

# IN YOUR FACE . .

THE NEWSLETTER OF **QUEER NATION** HOUSTON

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

JUNE, 1992



QUEER NATION Member, Brian Bradley protests at David Duke Rally in League City

## NAZI GO HOME...DUKE IS A BIGOT...

by Gary Jarvis

These were the slogans as protesters marched against David Duke on Thursday February 27, 1992. League City was the site for the gathering of ex-KKK Grand Wizard David Duke who drew a crowd of about 700 people. Supporters stood in line being searched by police officers to get inside to hear what propaganda the presidential candidate had to offer.

Queer Nation gathered at Cafe Express at 5:30 on Thursday, February 27, and caravanned down to League City, the host of the Duke rally. Duke was met by 50 queer nationalists and other organizations who also were opposed to his presence in League City. Some queer nationalists went inside to hear what the candidate had to say. Others remained outside to carry on the opposition with many signs and chants protesting the presidential candidate.

Inside, all walks of life were present to hear what Duke had to say. He promised to bring about change in the life of the American worker and to bring about a change in the way America does business. His returned to "traditional European values" seemed to overwhelm the majority of his followers. He suggested that traditional values were put aside in the early seventies when discrimination was abolished by supporters of blacks rights. He proposes we "gain control of what is traditionally ours..." which is of course "white supremacy" in an independent nation.

Duke also proposed to appropriate existing funds for AIDS to other health care

plans with no federal funding to help in the research for an AIDS cure. Monies would have to be funded through private donations or through state funding leaving states to raise the needed revenue for AIDS healthcare and research.

Duke's speech was challenged by Queer Nationalist Brian Bradley who stood up holding a sign which read, "NAZI GO HOME". Bradley was immediately taken down by 5 police officers, hand-cuffed and held in jail for several hours by the Galveston County Police. As other Queer Nationalists came outside, people began chanting "let him go...". Bradley quickly became the eye of the press and all of the gatherers at the rally. While he was being held, officers were brought onto the bus to view "a queer" in custody. He was later released into the custody of other Queer Nationalists under the provision that they leave the area and not to return.

Queer Nation Houston considers the protest to be a great success in all aspects. It will continue to oppose any candidate who comes to Houston that we feel does not accept "gay and AIDS related issues" and who is not a contender for the fight for gay/lesbian rights as a human issue.

**VISIBLY  
QUEER  
QUEER NATION**

## REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION. HATED IT!

By David Fowler

Get ready folks its going to be a long hot summer. The Bush/Quayle dog and pony show is coming to Houston in August and it will be a "sight unseen" in this apathetic Queer community. QUEER NATION is already "gearing-up" for a week of fun and games at George and Barbara's (thank you Edward Albee).

Between QUEER NATION Tribes and the ACT-UP Network, the fun and games just might not be so much fun for the racist, bigot, homophobic Nazi Republicans. Now don't get me wrong, some of my best friends aren't Republicans, but then again, you can't win them all. Expect to see the Klu Klux Klan (and they think we dress funny), the skinheads (who probably all use Queer Hairdressers) and the pro-lifers (who can't even take care of their own kids) to be here in all their glory spreading their hate and ignorance all over the Space City. Well, we will be ready for them. We will have on our best Sunday dresses and the rollers will be out of our hair (we must look our best. We wouldn't want to give the Republicans the wrong impression of Houston). We have already set up headquarters here in Houston for Queer Nationalists and ACT-UPer's, so when the time comes we will have all our cards in order for the main game (joke), the Republican National Convention.

QUEER NATION and ACT-UP have come up with an agenda for the four-day Republican extravaganza. The main event will take place on Monday, August 17th, at 4:00 p.m. which will be a grand march for the end of AIDS from Herman Park to the Astrodome. Events for the remaining three days will be announced at a further date (we don't want to give all our secrets away, now do we?)

