

3 A well-executed Pride Parade receives smashing accolades.

6 A photo story captures history of the 1997 Pride Week events.

9 New Pride Committee service lets our community make long distance calls with pride.

Glowing with Pride

AUGUST 1997 GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON

COORDINATOR REMEMBERS THE DAY

GINA RICHARDSON

I remember being a little irritated when my wife Robin Duncan came home and told me our life was going to be disrupted a bit for she had just volunteered to co-chair the pride parade with Ray Ramirez. Well a bit disrupted was an understatement, and it wasn't long before I realized I was going to have to get involved too if I wanted to understand what Robin was talking about 75% of the time.

The 1996 season was off and running and we were chasing behind. I soon found out there was plenty to do. The next step was very clear, recruit, Recruit, RECRUIT and we did.

All our friends, our 14 year old

for everyone.

Robin, Ray, Patrick McIlvaine and I designed a full working crew of volunteers to help run the parade. For the first time we had water stations, first aid stations and safe tents with chairs. We had two way radios, bullhorns, golf carts and Whole Foods donated sandwiches for all the working volunteers. We had almost 60 volunteers to carry banners, set up stations, police the parade route and help with line up. We had County Constables and Houston Police. And we had rain, hard rain, rain that we thought would never stop. We were wet, no, we were soaked & quite frustrated. We had church out in the street and every god and goddess were asked big favors. We

co-coordinators. When I was asked if I would like to join the team I agreed. I was told Pete Contreres had decided to be the male volunteer co-coordinator. After working with volunteers and Pete last year it was only natural to be Pete's partner with volunteers.

Everything got moving fast, we had to choose a logo, decide what to sell, there were articles to write, celebrates to contact, fundraisers, budgets, timelines, and so much more. First thing, it was time to call all our friends old and new to inform them the 1997 season had begun.

The big difference in being a "call me volunteer" and a committee member is that you really get to be a part of what happens.

fall Westheimer Street Festival. This event is so much fun. Imagine getting to sit in front of Mary's and people watch during one of Montrose's most diverse weekends. Talking to people that have all different views, from all over the city and selling them pride stuff of course...

Then start all preparations to let everyone else in the world know what is going on in Houston. Volunteers start getting things together for a massive Newsletter mailout. The articles have been written, everything was prepared and is back from the printer. The first of several editions are in the mail and PCOH and its volunteers have finished another task.

As the year goes on Volunteers have all kind of things going on.

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The 1996 season was off and running and we were chasing behind. I soon found out there was plenty to do. The next step was very clear, recruit, Recruit, RECRUIT and we did.

All our friends, our 14 year old daughter, and everyone who had ever done anything with Pride Committee of Houston (PCOH). We all folded newsletters, worked events and sold pride merchandise. A big concern was the parade. Our goal was to run a really smooth parade and try to make it as comfortable as possible

and Whole Foods donated sandwiches for all the working volunteers. We had almost 60 volunteers to carry banners, set up stations, police the parade route and help with line up. We had County Constables and Houston Police. And we had rain, hard rain, rain that we thought would never stop. We were wet, no, we were soaked & quite frustrated. We had church out in the street and every god and goddess were asked big favors. We were answered and rewarded when the sun broke through just before kick off. The parade went wonderful. All the volunteers were great and we all had a lot of fun. Everyone was ready for 1997.

Before long the '97 co-chairs Susan Guerrero and Darren Armstrong came looking for new

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The big difference in being a "call me volunteer" and a committee member is that you really get to be a part of what happens. All decisions are made together, and you really get to know the people you are working with. There's a common goal in our community and being part of PCOH allows you a chance to be part of how we are seen.

Our first volunteer round up was to sell pride merchandise at the

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As the year goes on Volunteers have all kind of things going on. There are things for the low profile homosexuals and things for the most out going homosexuals too. We had big fun and tried to make sure everyone else did too. Before

long it was only a
continued on
Page 10

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

GINA RICHARDSON

Pride Committee of Houston would like to congratulate our most out standing volunteer Tina Travis. With pride, and a thank you, PCOH wants Tina to have a well deserved holiday on us. As our Volunteer of the Year she has received a three day two night stay for herself and a guest at the Painted Lady Guesthotel in San Antonio. "Tina you did a great job helping PCOH this year! We hope this helps in showing you how much the board, co-chairs and coordinators appreciated all of your help. We'll see you next year."

In Pride and with Thanks
Gina and Pete ▼



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JULIE SISKA

Congratulations to the 1997 Pride Week Committee for producing a successful series of Pride Week events culminating with the first-ever Gay & Lesbian Night Time Pride Parade in North America. You should be "Glowing with Pride".

We have been acknowledged within our community and throughout the country. Florida will be following in our footsteps with a night time parade in February, 1998 and more will follow the precedent setting step we took this year.

