



Lesbian and Gay HISTORICAL SOCIETY of San Diego

NEWSLETTER

"Preserving and Teaching Our History"

Looking Back to the 70s: The Building Blocks of Our Community

by Frank Sabatini, Jr.

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series of Frank Sabatini's "Pieces of Pride." Sabatini, Pride Media Coordinator, wrote them to commemorate the 25th anniversary of San Diego Pride. He researched the "Pieces" largely from the early newsletters and newspapers in the LGHSSD collection. The articles were published in the Gay and Lesbian Times during the months preceding the 1999 Pride celebration. These selections from "Pieces of Pride" are printed with permission of the author.

The first gay candidate. Being an open homosexual and running for political office during the 1970s was like taking a lit match to a stick of dynamite and putting in your mouth. It wasn't until the early part of 1979 that San Diego saw its first gay candidate create a firestorm of controversy by competing for a seat on the city council. Almost immediately after announcing his candidacy for District 2, Al Best was fired from his job as a sales manager for Dictating Systems of San Diego — and had received the first of two death threats from Aryan Nation leader Tom Metzger. Both the gay and straight

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Al Best, shown today, made history as San Diego's first openly gay candidate for City Council in 1979. He was appointed by Mayor O'Connor to the Civil Service Commission of San Diego in 1990 and served as president-elect of the National Association of Civil Service Commissioners.

Reflections on the Kehoe Campaign of '98

by Julie Warren

Editor's note: Julie Warren is an artist and graphics design teacher. Chris Kehoe has donated campaign materials from all her campaigns to the LGHSSD.

When my partner Christine Kehoe first ran for public office in 1993, it was a frightening experience for me. The idea of going from a regular, private person to a public figure's partner was almost too much to handle. Of course, Christine won her historic race for San Diego City

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Kehoe launches her 1998 Congressional bid on a blustery March day on Harbor Island.