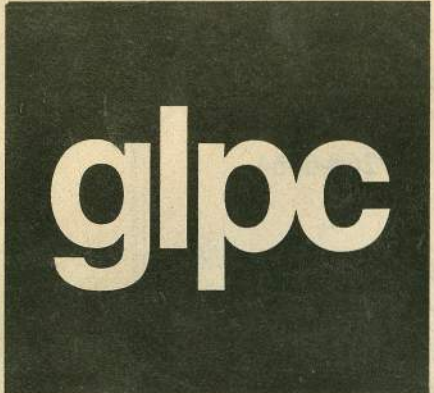




glpc

election news

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

special edition

October 1991

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

by Chris Bacon

What Will Be Happening on I.C.O.G.L.E.A.O. Weekend?

(International Conference of Openly Gay and Lesbian Elected and Appointed Officials)

On the weekend of November 22nd through November 24th the geographic center of Gay America will no doubt be in Houston, Texas as we play host to lesbian and gay elected and appointed officials as well as other activists from around the world.

In order to participate in this weekend, your best bet is to purchase the weekend pass which includes the Friday night buffet, Saturday lunch, the Saturday banquet and the conference registration fee. Until October 15th you can get the package deal for \$90. Between October 15th and November 15th the package will be selling for \$110, and after that it will go up to \$130.

A summary of the events follows:

The Friday Night Buffet is the first major social event of the weekend

ists and the more "Quiet" types. You can participate in the caucuses, the workshops, or both. On Saturday morning, Roberta Achtenburg will address the conference.

The Saturday lunch will be held at the Stouffer Presidente, and Glen Maxey will be the keynote speaker. The cost is \$25 or FREE if you have purchased the weekend package.

On Saturday night we will be holding the annual HGLPC dinner in conjunction with the Conference dinner at the Stouffer Presidente. Bill Scott will be the keynote speaker. Dinner tickets are on sale for \$50, but again if you have purchased the weekend pass, your dinner is already included. Tables are also available. Those of you who purchase a table will also receive two complimentary tickets to all of the other weekend events. Remember, the dinner is the HGLPC's major fund-raiser each year. The dinner funds enable the Caucus to help those candidates who care most about our community as well as help support our lobbyist in Austin. The Caucus has always operated on a shoestring budget, but we do need money in order to reach out to our community. Our mailing list is over 10,000 strong. Our Community is even stronger. Caucus dues have always been kept low so that all can join and be a part of the political process.

If you want to purchase tickets to the Conference or to the dinner or any of the other events of I.C.O.G.L.E.A.O. weekend, please contact

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A summary of the events follows:

The Friday Night Buffet is the first major social event of the weekend and will be held at the home of Hal Coley. This will be an excellent opportunity to mingle with and meet people from around the country. We hope that the members of our community who attend this event will also choose to take some our guests "out on the town" after the buffet/reception. The cost of the buffet is \$25 per person, or FREE if you have purchased a weekend pass. If you are a power networker or a lover of things political, this event is a must. But this is also a good time to meet new people and have a good time.

The Conference begins Friday afternoon and will continue all day Saturday and through Sunday morning. Registration is a very cheap \$10 or FREE if you have purchased the weekend pass. There will be two major types of activities at the Conference: Caucuses and Workshops. Five different Caucuses will meet: elected officials, appointed officials, political activists (GLPC members are welcome in this Caucus), civil disobedience activists (Queer Nationalists are welcome here), and significant others of all of the above. The Caucuses will meet frequently throughout the weekend. Each Caucus will determine its own agenda and structure. This will be an excellent opportunity for people to share ideas with like-minded people from around the country. In addition to the Caucuses, eight workshops/panel discussions will be offered on Saturday afternoon on topics such as AIDS and the Law, The Gender Problem in Gay Politics, Raising Money for AIDS, Gay Politics in Texas, Hate Crimes, Domestic Partnership Legislation, Working within the Mainstream Political Parties, Raising Money for Candidates, and Bridging the Gap Between the Radical Activ-

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If you want to purchase tickets to the Conference or to the dinner or any of the other events of I.C.O.G.L.E.A.O. weekend, please contact Kevin Davidson.

