

ALICE REPORTS

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALICE B. TOKLAS MEMORIAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ALICE: DEFEAT THE RECALL

BY ROBERTO ESTEVES

Last month's ALICE meeting focused upon the heated debate surrounding Mayor Feinstein's recall. Forty-five speakers spoke for one minute each on the values of endorsing the recall, defeating the recall or remaining neutral.

Pro recall speakers cited Feinstein's veto of the "Domestic Partners" legislation, and

her record of support for downtown interests, landlords and condominium conversions. Anti-recall proponents cited the Mayor's appointments of ALICE members to City Commissions, her longtime support for gay rights, and recent agreement to support increased funding for KS and AIDS as well as CUAU and other gay causes.

The final 222 votes divided into 137 to oppose, 73 to support, and 12 voting for ALICE to take

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

"DEMAND \$\$\$ FOR AIDS CRISIS"

BY RANDY STALLINGS

Our community is currently facing its worst crisis since the mass executions of gays and lesbians during World War II. I am, of course, talking about the AIDS epidemic. An overstatement? Consider the facts. The number of reported AIDS cases is doubling every six months. There are currently around 1,100 reported cases. Simple Algebra will tell you that at that rate (and no increase in rate) tens of millions will be afflicted by the end of the decade. The gay community, as we know and love it, will cease to exist. Panic is not useful, for it denotes frenzied helplessness. Rage channeled into action is what we need.

We hear a lot of rage aimed at ourselves, often by members of our own community. We should not do this or that sexual activity. We should not give blood. Common sense must, of course, prevail. We must become very responsible with our sexual practices. But it is time to direct that rage outward. Our brothers who are already sick and the millions who will be demand our immediate and profound action.

The federal and state governments have been extremely unresponsive to this national health emergency. The National Institute of Health has released, for example, only token amounts of money for research. This negligence borders on the obscene. Our representatives in Congress, Phil Burton and Barbara Boxer have been most helpful in introducing legislation that would provide research money. They need help. Think of who you know in other locales, call or write them and insist they write their Congresspeople and that they ask their friends to do the same.

We must demand at least \$20 million of our tax money to be released immediately

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AIDS

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for this crisis. How much was spent solving the Toxic Shock, Legionnaires or poison Tylenol mysteries? Hundreds more have already died of AIDS than of all of those tragedies combined. You'd better believe the money would materialize if the groups affected were college athletes or suburban homemakers. We must use every strategy to save ourselves, including civil disobedience and other forms of disruption if necessary. Our government is exterminating us by their neglect just as surely as if they were herding us into camps. What a convenient way to rid themselves of "problem populations" like gay men, Haitians, and intravenous drug users!

ALICE must commit itself to doing whatever is necessary to help end this nightmare. Nothing less will suffice. You will be hearing much more about this in the future.

On another subject, the ALICE April meeting will have as its first major agenda item the question of whether to rescind our position on the recall. The bylaw that allowed this motion needs to be considerably tightened up, in my opinion. But in the meantime, please come to vote against this motion. A two-thirds vote will be needed for the motion to pass, but please don't take anything for granted. You will be able to vote from 6:00 on. Just come by, vote and leave if you want.

The question is no longer the mayor or the recall. The question is the integrity of an ALICE endorsement. For us to go through a long process and endorse, only to reverse ourselves a month later for no compelling reason would make us look ridiculous and chaotic. We would make fools of ourselves. Anyone who loves ALICE cannot let that happen. Please come and vote against this absurd motion.

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VOTE NO

APRIL 26

MEMBERSHIP

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The visibility of our club is vastly improved when we spend time at our street table and take the opportunity to reach the public.

Further planning is ongoing and both ideas for membership activities and help in carrying them out are always more than welcome. At the next membership meeting, Thursday, April 28, we will discuss the participation of ALICE in the Gay Freedom Day Celebrations. We hope to create something special this year, so please come and contribute your ideas. Call me at 864-1774 for more info.