



Vol 9, No. 8

August

9992

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RESOURCE GUIDE

All Mujeres Interested in Getting Active [AMIGA]: 520-5667
Bar Association for Human Rights [Gay and Lesbian Attorneys] 524-5549
Chain Gang [Gay Cycling Group]: 981-7257
Dignity/Houston [Gay & Lesbian Catholics] 528-0111
Dimensions POB 856 Lubbock, TX 79408 (pick up at Inklings) 806-797-9647
Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos [GLHU] 880-GLHU
Gay/Lesbian Student Association of the U of H
Meeting: The University Center each Wednesday at 3:00pm
Gays and Lesbians of Rice [GALOR] 630-0247
Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International [GLPCI]: 666-8256
Gay/Lesbian Switchboard: 529-3211
HeartSong [Women's Chorus]: 522-1747
Houston Area Gay & Lesbian Engineers and Scientists [HAGLES] 480-2177
Houston Area NOW [National Organization for Women]: 668-9008
Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of Homosexuals [hATCH]: 942-7002
Houston Area Women's Center [HAWC]: 528-6798
Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus [HGLPC]: 521-1000
Houston Gay Yellow Pages: 621-0929
Houston Outdoor Group [HOG]: 526-7688 - spells K-A-M-P-O-U-T
Integrity/Houston [Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians]
Meeting: Autry House 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30pm
Lambda Center [AA Groups]: 521-9772
Lambda Women's Support & Social Group - Beaumont: 409-724-1192
Lesbian/Gay Pride Week: 529-6979
Lesbians in Business [LIB]: 529-0077
Lesbians Over Age Fifty [LOAF]: 661-1482
Lone Star Symphonic Band: 862-5058
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection [MCCR]: 861-9194
Montrose Activity Center [MAC]: to be announced
Montrose Counseling Center [MCC] - Women's Network: 529-0037
Mother's Support Web: 869-6689
[Network for Non-mothers & feminist Moms/kids]
P-FLAG [Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays] 721-0788
Queer Nation/Houston Tribe: 529-6969
Rape Crisis Hotline: 528-7273; 528-RAPE
Real Live Womyn [Group for Lesbians coming out of the closet]: 869-3358
Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League of Houston: 520-TEEN
SORA [Sex or Relationship Addictions Anonymous]: 666-8256 or 527-0342
Women Against Violence Everywhere [WAVE]: 529-7329
Women's Information and Referral Exchange [WIRES]: 528-2121
Women's Group: 529-8571
[First Unitarian Church - 5210 Fannin, Sundays 10am]
Women's Reading Group: 932-7724, 580-4305
WOMYNSPACE: 688-3888

Please send updates to:

Womynspace; P.O. Box 980601; Houston, Tx 77098



Photo by Lynn Keller

NEW ERA IN WOMEN'S MUSIC

If you haven't already heard, 2 nice girls, lesbian rock band from Austin, is splitting up. They promise to reincarnate themselves in other projects, there will also be a road film of the Girls out next year.

There is another group from Austin we should know about. Girls in the Nose have been together for several years, and have been in Houston a couple of times, but to a small turn out. I had heard of them, but didn't get a chance to see them until they billed with Ann Reed and a lesbian comic from N.Y., at the National Women's Studies Conference in Austin. This band is a must see! Girls in the Nose are six women, ranging from ages 20 to 40+. They are full of lesbian-feminist consciousness, humor, queer-pride, and musical ability. This is not your mother's lesbian music, this is lesbian rock/punk, and not for the squeamish. If you think you're squeamish, go see them anyway, their blending of political ideas and entertainment are for anyone to appreciate, young, old, gay, and straight. We are hoping to get these women into Houston soon, but in the meanwhile you have to take that trip into Austin you've been wanting to make to see them.

They will be at Chances in Austin, Aug. 15th. There will be some women from Houston going to the August 29th show at the Austin Outhouse, for more information call Laura Kellner at 942-8371. Let's get OUT and support women's music.

