



OUT & ABOUT

An official publication of the

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Larry Lingle

While this begins a new administration for the HGLPC, I also see it as a continuation of the gains of the past year. It is my hope that we can implement the goals set forth last year with particular emphasis on increasing membership, greater involvement by members, refining the endorsement process and coalition building with other minority organizations with an eye to both state legislative and city council redistricting.

I am reassured as to the future by the Caucus' selection for officers and board members. We have an encouraging mixture of points of view while, at the same time, individuals who are interested in applying their ideas for the furtherance of the organization. We have retained the much needed service of others with a long history in the Caucus.

The two major events in the coming year will be the city elections and our hosting the international convention of gay and lesbian elected and appointed officials. These of course will not be our only functions during the year, but certainly the ones requiring the greatest amount of time and preparation.

Prior to the city elections, we shall revamp our endorsement methods, beginning with a task force to completely reconsider the entire procedure. For the convention we shall create a host committee to oversee the preparations. In both these and all other Caucus efforts it

is my hope that the entire membership can be included. Everyone's input will be both welcomed and encouraged.

I am optimistic that this will be a productive year for the caucus, both in results and in our effort to restore its viability and reputation within and without the lesbian/gay community. We will not, perhaps, achieve all our goals in a single year, but, most importantly, we can continue and increase the momentum of the past year to rebuild the HGLPC on a solid basis of support in our community. This will, in turn, enhance our role in the larger picture of Houston civic politics.

I would like to thank the entire membership for your vote of confidence and I promise to devote all my efforts to achieve our mutually desired goals.

STATE HOUSE SEAT: SPECIAL ELECTION

Governor Ann Richards, who has said she intends to make appointments to boards and commissions reflective of the state's diversity, recently announced the appointment of Austin State Representative Lena Guerrero to the State Railroad Commission. Guerrero, who has been a longtime supporter and advocate of lesbian and gay issues, will become the first female and the first Hispanic to serve on the Commission. She announced she would resign her legislative seat in early January, and that announcement caused a number of people to consider running for her seat in District 51 (South and Central Travis County).



**DISTRICT 51 CANDIDATE-
GLEN MAXEY**

Among the 14 individuals who have announced for the seat are community member Glen Maxey, who is currently the Executive Director of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. The special election to fill the vacancy will occur sometime in early February, and since there are so many in the race, a run-off election will probably be necessary.

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Treasurer's Report

The January, 1991 checking account balance was \$1,270.94. The February 1, 1991 balance, however, is lower at \$1,110.61. Income for the previous month of January was \$924 and expenses totalled \$1,064 accounting for the shortfall of \$140.

Breakdown:

<u>Income:</u>	<u>Expenses:</u>
Membership \$592	Rent \$550
Collections 227	Tele. 33
Donations 45	Postage 90
Pledges 25	Print. 374
Advertising 35	Misc. 16
Total \$924	\$1,064
=====	=====
Income: \$ 924	
Expenses: (1,064)	
Shortfall for the month \$ (140)	

GAY & LESBIAN ELECTED OFFICIALS CALL FOR '92 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

by Harry Livesay

The National Council of Gay & Lesbian Elected Officials are mobilizing a third gay and lesbian "March on Washington" for the Spring of 1992 which they hope will surpass the October '87 March which brought over 500,000 lesbians and gays to our nation's capitol.

The "Call To Action In '92" campaign, which urges all lesbian and gay citizens to "Show Up For Life", has received monumental support from gay and lesbian communities in Minneapolis, Boston, San Diego,

Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C., and has the endorsement of nationally known gay and lesbian letters such as Boston City Councilperson, David Scondras, and recently elected San Francisco Supervisor, Roberta Achtenberg.

"We must begin to mobilize ourselves and our energies by the Spring of 1992, before the next Presidential and Congressional elections," states the NCGLEC platform, "As we enter the 1990's, 24 million lesbian and gay people mourn as the AIDS epidemic continues to destroy our own community and spreads to others less prepared to respond to this disaster. Unless we mobilize ourselves to march on Washington again, to organize state and national citizens lobbies, to engage in civil disobedience, to use our creative imaginations to capture the public's interest as the did the Quilt, to enter the next Presidential caucuses and primaries, and turn out 24 million voters in 1992; there is little reason to believe that the candidates and political debate will address our issues or endorse plans for the future."

For additional information about the "Call To Action In '92 Campaign" contact NCGLEC coordinator: Hon. Brian Coyle, Member, Minneapolis City Council, Room 307 City Hall, Minneapolis, MN, 55415, and or call (612) 673-2006.



GLPC Calendar For February, 1991

February 6, 1991- General Meeting- Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 PM

February 13, 1991- Board of Directors Meeting- GLPC Office
900 Lovett
7:30 PM

February 20, 1991- General Meeting-Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 PM

ELECTION OF HGLPC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS HELD

by Dennis Spencer

The election of Officers and Directors of the HGLPC took place January 16, 1990. Over 60 members were credentialled, and there were three contested races. The following individuals were elected to serve the Caucus.

1991 Officers-

President: Larry Lingle
Vice-President: Robert Bridges
Secretary: Liz Shuler
Treasurer: Dennis Spencer

Board Of Directors- (3 year terms)

Seat #7: Clair Kospel
Seat #8: Chris Bacon
Seat #9: Pat Gandy
(1 year term)
Seat #1: David Fowler

ACTION!



HGLPC Members participate in the "People's March" to the Capitol Building in Austin to swear in Governor Ann Richards and Lt. Governor Bob Bullock (Clockwise: HGLPC members march with the Texas Human Rights Foundation and Queer Nation/Austin; Board Member Bill White raises a rainbow flag in front of the Capitol; President Larry Lingle and Treasurer Dennis Spencer lead the delegation from Houston; Long-time member Carmen Pollock waits to cross the bridge on Congress Ave.

Photography: Bill White
Harry Livesay



New state officials greet enthusiastic reception in Inaugural Day Parade.
(Left to right: Governor Ann Richards, Lt. Governor Bob Bullock, and Attorney General Dan Morales)



HGLPC MEMBERS SAY "NO DICE!"

HGLPC Members Claire Koepsel, Scott Simpson, Gene Harrington, Gina Wiley, Dennis Spencer, and David Fowler, join Houston N.O.W. members in protesting the January 18th appearance of Andrew Dice Clay.

"And the battle
continues..."

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Harry Livesay

Like many of my fellow Caucus members, I will always remember where I was and what I was doing when the War In The Gulf began. Many of us had just returned from the Inaugural festivities in Austin, and were looking forward with hope and anticipation on our yearly elections and our plans for the Caucus in 1991. But before we could even call our January 16th meeting to order, we learned that war had been declared.

As with all issues of such grave importance, I am sure the members of the GLPC have their varied reasons "why" our nation should or should not be in this conflict, but I am filled with a sense of sad irony that our community has been engaged in battle since 1969. At Stonewall, we fought the police who battered

bloodied us. We fought victoriously in over 20 states to remove unjust laws that made us criminals. For the past decade we have waged a full-scale battle on all fronts; against a often fatal disease and against the hatred, indifference, and intolerance which has resulted in the loss of more American lives than all our years in Vietnam.

Collectively, we have over twenty years of combat experience, and still we are faced with a government that tells we are not good enough to defend our country. I can't help but be reminded of the words of one of our most heroic leaders, Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, whose epitaph reads, "The Air Force pinned a medal on me for killing a man and discharged me for making love to one" The message of "MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR" takes on a special significance for us, when we are reminded of Sgt. Matlovich.

To the brave lesbian women and gay men in the Persian Gulf, remember your heritage. Remember Sgt. Matlovich, Sgt. Perry Watkins, Sgt. Miriam Ben Shalom. Keep safe, and come home soon to help us continue to fight.



WE WANT YOU!

We want our members to submit their ideas, articles, stories, opinions, words, thoughts, complaints, to O U T & A B O U T We need you to contact Dennis Spencer at 741-7401, or Harry Livesay



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at 923-3008 to submit your handwritten and/or (preferably) typed articles for the next issue of O U T & A B O U T

Deadline for the March issue is February 15th!

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!
Houston welcomes the
National Gay & Lesbian
Film Festival

by Harry Livesay

Billed as "Passion,
Politics, and Popcorn,
the National Gay &
Lesbian 1991 Film Tour
will be held in Houston
on March 1st through
March 10th, at the
Rice University Cinema,
Entrance #7, University
Blvd. The Houston tour
is being sponsored by the
Montrose Activity Center
in conjunction with the
tour's national management
company, The New Festival.

"Houston is the second
stop of twelve cities
on our national tour,"
states New Festival
Director, Susan Horowitz,
"This is a non-profit tour
committed to combating re-
cent attacks by people like
Jesse Helms, who are advoca-
ting censorship of lesbian

"Let me say, a more artistic, appreciative
group of people for the arts does not exist...
They are more knowledgeable, more loving of
the arts. They make average people look
stupid!"

Actress BETTE DAVIS
on gay people.

and gay artists. Our
tour proves that we
will not be stopped or
silenced, regardless
of the current political
climate"

The tour includes over 25
films, including classics
such as Germany's "Maed-
chen in Uniform" and
"Pink Narcissus", as
well as contemporary
works such as "Longtime
Companion" and "Desert
Hearts". MAC has scheduled

a opening night benefit
for Friday, March 1st from
7 - 9 PM at the Rice Univer-
sity Media Center. For infor-
mation and reservations,
contact MAC at 523-5109

HGLPC Calendar for February, 1991

February 6th- GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 PM

February 13th- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
HGLPC Office
900 Lovett
7:30 PM

February 14th- HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

February 20th- GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 PM

**Passion, Politics
and Popcorn**

Editor Dennis Spencer
Assoc. Editor Harry Livesay



OUT & ABOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

JUNE, 1991

MAY 15th GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION

A Special Election was held at the May 15th General Meeting to fill the post of Caucus President. Ray Hill and Toni Knight both nominated themselves; Toni won election to the office of President on a close vote of 34 to 30. Congratulations to our new president, who thanks all those who attended and voted.

JUNE 7th GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

An election was held at the June 7th General Meeting to fill the post of Board of Directors Seat #5. There were three self-nominees for the seat: Sally Langford, Gina Wiley, and Kevin Davidson. The close race went to Kevin, who thanked the other two nominees for their interest in and commitment to the Caucus.

JUNE 12th BOARD OF DIREC- TORS MEETING—ELECTION OF NEW BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

An election was held at the June 12th Board Meeting to fill the posts of Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Chris Bacon was elected as Chair, and Pat Gandy was voted in as Vice-Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

by Chris Bacon

I have lived in Houston for nearly a year now, and I think what probably distresses me most is how frequently the HGLPC is used as a whipping boy by certain segments of the community.

