



election news

special edition

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LOUIE, DON'T SHOOT, BEFORE WE VOTE!

GPC has not disappeared, much to Steven Hotze's chagrin. On the night of Tuesday, Nov. 5, Hotze and the Straight Slaters may wish they could disappear as reporters hound them for explanations. At the same time, GPC leaders will be gladly taking credit for our part in the victory. We also will remind our fellow Houstonians that we are indeed here and we'll continue to work for our equal rights as long as it takes.

By now, most people are aware that Gay Political Caucus did not endorse any candidates for City Council elections this Tuesday. In this post-referendum, AIDS, sodomy-statute atmosphere, no major candidates asked for our endorsement. On Sept. 21, GPC members voted overwhelmingly not to endorse for several reasons:

1. The caucus has maintained a strong tradition of not endorsing candidates who do not ask for an endorsement.

2. Endorsing a reluctant candidate leaves the door wide open for a candidate to publicly reject the endorsement. Then what happens to the credibility of the caucus?

3. Recommending candidates was rejected partly because many would perceive no difference between endorsement and the supposedly softer term, recommendation.

4. To give endorsements without screening and a candidate's request would cheapen the screening process and endorsements and make future candidates think they could receive votes, volunteers and contributions without doing anything.

To maintain credibility, we ate a bit of post-referendum crow and appeared to sit in the political corner until Tuesday.

But, as always, GPC has been busy during election season.

We've distributed thousands of voter registration cards and expanded our mailing list to about 14,000.

We're doing our usual election newsletter (although smaller without candidate ads) and distributing information to the bars.

GPC is doing everything possible to get people to the polls Tuesday.

And we'll be at the polls in Montrose Tuesday with election information.

There may be no candidates to endorse, but GPC has a few things in mind for Tuesday.

1. We're still going to help elect the best candidates. If we can beat our own drum for a moment: GPC has worked for 10 years to help educate gay men and lesbians about candidates and has forced public officials to address gay rights. The caucus has helped the community realize its own power — bloc voting. So vote your conscience Tuesday and we'll win.

If we vote in large numbers, the bloc vote will still be highly visible in Montrose. The gay community and GPC will get the credit, and GPC will remind future

**YOU DON'T HAVE
TO VOTE
PRO-HOMOSEXUAL!**



Straight Slate

candidates already counting those Montrose votes that Montrose is just a fraction of the gay vote.

2. We're going to help defeat the Campaign for Houston and their Straight Slate this time. In addition to our usual election activities, the caucus voted Oct. 16 to officially condemn the Straight Slate for their campaign of bigotry and hatred as well as LaRouche candidates for calling for a quarantine of people with AIDS.

Once the Straight Slate is defeated, candidates will be back for the GPC endorsement.

And after Nov. 5, we hope to have more time to work on long-range goals. Since the January referendum, it has been crisis after crisis, from post-referendum stories and the police union headquar-

ter's shooting to almost daily press inquiries about AIDS and the election — there hasn't been much time for in-depth, long-range planning. Even without a strong local Straight Slate, 1986 will be a crucial year for gay rights. GPC's post-election strategy was discussed at a board retreat this past weekend and will be discussed by the full caucus soon. Some current projects will surely emerge as major goals:

1. Increasing funding for local and state AIDS education and patient services from federal, state, county and local governments. GPC will continue to work in conjunction with the KS/AIDS Foundation on this priority.

2. Joining with other Texas groups to help the Texas Human Rights Foundation raise money and consciousness to contest the state sodomy statute in the U.S. Supreme Court.

3. Registering and educating as many gay voters and non-gay caucus supporters as possible and getting them to vote for progressive candidates.

4. Documenting discrimination. Without the "proof" so often demanded, the gay rights movement will be stalled again and again.

5. Better educating the straight community about gay men and women. During the referendum, we began to get increasingly positive stories in the press, especially ones about gay "lifestyle". The coverage has improved since then — generally — with the notable exception of the Post's often sensationalist banner headline AIDS coverage and quarantine poll. The vastly improved relationship with the press is the direct result of continuing work by the GPC leadership.

6. Jerry Falwell and the Straight Slate don't rely on part-time office staff. Right now, GPC has to. If we're ever going to really defeat anti-gay bigots, we must have full-time office personnel. At this point, we can't give the flood of press questions the attention they deserve, let alone adequately answer inquiries and correspondence.