We sincerely thank the community, the sponsors, the participants, the volunteers — everyone who took part in making this Pride Week the most exciting, safe, magical, joyous and successful to date.

This year we had the opportunity to have over 50,000 people attend the Pride Parade. The many other events held during the month of

June enjoyed the participation of the community with many guests from out of town. As stated in the Houston Voice "...bringing over \$2,000,000 into our community."

This is only the beginning of what is possible in the development and growth of our community and our pride.

We are now launching the 1998 Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. The momentum is

building at a faster and faster pace as each year passes and, as always, we need to enroll many others to join us in the planning and funding of this major event.

However, in order to more effectively and exponentially see an impact in 1998 and forward, WE NEED YOU — NOW!!!!!!

We welcome your suggestions, ideas, and input. Though we are a young organization, we do possess the talent and resources in Houston to continually showcase our

magnificent city and its people. Others are watching us and taking notice. Our efforts are not only a local endeavor but also serves as an outreach throughout the land.

So mark your calendars to attend our monthly meetings on the Third Tuesday of every month at the Multi-Service Complex at 7 p.m. Yes, we are a year-round organization with an opportunity for you to meet others who are making a difference in the world and having fun in the process. ▼

*"We sincerely thank
the community,
the sponsors,
the participants,
the volunteers..."*

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON, INC.

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MERCHANDISE

Gary Masse
Fred Reningeg

NEWSLETTER

Trent Jefferson
Joel Lutringer

PARADE



ASK THE CHAIRS

SUSAN GUERRERO & DARREN ARMSTRONG



Is the Pride Committee through for the year?

While it may appear that all the work is



Will next year's parade be at night again?

Several people have asked if we will



ASK THE CHAIRS

SUSAN GUERRERO & DARREN ARMSTRONG

**Q
A**

Is the Pride Committee through for the year?

While it may appear that all the work is complete once the Parade is over, the reality is quite different. The months of July and August are filled with a bevy of activities. Immediately after the parade, street clean-up is started. Next arrangements have to be made for the pickup of rental equipment, cars, grandstands and porta potties that were just delivered the day before. Then comes the reconciliation with all the vendors who supplies the myriad of equipment used to produce the parade. Invoices must be checked for accuracy, (sometimes orders change at the last minute), checks cut and payments mailed or delivered to the suppliers. There is also the follow-up news stories to be written and sent to the local media about trophy awards, parade attendance and public impressions. These activities occur from the end of June through the second week of July. The first monthly meeting in July is suspended to allow all the volunteers and coordinators to catch their breath and take a much needed rest. Most of the staff disappear on vacations or mini-retreats. Finally, about a month after the parade, the sponsors and volunteers appreciation party occurs. It too must be planned in advance. At that point, the month of July is over. In August the Committee begins to close the financial books in preparation for the next annual cycle which starts September 1. ▼

**Q
A**

Will next year's parade be at night again?

Several people have asked if we will continue this year's tradition of holding the parade at night. The answer is 'Most definitely YES!' This year's parade at night resulted in crowd attendance that doubled over last year's. It also provided a venue for the creative talents of our community to shine. This year's parade saw an exponential increase in float entries, entries from new participants and larger numbers of people per entry than ever before. The night parade brought back the festive atmosphere our parade had begun to lose and created a sense of unity in the community. We have already applied for next year's parade. Step off time is set for 9:00 PM, Saturday, June 27th. Plan now to attend! ▼

*Thanks For A
Great Year!*

*Darren
Susan*

MEDIA
James Rodriguez
Silvester Martinez

MERCHANDISE
Gary Masse
Fred Reninge

NEWSLETTER
Trent Jefferson
Joel Lutringer

PARADE
Robin Duncan

PRIDE GUIDE
Guy Burns
Troy Christensen

VOLUNTEERS
Pete Contreras
Gina Richardson

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to coordinate and promote events that celebrate the diversity, unity and history of the Gay and Lesbian community. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, transgender or bi-sexual identification, nor do we discriminate against the physically challenged or those who are differently abled.

We are here to commemorate, educate and celebrate our pride and create a path towards a positive future for all humanity not to exclude any aspect of who we are as a people.

The Pride Committee
P.O. Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071
Tel: 713.529.6979
Fax: 713.529.1223
eMail:
info@pridehouston.org

NIGHT PARADE ACCOLADES

ROBIN DUNCAN

Hello Boys & Girls.

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood on June 28, 1997. Not only was the weather gorgeous, there was a rainbow in the sky. I believe someone out there is on our side. The day went extremely smooth, things moved along quite nicely. All the units showed up & checked in as planned. No one really knew how this was all going to turn out. I, for one, was somewhat of a skeptic. But the closer parade day came, the more I realized this was going to be different.....

The music started playing, the lights came on and it was the most incredible energy. We had no idea! Our community finally came together — We were united! We were proud to be out, proud to be with each other & happy as hell to be marching down the street out of the sun.

