



# OUT & ABOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus**

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1992**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Toni Knight

I am ending my term as HGLPC president this month. While many of you may be wondering who will be the next Caucus president, I am wondering who will be Political Action Committee chair, for example, and if the next fund-raising chairperson will last the year. The folks who volunteered for everything this year are probably tired, not to gloss over those who sent in their dues and helped keep the Caucus afloat. It's just that we have more work than people to do it.

I leave office with a greater respect and admiration for the people I worked with than I had when I began—not because we have always agreed, for some of us have never agreed—but because for whatever reason and with whatever talents they have, they showed up. In the '60's, JFK reminded us to "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." My guess is that he was frustrated and in despair from listening to armchair critics and finger-pointing. In the '90's, it's clear to me that what is lacking in American politics is not who showed up, but who stayed home.

**Final Call for Self-Nominations and  
ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS & BOARD SEATS #1, 2, & 3  
Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**ENDORSEMENT MEETING (see Page 4)  
Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> (date subject to approval by body of Caucus)**

**Montrose Palace—1507 Nevada @ Commonwealth  
Time: 7:30 p.m.**

P.O. Box 66664

Houston, TX 77266

(713) 521- 1000

## ELECTION NEWS

### TURNER GOES ON BAR TOUR

Sylvester Turner, the HGLPC-endorsed candidate for mayor, charmed both supporters and foes alike by visiting numerous gay and lesbian bars on the eve of election day. It had been a long time since a mayoral candidate had made a gay and lesbian bar tour. The tour was ably organized by former Caucus President Lee Harrington.

Mr. Turner addressed the crowds at The Ranch, Rich's, Brazos River Bottom, Bacchus, Mary's, Mother's, and the Rip Cord. He also visited Heaven, the Montrose Mining Company, and J.R.'s, but was not allowed to address the crowds at those bars. While the owner of the last three bars had claimed that he has a policy of not allowing any political activity in his bars, one Queer Nationalist claims that he was called by this owner and asked if "Queer Nation would like to pass out literature for Lanier in his bars." The offer was declined, since "Queer Nation does not endorse any candidates." *Out and About* has been unable to confirm this account.

Mr. Turner's performance was clearly one of his best yet. Unlike in some of his earlier and somewhat wooden appearances, his bar speeches were full of emotion, and directly addressed the needs of our community. Turner promised that there would never be a mayor of Houston that "would be as sensitive to the issues of the gay and lesbian community as Sylvester Turner." Unfortunately, despite many who claimed to have changed their minds after seeing Mr. Turner in the bars, those conversions did not prove sufficient to turn back the Lanier victory the next day.

### LANIER PROMISES TO UPHOLD "TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES"

Bob Lanier was elected in the runoff on December 5<sup>th</sup> to succeed Kathy Whitmire as mayor of Houston. While he was not endorsed by the HGLPC, Lanier did receive open support from some members of the gay and lesbian community. Chris Bacon, chair of the Caucus board, stated that while he was disappointed by the outcome of the election, he was encouraged with the fervor with which Lanier sought the gay vote. "He screened with us back in September," Bacon noted, "and he never gave up trying to get the gay and lesbian vote." Bacon admits that he was surprised by Lanier's willingness to invite Queer Nationalists to his home. "Louie Welch would have never bothered. Bob Lanier has shown a willingness at least to open a dialogue with members of our community," Bacon stated.

In his acceptance speech Mr. Lanier promised a return to "traditional family values," alarming many in the gay and lesbian community. "I hope that those who met with Lanier in his River Oaks mansion will hold him accountable for all the promises that they claim he made to them. If they succeed, I will be happy to admit that I was wrong," Bacon remarked. Others in the Caucus were less charitable to those who had openly broken with the gay bloc vote and suggested that some of the Lanier supporters might have had their own personal interests in mind as opposed to those of the community.

## Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

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

### Officers:

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

### Board Members:

Duncan Allen  
Chris Bacon (Chair of the Board)  
Robbie Cavanaugh  
Kevin Davidson  
David Fowler  
Pat Gandy (Co-Chair of the Board)  
Michael Hollier  
Brian Keever  
Claire Koepsel

### Out & About

This newsletter is an official, bi-monthly publication of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus; commentary printed in this newsletter reflects the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the HGLPC.

Editor: Duncan P. Allen  
(713) 796-0766

HGLPC

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Toni

by Chris Bacon

She was an intergalactic lesbian; a space cadet, some of us said. Would the Caucus disintegrate? Never before had a president been so unversed in Roberts. Her early television appearances were Ulysses translated into Aramaic. And her hair, well. . . it wasn't Ann Richards'. In short, Toni seemed better suited for a job as Murphy Brown's secretary—hardly a HGLPC president.

