

From the Editor

WE gave careful thought to this week's front-page photograph, aware that some members of the community will not be happy with it.

We do not set out to offend. The bottom-line, however, is that it's news, it's significant news and it's happening in the Jewish community. Furthermore, it impacts on a greater proportion of our community than some might care to admit.

Not only was it the first time that there was an official Jewish entry in the Sydney Mardi Gras, but a Mardi Gras Shabbat dinner was held for the first time — with 250 members of the Jewish community wanting to attend. And a number of members of the community who are not gay participated in both events out of a sense of solidarity with Jewish gays and lesbians.

Gays and lesbians are a part of our community, and it is an issue which needs to be addressed respectfully and constructively.

Mosaic author Diane Armstrong, who marched in the Mardi Gras to demonstrate support for her daughter, has written movingly of her initial anxieties in taking part — and what she got out of it; and we have interviewed the president of a San Francisco synagogue which caters to people of all sexual persuasions (*pages 6 and 17*).

Barbra Streisand's in town, as we're no doubt all aware. While she refused to give interviews, we did speak to Marvin Hamlisch, her accompanist who has won more Academy Awards than she has (three versus two).

In addition, former *AJN* journalist Sharon Labi (now working for Australian Associated Press) has filed an interview with Steven Brinberg, a New Yorker who makes a living impersonating Streisand, complete with nose, Donna Karan gown and voice good enough to take him to off-Broadway (*pages 9 and 26*).

Vic Alhadeff