We will need places for Queer Nationalists to stay for these four days, so if you have any space available please let us know as soon as possible. I hope that every Fag and Dyke in this city will come out and support QUEER NATION and the ACT-UP NETWORK in fighting for our civil rights. We can no longer let the government control our bodies and kill us off like flies. AIDS is still the most important issue in the Queer Community and we must never let the Republicans or Democrats forget that. For more information on the events of the Republican Convention call the QUEER NATION Hotline at (713) 529-2969.

# QUEER NATION HOUSTON TRIBE

## WHAT IS QUEER NATION?

Queer Nation is a diverse group of women and men united to fight homophobia in all its forms. We use non-traditional, non-violent tactics to zap homophobes and increase queer visibility. The group formed in New York City in June, 1990. The Houston chapter formed in January, 1991. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Montrose Palace, 1501 Nevada at Commonwealth.

## Why the word "Queer"?

We believe that by using a word that has often been used by homophobes to hurt lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, we will rob that word of its power to hurt us. We will not allow any name or label to rob us of our dignity as human beings. The pink triangle is a symbol of the ultimate oppression of queer people, yet we have turned it into a symbol of pride. We intend to do the same with any negative label that may be used against us.

## Some meeting rules

Queer Nation meetings are run by two facilitators (one man and one woman) each week. If you plan to speak, raise your hand and you will be recognized. Please keep comments brief. If you wish to place an item on the agenda, speak up at the beginning of the meeting. The facilitators are volunteers. Please be nice to them.

## Who may speak at a meeting?

All persons in attendance at a meeting are full participants. There is no membership process. A box is passed for donations each week to help meet expenses.

## Affinity Groups

Queer Nation is a very loosely organized democratic organization. We have no officers or elected leaders (except a treasurer). However, we have organized some committees and groups within the organization to focus on special issues.

## SHOP (Surburban Homo Outreach Program)

This group goes to places where queer people normally are not visible (malls, shopping centers, and other places to spend money) to remind everyone that we really are everywhere.

Contact: Mike Finn, 527-9721  
Chris Westcott, 529,6117

## Fine Young Queers

This group is open to everyone and is concerned with protecting the rights of young lesbian, gay, and bisexual people.

Contact: Angy Polite, 522-7523  
David Embry, 864-9146

## Quick Response

This group organizes an action whenever speed is of the essence and we have no time

for a full meeting.

Contact: Tracy Brown, 524-4657  
Jon Bourgault, 528-3643

## United Colors of Queer Nation

This group works on issues of importance to queer people of all colors.

Contact: Michael Crawford, 224-2947  
Christopher Miles, 520-6701

## PISD (People with immune system disorders)

This group organizes actions around issues dealing with HIV and with AIDS.

Contact: Brian Bradley, 528-6539 or  
794-1901

Everyone is welcome to get involved in any of these affinity groups or to start one of your own.

## Does Queer Nation break the law?

Sometimes Queer Nation may plan on breaking the law at an action as a part of an act of civil disobedience. When we do this we are perfectly willing to face the consequences, i.e. get arrested. Some individual members may feel the need to break the law in other ways. As a group, we do not approve of this, and any members who do so must be prepared to face the consequences.

