

PRIDE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1998

LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON

1998 Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade Grand Marshals

Our Grand Marshals are ready to "electrify" the 1998 Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade with their terrific spirits. This year's Honorary Grand Marshal - Organization is the Texas Gay Rodeo Association Inc. - Houston Chapter, our Honorary Grand Marshal is Barbara Winston, and our Grand Marshals are Jackie Doval and Bob Bouton.

Honorary Grand Marshal - Organization - Texas Gay Rodeo Association Inc. - Houston Chapter

T.G.R.A., as well as its Houston chapter, was established in 1983 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing western events for the gay and lesbian community and supporting the positive image of the community.

The organization's commitment to the community also includes raising funds for various, mostly AIDS-related,

awareness of gay and lesbian issues in corporations, government agencies, churches, health organizations, schools and universities, civic and social organizations, youth groups, and the media.



and a member of the Rainbow Riders.

Jackie, a chiropractic physician, is dedicated to ensuring health care for everyone and has established a program in her own chiropractic clinic in Montrose to provide care for those who are indigent, in financial hardship, or without much health insurance. She has also volunteered her services at the Thomas Street Clinic and the Bering Adult Day Care Activity Center.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Jackie returned there last year for San Juan's 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. She has also taken part in several other activist marches. Jackie has been a guest speaker at various gay and lesbian events, has been featured in some of our community's local publications, and has been a contributor to these publications.

One of his major achievements was seen recently during "Let Us Entertain You" weekend, a fun-filled social gathering for the leather community held each year on the weekend following Mardi Gras. Bob has been chairman of the Houston Council of Clubs, the group responsible for organizing the weekend, since 1993. Nearly 800 people got together for 1998's LUEY weekend, representing 23 states and four foreign countries.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bob moved to Houston in June 1980 and works as a legal assistant. He serves as President Emeritus of the Texas Renegades and has been a member since 1987. He is also the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the PWA Holiday Charities, which continues the needed fund raising for AIDS services begun by the late Lady Victoria Lust.

Bob is a member of the Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star, Inc., and was honored twice by the Court.

the year to put on the rodeo and receives a proportional amount of money from the rodeo to award local charities. In its fifteen year history, T.G.R.A. has raised over \$1.8 million statewide. The Houston chapter has raised \$120,000 in the past three years. 1997 recipients of T.G.R.A. Houston chapter awards included the PWA Holiday Charities, the PWA Coalition, the Pride Committee of Houston, the Loving Arms Foundation, Bering Care Center, and the Pet Patrol.

Honorary Grand Marshal – Barbara Winston

When Barbara Winston's youngest son, Phillip, came out to her in 1993, she immediately joined the Houston chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and quickly got involved in many programs that aid the group's mission of advocacy, education, and family support.

Barbara was involved in two very important PFLAG advocacy programs in 1996. She helped to bring billboards with powerful messages about lesbian and gay equality and families to Houston. She also helped to organize PFLAG Houston's "Moms and Dads Go To Washington" bus trip to lobby for passage of Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Barbara is also active in supporting PFLAG Houston's mission of education. As an organizer of the group's Speakers Bureau, she helps to train and send out volunteers who speak about their own experiences and assist in sensitivity and diversity training in order to increase

Barbara said she has been involved in issues of inclusivity since her camp and college days and in later years, through social work. Barbara, who turned 60 in April, returned to the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work in 1982 and was a therapist for 10 years.

Female Grand Marshal – Jackie Doval

Jackie Doval believes in the need for leadership in lesbian activism and she has had a wide variety of leadership roles in the movement.

Jackie's leadership roles in the Houston gay and lesbian community have included founding organizations such as Woman Works, the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and the Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI), and holding positions in several organizations, such as President/Co-Chair of Team Houston and LHI, Vice-President of Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service (A.V.E.S.), and Secretary of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and A.V.E.S. In 1996 and 1997 she was Chair of LHI's first and second Annual Lesbian Health Fairs and in 1997 she co-chaired AVES's first Pride Gala. In 1994 and 1995 Jackie was the Volunteer Coordinator of the Houston Black Tie Dinner. She is currently Co-Chair of AVES's 1998 Pride Gala and a board member of AVES, President of LHI, Vice-President of Lesbians in Business, a member of Team Houston, Team Sponsor of the Adjusters women's softball team,

Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos, LHI, and AVES for her leadership in the Houston lesbian and gay community.

Male Grand Marshal – Bob Bouton

Bob Bouton has given a



lot to the Houston gay and lesbian community for several years through his participation in many different charitable and social organizations in the community.

Award for Community Service and he was the first non-member in Houston to receive a "Lifetime" title from the Court.

Over the years Bob has organized many benefits for Houston's vital organizations, including the Colt 45s' Stone Soup Fund, Q-Patrol, the PWA Holiday Charities, the Loving Arms Foundation and others. On May 30, he will host a benefit for the Pride Committee at Chances.

Bob is also a member of the Houston Area Bears and is a Host Committee member of Soiree Aubergine. He is an associate member of several area social and educational organizations, including Houston's Texas Riders, Sundance Cattle Company, and National Leather Association - Houston; the Knights d'Orleans in New Orleans; the Firedancers in Dallas; the Cowtown Leathermen in Fort Worth; the Tri-State Wolfpack in Cincinnati, Ohio; and the Silver Dolphins in Corpus Christi. Bob holds honorary titles in the United Court of the Lone Star Empire in Dallas and the United Court of Austin.

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Another Year, Another Parade. Here are the People that Make it Happen:

Pride Week Volunteers: Cindy Archer & Paul Archer

Throughout the year, this group coordinates volunteers for mail-outs, merchandising, selling, fund raising events and all other events associated with Pride 1998. Participating in this committee means greeting new volunteers, getting to know them, and helping them discover where their talents and skills can be used.

Pride Guide: Guy Burns, Troy Christensen, Milo Moon

Once a year the Pride Committee produces the Pride Guide. The Guide is the official listing of all events that comprise Pride 1998, starting with

ending with our parade and PrideFest.

Pride Events: Michelle Franke & Bill McCamey

This committee stimulates interest and gathers applications to schedule community activities during Pride 1998. They are responsible for putting together any events sponsored by the Pride Committee.

Fund Raising: Cliff Hanshew & Joel Lutringer

This year-round committee that coordinates events to raise money for the Pride Committee's operations budget.

This committee selects merchandise to sell, solicits bids, places orders, and coordinates sales.

Parade: Jim Shunsky & Tina Travis

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 a liaison to the police and health departments, acquiring and placing street decorations, coordinating parade volunteers and facilitating the orderly march of hundreds of people during the parade.

Media:

establish relations with existing print and broadcast media on local, statewide, and national levels to keep the public informed of what the Pride Committee is doing and to stimulate interest in activities.

Pride Week Video: Kevin White

Pride Newsletter: Jonathan Lanz

This committee (or person) is the editor of the Pride Committee's newsletter. The newsletter is published every quarter and is the means by which the Committee keeps the community informed of activities leading up to the Pride Week and events after our June celebration

unified diversified electrified

HOUSTON LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE 1998

CONSTRUCTION PARTY: BUILDING ON PRIDE

Outrage is proud to sponsor, once again, the official Pride Party for 1998. This year's party features a new theme, a new location, and a new date. The theme will be "The Construction Party: Building on Pride" - which will carry forward as an annual event. The new theme also introduces a new site at The Hanger Warehouse, located on the east side of downtown in the warehouse district. The Hanger promises to heat up with plenty of dancing and partying all night long. And this year the date has been moved to the weekend prior to the now famous Night Time Parade to avoid conflict with the festivities of the parade. The Construction Party will be held Saturday, June 20, 1998,

the second of the three weekend Pride Extravaganza. If you have any questions, please call Outrage at 713-706-2508 or check out our website at www.outrage.org/~outrage. See you at the party!

Outrage is a non-profit fundraising organization producing special events benefiting Houston area HIV/AIDS related charities. Outrage's 1998 beneficiaries include Milam House, Steven's House, and the Assistance Fund. In addition, the members of Outrage collect goods to be delivered to Stone Soup Pantry on a monthly basis. In 1997, the organization donated over \$93,000 to charities.

Spring & Bunnies

As sure as Spring flowers blossom and the sun's rays warm the

days, Houston's Bunnies on the Bayou are planning their annual extravaganza. As always, the event is slated for Easter Sunday, April 12, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Fish Plaza at Wortham Center. The Bunnies on the Bayou have been raising funds for Houston's gay and lesbian community and AIDS charities for 19 years. The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. has in the past been a recipient of this event. There will be a "Groovin tunes T-shirt" and a "Bonnet": contests. Admission is \$20.00. If you are unable to attend this year's event, but would like to make a contribution to benefit the selected charities, you

may send a check payable to Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc. P. O. Box 66832, Houston, Texas 77266.

Fundraiser to Benefit Pride Committee of Houston

The Court will hold a fundraiser for the Committee at Chances on Saturday, May 30. Please support your support by attending the fundraiser.

The Pride Committee
P. O. Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071
Tel: 713.529.6979
Fax: 713.529.6929
Email:
info@pridehouston.org
Home page:
<http://www.pridehouston.org/>

DAYS OF SUMMER AT THE PARKS

EXPERIENCE THE GREAT OUTDOORS !!!
PRIDE JAMOREE IN MEMORIAL PARK

SATURDAY - JUNE 13th, 1998



COME AND PLAY SOFTBALL, FLAG FOOTBALL,
 VOLLYBALL, FRISBEE GOLF, DRAG RACES.
 Fun for the entire family. Anyone and Everyone is
WELCOME!!!

Plan to Picnic, Sun Bathe, Skate, Jog or just watch.
 Be part of this day in the park.

Display your colors, wear your Pride T-Shirts !!
 at the

Softball Fields 4 & 5, Rugby Field, Vollyball Sandpits.
More details to follow ...

Pride Committee of Houston's
 Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998
 Proudly Presents

PRIDE DAY at the Park
 at

Six Flags®
AstroWorld
A TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

Sunday - June 14, 1998

Advance ticket price \$20.00

Exclusively through Pride Committee
(Regular Gate price \$34.58)



TM & © 1998 Warner Bros.



TM & © 1998 Warner Bros.

Come play all day - Ticket includes all rides, shows and adventures.
 Wear your 1998 Pride T-Shirt !!



Purchase your T-Shirts at Crossroads, Walgreens and Lobo's

To Order Tickets: Mail with Self-Adressed, Stamped Envelope TODAY!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone (day) _____ (night) _____

MAIL TO:
 PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
 PO BOX 66071
 Houston, TX 77266-6071

No. of Tickets _____ x \$20.00 _____
SEND NO CASH TOTAL _____
 CK # _____ M/O # _____

"Unified Diversified Electrified"

1998 Pride Parade Not As Far Away As You Think by Jim Shumsky and Tina Travis

A year ago we thought we would get involved, get our feet wet so to speak, by volunteering for the Pride Committee and working on the parade. A year later we were asked "Hey, so y'all are going to put on next years' parade?" Well here we are, your 1998 Parade Coordinators. We were both fortunate enough to be part of the 1997 International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators (IALGPC) annual conference in New York City and came back to Houston pumped up and ready to carry out what seems to be our new tradition - A Night Time Parade.

