

HOUSTON AREA BEARS Growler



Houston Area Bears
P.O. box 66443
Houston, TX 77266

Voice-Mail
& Announcement Line
(713) 867-9123

E-mail: [houareabrs@aol.com](mailto:housareabrs@aol.com)
Website: <http://members.aol.com/houbears/index.html>

Volume 4 Number 10

January, 1997 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

Regrets Only

It is with regrets only we announce the passing of Giovanni, Colt 45 member and candidate for Imperial Emperor XIV. Giovanni was an accomplished fundraiser and held the title of former Imperial Emperor IX in the Court system. He will be missed by many individuals in the community who knew him as a friend and will be missed by the members of the Houston Area Bears who he thought of as friends. Giovanni often performed for the Court and Colt 45's to raise money for various causes. He fought a long battle with K.S. and passed on at Ben Taub hospital on Wednesday December 31st

at 4 am.

A special meeting of the Board of the Court decided to keep Giovanni's name on the ballot for January elections. A male Regent will be selected by the Court to be an escort to the Imperial Empress and remain a figure head for Court functions. This position will represent the male counterpart for the Court to attend meetings and fundraisers without having the title necessary to

make decisions for funds disportion. Details as they become available.

Many Thanks...

Many thanks to Jerry & Chris who opened their home to us for our Christmas Party this Year. Many Bears showed up to celebrate in the spirit of the season and even Tiffany was there to help out with our Chinese gift exchange, that might be described as a White Elephant in other circles.

Many surprises and delights were under the very tall Christmas tree and even Anita ran off with a Teddy Bear

this year. We were awe inspired by the electric tie rack that was passed among so many Bears. Wonderful furry stuffed creatures in scarves, hats and sweaters humbled even the most humbug participants. The opportunity is always there for more people to lend a helping hand at these functions. Please don't hesitate to volunteer to do something for the Houston Area Bears in the future. The future is now!

Superbowl Mania!

This is a football related term that suggests sports fans assemble at someone's home and watch a televised sporting event and become entranced by it's presentation, while consuming lots of junk food and related beverages. I'm told that Jerry & Chris want to open their home for this event and it supposedly coincides with the Publisher's Clearinghouse giveaway. I

don't know who is playing but I think it's on Sunday afternoon January 25th. More details at the business meeting.

....Let me take this space to write that Mike Geinzer, HAB member and NLA officer is not in the best of health. It is strongly recommended that if you are close to him you should give him a call or drop him a note.

Turnabout Is Fairplay!!!

The Houston Area Bears will host the HCC L.U.E.Y. fundraiser at the Venture N on Sunday January 11th at 8pm, the evening after the business meeting. The show will be called "Turnabout is Fairplay" and will be chaired by Joe C. and hosted by Bob Bouton, and feature all of your favorite drag performances, but this time by other spoof performers.

The audience should recognize each one of these special selections played out in true camp and vulgarity. We have been waiting a long time for this show, which will be the last fundraising effort for L.U.E.Y. '98.

Performances of the Cuntessa, Bubbles, Anita, Thumper, Jackie, Jennifer, Liza Round, will tantalize the

crowd. Many friendly performances will include members from the Court, Tiffany, and the Cowghurlz. It was originally proposed by Jeff that this fundraiser bring in more money than the Misfits "A Night of Spice" show in November that raised \$606 for L.U.E.Y. Favorite performances by none of the original

performers will be a lot of fun for the audience of spoofed individuals who have no idea of what to expect. Jim Roberts of the Venture N has advertised this in the Voice as the Houston Area Bears fundraiser for L.U.E.Y. weekend. Hope to see you there.

100% OFF XMAS SHOW

The Main St. Maniacs and the Houston Area Bears along with the Texas Cowghurlz and a few members of the Court presented the 100% Off Xmas Show at the Venture N on December 27th at 10pm. The crowd was very receptive to numbers from Tiffany as well as Lady Mercedes Benzover, Cuntessa, and HAB members Jiffy Pop. Thanks to all HAB members who showed up to cheer on the performers. If more Bears had been in town to perform this Holiday weekend we could have seen more of us onstage.

The Main St. Maniacs had several performers that lip synched their way into our hearts. Miss Ova proudly

performed alongside her cousin that was visiting with the help of Ava Cado. Special recognition to Stan, Joe, and Paul, that let the crowd have some Marmalade to chew on in the form of Jiffy Pop. Tiffany even said "You rocked Baby!!" Thanks to all who were there to help out including the Cuntessa, who also helped out backstage with make up.

The Show was a fundraiser for Milam House and raised over \$225 for this worthy cause. Congratulations to the Main St. Maniacs and the HAB for a very successful combined effort.

HCC NOTES

Assessment fees for clubs involved for LUEY weekend are now due. It will be an expense of \$125 for the HAB to participate. It is a bargain considering all groups pay the same fee regardless of membership. Registration for Houston residents is the same as last year \$10 each. It will be an additional \$7 for a T-shirt that can be endorsed with the title "host" if you so desire. T-shirts should be ordered now for that reason, talk to Jeff about it at the business meeting.

