

HGPW 83

Houston Gay Pride Week 1983

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TREASURER

JUNE

- 16 Anniversary of the
Raid on Mary's, 9:00 p.m.
Andy Mills 527-9454
- 17 A Salute to
Gay Businesses
Walter Strickler 528-9427
- 18 Family & Friends of Gays
Freda & Frank Jerrell 464-6663
Montrose Sports Assn. Day
Kathy Winkler 880-9488
- 19 Juneteenth Celebration
Black & White Men Together
Ken Sievers 524-2345
- 20 Montrose Art Alliance
"An Evening of Art"
Roz Vecchio 521-2461
- 21 M.S.A. Variety Show
Jerry Kauffman 665-9678
- 22 Educational Forum
Ken Vance 529-0037
Frank Berrier 528-5531
- 23 Texas Bay Area Gay Day
332-3737
National Day of Remembrance
Jerry Nicholson 520-0458
Tim Curtin 523-0448
- 24 Gay Latin Day
Dennis Medina 521-0037
Hope Medina 926-7160
- 25 The Fred Paez
Memorial Concert
Andy Mills 527-9454
- 26 The Parade, 5:30 p.m.
Tony Vega
Roy Robinson
Larry Bagneris, Jr. 521-9295
G.P.C. Summit Rally, 7:00 p.m.
Larry Bagneris, Jr. 521-9295

PRESS CONTACT:

Jack Valinski
529-1223

7 June 1983

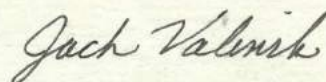
Dear Producer/Editor/Announcer:

The Houston Gay Pride Week Committee, in conjunction with the Gay Political Caucus of Houston, will hold a media conference at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 1983 (Flag Day), at Kindred Spirits, 5245 Buffalo Speedway.

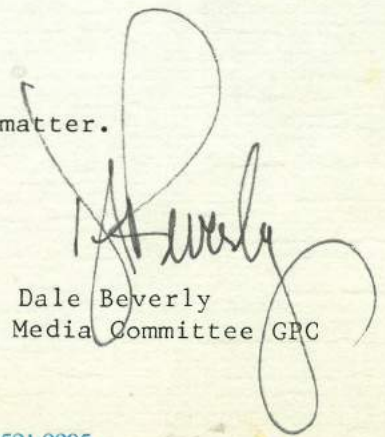
Details of the upcoming events comprising Houston Gay Pride Week 1983 will be announced, and representatives of the different community organizations participating in this year's celebration will be prepared to answer questions.

We ask that you consider attendance at this conference, as we believe that the event outlined is newsworthy and of interest to the majority of citizens to whom you communicate.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.



Jack Valinski
Media Coordinator HGPW



Dale Beverly
Media Committee GPC

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Statement of Purpose

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

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

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Background on Gay Pride Week Celebrations

"One of the more volatile and emotional social movements in the nation's history emerged on a summer night 10 years ago at a ramshackle bar in New York City's Greenwich Village."

"At 3 a.m. on June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, investigating alleged liquor violations. Until then, raids regarded as routine harassment of bars catering to homosexuals had met only token opposition."

"Within minutes, however, more than 400 people had gathered in nearby Sheridan Square and a riot erupted. More disturbances followed the next night."

"A minority shrouded in mystery, fear, self-deprecation and widespread loathing decided it had had enough. It was the Lexington of the gay rights movement, a gathering of forces and the beginning of a tumultuous march."¹

The true story of events surrounding the Stonewall riots has always been a bit elusive, and media accounts printed at the time appear as blatantly biased and notably lacking in factual detail. However, the above quotes tell the story that is most widely known, and the results of that night in New York City can be seen today as the national gay and lesbian community grows in both influence and stature in our society.

In 1970, a noted gay activist from Los Angeles named Morris Kight was responsible for the "Remember Stonewall" vigil that became a yearly event around the country.

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

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¹Ledwell, Tony. "Stonewall opened gay activist age." Associated Press 1979

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(Background continued.....)

formation of a political action coalition that has become the Gay Political Caucus of Houston.