I knew when I started receiving the parade applications that it was gonna be a different kind of parade. We had 3 times as many floats as last year. People were really excited about the parade for the first time in a long time. Everybody put a lot of time, energy and creativity into this one. It was about celebrating life ~ Accepting all aspects of our community ~ Working together towards a common goal. It really was something I personally have never experienced in this community.

When each unit came around that corner on to Westheimer I was totally impressed. I was standing in front of the "protesters" and they did not get the confrontation they were after. Every unit was very pleasant ~ Waving and smiling like they weren't even there. Needless to say, they left.

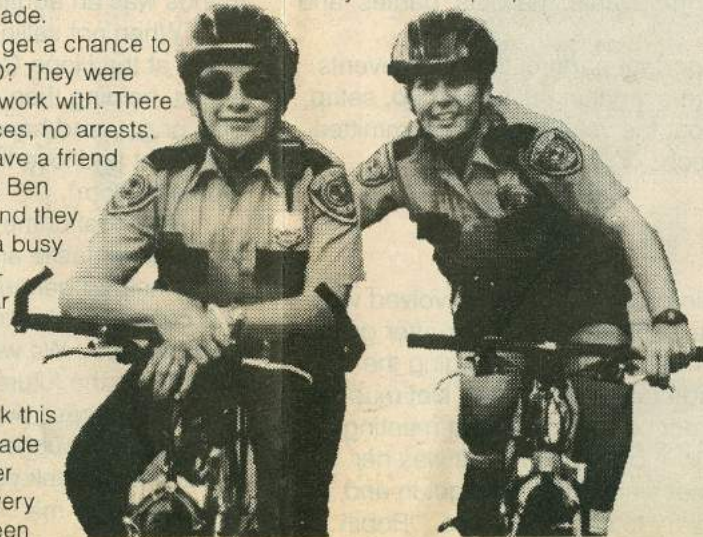
And the crowd! Whoa! What people will do for a t-shirt or a plastic trinket ~ incredible! The crowds were just fab, really! Saturday night in Montrose is a happening place to be anyway~ And to have the streets blocked off & a parade is just way too cool for words. There was so many people & they were in a good mood ~ As opposed to standing out in the heat, being miserable. What a difference that made.

Did everyone get a chance to interact with HPD? They were very pleasant to work with. There were no incidences, no arrests, nothing. I also have a friend that was working Ben Taub that night and they were expecting a busy night ~ They didn't get one. As far as she knew, no clients from our community.

All in all, I think this was the best parade this town has ever seen. And I am very proud to have been

able to take the challenge and to see our community alive again. It was a great honor on my part to work with all the volunteers, sponsors, entries, businesses, organizations, etc.~ I met so many incredible people .

I wish with all my heart our community could stay united the way it was that night. That we could keep that excitement year round. For all of us that was there, keep that spark alive every day. And for those of you that missed it, I hate that for ya. I know we'll all be there next year ~ We'll all tell our friends what a wonderful night it was & it's open to anyone that wants to celebrate the diversity of not only our community but of all peoples. ▼



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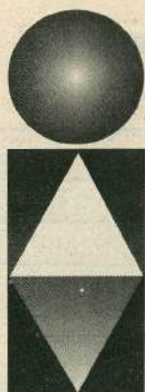
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VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

**PETE CONTRERAS
GINA RICHARDSON**



Pete Contreras always had the desire to volunteer for the community. A couple of years ago he completed a "Task Force" survey and checked the volunteer box. The next thing he knew he was out there as a volunteer and helping out.

He liked volunteering so much that he became volunteer coordinator in 1997. As a volunteer Co-

ordinator his goal was to get as many great volunteers at the different events as possible ensuring that each of the events, mailouts, parties, and The Parade were well staffed.

The volunteers are one of the most important parts of the pride events. They work behind the scenes making sure everything is picked up, setup, served, cleaned up, and put away. Without the volunteers the committee would not be able to accomplish very much. ▼



Gina Richardson got involved with Pride Committee last year after going to a meeting about changing the parade to a cooler time. Not much was accomplished at that meeting, mostly a bitch season. It was her partner who decided to get in and really try to change things. "Robin wanted to be heard and to do that you have to get involved, so we did." Robin Duncan was 1996 parade

co-chair and Gina was her personal assistant.

When the '97 season came along Gina decided to join the committee and Pete Contreras as Volunteer Co-coordinator.

Gina owns a small home repair business. Her company, The Pink Edge, has introduced her to a lot of people in the community she would have not gotten to meet. "Work and Pride Committee have been great

MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR

FRED RENINGER



This was my first year working with Pride Committee - even though Ray Ramirez has been "recruiting" me for years. (I wonder if he won a toaster oven?) I intended to volunteer a little extra time to become acquainted with the Pride Committee. Little did I know that Gary and I would adopt an orphan committee six weeks before Pride Week. I became involved with the Pride Committee to contribute to and meet more of OUR wonderful community. Making some great new friends was an additional perk!

