

# HGLPC News

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

## Precinct Initiative gains Caucus approval

HGLPC members voted overwhelmingly at the May meeting to approve a cooperative venture with Log Cabin-Houston encouraging gay and gay-friendly candidates to run for precinct chair positions in the March 1996 Republican primary. The Precinct Initiative received preliminary approval from the Log Cabin's Board of Directors in April. The Precinct Initiative now awaits final approval from Log Cabin membership.

"For too long now, the Religious Right has been taking the fight to us, sponsoring anti-gay initiatives around the country and taking over school boards and party organizations," said HGLPC president Terri Richardson. "Now we are going to take the fight to them." She added that, "In Harris County, at least, the days are over when we quietly watched our rights trampled one-by-one."

Approval of the Precinct Initiative by the HGLPC came in the form of a resolution drafted jointly by members of the Caucus and Log Cabin. The resolution recognizes "the need for grassroots efforts at the precinct level to ensure that elements sympathetic to the cause of civil rights for gays and lesbians are heard within the Republican Party." The resolution cites the organizations' common goal of "desiring to see change in the Republican Party's present hostility toward gays and lesbians." The resolution was presented at the Caucus meeting by the Lincoln Project.

Under the Precinct Initiative, the HGLPC and Log Cabin agree to share information, meeting space, expenses, volunteers and other resources necessary to elect gays and lesbians to precinct chair positions in the Republican Party. Presently, almost 700 of the 1,300 Republican precinct chair positions in Harris County are vacant. In addition to filling some of those vacant positions, the Precinct Initiative may challenge sitting precinct chairs in other precincts.

In both the Democratic and Republican parties, precinct chairs are responsible for turning out voters in their precincts as well as for monitoring the fairness of election day polling. Precinct chairs also preside over precinct meetings at which resolutions may be considered and delegates are elected to attend party senatorial district conventions. It is not known whether there are any openly gay Republican precinct chairs in Harris County.

Grassroots involvement in party politics at the precinct level is exactly the method the Religious Right has used around the country to exert control over Republican state organizations. Presently, elements sympathetic to the Religious Right control the state Republican executive committee. That body

## What's New?

This month *HGLPC News* is focusing on lesbian health. A recent study in Houston, sponsored by the Lesbian Health Initiative and the Montrose Counseling Center, has received considerable media attention. Inside, Pokey Anderson talks about the Lesbian Health Initiative.

Also in this month's edition, Terri Richardson discusses the threat against queers posed by the Christian Coalition.

OutVote is well on its way toward IRS tax-deductible status, as explained by Cicely Wynne in this month's **Report**.

Opinions about the proposed bylaw change to include transgenders in Article II are highlighted in the center spread.

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# Status

## A Message from the President

### HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

Terri Richardson, *President*  
Keith Stewart, *Vice President*  
Rod Kneblik, *Secretary*  
Patrick McKee, *Treasurer*



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HGLPC News  
Matthew Huston, *editor*

HGLPC News is a monthly publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, which is solely responsible for its contents. HGLPC meets the first Wednesday of every month at its offices, 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304, at 7:30 p.m.

Houston Gay and Lesbian  
Political Caucus  
P. O. Box 66664  
Houston, Texas 77266-6664  
(713) 521-1000

by Terri Richardson

**I** think that for the first time since becoming involved in politics, I'm scared. Over the last couple of weeks I, like many of you, have read articles on Ralph Reed and the Christian

Coalition, the Michigan Militia, the Focus on Family, and have witnessed the well-publicized photo opportunities with Bob Dole and Phil Gramm, the current principal contenders for the Republican presidential nomination, as leaders of the Radical Right are ushered in and out of their offices. According to *Time* magazine, Christian Coalition staff members hold key positions on the presidential campaign staffs of Bob Dole, Lamar Alexander, Phil Gramm, and Pat Buchanan. With the Coalition's current rate of growth, executive director Ralph Reed predicts that "everyone running for president will be pro-family; they'll have to come to us."

I have sat on my liberal ass and shook my liberal head from side to side, saying that it could never happen. I now believe that it is not only possible, but already occurring on a widespread basis. Reed said that, "The future of America is not shaped by who sits in the Oval Office, but by who sits in the principal's office." Local political events confirm that the far right is gaining, with more right-wing Republican precinct chairs, more far-right judicial candidates winning their party's nomination, and more Radical Right candidates being elected to office at every level of government.

Political activism seems to have lost its appeal for many in our community as we have been forced to struggle with graver issues than civil rights over the last decade. Yet at the same time that our movement has taken a breather, the Christian Coalition claims to have 1.6 million activists. Last year its annual budget was \$25 million, and, according to the report I read, it distributed 33 million voter guides last November. They show no signs of slowing down, much less stopping. I am afraid if we do not get our movement back on a *political* track, we will regret it for years and years to come.

It is laudable that we can boast of gays and lesbians who are moving to the top of their fields in the business world, medicine, law, government, etc. It is admirable that many of us have invested our energy in organizations designed to help queer youth, to take care of our own brothers and sisters (and everyone else's) in this time of AIDS, to assist gay and lesbian parents, to celebrate our diversity, and so many other noble, necessary causes whose challenges we are meeting every day. But if we lose sight of the political devastation that, absent intervention, lies ahead, we have lost it all. We will no longer be able to raise money for our gay and lesbian organizations that do so much good because the members of the Christian Coalition who have the United States Congress in their pocket will see to it that laws are passed denying tax exempt status for our organizations. We may lose the right to speak out on our issues, because once they are in control, the right of free speech could very well be modified by a Clarence Thomas or an Antonin Scalia. We may lose the right to assemble freely, to speak out, to protest. I may lose the right to live with Theresa without fear of arrest or imprisonment.

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# Health

*This Month's Feature*

## Lesbian Health Initiative: Working to keep Houston lesbians out of bed

by Pokey Anderson

Over the past two decades, lesbians have been in the forefront of several battles which primarily effect other groups — like AIDS, like reproductive freedom, like environmental concerns. Meanwhile, who do you think has been the watchdog for the health of lesbians in this nation — the AMA? the CDC? AIDS groups? the American Cancer Society? Jesse Helms? Hillary Clinton? While our backs have been turned, lesbians are being struck down, one by one, by serious illness and fatal diseases. Even lesbians have been in denial that there is a problem. Many of us were lulled into a sense of false security when we realized that we were at low risk for AIDS. Unfortunately, there are other diseases. . .

Breast cancer is one example. Breast cancer is the number one killer of women aged 35 to 50. More Americans die of breast cancer each year than of AIDS. Dr. Kate O'Hanlan of Stanford says it is likely that lesbians are at higher risk than straight women for not only breast cancer, but lung cancer, ovarian cancer, endometrial cancer, colon cancer, cervical cancer, heart disease, and stroke. But — and here's the kicker — no one really knows because no one has done the research. There has been little or no interest in researching or funding lesbian health issues by mainstream groups in this country.

Lesbian Health Initiative started up in Houston to find out just what the truth is about lesbian health here. Until about five years ago, there was basically no lesbian health movement in this country. Even now, there are several thousand AIDS/HIV groups in this country, compared to several dozen lesbian health groups.

