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EDITORIAL: A HOME FOR ALICE -Ken Bowers

In the last year, Alice lost its permanent headquarters on Noe because of inability to come up with the rent. I consider that most unfortunate; the headquarters was not only valuable as a base of operations, but also gave us a sense of identity and significance to the general community.

I feel it would be wise for us to take our club seriously enough to seek and maintain a permanent headquarters and staff person again. We have a broad membership which, if it takes Alice seriously at all, could collectively come up with a few hundred dollars a month to finance an office. It will call for some sacrifice, but Alice can do nothing for you without your help. I felt bad about our losing the Noe office but my business was not established then and I was unable to do anything about it; however I am now committing myself to producing *Alice Reports* monthly, since I now have the necessary seed money as well as skills to do it. This involves giving up some luxuries, just as whoever shares our office expenses will also have to do. Decide for yourself if it is worth *your* effort.

Besides being a convenient location for meetings and functions, our office could give us a centralized base of operations during campaigns. It could, once again, serve notice to others that we are here to stay. Further, with a permanent office and staff person we could effectively pursue year around activity such as lobbying vigorously at local, state, and national levels. Legislators would know where how and when to reach us, and we them.

RIGHT ON!!!

-Ken Bowers

Howard L. Wallace, 38 - year old long time Teamster and Gay activist, has recently started working as a beer truck driver for Turturici, Inc., a distributor of beer and wine doing a significant business to Gay bars. Beer Drivers' and Salesmens' Local 888 hopes to place further Gay applicants with similar positions soon; this reporter sees these events as very significant in union-dominated San Francisco.

As far back as two years hence, Howard, along with Castro - area businessman Harvey Milk, has supported and agitated for affirmative action hiring and retention programs covering religious and ethnic minority groups in local unions. Part of this effort involved helping out in both the Gallo Wine and Coors Beer boycotts.

Teamsters Local 888, earlier this year, approached Bay Area Gay Liberation for support in the Coors boycott. In exchange Allan Baird of Local 888 pledged that Local's help in placing openly Gay applicants on delivery jobs within its jurisdiction. True to his promise, Baird did succeed in placing our first openly Gay Teamster job applicant.

Howard is very concerned about more Gays applying for and obtaining union jobs here, not only through Teamsters Local 888 but through *all* the labor organizations. A basic step he sees in achieving this is for all active *and inactive* Gay members of unions to get active in their union politics by attending meetings, voicing their views to the officers and perhaps running for office to obtain an affirmative action policy for Gays in as many locals as possible. Inactive members, Howard notes, need but pay a month's or quarter's active dues to their unions to become active and have full voting privileges. An inactive member of more than one union will probably have to pick one union to be active in, as many unions do not recognize "dual membership".

Such activity on a large scale would advance our campaign for human equality with the mainstream of society *greatly*. The unions in San Francisco are one, if not *the*, largest source of employment. A man who no longer need worry about job security due to his personal preferences has indeed made a great stride. Bay Area Gay Liberation, which Howard is active in, hopes to form Gay caucuses in as many unions as possible, with members using Howard's method to gain active voices in the trade organizations. Members of Alice who are or who have been union members might be interested in cooperating with B.A.G.L. in this effort by calling 431-1522 or coming to a B.A.G.L. meeting on the first or third Thursday of the month, 7:30 PM, SIR Center, 83 6th Street.

#### SACRAMENTO TIDBITS

There is action in Sacramento to improve the general legal climate in California - including John Foran's AB 633, which would make unlawful the discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. Of course, there is also Willie Brown's AB 489, making good progress as of this writing, deleting penalties for living in adultery, anal sex, or oral sex in private between consenting partners above age 18. Unfortunately, the Brown bill does nothing about solicitation or about situations where one of the *consenting partners* is under age 18. Ken Meade of Oakland has a different approach in his AB 642, which would allow a person charged with certain victimless crimes including gay sex to plead innocent of criminal wrongdoing on the basis that he neither injured or threatened injury to the other party. According to Meade, "It focuses attention on the real issue: the propriety of sending someone to jail for doing something that doesn't harm anyone."

According to the Friends Committee on Legislation, penal code revisions are to be introduced changing present provisions against solicitation. This would make the intent of the Brown bill far more effective in practice.

LATE FLASH: APRIL 22: DIANNE ANNOUNCES

As we go to press, Dianne Feinstein has officially entered the race for Mayor of San Francisco. On KCBS, she gave full employment and a re-ordering of police priorities including more neighborhood foot patrols as her top objectives.

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