

HGLPC

ELECTION NEWSLETTER ▼ MARCH 1996

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

ODAM HEADS ENDORSEMENT LIST

Democratic Senate winner to Battle Failed Presidential Candidate Gramm

Since before John Odam chaired the Harris County Democratic Party in 1982, he has been a true friend of the gay and lesbian community. When John Odam came under heavy criticism for hiring a gay man to work for the Democratic Party over a decade ago, John kept that employee on board because he was qualified and committed. Today, his spirit of fairness and integrity continues. "All I did was hire Patrick McIlvain. He was the best man for the job. He was also openly gay. As you probably know, Patrick is now an active member of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Patrick is just one of the reasons why I am proud to have the endorsement of Houston's gay and lesbian community," says Odam.

John Odam still believes that we can have a government of the people, and for the people. And he means *all* the people. A true Washington outsider, he wants to fight the corruption in Washington that has given us a system of PACs, by the lobbyists, and for the special interests. John Odam wants to give government back to communities. He wants to make all citizens have a voice in the way their country is run - including gays and lesbians. "It's not enough to criticize. I want to apply American ingenuity to America's problems in Washington," he says.

John Odam takes strong political stands that only a Washington outsider is willing to take. As Senator John Odam will continue to fight for the people of Texas.

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John Odam takes strong political stands that only a Washington outsider is willing to take. As Senator, John Odam will protect a woman's right to choose, reform campaign finance laws, ease taxes on the middle class, raise the minimum wage, and require federal candidates to debate each other on public television. John Odam's vision for the future is to pay Congressmen according to their voting attendance, forbid lobbyists from writing laws, outlaw congressional junkets, and refuse pay raises and perks for federal legislators. "Lobbyists are writing the laws, lawmakers are skipping votes to dial for dollars, and we wonder why the economy is skewed toward the very wealthy," says Odam. John Odam is the only candidate in this race who has served in his country in active duty for the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, where he rose to the rank of First Lieutenant. He has served under two Texans Governors. John served as a special legislative counsel to Gov. Mark White and as an advisor to Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Gov. Ann Richards appointed John Odam to the board of the Texas Youth Commission. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General and later he chaired the Harris County Democratic Party.

Texas and the gay/lesbian community have had enough of Phil Gramm. The only time Texas has seen its senior senator since Gramm began his failed campaign for president has been when he flies here to raise money from Republican special interests. John Odam is the only Democrat who can beat Phil Gramm in November. Why? Because John Odam is the only Washington outsider in this race and the only candidate who has campaigned in each of Texas' 254 counties. Odam is running against Phil Gramm and two Congressmen who have spent more than four decades on the federal payroll in Washington, D.C. John Odam has spent his life working in Texas for Texas. "Houston's gays and lesbians shouldn't vote for me just because I hired an openly gay man way back in 1982 and it's not why your caucus endorsed me...help me because we're in this fight together," says Odam.

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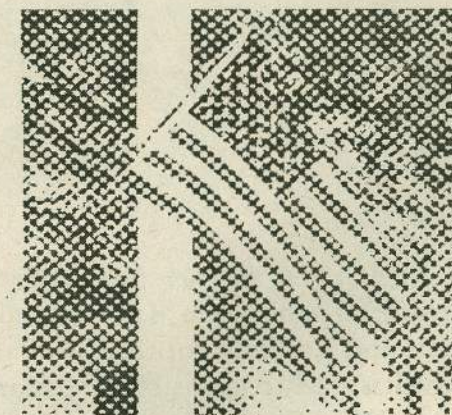
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**Vote
March
12**

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

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A Message from the President

Dear Members, Friends
and Supporters,

Again, it is time for an Election Newsletter from your Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. We provide candidate ads, informal articles, and our endorsement list to help you make your voting decisions. We believe we have a very good system that has worked very well for us, and our community. A description of our extensive endorsement process appears on page 3 of this issue.

We do this because we must make as sure as possible that the candidates we endorse are the ones who are most likely to work for, and vote for the issues we believe to be important. There is not always a candidate whose voting record is 100% in agreement with all of our positions on all issues. But when faced with a choice between two candidates who are less than 100% supportive, we feel compelled to endorse the candidate who we feel may be more supportive of our positions more of the time. Often, as a practical matter, we believe it is more important to support a candidate who we know will not hurt us, but may not help us very much -- rather than support no candidate at all and risk having a very bad candidate get elected.

Politics is the art of the possible. Politicians have never been cheerleaders for groups of people the rest of society regards

do this we will help the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas gather pledges from citizens, both gay and straight, which will be presented to the Legislature next year when the LGRL urges the Legislature to pass a Hate Crimes law with teeth. Soon we will need volunteers who are willing to go either door to door, or to their friends to get them to sign the pledge. We will also be monitoring HPD, the Sheriff's Department, and other agencies and activities.

*often bad candidates get
elected to office because
good people don't vote*

The third goal is to promote Gay/Lesbian and HIV/Aids non-discrimination policies within Houston area businesses. This is of growing importance. We support our HIV/AIDS community infrastructure, and want to help make it better. The issue of Gay/Lesbian and HIV/AIDS non-discrimination policies in businesses is a fertile field in which we believe we can make progress.

To accomplish all of these goals we

Lane Lewis
Ray Ramirez

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Lane Lewis
Patrick McIlvain
Ralph Sikes

HGLPC's *Election Newsletter* is an official publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus which is solely responsible for its content. HGLPC's *Election Newsletter* is published at least two times annually in even-numbered years and at least once annually in odd-numbered years.

Paid for by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee, Patrick McKee, Treasurer.

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Politics is the art of the possible. Politicians have never been cheerleaders for groups of people the rest of society regards in a negative manner. Unfortunately, most of society regards a lot of our issues in a very negative manner. We will never get mainstream politicians to endorse all our issues until we convince society that we are right and our positions are just.

In line with that, your caucus has three main goals this year. The first is to promote the legalization of Gay/Lesbian marriages. We plan to set up a Task Force to deal with the issue which will be decided in Hawaii this summer, probably in July. We want this community to be as prepared as possible for the onslaught of questions, debates, and just plain nasty comments which will ensue from the ultra right wing gay haters. If you, as a private citizen, would like to help with setting up this Task Force, call the caucus at 521-1000 to volunteer.

Another goal is to promote the awareness of hate crimes against Gays and Lesbians and promote protective legislation. To

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The third goal is to promote Gay/Lesbian and HIV/Aids non-discrimination policies within Houston area businesses. This is of growing importance. We support our HIV/AIDS community infrastructure, and want to help make it better. The issue of Gay/Lesbian and HIV/AIDS non-discrimination policies in businesses is a fertile field in which we believe we can make progress.

To accomplish all of these goals we will need to use many diverse strategies, such as endorsing and supporting candidates, publishing newsletters, raising money, and monitoring city and county organizations. If you wish to help with any of these Task Forces: Right to Marry; Hate Crime Awareness; the Pledge to End Hate Crimes in Houston; and Anti-Discrimination in Business and Government -- Please call 521-1000 or write to HGLPC P.O. Box 66664 Houston, TX 77266-6664.

As president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, I urge all of you to read, study, and take the push cards with you to the polls. We at the HGLPC have spent a lot of time and some of our own money to get this information to you. Use it and we will all benefit. Remember, often bad candidates get elected to office because good people don't vote. We are good people. Let's put that power in the ballot box. We, your caucus leaders can do no more than this, the rest is up to you.

By Pat Gandy Pres. HGLPC

WHY VOTE FOR THESE CANDIDATES?

A Letter from the Editor

I am involved in countless political organizations and have assisted in many local and state campaigns but rarely have I seen the kind of commitment possessed by members of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus to promoting candidates and issues that will benefit the quality of life in Texas in such a profound way.

Members of the caucus come from all walks of life and represent the best of Houston's cherished diversity. The caucus is a committed group of gays, lesbians and heterosexuals. Its membership varies on the political spectrum from conservative to liberal. The membership is indiscriminate of class, color, culture, creed, or circumstance. But they are united by a common sense of purpose and desire to promote a set of values that doesn't judge people by prejudiced standards or unsubstantiated predispositions.

For over twenty years now, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus has sought to promote standards of justice, human decency, and equality among all Texans. It is indeed a standard in which we can all be proud.

It is this standard that the caucus seeks in the candidates it endorses. All candidates are invited to screen with the organization. A letter of invitation to screen is sent to both Democratic and Republican candidates

Once the process is finished, the screening committee votes on which candidates it chooses to endorse. The committee may choose not to endorse any candidate in a race as well. With these recommendations in hand, the screening committee presents the results to the general membership. The general membership then votes on the proposed list of candidates. The membership discusses each race individually. Occasionally, the candidates proposed by the screening committee are not entirely accepted by the general membership. The vote of the general membership is final and the caucus then begins to work towards supporting and electing the endorsed candidates.

