

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

Henry David Thoreau



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GETTING OFF

Unlike in New York (both city and state), gays and liberals in California have just about gotten a gay-rights bill passed. The Democrats in the State Senate pushed it through over the dead bodies of the Republicans 22 to 16.

The Bible thumpers were there, of course, spouting ancient Judean law and speaking on behalf of God Himself.

Before the smoke cleared away, there was a surprise or two. Of the mere four Republicans to vote for the rights bill, one was the heretofore homophobic former police chief of Los Angeles, Senator Ed Davis, the terror of the gay community during his years in police work.

He even made a statement or two. He described how the Christian opponents of the bill threatened him if he voted for it. He described a call from a "Christian" woman with the message that, "because I'm a Christian, I have to love homosexuals."

"You love them, but you starve them to death," Davis said, and added, "We cannot have one branch of faith making our laws for us. God must be thoroughly disgusted at some of the things we do in the name of religion." Who would have thought that DRUMMER would be quoting the wisdom of the man who once sent at least 107 L.A. policemen to break up the Leather Fraternity's charity slave auction?

Now the bill is waiting to be signed, vetoed, or ignored by the right-wing governor, who has been careful to express no opinion about it to date.

It would seem that the term "gay Republican" is as self-cancelling as is "young Republican."

John H. Embry

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