Posters have been ordered using the designs people sent in for the pin contest. Pins have been ordered for the 25th Anniversary celebration using Paul's design that was selected for this reason. Bears have been asked

to guest bartend upstairs at the VN Friday night during registration by Jim Roberts.

We need volunteers for:

- A.) registration Friday night @VN
- B.) bartending topside Friday night @VN
- C.) registration Saturday morning @ Mary's
- D.) performers for LUEY skit Sunday aft. @ Rich's

Last business meeting Jerry S. and Rick A. were nominated to write the skit for us this LUEY Sunday, as they did last year. This year's skit will be 10 minutes, and not 15 like last year's. More details as they surface.....

Bear of the Year

John Mata, aka Anita Mann, hosted his Grin n' Bear it contest for the year at the Venture N on Saturday December 27th at 10pm. Many monthly winners reappeared for the contest and did their best to perform, answer questions, and impress a growling crowd of onlookers. The fantasies performed were a delight to behold as each contestant this year had to hold his own performance up in the light of the judges decision.

An impressive group of flesh, fur, and fantasies, made us all glad we were Bears and it was difficult to choose a winner but the best contestant is usually the

winner when it comes right down to it. First runner up was our brother in bearhood, Steve F., who did a good fantasy with an elf to the tune of a Supremes medley?

Winner Lloyd P. took home the grand prize of 5 night stay in San Francisco. Round trip airfare provided by Jim Roberts and Anita collectively, and a gorgeous leather jacket donated by Steve from Leather Forever, along with the \$50 gift certificate that Steve routinely donates to each and every monthly contestant.

Anita is having a custom made leather vest, (made at her expense) at Leather by Boots that will read "Mr. Grin n' Bear it '98, Houston"

Quilt Raffle

The Houston Area Bear's raised over \$1165 for the Aids Alliance for the Bay Area or a.a.b.a, as they are better known. A lot of effort was put into the ticket sales by many members of the club and that was dearly appreciated. Jeff made special efforts to see that the

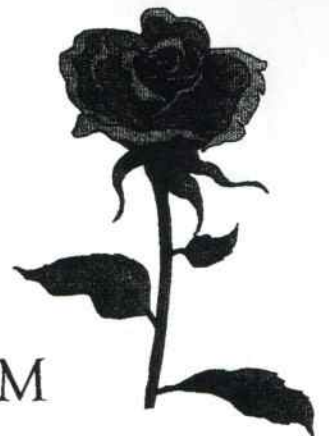
raffle went off without a hitch. Thanks to Michael "Bear" Darling that made the wonderful creation that we were able to sell tickets to raise funds for a very worthy organization. It is good to see the HAB give back to the community.

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

PRESENT



**"TURNABOUT
IS
FAIRPLAY"**



SUNDAY JANUARY 11TH @ 8PM

VENTURE N

HOSTED BY BOB BOUTON

WITH PROCEEDS BENEFITING
HOUSTON COUNCIL OF CLUB'S

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU WEEKEND

JANUARY

1998

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				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3
4	5	6	7 Bears Dine Out, Black Eyed Pea 7pm, West Gray	8	9	10 Court Elec- tions @ Voice office, Bears Social VN @ 9pm
11 Business Meeting @BRB @ 4pm."Turna bout is Fair- play" VN @8pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Bears Bar- tend VN 6pm, Grin n' Bear it, VN 8pm	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	21 HCC meet- ing @ BRB @8pm	22	23	24
25 Bears Bartend VN@6pm	26	27	28 Bears Dine Out 59 Diner @7pm, S.Shepherd	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

1998

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bears Dine Out Chapultepecs 7pm, Rich- mond Ave.	12	13	14 Bears Social VN 9pm top-side... "Bears in Heat"...
15 Business Meeting BRB 4pm, Bears Bartend 6pm VN, Grin n' - Bear it 8pm	16 President's Day	17	18 HCC meeting, VN 8pm, Run Packet Stuff.	19	20	21
22 Bears Bartend VN @ 6pm	23	24	25 Bears Dine Out 7pm TBA	26	27 LUEY eve., registration @VN, Bears Bartend topside	28 LUEY a.m., registration @Mary's,

EMPRESS XII Anita Mann

Requests the Honor of your presence at
REIGN XIII AWARDS BANQUET

at
Kim Son
(Downtown)

Friday January 9th doors open @6pm
\$15 meal buffett

Thankyou from EMPRESS XII Anita Mann

I would like to thank the Houston Area Bears for their love and support through Reign XIII of the Court System. From the first day that I was introduced to the bears, as Anita Mann, I was accepted even though I was not a bear, but a bear lover. People like Jeff & Rick, Paul, Stan and Joe Creakhave bent over backwards to prove to me what being a bear really means. Their support of me from my candidacy to to being Empress XIII has been unending. If it was not for the Houston Area Bears, my life would have seemed bleak.

Your support has kept me from being depressed and taking too much time thinking about my HIV status. The bears have made my feel human. I feel that no group will ever match what the bears have done for me.