*to promote standards of
justice, human decency,
and equality*

Though some members of the caucus may not agree with all of the endorsements, the spirit of the caucus is to work together towards the common good. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus marked

List of Endorsed Candidates

US Senator		
John Will Odam	#9	
US Rep Dist 29		
Gene Green	#13	
Justice Supreme Ct. Place 1		
Patrice Barron	#22	
Member State Bd. of Ed. Dist. 4		
Alma A. Allen	#40	
State Senator Dist. 15		
John Whitmire	#43	
State Rep Dist 128		
Scott Hochberg	#45	
State Rep Dist 137		
Debra Danburg	#45	
State Rep Dist 138		
Ken Yarbrough	#45	
State Rep Dist 145		
Diana Davila	#45	
State Rep Dist 147		
Garnet F. Coleman	#45	
State Rep Dist 148		
Jessica Farrar	#46	
Judge Ct. of Crim. Appeals Place 1	Frances Northcutt	#30
Judge Ct. of Crim. Appeals Place 2	Gary Taylor	#36

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It is this standard that the caucus seeks in the candidates it endorses. All candidates are invited to screen with the organization. A letter of invitation to screen is sent to both Democratic and Republican candidates alike. Through the screening, they are offered the opportunity to meet with members of the caucus to exchange ideas and information. Candidates who wish to screen are given a selection of times in which they can meet with a screening panel.

The final part of the process is the screening itself. The actual screening is a 30 minute or so meeting with a screening panel. By this time, the candidates have answered a questionnaire that deals with, but not exclusively, gay and lesbian issues. The questionnaire also requests information about campaign financing, other endorsements, campaign staff, and other strategic concerns. The responses to the questionnaire serve as the basis for the exchange between the panel and the candidate. Candidates and the panel, however, often discuss matters not on the questionnaire. It is then the task of the screening panel to score the candidate in the areas of cognitive, affective, and political aptitude.

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to promote standards of justice, human decency, and equality

Though some members of the caucus may not agree with all of the endorsements, the spirit of the caucus is to work together towards the common good. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus marked its 20th birthday last fall. It began with a few Houstonians that sought to empower a community and has now resulted in a respected and recognized political organization in our state. Whether the caucus works towards improving relations between the gay/lesbian community and the Houston Police Department, registering voters, compiling a enviable mailing list, screening and endorsing candidates, implementing technology-based political strategy initiatives, or creating partnerships with minority communities the caucus has worked over the past twenty years towards reaching that common good. With that in mind, I was delighted to serve as editor of this endorsement newsletter. I hope that you will find this publication informative and that you will not take the endorsements made by the HGLPC lightly. Please vote on election day, Tuesday, March 12. Your vote is not just a right, it is a responsibility.

Francisco Sánchez, Jr.
Editor

State Rep Dist 128	Scott Hochberg	#45
State Rep Dist 137	Debra Danburg	#45
State Rep Dist 138	Ken Yarbrough	#45
State Rep Dist 145	Diana Davila	#45
State Rep Dist 147	Garnet F. Coleman	#45
State Rep Dist 148	Jessica Farrar	#46
Judge Ct. of Crim. Appeals Place 1	Frances Northcutt	#30
Judge Ct. of Crim. Appeals Place 2	Gary Taylor	#36
Dist. Judge 215th Dist.	Jeffery Gelb	#81
County Attorney	Sylvia R. Garcia	#93
Sheriff	Art Contreras	#95
Justice of the Peace Precinct no.7, Place 1	Victoria Dawson	#108
Constable, Precinct No.1	Jack Abercia	#111
Constable, Precinct No.6	Victor Trevino	#112
Constable, Precinct No.7	A.B. Chambers	#111
County Chairperson	Molly Luhrs	#137
(R) Sheriff Paul Day		#158

John Odam Democrat for U.S. Senate



*I appreciate
your
endorsement,
encouragement,
and support!*

John W. Odam



*endorsement,
encouragement,
and support!*

John W. Odam

Let's keep working together for Texas and
elect Houston's own John Odam to:

Clean up Washington!

Fight for ALL Texans!

Fire Phil Gramm!

Paid for by John Odam for U.S.Senate '96, P.O.Box 22780, Houston, TX 77227

Letter From John Odam

To: Houston Gay and
Lesbian Caucus
From: John Will Odam
Date: 20 February 1996
Re: Why people should
vote for me

Back in 1982, I did something as chairman of the Harris County Democrat Party that -- if you believed all the hate monger -- could have ended life in Houston as we know it.

All I did was hire Patrick McIlvain. He was the best man for the job. He was also openly gay.

As you probably know, Patrick is now active in the Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus. Patrick is one of the biggest reasons why I couldn't be happier to display my endorsement by your Caucus.

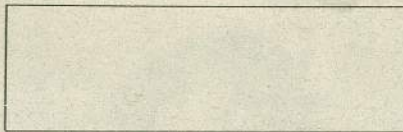
Houston's gay and lesbians shouldn't vote for me just because I hired an openly gay man way back in 1982, and it's not why your Caucus endorsed me for U.S. Senate. Houston's gays and lesbians should help me because we are in this fight together. I have always been there for you, and you have always been there for me.

I am running for the Senate because I believe in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. And I mean *all* the people.

But right now we have a system of the PAC's, by the lobbyists, and for the corporate interests. Lobbyists are writing the laws, lawmakers are skipping votes to dial for dollars, and we wonder why the economy is skewed towards the very wealthy.

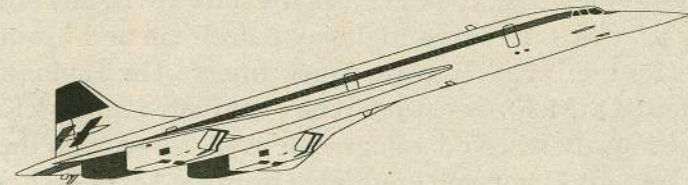
It is not enough to criticize. I want to apply American ingenuity to America's problems in Washington, so I have outlined detailed reforms in three areas: Congressional Reform, Campaign Finance Reform, and Ecumenic Defense of the Middle Class. We need to say NO to the PAC's, NO to the Perks, and NO to the Pay Raises. Call my campaign (713) 963-5608, and they'll send you the details.

Thank you for your endorsement. Together, we can win.



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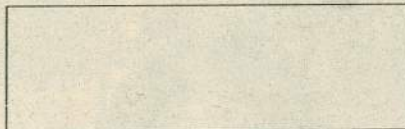


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your support
in the past.*

*We look forward
to your
continued
support
in November!*



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SHEILA JACKSON LEE



**U.S. CONGRESS
District 18 of Texas**

Gary Taylor to Serve on Court of Criminal Appeals

Gary Taylor was born in El Paso, the son of two state employees. Gary's father is a retired highway patrolman and his mother still works for the Texas Highway Department. The Taylor family was transferred to McKinney, where Gary graduated from McKinney High School. Gary received a degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and graduated from the Texas Tech School of Law. Gary is Board Certified Criminal Law Specialist.

After receiving his law degree, Gary opened a law practice in Lubbock where he handled the trial and appeal of hundreds of cases ranging from theft to capital murder. Gary appeared in courts from El Paso to Dallas to Amarillo to Bryan.

In 1992, Gary was hired as a research attorney to supervise the offices of Judge Charles F. "Charlie" Baird at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Gary's responsibilities at the court include the review of every issue before the court and the preparation or review of opinions for the judges' consideration. Gary is the only candidate that has drafted opinions for consideration by the Court of Criminal Appeals and is the most qualified candidate in the race. His growing list of endorsements prove the ability of Gary Taylor to be an outstanding jurist.

Gary is married to Shelly Kay Taylor and has one son, Tanner Paul. Shelly is a special education teacher in Austin and Tanner attends first grade.

Rep. Hochberg and Hate Crimes Bill

Representative Scott Hochberg introduced the Hate Crimes Bill in the 74th Legislature and has pledged to continue supporting

Patrice Barron for Justice Texas Supreme Court, Place I

The HGLPC encourages you to vote for Patrice Barron for Justice, Texas Supreme Court Place 1. We recommend Patrice Barron because we believe she will be fair and impartial to all who appear before her.

Patrice Barron is a former Justice from the Fourteenth Court of Appeals, who was defeated in the 1994 Republican landslide, after being appointed by Governor Ann Richards. Her service was historic, as she was the first woman to ever serve on that nine (9) judge court. She is also the only woman on the ballot this year for any of the four openings on the Texas Supreme Court.

and she is Board Certified in that field. She has handled many high profile appeals successfully, including representing Barbra Piotrowski (ie. The woman Richard Minns allegedly shot), before the Texas Supreme Court. Barron is a 1982 graduate of the Tulane Law School and a 1979 graduate of Tulane University. Before opening her own appellate practice, after graduating law school, Barron worked at a law firm. She is a member of the Houston Bar Association's civil appellate practice section, a member of the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialist, and a sustaining Life Fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation.



*"Making Justice
Work for the People"*

Proven Experience

• Associate Municipal Court Judge-City
of Houston Municipal Courts

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Rep. Hochberg and Hate Crimes Bill

Representative Scott Hochberg introduced the Hate Crimes Bill in the 74th Legislature and has pledged to continue supporting amendments to the current law that will include sexual orientation. Scott's proposed changes would also increase penalties against those who commit hate crimes. The Hate Crimes Bill failed by two votes but garnered tremendous support due to Scott's tireless effort.

Scott Hochberg is serving his second term as State Representative for District 132 in southwest Houston. The district includes the Texas Medical Center, Rice University, the Astrodome, and neighborhoods in Southampton, Southgate, Hiram Clarke, Meyerland, Maplewood, and Fondren Southwest.

Scott was recently recognized as one of the best legislators by Texas Monthly magazine and by the Texas Observer. He was also honored by Speaker Pete Laney and Governor George Bush who jointly appointed him to represent the legislature on the board of the Texas Department of Information Resources.

In addition to his work in education, his legislative accomplishments include simplifying enforcement of deed restrictions, tightening controls over poorly-managed apartment complexes, enacting civil and criminal penalties for reckless discharge of weapons within cities, and strengthening prosecution of skinhead groups and other who commit hate crimes. An advocate of open government, he is one of several legislators who successfully worked to make all legislative actions and state agency rules accessible on the Internet.