We are not one's to gossip, so listen close. The first time, rumor has it there are lots of surprises in store for this year's parade like lots of balloons consisting of Rainbow arches over Westheimer and rainbow balloon candles to signify the staging area for judging, street banners, more lights, more color, more floats and more people! Although this will definitely be a day of celebration we can not forget what this day stands for - A Day of Pride, A Day of Unity but most importantly A Day of Remembrance to remember those who are no longer with us and those that fought so hard during Stonewall for our rights.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved and all help is appreciated. We both look forward to your comments on what you

would like to see for this years' Pride Parade. If you would like to volunteer with us let us know or come to one of our

meetings held the third Tuesday of every month at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center located at 1475 E. Gray. Feel free to contact us via email at goofetex@aol.com (Tina Travis) or Jshumsky@aol.com (Jim Shumsky).

Safety Tips

With another nighttime parade in the making, we urge the community to be alert and to use caution. Please follow these tips to assist with ensuring your safety.

1. Plan your walking route. Use familiar streets, well lit pathways. Never take poorly lit streets.
2. Do not travel alone. Take a friend for the walk, or go where other people are near.
3. If you are walking alone, stay near the curb. Avoid alleys, shrubs, entrances where someone may be hiding.
4. Avoid carrying extra money or valuables. Keep purses and bags close. Do not allow them to dangle.
5. Be alert and aware of any potentially dangerous places.
6. Trust your instincts. If having doubt, then leave the situation.
7. Do not hitchhike, pick up hitchhikers, or accept rides from strangers.
8. If a car pulls along beside you and the driver asks you a question, avoid getting near the car.
9. Have your keys ready before you enter your vehicle or residence.

10. Before you enter your car, look into the backseat.
11. Keep your car doors locked at all times.
12. Park in areas that will be well lit at the time of your return.
13. If you are going to leave with someone you have just met, introduce them to someone you know.
14. If trouble does occur, be calm and try to defuse the situation.

If you are being harassed or followed, call 911 and ask for police assistance. If you are the victim of an attack, report the crime. The police will need your assistance to help stop the attacker from claiming more victims.

Calling All Parade Volunteers!

Ever wondered who and what goes into the making of a fabulous parade? Have you always wanted to become more involved in our community, to be able to "show" your pride? One person can make more of a difference when combined with others. Don't stand alone. **JOIN US!** Come out and be a part of Houston Pride and show your colors.

Please contact Jim or Tina for details on how you can help

"Unified Diversified Electrified"
1998 Pride Parade Not As Far Away As You Think
by Jim Shumsky and Tina Travis

PRIDE EVENTS

May 22 - 24***The 1998 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival***

Event Time: To be announced
 Cost: To be announced
 Sponsored By: John Steven Kellett Foundation
 Address: Landmark Theaters Greenway 3 Theatre
 Contact Phone: 713.850.0217

May 29 - 31***The 1998 HG&L Film Fest***

Event Time: To be announced
 Cost: To be announced
 Sponsored By: JS Kellett Fn.
 Address: Diverse Works, 1117 East Freeway
 Contact Phone: 713.850.0217

June 5 - 7***The 1998 HG&L Film Fest***

Event Time: To be announced
 Cost: To be announced
 Sponsored By: JS Kellett Fn.
 Address: The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet
 Contact Phone: 713.850.0217

June 9***Ladies of Lesbian Laughter***

Event Time: 7:30 p.m.
 Cost: To be announced

Address: Rice Media Center, Rice University Entrance #8
 Contact Phone: 713.850.0217

June 13***'98 Houston Gay Pride 5k Fun Run***

Event Time: 7:45 a.m.
 Cost: \$10 pre-registered - \$12 race day
 Sponsored By: Houston Gay Pride 5k Fun Run Committee
 Beneficiary: Body Positive Houston, Inc. Wellness Center
 Address: Fonde Recreation Center, 110 Sabine
 Contact Phone: 713.680.9959
 Pre-Registration: Available
 5k fun run / walk emphasizing health, fitness, and AIDS awareness. See FREEWEB.PDQ.NET/Sideout1/FunRun.html.

Pride Jamboree '98

Event Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Sponsored By: The Pride Committee of Houston
 Address: Memorial Park, Softball Fields #4 and #5, Rugby Field, and Volleyball Courts #1, #2, #3 and #4
 Contact Phone: 713.529.6979
 A day in Memorial Park for the whole family.

Open Skate & Picnic in the Park

Event Time: 12 noon - 3 p.m.
 Cost: Free - bring potluck dish
 Sponsored By: Lambda Roller-skating Club
 Address: Memorial Park, Picnic Loop
 Contact Phone: 281.933.5818

Cost: \$20 advanced ticket - \$34.58 at gate
 Sponsored By: The Pride Committee of Houston
 Beneficiary: The Pride Committee of Houston
 Address: Astroworld, 9001 Kirby @ Loop 610
 Contact Phone: 713.529.6979
 Pre-Registration: Available
 Theme park family fun - join us at Astroworld during their 30 year anniversary. Ride the new Taz's Texas Tornado, the park's newest and wildest roller-coaster.

Pride Sunday I

Event Time: 12 noon - 11 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Sponsored By: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio
 Address: 804 & 808 Pacific St.
 Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
 Huge party w/ 99-cent well vodka/juice drinks, male dancers, and karaoke @ 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.
 June 15, 1998

"Bustin' With Pride" Employee

Turnabout Show with Special Guests
 Event Time: 9 p.m. (sharp)
 Cost: Tips to performers
 Sponsored By: Charles Armstrong Investments and JR's
 Beneficiary: 800 Pacific Employees Emergency Fund and Charity
 Address: 804 & 808 Pacific St.
 Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
 Employees perform numbers to raise money for charity

investment strategies that can help you plan your financial future. Seating is limited, so call now to make your reservations.

Safer Sex Seminar

Event Time: 7 p.m.
 Cost: Donations
 Sponsored By: Montrose Clinic
 Beneficiary: Montrose Clinic
 Address: Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer
 Contact Phone: 713.820.3068
 Pre-Registration: Required - limited to 50 participants. Discussion of safer sex options and demonstrations

June 19***Rob Nash's Freshman Year Sucks! Breaking Out, Making Out***

Event Time: 8 p.m.
 Cost: \$15, tickets available through box office
 Sponsored By: Stages, Rob Nash, and Pride Committee of Houston
 Beneficiary: Pride Committee of Houston
 Address: Stages, 3201 Allen Parkway, Ste. 101
 Contact Phone: 713.52.STAGE
 Rob Nash, a Houston theater favorite, returns with the first installment of his new four-part serial work, *The Class of '85*, in a benefit for the Pride Committee of Houston. *Freshman Year Sucks!* displays a sophistication that complements the barrage of

Beneficiary: H.E.C.O.C.
Address: Laff Stop, 1952-A West
Gray
Contact Phone: 713.524.2333
Pre-Registration: Available

June 11

Community Partnerships

Event Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Cost: \$10
Sponsored By: Greater Houston
Gay & Lesbian Chamber of
Commerce
Beneficiary: Community
Partnerships
Address: 803 Hawthorne
Contact Phone: 713.526.6668

June 12

"Pride Friday" Happy Hour

Event Time: 6 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: JR's Bar & Grill
with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio
Address: 804 & 808 Pacific St.
Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
"Pride Friday" Happy Hour

Pride 1998 Kick-Off Party

Event Time: 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: The Pride
Committee of Houston
Address: To be announced
Contact Phone: 713.529.6979
Suggested Attire: Casual or togas
Kick-Off party, toga style!

June 12 - 14

The 1998 HG&L Film Fest

Event Time: To be announced
Cost: To be announced
Sponsored By: John Steven
Kellett Fnd.

Covered dish. Soft drinks will be provided.
Look for the skate club banner.

EZ Bake Off

Event Time: 2 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: Outrage, Inc.
Beneficiary: To be determined by bake-
off winner
Address: Memorial Park
Contact Phone: 713.706.2508
Pre-Registration: Required
A cooking contest by invitation of area
organizations using Susy EZ Bake
Ovens.

Wigs on Fire is Back? The Heat is On

Event Time: 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Cost: \$20 in advance - \$30 at door
Sponsored By: Miss Camp America, Inc.
Beneficiary: The Assistance Fund, Bering
Dental Clinic, Casa de Esperanza,
Montrose Clinic-Frost Eye Clinic, The
Names Project, PWA Holiday Fund,
Steven's House, and Texas Children's
Camp Hope
Address: Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto
Contact Phone: 713.940.STAR
Wear it up, fire it up, BUT beware of
spontaneous combustion. Complimentary
well drinks, most outrageous wig contest,
surprise entertainment and other
surprises to be announced.

Prom Night '98

Event Time: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Cost: \$20
Sponsored By: Houston Area Teen
Coalition of Homosexuals
Beneficiary: H.A.T.C.H.
Address: The Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd.
Contact Phone: 713.942.7002
Suggested Attire: Semi-Casual
Dancing and food

June 14

Pride Day in the Park

Event Time: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Tim Miller performing Skirts & Skin
Event Time: 8 p.m. on 6/17-19; 7:30
p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on 6/20; and 6 p.m.
on 6/21
Cost: \$20
Sponsored By: Theater LaB Hou.
Beneficiary: Theater LaB
Address: 1706 Alamo
Contact Phone: 713.868.7516
Pre-Registration: Tickets can be
purchased in advance
One-man performance show about
being gay in the '90s

June 18

Legal, Financial & Tax Planning

Event Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: Julie LaRue, L.U.T.C.F.
/ The Acacia Group
Address: 9 Greenway Pz, Suite 3000
Contact Phone: 713.888.3500
Pre-Registration: Required
Planning for gay couples by law firm of
Moore & Hunt; tax firm of Jim Nichols,
CPA, and financial planner Julie LaRue

Financial Strategies for Gay Men and Lesbians

Event Time: 7 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: American Express
Financial Advisors, Inc.
Address: Enserch Tower, 10375
Richmond Avenue
Contact Phone: 713.260.5822 or
713.260.5840
Pre-Registration: Available
This complimentary, information-
packed workshop helps you understand
the social and political realities that
challenge your financial security and
what you can do to take control of your
financial future. We'll take an open and
honest look at your issues, whether
you're single, in a committed
relationship, or caring for children. In
addition, we'll provide you with an
overview of the many savings and

trials and tribulations at an all-boys
parochial high school in Houston
through the eyes of three young
men. Nash tells the story fast,
playing a host of teachers, parents,
girls, and other neighborhood
denizens with honesty and
empathy, switching instantaneously
between them. The early '80s
provides the play with a wealthy
store of sound bites ranging from
ironic schlock to outright hilarity.
Music and memories, sharpened
with Nash's incisive wit, pack the
evening with the zing of the
sharpest editorial cartoon. Running
time: 1:10

Unchained '98

Event Time: 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Cost: \$5
Sponsored By: Rich's
Address: 2401 San Jacinto
Contact Phone: 713.759.9610
Black leather dance party and Hi NRG
dance by Fusion

June 20

Lesbian and Gay Pride Healthfest '98 Glowing with Health

Event Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: Southampton Medical
Group, StatScript Pharmacy, Merck &
Co., Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Roxanne
Laboratories, Roche Laboratories,
Gilead Sciences, Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Glaxo-Wellcome, and
Outsmart Magazine
Address: Edwin Hornberger
Conference Center, 2151 West
Holcombe
Contact Phone: 281.334.1477
The hall will be filled with 80 companies
and organizations from the medical,
health & fitness, and nutrition
industries. Health screenings, medical
seminars, healthy food tasting, and

fitness demonstrations will take place throughout the day. Some of the health seminars scheduled are (1) Smoking: Put It Out For Good, (2) Women's Health, (3) CMV Retinitis, PRK Laser Surgery & Other New Eye Care Advancements, (4) HIV: Breakthroughs In Treatment Options, (5) Understanding Migraines, (6) Diabetes: Should I Be Concerned, and (7) HIV: Wasting, Nutrition & Building Body Mass.

