

IN MEMORY

GAY FOCUS

Crusader

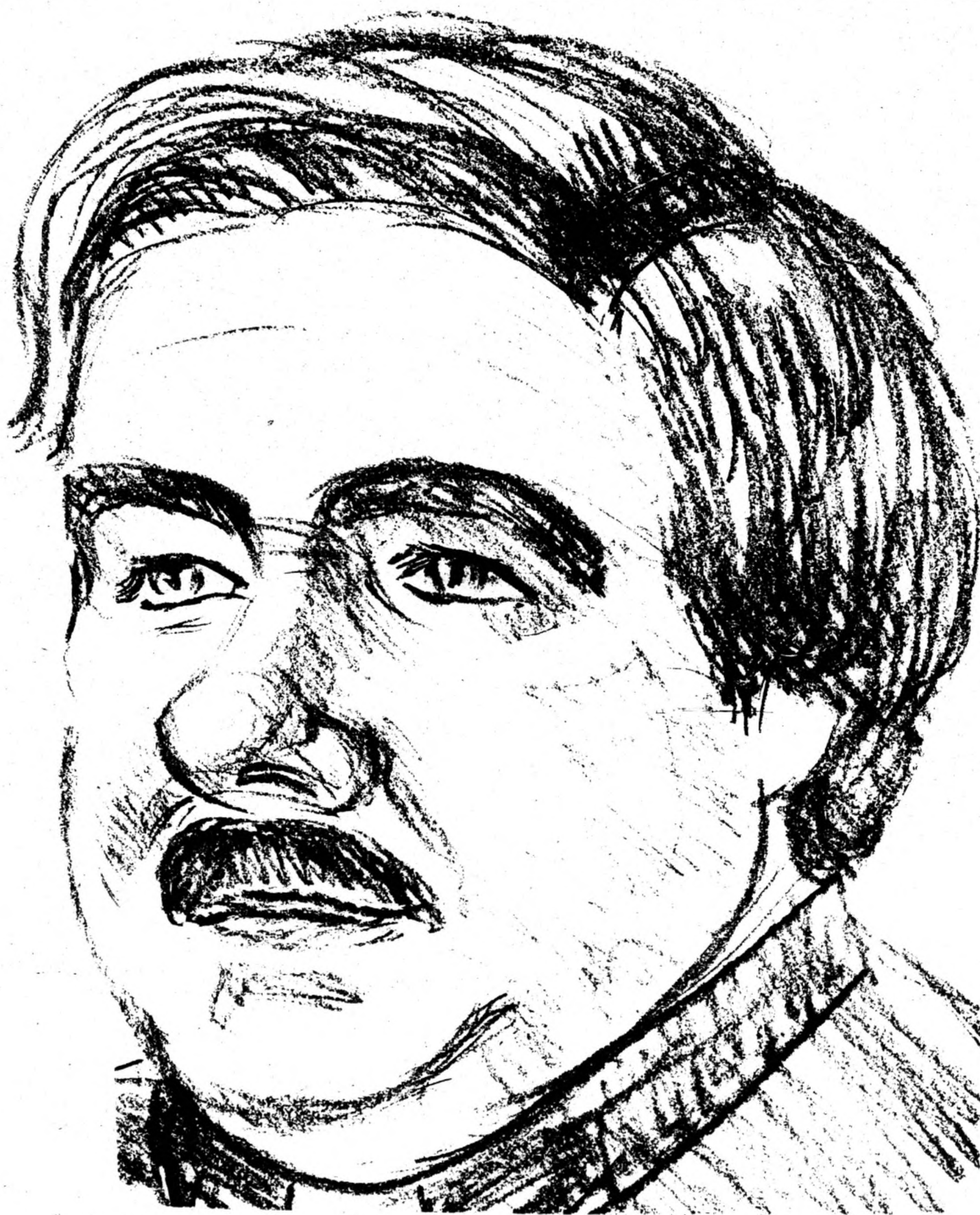
"A Fight of Understanding for All"

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Memorial Issue

FREE



REV. RAYMOND BROSHEARS

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE GAY COMMUNITY'S MOST
CONTROVERSIAL PERSONALITY!

