



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 29th**

**ENDORSEMENT MEETING (see Page 4)
Wednesday, February 5th (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 5th 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 29th—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 18th 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 15th 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. 26th

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:
GET INVOLVED!**

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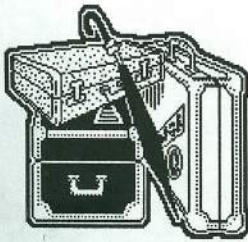
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Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

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

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election news

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

Primary Election—March 10, 1992

HGLPC TARGETS RAY HILL FOR VICTORY

by Robert Bridges, Campaign Manager, Ray Hill Campaign



At its endorsement meeting on February 5th, the HGLPC overwhelmingly endorsed Ray Hill in his bid for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1. This race was also voted by the Caucus to be the *only* targeted race in this Primary Election. The Caucus traditionally has voted to target a race that is expected to be very close, where the gay/lesbian vote can be the margin of victory.

Ray Hill is probably the best-known figure in the gay community, having been in the vanguard of the gay and lesbian rights movement for twenty years. In addition to his work in

RH: Having eight opponents sounds rather daunting, but it actually is one of the factors that will help me to win. They're all fighting over the same turf north of the bayou, leaving me holding the largest single voting bloc in the district, which is the gay/lesbian vote in the Montrose, Greenway Plaza, and the Heights.

EN: How is the race going so far?

RH: Well, as of today we're building terrific momentum. I've won most of the endorsements—the Association of Women Attorneys, the GLPC, the Mexican American Democrats de Houston, the African-American Sheriff's Association, and many prominent individuals, including Congressman Craig Washington.

EN: What specific theme or platform is your campaign based on?

RH: I chose my campaign slogan, "Your Friendly Neighborhood Justice of the Peace" to draw a contrast with the cold, even hostile climate we face in



on February 5th, the HGLPC overwhelmingly endorsed Ray Hill in his bid for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1. This race was also voted by the Caucus to be the *only* targeted race in this Primary Election. The Caucus traditionally has voted to target a race that is expected to be very close, where the gay/lesbian vote can be the margin of victory.

Ray Hill is probably the best-known figure in the gay community, having been in the vanguard of the gay and lesbian rights movement for twenty years. In addition to his work in the gay and lesbian movement, Ray's commitment to civil rights has led him to many battlefronts, from serving as an officer in the NAACP to marching for a woman's right to choose, from criminal justice reform to free speech issues.

Recently, Ray took a few minutes out from his busy campaign schedule to talk with *Election News* about the race.

Election News: Ray, you've run for public office before, with mixed results. How is this race different from your last race?

Ray Hill: This race is dramatically different from the last time I ran. That was in the 1990 Democratic Primary in the same Justice of the Peace district. In that effort, I was basically running a "test race" to see how many gay and lesbian votes were out there in general, and also to determine what kind of a voter base was out there for my candidacy in particular. I learned from that race that I could pull about 34% of the vote just by having my name on the ballot. You have to remember, that was against a very popular, well-financed incumbent. The circumstances are much more favorable to victory this time. For example, there is no incumbent, and I'm running a very aggressive, professional campaign.

EN: What about your opponents? There are nine Democrats running for this same position. Can you win against such a large field of candidates?

RH: Having eight opponents sounds rather daunting, but it actually is one of the factors that will help me to win. They're all fighting over the same turf north of the bayou, leaving me holding the largest single voting bloc in the district, which is the gay/lesbian vote in the Montrose, Greenway Plaza, and the Heights.

EN: How is the race going so far?

RH: Well, as of today we're building terrific momentum. I've won most of the endorsements—the Association of Women Attorneys, the GLPC, the Mexican American Democrats de Houston, the African-American Sheriff's Association, and many prominent individuals, including Congressman Craig Washington.

EN: What specific theme or platform is your campaign based on?

RH: I chose my campaign slogan, "Your Friendly Neighborhood Justice of the Peace," to draw a contrast with the cold, even hostile climate we face in the courts today. The J.P. court is the people's court—very much like Judge Wapner's court that you watch on T.V. There are so many ways we could improve how the J.P. court operates. A PWA facing an eviction charge for getting behind on his rent needs to be directed to one of our community-based AIDS organizations to ensure that he has adequate housing options. If you and your life partner are brought before the court on a domestic violence charge, you may need appropriate couples' counseling more than you need a disapproving glare from a judge who doesn't understand our community. And when two neighbors come to the court with a small claims case, we need a judge who cares enough to take the time to find a solution which equitably addresses their dispute and still allows them to remain good neighbors. As you can tell, I get very excited about the J.P. court and what I hope to accomplish there.