Lesbian Health Initiative had little data to go on at the start. Unsettling numbers of our lesbian friends had serious diseases, but what did this mean? We were determined to assess what our community's needs really were, so that we could develop programs to serve real, not imagined needs. What we found, after a large survey of the community that took nearly two years to complete, is that while lesbians certainly need to know about and practice safer sex, basing a lesbian health program solely on AIDS would be like basing a gay men's health program solely on preventing breast cancer. Sure, a few men get breast cancer, but that's not where the need is the greatest. The survey was accomplished by LHI with the help of the Montrose Counseling Center and advice from UT School of Public Health. High rates of skin and

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**Who do you think has been the  
watchdog for the health of lesbians  
in this nation — Jesse Helms?  
Hillary Clinton?**

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# Report

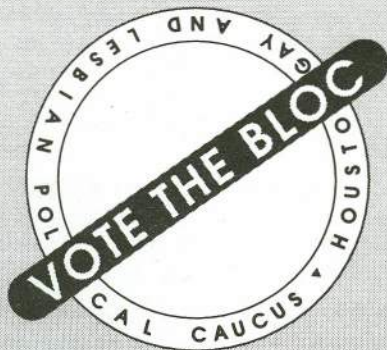
## News of Caucus Activities

### CBS Sports reporter bashes lesbians

Broadcaster Ben Wright, a twenty-three year veteran of CBS Sports recently told a reporter that "Lesbians in sports hurt women's golf. . . It's not reticent, it's paraded. There's a defiance in them in the last decade."

Wright also claimed that breasts are a handicap for women golfers. Let CBS Sports know that we expect a public apology and that they need to affirm the contribution women golfers have made to the sport, especially lesbians. You can reach CBS Sports at 212-975-5230 or 212-975-6788. The fax for CBS Sports is 212-975-4074.

Also call the United States Golfing Association (USGA) which has refused to respond to Wright's comments. Call USGA president David Fay at 908-234-2300.



### OutVote elects temporary board of directors

by Cicely Wynne

OutVote, the new voter registration group, continues its first voter registration drive as it gets organized in anticipation of filing for IRS tax-exempt status in late June.

At its third meeting May 17, members elected a temporary board, approved bylaws, and discussed projects. The next general meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. June 21 (the third Wednesday) at the HGLPC office, 2700 Albany Ste. 304 (one block north of Tuam).

Members elected nine of the 10 board members to serve until September, when permanent board members will be elected. Temporary board members are: President, John Freeman; Vice President, Cicely Wynne; Secretary, Ryan Wyatt; Treasurer, Steven Emmert; at-large board members — Richard Prawitz, Michael Crawford, David Burleson, Tim Granger, and Pat Gandy. Position 6 remains vacant.

OutVote was incorporated May 4 as a Texas nonprofit incorporation. After the group files for federal 501(c)3 tax-exempt status in June, the IRS is expected to grant the request within a month or so. Once federal tax-exempt status is obtained, any contributions made after May 4 will be tax-deductible.

OutVote hopes to achieve tax-exempt status several months before the November 7 City Council elections in time for a fall voter registration and ad campaign, a voters guide, and other get-out-the vote efforts.

Both the HGLPC and OutVote are currently holding voter registration drives. Organizers hope the efforts will poise the community for the fall City Council elections, which are expected to have openly gay candidates.

The Caucus Board of Directors at its January retreat launched a yearlong voter registration project to be coordinated directly by the Board. One Saturday a month, Caucus members meet to register voters at a local business or community event. The drive began in February and will proceed to the end of the year, with each Board member responsible for one month. So far well over 100 voters have been registered.

Meanwhile, OutVote is holding its own consolidated voter registration drive which began May 13 and runs through June 3. Each Saturday, OutVote members will be at local businesses to register voters as well as to solicit new memberships in their organization. In addition to the Saturday sessions, OutVote will be attending meetings of community groups to register their members to vote.

These voter registration drives have been aided by the "deputizing" at

continued on page 10

### **Lesbian Health**, from page 3

breast cancer were found. In addition, 30% reported some health condition that restricted their activities. High rates of stress, depression, and isolation were also reported. Complete results of the report can be obtained from the Counseling Center at (713) 529-0037.

The survey reflected some of the diversity of the local lesbian community: 612 lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered women responded. Respondents' ages ranged from 15 to 78; income ranged from under \$15,000 to over \$150,000; all Houston's major ethnic groups were represented; the survey was asked and answered in English and Spanish; and we lived in 130 ZIP Codes around town. Even so, certain themes kept cropping up in the answers. First, lesbians are like the Marlboro Man: "I don't need any help, I can do this myself." As little support as open lesbians get in our society from family, workplaces, health practitioners, etc., it's no wonder we don't ask for help. And, one in four respondents reported instances in the last year in which they had not received medical help when they needed it. Combined with that was a Mother Teresa attitude: "Yes, of course I can help you." Many lesbians have chosen professions where we are the caretakers of others: nurses and doctors, counselors, teachers. Many of us (20% in the survey) are the caretakers at home, for older or younger family members. The result: we as lesbians have often neglected our own health care. LHI is here to change that.

LHI currently has several ongoing projects. First, the Cancer Survivors' Support Group for lesbians and their partners meets at the Montrose Counseling Center biweekly. A licensed counselor facilitates. The *Houston Chronicle* ran a story on this recently. Call 529-0037 for more information.

Second, Breast Cancer Prevention Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, at the Montrose Counseling Center. Breast self-exam workshops, screening, and a mobile mammogram unit will be available for lesbians, and bisexual and transgendered women. Mammogram appointments are available at \$5 for those 35 and over through Inklings Bookshop, 1846 Richmond. Call Madelyn McNeil for more information at 529-0077.

In addition, LHI will be at a booth at Spectrum '95, so stop by and introduce yourself.

Now that the survey is completed, LHI has a dozen more projects on the drawing boards, and is open to considering any project that benefits lesbian health in the Houston area. Volunteers to date have ranged from a lesbian surgeon to a chiropractor to a psychologist to activists, students, and lesbians who are in business. Our ages range from 20s to 60s, our ethnicities are varied. The sky is the limit to what we can accomplish with your energy. Call Pat Gandy to check it out: 869-6350.

## Get some Kultur

On Sunday, June 4, the Caucus Thespians will be hosting an evening at the New Heights Theater for a performance of *The Glass Mendacity*, a campy satire of Tennessee Williams' most gothic plays: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Stella, Maggie the Cat, Sister Woman, Amanda Wingfield, as you've never seen them before. Performed by the Illegitimate Players and directed by Ron Jones, *The Glass Mendacity* is certain to provide an evening of outrageous, irreverent fun.

Tickets to the performance are on sale NOW for \$15.00, five dollars of which go to the Caucus. Buy two and bring a gentleman caller or a kind stranger. To purchase tickets, call the Caucus Thespian Hot Line at 521-1000 and leave your name, telephone number, and the number of tickets desired. Ticket sales will end on June 2 at 5:00 p.m.