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August Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Clinic Defense Training 8:30am
2 10am Women's Group 1pm Clinic Defense Orientation 2pm P-FLAG Parents-Friends of Lesbians&Gays	3 8pm NOW/HDC FLYER DISTRIBUTION ROLLER SKATING PRE-RUMMAGE SALE SORTING	4 6:30pm Lesbian Gay Pride Week Executive Meeting 7:30 Lambda Roller Skating Party	5 7pm Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus Women's Group Pre-Rummage Sale Sorting, Pricing, Hanging all week at 7pm	6 6pm Class by Lucia's Garden TAI CHI each Thursday	7	8 Tentatively Scheduled Clinic Defense Training Women's Group Rummage Sale
9 10am Women's Group Women's Group Rummage Sale	10	11 ICE SKATE NITE	12 7pm Women's Network Montrose Counseling Center LIB Investment Grp	13 Lucia's Garden Full Moon Meditation	14	15 RALLY for CHOICE 3-7pm k.d.lang in concert
16 Unity March 10am Women's Group 1pm Mother's Web Picnic 2pm LOAF 5pm AMIGA	17	18 7pm Lesbian Gay Pride Week General Meeting 7:30 Roller Skating Party LIB Speech Group	19 7pm Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus	20 Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Support	21 6:30 LIB Lesbians in Business Susan Clade New Orleans Civil rights leader	22
23 10am Women's Group	24	25	26 7pm Women's Network	27	28	29

1 SATURDAY

Clinic Defense Training, 8:30-11am at the Allen Parkway Village Community Center, Allen Parkway feeder (get on feeder at Taft) at Valentine. Park on the feeder if Valentine street fills up. For info, call Houston Defending Choice at 981-2884 (recorded message).

2 SUNDAY

The Women's Group*, Celia Theresa Fleming - **The Empowering Passage - Menopause - The Last Taboo of the Universal Experience of Women.** Celia will share with us from her own well spring of fears, misinformation, and transformation. The Women's Group meets at 10am in the Sojourner Truth room (upstairs), First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. For more info, call Iris 529-8571 or Janet 942-7717.

Clinic Defense Orientation at the Congregation of Beth Yeshuren, 4525 Beechnut outside the loop near North Braeswood, 1-3 pm. For info, call Houston Defending Choice at 981-2884.

Parents FLAG/Houston (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meets the first Sunday of each month (moves to the 2nd Sunday when the 1st Sunday is a holiday weekend) at 2pm, IntraCare Hospital, 7601 Fannin. P-FLAG provides a support group for families and friends of lesbians and gays in their effort to understand, accept and support their children with love and pride. For more information, call 721-0788.

3 MONDAY

Flyer Distribution Meeting 7pm NOW Rally for Choice flyers, 8pm Houston Defending Choice (clinic defense) flyers. Both meet at Butera's on Montrose.

Roller Skating 7:30-10:30pm, \$5 includes skates; closed to the general public. New location at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290 (next to K-Mart). First and third Mondays, sponsored by Lambda Rollerskating Club, 523-6381. Benefits S.M.Y.A.L..

Annual Pre-Rummage Sale sorting, pricing, hanging, hugging, existing, 7pm at Channing Hall, First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin. For more info, call 529-8571.

4 TUESDAY

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week - Executive Meeting on the first Tuesday each month, 6:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center, 1475 W. Gray. For info, call 529-6979.

Annual Pre-Rummage Sale sorting, pricing, and hanging. See Monday, August 3 entry.

5 WEDNESDAY

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus meets first & third Wednesdays at 7pm at the Montrose Palace, 1505 Nevada. For more information, call 521-1000.

Women Against Violence Everywhere (WAVE) - A group specifically focusing on violence against women and children will NOT meet this month. For more info, call Jaesun at 867-9117.

Class by Lucia's Garden: Beginning Meditation: Alyce Dabbouseh. Every Wednesday 7:30-8:30pm at the Moon Cottage (\$65/month). For info, 523-6494.

6 THURSDAY

Class by Lucia's Garden: TAI CHI instructed by Cilia Theresa each Thursday at 6:00pm (\$35/month) at Lucia's Garden, 2942 Virginia. For info, 523-6494.

Clinic Defense Training at University of Houston Student Center, Embassy Room 7-9pm. For info, call 981-2884.

