






JANUARY

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 HAB Social Night Nighthawks • 9:00 pm Closet Ball Contest EJ's • 8:00 pm
10 HAB Meeting at Nighthawks • 4:00 HCC "Turnabout" Show Nighthawks • 8:00 pm	11	12	13 HAB Dine Out Black-Eyed Pea 2048 West Gray 7:00 p.m. • 713-523-0200	14	15	16
17 Grin-n-Bear It Contest • 9:00 pm at Nighthawks HAB Bartending	18	19	20	21	22	23 RSICSS Elections at Houston Voice 811 Westheimer
24 HAB Bartending at Nighthawks	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

Growler



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

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

Website: <http://members.aol.com/hou/bears/index.html>

Volume 6, Number 2

February 1999 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

HAB Triad Elections

Attention members of Houston Area Bears. This is just a reminder that Triad elections are coming up soon. And the next monthly business meeting, being held on February 14th, will be your last chance to nominate yourself if you want to run for a seat on the Triad. At the March business meeting the actual elections will be held.

To nominate yourself, you must be a member in good standing, and your dues must be paid up. (The Houston Area By-Laws are printed on page 2 of this newsletter.) If you are unsure if your dues are current you can check with John Dye at 281-590-9899.

Six people self-nominated at the January business meeting. They are:

- 1) John Dye
- 2) James "JJ" Fulton
- 3) Mark Landgrebe
- 4) Gene Landry
- 5) John Noessel
- 6) Steve Stepanski

So if you would like to serve as a Triad Officer remember your last chance for self-nomination is February 14th. And we hope to see all the membership of Houston Area Bears at the March business meeting for the elections.

Closet Ball Contest

The annual Closet Ball Contest was held on Saturday, January 19, 1999 at EJ's. This contest is held to ultimately select a King, Queen, Prince and Princess. This year's contest was a little bit different. The contestants for Queen started the contest dressed as males. After their introductions, they had 30 minutes to transform themselves into females.

After the 30 minute change, all the contestants came out and each did a number. Then the totals were tallied and the results were:

King	George (Trash) Tresch
Queen	Tray-La Trash (alias Joe Creak)
Prince	Debbie
Princess	Ginger Vitas

The King, Queen, Prince and Princess promise to carry on after the previously reigning Queen, Norm, by performing in various shows throughout the year to raise money to help special groups in the community that need support.

Congratulations to HAB's own George Tresch and Joe Creak for walking off with this year's King and Queen titles.

p.s. - Joe, you looked stunning!

Houston Area Bears By-Laws

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.

FEBRUARY

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4	5 Niko Niko's Montrose at 7:30 pm	6 Waitangi Day
7	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday International Bear Rendezvous	13 "Bears In Heat V" HAB Social Night 9:00 pm at Nighthawks
14 Valentine's Day Chinese New Year HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Nighthawks	15 Washington's Birthday (observed)	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19 L.U.E.Y.	20 L.U.E.Y.
21 L.U.E.Y. Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Nighthawks HAB Bartending	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 HAB Bartending at Nighthawks						
						

Casino Bus Trip

Go on a grand adventure! Bears On The Bayou will be having a casino trip to Grand Casino Caushatta on March 7, 1999. This is the rescheduled trip from December. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Tickets must be purchased by March 1, 1999. The ticket price includes continental breakfast, transportation to and from the casino, lunch buffet and all the fun you can handle. Buses will leave from the parking lot across from NightHawks at 9:00 a.m. and will return at 7:00 p.m. Parking is available. Tickets are available at the following locations: LOBO, Blackhawk Leather, Basic Brothers and Leather Forever. Tickets will also be available at the next HAB business meeting. Bears on the Bayou is a charity event with proceeds benefiting H.A.T.C.H.

Grin 'N Bear It Contest

The January 1999 Grin 'N Bear It contest was held on the 10th at NightHawks. The winner of this month's contest, our first for the year, was Jason. Congratulations Jason, and thanks to everyone who entered.

Our last year's winner for the Grin 'N Bear It finals, Gene Landry, is gearing up for the trek to San Francisco's Round-Up. Gene, we wish you the best, just as we did for your predecessor, Loyd Powell.

And don't forget about February's contest. It will be held on the 21st, bringing to an end this year's LUEY Weekend. Always lots of fun and laughs. Hope to see all of you there.

HAB Meeting

The Houston Area Bear's monthly business meeting will be held on February 14th at 4:00 pm at NightHawks. We would like to see all of you there as this is the last meeting for self-nominations for Triad, and is just one week before the HCC-LUEY Weekend.

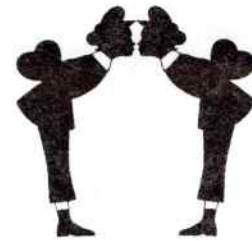
HCC Show

On Sunday, January 10th, the second annual "Turn-about Show" was held at NightHawks. This was a fun-filled evening of spoofing of the Court, groups or individuals who have performed during this last year. We want to thank all the performers who came through with flying colors, the ones who performed as well as the ones who were spoofed.

This year the show raised \$400.00 for Houston Council of Clubs LUEY Weekend. Fantastic work, guys and girls.

Bears In Heat V

Come join us for the 5th annual "Bears In Heat." It will be February 13th (our regular monthly HAB Social Night) at NightHawks from 9:00 pm til? Watch out for Cupid and his arrow; you may get stuck with it. OUCH!



Dejá Vu

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to Joe Creak. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles **early**.

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend on Sunday evenings at Nighthawks. We are scheduled for the 3rd and 4th Sundays each month, from 7:00 pm til 11:00 pm. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. Just ask new HAB member, Dave Stroud who did a fabulous job last month for his first time behind the bar. If you're interested in joining in please contact Joe Creak at 281-446-3141 or John Dye at 281-590-9899. Thanks.



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Volume 6, Number 3

March 1999 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

March Business Meeting

The meeting for March will be a brief one due to the scheduling of the P.R. Ball. (see article at right) Please be on time (not "gay time") for this meeting. We have the annual Triad elections on this date. In the first 10 minutes, we will call for anyone who is considering running for Triad to nominate themselves, and their names will be added to the list of previously self-nominated bears. The names of those already in the running are:

- 1) John Dye
- 2) Jim Filippino
- 3) James "JJ" Fulton
- 4) Gene Landry
- 5) John Noessel
- 6) Steve Stepanski

After 10 minutes, the Triad will close the nominations and voting will commence. Remember, all voting HAB members must be current in their dues in order to vote.

Current Triad, John Dye, has mailed out proxy voting forms to all HAB members, for those who will not be able to attend the March meeting. If you did not receive yours in the mail, contact John at 281-590-9899.

Best of luck to all the candidates.

A Word From Emperor XV

Bob Bouton, Emperor XV, has requested as many bears as are able to attend the P.R. Ball. It is being held at the Galleria Marriott, 610 West Loop at San Felipe on Sunday, March 14th. The cost is \$15.00. We think the bears are going to receive some kind of recognition, so we'd like to have a good showing for this event.

Grin 'N Bear It Contest

Special congratulations to Gene Landry, who was the Houston Area Bears winner in the 1998 Grin 'N Bear It finals. As such, he went on to International Bear Rendez-vous. Gene was a finalist in this event, although he didn't take the top prize. So a Big Bear Hug and Thanks, Gene, for a job well done.



Back at home, thanks to all of you who participate in the monthly contests. They're always a lot of fun, and the winner each month receives a gift certificate for \$50.00 from Leather Forever (Thank you Steve Smith from Leather Forever.) The winner for February was Shawn Neulf.

And a correction from last month's newsletter. The winner for January's Grin 'N Bear It was Josh Davis.

So congratulations to Josh and Shawn, our first two winners this year. We'll be looking to see these bears in the 1999 finals. Woof-Woof.

APRIL

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 April Fool's Day	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Daylight Savings Time Begins	5	6	7	8	9	10 HAB Social Night Nighthawks • 9:00 pm
11 HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Nighthawks	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Nighthawks HAB Bartending	19	20	21 Professional Secretary's Day	22	23 Anzac Day	24
25 HAB Bartending at Nighthawks	26	27	28	29	30	
						

Let Us Entertain You Weekend

The 26th Annual LUEY Weekend was a great success. The attendance topped last year's, which was part of a record setting weekend. People attending came from 26 cities and 6 foreign countries, making this the best year yet.

This was a weekend of fun, food and frolic. Friday night at NightHawks was the major registration night. Registration continued Saturday morning, and the total count was 798 people!

Big thanks to all that helped both days of registration, and the bartenders and helpers. And special thanks to all the clubs for their cocktail parties, and the bars for the great food they provided. And more thanks to this year's Houston Council of Clubs' chairperson Creath Robinson, treasurer Chris Patterson, and special emcee and past chairperson Bob Bouton.

Congratulations to NightHawks for winning Best Decorated Bar; third year for that honor.

The TFL Tea on Saturday at EJ's was a roaring hoot. To see all the various club's leader's spouses dressed to the tee. Gerald simply looked marvelous with his green print moo-moo, and head-dress adornment of a tulip tree leaf. And Dan L. who was portraying Monica L. with her stained dress. Last but not least was Colt 45's Jim's other half, alias Maxine, who positively looked stunning, and was asked to a show in April. Looking forward to see Maxine shine among the stars.

Culminating the weekend was the show at Rich's on Sunday afternoon. In this show, seven Houston clubs presented skits for the entertainment of the out-of-town guests as well as our local folk. HAB's skit was "Bears on the Beach." Tiffany and Steve S. started off with "Where The Boys Are" with a twist. Then Lloyd W. was "The Girl From Impanema," which segued into a brief version

of "Itsy-Bitsy Teeny-Weeny" only to be interrupted by Jaws, Loyd P., who devoured her and regurgitated the bloodied wig and bikini. Loyd, your land shark costume was terrific. Next came Stan LaF., as Baby Jane Hudson, pushing J.J., as Blanch Hudson, in her wheelchair onto the stage and proceeded to dance on the beach to the

strains of "I'm Writing A Letter To Daddy." And then the blanket was removed and Blanch now became Delores Del Lago singing "Are You Crackin' Up From Havin' Lack Of Shackin' Up," backed up by Robert C., John N. and tim c. in leis and grass skirts. Next came Jackie T., Joe C., Mike B., David L. and Robert R. as

contestants in a beauty pageant as they strutted their stuff up and down the boardwalk in bathing suits and big hats. Of course, when Joe was named the winner of the contest, crowned with a plastic tiara and presented a bouquet

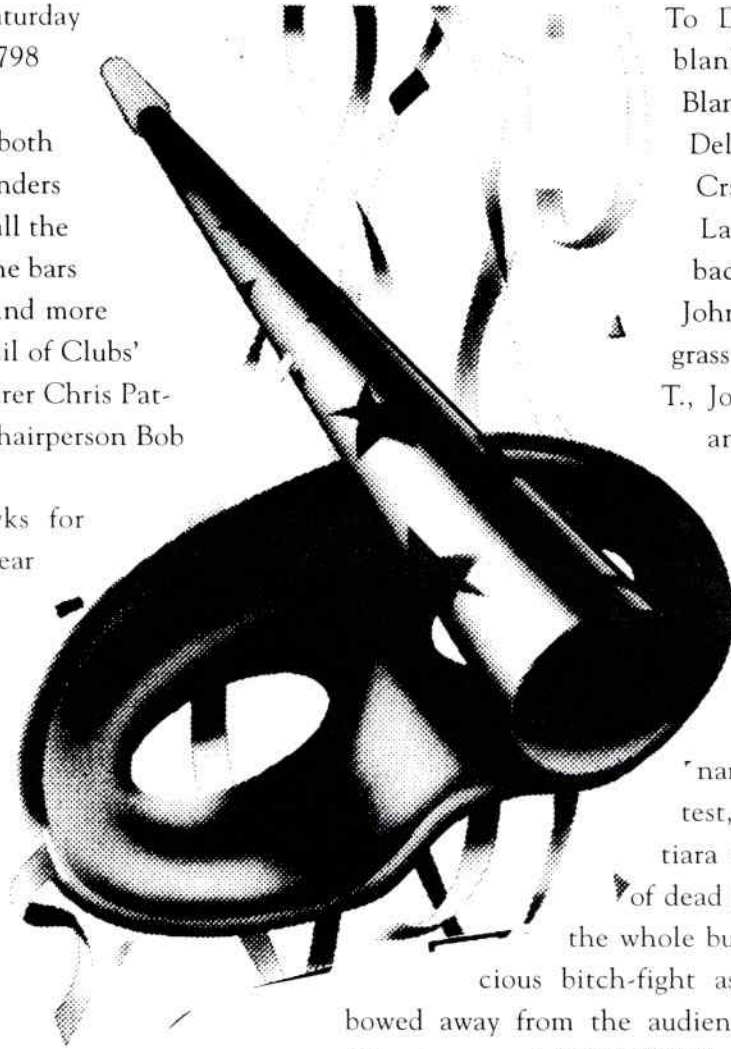
of dead flowers and a banana (?),

the whole bunch ended up in a hellacious bitch-fight as Robert, John and tim bowed away from the audience and lifted their grass skirts to reveal "THE END" spelled out on their butt cheeks.