Representative Scott Hochberg is married to Kathryn Elek, a community organizer who works in the office of Houston City Council Member Judson Robinson.

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Proven Experience

- Associate Municipal Court Judge-City of Houston Municipal Courts
- Director of AIDS Legal Clinic at TSU-Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- Practicing Attorney over 5 years
- Graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law

"Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus"

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FROM THE PRIDE WEEK CO-CHAIRS

Teri Vega and Howard Mchale will serve as co-chairs of Houston' Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1996 celebration. They succeed Ray Ramirez and Julie Siska, who were co-chairs of Houston's Pride Week 1994 and 1995. Pride Week's 1996 theme is "Pride Knows No Border," symbolically, borders meaning how as a society, we place borders around our feelings and emotions. As lesbian and gay people, we want to see borders of injustice replaced with compassion and tolerance, knowing that in order to exist together, the masses of straight and gay people must remove all borders for segregation. Hence, we celebrate 1996 Lesbian and Gay Pride Week with the notion that "Pride Knows No Borders."

As we reflect on past pride weeks, let us take a minute to look back to see where we've been and to ponder where we are going! In 1994 we celebrated the history of Stonewall. In 1995 we reminded the world that we were not going to remain silent

Howard and Teri come to this year's Pride Week with seven (7) years experience between them. Teri has chaired the Price Parade for three (3) years, and co-chaired Pride Fest '95 with Howard. Howard has worked on many projects over the last three years, starting on the video committee in 1994, Pride Fest and Pride Party in 1995. The unique blends of personalities and zest for accomplishing projected goals of 1996 are the top priorities for these two (2) spirited co-chairs.

The Pride Committee is a non-profit organization. It is made of a dedicated group of volunteers. It has always been the priority of the Price Committee to commemorate, educate and celebrate our pride, we strive to create a path toward a positive future for all humanity remembering not to exclude any segment of whom we are as a people. As a group we discuss, we vote, we argue and sometimes we disagree, but when it comes down to the spin cycle, we work brilliantly as a team.

The 1996 Houston Lesbian and Gay celebration prom-

Frances Northcutt Continues Her Crusade

Frances Northcutt has worked for human rights for decades now and she continues by taking her message to voters across the state. As a candidate for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, she is taking her past experience to the voters. Northcutt, fondly known as "Poppy," has proven that she is qualified, has a record of achievement, and is a true champion of victim's rights.

Poppy started her journey in 1972 as the Harris County Chairperson for the ratification of the Texas Equal Legal Rights Amendment. Since, she has served on the board of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and was instrumental in making NOW the first national organization to support gay and lesbian rights.

Poppy was the first felony prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Unit for the District Attorney's office and prosecuted hundreds of cases of domestic violence. She was also the first Women's Advocate for the City of Houston. As advocate, Poppy instituted rape prevention seminars for city

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order to exist together, the masses of straight and gay people must remove all borders for segregation. Hence, we celebrate 1996 Lesbian and Gay Pride Week with the notion that "Pride Knows No Borders."

As we reflect on past pride weeks, let us take a minute to look back to see where we've been and to ponder where we are going! In 1994 we celebrated the history of Stonewall. In 1995 we reminded the world that we were not going to remain silent but we were going to celebrate!! While in 1994 we studied history. In 1995 we were not going to let anyone put a damper on our voices. In 1996 we are going to tell the world that life should not consist of borders. We as gay people are an intricate and productive part of society. It is time that as lesbian and gay men we work toward removing borders in our own community, city and state. We should not just think about our own backyard, but we should look to see how we can fit into the whole picture of human existence.

volunteers. It has always been the priority of the Price Committee to commemorate, educate and celebrate our pride, we strive to create a path toward a positive future for all humanity remembering not to exclude any segment of whom we are as a people. As a group we discuss, we vote, we argue and sometimes we disagree, but when it comes down to the spin cycle, we work brilliantly as a team.

The 1996 Houston Lesbian and Gay celebration promises to pack a few new punches. Just listen to some surprises that are in the making... Water stations along the parade route, covered seating, water misters to cool off all those hot, hot men and women lining up along the parade route. Bronski Beat has just signed on to be the opening act for Pride Fest '96!! We are currently working on a headline act that will make you flip your wig. Be sure to pack the pets into the car, head down to the parade, that by the way, is on June 23, 1996. Same place down Westheimer, new time... 5:00 P.M., hoping, of course, that Mother Nature will cooperate and blow an arctic cold front over Montrose, Texas.

By: Howard Mchale

Amendment. Since, she has served on the board of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and was instrumental in making NOW the first national organization to support gay and lesbian rights.

Poppy was the first felony prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Unit for the District Attorney's office and prosecuted hundreds of cases of domestic violence. She was also the first Women's Advocate for the City of Houston. As advocate, Poppy instituted rape prevention seminars for city employees. She was able to draw from her experience in this position as a founding member of the Harris County Rape Crisis Center.

Between 1992 and 1994 Poppy Northcutt served on a citizen foot patrol to stop gay bashing in the Montrose area. She is a member of the Houston Defending Choice Coalition and helps keep abortion clinics open when Operation Rescue visits Houston.

Frances "Poppy" Northcutt started working for human rights and against violence more than twenty-five years ago. She never stopped. She never will.

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Congressman Gene Green, a proven leader

Congressman Gene Green is a native Houstonian. He has been a member of the State Bar of Texas since 1977.

He was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1973. During his tenure in the House, he served as Majority Whip and later as Democratic Majority Leader. He served a total of seven terms in the House from 1973 to 1985.

In a 1985 special election, Gene was then elected to the Texas Senate. During his seven year tenure in the Senate he served on the Education Committee and was Chairman of the senate Jurisprudence Committee.

Gene Green was elected to Congress on November 3, 1992 from the 29th Congressional District of Texas. The 29th District is contained within Harris County. The boundary lines wrap around Houston's downtown and stretch North toward Intercontinental Airport along Interstate 45 and Eastex Freeway (Highway 59). To the South, the lines reach neighborhoods surrounding Hobby Airport.

Congressman Gene Green serves on the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, the Government Reform Committee and Oversight Committee.

Gene Green supports securing the rights of all Americans. Throughout his term in Congress, he has voted and co-sponsored legislation that would ensure that all his constituents and all Americans are represented and treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation.

Congressman Green is a co-sponsor of ENDA, the Employer Non-Discrimination Act that makes it illegal for an employer to discriminate against an employee or prospective employee based on their sexual orientation. He does not feel anyone should be judged by any other factors other than their ability to perform their job. He has maintained this position and voted against banning homosexuals from the military.

In 1993 he voted against the DC Appropriations bill. Although this vote entailed what appeared to be a vote against domestic partners, this was not the case. The major issue that caused him to vote against this bill was a concern over abortion funding. Green felt the Hyde amendment would discriminate against low-income women and would deny them affordable reproductive health care.

The Hyde amendment would disallow the use of Medicaid monies to be used for abortions.

In 1995, when the DC Appropriations bill was again up for debate, Congressman Green voted against the Hostettler amendment. This amendment attempted to strip the District of Columbia's Health Care Benefits Expansion Act that would deny benefits to domestic partners.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus endorsed Gene Green. A letter received from the Human Rights Campaign further supported Gene Green. Michael Roybal, Esq. (Chief Legislative Counsel, HRC) wrote: "Houston is well served by Representative Gene Green on Gay and Lesbian issues . . . HRC has forged an important relationship with Representative Green's office and we look forward to his continued support."

By

Lane Lewis

MORE ABOUT THE HGLPC

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By

Lane Lewis

MORE ABOUT THE HGLPC

Goals of the HGLPC

- Getting out the vote within the gay and lesbian community for endorsed candidates and community campaigns.
- Recruiting and campaigning for qualified gay and lesbian candidates for elective office.
- Establishing a political coalition of all Houston minority communities.
- Work towards the passage of a comprehensive Hate Crimes Bill in the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress.
- Working for the repeal of Texas Penal Code Section 21.06.
- Protecting the integrity of gay and lesbian businesses and neighborhoods.

Principles of the HGLPC:

- To promote and protect the political interests of gays and lesbians.
- To inform and educate the public about gay and lesbian issues.
- To achieve full equality and civil rights for all lesbians and gay men.
- To work toward and promote the common goal of human rights for all people.

The HGLPC is involved in several activities. The caucus organizes voter registration efforts in communities that support lesbian/gay issues and publishes monthly newsletters to inform voters about important political issues. The group takes political action by endorsing candidates, organizing precincts, educating the community, and taking part in political party activities. The caucus also responds to issues by activism, phone banking, lobbying, and similar activities. The work of the HGLPC generates an interest in gay and lesbian politics among moderates, conservatives, liberals, heterosexuals, people of color, and a wide array of concerned people.

Take an interest in the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and get involved. The caucus meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. We are conveniently located in the Montrose area. The office is at 2700 Albany in Suite 340. For additional information or directions to our office please call 521-1000.

by Francisco Sánchez, Jr.

Jessica Farrar - State Rep. Dist. 148

Jessica Farrar was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in November 1994. Jessica was instrumental in passing a legislative package consisting of three bills which encourage the City of Houston to turn tax-delinquent property into low-income housing for development by non-profit corporations. She was directly involved in repealing the spousal privilege in cases of family violence, prohibiting the use of polygraph tests with rape victims, and strengthening penalties for hate crimes.