As I step down as Empress XIII on January 17, 1998, the one thing that I will remember the most is the heart felt love the bears ahve given me.

I look forward to "John" spending more time with the bears and slowly putting "Anita" away. Please remember to join me on January 9, 1998 at "Kim Sun" for the "Awards Banquet", because I have not forgotten the Houston Area Bears, and they will be recognized that evening.

Love From My Heart,
Anita Mann
Empress XIII
R.S.I.C.S.S.

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Growler



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Volume 4 Number 2

February, 1998 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

Minutes of January Meeting

The January meeting of the Houston Area Bears was held at the BRB on Sunday the 11th. Lyle welcomed guests and new members which included Stan, Fred, Tim, and Nelson. Because of a pending appointment, Stan the GulfCoast BootBlack was allowed to move an item from the floor to the start of the meeting.

1.) Stan (GCB) introduced members of the Houston Buying Club and POWR. Fred Walters, the executive director of the Houston Buying Club, spoke of the need to supply individuals with HIV with nutritional supplements to combat

"wasting syndrome", to name one. He keeps office hours M - F, 10 to 6, at the Multi Service Center. Also Nelson Virgil of POWR, a recent co-sponsor of a national conference on "wasting syndrome", spoke about his work with HIV + individuals with weight training. More details were available in a recent article in "Out Smart" magazine.

2.) Future Bears Dine Outs listed on the agenda as 59 Diner on January 28th, and Chapultapecs on February 11th.

3.) Future Guest bartending efforts to be on Jan. 18th, 25th, Feb. 15th, and 22nd, and topside during LUEY registration Feb. 27th.

4.) Thank you to Barry Mac for opening his home on Thanksgiving day. Thank you to Anita Mann for a successful Thanksgiving dinner at the Venture N, and also

to Paul Pruitt for baking 4 turkeys. Thanks to all volunteers who showed up to help. Thanks to Lyle and Jeff for hosting a cocktail party for the Lancers Anniversary Run, at the Venture N.

5.) Dickens on the Strand was rained out.

6.) Thanks to Jerry & Chris for opening their home to us for the Christmas Party. Barry Mac chaired the food arrangements and Tiffany appeared to have the gift exchange under control.

7.) The Quilt raffle was mentioned as a thank you to all members who sold tickets and helped out. Thanks to Jeff for his effort of organizing the effort, and thanks to John & Tim of Flash Printing for the donation of the ticket booklets. Thanks to Michael "Bear" Darling for the opportunity to raise funds for a.a.b.a. Thanks also to our loyal friend Steve of "Leather Forever" who bought 5

booklets of tickets trying to win the quilt.

8.) Jeff mentioned that he would like HAB to sponsor Michael Darling's airfare to Houston for LUEY weekend. A motion was made by Joe C. and a second by Scot M., all in favor was the majority, and we look forward to seeing "Bear" here LUEY weekend.

9.) The 100% OFF Xmas SHOW was mentioned as a successful past event that combined the dubious talents of the HAB and the Main St. Maniacs. Thanks to all who attended, and help raise \$262 for Milam House.

10.) The Mr. Grin N Bear it finals held at the VN in December announced Loyd Powell as the winner. The winner is being flown to San Francisco to compete for a national title. Leather Forever awarded Loyd with a leather jacket and gift certificate.

11.) John Mata (aka Anita Mann) wanted to thank the HAB for their support of her Imperial Reign over the Court. An award is now in our trophy case naming the HAB keeper of the crown and jewels of Imperial Empress XIII. Mike Geinzer was also mentioned here at the meeting, as an award winner that evening.

12.) The HAB were asked to host a hospitality suite at The Braeswood for the RSICSS Coronation ceremony. Volunteers at the meeting were Bill W., John D., Rick, Dan, Noe, and Jeff would collaborate the effort.

13.) John Dye mentioned here that the Grin N Bear it contest for January was being held on January 25th, not to clash with Coronation Sunday.

14.) The HAB hosted "Turnabout is Fairplay" the evening of the January Business Meeting. It was chaired by Joe C. and hosted by Bob Bouton.

15.) "Bears in Heat 4" was looking for a host for this Sat. Feb. 14th. John N. volunteered along with Jerry S. and Scot M. who also wanted to include himself. This will take volunteers to decorate the bar on Saturday morning Feb. 14th. We hope to see you there.

16.) Triad elections will be held in March. Anyone interested in running will have to be a member with "dues paid" prior to the March Business Meeting. Any member with back dues may not run for office. Dues may not be paid at the beginning of the March meeting, only after the meeting. Candidates are "self nominated", and if unable to attend the March Business Meeting, should submit a written nomination to the Triad for

their intent to run.

17.) BearPride/GayPride to be announced at a later date, Lyle chairing this event.

18.) New Quilt to be offered to HAB from Michael Darling for future fund raiser. It is not, as of now, at completion.

19.) HAB pins & patches see Jeff.

20.) Membership renewals & Directory see Lyle.