The skit was great and won best skit for LUEY '99. Thanks to Stan for getting the soundtrack put together, and big thanks to Cecil B. DeMackie for his superlative direction of this production.

To top off the weekend was the Grin 'N Bear It contest, hosted by Jessica Gabbit and special emcees Renee Monroe and Bob Bouton, RSICSS Empress and Emperor.

Again thanks to all who helped make this event a great success.





Thanks to Scot Mackie and Mike Burton for stepping forth to coordinate this year's anniversary party. If you recall, last year's anniversary was a tremendous success with over 80 people at the dinner and many more at the party afterward. Scot and his helpers did a fabulous job. The theme was small electrical appliances. Can't wait to see what this year's theme will be.

And although it's still seven months away, Scot and Mike will need volunteers to help decorate the site for the dinner, and decorating and organizing food for the party afterwards at NightHawks. Just something to think about as we head into summer.

At Long Last

Houston - we have a website. At last month's meeting, HAB membership heard a proposal to produce our website by J.J. Fulton. He did a lot of research and found the best and most inexpensive way to create and maintain it. Thanks for all your hard work, J.J.

The address is: <http://houstonareabears.com>. Now we need to get pictures, etc. on it. So if you have anything that is website-worthy, talk to J.J.

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Casino Bus Trip

Go on a grand adventure! Bears On The Bayou will be having a casino trip to Grand Casino Caushatta on March 7, 1999. This is the rescheduled trip from December. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Tickets must be purchased by March 1, 1999. The ticket price includes continental breakfast, transportation to and from the casino, lunch buffet and all the fun you can handle. Buses will leave from the parking lot across from NightHawks at 9:00 a.m. and will return at 7:00 p.m. Parking is available. Tickets are available at the following locations: LOBO, Blackhawk Leather, Basic Brothers and Leather Forever. Tickets will also be available at the next HAB business meeting. Bears on the Bayou is a charity event with proceeds benefiting H.A.T.C.H.

Gay Pride '99

At last month's meeting, we asked for volunteers to work on this year's Gay Pride Parade entry. Skip Willet has taken on the responsibility of Chairperson, and Stan Harrell has volunteered as Assistant Chairperson. Thank You to both.

And as summer is just around the corner, these guys will need helpers to design and construct our float. So if this is something you'd be interested in, next time you see Skip or Stan let them know. Thanks.

Did We Mention ...

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to Joe Creak. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles **early**.

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend on Sunday evenings at Nighthawks. We are scheduled for the 3rd and 4th Sundays each month, from 7:00 pm til 11:00 pm. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. If you're interested in joining in please contact Joe Creak at 281-446-3141 or John Dye at 281-590-9899. Thanks.

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Volume 6, Number 4

April 1999 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

Message From The Triad

At the March business meeting we elected our new Triad. After tabulating all the votes the new Triad is John Dye, Gene Landry and John Noessel.

During our term, our objective will be to strengthen, expand and solidify Houston Area Bears. But we'll need your help to achieve these goals. If we all work toward a common goal, the betterment of HAB, we will have the best club which we all deserve.

Remember, as a club ruled by majority vote, not every idea or suggestion will be enacted. However, every item that is enacted should have 100% of our support. More ideas will be forthcoming at the April meeting. See you there.

John & Gene & John

"Message From The Triad" will be a monthly feature in the Growler.

Election Coverage

The March meeting, when elections were held, was attended by 45 HAB voting members. There were also many members who were unable to attend the meeting but voted by proxy.

Congratulations to the new Triad. And thanks to the others who were running. It's this kind of participation that makes HAB the great club it is.

HAB Website

The new and improved website is up and running thanks to the tireless efforts of JJ E. At last month's meeting he informed the club that in the first six weeks of operation the site received 1500 hits!

JJ is now asking for HAB members to come up with some photographs to be added to the website. So if you have any pictures of HAB events, or other events like Southern Decadence or LUEY please pass them on to JJ. He assured the club that no photos will have nudity, and any person appearing in a picture that ends up on the website will have to give their authorization for the picture to be used. Also, if you have a personal website and want to, JJ can list your URL in HAB's website with a link so anyone checking out HAB can check you out as well with just a simple click.

Thanks again JJ for all your hard work. It shows.

Grin-N-Bear It

The Grin-N-Bear It Contest held on March 21st was well attended in spite of the fact that was the same night as the Academy Awards. Thanks to all the contestants for strutting their stuff on stage for all of us to watch and enjoy. Always lots of fun.

The winner for March was Tim N., and the first runner up was Andrew G.

A Message from Bubbles

We wish to give a BIG BEAR HUG of thanks to Joe Creak for serving a full year on the Triad of the Houston Area Bears. Joe represented the Bears well during the year, winning the title of Closet Ball Queen as Ms. Tray-La Trash. Joe copied most of the things handed out at the monthly business meetings, as well as writing the articles in The Growler. Joe also did a lot to help make the 1998 HAB Anniversary and the Southern Decadence 1998 trip big successes. And he helped make the Turn-About Show the success it was. He is currently working on putting together the calendar for next year. Thanks for a great year and for being a great friend.



HAB Members Sweep TBRU

The Texas Bear Round-Up was held in Dallas on March 26th through 28th. Registration topped 550 men from all across the United States, and from such faraway places as Johannesburg, South Africa, Cologne, Germany and Great Britain. HAB members attending numbered around 20, and a great time was had by all despite the cancellation of the pool party.

There were six Houston Area Bear members in the contest and boy did they like them, "They really, really liked them!" Out of the five titles that TBRU presents, HAB members won four. Here's the tally:

Mr. TBRU – Gene L.

Mr. American Bear – Jim F.

TBRU Cub – Robert C.

TBRU Polar Bear – Jim F.

HAB members took every category in which we had men entered. The other HAB members who entered the contest were Chris D. and Andrew G. A Big congratulations to the winners. Once again we see the Houston Area Bears are award winners.

From Anonymous

Brother Bears: Unless you have been in a coma since LUEY, you've heard of the forced outing of Tinky-Winky. Granted, there are unmistakable signs with Tinky, but to pick on a budding drag queen, who hasn't even earned his toaster oven yet is shameful. However, this brings to mind other children's shows and characters that are in danger of gaining Jerry Falwell's ire.

Didn't Dudley Doright look just a little too pretty to be straight? Chiseled good looks, killer bod, voice just a wee bit high. Alas poor Nell. The bitch all but raped Dudley but to no avail. Hey Dudley - Gotcha!

Mr. Rogers and his neighborhood; 'nough said.

Kaptein Kangaroo and his "good friend" Mr. Green Jeans. According to reliable sources, the Kap gave Mr. GJ that nickname because of the nasty discharge in his pants. A piece of advice Green Jeans; get some penicillin at the Montrose Clinic - it's free and will clear most STD's right up.

Lastly the most obvious. Two men in the old west, constant companions, nights on the open range by the campfire, one always masked (probably from Leather Forever). Got a clue yet? Of course it's Kimo Sabie and his faithful Indian Tonto. Can you say Lovers? But they were before their time. Let's see. We have a cowboy and an Indian. Add a construction worker, a cop and a sailor and ... Voila! The Village People.



*"Do they put up signs that say 'Do Not Feed the Moose'?
Do they put up signs that say 'Do Not Feed the Foxes'?..."*

Something New This Month

Starting with this month's issue, the next month's meeting agenda will be printed in the newsletter. This will allow members to see the items that will be discussed. Hopefully this will allow you to formulate ideas, and if you are chairing a committee and see that your project will be discussed it will give you time to prepare your update to be presented to the club. Printed agendas will still be available at the meeting, and of course the agenda may change between the time you receive your newsletter and the actual meeting.

"I'm Coming Out"

On Saturday, March 27th, Ms. Tray-La Trash, aka Joe C., put on a show at EJ's called "I'm Coming Out." This was Tray-La's first show and it was a two-thumbs-up success. Accompanying performers included Felicia Flesheater, Lexy Bowen, George Trash, Ginga Vitas, Norma Jean and Blanche. It was a fun filled comedy evening, with \$342 raised for the Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund

You can see Ms. Tray-La Trash next on Friday, April 2nd in Ed Glassor's show as he raises money for his run at Mr. Prime Choice. The show will be at NightHawks. This should be a great show, so we hope alot of you Bears will be there.

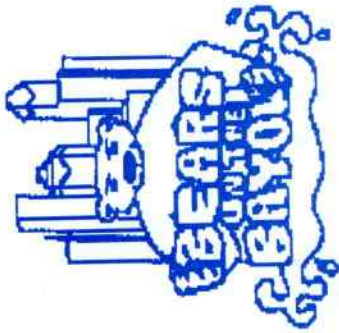
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April's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Opening/Greeting of new members and guests.**
- 2) **Past Activities**
 - a) HAB bartended 3-21-99; Ken L. & David L.
 - b) HAB bartended 3-28-99; Ken L. & David L.
 - c) Bear Social 3-13-99
 - d) Grin-N-Bear It 3-21-99
 - e) Texas Bear Round Up 3-25-99 through 3-28-99
- 3) **Ongoing Activities**
 - a) Bartending 4-18-99 and 4-25-99 at NightHawks
 - b) Bear Social 4-10-99, 9:00 pm at NightHawks
 - c) HAB business meeting 4-11-99, 4:00 pm NightHawks
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) Introduction of New Triad
 - b) Update on HAB Web Page
- 5) **New Business**
 - a) Rewriting HAB By-Laws
 - b) Implementing Robert's Rules of Order
 - c) Gay Pride Parade update
 - d) NLA Anniversary 4-16-99 through 4-18-99
 - e) NLA cocktail party hosted by HAB 4-16-99, 11:00 pm at NightHawks
 - f) Expanded Newsletter
 - g) Memorial Day Barbecue
 - h) Name Tags
 - i) American Bear photographer Casey S. at Decadence
- 6) **Items from HAB Members**
- 7) **Future HAB Activities**
 - a) Grin-N-Bear It 4-18-99 at NightHawks
 - b) Bears On The Bayou update
- 8) **Future Special/Community Events**
 - a) Mr. Prime Choice 4-16-99 through 4-18-99
 - b) Mr. Texas Drummer 4-18-99 at Pacific Street
 - c) "Lean On Me" Benefit 4-18-99 at BRB
 - d) "Bathtub Gin & Cigarettes" 4-18-99 at Briarpatch
 - e) Grin-N-Bear It 4-18-99 at NightHawks
- 9) **Presentation to Joe Creak from John Dye**
- 10) **Closing**



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Please feel free to copy,
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 at will. Only one name per
 registration form, please.

Registration Information

Please print.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State/Province/Country:	Phone:
Zip Code:	Email Address:

Name Badge Information

You will receive a name badge upon check-in at the Bears on the Bayou event. This badge will assure your access to all official Bears on the Bayou scheduled events. Please give accurate information so that we may recognize you in the manner in which you are most comfortable.

Name by which you would like to be identified i.e. nickname, first name, Internet name:
Club Affiliation:

T shirt

All Bears on the Bayou registrants will receive an event T-shirt upon check-in. Please indicate your t shirt size below.

Please circle the appropriate size:	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	XXXXL
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Additional Participation

Please indicate any additional information you would like to receive from the list below:

_____ Contestant application for the Bears on The Bayou "Twisted Bear" Contest. (Contestant applications must be postmarked by April 9, 1999. Only the first twenty-three twisted applications will be accepted. Oh, what the heck. We might accept more, or we might accept less.)

_____ Judges application for the Bears on the Bayou "Twisted Bear" Contest. (Judges' applications must be postmarked by April 9, 1999; however, all applications will provide a source of fine bedtime reading for those choosing the judges.)

_____ Information about advertising in the Bears on the Bayou "Twisted Program Book". (Yes, everything else about this is twisted, so you should be a little twisted too!)

_____ Information about participating in the Bears on the Bayou "Twisted Vendor Fair." (We want you to bring your most twisted bear wares to sell. We all like the same old stuff, but if you've got something new to flaunt, this will be the place to do it!)

_____ Information about volunteering to help during the Bears on the Bayou twisted event. (If you do this, you will always be remembered as one "twisted sicko".)

Special Needs

Bears on the Bayou wishes to accommodate persons with challenging life issues. If you have any special accommodation or dietary needs, please describe them below so that we can make provision for your comfort and well being.