If you have any friends from out of town who are interested in attending, let us know. We will gladly send them a brochure.

I.C.O.G.L.E.A.O. Tickets

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip

Telephone(s) _____

I would like to order (indicate quantity):

Weekend packages (includes everything)—\$90 until Oct. 15;

\$110 until Nov. 15

Friday night buffet at Hal Coley's—\$25 each

Saturday lunch at Stouffer Hotel—\$25 each

The Dinner—\$50 each

Table—\$500 (includes two full weekend packages)

Conference—\$10 each

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ payable to the HGLPC.

Mail your check and this form to:

Kevin Davidson

c/o HGLPC

P.O. Box 66664

Houston, TX 77266

glpc
ENDORSED

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

P.O. Box. 66664, Houston TX 77266-6664
(713) 521-1000

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Robert Bridges, Vice-President
Liz Shuler, Secretary
Dennis Spencer, Treasurer

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Election News

This newsletter is an official publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, and commentary printed in this Election Newsletter reflects the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the HGLPC. The HGLPC Election News is published at least three times annually in even-numbered years, and twice annually in odd numbered years by the HGLPC Political Action Committee, Dennis Spencer, Treasurer.

Editor: Duncan Allen

Assistant Editors: John Boyle, Frank White

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus
Endorsements November 5, 1991**

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Editor: Duncan Allen

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Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Endorsements November 5, 1991

Mayor	Kathryn J. Whitmire
City Controller	George Grenias
City Council, District B	Ernest McGowan
City Council, District C	Annise Parker
City Council, District D	May Walker
City Council, District I	Ben Reyes
City Council At-Large Position 1	Beverly Clark
City Council At-Large Position 2	Eleanor Tinsley
City Council At-Large Position 3	Jim Greenwood
City Council At-Large Position 4	Sheila Jackson Lee
City Council At-Large Position 5	Glenda Joe
HISD District IV	Carrie McAfee
Proposition 2, Term Limitation	For

The Annise Parker Story

by Cecily Wynne

Houston's gay and lesbian community has an excellent chance of helping elect the city's first openly lesbian City Councilmember—District C candidate Annise Parker. Parker, a long-time community activist, faces incumbent Vince Ryan in the city election.

The uphill battle began to even out in mid-October when Ryan maneuvered to have Montrose and his lone opponent Parker redistricted into District D. Ryan chose to cut away Montrose rather than another section of the district when lines were shifted in a last-minute City Council attempt to give the court a "fair" 9-5-1 plan. Ryan then told Council members he might not necessarily like the change to District C, "But I can live with it," he said. Ryan voted for the plan, which moved Montrose to Al Calloway's District D, much to the objection of the HGLPC, the Parker campaign, and other furious Montrose residents. Judge David Hittner, however, picked the June 5 map, which retains Montrose in District C. Ryan's maneuver did not go unnoticed by other Council members, political leaders, and the press.

"We have the momentum and enthusiastic volunteers. I'm confident we can win on election day if every supporter in the district votes," Parker said. In the final days of the campaign, Parker is concentrating on getting her message out. "That's expensive," she said. "We can win if we have enough advertising to get our word out. We are facing a very vulnerable, but well-financed and well-known incumbent."

Parker, 35, has campaigned hard throughout the diverse district since July. She has gained a reputation as a tough campaigner who is well informed on the myriad issues facing the city. The former two-term Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus president is one of the best-known and most respected gay and lesbian leaders in mainstream Houston political circles. She first gained that respect as an effective spokesperson for the gay/lesbian community. Her recent civic activities include chairing the city-wide Houston Police Advisory Committee in 1990. Parker has been an active Committee member almost for 10 years. She serves also on a United

be put on the streets immediately by implementing much of the Cresap management report. Parker has stressed the need to consolidate city and county jail functions, and expand civilianization so those officers can be transferred to patrol. She also has called for increasing police benefits to attract and retain officers.

Parker has criticized the incumbent on numerous counts, including:

- * his ineffectiveness on Council, caused by grandstanding, maneuvering, and his inability to build coalitions;
- * his four days of silence after Paul Broussard's murder;
- * his failure to be a full-time Council member—an early campaign promise.