21.) Next HCC meeting Wed. Jan. 21st at the BRB.

22.) LUEY Weekend, Feb. 27, 28, and Mar. 1st. see article inside.

23.) Southern Decadence: Lyle mentioned he would like someone to host a party here in Houston to coincide with the weekend getaway to New Orleans.

24.) Submissions to the newsletter are appreciated by Stan. Drawings and cartoons, or stories to poetry are all accepted.

25.) SuperBowl party at Jerry & Chris' house. Call them for details.

26.) Business Meeting accommodations are getting tighter around the BRB. David M. volunteered to look around for alternatives.

27.) Questions about our 501.3c status were answered by Lyle. Lyle mentioned it was the suggestion of the IRS. Jerry mentioned the advice may cost us money. We will listen to more suggestions from members.

28.) Minutes of the meeting to be included in each future newsletter. Motion made, and passed (thanks guys for waiting until the very end of the meeting for this!) Joe C. mentioned that the newsletter was getting too long. (January's had a full page ad for "Turnabout" show and Anita had her own page) Newsletters will be tidy from now on and include the minutes.

Let Us Entertain You 25th Anniversary is upon us!

LUEY's 25th Anniversary Weekend is here! Pre-registration is NOW for LUEY, Let Us Entertain You Weekend. Only 144 black T-shirts have been ordered with Paul's award winning pin design. Only 750 run pins have been ordered and there are over that amount of people expected. Applications are on bulletin boards at the bars as are the T-shirt order forms which need your signature and cash to get in on the goods. If you see Chris or Bob anywhere hand them in asap.

Special mention was given to HAB from Bob and HCC for the "Turnabout is Fairplay" show hosted by us and chaired by Joe C. The show netted \$476.50 for

LUEY Weekend and this was due in part to the donation of bartending tips that night from the Misfits

of \$176.22 that was added to our show tips. Bob said it was one of the most entertaining shows he's ever MC'd.

Items to be stuffed into the LUEY run packets should be made available to HCC before the HCC February meeting the 18th, 8pm at the VN. There will be 750 packets stuffed. Registration for LUEY will be cut off at 750 people. There is no host hotel but there are 6 suggestions for out of towners on the back of the registration form.

The LUEY skits which will be shown at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto on Sunday Mar. 1st from Noon to 4pm will be allowed to be a maximum of 15 minutes. Each group can make their skit shorter as they want.

Mask Contest

HEAR YE, HEAR YE We are having a Mask Contest for the members of our club to help fill the walls of the Venture N with decorative creations.

Masks may be LARGE, (think about those VN walls) or small, nothing smaller than 12 inches please! Masks would ideally be 3 dimensional and if it's really clever you could win a prize to be mentioned at a later date. I would like to see some of our more clever Bears push the limits of 3 feet by 4 feet. Your entry should be within the colors of yellow, green, and purple. It must be sturdy

enough to hold up on it's own without glue and tape needed to mend it during the weekend events. If it is selected it may grace the walls of the VN.

We would like to bring the trophy for the best decorations for LUEY '25 to our home bar for display in our trophy case. We did it last year, let's work together even longer and harder than last year. Call Stan for more details or leave me a message on the Bears Announcement Line 867-9123.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY:

7TH Main St. Maniacs , Broken Hearts Show

11th Bears Dine Out Chapultapecs, 7pm

14th Bears in Heat 4, Bears Social topside 9pm,
Valentine's Day.

15th Business Meeting BRB 4pm, Bartend VN 6pm,
Grin n' Bear it 9pm.

18th HCC Meeting, VN 8pm, run packet stuff.

22nd Bartend VN 6pm.

25th Bears Dine Out, Pappa's BBQ, San Jacinto &
Pierce.

27th LUEY registration 8 to 12M, bartend topside
VN, cocktail party @ 11

28th registration 10 to 2pm Mary's

MARCH:

1st LUEY Show, Rich's 12n to 4pm

4th Bear's Movie night, Cineplex Odeon River Oaks,
6:45pm

11th Bears Dine Out, Baba Yega's 7pm

14th Bears social topside @ 9pm

15th Elections, 4pm BRB, bartend VN 6pm, Grin n'
Bear it 9pm

22nd Bear's bartend VN 6pm, Cowgurlz Show 9pm

25th Bear's Dine Out, TBA

BYLAWS OF THE HOUSTON AREA BEARS

PURPOSE: TO PROMOTE EDUCATION, CAMARADERIE, BROTHERHOOD AND SOCIAL FAMILIARITY OF AND FOR THE BEAR COMMUNITY.

MEMBERSHIP: OPEN TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO EXHIBITS QUALITIES OF, OR IS A PROFESSED URSAPHILE (BEAR LOVER).

A MEMBER'S ACCEPTANCE OR DENIAL SHALL BE ON THE SCRUTINY OF THE DEN OF ACTIVE MEMBERS.

OFFICERS: ALL GOVERNING OF THE DEN SHALL BE DONE BY A TRIAD OF ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO SHALL BE ELECTED AND/OR RE-ELECTED ONCE A YEAR BY A VOTE OF THE DEN OF ACTIVE MEMBERS (IN PERSON OR BY PROXY).

