pretty well for the campaing. For the financis on our side

The map of the vote - especially laid out next to that of the supervisoial vote tells an incredable story. That the vote in both election - has leapped way beyond what many political commentaries think it is. The strange thing is that so many people who have commented upon the vote we got have never taken the time to look at the results on a map. Their statements become a laugh - for without looking at the final results they talk about thier dreams. Maybe that is why they are

were limited and most came in too late for proper speniding.

That against all the odds and with a lot of predijuce still

Our gay leader I then mental sell out

The negative side. It was a tradijuc thing for the gay community to have it so called leaders resort to Nixon's methods. Because of the fear of losing their self apppinted power they refused to support a gay person. They never came up with any issues that were wrong. They never came up with any statemen s actually made that were wrong. What they did were was to made up the lies, distirtions and inennuedose. They could not find any reasons to not support a gay person so they made up their reaosns. And they stuck to their lies. They stuck to their lies in order to protect their own positions. They sold the gay movement out for their own presonal political gains. But at least we now know just who believs in the gay movement and who was uses it for their own personal gains.

How can a Jo Daley and a J m Foster argue one week that it is important to send a gay person to the nation convention for its few days and that it is not important to send a gay person to the state legislation for two years. The answer lies in the fact that they waneted to go to the convention and they were running and that they did not want anyone else to get elected to any offcie if they were not the power behind the chadidate. Thus they stooped to the level of lieing and Nixon to undermind the camaping not for the sake of the gay movement but for the sake of their own political gain. The craven for power that David Goodsteond, Jim Foster Jo Daley and thier followers is sad. If they had facts against us that would be one thing but for them to resort to lies to gain their place at the back of the bus of the political hacks is the sad thing for the movement. It will be interesting to see the long term results. For in spite of all their rottenness they could not deliver the vote anyway. They failed Bob "endelsohn. They could not deliver their own political club to eithe Bob or Agnos. And a look at the voting maps showed that they failed to deliver at the polling place. With their inability to produce atxtexx on election day it became apparent just why they fogught do hard to prevent a gay person from winning.

If the gay community is to ever gain real political clout it must first petxxxixxxx put out of any leadership role those who do not belive in the movement — it must remove axxeffectivex from leadership positions people who are using the gay movement for their pwn personal gains. The Jim Forsters adx maxxxxx once played an important role im the gay political movement. But they regarded themselves as the only ones to run things. They lost track of what the movement really means. They may still have a lot of clout and a lot of following but fortunatley the gay community as large understand what the movement realy means much more then the Jim Fosters.

That realy was not a negative side to the campaing . It was a positive side for the gay movem nt for it spelled out just who believesin the movement and who uses it.

The thousands of people who voted for us did so for many reasons. Since I was the one out there and since I was the on who talked to the people in the city I feel strongly that most of those who voted voted because they believed in the issues...my one-to -one conta ce tiwth the ovters and seeing were the vote came from on election day reafirms my belives.

Results and leasons. We ended the campaing in debt. We learned that there is no way you can stop those in the gay community whenever we cliam that they are leadership from selling out for their own self gains. We learned that there is no way to prevent the Govenrmor from breaking his wirex word. We did learn that one of the answers is to go out and buy our own printing press...we already did that!