To volunteer for Annise Parker, call the campaign headquarters at 522-9000.

***There is no substitute
for a seat at the table***

ELECT Annise
Parker

***Responsive Representation
For City Council, District C***

Respected Leader

* Police Advisory Committee chair 1990

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Parker, co-owner of Inklings Bookshop, has taken stands on all the major issues. Her basic platform focuses on crime, the environment, and city services. Her campaign announcement called for consolidating the city and county health services and replacing the city health director. The long-time Sierra Club member also has pledged to take the lead on environmental issues. Her environmental plan includes:

- * Immediate expansion of curbside recycling
- * Development of Houston as a marketplace for recycled products. City departments and businesses with city contracts should be required to buy recycled products when available and recycle products.
- * Comprehensive water conservation plan
- * Stricter enforcement of air quality standards

Parker was one of the leaders who demanded immediate police action when Paul Broussard was murdered, and she believes the city can reduce crime by improving the Police Department management, hiring more officers, and expanding neighborhood watch and patrol programs. More officers can

Parker

Responsive Representation For City Council, District C



Respected Leader

- * Police Advisory Committee chair 1990
- * United Way Family Services III Panel
- * Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, former president
- * Grand Jury member
- * Montrose Activity Center Board treasurer
- * Long-time member, Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy

*With your help, we can win
Tuesday, November 5!*

To volunteer, call 522-9000

Campaign Headquarters

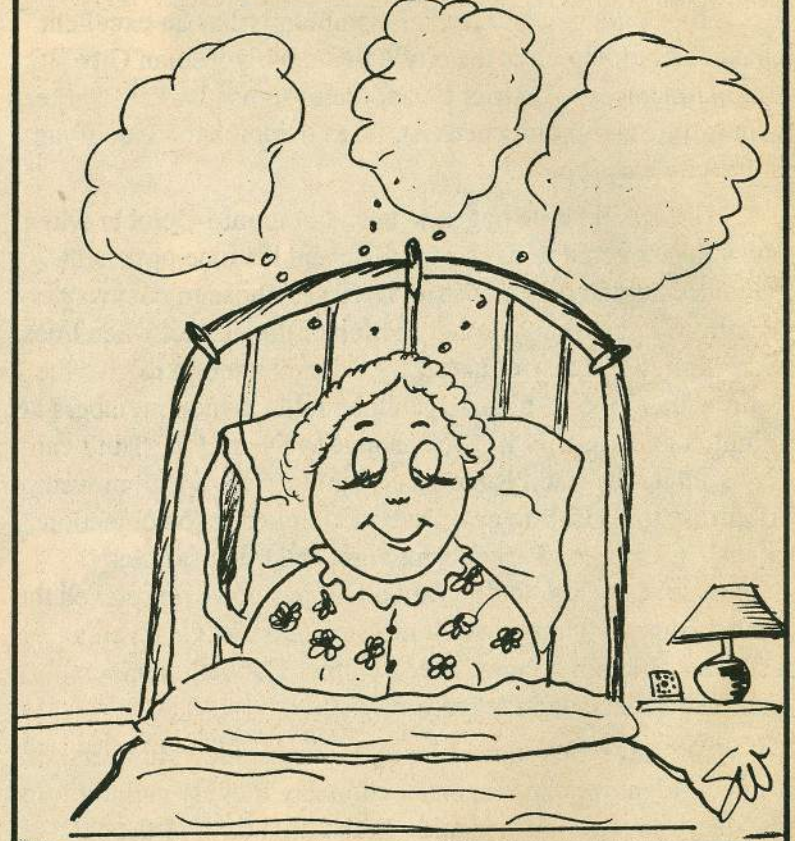
Steve Kirkland, Treasurer, P.O. Box 66513, Houston, TX 77266

REELECT
SHEILA JACKSON
LEE

COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE #4

Pol. ad Pd. for Sheila Jackson Lee Reelection Committee
2646 South Loop West Suite 375 Houston TX 77054 Selwyn I. Blanchard Treas.