The New Heights Theater is located at 339 W. 19th Street, two blocks west of Yale between Rutland and Ashland. Curtain is at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to support the Caucus and queer culture.

# Opinion

## Transgenders and the HGLPC

### Bylaw proposed to include transgenders

The HGLPC at its next meeting will be considering a bylaw amendment that will include transgendered people and bisexuals in the Article II statement of purpose.

The issue was raised at the May meeting during the discussion of the bylaw amendment to remove the objectionable (and, to some, antiquated) phrase "homosexual lifestyle" from Article II.

The proposed amendment, which will be submitted to a vote at the June 7 meeting, changes the statement of purpose to read as follows:

#### THE PURPOSES OF THE CAUCUS SHALL BE:

- A. To promote and protect the political interests of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people;
- B. To educate the public with regard to homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgendered sexuality;
- C. To secure for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people full equality and civil rights; and,
- D. To work toward and promote the common goal of human rights for all people.

Transgender inclusion has been a hotly debated topic in the gay and lesbian press, as well as within other organizations, in the last year. The San Antonio Equal Rights Political Caucus, for instance, was formed from the city's former lesbian and gay political group to be able to tackle transgendered issues. Recently published articles in Houston have also drawn intense response.

Following are two opinions of Caucus members regarding the proposed bylaw change. Neither is intended to represent the position of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Rather, they are presented to allow readers to understand some of the issues the proposed change raises.

#### *Make the fair and practical change*

*by Tim Granger*

I have proposed amending the bylaws of the Caucus to include bisexual and transgendered people for two reasons.

The first reason is fairness. Why do I say fairness? Because despite all the distinctions that can be made between gays and lesbians, as a self-defined group, and bisexuals and transgendered people, I really see us all as people who are oppressed because of our sexuality. If we as gays and lesbians say that bisexuals and transgendered people are not part of our movement, aren't we making the same sort of artificial, strained argument that is used to keep gays from serving openly in the military? If we search hard, we can all come up with an argument analogous to the military's saying that gays are a potential security risk or that they will make unwelcome sexual advances if they're allowed to be open about their sexuality while in the military. Such arguments are utter rubbish.

The second reason is a practical

one. The Caucus is losing membership and influence. We need to build coalitions, not isolate ourselves. By reaching out to the larger community of sexually oppressed people, we can increase both membership and influence.

This proposal does not presently include a name change for the Caucus.

#### *Caucus should remain focused*

*by David Westerkamp*

"Until we are all free, none of us are free". I can't remember where or when I heard this quote, but it reflects my personal philosophy pertaining to the struggle for civil rights by all human beings. That phrase should be a mantra for all civil rights activists regardless of which particular movement you identify with.

The Caucus membership is currently deliberating a proposal to expand inclusive language contained in the mission statement of its bylaws. This proposal would expand the mission of the Caucus to include issues and concerns specific to the transgender community.

This debate clearly centers around one critical and fundamental question: should the Caucus continue its 20 year mission and remain focused on homosexual rights, or further define its mission to include sexual minorities peripheral to homosexuality? Opposing this change does not in any way suggest that the Caucus membership does not support the goals of the transgender community.

I have given quit a bit of thought to this proposal during the last few days. My experience and understanding of the transgender community is



# Events

*This Month... This Year*

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**To get involved with**

HGLPC's Pride Parade preparations, call the Caucus office at (713) 521-1000

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**And don't forget about...**

Juneteenth  
Annual Dinner in October

- May 31** Lincoln Project. Baby Barnaby's, 604 Fairview, 7 p.m.
- June 1** Gay & Lesbian Vets. 2700 Albany Suite 304, 7 p.m.
- June 3** Voter Registration. Call OutVote at 520-VOTE.
- June 7** HGLPC General Meeting. Bylaw change, pride week organizing. 2700 Albany, 7:30 p.m.
- June 8** Political Action Working Group. 2700 Albany, 6:30 p.m.
- June 14** HGLPC Board Meeting. 2700 Albany, 7 p.m.
- June 14** OutVote Poster Contest. Winner to be announced!
- June 15** Political Action Working Group. 2700 Albany, 6:30 p.m.
- June 18** Spectrum '95. (713) 526-2853 for information.
- June 21** OutVote. 2700 Albany Suite 304, 7 p.m.
- June 22** Political Action Working Group. 2700 Albany, 6:30 p.m.
- June 25** Pride Parade.
- June 28** Lincoln Project. Baby Barnaby's, 604 Fairview, 7 p.m.
- June 29** Political Action Working Group. 2700 Albany, 6:30 p.m.

**Initiative**, from page 1

has repeatedly demonstrated hostility towards gays and lesbians by, for example, unanimously backing the decision of Williamson County last year not to give tax breaks to Apple Computer because of its pro-gay employment policies. In addition, the Texas Republican Party platform currently reads like a tract against homosexuals, opposing gay marriage, adoption, non-discrimination laws, and calling sodomy a threat to the "family unit."

"The Precinct Initiative is a recognition that there is far more that unites than divides us when it comes to protecting our rights against the hate-mongers," observed Richardson. "This vote by the Caucus is a major step in the right direction for the whole gay community in this city."

The Log Cabin Board of Directors passed the resolution on to the membership for final approval. A vote is expected on May 22.

In related news, Lincoln Project members sent a second round of letters to Houston-area Republican state representatives in support of the hate crimes bill under consideration in Austin.

At its last meeting, the Lincoln Project was joined by Edward Bloom, the Republican candidate who ran against Craig Washington for Congress in 1992. Bloom is considered a libertarian and is gay-friendly, Lincoln Project members said.

The next Lincoln Project meeting will be held May 31, 7 p.m., at Baby Barnaby's.

## Caucus Thespians Present...

# The Glass Mendacity

a fundraiser for HGLPC

New Heights Theater  
339 W. 19th Street  
June 4, 1995, 7 p.m.

TICKETS \$15 CALL 521-1000

**Message**, from page 2

I do not want to suggest that the president of HGLPC has been overcome with paranoia. I don't believe that to be the case. But I do believe that if we rest on our laurels and our accomplishments and do not jump back into the fight, the battle may be lost before we fire off a shot.

The same degree of passion exists in our community as among those aligned with the Christian Coalition. We have as many people interested in queer rights as they do in "family issues." We have as much money in our community as they in theirs. Ralph Reed's own theory of how to do it is the same as ours: "You have to organize, organize, organize, and build and build, and train and train, so that there is a permanent, vibrant structure of which people can be part."

Help us organize, build, and train. Be a part of the movement again to protect the rights we have and to secure the rights we don't. Call 521-1000 to volunteer.

**Voters**, from page 4

the last Caucus meeting. Representatives of Harris County's Tax Assessor and Collector's office swore in attendees of the May meeting as Volunteer Deputy Registrars.

The need to register queer voters has been brought into focus since Annise Parker's election campaign in January. Post-election analysis has shown that as many as 60% of the HGLPC mailing list were not registered to vote.

Both organizations are concerned about the statistics but are optimistic that these drives, in addition to voter education, will put the community — and our candidates — in a much stronger position this fall.