But looking back, Toni can be proud of her tenure as president of the HGLPC. Under her leadership both the Caucus membership and its coffers grew. Under her watch the HGLPC played a significant role in the fight against hate crimes. She ensured our involvement in the redistricting debates, got out the vote (virtually all of our endorsed candidates carried Montrose), and established a dialogue with all three mayoral candidates. The Caucus also, and quite successfully, hosted the International Conference of Openly Gay and Lesbian Elected and Appointed Officials.

I greatly admire Toni's ability to get people to work for her. It's hard to turn her down—I should know.

Toni not only believes in, but practices, grass roots politics. She attracted new talent to the organization and brought out the best in some of the old-timers.

I think that Toni's greatest quality is her dedication to the Cause. Toni believes in the Caucus. She believes that we can make a difference. Like Dennis

(continued on page 4)

## CAUCUS' ANNUAL ELECTION

The HGLPC's annual election of officers and three Board members will take place on January 29<sup>th</sup>—the *fifth* Wednesday instead of the third because of New Year's Day falling on January 1.

The following positions are up for election:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Board Seats #1, 2, and 3

First Call for self-nominations took place at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Duncan Allen announced his candidacy for re-election to Board Seat #2, and Norman Thompson announced his candidacy for election to Board Seat #1. No one chose to announce as a candidate for Board Seat #3, or for any of the four officers' positions.

The Second Call for self-nominations will take place at the January 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

### CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT!

**GLPC members are urged to submit their articles, opinions, ideas, suggestions, and news items to OUT & ABOUT:**

**Duncan Allen, Editor  
713/796-0766**

**Deadline for next issue:  
Wednesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**

## HGLPC CALENDAR JAN.-FEB. 1992

Jan. 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HGLPC Office  
900 Lovett, Suite #101  
7:30 P.M.

Jan. 15 GENERAL MEETING  
Montrose Palace  
Nevada/Commonwealth  
7:30 P.M.

### SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS & BOARD SEATS #1, 2, & 3

Jan. 29 GENERAL MEETING  
Montrose Palace  
7:30 P.M.

### THIRD & FINAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS/BOARD SEATS #1, 2, & 3 —ANNUAL ELECTION—

Feb. 5 GENERAL MEETING  
Montrose Palace  
7:30 P.M.

### ENDORSEMENT MEETING

Feb. 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HGLPC Office  
900 Lovett, Suite #101  
7:30 P.M.

Feb. 19 GENERAL MEETING  
Montrose Palace  
7:30 P.M.



## Thoughts for the New Year

Following are selected Propositions from "Gay Politics: Sixteen Propositions" by Michael Denny, an editor at St. Martin's Press and a founder of *Christopher Street* magazine. The still-timely and provocative essay from which these Propositions are taken was first published in *Christopher Street* magazine, and was reprinted in *The Christopher Street Reader* (Michael Denny, et al., editors, Wideview/Perigee, New York, 1983.)

—Editor

### Proposition 4

Society does not hate us because we hate ourselves; we hate ourselves because we grew up and live in a society that hates us.

### Proposition 5

The appalling violence—physical, psychological, social, and intellectual—unleashed against gays by Western society in modern times is a clear attempt at cultural genocide.

### Proposition 6

All gays are born into a straight world and socialized to be straight; consequently, we have internalized the enemy, and all political struggle must be simultaneously a self-criticism and self-invention. *Corollary: Self-criticism does not mean criticism by gays of other gays who are perceived to be different. . .*

### Proposition 7

The elemental gay emotional experience is the question: "Am I the only one?" The feeling of being "different," and our response to it, dominates our inner lives.

### Proposition 8

"Only within the framework of a people can a man live as a man without exhausting himself." (Hannah Arendt)

### Proposition 9

Gay politics (using *politics* in its narrow meaning) is a politics of pure principle.

### Proposition 14

It is absurd to believe that after coming out we are no longer conditioned by the virulent hatred of gays apparently endemic to this culture. Homophobia is an ever-present threat and pressure, both externally and internally.

### Proposition 15

The cultural, legal, and psychological assault on gays so weirdly characteristic of our society has not ceased, and there is no reason to believe it will cease in the immediate future.

### Proposition 16

"We gay people are the alchemists, the magicians, of our time. We take the toxins of a poisonous age, the nihilism that is given us, and turn it into a balm that heals. We heal ourselves, and in that we are an object-lesson for the others." (declared by a lesbian divinity student)

**HGLPC:  
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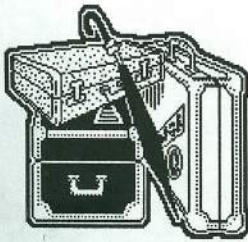
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## Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

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January 15, 1992

Dear Caucus Member,

The January election meeting was the best attended Caucus meeting in many years. Over one hundred and fifty people attended. While I realize that many of you are busy with commitments in other organizations, I hope that you will have time to participate in some HGLPC activities throughout the year. While we will continue last year's practice of sending the membership a quarterly newsletter, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with information concerning some of our ongoing projects.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

General Meetings: HGLPC meets at the Montrose Palace on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30p.m. The meetings are open to all although only HGLPC members may vote. At each meeting we will discuss issues that are presented either by the Committee chairs or by the members. If you would like to bring an issue up at a Caucus meeting, please read the section below on "The best way to bring up an issue at HGLPC."