The Queer Nationalists and other "performance" activists want us to shun the entire Houston political establishment and adopt a completely nonassimilationist stance. Political power, they say, is obtained by plugging you ears and shouting loudly. HGLPC, they argue, is wimpy and ineffective and needs to learn about temper tantrum politics. There was a time when I tried this strategy, but it never seemed to work. I think I was six at the time and my four year old brother would merely grin in amusement.

On the other end of the spectrum are the CGPs (Closeted Gay Professionals) who believe that the "G" and "L" words should be uttered *sotto voce* whenever they venture outside the high walls of their fluffy dinner parties. In contrast to the screaming Nationalists, the CGP suggests communicating with City Hall with winks and ambiguous nods. The CGP believes that, because *he* was in-

vited to a lunch at the Greater Houston Business Partnership, it follows that the gay community has the ear of City Hall.

While I believe that the Queer Nationalist and the CGP do play useful roles in our community, the former as master attention-getters and the latter as a "kiss, kiss" networker, neither of these represents the mainstream community. Granted, HGLPC meetings are occasionally chaotic and sometimes sail wildly over the cliff of common sense into the valley of the stupid. But so do discussions in the United States Congress. Democracy is painfully inefficient. And so while the HGLPC is often unruly, it is the only group in town that presented a well-thought-out redistricting plan. It is the only group that continually entertains a dialogue on gay and lesbian issues with elected officials. Despite all the talk about the referendum in 1985, the apathy in our community, splinter "Alliances," or the crazy antics of some of our own, I believe that the HGLPC is still the only credible political game in town. And as much as they probably hate it, our elected officials know that too.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Toni Knight

I would like to thank both the Board and the members for their continued support and commitment to our principles and purposes. I believe the remainder of the year will be both exciting and challenging.

Our immediate plans include the following:

A. Organization of the Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials Conference, to be held in Houston in November.

B. Participation in Pride Week, including having a booth at Star Nite '91 for the 22nd and 23rd of June; participation in the Parade; and sponsorship of the fund-raiser for LGRL at Missouri Street Station on Thursday, June 20th.

In closing, I would like to announce that in order to encourage community involvement, we are opening the HGLPC office from 1:00 to 7:00 P.M. on Tuesdays. We hope to expand these hours shortly in hopes of enhancing participation and communication with the community we serve and represent.

"The Caucus working with the community; the Caucus working for the community."

REDISTRICTING DRAWS TO A CLOSE

by Robert Bridges

On June 5th, City Council voted to approve the redistricted map under the 16-6-1 plan as approved by the City Planning Department. The final approved plan does not contain the Montrose-based district submitted by the GLPC.

In a surprise eleventh-hour move, Councilmember Vince Ryan opposed the inclusion of the new district in the plan. He had formerly been supportive of the inclusion of the Montrose district. During the final debate, not one Councilmember brought up the omission of the Montrose district for either discussion or debate.

Nonetheless, the GLPC should be proud of its accomplishments. The Caucus made a thoroughly professional presentation during the redistricting proceedings. Many thanks are due—to Pat Gandy for coordinating public testimony; to Chris Bacon for assistance in preparing preliminary data; to members of the Board for valuable input on negotiating strategy; to the Past Presidents Club of GLPC for special lobbying efforts; and to the many members of the Caucus who testified at public hearings and wrote letters to members of Council.

If we learned any lesson from our participation in the redistricting process, it is the danger of relying too heavily on our elected "friends." There will never be any adequate substitute for having our own community representative on City Council. We are entering an exciting new phase of participation in municipal politics. We can and must elect an openly gay Councilmember.

Again, thanks to those who worked diligently on this project. Keep that energy alive for the exciting election season ahead!

HGLPC CALENDAR JUNE-JULY 1991

- June 19 (W) GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M.
- June 20 (Th) LGRL FUND-RAISER
Missouri Street Station
1117 Missouri Street
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
- July 3 (W) GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M.
- July 10 (W) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HGLPC Office
900 Lovett, Suite #101
7:30 P.M.
- July 11 (Th) AIDS Equity League—
Theatre Party
Stages Rep. Theatre
Allen Parkway
- July 17 (W) GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M.

CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT!

GLPC members are encouraged to submit their articles, ideas, opinions, suggestions, and news items to *OUT & ABOUT*:

Duncan Allen, Editor
8055 Cambridge St. #3
Houston, TX 77054
Ph. 713/796-0766

The deadline for the July issue will be Thursday, July 11.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis Spencer reports that the June 12th checking account balance was \$601.59. Expenses since May 30th were \$657.95, and exceeded income in that period of \$474.00, resulting in a shortfall of \$183.95. The year-to-date shortfall stands at \$749.13 (based on income of \$3,541.45 vs. expenses of \$4,290.58).

PROPOSED TEXAS AIDS LEGISLATION

by Eugene Harrington

Following is a summary of the report to the Texas Legislature from Private Sector Members of the Texas Legislative Task Force on AIDS (1987-1989). Mr. Harrington co-authored this report with members of LGRL (Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas), THRF (Texas Human Rights Foundation), and the AIDS Equity League. He wrote on June 9 that "We defeated every bad piece of legislation, but the money bills will be important in the next session beginning in July."

—Editor

For almost a year and a half prior to the last legislative session the Legislative Task Force on AIDS undertook one of the most extensive and thorough reviews of a basic health care issue in this state's history.

After nearly twenty state wide public hearings, comprehensive medical, social and economic research and numerous committee deliberations, the Task Force submitted a detailed blueprint for meeting our Texas AIDS challenge that could well serve as a national model.

It is thus with a sense of disillusionment and frustration that we comment on numerous bills that have been submitted in this legislative session dealing with HIV infection. While we understand that most

of the authors of the bills we refer to are acting in good faith, the effects, if not the intent, of much of this proposed AIDS legislation not only ignores the Task Force work but shows basic misunderstandings concerning the HIV epidemic, ignores proven methods of control and prevention and in some cases is basically discriminatory towards the HIV-infected. Our concern with much of the proposed AIDS legislation is tempered, however, by the attempts of some members of the legislature to meet our present AIDS challenge in a spirit of innovation and humane commitment.

Thus before commenting on the specific bills which we find counter-productive, we first commend the authors of Senate Bill 777 (Brooks) and Senate Bill 1254 (Ellis) for attempting to find emergency appropriations which would allow Texans with catastrophic illnesses, including AIDS, to obtain or keep health insurance and thus remain in the private sector health systems. This would remove a major threat to the solvency of the public Texas health care systems. Representative Sylvester Turner's funeral industry anti-discrimination bill (HB 899), endorsed by the industry itself, would remedy another basic issue in this area. Representative Wilson's attempts to make HIV-preventive materials available to college age Texans is a courageous attempt at prevention (HB 310). Representative Maxey's regulatory licensing bill (HB 2707) is another example of attempting an equitable and workable solution to another possible health care issue.

However, the following bills, most of which are still in committee [in late spring] are counter-productive and in some instances would either curtail our present AIDS Texas commitment or seriously jeopardize its effectiveness.

HB 2509 (Clemons) This bill, opposed by the Texas Department of Health and scores of committee witnesses including the chair of the Legislative Task Force on AIDS, would among other things mandate HIV testing of prisoners entering TDC based on prior residence; criminalize HIV-infected women who breast feed; and change basic Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence by removing any "intent" requirement for HIV-infected persons in the "attempted

murder" area. (Representative Clemons has yet to place a cost analysis for the state with his bill.)

HB 1367 (Carona) This bill mandates yearly HIV tests for all Texas health care workers. It would be ineffective since a "negative HIV report" would be meaningless for the medical purposes intended (and thus the bill itself raises questions about the author's understanding of the basic nature and use of the HIV test). Equally disconcerting is the monetary cost of such mass testing to the private and local public sectors and the huge costs to state to monitor. (Representative Carona has yet to place a cost analysis for the state with his bill.)

CS HB 702 (Wilson) This bill mandates HIV-infected medical personnel receive an informed consent from prospective patients before medical procedures are commenced. The bill is basically discriminatory (and possibly illegal) since other greater health threats (hepatitis, emotional problems, addictions, even basic sensory deprivations) do not require advance informed consent from prospective patients. Since nationally, only one dentist has been shown to have HIV-infected patients since the AIDS epidemic began, the bill is more hysterical than practical. Representative Wilson would require an HIV-positive intern to obtain "informed consent" in emergency room situations or in mass birthing hospitals, when there is virtually no public health threat while allowing surgeons, who for instance have developed a major sight disorder or Parkinson's Disease, to perform intricate surgery with no such consent forms being required! This bill would also require monitoring by state regulatory agencies at a cost to state government (or have no monitoring component, which would make the bill unenforceable). (Representative Wilson has yet to place a cost analysis for the state with his bill.)

HB 10. This bill removes nearly \$1,000,000 from our present AIDS state budget. Under new federal guidelines this would automatically exclude all existing federal monetary support for AIDS education, prevention and care, and would curtail or eliminate the majority of AIDS programs in our state. The loss in monetary terms would amount to nearly \$10,000,000 and would affect all programs including those

aimed at women, children, minorities, rural outreach, etc. Almost every House and Senate district would lose funds, and this almost certainly would have the effect of dramatically increasing health care costs for AIDS on the local county levels. The monetary loss thus pales when compared to the loss of life and productivity for our state that this bill bodes.

GLPC OFFICE TO BE OPEN...

Every Tuesday, starting June 18th, from 1:00 to 7:00 P.M. Stop by and chat with a Board member, and/or volunteer to help out in the office if you can.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kevin Davidson, GLPC Membership Chairman, reports that since March 1 there have been a total of 43 memberships received—including both new ones and renewals.

LGRL FUND-RAISER

Thursday, June 20
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Missouri Street Station
1117 Missouri Street

"An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure" will be an important fund-raiser for the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL).

The event is to thank the community for its continuing support of the LGRL, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC), the Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas, and State Representative Debra Danburg.

Speakers:

Professor Eugene Harrington
Laurie Eiserloh, Austin Lobbyist for LGRL
Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis
Texas State Representative Debra Danburg

Donations will be accepted.

WELCOME TO NEW CHAIR OF COALITION BUILDING

Ms. Ella Tyler, a Montrose-based lawyer, has graciously accepted the Chair of the Coalition Building Committee. Ms. Tyler has been politically active since 1968, and her positions and activities include the following:

- Texas Women's Political Caucus, Regional Vice-Chair
- Harris County Women's Political Caucus, Chair of Choice Coalition
- Planned Parenthood, Public Affairs Committee
- Women's Center, Public Policy Committee
- Frequent Delegate to State Democratic Conventions
- Numerous participations in political campaigns at all levels

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Duncan Allen has agreed to chair the Newsletter Committee, and to edit and produce this monthly GLPC newsletter, *Out & About*. He taught English, desktop publishing, and technical/business writing at a local college for five years, and now owns his own company, doing contract desktop publishing, editing, and technical/business writing.