EN: Before you go, what message would you like to leave with our readers?

RH: First, I'd like to make a pitch for funds. My opposition is trying to bury me under an avalanche of money. Every dollar our campaign receives helps us to reach a new voter. Money is one of the ugly realities of modern politics, but you gotta have it to win. Please send a generous check if you can. Second, and most important, this race is the best opportunity our community has ever had to elect one of our own to public office. There are many estab-

HOUSTON GAY AND LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS ENDORSEMENTS—MARCH 10, 1992

U.S. House of Representatives, District 22	Richard Konrad
U.S. House of Representatives, District 29 (new)	Ben Reyes
Texas Supreme Court, Place 3	Paul Banner
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1	Charles Baird
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2	Morris Overstreet
State Board of Education, #4	Alma Allen
Judge, 14 th Courth of Appeals, Place 2	C.J. "Buddy" Hanby
Judge, 151 st District Court	Carolyn Garcia
Judge, 164 th District Court	Katie Kennedy
Judge, 178 th District Court	Poppy Northcutt
Judge, 190 th District Court	Eileen O'Neill
Judge, 208 th District Court	John Kyles
State Senate, District 13	Rodney Ellis
State Senate, District 15 (new)	Roman Martinez
State Representative, District 132	Scott Hochberg
State Representative, District 137	Debra Danburg
State Representative, District 141	Senfronia Thompson
State Representative, District 145	Diana Davila
State Representative, District 147	Garnet Coleman
Harris County Sheriff	Paul Day
Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 1	El Franco Lee

Judge, 178 th District Court	Poppy Northcutt
Judge, 190 th District Court	Eileen O'Neill
Judge, 208 th District Court	John Kyles
State Senate, District 13	Rodney Ellis
State Senate, District 15 (new)	Roman Martinez
State Representative, District 132	Scott Hochberg
State Representative, District 137	Debra Danburg
State Representative, District 141	Senfronia Thompson
State Representative, District 145	Diana Davila
State Representative, District 147	Garnet Coleman
Harris County Sheriff	Paul Day
Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 1	El Franco Lee
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1	Ray Hill
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 6	Richard Vara
Harris County Constable, Precinct 1	Jack Abercia
Harris County Constable, Precinct 2	Michael Harris
Harris County Constable, Precinct 7	A.B. Chambers
Harris County Democratic Party Chair	Ken Bentsen

To be included on our mailing list, call 521-1000.

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ENDORSED

HGLPC TARGETS RAY HILL FOR VICTORY

From Page 1

ishment figures who are scared to death that we are going to win, and they are working overtime to try and stop us. The latest projection is that the winner will be decided by a couple of hundred votes. That's how close this race is running. I want to urge everyone to use our community's greatest asset—the *telephone!* On Election Day, call five friends—family, school-mates, neighbors, co-workers—to make sure they vote. I have seen the beauty of the power this community can generate when standing together to face a common goal. If we come out to the polls united and strong on March 10th, I know that we will capture a victory the likes of which this city has never seen!

* * * * *

To make a campaign contribution, make your check payable to "Ray Hill Campaign," and mail it to:

P.O. Box 3624
Houston, TX 77253

For more information, call 523-6969, or volunteer coordinator Mary McMillen at 528-3555.

HGLPC ENDORSES NO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

by Chris Bacon
President of the HGLPC

The HGLPC decided not to make any endorsements in the Presidential primaries. While all the Democratic candidates rate more favorably than any of the Republican candidates on issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community, not one of them has distinguished himself to merit an endorsement at this time. In order to help voters make their decisions, the HGLPC has provided the following guide to the Presidential candidates. This guide is intended as a resource manual and is not intended as an endorsement of any of the candidates. HGLPC has relied on its own research as well as that of other groups around the country. Any reader who has information on any of these candidates is invited to share it with us. The descriptions below focus primarily on the candidates' records on gay issues, choice, civil rights, and health care. Electability is not considered, even though it is clearly a concern of many Democratic voters.

DEMOCRATS

Jerry Brown: As Governor of California, Jerry Brown signed an Executive Order protecting state employees from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. He also came out strongly against a proposition which would have prohibited a school district from hiring a gay person. He also signed a Consensual Sex Bill, which repealed the state's sodomy law. Brown has supported passage of California's Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill (recently vetoed by Governor

Continued on Page 4

It's OUR Turn
For a Seat at the Table !