Support Group for Women Facing Life Challenging Health Challenging Concerns meets at 7pm. For info, call Leila at 728-1914.

Annual Pre-Rummage Sale sorting, pricing, and hanging. See Monday, August 3 entry.

7 FRIDAY

Annual Pre-Rummage Sale sorting, pricing, and hanging. See Monday, August 3 entry.

8 SATURDAY

Real Live Womyn Resurrection meets on the first Saturday of the month, 12:00 to 2:00pm at Inklings Bookshop, 1846 Richmond. Coming out is a p-r-o-c-e-s-s. And its fun too! Come find out what lesbian life is about without that closet. For more info, call Jeraine at 869-3358.

Women's Group Annual Rummage Sale, Saturday 8am - 6pm, Sunday 10am - 3pm at the First Unitarian Church at 5200 Fannin at the corner of Southmore. Donations accepted, call 529-8571.

9 SUNDAY

The Women's Group*, Lorna Jean Arnold, CCN, DN - Foods and Moods. Many times our moods

are the defining indicator of a chemical imbalance in our bodies. Ms. Arnold, Certified Clinical Nutritionist with a Doctorate in Nutrition Therapy of Whole Health Associates will bring us insight and information. ~~Open forum for women to evolve their own discussion.~~ The Women's Group meets at 10am in the Sojourner Truth room (upstairs), First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. For more info, call Iris 529-8571 or Janet 942-7717.

Women's Group Annual Rummage Sale, 10am - 3pm at the First Unitarian Church at 5200 Fannin at the corner of Southmore. Donations accepted, call 529-8571. See Saturday above. **Outdoor Skate** 8:30pm. Starting at the MCCR Church, 1919 Decatur.

10 MONDAY

LIB (Lesbians in Business) Self Employed Group will NOT meet in July and August. Call Elizabeth at 680-3822 for more information.

11 TUESDAY

Ice Skate Nite at the Galleria from 8 to 10pm every second Tuesday (\$4.50 includes skates) sponsored by the Chain Gang Bicycle Club, the Houston Outdoor Group and the Lambda Rollerskating Club. For info call 523-6381.

12 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network*, Inhibited Sexual Desire in Lesbian Women. A decline in sexual desire is the primary sexual complaint of lesbian couples. This evening, psychotherapist Carla Bradley will be talking about lesbian women's sexuality and sharing ideas about what is happening when we stop having sex with one another. The Women's Network meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, 2nd floor 7:00-9pm. FMI, call 529-0037.

LIB (Lesbians in Business) Investment Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month. For info, call Liz at 526-4552.

13 THURSDAY

Lucia's Garden: Full Moon Meditation 7:30pm. Women only. For more information, call 523-6494.

15 SATURDAY

Rally for Choice - 3-7pm at Murworth & Kirby near the Astrodome. For info, call 668-9008.

16 SUNDAY

The Women's Group*, Open (the day before the Republican Convention). Many national leaders in

our city this week! Who will be our speaker. The Women's Group meets at 10am in the Sojourner Truth room (upstairs), First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. For more info, call Iris 529-8571 or Janet 942-7717.

Mother's Web Monthly Pot Luck Lunch / Picnic / BBQ 1-4 P.M. at Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire, exit 610 at Evergreen and go 2 blocks east (inside the loop) to the corner of Evergreen and Newcastle. Non-mothers can network with feminist mothers & their kids on the third Sunday each month at the park. FMI, call Nancy at 869-6689.

Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) meets the third Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., now at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. The mailing address is still P.O.B. 980601 Houston, Tx. 77098. For more info, call 661-1482.

AMIGA de Houston meets on the third Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm for our business meeting and potluck dinner. While the focus of this group is Latina/Lesbiana - all mujeres interested in getting active are invited to join us. FMI, call 520-5667. **Unity March** - See Queer Nation flyer reprinted in this issue.

17 MONDAY

Roller Skating 7:30-10:30pm, \$5 includes skates; closed to the general public. New location at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290 (next to K-Mart). First and third Mondays, sponsored by Lambda Rollerskating Club, 523-6381.