Please see his fervent plea on Page 2 for information on how to submit your much-desired input for publication!



OUT & ABOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

JULY 1991

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Toni Knight

THANKS TO FINE FOLKS:

Sincere thanks go out from the Officers and the Board to all the people who worked on Pride Week committees, who donated to and worked on the Parade float, and who walked in the Parade.

And we extend sincere thanks also to the following individual and businesses for donating prizes for the Star Nite '91 drawing:

- State Representative Debra Danburg (Capitol flag)
- Consignment Gallery (teapot)
- River Oaks Theatre (16 movie tickets)
- Cineplex Odeon (6 tickets)
- Cyrano's Coffee Roastery and Cafe (gourmet coffees)

16-6-1 CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL:

If you're interested in working on one of the committees for getting out the vote on August 10th, please call the Caucus office and leave a message. In voting at its June 19th General Meeting, the Caucus endorsed passage of this proposal. Its

approval would be a big step toward creating a forum for better representation for all the people of Houston, a goal which the Caucus has strongly endorsed.

LGRL:

Many thanks to Pat Gandy, Co-Chair of the HGLPC Board, for ably representing the Caucus at the July 13-14 Board meeting of the LGRL (Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby) held in Austin. Please be advised that we have a position open for a male LGRL Board Representative from the Caucus. If you are interested, please call the office and leave a message.

MAILING LIST:

Special thanks also to Kevin Davidson, Membership Chair; Scott Simpson, Mailing List Chair; and to the group they assembled to help update the HGLPC list of people who have requested to receive the Caucus' list of endorsements of candidates in political races. The "computer-friendly" gang met at Kevin's country place last Friday and Saturday, July 12th and 13th. We heard that the dinner was great!

Keep up the good work, folks; the Caucus needs the help of everyone.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

by Chris Bacon

I always hold my breath when I am about to read a story or view a television program dealing with the Houston Gay Community. I had known for several weeks that the McNeil-Lehrer News Hour was planning a segment on the Politics of AIDS in Houston since they had interviewed many Caucus members for the story. But although I trusted those people who had spoken to the News Hour reporter, I know how frequently the media sensationalize and distort by selectively quoting out of context or juxtaposing dissonant segments. Nightmarish images of Leslie Perez droning on for fifteen minutes with background pictures of the most outlandish floats of gay pride parades of years past haunted my imagination.

Alas, my fears were unfounded. Mary Ann Bowser's story was one of the best treatments of gay politics that I have ever seen. The short ten minute segment was packed with information, substance and heart.

The history of gay politics in the last decade was objectively documented by pictures, video clips and

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR (continued)

intelligent and articulate talking heads, most members of the Caucus. For someone who is a newcomer to the Houston political scene, the homophobic television commercial that ran during the referendum of 1985 along with the scenes of protesting Klan members were particularly chilling. The photographs of other Pride Parades from the early part of the decade, as well as the more current video from the recent memorial at Bell Park, sensitively portrayed our struggle for basic human rights; this was quite a contrast from the usually selective and homophobic coverage our Pride Parade gets from local news stations.

The best parts of the documentary, however, were the interviews, for they showed the diversity, dedication, and intelligence of those who are active in our community. From Brian Keever's recollections of the confident Community he had just joined at the beginning of the decade to Harry Livesay's description of the current irrational discrimination faced by AIDS patients in Houston, I could not but be impressed by the depth and sensitivity of the people with whom I work day after day.

The documentary addressed the often conflicting strategies that our Community has relied upon to gain political power, but while many journalists would seek to create a rift between the groups, Ms. Bowser suggested that a synergy existed between these different approaches. It was obvious from the documentary that there is room in our community for both conventional grass roots politics with its block walking and mass voter registration campaigns—as suggested by HGLPC President Toni Knight—as there is for the civil disobedience advocated by Queer Na-

tionalist and HGLPC board member, David Fowler.

In fact, the only person who came across negatively during the program was Kathy Whitmire. And it wasn't because Ms. Bowser unfairly harassed her a la Mike Wallace. No, the Snow Queen did it to herself. She was visibly uncomfortable throughout the interview. When asked why the City of Houston had not spent any money on treating AIDS patients, she snapped back and explained it wasn't the city's job to do so. But it was not her explanation of separation of city and county responsibilities that portrayed Ms. Whitmire in a bad light, but rather her haughty defensiveness, her rigid body language, and the frigid grin, reminiscent of Nurse Ratchet, that she forced on her face when she said that the City would not spend a "dime" on AIDS because it wasn't the City's responsibility that made me realize that Ms. Whitmire has lost touch with the community. As Rice University professor Bob Stein suggested, the fact that Ms. Whitmire had not even made "symbolic" efforts towards our community said a lot.

Ms. Bowser should be commended for her objective portrayal of our community. She allowed our voices to be heard. She did not sensationalize the story as the media so often do, but even more important, she did not patronize us, as the "well-meaning" networks often do when discussing our problems. Maybe I *will* send in my check to PBS this year.

HGLPC CALENDAR JULY-AUGUST 1991

- | | |
|---------|--|
| July 17 | GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M. |
| Aug. 7 | GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M. |
| Aug. 14 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HGLPC Office
900 Lovett, Suite #101
7:30 P.M. |
| Aug. 21 | GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M. |
| Aug. 28 | SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING
HGLPC Office
900 Lovett, Suite #101
7:30 P.M. |

(All meetings are held on Wednesdays.)

CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT!

GLPC members are urged to submit their articles, ideas, opinions, suggestions, and news items to *OUT & ABOUT*:

Duncan Allen, Editor
8055 Cambridge St. #3
Houston, TX 77054
Ph. 713/796-0766

Deadline for August issue:
Thursday, Aug. 15th.

INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS BACON, CHAIR OF HGLPC's SCREENING COMMITTEE

Chris Bacon, the Chair of the Board of HGLPC, is also coordinating the efforts to revamp the Caucus' procedures. OUT & ABOUT interviewed Chris concerning the new procedures.

Q. What was wrong with the old screening procedures?

A. From the outset let me say that HGLPC has always had an effective screening process. Politicians have frequently praised our process for its thoughtfulness and fairness. I think it would be unfair to characterize the instituting of new procedures as a complete overhauling of the old system. Rather, we have sought to improve what has always been a good system.

Q. But obviously the Committee must have felt that some areas needed changing?

A. Certainly. There are three areas in particular that the Screening Committee has felt needed change. First, we have created a large pool of open-ended questions. In the past, the screening panels depended on maybe four or five questions for a particular race. Often these questions elicited obvious answers, and candidates were able to prepare in advance. The Committee has tried to develop questions that will shed light on the knowledge and attitudes of the candidates. We want to make it difficult for a candidate to prepare a rigged script.

A second concern was the rating system used by the Caucus. Too often, different screeners worked under different impressions as to what a particular score meant. One screener's 80 was not necessarily another screener's 80. While the screening process will always have a subjective element to it, the Committee wants to minimize the subjective as much as possible.

Finally, the Committee will be compiling information on incumbents so that during the screening process, we can specifically ask incumbents about their performance on issues that concern our community.

Q. Who is going to determine who gets to screen?

A. This is certainly one of the more sensitive issues in the screening process. Ultimately, the Screening Committee will be responsible for assigning people to screening panels. We realize that this always raises concerns about the fairness of the process. I will be making assignments based on specific criteria. First, anyone who wants to screen will have to attend a training session for potential screeners. Even the President will have to attend. No exceptions will be allowed. At present we have scheduled three training sessions:

- The first is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- The second is scheduled on Saturday, August 10, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- The third is scheduled on Thursday, August 15, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

If a person cannot make any of those training sessions, I will conduct a fourth training session at that person's convenience. However, I must be advised of this need as soon as possible.

Second, a person who is involved in a particular campaign will not be allowed to screen in that race. This will not necessarily exclude a Caucus member who has a preference for a particular candidate or one who has made a nominal donation to a particular campaign. But if the Caucus member has been visibly supportive of a particular campaign, I will not assign her to that particular panel.

Finally, a person who is assigned to a particular screening panel must be available to screen all of the candidates in that particular race. At the time of the training session I will ask potential screeners to provide me with a schedule so I can match them to the schedules of the screening sessions.

Once I have identified all eligible screeners for a particular race the Committee will randomly select the members of a particular panel, although the Committee may decide to bypass the random procedure in certain instances in order to ensure diversity on the panel. We will also assign each interested screener to at least one panel before we begin assigning people to a second or third panel.

We will continue this interview next month where Chris will explain the process by which the Screening Committee will recommend candidates to the Caucus at large.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE IS CHANGED!

The Board has voted to move the regular September 18th (second Wednesday) General Meeting to *Thursday, September 19th*. This one-time change of meeting date was made out of respect for Yom Kippur, which occurs on the 17th and 18th.

HARRY LIVESAY resigned on July 8 from the Board of Directors of HGLPC. The Board thanks him profusely for all the leadership, enthusiasm and commitment he has brought to the Caucus over the years. The open Board seat will be announced at the General Meeting on July 17.

GLPC OFFICE NOW OPEN!

HGLPC member **Alex Leach** has very kindly volunteered to be in the HGLPC office every weekday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The office is at 900 Lovett (Montrose Counseling Center Building), Suite #101. Stop by if you can, say hello, and sign up to serve on a committee. There are numerous ways in which you can get involved!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by **Dennis Spencer**

Dennis Spencer reported at the July 10th Board Meeting that as of June 30, 1991 the checking account balance was \$699.93. Income for June 1991 was \$783.50, and exceeded expenses of \$769.15, resulting in an excess of \$14.35. The year-to-date shortfall as of July 10th stood at \$1,015.59.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian
Political Caucus
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

VOTE YES ON REDISTRICTING—

SUPPORT 16-6-1 ON AUGUST 10.

**Our Community must band
together on this issue and
show a strong GAY vote!**

**The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political
Caucus supports redistricting
and the 16-6-1 plan for our city.**

**Toni Knight, President
HGLPC**

This flyer was handed out to hundreds of people at the gay rally in Montrose on Saturday night, July 13. The rally was held to protest the murder of Paul Broussard and the beatings of several other gay men on and around July 4th.



OUT & ABOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

AUGUST 1991

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

by Chris Bacon

Apparently it takes a gruesome murder to jolt the armchair homosexual. But for how long? No sooner had the drunken excitement of the mass demonstration subsided, and Calvin Klein and Perry Ellis were back on Pacific Street.

I do not want to belittle the events of the last month. Every Houston activist I know was cheered by the tremendous outpouring of people into the streets of Montrose. I even saw several of my lawyer friends from big downtown firms join the fray. People who normally invent girlfriends for the people at work or who won't write a check to LGRL or HGLPC (lest their bank figure out what the "L" and "G" stand for) were nonchalantly chanting in the face of television cameras.