When not selling T-shirts and other pride merchandise I can be found at the Hope Center/STEPS Program. We work with homeless young adults, helping them exit the streets. Many of the youth I work with are lesbian or gay and have been "thrown away" by parents who are not willing to accept and love their children. My position is Case Manager/Outreach Worker/ "Mom".

The goal of the Merchandising committee was to SELL! This years logo was fantastic and the T-shirts sold at a phenomenal rate. Our committee helped generate excitement and raise funds for Pride Week events. Our community businesses gave us tremendous support with selling pride merchandise. We were very excited to add Walgreens to our list of supporters. In the future we plan to develop even more new partnerships.

Just in case we missed you while selling Pride merchandise or you did not get enough, a few of our commemorative pins remain. Call us at the Pride Line. Thank your all for making Pride Week such a meaningful experience for me. ▼

Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit Corporation. Donations to the committee, as charitable contributions, are





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Gina feels PCOH is really a great asset for Houston's gay and lesbian community. "We don't understand that a bunch of people don't just show up and march down Westheimer at the same time every year for our personal entertainment. When you get involved you see how much there is to be done and many people it takes to do it."

Pride Committee had a fabulous year. The Volunteers were there for the boring as well as the exciting. Gina would like to see each committee have its own staff of volunteers. The constant knowledge of what is going on in each committee and the bond in each group would make PCOH much stronger.

Gina is going to be a volunteer again for '98. She feels it is important to be involved in any way your life allows. "This year I want to watch the parade and go to the events, but I will be right there if I am needed." Gina also wants to say thanks to her daughter and all her friends that helped this year. "We had a good year because we had good people involved, so I hope everyone will come and sit in a meeting or volunteer to help with just one event, maybe PCOH has something to give or can learn something from a new voice. See ya next year". ▼

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TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Pride Committee receives 100% of it's revenue from sales of merchandise, corporate gifts, and donations from people like **YOU** (yes you). Please help us to make Pride Week the best it can be by filling out this donation form and mailing it back to:

