

Montrose Activity Center

NEWSLETTER

December

1988

The Montrose Activity Center is a non profit 501c3 organization who's purpose is to increase understanding of social, racial and sexual minorities, and to encourage acceptance of and tolerance of alternative lifestyles so that, together, the citizens of the City of Houston and the State of Texas may work in the spirit of peaceful cooperation to build a better society. The organization acts as an umbrella to other organization such as Lesbian/Gay Pride Week and the Names Project Houston. PO Box 66684, Houston, TX 77266-6684.

HATE CRIMES BILL NOT BROUGHT TO SENATE FLOOR

The first positive federal legislation to address violence against lesbians, gay men, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, stalled in the U.S. Senate because of threats by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) to introduce sweeping anti-gay amendments. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act which would require federal data collection on crimes motivated by prejudice against gay people and other minorities, was never brought to the Senate floor despite vigorous lobbying by a coalition of over 50 groups led by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), the Hate Crimes Statistics Act made legislative history when it passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May of 1988. The Bill marked the first time federal legislation specifically addressing sexual orientation was passed by either house of Congress. Attempts to delete the sexual orientation clause were repeatedly defeated while the bill was in committee and were also defeated on the House floor.

The Senate version of the bill was introduced by Senator Paul Simon (D-IL). The Senate bill achieved unanimous approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee in August. But efforts to bring the bill to the Senate floor crumbled as Helms told Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-WV) that he would fight the bill unless anti-gay measures were attached.

Helms planned to introduce a four-part amendment which stated the following:

- "(1) The homosexual movement threatens the strength and survival of the American family as the basic unit of society;
- (2) State laws prohibiting sodomy should be enforced;
- (3) The federal government should not provide discrimination protections on the basis of "sexual orientation"; and
- (4) School curriculums should not condone homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle in American society."

NGLTF lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic termed the amendment "totally offensive and unacceptable. We will never tolerate codification of this kind of bigotry." Radecic noted that because

of Helms' delaying tactics, the Hate Crimes measure must be re-introduced during the next Congressional session and will have to again pass through committees and the full floor of both Houses.

NGLTF Anti-Violence Project Director, Kevin Berill noted that while the bill stalled in Congress, acts of anti-gay violence continued to shatter the lives of gay men and lesbians across the country. Said Berill, "This bill reflects our call to the federal government to take a firm stand against homophobic violence. We intend to press forward; add more supporting organizations to our coalition, and continue the grassroots constituent pressure that helped so much this year."

Activists interested in generating support for the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in the next Congressional session are urged to contact Jude Radecic at NGLTF, 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009.

\$2000 REWARD

For the arrest and conviction of persons who murdered Gill McMillan. He was stabbed to death on October 27, 1988. If you have any information Call HPD detective Mayer and Toepoel at 247-8122.

For the arrest and conviction of persons involved in the attempted robbery and shooting of Exit bartender Stina Troxler. This crime occurred Halloween Night, Monday, October 31, 1988. The suspects were described as two white males who fled in a red pickup truck. If you have any information Call HPD detective Smart at 247-5401.

MARION PANTZER REWARD FUND & HOBO

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"MIDNIGHT CALLER" CAUSES PROTEST

FROM SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Gay and lesbian activist kept pressure on NBC and its local affiliate, KRON-TV, to cancel what they say will be an objectionable episode of a new network program

In a Made-for television mini-protest that began at Harvey Milk Plaza at Market and Castro streets and ended in front of KRON, a group of 50 chanted, "We're dykes and fags and we're here to stay," and waved placards reading "Dial NBC for Murder" and "Violence is no cure for AIDS."

Local television station cameras recorded the nonviolent, almost festive demonstration for the evening news.

There were no incidents as three police cars shadowed the protest down Market Street, then up Van Ness Avenue.

Lorimar Productions, the producers, last week agreed to rewrite a planned episode of a new series entitled "Midnight Caller" after protesters insisted the script would incite viewers rather than inform them about people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Members of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAD) said they fear that even the rewritten episode will be objectionable.

The original segment has portrayed a bisexual man with AIDS seeking to infect his sexual partners with the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS-related diseases.

The revised version will screened for members of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and others this week in Los Angeles, but GLAD and ACT-UP members said they doubt Lorimar has revised the script sufficiently to tone down a story line they believe will whip up AIDS hysteria.

"Lorimar exploits the public fear of AIDS and promotes a vicious and false image of people living with AIDS," the protesters said in a letter delivered to KROM President and General Manager Amy McCombs.

"What we're trying to do is convince KRON to have NBC reject the material," said GLAD spokeswoman Laura Brill.

Laura Bradley, a spokeswomen for KRON, told the Examiner that McCombs has been talking with network and production executives "to express the station's concern."

"We are going to wait to see the episode before making a final decision on whether to show it," said Bradley.

NBC televised a premiere of the "Midnight Caller" series three weeks ago and had scheduled it in weekly rotation beginning later this month.