You would have thought that the Astros had won the World Series, except that these people were not protesting because protesting had suddenly become fashionable. This was a protest of anger. This was a protest of pride. We rediscovered our strength as we watched with amusement as the politicians
(Continued on Page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Toni Knight

Last Saturday I knocked on the door of a friend's house. She ran down the stairs from a room she uses as an office in her home. "Are you busy?" I asked. She said that she was going through the cards in her "friendly file." I know that she still in this computer age keeps a Rolodex with each friendly voter's name, address, and permanent information on it.

I have watched the same person spend hours late into the night writing personal notes on the bottom of computer-generated, "politically correct"
(Continued on Page 2)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—NEW ENDORSEMENT MEETING DATE!

Candidate Endorsement Meeting—Wednesday, September 25th

Location: MONTROSE PALACE, Nevada @ Commonwealth

Time: 7:30 p.m.

LAST CHANCE FOR SCREENING TRAINING—THURSDAY, AUG. 22nd

(SEE CALENDAR, P.3)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR (continued)

scrambled like mice to the microphones. Ah, such courage, to come out against hate crimes. No doubt they are against hunger and concentration camps as well.

But why does it take a Paul Broussard to galvanize our community? Paul was certainly not the first victim in our city. Others have been attacked because of their sexual orientation. Many more have been verbally assaulted, fired from their jobs, excluded from their families, denied health benefits, denied custody of their children, harassed by police, falsely imprisoned, discriminated against, and denied entry into the country solely because of their sexual preference.

Unfortunately, the discrimination encountered by gays and lesbians in our community is often subtle and difficult to articulate. Often it goes unreported. Rarely is it so clear, as it was in the case of Paul Broussard, that gay-bashing has taken place.

But I hope that our community does not allow Paul to become a mere "photo opportunity" for a handful of our leaders. I am grateful for the turnout on July thirteenth, but we need people to join the tedious battle every day. Showing up for the pep rally is not enough. There are blocks to walk, letters to write, phone calls to make, funds to raise, candidates to screen, politicians to lobby, statutes to draft, and leaflets to pass out.

We need to realize that the video images of the night of July thirteenth will soon be erased from the heterosexual conscience in the manner that people forget about the nameless victims of third world typhoons or airplane crashes. We need people to be OUT every day, at work and at home in their neighborhoods, because that is the only way we will convey to others

that we are not a nameless community that occasionally commands the headlines. Only then will others realize our strength and numbers.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

thank you letters.

I know when I receive one of those letters from someone with a sometimes scribbled or misspelled personal note on the bottom, I always read the hand-written note first. Don't we all?

Grass roots personal politics is almost a lost art. I personally love the excitement and challenge of election day—calling people, driving them to the polls, and block walking. From what I have seen, politics is only a handful of activists who actually participate in such time-consuming activities, and yet those activities comprise the most effective process for building and maintaining an organization.

When the HGLPC (or any other gay and lesbian political organization) has as many as fifty people on the streets identifying voters weeks before an election, then we can win all of our precincts in any race in which we endorse candidates.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OPENLY GAY and LESBIAN ELECTED and APPOINTED OFFICIALS

by Duncan Allen

The HGLPC is the year's host for the annual meeting of the NAGLEAO. The Conference will be held from Friday, November 22nd through Sunday, November 24th at Stouffer Presidente Hotel, 6 Greenway Plaza East.

Chris Bacon, Kevin Davidson, and Liz Shuler, Co-chairs of the Conference Committee, are seeking sponsors to contribute \$20.00 apiece and attend the Friday evening cocktail reception (from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.) to welcome the Conference attendees. The party will be held at Hal Coley's home, and will include a Mexican buffet.

Please see or call Chris, Kevin, or Liz to become a sponsor and to help welcome HGLPC's guests from around the world.

HGLPC 16th ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER: SAT., NOVEMBER 23, 1991

The HGLPC's 16th Anniversary Awards Dinner has been scheduled to coincide with the above Conference, according to Kevin Davidson, Chair of the Anniversary Awards Dinner Committee.

The keynote speaker will be Bill Scott, the first openly gay public official appointed by Governor Richards. Kevin asks that you put the dinner on your calendar, plan to attend, and watch OUT & ABOUT for details.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

Trey Click, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, has announced that a GLPC fundraising function is being planned for mid- or late September. Watch for an announcement of the exact date and location in the September issue of OUT & ABOUT.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Dennis Spencer

Dennis Spencer reported at the August 14th Board Meeting that as of 7-31-91, the checking account balance was \$679.84; on 8-14-91 it was \$306.62. Income for July '91 was \$2,547.50, and expenses were \$2,567.59, resulting in a shortfall of \$20.09. The year-to-date shortfall as of July 31st was \$570.92.

HATE CRIMES/LGRL

by Pat Gandy

A very weak portion of the hate crimes bill has been added onto the Criminal Justice bill. This amendment to the Criminal Justice bill suggests that the state maintain statistics on hate crimes. Criminal Justice is still in conference committee, so I don't know whether or not it will pass. However, there is a very good possibility of having hate crimes placed on call for the second special legislative session.

This is the time for everyone to write or call Governor Richards to request that hate crimes be placed on call. Her phone number is:

1-800-843-5789

Her address is:

Hon. Ann Richards
Governor of Texas
State Capitol, Room 200
Austin, TX 78701

LGRL: The Lesbian and Gay Rights League (LGRL) is still in need of a male representative from the HGLPC. If interested, please call Toni Knight at 521-1000.

HGLPC CALENDAR

AUG. - SEPT. 1991

Aug. 22 (Thur.) FINAL TRAINING SESSION FOR SCREENING COMMITTEE*
HGLPC Office
900 Lovett, Suite #101
7:30 P.M.

Sept. 4 GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M.

Sept. 11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HGLPC Office
900 Lovett, Suite #101
7:30 P.M.

Sept. 18 GENERAL MEETING
Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
7:00 P.M.

Sept. 25 ENDORSEMENT MEETING FOR NOV. 5th ELECTION

LOCATION:
MONTROSE PALACE
Nevada at Commonwealth
TIME:
7:30 P.M.

* NOTE: If you were unable to attend a training session, but would like to screen, call Chris Bacon; he may be able to arrange one-on-one training.

CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT!

GLPC members are urged to submit their articles, opinions, ideas, suggestions, and news items to **OUT & ABOUT** :

Duncan Allen, Editor
8055 Cambridge St. #3
Houston, TX 77054
Ph. 713/796-0766

Deadline for next issue:
Thursday, September 12th.

H G L P C

ANYONE REMEMBER STONEWALL?

by Ray Hill

To many people the Westheimer bar QT's is an unsavory sort of place, but I find it interesting. The clientele look and dress like the people in a picture of those involved in the Stonewall Rebellion. The picture appears in *Male Homosexuality*, by Martin Weinberg and Colin Williams (Oxford University Press, 1974). The photographer was Fred W. McDarragh, who recorded the scene during the June 1969 rebellion which we celebrate the anniversary of each year as Lesbian and Gay Pride Week.

I have been using that book recently, trying to determine if police attitudes and those of the general public toward the gay and lesbian community have changed much in the last twenty-two years. I keep hoping they have, but as I watched the raid at QT's last Wednesday night, August 14th, I think perhaps not.

Mike Stubblefield paged me about 11:15 p.m., while the raid was in progress. I walked over from Pacific Street, where I had been showing a National Public Radio reporter how lesbian and gay nightlife works. When I arrived, the raid was in full swing. The officer at the door said I could not come in—"...the bar is now closed." I showed him my press pass and told him, "I am Lois Lane and there is a story here (in anticipation of writing this article) and it belongs to me." He stepped aside, and let me in.

It was a good, old-fashioned, "up against the wall, m-----f-----" kind of raid, except for the white surgical gloves, a modern touch unknown in 1969. The language of the uniformed officers was degrading and condescending like that the police used in my youth, but the plainclothes officers seemed polite as they searched all the patrons one at a time, checked their identification, and put them through the sobriety test paces. I wondered: "Why did the plainclothes officers not need gloves while working undercover before the raid, but had to have them as soon as the arrests started?" Just one of life's mysteries, I suppose.

I haven't seen one of these tactical operations in four years—1987 at Michael's was the last one I saw—so it was kind of shocking and seemed out of focus with the new "vice versa" anti-gay-bashing operation getting all the media attention lately.

I will not try to analyze the raid or speculate on the factors behind the decision to raid a gay bar at this par-

ticular time. Those efforts are better accomplished by the representatives from community organizations working in regular liaison with the Houston Police Department.

I will only marvel at the similarity between this raid and the raid on the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street in the Village section of New York City in 1969. Those arrested for public intoxication at QT's bar appeared in Municipal Court #8 the next morning at eight o'clock, and included four Anglos, four Hispanics, and two blacks. Four of this group were transpersons.

Three others—the bartender, charged with liquor license violations, and two patrons charged with prostitution—were not in Municipal Court, having been sent to County Criminal Court for more serious misdemeanor charges. Those three were all transpersons also.

The four women present in the bar at the time of the raid were released without charges. The kind of mixed and balanced racial and gender composition of the group arrested at QT's matches that of the clientele at Stonewall twenty-two years ago. At Stonewall only one person was arrested (an Hispanic transperson) because the rebellion broke out, sending ten police officers to the hospital, burning down the bar, and resulting in the gay and lesbian control of the area for three days. The Mattachine Society of New York City (the only organized gay group in New York before the rebellion) said at the time "...police are doing us a favor by closing the Stonewall-type places."

No one goes to Mattachine meetings any more, and their 1969 leader Dick Liesch has not issued any comment on police activity in over twenty years. I think most of us feel that none of us will be assured of our freedom until all of us are free. Perhaps if more of us activist types would spend more time at places like QT's helping to raise the political consciousness and listening to the problems of the regular customers, we might learn more about the diversity in our community and expand our support base. We might even help bridge the expanding gap between those folks and the rest of us. It never hurts to be good and caring neighbors within our relatively small community.

CAUCUS TAKES STAND ON THOMAS NOMINATION

by Chris Bacon

On July 17th, the Caucus voted unanimously to oppose George Bush's nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. Chris Bacon, the Chair of the Board of HGLPC, offered the following explanation for the Caucus's action:

At first glance, taking a stand on a Supreme Court nomination may seem like an act in futility. The last time the Supreme Court visited an issue that directly affected the rights of Gay people was in 1986 where the Court upheld a Georgia statute outlawing sodomy. Even then the Court ruled against us, and that was at a time when both Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan were still on the Court. If the Court were to revisit Bowers v. Hardwick today, it is unlikely that it would be a 5-4 decision. Only two of the four dissenters in Hardwick will be back on the Court next October.

