

"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



THE AYATOLLAH FALWELL

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Cover: Back to back—bookends from the Drummer Collection.
 Opposite page: The action reaches melt-down in VCA's Chain Reaction.

GETTING OFF

You probably don't buy DRUMMER to tell you how to vote. But this column this time is going to be devoted not only to that information but a couple of other things that some of us need to be told to do.

Last month in Dallas, the GOP endorsed an extremist platform hand-crafted by Phyllis Schlafly, Jesse Helms and other right-wing radicals hell-bent on imposing their narrow, dark vision of America on the rest of us. And, as they left Dallas, Jerry Falwell and many New Right homophobes vowed to go all-out in conducting the most massive voter registration drive they've ever done. The Republicans spent over one hundred million dollars to put The Great Cue Card Reader in office as a figurehead. It has not boded well for gays, or much of anybody else other than the military-industrial complex, for that matter. This time around there is virtually no limit to what these people can spend or to their resources.

Here in San Francisco, the Democrats kept their convention open to virtually every minority, especially gays. We are in the platform and we were at the convention. Our rights and our progress hinges on the next four years. The Supreme Court, if Reagan makes more appointments, will be worthless to us past the end of the century.

What can you do? Get out and work. Or contribute. Or, failing that, register and vote. The election of Mondale and Ferraro could possibly put an end to the insane arms buildups, the deficits that cannot be paid off in our lifetimes, the erosion of the bill of rights. Reagan's defeat can give new hope for women, for gays, for Social Security and human rights everywhere. These are not election-time platitudes. It is simple fact.

Jerry Falwell has announced that he is registering the "faithful" to vote "the right way" (extreme right and anti-gay) by the hundreds of thousands. Believe it or not, the far right is the minority—there are more of us than them. Let's get to work or the rest of the century will be a quick trip back to the dark ages.

If you don't vote this time around, you deserve what you get. But do the rest of us?

John H. Embry

PUBLISHER	JOHN H. EMBRY
CO-PUBLISHER	MARIO SIMONE
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER	JOHN W. ROWBERRY
EDITOR	ROBERT PAYNE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR/FICTION	STEVEN SAYLOR
ART DIRECTOR	LAUREN STEINHART
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ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

ROD VICTOR

(415) 543-5430

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