

update

The Newsletter of Houston's Gay Political Caucus

Austin Lobby Report

by Steve Henley

As this report is being written, the Texas Legislature is ending. Lesbians and gay men have fared well in this session. This was the first session in recent times that openly anti-gay legislation was not introduced. The last session saw legislation seeking to ban same-sex dancing, for example. Our lobby in Austin, Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates, addressed itself to several generally bad pieces of legislation which would have produced punitive consequences to members of our community. We were successful in defeating or amending the majority of this legislation.

The improvement in this session on gay issues seems to be due to having an effective lobby for the session, having established a lobby and a presence in the last session, and having our rights supported by the State and the National Democratic Party in the form of planks that we passed at conventions. Those who contributed to the lobby or wrote letters are especially see page 3

Farenthold, Bouza to Highlight Rally-June 28

Former Texas gubernatorial candidate Sissy Farenthold and Chief of Police Anthony Bouza of Minneapolis, Minnesota will highlight the third annual Gay Political Caucus Rally.

"the RALLY" is always the culmination of Gay Pride Week and is the largest such gathering in Houston's gay community each year. GPC organizers expect attendance to exceed 10,000 including many of the City Council members and over 400 other invited guests.

Chief Bouza, an outspoken leader in criminal justice reform, was recently interviewed on NBC's "Today" show. The city of Minneapolis has one of the most liberal hiring policies in the country and does not discriminate in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation.

"the RALLY" will be held in Spott's Park, which is located at the northeast corner of the Memorial-Waugh Drive cloverleaf. There will be plenty of food and refreshments, a large fireworks display, and the music of dj Frank Collins. Last year's problems with refreshments have been corrected this year and there will be plenty of beer on sale. There will also be a mobile health unit on the site to provide free V.D. screenings and first aid.

The parade is scheduled to commence at 5:30 p. m., two and a half hours later than in the past. Therefore, "the RALLY" begins immediately after the parade. Those planning to attend both should

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Money Matters

Houston GPC is sustained financially by two ongoing programs. The first is our draft program where a designated amount of five dollars or more is withdrawn from your account on the fifth of every month. By simply signing a permission card, you or your business can automatically help sustain our work for the rights of lesbians and gay men.

The invoice program is our second sustaining project. By requesting an invoice, we will mail you a reminder of your pledge and an envelope to insert your payment and drop in the mail on a weekly, monthly, or bimonthly basis. This second program is designed for those with fluid cash flows whose contributions might vary.

Many individual GPC mem-

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"the RALLY"

leave the parade route as soon as the last entry has passed.

The Harris County Constable's office, who is providing security at no charge, has advised that no vehicles may be parked on the grass.

Come celebrate this GRAND FINALE of Gay Pride Week '81 and make it a worthwhile and memorable event.

Money

bers participate in these programs. Businesses involved in the programs include Arian Hair Styling, BARBQ Ranch, The Barn, The Copa, House of Pies Parade Disco, and Wildwood Saloon. These programs provide capital for day to day operation of GPC; however, funding for special projects and events come largely from fund-raising events which have been scarce lately. This has been because too few persons have been willing to share their ideas and time in producing fund-raisers.

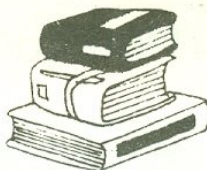
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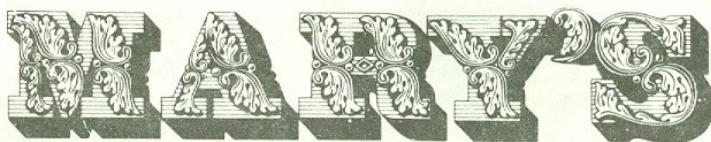
Mailing List Goal 15,000

GPC's mailing list committee has set a goal of fifteen thousand persons on its mailing list by the time of the City Election this fall. The present list contains over 9800 names. The main source of names will be procured by voter registration drives. Other names will be added during Gay Pride Week and other special events. Mailing list cards which will be displayed in the bars and other social centers will be an additional source.