What normal 37 year old dykes dream of
before they drift off...



for the answer see the president's message on Page 8.

GLEND
TOE



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE #4

PoL. ad Pd. for Sheila Jackson Lee Reelection Committee
2646 South Loop West Suite 375 Houston TX 77054 Selwyn I. Blanchard Treas.

for the answer see the president's message on Page 8.

GLEND
JOE

FOR CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE (POS 5)



"A good leader inspires people to have confidence in her;
A great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves."

RECOGNIZED LEADERSHIP

Our Stars Are Rising

by Gene Harrington

By the time this Newsletter is published, one of our races will already have been decided. On October 15th, the voters of Texas House District 147 will have elected a replacement for the late Larry Evans.

District 147, which encompasses the Third Ward, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and part of the East End, has been a traditional liberal, progressive seat with strong historical ties to the lesbian and gay community in general and the HGLPC in particular.

The district's first representative was Craig Washington, who during his first term in office began his public campaign for gay rights. Predating the very existence of the HGLPC, the House seat has been a stronghold for gay/lesbian issues.

Following Craig's election to the Texas Senate his administrative assistant, Larry Evans, was elected Representative from 147. Larry continued the tradi-

tion of concern, combining such issues as rights for lesbians and gays, higher education concerns, and staunch anti-apartheid sentiments. Like Craig before him, Larry sought and received GLPC endorsements and active support from the gay community. With Rep. Evans' untimely death, a void in the local progressive coalition was created. A special election called to fill the House vacancy drew a field of eleven candidates.

Special elections are hybrids in local politics. They are held on off days, and draw numerous candidates and produce low voter turnouts. Elections like the recent one in District 147 are usually overloaded by political power brokers and underestimated by the political establishment. Rarely do political action groups screen and/or endorse, and rarely if ever are political caucuses mobilized for the special election fight.

But in an era of AIDS, penal reform, choice issues, and health care concerns, the Hous-

ton Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus proved to be a concerned, intelligent barometer in this special election. While most progressive groups sat out this race, the GLPC understood early its significance, not only for Gay issues but for liberal concerns in general.

Once the eleven candidates had filed, the GLPC Screening Committee invited all to be a part of the Caucus's process. Within days, nine of the eleven candidates had accepted and an evening of Caucus screening was set up. The process was continued the night following the screening when the Caucus membership heard from the invited field of candidates and voted its endorsement. An election notice addendum containing the Caucus's recommendation was included in the monthly GLPC newsletter later that week. The story would be a success if it ended there. But the chemistry of the races added a human element that transformed the special election into a trial run at GLPC activism.

Prior to the GLPC screening, many friends of the community contacted numerous Caucus members, inquiring about the endorsement process. Obviously the viability of the GLPC in this race was considered an asset by most of the candidates, even though District 147 only marginally touches Montrose and is considered a heavily minority district. During the screening it was obvious that every screened candidate had researched our issues and studied our interests. Truly, our endorsement was in demand. Out of this field of qualified interested candidates, one young man proved outstanding.

Garnet Coleman, a thirty year old businessman, literally charmed the committee with his sincerity and persuaded the group with his intelligence. In a field with more well-known opponents, some of whom appeared more politically mobile, Garnet won the highest possible rating of the screening committee and the unanimous vote of the

Caucus. The enthusiasm for Garnet proved contagious and the power of the Caucus's endorsement proved to be infectious.

Precinct Judges from areas as diverse as Downtown, The University of Houston, and the East End were recruited through Caucus help. Block walkers were obtained, mailing lists of Caucus friends and allied progressive groups were targeted. Since the Caucus was the only progressive group to endorse the race, its impact was felt well beyond its membership. As numerous coffees were set up and GLPC volunteers flooded the Coleman campaign, the tide of enthusiasm spread among progressives in the district. Coleman yard signs and campaign stickers became popular at most Gay and/or progressive functions and the candidate understood the importance and significance of what was occurring.

"Coming from nowhere" as Garnet admits, he flooded the



*Let's celebrate Houston
and our victory November 5th*

for gay/lesbian issues.