Why should we even care? What difference will one more justice make? Well for one, although the Supreme Court may look grim, it could get even grimmer if we lie down and don't fight this nomination. Several points need to be considered about Supreme Court decision making.

First, the Supreme Court rarely chooses between two opposite polar views. Often there are four, five, or even nine different positions. A Justice who wants his position to prevail will often soften his views in order to attract a majority of the Justices. In Bowers v. Hardwick, for example, Justice Powell voted with the majority only because Michael Hardwick had never been in danger of receiving a prison sentence. He pointed out, however, that had Michael Hardwick been in danger of being imprisoned for twenty years (which was possible under the Georgia statute), he would probably have sided with the dissent. But the moral of the Powell story should not be lost on us. While we do not expect George Bush to nominate a Thurgood Marshall or William Brennan—judges who actively pursued our rights—we should at least hope for judges, like Powell, who will not actively seek to harm us. Call it a lesser evil, if you will.

Second, the Supreme Court will, in all likelihood, revisit in the upcoming term a woman's right to have an abortion. Gay men often fail to see how this directly affects them, thinking that, of all people, they have the least at stake when it comes to a woman's right to choice. They fail to see that the legal building blocks that are used to guarantee a woman's right to choice and to reproductive freedom are the same ones that are used to argue for the gay man's right to have sex with whomever he pleases. If Roe v. Wade falls, the gay man's right to privacy becomes even more endangered.

But why is the Caucus against Clarence Thomas? How can the Caucus object to someone at this early stage? Unfortunately, it is always very difficult to predict someone's performance on the Supreme Court. After all, Clarence Thomas could be a closet liberal. The record that we do have on him, however, suggests that this is not likely.

Clarence Thomas has set off further alarms by characterizing himself as a "natural rights" judge as opposed to a "strict constructionist" as most conservatives do. Strict constructionists claim to be literalists. They refuse to find rights in the Constitution that are not there. For example, since "privacy" is not specifically stated in the Constitution, they contend that there is no such constitutional right. While gays and lesbians do not normally take solace from strict constructionists, this doctrine, if they are honest and abide by it, also prevents them from interfering with rights that State legislatures may grant.

Clarence Thomas has suggested that a judge can also rely on "natural" or "higher" law to decide cases. This style of jurisprudence tends to be amorphous since different men have different views of what is the "higher" law. Baptist ministers will have a very different view of "natural law" from you and me. "Natural law" arguments were even made in the Hardwick case when Chief Justice Burger stated that "To hold that the act of homosexual sodomy is somehow protected as a fundamental right would be to cast aside millennia of moral teaching." Given Clarence Thomas' background, it is unlikely that he would recognize privacy as a natural right. It is far more likely that Thomas would share the Vatican's view of Natural Rights and, therefore, he could be far more dangerous than some of the conservatives that are already on the Court. Given the hysteria that legislatures (including Congress) have demonstrated in recent weeks concerning the testing of medical personnel, we cannot afford to have a Highest Court that reflects the views of the Southern Baptist Convention.

INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS BACON, CHAIR OF HGLPC's SCREENING COMMITTEE

PART II

Chris Bacon, the Chair of the Board of HGLPC, is coordinating the efforts to revamp the Caucus' procedures. OUT & ABOUT interviewed Chris concerning the new procedures. Part I of the interview was published in the July issue of OUT & ABOUT; here is the second part.

GLPC SCREENING PROCEDURES

I. WHO WILL SCREEN?

A. A separate screening team will be appointed for each race. A person may serve on more than one screening team. However, a person will not be assigned to a second screening team until all qualified persons desiring to screen have been assigned to at least one team. A screening team will consist of 1) a team leader; 2) interviewers; 3) non-interviewers. All of these people will score the candidate, but only the interviewers will ask questions. No more than ten people will be allowed on a screening team.

B. In order to serve on a screening team a person must

1. Be a member of the HGLPC.
2. Attend a two-hour training session.
3. Be able to attend all screening sessions for that particular screening team.

C. Team leader. A team leader will be appointed to each screening team. This person will be appointed by the Chair of the Screening Committee. The team leader is a voting member of the subcommittee. Her responsibilities include:

1. Selecting the interviewers for the panel from the screening team.
2. Ensuring that the process proceeds smoothly and according to schedule.
3. Collecting and summarizing the evaluation reports from the screening team.

D. Interviewers. For each screening session only FIVE members of the team will be asking questions. These FIVE people will be selected by the team leader. All members of the team who are present at the screening of each candidate for a particular race will be allowed to vote. It is not necessary for the same five people to ask the questions for each candidate, but it is necessary that the same people submit evaluation forms for each candidate. If a person is not present for the screening of the second candidate in the same race, his evaluation of the first candidate will not be counted, even if he was one of the interviewers. For this reason, screeners will need to identify themselves on the evaluation instrument.

E. Non-Interviewers. Non-Interviewer members of the Screening team will generally not ask questions unless sufficient time exists after all official screening questions have been answered. The Screening team leader alone will make the decision of whether additional questions may be asked.

II. LENGTH OF SCREENING

A. The screening session should last no longer than 30 minutes.

B. Each interviewer will be allowed no more than 6 minutes to question the candidate. An interviewer may extend his time if one of the other interviewers is willing to give up an equal amount of time. An interviewer may use his entire time in one block or may choose to split his time into two blocks. The team leader has the responsibility of monitoring time.

C. A team leader may extend the screening session by 15 minutes if he believes that special circumstances exist.

D. The team leader generally will not ask questions. The Panelists and Interviewers, however, must follow the team leader's directions.

E. No opening statement will be made by the candidates.

III. QUESTIONS USED

A. The Screening Committee believes that Interviewers should be given considerable latitude in their questioning. An interviewer is not required to use those questions in the manual. However, the screening committee hopes that the interviewer will give considerable thought to her questions before the screening of the candidate.

B. A interviewer should generally avoid exploring an area that another interviewer has thoroughly discussed. While an interviewer may want to clarify an issue formerly raised by another interviewer's questions, he should seek to explore new grounds, if possible. The team of interviewers may want to plan ahead of time to avoid repetition of questions.

C. At least one of the interviewers should focus on the candidate's political skills and electability, since this is one of the three domains which are considered in the evaluation process.

D. In the case of incumbents, at least one of the interviewers should focus on the candidate's record.

E. It is not necessary that two candidates running for the same office be asked the same questions. However, in the event that one area poses a particular problem for a candidate, the panel should attempt to ask the opponent the same questions.

IV. REPORTING

A. The chair of the subcommittee is responsible for compiling the results of the evaluation forms. If possible, she should do this with other members of the subcommittee.

B. The chair should compute two separate scores for each candidate as defined below:

Score 1: The average of all the total scores.

Score 2: Drop the highest and lowest score and find the average of the remaining scores.

To Compute Total Score, find the average of the above scores.

C. Any member of the subcommittee may attach a statement to the chair's report if he believes that the total score does not accurately reflect the candidate. This is especially encouraged when the a member believes that the evaluation instrument does not allow for a specific strength or weakness to be accounted for.

V. MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CAUCUS AT LARGE

A. Once the reports have been submitted by the subcommittee chairpersons, the Screening Committee at large will meet to discuss making recommendations to the caucus. Any person who has participated in the screening process will be entitled to vote at the Screening Committee at-large meeting. All persons who served on the screening committee will be given reasonable notice of the Screening Committee Meeting.

B. The Screening Committee will make the following types of recommendations:

1. highly recommend
2. recommend
3. no recommendation
4. negative recommendation

C. The Screening Committee may consider recommending dual endorsements.

D. Recommending a Candidate. The Screening Committee will first determine whether a candidate should be "recommended" to the Caucus for endorsement. In order to be "recommended," the Candidate should have either an average score of 60 or higher and a vote to recommend from 2/3 of the Screening Committee OR an average score of 70 or higher and a majority vote from the screening committee.

E. Highly Recommending a Candidate. If a candidate is "recommended" by the Screening Committee, the

Committee may then determine if the Candidate should be "highly recommended" to the Caucus. In order to be "highly recommended" to the Caucus, the Candidate should have either an average score of 85 or higher and a vote to "highly recommend" from 2/3 of the Screening Committee OR an average score of 93 or higher and a vote to "highly recommend" from a majority of the screening committee.

F. Negative Recommendations. To receive a "negative recommendation" the candidate must have had an average score less than 50, and a majority of the Screening Committee must vote to give the candidate a "negative recommendation."

G.. Note on Comparing Candidates with Similar Scores: When making a recommendation for a single endorsement, the screening committee will allow for a margin of error in the scoring process. For example, if one candidate has a total score of 85 and another candidate has a score of 84, it should not be a foregone conclusion that the 85 is a better candidate. A difference of five points may be viewed as significant. A difference of less than five points should not be viewed as significant.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Pat Gandy

As we discussed at our last meeting, it was necessary to work on some legislation involving health care workers and HIV infection. During the last legislative session, my main argument for blocking HIV testing of health care workers was that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had not passed any guidelines. The following day two bills relating to the subject passed the U.S. Senate. One of these bills, sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms, called for criminal penalties for health care workers who practice while infected with the AIDS virus. The other bill, sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy, conditions state funding upon the passage of state legislation based on CDC guidelines.

On the state level, Senator Sibley and Representative Ron Wilson were attempting to introduce similar legislation that would have criminalized HIV-positive health care workers. This legislation would have been difficult for the governor to veto, because during a special session, smaller bills are amended onto larger bills, such as the massive government reorganization bill, which the governor will not veto. In view of this threatening situation, it seemed like a better idea to write our own legislation on the issue before more reactionary legislation became entrenched in the government reorganization bill.

Lisa McGiffert of Senator Brooks' office, Leslie Friedlander (of Texas AIDS Network), Glen Maxey and I wrote an HIV-Health Care Worker bill based upon the CDC guidelines. I also spoke with several doctors and dentists who helped us improve upon the CDC language. Here are some of the major issues addressed in this bill:

1. Health care workers should know their HIV and HBV status. This does not require mandatory testing of health care workers.
2. Health care workers who are HIV- or HBV-positive should not perform invasive or exposure-prone procedures.
3. Universal precautions should be used in all health care procedures.
4. Health care workers who can no longer perform their jobs are to receive job retraining.
5. HIV-positive health care workers can continue to perform all health care procedures on HIV-positive patients as long as universal precautions are used.

As of this writing, the HIV-Health Care Worker bill is still in conference committee, so I don't know what the final result will be. The Senate bill adopts our exact language, but was amended on the floor by Representative Ron Wilson. His amendment requires patients to inform doctors of their HIV status or face \$5,000 civil damages. It also allows doctors to refuse to treat HIV-positive patients. As of this writing, the bills are still in conference committee (where the Senate and the House compare their two versions of the bill), so I don't know what the final result will be. However, Senator Brooks' office believes that Wilson's language will be removed from the House bill.