18 TUESDAY

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week - General Meeting on the third Tuesday each month, 7pm at the Multi-purpose Center, 1475 W. Gray. For info, call 529-6979.

19 WEDNESDAY

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus meets first & third Wednesdays at 7pm at the Montrose Palace, 1505 Nevada. For more information, call 521-1000.

20 THURSDAY

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Support meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month for the adults and the youth. Childcare is provided. HGLPS provides a social outlet for the entire family. Planned outings and activities allow parents, co-parents, children, and future parents to celebrate as an extended family. For info, call 666-8256.

21 FRIDAY

LIB (Lesbians in Business), a women's empowerment group, \$10 membership, 6:30pm, 6-6:30 networking. The speaker will be New Orleans attorney, Susan Clade. Under Clade's leadership, civil rights activists in New Orleans were able to convince New Orleans City Council to adopt an ordinance outlawing discrimination against many individuals, including lesbians and gays, in employment, housing and public places. LIB meets at a relatively new location, Innova at 20 Greenway Plaza. Directions from Montrose Area: Southbound on the Southwest Freeway, exit Summit and follow the feeder to Cummins St. Innova is located on Cummins between Portsmouth St. and Norfolk (also between Richmond and I-59). For parking, you enter the building either from the Norfolk or Portsmouth side. The meeting is located on the first floor in room 1. For info, call 529-0077

23 SUNDAY

The Women's Group, District 134 State Representative Sue Schechter. We will brainstorm on the possible routes for the choice battle in out Texas legislature/courts and determine our role in the process. The Women's Group meets at 10am in the Sojourner Truth Room upstairs. For more information, call Iris 529-8571 or Janet 942-7717.

Outdoor Skate, 8:30pm starting at the MCCR Church, 1919 Decatur. For info, call 523-6381.

26 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network*, Alcoholism and Lesbian Women. Tonight, Sherry Cornelius, MSW, alcohol

counselor serving the lesbian/gay community, will address alcoholism in the lesbian community. The Women's Network meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, 2nd floor 7:00-9pm. FMI, call 529-0037.

28 FRIDAY

Fourth Friday Socials, open social gathering at MCCR for fellowship and snacks, play cards, board games. 7pm MCCR Fellowship Hall, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

30 SUNDAY

The Women's Group*, Discussion to exhale slowly and evaluate our strategy for the November presidential election. The Women's Group meets at 10am in the Sojourner Truth room (upstairs), First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. For more info, call Iris 529-8571 or Janet 942-7717.

The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce Presents



Healthy, Wealthy
and Wise

A Health and Information Fair
For Women
August 6, 1992
Greenspoint Mall

July 6, 1992

Thank you Liberty Books!

Liberty Books of Austin was kind enough to be my sponsor for the Texas Pride Golf Tournament.

A two hour rain delay and a large attendance on June 27th did not stop a glorious day of golf from happening. Women gathered from around the state and nation to participate in the Texas Pride Women's Invitational at the Hermann Park Golf Course in Houston, Texas. Golf shoes-Off to Bad Girls Golf, the Ranch, and Hermann Park!

As a participant and a spectator, I can say that the Texas Pride was a tremendous success.

What is a Bad Girls Golfer? We brainstormed and came up with an infinite definition: 1. She is the girl who faithfully leaves her footprints in the sand trap. 2. She is the girl who takes every mulligan she can get. 3. She is the girl who chips and putts the best. 4. She is the girl who always avoids the water hazards. 5. She is the girl who always says, "we are all counting on you." 6. She is the girl who goes out there to play and have fun.

May the masterminding and what is Bad Girls Golf continue...

Liberty books, thanks again.

In love & sisterhood,

L.B.

C. Lynn Brown

**Congratulations,
Deborah Bell**
New staff worker for
March on Washington 1993
for Lesbian & Gay Rights
Deborah is going to D.C.!

The First National Lesbian And Gay Series

On Public Television

IN THE LIFE

IS ON THE AIR!

August 8, 11:30 P.M. Channel 8 PBS

Hosted by comic, Kate Clinton.