## QUEER IS COOL

## SUPPORT QUEER POWER

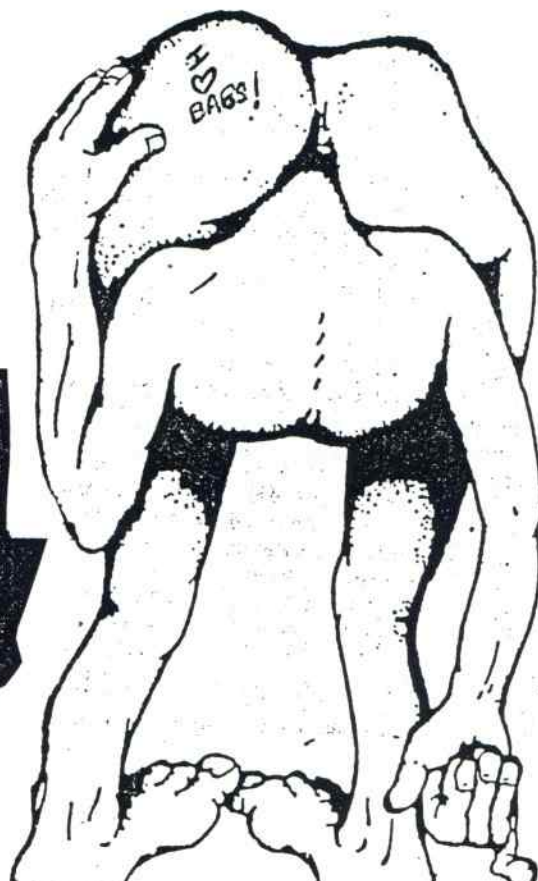
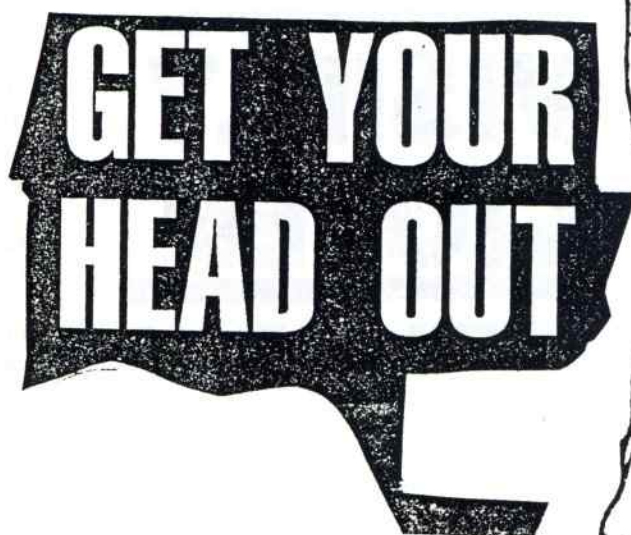
## BE VISIBLY QUEER!

QUEER NATION HOTLINE (713) 529-2969

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WHEN IT COMES TO: AIDS, DRUG WAR,  
ABORTION (PRO-CHOICE), HOMELESS,  
HEALTH CARE, QUEER RIGHTS,  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EDUCATION.....

WE KNOW  
WHERE  
GEORGE'S  
HEAD  
IS!!



## HOUSTON NAMES PROJECT PRESENTS: AN EVENT IN 3 ACTS

by Christopher Shay

HOUSTON NAMES PROJECT presents AN EVENT IN 3 ACTS this spring, including the tour of the Memorial Quilt. The four day display will provide information, education, and a chance to see the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The display is set for May 1-4, 1992 in the Jerabeck Athletic and Activity Center at University of St. Thomas.

**Act One** begins with the touring group Heartstrings. Heartstrings is an upbeat musical fundraising show filled with beautiful music, dance, and dazzling production numbers. Celebrity narrators and actors tie the musical selections together with the words of mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, people living with AIDS, their friends and caregivers. The lyrics of well-known songs take on a special meaning within the context of the show and have a lasting effect on the audience. The show will be performed by a traveling cast of twenty professional singers and dancers. In Houston, the touring company will be joined by a local gospel choir, a men's chorus, and ten local children. Heartstrings will perform April 29 & 30 in Jones Hall.

**Act Two** includes the showing of "The AIDS Memorial Quilt". On the weekend following the performance of Heartstrings, volunteers will ceremonially unfold a portion of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt beginning a weekend-long display. The Quilt itself is a moving and colorful mosaic of 3 feet by 6 feet rectangles of cloth pieced together as a symbol of hope and love. The size of the panels itself is symbolic; each panel measures 3 feet by 6 feet, the size of an average grave. The Quilt is the largest arts community project in the world. The Quilt began with a group of people that searched for a way to vent their anguish and frustration. People were dying of AIDS and little if anything was being done to prevent it.

In November of 1985, Cleve Jones got the idea for the Quilt when he saw friends tape the names of those who have died of AIDS on a wall in San Francisco. He watched the taped pieces fall off the wall and wanted a more permanent way to remember friends and those that have died to AIDS.