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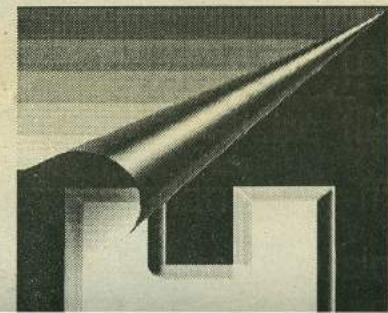
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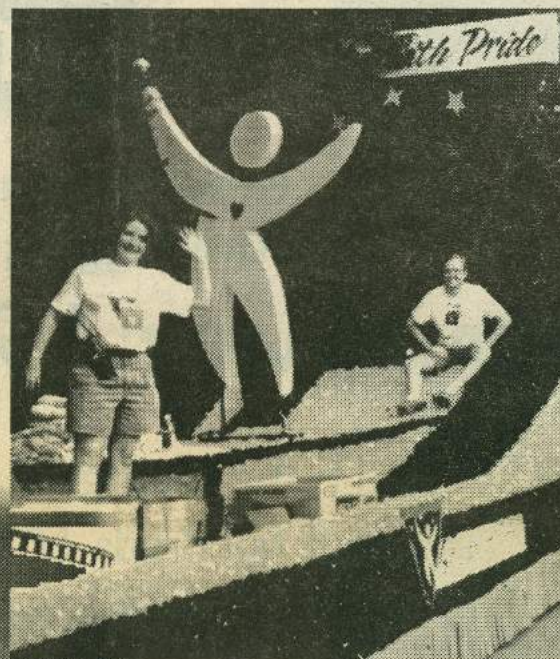
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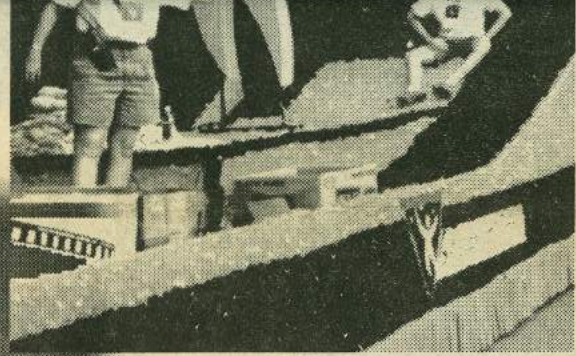
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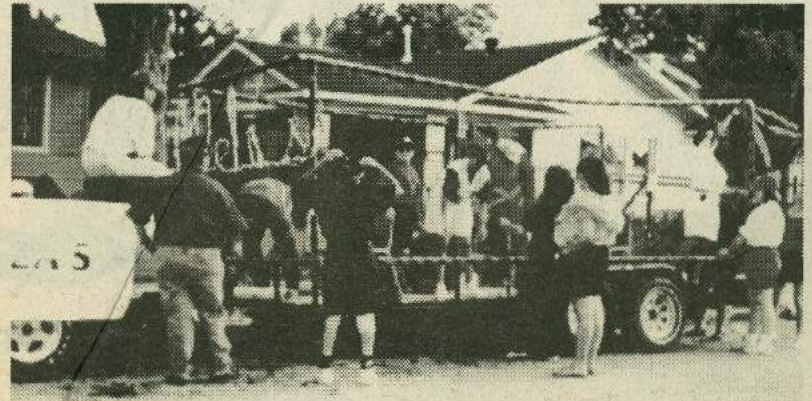
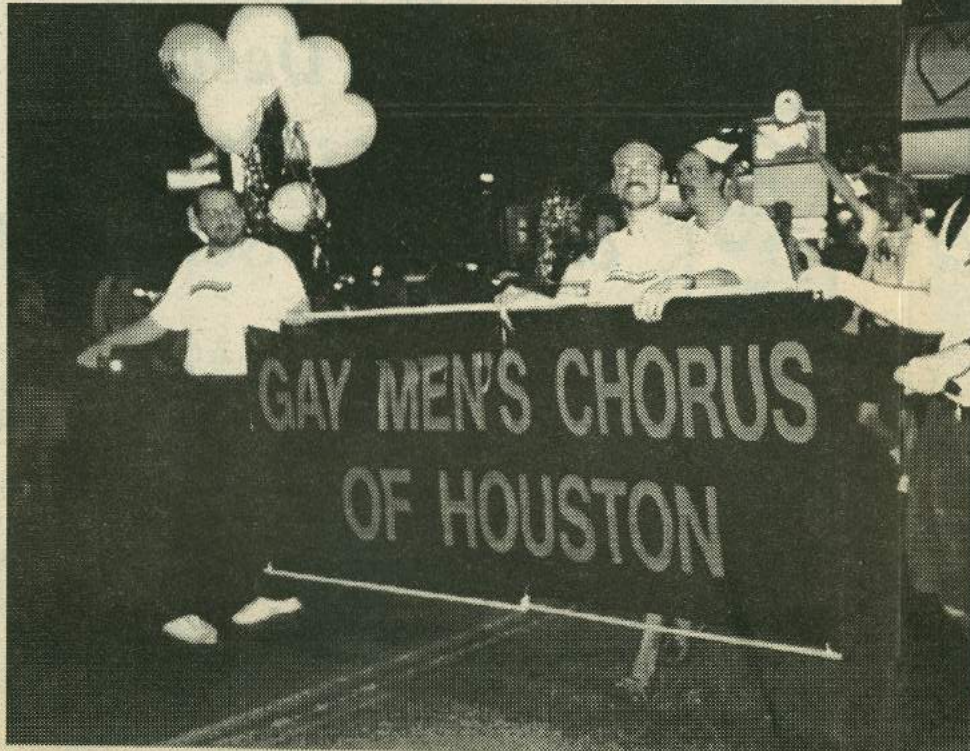
This year's Pride events, meetings and activities has provided these snapshots which really tell the story of all that has gone on in 1997. We captured all of these dedicated volunteers, contributors, committee members, and community supporters through out the year enjoying the many Pride Committee opportunities.

Come be part the fun in 1998. Can you identify: the Volunteer of the Year, the Pride Guide Coordinator, Co-Chairs of the Pride Committee of Houston, several (not yet) committed groups of pride volunteers and coordinators? ▼

Photos by: Gina Richardson, Troy Christensen and Nancy Ford









1997 PRIDE WEEK VOLUNTEERS

Cheryl Merritt
 Jim Pettyjohn
 Crystal Dove
 Elisha Sage
 Cindy & Jonathan Presley
 Louis Ray
 Clayton Connell
 Kerry Ellison
 Robin Robinette
 Marianne Troiano
 Rita Armstrong
 Diane Waller
 Sharon Skivaski
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Tim Gibson
 Artie Hibbert

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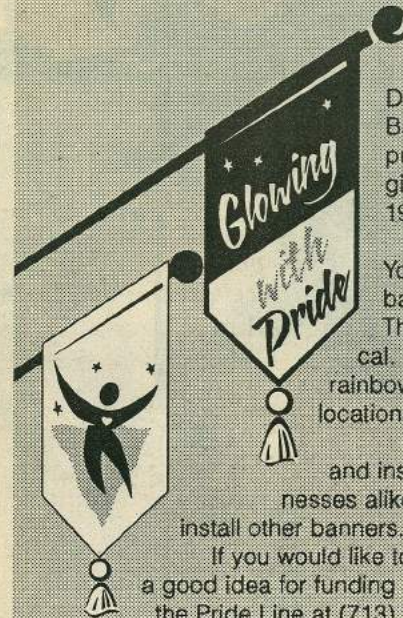
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 GREATER HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

 811 Westheimer Suite 202

LOWER WESTHEIMER BANNER DISTRICT

RAY RAMIREZ



The Pride Committee of Houston Board of Directors maintains the Lower Westheimer Banner District. We sought the designation in public session with City Council and were given the authority to oversee this district in 1995.

