

# SF Gay Politics: A Style for 1978

By Chris Perry

One year ago seven people who shared a common vision of the future of the gay movement came together to form the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club. We felt it was time for gay people to quit courting favors from "tolerant" politicians, and to start forming coalitions with other minorities struggling for equality.

We wanted to work within the electoral process as equal partners with labor, women, and environmental groups. Above all, we wanted to confront every person who aspired to political office with the clear, uncompromising demands of the gay community.

These ideas seemed radical at the time. Now history has caught up with us. Because of the events of last summer, culminating in the election of Harvey Milk, a proud gay consciousness is ready to take its place at the forefront of progressive political action.

It's time for San Francisco's lesbians and gay men to claim that to which our 125,000 votes entitle us. No decisions which affect our lives should be made without the gay voice having been heard. We want our fair share of city services. We want openly gay people appointed and elected to city offices—people who reflect the diversity of our community. We want the schools of San Francisco to provide full exposure to and positive appreciation of gay lifestyles. We are asking no more than we deserve; we will not settle for less.



Harvey Milk with Chris Perry

## We Are Growing—Renew Now

We are growing.

At our November meeting, "An Evening With Harvey Milk," we gained 22 new members for 1978. Since then, thanks in part to a highly successful party in December, 30 others have joined. Included in these 52 new members are four women—we need many more. Longtime member Harvey Milk has been joined by Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver and former supervisorial

candidates Rita George (Dist. 5) and Jesse Tepper (Dist. 11). If all our current members renew for 1978, we will have at least 117 members by the end of January. Most 1977 members have renewed, but those who haven't should do so by January 31. We need all of you. If you can't make the meeting next Monday, please send the enclosed membership form to us at 330 Grove St., San Francisco 94102.

## Unfair Fares for Muni Money?

By Bill Kraus and Dennis Sealey

Muni fares will go up to at least 35 cents if the Board of Supervisors decides to accept \$3-6 million in state subsidies.

Assembly Bill 1107, authored by local Assemblyperson Leo McCarthy, makes the one-half cent BART sales tax permanent and offers part of its revenues to Muni—but only if 33 percent of Muni's operating costs come from passenger fares.

Supporters argue that the subsidy, which the governor has signed into law, will allow the lowering of property taxes and force Muni to be more efficient and economical. Those opposed foresee cutbacks in service and spiraling increases in fares.

Opponents argue that as the fare is raised, fewer people will ride Muni and revenues will fall short of the required 33 percent. Fares will have to be raised again or service cut back, leading to another round of fewer passengers and less revenue. Meanwhile, an ever-increasing share of the cost of public transportation will be borne by those least able to pay.

It may be possible for the city to apply for funds while refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the 33-percent requirement. The equity and constitutionality of the requirement could then be challenged in the courts and the state legislature. Advocates of this approach point out the dangers of increased congestion, pollution and energy consumption if the fares are accepted on McCarthy's terms. Muni, far from being helped by this dubious subsidy, may follow other urban transit systems into decay.

The decision will be made by the Board of Supervisors, probably in February. Harvey Milk, vice-chair of the Streets and Transportation Committee, has promised to do everything possible to persuade the Board of Supervisors to block the fare increase. The positions of most of the other supervisors are less certain.

GAYVOTE is published by the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club, 330 Grove St., San Francisco 94102.

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