

*Rightfully Proud*  
**LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE WEEK 1988 NEWSRELEASE**

Box 66684,  
Houston, TX 77266-6684

June 17-26, 1988

Contact: Jack Valinski  
529-1223

JUNE 13, 1988

Dear Producer/Editor/Assignment Editor,

The Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee will hold a media conference at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 1988 at Heaven, Grant at Pacific. This is one block north of Westheimer and one block east of Montrose.

Details of upcoming events comprising Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1988 will be announced, and representatives of different community organizations participating in this year's celebration will give presentations on their particular event.

Although most gay people shy away from cameras because of no legal protection and fear of loosing their job with no recourse; cameras, both still and video, will be allowed in the media conference.

I ask that you consider attendance at this conference, as I believe that the events outlined in this packet will be of interest to the community you serve.

Thank you for your interest in this matter,

*Jack Valinski*  
Jack Valinski,  
Media Coordinator HLGPIW

MEDIA CONFERENCE  
11:00 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 16,  
HEAVEN  
PACIFIC @ GRANT  
(one block north of Westheimer, one block east of Montrose)

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### Statement of Purpose

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week was founded in 1979 by a small group of Houston gay/lesbian activists to coordinate a formal program and celebration each year for the gay/lesbian community of Houston.

HLGPW, through its many cultural, athletic and educational events, seeks to "increase understanding of social, racial and sexual minorities, and to encourage acceptance of and tolerance of alternative lifestyles so that, together, the citizens of the City of Houston and the State of Texas may work in the spirit of peaceful cooperation to built a better society."

### PRIDE HISTORY

Since the early 1970's gay people across America have marched in an annual affirmation of, and re-dedication to, their civil rights. The number of participates in gay parades today would have been unthinkable two decades ago, when fear of being identified kept nearly all homosexuals firmly entrenched in the closet.

Most communities hold their gay pride during a weekend day in June, in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. But the parades are not a remembrance of gay protest past; rather, they are joyful expressions of a community's diversity and vitality. Many include floats, marching bands, and local politicians showing their support for gay people (and their hope of garnering future gay votes).

For many people, gay pride parades have been cathartic events: "The first time I saw the parade in San Francisco," recalled one man, "I wept through the whole thing. I'd never seen so many gay people who were willing to stand up and proudly say that this is who they were." Indeed, innumerable gay people have marched right our of the closet and down the street.

The parades have had their share of controversy, of course. In the view of some, they give too broad a picture of the community. "Why does there have to be all those drag Queens?" has been a commonly heard

refrain. "They're the ones the media always focuses on."

Down through the years, however, there has come a growing understanding: No gay people--including those in pin-striped suits--will be truly accepted by society until the more outrageous elements of the gay world--including transvestites and people who wear leather--are also accepted.

And the parades have certainly been inclusive. In San Francisco--where upwards of 300,000 marchers and spectators attend a single gay pride event--they have included everyone from Dykes on Bikes to Gays Against Brunch; from gay Jews to various Third World gay contingents; from gay veterans groups to gay fathers organizations. One group that always receives an enormous ovation is parents of lesbians and gays.

While many thousands take to the streets in major cities such as San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles, in smaller cities and towns of America--places where it's even more difficult to be openly gay--several dozen or hundreds of gay people gather proudly at annual gay pride picnics and other events.

But whether it's in big cities or small towns, the celebration of being gay remains the same.

The birth of the modern gay rights movement is usually traced to the evening of June 28, 1969, a warm summer night in New York City when drag queens, fighting back against police harassment, rioted outside the

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Stonewall Inn.

In truth, America's rich tradition of resistance to antihomosexual oppression extends back more than a century before Stonewall--to the writings of poet Walt Whitman; the formation in 1924 of the country's first gay rights group, the Chicago Society for Human Rights; the widespread emergence of gay bars after World War II; and, later, the formation in the late 1940s and the early 1950s of such groups as the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis.

But, it was stonewall that brought a permanent end to gay passivity and acquiescence, and ushered in a new era marked by intensified gay political visibility and action.

As gay historian Jonathan Katz eloquently put it in the opening pages of his ground-breaking 1976 study, *Gay American History*:

"Those of us affected by this movement have experienced a basic chance in our sense of self. As we acted upon our society we acted upon ourselves; as we changed the world we changed our minds; sexual subversives, we overturned our psychic states. From our sense of our homosexuality as a personal and devastating fate, a private, secret shame, we moved with often dizzying speed to the consciousness of ourselves as members of an oppressed social group...In one quick bright flash we experienced a secular revelation: we were among America's mistreated"

The preceding is from Twenty Year Anniversary Edition of The Advocate.

