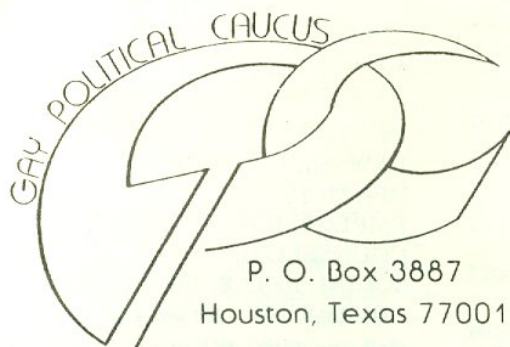




SPECIAL ELECTION NEWSLETTER

October 1979

SEE ENCLOSED ENDORSEMENT CARDS

Montrose Patrol Proves To Be An Effective Crime Fighter

The gay/lesbian community response to the increase in violence in Montrose near the end of this past summer was the formation of the Montrose Patrol. A special GPC meeting was called to discuss the violence in our community and propose solutions. The meeting was spirited to say the least, the focus alternating between police harassment and civilian violence. A group of participants present at the GPC forum met afterwards at Dirty Sally's patio and organized a program of foot patrols in the local Westheimer area. Some 50 volunteers, supported by Mary's, Dirty Sally's and Family, began to solve the problems presented by such a project.

An initial communications network using CB radios and walkie talkies was tried, but interference by passing motorists with CB units and more powerful base units used by "good ol' boys" sitting at home caused too many problems. So, new shortwave FM equipment is now in the plans and should be operational by the Christmas holiday season. Expected total cost of the new equipment is nearly \$15,000. Family and the Tavern Guild are sponsoring this as well as other expenses incurred by the Montrose Patrol.

Personnel is the most pressing need facing the Montrose Patrol. A present, the same 12-15 people report for week-end duty. Four or five times that number need to be on the volunteer lists to cover the need for a 7-day, full time patrol. Some of the local bars are planning to pay one employee one night a week to work with the patrol. However,

volunteers will make up the rest of the staff of the Montrose Patrol in the foreseeable future. No one from GPC has reported as yet for patrol screening or training sessions; that is, of course, embarrassing.

Although the Montrose Patrol has serious communications problems and is understaffed on the few days they work, they have successfully stopped a great deal of in-progress violence and have been instrumental in facilitating the arrests of several groups involved in violence in Montrose. The patrol's relationship with the HPD has been improving, and an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect has evolved between the two groups sharing the responsibility for our safety.

If you are interested in helping the Montrose Patrol with its serious business, call 520-9616.

Meet the Candidates Party Set For October 28

On Sunday, October 28, GPC members are invited to meet those candidates that we've endorsed for the November 6 election. The Party is to be held at The Pleasant Peasant at 1502 South Post Oak from 1-5 PM Sunday afternoon. No cover, cash bar, casual attire; donations are tax deductible. Join us in this opportunity to meet personally with our candidates and bring a friend.

Municipal Elections Committee

The Municipal Elections Committee reports having \$5400 available for use in promoting GPC's slate. The goal set for this project is \$10,000. Funds will help pay for candidates' mailings, this newsletter, promotions in the local establishments and the gay media. Please send a check now if you can.

GPC Members Interested In Working With A Specific Campaign?

If you are interested in working with the campaign of any of our endorsed candidates between now and November 6, please contact Fred Paez at the GPC office for the appropriate telephone numbers. This is one very important way in which we as a group can demonstrate our support and the significance of our endorsements.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 6

Montrose Has Homicide Department Liaison

Detective John Donovan of the Homicide Division, Houston Police Department, contacted GPC recently (along with a number of other community leaders) in an effort to establish himself as a liaison between the gay community and the Homicide Division. Detective Donovan stressed the fact that his interest was in solving the unsolved gay-related murders in Montrose and preventing further homicide. Those present at the meeting found Detective Donovan to be sincere, capable and understanding, and it is hoped that the meeting will mark the beginning of good long-term relationship with the homicide division. Since that meeting, Donovan has appeared before FAMILY and has spoken at a meeting of INTEGRITY/HOUSTON. Please help us help John Donovan in his efforts; if you have any information about friends who may have been victimized by assailants still on the loose, please call the GPC office with that information.