The banner district is on Westheimer from Yokum to Taft. We have the capacity to use the banner poles three hundred days of the year. The banners may not be commercial or political. Currently we are using our pink triangle with rainbow colored wind socks enhancing thirteen locations along the route.

The purpose of our banner district is to unify and inspire our community, for individuals and businesses alike. We are looking for funds to design and install other banners.

If you would like to donate to the Banner District or if you have a good idea for funding and/or designs of the banners, please call the Pride Line at (713) 529-6979 and leave a message for Ray Ramirez or Brian Keever to return your phone call. ▼

MAKE LONG DISTANCE CALLS WITH PRIDE**NICK BRINES**

The Pride Committee of Houston is offering a new service which allows individuals to support our community while saving money on your regular monthly phone bills.

Teaming with the Response Network, the Pride Committee of Houston has created a long distance program specially designed for Houston's Gay and Lesbian community. The service allows you to privately support our community in Houston with every long distance call you make while receiving long distance rates at a lower cost than you regularly pay with other companies.

It is easy to begin using this service and your support remains completely confidential. While you save on each long distance phone call you make, 7% of the cost of each call is donated to the Pride Committee of Houston on your behalf. It is easy to see that in just a short time, you can have a significant impact on your local communi-

ty. An individual who spends an average of \$50/month on long distance service will donate about \$42 in one year's time without noticing any change in their bills or phone service. An individual with an average monthly phone bill of \$100 will automatically contribute \$84 each year. As more individuals begin to use the service, the impact this will have on the community will be tremendous.

The service is Houston based and all contributions remain in the Houston community, working to make a difference that you can notice immediately. In addition to the contributions you will make to your community, you will also save money with low rates which include:

- 11.9 cents per minute flat rate interstate calls
- 12.9 cents per minute flat rate intrastate calls
- 16 cents per minute flat rate on all calling cards
- 6 second billing after the first 30 seconds
- Service availability in most Southwestern Bell, Bell South &

GTE Service areas

- No monthly minimums
- No monthly fees
- No surcharges
- No hidden terms
- 1+ dialing
- Calling cards with no first minute surcharge
- Billing on your regular monthly telephone bill

Signing up for this new service is also easy. Just complete the form below and return it to:
The Pride Committee of Houston
PO Box 66071
Houston, TX
77266-9951

**SERVICE APPLICATION • CUSTOMER INFORMATION****PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION:**

PARADE TROPHIES
1997 Pride Week

GLOWING WITH PRIDE

Best Interpretation of Slogan
OutSmart Magazine

behalf. It is easy to see that in just a short time, you can have a significant impact on your local communi-

seconds
■ Service availability in most Southwestern Bell, Bell South &

Houston, TX
77266-9951

SERVICE APPLICATION • CUSTOMER INFORMATION

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As it appears on your local phone bill.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SIN NUMBER _____ LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER _____

PHONE NUMBER #1 _____ PHONE NUMBER #2 _____

LETTER OF AGENCY

This Letter is to authorize Coastal Telephone Company to act as my agent and in such capacity to submit to the local telephone company a change in my Preferred Interexchange Carrier. This authorization does not preclude my ability to act in my behalf when I deem necessary. I understand that I may choose only primary long distance carrier for each telephone number. I further understand my local telephone company may charge me a fee for this or any later charge. This authorization also applies to my intralata selection, where applicable. I certify that the information on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I authorize Coastal Telephone Company to do a credit investigation and hold free from Liability all creditors and other persons who may respond to inquires. I accept responsibility for payment upon receipt of all charges incurred.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

CODE: 09-01

PARADE TROPHIES

1997 Pride Week

GLOWING WITH PRIDE

Best Interpretation of Slogan
OutSmart Magazine

SPIRIT OF MONTROSE

Best Overall of any Entry
Garden Party

STONE WALL

Best Unit Commemorating Pride
PFLAG - Houston

GYPSY ROSE

Best Out-of-Town Unit
Cheer Dallas

EDISON

Best Nonprofessional Lighted Float
Amigos Volunteers in Education
and Services (AVES)

RAINBOW LIGHTS

Best Professional Lighted Float
Community Gospel Church

RUBY SLIPPER

Best Walking Unit
Texas Commerce Bank

HOUSTON TROPHY

Best Nonprofessional Motorized Float
Astro Rainbow Alliance

TEXAS TROPHY

Best Professional Float
Outrage



MAILING LIST COMPUTER WORK SESSION

JACK VALINSKI

You may wonder how we got your name for this newsletter mailing. The Pride Committee of Houston (PCOH) has maintained a mailing list since 1987. This data base contains about 9,000 names in the metropolitan Houston area. This list has been compiled over the years by people signing up at our meetings, fund raises and various events.