Jessica co-sponsored the Hate Crimes Bill and addressed her colleagues of the floor of the House on the importance of increasing the level of HIV/AIDS funding. She also added amendments to a HIV/AIDS testing bill that protected the individual's right to privacy. She will continue to work so that mandatory HIV/AIDS testing never becomes a reality in Texas while she promotes HIV prevention and education programs.

Jessica also supported a bill that increases the compensation available to victims of violent crimes. Victims can now receive up to \$25,000 for health care and other benefits. This is important because "household members" can be eligible for compensation. This applies to gay and lesbian couples.

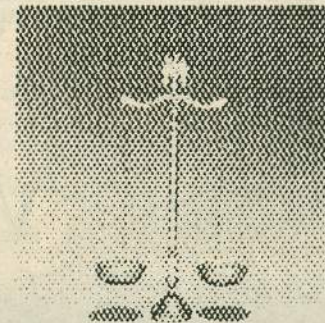
Jessica was appointed by Speaker Pete Laney to serve on the House Committee on Corrections and the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence. The Committee on Corrections has jurisdiction over the incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted felons, correctional facilities and several state agencies. The committee also oversees the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence has jurisdiction over criminal law and procedures. The committee also affects local agencies like county and district attorneys.

JUDGE GARCIA PROVEN WORKER

Sylvia Garcia began her judicial career in 1986 with an appointment as a Municipal Court Judge and Night Coordinator. In 1987, she was appointed Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal Court System, becoming the youngest person, the first Hispanic and the first woman ever to be named to that post. Most recently, Mayor Lanier re-appointed her to an unprecedented fifth term.

Judge Garcia's community record includes positions on over 25 boards and committees including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Harris County Bail Bond Board, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the American Leadership Forum, and the Houston Area Women's Center.

A tireless advocate on behalf of children and women, Sylvia Garcia was recently named Houston's Hometown Hero by Warner Cable for her work on children's issues. In 1994, she was named Woman of the Year in Government Service by the YWCA, a Distinguished Alumnae by Texas Women's University and received the National "Thanks Badge" from the Girl Scouts of America. No stranger to hard work, Judge Sylvia Garcia looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead with the support of the HGLPC.



COMMITTED DEPENDABLE ENERGETIC

Jessica co-sponsored legislation to impose penalty enhancements for hate crimes and amended legislation to ensure the anonymous



STATE REPRESENTATIVE KEN YARBROUGH

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 138

Ken Yarbrough was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1990. In 1990, he served on the Labor and Employment Relations and Urban Affairs Committees. When re-elected in 1992, Speaker Pete Laney chose Ken Yarbrough, a second term House Member, to be Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee. When re-elected in 1994, he served again as Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Committee and as a member of the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee. In addition, Ken was the only member of the Harris County Delegation chosen to become a member of a special select committee on Veterans Affairs.

Ken Yarbrough has four (4) children and three (3) grandsons. He is a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Ken's civic activities include: member of Shady Acres Civic Club, Meadow Lea Civic Club, Brazos Valley Private Industry Council, Harris County AFL-CIO, sustaining member of the Texas Democratic Party, Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce, North Loop Optimists, life member of The National PTO, life member and active committeeman of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

VOTE

*the only member
...chosen to
become a member
of a special select
committee on
Veterans Affairs*

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the first
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every
month at 2700
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Diana Davila - State Rep Dist 145

Education Based - Community Ties

Diana Davila has long been a leader in her community. Growing up down the street from Ripley House Community Center, she began working at age fourteen as volunteer Spanish teacher for officers in the Houston Police Department. During her two terms in office, Diana has cited education and the overall needs of children as her priority. She also strongly believes in empowerment through participation and works to involve communities in the educational and political arenas by giving them a sense of ownership in such processes. Diana grew up in Houston's East End and went on to receive a Bachelor's degree from Harvard College.

Diana was one of the first members of the legislature to co-sponsor the Hate Crimes Bill. Diana has committed to supporting a Hate Crimes Bill during the upcoming legislative session that enhances penalties for hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and sexual orientation. Diana believes that changing the current statute will make the law less vulnerable to a constitutional challenge and will protect Texans.

Throughout the session, Diana was a vocal proponent of increased funding for HIV/AIDS services. In her work with a bill that is designed to alert expectant mothers who may be at risk of HIV infection about available treatment, Diana included language that increases the availability of this important information and protects the mother's privacy.

Diana opposes initiative and referendum legislation that would allow that process in Texas. The referendum process was used in California to pass Proposition 187 and has been used nation-wide to pass anti-gay and anti-immigrant policies by extremist groups.

Currently Diana serves on the House Human Services Committee which oversees welfare and rehabilitation programs for every Texan, the Urban Affairs Committee which deals with all city

TREVINO A FRIEND OF GAY COMMUNITY

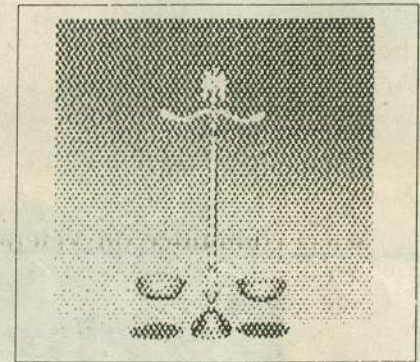
Precinct 6 Constable Victor Trevino has been a long-time friend of our community. Throughout his public service, Constable Trevino has been an advocate of underrepresented communities. His willingness to address critical issues about public safety and community protection at the county level, he has earned a reputation of hard work and integrity.

Immigrating to the United States in 1958, He became a Houston Police Officer in 1976 and served thirteen years before being elected as constable for Precinct 6 in 1988.

Victor graduated from Austin High School in H.I.S.D. He also attended San Jacinto Junior College, Southwest Texas State University's Crime Prevention School, the FBI Communication School, and Lockheed Corporation Management School. He received his degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston.

Victor is married to Silvia Rodriguez Trevino, a Houston Police Officer. Together they have three children: daughter Carolyn and sons Victory III and Thomas. Nephew, Michael, is also part of the Trevino family household. Constable Trevino's dedication to his community and commitment to public service have earned him the support of the HGLPC and other groups.

Constable Victor Trevino is a Democrat and has been a party activist before and during his term. His partnership with the gay and lesbian community have led to his endorsement this and past years.



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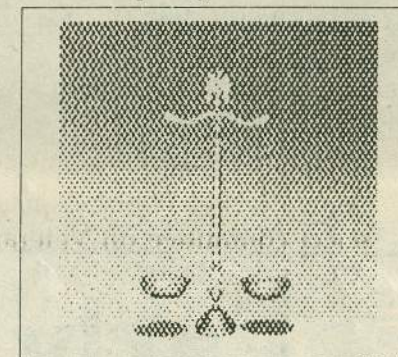
Currently Diana serves on the House Human Services Committee which oversees welfare and rehabilitation programs for every Texan, the Urban Affairs Committee which deals with all city and municipal programs, and the Committee on Local and Consent Calendars.

Representative Dávila is unopposed in the Democratic Primary but continues to build a working relationship with the caucus.

*Davila was one of the first
sponsors of the Hate
Crimes Bill*

Victor graduated from Austin High School in H.I.S.D. He also attended San Jacinto Junior College, Southwest Texas State University's Crime Prevention School, the FBI Communication School, and Lockheed Corporation Management School. He received his degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston.

have led to his endorsement this and past years.



I am on the ballot in the Democratic Primary. Your continued support and vote on Tuesday, March 12, 1996 is appreciated.

Victor Trevino

STATE REP. DEBRA DANBURG

Debra Danburg is serving her eighth term as a member of the Texas House of Representatives. She is currently serving her third term as Chair of the House Committee of Elections and as a member of the Committee on State Affairs.

She represents District 137, which encompasses Montrose, the Heights, Memorial Park, Greenway Plaza, Highland Village, and now the Gallery and Gulfton areas. She is a native Houstonian and received her undergraduate and law degree from the University of Houston, where she was Student Body Vice-President and Women's Advocate.

In 1993, Representative Danburg was named "Alumna of the Year" by the College of Social Science of the University of Houston, and in 1992, she delivered the College of Social Sciences' commencement address at University of Houston.

*"Alumna
of the
Year"*

In 1992, she was appointed by Mayor Bob Lanier to the Municipal Arts Commission of the City of Houston, and in 1991, she was appointed by the Speaker of the House to the Texas State Artist Committee.

In 1990, Representative Danburg received the Outstanding Legislator Award by the Texas Association of Symphony Orchestras. In 1988, she received Houston's Outstanding Professional Woman Award, and in 1981, she was named "Best Legislator" by Houston City Magazine. She is past regional vice-president of the National Association of Jewish Legislators, and she is an advisory board member of the Women's Business Enterprise. In 1991, Representative Danburg received the Women's Suffrage Award from the Houston Area Women's Center, and in 1987, she received the Environmental Defense Award by the Sierra Club. She is a founding member of the AIDS Foundation of Houston and was named their Volunteer of the year in 1984.

Representative Danburg has served on the House Appropriations Committee. She is past chair of the Subcommittee on Budget and Oversight of the Committee on Cultural and Historical Resources and was the first woman member to be appointed to the Committee on Business and Industry. She has twice served on the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and is the first woman to be appointed to the position.

*"Best
Legislator"*

Early Voting Ends the 8th

Montrose votes at Multi-Service Center

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*"Best
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Early Voting Ends the 8th

Montrose votes at Multi-Service Center

Registered voters have until 7 p.m. this Friday to vote early in the Tuesday, March 12 Democratic and Republican Party primaries.