Fee and Payment Information

Registration for Bears on the Bayou is \$75.00 (\$65.00 for members of Houston Area Bears) Registration postmarked after April 9 will be \$85.00. Very limited registration packets and goodies will be available the weekend of Bears on the Bayou. Payment by check or money order only.

Check (indicate amount)	Money Order (indicate amount)
-------------------------	-------------------------------

Registration cancellations must be in writing and must be postmarked no later than March 20, 1999. (Now, why would you want to go and do a thing like that?) Cancellations postmarked by March 20, 1999 will receive a refund less a ten-dollar processing fee. This refund will be mailed within thirty days. Registration for Bears on the Bayou is not transferable. All registrants who do not show will not receive a refund. They will receive their registration packet, t-shirt, pin and whatever other twisted stuff we happen to include. (The real problem is that there is no way we can mail to you all the fun stuff you would miss by not showing up.)

Release of Liability

(Please read carefully and sign below)

I hereby certify that I am at least 21 years of age. I agree not to hold Bears on the Bayou, Inc.; it's guests, sponsors, or any commercial facility or establishment where a portion of this event may be held, responsible for any loss or injury to my property or my person for the duration of this event. I agree to abide by the rules of this event. I agree not to use or possess any controlled substances or non-prescription drugs during this event. I agree to conduct myself in a responsible manner in all public areas of the hosting facilities of this event. I agree to assume full financial responsibility for any damage I may cause to any commercial property or establishment used in conjunction with this event. Still photography, video or audio reproduction of any portion of the Bears on the Bayou event may not be distributed, sold or broadcast in any way without prior written consent of Bears on the Bayou.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Hotel Information

Bears on the Bayou is proud to host this *twisted* event at the *Holiday Inn Select*, 2712 Southwest Freeway at Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas. Guestrooms will be \$75.00 per night for one to four people. To make reservations call 713-523-8448. When making reservations, please remember to mention Bears on the Bayou for this special room rate. The special room rate will apply two days prior to the event and two days following the event for those interested in early arrival or extending their stay in Houston.

Now.....

Now that you have done all this reading and signing and deciding if you can live by all the rules..... Just go ahead and write the check, stick all this in an envelope with the mailing address written in the right spot, lick it, stick a stamp on it and give it to that hot and hairy postman that comes around everyday about the same time. Once you have done that, it will be only ten days after we receive your check and signed application that we will return by mail to you an itinerary and confirmation that you are registered for.....

• *the most twisted bear event of the century.....!*

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

Growler



P.O. Box 66443
Houston, TX 77266

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

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<http://www.HoustonAreaBears.com>

Volume 6, Number 5

May 1999 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears

Message From The Triad

This month we are undertaking a major accomplishment; the by-laws. The first question you might have is "Why have a comprehensive list of by-laws?" It's true that for the four years HAB has been in existence the by-laws consisted of a few sentences. That was adequate when the club was just a dozen or so members. But now with the membership well over 100 they are obsolete.

The proposed new by-laws will in no way change the club, except to allow us to run HAB in an organized, efficient manner. Your participation in revising the proposed by-laws is encouraged and appreciated. Let's take a positive attitude and get down to work. If you were unable to attend the April business meeting, you will find the proposed by-laws reprinted in this newsletter. Voting and discussions on the new by-laws will take place at the May business meeting.

John & Gene & John

TGIF

April 23rd was HAB's first Friday bartending night. It coincided with the Bears On The Bayou bar run. Light munchies were served and all that attended had fun. The HAB bartenders were John N., tim c., and David L.

We look forward to seeing lots of Houston Area Bears at the next Friday mini-social on May 28th.

Let The Rumors Die!!!

NightHawks has been sold. Jim Roberts met with the Triad to confirm the sale. The new owner will continue the leather/levi tradition with the bar and improvements are on the way. Houston Area Bears, as well as National Leather Association are considered welcome assets by the new management. As soon as possible the Triad will meet with the new owner and will report on the meeting in an upcoming newsletter.

Grin-N-Bear It

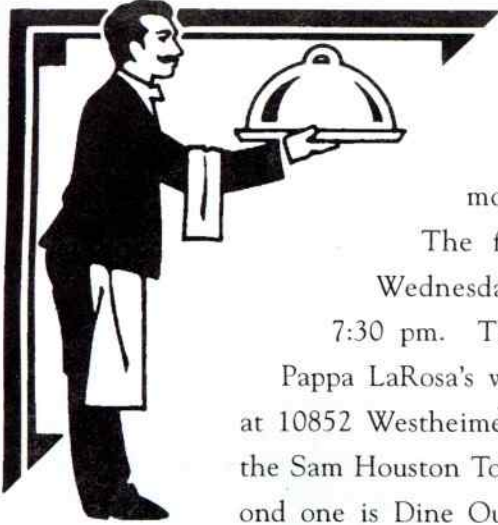
The Grin-N-Bear It Contest was held on Sunday, April 10th with Jessica Grabbit (aka robert r.) emceeding the contest. She was in rare form that night. During one number, her high kick sent the medics looking for a truss.

The contestants for April were Steve, Eric and Randall. During the show the crowd was treated to a red blinking d--k, and ostrich egg n-ts. You had to be there to understand.

After the votes were counted, Eric was 2nd runner up, and Steve L. (your friendly NightHawks bartender) was victorious. Congratulations to Steve and many thanks to the runners-up.

The next Grin-N-Bear It will be on May 16th at NightHawks (of course). It's always lots of fun, so we hope to see you all there.

Do I Smell Food?



There are two dine-outs scheduled for the month of May. The first one is on Wednesday the 5th at 7:30 pm. The restaurant is Pappa LaRosa's which is located at 10852 Westheimer - just west of the Sam Houston Tollway. The second one is Dine Out and a movie. The dinner portion begins at 7:00 pm at the Black-Eyed Pea, 2048 West Gray. The movie selection will be made over dinner. Hope to see you there.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Two of Houston Area Bear's members are currently involved in productions around town. Gene Landry is appearing in "Taming of the Shrew." This production, however, is set in the wild west. Performances are at the Jewish Community Center. Ask Gene about times and dates of the performances.

Scot M. is currently appearing in Houston Grand Opera's production of "Resurrection." (This reporter knows someone who attended opening night and told me it was quite good.) Then Scot will be seen in HGO's "Mephistophele." Performances are at the Wortham Center. For more information, call Scot.

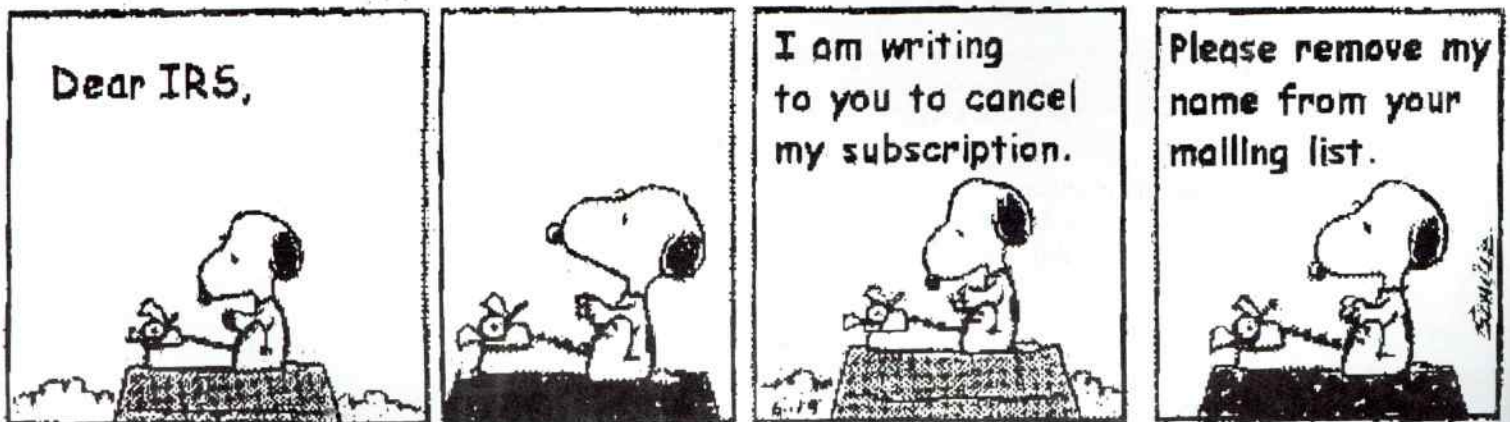
And The Winners Are...

Congratulations are in order for 2 HAB members, who won titles last month. Stan H. won Mr. Master of Leather. The event was held at NightHawks on April 18th. One of HAB's newest members, Larry S., took the title Mr. Chances. The event was held, where else but, at Chances. Good going guys.

Stan will be busy for the next few months while workers complete the new addition to his home - the Sash Room. (LOL)

Sign Up Now & Save

Southern Decadence is just 4 months away. Once again it is time to reserve your space at the Guest House. Bill N. and John Noessel are working to secure the best value on air fair and the Guest House. It will take a few more weeks before the exact amount of each package is known; however there shouldn't be a significant increase over last years cost. Now is the time to sign up and put down your \$100⁰⁰ non-refundable deposit. HAB members will get first rights to the available spaces, but only until July 24th. At that time anyone can sign up. As an incentive to sign up early, anyone who puts the deposit down by June 15th will receive a 5% discount. If you plan to go to Decadence but don't plan to stay at the Guest House, you still can fly with the group and enjoy the savings of the group rate. This is the last gay Mardi Gras of the millennium; you know it will be the best and most decadent. For additional information contact Bill N. or John Noessel.





Houston Area Bears By-Laws

Chapter I. GENERAL

Sec. 1.1 Name.

The name of this Organization shall be Houston Area Bears (hereinafter the "Club").

Sec. 1.2 Purpose.

The Club is a social organization created to bring together gay and bisexual people who are either bears themselves or bear admirers, for friendship and fellowship, and shared common interests. The purposes of the Club are to sponsor and promote social and recreational activities for its members.

Chapter 2. BY-LAWS

Sec. 2.1 Changes to By-Laws.

These By-Laws may be changed (amended or repealed) at any time at a regular or called business meeting of the Club. Proposed changes shall be presented in writing at a regular business meeting. A motion must be passed to place the proposed changes on the agenda of the next regular business meeting. The proposed changes will be published in the newsletter or by special mail and/or e-mail at least ten days prior to the next business meeting when the vote is to be taken. A majority vote of those present is sufficient to approve changes, amendments or repeals; members may vote by written or e-mail proxy submitted to the Triad.

Chapter 3. MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 3.1 Members.

(a) Regular Members

- (i) To be a Regular Member, one must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and must agree to comply with these By-Laws, complete a membership application and pay the initial registration fee and subsequent annual fees.
- (ii) Membership applications will ask for identifying information such as name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and birth date. The applicant is required to sign the application to certify that he/she is over 21 years of age.
- (iii) All Members must be at least 21 years of age. The Club reserves the right to request identification from an applicant or member with proof of age, such as a driver's license or other documents.
- (iv) Only Regular Members may vote in Club elections, business and decisions.

(b) Associate Members

- (i) Membership requirements for Associate Members shall be the same as for Regular Members.
- (ii) Associate Members have no vote in Club elections, business or other decisions.
- (iii) The Club's regular Members may set annual dues for Associate Members at a different level than dues for Regular Members.

(b) Honorary Members

- (i) Honorary Membership may be granted to an individual as recognition of outstanding dedication of service to the group by a non-member.
- (ii) Honorary Members will receive the newsletter and may attend all Club meetings and activities.
- (iii) Honorary Members have no vote in Club elections, business or other decisions.
- (iv) Honorary Membership is for life.

Sec. 3.2 Removal of Members.

- (a) Members may be removed from Membership by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Club at a regular business meeting.
- (b) A motion must be submitted in writing and passed at a regular business meeting to place removal of Membership on the agenda of the next regular business meeting.
- (c) The Triad will notify all Regular Members by first-class mail or e-mail prior to the meeting of the Motion to Remove a Member.
- (d) Members may vote by proxy submitted in writing to the Triad.
- (e) A person removed from Membership may reapply for Membership after one year upon approval of a majority of the Regular Membership in attendance at a regular business meeting.

Chapter 4. MEETINGS

Sec. 4.1 Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings.