If you are interested in getting involved in registering voters, you can call the HGLPC at 521-1000 or OutVote at 520-VOTE. Contributions may be mailed to OutVote, P.O. Box 540513, Houston, TX 77254.

# HGLPCNews

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

## Screening panels to interview City Council candidates

### HISD, HCC races also on agenda

by Ralph Sikes

At the October general meeting of the Caucus, the Screening Committee will report on its recommendations for endorsements of candidates running in the November elections. Positions up for election include all City of Houston Council members, the Mayor, and the Controller. Also on the ballot will be HISD Board Trustee positions, as well as HCC Board positions. The vote taken at the general Caucus meeting represents the culmination of a screening process that is a group effort of many Caucus members.

The first step in the screening process is to invite the candidates to screen with the Caucus; HGLPC sends letters to all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, inviting them to screen. This might sound simple, but often candidates wait until the last minute to file. For November elections, the Caucus must vote to endorse at its October meeting. If the filing deadline is in late September, letters to candidates inviting them to screen must be sent before the filing deadline. It becomes necessary to identify the candidates before they have actually filed.

The second step in the screening process is to establish screening panels and time schedules. Depending on the number of races in the election, there will be two or more panels. This fall there are two panels, one chaired by Cicely Wynne, and the other chaired by Dale Carpenter. Caucus members who volunteer to do the screening are assigned (if they have not indicated a preference) to the various panels. The panel chairs establish the times that they will be available to schedule appointments with candidates.

The third step is the actual screening and "grading" of candidates. The panels spend about 20 to 30 minutes with each candidate that wants to screen. The candidates have already filled out a questionnaire sent with the invitation. This questionnaire provides the panels with information regarding the candidate's finances, campaign staff, and other endorsements received. There are also questions on queer issues related to the position which the candidate is seeking. This becomes the basis for the dialogue between the panel members and the candidates. The goal of the panel is to judge the candidates in three areas — cognitive, affective, and political.

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**Next month's meeting will  
be held at the HGLPC  
Office, 2700 Albany Street,  
Suite 304.**

**Endorsements for the  
November City Council  
elections will be decided.**

**October 4, 1995**

**7:30 p.m.**

# Status

## A Message from the President

### HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

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Lujack Tyler  
Bryan Vezey



HGLPC News  
Matthew Huston, *editor*

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Houston Gay and Lesbian  
Political Caucus  
P.O. Box 66664  
Houston, Texas 77266-6664  
(713) 521-1000

You have a rare opportunity on Saturday night, October 14. You have the chance to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the oldest gay and lesbian civil rights organization in the State of Texas. If you choose to celebrate

by Terri Richardson

HGLPC's birthday, you also will find yourself enjoying an evening with Donna Red Wing, National Field Director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). And, if that weren't enough, you will get to visit with José Zuniga, the United States Army sergeant who, after being decorated for bravely serving in the Gulf War, on the eve of the 1993 March on Washington bravely ventured from his closet and was discharged from the military.

It does all of us good to hear inspirational speeches from national leaders of our civil rights movement. It is usually just what the doctor ordered for tired, burned out activists. But the anniversary dinner marking 20 years of HGLPC endurance should alone be enough to bring us out together. The idea that was nothing more than the collective dream of a few two decades ago has become a tangible force in Houston. From defying homophobic police orders in the early days to registering voters and building a mailing list in the middle days to screening candidates, issuing endorsements, and "finding" new gay and lesbian voters today, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus stands alone in its political service to Houston's gay and lesbian community. Honoring the Caucus with a birthday wish every 20 years is something we not only should be willing to do, but enthusiastic and proud to do.

The dinner committee, as in years past, has been working hard to ensure that you are entertained and elegantly dined. The program committee has guaranteed a wonderful opportunity for discourse with some well-known and exciting gay and lesbian leaders. And the awards presentation this year is not to be missed. It will be a fun, relaxing evening, and one of those rare opportunities to join each other in a friendly, supportive, social setting.

Of course, if you are a member of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, you have even a larger reason to respond. The annual dinner is the principal fund raiser each year for regular Caucus expenses, such as rent, utilities, telephone service, etc. It is just about the only money collected throughout the year that is not earmarked for solely political activities, unlike the advertising revenue derived from our election newsletter and the political fund raisers we hold from time to time. A successful dinner will ensure the successful operation of day-to-day activities over the next several months, and we are facing a critical time in early 1996. We will be testing new mailing lists and following the progress of the Precinct Initiative as it begins its journey through the Republican precincts currently held by right-wing extremists. We will also have over a hundred candidates to screen, newsletters and endorsement cards to distribute, meetings to hold with other com-

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## This Month's Highlight

# Feature

## La Mexicana signs pledge Discrimination Free Zone project scores first victory

by Keith Stewart

At its September general meeting, the Caucus unanimously endorsed an "eat elsewhere" campaign against La Mexicana Restaurant & Bar. For those of you who've been shadow watching in Plato's Cave, a lesbian couple was approached by restaurant owner Eduardo Trevino when the couple engaged in an open display of affection while in the restaurant. Mr. Trevino informed the women that what they did was their business, but he didn't allow such behavior in his restaurant. Board member Chris Hughes spoke with Mr. Trevino and was told that it was "different" when a straight couple engaged in the same behavior. The Caucus sent Mr. Trevino a letter requesting a meeting, to which Mr. Trevino did not respond.

A groundswell of support for the "eat elsewhere" campaign has arisen in the community, and Mr. Trevino has now realized the error of his ways. On September 18, Caucus president Terri Richardson and Board member Dale Carpenter met with Mr. Trevino and prevailed upon him to sign a

pledge in which he promised not to discriminate against customers, employees, or suppliers on the basis of sexual orientation. Mr. Trevino repeatedly stated throughout his meeting with Richardson and Carpenter that he "doesn't discriminate against lesbians and gays."

In lieu of an "eat elsewhere" campaign and picket, the Caucus will have a press conference on Sunday, September 24, at noon at the restaurant to announce its designation of Montrose as a discrimination-free zone and to applaud Mr. Trevino for being the first neighborhood business owner to sign the pledge. The Caucus endorsed the Discrimination-Free Zone Project some time ago.

Protest organizer and Caucus vice president Keith Stewart promises that the "Committee for a Discrimination-Free Zone" will investigate all reports of discrimination in the Montrose area and will take whatever action is appropriate in each situation.

If you're interested in participating in this exciting project, contact Keith at the Caucus (521-1000).



## Don't be late for the Dinner!

The 20th Anniversary Awards Dinner is an event you won't want to miss.

Each year the Caucus invites a celebrated gay man or lesbian to speak at the Awards Dinner. We are fortunate to have **two** special guests at this year's event.

**Donna Red Wing**, the National Field Director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), will be highlighted as the keynote speaker.

Red Wing has worked around the country as an organizer, speaker, and activist. In 1992, the *Advocate* magazine named her "Woman of the Year" for her work against the Radical Right in Oregon. In that year, her adversaries named her "the most dangerous woman in Oregon" for that work.