Any Harris County resident can vote early at the downtown location, Anderson-Clayton Courthouse Annex, 1310 Prairie at Caroline (2nd floor).

Montrose residents living in state Rep. Debra Danburg's district can vote early backstage at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray.

For other voting locations, contact the county clerk's office at 755-6411.

Early voting continues through Friday, March 8, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Anyone who was registered to vote by February 14 is eligible to vote in the party primary of their choice. If you have not registered, go ahead and register by March 10 so you can be eligible to vote in the April 9 party primary run-off elections.

Voters are reminded to get their voting card stamped when they vote so they can return to their precinct convention that evening.

STATE REP. GARNET COLEMAN

*'Return me to the Legislature
so we can join together in the
fight against hate'*

On January 4, 1996, Fred Mangione was executed. He was never convicted of any crime, never committed an egregious injustice. Mr. Mangione's only crime was that he was gay, which to some Texans justifies murder. His death makes it perfectly clear that Texas is not doing enough to prevent hate crimes.

Since 1988, 15 Texans have been murdered strictly because of their sexual orientation. Countless others have been beaten, assaulted, robbed, harassed, or discriminated against simply because they are gay. With these numerous cases as evidence, we in the legislature attempted to amend the state hate-crime law to explicitly state that bias or prejudice against Texans based on their sexual orientation would not go unpunished. Unfortunately, our bid failed.

*Since 1988, 15
Texans have been
murdered strictly
because of their
sexual
orientation*

*Only through an
explicitly hate
crime law can we*

PAUL DAY *Republican for Sheriff*

Paul Day is committed to be a leader who will aggressively attack the problem of the increasing violence in our communities. He has vowed to be instrumental in encouraging all law enforcement agencies in Harris County to start working together. He is strong-willed, courageous, and innovative in his ideas.

Paul Day is an experienced law enforcement officer who has worked in the community to Houston/Harris County since 1976. Paul Day has developed an awareness from these years of experience that violence is a behavior primarily learned in the family environment and passed on from generation to generation. He believes that in order to have an impact on violence, one must begin at the root of the problem. Those who have lived in a violent family or have been abused as a child, says Day, can understand the problem best and can relate to his ideas.

Paul Day is the HGLPC's choice in the Republican primary. His opponent, currently the appointed sheriff, has issued an order to prohibit off-duty sheriff's deputies from working to protect places like Planned Parenthood or black churches being harassed by violent supremacy groups.

VOTE

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As a member of the Texas House Representatives, I fought hard to amend our hate crime statute, and I am committed to continue that fight until the work is done. Only through an explicitly hate crime law can we end the cycle of hate, and move forward to a better future. By sending the message that crimes against peoples of a group will not be tolerated, we can destroy the archaic belief that some Texans are worth less than others.

Fred Mangione died because of the hatred of a pair, and the indifference of millions. Changing our hate crime law will not bring him back, but it will mean that, perhaps, fewer join him on the sad list of people killed by hate. Please return me to the Legislature so we can join together in the fight against hate and indifference, and make a better future for Texas.

sexual orientation

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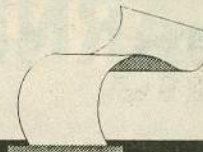
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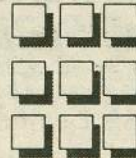
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MOLLY LUHRS

FOR CHAIR OF THE HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Choosing the right candidate for Chair of the Harris County Democratic Party might just be one of the most important votes you make in the upcoming primary.

Molly Luhrs, long-time active Democrat, believes that an energetic and dedicated local party chair is critical to the party's ability to thrive, and she's running for that position. "This is a great time to take advantage of the lack of cohesion in that other party," Luhrs says, "but unless we all put our oars in the water and start rowing, we'll miss our chance."

Promising to be a full-time, working chair, Luhrs has set some goals. "First of all, their needs to be a friendly face at the Party office. We need a strong partnership between the Chair, the Steering Committee, the Precinct Chairs, and every Democrat in the county. We can't continue that way we're going. We need the talent, the ideas, and the energy of every single person."

Her Democratic credentials include volunteering in campaigns for Ralph Yarborough, Bob Eckhardt, Barbara Jordan and others--form precinct chairs to Clinton. A delegate to Senate District and State Conventions, she was on staff at the 1984 National Convention inn San Francisco. Living in Phoenix in the '80s, she worked impeach Gov. Evan Mecham, whose first executive

*"I'm a Democrat
to my toes..."*

order was to scrap Martin Luther King Day. Her grandmother, Frankie Carter Randolph, founded the *Texas Observer* and helped organize

**Be Sure
to
Vote
Tuesday
March
12**

A Chair for A Change!

Vote

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In addition, Luhrs will insist on fiscal accountability, strong and ongoing donor programs, energetic outreach activities, aggressive candidate recruitment and training programs, informative issues seminars, and fun.

*"I'm a Democrat
to my toes..."*

order was to scrap Martin Luther King Day. Her grandmother, Frankie Carter Randolph, founded the *Texas Observer* and helped organize the Harris County Democrats, where Luhrs volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday.

"I'm a Democrat to my toes, and proud of it. I want to every Democrat in Harris County to be able to have the same pride!"

REPRESENTATIVE

Debra Danburg

DISTRICT 137



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★ **Molly Luhrs** ★
for

**Chair,
Harris County Democratic Party**

*I am proud to have the endorsement of HGLPC,
and I promise to earn that trust!*

*With your vote, we can make the Party fiscally
sound, build a partnership with the community,
and move ahead in the best Democratic traditions.*



Also endorsed by the Women's Political Caucus of Houston,
and Harris County Democrats.

Paid for by Molly Luhrs Campaign

A.B. CHAMBERS IS A DEPENDABLE CONSTABLE FOR PRECINCT 7

Constable A.B. Chambers has served Precinct 7 for the past twenty-two years. A dedicated public servant, Constable Chambers said that he has "always appreciated the support of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus in the past" and continues to look forward to working with the our community.

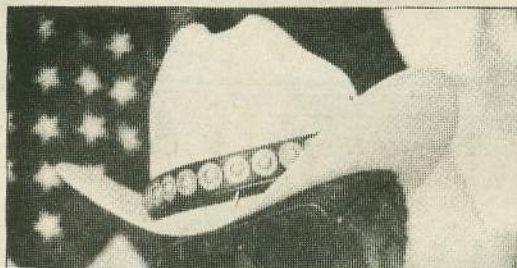
Constable Chambers was appointed as the first black Deputy Constable in Texas and has over thirty-one years in law enforcement experience. Through his precinct, Constable Chambers provides Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) at three area schools, coordinates a truancy patrol schools, and was the first constable in Harris County to use laser technology instead of radars. He was also the first area constable to use the Selection Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to specialize in drunk driver apprehension and accident investigation. Constable Chambers is particularly proud to be the first Harris County law enforcement official to set up DWI sobriety checkpoints.

Aside from having an aggressive law enforcement program, Constable Chambers is very involved in his community. He has served as president of the Houston Business and Professional Men's Club, board member of the Houston Citizen Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the Sam Houston Bay Area Boy Scouts of America fundraiser. Constable Chambers has also been a member of the Harris County Council of Organizations, Greater St. Paul Baptist Church, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship Committee, and sponsors Little League Baseball and Football teams.

Constable Chambers has been accessible to the gay and lesbian community and continues to be interested in important issues that affect safety in our neighborhoods.

VOTE MARCH 12th
KEEP

A. B. CHAMBERS
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 7



VOTE

Senator John Whitmire Continues to Support Gay & Lesbian Issues

VOTE MARCH 12th
KEEP
A. B. CHAMBERS
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 7



Concerned and Dedicated

State Representative
District 132



**Scott
HOCHBERG**

P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768-2910 512-463-0492
4660 Beechnut, #245 Houston, TX 77096 713-660-7783
Internet: 70712.1661@compuserve.com

VOTE

Senator John Whitmire Continues to Support Gay & Lesbian Issues

Senator John Whitmire served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice during the 73rd Legislature and is a member of the Nominations, Intergovernmental Relations, and State Affairs Committees. Since 1983, Senator Whitmire has represented Senate District 15. Prior to being elected to the Senate, Senator Whitmire served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives.

He authored S.B. 1067, the Penal Code Revision, which imposed tougher penalties on convicted felons as well as S.B. 532 which created a new system of State Jails.

In his position as Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, Senator Whitmire led the fight to try to get Section 21.06 of the Penal Code removed from S.B. 1067. The State Senate actually removed the anti-sodomy statute but the Texas House refused to do the same. Senator Whitmire spoke eloquently against keeping 21.06 and worked successfully in the Senate to get it omitted. The bill went to a conference committee and 21.06 remains in Texas law. His influence and effectiveness are large factors in his success in the legislature.

Originally from Hillsboro, Texas, Senator Whitmire's family moved to Houston where he graduated from Waltrip High School. He went on to earn a BA in Political Science from the University of Houston and attended the University of Houston's Bates College of Law. He was admitted to the bar in 1981 and is a practicing attorney who lives and works in Houston.

Art Contreras, a Sheriff for the future

In our modern, future-oriented metropolis, the Harris County Sheriffs Department and the Harris County Jail have long been embarrassments. Rather than state-of-the-art law enforcement and humane treatment of prisoners, we have too often seen a perpetuation of an atavistic good-old-boy system, mistreatment of prisoners and mismanagement. The department has been the target of an appalling number of lawsuits -- from within and without!