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

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

Over 4,500 community activists met at the Astroarena in 1978 for Town Meeting I, the first organizational gathering in Houston that included gay men and women from every aspect of Houston society. Former state legislator and vice-presidential nominee Frances "Sissy" Farenthold was the keynote speaker; the meeting was chaired by Virginia Apuzzo, a leading gay activist who is now the executive director of the National Gay Task Force in New York. Many of Houston's gay services, including the Montrose Counseling Center and the Montrose Clinic, were formulated and organized at this historic meeting. The first full week of events commemorating our pride in being free gay and lesbian Americans was held in this year.

since 1979, the gay community of Houston has celebrated Gay Pride Week with a

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(Background continued.....)

full schedule of events spanning 11 days in late June. More than 67 gay and lesbian-related organizations sponsor a variety of events for the entire community, ranging from juried art shows to athletic events and everything in between.

The final days on the Gay Pride Week calendar are devoted to a musical concert in memory of the late Fred Paez, a long-time Houston gay activist and political worker; the annual Houston Gay Pride Week Parade through the heart of Montrose; and the traditional community celebration sponsored by the Gay Political Caucus.

This year's Gay Pride Week theme, chosen by the community, is Unity Through Diversity. The theme recognizes the many different segments of Houston's society which have worked together to build one of the most socially and politically influential gay communities in the nation.

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Schedule of Events Houston Gay Pride Week 1983 / June 16-June 26, 1983Thursday, June 16. Anniversary of the Raid on Mary's

This day marks the commemoration of a history of police harassment toward the gay community. The Houston Police Department conducted mass raids on gay bars and their patrons immediately preceding the Gay Pride Week celebrations in 1978, 1979 and 1980. Mary's Lounge, long known as one of the most popular gay meeting places in the city, was the subject of HPD raids in 1979 and 1980. In 1981, this day was set aside by the Houston Gay Pride Week Committee in remembrance of the victims of the raids and in recognition of the commitment by the elected officials of Houston that such violent measures would not be tolerated in the future. The yearly raids on our community establishments on the eve of Gay Pride Week were discontinued in 1981.

9 p.m. Mary's Lounge, 1022 Westheimer free to the public

Friday, June 17. A Salute to Gay Businesses

Gay-owned and operated businesses are the economic backbone of our community. For many years a variety of establishments with a gay and lesbian clientele have contributed beyond their share to the political, social and cultural activities of our community. This day of the calendar recognizes that steadfast support. The Tavern Guild conducts a Gay Pride Week decoration contest among participating bars and clubs, and gay men and women are encouraged to visit their favorite businesses to say "thank you for your continued support of our community."

Businesses will hold special functions this evening; please check their ads in the community bar guides and newspaper.

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(Schedule of Events continued.....)

Saturday, June 18. Family and Friends of Gays

The Houston chapter of Family and Friends of Gays (FFOG) will be saluted on this day. FFOG is an active, highly visible part of the Houston community. The organization brings together parents and grandparents, sons and daughters, friends and co-workers of gay men and women to understand and appreciate their loved ones. Their support of gay and lesbian rights is symbolic of the reality that gay men and women touch the lives of all in Houston through the people we love.

12 p.m.-3 p.m. Liberty Bank Community Room, Westheimer at
Montrose. Donations accepted.

Saturday, June 18. Montrose Sports Association Day

The Montrose Sports Association is one of the largest gay community organizations in Houston. Billiards, bowling, raquetball, softball and flagball are only a few of the many sports the MSA coordinates for the enjoyment of the community. During past Gay Pride Week celebrations, All Star teams chosen by the members of MSA have played softball teams representing the Houston Police and Fire Departments. This year, the MSA's choice players will compete against softball teams from the Oak Lawn Softball Association from the Dallas gay community.

Games start at 3:30 p.m. Levy Field, 3800 Eastside. Free
to the public.

Sunday, June 19. Juneteenth Celebration

The gay community enjoys the opportunity to observe Texas Emancipation Day with Houston's black community. The heritage of black gay men and women will be celebrated

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(Schedule of Events continued.....)

by all gays at a special gathering sponsored by the Houston chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT). We also show special recognition of the contributions made by the black civil rights movement toward obtaining equal rights under the law. In reality, there is only one civil rights struggle -- and it includes everyone, for "none are free until all are free."

9 p.m. Catch One, 4965 Martin Luther King Blvd. \$6.00.

Monday, June 20. Men and Women Together: An Evening of the Arts

"An Evening of the Arts" salutes the contributions of our gay and lesbian artists. Historically in Western civilization, the artistic community has led the rest of society in recognizing and accepting gay artists in all disciplines. For the past three years Gay Pride Week has included art exhibits, poetry readings and photography displays. This year's event is already generating unprecedented interest thanks to the dedicated work of the Montrose Art Alliance.