In her dealings with Dinner organizers she has shown herself to be one of the most approachable of the lesbian and gay community's national leaders.

Also joining us will be former Army Sergeant **José Zuniga**. Zuniga is author of the recently released *Soldier of the Year*, which recounts how he was drummed out of the military after coming out days before the 1993 March on Washington.

Don't miss this opportunity. Make your reservations today by calling (713) 521-1000.

# Report

## News of Caucus Activities

Remember. . .  
the next HGLPC general meeting will be held at the Caucus Office, 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304.  
To be decided are the endorsements for the November 7 City Council election.  
October 4, 1995.  
7:30 p.m.

### Calendar for Election Newsletter

October 4	Endorsement meeting.
October 9	Articles due.
October 9	Ads due (including payment!)
October 10-12	Editing, editing, editing.
October 13	Newsletter to printer.
October 18	Mailing labels printed.
October 20	Newsletter back from printer.
October 21-22	Mailout Party
October 23	Newsletters in the mail.

## Busy October awaits Caucus Volunteers needed immediately

Let's be perfectly frank. October is going to be the month from hell.

There are two big, big events facing the Caucus this coming month. The first you've already read about in *HGLPC News* and elsewhere: the 20th Anniversary Awards Dinner to be held October 14, 1995. Rennie Trozzi and the folks over at the Four Seasons have been putting together a fabulous evening for all of us. But there are still many things that need to be done — besides you making your reservations. Call Rennie at (713) 546-6517 and he will find something for you to do.

The other big, big event is the Caucus's election campaign.

You may know about the activities right before the election: distributing endorsement cards, putting up yard signs, block walking, phone banking. These are tremendously important tasks that take great numbers of volunteers. But even before the first yard sign is hammered into the median of Montrose Boulevard, before the first endorsement card is put into the hands of a voter at the polls on November 7, we need to complete one of the biggest projects of the year.

The Election Newsletter.

The Election Newsletter is *the primary tool* for getting the Caucus's message out at election time. It is the only means by which the Caucus raises funds to pay for its political activities. And it has to be put to press within days after the endorsements are decided.

Here are a few things you can get involved with to make sure we put out an informative, revenue-generating newsletter:

1. Sell advertisements. HGLPC places ads for local businesses to get their message out while helping to get our message out. The newsletter is direct-mailed to 10,000 lesbian and gay households — the largest such mailing in our community. An additional 10,000 newsletters are distributed in Montrose and Heights restaurants and stores. Business owners can't afford to miss out on reaching so many people for so little money. Ads must be submitted (and paid for) by October 9.

2. Become a Candidate Liaison. The Candidate Liaison has two important tasks with regard to the Election Newsletter. The first is to write, or get from the campaign, an article about the candidate. This is how all the enquiring minds learn why they must vote for the endorsed candidate. The Liaison also sells ad space to the candidate. This way the candidate gets to provide both a snapshot overview of her campaign in the ad and an explanation of her positions in an article. Again, these items must be submitted by October 9.

3. Volunteer at the mailout party. Actually this isn't optional. Report to the Caucus office at 10 a.m. on October 21, and you'll be treated to stimulating conversation (read: all the dish you care to handle) while you help in this crucial step in getting our message out.

# Events

*This Month. . . This Year*

## **Screening**, from page 1

Candidates are rated numerically by each panel member. The scores are weighted, combined, and averaged to produce an overall rating.

The fourth step in the screening process is the screening committee's vote regarding endorsements. After all screening sessions are over, the screening committee (screening chair, panel chairs, and all panel members) discusses and then votes on each candidate, using the scores as a basis for whether or not to endorse. The screening committee's recommendations are forwarded to the Caucus for approval. The Caucus may then approve these recommendations, or may vote to endorse candidates not recommended by the screening committee.

By the time this article is published, all of the steps outlined above will have been completed. However, in just a matter of months, the Caucus will start the process all over again with the spring primaries. The number of races involved will be much larger than for this fall. Volunteers will be needed to engage in the screening process. If you want to be involved, but have never screening, there will be training sessions given in January and February of 1996. Watch for more information in the December newsletter. The screening process is one of the most important things that HGLPC does. If you weren't able to get involved this fall, think about doing so next spring.

- October 3** Screening Committee Meeting. 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304.
- October 4** HGLPC General Meeting. City Council endorsements. 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304. 7:30 p.m.
- October 8** Voter Registration Deadline.
- October 9** Election Newsletter. All articles and advertisements due!
- October 11** HGLPC Board Meeting. 2700 Albany, 7 p.m.
- October 13** National Coming Out Day Celebration. Rice University. Donna Red Wing and José Zuniga, guests.
- October 14** 20th Anniversary Awards Dinner. Four Seasons Hotel. Donna Red Wing, keynote speaker, and José Zuniga, special guest.. 6 p.m. cocktails. 7 p.m. dinner.
- October 18** OutVote. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center. 1475 West Gray, 7 p.m.
- October 21-22** Newsletter Mailout Party. 2700 Albany, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## **LGRL** Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

LGRL is holding a panel discussion during  
National Coming Out Week.  
Topic: *The State of the State's Movement*  
See the flyer inside this newsletter for details.

## **Message**, from page 2

munity organizations, and the list goes on and on.

You get the picture.

Supporting the 20th Anniversary Dinner is an opportunity to make a real difference in the Caucus's abilities to serve the community over the next year, and you'll also get a lot of pleasure doing it. Please invite your friends and family, and help get the third decade of HGLPC off to a good start.

Special Run-Off Edition

# HGLPC News

## HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

### Boney endures racist mudslinging *Vote Saturday, December 9, for a strong voice on City Council*

To most active HGLPC members, the choice in this Saturday's runoff election is clear: An independent, articulate spokesperson like Jew Don Boney who can also build coalitions, or an opponent backed by big Downtown money who can only add one more "yes" when the mayor asks for the vote.

Boney, the overwhelming District D City Council choice of caucus members, has endured the worst kind of political mudslinging. Some of his opponent's supporters are playing the new race card: "Nation of Islam," "close ties to Nation of Islam".

sexist, or homophobic views. Many African American civic leaders and elected officials have attended numerous conferences with Farrakhan, had pictures taken with him, and agreed with Farrakhan on some issues over the years. Does that mean they all have "close ties" to Farrakhan and endorse his more extreme views?

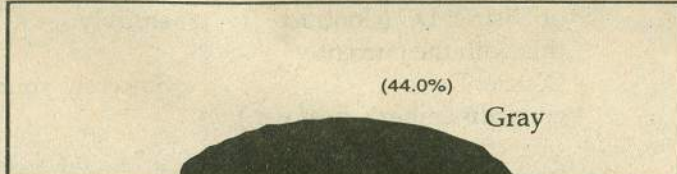
This is the evidence we do have about Boney:

- a 20-year record of community activism that has earned the respect of many African

Americans, including numerous elected black officials and civic leaders, and won the most prestigious national and local community service awards;

- the endorsements of every defeated District D Council candidates who is endorsing in the runoff;
- the individual endorsements of prominent gay and lesbian leaders, such as Annise Parker;
- a record of independence and outspokenness on issues such

as new evidence in the case of convicted murderer Clarence Brandley that has won



How

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HGLPC claims one-third Montrose vote . .	1
Message from the President . . . . .	2
Richard Farias endorsed for HISD board seat . . . . .	3

person like Jew Don Boney who can also build coalitions, or an opponent backed by big Downtown money who can only add one more "yes" when the mayor asks for the vote.

