## Problem solver: Denise D'Anne

by Cynthia Laird

enise D'Anne is the only openly transgender candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors race next month, when voters will send five of 17 candidates into office for two-year terms. D'Anne has not been listed at the top of the field by many observers, but she has won the endorsement of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, one of the few lesser-known candidates to get such a boost.

Described as a resource conservation manager in the voters' pamphlet, D'Anne has a background in various labor organizations. She's a member of the Lavender Caucus of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 790, and on the board of Pride at Work, a AFL-CIO Affiliate advocating for a greater voice for gays in the labor movement.

D'Anne also has a history within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community; in the early 1970s she was instrumental in having the bylaws of SEIU Local 400 (now 790) changed to include no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, she told the B.A.R. in her candidate questionnaire.

She's a registered Democrat and was once a Peace and Freedom Party member. "My philosophy is simple: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' I believe we have to work toward a more equitable distribution of resources so all may live in health and comfort," she said.

D'Anne's favorite topic is streamlining the workings of city government. "My suggestion is to first change the budget process which has a built-in bias to spend and not save. Second, I would adopt [my] Resource Recovery Program that has saved the Department of Human Services, where I work, hundreds of thousands of dollars over an 18-year period."

The city's least efficient department? "The police (too much overtime, mostly attributed to more police at pickets and rallies than participants at these events) and the Department of Human Services, which gets its funding from the federal, state, and local coffers making it less responsible on how it uses its funding," said D'Anne.

In terms of how aware LGBT people are of city services, D'Anne agreed with other candidates and said the city should do more to make sure people know of services. "I think the transgender community is one that is suffering from lack of services and sensitiv-



Denise D'Anne wants city government to recover.

ity to their particular needs in the area of jobs, housing, police actions, and their every day ability to survive in a hostile environment," she said. "In regards to transgender people, the gay community needs to become more involved and more sensitive as well."

Regarding quality of life issues in predominantly gay parts of town, D'Anne said schools and churches need to take a more active part in dispelling the myths about gay people.

She also favors a moratorium on chain store proliferation. "As a community, we need to boycott present chain stores to send a message that we do not want them destroying our small businesses and the character of our neighborhoods," said D'Anne.

Concerning increased traffic hazards in the South of Market, D'Anne said a citywide public transportation plan is needed that would include all forms of travel. Secure bicycle lanes, dedicated lanes for buses that run in the opposite direction of traffic, more bus runs, secure bike racks, and even free Muni service at night are some of the ideas she'd work on if elected.

Crime in the Polk Gulch area should be dealt with by increasing walking police patrols, providing more recreation services for youth, treatment on demand for substance abusers, and more job opportunities, D'Anne explained, adding that gay-sensitive officers should be utilized in areas with heavy gay populations.

In terms of HIV/AIDS services in the city, D'Anne said, "The

Board of Supervisors can provide for more secure funding for needed services. It could monitor present service providers to make sure that funds are going to help AIDS victims. We are doing a lot in the field of helping people with AIDS and advocating for prevention but some communities are sorely neglected and we need to focus on all communities affected with this dreadful disease."

D'Anne said she'd advocate for more secure housing and services all day long to help with homeless and panhandling concerns of some merchants and residents in the Castro. "Help the homeless transition into jobs and training and provide for treatment on demand for substance abusers," she said.

What's the single thing D'Anne wants the LGBT community to know about her? "I have spent the last 30 years actively involved in community, labor, and civic affairs. That I am a board member of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, a board member of San Francisco Tomorrow, Sustainable San Francisco, MAGIK (a nonprofit that accepts donations of material and furniture from corporations and individuals and dispenses this largess to other nonprofits). That I am especially concerned about our de-teriorating environment, our poor transportation system, and our housing crisis. And that I have a proven record of solving many problems and ideas to solve even more given the opportunity to show my mettle on the Board of Supervisors." ▼