Board Meetings: HGLPC's board meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30p.m. Until we find a new office, the location of each board meeting will be announced at the General Meeting. Any member is free to attend a board meeting but only board members may vote. Generally, substantive issues are deferred to the general meetings. The Board is often more concerned with administrative issues.

Committee Meetings: The purpose of most HGLPC committees is to streamline the administration of Caucus business and to deal with the details of the resolutions and motions passed by the general body. Some committees are longstanding and have been formed to meet the administrative needs of the Caucus. Other committees are formed to deal with substantive issues and remain in existence so long as the issue is of concern to our community. You are encouraged to attend a committee meeting if you are particularly interested in an issue. Prior to the next general meeting, four committees will be meeting:

POLICE-RELATIONS COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, January 27 from 6:30p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Montrose Palace. Annise Parker is chair of this committee.

ZONING COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, January 27 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Montrose Palace. Please attend this meeting if you have strong feelings (PRO or CON) on zoning.

COLORADO BOYCOTT COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, January 27 from 6:30p.m. to 7:30p.m at the Montrose Palace to discuss strategies for implementing the motion that was passed by HGLPC at the January meeting. Sue Lovell is chair of this committee.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, January 25 at the Montrose Public Library at 7:00 p.m. to discuss strategies for developing proactive messages. Bill Agosto is chair of this committee.

## THE BEST WAY TO BRING UP AN ISSUE AT AN HGLPC MEETING

Any person may bring up an issue for discussion during the New Business section of any general meeting. I would like to offer a few suggestions to help facilitate the process. While the following are not required, you are more likely to be successful if you follow the following guidelines:

1. Get on the Agenda. Call and leave a message on the HGLPC answering machine (521-1000) briefly describing the issue you would like addressed at least three days before the meeting.
2. Frame your issue as a motion or a resolution. While sometimes the Caucus will discuss an issue that has been raised by a member who merely wants to talk about the issue, generally, new business should be introduced in motion form. A motion normally consists of several premises and one or more resolutions. The premises explain the purpose of the motion. They are not necessary but are often helpful. The motion itself should clearly state what the Caucus will do or what position it will take if the motion passes.
3. Bring written copies of the motion. It is much easier to discuss a motion that has been written down especially if it is longer than ten words. At a minimum you should provide the secretary and the chair of the meeting with copies prior to the meeting. You may want to make additional copies for the membership for complex motions.

4. Use Committees when possible. A motion that is introduced by a committee is likely to carry more weight since it will have already been discussed by those people who are most interested in the issue. Therefore, if you would like to bring up an issue for which a committee has already been formed you may want to contact the Committee chair ahead of time. He or she may inform you of upcoming committee meetings or may even call a meeting to discuss your resolution. Some of the current committees in existence along with their chairs are listed below:

AIDS issues Committee: Phil Batdorf  
City Council Relations Committee: Clair Keepsel  
Colorado Boycott Committee: Sue Lovell  
County Government Relations Committee: (vacant)  
Dinner Committee: Kevin Davidson  
Elections (Caucus) Committee: Carol Clark  
Fundraising Committee: (vacant)  
Membership Committee: Patrick McKee  
Newsletter and Publications Committee: Duncan Allen  
Office Administration Committee: Rennie Trozzi  
Police Relations Committee: Annise Parker  
Political Action Committee: (vacant)  
Pride Week Committee: Patrick McKee  
Public Relations and Media Committee: Bill Agosto  
Redistricting Committee: Rob Bridges  
Screening Committee: Jim Owens  
State Legislature and LGRL Committee: Gene Harrington & Phil Batdorf  
Voter Registration Committee: Liz Shuler  
Zoning Committee: Rob Bridges

## UNRAVELING ROBERTS

Clark Moore will be offering a crash course on Robert's Rules of Order to interested HGLPC members on Saturday, January 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are interested please call Chris Bacon at 524-5549. Enrollment is limited to those who reserve a place first.

I look forward to working with all of you during the next year. If you have any questions or comments please call me at home at 524-5549.

## KRUEGER? MATTOX? HUTCHINSON?

The HGLPC Board has designated the March 3rd meeting as the endorsement meeting for the upcoming senate race. If you have any relevant information on any candidate who is running for the senate please forward it to the chair of the screening committee (Jim

Owens) so that it can be discussed with the candidates during their screening sessions.

Very truly yours,

*Christopher Bacon*

Christopher Bacon  
President, HGLPC