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*Let's celebrate Houston
and our victory November 5th
as we have together
so many times before!*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large loop at the end.

Kathryn J. Whitmire
Mayor
City of Houston

Pol. adv. paid by the Kathy Whitmire Campaign Fund, P. O. Box 53180A, Houston TX 77052, R. Alan Rudy, Treasurer.

race with enthusiasm and gained a spot in the runoff election. During the runoff, Coleman visited the GLPC to thank them and attended numerous events in the community, ranging from Queer Nation to a Hispanic Gay anniversary party. From Coyle street on the east side to 2016 Main, the candidate immersed himself in our community and was in turn embraced as a new fresh voice of concerned compassion and reason.

Literally in two months, a building of interests and issues produced a candidate that epitomized the GLPC philosophy and a campaign that brought GLPC activism to the height of its power.

The understanding was clear: a new star in local progressive politics had risen, and it was in no small way a feat of the GLPC. Whether Garnet could do the almost impossible and win the seat against a well-known establishment candidate became almost secondary. For Garnet and the Caucus, the victory was in the campaign itself, proving

that vision and enthusiasm can produce voices of reason that will be heard.

No matter what the results in the election on October 15, both Garnet Coleman and the GLPC are winners. Their voices will continue to be heard, their issues will remain on the horizon, and their stars are obviously ascending!

[Editor's note: Garnet Coleman *did* win the election!]

"When one comes from one community into another and asks for their support and gets accepted as I have been by the GLPC, it is impressive. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Garnet Coleman
Texas State Representative,
District 147

WORKING WITH YOU
FOR A
MORE INCLUSIVE HOUSTON



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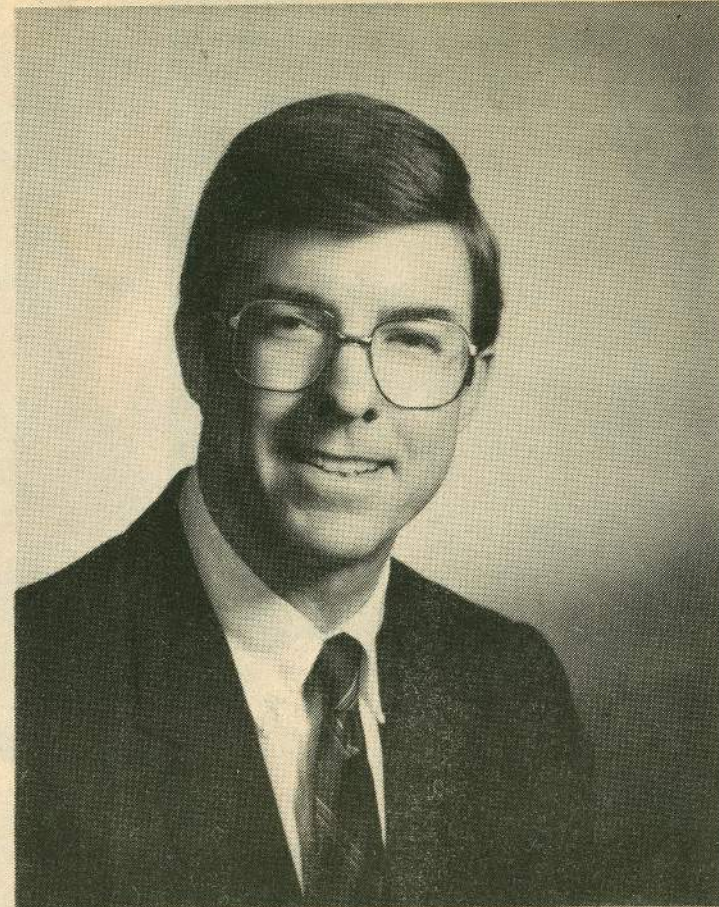
District 147