- (a) The Club shall hold regular business meetings on the Sunday following the second Saturday of each month.
- (b) A majority of the Triad may call special meetings.
- (c) Notice of all regular and special meetings should be issued to all Members not less than two weeks prior to the meeting for a regular meeting, or 24 hours for special meeting. The notice must provide the date, time, and location of the meeting. Notice may be by publication in the newsletter.
- (d) The Triad shall use Robert's Rules of Order as a guide in conducting meetings. When disputes arise over the use of these rules, proceedings may be mediated by a Parliamentarian appointed by the Triad.
- (e) Only Regular Members may vote in any business meeting; Associate Members shall have no voting rights but may attend any business meeting.
- (f) Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws, approval of any action requires a simple majority of the Regular Members present.
- (g) No financial business may be conducted DURING a regular business meeting. (i.e. writing checks, paying dues, etc.) Business may be handled AFTER the meeting's conclusion.
- (h) Regular meetings do not include Triad Meetings.

Sec. 4.2 Quorum.

In order to conduct business, for business matters not otherwise specified in these By-Laws, a quorum shall consist of those Regular Members present at a regular or special meeting of the Club.

Chapter 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sec. 5.1 Triad.

- (a) There shall be officers of the Club of equal rank referred to as The Triad.
- (b) The Triad shall constitute the Executive Committee for business affairs.
- (c) Only Regular Members may be officers.

Sec. 5.2 Term of Office.

- (a) The term of the Triad shall be from the end of the regular March meeting until the conclusion of the following March meeting.
- (b) There is no limit to how many concurrent terms a Triad Member may serve.

Sec. 5.3 Responsibilities of the Triad.

- (a) Schedules a calendar of social events and outings for the Club which will be published on a monthly basis.
- (b) Plans and executes social events for the Club.
- (c) Coordinates and keeps records of all correspondence to and from the Club, including newsletters, the announcement line, web site and promotional/recruitment materials.
- (d) Creates, appoints and chairs committees when appropriate.
- (e) Facilitates the Regular Business Meetings.
- (f) Keeps records of the Minutes from all meetings of the Club.
- (g) Maintains Membership records including Member data base and mailing lists.
- (h) Researches and implements Recruitment and Member Retention devices.
- (i) Keeps the Club checkbook and writes checks for expenses when needed.
- (j) Prepares annual Club budget to be submitted to the Club at the June meeting.

- (k) Researches and suggests fund raising plans for the Club.
- (m) Keeps records of Members dues.
- (n) Sells Club merchandise to Members when requested. Also keeps track of inventory and orders additional supplies when needed.

Sec. 5.4 Election of Triad Members.

- (a) Elections will be held at the end of the regular meeting in March.
- (b) Nominations for office will be submitted to the Triad at the regular meeting in February.
- (c) Any Regular Member may nominate any Regular Member for Triad.
- (d) All nominations require a second to be accepted.
- (e) A nominated Member must acknowledge his nomination for it to be accepted. If the nominated Member is not present he must give written consent to the Triad to be considered for election.
- (f) Members will vote for three Members to serve on the Triad. Candidates with the three (3) highest vote tallies will be named as Triad Members.

Sec. 5.5 Handling of a Vacant Triad Position.

- (a) If a Triad Position becomes vacant for any reason, including resignation or removal, the remaining Triad Members may appoint a Member to serve in that position until a special election can be held. The appointed Member may or may not seek election for the open position.
- (b) Notice of the vacancy and of the special election must be sent to the entire Membership two (2) weeks prior to the regular meeting where the election is to be held. If the next meeting is less than two weeks away, the election should be held at the regular meeting following that one.
- (c) A special election should be held at the next regular meeting, except in the case where proper notification is not possible.
- (d) Nominations will be taken on the day of the election and the nominated member with the majority of votes will fill the vacant Triad Position for the remainder of its regular term.

Sec. 5.6 Removal of a Triad Member.

- (a) A Triad Member may be removed from Membership by a 1/4 majority vote of the entire Regular Membership of the Club at a regular business meeting.
- (b) A motion must be submitted in writing and passed at a regular business meeting to place removal of a Triad Member on the agenda of the next regular business meeting.
- (c) The Triad will notify all Regular Members by first-class mail or e-mail prior to the meeting of the Motion to Remove a Triad Member.
- (d) Members may vote by proxy submitted in writing to the Triad.
- (e) A person removed from the Triad may seek re-election after one year from the date of removal.

Sec. 5.7 Sponsorships, Endorsements, and Commitment of Resources.

Only the Club as a whole, or the Triad acting on behalf of the Club, may approve sponsorship or endorsements in the Club's name, commit Club resources or Membership, or extend invitations to other organizations or groups.

Chapter 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Sec. 6.1 Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Club shall be June 1 through May 31.

Sec. 6.2 Dues.

- (a) There shall be annual Membership dues of \$24.
- (b) Dues are due to the Triad with an updated Membership application BEFORE the regular meeting in June.
- (c) Dues for new Members will be pro-rated for the first year and then due before the June meeting.
- (d) Members unpaid in the June meeting will lose their Membership privileges until dues are paid in full.

Sec. 6.3 Expenditures.

- (a) The Triad may approve expenditures for an amount not to exceed \$300 without a vote from the Membership.
- (b) Expenditures exceeding \$300 will be approved by a vote of the Membership at any meeting.

Chapter 7. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Sec. 7.1 Confidentiality of Member Information.

- (a) Members must give their individual permission prior to the Club's publication of any personal or identifying information in any form, such as postal and e-mail addresses and phone numbers.
- (b) Members shall keep any such published personal or identifying information confidential and shall not release such published information outside the Club.
- (c) Members may not use any Membership information for their own commercial purposes.

Sec. 7.2 Unauthorized Release of Confidential Information; Penalty.

A Member may be removed from Membership for violating the provisions of this chapter.

MAY

1999

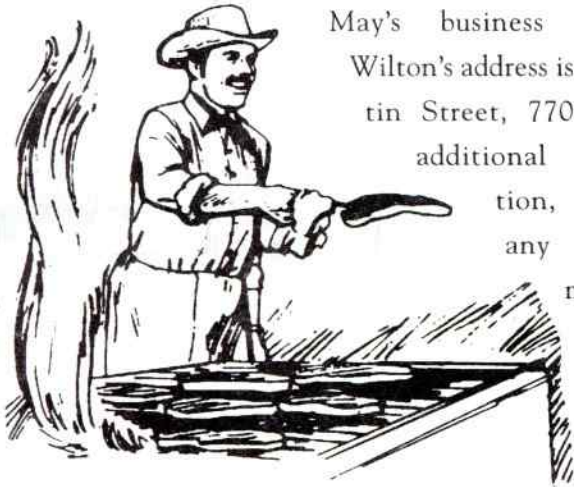
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 May Day	4	5 Dine-Out Pappa LaRosa's 10852 Westheimer 7:30 pm	6	7	8 HAB Social Night Nighthawks • 9:00 pm
9 Mother's Day HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Nighthawks	10	11	12	13	14	15 Armed Forces Day Dinner & Movie Night 7:00 pm, Black-Eyed Pea 2048 West Gray
16 Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Nighthawks HAB Bartending	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Victoria Day	25	26	27 Chicago Bear Pride	28 Chicago Bear Pride HAB Bartending at Nighthawks Upstairs Bar	29 Chicago Bear Pride
30 Memorial Day B-B-Q & Pool Party 1:00 - 6:00 pm	31 Memorial Day					

Memorial Day Barbecue & Pool Party

Calling all Hot and Hungry Bears. HAB's annual Memorial Day picnic/pool party will be Sunday, May 30th from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Wilton T. has generously opened his home and pool for the event. The cost per person is \$12.00 which goes to purchase the B-B-Q and some side dishes. However each attendee is encouraged to bring a salad or desert so that there will be enough to fill all the bears - you know how bears eat! If you're thinking about bringing bread, see Stan LaF. Bring your favorite beverage, and swimsuits are a must.

The deadline to sign up to join in the festivities is Monday, May 24th. A sign-up sheet and maps to Wilton's home will be available at May's business meeting.

Wilton's address is 812 Martin Street, 77018. For additional information, contact any Triad member.



Is Anybody Listening?

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles **early.**

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend on Sunday evenings at Nighthawks. We are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday and 4th Friday each month, from 7:00 pm til 11:00 pm. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. Really, it is. If you're interested in joining in please contact John Dye at 281-590-9899, Gene Landry at 713-868-5213 or John Noessel at 281-561-6213. Thanks.

April's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Opening/Greeting of new members and guests.**
- 2) **Past Activities**
 - a) HAB bartended 4-18-99; David L. & John N.
 - b) HAB bartended 4-23-99; David L., John N. & tim c.
 - c) Bear Social 4-10-99
 - d) Grin-N-Bear It 4-18-99
 - e) NLA Anniversary cocktail party by HAB 4-16-99
- 3) **Ongoing Activities**
 - a) Bartending 5-16-99 and 5-28-99 at NightHawks
 - b) Bear Social 5-8-99, 9:00 pm at NightHawks
 - c) HAB business meeting 5-9-99, 4:00 pm NightHawks
 - d) Gay Pride Parade update
 - e) Southern Decadence update
 - f) Memorial Day B-B-Q/Pool Party
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) Introduction of Parliamentarian
 - b) HAB By-Laws
- 5) **New Business**
 - a) NightHawks
- 6) **Items from HAB Members**
- 7) **Future HAB Activities**
 - a) Grin-N-Bear It 5-16-99 at NightHawks
 - b) Dinner & Movie Night
 - c) Friday Mini-Social
 - d) Chicago Bear Pride
- 8) **Closing**

Bears On The Bayou I

Bears On The Bayou I is very recent history; so recent in fact that an informative article is not possible for this month's newsletter. However, let me mention that all who attended had the opportunity for fun, fellowship and a dog-gone good time. Look for an extensive article next month. This will allow Loyd, Robert, Chris, Ron, David, Stan, Mark, Barry, John, Dan and Joe to get out of ICU. Good work guys.

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Message From The Triad

Have you ever wondered what makes a club successful? If you are a social club, success will be measured by the amount of enjoyment the members get. Do you know what is necessary to promote such enjoyment? **Group Participation.** It takes time and effort to put on a function or to participate in a club's fund-raising activities. HAB has over 100 members, yet far less than half bother to give a helping hand when needed. If we can get more members to help out, we could plan more events. The next time we ask for volunteers, don't just sit on your hands ... raise them.

John & Gene & John

Venture-N Again

During the May business meeting, Bobby of NightHawks, addressed the club. We were told of many changes to come: a security guard in the parking lot, renovations to the upstairs bar, a new bar downstairs and a new sound system just to name a few. Bobby didn't waste any time. As of May 23rd, these changes are completed or well underway.

One of the best changes so far is the name. NightHawks is dead; Long live the Venture-N! If you haven't been to the Venture-N recently, do yourself a favor and check it out. The V-N now has direction, style and an owner who cares about what we like. If your taste is for bears, men of leather, levis or uniforms, go to the V-N. The crowds are building and the partying is getting good. Thanks, Bobby. Keep it up.

Membership News

A Big Bear Welcome to our new members:

Keith A.
Porfirio "Pete" D.
Shawn N.
Bruce R.

Get well wishes go out to HAB member Al D. He is recovering from back surgery. Al resides in New Orleans and is a special host to HAB during Souther Decadence.

Pride Parade Update

At the May business meeting, HAB members voted to enter a float in the Gay Pride Parade. Since then there has been new developments. The Venture-N is entering a float; all clubs that call the V-N home will be acknowledged on the float and have space for club representatives to ride. Bobby approached the Triad and proposed that we take the initiative in decorating the float. After the Triad consulted with Stan H., Parade Committee ChairBear, it was decided that we accept Bobby's offer and eliminate our own float entry. In an effort to offset some of the cost the V-N is incurring, the Triad decided to give the approved funds to the V-N. The Triad feels that this HAB/V-N partnership will benefit us both. Decorating the float will require the help of HAB members. The Triad will be in touch with further details and schedules.

Book 'Em Danno

The Venture-N now has parking lot security. HAB's own Mark F. is on patrol nightly. If Mark doesn't strike fear in the minds of would-be vandals, no one will. (And he looks fabulous in his uniform.) Thanks Bobby for the long overdo security.

Thanks

Houston Area Bears would like to extend a special Thanks to the NLA-Houston "Daddies." During the renovations at the Venture-N it became necessary to move our trophy case. Those butch NLA guys stepped right up and helped move it. Thanks guys.

Ahh, But Can She Breastfeed?

HAB's own Paul P. is the new Mother of Montrose. On Mother's Day at Mary's (Naturally), Ms. Rosy Cheeks was crowned Mother of Montrose and given her royal scepter - a toilet bowl brush. She will reign for one year and do windows every other week. Congrats Paul. And by the way - can you darn my socks?

Bear Cave Socials

Here's some information for you about a work in progress. Your Triad and the Venture-N are working together to create a "Bear Cave Social." What's that? Well here's the blueprints so far.