Community Dance Outreach Day of Dance

Event Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free

Sponsored By: Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club and the Cultural Arts Council of Houston, Harris County
Address: Stevens of Hollywood, 2143 Westheimer
Contact Phone: 713.880.0670
Review of 18 week program of country western dance lessons

Second Annual Houston Billiard Open

Event Time: 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$8 advanced ticket - \$10 at door

Sponsored By: Independent Billiards League
Beneficiary: Pet Patrol
Address: The Outpost, 1419 Richmond
Contact Phone: 713.524.9261
Pre-Registration: Available
Pool tournament to raise money for charity

Time Travel

Event Time: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$12

Sponsored By: Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

Sponsored By: Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
Address: The Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas
Contact Phone: 713.860.9149
Pre-Registration: Required
Music celebration with guest speaker Mel White, noted author and political activist

Pride Sunday II

Event Time: 12 noon - 11 p.m.

Cost: Free

Sponsored By: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio
Address: 804 & 808 Pacific St.
Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
Huge party w/ 99-cent well vodka/juice drinks, male dancers, and karaoke @ 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Phoenix Magic Tournament

Event Time: 2 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Sponsored By: Phoenix Comics and Games
Address: Phoenix Comics and Games, 2424 Montrose
Contact Phone: 713.524.1150
Pre-Registration: Available
Magic: The Gathering tournament - Tempest edition

Pride and Justice Workshop

Event Time: 5 p.m.

Cost: Free

Sponsored By: Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
Address: The Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas
Contact Phone: 713.860.9149
Pre-Registration: Required
Pride and justice workshop

Community Dance Outreach Rangler

Pride Show

Event Time: 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Cost: Free

do to take control of your financial future. We'll take an open and honest look at your issues, whether you're single, in a committed relationship, or caring for children. In addition, we'll provide you with an overview of the many savings and investment strategies that can help you plan your financial future. Seating is limited, so call now to make your reservations.

Make A Joyful Noise

Event Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

Sponsored By: Community Gospel Church
Address: Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian
Contact Phone: 713.880.9235
Suggested Attire: Semi-Formal
Gospel concert featuring talent from local churches

June 24

Pride Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Event Time: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 deposit and \$35 ticket at boat

Sponsored By: Rainbow Fishing Club
Address: Pier 19, Galveston, TX
Contact Phone: 713.523.6381
Suggested Attire: Casual - boat has sun deck
Pre-Registration: Required
12 hour deep sea fishing trip on 85' New Buccaneer

RollerBall 1998

Event Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Cost: \$5 + \$1.50 skate rental (you may bring your own)

Sponsored By: Lambda Roller-skating Club
Beneficiary: Lambda Roller-skating Club
Address: Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road

relationship, or caring for children. In addition, we'll provide you with an overview of the many savings and investment strategies that can help you plan your financial future. Seating is limited, so call now to make your reservations.

June 26

Pumped Up On Art

Event Time: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$10 donation at the door

Sponsored By: Chase Texas, 711 William Street Gallery, and John Niday
Beneficiary: Pride Committee of Houston
Address: 711 William Street Gallery
Contact Phone: 713.529.6979
Suggested Attire: Semi-Formal
Footwear of the rich and famous is coming out of the closet for this unique social and fundraising event. Jump into this auction with both feet to bid on pumps from such well-heeled celebrities as Oscar and Grammy award-winners, Broadway stars, and supermodels. Local artists provide their time, talents, and materials to create works of art using the celebrities' shoes or "pumps" as the centerpiece. Setting the backdrop this year is a donated private art collection valued at \$30,000. The collection will be sold during the night as part of the silent auction.

Pride Gala

Event Time: 8 p.m. - 12 midnight

Cost: \$20

Sponsored By: A.V.E.S., Inc.
Beneficiary: A.V.E.S., Inc.
Address: 2151 West Holcombe @ Shamrock
Contact Phone: 713.656.2837
Suggested Attire: '70s attire encouraged, black tie optional
Pre-Registration: Available
Night fever. Party and dance to the

Contact Phone: 713.521.7464
Suggested Attire: Semi-Casual
Retrospective of 20th Century
Popular Music

The Construction: Building On Pride

Event Time: 9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25 advanced ticket - \$30 at door
Sponsored By: Outrage and The Pride Committee of Houston
Beneficiary: Milam House, Steven's House, The Assistance Fund, and other Houston area HIV/AIDS charities
Address: The Hanger, Polk @ Roberts - Warehouse District
Contact Phone: 713.651.7140 or 713.773.4150
Pre-Registration: Available
Official dance party of Pride 1998. Construction themed party with plenty of dancing men and women.

June 21

Pride Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Event Time: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 deposit and \$40 ticket at boat
Sponsored By: Rainbow Fishing Club
Address: Pier 19, Galveston, TX
Contact Phone: 713.523.6381
Suggested Attire: Casual - boat has sun deck
Pre-Registration: Required
12 hour deep sea fishing trip on 85' New Buccaneer

Pride Day at The Wortham

Event Time: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Cost: Free

Address: Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos
Contact Phone: 713.880.0670
Country Western dance exhibition

Time Travel

Event Time: 7 p.m.
Cost: \$15
Sponsored By: Gay Men's Chorus of Houston
Beneficiary: G.M.C.H.
Address: 17th Street @ Heights Blvd.
Contact Phone: 713.521.7464
Suggested Attire: Semi-Casual
Retrospective of 20th century popular music

June 22

Grand Marshal Reception

Event Time: 7 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star
Address: Gentry's, 2303 Richmond
Contact Phone: 281.587.5428
Reception honoring the Grand Marshals

June 23

Financial Strategies for Gay Men and Lesbians

Event Time: 7 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: American Express Financial Advisors, Inc.
Address: Enserch Tower, 10375 Richmond Avenue
Contact Phone: 713.260.5822 or 713.260.5840
Pre-Registration: Available
Available
This complimentary, information-packed workshop helps you understand the social and political realities that challenge your financial security and what you can

Rascals Pride Night

Event Time: 8 p.m.
Cost: \$6
Sponsored By: Rascals The Night Club
Beneficiary: Keith Haddon
Address: Rascals, 1318 Westheimer
Contact Phone: 713.942.2582
Happy hour all night long. \$1.50 domestic beer and \$1.50 well drinks

"Star Search Gold" Grand Prize

Karaoke Competition
Event Time: 9 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio
Address: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 804 & 808 Pacific Street
Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
Pre-Registration: Required by 9 p.m.
Karaoke final round and grand prize competition with prize: an ounce of gold!

June 25

Financial Strategies for Gay Men and Lesbians

Event Time: 7 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: American Express Financial Advisors, Inc.
Address: Enserch Tower, 10375 Richmond Avenue
Contact Phone: 713.260.5822 or 713.260.5840
Pre-Registration: Available
Available
This complimentary, information-packed workshop helps you understand the social and political realities that challenge your financial security and what you can do to take control of your financial future. We'll take an open and honest look at your issues, whether you're single, in a committed

June 27

Rich's - Wired: Direct Current

Event Time: 9 p.m. - ?
Cost: \$8 pre-registered - \$10 at door
Sponsored By: Rich's
Address: Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto
Contact Phone: 713.759.9606 or 713.759.9610
Pre-Registration: Available
Feature artist and dancing 'til dawn with Jo Arnold

"Show Us Your Love" Dancer

Extravaganza
Event Time: 6 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio
Address: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 804 & 808 Pacific Street
Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
Before and after parade party with 8 rotating male dancers

June 28

Pride Sunday - The Finale

Event Time: 12 noon - 11 p.m.
Cost: Free
Sponsored By: JR's Bar & Grill with the Santa Fe Bar & Patio
Address: 804 & 808 Pacific St.
Contact Phone: 713.521.2519
The finale party w/ 99-cent well vodka/juice drinks, karaoke, and strip contest @ 11 p.m.



Questions about the events listed on these pages should be directed to the event sponsor.

HOW TO BUILD A BASE FRAME FLOAT

TIM GIBSON

Floats can be built in many ways: on trailers, trucks, cars, wagons -almost anything that can move. Even Jeeps make good underpinnings for miniature floats. The best thing to do is to blend the cab of your vehicle into the design of your float. If pulling a float, be sure to include all parts in your decorative scheme. Remember, a "Unified, Diversified, Electrified" float pulled by a dull tractor loses its effect completely.

When planning to build a float, have a special place for the construction. For example, a large storage shed, a warehouse space, or an unused garage make an ideal location for float-building. Remember, decorating a float in a confined space will triple the work load. If planning to build your displays outside, have an alternate location in case of rain

SHAPE AND COLOR

Too often the effect of a float is spoiled because it sticks too closely to the practical outlines of the vehicle on which it is built. The idea is to reform the underpinnings completely. By changing the shape, by working curves and swirls into the ground plan and by

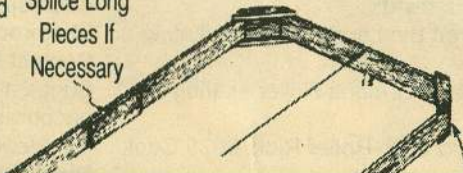
developing an imaginative topside form, you will have a display to stand out in the crowd. Every float should have a climactic point, the place where someone honored or your group or business logo should be displayed. Upper levels of the float are shaped to lead the eye up to this point.

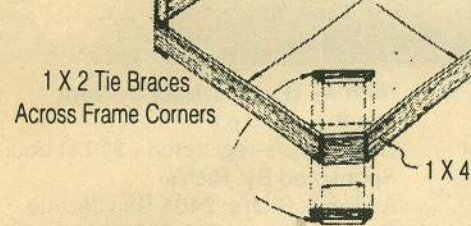
Once you have established a design, fill out the ground outline with plain, light lumber, cut in the shapes necessary and always fastened securely with nails or bolts to the trailer bed. When you lateral shape is set, the vertical outlines, transverse and fore-and-aft, are cut in plywood or wall board and securely mounted. If your float is to carry live figures, platforms to stabilize them must be rigidly built and provide with unobtrusive grab stanchions-braces.

Keep in mind safety and simplicity. Simple white lights will pick up reflective colors in your design. Be creative and go for one of the many parade trophies that will be given out for your hard work.

WIDTH; Build Frame So That There Is A Slight Clearance On Front Wheels When They Are Fully Turned To Right And Left.

Splice Long Pieces If Necessary

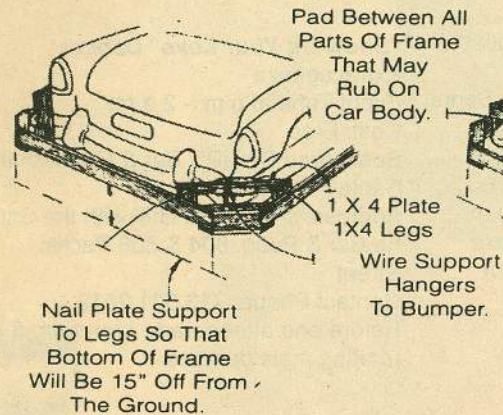




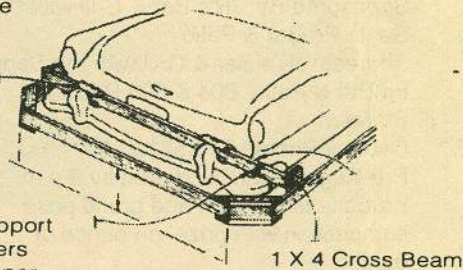
Base Frame Is Hung From Supports Across
Front And Rear Bumpers.