In 1987, Cleve Jones and six other people met in an empty San Francisco storefront. Each person wanted to remember their friends and family members that they had lost. Starting out with sewing needles, thread and a few scraps of fabric, their special tribute soon took the shape of a quilt. The Quilt, now a living memorial of loved ones lost to AIDS, will be shown in Houston this spring.

**Act Three** involves more than a performance of HEARTSTRINGS and a display of the "Quilt". The 1992 Tour will involve tens of thousands of people from every segment of society: volunteers to help coordinate the Events, corporate citizens providing resources and funds, and community leaders lending their support and time in helping bring AN EVENT IN 3 ACTS to Houston.

Heartstrings provides a non-threatening way for people to take the first step in becoming involved in the issues of AIDS. The Quilt touches people in a different way; it opens their hearts so that they no longer turn away, but rather, they understand the value of

each and every life that has been lost.

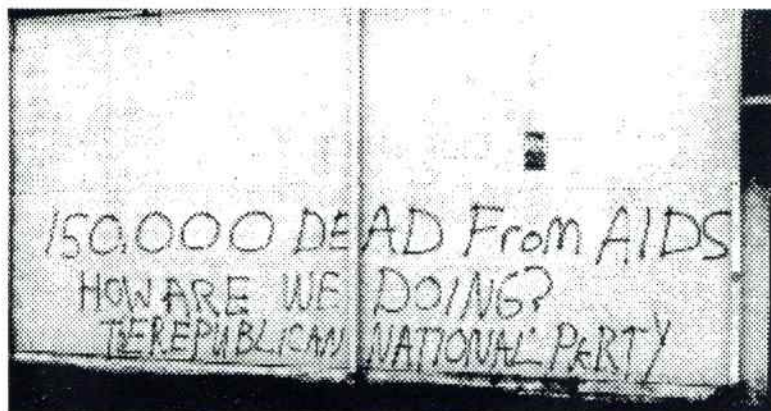
Later this year, the international chapters of the NAMES PROJECT along with the United States chapters will present the Memorial Quilt along with panels from overseas. The event is scheduled for display in Washington D.C. on October 9-12, 1992.

For information about AN EVENT IN 3 ACTS fundraisers, making a panel for the Quilt, or information about donating time or money, please contact the NAMES Project Houston at 713-52-NAMES.

Many thanks goes to **The NAMES Project Houston** for providing information to complete this article.



## Graffiti seen recently in Montrose courtesy of the QUEER TURF Bandit.



Editor's Note: QUEER TURF is not affiliated with QUEER NATION. These photographs are included as informational items only. QUEER NATION does not condone or support vandalism.

## QUEER NATIONALS CHASE FUNDIES OUT OF MONTROSE

by Paul Mullan

Over 100 incensed Queer Nationals faced-off against a self-described "army of Christian soul-savers" that had invaded the Montrose area, Houston's predominantly gay and lesbian community, on the night of Saturday, March 7. The "army," a group of about 300 religious fundamentalists, had intended to confront area residents and spread their "Christian message" that "[people] do't need to give in to drugs, murder, or homosexuality," but they were forced to retreat from the neighborhood after a tumultuous two-hour confrontation with the Nationals.

A member of the local Queer Nation tribe received information late Friday night from a source within the Houston Police Department (HPD). The source warned that the fundamentalists wanted to march to the 800 block of Pacific St., a bustling area on any Saturday night and home to half-a-dozen gay bars and dance clubs, where they would attempt to confront and save the numerous bar patrons from Queerdom.

Acting quickly on this information, Queer Nation had 50 activists mobilized on Pacific St. by Saturday night to fend off the fundamentalists. At 10:00 PM, with the Christians still not having appeared, the Nationals learned that they were holding a rally in the parking lot of the Montrose Kwik Kopy building just a few blocks away.

The activists marched towards the lot, gaining more supporters along the way and chanting "You're on Queer Turf!" once they were within sight of the rally. Upon arrival, the Queer Nationals broke into the evangelists' paryer circle and continued to chant, before some of the 50 HPD officers present on the scene peacefully separated the two groups. The Nationals were then restricted to the adjacent sidewalk along Montrose Blvd.