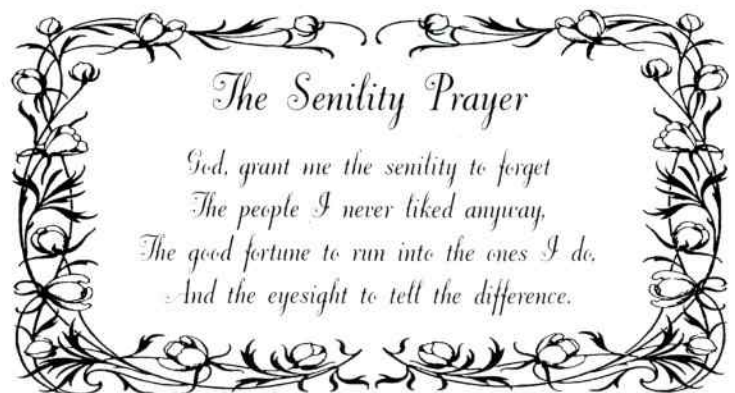
The fourth Sunday of each month, in the V-N's private dance area, from say 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm we'll get together and ... We haven't finished that sentence yet. We will be polling members for your ideas about activities you would like. All ideas are welcome and appreciated. Contact a Triad member with yours.

HAB By-Laws

At last month's business meeting, the proposed HAB By-Laws were discussed. It's great that so many members are expressing an interest in creating By-Laws we all can endorse. We are half-way through the fine tuning process and will complete this task at the June business meeting. In this newsletter you will find the revisions made from Chapter 1, Section 1.1 through Chapter 5, Section 5.3. Thanks for you input and patience. We are close to having this task behind us.


Going...Going...Gone.

On Saturday May 22nd, Bubble's Bear Auction took place at the Venture-N. The crowd had the opportunity to bid on nine hunky men. The auction was hosted by John D. and Loyd P. with the \$278 raised going to the Colt 45's Stone Soup Fund. Thanks to all that participated.



JUNE

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Gay Day at Disney World Orlando, Florida
6	7	8 Dine-Out Marie Callendar's Richmond at Post Oak, 7:00 pm	9	10	11	12 HAB Social Night Venture-N • 9:00 pm
13 HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Venture-N	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Venture-n HAB Bartending	21	22	23	24 Dine-Out Baba Yega's (behind Mining Co.) 7:00 pm	25 HAB Bartending at Venture-N Upstairs Bar	26
27	28	29	30			
						

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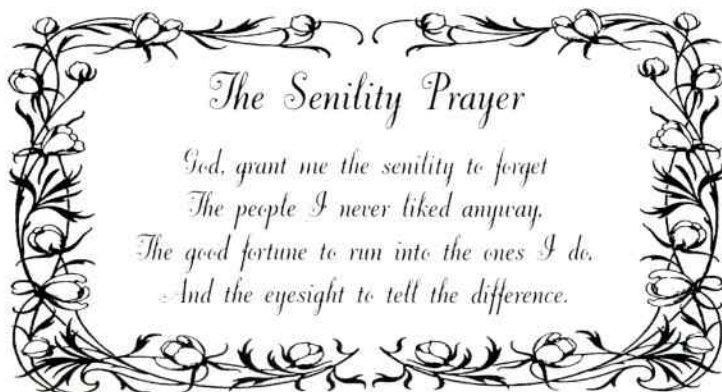
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The Houston Area Bears



Message From The Triad

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this column will not appear this month.

John & Gene & John

Membership News

A Big Bear Welcome to our new members:

Cody B.

Jerry B. (associate member)

Wayne B.

Michael C.

Memorial Day Bear-B-Q

The Memorial Day Bar-B-Q and Pool Party was held at Wilton T's house this year. There were 25 people in attendance for the fun and good food. Even a severe thunderstorm couldn't keep the bears out of the pool, which it was reported became very festive. Thanks to all who brought side dishes to supplement the scrumptious B.B.Q. A very special thanks goes out to Wilton, Ron and David. Their beautiful home and gardens made the event that much more enjoyable.

Ride 'Em Cowboy

TGRA (Texas Gay Rodeo Association) invites everyone to the Texas Gay Rodeo, November 11-14. This year the rodeo will be held at the Travis County Exposition Center in Austin. So put on your spurs, mount up and see how long you can stay on. Whew, I need a cigarette.

July's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2) **Reports**
 - a) Southern Decadence Update
 - b) Anniversary Party Update
 - c) Grin-'N-Bear It Advisory Committee
- 3) **Old Business**
 - a) Final Voter on HAB By-Laws
- 4) **New Business**
(to be announced)
- 5) **Items From HAB Members**
- 5) **Upcoming Activities**
 - a) 7-10-99: HAB Social
 - b) 7-11-99: HAB Business Meeting
 - c) 7-14-99: Dine-out at Demeris Bar-B-Q
 - d) 7-18-99: Grin-'N-Bear It Contest
 - e) 7-31-99: Dine-out/Movie Night at Pot Pie Restaurant
 - f) 7-31-99: Stan Harrell's Leather Fantasy/Fashion Show
- 6) **Closing**



This and That

The winner of the June Grin-'N-Bear It contest was Bobby G. and the first runner-up was Doug D. There were five really hot bears in the contest. Woof!

HAB Bartenders for the evening were Ken E., Gene L. and John N. Altogether they raised \$106 in tips. Good going, guys.

The June 24th Dine-Out was held at Baba Yega's and was attended by 11 hungry bears.

John D. is compiling an HAB scrapbook. Any pictures, news clippings or memorabilia you may have would be greatly appreciated.

There's now only a couple slots left for the Southern Decadence trip. If you are interested in going, please contact Bill N. at 281-446-6953.

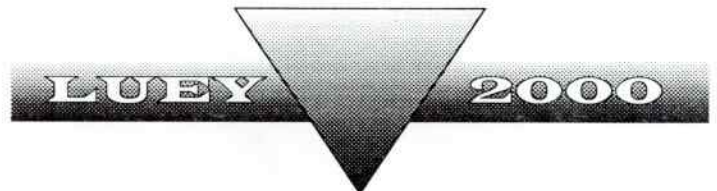
5th Anniversary Party

Brother Bears,

It is now time to start planning for our 5th anniversary celebration. Our theme this year will be WOOD... so it should be a lot of fun. Mike B. and I have done some preliminary planning for the event but there is still much to do. If you would like to volunteer to help plan this year's party, please contact me as soon as possible. I especially need someone to help with getting donations for the raffle. This has always been a popular feature of our celebration and it also helps defray the cost of the party. If you have time and can spend a few afternoons going to businesses in our community and asking for donations, let me know soon. I will be able to help, so the job won't be left up to just one person. There will be more details about the party announced at the July meeting, so stay tuned.

Hugs & Nuzzles,

Scot M. - (281) 441-6047



The Houston Council of Clubs is holding a

PIN CONTEST and POSTER CONTEST

Deadline is August 1st, 1999.

Give entries to any HCC Member or mail entries to:
Houston Council of Clubs, c/o Brazos River Bottom
2400 Brazos Street, Houston, Texas 77006

PIN DESIGN MUST INCLUDE: POSTER DESIGN MUST INCLUDE:

- "Let Us Entertain You Weekend" (or "LUEY Weekend")
 - The year "2000" (or "Y2K")
 - "Houston Council of Clubs" (or "HCC")
 - And must be of a Mardi Gras Theme (i.e. masks, beads, etc.)
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 - The Event Dates "March 10-12, 2000"
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Any Questions Call:

Chris Patterson @ 713-771-7715 or 713-341-5744

JULY

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Canada Day ¹	²	³
⁴ Independence Day	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸	⁹	¹⁰ HAB Social Night Venture-N • 9:00 pm
¹¹ HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Venture-N	¹²	¹³	¹⁴ Dine-Out Demeris Bar-B-Q on S. Shepherd 7:00 pm	¹⁵	¹⁶	¹⁷
¹⁸ Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Venture-N HAB Bartending	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹	²²	²³ HAB Bartending at Venture-N	²⁴
²⁵	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹	³⁰	³¹ Dine-Out & Movie Night Pot Pie Restaurant 7:00 pm
						



Cooking With Muffin

by Muffin Meadows

This is the recipe former First Lady Barbara uses to keep her man George a regular guy.

Broccoli Cornbread

- Work Time: 10 minutes
- Total Time: 30 minutes

- 1 1/2 cups self-rising cornmeal
- 1 (10-oz.) package of chopped broccoli, thawed
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cup or 1 stick margarine, melted

In a large bowl, mix cornmeal and broccoli and toss together. Add other ingredients and mix well. Grease a two-quart casserole dish and pour in the mixture. Bake in a preheated oven at 400° until golden brown; about 20 minutes.



Gay Pride '99

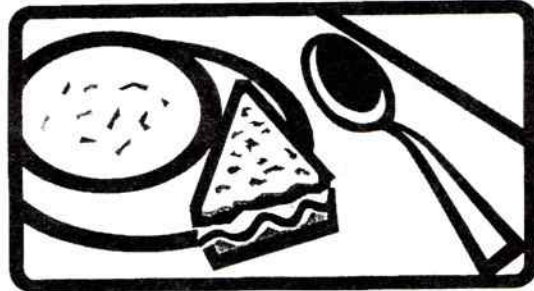
The last Gay Pride Parade of the millennium is over and it was the best on ever. The Venture-N float was spectacular - it was the only float to get its picture in the Chronicle. Bobby and Rick represented the VN and there were representatives from HAB (namely Robert C., Tim C., Jim F., David G., Stan H., John N.) and NLA on board. Thanks to Wilton, David & Ron for the use of their beautiful Harley Davidson which was the focal point of the float. And it made a perfect perch for Stan the boot-black in his leather and Michael the bartender doing "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" drag. It's estimated about 80,000 spectators lined the parade route this year.

Another event for Pride Month was Gay Day at Astroworld. A group of about a dozen Houston Area Bears met at the park to check out the thrill rides and other attractions. It was good weather, albeit very hot and steamy. With the exception of this reporter who got really pissed off after waiting in line for almost 2 hours to ride the Texas Tornado and then they shut it down, we all had a great time.

Club Bartending Update

All the clubs that call the Venture-N home met with Bobby recently to clarify the club bartending situation. All clubs that want to bartend will be allowed to use the bar upstairs next to the bootblack stand. If an event promises to draw a large crowd, then the outside bar will be available as well. The upstairs bar will serve well drinks, shots and iced beer. Clubs will man their bar from 8:00pm til 1:00 am. Let's all support the club's fundraising effort; stop by the bar for your favorite beverage, and be sure to tip generously.

Dine-Outs



Listen up, all you ravenous bears. We've got 2 dine-outs in the month of July. The

first one is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14th at the Demeris Barbecue on South Shepherd at 7:00 pm. The second is a dine-out & movie night. It is scheduled for Saturday, July 31st at the Pot Pie Restaurant on Westheimer at 7:00 pm as well. The movie will be decided by the attendees at dinner. See you there.

News & Booze

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles **early**.

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend at the Venture-N. We are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday and 4th Friday each month, from 7:00 pm til 11:00 pm. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. Really, it is. If you're interested in joining in please contact John Dye at 281-590-9899, Gene Landry at 713-868-5213 or John Noessel at 281-561-6213. Thanks.

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

Growler



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Website:
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Volume 6, Number 8

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Membership News

A Big Bear Welcome to our new members:

Kirk B.

Peter F. (associate member)

Tom P.

Rodney S.

The current membership roster has 86 full members and 13 associate members for a grand total of 99.

5th Anniversary Party

The "Get-Well-Soon" flags are out for HAB member Scot M. At last month's meeting Scot announced his resignation from chairing the anniversary party committee due to health problems. Scot will be undergoing treatment for a while, so let's all give him our support and big bear hugs.

John Dye has stepped in to chair the committee, and Mike B. is co-chair. Due to the fact that we've had a change in the chair for this event at this late date, and that August and September are already full with events, the Triad is considering having our anniversary party sometime in October. The tentative change in date will be discussed at the August business meeting. We will also discuss possible venues for the event at that time. Let's pitch in and make our Fifth Anniversary celebration the best ever.

Message From The Triad

Hey Guys. Fall is just around the corner, and you know what that means... That's right. Houston Area Bears Fifth Anniversary. Incidentally, we are considering having the celebration as an October event this year. John Dye has stepped up to chair the committee, however he needs our help. We need volunteers on the coordinating, decorations, awards and food committees. The anniversary and party afterwards is always the highlight of the years activities, but it does require lots of helping hands. Please call John Dye at 281-590-9899 and offer your assistance.