MEETINGS: DEN MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD ONCE A MONTH. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT NOT REQUIRED, TO ATTEND.

EXCEPTION: VOTING FOR TRIAD MEMBERS.

DUES: ACTIVE MEMBER STATUS: \$20.00 YEARLY.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS: (NON-VOTING) \$10.00 YEARLY.

Turnabout is Fair Play

A great success reared it's ugly head at the HCC January LUEY fundraiser that was presented by the HAB.

Bob Bouton had many compliments for the cast of irregulars that included spoofs of all your favorite drag performances.

Many thanks to Joe C. who lined up the performers and did a super job pulling it together when 5 performers dropped out of the show on Monday.

Thanks again Joe.

\$475.50 was raised due in part to the Misfits donation from their bartending tips.

Thanks to the Misfits for being so generous to the cause. Thanks to all the performers including Shawn Carter and Tiffany who made a huge impression.

Butchie was good to see again! We hoped Anita was pleased to see herself in a larger size again.

March Elections

Self nomination will be made at the March Business Meeting to fill a ballot for election of new officers for the Triad. All interested parties should make themselves available for the March meeting. We look forward to

hearing from you either supporting the candidates or running for Triad. Good luck to everyone that seeks a position at the top.

Volunteers Needed for the Growler

Dear Furry Family,

For some time now, I have enjoyed participating in the production of our newsletter, The Growler. My role has been primarily one of "The Middle Man". I receive copy for the newsletter from a triad member and or other sources, flow the text into a formatted shell, and output a master copy for printing by Joe Creek. Playful graphics and photos have occasionally been included as well.

I am now looking forward to handing over this labor of love to an interested member of The Houston Area Bears. My life has been going through many changes in the last year, and it seems only fitting that this activity should be one of those changes.

Initially, the Growler was produced by Barry Mac and he announced a desire to hand over this job to someone with an interest in such things. I volunteered, and began working closely Mitch F. in this endeavor. As Triad members changed, the manner of producing the newsletter has changed. I now receive copy primarily

from Stan LaFleur, but I still hand off the master copy to that reliable standby, Joe Creek. Also, the newsletter used to be produced using "high-end" software at my place of employment but is now produced using "middle-end" software ie Microsoft Publisher.

I have all the graphics converted for Publisher as well, and it would be no tremendous feat to copy to floppy or other media so that an interested member can take over this responsibility. I need to make the March newsletter my last one, unless someone can come forward before that time. I am willing to lend "tech" support to a beginner in the interest of a smooth switch-over.

The Growler has also been available in electronic form through e-mail. It would be nice if we could locate somebody with the capability and software to continue this process, but we will take what we can get.

Again, I have really enjoyed this labor of love, because that is precisely what it has been for me individually. I am not disappearing, but moving in other directions, and I will continue to be visible in the community in my own graphic way.

Thanks for the memories!
Paul Pruitt

FEBRUARY

1998

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Main Street Maniacs Broken Hearts Show
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22 Bears Bartend VN @ 6pm	23	24	25 Bears Dine Out 7pm Pappa's BBQ San Jacinto @ Pierce	26	27 LUEY eve., registration @VN, 8-12 Bears Bartend topside Coctail party 11pm	28 LUEY registration @Mary's, 10-2pm

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Volume 5, Number 5

May 1998 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

Memorial Day Bear-B-Q

We would like to thank Paul Pruitt for hosting the Memorial Day bash. Also a special thanks to Anita Mann (aka John Mata) for letting us have it at his house. The weather was great, the pool was just right, and the food was over-abundant. Thanks to Barry Mac for co-

ordinating the holiday event.

Oh yes ... R.C. – the moon does shine over the clear rippling water! And S.M. – Imax has nothing on your panoramic screen butt ...

Lots of fun was had by all that attended.

Southern Decadence

ATTENTION: We need to get your deposit in if you are going. We need to fill the quota and need deposits to lock down the air and hotel reservations.

Please contact Bill Neville or John Dye for more information on this. (281) 590-9899

Grin-n-Bear It

May's Grin-n-Bear It contest was hosted by HAB's own Loyd Powell. The winner for May was Barry Gosnell who received a fifty dollar gift certificate from

Leather Forever and a Grin-n-Bear It T-shirt. Congratulations and bear hugs.

Attention: Gay Pride Parade

We are looking for help to put our float together for the parade. The Gay Pride Parade is a very important event each year for the community. And our float will be seen by thousands of people. Come on guys. Let's do something great that will demonstrate what HAB's

members are made of.

Please contact Kenny Leininger at (281) 452-0619 or Loyd Powell at (281) 397-9496.

We can use all the help we can get. Thanks.

Web Site Update

Barry Gosnell will be taking photographs for our Web Site at the next business meeting on June 14th.

Also, if you have any pictures from previous events, feel free to bring them. Barry may be able to use them.



