1978

LAMBDA CENTER

HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE

LAMBDA CENTER HOUSTON

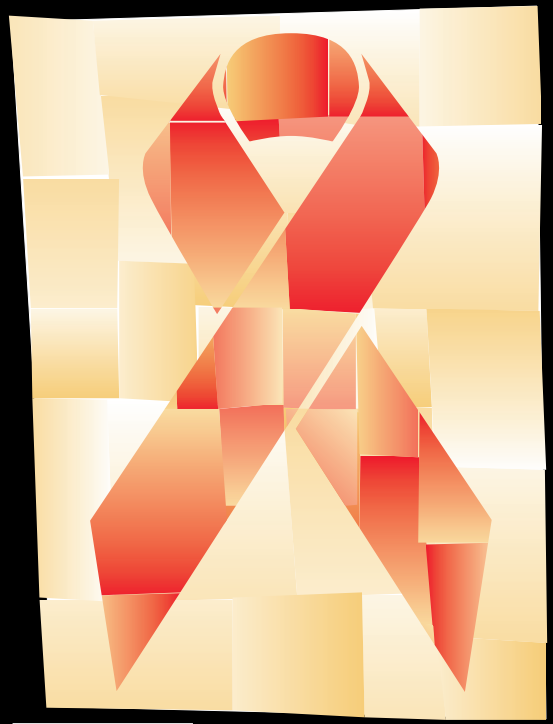
Lambda Center Pride Logo 2017



Houston Pride Parade 2018

1982

GRID & AIDS





"It is bad enough that people are dying of AIDS, but no one should die of ignorance." - Elizabeth Taylor

Clint Moncrief
First AIDS death recorded in Houston.

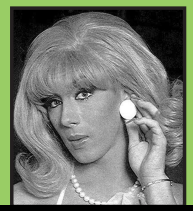
1984

DRAG LEGENDS

FABULOUS FIVE



Donna Day
Donald Shelton



Tasha Kohl
Jery F. Kohl Faulkner



Hot Chocolate
Larry Edwards



Naomi Sims
Newman Braud



Tiffany Jones
Kenneth Whitehead

THE COPA
2631 RICHMOND AVE.
HOUSTON, TEXAS
528-2259

The Copa

1983 - 1985

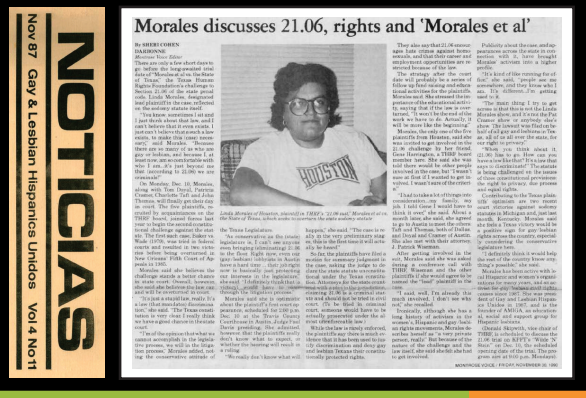
1990

LINDA MORALES

SPIRIT ACTIVIST



"I am of the opinion that what we cannot accomplish in the legislation process, we will in the litigation process."



NOTICIAS

Nov 87 Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos Vol 4 No 11

Morales discusses 21.06, rights and 'Morales et al'

By SHERI COHEN
DAILY/ENNE
Montrose Voice Editor

There are only a few short days to go before the long-awaited trial in Morales et al. v. Texas Board of Texas, the Texas Human Rights Foundation's challenge to Section 21.06 of the state penal code. Linda Morales, designated as the lead plaintiff, will testify on the sodomy statute itself.

"You know, sometimes I sit and I just think about that law, and I can't believe that it even exists. I can't believe that we have to go to courts to make citizens out of ourselves," said Morales. "Because there are so many of us who are gay or lesbian, and because I, at least now, am so comfortable with myself, even...it's just beyond me that something in 21.06 we can be convicted."

On Monday, Dec. 10, Morales, along with Tom Doyal, Patricia Cramer, Charlotte Taft and John Lawrence, will begin their testimony in court. The five plaintiffs, represented by sympathizers on the THRB board, joined forces last year to begin the second constitutional challenge against the statute. The first such case, filed in Dallas in 1978, was thrown out of court and ruled it two years later before being overturned by New Orleans' Fifth Court of Appeals in 1985.

Morales said she believes the current challenge stands a better chance in state court. Overall, however, she said she believes the law can and will be overturned in court.

"I think that we will win. It's a law [that mandates] facelessness," she said. "The Texas constitution is very clear. I really think we have a good chance in the state courts.

"I'm of the opinion that what we cannot accomplish in the legislative process, we will in the litigation process," Morales added, noting the conservative attitude of [illegible]

They also say that 21.06 encourages hate crimes against homosexuals, and that their career and employment opportunities are severely limited because of it.

The strategy after the court date will probably be a series of follow up fund raising and educational activities for the plaintiffs, Morales said. She stressed the importance of the litigation process, saying that if the law is overturned, "it won't be the end of the work we have to do. Actually, it will be more like the beginning."

Morales, who was one of the plaintiffs from Houston, said she was invited to get involved in the 21.06 challenge by her friend, Gene Harrington, a THRB board member. She said she was told that there would be other people involved in the case, but "I wasn't sure at first if I wanted to get involved. I wasn't sure of the effect [illegible]

"I had to take a lot of things into consideration before I took the job. I told Gene I would have to think it over," she said. About a month later, she said, she agreed to go to Austin to meet the others and "that's when I met Tom Doyal and Lloyd Gunter of Austin. He also met with their attorney, J. Patrick Wareman.

After getting involved in the suit, Morales said she was asked during a conference call with Lambda Legal Defense to be the plaintiffs if she would agree to be named the "lead" plaintiff in the case.

"I said, well, I'm already the lead plaintiff, and I don't see why not," she recalled.

Ironically, although she has a long history of activism in the women's, Hispanic and gay liberation movements, Morales does not consider herself a "professional activist." But because of the nature of the challenge and the law itself, she said she felt she had to get involved.

Publicity about the case, and appearances across the state to canvass with it, have brought Morales' activism into a higher profile.

"It's kind of like running for office," she said, "people see me somewhere, and they know who I am. It's different...I'm getting used to it.

"The main thing I try to get across is that this is not the Linda Morales show, and it's not the Pat Cramer show or anybody else's show. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of all gay people in this state, all of us all over the state, for our right to privacy."

"When you think about it, 21.06 has to go. How can you have a law like that? It's a law that says it's criminal and it's punishable by a fine of $500 to $200 for the act of [illegible] private, consensual perversion. She said she thinks that she has the right to privacy, due process and equal rights.

Contributing to the Texas plaintiffs' optimism is the recent court victories against sodomy statutes in Michigan and, just last month, Kentucky. Morales said she feels a Texas victory would be a positive sign for gay human rights across the country, especially in states with the conservative legislators here.

"I definitely think it would help the rest of the country know something's possible," she said.

Morales has been involved with local Hispanic and women's organizations for many years, and became the only Texan to attend [illegible] conference in 1987. She was recently elected to the Montrose Voice Board on October 16, 1987, and is the founder of AMIGA, an educational, social and support group for Hispanic lesbians.

Donald Skipper is vice-chair of THRB. He is scheduled to discuss the 21.06 case on KPFT's "Wide Open Space" on Dec. 11, the scheduled opening date of the trial. The program airs at 10:00 p.m. Monday.

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