**HOUSTON PRIDE HISTORY**

In 1975, the first gay and lesbian march in Texas was held in Dallas as a part of the Stonewall remembrance. Community activists in Houston held a widely attended news conference that summer which announced, among other events, the formation of a political coalition that has become the

Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus of Houston.

In 1976, an estimated 200 people held a march in downtown Houston to commemorate the Stonewall riots, which was sponsored by the fledgling Gay Activists Alliance of the University of Houston.

**MEDIA CONFERENCE**  
**11:00 AM**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 16,**  
**HEAVEN**  
**PACIFIC @ GRANT**

Singer and former beauty queen Anita Bryant's appearance as featured entertainer for the Texas Bar Association convention in 1977 brought an estimated 6,000 angry gay women and men down Houston's streets in protest. The heavily publicized march, headed by such notables as gay publisher David Goodstein and Rev. Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church, was in vivid reaction to Ms. Bryant's ordinance then in effect in Miami, Dade County, Florida. A few weeks later, Houston's gay community held its first Gay Pride Rally in Cherryhurst Park to celebrate what has become a national holiday for lesbians and gay men.

Over 4,500 community activists met at the Astroarena in 1978 for Town meeting I, the first organizational gathering in Houston that included gay men and women from every aspect of Houston society. Former state legislator and vice-presidential nominee Frances "Sissy" Ferenhold was the keynote speaker; and the meeting was chaired by Virginia Apuzzo, a leading gay activists who became executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in New York. Many of Houston's gay services, including the Montrose Counseling Center and the Montrose

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Clinic, were formulated and organized as the first historic meeting. The first full week of events commemorating our pride in being free gay and lesbian Americans was held in this year.

Since 1979, the gay community of Houston has celebrated Gay Pride Week with a full schedule of events spanning 11 days in late June. More than 67 gay and lesbian-related organizations sponsor a variety of events for the entire community, ranging from juried art to athletic events and everything in between.

The year 1985 seemed to promise the bleakish tone for Houston's lesbian and gay community, because of the smear campaign in the debacle event known as the "gay rights referendum" followed by the straight slate campaign. But the expected destruction of the community never came. Lesbians and gay men are still proud and politically active. The initial fears about AIDS have lessened as the men in our community began to take their health more seriously and adjusted their personal lives in response to "safe sex education." The self pride developed through the 1970's is reemerging and interest in our liberty is as strong as ever.

**PRIDE WEEK 1988  
INFORMATION**

Grand Marshalls selected for this year are Eleanor Munger, a non-Lesbian who founded Omega House, a hospice for patients dying with AIDS. Munger founded Omega House in August 1986, with former Houston resident Michael Shuff. A retired teacher, she has been active in community work for a number of years and is sometimes called the "Mother Theresa of Montrose." The YWCA, in April of this year, named her one of the ten outstanding women in Houston, giving her its civic leadership award. She was honored by the National Association of Social Workers, who named her the 1988 Public Citizen of

the year. Munger, 76 is very active in Omega House and in ministering to PWA's Munger, in accepting the nomination, said she thought it was a remarkable bridge builder and that she loves the people of the community dearly.

Bruce Cook, who served as the coordinator of Stone Soup from January 1987 until last month was nominated also to be honored as Grand Marshall. Stone Soup, the food pantry of the AIDS Foundation Houston provides groceries and personal care items to about 220 PWA's. Bruce is currently on inactive duty from the foundation due to job demands and his own health. The position took from 20 to 50 hours a week. Stone Soup was founded by Kelly Dowining in November 1986. Cook was asked to fill the position when she left to serve in the Peace Corps. Bruce is very honored to serve as this year's Grand Marshall with Eleanor and proud of his work with Stone Soup.

**Honorary Grand Marshalls** were named additionally this year -- Sharon Kowalski, a Lesbian paralyzed by a drunk driver will be represented by an empty wheelchair. Sharon lover, Karen Thompson who has been waging a valiant effort to have her relationship with Sharon recognized and be allowed to help in her recovery process, has been invited to by the Pride Week Committee.

Harvey Milk, the Gay City Supervisor who was assassinated in San Francisco in 1978 is to be honored on this, the tenth anniversary of his murder. Harvey, sometimes referred to as "the mayor of Castro Street," will be represented in the parade by a silhouette cutout.

The theme for this year is **Rightfully Proud**. Lesbian/Gay Pride Week events include a variety show, dancing, films, theater, music and presentations. The National NOW Conference is being held the same weekend in Buffalo, New York where support will be displayed in an event commemorating Lesbian/Gay Pride.

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Texans not attending the national conference are urged to participate in the Houston event so they NOW will have a strong delegation. Non-Gay/ Lesbian people are invited to take part of the activities.

**NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY  
OCTOBER 11, 1988**

It has never been tried before, but organizers hope hundreds of thousands of gay men and lesbians across the country will participate in National Coming Out Day '88 slated for October 11.

The idea for coming-out day has been kicked around for years, but not until last February's "War Conference" in Warrington, VA, have gay leaders firmly pledged to support such an event.

This is not a project designed to compete with our own Pride Celebrations; rather, it is designed to function as an adjunct to them help in building stronger, more open communities. Among those spearheading the event is the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA).

The timing of this event, designed to correspond to the anniversary of the March on Washington.

**THE IMPACT ON AIDS ON THE  
ARTISTIC COMMUNITY**

By Fran Lebowitz, the author of "Metropolitan Life" and "Social Studies" offers a dozen short reports from a world attempting to cope with pain and loss.

1. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that on New Year's Eve Day a 36-year-old writer is asked on a network news show about the Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community particularly in regard to the Well-Known Preponderance of Homosexual influence in the Arts she replies that if you remove all the homosexuals and homosexual influence from what is generally regarded as American culture you would pretty much left with "Let's Make a Deal."

The interviewer's lack of response compels her to conclude that he has no idea what she is talking about and she realizes that soon many of those who do know what she is talking about will be what is generally regarded as dead.

2. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that on New Year's Eve Day a 36-year-old writer takes a 31-year-old photographer to say with what can only be described as a certain guarded hope, "Maybe I just have lung cancer."

3. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 36-year-old writer has a telephone conversation with a dying 41-year-old book editor whom even the most practiced verbal assassin has called the last of the Southern gentlemen and hears him say in a hoarse whisper, "I'm sorry but I just hate old people. I look at them and think, 'Why don't you die?'"

4. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that an aspiring little avant-garde movie director approaches a fairly famous actor in a restaurant and attempts to make social hay out the fact that they met at Antonio's and Charles's and Antonio's and Charles's are not parties and Antonio's and Charles's are not bars and Antonio's and Charles's are not summer houses in chic Tuscan towns--Antonio's and Charles's are funerals.

5. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 36-year-old writer is on the telephone with a 38-year-old art director making arrangements to go together the following morning to the funeral of a 27-year-old architect and the art director says to the writer, "If you get there first sit near the front where we usually sit and save me the seat on the aisle."

6. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 24-year-old ballet dancer is in the hospital of 10 days following an emergency

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appendectomy and nobody goes to visit him because everyone is really busy and after all he's not dying or anything.

7. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 36-year-old writer takes time out at a memorial service for the world's preeminent makeup artist and a man worth any number of interesting painters to get angry because the makeup artist's best friend and eulogist uses a story that she has for years been hoarding for her book which she can't write anymore unless she writes it as a historical novel because it's about a world that in the last few years has disappeared almost entirely.

8. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 36-year-old writer runs into a 34-year-old painter at a party and the painter says to the writer that he is just back from Los Angeles and he says with some surprise that he had a really good time there and he asks why does she think that happened and says it's because New York is so boring now that Los Angeles is fun in comparison and that's true and it's one reason but the real reason is that they don't know the people who are dying there.

9. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 36-year-old writer has dinner every night for 11 nights in a row with the same 32-

year-old musician while he waits for his biopsy to come back because luckily for her she is the only one he trusts enough to tell.

10. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that a 36-year-old writer trying to make plans to go out of town flips though her appointment book and hears herself say, "Well, I have a funeral on Tuesday, lunch with my editor on Wednesday, a memorial service on Thursday, so I guess I could come on Friday, unless, of course, Robert dies."

11. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that when the world's most famous artist dies of complications following surgery at the age of 61 it doesn't seem like he really died at all--it seems like he got off easy.

12. The Impact of AIDS on the Artistic Community is that at a rather grand dinner held at a venerable New York cultural institution and catered by a company famous for the beauty of its waiters a 39-year old painter remarks to a 36-year-old writer that the company in question doesn't seem to employ as many really handsome boys as it used to and the writer replies, "Well, it doesn't always pay to be popular."

The New York Times, Sunday, September 13, 1987

**THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:**

**Co-chairs--**

**Media Coordinator--**  
**Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus**

<b>Bruce Reeves</b>	<b>961-2905</b>
<b>Deborah Bell</b>	<b>977-3661</b>
<b>Jack Valinski</b>	<b>529-1223</b>
<b>David Fowler</b>	<b>522-2822</b>

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***The Week's Events***

THURSDAY                    **MEDIA CONFERENCE** Representatives from all events are requested to be present to give a short speech on their organization and on their event.

