

update

The Newsletter of Houston's Gay Political Caucus

Austin Lobby Report

by Steve Henley

As this report is being written, the Texas Legislature is ending. Lesbians and gay men have fared well in this session. This was the first session in recent times that openly anti-gay legislation was not introduced. The last session saw legislation seeking to ban same-sex dancing, for example. Our lobby in Austin, Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates, addressed itself to several generally bad pieces of legislation which would have produced punitive consequences to members of our community. We were successful in defeating or amending the majority of this legislation.

The improvement in this session on gay issues seems to be due to having an effective lobby for the session, having established a lobby and a presence in the last session, and having our rights supported by the State and the National Democratic Party in the form of planks that we passed at conventions. Those who contributed to the lobby or wrote letters are especially
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Farenthold, Bouza to Highlight Rally-June 28

Former Texas gubernatorial candidate Sissy Farenthold and Chief of Police Anthony Bouza of Minneapolis, Minnesota will highlight the third annual Gay Political Caucus Rally.

"the RALLY" is always the culmination of Gay Pride Week and is the largest such gathering in Houston's gay community each year. GPC organizers expect attendance to exceed 10,000 including many of the City Council members and over 400 other invited guests.

Chief Bouza, an outspoken leader in criminal justice reform, was recently interviewed on NBC's "Today" show. The city of Minneapolis has one of the most liberal hiring policies in the country and does not discriminate in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation.

"the RALLY" will be held in Spott's Park, which is located at the northeast corner of the Memorial-Waugh Drive cloverleaf. There will be plenty of food and refreshments, a large fireworks display, and the music of dj Frank Collins. Last year's problems with refreshments have been corrected this year and there will be plenty of beer on sale. There will also be a mobile health unit on the site to provide free V.D. screenings and first aid.

The parade is scheduled to commence at 5:30 p. m., two and a half hours later than in the past. Therefore, "the RALLY" begins immediately after the parade. Those planning to attend both should
See page 2

Money Matters

Houston GPC is sustained financially by two ongoing programs. The first is our draft program where a designated amount of five dollars or more is withdrawn from your account on the fifth of every month. By simply signing a permission card, you or your business can automatically help sustain our work for the rights of lesbians and gay men.

The invoice program is our second sustaining project. By requesting an invoice, we will mail you a reminder of your pledge and an envelope to insert your payment and drop in the mail on a weekly, monthly, or bimonthly basis. This second program is designed for those with fluid cash flows whose contributions might vary.

Many individual GPC mem-
See page 2

"the RALLY"

leave the parade route as soon as the last entry has passed.

The Harris County Constable's office, who is providing security at no charge, has advised that no vehicles may be parked on the grass.

Come celebrate this **GRAND FINALE** of Gay Pride Week '81 and make it a worthwhile and memorable event.

Money

bers participate in these programs. Businesses involved in the programs include Arian Hair Styling, BARBQ Ranch, The Barn, The Copa, House of Pies Parade Disco, and Wildwood Saloon. These programs provide capital for day to day operation of GPC; however, funding for special projects and events come largely from fund-raising events which have been scarce lately. This has been because too few persons have been willing to share their ideas and time in producing fund-raisers.

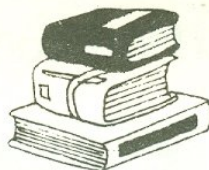
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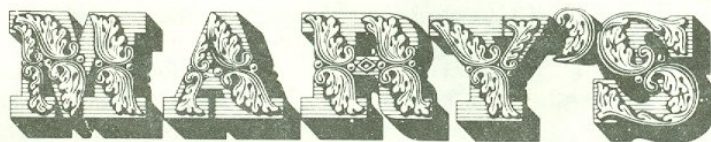
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Mailing List Goal 15,000

GPC's mailing list committee has set a goal of fifteen thousand persons on its mailing list by the time of the City Election this fall. The present list contains over 9800 names. The main source of names will be procured by voter registration drives. Other names will be added during Gay Pride Week and other special events. Mailing list cards which will be displayed in the bars and other social centers will be an additional source.

The main problem associated with a list of this size is keeping track of people who move. Each time a mailer is sent out, about five percent of the addresses change. An equal number of names are lost due to non-forwardable or undeliverable mail. These unreported moves incur a 25¢ postal charge and cause a delay in receiving critical endorsement material. "We live among a community of gypsies. It is not unusual to find a person who will move five or six times in a single year," says Don Hrachovy, the Coordinator for Communications.