Tell All your Friends to vote

Elect
on March 10

It's OUR Turn For a Seat at the Table !

Elect
Ray Hill

**Tell All your Friends to vote
Tuesday March 10,
Democratic Primary for
Ray Hill
Justice of the Peace
Precinct 1, Place 1
Page 6 on the Ballot**

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HATCH

Houston Area Teenage Coalition of Homosexuals by Jay Asher and Kevin Davidson

- What is HATCH? HATCH is a support group for gay/lesbian youth (age range 16-21) who meet twice weekly (a local church provides the meeting space).
- HATCH's purpose? Our primary purpose in HATCH is to empower these young women and men to learn about who they are, what they can be, and to encourage them to "GO FOR IT."
- HATCH provides: Educational presentations on a variety of topics include relationships, Lesbian/Gay culture, suicide prevention, and health issues. HATCH provides referrals to appropriate community resources for education, health care, shelter, and counseling, as well as support for families and friends of Lesbian/Gay youth.
- Volunteers: Thirty volunteers participate in our training program to support these young people. Volunteers provide social, supportive, and recreational activities in addition to positive role models for our youth.
- Goals/Dreams: HATCH is not only an alternative to the bars, it is a positive, reinforcing space where youth can talk, share problems and joys, make life-long friends, and become all-that-they-can-be or want-to-be. We are excited about the growth of HATCH (since our first meeting in October, we have grown from 7 to 80+ young people), the positive community response to our efforts, and our future plans. Our dream is to have a drop-in center in Houston for Les/Gay Youth as soon as feasible.
- Contributions: Your contribution will help us support field trips, print informational brochures, buy books, and most importantly, provide a space where the youth can

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

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

Officers:

Chris Bacon, President
Rennie Trozzi, Vice-President
Liz Shuler, Secretary
Scott Tillinghast, Treasurer

Board Members:

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Duncan Allen
Robbie Cavanaugh
Carol Clark
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Norm Thompson
Lou Vanech

HGLPC Election News

This newsletter is an official publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Commentary printed in this newsletter reflects the opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the HGLPC. The HGLPC *Election News* is published at least two times annually in even-numbered years, and at least once in odd numbered years. Paid for by the HGLPC Political Action Committee, Scott Tillinghast, Treasurer.

Editor and Newsletter Committee Chair: Duncan Allen
Co-Chair of Newsletter Committee: Norm Thompson

HGLPC Endorses No Presidential Candidate

From Page 3

Pete Wilson). Brown supports the passage of the proposed federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill and supports a national health insurance program.

Volunteers:

Thirty volunteers participate in our training program to support these young people. Volunteers provide social, supportive, and recreational activities in addition to positive role models for our youth.

Goals/Dreams:

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Contributions:

Your contribution will help us support field trips, print informational brochures, buy books, and most importantly: Provide a space where the youth can meet for positive reinforcement, seven days a week.

Sincerely:

Jay Asher, Co-Director
Trish Morgan, Co-Director

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Lou Vanech
HGLPC Election News

This newsletter is an official publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Commentary printed in this newsletter reflects the opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the HGLPC. The HGLPC *Election News* is published at least two times annually in even-numbered years, and at least once in odd numbered years. Paid for by the HGLPC Political Action Committee, Scott Tillinghast, Treasurer.

Editor and Newsletter Committee Chair: Duncan Allen

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HGLPC Endorses No Presidential Candidate

From Page 3

Pete Wilson). Brown supports the passage of the proposed federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, and supports a national health insurance program. He is also pro-choice.

Bill Clinton: As Governor of Arkansas, Clinton has been silent on gay and lesbian issues. He refused to publicly support legislation to repeal the sodomy law. As a presidential candidate he has become more vocal. He says that he would repeal the military exclusion of gay men and lesbians from the services, but he has not taken any position on the federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. He supports a woman's right to choose, but has supported parental notification as well as restrictions on public funding for abortions.

Tom Harkin: For seventeen years Harkin repeatedly refused to support the federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. He also is on record for supporting a number of anti-gay bills, including an amendment to an AIDS bill in 1987 which would prohibit the use of any funds provided to the CDC from being used to provide AIDS education that promoted, encouraged or condoned homosexual activity. Recently, however, his voting record on gay issues has improved. He was supportive of the Ryan White Bill for AIDS funding and was a chief architect of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Harkin is strongly pro-choice. He was also a co-sponsor of the federal Hate Crimes Bill in 1989, voting against Jesse Helms's anti-gay amendment. To date, however, Harkin has not agreed to co-sponsor the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill.