JUNE                         place: Heaven  
                               address: Pacific at Grant (One block East of Montrose,  
                               One block North of Westheimer  
                               time: 11:00 AM

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FRIDAY                      **Womynspace** will sponsor a **Fabulous Variety Show** featuring the best talent in the womyn's community. Open to men and womyn in a chemical free space. Among the scheduled entertainment is Hart Song

JUNE                         place: Audtery House  
                               address: 6265 Main (outer Belt)  
                               time: 8:00 PM  
                               cost: \$5.00

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SATURDAY                   **After Hours** is sponsoring a dance for their live broadcast on KPFT 90.1 FM

JUNE                         place: Kindred Spirits & KPFT 90.1 FM  
                               address: 4902 Richmond  
                               time: 12 Midnight to 4:00 AM  
                               cost: TBA

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SUNDAY                      **Dignity/Houston** will sponsor a cruise on Buffalo Bayou from Shanghai Reds to the Bay of Galveston

JUNE                         place: Buffalo Bayou  
                               address: 8501 Cypress on Brady Island  
                               time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
                               cost: \$15.00

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MONDAY                     **"Gay, Proud and Sober"** A film presentation of The Montrose Counseling Center's MORE Alcohol/Drug Abuse Program. The film will be followed by a discussion on ways to combine an active lesbian/gay lifestyle with sobriety.

JUNE                         place: The Montrose Counseling Center's  
                               address: 900 Lovett, Suite 203  
                               time: 7:30 PM  
                               cost: free

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***The Week's Events***

**"The Stuff that Dreams are Made of"** The Response of Houston's Lesbian and Gay Community to AIDS. A presentation of **The Montrose Counseling Center's AIDS Project**. The regular scheduled Tuesday sessions will be canceled on this night only so as to present this very special program. The Montrose Counseling Center, 7:30 PM, 900 Lovett, Suite 203

TUESDAY

place: The Montrose Counseling Center

JUNE

address: 900 Lovett, Suite 203

21

time: 7:30 PM

cost: free

**The Montrose Clinic**--A formal fundraiser dinner at Jonathon's, open to the public. Lee Aldridge will provide entertainment.

place: Jonathon's

address: 2715 Waugh Crest

time: 6:30 PM cocktails, 7:30 PM dinner

cost: \$25.00

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WEDNESDAY

**"Celebrating Women's Creativity"** a presentation of the Montrose Counseling Center's Women's Program. The presentation will include an evening of women's culture, including poetry reading, music and a display of arts and crafts.

JUNE

place: The Montrose Counseling Center

22

address: 900 Lovett, Suite 203

time: 7:30 PM

cost: free

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THURSDAY

**Interfaith Alliance** A narrative celebration of the good work that the Gay Community has done over the last decade. Song and prayer will be included.

place: Metropolitan Community Church of the

Resurrection

address: 1919 Decatur

time: 7:30 PM

cost: free

23

**The American Gay Atheists** will show a video presentation of Ben Akerley's speech, "Earth is Enough," given at the 18th annual convention of American Atheists.

place: Montrose Branch of the Houston Public Library

address: 4100 Montrose, 77006

time: 7:00 PM

cost: donations accepted

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***The Week's Events***

"Volunteer Reception" sponsored by AIDS Foundations Houston open house to the public.

FRIDAY

place: AIDS Foundation of Houston  
address: 3927 Essex Lane  
time: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
cost: free

JUNE 24

**AMIGA (All Mujeres Interested in Getting Active)** will sponsor a dance and show, "Una Noche con AMIGA"  
place: Bacchus Club  
address: 523 Lovett  
time: 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM  
cost: \$3.00

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**TGRA Bar Hop** an all city Gay Lesbian bar tour by bus starting at the Brazos River Bottom

SATURDAY

place: Brazos River Bottom (528-9192)  
address: TBA  
time: TBA  
cost: TBA

JUNE 25

**Baile '88** Gay Lesbian Hispanic Unidos a Tejanos style ballroom dance live band called Vaid. Tenth anniversary celebration from all over the country.  
place: Astro Village Hotel, Grand Ballroom  
address: South Loop & Kirby  
time: 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM PM  
cost: \$15.00

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**The Parade** The annual Lesbian/Gay Pride parade shows the diversity of the community. There will be contingencies from many organizations representing, sports, cultural, service, political and religious

SUNDAY

place: Montrose  
address: Eastbound on Westheimer from Woodhead to Montrose to Pride Rally  
time: 3:00 PM  
cost: free

JUNE 26

**Pride Rally** sponsored by Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus. This will a celebration with representatives of many community organizations.  
place: Kwik Kopy Parking Lot.  
address: 3317 Montrose  
time: 5:00 PM (after The Parade)  
cost: free