The mailing list group uses specialized computer programs and cooperative agreements with other organizations in order to reduce the burden of keeping track of people. Still, the main responsibility of reporting moves must remain with the individual. If every person would notify the caucus of their move, the caucus would save almost a thousand dollars a year and its list would stay updated and grow swiftly.

Members are urged to keep the caucus posted of any address or phone changes. Call the office at 521-1000 or send the corrections to P.O. Box 66664; Houston TX 77006.

Lobby

ially thanked. If there were only more of you, we might have done even better.

The main issue before the lawmakers was redistricting, which can severely change the type of representation we have. The Texas House passed a redistricting bill at 4:30am on May 28th.

Of particular interest to our community was the plan for District 79 which includes the Montrose area. The new district picks up parts of Montrose formerly not in the district, as well as the Greenway Plaza and Memorial Park areas. Dropped from the district are the Fourth Ward and the northeast portion of the Heights. This district is viewed as extremely favorable for the continued and growing influence of Lesbians and Gay men.

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Steven Henley	board
Richard Hilton	board
Norman Guttman	board
Linda Jones	board

UPDATE is a publication of the Houston Gay Political Caucus. Inclusion of names of people in UPDATE does not reflect the sexual orientation of them.

Editor's Note

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Dave Roberts, and I will be editing your newsletter on a regular basis.

Soon after I joined the Caucus last October, I saw the need for a newsletter to inform the members and encourage their participation in Caucus activities. I am particularly interested in the viewpoints of women and minorities. They are an integral part of the Caucus and their participation must be increased.

It is my aim to publish an informative, useful periodical. To accomplish this, I need your help. Therefore I invite the membership to submit material for review and publication. Material must include your name and phone. I cannot accept material without this information. Material cannot be returned after publication.

I am pushing participation, so please send your ideas to the GPC office, P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77006. I am waiting to hear from you.

New office hours have been established. They are Monday thru Friday, 7 - 9 pm

For information on ad prices for the August Newsletter call GPC at 521-1000.

Remember "the RALLY" begins directly after the parade this year. Food available

Critical needs of the month:
IBM Selectric typewriter
Large storage cabinet
Conference table

Thoughts from the President

If the human behavior pattern found people treating each other equitably, there would be no wisdom in getting involved in politics. Since some people are not so gracious, however, each one of us suffers the consequences.

Some of those not-so-gracious people would be in a hurry to take your apartment security deposit, and while they invest that money, will then become excruciatingly slow in their response to your apartment's regular maintenance needs or

the return of your money when you move. Some will put used parts in your car and charge for new ones. Some would have the manipulation of utility interests go unchecked, while the cost of electricity for your morning coffee soars. The price of that coffee itself can rise sky high because someone else, unmindful of you, is making tariff decisions.

There are some who would hold on to unqualified, uninterested schoolteachers, but fire those who are lesbian or gay even when they devotedly inspire their students to learn. Others would not allow gay people to make the same casual gestures of affection in public, that, when displayed by heterosexuals, are considered part of what makes the world go round.

Most painful of all, is that many would not even allow you to make life affecting decisions for your lover in a medical emergency.

You may not feel that you have had something important to you threatened, but being threatened is usually all it takes to anger us. I would suggest, however, that we would all be justified if we were angry now.

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. You can contribute financially, send letters and telegrams to legislators (or authorize us to do this for you), lend your talents to special projects, attend meetings, or help to get out the vote.

If you don't do something, someone else, somewhere else, will and you can be sure it will be in their own best interest.

Call 521-1000 and ask for someone to call you concerning how you can best lend money or energy to the needs at hand.

Lee Hammington

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The Newsletter

update

of Houston's Gay Political Caucus

ELECTION SPECIAL

Gay-baiting

Remember two years ago when Frank Mann made the mistake of calling us "odd-wads" and the community responded with hundreds of volunteers and thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to his opponent Eleanor Tinsley?

It was a disastrous mistake that the homophobes will not make again. GPC endorsed candidates are facing a more dangerous and insidious attack on the campaign trail this year.

The gay-baiting is coming from audience members who are supporting reactionary candidates. Kathy Whitmire, GPC's choice for mayor, was recently barraged at a meeting on the West side of Houston for having "the perverts'" endorsement. Kathy's replies to their questions did not vary even one comma from her statements to GPC during screening. She said in reply to having received the "perverts'" endorsement, "I'm pleased to have that endorsement."