Boney, the overwhelming District D City Council choice of caucus members, has endured the worst kind of political mudslinging. Some of his opponent's supporters are

playing the new race card: "Nation of Islam," "close ties to Nation of Islam".

Yet no one can provide any evidence that Boney has ever supported any of Rev. Farrakhan's anti-Semitic,

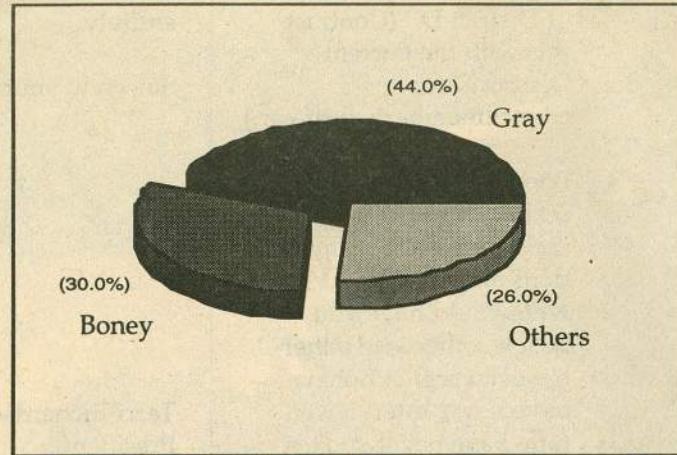
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- a record of independence and outspokenness on issues such

as new evidence in the case of convicted murderer Clarence Brandley that has won respect in the African American community and a



### How Montrose Voted...

continued on  
page 3

## HGLPC claims one-third Montrose vote Endorsement Card Holds with Gay and Lesbian Voters

When everyone agrees with the HGLPC's endorsement, the endorsement card seems to hold-throughout Montrose. A more accurate picture of the Montrose gay and lesbian vote can be drawn, however, when non-gay voters disagree. That is what occurred in

the November city election. The non-Montrose portion of District D, which comprises over two-thirds of the District, agreed with HGLPC's endorsement of Jew Don Boney. However, Boney's principal opponent, a Montrose resident, captured the non-gay Montrose

vote. Political analysts put the lesbian and gay vote at around 30-35 percent of Montrose, and the straight vote at around 65-70 percent.

As expected, all candidates

continued on page 3

HGLPC claims one-third  
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# Status

## *A Message from the President*

**HGLPC  
Endorsed  
Candidates**

**Jew Don Boney**  
..... City Council  
District D

**Richard Farias**  
..... HISD Board  
Position 8

Dear Concerned Voter:

There has been an attempt to "smear" the District D candidate endorsed by HGLPC, Mr. Jew Don Boney. Rumors and allegations about an association with the Nation of Islam, without benefit of any of the facts, were widely disseminated, and so-called journalists and others demanded an explanation and apology from Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus for endorsing Boney the weekend before the November 7 election, when it was too late for HGLPC or Boney to adequately respond to such lies.

- Please be advised as follows:
1. The HGLPC's endorsement of Jew Don Boney was not a "close call." He was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Screening Panel and by the entire general membership of the HGLPC.
  2. During the course of his campaign, Boney has met

- American Lesbian/Gay Alliance, the president of Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, the presidents of virtually every Montrose civic association, and the general memberships of HGLPC, Log Cabin Republicans, Montrose civic associations, and countless individual Montrose voters, to learn more about our issues and to help strategize how best to address our concerns.
3. Boney has sought the advice of Montrose residents and gay and lesbian voters on every single issue that has been raised in the campaign for District D City Council, even though Montrose constitutes only a fraction of District D. (Contrast this with the current District D councilmember's deaf ear.)
  4. Boney is not a homophobe,

- nothing about him, or have their own agendas.
5. Boney's opponent is an attractive candidate and, based on her screening scores, an endorsable candidate in another race at another time. However, many Caucus members and most of Houston's longtime gay and lesbian political leaders who have met with her believe that she does not currently have the necessary experience to represent District D on City Council. Boney has that experience.
- The lesbian and gay community cannot demonstrate any political power unless it delivers a bloc vote. Please support your own best interests by voting the HGLPC endorsement card in its entirety.
- Sincerely yours,

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## Jew Don Boney

..... City Council  
District D

## Richard Farias

..... HISD Board  
Position 8

Caucus for endorsing Boney the weekend before the November 7 election, when it was too late for HGLPC or Boney to adequately respond to such lies.

Please be advised as follows:

1. The HGLPC's endorsement of Jew Don Boney was not a "close call." He was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Screening Panel and by the entire general membership of the HGLPC.
2. During the course of his campaign, Boney has met with many leaders of the gay and lesbian community, formally and informally, including the president of the Kellett Foundation, the president of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, the president of the African

more about our issues and to help strategize how best to address our concerns.

3. Boney has sought the advice of Montrose residents and gay and lesbian voters on every single issue that has been raised in the campaign for District D City Council, even though Montrose constitutes only a fraction of District D. (Contrast this with the current District D councilmember's deaf ear.)
4. Boney is not a homophobe, sexist, anti-Semite, or racist, and such insinuations are ridiculous. Those who would have you believe otherwise either have never met Boney, have never interviewed him, have never spoken with him, know absolutely

met with her believe that she does not currently have the necessary experience to represent District D on City Council. Boney has that experience.

The lesbian and gay community cannot demonstrate any political power unless it delivers a bloc vote. Please support your own best interests by voting the HGLPC endorsement card in its entirety.

Sincerely yours,

Terri Richardson  
President

*HGLPC News* is a monthly publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, which is solely responsible for its contents. HGLPC meets the first Wednesday of every month at its offices, 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304, at 7:30 p.m.

This special runoff edition of *HGLPC News* contains paid political advertising.

Paid for by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee, Patrick McKee, Treasurer.

### Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

Terri Richardson, President

Keith Stewart, Vice President

Rod Kneplik, Secretary

Patrick McKee, Treasurer

### Board of Trustees

David Westerkamp, chair

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Lane Lewis

Ray Ramirez

LuJack Tyler

Bryan Vezey

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

## December 9 Runoff

# Election

## Richard Farias endorsed for HISD board seat

Many Montrose-area and east side voters will have an opportunity to vote for a candidate with over 20 years hands-on experience working with and improving the lives of troubled kids. Richard Farias has been endorsed by the HGLPC in his runoff bid for District 8 HISD board seat.

Farias holds a BA in Social Services and Social Rehabilitation and an MA in Criminology. He currently serves as CEO of the Tejano Center for Community Concerns, which he founded two years ago. Before that Farias served six years as Director of the George I. Sanchez Alternative School and the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans.