2923 Main St.
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 520-6224

Locate inside NightHawks

*Come visit the new in-bar leather shop at NightHawks.
 We are stocking T-shirts for the larger, hefty man.
 Come in and prowl around.*

Basket Contest



As you well know, the Big Basket contest was a major hit. Everyone that showed up for our Saturday night

social on May 9th was in store for a treat.

A corner section of the stage at NightHawks had a screen covered with black plastic and the only opening was a section from the waist down to just above the knees. When the contestant was told, he lifted the flap to show us his big basket. After the judges had considered all the contestants, they selected a winner. There was some pretty stiff competition!

Our own HAB member John N. was the victor. He received a fifty dollar gift certificate from Leather Forever, an HAB T-shirt and a bar tab.

Thanks to all the contestants for sharing your basket with the white rabbits.

June 1998

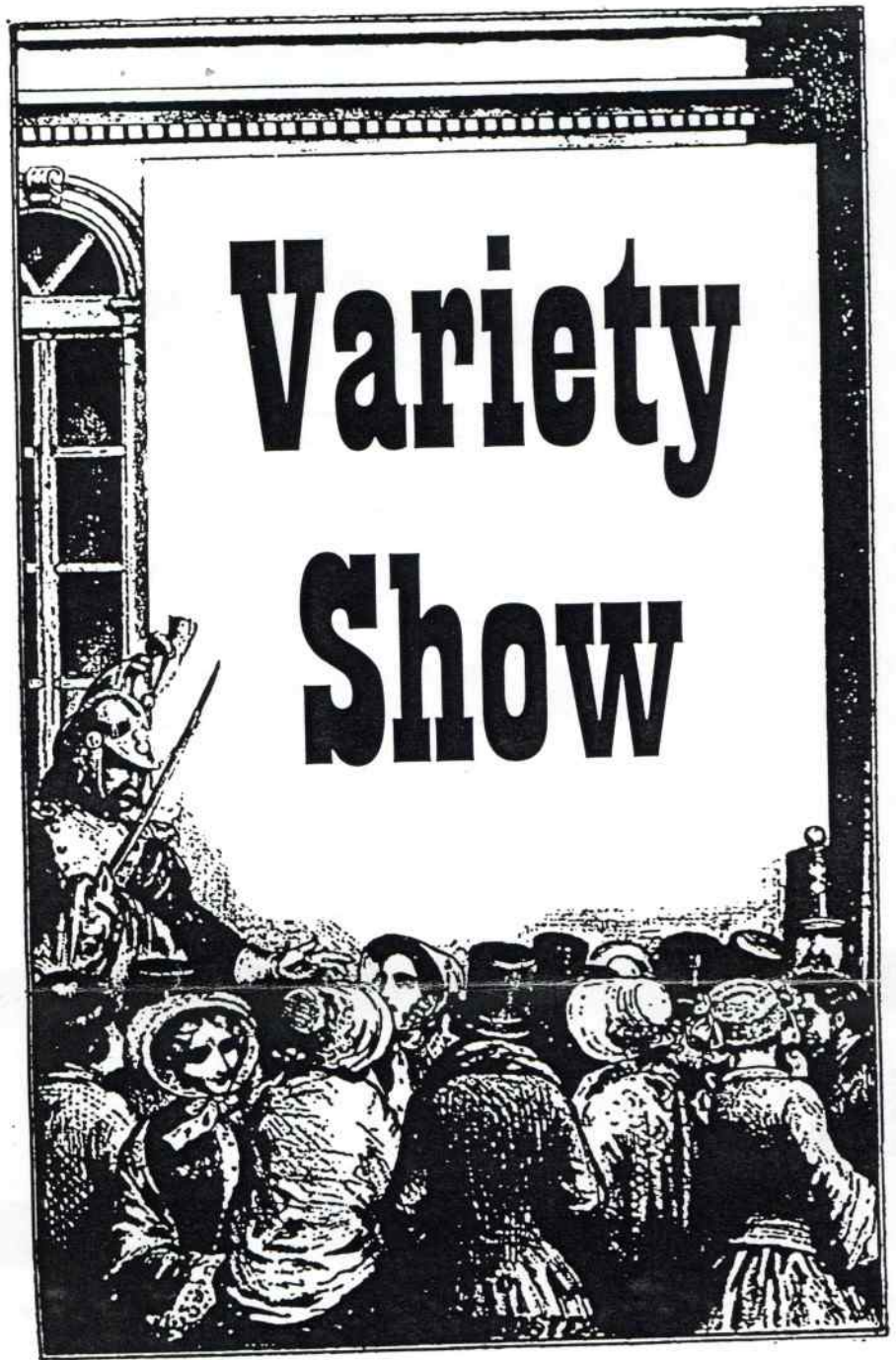
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 HAB Dine Out Spaghetti Warehouse 901 Commerce at Travis 7 PM 713-229-0009	11	12 RISC Summer Sweat Fest 8 PM Gentry's 713-681-0320	13 HAB Social Night Nighthawks 9 PM Summer Sweat Fest
14 Flag Day HAB Meeting Nighthawks 4 PM Summer Sweat Fest	15	16	17 Movie Night AMC Studio 30 2949 Dunvale 281-319-4262 (6:30)	18	19	20
21 FATHER'S DAY Grin-N-Bear it Contest 9 PM Nighthawks HAB Bartending	22	23	24	25	26	27 GAY PRIDE PARADE 2ND NIGHT PARADE
28	29	30				

On Monday, June 29th at 7:00 pm, the cast of "Phantom of the Opera" will do a variety show at the Grand 1894 Opera House on 21st Street and Post Office in Galveston.