The series centers on a San Francisco cop who quits the force after accidentally killing his partner and becomes a late-night talk show host specializing in crime.

Channel 2, KPRC, is the NBC affiliate in Houston: 771-4631 or 8181 Southwest Fwy, Houston, 77074.

WE WANT SOMETHING BETTER

"We want something better in this world. We want a world that is based on justice. We want a world that is based on compassion for human need. We're focusing on AIDS and we're focusing on health care, but we feel compassion for whoever is the victim of injustice, and that is what the ARC/AIDS vigil is about. That is the symbol that has kept it going. When the Reagan/Bush administration has said, 'We have no money for health care, we have no money for AIDS research,' we have banded together with little more than our guts and our bare hands and said, 'Yes, it is time to have these things. We will establish the hope on our own.'"

John Bleskus, founder of the AIDS/ARC Vigil in San Francisco, which had its third anniversary Oct. 27. From Gay Community News.

AIDS Legal Assistance Texas Human Rights Foundation

1-800-828-6415

Monday-Friday 10 AM-4 PM

MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER

Box 66684, Houston, TX 77266-6684

Board Members:

Jim Owens (President)

Jack Valinski (Vice President)

Brian Keever (secretary)

Annise Parker (treasurer)

Deborah Bell

Jim Crary

Ray Hill

Bruce Reeves

Joe Watts.

This newsletter is an official publication of the Montrose Activity Center, Jack Valinski, editor. This newsletter is distributed to the mailing list established over a number of years for Gay/Lesbian Pride Week. If you would like to be added, changed or deleted please fill out the form on and return it. This list is also given out upon request to organizations requesting it with direction from the MAC board.

Name

Organization (or not)

Address

City

State Zip

Work Phone

Home Phone

MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The annual board meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Members present: Ray Hill, Jim Owens, Jack Valinski, C. Brian Keever, Joe Watts and Jim Crary for Annise Parker. Absent: Deborah Bell.

Ray Hill, Chair, read the minutes from last year's meeting, Brian Keefer read minutes from last meeting. Jim Owens read treasurer report stating that there is \$1,940 in bank with no bills. This money was turned over from Lesbian Pride 1988, who also paid off the debt from Pride 1987.

Jim also reported that Joe Tomlinson has completed the taxes for the past few years that were found not reported from the last treasurer. Since those years showed that the cash flow was under \$25,000 there was no need to report to IRS. However it is felt that it would be a good policy to do so. Joe has requested \$50 for his services. This year ending in August there will be a need to do a tax return. This is because of the cash flow of the Names Project Quilt Tour and Pride 1988. The records from Pride 1988 turned over to MAC were not in very good order and Annise is going to do her best to put them in order. The VISA and Master Card machines are to be turned over to Pride 1989. Ray moved to accept treasures report and Brian seconded it. Approved.

Elections. Jim suggested that since Pride in a major part of MAC that one of the chairs be included on the board. Objections were raised because neither chair has expressed an interest to Ray or had showed up for the meeting. Also the board positions are for more than one year and Pride co-chair positions were only for a year. The following board terms were up: Ray Hill, Joe Watts, C. Brian Keever. Nominations to the board were: Ray Hill, Joe Watts, C. Brian Keever, Bruce Reeves, Jim Crary, Sylvia Ayers and Ken Wilson. The following were chosen: Ray Hill, Joe Watts, C. Brian Keever, Bruce Reeves and Jim Crary.

Elections of Officers as follows: President, Jim Owens; Jack Valinski, Vice-President; Treasurer, Annise Parker and Secretary, C. Brian Keever.

Committee reports:

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1988:

Bruce Reeves reported that Pride 1988 paid off debt from 1987 and had a surplus and gave \$2000 to MAC and the remainder to Pride 1989 for seed money.

Gay/Lesbian Pride Week 1988:

No representative from Pride. Jim Owens has been asked to

serve as MAC representative to Pride but is reconsidering because of his election as President of MAC.

Names Project Quilt Tour: Project finished and closed down.

Ongoing Names Project and Cards Project not presently active.

News Letter: The newsletter continues to be printed each month with distribution just under 400.

Unfinished Business

Coors Contribution:

Ray Hill wanted to close this matter before he left his term as Chair (President) of MAC. The matter concerns the efforts of Pride 1989 to secure \$2000 from Coors. According to Bruce Reeves a representative of Coors had told his that two \$1000 checks would be funnelled through the bars that did the biggest business with Coors. One check was given to Charles Armstrong (JR's, Heaven, ect) and turned over to Pride. The other check was to go through Kindred Spirits (Marion Coleman). This \$1000 check was never received by Pride. Instead it was reported that check went to the Montrose Counseling Center. Jack was approached by Marion after this was reported in an earlier newsletter, and told that she was given a choice to where the money was to go. Ray reported that Marion wanted to discuss this with the board. A special board meeting was set up and Marion did not attend. Ray had tried to get in touch with Marion to set up another meeting with Marion with no response. Jim Owens stated that he believed that there was just a big misunderstanding with this matter. The following resolution was moved and approved: Whereas, the board of MAC has no direct knowledge of the Coors/Pride incident, Be it therefore resolved that the current board of MAC acknowledged there was no mis-appropriation of funds of the previous board of MAC in the Coors/Pride Week incident.