The rally was sponsored by a number of fundamentalist individuals and organizations, including Evangelical Temple, Church of the Rock, and Houston's Reverend Nicky Cruz. The Church of the Rock produced the video "Todd's Greatest Regret," in which an AIDS patient on his deathbed urges other PWA's to "save" themselves from homosexuality by eschewing treatment and allowing themselves to die. According to Sgt. R.I. Klescynski of the HPD, the Cruz group organized the rally, obtaining a sound permit from the city and permission to use the parking lot of the Kwik Kopy building.

While the rally continued, the Nationals chanted slogans and held placards in opposition to homophobia, racism, and sexism, all of which garnered considerable support from passers-by, many of whom honked their horns to show their Queer solidarity. The fundamentalists attempted to counter them with gospel singing.

Once the sound permit expired at 11:30 PM, the rally ended. Already faced with over 100 angry Nationals, the fundamentalists were clearly unwilling to confront the hundreds more that would have received them on the crowded and very Queer Pacific St. The evangelical leaders abandoned their reported plan and instead ordered thier followers to march from the lot towards Numbers, a straight, "punk" club six blocks east on Westheimer.

The Nationals followed closely and made their extreme displeasure know to the Christians. While heated verbal exchanges occurred, including one with

the Rev. Cruz himself, there were no reported incidents of violence. Queer Nationalist, Randy Fields justified the Nationals' angry stance by noting that "We don't go into their neighborhood, and we don't expect them to come into ours."

HPD officers mounted on horseback soon separated the two groups, with the fundamentalists limited to the south sidewalk of Westheimer and the Queer Nationals to the north sidewalk. Verbal sparring continued throughout the entire confrontation, which was to last almost one hour.

However, the "soul-savers" did not attempt to recruit any converts once they reached Numbers, which lies on the north side of the street and where the Queer Nationals had congregated outside the entrance with sympathetic patrons. Still faced with a very hostile reception if they were to attempt to cross the street and move towards the club, and uncertain of what to do next, the fundamentalists turned around and walked back to the rally site. There, HPD ordered them to leave the area at once.

A small group of evangelists had broken off from the larger march and attempted to proselytize on Pacific St., but had been dissuaded by yet another group of Nationals and heckling bar patrons.

Thanks to Sheri Cohen-Darbonne at *The New Voice* for some of the information included in this article.

## OUR PRIDE

By Jazz Paz

As Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Week nears, inevitable comparisons are made by observers as to how recent Pride celebrations differ from those of "the good old days" and how we as a people have changed as a result of Stonewall, AIDS, coming out, and the politics of it all.

For those who remember, our history is rich in color and personalities, courage, fear, closets, brutal laws and Pride, as more of us are sick, and dying, as we forget, or if we never knew, we are losing ourselves and our history.

There is no collective, authoritative, published account of Lesbian and Gay Pride in Houston. There exists no written reports of the need for the birth of our institutions such as AIDS Foundation Houston, or Mary's or Pride Week.

Jazz Paz, AIDS nurse, public educator, activist, writer, and native Houstonian, is researching our past for a book of historical record of ourselves and OUR PRIDE. She solicits your memories, pictures, and old newspaper clippings to assist in her endeavor. Specifically, she covets interviewees with anyone associated with past Lesbian and Gay Pride celebrations in Houston, and with those who demonstrate Our Pride by organizing efforts such as QUEER NATION, WOMYNSPACE, THE GAY AND LESBIAN HOTLINE, THE COLT 45's, THE LONE STAR SYMPHONIC BAND and organizers/volunteers representing all our community activities of the past and present.

All contributors will be acknowledged in the book. It is anticipated that every offering will be used. It is hoped that this first-of-its-kind history will inspire further interest in PRIDE in Houston and be a definitive research tool for the generations who follow ours.