Proceeds will benefit Broadway Cares/Equity for Aids, and the Aids Alliance of the Bay Area (AABA).

Tickets are \$25.00 apiece. You can also meet the cast backstage after the show for food and drinks for an additional ten dollars.

For more information, please contact the AABA Agency at (281) 388-2339.



Hop on the Band Wagon!

Let's get together to build the best float ever for this year's Gay Pride Parade.

Contact Kenny Leininger (281) 452-0619
or Loyd Powell (281) 397-9496

June 1998

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HOUSTON AREA BEARS

Growler



Houston Area Bears
P.O. Box 66443
Houston, TX 77266

Voice-Mail
& Announcement Line
(713) 867-9123

E-Mail: houareabrz@aol.com
Website: <http://members.aol.com/hou/bears/index.html>

Volume 5, Number 6

June 1998 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

Pride Parade '98

Boy, what a day for a parade Saturday, June 27th. The weather went from hot and sunny, to cloudy, then to rain during the mid-afternoon. It wanted to drown us before we even got started with the Bear's float. The rain didn't stop some of us; we continued to work away. It let up and we proceeded with the final preparations.

Our bear cave looked more like a covered wagon; we all laughed trying to keep it upright. Finally after all was said and done, it still looked like a covered wagon.

As time passed, it was time to move our float over to the start-up area. We did last minute preps, only to be hit again by rainfall, but it soon passed over leaving a cool clear evening. Finally everything came together and it was to start the parade.

Thanks to alot of great bears who helped in making our parade entry. First of all, thanks to NightHawks bartenders and Cowgurlz in sharing our spot in the line-up. Ms. Ova Ewe and her group strutted their way along side of the float with their lighted costumes. Moo-Moo. Our leather clad bartenders from NightHawks rode in the back of the truck, which was lit up with NightHawks name. Special thanks to Kenny, David, Loyd and Robert who got the parade off the ground and running. Kenny and Loyd were co-host's in this endeavor; Kenny for the float and Loyd for the trailer and vintage cars (T-Birds).

Tetrennial Observance (Fourth Anniversary Party)

It's time to start planning for our Anniversary Party. The date is tentatively set for September 19th. I'm looking forward to an enjoyable and memorable party, but I can't do it all on my own. If you would like to help out in any way, give me a call. We will have our first meeting sometime before the July business meeting. We are also entertaining suggestions for a theme. The traditional gift for the fourth anniversary is linen. The contemporary gift is electrical appliances. (Batteries included?) So get out those vibrators and Accu-jac's and cum (sic) up with an idea worthy to celebrate 4 years of bearishness in South-east Texas. If you know of any conflict for that date or any theme ideas, please contact me with that information.

We will be deciding on a location at the July 12 meeting so if you have any suggestions for a location, get them to me or John D. no later than July 6th. This will give us enough time to check out space and prices. You can call John Dye at (281) 530-9899 or E-mail him at HABbear@aol.com. If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to call me at (281) 441-6047 any time.

Bear Hugs & Nuzzles,
Scot Mackie

Leather Fantasy Fashion Show & Beefcake Auction

The leather show hosted by Stan and the local leather shops was great. They used alot of hunky bears to display their wares and provided a leather enactment of a torture den. Boy was that scary. But it was done in good taste. We received the following letter from Stan thanking all the bears for their help:

To every one that donated their time and energy, **THANKS!** The "Leather Fantasy Fashion Show & Beefcake Auction" was a true success; we raised one thousand dollars for Houston Buyers Club and Program for Wellness Restoration (PoWer).

The crowd loved all those HOT men, and really enjoyed the diversity of presentations that each leather display had to offer. **BlackHawk Leather** showed Houston and the Houston Area Bears what it was like to do a fashion show and not have to worry about your models showing up needing a larger size. **Dare Ware** gave us a lesson on how to be butch, even if you are Tiffany, how to properly flog a straight man if you are gay, and how to look good while you're doing it. **Leather Forever** - Wow. No one will forget the display put on by Leather Forever, especially tim c. First they started out with a simple flogging, then they turned up the heat. When all was said and done the audience had learned how to correctly flog, how to restrain a person with rope and shrink wrap, how to drip hot wax on a person, how to use an ultra-violet wand, and that you should never let any one hand you lead weights (via your balls) all the while you are in a gas mask, unless you can handle it.

The show was liked by so many that I have already scheduled another for later this year, 10:00 pm Saturday, November 21, 1998 at NightHawks. Thanks again.