Hang Base Frame From Bumpers As Shown In
Illustration (A) or (B)

(A)



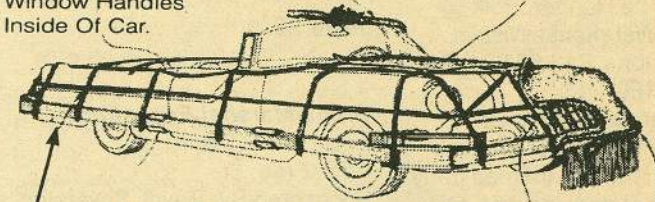
(B)



Fasten Flowers And
Festoon Trim On
Windshield With
Tape And String

Starting At Top Of Car, Pin Floral
Sheeting Squares Together To Form
Blanket Over Body. Pin Sheets To
Cloth Strips Frequently To Hold
Blanket To Car.

Tie Cloth Strips To Door
Or Window Handles
Inside Of Car.



Leave Opening At Car Grille For Air Intake
Decorate With Vertical Spaced Strips Of
Festoon.

Pad Frame With Soft material At
Points Where it May Rub Car Body.
Tie A Network Of Cloth Strips or
Cotton Twill Tape From Base Frame
Over Body Of Car.

Staple Floral Sheetting And Fringe
To Base Frame. Trim Fringe Tape
heading With Festoon.

LIGHTING YOUR FLOAT

While this may require some electrical wiring knowledge, with a little planing you can have a well-lit float that doesn't require a professional electrician.

A production that dazzles by day may be dull at night when using artificial light. A simple color trust under lights often is enough to stave off error. Remember to please be considerate to the audience and keep the lights on your float and not on the crowds' eyes. The crowd is not in the spotlight and your float is. The less light a float sheds on the pavement or another float, the more effective the illumination will have on your display. It is o.k. to be selfish with your lights: keep the spotlight on you.

A floodlight mounted on a tractor pulling the float may serve as a main light. The use of colored bulbs or filters over the lights may set off the color scheme of the production. For a nice appearance, try silver lights. By using the above enhancements, however, it will require tricky multiple wiring. Color filters require an increase in wattage. The safest system is to have colors set into the float decoration and to highlight them with simple white lights. Try using twinkling lights similar to those you use on a Christmas Tree. In lighting a float, keep in mind that the object is to be seen without eye strain.

Any figures on the float, live or animated, should be specially spotlighted. If you need to rent a generator, please plan ahead and reserve it early from a local rental company. Be exact on how many lights you will be using. This will help renting the correct size and wattage for your float.

1998 Parade Entries Announced

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories and each parade entry will be asked to declare the awards they wish to compete for by completing the Parade Throw form included in each parade packet:

1. Unified Electrified Diversified - Best interpretation of slogan. Any type entry.
2. Spirit of Montrose - Best Overall. Any type entry.
3. Stonewall - Best unit to commemorate pride. Does not have to conform to slogan.
4. Gypsy Rose - Best out of town.
5. Edison - Best non-professional lighted unit. Lighting done by a non-professional.
6. Rainbow Lights - Best professional lighted unit. Lighting done by a paid

from Light Bulbs Unlimited who informed us of some dos and don'ts where lighting is concerned.

- If you are going to wear lights, only use battery operated lights.
- Do Not put 120 volt lights on your body.
- Battery Operated Lighting Options:
 1. Fluorescent, either 6v or 12v run for approximately 10 hours and Home Depot is a good source for these.
 2. Car lights, either 6v or 12v use bulbs and sockets both available from auto parts supply stores.
 3. Battery operated Christmas lights.
- When using Christmas lights, 6 volts is the maximum you should try to use, as they get extremely hot.
- The size of the battery determines the number of lights you can use for a given length of time.
- Choices for batteries include:
 1. 6 volt battery packs from Radio Shack. Can also use lantern batteries.
 2. 12 volt battery packs.

simple items are needed to create an effect that will make the crowd go wild, fishing line, balloons in the 6 rainbow colors (number varies depending on how long you want your arch to be) and helium to blow the balloons up is basically all that is needed.

Another cheap and inexpensive way to illuminate your group is the use of a flashlight with a colored condom on the end of it. Blow up the condom and quickly place on the end of the flashlight and wah lah, you have a colored light to make your group shine.

The key is to have fun. If you are planning on doing a throw from your group or float make sure that the Parade Throw form is filled out and sent back with your parade application and fee. If you have not received a parade packet yet please give the Pride Line a call and we will get one out to you a.s.a.p. at 713-529-6979.

By: Jim Shumsky

other neighborhood denizens guide the story of freshman year through the turbulent waters of sexuality (straight and gay), algebra, sports, the obligatory dance (a toga party modeled on the one in Animal House), breaking up, breaking out, making up, and making out.

Nash tells the story fast, playing all the characters, switching instantaneously between them: a virtuoso performance he continues to hone. He portrays the characters with honesty and empathy, creating, in gestures and inflection, recognizable, fully wrought figures with complex needs and fears. His onstage ease is a particular strength, allowing him to delve into such harrowing events as a drama teacher's sexual come-on to his young student-actor or a bigoted father's belting of his son and then quickly shift gears to expose the humor of a first date, P.E., and confession.

And then there is the music. Perfect musical choices by Brad Hastings and Peter Malof highlight Nash's characters' exploits. The early Eighties has provided a wealthy store of sound bites ranging from ironic schlock to

Rob Nash's

7. Ruby Slipper - Best Walking unit.
8. Houston - Best non-professional motorized unit.
9. Texas - Best professional motorized unit.

Float Building Seminar A Success

On Tuesday, March 17th the 1998 Pride Parade Committee hosted a seminar to "enlighten" the community on what it takes or what little it takes to be a part of an important part of Houston's Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration, at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Community Center at 1475 W. Gray. We would like to thank Kenny Niemietz and Tracy Williams of Signing Accessible for donating their time and signing for the hearing impaired member of our community.

Many thanks goes to Bruce Reeves of the Krewe of Olympus and Darlene Fautt

the heavier the battery the longer the burn.

4. Christmas lights may be purchased year round at Arne's, Michael's, Hobby Lobby and Light Bulbs Unlimited.
- Light Bulbs Unlimited has also special ordered different battery operated lights with the parade in mind, so check out what they have in stock.
 - For floats, you can choose to use either battery operated or standard electrical lights. Use of a generator may be necessary and can be rented from Parades, Etc or Aztec Party Rentals.

Stop by Light Bulbs Unlimited and check out their supply of new and exciting items that are being stocked just for our event. They promise to have some new and unusual items such as body paints and glow jewelry. Don't wait until parade day as they are sure to run out of their supplies.

Just because your group is not entering a float does not mean you can not be electrified going down Westheimer. Helium balloon arches in the colors of the rainbow is one way that a group could stand out and make a statement. Just a few

Out, Making Out

The best part of Rob Nash's new four-part serial solo work, *The Class of '85*, is knowing that he'll have to return to Houston three more times to complete the tetralogy. The first installment, *Freshman Year Sucks!* Opened in Los Angeles, and fans of this approachable, generous comedian (whose trilogy "12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family" played to raves in seasons past) won't want to miss his latest nostalgic trip, this time into the chaos of parochial high school.

A deceptively simple premise -- the trials and tribulations at an all-boys parochial high school in Houston as seen through the eyes of three young men: Ben, Johnny, and George -- *Freshman Year Sucks!* displays a sophistication that complements the barrage of (usually hilarious) high school nostalgia. In 1981, "our heroes" embark on the next level of American education, hoping, after their dismal junior high years, to "get their lives back again." Three friends: Ben, effeminate and awkward; Johnny, handsome and non-conformist; and George, overweight and underconfident; and a host of teachers, parents, girls, and

Nash's incisive wit, pack the evening with the zing of the sharpest editorial cartoon.

(See Events Calendar for event time and location)

by: Joel Lutringer

L & G Pride General Meetings

In response to the community comments at the February general meeting, a special committee will be formed to address the selection and election of the Grand Marshall for future Pride Parade. The selection process needs to be more open with community input. Carol Clark, Committee Chair, has asked Susan Guerrero to chair this committee. Susan was last year's co-Chair and has been involved with Pride Committee for the past three years. This committee will make a preliminary report to L&G Pride 98' at the May meeting.



June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>These are some of the events during Pride. Please see inside the newsletter for additional events and descriptions</i>					<i>Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5-7</i>	
7	8	9 <i>G&L Film Festival</i>	10	11 <i>Community Partnership</i>	12 <i>Kick-off Party</i>	13 <i>* Pride Jamboree In Memorial Park * "Prom Night"</i>
14 <i>Pride Day at Astroworld</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>* Tax Planning * Safer Sex</i>	19 <i>* Stages * Unchained '98</i>	20 <i>Healthfest</i>
			<i>Tim Miller performing Skirts & Skin - June 17 through 21</i>			
21 <i>* Deep Sea Fishing * Wortham</i>	22 <i>Grand Marshall Reception</i>	23 <i>* Financial Strategies * Make a Joyful Noise</i>	24 <i>* Rollerball * Rascals Pride Night * Deep Sea Fishing</i>	25 <i>Financial Strategies</i>	26 <i>"Pride Gala" Pumped Up On Art</i>	27 <i>Pride Parade at 9 pm!</i>
28 <i>The Finale</i>	29	30				

Pride Calendar of Events

1998

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
P.O. BOX 66071
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266-6071

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED





i **P** n **R** s **I** i **D** d **E** e

JULY 1998

Parade Day Rain Won't Soak Houston's Electrified Pride!

BY JIM SHUMSKY

This year proved that not even torrential rain will stop us from putting on what is now a tradition here in Houston — a nighttime Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade. And from what has been said and written in community publications, we know we pulled off another fabulous event.

Last year's parade was a tough act to follow, but when our parade entries reached 100 we knew we were in for a great time. We ended with 112 entries this year, up from 89 entries in 1997. Our float count rose to an all-time high of 47.

When it came time to figure out how we would line up all those entries, we looked to the expertise



PHOTO BY GINA RICHARDSON

About 60,000 revelers came out to watch 112 entries travel down Westheimer in

And Tina and I were literally running! With togas flying in the wind, we raced to make sure floats cleared tree limbs on Mandell and IIEB's 18-wheeler rounded the corner onto the parade route.

With all crises averted, we were now ready to be a part of the celebration. We jumped onto our float filled with the toga wearin', head throwin' animals known as the Pride Committee of Houston.

The parade was a huge success and we are proud to have been a part of Houston's new tradition.

Along with everyone else who made the parade possible, we want to thank the many IIPD officers and constables who helped us and kept us safe. We are happy to report that

we know we pulled off another fabulous event.

Last year's parade was a tough act to follow, but when our parade entries reached 100 we knew we were in for a great time. We ended with 112 entries this year, up from 89 entries in 1997. Our float count rose to an all-time high of 47.

When it came time to figure out how we would line up all those entries, we looked to the expertise of Jack Valinski. We also tried to make things easier on us this year by asking each entry to estimate the length of their unit.

The mapping of the line-up on the Saturday before the June 27 parade day went surprisingly smoothly — maybe too smoothly, I thought. I wasn't worried, though, as Jack walked away that afternoon with a smile on his face. "What can we do now? Everyone will show up and march down the street regardless of what happens or how things are lined up."

When the weather reports on Friday predicted rain for parade day, my phone started ringing. "Girl, did you hear that we are going to get flooded?" "I hear a hurricane is going to hit Houston during the parade?" "Isn't it a shame, all that hard work and the rain may cancel the parade."

"I don't think so," I said. "No matter what, the show must go on!" I woke up that bright Saturday morning with a sigh of relief. Then I wanted to scream when the first drops came down and the thunder and lightning began.