New Business:

It was discussed that the MAC board will schedule public meetings every month beginning in January 1989. Also there was a discussion of exactly what a non-profit 501c3 can and can not do. It is understood that this organization can not endorse a political candidate or take a political stand. We can do education and some very limited lobbying. Jim is going to get legal council to draft up some guidelines for the board and the umbrella organizations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

HMO Pays \$250,000 in AIDS Redlining Case The NGRA, The San Francisco District Attorney's office and the California Department of Corporations announced that a health maintenance organization (HMO) had agreed to pay \$250,000 to the city of San Francisco to settle a major AIDS-related redlining dispute. Employees of HealthAmerica had approached NGRA in the spring of 1986 with evidence that the HMO was secretly rejecting all San Francisco residents in an effort to avoid AIDS-related medical expenses. HealthAmerica has agreed to settle the case by paying \$125,000 to the city of San Francisco, and by providing an Additional \$125,000 in direct medical care for needy San Franciscans, many of them people with AIDS. HealthAmerica is also enjoined from rejecting applications for arbitrary reasons, including sexual orientation, and from denying access to its programs on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV infection.

DECEMBER 1988

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Wednesdays

Gay/Lesbian Student Association, University of Houston, meetings are held in the Tejas Room and open to all, 3:30 PM.

1 Thursday

Lighting of Christmas Tree at Montrose Branch of the Houston Public Library, sponsored by the NAMES Project, this is in celebration of World AIDS Day, 6:30 PM

"Death-In" on the steps of Houston City Hall, sponsored by Act-Up Houston, 901 Babgy, 8:30 PM, 961-2905

Singel Lesbians' Network meeting. Call Liz, 522-7662 for location

The Shepherd School of Music's 1988 Colloquium Series presents "Women in U.S. Orchestras: 1900-present," by Sharon Hickox. All Colloquia will be held at 4:00 PM, wine & cheese reception following each event. Fondren 516, Rice University

3 Saturday

INKLINGS, opening of new alternative community bookstore featuring Lesbian, Feminist and Gay Books, Periodicals and Music, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, 1846 Richmond at Hazards, 521-3369

4 Sunday

The Women's Group, A Feminist group for all Women, presents "Gender System Change: The Past, the Present and the Future Role of Activism," by Janet Satzman Chafetz, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, University of Houston. 10:00 AM at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

"By Appointment," Open House, a unique gallery-gift shop where the net proceeds of consigned art will benefit Omega House 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, 1538 Welch

Womynspace Annual Membership Meeting & Brunch. Topic: "Keeping Womynspace Alive in '89!" Noon-1:30 PM Brunch; 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM meeting. Location to be announced

Omega House, fundraiser, Stoffers Hotel, Greenway Plaza, 5:00 PM, \$15, call 862-1282 for more information.

6 Tuesday

"Healing the Shame that Binds You" a 90 minute special on becoming the person you were meant to be. Airing on Channel 8. For more info contact Debbie Robertson or Jill Pickett 749-2304

GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD
529-3211

7 Wednesday

Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus Meeting, 7:30 PM, Viscount Hotel, 2828 Southwest Fwy, 521-1000.

10 Saturday

Lesbian Video Party

11 Sunday

AMIGA, A planning meeting for state conference (see story next page) at 1:00 PM at the Law Offices of Clyde Williams for more info. TLC c/o AMIGA, Box 980134, Houston, TX 77098-0134 or call 520-5667.

15 Thursday

March on Austin Organizational Meeting, 7:00 PM, Parkway Athletic Club, 800 Rosine

17 Saturday

Holiday Concert benefitting Stone Soup and Houston Area Women's Center Jones Auditorium, St. Thomas University the following groups will performed are looking for new members:

Lone Star Symphonic Band 528-4346,

MCCR Choir 861-9149,

Heartsong 520-8405,

Montrose Singers 526-8715

January 4

Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus Meeting, 7:30 PM, Viscount Hotel, 2828 Southwest Fwy, 521-1000. Second call for elections.

January

Opening for film "Touch Song Trilogy."

National Conferences

March on Austin for Lesbian/Gay Equal Rights, April 30, an effort to bring home the excitement and energy of the 1987 National March on Washington. Info: Box 2505, Austin, TX 78768, 512-443-2247

National AIDS Forum, April 5-9, Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, 202-994-4285.

20 year anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City June 26, 1989.