Bob Kerrey: On the plus side, Kerrey supported the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also voted against a motion to remove HIV-infected people from food handling positions, and against an amendment to criminalize the donation or sale of blood or body fluids by persons who know they are infected with

Continued on next page

WHERE ARE THE REPUBLICANS?

Some Thoughts from the President of HGLPC

By Christopher Bacon

Mark and Jeff, not their real names, are two friends of mine who live in a large house with a swimming pool in Katy. They are both professionals; one of them is a vice president in a Fortune 500 company. Both are comfortable about their "gayness," having long ago told their families and friends. They prefer to keep their private lives out of their respective workplaces, but have never resorted to any artifice to suggest to their coworkers that they are not gay. They are not involved in gay activist politics, although they contribute generously to the AIDS Foundation each year. They also voted for George Bush in 1988.

Rob, his real name, is a friend who lives in a small apartment in the heart of the gay ghetto of Montrose. He is a musician who spends the bulk of his spare time either campaigning for openly gay and lesbian candidates or lobbying members of the Houston City Council on the issue of redistricting (to ensure that the lines are drawn in a manner most likely to favor a future gay city council candidate). Rob is proud to be gay and even posed for last year's Pride Week poster. In 1988 Rob held his nose when he voted for Michael Dukakis. As far as Rob was concerned, Jesse Jackson was the only acceptable candidate.

Mark and Jeff and Rob only partially illustrate the difficulties faced by the HGLPC when it screens and endorses candidates each election. Houston's gay and lesbian community lies across the political spectrum (with more than a few apathetically off the spectrum altogether). The economic heterogeneity of the gay and lesbian community may be the principal culprit of this division. Black, Hispanic and Women's groups have been able to galvanize their members by pointing to the clear economic disadvantages suffered by many in their groups. In contrast, many gay men have successfully avoided economic discrimination by camouflaging their preferences as they gallop up the career ladder. Republican economic policies often benefit gay men. While discrimination against gay men occurs, it tends to affect either those who have chosen to be open about their orientation, or, as we have increasingly seen, the growing numbers of gay men who, but for a virus, would have passed undetected in the American workplace.

In contrast to the dormant abortion laws awaiting the likely reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and rightfully alarming many women, the antiquated sodomy laws criminalizing homosexual behavior fail to politicize many gays since most of them know that, so long as they close the shades and avoid the parks, they will have nothing to fear.

Recognizing our community's diversity, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus invites candidates from all political parties to screen with us

The HGLPC realizes that many Republican candidates do not share these views of their party. From time to time Republican candidates, like the above-mentioned gentleman, seek our support. Unfortunately, they always ask for "behind the scenes" help. They presume that there exists a "secret" gay and lesbian communication network by which we can inform our entire community without letting anyone else know. What they don't realize is that there are many straight people who also rely on our endorsement card. This newsletter is distributed to almost 12,000 gay-friendly voters; many of them are not gay.

The Republican Party in other states has not been as adverse to our community as it has in Texas. In Massachusetts, for example, Gay activists overwhelmingly voted for the Republican candidate for governor, William Weld, in the last election. Similarly, many gays and lesbians supported Pete Wilson in his election to the governor's seat in California. While Wilson is unlikely to get gay support next time, Weld has pleased many of his supporters.

The HGLPC looks forward to the day that a candidate can be both a Republican and openly supportive of Gay rights. And while the Caucus has tried to do so, I don't expect it to be successful in changing the Republican party. Change will have to come from within. On election day I encourage gay and lesbian Republicans like Mark and Jeff and many others whom I know to take an active role in their party's politics—it's time to come out.

HGLPC Endorses No Presidential Candidate

From Page 4

the HIV. Kerrey is also pro-choice. He did vote for the Hate Crime Statistics Act. He is also proposing a national health care system. However, Kerrey has refused to be a co-sponsor of the federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. In 1989 he also supported an anti-gay amendment on Restrictions on School Programs for Youth that sought to restrict schools from using materials that "promote homosexuality" or state that homosexuality is "normal, natural, or healthy." Kerrey also gained the attention of gay groups when he told an offensive, anti-lesbian, anti-woman joke to Bill Clinton which was caught on tape by C-SPAN.