7 p.m. Tropicana Swim Club, 2114 Peckham. \$5.00.

Tuesday, June 21. Montrose Sports Association Variety Show

Our sportspeople come back on the stage instead of the baseball diamond at this popular event. The women and men of the Montrose Sports Association present an entertaining evening of song, dance and comedy for the community.

7 p.m. Numbers, 300 Westheimer. \$3.00.

Wednesday, June 22. Educational Forum

The importance of education to the gay rights struggle is easily understood

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(Schedule of Events continued.....)

when one considers that only a few years ago most gay men and women led secret lives "in the closet." We all had to educate ourselves about our own worth before we came out of hiding. Now we try to enlighten the rest of our society to dispel the myths about each of us as persons and all of us as a community. On this day of Gay Pride Week the Gay Switchboard of Houston, the Montrose Clinic and the Montrose Counseling Center have planned an evening of educational topics presented through comedy.

9 p.m. Channing Hall, First Unitarian Church of Houston,
5210 S. Main at Southmore. \$3.00.

Thursday, June 23. National Day of Remembrance

Since Houston's first Gay Pride Week celebration, we have set aside this special day. We remember the gay men and women who died in the Inquisition and the Holocaust in Europe, and we commemorate who committed suicide because they could not be free in an intolerant society. An uplifting service about our history is presented by religious groups from many faiths in our community.

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection,
1919 Decatur. Donations accepted.

Thursday, June 23. Texas Bay Area Gay Day

On this day we also recognize the work of other social and political groups outside of Houston who contribute to the betterment of our community. This year we acknowledge the outstanding endeavors of Texas Bay Area Gays (TBAG) of Clear Lake City.

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Friday, June 24. Gay Latin Day

Houston's gay Hispanic community celebrates and shares their rich heritage with the rest of gay Houston. The Gay Hispanic Caucus of Houston sponsors this special time for fiesta and sharing, including great food, music and company.

9 p.m. Noche y Dia Ballroom, 2103½ N. Main. \$4.00.

Saturday, June 25. The Fred Paez Memorial Concert

On June 28, 1980, while gay Houstonians were celebrating during Gay Pride Week 1980, one of Houston's founding gay activists was killed by an officer of the Houston Police Department. Fred Paez is remembered each year with a musical concert. The event, organized and presented by the Montrose Symphonic Band and the Montrose Chorale, has featured musical groups from Dallas and Los Angeles in the past. This year the concert promises to surpass its reputation as a high point of Gay Pride Week. The development of the band, the chorale and other performing groups within the community has greatly enriched the cultural life of gay Houston.

7:30 p.m. Cullen Auditorium, The University of Houston-
University Park. \$5.00.

Sunday, June 26. The Houston Gay Pride Week Parade 1983

The Gay Pride Week parade has grown and matured with the community since 1979. The highlight of the week, the parade last year attracted an estimated gay and non-gay spectators as colorful floats, musical groups and marching units filled lower Westheimer Street in the heart of Houston's gay community. Many of our elected officials and community leaders are present at the largest yearly gathering of gay

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men and women in the South.

5:30 p.m. Lower Westheimer Street between Sheperd and
Bagby. Free to the public.

Sunday, June 26. GPCelebration '83: A Night with Friends at the Summit

The celebration, which replaces the traditional Spotts Park political rally on the calendar, will be the finale of Gay Pride Week in Houston for 1983. The evening of entertainment will immediately follow the Houston Gay Pride Week parade, and the Summit is expecting a capacity crowd of 10,000 gay women and men and their guests. Headlining the event will be blues and rock star Tina Turner, with new recording artist and Dallas resident Pamala Stanley preceding the featured act with her own style of high-energy dance rock.

Invited guests include the Houston City Council, Comptroller Lance Lalor and Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Other guests include State Representatives Debra Danburg, Al Edwards and Paul Colbert; State Senators Craig Washington, John Whitmire and Lloyd Doggett; and Kathy Webb, national secretary for the National Organization for Women (NOW). Special guest will be Virginia Apuzzo, executive director of the National Gay Task Force.

7:00 p.m. The Summit, Greenway Plaza. \$9.65