Actually, we had to work in the rain nearly all day long, but spirits were not dampened. The joy of the parade participants and volunteers



PHOTO BY GINA RICHARDSON

*About 60,000 revelers came out to watch 112 entries travel down Westheimer in the 1998 Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade. The Bering Memorial United Methodist Church float, which won the Houston Award, was one of many that lit up the night. A list of all award winners as well as a list of all parade entries and more parade photos can be found on pp. 4-5 in this issue of **Inside Pride**.*

showed us that the parade really would happen no matter what.

Everything went as planned throughout the day. You may even have seen some of the extra touches we added to Westheimer for the parade. Tina and I came up with the idea to define our space for the day and we lined the street with rainbow balloon candles.

In years past, parade entrants were unsure where they were to do their "groove thang" and hopefully win one of the fabulous trophies. This year we also put a balloon arch over our judges and our parade emcees Maria Todd, the co-host of the morning show on KRBE, and Ernie Manouse, co-host of KUIT Channel 8's *Weeknight Edition*.

It was soon time to make sure that everyone was ready for the 9 p.m. step-off. I thought I would look good walking down the parade route in my toga, but there was one last rain shower a half-hour before the parade. IIPD officers informed us that the shower was only supposed to last for 20 minutes, and

sure enough, the rain stopped 10 minutes before the parade began. Nine o'clock came and the parade was off and running.

WHO WERE THOSE RAIN DANCERS?

BY TINA TRAVIS

The morning after the parade, Jim and I took a ride to make sure everything was okay in the parade line-up and route areas.

What a mess! Even after the City of Houston did a major clean-up, there was still trash scattered everywhere. After making several phone calls, we began to clean the area.

And it was raining again! Volunteer coordinators Cindy and Paul arrived with trash bags, and wearing trash bag togas. We all danced among Westheimer's rain-swollen corners as we picked up the garbage on the

celebration. We jumped onto our float filled with the toga wearin', bead throwin' animals known as the Pride Committee of Houston.

The parade was a huge success and we are proud to have been a part of Houston's new tradition.

Along with everyone else who made the parade possible, we want to thank the many IIPD officers and constables who helped us and kept us safe. We are happy to report that there were no serious incidents and, most importantly, no disruptions from protesters.

Let's keep the feeling of unity, diversity, and electricity alive within our community year-round as we look forward to next year and all the new surprises that will come with the 1999 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade. ✧

street. We bonded, and the water wave from the passing vehicles sealed that bond.

Later, a gang of post-parade-party-'til-dawn people arrived to help. With these Pride Committee coordinators in tow, the area was cleaned up in no time. We had fun, teamwork, and pride, but most importantly, we had each other.

The 1998 Pride Parade was a fabulous success. I am very glad to have been a part of it — even on the day after. The post-parade clean-up was a dirty, wet job, but it gave new meaning to the words "pride and friendship." ✧

Pride Committee of Houston, Inc.

Mission Statement

The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is to coordinate and promote events that celebrate the diversity, unity, and history of the lesbian and gay community. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, transgender, or bisexual 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 toward a positive future for all humanity, not excluding any aspect of who we are as a people.

Executive Committee

Carol Clark, Chair
Gary Masse, Treasurer
Michelle Franke, Events
Bill McCamey, Events
Joel Lutringer, Fundraising
Alan Morlan, Media
Kevin Smith, Media
Fred Reninger, Merchandise
Jonathan Lanz, Newsletter
Jim Shumsky, Parade
Tina Travis, Parade
Guy Burns, Pride Guide
Troy Christensen, Pride Guide
Milo Moon, Pride Guide
Kevin White, Video
Cindy Areher, Volunteers
Paul Areher, Volunteers

Board of Directors

Julie Siska, Executive Director
Nick Brines, Corporate Sponsorships
Carol Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Keever, Banner District
Jack Valinski, Technology

Legal Counsel

Debra Hunt



Letter from the Executive Director

You have all played a significant part in this year's second annual nighttime Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade and the many events produced in cooperation with numerous community organizations and businesses. We can be proud of the Houston community and the approval it has shown for our accomplishments through its enthusiastic participation.

I am particularly proud of the Pride Committee coordinators who have invested their time, resources, and energy over the last 12 months in producing Pride festivities of the highest level of excellence. Your diligence, commitment, and accountability have made my role this past year a memorable and pleasurable experience.

A few statistics will indicate how successful we were:

- According to the Houston Police Department, about 60,000 attended the June 27 parade. Despite the threat of rain, 20% more people attended this year's parade than 1997's estimated 50,000.
- Parade entrants increased to 112 from 89 in 1997. This year's

parade was bigger and better — not only in the number of floats, but also in the quality of the floats and the individual creativity of all the entrants.

- Our Pride celebration this year officially expanded to 17 days from 11. When we include the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and other events held in early June to honor Pride, we have unofficially grown to a full month of celebrating Pride in Houston. (For many of us, it's year-round!)
- This year the Committee has created several annual events, such as the Pride Jamboree in Memorial Park and Pride Day at AstroWorld, that will continue to grow in future years.

It is difficult to determine the exact impact we have had on the Houston economy or the overall attendance at all of the events. However, with the increases mentioned, we're certain that we are on the right track in listening to the community's needs and desires.

As we near the completion of Pride 1998 and prepare for the upcoming 1999 Pride Committee

elections, you will be glad to know that many of this year's coordinators will be back in '99 with greater experience to contribute to the continued growth and development of Houston's season of Pride. And, as always, we welcome new volunteers to join in with their energy and ideas.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the many volunteers and supporters, for your courage, your commitment, and your vision. It's been a pleasure and an honor to work with the many people associated with the Pride organization during my three terms as Executive Director. I am proud of what we, a body of volunteers, continuously create for the enjoyment of our community. You are among the major leaders in our community. Your pride shines.

Yours in pride and with love,

Julie Siska
Executive Director,
Pride Committee of Houston

Letter from the Chair

On behalf of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 Executive

The Pride Committee has also been delighted with the community

with and supporting other community organizations and

Board of Directors

Julie Siska, Executive Director
Nick Brines, Corporate Sponsorships
Carol Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Kever, Banner District
Jack Valinski, Technology

Legal Counsel

Debra Hunt



Contact Information

PrideLine: 713.529.6979
Fax: 713.529.6929

Pride Committee of Houston, Inc.
P. O. Box 66071
Houston, Texas 77266-6071

E-mail: info@pridehouston.org
Web: www.pridehouston.org

Meetings

Executive and general meetings are held at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center (1475 W. Gray) on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, respectively. Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Greater Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne). All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Submissions

We encourage you to submit articles or photographs for possible inclusion in **Inside Pride**. Submitted materials may be edited and cannot be returned without prior arrangement.

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- Parade entrants increased to 112 from 89 in 1997. This year's

Letter from the Chair

On behalf of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 Executive Committee, I would like to thank the community and our many organizations for helping to make June a wonderful celebration of lesbian and gay pride.

Pride 1998 was amazingly successful. During more than two weeks in June, our community held over 60 wonderfully diverse Pride events, including a film festival, a health fair, financial planning seminars, deep sea fishing, rollerskating, comedy, concerts, plays, and dance parties. Houston's season of pride succeeds because of your sponsorship of and participation in these events.

FEELING THE PRIDE INSIDE

BY TROY CHRISTENSEN & JONATHAN LANZ
As the editors of this issue of **Inside Pride**, the newsletter of the Pride Committee of Houston, we sincerely hope you enjoy our efforts as you reminisce about the terrific times you had during Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 and look forward to the excitement of 1999.

We are also looking forward to bringing you further editions of **Inside Pride** through Pride 1999.

As we near the completion of Pride 1998 and prepare for the upcoming 1999 Pride Committee

The Pride Committee has also been delighted with the community support of the events we sponsored in June. I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Pride 1998 Kick-Off Party at Riva's with our special guest Mayor Lee Brown; the Pride Jamboree at Memorial Park; the Pride Day at AstroWorld; and our fund-raising art auction, Pumped Up On Art.

Thank you also for your participation in the nighttime Pride Parade. The gorgeous floats and the cheering, waving crowds truly showed the beautiful unity, diversity, and electricity of the Houston lesbian and gay community.

We're looking forward to building on the pride of 1998 by working

Julie Siska
Executive Director,
Pride Committee of Houston

with and supporting other community organizations and helping to make the Houston lesbian and gay community the finest in the nation. I hope you'll want to take an active role in preparing Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999, our celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion.

Yours in pride,

Carol Clark
Chair, Houston Lesbian
& Gay Pride 1998

And we would like you to be part of this exploration of Pride.

Inside Pride is not only a look inside the Pride organization, but a look inside the Pride of our community: what makes us proud, how we show our Pride, and what we can do with Pride.

We invite you to submit articles to the newsletter with news about your organizations, interviews with

noteworthy community members, previews of upcoming events, essays, or anything else that keeps us in touch with our Pride.

Each issue of **Inside Pride** will provide details about and contact information for submissions. You can find it all in the masthead on the left side of this page.

Keep reading **Inside Pride** and keep feeling the Pride inside. ✨

Volunteers Generate Power

BY CINDY ARCHER

The Pride Committee of Houston is built upon the hard work and dedication of volunteers. In addition to the all-volunteer Board of Directors and Executive Committee, many organizations and businesses in the community selflessly donate their time, goods, and services to ensure the success of Pride events.

The Committee also calls on another formidable power source — individual volunteers who give of their time and energy throughout the year to help keep Pride alive.

Volunteer helpers perform a variety of tasks for newsletter and Pride Guide mailings, merchandising efforts, various Pride events, and of course, the nighttime parade.

Without our volunteers, much of what Houston has come to expect of the annual Pride celebration would be impossible to provide.

This year's volunteers are in themselves a showcase of diversity. They represent various ethnicities, ages, interests, and lifestyles. Some had never experienced a Houston Pride celebration, while others are longtime veterans. Help has come not only from within the lesbian and gay community, but also from heterosexual volunteers who stand up to support the community. Over the past year, in the spirit of cooperation and achievement — dare we say it? — our volunteers bonded.

The volunteer coordinators, along with the entire Pride Committee, wish to thank everyone who volunteered this year. Your contributions energize us. They are vital to the effort to improve our celebrations each year.

1998 VOLUNTEERS

Cindy Alaniz •

John-Michael Albert

• Elizabeth Ann • Allen Armstrong •

Darren Armstrong • William

Barneset • Melanie Barr • Bill Bell •

Steve Belunek • Joe Blanton •

Deborah Bressie • Gary Bueckner •

Carlos Camargo • Debby Carnathan

• Kristie Casanova • Felipe Cedillo •

Brian Coker • Marcus Cook • Robert

Delgado • Jone Devlin • Christy

Douglas • Dennis Draper • Jim Duke

• Robin Duncan • Michele DuPhily •

Jessica Eagleman • Kermit Eisenhut

• Gerald Ennis • Johnny Farrell •

Terry Ferrel • Jerry Fisher • Bill

Fought • Veronica Frausto • James

Fulton • Jesse Gonzalez • Isi

Gonzalez • Joey Guerra • Rose

Gutierrez • Ranea Hackworth •

Luann Hardesty • Jeff Harper • Mary

Hays • Trent Hebert • Joe Allen

Henry • Aaron Huey • Stephanie

Huey • Richard Johnson • Paul

Joiner • Marc Koenigs • Robert

Krochmal • Mark Leger • Susan

Littleton • Molly Lyons • Leah

Maxwell • Hilary McHenry • Lauren

Nagel • Chris Noessel • Clint

Okruhlik • Rene Ortiz • Cecelia

Otteweller • Staci Prince • Nicole

Prokopishyn • Gina Richardson •

Mark Slattery • Scott Spies • John

Taylor • Matt Thompson • Courtland

Townsend • Lloyd Wassenich • Holly

Whillock • Carolyn White • Vernon

White • J.F. Wickey III • Russell

Williams • and Mark Willis.