WORKING WITH YOU
FOR A
MORE INCLUSIVE HOUSTON

Jim Greenwood

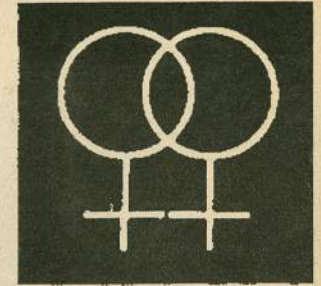
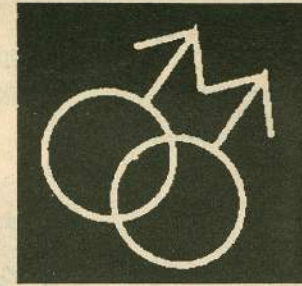


Jim Greenwood
City of Houston Councilmember
At Large Position Three



Paid for by Jim Greenwood Campaign, John Kuhl, Treasurer
5075 Westheimer, Suite 1180, Houston, Texas 77056

Partners in Recovery.



Treatment for gay and lesbian persons with emotional trauma, drug and alcohol problems at IntraCare.

IT'S HARD TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF WHEN . . .

- You experience shame.
- You have to wear a mask.
- You feel sad, depressed, lonely.
- You need to stay in the closet.
- You fear your own sexuality or are troubled with a sexual addiction.
- You use alcohol or drugs in order to cope.
- You're in the fast lane and find it stressful.
- You're hurting due to the homophobia of others.
- You're a survivor of trauma or abuse in your childhood.
- You worry about the reactions of your family because you are gay/lesbian/ or bisexual.
- You've searched unsuccessfully for a rewarding relationship with an appropriate partner.
- You're stuck playing a role in your current relationship.

PARTNERS IN RECOVERY 24 HOUR CARELINE 790-0949

The first step to finding a more fulfilling life is to ask for the support you think you shouldn't need! Soon after involving yourself in Partners in Recovery you'll wonder why you waited so long. You'll feel nurtured by others' support . . . and you'll be glad you decided to call. It's time to experience who you are without shame. The Partners in Recovery program at IntraCare will support you in the following ways:

1. **24 hour CARELINE** Talk with a counselor day or night by phone in person without charge. 790-0949
2. **Weekly support group/relationship classes** are offered at IntraCare every Tuesday night 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will make

3. **Outpatient Counseling** We have developed a partnership with gay/lesbian sensitive doctors, therapists and counselors to refer you to for individual and couples' counseling at your request.

4. **Day Treatment and Inpatient Program** When you're suffering from emotional pain, childhood trauma and/or a drug and alcohol problem a more comprehensive program might be recommended. You work with our treatment team on a daily basis for a brief period. This can shorten your recovery time significantly.

5. **Family Program** Recovery is best when important friends, family members and significant others take part in your recovery. Inviting them to our Family Program may be the best gift you've ever given them. Family orientation, Family education, Family therapy, and Multi-Family therapy are offered.

The Partners in Recovery program is located at IntraCare Hospital near the Medical Center in Houston. IntraCare is the first Texas Hospital to offer this specialty program.

For more information or to talk immediately with a counselor call the IntraCare 24 Hour CARELINE (713) 790-0949.

IntraCare is where good recovery is caring people.

Partners in Recovery is only one of many excellent programs at IntraCare. IntraCare is a comprehensive treatment facility serving adults, teens, and children.

Partners in Recovery Coordinator

Hilda Glover, MS, has her Masters in Clinical Psychology and is the Coordinator of the Partners in Recovery program. She works with a

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- You're grieving the loss of a lover or friend.
- You fear AIDS/HIV related illnesses or it is already a reality for you.

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6. AfterCare We assist you in developing a safety net of gay/lesbian sensitive contacts in the community when you leave our comprehensive program. You will also have the opportunity to participate in many of these groups during your treatment.

CARELINE (713) 790-0949.