Well, Brooks' office just called! The Wilson language *has* been removed! So now the score is: Gay/Lesbian Community—2; Ron Wilson—0.



The Lobby Report

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas
April, 1991

Discriminatory AIDS bills set for hearing

Although an exact date has not been set, it looks as if most of the negative AIDS legislation this session will be heard on April 22. I suggest that you write or call about these bills immediately. When you do so, you need only express your opposition to the bill. Detailed messages are unnecessary. It is also unnecessary to speak directly with the legislator. Messages left with staff persons and on answering machines are just as effective. Letters to Representatives should be addressed to PO Box 2910, Austin, Tx. 78768; Senators: PO Box 12068 Austin, Tx. 78711.

House Bill 2509 is absolutely the worst bill this session. The sponsor is Representative Billy Clemons (Democrat-San Augustine, Angelina, and Trinity). His number is 512-463-0490. This bill undercuts all of our past AIDS policy successes. Some points about this bill are: 1. requires that all educational programs state that homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle; 2. requires HIV testing of all prisoners; 3. allows classroom teachers to inquire about a student's HIV status, regardless of whether or not the teacher has completed an HIV counseling course.

House Bills 2440 and 1362 are concerned with mandatory testing of health care workers. House Bill 2440, sponsored by Representative John Carona (Republican Dallas District 109), requires health care workers to provide HIV test results to most patients who inquire. House

Bill 1362, sponsored by Representative Will Hartnett (Republican Dallas - District 102), requires health care workers to provide HIV test results as a condition of employment. Contact with either of these Representatives is very useful because they are both new this session and need to understand the implications of carrying bills such as these that could harm our community. Hartnett's number is 512-463-0576. Carona's number is 512-463-0744.

House Bill 702, sponsored by Representative Ron Wilson (Democrat-Houston District 131), would penalize HIV positive doctors and dentists. Messages to Representative Wilson may be helpful, sometimes he can be fairly strong on our issues. Representative Wilson's number is 512-463-0744.

House Bill 238, the so called "biting bill," requires mandatory testing of persons suspected of exposing police officers and fire fighters to HIV infection. Representative A.R. "Augie" Ovard (Republican - Dallas District 113) is the sponsor of this bill. Ovard's number is 512-463-0590.

All of this legislation will be heard before members of the Public Health Committee. Please contact: Craddick, Chairman (512-463-0500), Madla (512-463-0618), Rodriguez (512-463-0714) Glaze (512-463-0580), Hirschi (512-463-0534), Park (512-463-0522), Rabuck (512-463-0726), Schoolcraft (512-463-0686), Harris (Jack) (512-463-0564).

--Laurie Eiserloh

4th Texas Lesbian Conference in works

The fourth annual Texas Lesbian Conference will be held the weekend of April 12-14 at Austin's historic Driskill Hotel. This year's theme is *Moving Forward Together: Empowerment, Pride and Strength*. Ticket prices are \$45.00 at the door. This price includes a variety of workshops and key note speeches by Del Martin, Linda Morales, and Deborah Johnson, as well as a Saturday luncheon and Saturday night dance.

LGRL's Laurie Eiserloh, along with Margaret Tucker and Suzy Wagers of the Texas Human Rights Foundation and LGRL member Martha Fitzwater, will be hosting a work shop entitled Legal and Legislative Issues and Strategies of Concern to the Lesbian Community.

--Kim Vickery

CALENDAR

April 12-14th
Texas Lesbian Conference
April 22nd
possible hearing for all AIDS
legislation
May 3rd
possible Austin Rights of Spring
June 19-23rd
Houston Pride Week
June 23rd
San Antonio Pride Picnic

Important funeral legislation gets favorable committee hearing

Discrimination against gay and lesbian people by the funeral industry is a very serious problem for our community.

At our community center in Austin, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby and the Texas Human Rights Foundation have received numerous complaints about the funeral industry. Two of the most common complaints are: refusal by funeral homes to accept the bodies of persons who have died from AIDS; and refusal by funeral homes to honor pre-death written instructions of the deceased designating a lover, and not a family member, as the person who may claim the body for burial.

In response to these difficulties, there are two bills pending this session that would benefit the lesbian and gay community in our dealings with funeral homes. The first bill, which was recently heard by the House Public Health Committee, and which will soon be heard by the entire House before it moves on to the Senate, is House Bill 899. Sylvester Turner (Democrat -Houston) is the sponsor of this bill, originally written by the Texas Funeral Commission. HB 899 would prohibit funeral homes from discriminating against either the body or the person claiming the body on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or cause of death. The "cause of death"

clause in this bill is important because it prevents funeral homes from refusing the bodies of those who have died from AIDS.

Another common problem with the funeral industry involves pre-death testamentary arrangements made by the deceased. Until recently, (except in the case of paupers' funerals) spouses, children, parents and other family members were the only individuals who could claim a body for burial or cremation. Because of some important legislation supported by the LGRL last session, it is now possible for a person to designate his or her lover as the person who may claim the body. (If you decide to do this, be sure to have a lawyer draw up the papers.)

Despite this new law, funeral homes have been reluctant to follow the instructions of the deceased. The problem is this: if one's parents, children or even brother or sister come to the funeral home and request that the body be disposed of in a certain way, the funeral director will usually follow the instructions of the family member and ignore the testamentary instructions of the deceased.

Part of the reason for this difficulty is that funeral directors do not feel that the present law adequately protects them from liability to family members. The

funeral directors have said that they are waiting for a law suit to test this new law, but this could be a lengthy and expensive process.

The LGRL has written legislation this session introduced by Glen Maxey (Democrat- Austin) which would correct this liability problem. House Bill 2709 would protect funeral homes, funeral directors, embalmers, crematoriums, and other industry members from liability if they follow the instructions of the deceased. In addition, this legislation would create liability for funeral homes that fail to follow the instructions of the deceased.

As usual, persons opposing the civil rights of lesbian and gay people are ready to strike down our funeral legislation. At the committee hearing of HB 899 our gay-bashing opponents offered almost an hour's worth of testimony. One man stated that we should have thought about this problem with funeral homes before we "chose to be homosexual." Another suggested that "homosexuals should be the only ones forced to bury other homosexuals." One woman believed that her most convincing argument against the bill was to graphically describe what she be imagined to be common sexual practices between gay men (she used the pejorative "homosexual," but from the context of her discussion, I know that she meant gay men. Lesbians are always completely invisible in these discussions).

Despite this gay bashing, it looks as if 899 will be voted upon favorably by the committee. As of this writing, the final vote has yet to be taken, but the chairman of the

(continued on p. 4)

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION

Look at your address label for this newsletter.

If the date on it is prior to 4/1/91 your membership has expired.

FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FORM AND
DROP IT IN THE MAIL TODAY.

Texas Board of Optometry blocked in bid to oust HIV positive docs

The LGRL successfully blocked an attempt by the Texas Board of Optometry to prohibit persons living with HIV disease from practicing optometry. The laws governing optometrists, like the laws governing most professions which involve interaction with the public, prohibit the practice of the profession if the practitioner is infected with a "contagious disease." This language dates back to the influenza epidemic of the 1930's and was intended to prevent the transmission of airborne diseases. Recently the boards of various professions are attempting to amend licensing language so that it states "HIV or any other contagious

disease." These amendments are questionable and unfair because HIV is not an airborne disease and should not be singled out as a disqualification for the practice of professions such as barbering, cosmetology and optometry.

Representative Glen Maxey, the first openly gay elected official in the history of Texas and the past legislative director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby, has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives which should prevent further licensing laws such as those nearly passed by the Board of Optometry.

Often people on the inside of

their profession hear about changes that might be occurring in licensing laws before the news is released to the public. If you hear about proposed changes in the licensing laws of your profession that could lead to discrimination against gay men, lesbians or persons living with HIV disease, please contact the offices of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (in Austin) immediately.

Other issues being addressed by the Lobby this session are Hate-Crimes legislation, a civil rights bill, child custody legislation and HIV grant and medication funding.

--Laurie Eiserloh

Morales holds meeting, promises to 'stick to legal issues' on §21.06

In a historic meeting, on Saturday March 15th Attorney General Dan Morales invited about 15 lesbian and gay leaders from around the state to his office to discuss a recent Travis County court decision which declared the state sodomy statute, 21.06, unconstitutional.

Section 21.06 of the state penal code makes genital and oral-genital contact between consenting adults of the same sex illegal. Although individuals are rarely charged with violating the statute, 21.06 is often invoked by landlords, employers and others to deny us our rights based upon our "criminal" status.

The tone of our meeting with Attorney General Morales was extremely positive. He demonstrated a real concern for our community

and also demonstrated a willingness to learn about the issues affecting lesbian and gay people.

As the Attorney General, Dan Morales has the duty to uphold the laws of the state, even unjust laws, such as the state sodomy statute. However, the way in which the Attorney General goes about upholding the law can make a big difference to our community. For instance in the past when addressing gay and lesbian issues, AG's offices have been notorious for focusing on "morality" and "common decency," issues which play to people's homophobia. Dan Morales assured us that his approach to this most recent 21.06 case would be very different. He pledged to us that in his appeal of the 21.06 case, he would stick to the legal issues and make

certain that gay and lesbian people are not subjected to hatred and ridicule at the hands of the AG's office.

Another issue that has been causing some confusion in our community is the appeal of the 21.06 case. It is the Lobby's position, and the position of most community leaders, that an appeal of Judge Paul Davis's ruling in the 21.06 case is absolutely necessary even though we won in Travis County District Court. While our victory in Travis County is a very positive first step, District Court decisions are not published in law books and have little precedential value outside of the district in which the decision was handed down. An appeal to a higher court is needed to make the case a valid precedent for the rest of the state.

--Laurie Eiserloh

Maxey confers LGRL efforts to Eiserloh

Pursuant to his election in the House of Representatives, Glen Maxey, Executive Director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, has relinquished his lobbying activities for this organization. Maxey will continue working for the LGRL as a community organizer and as a part-time administrator. Laurie Eiserloh, a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and past lobbying assistant to Garry Mauro and the Texas Consumer Association, will be taking Maxey's place as the Legislative Director of the LGRL. Eiserloh, who has been on the LGRL staff since mid-November has already experienced great success in lobbying legislators to introduce issues concerning domestic partnership and child custody.

In order to determine his new relationship with the LGRL, Maxey requested a special ruling of the Legislative Legal Council. Because of this ruling, all questions involving Maxey's new association with the lobby have been resolved. Since the gay and lesbian community will now have a lobbyist carrying our agenda to all legislators and a legislator working on our issues within the legislature, our community will be greatly benefitted.

Texas is one of only five states to have a full-time professional lobbyist and one of only five states to have an openly gay elected official in the state legislature.