John & Gene & John

August's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2) **Reports**
 - a) Southern Decadence Update
 - b) Anniversary Party Update
 - c) Grin-'N-Bear It Update
- 3) **Old Business**
(to be announced)
- 4) **New Business**
(to be announced)
- 5) **Items From HAB Members**
- 6) **Upcoming Activities**
 - a) 8-01-99: Bears On The Bayou Casino Trip
 - b) 8-12-99: Dine-out at Dirty's
 - c) 8-14-99: HAB Social
 - d) 8-14-99: Leather Fantasy Fashion Show
 - e) 8-15-99: HAB Business Meeting
 - f) 8-15-99: Grin-'N-Bear It / HAB Bartending
 - g) 8-22-99: Gulf Coast Bootblack Competition
 - h) 8-24-99: Dine-out at Black-Eyed Pea
- 7) **Closing**



New and Improved

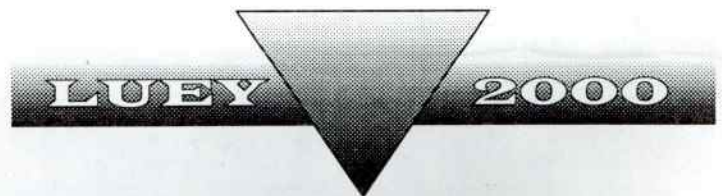
Starting in July the Grin-'N-Bear It Contest has a new format. There will now be three winners at each competition. The categories are small, medium and large bears. Remember, you don't have to be hirsute, and you don't have to be large to enter. The winners of the July contest were:

Small	Andrew S.
Medium	Tony S.
Large	Jim B.

The Grin-'N-Bear It Contest for August will be on **AUGUST 15th**, not the 22nd as reported in last month's newsletter. The new starting time is 8:00 pm. And, as usual, HAB will be guest bartending during the show, so drink up and tip generously.

Leather Fantasy

For a weekend of hunky leathermen, you don't want to miss the third annual "Leather Fantasy Fashion Show and Beefcake Auction," produced by HAB's own Stan Harrell, Master of Leather '99. It kicks off Friday, August 13th with a reception for International Mr. Leather 1999, Bruce Chopnik, and other leather title holders, at 9:00 pm at the Venture-N. At the reception, there will be a drawing for dinners with Mr. Chopnik and the other title holders. On Saturday the 14th, the lucky winners of the drawing will have dinner at Dirty's Restaurant at 5:00 pm. The Leather Fantasy Fashion Show and Beefcake Auction will commence at 9:00 pm, again at the Venture-N. And to round out the weekend, our friends at Bears On The Bayou will be hosting a pool party & Barbecue for all persons involved in the show; the exact time and place to be announced later. So don your chaps and come out for a weekend of hot leather action.



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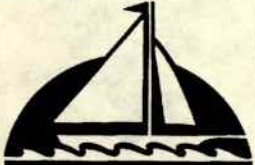

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Any Questions Call:

Chris Patterson @ 713-771-7715 or 713-341-5744

AUGUST

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Bears On The Bayou Casino Trip	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Dine-Out Dirty's Restaurant Durham at I-10 7:00 pm	13	14 HAB Social Night Venture-N • 9:00 pm Master of Leather '99, Stan Harrell's 3rd Annual "Leather Fantasy/Fashion Show and Beefcake Auction"
15 HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Venture-N Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Venture-n HAB Bartending	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Gulf Coast Bootblack Competition Venture-N, 9:00 pm	23	24 Dine-Out Black-Eyed Pea West Gray 7:00 pm	25	26	27 HAB Bartending at Venture-N (MAYBE)	28
29	30	31				
						



Cooking With Muffin

by Muffin Meadows

Tina Turner actually sings about this bread in her song "Nutbush."

Banana Nut Bread

- Work Time: 10 minutes
- Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

- 3 bananas
- 1/2 cup or 1 stick butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts

Run bananas through a sieve. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add remaining ingredients in order given. Add the sieved bananas and mix well. Divide batter between 2 well-greased, lightly floured loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Use a toothpick to test for doneness. Cool loaves in the pans for 15 minutes, then turn out onto wire racks to cool completely.



Tiny Bubbles

Bubbles wishes to thank Loyd P., Robert C., Jim F., Stan H. and Gene L. for all their help with reorganizing the Grin-'N-Bear It Contest.

We need address updates for a revised directory. Please call the bear line at 713-867-9123 with any updates or fill in the update book at the next business meeting, or e-mail to the HAB web page at houstonareabears.com.

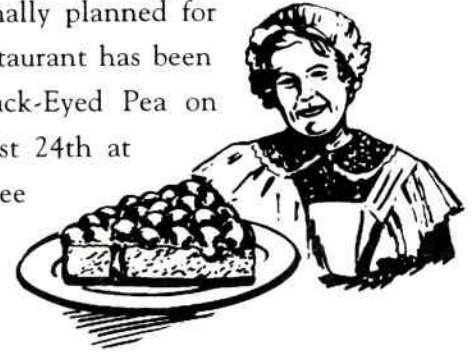
Chinese Proverbs:

- 1) "Passionate kiss, like spider's web, soon lead to undoing of fly."
- 2) "Foolish man give boy friend grand piano, wise man give boy friend upright organ."
- 3) "Man who walk through airport turnstile sideways, going to Bangkok."

Reprinted courtesy of the Red Earth Bears newsletter.

Dine-Outs

We had a bunch of hungry bears on July 14th. We all went to Demeris BBQ on S. Shepherd. There were 18 guys in attendance. There are two dine-outs planned for the month of August. Hopefully the restaurants won't burn down before we get there. The first is at Dirty's Restaurant, Durham at I-10 on August 12th at 7:00 pm. The second, originally planned for Felix Mexican Restaurant has been moved to the Black-Eyed Pea on West Gray, August 24th at 7:00 pm. Hope to see all of you there. And bring your appetite.



Looking for a Few Good Men

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles early.

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend at the Venture-N. Thanks go out to Robert C., Loyd P. and Bubbles for bartending on Friday the 23rd of July. And Bubbles bartended on July 18th as well. We are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday and 4th Friday each month, from 8:00 pm til 1:00 am. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. Really, it is. If you're interested in joining in please contact John Dye at 281-590-9899, Gene Landry at 713-868-5213 or John Noessel at 281-561-6213. Thanks.



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Message From The Triad

Hey Guys. As you have already figured out, the newsletter is late this month. No surprise. The editorial staff was extra busy getting married and planning their honeymoon at Decadence. Now will be a good time to beg, plead, entreat, whine and otherwise grovel for you, the fine members of Houston Area Bears, to submit articles for the newsletter. John and Tim are old and tired, they're down to their last few grey cells and need help. Look at Muffin Meadows column. The dear is doing her part to make our newsletter fun, and tasty too. And you can too. Let's hear from you.

John & Gene & John

Membership News

A Big Bear Welcome to our new members:

Jeff M.

Darren F. (associate member)

Mark R. (associate member)

Get well hugs go out to Scot M. and Skip W. We all want to see you back in action soon.

Southern Decadence '99

Where to begin about Southern Decadence '99. Well, as Yogi Berra once said, "Let's begin at the beginning." Tens of thousands of guys from all over the world gathered in New Orleans over Labor Day to party hearty. And boy did we party. There was a contingent of 27 HAB and HOT Bears that made the trip and stayed at the Rue Dumaine Guest House. Friday night we began the weekend by dining at Lucky Cheng's where all the waitresses are drag queens. Sunday after the parade was the annual HAB Pool party. There were about 250 that attended. Casey Scott from American Bear Magazine kept busy photographing not only the party guests, but also certain hunky bears. Look for the article to be in American Bear in the next couple months. Each of us should take pride that our club will be getting national exposure (!)

September's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2) **Reports**
 - a) Southern Decadence Retrospective
 - b) Anniversary Party
 - c) Grin-'N-Bear It Update
- 3) **Old Business**
(to be announced)
- 4) **New Business**
 - a) Trophy Case
 - b) HAB & HOT Get-Together
 - c) HAB Holiday Party
- 5) **Items From HAB Members**
- 6) **Upcoming Activities**
 - a) 9-19-99: Grin-'N-Bear It / HAB Bartending
 - b) 9-30-99: Dine-Out at Pappasito's Cantina
 - c) 10-9-99: HAB Social / Mr. Venture-N Contest
 - d) 10-10-99: HAB Business Meeting
 - e) 10-13-99: Dine-Out at 59 Diner
 - f) 10-17-99: Grin-'N-Bear It / HAB Bartending
 - g) 10-25-99: Dine-Out at Pappa La Rosa's
- 7) **Closing**



What's New(seworthy)?

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles **early**.

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend at the Venture-N. We are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday each month, from 8:00 pm til around 11:00 pm. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. Honest, it is. If you're interested in joining in please contact John Dye at 281-590-9899, Gene Landry at 713-868-5213 or John Noessel at 281-561-6213. Thanks.

5th Anniversary Party

Plans are now finalized for the fifth anniversary party. It will be held on Saturday, September 25th beginning with cocktail parties at the Brazos River Bottom (on their patio) from 2:00 pm through 4:00 pm. We will break until 7:00 pm when we reassemble for dinner at Biba's Ones-A-Meal, 607 West Gray. Our reserved room is upstairs on the second floor, where a barbecue dinner will be served. This will include chicken, beef, sausage, cole slaw, potato salad, beans, bread and iced tea. Beer and wine will be available but it will be a cash bar with anyone wishing beer or wine paying for it separately. The evening's festivities, including the awards presentations, will continue after dinner at the Venture-N. Stan H. is working at putting together a show for our amusement.

Tickets will be available for \$13 prior to that Saturday and \$15 at the door. This is due to the fact that we need to give the restaurant as accurate a count as possible of those who will attend. For tickets, contact any member of the Triad or Jack A. at 713-780-3737.

News We Need

Have you moved, been evicted or just skipped town? Well then we need to know about this. We are currently updating our membership information for the next latest and greatest HAB membership directory. We need every member's current address, phone number, email address, pager number or any other number you feel like giving us. We have made it easier than ever for you to get us your current information. You can email it to our very own Bubbles at HABbear@aol.com, or to the HAB web page at

<http://www.houstonare-abears.com>. Or feel free

to call our bear line and leave the information. That number is 713-867-9123. So give us a call. Thanks guys.





Cooking With Muffin

by Muffin Meadows

Here's the recipe that had the Former First Lady saying, "One in the hand is better than two in the bush."

Nancy Reagan's Monkey Bread

- 3/4 ounce yeast, or 1 package of dry yeast
- 1 to 1 1/4 cups milk, heated to lukewarm
- 3 eggs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 1/4 cups flour
- 6 ounces butter, at room temperature
- 1/4 pound melted butter

Butter and flour two 9" ring molds. In a large bowl, mix yeast with part of milk until dissolved. Add 2 eggs, and beat. Mix in dry ingredients. Add remaining milk a little at a time, mixing thoroughly. Cut in butter until blended. Knead dough, then let rise 60 - 90 minutes, until double in size. Knead again, and let rise 40 minutes. Roll dough onto floured board; shape into a log. Cut log into 28 pieces of equal size. Shape each piece of dough into a ball and roll in melted butter. Use half of the balls in each ring mold. Place seven balls on the bottom of each mold, leaving space between. Place remaining balls on top, spacing evenly. Let dough rise in mold. While dough is rising, preheat oven to 375°. Beat remaining egg and brush tops of loaves with it. Bake until golden brown, approximately 15 minutes.

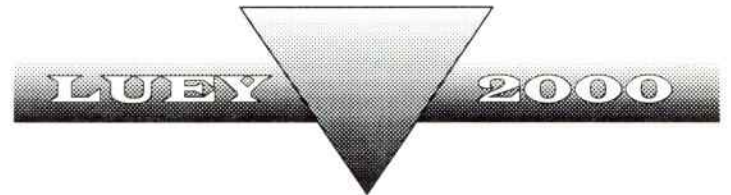


Dine-Outs

Everybody loves the HAB Dine-Outs. So come on out and join us. There are two planned for the month of September. The first will be on the 14th at 7:00 pm at the Luby's Cafeteria on Waugh Drive. The second will be held at Pappasito's Cantina, 2536 Richmond near Kirby at 7:00 pm on September 30th. Hope to see you there.



And if you have an eatery that you would like to see on the Dine-Out calendar, just let one of the Triad, or our newsletter staff (Tim C.) know. Chow.



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- And must be of a Mardi Gras Theme (i.e. masks, beads, etc.)

Grin-'N-Bear It

As always, there were lots of hunky bears at last month's Grin-'N-Bear It contest. The winner were:

- Big Bear Bruce R.
- Medium Bear Glen M.
- Small Bear John C. from Reading, PA

TAKE NOTE:

The contest now begins at 8:30 sharp. That is NOT gay time. We hope to see all of you at next month's contest.