Paul Tsongas: He has a strong track record on gay and lesbian issues. He has publicly indicated his support for the federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. He opposes mandatory AIDS testing of medical personnel. He has produced campaign literature identifying himself as a friend of the gay community. Tsongas also has voiced strong support for the right of gay men and lesbians to become foster parents. He supports national health care and has developed a detailed health care reform plan.

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Recognizing our community's diversity, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus invites candidates from all political parties to screen with us. We focus on those issues that we believe affect our entire community—men, women, persons of color, workers, business people, wealthy, poor, Democrats and Republicans. While finding a common denominator is often difficult, several issues have emerged, including civil rights for gays and lesbians; decriminalization of homosexual behavior; protection against crimes directed against us because of our sexual orientation; and legal recognition of our relationships. The HGLPC has also focused on several issues that affect other communities as well as are own—namely the delivery of health care, AIDS issues, and a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. The HGLPC believes that this last issue is important not only because women are an integral part of our community, but also because a woman's right to choose is inextricably linked to a man or a woman's right to have sex with whomever they choose.

Despite our efforts to reach candidates from both parties, the reader of this newsletter will note that the HGLPC endorsed no Republicans. This is not, however, because of any anti-Republican animus in the HGLPC. Republicans and Democrats alike were invited to screen with the Caucus. Forty-seven Democrats, one Libertarian, and one Republican accepted our invitation. The one Republican who responded called after the endorsement process claiming (and we believe him) that he never received the invitation. However, he also admitted that had he been offered our endorsement he would have been forced to refuse it since the Republican Party has forbidden its candidates from seeking our endorsement. Sadly, this does not come as a surprise since the Texas Republican party stated in its 1990 platform that "the Republican Party of Texas calls upon federal, state, and local governments to enforce all laws with respect to homosexual conduct."

From Page 4

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REPUBLICANS

George Bush: George Bush's record on gay issues has been poor. However, of all the Republican candidates he is certainly the most acceptable candidate. President Bush did sign the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the first piece of federal legislation to even mention gays and lesbians. He also signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, which will offer greater protection to PWA's who are victims of discrimination. Critics point out that both of these pieces of legislation were passed with overwhelming support of Congress and that a Bush veto would have been futile. Also, despite increasing pressures, the Bush administration has refused to repeal the Defense Department's policy on exclusion of gays and lesbians from the military. The Bush administration has also been slow to support AIDS funding. [Ed. note: Since this was written, the *Houston Post* reported on February 26 that President Bush has asked that Congress decrease funding for AIDS research by 30% next year.]

David Duke: You've got to be kidding!

Pat Buchanan: Pat Buchanan has long been on record for making homophobic statements. He has frequently expressed the view that AIDS is the result of immorality. While he has dispensed with making overtly homophobic remarks on the campaign trail, it is unlikely that he has changed views. George Bush looks like Harvey Milk when compared to Buchanan. Buchanan is probably more dangerous than David Duke since he could one day become President of the United States.

THE ART OF VOTING FOR YOUR OWN COMMUNITY

by Ray Hill

I own up to it. There have been times when I had to hold my nose to vote for a candidate endorsed by Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Over the years candidates have passed through the screening and endorsement process that I felt I knew more about than did the members on the screening committee. I voted for them anyway. If a name appears on HGLPC's endorsement card, the candidate gets my vote.

There are a couple of reasons for that: first, I really believe that more of us can think better than a few of us and, second, our community's political strength is measured in every race in which we endorse. Ever since we began endorsing candidates, each race in each election has been studied by subsequent candidates to determine if our endorsement was worth their effort to try to get. What they have found generally is that we have little to offer to candidates at the top of the ballot (mayors, governors, and presidents) but the lower on the ballot their name appears, the more important we become.

It is easier to follow an endorsement card through judicial races where one recognizes few if any names. In the high-visibility races like that for mayor, our voters usually have opinions even before they get the endorsement card. What's more, they are more likely to vote their opinions than the recommendations on the card. That is a better explanation of why we see leading mayoral candidates only when the contest is anticipated to be so close that five or six percent of the vote cast may change the outcome.

A well-disciplined community voting as a block, even if those votes are cast for a losing candidate, advances the political power of their community. They will be seen and studied in the precinct returns. If everyone ignores the endorsements and fails to follow the names on the card, the community does not exist in the political arena.

There is another political axiom that plays in the perception of effective political power. There are only two states of political organizations—growth or death. There is no static state. Applying that axiom to our community, it would appear that we are in good shape in the area of growth. More people are coming out of their closets all the time. Many large employers are sending us their best employees from all over the country, and immigrants from all over the world are seeking citizenship in our more tolerant environment than that they left. Houston is disproportionately the beneficiary of that immigration.