Any oversights in this listing were purely unintentional and are sincerely regretted. ✧



PHOTO BY PAUL ARCHER

Volunteers constructed a rainbow balloon arch to brighten Memorial Park for the June 13 Pride Jamboree.

Committee Moves Office and Meets for Pride '99

OFFICE MOVES TO GHLGCC

On August 1, 1998, the Pride Committee of Houston will move its office to the Greater Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne.

The move will not affect any of the Pride Committee's current contact information. Board of Directors meetings will now be held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Community Center.

Executive and general meetings will continue to be held at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 W. Gray on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, respectively.

UPCOMING MEETINGS INCLUDE GRAND MARSHAL FORUM & COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The August 18 general meeting of the Pride Committee of Houston will include an open community forum on the election of Pride Parade Grand Marshals.

The forum is part of an ongoing process to review Grand Marshal policies that began early this year. Everyone is invited to attend and encouraged to voice his or her

longtime veterans. Help has come not only from within the lesbian and gay community, but also from heterosexual volunteers who stand up to support the community. Over the past year, in the spirit of cooperation and achievement — dare we say it? — our volunteers *bonded*.

Jessica Lagimodiere • Renita Eisenstat • Gerald Ennis • Johnny Farrell • Terry Ferrel • Jerry Fisher • Bill Fought • Veronica Frausto • James Fulton • Jesse Gonzalez • Isi Gonzalez • Joey Guerra • Rose Gutierrez • Ranea Hackworth • Luann Hardesty • Jeff Harper • Mary Hays • Trent Hebert • Joe Allen

Taylor • Matt Thompson • Courtland Townsend • Lloyd Wassenich • Holly Whillock • Carolyn White • Vernon White • J.F. Wickey III • Russell Williams • and Mark Willis.

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FORUM & COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
The August 18 general meeting of the Pride Committee of Houston will include an open community forum on the election of Pride Parade Grand Marshals.

The forum is part of an ongoing process to review Grand Marshal policies that began early this year. Everyone is invited to attend and encouraged to voice his or her opinion.

All comments and suggestions will be heard by the ad hoc Grand Marshal committee, which will make recommendations to the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999 Executive Committee.

The August 18 general meeting will also include the first call for nominations for Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999 female co-chair, male co-chair, secretary, and treasurer. Final nominations and voting for these positions will take place at the September 15 general meeting.

To vote at a Pride Committee general meeting, you must attend the meeting and must also have attended the previous month's general meeting.

Elections to the Pride Committee Board of Directors will be held at the September 8 Board meeting.

Individuals will be elected for all Board positions, including Executive Director, and will serve a term of one year. Applicants should have experience in and knowledge of community organizations. They must have a clear understanding of the Pride Committee's mission and be committed to supporting it. ✕

Pride Never Goes Out of Style

BY FRED RENINGER

Somehow you didn't get your official 1998 Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride t-shirt, cap, and commemorative pin. Or maybe you loved your shirt so much that you've just about worn it out.

Guess what? You have a final chance to get your Pride gear and be the envy of your friends and family (or be a doll and get them their own!). All remaining 1998 Pride merchandise is available at the LOBO Cafe.

Sales of our fund-raising merchandise were tremendous this year — the total is nearly double that of any previous year. The

money raised from your generous purchases helped bring Houston the most fantastic Lesbian & Gay Pride events to date.

If you purchased your gear at a local community merchant, every penny of your sale went back to the Pride Committee to bring our community the biggest, most diverse celebration of the year. A major "Thank You!" goes out to the staffs of Basic Brothers, Black Hawk Leather, Cheespa Salon, Crossroads Market and Cafe, Leather by Boots, LOBO Cafe and Walgreens on Montrose.

Thanks, hugs, and kisses also go out to (in no particular order) Byron

Norton, *mis amigas* Carla y Rosa, Chances, The New Barn, Rich's, Kroger on Montrose, Mary's, Mela's Tejano Country, TV Montrose, TOYZ Disco, Club Inergy, Pacific Street, Gentry, Montrose Softball League, Miss Camp America, The Court, Big 10 Productions, and all of you who purchased pride merchandise. The merchandise committee volunteers and I had a blast meeting many of you at nightclubs and special events.

Look for the Pride Committee booth during this fall's Westheimer Street Festival. I don't want to spoil the surprise, but be prepared to have tons of fun with lube of every flavor under the sun! ✕

Corporate Sponsors Make Pride Happen

BY NICK BRINES

The Pride Committee thanks all of our corporate sponsors for their support of Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998. Their important contributions helped to create the largest and most successful series of Pride events in Houston's history. Join us in saying "thank you" when

you come in contact with these businesses and organizations.

1998 SPONSORS

American Express Financial Services • Answer Systems • Big 10 Productions • Chase Bank of Texas • Epic Records • HEB Pantry Foods • Houston Voice

• Interactive Media (ManLine) • Krewe of Olympus • Light Bulbs Unlimited • Midtown Press - Gary Null • PlanetOUT.com • 711 William Street Gallery - John Niday • Silver Eagle Distributors (Bud Light) • Tecate Beer • Texas Triangle • Thrifty Car Rental • Walgreens • and Westridge Laboratories (ID Lubricant). ✕

112 ENTRIES DAZZLE AT NIGHTTIME PARADE

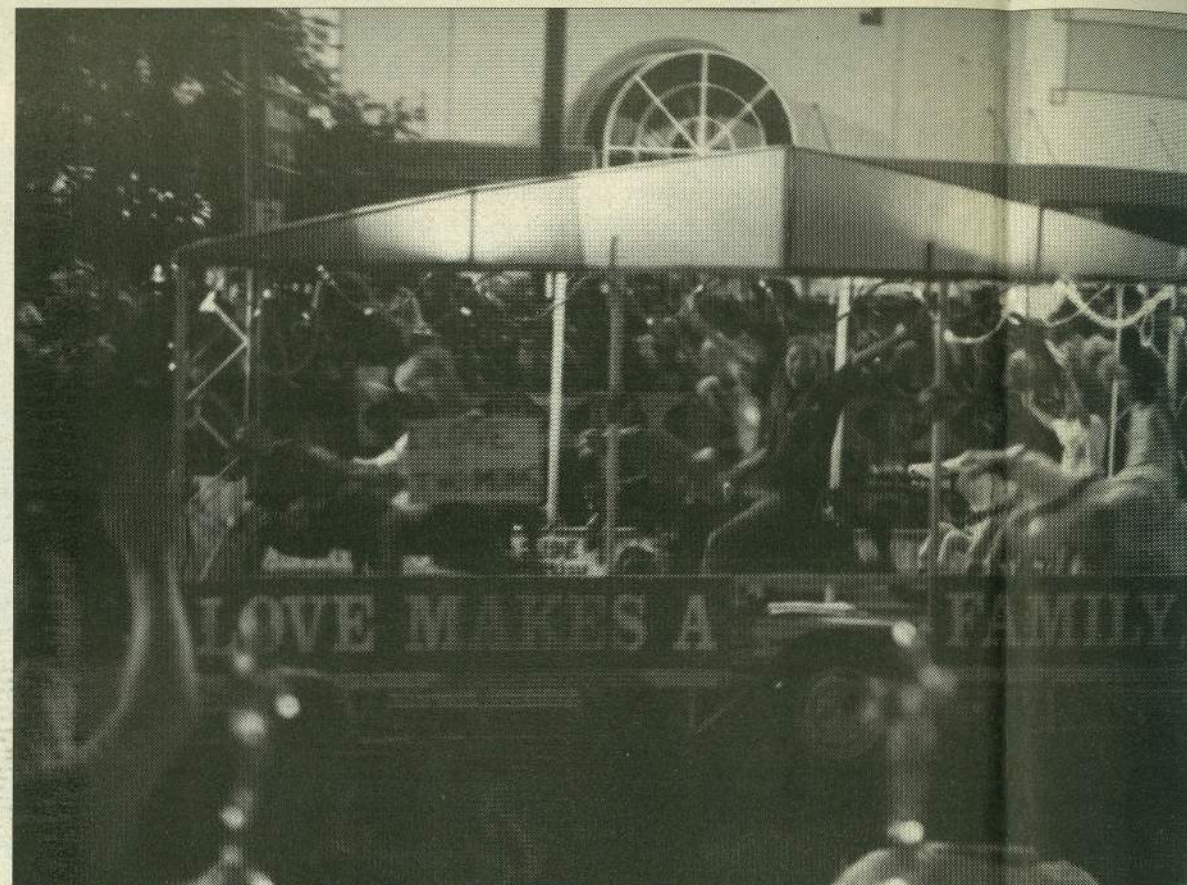
The Houston lesbian and gay community was amazed by the number, range, and energy of the entries in the 1998 nighttime Pride Parade.

Here are the sponsors of all 112 units, in the order they came down Westheimer on June 27 with their lights and music, marchers and floats, cars and horses, and drag queens and lesbian grandmothers. The fun began at 9 p.m. as each entry in turn followed the official Pride Parade banner down the parade route.

1998 PRIDE PARADE ENTRIES

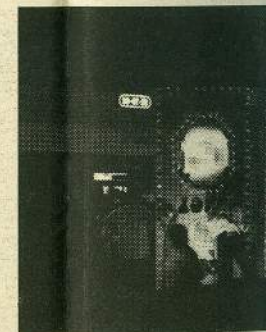
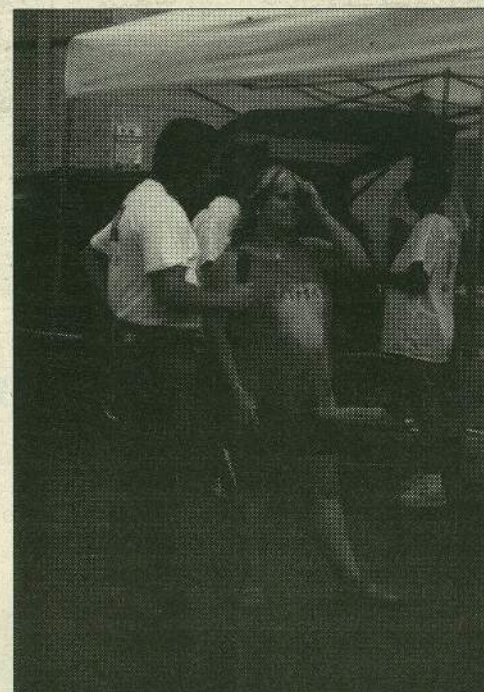
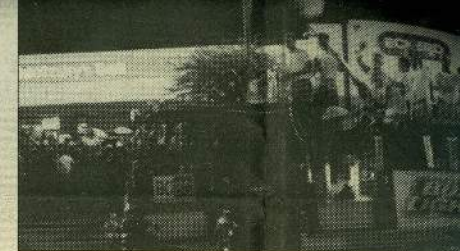
Silver Eagle/Budweiser Beer • Cheer Dallas • Honorary Grand Marshal Barbara Winston • male Grand Marshal Bob Bouton • female Grand Marshal Jackie Doval • Honorary Grand Marshal-Organization Texas Gay Rodeo Association • Street Wise • KIKK-Radio Young Country • Montrose Counseling Center • Integrity-Houston • St. Stephen's Episcopal Church • Montrose Clinic • Houston Outdoor Group • Krewe of the 1000 • Texas Pride • Houston