This calendar is provided as a community service

To add items to this listing send it to:

Montrose Activity Center
Newsletter
Box 66684
Houston, TX 77266-6684.
or call: 529-1223

Listings are generally fundraisers, meetings and educational events. The deadline is one week before each month. This newsletter also serves for comments and viewpoints. If you would like to submit an article call the above number or sent it in to the above address.

Houston to host the second Texas Lesbian Conference

Texas—All Mujeres Interested in Getting Active (AMIGA) announces Houston, Texas will be the site for the second annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC). The conference will be held mid-May of 1989 advised Helen Ortiz, AMIGA spokesperson. TLC's aim is to bring women together from all over the region to explore issues of special interest to lesbians.

The first TLC held in Dallas on May 1988 and hosted by Lesbian Visionaries and Among Friends featured feminist theorist and 1984 candidate for President of the U.S., Sonia Johnson and New Jersey attorney and chair of the Lesbian Task Force of the National Organization for Women, Rosemary Dempsey.

"The emphasis of the conference is to bring women of all races, economic backgrounds, religions and ages to share in our lives as women who love women," commented AMIGA founder and TLC organizer, Linda Morales. "AMIGA's participation in the National Lesbian Rights conference held October 7-10 in San Diego, California brought more insights to planning a successful conference," said Ortiz.

Creative workshops and continuous entertainment will be scheduled through the weekend providing conference participants dialogue and enjoyment of a weekend devoted to lesbian issues and fun. An exhibit area is planned to provide artist, book vendors, organizations and others for display and sales. A Saturday dance will be highlight of the event featuring a variety of music ranging from top 40, C & W to Tejana sounds. A concert is scheduled to precede the dance with women musician artist tentatively scheduled.

A planning meeting will take place on Sunday December 11 at 1:00 PM at the Law Offices of Clyde Williams call 520-5667 for more info. All mujeres interested as volunteers, vendors or needing more information should write: TLC c/o AMIGA, Box 980134, Houston, TX 77098-0134 or call 520-5667.

TELEVISION

Brothers Comedy. Robert Walden, Brandon Maggart. Three very different brothers, one gay, try to deal with the many humorous relationships life throws their way. Showtime.

NEW BOOKSTORE-OPENS DECEMBER 3

INKLINGS, opening of new alternative community bookstore featuring Lesbian, Feminist and Gay Books, Periodicals and Music, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, 1846 Richmond at Hazards, 521-3369

PAPERBACK-BOOKS

Early Graves, by Joseph Hansen. (Mysterious Press, \$3.95) When Dave Brandstetter, a gay insurance investigator, returns home to Los Angeles and finds a dead man on his patio, he is drawn into a mystery involving a serial killer whose victims are young men suffering from AIDS. Last year, out reviewer, Newgate Callendar, said this "well plotted and well written" novel is "about AIDS and the fear, even hysteria, it created among otherwise rational people. ... 'Early Graves' takes a long, sad look at the problem.

RADIO

Morning Edition 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM Mon-Fri news from National Public Radio in Washington KUHF 88.7 FM

All Things Considered 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM Mon-Fri news from National Public Radio in Washington KUHF 88.7 FM

Weekend Edition-Saturday 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM Saturday news from National Public Radio in Washington, featuring Scott Simon, KUHF 88.7 FM

Weekend Edition-Sunday 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Sunday news from National Public Radio in Washington featuring Susan Stamberg KUHF 88.7 FM

Breakthrough Women's and lesbian music along with interviews, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM Fridays, KPFT 90.1 FM

After Hours gay and lesbian radio, 2:00 AM Sundays, KPFT 90.1 FM

Wilde n' Stein gay and lesbian radio, featuring news, interviews, features and opinion with a special emphasis on AIDS coverage featuring Jack Valinski and Ray Hill, 10:00 PM, Tuesdays, KPFT 90.1 FM

THEATRE

Marion E. Coleman presents Victor Bumbalo's
Niagara Falls

Directed by Bill O'Rourke

Starring Laura Chapman & Jeffrey Parsons with Chico as Fred

"Niagara Falls" is the story of a wedding hilariously disrupted by people's reactions to the bride's brother bring his lover with him

In the first of the two one act plays, the father and mother of the bride argue about whether to let the boys attend the ceremony or to take drastic steps to prevent it. The father wants to give them their morning coffee laced with sleeping pills. "We gave him his life," he argues, "We can ask for eight hours back."

The actual ceremony takes place off stage during intermission. However, in the second act we see that the gay lover's have made an impression on the bride. Having seen her brother's happy bohemian life-style, she finds the rut that has been planned for her life, becoming exactly like her parents and all of their friends, is intolerable. Thankfully, with the assistance of a gay desk clerk, she is able to talk her new husband into breaking out of the rut with her. So, as the final curtain, they are able to leave hand in hand into the sunrise, rather than seeking the annulment she started the act asking for.