Living in District 8 for much of his life, Richard Farias has spent 20 years developing and supervising community based programs which has provided him both a broad knowledge of resources and

stance abuse treatment, housing, economic development.

In 1988 Farias was presented with the National Urban Coalition John A. Bower Distinguished Network Service Award, and in 1991 he was given the Willie Velasquez Excellence Award as Houston's foremost Hispanic citizen.

During his screening with the HGLPC, Farias was direct when answering questions. He gave an unqualified "yes" to these questions:

- Should openly gay and lesbian teachers be allowed to teach?
- Should same-sex couples be allowed to attend high school proms openly?
- Should condoms be made available to high school students in the schools?

His opponent answered "no" to all of these. Farias also spoke favorably of discussing homosexuality in high school sex ed classes.

The choice for lesbian and gay voters for HISD District 8 is

## Boney in runoff

continued from page 1

streetfighter TV image in some other communities;

- Boney's quiet negotiator skills also have won respect, including praise from an HPD assistant police chief who has worked with him behind the scenes for the past two years.

"Boney is one of the finest candidates the caucus has ever endorsed," declared HGLPC President Terri Richardson. "I urge everyone in our community to vote Saturday, December 9, so our community can have a strong voice on City Council."

Once again, this is a crucial election for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community because the District D Council member officially repre-

sents Montrose (as well as the larger part of the district). Without our own seat at the table, political powers only deliver services in proportion to our vote.

Anyone who was registered to vote by November 10 can vote in this Saturday's election, even if they did not vote in the November 7 city election.

Boney goes into the runoff as the District D front runner, with about 40% to Gray's 34%. He lost Montrose about 1,100 to 650 votes, but precinct/bloc vote analysis shows Boney carried the gay/lesbian vote while Gray, a Montrose resident, won the straight vote, which accounts for more than half the Montrose turnout.

by Cicely Wynne

(713) 521-0963

(713) 521-2368



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Farias holds a BA in Social Services and Social Rehabilitation and an MA in Criminology. He currently serves as CEO of the Tejano Center for Community Concerns, which he founded two years ago. Before that Farias served six years as Director of the George I. Sanchez Alternative School and the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans.

Living in District 8 for much of his life, Richard Farias has spent 20 years developing and supervising community based programs which has provided him both a broad knowledge of resources and an exceptional network of community and corporate contacts. His experience spans many disciplines: education, social services, sub-

excellence Award as Houston's foremost Hispanic citizen.

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The choice for lesbian and gay voters for HISD District 8 is Richard Farias.

*By Matthew Huston*

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*by Cicely Wynne*

(713) 521-0963

(713) 521-2368



1018 Fairview at Montrose  
Houston, Texas 77006

Eduardo Trevino

## HGLPC candidates score victories

continued from page 1

endorsed by the HGLPC carried Precinct 34, believed to be the heaviest identifiable gay and lesbian vote in the State. In addition, HGLPC-endorsed candidates-carried three smaller Montrose precincts (1210, 991, and 995), also heavily lesbian and gay populated. The breakdown in the remaining Montrose precincts was as expected, with most of the straight vote going for Saundria Chase Gray and most of the gay

and lesbian vote going for HGLPC-endorsed Jew Don Boney. Boney's opponent outspent him 3-to-1, and Montrose voters received three pieces of mail from her campaign. Boney was unable to introduce himself to many Montrose voters because of his inability to match the dollars generated by the downtown business interests for his opponent, and relied instead on organizational endorsements and word of mouth.

Caucus-endorsed candidates Arthur Gaines (HISD District 4),

Judson Robinson, Michael Yarbrough, Felix Fraga, and John Castillo (Houston City Council) all won their seats without a runoff, and Jew Don Boney is the frontrunner in his race going into the December 9 runoff. Only Chris Bell (At-Large Pos. 3) and Mark Lee (Controller) lost their races, but these relatively unknown candidates made strong showings and will be encouraged to seek the HGLPC's endorsement in future campaigns.

The most serious problem

noted by gay and lesbian political activists was the low turnout of gay and lesbian voters. While Montrose precincts generally voted in higher numbers than the rest of the City, gay and lesbian voters still did not vote in large enough numbers to claim any "kingmaking."

Everyone is encouraged to vote in the December 9 runoff election. You may vote Saturday whether or you voted in the November 7 election.

*by Terri Richardson*

# Report

## News of Caucus Activities

### Join the Caucus today! *Your membership is needed now more than ever*

As I near the end of my term of office as president of Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, I think about the past year and what lies ahead.

The Caucus took a leadership role in the community's response to City Council's position on the Brentwood AIDS Housing Project. HGLPC participated in the March on Austin to End Hate Crimes last spring. Moderate and conservative Caucus members successfully organized the Lincoln Project, which turned into a joint effort with Log Cabin/Houston known as the "Precinct Initiative," a plan to fight the radical right within the Republican Party on a grass roots level. The Caucus had a large marching contingency and a voter registration and information booth at the 1995 Pride Parade and Rally, and launched OutVote, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to registering and educating

ished numbers, both in terms of membership and funds. The increased activities over the past twelve months have required us to raise and spend considerable funds, even though all Caucus work is performed by volunteers. AIDS also has taken a cruel cut into the Caucus this year, both in terms of financial support and leadership, and we struggle to maintain and improve the level of services that HGLPC renders to the community, and that the community has come to depend upon.

Membership in HGLPC would be a holiday gift to yourself or to a loved one that would ensure that Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus continues to be there with its endorsement cards, its election newsletter, and its guidance and leadership for the political welfare of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

### Sodomy resolution *Sec. 21.06 "no longer law" in Texas*

At its November 1 general meeting, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus passed the following resolution:

#### "A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE TEXAS ANTI-SODOMY STATUTE

"WHEREAS, the Texas Anti-Sodomy Statute seeks to regulate the private, consensual sexual behavior between adults of the same sex; and

"WHEREAS, there is no state interest, compelling or otherwise, in regulating private, consensual sexual behavior between adults; and

"WHEREAS, it is not within the government's purview to decide with whom, among adults, any individual may choose to have

state; and

"WHEREAS, the Anti-Sodomy Statute is not enforced but rather is used solely to justify wrongful discrimination against gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals; and

"WHEREAS, the Anti-Sodomy Statute broadly and indiscriminately paints a class of citizens as criminals and thereby serves to create an atmosphere in which violence against gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons is considered acceptable; and

"WHEREAS, the highest court in the State of Texas to review the sodomy law has declared it unconstitutional;

"NOW, THEREFORE, the

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As we near the end of this busy year, we do so with dimin-

work is performed by volunteers. AIDS also has taken a cruel cut into the Caucus this year, both in terms of financial support and leadership, and we struggle to maintain and improve the level of services that HGLPC renders to the community, and that the community has come to depend upon.

Membership in HGLPC would be a holiday gift to yourself or to a loved one that would ensure that Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus continues to be there with its endorsement cards, its election newsletter, and its guidance and leadership for the political welfare of Houston's gay and lesbian community. Without such help, we cannot guarantee another twenty years of unsurpassed service.