GUESTS INCLUDE:

URBAN FOLK DUO, CASSELBERRY-DUPREE

LAVENDER LIGHT GOSPEL CHOIR

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY

PLUS FILM, DANCE, COMEDY, ISSUES, AND

MUCH MORE!



WE WANT OUR GAY TV

Pro-Choice Texans: Defend Your Rights



Clinic Defense Training-Allen Parkway Community Center Photo credit: Patricia Moore

Are You Serious About Choice?

.....you can bet the anti-choice extremists are!! They have the money, the leadership, and herds of followers who'll stop at nothing to completely eliminate women's constitutional right to reproductive freedom.

Operation Rescue has announced a blockade of the clinics in Houston. They plan to use the Republican Convention (Aug17-21) as a media stage for their antics, vowing to close down abortion clinics in Houston during that period.

Stand up for your rights at the **RALLY FOR CHOICE** on Saturday, August 15 from 3-7pm at Murworth & Kirby (near the astrodome). Help the global media get the message that Texas is PRO-CHOICE.

Featured speakers will be Patricia Ireland, President of NOW; Sissy Farenthold, Sara Weddington, atty for Roe vs. Wade; Debra Danburg, Poppy Northcutt, Annise Parker, Jacsun Shaw, Linda Morales, Ben Reyes and more. Also live entertainment and celebrity MCs.

We know the weather's hot, but the abortion issue is even hotter. Failing to act not will burn us much worse than the Houston Sun!! Bring your sunscreen, shades, parasols, lawn chairs, blankets, coolers, visors, etc.- whatever it takes to keep you cool (no alcohol or glass containers, please.

Satellite Parking at the Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway @ Murworth. Meet your friends or new acquaintances at the Ranch parking lot and pile 5 or 6 people into one car to drive to the Rally Site. Only full cars or vans will be able to park at the site.

Here are some chants to help you **GET FIRED UP!**

Right to Life; That's a Lie
You don't care if women die

Racist Sexist Anti-Gay
Pro-life bigots go away

1 2 3 4 Abortion Rights for rich & poor
5 6 7 8 You can't make us procreate

Not the church, Not the State
Women will decide our fate

See y'all at the **RALLY**.

Abortion Foes See Confrontation Tactics Backfire in New York (Democratic Convention)

By **CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD**
Special to The New York Times

NEW YORK, July 18 — One year after sustained and sometimes violent abortion protests froze the city of Wichita, Kan., in a 46-day showdown that ended with more than 2,600 arrests, the militant anti-abortion group Operation Rescue came to New York City a week ago hoping for a prime showcase. They left barely a mark.

Numbers were the strength of the abortion-rights supporters, however, who had prepared for the threatened confrontation for six weeks. A coalition of groups organized by the Feminist Majority into the New York Clinic Defense Task Force trained more than 5,000 men and women in techniques intended to keep abortion protesters from interfering with clinics.

During convention week, the group coordinated as many as 3,000 people on a single day to stand with linked arms in front of clinics. They were prepared to counter typical Operation Rescue assaults, such as blocking doorways, rushing patients and locking members inside clinic areas. For the most part, the attacks never came. When they did, they were controlled by police or driven away by abortion-rights supporters.

AUGUST PRO-CHOICE CALENDAR

August 1, Saturday 8:30-11am
Clinic Defense Training
Allen Parkway Village Community Center, Allen Parkway Feeder at Valentine

August 2, Sunday 1-3pm
Clinic Defense Orientation
Beth Yeshuren, 4525 Beechnut near North Braeswood

Aug 3, Monday
Flyer Distribution Meeting
7pm NOW Rally Flyers
8pm Houston Defending Choice Flyers, both meet at Butera's on Montrose

Aug 6, Thursday 7-9pm
Clinic Defense Training
University of Houston Student Center, Embassy Room

Aug 8, Saturday 8:30-11am
Tentative Clinic Defense Training
Call 981-2884 See Aug 1 entry

Aug 11-22, Clinic Defense daily
Aug 15, Saturday
PRO-CHOICE RALLY 3-7pm at Murworth & Kirby

Other meetings to be announced

For updates on clinic defense, call Houston Defending Choice at 981-2884 (recorded message).