Yours in Leather,
Stan Harrell - Mr. Texas Drummer 98/99

Bears on the Bayou Logo Contest

Congratulations to Barry Gosnell for the winning entry in the contest for best logo. It will be used to start a kick-off for a yearly bear run in Houston. This will be the introduction of having a run here in Houston, initiated by Loyd Powell.

With all the bears coming here to visit, we need to open a special week-end of fun and enjoyment designated specially for the bear community. We'll be waiting to hear of the progress of this endeavor.

Inspiration Sought

Mitch is looking for a few people to meet a couple of times to brainstorm some ideas about how we can encourage new memBears and ways to keep our current memBears. **NO WORK INVOLVED!** This is strictly an ideas only group. We will present our list of suggestions to the Triad and the general memBearship for their decisions on which ones to implement. Once they are chosen, the group will look for volunteers to head them up. If you are interested in working on a project, you can volunteer at that time. All we need from you now is a couple of evenings of hard thinking and creative discussion. Contact Mitch at 713-981-0412 to volunteer or give your name to any Triad member.

Summer Sweat Fest '98

Congratulations to the HAB on their performance during Sweat Fest '98. Sweat Fest, sponsored by RSICSS asked the bears to host a cocktail party during this run. Our cocktail party was at 11:00 Saturday, June 13th, the night of our regular Bear Social. It was a double fun evening. We deviated from making the same old punch; we gave it a kick with new ingredients. We used a new berry tropical punch drink with vodka, added ice, 7-Up and a pint of pineapple sherbet. It seemed everyone liked it.

Also we were asked to do a number in the Sunday show at Mary's. A couple of trooper bears got together and did a routine everyone liked and enjoyed. To our surprise, we won our first Pig Trophy. Thanks guys for an excellent performance.

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Dan and John from their trip abroad to England. After a long flight, they arrived safe and sound. They met their English bear friends and were introduced to the Bear Club in England. As a gesture, Dan and John brought HAB T-shirts to give to the English bears. Hope that they get the chance to come to Houston. We're always welcoming international bears.

We'll be waiting to see some good photos from their trip, and hear about their adventures. Ta-Ta.





Come and join us
for a swim party
at Jim Philipino's:

July 25th
3:00 pm
5022 Wigton

For instructions or a map
please call John Dye
at 281-590-9899.

Another Pool Party
is planned for bears
and their guests:

August 15th
1:00 pm
Club Baths

The cost is \$6.00 per
person. Hope to see
you there!

POOL PARTIES

Dine Out at Spaghetti Warehouse

The dine out on June 10th at Spaghetti Warehouse got off to a slow start. Since we had a large group, they had to make accommodations to seat us all. We waited for over an hour, but were seated with a friendly waitress who knew one of our group - Loyd Powell. Everyone had a pleasant time of laughter and conversation and good food. *Bon Appetit!*

Bear-adise '98

The Oklahoma (Red Earth) Bears are having a "Lazy Bear's Utopia" run. The dates are September 18th through 20th, 1998 at the Habana Inn in Oklahoma City. Registration fees will be \$35.00 per person if you register before August 15th, or \$45.00 per person if you register after that date.

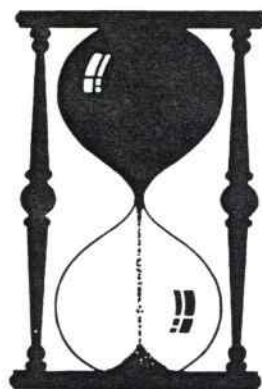
So make your reservations early. For more information call 405-631-4597.



Southern Decadence

There is still time to sign up for the Southern Decadence Labor Day weekend in New Orleans. Please call Bill Neville at 281-446-6953 to find out the status of this trip.

Don't
be
left
behind!



Time
and
space is
limited!

Christmas In July Jackie Thorne

Jackie Thorne and PWA Holiday Charities' fundraiser show "Christmas In July" will be at the Brazos River Bottom on July 19th at 8:00 pm. We are looking for the Bears to do a skit or number for the show. Please contact Joe Creak for more information. Thanks.

July 1998

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 FOURTH OF JULY
5	6	7	8 DINE OUT Wok Bo 6159 Westheimer 713-783-6838 7 PM	9	10	11 HAB Bear Social Nighthawks 9 PM
12 HAB MEETING NIGHTHAWKS 4 PM	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Grin-N-Bear It Contest 9 PM Nighthawks HAB Bartending	20	21	22	23	24	25 SWIM PARTY 3 PM 5022 WIGTON DR. BRING SNACKS AND SODA
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 1998

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 HAB dine out Black eyed pea. W.Gray 7:00 PM	6	7	8 HAB SOCIAL NIGHT NIGHTHAWKS 9:00 PM
9 HAB MEETING Nighthawks 4:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14	15 HAB AT CLUB HOUSTON 1 PM \$6-fee
16 Grin and bear it 9 PM HAB bartending	17	18	19 Movie Night AMC studio 30, 6:30pm	20	21	22
23 HAB BARTENDING	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					