LGRL hires new administrative assistant

My name is Kim Vickery and I am the new administrative assistant here at the ol' LGRL homestead. I work part time for LGRL and part time for THRF. Before moving to Austin to try to complete my graduate studies (ha!), I lived in Los Angeles. There I worked for a theatrical consultant as a job captain. Believe it or not, that job prepared me for this one.

LGRL introduces new weekly legislative column

This Week in Texas and several other publications around the state are carrying LGRL's new weekly legislative column. This column, written by Laurie Eiserloh--Legislative Director of the LGRL, focuses on timely events at the state legislature. If you would like copies for your publication, let us know, (512) 474-5475.

Desperately Seeking...

Here is a list of things that the Lobby needs that would make our jobs a whole lot easier. We need these items for our new LGRL offices and the community center that will be part of our new offices.

- *A facsimile machine
- *A photo copy machine
- *An Imagewriter printer (or other Macintosh compatible dot matrix printer)
- *Macintosh computer
- *Laser printer (Mac-compatible)

(Thanks to everyone who
donated other needed
equipment!)

**If you've got it,
we'll get it to Austin.**

(continued from p. 2)

committee, Tom Craddick (Republican - Midland), has given his assurances of a favorable vote. A favorable vote in committee is a positive first step for HB 899, but the House and the Senate must still hear and vote on this bill.

With such outspoken opponents, it is very, very important that you write or call your Senator and Representative today and say that you support HB 899. State that you support the bill as it existed on the day of the House committee hearing with the inclusion of protection on the basis of sexual orientation and protection against discrimination based on the cause of death. Also state that you support HB 2709. HB 2709 deals with funeral home liability, and therefore, there is no reason to mention sexual orientation when expressing your support for this bill. If you do not know who your Senator or Representative is, contact the LGRL in Austin and we will help you determine this information. (512-474-5475).

--Laurie Eiserloh

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

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512/474-5475

Legislature Passes Hate Crimes Bill

The lesbian/gay community has once again won a victory in the Texas Legislature. On the evening of August 24th, one day before adjournment of the second special session, the legislature passed hate-crimes legislation. This legislation is the direct result of lobbying, letter writing and phone calls from our community in response to the brutal killing of Paul Broussard in Houston's Montrose district.

Now that it has passed both the House and Senate, this legislation awaits the Governor's signature, which is expected. It will go into effect on October 2, 1991.

The Texas hate-crimes law simply states that Texas must abide by the provisions of the Federal Hate Crimes Act. That act, which has been in effect for over a year, mandates that states keep statistics on the number of hate crimes committed. Unfortunately, the federal law contains no sanctions on states that fail to comply, and it contains no money for the implementation of a hate-crimes reporting system. Because of these lax provisions, Texas like most states has failed to comply with the federal law. The new state law changes this by requiring the Texas Department of Public Safety to comply with federal law.

Under the new law, local police departments must keep records of hate-related crimes and report them to the Department of Public Safety. D.P.S. will then act as a repository for hate-crimes committed across the state. However, the new state law will not be effective unless individuals report the crimes. If police refuse to report a hate-related incident as a hate crime, contact L.G.R.L. immediately. It may be necessary for city gay and lesbian political organizations to work with the L.G.R.L. to make certain that local police departments are aware of and abide by this new legislation.

The Texas hate-crimes statistics law is very important to our community because it helps

us prove that a pattern of gay bashing is occurring. This is useful when the police have a record of "unrelated assaults" that are, in fact, related incidents of gay bashing. Also, from a legislative stance, statistics help prove that gay bashing is occurring, and statistical proof convinces legislators. Although the gay and lesbian community lives under a constant threat of violence, many legislators, including liberal ones, do not see the extent of the problem. However, if activists can point to statistics that reveal the problem, then legislators will be more easily persuaded that greater protection is needed.

Our community must write letters to Department of Public Safety Crime Information to the attention of Ben Kyser, Manager. Tell Mr. Kyser that you are aware of a state legislative mandate requiring D.P.S. to keep statistics on the number of hate crimes committed against the lesbian/gay community and remind him of his duty to keep these statistics. The address for D.P.S. is P.O. Box 4143, Austin, Texas 78765.

Although this is a victory for our community, it is a bittersweet one. Hate-crimes legislation has been introduced in the Texas legislature during the past several sessions. However, it did not pass until the death of Broussard, a Houston Montrose gay man, forced legislators to act on the issue. Many of us are deeply saddened by Broussard's death, but in our grief we should also be proud of ourselves for acting, for coming together as a state-wide community and for changing the law to protect our own people. The passage of this law demonstrates the increasing political power of the gay/lesbian community.

The new hate crimes law also would not have been possible without the help of some key Democratic legislators-Houston Reps. Sylvester Turner, Paul Colbert, Debra Danberg and Dallas Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Houston Sen. Rodney Ellis.

First Amendment Rights Threatened

In the last days of the session, the State Preservation Board introduced a measure, backed by conservative Republicans, that dealt with the regulation of visitors at the state capitol. The State Preservation Board put forth this bill as a conservation bill, when in fact it was an attempt to abridge the first amendment rights of those who protest at the capitol.

In a section entitled "regulation of visitors", the State Board of Preservation sought to prohibit persons :1. from attaching signs to the state capitol or on structures around the capitol; 2. setting up or placing camping equipment at the state capitol; 3. sleeping or lying down on paved or unpaved portions of the capitol; 4. protesting in certain areas of the capitol. The bill also sought to charge a fee for security at capitol demonstrations.

At first glance this bill seems fairly harmless, but consider the effect that such legislation would have on forms of protest that are commonly used by the gay and lesbian community. Under this legislation, an AIDS vigil would be prohibited by the

continued, see "Rights"

What's Inside?

- End of Session
- Maxey Resigns
- Calender
- Sustaining Contributors
- Call for Board Members

"Rights" continued

regulation on camping equipment or related materials. This legislation would prohibit a "die-in" to protest the number of people killed in the AIDS epidemic due to government inaction. The security fee would have a disparate impact upon certain groups, such as the March on Austin for Lesbian/Gay Equal Rights, who have greater security needs than, for instance, the Texas State Teachers Association.

Under first amendment case law, all of these restrictions are clearly unconstitutional. In the past, activists may have been less concerned about a bill such as this because the US Supreme Court would have declared this legislation unconstitutional. However, over the past twelve years, conservative appointees to the Supreme Court, and the retirement of Justices William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall have left us with a Supreme Court that could easily rule against fundamental civil liberties. It is now very important for activists to stop legislation such as HB 55 at the state level.

On Friday August 9, the rules were suspended so that HB 55 could be expedited through the Senate. On Saturday morning August 10, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby and the American Civil Liberties Union were ready to testify against HB 55. But before the committee could meet to hear testimony, Senator Carlos Truan (Democrat-Corpus Christi) tagged the bill so that it could not be heard. Under pressure from Senate Republicans the tag was removed on Saturday afternoon and Senator Gonzalo Barrientos (Democrat-Austin) worked with LGRL, the ACLU and the State Preservation Board to write a compromise. The Barrientos version of the bill passed.

Fortunately, most of the egregious language in this bill was removed in the compromise version. The portion of the bill prohibiting lying down on paved and unpaved portions of the capitol was removed. The section of the bill prohibiting protests in certain areas of the capitol was altered so that protests are permitted as long as there is a means of ingress and egress for all areas of the capitol. Camping at the capitol is still prohibited unless the board approves it. The security fee has been removed. Deposits for use of the grounds may be required (deposits were required before this legislation) however, these deposits must be assessed in a standardized and nondiscriminatory manner.

Lobbying against this bill presented some problems that are peculiar to the special session. Once this bill was introduced, it moved very quickly through the House and the Senate. There was little or no time for grass-roots organizing. At times like this, coalitions with organizations such as the ACLU are extremely valuable. Considering the problems associated with initiating a grass-roots effort during the special session, our community must continue to organize during the interim around issues such as high risk insurance funding for those living with HIV.

The Lobby Report is a publication of The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

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LGRL Calls for Board Members

Because of bylaw changes and vacancies on the board the following board positions must be filled. The following board positions must be elected by the membership of the LGRL.

- Four at-large representatives representing lesbians and gays of color and reflecting gender parity.
- One woman as an at-large representative.

In addition to these at-large positions which are elected by the LGRL membership, we are also seeking a woman who will represent the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and a man to represent the Houston Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus. These persons must be selected or elected by the city organizations and not by the membership of the LGRL.

In order to apply for at-large board positions, please submit a brief statement to the LGRL about why you wish to run for the board. These statements will be submitted along with a ballot to all LGRL members whose dues are current. If you are interested in the HGLPC or ALGPC positions please contact the LGRL and your city organization.

Please send all statements to LGRL PO Box 2579 Austin, Tx 78768. Call if you would like more info. 512-474-5475.

Maxey Roast Set

On November 16 the LGRL is planning a roast of our former fearless leader Glen Maxey. Jim Hightower and Molly Ivins are among the celebrity roasters who will be present for this event.

The roast will be held in Austin at Saengerrunde Hall (next to Scholz' Garten) at 8:00pm. If you would like more information about this event please call 512-474-5475.

New Guidelines for HIV Positive Health Care Workers

On Friday, July 12th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released guidelines for HIV and HBV (hepatitis B) infected health care workers. By the next Thursday, July 18th, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed two amendments dealing with HIV positive health care workers. The worst of these amendments, sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina), would send HIV positive health care workers to jail for up to 10 years if they are infected with the AIDS virus and continue to treat patients without notifying them. The other amendment, seen as a compromise measure, conditions state funding upon the passage of laws incorporating CDC guidelines.

By Friday, July 19, the mood at the state capitol was decidedly in favor of mandatory testing and criminal sanctions against health care workers. Representative Ron Wilson (Democrat-Houston) had reintroduced HB 702, a mandatory testing bill that was killed last session, and Senator Sibley, a conservative Republican, was interested in carrying similar legislation in the Senate. Although LGRL blocked three bills last session dealing with health care workers and HIV, some of the premises that we were working with in the last legislative session were no longer true. For instance, during the regular session LGRL argued that any action on the state level was useless until the CDC passed their guidelines. Now the guidelines have passed.

Another popular argument was that the federal government had not yet acted on AIDS legislation, therefore, the state should not act. Again this is no longer true. Of course we employed arguments about the relatively small risk posed by HIV positive health care workers, but these arguments do not carry much sway in an AIDS-phobic institution such as the Texas Legislature.

Another problem exists with the nature of the special session itself. During the special session, only large legislative packages are addressed, such as the budget or government reorganization. During the regular session we can count on the governor and the lieutenant governor to block harmful legislation, but during a special session, vetoing any AIDS legislation would mean vetoing, for instance, the entire government reorganization bill. From a legislative standpoint, this is not practical and even our best friends in the legislature would not do it.