HPD Chief Caldwell Meets With Community Spokespersons

Houston Police Department Chief Harry Caldwell met recently with Patti O'Kane (Police Advisory Commission appointee for GPC), Ray Hill, Steve Shiflett and Larry Bagneris to discuss the on-going problems of police harassment, Houston city jail conditions, education of HPD officers and the hiring of qualified gay people. The meeting was somewhat strained but productive: we did gain tentative approval for courses on human sexuality at the police academy. Other areas of concern created some friction during the meeting and resulted in a few uncomplimentary remarks from Chief Caldwell about our community (as well as a protest from Ray Hill, who left the meeting early). We urge you to see UPFRONT for an in-depth review of that meeting.

1980 Presidential Convention Nearing

As our movement emerges on a national scale, preparations are being made for the GOP & Democratic Conventions coming up, with interest in how they relate to the rights of lesbians and gay men. In Washington DC on October 13, the day prior to the March, a Presidential Nominating Convention Project was called. The purpose of the meeting was to allow other interested parties to share information as to how the nationally coordinated convention process works. Goals of the meeting included creating interest on local and state levels for the Gay Rights National Lobby's "Gay Platform," a project that will become the focus of the convention. The final results of the meeting will be forthcoming in the gay media. Another goal of the meeting in Washington was to create interest in some type of Presidential candidate screening process so that the gay community as a whole can demonstrate its support. Al Caulkin, Lesbian & Gay Democrats Co-chair, also reported on Texas' efforts to participate statewide on a national level. The delegate selection process was discussed in order to educate our community on how to become involved locally, statewide & nationally.

OPERATION DOCUMENTATION

.....a program designed to prove that real, pervasive discrimination exists. Civil Rights, Housing and Employment violations are of particular importance. Confidentiality guaranteed. Call 526-2668.

Medical Committee Report

I am happy to report that I recently met with the Houston chapter of Gay People in Medicine and received a lot of support and offers of help for the many projects our committee is undertaking. I have additionally offered our support to their organization in affecting changes in current laws that prevent lovers from visiting in Critical Care areas of most hospitals.

The Gay Clinic is progressing slowly, but once past a few hurdles, it should progress more rapidly. I understand that public figures are eyeing it with a great deal of interest.

Our CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) certificate program should be in effect sometime in October. Those who have signed up for it will be notified by phone of the time, date, and place.

A special welcome to Damien Flores, Patrick Lane, and David Mitchell, new nurses working with the medical committee.

Watch the local publications for the upcoming schedule of VD Screening Clinics. Remember that only you can keep the incidence of VD down among your friends.

The results of the Herpes-Hepatitis study are now available by calling 790-4446.

And finally, please note that very shortly the Medical Committee will be providing (1) first aid stations at all public gay functions. When possible, we will coordinate it with the "Mother Ruth Van on Wheels." Please contact me if your gay function needs us; (2) Blood Pressure screening on a regular basis at GPC meetings and other functions; (3) Diabetes screening on a regular basis at GPC meetings.

A special Thank You goes to Ruth Ravas ("Mother") for the lovely appreciation luncheon given for the VD Screening volunteers. The Medical Committee still needs nurses to work with them. Call the GPC office or David Bonuelos at 777-2287. Good Health to you all.

- David Bonuelos, Chairman

Did you know that GPC offers friendly community referrals in these areas:

DOCTORS
LAWYERS
DENTISTS
EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES
COUNSELORS
SOCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
Call the GPC office at 526-2668.

GPC Phone Tree

The Gay Political Caucus is attempting to establish a phone tree - a process of ten calling ten calling ten. The demand are minimal and the result will be an effective means of notifying 10,000 or more members of the gay community in a short time.

The phone tree will be primarily used for political mobilization - legislative alert and get out the vote phoning. It will also be used for occasional mass mobilization, volunteer solicitation and mailing list verification.

The present structure consists of officers calling active members who in turn call their personal friend who in turn call the remaining members of the phone tree. In three calls, 16,665 people can be reached (15 calling 10 calling 10 calling 10).