Any Questions Call:

Chris Patterson @ 713-771-7715 or 713-341-5744

SEPTEMBER

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Southern Decadence '99	4 Southern Decadence '99
5 Southern Decadence '99	6 Labor Day Southern Decadence '99	7	8	9	10 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	11 HAB Social Night Venture-N • 9:00 pm
12 HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Venture-N	13	14 Dine-Out Luby's Cafeteria on Waugh Drive 7:00 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Yom Kippur begins at sundown Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Venture-N HAB Bartending	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Dine-Out Pappasito's Cantina 2536 Richmond 7:00 pm		
						

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Club News

It has been rumored for some time that National Leather Association - Houston Chapter was going to pull their colors from the Venture-N. Those rumors have been proven true in the last month. But, as of press time, NLA has not yet designated their new home bar. They are however guest-bartending frequently on the patio bar at the Ripcord.

There has always been a special bond between the Houston Area Bears and NLA-Houston. We are saddened by their decision to leave the Venture-N, but wish them all the best wherever they finally settle down. HAB will continue to support NLA-Houston in whatever way we can, and we look forward to many more years of our club's association.

Message From The Triad

Happy Anniversary to us all; Houston Area Bears has turned 5. It's hard to believe that in 5 years we have gone from a few founding members to a club with over 100 members. As time goes on, things change. The Triad changes, members come and go, everything that affects the club is subject to change. It has been said that the only constant in life is change. As we enter our sixth year, let's remain aware that change is inevitable, whether we are ready or not. The results of change are what we make of them. Let's strive to make all changes positive ones.

John & Gene & John



October's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2) **Reports**
 - a) Anniversary Party
 - b) Grin-'N-Bear It Update
 - c) HAB & HOT Get-Together Update
 - d) HAB Holiday Party Update
- 3) **Old Business**
(to be announced)
- 4) **New Business**
 - a) Special Meeting
 - b) Social Activities
- 5) **Items From HAB Members**
- 6) **Upcoming Activities**
 - a) 10-9-99: HAB Social / Mr. Venture-N Contest
 - b) 10-10-99: HAB Business Meeting
 - c) 10-13-99: Dine-Out at 59 Diner
 - d) 10-17-99: Grin-'N-Bear It / HAB Bartending
 - e) 10-25-99: Dine-Out at Pappa La Rosa's
 - f) 11-7-99: PWA Charities at Mary's
- 7) **Closing**

5th Anniversary Party

Houston Area Bears Fifth Anniversary Party was held at Biba's One's-A-Meal on September 25th. The festivities started at 2:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom, where a cocktail party was hosted by NLA-Houston, and another by the Colt 45's. Then at 7:00 pm we had dinner at Biba's. This year we had a delicious barbecue buffet. After dinner, with our cake and coffee, the Member Awards were presented. From there the partying continued at the Venture-N where the Triad Awards were presented. A surprise presentation to the current and former Triad Members was made by Stan LaF. A beautiful numbered collectible Bear Beer Stein was given to the club to be added to the trophy case. John Dye was presented with a Bear Pendant Necklace and pin. At the Venture-N we were treated to cocktail parties hosted by Rainbow Ranglers and Lone Star Bears of San Antonio.

Great Big Bear Hugs go out to all the clubs that helped us celebrate with cocktail parties. And the biggest hug goes to Jack A., who managed to put the thing together at the last minute. Everyone had a great time. See y'all next year for the Sixth Anniversary.

Dine-Outs

Everybody loves the HAB Dine-Outs. So come on out and join us. There are two planned for the month of October. The first will be on the 13th at 7:00 pm at the 59 Diner, 3801 Farnham. The second will be held at Pappa La Rosa's, 10852 Westheimer at 7:00 pm on October 25th. Hope to see you there.

And if you have an eatery that you would like to see on the Dine-Out calendar, just let one of the Triad, or our newsletter staff (Tim C.) know. Chow.



Don't Make Me Repeat Myself

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles **early**.

And we are always looking for fellow HAB members to help bartend at the Venture-N. We are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday each month, from 8:00 pm til around 11:00 pm. No prior bartending experience is necessary. We will train you. And it's lots of fun. Honest, it is. If you're interested in joining in please contact John Dye at 281-590-9899, Gene Landry at 713-868-5213 or John Noessel at 281-561-6213. Thanks.

Cooking With Muffin

by
Muffin Meadows



With fall officially upon us, don't forget to take advantage of seasonal vegetables in zesty recipes like this.

Barbecue Meatballs & Vegetables

- 1/2 cup Miracle Whip
- 1/2 cups Barbecue Sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 3 tsp. chili powder, divided
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper, divided
- 1 tsp. ground red pepper, divided
- 1 tsp. salt, divided
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 green pepper, cut into chunks
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup sliced yellow squash
- 1 cup sliced zucchini
- 1 can (8 oz.) pineapple chunks, drained
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

Mix Miracle Whip, barbecue sauce, honey, 2 teaspoons of the chili powder and half teaspoon each of the ground black pepper, red pepper and salt. Set aside. Mix meat, remaining 1 teaspoon chili powder and remaining half teaspoon each of the black pepper, red pepper and salt. Shape into 12 meatballs. Brown meatballs in large skillet on medium-high; drain. Set aside. In same skillet, cook and stir green pepper, onion, mushrooms, squash, zucchini and pineapple on medium heat for five minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in reserved dressing mixture and meatballs; cover. Simmer 15 minutes. Stir in parsley. Serve over hot cooked pasta.

Joke Du Jour

What's the difference between a drunk and an alcoholic? The drunks don't have to go to all those annoying meetings.

Courtesy of Jack A.



Do you see what I'm reduced to filling these pages with; pornographic connect-the-dots. Please, please, **PLEASE**, help me fill the newsletter with interesting or informative articles. You know, they don't let me out of the institution very often, so I'm not always aware of events that would be of interest to you Bears. So if you know of, or are involved in any run, show, contest, etc., e-mail me the who, what, when, where and why a month or two before the event so I can share the information with everyone in this periodical. My email address is timmytts@aol.com. Thanks.

OCTOBER

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 HAB Social Night Venture-N • 9:00 pm Mr. Venture-N Contest 10:00 pm
HAB Meeting 4:00 pm at Venture-N 10	11	12	Dine-Out 59 Diner 3801 Farnham 713-523-5550 7:00 pm 13	14	15	16
Grin-n-Bear It Contest 9:00 pm at Venture-n HAB Bartending 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	Dine-Out Pappa La Rosa's 10852 Westheimer 713-266-4660 7:00 pm 25	26	27	28	29	30
Halloween 31						



Houston Area Bears

October 4, 1999

Dear Houston Area Bears Member:

The Triad of Houston Area Bears, John Dye, Gene Landry and John Noessel, is hereby notifying you of a special meeting to be held Thursday, October 21, 1999 between 7:00 and 9:00 pm. The location for this meeting is Biba's One's-A-Meal, 607 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019. Since Biba's has graciously allowed us to use their upstairs meeting room, we encourage all to join us for an additional Houston Area Bears' Dine-Out in October. This Dine-Out will begin at 6:00 pm, with the meeting following immediately afterwards.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss recent events at the Venture-N. These events are serious to the point that we must discuss whether to keep the Venture-N as our home bar. We urge all members to participate in this meeting. Only Full and Associate Members will be allowed to attend this meeting. Visitors and guests will not be allowed in.

If you have any questions, you may contact any of the Triad, or leave a message on our club's voice and announcement line. This matter is a very important issue. Please make a point to attend this special meeting.

HAB Triad.

John Dye: 281-590-9899

Gene Landry: 713-868-5213

John Noessel: 281-561-6213



Houston Area Bears

October , 1999

GET BACK TO THE BEARS THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 5-7

Those handsome bears from Austin will be joining us in Houston for a HAB/HOT Friendship Weekend. Get to know our brother (and Daddy) bears from the Heart of Texas. OK, twist my arm.

Overnight lodging for bears wanting to come in Friday night and stay Saturday night can be hosted by members at their dens. Please let Ken F. or a member of the Triad know if you can host a visiting bear.

The weekend begins with a welcome social at Brick's, Friday night, 10 pm til ??.

Saturday, we're up bright and early for a trip to the Silver Anniversary Edition of the Texas Renaissance Festival. The year is 1540. Adventure, merriment, romance and magic await you in medieval Europe. Madcap mischief and spectacular pageantry are the order of the day, as the glittering courts of England, Scotland and Cleves converge for the 25th holding of the famed Harvest Festival at New Market Village. Vowing to exceed even King Henry VI's legendary expectations, merchants and artisans of the realm have produced unprecedented offerings of rare goods, savory cuisine and choice entertainment. From a charming new English garden, to lavish jousts and an amazing array of diverse players, all is ready for a Silver Anniversary Gala of unforgettable proportions. This is also the last season to visit the Flaming Idiots. You won't want to miss this.

Group tickets (25 or more) are available for \$13.95.

After the festival, there is time for dinner, either on your own or as a group. We will also need to get ready for our bar crawl, Saturday Night. Then on Sunday Morning we will send the Austin Bears home with a full stomach after a bloody Fare-Thee-Well at Mary's with chef Joey and his made-to-order omelets, hash browns, fruit and rolls. Sunday brunch at Mary's runs from 10 am til noon and is \$5.00 per person.

Please RSVP by either calling the bear line at 713-867-9123, or email to Ken F. at subcubby@aol.com by November 1st. Please let us know if you can host an HOT Bear in your den.

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

Growler



P.O. Box 66443
Houston, TX 77266

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

Website:
<http://www.HoustonAreaBears.com>

Volume 6, Number 11

November 1999 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears



This month I am going to speak for myself, and only myself, John Noessel, Triad 1999-2000.

You know I keep hearing that people are unhappy with the way the club is going. Too political, not enough social activities, he stole my bat, etc. It's enough to make any nearly sane person go postal. If I hear one more thing about the by-laws I'm going to puke; I don't know what color hanky that is, but get ready to receive. The by-laws are history; GOT IT! What's the big deal anyway? If y'all are so upset by

living in a society (club) that has rules, then move to Montana, live in a shack and send bombs in the mail to me.

As far as activities go, we, the Triad, coordinate a number of events throughout the year; if it's not enough for you then get off your ass and plan something. It takes time to put together a well run activity. We can do only so much. Do you do anything?

Last, but far from least, if I hear any more gossip about fellow members, I am going to jerk the tongue out of the mouth of the one speaking. If you don't think I can then try me. Enough said.

You might think this uncharacteristic of me; I normally don't vent. But I'm tired of all this crap. Sometimes I think "HAB" stands for "Houston Area Babies." So, gentlemen, I know that I have probably pissed 9 out of 10 of you off; so be it. I'm trying to finish my term and gracefully fade away. I hope I have given you something to think about. HAB is a good club made up of good people. It would be a shame to see it self-destruct because of stupidity.

John P. Noessel

Membership News

Last month Houston Area Bears had 6 members renew their membership and 2 new members joined the ranks. They are:

Renewing

Keith A.
Wayne B.
Larry B.
Tim C.
Randy G.
Mark R.

New Members

Bertram M.
Scott N.

HAB/HOT Get-Together

You should have already received a flyer in the mail regarding the HAB/HOT Get-Together Weekend, which takes place November 5-7. Please join in the festivities and make this a weekend to remember. We are still looking for HAB members to open their dens to our visiting HOT Bear Brothers. If you can host a visiting Bear(s), or just need more information about this exciting weekend event, please contact Ken E. at 713-867-9123. Woof Woof!

November's Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2) **Reports**
 - a) HAB Holiday Party Update
- 3) **Old Business**
 - a) Special Meeting
 - b) HAB/HOT Get-Together
 - c) Halloween Party
- 4) **New Business**
 - a) Future Business Meeting Location
 - b) Future HAB Socials Location
 - c) Future Dine-Outs
- 5) **Items From HAB Members**
- 6) **Upcoming Activities**
 - a) 12-12-99: HAB Holiday Party
- 7) **Closing**

Due to printing deadlines, this is an incomplete agenda. Complete agendas will be passed out at the business meeting.