Assistant Chief Art Contreras, of the Houston Police Department, won the HGLPC endorsement for County Sheriff in the Democratic Primary. Contreras, an outspoken critic of former Sheriff Johnny Klevenhagen, has been campaigning for more than a year for the post. These assets, combined with decades of law enforcement experience, make him the front-runner in the race.

Chief Contreras has been a standard bearer for Hispanics within HPD, and has served in most of the department's diverse commands. He was instrumental in expanding the Cadet Academy's human relations classes to include the gay and lesbian community when it reopened in the early 90's. At the same time, HPD officially dropped its policy of screening out gay applicants.

Recently appointed Sheriff Tommy Thomson was Klevenhagen's number two man, and replaced the retiring Klevenhagen. He has made some positive improvements, but is a product of the system he is charged with turning around. Members of HGLPC feel strongly that it's time for a new administration. The caucus has also endorsed Houston Police Officer Paul Day in the Republican Primary.

by Annise Parker

*Art Contreras was instrumental in
expanding the Cadet Academy's
human relations classes to include the
gay and lesbian community*

*Two outstanding Democratic
candidates were considered, but
Contreras had the edge*

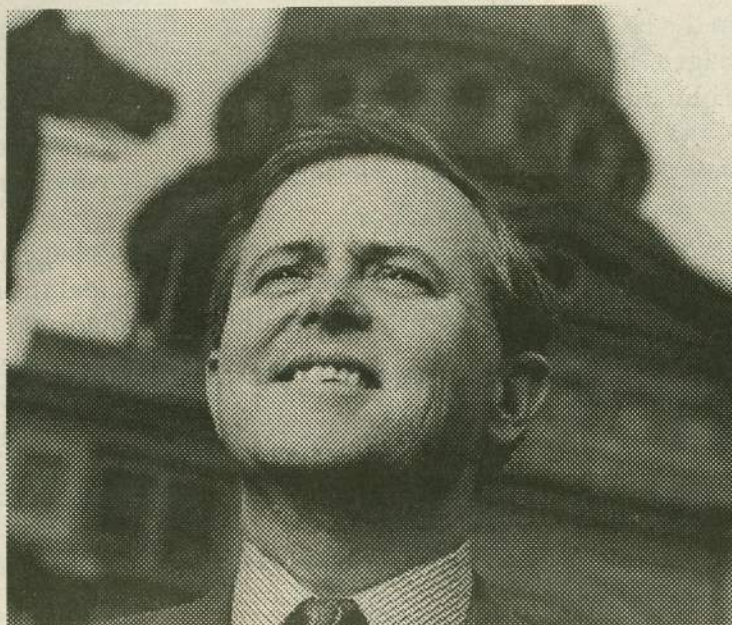


Art
Contreras

**U.S. REP. SHEILA
JACKSON LEE**

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

As Texas' only openly gay legislator, I believe the first step to freedom for our community is to use what rights we have — and that is the right to vote. Use it March 12th.



GLEN MAXEY

Our Voice in the Legislature

To help re-elect the only openly gay member of the Texas Legislature, send contributions to:

P.O. Box 2505, Austin, Texas 78768

Pol. Ad. Pd. Glen Maxey Campaign

REP. GLEN MAXEY



★ "Leadership by example" ★

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PAUL DAY
HARRIS COUNTY
SHERIFF

— *Christian Promise Keeper* —



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JOHN WHITMIRE
STATE SENATOR

P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0115

803 YALE STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77007
(713) 864-8701



GLEN MAXEY

Our Voice in the Legislature

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of the Texas Legislature, send contributions to:

P.O. Box 2505, Austin, Texas 78768

Pol. Ad. Pd. Glen Maxey Campaign

REP. GLEN MAXEY FACING OPPOSITION

Texas Gay Legislator Seeks Re-Election

Glen Maxey was there for our community in the last legislative session. Now, he faces serious opposition in the March 12th Democratic primary. His opponents have resorted to negative campaigning to silence him as a voice for gay and lesbian Texans.

As the only openly gay member of the Texas Legislature, Glen has been the leader in fights for funding of AIDS/HIV services and the battles to ensure basic human rights for all Texans. Glen successfully amended a bill to provide increased protections for consumers who sell their life insurance policies through viatical settlement companies - to ensure these transactions remain scrupulous and beneficial for people with AIDS and terminal illnesses.

Before national companies could market HIV home collection test kits in Texas, Glen wrote and passed a law to ensure test results remained confidential and that kit makers provided adequate telephone counseling and community referrals. When conservatives attempted to introduce anti-gay amendments to the new education and family codes, Glen stopped majority of those behind the scenes before they ever reached the floor of the House. As floor whip for the House progressive caucus, Glen worked to pass a bill to include sexual orientation in the hate crimes act. Although not ultimately successful, the bill came within two votes of passage on the House floor - the closest vote yet.

Glen Maxey is a strong, effective voice for our community at the Texas capitol. With the radical right gearing up to take over the Legislature, we cannot afford to lose our presence in Austin.



JOHN WHITMIRE
STATE SENATOR

P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0115

803 YALE STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77007
(713) 864-8701

Elect

**GARY
TAYLOR**
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

**Texas Deserves
Independence and Integrity.**

RADICAL RIGHT WING PLANS TO TAKE OVER PRECINCT CONVENTIONS!

Documents acquired by both Democratic and Republican Party activists reveal plans that right wing extremists are making a big effort to get their supporters to attend both Democratic and Republican Precinct conventions.

Immediately after the polls close on March 12 at 7:00PM both the Democratic and Republican Parties will hold their Precinct conventions. These are usually held in the same place that the election is held. Voters should ask their Democratic or Republican Precinct Chairs (usually the person holding the election) to make sure about the location of the convention.

At 7:15 the Precinct Chair is bound by law to call this meeting to order in a location that he or she has previously announced. The party chair should have already circulated a sign in sheet so that those attending the convention will already be signed in by 7:15.

The business to be taken care of at this meeting is the adoption of resolutions and the election of delegates to send to the Senatorial District Conventions. The Democratic Party Senate District Convention will be held on Saturday, March 30 at a location to be announced by the Precinct Chair. The resolutions and delegates are very important. This is why the right wing extremist want to take over these conventions. They want to pass anti-gay and other "hate" oriented type resolutions. If gay & lesbian Democrats and Republicans do not go to these conventions and work with friendly heterosexual folks in their respective parties, the right wing could very well take over both parties this Spring.

All Gays and Lesbians need to attend these conventions and do two things. First, defeat any hate type of resolution and second get themselves elected as delegates to the Senate District conventions. These party conventions are grassroots democracy at work. If you are one of those folks who always refer to the political parties as "them"...you need to go to your Precinct convention of your choice whether it be Democrat or Republican and make your voice heard. Then you could say "we" when you talk about your political party.

If all Gay or lesbian voters attended their Precinct Conventions our community would have a voice in the councils of both parties that would be unprecedented. Many Gays and Lesbians already attend Democratic Party conventions and we do have a great deal of influence there. For example, Pat Gandy has been elected as the Committeewoman of Senate District 6, State Democratic Executive Committee and Sue Lovell has been elected to the same position in Senate District 13. Imagine what we could do if all Gays or Lesbians attended their Precinct Conventions!

The Precinct Conventions are just the first step in the selection process toward selecting delegates to the State and National Conventions. The State Democratic Convention will be held in Dallas on Friday and Saturday, June 7-8. The Democratic National Convention will be held in Chicago, August 25-30. The Republican State Convention will be held and the Republican National Convention will be held

We need to be at these conventions to make sure friendly resolutions are passed and to elect friendly delegates to the Senate District Conventions. At these conventions delegates to State Conventions will be selected. At the State Conventions delegates to the National Conventions will be selected. The delegates to that convention will select the nominee of their party for President of the United States.

All the publicity we heard about Iowa and New Hampshire is over and done with. Texas selects her delegates on March 12. We all need to be a part of that process here in Texas. We need to influence that decision. It is not someone else's job. See you at the Precinct Conventions on March 12 at 7:00P.M. If you need any more information call 521-1000, your HGLPC office.

by Pat Gandy

LGRL REPORT- *RENEWED EFFORT TO FINISH PLEDGE PROJECT THIS YEAR*

In light of the recent murder of another gay Texan, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has stepped up its work on the recently launched Pledge Project to help end hate-related violence in the state.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of LGRL, said the January 4 stabbing death of Frank Mangione near Houston, which has been ruled a hate crime by police, is another tragic reminder of how much work still needs to be done to promote tolerance and acceptance in Texas communities.

"Mangione was the seventeenth person murdered in Texas since 1988 because he was gay", she pointed out while addressing a meeting in Houston on January 15.

"The Pledge Project was designed to give every Texan a chance to take a stand against hate crimes and to do something about the violence. The Pledge will be used to put pressure on the Texas Legislature. The Texas Legislature has a responsibility to take some action on this issue," Hardy-Garcia said. "As long as they refuse

"We must demand that our lawmakers pass tougher hate crimes laws. To achieve that, we must show our strength in numbers. We hope to get 50,000 Texans to sign The Pledge before the next legislative session."

Last year, the Texas House fell just two votes short of passing a tougher hate crimes law. The measure had already passed in the State Senate.

The Texas AFL-CIO and the NAACP of Texas are among the more than 15 statewide organizations that have endorsed The Pledge Project.