For info on the Pro-Choice Rally, call NOW at 668-9008.

Houston needs 2,000 volunteers to defend the clinics. Houston activists travelled to Baton Rouge to help defend their clinic July 5-12 and to study Operation Rescue's tactics firsthand. Houston clinics need all pro-choice supporters to the volunteer for this effort.

PRO - CHOICE



ATTEND CLINIC DEFENSE ORIENTATIONS

- Learn what Operation Rescue represents
- Learn how to defend our clinics against them
- Join the HDC Coalition
- Help us prepare in any way you can for August 11-22
- **ATTEND PRO-CHOICE RALLY ON AUGUST 15th AT 3 PM**

For More Information Please Call
713 • 981 • 2884

NORTHERN EXPOSURE PRAISE, AND A REQUEST

The hit series *Northern Exposure* deserves praise for two recent episodes -- and encouragement to make lesbians and gays recurring characters.

Late April saw the return of Ron and Erick, the gay lovers who last season bought Cicely, Alaska's local bed and breakfast (but hadn't been seen since). The handsome couple faced off against homophobic ex-astronaut Maurice, and anti-gay prejudice was held up as decidedly uncool.

The May season finale was a flashback about Roslyn and Cicely, the turn-of-the-century lesbian lovers who founded the town as a colony of free thinkers. Declared Cicely, "My heart belongs to Roslyn and it always will. Our souls are one and I can't imagine life apart from her."

Tragically, Cicely dies at the end of the episode (and the town is given her name). But since the show's present-day regulars played assorted roles (remember, it was a flashback), why couldn't Jo Anderson and Yvonne Suhor (who played Cicely and Roslyn) be brought back as present-day lovers?

Ask for more of Ron and Erick and a modern reincarnation of Roslyn and Cicely. Write Joshua Brand and John Falsey, Executive Producers, *Northern Exposure*, Finnegan-Pinchuk Productions, 4225 Coldwater Canyon, Studio City, CA 91604.

Published by GLAAD/New York
for national distribution.

PACIFICA'S
NATIONAL
TOWN HALL
MEETINGS

CRITICAL ELECTION ISSUES EXAMINED IN PACIFICA RADIO'S TOWN HALL MEETING! ON THE EVE OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION PACIFICA RADIO CENTERS ITS ATTENTION ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN

IN A SPECIAL ELECTION-YEAR TOWN HALL MEETING TO BE BROADCAST
LIVE FROM HOUSTON

ON KPFT 90.1 FM ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 6:00 -8:00 pm

WE'LL HAVE AN EXPERT PANEL WITH DISTINCT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION PLUS A LIVE AUDIENCE AND LISTENER CALL-INS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Experience this live national radio broadcast featuring an exchange of ideas, opinions, and information from our panelists.

TUNE IN TO KPFT 90.1 FM ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

FOR AN IMPORTANT SESSION THAT WILL SURVEY THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS LANDSCAPE AND STUDY THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE.

For more information call Annie at : KPFT Radio 90.1 FM, (713)526-4000

Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby EMERGENCY REPLY

Dear Friend of L.G.R.L.,

Your Lobby is faced with a financial emergency.

We must raise \$25,000 in the next 14 days to pay for office rent, past due bills and salaries for staff -- or we may be forced to close our doors permanently.

The Lobby has always operated on a shoestring budget -- one person -- one goal -- to represent your civil rights.

That is still our goal, but we're growing quickly and we must step up our fundraising efforts so that we can best protect your civil rights at the state level.

In the last twelve months, the Lobby and you were successful in:

** including the words "sexual orientation" in the Hate Crimes Statistics Act -- legislation extremely important to lesbian and gay people because it provides for keeping count of the number of hate crimes committed against us because of who we choose to love.

** stopping the threat of mandatory HIV testing for health care workers, doctors and dentists -- an invasion of privacy and a threat to the continued practice of these valued health care professionals.

** appointing openly gay and lesbian people to crucial state boards and commissions -- like the Texas Funeral Commission -- a state agency that regulates the burials of loved ones who have died of AIDS.

Appointments like this one are important because when lovers of those who have died are denied the right to make funeral decisions, they can turn for help to the openly-lesbian attorney now on the Commission.