If you are willing to be interviewed, offer advice or encouragement, please please call Jazz Paz at (713) 522-9325 or 527-9111.



## EVERY KISS: A REVOLUTIONARY ACT

The following is the text of a speech given at the October 12, 1991 ALTERNATIVE FESTIVAL at Washington, D.C. The author is an AIDS activist and member of QUEER NATION, Washington D.C. tribe.

My name is Greg Scott—and I'm a big Queer!

Now I know that a lot of you—even some of you dykes and fags—think QUEER is a dirty word. But I'm here to tell you different. I'm here to tell you the QUEER truth.

**QUEER TRUTH #1: STONE-WALL WAS A RIOT.** That's right, a riot—drag queen against cop in the streets of New York City. We celebrate this riot every June, at Pride festivals all across the country. We celebrate this riot because we remember that struggle was essential to the birth of the American QUEER movement. We don't celebrate the first meeting of the Matachine Society—we celebrate a riot. It was a turning point no one could ignore—a slowly but surely, GAY men, LESBIANS, and BISEXUALS became politically motivated. They voted in blocks. They came out at work. They sent lobbyists to Washington. There were many small victories. But as the movement gained momentum, money, and prestige it also lost touch. The riot was forgotten. The drag queens were an embarrassment to this new political machine. The message to the straight world became: "We're just like you except for what we do in bed, and that's none of your business."

The liberationists became assimilationists—building a political agenda on their right to privacy and believing they had won a victory whenever some straight liberal said, "You can't tell by looking."

But at that riot in 1969, you could tell by looking. The drag queens who started it all were big QUEERS. The QUEER truth is straight-acting, straight-appearing will only spell defeat.

**QUEER TRUTH #2: SILENCE EQUALS DEATH.** In 1980, no one wanted to talk about sex. The white heterosexual males who roam the halls of power were afraid to talk about sex. No room in their budgets to talk about sex. No support from their constituents to talk about sex. That's why ronald reagan couldn't

say the word AIDS. To talk about AIDS, you have to talk about sex. reagan had a better idea—let them die.

The assimilationist were also silent. They had positions to protect. Closets to hide in. Dinner invitations to RSVP. So no one said anything. That's why there were no billboards saying "If you fuck without a condom you might die." There were no television ads explaining just what The Centers of Disease Control meant by "bodily fluids." There were no needle exchange programs for junkies or condom distribution programs for the teenagers. Just a deadly silence.

Well, thank the goddesses for those New York QUEERS. They decided in 1987 it was time to ACT UP. The life or death issue of AIDS forced them out of the polite assimilationist rut. Through action and visibility, they discovered that survival was possible. Suddenly the Food and Drug Administration was bending the rules, Burroughs and Wellcome was lowering its prices, and reporters were scrambling. The QUEER truth is, when we are noisy, we are strong!

**QUEER TRUTH #3: THE REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN.** Once AIDS activists had broken through the conspiracy of silence with which the old Gay movement had itself collaborated, there was no stopping our Queer brothers and sisters in New York. Second-class citizenship would no longer do. If Silence Equals Death, they realized, then Invisibility Equals Oppression. To hell with the right to privacy. It was time to fight for a right to be public. A new mandate was authored—sexual alternatives must be visible everywhere—just like the blatant heterosexuality which pervades our culture. At last, it was time to take to the streets and just be Queer. Queer Nation had been born.

As a Queer National, I am no longer content to be left alone in my own bedroom. I now fight to be left alone when I kiss my lover on the street. I'm no longer content that the television networks avoid offending Queer viewers with negative portrayals. I want to tune in and see some Queerness. I am no longer content for the pentagon to look the other way if a Queer soldier is discreet. I now demand that Queer soldiers be free to serve openly and with dignity. I'm no longer content that government agencies not ask if I'm Gay or Straight. I now demand legal acknowledgement of queer relationships—in the tax codes, the courthouses, and the workplace. And I am no longer content that sodomy laws are rarely enforced in most states. Those laws must be repealed and

Queers must be afforded first class citizenship, under the law, from sea to shining sea. The Queer truth is the revolution has begun and America will never be the same.