Signers of The Pledge agree to:

- urge passage of strong, clear, enforceable hate crime laws
- promote hate crime prevention programs in schools and communities
- advocate for hate crime training programs for law enforcement
- do all they can to spread the message of respect for all people.

Democratic Party Condemns Hate Crimes

Whereas, the Texas State Democratic Party condemns the vicious hate crime perpetrated against Fred Mangione of Katy, Texas on January 4, 1996; and

Whereas, Mr. Mangione was attacked and killed and his companion of 16 years was brutally beaten by two (2) men who claimed to be members of a hate group called the German Peace Corps; and

Whereas, Mr. Mangione had his life partner were attacked because they were gay. The sheriff of Harris County held a press conference to label the crime a "hate" crime; and

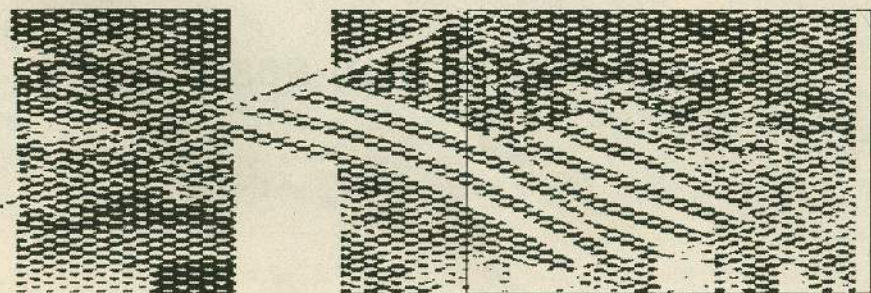
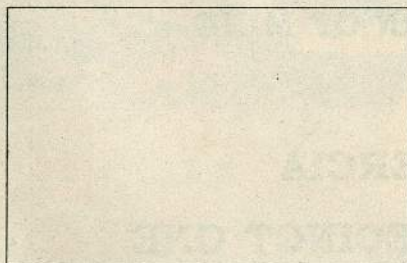
Whereas, we urge the Texas Legislature to specifically amend existing Hate Crimes statute to protect Texans from hate crime committed because of race, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; and

Whereas, this horrible act is yet another example of violence by an individual or group of individuals who feel that they have the permission of society to commit such acts against gay men and lesbians; and

Whereas, they believe they have such permission because decent, law abiding men and women do not speak out

...ance in Texas communities.
" Mangione was the seventeenth person murdered in Texas since 1988 because he was gay", she pointed out while addressing a meeting in Houston on January 15.

" The Pledge Project was designed to give every Texan a chance to take a stand against hate crimes and to do something about the violence. The Pledge will be used to put pressure on the Texas Legislature. The Texas Legislature has a responsibility to take some action on this issue," Hardy-Garcia said. " As long as they refuse to pass laws which openly protect lesbian and gay people from violence, they must bear some responsibility for knowingly and silently allowing this hate-related violence to continue.



...the more than 15 statewide organizations that have endorsed The Pledge Project.

Signers of The Pledge agree to :

- urge passage of strong, clear, enforceable hate crime laws
- promote hate crime prevention programs in schools and communities
- advocate for hate crime training programs for law enforcement
- do all they can to spread the message of respect for all people .

Hardy-Garcia is currently coordinating meetings across the state, discussing the hate-related murders, training people on how to speak out about hate crimes in their communities, and encouraging people to sign The Pledge.

For information on the project and the planned training sessions or to get Pledge Cards, contact LGRL at 512-474-5475 or the Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus at 713-521-1000.

...held a press conference to label the crime a "hate" crime; and

Whereas, we urge the Texas Legislature to specifically amend existing Hate Crimes statute to protect Texans from hate crime committed because of race, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; and

Whereas, this horrible act is yet another example of violence by an individual or group of individuals who feel that they have the permission of society to commit such acts against gay men and lesbians; and

Whereas, they believe they have such permission because decent. Law abiding men and women do not speak out against the purveyors of hate who use their podiums and pulpits to spew words which incite some of their believers to acts of violence against decent law abiding gay men and lesbians; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Texas Democratic Party condemns such speech and condemns such acts of violence as it condemns all violence in the strongest possible terms.

Passed on January 13, 1996 without dissenting vote by the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee in Austin, Texas. Resolution offered by SDEC member Pat Gandy of Senate District 6, Houston, Texas. Pat is a long time Democratic Party activist and the newly elected President of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.

Election Newsletter

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HGLPCNews

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

Conventions show gay presence

1996 Democratic Convention Sets Record

Gays and lesbians from Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and from smaller cities throughout Texas gathered as part of the State Democratic Convention on June 7 - 8, 1996, in Dallas. The 1996 convention set new precedents in electing 18 gay and lesbian delegates and alternates, the highest number ever, to the National Convention to be held in Chicago in late August. Houston area delegates, most of whom members of the

HGLPC, included Pat Gandy, Sue Lovell, Joe Garcia, Scott Harbours, and Shelley Porter. Jim Owens was elected as an alternate and Francisco Sanchez was selected to serve on the National Platform Committee. Gandy and Lovell were both re-elected to the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Lesbian & Gay Democrats of Texas (LGDT) also elected new co-chairs Peter Brooks of Dallas and past

HGLPC president Sue Lovell to serve for the next two years.

Many candidates addressed the LGDT audience of nearly 300 people, including U.S. Senate candidate Victor Morales, Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, and openly lesbian Travis County Sheriff candidate Margo Frazier. It was a standing room only crowd that may have been the largest gathering in the history of the LGDT.

by Jim Owens

Gay Republicans Continue Long Battle

Nearly 30 openly gay delegates attended the State Republican Convention in San Antonio on June 20-22. All members of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas (LCRT), these delegates took a stand against the anti-gay rhetoric espoused by the party's extreme social conservatives. After the Texas Supreme Court's widely-publicized decision allowing the party to deny LCRT a booth at the convention and an ad in the convention program, LCRT members worked to increase their visibility and to challenge anti-gay statements made by convention attendees and anti-gay resolutions proposed for the party's platform.

LCRT members testified before the platform committee and numer-

ous U.S. congressional district caucuses in support of gay or gay-friendly candidates for national delegate positions. In addition, LCRT members distributed to convention delegates over 10,000 copies of the advertisement that the party rejected. Although not successful in defeating the party's extremist platform, they were successful in helping to elect several moderates to national delegate positions. More importantly, LCRT members effectively challenged the myths that equate gays and lesbians with rapists and pedophiles.

LCRT's accomplishments at the state convention are due, in large part, to the Precinct Initiative's success in ensuring that a large number of gay

and gay-friendly Republicans were elected to precinct chairs throughout Texas. The Precinct Initiative was a joint venture between HGLPC and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston.

by Jay Seegers

Next meeting July 3

The HGLPC Board recently voted to recommend a change to Article 5 of the bylaws, changing quorum at general meetings from 25 members to 20 members. Low attendance at several general meetings this year has interfered with conducting business. The change will be voted on at the July 3 meeting.

Elections will be held at the July 3 meeting for Board Seat #1. The term of this position expires in January 1998. Already announced for the seat is Joe Garcia. Self-nominations can be made at the meeting.

by Scott Simpson

Join the Team!

We are looking for a few good queers to put together the Caucus's monthly newsletter. Still needed are a copy editor, an ad salesperson, and

a project coordinator. If you are interested in any of these activities, or just want to help stuff envelopes, call the Caucus office at 521-1000 or Matthew Huston at 861-9541.

Caucus hosts Open House

A standing room only crowd enjoyed the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee Mock Screening and Open House Wednesday, June 19.

Houston City Councilmembers John Castillo and Jew Don Boney participated in the mock screening along with State Representative Jessica Farrar and Harris County Constable Victor Treviño.

Farrar was key to getting the Hate Crimes bill out of the House Criminal Justice Committee. "Gays are represented in all ethnic and socioeconomic groups," Farrar said, "and certainly in my district, but I fought for the Hate Crimes bill because it was what was right." Farrar also said the HGLPC endorsement "put me over the top. I couldn't have

won this without you guys."

When questioned by Screening Panel chair Annise Parker about his department's sensitivity training, Treviño said that he personally leads the sessions dealing with sensitivity to the gay and lesbian community. Panelist Clarence Bagby extracted a promise from Treviño that he will include sexual orientation and gender identity in his non-discrimination in hiring and employment policy.

Boney reiterated his commitment to continue his work with state legislators to garner their support for stiffer hate crimes legislation. He also pledged to continue working to establish "a multiracial coalition to fight for civil rights for all people."

Castillo condemned the federal government's shift toward block

grants to replace specific federal programs such as the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program. He pledged to work to find funds to replace lost federal moneys and said he would support a bond issue for AIDS housing dollars.

by Clarence Bagby

Awards Dinner

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus is planning its 1996 Awards Dinner. It is currently scheduled for September 21 at the The Four Seasons Hotel. This year's keynote speaker will be announced next month.

Every year it proves to be an exciting event with good food, good friends, and good words from a Nationally known political activist. Former speakers have included U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, Dr. Mathilde Krim, former San Francisco mayor Art Agnos, New Republic editor Andrew Sullivan, William A. Scott - Texas Department of Health, and Torie Osborn - Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, to name a few.

This is the Caucus' largest fundraiser of the year and your community needs your support. Tickets will go on sell next month so put aside some money for your tickets. For more information contact Lane Lewis at (713) 622-4362 or 521-1000.

by Lane Lewis

Upcoming social events

The HGLPC is supporting our first "Casino Day" on Sunday, June 30. Designed as a fundraiser, this will be another intimate social event limited to 50 people, allowing members and friends a better opportunity to interact than is available at other large events. Reservations are \$25.