Continuing Monday & Tuesdays until December 13

Curtain: 8:00 PM Tickets \$7.50

Reservations Requested: 623-6135, after 3:30 PM

Kindred Spirits, 4902 Richmond

THEATRE-OUTSIDE HOUSTON

"Nasty Little Secrets" recounts the creative but ultimately destructive relationship between Orton and his liver Kenneth Halliwell. It is being presented by Primary Stages, a company devoted to development of new American plays, at 354 West 45th Street. The shows runs through Dec. 10, 212-333-7471

"View From the Bay" set in the Castro in 1978-79--just before AIDS and the story continues 10 months later, Harvey Milk was assassinated and a friend has died from a mysterious illness. Playing at Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco.

STONEWALL 20: A GENERATION OF PRIDE

Houston Gay/Lesbian Pride Week 1989

COMMITTEE 1989 MINUTES OCTOBER 27, 1988

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Marion E. Coleman, Cochair of the Committee, at 7:10 PM Ms. Coleman served as Chair of the meeting and Mr. John W. Nix served as Secretary.

Ms. Coleman welcomed the members of the Committee to the meeting and expressed her thanks to the PWA Coalition for use of their facilities for the meeting. Ms. Coleman then presented the members proof of notice of the meeting and the agenda for the evening. Ms. Coleman presented the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved. Ms. Coleman then made the following Appointments for the evening:

Parliamentarian	Mr. Clark Moore
Sergeant at Arms	Mr. Perry Dahl

Messrs. Loyd Powell and Robert Conn presented the report from the Fund Raising Committee and discussed plans for future fund raisers to support the efforts of the Committee. Members were urged to submit ideas for fund raising events. The committee will identify the various events which will be presented and be certain to publicize those which are official events of the Committee. The first official fund raising event is planned for 6 - 8 weeks.

Ms. Veronica Diaz and Mr. That Coverdale presented the report from the Planning Coordinators. The report was in printed form and was distributed to the members of the Committee which were present. The report described the role that the Planning Coordinators expected to play in the coordination of the events of Gay Pride Week and their interaction with the various committees and the Committee. A particular problem was the lack of volunteers to assist in the various matters and a plea for volunteers was issued.

Mr. Jack Valinski presented the report from the Communications Committee. He pointed out that the newsletter was printed and he needed assistance in mailing it out. He discussed plans of the committee and the news conference which would be held.

Mr. Ray Hill appeared on behalf of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and formally requested the HGLPC be permitted to undertake and present the GayFest for 1989. A letter from Mr. David Fowler was presented which made the written request.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the question of GayFest was removed from the table.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the Committee voted to permit the HGLPC to undertake and sponsor Gayfest which would follow the parade.

Mr. Jack Valinski made a detailed report on the recent national Gay Pride Celebration Committee which was held in St. Louis. He stressed numerous ideas which were proffered at meeting and the support received by all persons who attended. He felt that many of the ideas could be incorporated into the Committee's plans and the Committee could benefit from them. Mr. Ken Wilson, Cochair of the Committee, also reported on the meeting in St. Louis. They reported that the suggested name for the Gay Pride Week 1989 was Stonewall 20 - A Generation of Pride. It was stressed that no official name had been adopted and Houston could adopt any other name it might desire.

Mr. Wilson presented the Cochair's report and announced the appointment of Mr. Michael Oden as the Assistant Male Cochair.

Mr. Loyd Powell announced the formation of Information Central and urged all committees to cooperate in the Maintenance of Pride Week information with Information Central. Information Central would be a clearing house designed to maintain and disburse information regarding Pride Week and the activities of the Committee.

Mr. Bill Whiting proposed a resolution to the Committee regarding a response to certain criticism which had been levied towards the Committee and the election of officers and committee chairs. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to table the resolution.

Various announcements were made to the committee. Following the announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Nix, Secretary

Please note: Written reports, letters received and the text of the proposed resolution have not been reported in full herein. Any party wishing to inspect or receive a copy of the materials presented may contact the Secretary. All such written materials are being maintained by the Secretary.

NEXT PRIDE MEETING
Thursday
December 29
7:00 PM
800 Rosine, 2nd Floor
PARKWAY ATHLETIC CLUB

H O U S T O N
GAY/LESBIANPRIDEWEEK89

901 W. Alabama • Houston, Texas 77006
713•523•2575

AIDS FIGHTERS SOUND HOPEFUL ABOUT BUSH

by Randy Shilts from The San Francisco Chronicle

On a muggy Tuesday last June, retired Admiral James Watkins strode into the Oval Office to hand President Reagan and Vice President George Bush the formal recommendations of his AIDS commission—including the controversial call for legislation banning discrimination against those who have the disease.

Reagan remained opposed to the ban on discrimination, but Bush announced the next day that he would support it.

When Watkins, the AIDS commission chairman, called Bush later to thank him for the backing, he mentioned that the stance might cost the vice president some conservative votes.

