

ELECTORAL FORUM

Who's Afraid of Denise D'Anne for Supervisor?

By Sebastian Robles

Denise D'Anne looks the public straight in the eye when she speaks. Maybe it's her Sagitarius asserting itself. She addressed the SF Labor Council, saying, "Don't support candidates that call themselves our friends, vote for one of your own." Delegates applauded. She is a City worker, and an active member of SEIU/Local 790. Her speech mentioned her program, her long-time union membership, and her legendary dedication and support for labor struggles.

She received over half of the 48,000 per-capita votes cast that night: not enough to get the official endorsement of the Labor Council (you need two thirds of the votes for that), but definitely an impressive showing for somebody running for the first time. She has already received the endorsement of SEIU locals 790, 535 and 250.

Some delegates were persuaded by what she said and switched their votes at the last minute. Her strong showing cost incumbents and some challengers from the belly of the machine their endorsements. The SF Labor Council ended up endorsing only three candidates for Supervisor of the five seats at stake.

Denise, the only transgender person running for office in this town, is also very well-known in the l/g/b/t/ commu-

nity. She received the second largest number of votes at the Harvey Milk Democratic Club and will certainly receive other endorsements in that community. This endorsement was followed by that of the SF Tenants Union. Even though she is a homeowner, she is a strong defender of tenants' rights: "I have been a tenant for most of my life." Next she acquired the environmentalist endorsements of the League of Conservation Voters and San Francisco Tomorrow. Then the prize for any Democratic woman running for office arrived in the form of her endorsement by the National Organization of Women.

Some of the liberal Democratic Party clubs, such as the one in Noe Valley also endorsed her. This avalanche of endorsements caused her candidacy to become, according to the official lingo of the mainstream media, a "credible" one. If, as is expected, she receives the endorsement of other political clubs and that of the *Bay Guardian*, she will have a fair shot at winning.

That she has a small but significant war chest and that she is planning mailings and other "traditional" electoral tactics reinforces that fact. Of course the Establishment's *Chron/Ex* and TV stations ignored this. She was nowhere to be found in the news emerging as one

of the major candidates. They decided to make her invisible. Why?

First is the fact that she is a transgender, something neither the mainstream media nor some of the gay press can deal with! Second, she is not your typical Democrat, you know. For a number of years she was registered Peace & Freedom Party and she is running against at least four of the incumbents in the race (Teng, Leno, Newsom and Brown.) For Supervisor she has endorsed Carlos Petroni, Editor of *SF Frontlines*, and Lucrecia Bermúdez, both of the Progressive Left Slate and Frederick Hobson.

Programmatically, she is to the left of the rest of the Democratic Party's incumbents—and challengers—including Tom Ammiano (whom she is also endorsing). In public forums and other gatherings she often has coincided with the positions of the Progressive Left Slate's platform.

She wrote to us as follows:

"I can only agree that the Draft Platform of the Progressive Left Slate is comprehensive, well thought out and far reaching. It is a blueprint that needs to be seriously considered and acted upon by Supervisorial aspirants, if San Francisco is to survive the increasing polar-



ization among its population. The platform is sensible and doable. Many features of the platform mirror my own views but go much further. The platform offers a lesson to all of us inundated with sound bites: Nothing can take the place of serious analysis and scholarly research. Now the challenge is the implementation."

Sorry, we NEVER endorse registered Democrats or Republicans. We consider both parties the main problem when it comes to representation. But we can tell our readers that Denise D'Anne is certainly worthy of recognition. ♦

If you wish to volunteer for Denise D'Anne's Campaign or want more information, call (415) 267-3909.