Round trip travel via motor coach begins boarding at 6:00 a.m., departing at 6:30 a.m. from the Caucus office. We return from the Grand Casino Coshatta, departing Kinder, LA, at 4:30 p.m. arriving at the Caucus office at 7:30 p.m.

Make your reservations by calling Norm Thompson at 923-6676. Pay-

ment can be made by cash, check, or Visa/MC. Reservations and payment in advance are recommended; however, seating will be allowed Sunday as space allows.

An future all day and night event is being planned for late July or early August at Cardi's Club in southwest Houston, consisting of a variety of activities to appeal to different interests. Details will be coming soon. Volunteers are asked to contact Pat Gandy, Norm Thompson, or Ray Ramirez if you are interested in helping plan this social.

by Norm Thompson

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

Pat Gandy, *President*
Norm Thompson, *Vice President*
Scott Simpson, *Secretary*
Patrick McKee, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Matthew Huston, *chair*
Bill Agosto
Clarence Bagby
Clair Koepsel
Lane Lewis
Mary Perez
Ray Ramirez
LuJack Tyler

HGLPC meets the first Wednesday of every month at its offices, 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304, at 7:30 p.m.

Houston Gay and Lesbian
Political Caucus
P. O. Box 66664
Houston, Texas 77266-6664
(713) 521-1000

H G L P C

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS ▼ SEPTEMBER 1996

DINNER COMMITTEE IS PLANNING A "MAC ATTACK"

by Lane Lewis



The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus is planning its 1996 Awards Dinner. Every year the dinner proves to be an exciting event with good food, good friends, and good words. Former speakers have included Barney Frank, U. S. House of Representatives; Dr. Mathilde Krim, Cofounder of AmFAR; Art Agnos, Mayor of San Francisco; Andrew Sullivan, Editor of The New Republic; William A. Scott, Texas Board of Health; and Torie Osborn, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, to name a few.

This year's keynote speaker will be Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale, owner of Gallery Furniture. Mr. McIngvale is an excellent speaker. He will be talking about how we can utilize the free enterprise system to advance our cause. This is a very important topic: if more of us owned our own business then we would have more time and money to dedicate to the issues that we felt were important.

This is the Caucus's largest fund raiser of the year and our community needs your support. It will be held on September 28 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel. Tickets are now on sale. Prices are \$65 per person, \$120 per couple, and \$450 per table of eight.

For more information contact HGLPC at 521-1000, Lane Lewis at 622-4362 or e-mail to lanelewis@iah.com, or Clarence Bagby at 861-8238.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

by LuJack Tyler



The Membership Committee is working on increasing membership throughout the Caucus in two ways:

1. Membership cards will be given to all members, and
2. In October membership will be offered to all first time new members on a "pay what it's worth" basis.

Our goal is to have 100 new members at the October meeting.

Inside this
month...

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September 4: Endorsement Meeting

will be held at

Holiday Inn - Select
2712 SW Freeway
near Greenway Plaza.

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN

POLITICAL CAUCUS

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Jay Seegers



HGLPC News

editor
Matthew Huston

Typeset and Layout design
Joshua Rathburn & Lane Lewis



HGLPC News is a publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus which is solely responsible for its content.

HGLPC meets the first Wednesday of each month at its offices, 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

HGLPC
P. O. Box 66664
Houston, TX 77266-6664



ROLLER SKATING PARTY

by Bill Agosto

We're having a roller skating party as an HGLPC fund raiser on Wednesday night, August 28, from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Starlite Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road off Bissonnet in Southwest Houston.

The Lambda Roller Skating Club, headed by Keith Peters, is hosting the event. Admission is \$5.00 and \$1.00 for skate rental. Or you can bring your own skates.

Two dollars of the \$5.00 goes to the Caucus after the first 38 admissions cover rink rental. So be sure to bring all your family, friends, and favorite adversaries. We need at least 100 shows.

To get there, take U. S. 59 south to Bissonnet. Head west (right) on Bissonnet past Kirkwood to Cook Road. And start rolling.

CANDIDATE SCREENING

by Jay Seegers

On August 12, three panels comprised of twenty Caucus members began screening candidates in anticipation of the upcoming November 5 general election. The last official date on which candidates have been scheduled to screen is August 24. The HGLPC PAC will endorse candidates for the general election at its September membership meeting on Wednesday, September 4. We will hold the September 4 meeting in a private room at the Holiday Inn Select, which is located at 2712 Southwest Freeway (Kirby exit.)

In addition to its screening for the general election, the HGLPC PAC will screen candidates for seats in the recently redrawn 7th, 8th, 9th, 18th, 22nd, 25th, and 29th U. S. Congressional Districts. Voters will decide who fills these seats in a special open election to be held simultaneously with the general election on November 5. Run-offs for the special election will be held on December 10. The HGLPC PAC will hold a special endorsement meeting at the Caucus office on Wednesday, September 18, to determine endorsements for the special election.

The Board invites and encourages all Caucus members to attend both endorsement meetings.



WHAT'S NEW WITH US?

by Mary Perez



Board members Clair Koepsel, Clarence Bagby, Bill Agosto, and Mary Perez are formulating a membership survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine what we as members, as well as board members, can do to serve the community better and also to boost the number of active members.

We hope to have a successful result from the survey. It's coming soon, so watch out for it! This is just one small way we learn how to fight for our rights as human beings.

INTERNET ACTION

by Lane Lewis



The Human Rights Campaign has a fantastic web site. In fact it has been voted in the top 5% of all web sites by two different sources.

The most incredible part of their site is the "Take Action" page.

By entering your zip code, you can find a list of your U. S. Senators and Representative. Each name is clickable. After selecting the politician of interest, a bio of the person will appear. It is complete with a picture, the committees they serve on, and their voting record on items of interest to our community.

You can then select to send them e-mail. This will pull up a pre-written letter either thanking them or condemning them for a recent action they may have taken, or asking them to take action on an upcoming matter. You can edit the letter or send it as is. You then simply type your name and click send.

How easy can it get?

Congrats to the HRC. We encourage everyone to use this simple, effective tool to contact your representatives in Washington.

The URL is <http://www.hrcusa.org/>. Visit the site. You will not be disappointed.



• 1996 • SEPTEMBER CALENDER OF EVENTS:

- 4 - Endorsement Mtg.
Holiday Inn Select
7:30pm
- 18 - Endorsement Mtg.
(Congressional races)
2700 Albany
7:30pm
- 21 - Gallery Talk
Contemporary Arts
Museum
TBA
- 28 - Awards Dinner
Holiday Inn Select
7:00pm

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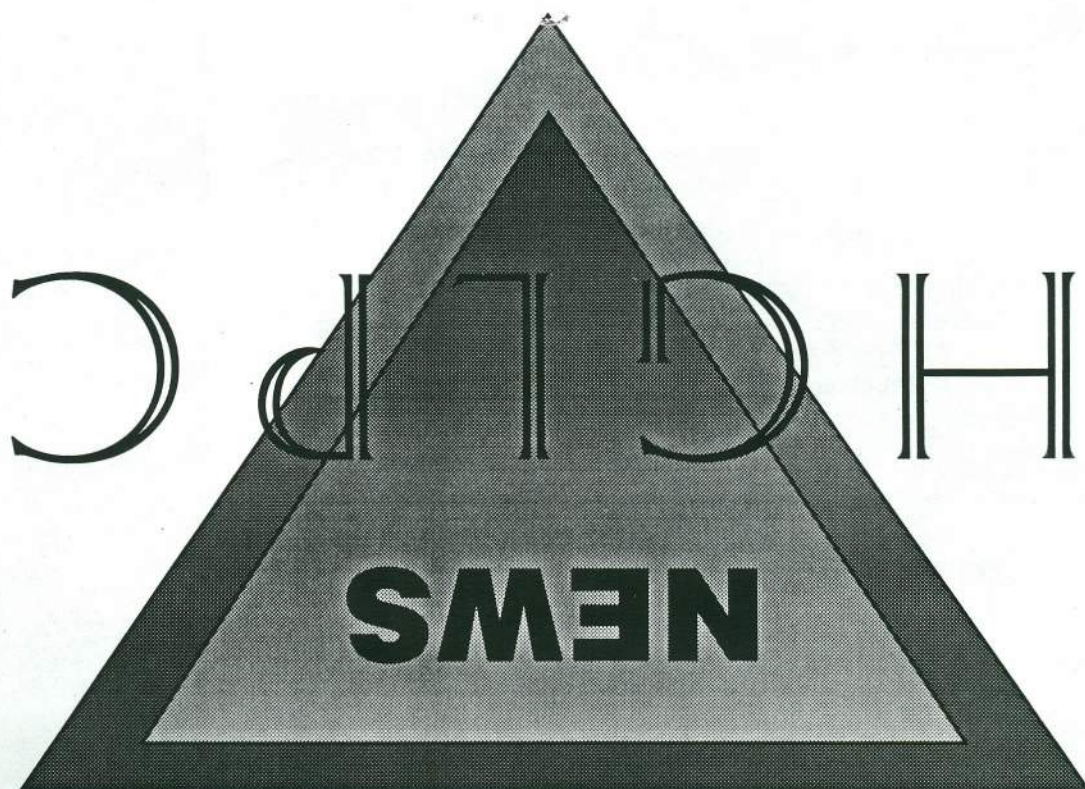
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Address Correction Requested