The main problem associated with a list of this size is keeping track of people who move. Each time a mailer is sent out, about five percent of the addresses change. An equal number of names are lost due to non-forwardable or undeliverable mail. These unreported moves incur a 25¢ postal charge and cause a delay in receiving critical endorsement material. "We live among a community of gypsies. It is not unusual to find a person who will move five or six times in a single year," says Don Hrachovy, the Coordinator for Communications.

The mailing list group uses specialized computer programs and cooperative agreements with other organizations in order to reduce the burden of keeping track of people. Still, the main responsibility of reporting moves must remain with the individual. If every person would notify the caucus of their move, the caucus would save almost a thousand dollars a year and its list would stay updated and grow swiftly.

Members are urged to keep the caucus posted of any address or phone changes. Call the office at 521-1000 or send the corrections to P.O. Box 66664; Houston TX 77006.



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**THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
THE HPD RAID ON MARY'S
THURSDAY, JUNE 18**

Lobby

ially thanked. If there were only more of you, we might have done even better.

The main issue before the lawmakers was redistricting, which can severely change the type of representation we have. The Texas House passed a redistricting bill at 4:30am on May 28th.

Of particular interest to our community was the plan for District 79 which includes the Montrose area. The new district picks up parts of Montrose formerly not in the district, as well as the Greenway Plaza and Memorial Park areas. Dropped from the district are the Fourth Ward and the northeast portion of the Heights. This district is viewed as extremely favorable for the continued and growing influence of Lesbians and Gay men.

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UPDATE is a publication of the Houston Gay Political Caucus. Inclusion of names of people in UPDATE does not reflect the sexual orientation of them.

Editor's Note

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Dave Roberts, and I will be editing your newsletter on a regular basis.

Soon after I joined the Caucus last October, I saw the need for a newsletter to inform the members and encourage their participation in Caucus activities. I am particularly interested in the viewpoints of women and minorities. They are an integral part of the Caucus and their participation must be increased.

It is my aim to publish an informative, useful periodical. To accomplish this, I need your help. Therefore I invite the membership to submit material for review and publication. Material must include your name and phone. I cannot accept material without this information. Material cannot be returned after publication.

I am pushing participation, so please send your ideas to the GPC office, P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77006. I am waiting to hear from you.

New office hours have been established. They are Monday thru Friday, 7 - 9 pm

For information on ad prices for the August Newsletter call GPC at 521-1000.

Remember "the RALLY" begins directly after the parade this year. Food available

Critical needs of the month:
IBM Selectric typewriter
Large storage cabinet
Conference table

Thoughts from the President

If the human behavior pattern found people treating each other equitably, there would be no wisdom in getting involved in politics. Since some people are not so gracious, however, each one of us suffers the consequences.

Some of those not-so-gracious people would be in a hurry to take your apartment security deposit, and while they invest that money, will then become excruciatingly slow in their response to your apartment's regular maintenance needs or

the return of your money when you move. Some will put used parts in your car and charge for new ones. Some would have the manipulation of utility interests go unchecked, while the cost of electricity for your morning coffee soars. The price of that coffee itself can rise sky high because someone else, unmindful of you, is making tariff decisions.

There are some who would hold on to unqualified, uninterested schoolteachers, but fire those who are lesbian or gay even when they devotedly inspire their students to learn. Others would not allow gay people to make the same casual gestures of affection in public, that, when displayed by heterosexuals, are considered part of what makes the world go round.

Most painful of all, is that many would not even allow you to make life affecting decisions for your lover in a medical emergency.

You may not feel that you have had something important to you threatened, but being threatened is usually all it takes to anger us. I would suggest, however, that we would all be justified if we were angry now.

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. You can contribute financially, send letters and telegrams to legislators (or authorize us to do this for you), lend your talents to special projects, attend meetings, or help to get out the vote.

If you don't do something, someone else, somewhere else, will and you can be sure it will be in their own best interest.

Call 521-1000 and ask for someone to call you concerning how you can best lend money or energy to the needs at hand.

Lee Hammigan

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