To accomplish most of these goals,

See Page 2

Help beat the Straight Slate this Tuesday

From Page 1

GPC needs money. We could do a far better job of educating the straight community if there were money for printed

Voting questions?

If you have any questions about voting on Tuesday, Nov. 5, call the GPC office at 521-1000 or 521-3658. Volunteers will be answering the phone throughout election day to help you with any voting problems, including not knowing where you vote.

materials when speakers address groups or for mailing to interested people. We did send out a thick informational packet about homosexuality to the media during the referendum, which resulted in some of those positive stories. But advertising to get our message across is still a dream. And how many votes could we deliver to judicial candidates if we could afford endorsement ads in major publications?

A sound financial base is a goal we must achieve. To help, it's as simple as giving the dollars spent on dinner out or a few drinks. Annual memberships are \$25,

and you can charge it. On the pledge program, you can donate as little as \$5 a month through an automatic deduction in your checking account. If you can only afford \$1, that will help pay for our election mailings. Put \$1 in the return envelope and send it to us.

This has been an exhausting year for GPC, with one challenge after another. We desperately need volunteers. We need ideas — just come to a meeting on the first or third Wednesday at the Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, and express yourself. It's your caucus.

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GPC survey of discrimination

Like the National Gay Task Force and an increasing number of gay rights organizations, the Houston Gay Political Caucus is documenting discrimination against gay men and lesbians. This brief survey is to be used by GPC only for documentation and statistical summaries. You can simply check the boxes and return it to GPC in the enclosed envelope. Any of the optional personal information and description will be kept strictly confidential unless you indicate it may be used. If you choose, GPC will assist you with referrals to the appropriate agency or professionals.

1. Have you ever been discriminated against in housing or public accommodations?
- A. Loss of home
 - B. Eviction from home or apartment
 - C. Denial in purchasing or renting
 - D. Denial in renting hotel room
- How many times? _____

2. Job discrimination
- A. Loss of job
 - B. Discrimination in advancement or hiring
 - C. Harassment from co-workers or superiors
- How many times? _____
3. Physical violence
- A. Sexual assault
 - B. Other physical violence
 - C. Property damage
- How many times? _____
4. Police
- A. Harassment or verbal abuse
 - B. Threat of violence
 - C. Physical violence
 - D. Indifference or hostility in reporting an incident to police
- How many times? _____
5. Courts and legal profession
- A. Discrimination by a judge, court official or prosecutor
 - B. Discrimination by an attorney
 - C. Discrimination in child custody or other cases
- How many times? _____

6. Medical
- A. Refusal by a doctor, dentist or hospital to treat you because of your sexual orientation
 - B. Refusal of treatment or service because of fear of AIDS
 - C. Visitation problems at a hospital
- How many times? _____
7. Discrimination by family and lovers' families
- A. Verbal abuse
 - B. Physical violence
 - C. Economic repercussions
 - D. Loss of relationship with family member
 - E. Strained relationship
- How many times? _____
8. Discrimination in:
- A. Immigration
 - B. The military
 - C. Insurance and other benefits
 - D. Treatment in store or restaurant
- How many times? _____

(OPTIONAL)

Briefly describe any incidents:

(OPTIONAL)

Would you like to complete the more detailed survey? _____

Are you willing to give a signed statement? _____

If yes, please include name and phone number

PLEASE PLACE IN ENCLOSED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE, AFFIX STAMP AND MAIL.

In this newsletter

Included with this newsletter are the new KS/AIDS Foundation brochure, a voter registration card and the Discrimination Contributor's List compiled following the referendum.

Included also, of course, are ads from businesses whose support helps make the newsletter possible. GPC wishes to thank businesses who have contributed to the caucus and encourages gay men and lesbians to support businesses who support the community.

Election Central Tuesday at 611

Watch the election returns Tuesday night with your friends in the gay community. GPC's traditional Election Central will be from 6 to about 9 p.m. at the 611, Hyde Park at Stanford. Happy hour prices will be in effect all night for voters. There is no admission charge.

Moving? Let us know

GPC is nothing without its mailing list. The 14,000-person mailing list is the best way GPC has to contact gay men and lesbians about important events and caucus activities.

So please, contact us when you move. All you have to do is call the GPC office at 521-1000 and leave a message. A newsletter sent to the old address and returned to the caucus costs GPC 25 cents in return postage.

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