

ALICE REPORTS

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Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club · Club Edition

AL GORE

EXCLUSIVE ALICE INTERVIEW

by Ted Reitz

After delivering a major economic policy speech to the Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco, Democratic Presidential candidate and Senator from Tennessee Al Gore invited Alice member Ted Reitz to his room for the following interview.

Reitz: Are you going to focus on AIDS facts and information or on people's reaction to what the disease is?

There is much America can do to Gore: meet the challenge of AIDS. I believe immediate action is warranted in five areas: research for a vaccine and cure, public education, testing, international cooperation, and financing care for those with AIDS. We should launch a Manhattan-style project to speed the finding of a cure and a vaccine. We should also begin a massive program of public education about how to avoid the disease. AIDS is no doubt a major problem, but it is not something we need to fear irrationally. A nation as enlightened as ours should not be forced to live in the darkness this Administration has allowed to grow around AIDS.

Reitz: What level of funding would you promote to develop and implement your concept of a "Manhattan Project-type" endeavor to solve the AIDS crisis?

Gore: I would immediately convene a Presidential Conference of the best authorities in science and medicine to seek recommendations on the maximum amounts of research that could reasonably accelerate finding a cure. The saving of lives should be our first objective.

Reitz: Both Senator Paul Simon and Rev-

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ANOTHER ROUND STILL NO POSITION ON MAYORS RACE OR ON PROP W

by Richmond Young and Lester Olmstead-Rose

MAYORS RACE

Alice members once again withheld an endorsement in the heated San Francisco Mayors race at the October 6 membership meeting.

With 723 members casting ballots, Supervisor John Molinari led with 383 (53%) of the vote. Assembly member Art Agnos followed with 335 (46%) votes. Cesar Ascarrunz and Warren Hinckle each garnered one vote, and two members opted for No Endorsement.

Although poll workers were met by a record number of eligible Alice members, and the polls were forced to move twice during voting, the process remained free of major controversy or problems.

Alice membership has boomed in recent months in anticipation of the vote. Just under 300 people were on membership rolls as of last winter, a number which burgeoned to over 1100 in October. A third of the membership didn't show up to vote in the Mayor's race.

There are no plans for Alice to endorse a candidate before an anticipated December 8 run-off election.

PROPOSITIONS

Alice members voted October 6 on six ballot measures left over from our previous general membership meeting, giving easy endorsements to five of the issues and failing to make a recommendation on the sixth.

Proposition W, the Downtown Stadium policy declaration, received 334 votes (52%), falling 53 votes short of the 60% needed for endorsement. Although neither side received an endorsement, proponents of a stadium at 7th and Townsend improved their showing over the first vote in September, when "Yes" and "No" votes were divided at 47% each.

Proposition O, the minimum firefighter

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ALICE RECOMMENDS

SHERIFF

RE-ELECT MICHAEL HENNESSEY

PRO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RE-ELECT ARLO SMITH

PRO
PRO
DISTRICT ELECTIONS

YES ON PROPOSITION P

PRO
PRO

PROP R Utility Users Tax Repeal PROP T Public Land Voting Rights

NO POSITION MAYOR PROPOSITION W

VOTE NO ON

VOTE YES ON

PROP A Police Facilities Bonds PROP B Street Improvement Bonds PROP C Health Facilities Bonds PROP D Recreation and Park Bonds PROP F Parking Revenue Bonds PROP G Office of Citizen Complaints PROP H Deputy Sheriff Probation PROP I Deputy Sheriff Retirement PROP J Union Pensions PROP K Nurses Retirement Exemption PROP L County Clerks Office PROP N Election Filing Deadlines PROP O Health Services Board PROP P District Elections PROP Q Minimum Firefighting Staffing PROP U Nuclear Free Zone PROP V Consumer Apartheid Boycott

INTERVIEW WITH AL GORE

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erend Jesse Jackson have publicly endorsed the pending Congressional legislation to extend federal civil rights protection to gay and lesbian people. How do you feel?

Gore: Discrimination on the basis of sexual preference should be prohibited. I favor protection of civil rights of those discriminated against on the basis of sexuality, although I do not support affirmative action as a remedy for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Reitz: Senator Jesse Helms had called for withholding the entire budget for the District of Columbia (FY'88) unless the City Council repealed an ordinance banning AIDS discrimination in insurance. How did you vote?

Gore: I voted against the latest Helm's amendment. During last year's review of the Washington D.C. law, the issue was different: whether or not the Senate should instruct the District of Columbia to go back and rethink the part of the ordinance that prohibited AIDS testing for life insurance. My opposition was on the basis that for most life insurance, the policy of medical underwriting is standard, where invariably people are checked based upon the actuarial risk of dying young or old, and that basis should not be changed in the case of AIDS.

Health and disability insurance, on the other hand, is written differently. Insurers should not test for AIDS or discriminate on the basis of a positive test for AIDS when applied to health and disability insurance. Here, I am opposed to the 'medical underwriting' policy of insurance companies, because my national health policy says all Americans should have health insurance.

I am an original co-sponsor of the AIDS Federal Policy Act which, if enacted, would make it a crime to discriminate (against people with AIDS).

Reitz: But you mentioned testing as a part of your AIDS program. Do you plan to camouflage the AIDS issue in testing legislation, or get on to the main points of education and finding a cure?

Gore: The first step of any testing policy must be to enact legislation with strong confidentiality and anti-discrimination provisions. Simply, voluntary testing should be available to everyone...but also, testing is a means to an end. The question is not whether to test, but

for what results?

Reitz: So, your position on the Washington D.C. anti-discrimination ordinance has changed?

Gore: No, this time the issue was entirely different. The time allotted the Senate for review of D.C.'s ordinances had long since expired. Now, the issue was whether or not the Senate was going to reach in and strike down a law already in effect. I opposed that as

a matter of procedure.

Reitz: Do you support the appointment of additional qualified gay representatives to the Presidential AIDS Commission?

Gore: Yes, absolutely. It's disgraceful that the President hasn't done more. Not since Herbert Hoover has a President done less when he should have known better.

LESBIANS, GAYS, AND BISEXUALS FOR

JESSE JACKSON

FOR PRESIDENT

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Next meeting, 861-0569 or contact Mike Denton

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