The PCOH has made a major commitment to keep the list current. On our non-profit bulk mailings, like the one this newsletter was sent by, we get a great postage rate. However, we request an Address Correction meaning the Post Office will return the mail to us if you are no longer at that address. If the Post Office knows your new address they attached it to the mail. This service cost us 50¢ for each address correction. This all sounds great but this cost adds up, yet we think this is important.

Over the years we have learned a lot on keeping our mailing list up

working with a CD-ROM that will correct invalid misspelled and incomplete addresses. So if you look at your address label, it may not be the way you like your address listed, it is how the post service would like to see. This is how there computers are set up to move the mail faster.

Besides the mailing list we also keep up our web site at www.pride-houston.org. The web site contains the most compressive listing of community events and list of community organizations.

If any of these things sound interesting you can volunteer on this committee. If your organization would be interested in knowing how to do some of these things the Information Technology Committee which is under the Pride Committee board can help. You can join us at our weekly work session on Mondays at our 811 Westheimer office. If you are interested in helping out please contact us on the Pride Line at 713-529-6979 or at email us at calendar@pridehouston.org. ▼

1998 PRIDE WEEK MEETING DATES AND TIMES

GENERAL MEETING DATES:

SEPTEMBER 16, OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18

WHEN:

7:00 PM

WHERE:

METROPOLITAN MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

1475 WEST GRAY

eMail address: info@pridehouston.org

Telephone: (713) 529-6979

Web Site: www.pridehouston.org

we get a great postage rate. However, we request an Address Correction meaning the Post Office will return the mail to us if you are no longer at that address. If the Post Office knows your new address they attached it to the mail. This service cost us 50¢ for each address correction. This all sounds great but this cost adds up, yet we think this is important.

Over the years we have learned a lot on keeping our mailing list up to date. Just recently we have been

this committee. If your organization would be interested in knowing how to do some of these things the Information Technology Committee which is under the Pride Committee board can help. You can join us at our weekly work session on Mondays at our 811 Westheimer office. If you are interested in helping out please contact us on the Pride Line at 713-529-6979 or at email us at calendar@pridehouston.org. ▼

eMail address: info@pridehouston.org

Telephone: (713) 529-6979

Web Site: www.pridehouston.org

HOUSTON PRIDE
mailing list

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS?
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We want you, as a community member, to continue receiving our *GLOWING WITH PRIDE* newsletter.

Please send all address changes and duplicate copy information to
Newsletter Committee
c/o Pride Committee of Houston
P.O. Box 6607
Houston TX. 77266-6071

ADDRESS CHANGE

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DUPLICATE COPY INFORMATION

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ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

INCORRECT ADDRESS

PLEASE PRINT ADDRESS BELOW:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COORDINATORS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS CHALLENGE

The Pride Committee needs you to take up the challenge for making the 1998 Gay Pride celebration successful. We need dedicated coordinators to take on leadership roles as team leaders for the coming year's event. Bring your fresh ideas, different experiences, and dedication to the our next general meeting and be part of the next generation of Houston proud Pride leaders. We encourage the concept of Co-coordinators to allow everyone to take on a committee position. So bring a friend. The next general meeting of the Pride Committee is Tuesday, September 16, 1997 at 7:00 pm. Check out the committee descriptions below and come see what fun you can have putting on Houston's #1 Gay and Lesbian Community Event.

VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year, this group coordinates volunteers for mailouts, merchandising, selling, fundraising events, and all other events associated with Pride Week. Participating in this committee means greeting new volunteers, getting to know them, and helping them discover where their talents and skills can best be used. ▼

PARADE

This committee oversees the many aspects of holding a parade on Houston streets. This includes, but is not limited to obtaining city

FUNDRAISING

A year round committee that produces fun events which raise funds for the Pride Committee's operations budget. They often develop joint efforts with other community organizations. If you only want to be involved with one project or event this is the committee for you. New ideas are always welcomed! ▼

NEWSLETTER

This committee is responsible for producing the Pride Committee's newsletter. Members of this committee find out the scoop on what is happening with the other committees and report on the progress, development and activities of Pride Week in a newsprint format. They also solicit advertising and gather and develop feature articles. If you've ever wanted to gain large-scale print media experience, then this is the committee for you! ▼