Ray "who"? a Crusader

(Staff Note: Elisa did a write up on our editor, Rev. Ray, and I have followed that up with one of my own, and together we combined to do a story on Ray which promised not to edit... for we felt that too few of the "New Gays" knew little or nothing about Ray, except from rumors, and from Rev. Ray's political and criminal foes. So, here it is Ray, like it or lump it, but it is you as we who work with you see you and know of you!)

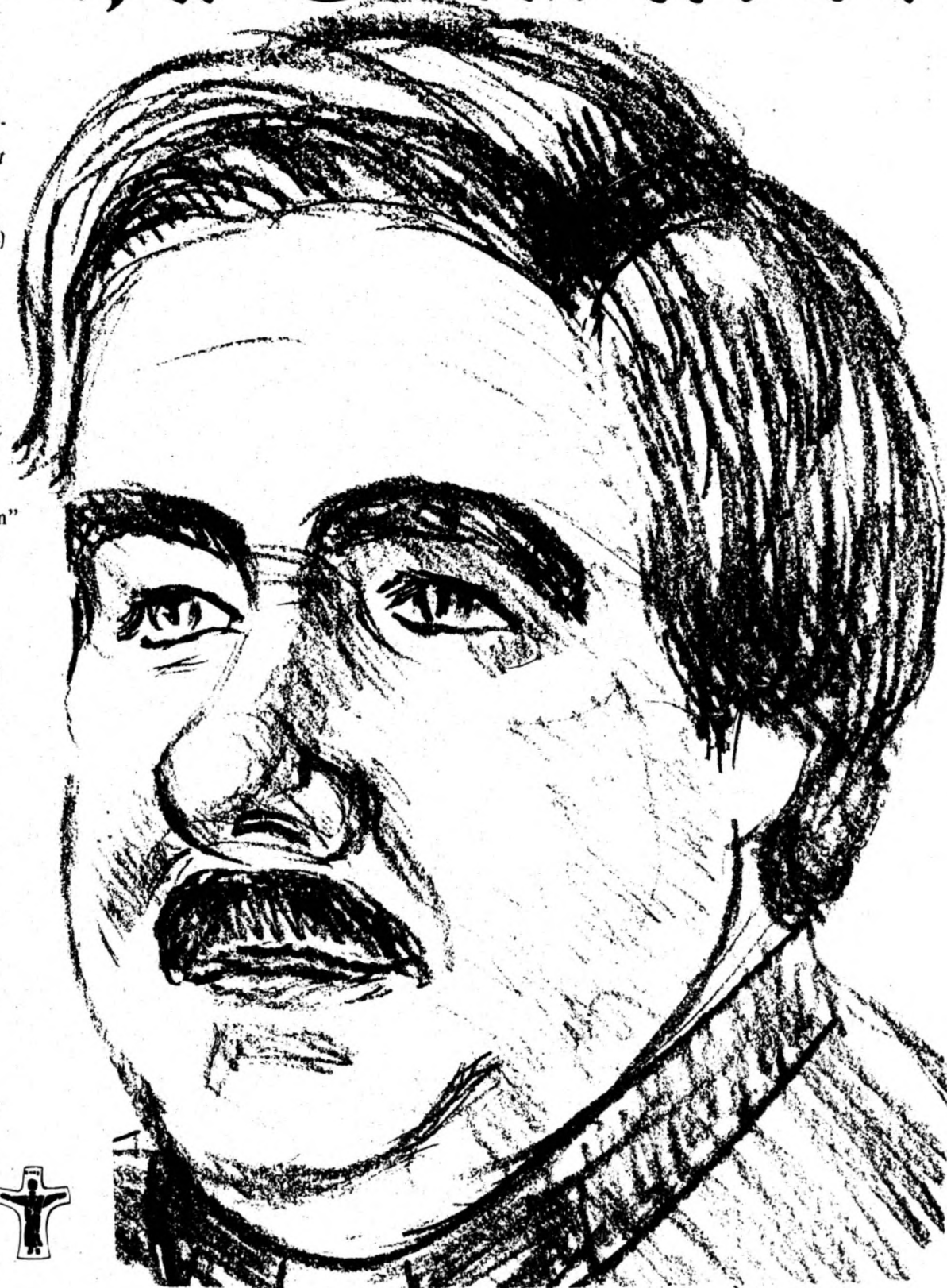
Raymond Bro-shears, born February 14, 1935, in Centerville Station, Illinois, as Earl Raymond Allen (his mother re-married three years afterward and had his name changed to Broshears) and contracted polio at age 2½. Ray was raised by his grandmother ("Mom") and three aunts who were about his own age so they were like sisters, Margaret, Violet and Betty (we were saddened to learn that as we prepared this story, Ray's beloved Violet passed away on October 16th, at 56, victim of cancer. we extend to Ray our deepest sympathy) who reside in southern Missouri and Illinois, the area which was raised in some of his childhood. He went to public schools in East Saint Louis, Joplin, Little Rock, Saint Louis, Tyler, Charleston, South Carolin, and San Francisco.