Other candidates, such as

George Greanias in the District C race, are running into similar prejudice.

Because these attacks are coming not from the candidates but from their supporters, the response from the gay/lesbian community has been slower in coming.

GPC's endorsement—besides a bloc vote—has meant volunteers and contributions. Without such a response from the community, those who argue our endorsement is more of a hindrance than help will gain support.

Don't let it happen! When you hear that one of our candidates has been attacked in a public forum for having our support, you can bet the remark was meant to benefit an opponent. That such remarks are consistently happening is no accident.

Remember how good it felt two years ago not just to get mad, but to get even? It will feel even better this year. Call GPC at 521-1000 to get involved with your time and contributions.

Put this card in a safe place until

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
November 3, 1981

GPC ENDORSEMENTS

Mayor Kathy Whitmire

City Council District Races

Distr. B	Ernest McGowen
Distr. C	George Greanias
Distr. H	Dale Gorczynski

City Council—At-Large Races

Pos. 1	Morris Belt
Pos. 2	Eleanor Tinsley
Pos. 3	Jim Greenwood
Pos. 5	Judson Robinson, Jr.

Controller Lance Lalor

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K. Smith, Treasurer

Screening How it works

The GPC screening process has been widely extolled in the media and often times is approached with fear and loathing by candidates seeking the endorsement.

The process begins with committee work to revise the questionnaire and score sheet. This year candidates were asked 50 questions (mayoral candidates 60 questions)

relating to repeal of 21.06, gay and lesbian civil rights, women's issues, city services, minority concerns, community development, with the largest section dealing with the Houston Police Department.

The volunteers were men and women, new and veteran, Democrat and Republican, precinct judges, GPC Board Members, Officers, and Members.

The bloc vote of the gay community is a trust in and affirmation of the GPC screening and endorsement process. GPC volunteers now must turn their energies to presenting the slate to the community and asking for the community's support of donations, time and votes.

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All Candidates need and would appreciate your contribution.

DALE GORCZYNSKI

Headquarters: 1314 N. Loop
864-1180

Volunteers are needed to work on the phones, deliver yard signs, and general office work.

Mail contributions to Box 7486
Houston, Tx. 77248.

MORRIS BELT

Headquarters: 2101 Lexington (98)
524-9350

Volunteers needed to phone bank, block walk, prepare mail-outs, and deliver yard signs.

Wooden stakes are needed by the campaign for yard signs.

ERNEST MCGOWEN

Headquarters: 2436 Times (05)
528-1812

Volunteer needs include phone calling from your home, yard sign delivery, typing, and election day volunteers to put up poll signs and push cards.

The campaign needs office supplies such as xerox paper and postage.

Headquarters: 3548 East-Tex (26)
671-0951

Volunteers are needed for mail-outs and phone calling.

GEORGE GREANIAS

JIM GREENWOOD

Headquarters: 2111 Richmond (98)
526-4272

Headquarters: 4001 Westheimer
#211, (27)
960-0456

Volunteers are needed to deliver yard signs, phone bank in the evening hours and help with some typing.

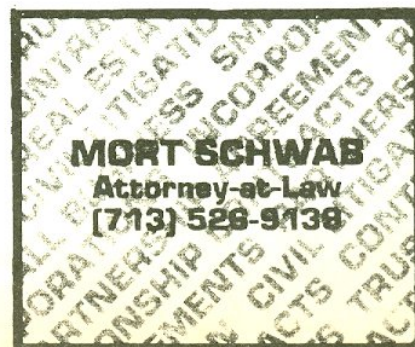
Volunteers are needed for mail-outs, phone work, typing, and yard sign delivery.

JUDSON ROBINSTON JR.

Headquarters: 2901 Elgin (04)
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10-5 Sat

Montrose Clinic

For over two years The Medical Committee of Houston GPC and Lesbians & Gay People in Medicine have worked hard to get a Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic in the heart of Montrose. I am pleased to announce that this clinic hereinafter called THE MONTROSE CLINIC will open its doors at 6:00 pm, Tuesday October 6, 1981. The Clinic is located at 104 Westheimer. The phone # is 528-5531. The clinic will offer the same basic services as McGregor Clinic. The hours will be TueThurs-Fri-6 pm to 10 pm, and Sun 1 pm to 5 pm. There will be a doctor on duty during operating hours. Help make your clinic a success. Patronize it. If you would like to volunteer for any one of 22 different jobs please call Mr. Roger Pillsbury R.N., at the clinic number.