Several safeguards to prevent both abuse and system breakdown have been incorporated. First of all minimum usage will prevent abuse and attitudes of wasted time and effort. Also we are making two requirements of participants: willingness to volunteer at least three hours a year, and willingness to receive phone calls during the early morning or late night if they can not be reached after two days of calling during their preferred times. Such "awakening" calls would be limited to less than five times a year.

If you would like to participate in the phone tree, either as a person calling others or as one of the last people called, please call Neil Isbin at 522-4238 to sign up.

"Law Students - Friends of Gays" is now a reality at Bates College of Law, University of Houston. If you wish to study law and enter law school through-the-front-door, consider the University of Houston. (courtesy of Phyllis Frye)

GPC Representative Appointed To Police Advisory Commission

Attorney Patricia O'Kane, a member of GPC, was recently appointed to the Police Advisory Commission for a two year term by Mayor McConn. The purpose of the PAC is to provide citizen input on police policy making and to identify problems within the police department. After the serious disappointment felt by the gay community at having been left out of the original body, Steve Shiflett approached City Council only to receive a sharp lecture from councilman Frann Mann. The final triumph is an important one; this appointment represents the first openly gay person ever to serve in an official capacity on a city committee. Our thanks to Patti O'Kane.

GPC T-Shirts \$6.00
Wilde 'N Stein Bookshop
520 B Westheimer

U.S. Civil Rights Commission Hears GPC

The second of two hearings on police brutality in Houston was held recently at the University of Houston. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission heard testimony from a number of minority groups, the Mayor, the Chief of Police, lawyers active in the grand jury system and GPC President Steve Shiflett. In a summation of his statement, Steve Shiflett emphasized that gay people in Houston experience "arbitrary and capricious enforcement of the law." Shiflett described manifestations of the abuse under existing laws like public intoxication, DWI, public lewdness and solicitation. GPC's OPERATION DOCUMENTATION program provided about 100 significant cases from which evidence was drawn. A published study on the application of civil rights in Houston, Texas will be available in late December.

GPC Mailing List Policy

The GPC Newsletter comes out approximately 6 times per year and reaches over 7500 Gay People in the Greater Houston area. The use of the mailing list for political endorsements has given the Gay Community its strongest bargaining tool for dealing with prospective candidates and elected officials. The list has enabled the caucus to follow through with precinct organization, block walking, and massive phone solicitation for special events.

In the past there has been confusion as to who had access to the mailing list and how it was used. All GPC mailers are prepared by volunteers under GPC supervision, and at no time is the list "given out" to advertisers who sponsor mailings. The advertisers and organizations who have included brochures in our mailings include: Numbers, the Advocate, Texas Gay Task Force, National Gay Task Force, Tea for 2000, Montrose Activity Center, Upfront, Off the Wall Productions, MCCR, the VD Clinic, endorsed politicians, and others. GPC mail can usually be identified by the 'Precinct XXX' designation on the address label.

Names for the mailing list were acquired from the following sources: the local Anita Bryant demonstrations, Town Meeting, Tea for 2000, Sweat Tea, Super Tea, Expressions of Freedom Rally, Mr. Metro event, Upfront, No On 6 Banquet, GPC sponsored petitions, contests, the many so called gay party lists in wide circulation, Post Office address correction service (at \$.25 per name), attendance sheets at GPC meetings, and GPC Voter Registration.

Over 2000 people have had their subscriptions dropped due to the fact that bulk rate mail is not forwardable when people move, and many of the new addresses are not available through the Address Correction service. The newsletters are sent out for free; however, a membership from you (\$5-\$15) would defray this expense. If you would like to receive the next newsletter or need to update your address, please call the GPC office at 526-2668, or ask for a GPC newsletter form at Dirty Sally's, Club Baths, After Dark, the Silver Phoenix, Midtowne Spa, Venture Inn, or Wilde 'n' Stein books.

GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS

BALANCE SHEET
AUGUST 31, 1979

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$	91
Inventory		976
Prepaid Expenses		113
Refundable Deposits and Receivables		180
Total Current Assets		1360

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Equipment	303
Less Accumulated Depreciation	216
Total Property and Equipment	87

TOTAL ASSETS

\$1447

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accrued Expenses Payable	\$1030
Salary Payable	184
Federal Taxes Withheld Liability	194
Federal and State Taxes Payable	153
Loans Payable	900
Miscellaneous Payable	45
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2506

FUND BALANCE:

Balance 9-1-78	(99)
Funds Increase (Decrease)	(960)
TOTAL FUNDS	(1059)

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

\$1447



GPC WANTS YOU

Your support made 1978-1979 a banner year for gay rights in Houston. Here are a few of our accomplishments.

****Police Relations - Appointment to Police Advisory Committee - Operation Documentation - Testimony before Civil Rights Commission and Congressional committees on police misconduct - Established permanent liaisons with HPD street patrol and homicide divisions.**

****State & Local Politics - Created Texas Human Rights Foundation to litigate the constitutionality of the state homosexual conduct law 21.06 - Elected 8 to the State Democratic Convention who assisted bringing 21.06 to the floor for debate - Recognized as one of top 3 most effective precinct organizing groups in Harris County.**

****National firsts - Hosted Houston's first human rights banquet to defeat California's Proposition 6 - Maintains the largest mailing list of any local gay political movement in the country - Assisted in the formation of Oklahomans for Human Rights.**

Your continued support will allow us to progress further in the year ahead, and host more personalities like Leonard Matlovich, Midge Costanza, David Kopay, and Jean O'Leary of this past year.

Won't you please fill out the Membership Application in the adjoining newsletter and mail it in with your check today? Membership privileges extend one year from date of payment.

Sam Canzoneri
Membership Coordinator

P.S. If you've recently joined or renewed your membership -- enlist a friend! Additional contributions are welcomed.

Detach & Mail In Today

GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1979

INCOME:		
Special Events ¹		\$25574
Memberships		3581
Newsletter Contributions		3269
General Contributions		2835
Committees		463
TOTAL INCOME		35722
EXPENSES:		
Special Events ¹	14714	
Contributions to Organizations ²	4331	
Newsletter - Mailings (Printing & Maintenance)	3923	
Postage	3859	
Secretary's Salary	2650	
Telephone	1389	
Rent	1343	
Office Supplies	1062	
Officer's Travel	956	
General Advertising	741	
Committees	520	
Repairs and Utilities	289	
Taxes (Payroll and Franchise)	267	
Operation Documentation	233	
Miscellaneous Administrative	273	
Depreciation (Straight-line)	132	
TOTAL EXPENSES		36682
NET INCOME (LOSS)		\$(960)

NOTES

¹ Includes sponsorships, sales and donations and matching expenses for special events such as the Human Rights Banquet for "No-on-6" and the "Expressions of Freedom" Rally. Their respective itemized income and expenses were included in statements of February and August.

² 1979. 2. Includes dues, donations and major contributions to organizations such as "No-on-6" committee and NGTF.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Caldwell

GPC COORDINATORS

Tony Biccocchi
Voter Registration
David Bonuelos
Medical Committee
Charles Botts
Mailing List Coordinator
Sam Canzoneri
Membership Coordinator
Lee Harrington
Fund Raising & Budget Planning
Chuck Hickman
Political Action Committee
Lee Nation
GPC Photographer
Jenny Willinger,
Education Committee
Darvin Wright
Public Relations & Volunteer

GPC BOARD MEMBERS

Norman Guttman
Chuck Hickman
Lee Harrington
Ray Hill
Karl Reinhardt
Alice Shrader
Bob Sklare
Scott Tillinghast
Steve Umoff

GPC OFFICERS

Steve Shiflett, President
Larry Bagneris, Vice-president
Greer Price, Secretary
Steve Caldwell, Treasurer

GPC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

P. O. BOX 3887

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	\$15	Basic Member
			\$25	Contributing Member
			\$50	Sustaining Member
			\$100	Supporting Member
Home Address	City-State-Zip		\$200	Sponsoring Member
			\$500	Lifetime Member
			\$5	Student/Limited Income
Home Phone	Work Phone		\$ _____	Other
Is this an address change? _____ Yes _____ No				