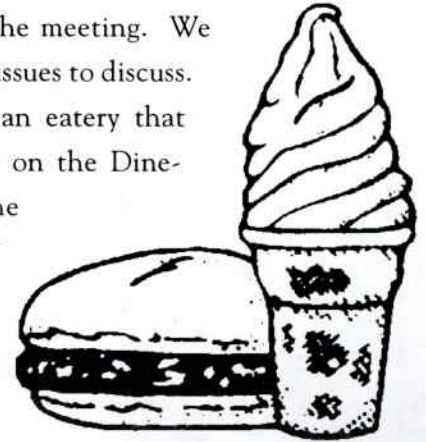
Newsletter News

WANTED: All able-bodied Bears to help with the newsletter starting in March, 2000. Our current newsletter staff will no longer be able to do this job starting with Volume 7, Issue 4. Volume 7, Issue 3 will be their last. In order for a smooth transition, and to avoid disruption in the delivery of your newsletter, we need volunteers **NOW!** We will need individuals or groups to compile information about current and future events that need to be reported in the newsletter; we will need someone to do the actual page layout; we will need someone to take the artwork to be copied and get the printed newsletters into the hands of the distribution staff. If you can help with any aspect of the newsletter, please contact one of the Triad members so that we can get a new team in place to do our newsletter in the new millennium.

November's Monthly Meeting

This month's business meeting will be held in conjunction with the dine-out. It was agreed at the emergency October meeting that the November meeting will be held again at Biba's One's-A-Meal on West Gray, Thursday, November 18th at 7:30 pm. Prior to the meeting, the dine-out will begin at 6:30, as a way of showing our appreciation to Biba's, as well as enjoying a delicious meal. Come and enjoy a great meal and stick around for the meeting. We have many important issues to discuss.

And if you have an eatery that you would like to see on the Dine-Out calendar in the future, just let one of the Triad, or our newsletter staff (Tim C.) know. Chow.



Future HAB Activities

As a result of recent events with the management at the Venture-N, HAB is no longer calling it our home bar. Therefore, regularly scheduled events, that traditionally took place at the Venture-N have been temporarily cancelled. If you will look at the calendar that accompanies this newsletter, you will see that the only HAB events listed are the HAB/HOT Get-Together Weekend (which doesn't take place at the VN), and the November Business Meeting and Dine-Out, which take place at Biba's One's-A-Meal. The club voted in October to decide on a course of action to find a new place to hold our monthly social, and, as well, to find a new place to hold our monthly business meeting at the November meeting. The general feeling of the membership present at the October meeting was to try-out a number of bars for our social, and also to try-out various non-bar venues for our meeting, and then take a vote to see which locales were favored by a majority of the club's members.



Cooking With Pam

by
S. Pam Casserole

Baking these delicious muffins will fill your house with the scent of apples and cinnamon.

Apple Bran Muffins

- 1/4 cups bran flakes
- 1/2 cup skim milk
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/3 cup reduced calorie soft vegetable oil spread
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped apple

Mix cereal and milk in small bowl; let stand 5 minutes or until softened. Mix flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt in large bowl. Beat spread and sugar until light and fluffy. Blend in cereal mixture and egg. Add to flour mixture, mixing just until moistened. Stir in apple. Spoon batter into greased muffin pan, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake at 400° for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown.



Joke Du Jour

A graduate of UT, Rice and Texas A&M go into a strip club. The Longhorn takes a \$20 bill and sticks it on the dancer's right butt cheek. The Owl, not to be outdone, takes a \$50 bill and sticks it on the dancer's left butt cheek. So the Aggie takes out his ATM card, slides it down the dancer's crack and takes the 70 dollars.

Courtesy of Frank L.

Not Again

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles early.

20 Useful Expressions for High Stress Days

1. Well, aren't we just a fucking ray of sunshine?
2. Not the brightest crayon in the box, are we?
3. A hard-on does NOT count as personal growth.
4. Do I look like a fucking people person?
5. This isn't an office, it's Hell with fluorescent lighting.
6. If I wanted to hear the pitter patter of little feet, I'd put shoes on the dog.
7. The aliens obviously forgot to remove your anal probe.
8. Let me show you how the prison guards do it.
9. And your cry-baby, whiny-assed opinion would be ?
10. Sarcasm is just one more service we offer.
11. Whatever look you were trying to achieve, you missed.
12. Do they ever shut up on your planet?
13. I'm trying to imagine you with a personality.
14. I can't remember if I'm the evil or good twin.
15. How many times do I have to flush before you go away?
16. You say I'm a bitch like it was a bad thing.
17. Can I trade this job for what's behind door #2?
18. Nice perfume, but must you marinate in it?
19. You look like shit, so is that the style now?
20. Aw, did I step on your poor itty-bitty ego?



Courtesy of Steve F.

HAB Holiday Party

Deck the Halls and roast your chestnuts; it's holiday time again (almost). All HAB members are invited to the last Holiday Party this millennium. The party will be held at Joe Amante's house, 518 Hohldale on Sunday, December 12th from 2:00 til 6:00 pm. Turkey and ham will be provided by the club. Side dishes will be provided by the members attending. There will be a sign-up sheet at next month's business meeting for all who plan to attend to coordinate their contributions to the meal. And as always - NO BREAD. (Stan LaF will personally castrate anyone even suggesting bread!) There's also a Chinese Gift Exchange (up to \$12⁰⁰) that's always alot of laughs. Hope to see everyone there. HoHoHo.

NOVEMBER

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5 HAB/HOT Get-Together Weekend Welcome Social Brick's, 10:00 pm	6 HAB/HOT Get-Together Weekend Day trip to the Renaissance Festival & Nighttime Bar Crawl
7 HAB/HOT Get-Together Weekend Fare-Thee-Well Brunch Mary's, 10:00 am	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 HAB Business Meeting and Dine-Out Biba's One's-A-Meal on West Gray 6:30 Dinner / 7:30 Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28	29	30				
						

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

Growler



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Volume 6, Number 12

December 1999 Issue

Published by
The Houston Area Bears



Message From The Triad

Since the Holidays are upon us, and this millennium has but a handful of days left, it's a good time for reflection and giving thanks. The past year has been tumultuous, however, as a result it has solidified and, we believe, strengthened the club. Let's give thanks for all of our friends and comfort to those who are ill. Cherish the good memories and forgive and forget the bad ones. Take joy in the simple things in life, the softness of a warm puppy, the beauty of a sunset, and the revitalization received from a good laugh. Keep striving for perfection, but allow for less. We wish each and everyone of you a Happy Holiday Season.

John, Gene & John

Membership News

Last month Houston Area Bears had four new members join. They are:

Chuck G.
Robert L.
Daryl Q.
Stacey T.

That Was The Year That Was

Nineteen Ninety Nine started out innocently enough; the dreary days of January gave way to LUEY. That weekend in February that is Houston's Decadence and Folsom rolled into one. The record breaking crowd partied like it was 1999. Who will forget the grand finale at Rich's; the skits were memorable. You may still have nightmares because of them. Houston Area Bears, in true fashion, stole the show and took the trophy with the sick and twisted "Bears At The Beach" extravaganza. Scot M. should have won an oscar for directing, and who can forget Stan LaF's moving (like an Ex-Lax) role as Baby Jane Hudson. In the spring, the flowers, as well as HAB's membership, began to blossom. At Texas Bear Round-Up in Dallas, the weekend belonged to Houston.

(cont. on page 2)

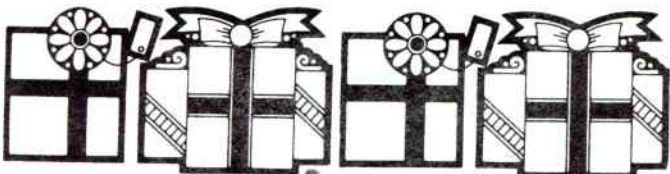
December's Meeting

In the month of December, Houston Area Bear's do not hold the usual monthly business meeting. Happy Holidays.



That's News To Me

If you have anything that is newsworthy, and would like to share it with us, please get the information to John Noessel. The cut-off is the third week of the month, so submit your articles early. And if you are interested in being part of the newsletter staff for the new millennium, sign up with one of the Triad.



The Year (cont.)

Gene L., Jim F. and Robert C. stole the show, and trophies I might add. Then there was the next sick and twisted event in April. It was Bear's On The Bayou. Under the director of Loyd P. and a host of talented staff, Houston was treated to the first annual mega-event. Scores of bears from across the country flocked to attend the festivities, which culminated in a lock-down warehouse party. What a way to relieve tension. If you missed it, you certainly missed out on one wild night. With the onset of summer, the bears came out of hibernation, and their clothes. Several pool parties were given at Wilton T., Ron E. and David G.'s lovely home. One notable party was the Memorial Day Bear-B-Q, where numerous bears were in the pool during a severe thunderstorm. Shocking! The summer also brought with it a change of venue for HAB. We may be homeless, but we're not out. Once again HAB made a big showing at Southern Decadence. The Sunday afternoon pool party was a big success with hundreds in attendance. Now we are approaching the Holidays. Food and fellowship abound. May we all be filled with the spirit of the season. (Bourbon for me, please.)

Joke Du Jour

One afternoon a couple that had been married for 15 years were working in the garden. As the wife was bending over pulling weeds, the husband said, "Honey, your butt is getting big. I bet it is as big as the gas grill now."




The husband feeling he needed to prove his point got a yardstick and measured the grill and his wife's butt. The wife got very incensed and didn't speak to her husband for the rest of the day.

That night in bed the husband said, "How about it Honey? How about a little love making." The wife rolled over giving him the cold shoulder.

"What's the matter?" he asked. To which she replied, "You don't think I'm going to fire up this big ass grill for one little weenie, do you?"

DECEMBER

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 HAB Holiday Party at Joe Amante's 518 Hohldale 2:00 til 6:00 pm	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31	
						

Cooking With Pam

by
S. Pam Casserole

Here's a holiday recipe to get the family loosened up or tied up around the tree.

Chocolate Zucchini Rum Cake

- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 1/4 cup rum or brandy (or water)
- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup milk

Use an electric mixer to smooth the butter and sugar together, beat in 1 egg at a time, spoon in zucchini and rum. Mix flour, nuts, chocolate chips, cocoa, baking powder and soda, salt and cinnamon together with a spoon. Put together in a fluted or bundt pan and bake at 350° for 50 to 55 minutes. If you don't like chocolate chips, or nuts just leave them out or substitute with coconut or raisins by soaking them in the rum. Use your imagination and you can find vegetable oil works well instead of butter, and even raisin bran substitutes for walnuts and chocolate chips. Have fun!

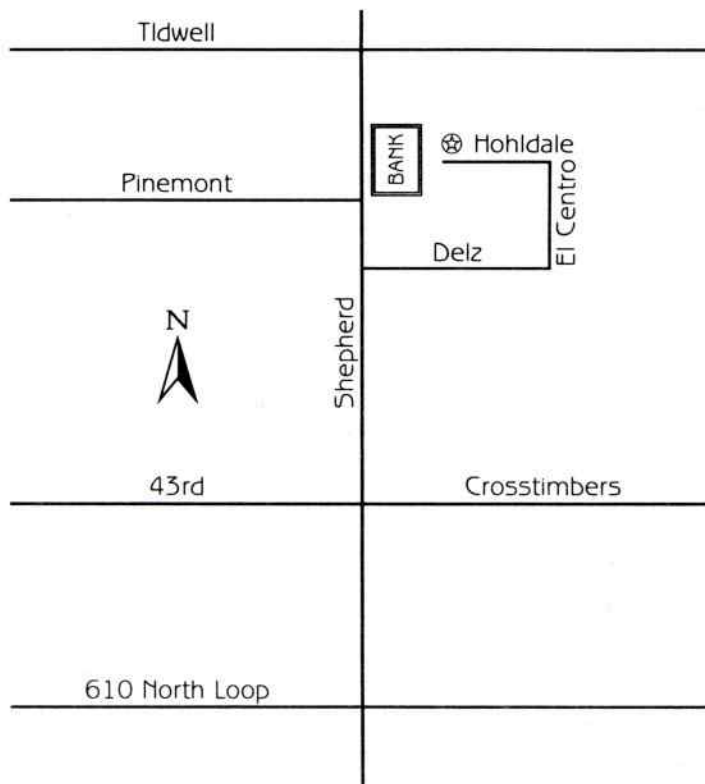


Happy Holidays



HAB Holiday Party

Deck the Halls and roast your chestnuts; it's holiday time again. All HAB members are invited to the last Holiday Party this millennium. The party will be held at Joe Amante's house, 518 Hohldale on Sunday, December 12th from 2:00 til 6:00 pm. Turkey and ham will be provided by the club. Side dishes will be provided by the members attending. There's also a Chinese Gift Exchange (up to \$12⁰⁰) that's always alot of laughs. Hope to see everyone there. HoHoHo.



From any direction, exit the 610 North Loop at Shepherd. Go north 1.8 miles to Delz Street. Turn right on Delz. (The Garden Oaks Church of Christ is on the corner of Shepherd and Delz) Take the first left on El Centro to Hohldale. Turn left (back toward Shepherd) on Hohldale. Or ... Stay on Shepherd to Pinemont and park in the Bank of America parking lot and walk around the barricade. If you get lost, call 713-692-9903.