"He told me, 'I know I'll lose some votes, Jim, but it was the right thing to do,'" Watkins recalled yesterday. "When I heard those words, I know there was hope."

Different Approach

Although continuity may be the watchword for most issues, the Reagan and Bush administrations' approach to dealing with the AIDS epidemic will be quite different, according to aids and advisers to the president-elect.

"I think it will be very different from the Reagan White House," said Dr. Burton Lee III, a longtime of Bush's who served on Reagan's AIDS commission. "You're not going to see that excessive conservative influence."

"You won't find a White House that wouldn't even talk about the disease," said Deborah Steelman, director of domestic policy for the Bush campaign, referring to the five years it took President Reagan to mention AIDS publicly. "In a Bush administration, the enemy will be AIDS—not the victim of the disease."

Demos Dubious

Congressional Democrats remain dubious, noting that the optimistic prognostications are generally coming from Bush partisans.

"I think it's a catastrophe for this issue," said Steve Morin, who handles AIDS issues for Representative Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco.

"There's no indication that Bush endorses the concept that AIDS has got to deal with as a public health emergency. Seven years into the epidemic, we're looking ahead to four more years with business as usual," Morin said.

Even those who expect a change in policy doubt that AIDS will have dramatically higher visibility in Bush's presidency. If nursing and home health care for AIDS patients is expanded, for example, Bush advisers said, it would probably be included in broader programs to provide such services to other groups, such as the chronically ill and the elderly.

"I think you'll see a quiet working rather than loud speeches," said Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch, a member of the AIDS commission.

With 77,994 AIDS cases nationally as of election day and as many as 1,000 new cases being diagnosed every week, the epidemic's toll expected to explode during the first years of the Bush presidency. By 1992, the federal government estimates that 365,000 Americans will suffer from AIDS, which is then expected to be the No. 2 killer in the country after cardiovascular disease.

The Reagan Years

For critics of the Reagan administration's AIDS policies, the presidential proclamation declaring October as AIDS Awareness Month was anathema come to life. Reagan did not sign it until October 28, and the White House press office did not announce the awareness month until November 1—after it was over.

The administration's AIDS policies were the work of three powerful conservatives who dominated the White House Domestic Policy Council through much of the Reagan years: former Attorney General Edwin Meese, former Education Secretary William Bennett and Bennett's protégé, Gary Bauer, who was Reagan's domestic policy adviser.

They opposed AIDS prevention efforts aimed at education, saying such programs would encourage homosexuality and premarital sex. For instance, the White House delayed for a year Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's plan to mail an AIDS education pamphlet to every household, saying such a broad approach was not needed.

Officials Puzzled

Sources at the national Centers for Disease Control said frequent intrusions into AIDS programs left officials there second-guessing whether their proposals would be politically acceptable as the White House.

"The Public Health Service has repeatedly locked horns with the Domestic Policy Council, particularly Secretary Bennett—it said a lot to slow things down," said Dr. David Sundwald, who last month left his job as Reagan-appointed administrator of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. "We won't have so much of (that) under a President Bush."

Researchers seeking AIDS treatments say the Office of Management and Budget has refused to allow the National Institutes to allow the National Institutes of Health to hire enough staff members to do the necessary paperwork to speed up drug trials.

Bush adviser Steelman predicted, "You won't have a White House and OMB that will run the whole government. The scientists will have a more direct input into what policies and budgets should be."

Who's In

One indication that this may happen in the people Bush has been talking to about AIDS. He already has met with Surgeon General Koop to discuss AIDS, something President Reagan consistently refused to do.

Along with Koop, those who are expected to carry greater influence on AIDS include:

- Watkins, who became a folk hero in the AIDS research community for his championing of stronger federal response to the epidemic.
- Lee, a cancer specialist at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, who had known Bush since his days at Andover and Yale. Lee's talks with Barbara Bush helped persuade her—and the president-elect—to endorse nondiscrimination legislation.
- Conway-Welch, dean of the school of nursing at Vanderbilt University and a member of Reagan's AIDS commission. Her husband played a key role in the Bush election effort in Tennessee.
- Dr. Anthony Fauci, associate director of the National Institutes of Health for AIDS, who was named by Bush in the second presidential debate as someone he personally considered a "hero."

Policy Makers

AIDS policy will be shaped by the still-unknown people who will serve as secretary of Health and Human Services and assistant HHS secretary for health. They will run the Public Health Service umbrella, which includes the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health.

Fauci is considered a leading contender to be next director of the National Institutes for Health. Dr. James Mason, who has closed ties to Senator Orrin Hatch, the ranking Republican on the Senate Health Committee, is expected to keep his job as director of the Centers for Disease Control. Dr. Frank Young, who has worked with Bush on federal deregulation efforts, is also thought to be secure in his job as FDA commissioner. Koop's term as surgeon general does not expire until next November.