PRIDE GUIDE

The Pride Guide is the official listing of all the events that comprise Pride Week, starting with the Kick-off Event and running for the full 10 days of Pride Week ending with our parade and PrideFest! It also contains a full Houston area Resource Guide for our community and feature articles on what Pride Week is all about! If you've ever wanted to gain experience working on a large-scale high-quality publication this is for you. ▼

MERCHANDISING

This committee selects merchandise to sell, solicits bids, places orders, and coordinates sales parties. This committee is a group of outgoing people who like to meet people! Sales tables are often set up in social settings and various local festivals (such as Westheimer Street Festival). With this group you can not help but have fun! ▼

FESTIVAL

This group is responsible for throwing our biggest party of the year! This committee finds entertainment, solicits vendors, decorates the grounds, and does everything else necessary to put on our yearly PrideFest. This is another group of outgoing, energetic people! ▼

JOIN US

If you would like to be a part of the Pride Committee of Houston by joining one of our committees, please contact us by:

MAIL
P.O. Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071

PHONE
713.529.6979

FAX
713.529.1223

EMAIL
info@pridehouston.org

COORDINATOR REMEMBERS THE DAY

continued from page 1

few months before the big events. Pete and I really got busy. Merchandise was really moving and a lot of volunteers

event to get us all excited about Pride Week.

After Pumped up on art we all started watching the weather. As confident as we all wanted to be memories of last year and all the

know we were all so proud of ourselves and our community.

As tired, sweaty, and hungry as I was after a really long day all I knew was that we had pulled off probably the best

associated with Pride Week. Participating in this committee means greeting new volunteers, getting to know them, and helping them discover where their talents and skills can best be used. ▼

PARADE

This committee oversees the many aspects of holding a parade on Houston streets. This includes, but is not limited to obtaining city permits, acting as liaison to the police and health departments, acquiring and placing street decorations, coordinating parade volunteers, and facilitating the orderly march of hundreds of people down Westheimer and Montrose. This committee is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun! ▼

EVENTS

This committee stimulates interest and gathers applications to schedule community activities during Pride Week for publication in the Pride Guide and other media releases. These people are also responsible for putting together Pride Week's "Kick-off Event". It's lots of work, lots of fun, and lots of opportunity to meet people and be in the know. ▼

MEDIA

This committee's responsibility is to establish relations with existing print and broadcast media on a local, statewide, and national level to keep the public informed of what the Pride Committee is doing and to stimulate interest. ▼

COORDINATOR REMEMBERS THE DAY

continued from page 1

few months before the big events. Pete and I really got busy. Merchandise was really moving and a lot of volunteers got to work with co-coordinators Gary and Fred all over town. Guy and Troy had completed the pride guide and we worked for 2 days to get that to the community. The public wanted to know what was going on, so Trent and Joel gave everyone that information in another newsletter.

Robin wasn't asking for much, but we all knew she would soon! She held a mandatory meeting on June 17th just to let everyone know about the Parade. The meeting was a big success. Now volunteers and parade participants knew it was really going to have a safe, and cool night time parade.

June 20th was our first big show. Nick's baby was going to be show cased in the event known as Pumped Up on Art. Nick had everything ready for volunteers and the public. There was great food, drinks, dancing and great art work that been done just to benefit our community. Volunteers got to dress up and they really shined. What an

event to get us all excited about Pride Week.

After Pumped up on art we all started watching the weather. As confident as we all wanted to be memories of last year and all the rain we were having.....Let's just say the prayers had begun.

Clouds greeted the morning of June 28th but in my heart I knew they were there just to keep us cool for it would be a long day for everyone involved. To say the day went great would be an understatement. All the volunteers made everyone's day so much easier. We knew where to go and where to have people to go. The protesters were the only people that didn't know where we were going!!! By the time Jack Valinski started count down we all knew we had reason to be Glowing with Pride. Through all the craziness of organizing over 1000 parade participants everyone seemed to be smiling. The excitement was everywhere and when Jack announced Kick Off it was overwhelming.

Seeing the crowds as I rode down Westheimer with the other co-coordinators was more exciting than I ever dreamed. Our float had to be glowing for I

know we were all so proud of ourselves and our community.

As tired, sweaty, and hungry as I was after a really long day all I knew was that we had pulled off probably the best parade Houston had ever seen. Robin and I walked around for days afterwards talking to people and hearing their excitement and how it should all ways be at night.

The 1997 season is ending now and 1998 is in planning. I figure it can only get better, but it takes all of us to pull events like these off. If you have no time to volunteer or put on an event for your community or be in the parade just make a big effort to be at as many of the wonderful things we have to offer. Support the gay businesses and the ones that support us. Volunteers are really just supporters of their beliefs. If you have the need to be rewarded for your beliefs give a call to the Pride Line (713-529-6979) maybe we have something you can find rewarding.

On closing I want to say Thank You so much to PCOH and everyone that that helped make 1997 glow!! Houston you put on one hell of a Parade! ▼

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