Sports Clinic • Faith and Hope Fellowship Church • Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston • Greater Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center • Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection • Houston Voice • Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services • Kolbe Project • Houston Pride Band • Executive and Professional Association of Houston • Charles Armstrong Investments • Houston Spectrum • Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride • Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus • Chase Bank of Texas PRIDE Team • People with AIDS Coalition Houston • Manline Interactive Media Group USA • Rich's • Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages • Houston's Transgender Community • Brazos River Bottom • Supercuts • Garden & Yard Society • OutSmart Magazine • Human Rights Campaign • Community Gospel Church • USA Pageantry • Gay Men's Chorus of Houston • Assist HERS Care Team Program • Crash Productions • TOYZ Disco • Adult Video Megaplexxx • Body Positive Houston



Silver Eagle/Budweiser Beer • Cheer Dallas • Honorary Grand Marshal Barbara Winston • male Grand Marshal Bob Bouton • female Grand Marshal Jackie Doval • Honorary Grand Marshal-Organization Texas Gay Rodeo Association • Street Wise • KIKK-Radio Young Country • Montrose Counseling Center • Integrity-Houston • St. Stephen's Episcopal Church • Montrose Clinic • Houston Outdoor Group • Krewe of Olympus-Texas • Bricks II • First Unitarian Universalist Church • United States Representative Sheila Jackson Lee • Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents • Houston Grand Opera • Houston City Councilmember Annise Parker • Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays • American Express GLOBE • Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce • KRBE • Bayou City Boys' Club • Paradise Bar • Garden Party • United Cab • After Hours on KPFT • Omega House • Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals • Overland Trail Riders • Imperial Court of Iowa • Outrage • Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf • Bering Memorial United Methodist Church • Ron's American Limo • Pacific Street • Kindred Spirits • Texas Triangle • Dignity/Houston • Leather Knights • Asians & Friends of Houston • Lutherans Concerned • BiNet Houston • Rascal's • Kinetic

Mammie Interactive Media Group USA • Rich's • Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages • Houston's Transgender Community • Brazos River Bottom • Supercuts • Garden & Yard Society • OutSmart Magazine • Human Rights Campaign • Community Gospel Church • USA Pageantry • Gay Men's Chorus of Houston • Assist HERS Care Team Program • Crash Productions • TOYZ Disco • Adult Video Megaplexxx • Body Positive Houston • Women in Power Society • Montrose Softball League • American Movers • Bunnies on the Bayou • NAMES Project Houston • AIDS Foundation Houston • Momentum Motorears • E/I's • National Gay and Lesbian Task Force • The Little Room Downstairs Theater • Houston Area Bears • Ripeord • Lambda Rollerskating Club • City of Houston Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention • HEB Pantry Foods • LiB • The Mirror Lounge • Mela's Tejano Country • Rainbow Room • University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work • Club Inergy • Gary Brewton, MD • Westheimer Street Festival • Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star • Walgreen's • Colt 45's • Independent Billiard League • Club Extreme • MIX 96.5 KIIMX • Rainbo de Klown • Pride Committee of Houston • Pride Committee Board of Directors • and, ending the parade as it began, Silver Eagle/Budweiser Beer. ✧



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HOUSTON LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE 1998



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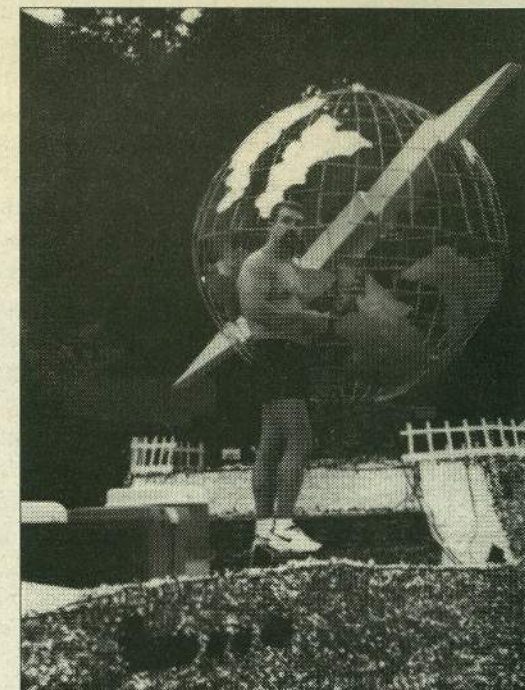
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Each year of Houston's outstanding parade floats in several

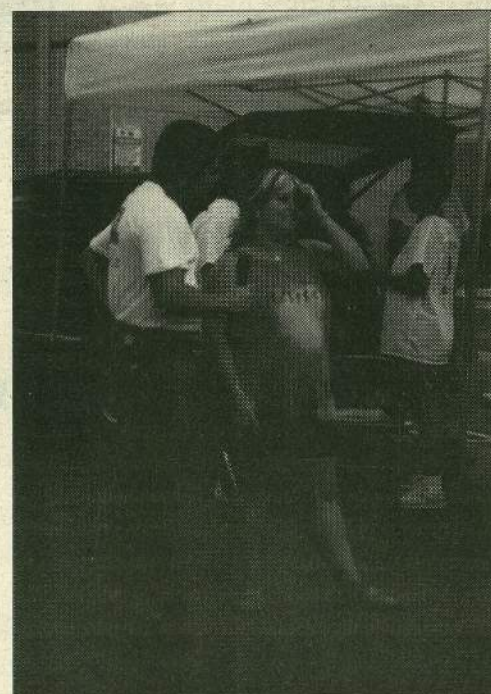
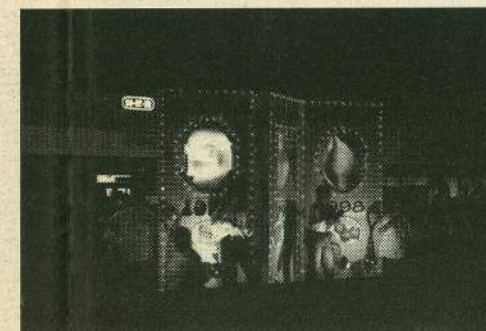
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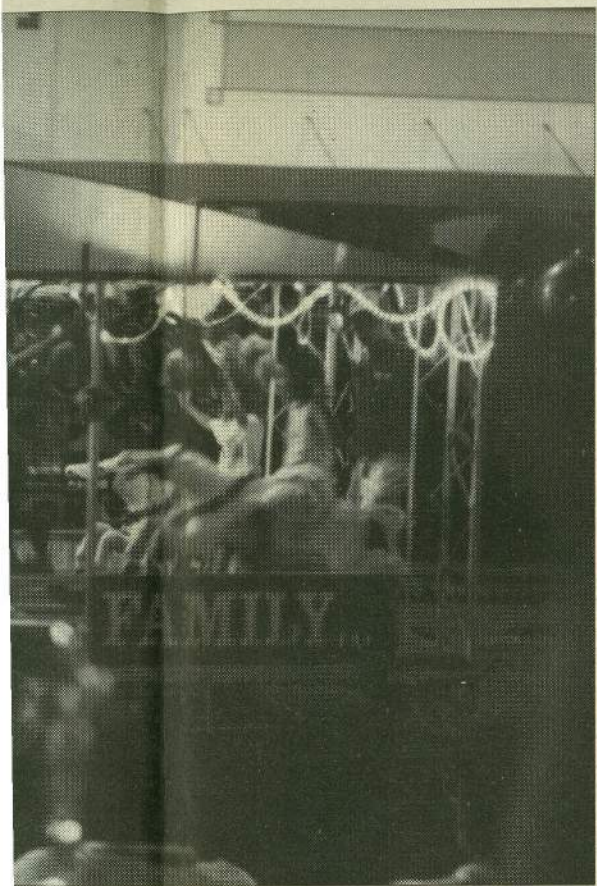
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The S the unit



Clockwise from top left: The children of Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents received a hearty round of applause from parade-watchers as they rode down Westheimer on their carousel float... The men of Pacific Street entertain the masses on the streets and on the web... Our esteemed masters of ceremony Ernie Manouse (holding microphone) and Maria Todd (sitting to Ernie's right) announced entries as they passed the judges' stand... The Pride Parade's female Grand Marshal, Jackie Doval (left), and her lover, Mina Garcia, got into the spirit of the Pride Committee's Greek theme with their very fashionable togas... The boys tending the Pride Committee's float on parade day were very lucky as the hunks working on the Bunnies on the Bayou float





AND THE WINNER IS...

Each year, the Pride Committee of Houston awards trophies to outstanding Pride Parade entries in several categories.

Winners are determined by a panel of judges who make their decisions after viewing all competing entries from the judges' stand along the parade route. 1998 judges were Toopees' Carolyn Burnum, artist Kermit

pride. Competitors do not have to conform to the parade theme for eligibility. The Stonewall Award was won by **Krewe of Olympus**.

The Gypsy Rose Award for the best out-of-town entry was given to **Overland Trail Riders**.

The Edison Award for the best non-professional lighted unit, with lighting done by a non-professional, was awarded to

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The Unified Diversified Electrified Award for the best interpretation of the parade theme by any type of entry was won by the **Chase Bank of Texas Pride Team**. The Spirit of Montrose Award for the best overall entry of any type was awarded to **Outrage**.

The Stonewall Award is given to the unit that best commemorates

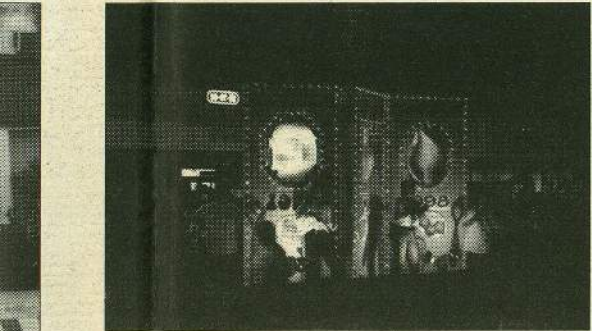
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The Edison Award for the best non-professional lighted unit, with lighting done by a non-professional, was awarded to **Brazos River Bottom**. The Rainbow Lights Award for the best professional lighted unit, with lighting done by a paid professional went to **Supercuts**.

The Ruby Slipper Award for the best walking unit was given to the **Kolbe Project**.

The Houston Award for the best non-professional motorized float was won by **Bering Memorial United Methodist Church** and the Texas Award for the best professional motorized float was won by **Community Gospel Church**. ✧



Clockwise from top left: The children of Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents received a hearty round of applause from parade-watchers as they rode down Westheimer on their carousel float... The men of Pacific Street entertain the masses on the streets and on the web... Our esteemed masters of ceremony Ernie Manouse (holding microphone) and Maria Todd (sitting to Ernie's right) announced entries as they passed the judges' stand... The Pride Parade's female Grand Marshal, Jackie Doval (left), and her lover, Mina Garcia, got into the spirit of the Pride Committee's Greek theme with their very fashionable togas... The boys tending the Pride Committee's float on parade day were very lucky as the hunks working on the Bunnies on the Bayou float

were just yards away... The Montrose Counseling Center invited the audience to do the time warp with them... Officers of the Houston Police Department were very helpful throughout parade day and worked diligently to keep everyone safe during the night... Volunteer and 1997 parade coordinator Robin Duncan was interviewed by TV Montrose... Houston Pride Band members prepared to add their beautiful sounds to the light of the nighttime parade... Many spectators arrived hours early to secure a good place to watch the parade... The Bayou City Boys' Club cooled the crowds with their water cannons... and Outrage won the Spirit of Montrose Award with their Hollywood blockbuster of a float. All photos courtesy of Gina Richardson.