However, Bush's first appointment, Vice President-elect Dan Quayle, has one of the most conservative records of any US senator on AIDS issues, having frequently teamed with Senator Jesse Helms to deny federal AIDS funds to any group suspected of "condoning" homosexuality. Last year, Quayle was one of only 21 senators to oppose a \$30 million appropriation to finance life-savings AZT treatments for indigent AIDS patients.

"Who will get HHS? Who will get the Office of Policy Development?" asked Lee. "If Bush can be himself, he'll be wonderful ... (but) those appointments can have a lot of subtle effect."

Curiously, the defeat of a Republican senator on Tuesday may have as great an effect on AIDS legislation as the victory of the Republican presidential candidate.

The senator, Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., has been an active spokesman for AIDS legislation. Few other senators, even among liberal Democrats, have demonstrated comparable

concern with the nuts-and bolts parliamentary process and the Senate's horse-trading necessary to move AIDS legislation. Experts say without Weicker, the recent extension of financing for AZT for AIDS patients would not have been passed.

But even Morin, the Pelosi aide who called Bush's win a catastrophe, said, "The Reagan White House has been so bad, there's nowhere to go but up."

THE ELECTION

The battle to defeat California Proposition 102, which cost \$3 million and endless hours of volunteer work, will be fought again—and again.

The measure, which would have outlawed anonymous testing for the AIDS-causing human immuno-deficiency virus, lost at the polls by 66-34 percent.

But Proposition 96, for testing prisoners, won 62-38 percent—leading both sides to predict more attempts to legislate control of the epidemic.

Less than 24 hours after voters approved Prop. 96—allowing forced testing of certain prisoners—a judge ordered a Los Angeles man convicted of biting a police officer to take a HIV test.

"People are using the public health crisis to punish gay man," said Dr. Neil Schram, of the American Civil Liberties Union. "And it is going to get worse in the next three years ... there will be greater pressure to reintroduce these kinds of initiatives."

Rep. William Dannemeyer, Prop. 102's sponsor, said he'll draw up a new testing initiative if he can't get the Legislature to act.

Paul Gann, his HIV-positive co-author, was more ominous: "A lot of people want me to come back with (a measure that says) certain groups will have to have a blood test."

In other Gay rights elections; Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt was dealt a defeat as voters overturned his order protecting state workers from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Fort Collins, Colo., voters turned down proposed gay rights ordinance. St. Paul, Minn., voters defeated measure that would have barred them from overturning city-county-approved gay rights legislation

END NOTE

"Last year, after I went on the march on Washington, people said to me, 'What are you doing? They're gonna' think you're gay.' People think that already, because I hang out with a lot of women. There hasn't been a studio head I've worked for who hasn't come out and asked me if I'm a lesbian... I say, 'Normally, this would be none of your business. However, I will answer you' and I say, 'It's possible. I'm not practicing at the moment, but I will not say it will never happen or hasn't happened in the past.'"

Whoopi Goldberg, in *The Advocate*.

B-2 / The Houston Post/Thursday, November 24, 1988 . . .

Violence against gays up across U.S. Activists say AIDS crisis stoking fires of discrimination

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. — It happened in a violent flash, as James and a friend were walking up steep, dark stairs toward a gay bar after a midnight walk along the beach.

Two young men with close-cropped hair suddenly attacked them from behind. Yelling, "You're going to die, faggot," they bludgeoned James with a blunt object that struck his head with the force of a lead pipe.

Several of his teeth were knocked out. His left eye was so badly damaged that doctors had to remove it. His friend suffered minor injuries.

"Emotionally, I think it would be a lot easier to accept if they were just trying to rob me," said James, 45, sitting in his Irvine apartment recently, a black eye patch covering his left eye. He spoke on condition his last name not be used.

"This is different. This is against me as a person. It's something I live with every minute, every second."

The attack was the third of the summer on gays in Laguna Beach, a coastal resort 50 miles southwest of Los Angeles. But gay activists, police and crime victim counselors say Laguna Beach is not alone.

From San Francisco to New York, reports of crimes targeted at homosexuals have increased dramatically in the last four years, up 300 percent by one estimate, in what gay leaders see as a violent reaction to the AIDS crisis.

Commonly called "gay bashing," the reports range from late-night beatings and slurs yelled in streets to more subtle acts, such as one community's effort to remove homosexuals from protection under a human rights ordinance, gay activists say.

"I'm not sure that people hate us any more than they ever did, but it's certainly easier now

to express that hate," said John Fall, a spokesman for the activist group ACT UP/LA.

An audit by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington shows reports of gay crimes and harassment have more than tripled in three years, from 2,042 cases in 1985 to 7,008 cases last year.

Centers that counsel gay-bashing victims in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York also report record numbers of cases. Police in New York report fewer attacks than gay activists, but also show the attacks about tripling in recent years.

One area well acquainted with gay bashing is West Hollywood, where gay bars, clubs and restaurants line Santa Monica Boulevard. On Friday and Saturday nights, gay men walk the

'This is against me as a person. It's something I live with every minute, every second.'