Now, maybe you're one of those dykes or fags who think you aren't a revolutionary. But I'm here to remind you that every time you make love in the District of Columbia you are breaking the law. Every Queer kiss is a revolutionary act! This is your revolution and Queer Nation needs you to put those kisses on the line.

- Queer Nation has come to Washington to put the D.C. Council on notice. We are not criminals! Repeal the sodomy laws, now!

- Queer Nation has come to Washington to put the Pentagon on notice. The ban on homosexuals in your ranks is hypocritical and unjust. Reverse DOD directive 1332.14, now!

- Queer Nation has come to Washington to put the U.S. Congress on notice. Your complacency is an embarrassment. Sign a sexual minorities rights bill into law, now!

- Queer Nation has come to Washington to put george bush on notice. Homophobia in the white house will not be tolerated. The next time we visit, we're coming through the front door!

- Queer Nation has come to Washington to put every single closeted dyke and fag on notice. You must join us or you will be charged with collaboration—and the names of all collaborators will be published!

Washington D.C., consider this your notice—the Revolution has begun. That's the Queer Truth.



## THE PATH TO 'QUEER SALVATION'

by Stephen J. Smith

I will never call myself Gay again.

I have nothing to be gay about. Sodomy is still a crime in the District of Columbia and 26 states, including Maryland and Virginia. There is a 42 percent rise in reported hate crimes targeted at homosexuals. Eleven years and 126,000 deaths later, we still have a government that has been silent on AIDS while myself and a million others die of a disease whose spread could have been prevented. I am a queer—different and proud—fag and dyke (my agenda includes women).

Besides I hate Gay men.

Gay men live in a fantasy world. They believe that if they wear nice Brooks Brothers shirts, khakis, loafers, and then take out full page ads in the New York Times to tell the world how nice we are, George Bush will send us all engraved invitations for brunch at the White House.

Wake Up! George Bush hates fags and dykes. His murderous inaction on AIDS is proof.

I am sick to death of hearing that screaming and yelling in the streets will get us nowhere. Being nice little girls didn't get women the right to vote in this country. Taking to the streets did. I'm sick of Gay men in their sweaters telling me that civil disobedience isn't going to get us anywhere. Tell that to Rosa Parks. Blacks would still be riding on the back of the bus if it weren't for civil disobedience.

Civil disobedience is not only just, it is a responsibility. I'm sick to death of nice little boys with Cape Cods in their hands telling me that black tie fundraisers will win us our freedom. Get a grip. Stonewall was a riot, not a cocktail party.

I'm sick of anyone who says that we have to be nice. One of the first acts of American independence was throwing tea into the Boston harbor. Freedom was not won by being nice. It took a WAR! Put down that cocktail. It's time to get into the streets. It's time to disobey an unjust government that's killing us. It's time to fill the jails. It's time to riot. It's time for a WAR!

Queers are in the streets now fighting for your right to have sex with that man or woman you met at Tracks Saturday night. And what do you do? You whine and moan and complain about how bad we make you look.

Well, you're right.

We do make you look bad. We make you look bad every time you get in front of that mirror. We make you see just how tired you are and what a weak, lame, pathetic creature you are. No amount of cover is going to hide the guilt that is written all over your face.

You hate yourself because they told you to. Then you hate yourself even more for believing it. So you hide. You hide in a big comfy closet so big that it holds millions.

Not only do you hide, but you lie.

Cut-out  
Section

You lie to your parents. You tell your parents your lover is just a friend. You lie at work. You're afraid you would lose your job if your boss and coworkers knew you were a faggot. You lie, lie, lie to everyone. Most of all, you lie to yourself. Your whole life is one big lie. Face it, that's why you really hate queers, because we're a constant in-your-face-reminder that your entire life is based on lies.

Well, maybe that's not only reason you hate queers; you're also scared to death that we'll bomb that little house of lies you took so much time to build. That's right, we have the bomb and we're not afraid to use it. The O-Bomb. The outing bomb. The bomb that annihilates millions of lies with one tiny press release. You say that outing is a violation of your right to privacy, a right which has not been upheld by the Supreme Court (Bowers vs. Hardwick). We say outing takes away your security blanket of lies.

