

Gayvote Interview

Wayne Friday: Bartender, B.A.R. Columnist and Spirited Leader of the Tavern Guild

SF Gay member Wayne Friday gave up a 15-year career as an investment banker because of gay politics. For the last four years he's worked as a bartender, and recently became the first bar employee to be elected president of the Tavern Guild of San Francisco. Wayne also writes a stinging political column for Bay Area Reporter, and is a longtime political supporter and close friend of Harvey Milk.

Why would a progressive gay activist put so much energy into an association of bar owners?

The Tavern Guild isn't just bar owners. Many bar employees are involved. The Guild has been around for 18 years and is a significant economic power within and outside the gay community.

One positive activity the Tavern Guild has been involved in has been the boycott of Coors beer, in which you have played a leading role. How did this come about?

This boycott is something that couldn't have happened without an organization like the Guild. It's important to distinguish between the Tavern Guild boycott and the boycott of Coors by organized labor. The Guild boycott began when I was vice president and we were able to get a moratorium on the sale of Coors because they were discriminating against gays and other minorities. It's been the single most effective demonstration of gay economic power. Seventy-one bars are supporting the boycott, and Coors' sales are off dramatically.

How do you see the future of the boycott?



Wayne Friday

Nothing can be gained by dragging it out indefinitely. I believe we've achieved our maximum impact. Coors has come around on the discrimination issue. It's in our interest to end the boycott on our best terms, at the best time for us. That time may be soon.

How do you read the defeat of Proposition 6?

The most important thing is that we musn't kid ourselves that the outcome was an acceptance of our lifestyle. It was a rejection of Briggs. We might well have lost the election if Briggs had gone on vacation.

Where do we go from here?

Our first priority has to be the reelection of Harvey Milk. If a strong straight person should defeat him next year, it would be a big step backward for us. And I think any gay with political ambitions who lives in District Five can forget about being a supervisor for the time being, because there's no

chance a gay challenger can beat Milk.

Whom are you supporting in next year's mayoral race?

I'm for Harvey Milk for mayor. Not now—give him maybe six years. As for next year, Moscone so far is doing everything right. We certainly can't support Quentin Kopp.

Do you have any political ambitions of your own?

Right now, I want to raise money for Harvey. If we don't get behind him, we're stupid. I don't see myself as holding office. I'd much rather twist arms as an activist than kiss ass as a politician. Someday, I want to own a bar.

Do gay bar owners exploit their workers?

Sure, there's exploitation. But not like it was six or seven years ago. I don't see it as a real problem now. There are some bar owners I'm going to talk to. As an example of progress, we're developing a hospitalization plan for bar workers. And that's going to happen right away.

Community Center

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son, both officers of Toklas, fought unsuccessfully to prevent that organization from endorsing the proposal.

According to Milk, the issue is simply whether or not the gay community gets the badly needed funds.

"If this application isn't approved, the money will go somewhere else," he says. "Given these two clear alternatives, it's hard to see how a friend of the gay community can vote 'no.'"

Milk's aide, Dick Pabich, added: "Mayor Moscone is delivering on a campaign promise he made to our community. If we let this opportunity go by, we will have let the mayor off the hook."

Chris Perry, SF Gay political affairs coordinator, says the gay community must make it clear to Hutch that the issue is not Harvey Milk versus Paul Hardman.

"The issue is whether we get the money," he states. "If she votes 'no,' she doesn't deserve our support for reelection. Ella needs to walk around her district and see who her constituents are."

November Meeting Tuesday, November 28

**Douglas School, 4235 19th St.
(Between Collingwood and Diamond)**

7:00 p.m., Refreshments 7:30 p.m., Meeting
8:00 p.m., Program (Details on page 1)