JAMES

A gay man in California

sidewalks from bar to bar as young men from the suburbs cruise the boulevard, calling them names.

The verbal barbs often lead to violence.

A July 2 attack was typical, police said. At about 2 a.m., two Beverly Hills men were beaten, one of them cut by a broken beer bottle, by two men cruising in a pickup, police said. The attackers yelled, "fag," as they beat the men.

Police and gay activists said it is even more dangerous in nearby Silver Lake, where gays who frequent bars and businesses share the streets with youth gangs.

"You've got gang members there who are very macho, and this is how they express it," said Capt. Mark Squiers of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Often the victims of gay-bashing cases, like other hate crimes, have emotional scars, counselors say.

"Many feel anger, many go through depression, anxiety, serious sleep disorders, eating disorders, inability to focus on the job," said David Wertheimer, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project in New York City. "They also face questions about their own identity, questions about their sexual orientation and the goodness of that."

In James' case, the June 19 attack left him worried about the future. His reduced eyesight makes him afraid to drive at night and gave him headaches. He worries about how he can continue to take care of his school-age child he raises alone.

Gay bashers find both a motivation and a vindication in AIDS, according to activists.

"AIDS is perceived to be a gay disease. And as it moves out of the gay community into other communities, it has generated a lot of feelings of anger and hostility," said Laguna Beach Mayor-Pro Tem Robert Gentry, who is gay.

Those feelings found expression, activists said, in an effort by a group in Irvine working to remove homosexuals from protection by the city's human rights ordinance and in two AIDS testing initiatives on California's November ballot.

Voters rejected a proposal to force doctors to report AIDS patients so that partners could be traced, but they approved an initiative authorizing courts to compel testing of people accused of certain crimes, which backers said would help protect rape victims and law officers fearful they might have been exposed.

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LOCAL & STATE

Texas inmates may get OK to have condoms AIDS panel also approves anti-discrimination language

By John Gravois
POST AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — A recommendation to make condoms available to adult male Texas prison inmates is expected to be approved today by the Legislative Task Force on AIDS.

The proposal — sure to spark controversy statewide — came up unexpectedly in Friday's task force meeting when panel member Judy Reiner of Houston asked simply, "Is it possible to buy condoms in jail?"

The task force put off a decision until today's meeting, but it's clear the consensus is to approve making condoms available to inmates at or about the state's bulk rate cost of 4½ cents per condom, said the Rev. Chris Steele, an Episcopal priest who heads the panel.

Approval was given Friday to a set of recommendations designed to prevent discrimination against people who are infected with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Included was a call for the Legislature, which convenes Jan. 10, to make it illegal for anyone to discriminate against someone with the AIDS virus in employment, housing, education, health care

and public accommodations.

AIDS is an affliction in which a virus attacks the body's ability to fight diseases and usually leads to death within 18 months of diagnosis. It is most often transmitted through sexual contact, mostly between homosexual males.

Currently, 5,373 Texans have AIDS and that number is expected to increase to more than 45,000 by 1992, task force officials said.

Of all the wide-ranging issues the panel has dealt with over the past year, members said the anti-discrimination measures were perhaps the most important.

They stressed that discrimination against people with the AIDS virus is not just a civil rights issue, but a health care issue as well because fear of discrimination causes some people to forego testing and treatment.

"Until we can get it across to our society that discrimination against people with AIDS is a tremendous health hazard in addition to being an inhumane act, we are not going to be able to get control of the epidemic," Steele said.

Task force member Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, agreed, saying, "If we only pass this rec-

ommendation and nothing else, our time would have been well spent."

State Rep. Billy Clemons, D-Pollock, who also is part of the panel, had raised concerns at a meeting last month that the anti-discrimination measures might lead to affirmative action programs to benefit people with the virus.

Clemons, however, did not attend Friday's meeting and other task force members dismissed his concerns as groundless.

"Anti-discrimination and affirmative action are two different things," said member Eugene Harrington of Houston.

Concerning condoms for inmates, Charles Alexander, the deputy director of health services for the Texas Department of Corrections, said his agency has discussed the matter for some time, but had balked at taking action because it was felt some other policy-making panel should make the determination.

There is no prohibition against selling condoms to inmates, but it just isn't done, Alexander said.

During internal debates, some TDC officials expressed concern that distributing condoms "might

be condoning a crime" because sodomy is illegal in Texas, he said.

Task force members noted that a public outcry over the measure would be inevitable because some Texans believe making condoms available in prisons would do nothing but promote illicit sexual activity.

Therefore, Steele said, if the measure is approved as expected it will be crucial to stress it's being done "not to promote promiscuity, but to prevent disease."

Much of the debate was not over whether to make condoms available, but whether the word "condoms" should be used at all in the prison passage.

Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls, said people tend to equate condoms with "sexual license." He said the panel might meet less resistance if the phrase "risk reduction materials" were used instead.