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## ▼▼▼ DATELINE: HOUSTON

### New group rapidly draws supporters to march against Montrose violence

By SHAUN KEENAN GILSON

The New Voice/Houston

"I wish there had been this many cops on the streets of Montrose the night of Sept. 6th," declared Outrage co-founder Scott Lewis. The occasion was the new organization's first march and rally. The date is significant to the group's supporters because that's when Rob Cavanaugh, a long-time Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus volunteer got mugged and beaten between his apartment and the Stop 'N Go convenience store at Montrose and Westheimer.

Many gay activists have deemed the assault on Cavanaugh a hate crime. His two assailants, who caused significant injuries, called him a "faggot" in the course of the attack.

Outrage organizers also include Michael Crawford, who has previously been active with Houston's Act-Up chapters and Queer Nation. Queer Nation voted itself out of existence, citing burn-out, last winter. Outrage says

that it hopes that the new group will fill an activism void. The void that organizers see is somewhere between where Queer Nation was and other established groups.

In printed material announcing its birth, Outrage said that without Queer Nation, Houston's "queer activism has watered down to nothing. Politicians have ignored our issues and we've let them get away with it."

However, it appeared that there were few unfamiliar to gay activism among the speakers at the rally, or among groups participating in the march.

Among the speakers, other than Crawford and Lewis, Terri Richardson, well-known for her work with Act-Up/Gulf Coast, and the newly elected President of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Also in attendance, activist Ray Hill, who has recently announced a bid for City Council.

The Women's Action Coalition also provided a sizable contingent to the march. Opting out of the opportunity to give an address, their drum corps spoke with their drums.

Marchers gathered last Friday night on California at Waughcrest. At about 9:00 p.m., approximately 150 people proceeded down Pacific Street, chanting such time-honored slogans as "out of the bars and into

the streets" and "What do want?—Justice. When do we want it—Now."

Marchers then continued on Taft, crossing Westheimer, to hold the rally in the median of Lovett Boulevard, across the street from Mother's.

About twenty members of Q-Patrol escorted the march. Several members mentioned that while the neighborhood crime prevention group has been successful since its formation, it continues to need new volunteers.

At the rally, Michael Crawford offered special thanks to the many women, numbering about half the crowd, who participated in the march and rally. "We are here to condemn all violence," he told the crowd.

Richardson, for her part, told the crowd that while hate crimes legislation has "come a long way in this state" in recent years, people still need to get "into the streets, get together and write to their legislators."

#### Rally speaker to speak more

The opening address of Friday night's rally was provided by long-time activist



Back on a ballot near you

Ray Hill. Hill will undoubtedly be making frequent appearances in coming weeks.

Hill, 52, formally announced his campaign for At-Large position 2 on the Houston City Council. The seat is currently held by Eleanor Tinsley, who narrowly escaped being excluded from November's ballot. Tinsley is a member of the old-guard at City Hall that momentarily fell victim to the city's anti-incumbent rule. Mayor Bob Lanier declared Monday that all candidates

could in fact appear on the ballot.

Hill told The New Voice that he believes that there is enough anti-incumbent and "anti-Eleanor" sentiment in Houston to make this a viable race for him. It will be Hill's third shot at elected office. Previously, he ran against City Councilor Jim Westmoreland. More recently, Hill ran for Justice of the Peace in Precinct 1, which includes Montrose.

Why this race? According to Hill, "People like me notice that she (Tinsley) hasn't had any really good ideas to bring to the table for a very long time."



Michael Crawford addresses Friday's rally

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