Ray was an extremely religious youth according to his late aunt Violet whom we spoke to before she passed, stating that Mom "wanted Raymond to become a preacher", and she stated that he taught Sunday school at age 14 and was Sunday school superintendent at age 15 at the Midway Baptist Mission Church. Ray quit school at age 16 to go to work to help his grand "Mom" and worked as an orderly for \$20 a week at the Proctor Hospital in Peoria, living with his aunt Violet, sending the little funds to his Mom.

He entered the U.S. Navy at age 17, and graduated Hospital Corps School (medical corpsman). He later was discharged in 1955 for medical reasons.

Ray had incurred a serious injury to the head causing what was then thought to be a minor brain disfunction, and later it turned out that Ray had epilepsy and suffered severely from that, at one time to the point of death. But Ray's strong faith in God, helped him to recover. Ray was licensed as an evangelist with the Pentecostal Church of God. Later he entered Lee Bible College and graduated and was ordained a minister with the elder Church of God. Ray toured the south as an evangelist and as a pastor. It was during this period he became involved with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and it was this that led him to become involved with many diverse types of people. Up to this time he had not. Ray left the Church of God, as they did not approve of integration. He was consecrated into the Orthodox Old Roman Catholic Church in New Orleans in 1973. It was there he met David Ferrie, who later became known for his involvement in the Garrison investigation of the Kennedy assassination. This was before the horrendous killing which the Rev. Ray blamed Lyndon Johnson for, as have many others in years to come. But, Ray was deeply involved in the civil rights struggle which led to great trouble with the Belleville Illinois police and later an arrest for "groping" the seventeen year old nephew of the mayor in a scuffle during a sit-in, which Ray was found guilty of, a misdemeanor, six months in county jail. It was there Ray learned all about homosexuality. After leaving jail, five months a two weeks later, he became involved in the struggle for equal rights for homosexuals a cause not popular back in St. Louis or New Orleans, so Ray came here in December of 1965 and then it really began.