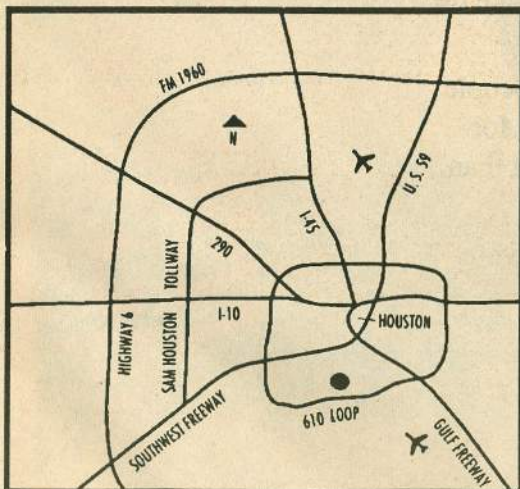
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Hilda Glover, MS, has her Masters in Clinical Psychology and is the Coordinator of the Partners in Recovery program. She works with a team of professionals to provide quality psychiatric and drug and alcohol treatment. Hilda coordinates a speakers bureau on topics related to the gay/lesbian community and a monthly luncheon study group meeting the fourth Friday of every month.

PARTNERS IN RECOVERY • 24 HOUR CARELINE : 790-0949



SPEAKER'S BUREAU TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Treatment Issues for Gay Men and Women
- Homophobia: How Families Respond to an Admission of Being Gay
 - Myths Surrounding the Gay Community
- The Emotional Aspects of HIV/AIDS Related Illnesses
 - Sexism, Racism, Age-ism—"ISM's" in Recovery
 - Making It In A Straight World

IntraCare

7601 FANNIN • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054 • (713) 790-0949



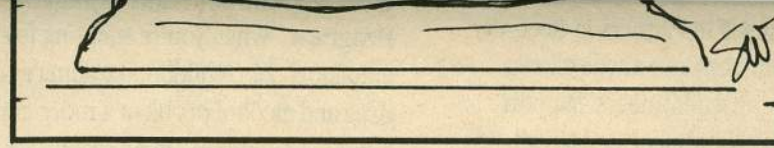
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Toni Knight

My president's message will be brief, partly because I'm tired, and mostly because I'm not much of a writer, but I would be very much in error not to seize this opportunity to thank some people for their tireless efforts.

First to Pat Gandy and Eleanor, both of whom worked very hard to get me elected as president. Pat is now working in the Annise Parker campaign, and with your support and people like Pat, Annise should be our next Councilmember in District C.

Second, to Chair of the Board Chris Bacon, a brilliant man who can do just about



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Second, to Chair of the Board Chris Bacon, a brilliant man who can do just about anything to which he puts his mind, and chooses to spend so much of his time supporting civil rights. I personally have a high degree of respect for Chris, and am grateful for the time, effort, and support he has given the Caucus.

Kevin Davidson, Board member and Chair of both our Dinner Committee and our Membership Committee, you handle numerous tasks without thanks, and numerous behind-the-scenes details which bring order to meetings and our organization, and I thank you sincerely. While talking about behind-the-scenes efforts, a special thanks to 1990 president and current treasurer Dennis Spencer, current secretary Liz Shuler, parliamentarian Ray Hill, coalition-builder Gene Harrington, as well as countless others who make the work of GLPC possible. It simply would not work without you!

Most politicians listen to us, certainly not because we are a popular group of people to support, but simply due to our historic ability to deliver the vote! The following formula will ensure the lesbian and gay community an even stronger degree of respect than ever:

1. Call five of your friends the evening before election day to remind them to vote.
2. Be certain that you vote!
3. Send five dollars to HGLPC.

gracias

*UNIDOS
VENCEREMOS!*

Ben Reyes

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

glpc
ENDORSED

**GET OUT—WITH FIVE
FRIENDS**

**GET OUT—WITH FIVE
FRIENDS
&
VOTE**

NOVEMBER 5th!

THE ART OF VOTING FOR YOUR OWN COMMUNITY

by Ray Hill

I own up to it. There have been times when I had to hold my nose to vote for a candidate endorsed by Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Over the years candidates have passed through the screening and endorsement process that I felt I knew more about than did members on the screening committee. I voted for them anyway. If a name appears on HGLPC's Endorsement Card, the candidate gets my vote.

There are a couple of reasons for that: first, I really believe that more of us can think better than few of us and, second, our community's political strength is measured in every race in which we endorse. Ever since we began endorsing candidates, each race in each election has been studied by subsequent candidates to determine if our endorsement was worth their effort to get. What they have found generally is that we have little to offer candidates at the top of the ballot (mayors, governors, and presidents) but the lower on the ballot their name

losing candidate, advances the political power of their community. They will be seen and studied in the precinct returns. If everyone ignores the endorsements and fails to follow the names on the card, the community does not exist in the political arena.

