

"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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Cover and Opposite Page: It takes a man to handle a stogie. John Kass, cigar smoker extraordinaire. Photos by Jim Wigler.

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GETTING OFF

Nine years ago from about the time you will be reading this, virtually the entire staff of the *Advocate* got together with us to start a newspaper, the *Advocate's* new owner discarding both location and staff. Somewhere along the way we agreed to disagree and went into the magazine publishing business instead with an off-the-wall idea entitled *DRUMMER*. But the newspaper always seemed to be unfinished business.

Today, with the California governor vetoing the vitally important Gay Right To Work bill, AIDS being a medical, social and political plague in the community (with both gays and their enemies making the most and worst of it), the coming political campaigns bringing out the Democrats at their least and Reaganites at their worst, the (straight) Olympic Games, and who knows what else, the time seems to be right.

Communication is one of the great contributions the gay press makes. *DRUMMER* and *MANIFEST* fill their needs admirably. Each has been a success in its own right. But there is another world out there. The hetero press doesn't fulfill it. The *Advocate* abandoned its role as a newspaper, along with that staff, a long time ago.

Enter our new effort. Alternate Publishing very soon will be releasing a San Francisco/National newspaper unlike any you have ever seen before. We think you want it. We know we all need it.

The name?

Hasn't been christened yet. But what's in a name?

John H. Embry, Publisher

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