From his first demonstration, a 1966 "sweep-in" on Market Street by the Vanguard Tenderloin group of homosexuals most of whom were "hair-fairies", Ray made his television and media impact here, following this with a violent protest at the Legation in Hunter's Point where two men died as a result of carelessness on the Company's part. Since this time, Ray has been an influence in the San Francisco activists scene, with his battles on behalf of rights for homosexuals. Ray was the co-founder of the GAA (Gay Activists Alliance) in '71 now called the GLA (Gay Lib Alliance). Later Ray founded the Old Folks Defense League (for lobbying and free luncheons). In 1971 on the March to Sacramento for Gay Rights, Ray got into a scuffle with anti-gay newsmen at the Capitol. All told, Ray has either organized or participated in over 500 demonstration in the Bay Area, on a variety of subjects ranging from police brutality, to discrimination against "drags" and the killing of gays. Ray had the first gay newscast on a weekly basis on KSAN-FM radio, later moving to become the first gay program on KPFA in Berkeley (forerunner of Fruit Punch). Ray and Larry Littlejohn held the first live gay TV program, a debate between the gay militants (Ray), and Larry (the establishment). Later Ray helped to produced with Ian Zellick of KTVU-2 the first live interview show with live drag entertainer Lori Shannon. Ray began in 1972 and still continues with his yearly Christmas show for the Veterans at the VA Hospital. Ray has been the State Chairperson of the Peace & Freedom Party ('74-'75), he later founded the Truman Gay Democratic Club. Later he switched parties and founded the first gay Republican Club, the Teddy Roosevelt Club, and back to the Demos again. Ray was the coordinator of the first gay liberation parade in 1972, the year he began this paper. Ray founded the militant armed self-defense group the Lavender Panthers. Ray has been around!



"I'm just a pore ole country preacher, tryin. to get by in the big city!"

Rev. Raymond Bro-shears; Crusader



Rev. Ray in a 1973 demonstration at Alameda Naval Air Station protesting the arrival of the aircraft carrier Midway



Chief Charles R. Gain with the Rev. Ray in 1 1976 luncheon at which he promised to hire gay cops. And the Rev. Ray at a '77 luncheon with Supervisor Dianne Feinstein, which was being held by the Gay Voters League, which Ray founded in 1971.



At a 1976 senior luncheon at Christ Chapel, Assemblyman Art Agnos and Rev. Ray ate with the seniors and discussed the problems of the Tenderloin. Ray began the free luncheons back in 1969.



Bill Beasley of the Black Gay Caucus of BAGL and the Rev. Ray held a protest of police brutality outside of City Hall with 30 others in 1977.



Outside of the SF Examiner Bldg. the Rev. Ray led a demonstration against the continual anti-gay news items in that paper in '75.



Rev. Ray in a 1971 demonstration at Union Square to gain support passage of the Brown, Consenting Sex law



At the 1974 demonstration at Pacific Telephone on Good Friday, "crucifying" a gay, to protest Ma Bell's anti-gay hiring policy for the 3rd year.

Rev. "Picket" at work...



At 1 1972 picket outside the Federal Bldg. to protest U.S. government hiring policies against gays on Good Friday, later meeting with Wm. Maillard.



Outside of the Helping Hands Center, which Ray operated for three years in the Tenderloin, standing guard with a shotgun, as part of the Lavender Panther patrol which was carried in newspapers across the nation and on television.



At a set-in and protest at the Langley Porter (U.C.) Hospital to protest the electro-shock program on patients at that public facility, in 1972, with 137 others in a coalition, is our Rev. Ray.

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CALIFORNIA 94109 (415-775-1117)
REVEREND ROBERT WARREN CROMEY, RECTOR

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR REVEREND RAYMOND CHARLES BROSHEARS

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1982 TWELVE NOON
BORN: FEBRUARY 14, 1935 — DIED: JANUARY 10, 1982

INTERMENT WILL BE AT THE SAN FRANCISCO
NATIONAL CEMETARY, THE PRESIDIO,
AT A LATER DATE

FUNERAL SERVICE
REVEREND ROBERT CROMEY
OFFICIANT

EULOGIES:
MORRIS KIGHT
NATIONAL GAY ACTIVIST
ELMER WILHELM
FRIEND AND GAY ACTIVIST

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Crusader

FEB. 14, 1935 - JAN. 10, 1982