

Alice REPORTS

Official Publication of the Alice B. Toklas
Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club · Club Edition

NANCY PELOSI

Alice members will vote on an endorsement of a 5th Congressional District candidate at the June General Membership meeting. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Candidate, submitted the following statement to Alice members.

San Francisco has a proud tradition of being at the forefront of national progressive politics through the Congressional leadership of Phillip and Sala Burton. I look forward to carrying on that tradition as your representative in Congress.

My top priority will be AIDS funding for research, education, and care. The burden of AIDS must not be carried by the gay and lesbian community alone. At the end of March, I met with the California Democratic Congressional delegation and spoke to them about the necessity of stepping up the battle against the Reagan administration's inactivity. I expect to join my efforts with those of Rep. Henry Waxman and Rep. Barbara Boxer to escalate funding to fight the epidemic. I will add a medical professional to my staff to assist in the lobbying efforts for AIDS legislation.

The battle against AIDS cannot be fought incrementally. A massive infusion of federal funding is needed instantly. I propose a one-time appropriation of \$2 billion for a Federal AIDS Emergency Fund to reimburse localities such as San Francisco whose resources have been severely strained in their fight against AIDS, and to provide start-up funds to other communities with no programs in place.

Additionally, the federal government must allocate \$3 billion annually to fight AIDS, with monies divided between research, health care, and education. It's important that this money for AIDS not come from the budget of existing service organizations. With \$40-50 billion of waste in the military budget (by *Republican* estimates), this should be an attainable goal. Beyond the \$3 billion allocation, the budgets of other agencies that provide services that impact on fighting the epidemic should be increased commensurately. I will proudly point to the exemplary model for care that the gay community of San Francisco has developed, and encourage members of Congress to support similar efforts among their own constituencies.

I oppose any program of mandatory AIDS antibody testing. I also oppose routine testing that would attempt to sidestep the issue of informed consent. Rather than routine testing, we need *routine counseling*. Simplistic strategies, such as Reagan's "Just Say No" pronouncement, must be rendered socially unacceptable. The entire population of this country needs complete information to assess their own personal risk, and to avoid infecting themselves or others. This must be done with an unusual degree of sensitivity to the individual being counseled.

Gay men and lesbians need the fullest protection of the law to end discrimination. On my first day in office, I will become a sponsor of the national Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights bill. I will advocate an end to discriminatory practices by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, including those which exclude the free entry of gay men and lesbians into the United States.

continued on page 5



Nancy Pelosi

WOMEN AND ECONOMICS

by Nancy Walker

Women's issues are economic issues and as such affect all of my legislative work, ranging from planning for San Francisco in the year 2000 to the City's model sexual harassment ordinance.

Women and minorities in the 1980's remain less affluent, disproportionately under- and un-employed, and more vulnerable both physically and economically. All my legislative priorities speak to the need for affordable housing, employment, education, child care and health care -- all key issues to the economically disadvantaged. These critical needs must remain economic and legislative priorities to shore up the gains of the past and stake out a progressive program for the future.

A women's legislative agenda reflecting changing realities in the 1980's and beyond includes many segments of our society which are not, at a quick glance, "women's." One

continued on page 5