The Lobby has been instrumental in working with Governor Richards to encourage the appointments of lesbian and gay people. Already, an HIV+ man has been appointed to the Texas Board of Health, as well as an openly gay attorney to a state judgeship in Dallas.

I cannot tell you how important these appointments are to lesbian and gay people. With representation in our state government, we can be assured of fair and compassionate decisions that will affect our lives.

Dear Laurie,

YES! I want to help continue the important work the Lobby is doing for gay and lesbian people. Here's my extra-generous gift to help you raise \$25,000 in the next 14 days:

\$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Please send me information on:

The Lobby's monthly giving program.

Including the Lobby in my will.

Please make your check out to L.G.R.L. and mail in the envelope provided.

Because L.G.R.L. is a 501-c (4) lobbying organization, your gift is not tax deductible.

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas reports a victory for public health policy.

On June 30th Attorney General Dan Morales struck down rules promulgated by the Texas Board of Dental Examiners (the Board) which would have allowed the Board to establish review panels to restrict and counsel HIV positive dentists. Other provisions in these rules would have required dentists to disclose HIV status to an expert review panel established by the Board within 24 hours of a positive test result. In turn, the expert review panel would have released the dental worker's name to the Executive Director and the Secretary of the Board. Dental workers who failed to report would have been subject to license revocation.

The proposed rules were based upon the Board's interpretation of HB 7, a law adopted during a special legislative session of the Texas legislature during the summer of 1991. HB 7 was based upon the Centers for Disease Controls' guidelines governing HIV and health care workers. The CDC guidelines called for continued use of universal precautions and pointed out the minuscule risk of transmitting HIV from health care worker to patient. However, these guidelines also stated that HIV positive health care workers should not perform "exposure-prone" procedures. This term was never fully defined by the CDC, and AIDS activists across the country are waiting for the CDC to either better define the term, or drop its usage. The guidelines also called for the establishment of "peer review panels" to counsel HIV positive health care workers.

Laurie Eislerloh, who is both the Executive Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby and a lawyer, stated that she had written a brief in opposition to the Dental Board's proposed rules. The brief was signed on to by Professor Eugene Harrington of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Professor Mary Ann Bobinski of the University of Houston Health Law Project, State Representative Glen Maxey, the AIDS Equity League and the Texas AIDS Network. The Attorney General's opinion mirrored the points argued in this brief. Specifically, the Attorney General stated that 1. The Dental Board was overstepping the authority granted to it under state law and 2. The rules violated Texas confidentiality laws with regard to HIV infection. Eislerloh stated that "this ruling sets a strong precedent which will prevent other health care worker licensing boards from overstepping their authority."

Although HB 7 and the CDC guidelines call for peer review panels, it is open to question which agency or agencies will form these review panels. "We are waiting for federal guidance on this issue," Eislerloh stated, "There is a rumor that the Texas Department of Health may be the correct agency to set up these panels." Eislerloh also pointed out that because of confidentiality problems and potential witch hunts that could result in the revocation of health care workers' licenses, she was pleased that the licensing board was held to be an inappropriate body to handle the review panels.

"This is a real victory for good public health policy," Eislerloh stated.

Laurie Eislerloh, Executive Director/Lobbyist • Kay Vinson, Director of Development

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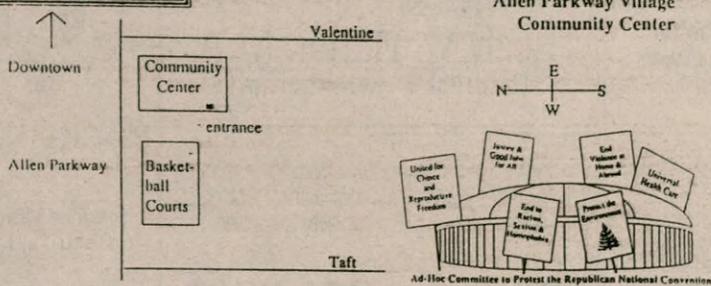
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-Quoted in "Women and the Gulf Crisis" publ. by Church Women United

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