The only new Houstonians who understand the importance of block voting are those who came here from places where communities have successfully used block voting as an indication of political strength. We must continually and effectively teach our community the importance of voting as a block. When we fail



"When one comes from one community into another and asks for their support and gets accepted as I have been by the GLPC, it is impressive. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Re-elect Garnet Coleman
Texas State Representative,
District 147

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The only new Houstonians who understand the importance of block voting are those who came here from places where communities have successfully used block voting as an indication of political strength. We must continually and effectively teach our community the importance of voting as a block. When we fail that important responsibility we begin a steady decline in political strength.

Another avenue to the perception of political power is "stretch." Each of us has friends, workmates, and family members who are not politically active or informed. One does them a favor by encouraging them to the polls and sharing an endorsement card to help sort out the names on the ballot. Even if people are not politically informed, they will consider how candidates affect the lives of their friends and family. We could have improved our election results by fifty to one hundred percent in every election since the founding of the Caucus if we had "stretched" our vote by securing the support of easily influenced non-gay voters.

In spite of all the foregoing, votes only and always come one to a customer. Your vote is your control of the world around you. You have no control if you don't vote. Every other vote you can secure doubles your control. All of the votes cast for the endorsed candidates help bring the equal treatment we all hope to achieve.

We are now at the point where serious political candidates are running as openly gay men and lesbians. Every dollar contributed, every vote cast is a wise investment in your own future. Unless one of us makes it none of us are going anywhere.

To be proud of oneself is to develop pride in one's community. Vote as an expression of that pride. If you have concerns about the direction of your Caucus, remember the doors are not locked, and all decisions are made by the members attending and voting at meetings.

*... support and gets ac-
cepted as I have been by the GLPC, it is impres-
sive. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

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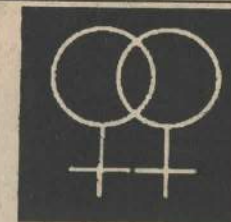
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Representative Román Martínez's Legislative Background

- * Fifth Term State Representative from District 148 in Harris County
- * Chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Employment Relations.
- * Member of the House of Representatives

for State Senate

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- * Fifth Term State Representative from District 148 in Harris County
- * Chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Employment Relations.
- * Member of the House Committees on Elections and Redistricting
- * Three Term member of the House Appropriations Committee

Representative Martínez has distinguished himself in the Legislature by passing Landmark Legislation addressing the issues of High School Drop-Outs, Neighborhood Preservation, Cantina Control and the Reduction of Inhalant Abuse.

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My name is C.J. "Buddy" Hanby, and I am a Democratic Candidate for the Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Place 2. I am proud to have the endorsement of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. My pledge to you is that neither the race, nor the skin color, nor the religion, nor the degree of wealth, nor the sexual orientation of a party will even be a factor in the decision of any case that comes before me. My opponent, Harry L. Burkholder, has publicly laughed at me because I obtained your endorsement. His attitude is, unfortunately, too common. My second pledge to you is that, regardless of whether I win the election, I will do everything in my power to persuade people to treat *all* other people as equals, not as somehow less equal because their sexuality or lifestyle differs from the majority.

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On AIDS policy, I passed bills that created the HIV medication program and made the purchase of drugs like AZT easier and cheaper. I have sponsored bills to prohibit mandatory testing, require informed consent, and prevent discrimination in employment and housing.

Your support is important to me as your friend and as your State Representative. Thank you.

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Your support is important to me as your friend and as your State Representative. Thank you.

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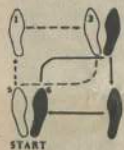
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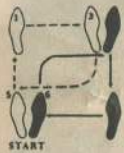
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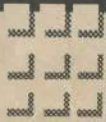
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Democratic Committee	_____
Voter Registration	_____
Political Action Committee	_____
Computer Committee	_____
Fund-Raising	_____
Newsletter/Media	_____

All membership begins from the date payment is received. Memberships are for one year unless otherwise noted. Pledge Program membership is open through the pledge period, with one additional year if it is discounted. All members are entitled to vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the membership, including GLPC endorsement of candidates. There is a thirty day delay on voting privileges for first-time members. Members receive a monthly newsletter and a membership card.

* Information about the pledge program will be mailed to you.

**PRIMARY ELECTION
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