

'TEXAS OBSERVER' FOCUSES ON GAYS AND LESBIANS IN UPCOMING ISSUE

Contributors Provide Wide Range Of Perspectives in Community.

TEXAS — *The Texas Observer*, a liberal publication with a strong readership among Texas politicians and political activists, devotes most of its April 23 issue to the gay and lesbian community. Contributors include gay activists, academics, attorneys and others.

The issue was the inspiration of Houstonian Pat Gandy, who first proposed the idea to *Observer* staffers in January. She said the all-gay focus was a natural for the 39-year-old semi-monthly, which she characterized as a publication that "deals with topics that the mainstream tends to shy away from." Gandy is co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and a longtime subscriber to the *Observer*.

The issue includes an article by openly-gay *Houston Post* columnist Juan Palomo; an essay by the Rev. Ralph Lasher, Executive Director of Houston's Montrose Clinic and a minister with that city's Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, on gays and the Bible; and a look at the relationship between the Houston Police Department and the local gay community by activist Annise Parker.



Houston activist and former City Council candidate **Annise Parker** contributed to upcoming issue of *Texas Observer* focusing on gay community.

Also contributing to the *Observer* are attorneys Connie Moore and Debbie Hunt, who write on gay and lesbian families, and attorney/activist Donald Skipwith, who talks about AIDS and activism.

A section entitled "Gays on the Frontier" includes articles by two openly-gay Texas A&M professors and personal reports by gays living in small West Texas towns.

Houstonian Cicely Wynne, who is handling a campaign to draw nationwide attention to the gay issue, told TWT NEWS, "I think it's a tremendous opportunity for us to tell our story and, hopefully, use such a prestigious publication as a springboard for national publicity to tell such untold stories as gays and the Bible, an issue which I think damages us more than anything else."

"That's the heart of the religious right's message, and if we can begin to educate people on that, we can fight them."

Wynne said the *Observer* should be on newsstands in advance of the April 23 publication date, and will be available at Inklings and Crossroads Market in Houston; Crossroads Market in Dallas; Bookwoman in Austin and other gay and lesbian bookstores throughout the state.

TWT APRIL 9 - APRIL 15 1993