In view of these facts on Friday, July 19, it seemed that criminal sanctions and mandatory testing of health care workers were almost inevitable.

Fortunately, Senator Chet Brooks (D-Pasadena) took a stand against the more reactionary members of the senate and worked with the LGRL to strike up a compromise measure. Although LGRL does not support any unreasonable restrictions placed on health care workers, the Brooks amendment to the government reorganization bill was a good compromise measure that was infinitely more acceptable than criminal sanctions and mandatory testing.

continued, see "Health Care"

Are You Expired??

- Look at the address label on your newsletter.
- If the date on it is prior to 9/1/91 your membership has expired.
- Fill out the enclosed membership form and drop it in the mail today.

Maxey Resigns from LGRL Post; Eiserloh Named Executive Director

At the May Board meeting of the LGRL, long time community activist and former LGRL lobbyist Glen Maxey resigned his position as the Executive Director of the LGRL. Although Maxey will join the board of the LGRL, he no longer holds any paid position with this organization.

As the LGRL lobbyist, Maxey will be remembered for blocking the AIDS quarantine act, passage of the medical testing confidentiality statute and the omnibus AIDS bill. He also worked to pass the Texas Durable Power of Attorney Act and pressed for lesbian and gay people to be included in the non-discrimination policies of five major state agencies.

Maxey made history by becoming the first openly gay elected official in the history of the State. He will continue to work for the gay and lesbian community as an Austin-based activist and as a supporter of lesbian and gay rights at the state legislature.

Maxey will be replaced by Laurie Eiserloh who was named Executive Director of the LGRL at the July 13 meeting of the LGRL board. Eiserloh, a recent graduate of UT School of Law, has had great success in the last legislative session by blocking HB 702, which would have led to mandatory testing of health care workers and a shortage of doctors to treat PWAs in rural areas.

She was also one of the drafters of the HIV health care worker bill that prevented criminalization of HIV positive health care workers. This legislation has since become model legislation that may be implemented in other states. In addition, she helped rewrite a bill that, in its original form, would have prevented many forms of protest at the state capitol including the March on Austin for Lesbian/Gay Equal Rights.

Texas is one of only five states to have a paid full-time lobbyist at the state capitol and one of only several states to have an openly gay elected official in the state government.

**You're Invited to Roast and
Toast
State Representative Glen
Maxey!**

**November 16
8:00pm in Austin at Saengerrunde Hall
1607 San Jacinto
(next to Scholz' Garten)**

**Featuring MC's Former Texas
Agriculture Commissioner
Jim Hightower
and
Humorist Molly Ivins.**

**Tickets are \$25 per person.
For tickets write to LGRL PO Box 2579
Austin, Tx. 78768 or Call 512-474-5475
for more details.**

**All proceeds benefit the
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of
Texas**

"Health Care" continued

Here are some of the main issues in the HIV-health care worker state legislation:

1. Mandatory testing of Health Care Workers is not required. Instead the bill states that all health care workers should know their HIV and HBV status.
2. HIV and HBV positive health care workers should refrain from performing invasive-exposure prone procedures.
3. Universal precautions should always be used in a health care setting.
4. Health care workers who are HIV or HBV positive should receive re-training.
5. Health Care workers who are HIV positive may continue to perform: a. in emergency situations; b. on other HIV positive individuals as long as universal precautions are used; c. on any patient who consents to being treated by an HIV positive health care worker.
6. HIV positive health care workers may continue to perform non-invasive procedures.

Nothing in the bill requires the revocation of license, registration or certification of health care workers who are infected with HIV or hepatitis B. This bill does not set up any type of panel to review infractions of the law.

The Brooks bill is intentionally vague. The toughest measures in the bill concern the use of universal precautions. Basically this legislation is a codification of the CDC guidelines with some improvements, for instance, the CDC does not suggest that HIV positive doctors continue to practice on HIV positive patients. Although this section "ghettoizes" HIV positive doctors and patients, many of the AIDS practices in this state are run by doctors who are themselves HIV positive. Therefore, this provision seemed necessary.

Also, the provision allowing HIV positive doctors to receive the consent of patients is not in the CDC guidelines, but as one HIV positive doctor pointed out to us, there will be some patients who do not care if their doctor is HIV positive. This section of the bill covers that situation.

The governor is expected to sign this bill into law on September 1, 1991.

72nd Legislative Session Ends in Success

On May 27 at midnight, the 72nd session of the Texas Legislature ended. This was a victorious session for the Lesbian and Gay community. We defeated house bill 2509, sponsored by Rep. Clemons (Democrat-Pollock), that would have criminalized persons living with HIV infection and undercut all of our past policy successes. We defeated house bill 2448, sponsored by Rep. Carona (Republican-Dallas), and House bill 1362, sponsored by Rep. Hartnett (Republican-Dallas). Both of these bills dealt with mandatory testing of health care workers. We defeated house bill 238, sponsored by Rep. Ovard (Republican-Dallas), which would have criminalized persons suspected of exposing fire fighters and police officers to the AIDS virus.

But most importantly, we defeated house bill 702, sponsored by Rep. Ron Wilson (Democrat-Houston). House bill 702 would have caused HIV positive doctors and dentists to lose their licenses. It would have made it possible for doctors and dentists to refuse to treat HIV positive patients, which in turn, would have led to a shortage of doctors to treat those living with HIV.

The defeat of HB 702 was a Herculean task, and we, as a community, must congratulate ourselves for our organization, political acumen and perseverance. Consider what we had against us. Some of the state's major lobbies supported this bill. Ron Wilson, the bill's sponsor, is one of the most powerful politicians at the capitol, and other politicians besides Wilson were pushing for the passage of this bill. Also, you may recall the press attention that mandatory testing of health care workers received during the session. Two Florida dentists and several hospitals were in the news because of health care related transmission of HIV. One of the networks did an opinion poll and stated that over 80% of all Americans support mandatory testing. The odds were definitely against us.

Fortunately, Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock supported us in our battle against HB 702. Even when HB 702 was on the Saturday's intent calendar ready to be called, Lieutenant Governor Bullock stood steadfastly by, in the face of tremendous political pressure, and supported our community by refusing to call the bill for a hearing on the senate floor. Lieutenant Governor Bullock is a hero of our community.

Something else that we must understand as a community is that the support of someone like Bob Bullock does not exist in a political vacuum. All of you who worked in his campaign, donated money, and educated him on lesbian and gay issues, deserve thanks. On Friday afternoon, May 24th, when the passage of HB 702 seemed almost inevitable, the phone calls and telegrams of those who had worked so hard in the Bullock campaign really paid off.

... Lieutenant Governor Bullock stood steadfastly by, in the face of tremendous political pressure, and supported our community by refusing to call the bill for a hearing on the senate floor.

As for the good bills that the LGRL introduced, of course we are disappointed that none of them passed. It has always been difficult for the lesbian and gay community to pass positive legislation. This past session was particularly difficult because of a conservative backlash caused by the election of Ann Richards, Bob Bullock and Rep. Glen Maxey, the first openly gay person elected to the Texas Legislature. However, next session we may see some changes. Rep. Maxey's presence in the House is a constant educational experience for legislators. Because of the homophobic remarks against Maxey, legislators are witnessing first hand discrimination against a gay person who is also their peer. Those who care about other forms of discrimination, but perhaps never understood homophobia, are beginning to stand up for gay and lesbian issues. By next session, we will have several new supporters of gay and lesbian issues in the Texas House.

LGRL Active in Lesbian/ Gay Pride Month

During the month of June, the LGRL was an active participant in Pride Month activities. The festivities began with the Austin Lesbian/Gay Pride Picnic at Fiesta Gardens. Board member Tony Pelligrino handed out information about the LGRL and collected donations.

On June 20th, the Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus hosted a pride month reception for LGRL at Missouri Street Station. Lobby board member and President of the HGLPC Toni Knight and Lobby member Gene Harrington were the MC's at this reception. Representative Debra Danburg of Houston and Laurie Eiserloh spoke on the 72nd legislative session.

On June 21, members of San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly hosted a women's reception for the Lobby. LGRL board member Jan Olsen and Lobby members Martha Prentice, Martha Fitzwater and Kay Ford hosted this very successful party.

On June 22, Lobby co-chair Kay Vinson and Lobby members Kay Christian, Maida Brooks and Michelle Jones organized a LGRL photo booth during Razzle Dazzle Dallas. Razzle Dazzle is a major fundraising event in Dallas held at Market Hall. Organizations from around the city, as well as the state, participate in this event.

For the LGRL, pride month did not end in June. In July, there were two great events that increased the visibility of the lobby and the community as a whole.

On July 20, San Antonio/Lesbian Gay Assembly hosted a networking party for the Lobby at the Magnolia Gardens. Gerald Aves and Jan Olsen hosted this party. The focus of this event was educating the community about SALGA and the Lobby as well as gaining new sustaining contributors for the Lobby.

On July 27 in Dallas, Kay Wilkinson and others hosted the annual garden party. Board members Peter Brooks and Kay Vinson helped organize this party that has become one of the Lobby's major fundraising events.

Thanks to everyone who helped with all of these successful gatherings!

LGRL Calender of Events

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|---|--|
| September 14 | Black Tie Dinner-Dallas |
| September 21 | Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Students Conference - Dallas |
| September 22 | Texas Freedom Parade - Dallas |
| September 24 | Reception for the Austin legislative delegation (Reps. Maxey, Greenburg, & Naishtat) to celebrate the passage of the hate-crimes bill on the patio at East Side Cafe -Austin |
|  | |
| October 8-9 | Texas A&M Students hosting LGRL - College Station |
| October 11 | National Coming Out Day. Also Coming Out Soiree at Chances-Austin featuring Kris McKay |
|  | |
| November 5 | LGRL presentation at the Circle- San Antonio |
| November 16 | Jim Hightower, Molly Ivins and others Roast Glen Maxey in Austin - (8:00pm Saengerrunde Hall 1607 San Jacinto - next to Scholz' Garten) |
| November 23 | National Convention of Lesbian/Gay Elected officials Laurie Eiserloh to present on Gay/Lesbian Politics in Texas-Houston |

If you would like more information about any of these events call 512-474-5475

LGRL Seeks Sustaining Contributors

If you are currently a member of the LGRL, or if you wish to renew your membership, consider becoming a sustaining contributor. For as little as \$10 a month you can support an organization that fights for your rights every day on the state capitol. Contributions may be made on your credit card or by automatic bank draft.

At present, most LGRL funding comes from individual contributions collected at fundraising events. Fundraising events are an excellent opportunity for people to organize and network, and we will always rely upon these events for our funding.

However, excessive reliance upon these events takes up valuable time that should be spent at the legislature. LGRL is not eligible for grants because we are a 501(c) 4 organization.

If you would like more information on becoming a sustaining contributor, call the LGRL office in Austin at (512) 474-LGRL.