VOLUNTEER!

Where to Vote

To determine your polling place, you must first determine your precinct number. This number is printed on your voter registration card.

If you are registered at the address shown on this envelope, your precinct number will be printed above your name on the mailing label.

If you live in any of GPC's top precincts, your polling place can be found in the following list:

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201 E. 9th & Harvard | 178 HOLIDAY INN
3131 West Loop South |
| 34 FELIX MEXICAN RESTAURANT
904 Westheimer | 57 REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL
E. 13th & Arlington | 200 CENTER FOR THE RETARDED
3550 W. Dallas |
| 37 AMERICAN LEGION POST
2715 Waughcrest Drive | 60 LANIER JR. HIGH SCHOOL
2600 Woodhead | 233 LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL
3325 Westheimer |
| 38 WILSON ELEMENTARY
2100 Yupon | 123 CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
4100 Montrose & W. Main | 431 CUNNINGHAM ELEMENTARY
5100 Gulfport |
| 39 MARTEL AUDITORIUM
3511 Yorkum Blvd. | 139 OLD #4 FIRE STATION
4106 S. Shepherd & Banks | 434 ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH
4807 San Felipe |
| | | 435 ROGERS JUNIOR HIGH
5840 San Felipe |

If you live elsewhere,
(1) call GPC at 521-1000 or 521-9186, (2) look in the newspaper on election day or the day before, (3) call the County Clerk's office at 221-6411 or 221-6965, or (4) call any of the candidate's offices.

If you recently moved and either did not re-register, or did not receive your new registration card, go to the precinct of your old address to vote.

Thoughts from the President

It was a mud bath, and there were inexcusable delays, but it was the most successful climax ever for a Houston Gay Pride Week. The needed money and volunteers from it keep coming in. Said to be the second largest such gathering in the country, "the RALLY", 1981, was a visible display of the political power reported in the August 10 edition of Newsweek.

For me, it is exciting to see so many of us together at that kind of event. The refreshments and fun and the program are always rejuvenating, but nothing we do has a more lasting impact on our lives than does effecting the political and legislative process. We did that well. Over 400 printed invitations were mailed to local, state and national politicians. They were asked to sit in the VIP section, with our community and business leaders. Indeed, they came in greater numbers than ever before--office holders, judges, candidates, Senate District 15 politicians and precinct judges. Even those who were unable to attend were impressed and made a point of conveying their regrets and best wishes. The invitation they received carried a clear message all by itself: the gay movement, and the Gay Political Caucus in Houston, are alive and quite well, even in 1981.

Sissy Farenthold is always great...we expect that, but Minneapolis Chief of Police Anthony Bouza was superb. He was even better Monday morning on the steps of City Hall. I had called a press conference to express our continued frustration with our own police chief. After two months of requests, B. K. Johnson refused even to greet

his professional colleague - apparently because Bouza spoke in support of our rights.

We will, with reason and determination, continue to speak out when our rights are denied or when the political system does not respond. Maybe some day we will not need political clout, but that is certainly not today. Therefore, we MUST use our power on November 3, and contribute now, both financially and by calling 521-1000 to volunteer for endorsed candidates' campaign efforts.

Will you also take the time now to make the following major contributions? We want the endorsement card to reach more people, so they will know which candidates are our friends. Will you give us the names and addresses of 5 friends who may not be on our mailing list? Please call those in now to 521-1000, day or night. A collective effort could provide the additional votes necessary to decide a race.



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Voter Registration Update

This year's voter registration drive was an overwhelming success. Over 3,000 persons were directly registered by GPC volunteers. Countless others were registered through cards left behind in bars and other means.

So why are we sending you another registration card? The answer is simple: in our mobile and growing community, people move daily and people somewhere are constantly in need of re-registration. Even though you are probably registered, you surely know of someone who is not. Save the card and put it to good use.

You might find a few facts interesting and worthwhile: (1) It is too late to register in order to vote in the November 3 election. However, there will be a run-off. If you register by November 3 you will be eligible to vote in the run-off when our votes will be even more critical.

(2) There is no longer a residency term required for registration. One may register the minute they move to Houston. However, it is necessary to have an address to register.

(3) If you vote at least once during the two year registration cycle, you are automatically re-registered to vote. However, if you move during that time, your renewal card will be returned by the post office to the county and you will be dropped from the rolls. To re-register, you can either mark up your current certificate with the correct address and mail it to the county; or you can re-register and write the word 'change' on the margin of the application.