Pride '98 Explodes With Over 60 Events

BY MICHELLE FRANKE

Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 lasted over two full weeks and it certainly was full with well over 60 diverse events.

There were events for everyone. The Pride Committee of Houston tried to incorporate the many faces of our community this year and we had more organizations sponsor events than ever before. Whether you have a passion for fishing or a desire for financial security or roller-coaster mania, we had the event for you.

The celebration began with a big bang as the Pride Committee hosted the kick-off party on Friday, June 12, at Riva's. Anyone who's in the spotlight was seen at this party, including Houston Mayor Lee Brown.

Another big success this year was Southhampton Medical Group's Lesbian and Gay Pride Healthfest, held on Saturday, June 20, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. The day-long event had exhibitors representing many companies from pharmaceuticals to grocery stores to bookstores. The informative and fun-filled event featured health seminars, food tastings, health screenings, body building, and a fashion show.

Among the official Pride events, parties did not go unnoticed. Wigs on Fire made a comeback at Rich's on Saturday, June 13, after a five-year hiatus. This event, sponsored by Miss Camp America, brings everyone out — cowboys in their



PHOTO BY PAUL ARCHER

Nick Brines (right) greets guests at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 Kick-Off party, held at Riva's on June 12.

hats, muscle boys, and, of course, beehives bigger than Texas.

The Construction Party '98: Building Pride, co-hosted by Outrage and the Pride Committee at the Hangar in Houston's warehouse district on June 20, was a smashing success, with everyone dancing around barricades and construction equipment.

And with a week to rest after the Parade, Red, White and You Weekend provided Houston with more 'round-the-clock partying. The parties were held at several venues around town over Independence Day weekend and benefitted City of Hope HIV/AIDS research programs and the Body Positive Houston Wellness Center.

Houston bars and clubs, including JR's, Rascal's, and Rich's, also hosted fun Pride parties.

Pride '98 had incredible variety among its events. The Gay & Lesbian Film Festival enjoyed another success in its second year. Houstonians enjoyed several gay and gay-related films at some of Houston's finest theaters in May and June. The Rainbow Fishing Club sponsored two outings into the Gulf of Mexico in June to see who could "catch the big one."

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection hosted Pride Day at the Wortham on Sunday, June 21, which featured a concert and a seminar on pride and

justice. The Gay Men's Chorus sang their hearts out at two performances of their annual Pride concert on June 20 and 21. HATCH sponsored the annual Prom Night at the Lovett Inn on June 13 and AVES stayed up late the night before the parade dancing to disco music at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

Many community members found themselves participating in events that required physical exertion, such as skating with the Lambda Rollerskating Club at their annual RollerBall on Wednesday, June 24, at Zenith Roller Rink. A couple of Pride Committee-sponsored events during Pride's opening weekend had hearts racing, too. Stalwart souls ran in the Houston Gay Pride 5k Fun Run and played sand volleyball (that sand was HOT!) at the Pride Jamboree in Memorial Park on June 13. The next day, many people enjoyed screaming their heads off as they plunged down roller-coasters during Pride Day at AstroWorld.

These are just a few of the many wonderful events that occurred during Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998. A big, big "thank you" goes out to all the organizations and businesses that sponsored events. The success of these events is entirely due to the community — and Houston, you were great. The Pride Committee's events committee experienced an amazing "high" as each event came and went, as each sponsor saw the support of the community, as each day began and ended — Pride was alive!

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We especially want to thank the community for supporting the events that the Pride Committee sponsored in June. Your enthusiasm shows us that events like the Pride Jamboree at Memorial Park and Pride Day at AstroWorld need to be back next year — but bigger and better than before!

Your participation and contributions during our fund-raising events are also greatly appreciated. The benefit performance of Rob Nash's *Freshman Year Sucks!* at Stages on June 19 and our annual art auction, *Pumped Up on Art*, held at the 711 William Street Gallery on June 26, were great fun and the funds they raise for the Committee help ensure a great season of Pride.

Houston's celebration of lesbian and gay Pride is very special. We not only show our energy and diversity in an amazing, bright nighttime parade, but we also show the world just how unified, diversified, and electrified we are through a marathon month of fun, creative, and informative events.

Thank you, Houston, for making Pride '98 the best ever, and help us to keep the momentum going for Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999 and beyond. ✧



PHOTOS BY PAUL ARCHER

Those who braved the heat of the day had a terrific time at the Pride Jamboree at Memorial Park on June 13. From left: the rainbow balloon arch at the park doubled as a very smart, if slightly unwieldy, fashion accessory, as modeled by the author... '98 Pride logo designer and volunteer Chris Noessel returned to his childhood on a Memorial Park swing set... Pride Committee member Rainbo de Kloxen hit a home run during a Jamboree softball game. Time to get out that Babe Ruth drag, Rainbo!

Pride Celebrated All Over America in June

News reports have poured in from across America telling us about the fabulous lesbian and gay pride festivities that took place in other cities and towns in June.

The Houston community can be proud of our beautifully lit floats, which dazzled spectators at America's original nighttime Pride Parade. But gay and lesbian communities everywhere have many reasons to be proud of their unique celebrations.

Here's what the press said about a few of the many Pride events in June.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Carol Riels says she often fields calls from homosexuals considering moving to the area. "I tell them Cedar Rapids is a friendly city to gays and lesbians," said Riels, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center's board. "We don't have a lot of gay-bashing. People may not like what we stand for, but they don't get in our faces about it. That speaks well of Cedar Rapids."

Riels is also co-chair of the organizing committee for the first local observance of Gay Pride Month, highlighted Saturday [June 13] afternoon by the Pride Fest. About 200 people gathered in Greene Square Park, browsing the booths set up by vendors and activist groups and listening to music and speeches.

With the city's Civil Rights Commission considering a proposal to amend Cedar Rapids' anti-discrimination laws to include

marched smoothly through the city's downtown June 14.

"Nice and quiet, no problems," said Sgt. Don Cronin of the Lawrence police department, who added that there were around 200 marchers in the parade which lasted about an hour and a half.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

While fun and fellowship were a big part of Saturday's [June 13] PrideFest parade and picnic, the first-of-its-kind downtown event also helped close a rift in the city's gay and lesbian community, organizers said.

"There's been a lot of difficulties in the gay community about coming together as a group because we're the most diverse community that exists," said Dan Castor, PrideFest coordinator. "It's hard for us to agree all the time, but this is an opportunity for all of us to come together and share our commonality."

More than 30 organizations took part in the noon parade, which wound from Travis Park to the Alamo and back again. There were several decorated vehicles, a half-dozen floats and dozens of marchers.

"There have been some smaller events, but this is the first major gay pride parade we've ever had," Castor said.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

San Francisco Pride has just experienced one of its best ever.

Sunday's June 28th Parade was

PRIDE AROUND THE WORLD CONTINUES THROUGH '98

While this year's Pride festivities in Houston are complete, the remainder of 1998 is filled with Pride parades and festivals happening across America and around the world.

To help you with your travel plans, the following information was provided by the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. (IAL/GPC).

ACROSS AMERICA

Arizona: Tucson 10/17

California: Berkeley (East Bay Pride) 9/3-26 • Chico 8/23 • Claremont 10/10 • Fresno (Outfest '98) 9/20 • Oakland (Gay Mardi Gras) 9/20 • Orange County 8/15-16 • Palm Springs 11/7-8 • Pasadena 9/19 **Colorado:** Colorado Springs 8/28-30

Delaware: Wilmington 10/3

Florida: Miami 10/18 **Indiana:** Indianapolis (Indy Pride Street Fayre) 9/19 **Louisiana:** New Orleans 8/26-27 **Maine:** Augusta 8/15 **Michigan:** Allendale (Grand Valley State University) 10/5-9;

Minnesota: Duluth 9/4-6 **New York:** Albany 10/4 **North**

Carolina: Charlotte 10/7-8 • Greenville 9/18-19 **Ohio:** Cleveland (Cleveland Black Pride) 8/14-15 • Dayton 9/19 **Oregon:** Salem 8/15 **Tennessee:** Nashville 9/19 **Texas:** Dallas (Black Gay & Lesbian Pride) 10/1-4 • Waco 10/3 **Wisconsin:** Milwaukee 8/28-30 • Superior 9/4-6 **Wyoming:** Cheyenne 8/12-16

AROUND THE WORLD

Argentina: Buenos Aires 11/6

Australia: Adelaide 8/2 • Melbourne 8/2 • Perth 9/27

festival and 10/31 parade **Canada:** Barrie, Ontario 8/9 • Prince George, British Columbia 9/5-6

Mexico: Mexicali 9/19 **The Netherlands:** Amsterdam (Gay Games V) 8/1-8 **New Zealand:** Wellington 8/3 **Paraguay:** Asunción 9/20 **South Africa:** Johannesburg 9/26 **United Kingdom:** Birmingham 8/8 • Brighton 8/8 • London (Pride Festival) 8/15 • Manchester 8/29

For updates to any of these or other pride events, refer to the IAL/GPC web site at www.interpride.org.

organizing committee for the first local observance of Gay Pride Month, highlighted Saturday [June 13] afternoon by the Pride Fest. About 200 people gathered in Greene Square Park, browsing the booths set up by vendors and activist groups and listening to music and speeches.

With the city's Civil Rights Commission considering a proposal to amend Cedar Rapids' anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation, this seemed to be the year for the first local gay pride celebration, Riels said.

LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

The city's first gay pride parade, which inspired heated debate in the City Council and had some parents planning to take their children out of the city for the afternoon in protest,

Alamo and back again. There were several decorated vehicles, a half-dozen floats and dozens of marchers.

"There have been some smaller events, but this is the first major gay pride parade we've ever had," Castor said.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

San Francisco Pride has just experienced one of it's best ever.

Sunday's [June 28] Parade was the quickest and most colorful in many years, featuring over 220 registered contingents. Marching for the first time in any Pride Parade, to our knowledge, was a Roman Catholic Church, as well as a huge contingent of people of Chinese descent in town for a groundbreaking conference.

The Mayors of San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Marin, and

Florida: Miami 10/18 **Indiana:** Indianapolis (Indy Pride Street Fayre) 9/19 **Louisiana:** New Orleans 8/26-27 **Maine:** Augusta 8/15 **Michigan:** Allendale (Grand Valley State University) 10/5-9; **Minnesota:** Duluth 9/4-6 **New York:** Albany 10/4 **North**

Johannesburg 9/26 **United Kingdom:** Birmingham 8/8 • Brighton 8/8 • London (Pride Festival) 8/15 • Manchester 8/29

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Alamenda all took part. The Parade was led, as always, by over 500 women motorecyclists. Also near the front of the parade was a rainbow flag borne by flag creator Gilbert Baker. It was during the San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade 20 years ago that the rainbow flag was first unveiled. In keeping with that anniversary, this year Market Street was dressed with 500 new giant flags — one for every

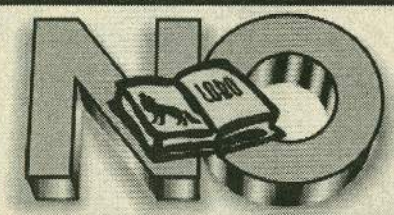
light post of its entire two-mile length. In addition, two 40-foot flags in the original eight colors (turquoise and pink added) flew in front of City Hall on Civic Center Plaza — the venue for the Celebration.

The number of people attending this year surpassed all expectations. Estimates varied wildly, but the official word from City Hall is that a million people attended this year's Parade and Celebration.

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