Membership in HGLPC is \$30.00 a year, less if you're a senior, a student, or need the extra help. Please consider what HGLPC has meant to this city's large and active gay and lesbian population, and then help us with your membership or contribution today.

*by Terri Richardson*

## THE TEXAS ANTI-SODOMY STATUTE

"WHEREAS, the Texas Anti-Sodomy Statute seeks to regulate the private, consensual sexual behavior between adults of the same sex; and

"WHEREAS, there is no state interest, compelling or otherwise, in regulating private, consensual sexual behavior between adults; and

"WHEREAS, it is not within the government's purview to decide with whom, among adults, any individual may choose to have sex; and

"WHEREAS, sexual expression between people of the same sex is as natural, healthy, and desirable as sexual expression between people of the opposite sex; and

"WHEREAS, the antiquated notion that sexual behavior between adults of the same sex is immoral has specific misinterpreted biblical origins and therefore has no business being used as the basis of law as it infringes upon the separation of church and

gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals; and

"WHEREAS, the Anti-Sodomy Statute broadly and indiscriminately paints a class of citizens as criminals and thereby serves to create an atmosphere in which violence against gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons is considered acceptable; and

"WHEREAS, the highest court in the State of Texas to review the sodomy law has declared it unconstitutional;

"NOW, THEREFORE, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus declares that the Anti-Sodomy Statute, Sec. 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, is no longer law in the State of Texas.

"RESOLVED this first day of November, 1995."

Later in the year, the Caucus plans to release this statement to the "mainstream" press. In addition, all lesbian and gay political organizations in the state will be sent copies of the resolution and asked to adopt it.

# Vote the bloc!

SPECIAL RUNOFF EDITION 1995

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## Elections in January

### *Nominations for officers and board members begin at December meeting*

Four officer and three board seat terms expire at the end of the year and replacements will be elected at the January general meeting.

Nominations for these positions will be opened at the December 6 meeting. As required in the bylaws, one must self-nominate to be placed on the ballot for any position.

Officers — President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer — are elected to one-year terms which correspond to the calendar year. The nine board members are elected to three-year terms. Each year three seats are up for election.

The President is the official spokesperson for the Caucus and chairs all meetings of the general membership. He or she may form committees and appoint members to them — this includes appointing one member to the Lesbian (Caucus)

of all Caucus committees.

The Vice President stands in for the President in his or her absence. The Vice President may be assigned other duties to assist the President.

The Secretary keeps records of all business conducted at Caucus meetings (both general meetings and board meetings).

The Treasurer keeps records of all financial matters, including managing bank accounts, disbursing funds, and filing PAC reports with the Texas Ethics Commission.

The HGLPC board of trustees oversees all Caucus business and is specifically responsible for raising operating and political action funds for the organization.

If you are interested in any of the open positions and would like more information, just ask any board member or officer.

Nominations open at the

## Lincoln Project update

### *Log Cabin and Caucus continue to work on Precinct Initiative*

The Lincoln Project, the HGLPC's subcommittee for moderate to conservative gays and lesbians, continues its ambitious effort to lessen the influence of the radical right in the Republican Party. In a joint venture with the Log Cabin Republicans organized earlier this year, known as the Precinct Initiative, Lincoln Project and other Caucus volunteers recently helped complete a massive mail-out to over 1,000 potential precinct judges. Through the invaluable assistance of the HGLPC's Information and Technology Committee, the Precinct Initiative compiled the list of potential precinct judges by cross-referencing lists of registered voters with lists of known gay and gay-friendly individuals. Log Cabin, through the sale of coffee mugs, raised over \$700 to offset

In Harris County, approximately half of the voting precincts currently lack Republican precinct judges. Many of those precincts are in areas of town, like Montrose and the Heights, that are predominantly Democratic. Considering the important policy-making role played by precinct judges at the district, county, and state levels of the GOP, these vacancies are windows of opportunity for our community. The Precinct Initiative intends to place moderate gay or gay-friendly precinct judges in as many precincts as possible.

Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, please call Dale Carpenter (521-9019) or Tirey Counts (994-5730).

*by Bryan Vezey*

positions will be opened at the December 6 meeting. As required in the bylaws, one must self-nominate to be placed on the ballot for any position.

Officers — President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer — are elected to one-year terms which correspond to the calendar year. The nine board members are elected to three-year terms. Each year three seats are up for election.

The President is the official spokesperson for the Caucus and chairs all meetings of the general membership. He or she may form committees and appoint members to them — this includes appointing one member to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby board of directors. The President is *ex officio* member

The Secretary keeps records of all business conducted at Caucus meetings (both general meetings and board meetings).

The Treasurer keeps records of all financial matters, including managing bank accounts, disbursing funds, and filing PAC reports with the Texas Ethics Commission.

The HGLPC board of trustees oversees all Caucus business and is specifically responsible for raising operating and political action funds for the organization.

If you are interested in any of the open positions and would like more information, just ask any board member or officer.

Nominations open at the December meeting and will again open at the January meeting immediately before balloting.

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## Recent losses

### **Brian Bradley**

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Brian D. Bradley passed away on November 5, 1995, due to complications with AIDS.

Brian's involvement with the Caucus began relatively recently. This past year he served as the HGLPC-appointed member to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby board.

Brian was, all at once, the perfect southern gentleman and a radical bad-boy queer activist. This surprising combination

enabled Brian to both carry off a campaign for a City Council seat in 1993, as well as disrupt a David Duke rally with shouts of "Nazi Go Home!"

Brian won a number of awards for his cutting-edge activism, including the HGLPC's Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award. Brian was particularly proud of having been chosen Grand Marshal of the Pride Parade in 1994.

### **Bill White**

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Bill White was lost November 8, 1995, at the age of 39. Bill was a longtime member of the HGLPC.

Bill was co-owner of the highly successful Lobo bookstore, one of the oldest lesbian and gay bookstores anywhere.

He is survived by his spouse of 17 years, former Caucus president Larry Lingle.

### **Clark Moore**

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Clark Moore passed away in early October of this year. Clark will be remembered as a longtime active Caucus member.

Many organizations in the lesbian and gay community owe their orderly meetings to Clark. He was widely known as an expert in Robert's Rule of Order and trained many a parliamentarian over the years.

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It cost the HGLPC over \$1,600 to print and distribute this newsletter. And it is only being mailed to people living in City Council District D.

After the costly general election on November 7, the Caucus didn't have the \$1,600 to spend. But it was necessary in order to get out our important message to lesbian and gay voters.

So, now more than ever, we need your membership to help continue the work of the Caucus as we enter the crucial Party Primaries in early spring.

Your membership means much more to us than just the cash to pay the rent and Southwestern Bell.

It takes members to make sure that the HGLPC is representa-

tive of the gay and lesbian community. It takes members to sit on the screening panels which interview candidates and make endorsement recommendations.

There are several membership categories — all with full voting privileges. Regular individual membership is \$30 a year (or \$50 for two years). For seniors, students, and those on limited

incomes, membership is just \$18.50 a year.

You'll find a membership form on the back page of this newsletter. Please clip it out and send it in with your annual membership dues.