

From the Editor

THE Pope's apology to the many groups of people who have suffered discrimination at the hands of the Catholic Church was unprecedented in its scope, and for that it is certainly welcome. Unfortunately, it stops short — significantly and pointedly short — of specifically mentioning the Holocaust, and no such apology can be complete without that. We report and comment on Jewish and Israeli reaction to his speech, and we highlight the major points of Jewish-Vatican relations in the past 100 years (*pages 8, 17, 18*).

In this context, guest writer Alan Gold explores the current wave of apologia (*page 19*), and Rabbi Raymond Apple discusses questions which still need to be asked (*page 20*).

The strong Jewish presence in the Sydney Mardi Gras has sparked a wave of reaction to the issue of homosexuality and Judaism. We have received some irate responses, including from a gentleman who informed us that he would be hiding last week's

copy of the *Australian Jewish News* away from his children because of our coverage of the Mardi Gras. However, there has been a remarkable wave of response from members of the community expressing gratitude at the fact that they feel that they have been accorded recognition as part of the community.

South Head Synagogue Rabbi Benzion Milecki has contributed an in-depth discussion of the issue, in which he writes of the need to distinguish between people and behaviour (*page 21*), and we have published a full page of letters, with more to come next week (*page 18*).

On the sports front, world champion barefoot waterskiier Evan Berger has won the NSW Titles. Representing South Africa when he won his world crown, he hopes to represent his adopted country when he defends his title in the United States, by earning Australian colours next week.

Vic Alhadeff