We must continually and effectively teach our community the importance of voting as a block.

There is another political axiom that plays in the perception of effective political power. There are only two

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It is easier to follow an endorsement card through judicial races where one recognizes few if any names. In the high visibility races like that for mayor, our voters usually have opinions even before they get the endorsement card. What's more, they are more likely to vote their opinions that the recommendations on the card. That is a better explanation of why we see leading mayoral candidates only when the contest is anticipated to be so close that five or six percent of the vote cast may change the outcome.

A well-disciplined community voting as a block, even if those votes are cast for a

teach our community the importance of voting as a block.

There is another political axiom that plays in the perception of effective political power. There are only two states of political organizations: growth or death. There is no static state. Applying that axiom to our community, it would appear that we are in good shape in the area of growth. More people are coming out of their closets all the time. Large employers are sending us their best employees from all over the country, and immigrants from all over the world are seeking citizenship in our more tolerant environment than that they left. Houston is disproportionately the beneficiary of that immigration.

The only new Houstonians who understand the importance of block voting are those who came here from places where communities have successfully used block

voting as an indication of political strength. We must continually and effectively teach our community the importance of voting as a block. When we fail that important responsibility we begin a steady decline in political strength.

Another avenue to the perception of political power is "stretch." Each of us has friends, workmates, and family members that are not politically active or informed. One does them a favor by encouraging them to the polls and

sharing an endorsement card to help sort out the names on the ballot. Even if people are not politically informed, they will consider how candidates affect the lives of their friends and family. We could have improved our election results 50

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to 100% in every election since the founding of the Caucus if we had "stretched" our vote by securing the support of easily influenced non-gay voters.

In spite of all the foregoing, votes only and always come one to a customer. Your vote is your control of the world around you. You have no control if you don't vote. Every other vote you can secure doubles your control. All of the votes cast for the endorsed candidates help bring the equal treatment we all hope to achieve.

We are now at the point where serious political candidates are running as openly

gay men and lesbians. Every dollar contributed, every vote cast is a wise investment in your own future. Unless one of us makes it none of us are going anywhere.

To be proud of oneself is to develop pride in one's community. Vote as an expression of that pride. If you have concerns about the direction of your Caucus, remember the doors are not locked, and all decisions are made by the members attending and voting at meetings.

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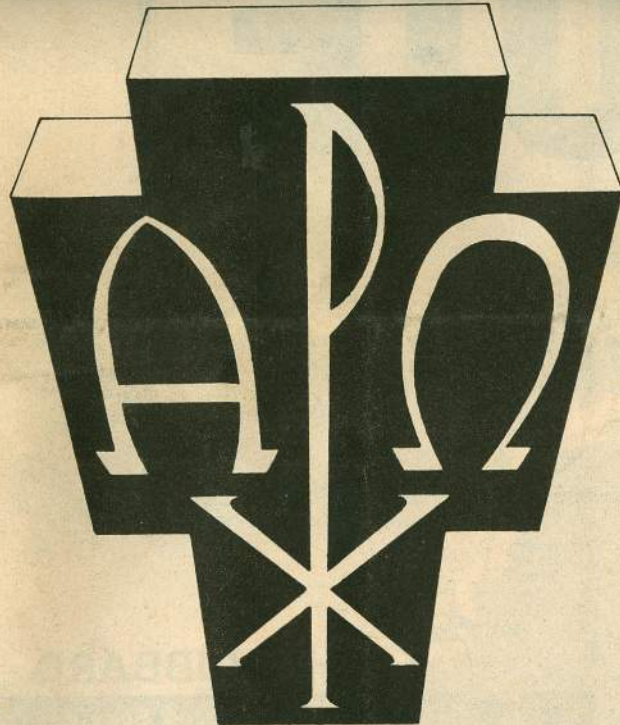
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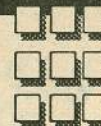
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