Enough privacy already! What about our right to love in public?!

It may surprise you to learn that not all queers feel that outing should be used as a weapon. More than just a few of us happen to think there is nothing wrong with saying that someone is a "homo" and would like to do more outing of people that we like. Why should all the politicians and Department of Doom spokespersons get to be outed when there are so many positive role models out there?

Outing can be a very good thing. In fact, many of us have been outed, myself included. I was outed in the seventh grade when I gave head to a boy in the locker room of my Catholic grade school (yes, it was hot). He promptly ran back to the lunch room and proceeded to tell all of the school about it. When my jock buddies asked me about it, I refused to lie. I was labeled a queer. Well, that was just fine with me because I no longer had to lie. The closet door was yeanked right off. So, you see, I'm glad I was outed! You could be too!

All is not lost for you, though, if you will just follow a few simple steps to Queer Salvation. First, admit to yourself that you really are a self-loathing, self-hating, tired, drain on the movement. Accepting yourself as you really are is the first step toward Queer Salvation. Say it out loud. I am a tired, self-loathing, self-hating homosexual. Next, drop out of that tired old Republican party that you belong to. Tear down that huge wall of intricate lies that prevents people from seeing the beautiful queer person that is really you.

Now, you're halfway there. The rest is easy; you're through the hard part. Accept yourself as an out, open, self-loving Queer. Develop a positive attitude about sex. Recognize how much better life is on the "out" side. Get your exciting new self involved. There are hundreds of queer organizations that need the help of people like you to win our freedom. Volunteer. Make a difference. Change society and help create a Queer Future. Make a positive impact on the lives of millions of people you will never even meet. Last, but not least, come to a demo and get arrested!

The author is a Queer and AIDS activist. He is a member of Queer Nation and lives in Washington, D.C.



QUEER NATION Q-Patrol Members

## Q-PATROL UPDATE

by Mark Gartner

Spring weather a year, thus making mem comfortable while walk good weather is more c attracty more violence i have been concentrating patrol members out on I

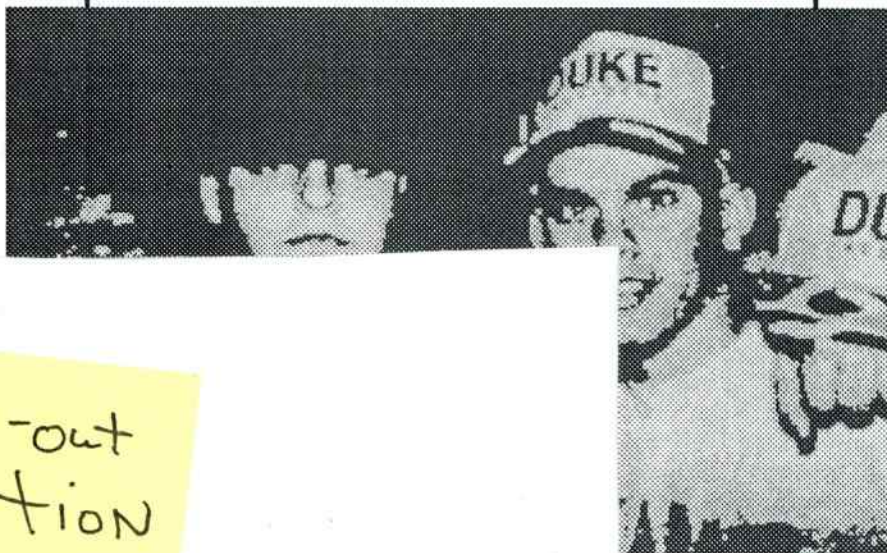
Keith Stewart is for the Patrol. We have members to make a c night. We would like to members sign up at leas shift. Some members se just show up if they ha that practice results in stance, on a recent Frida show up (we target 12 to shift), then the next nig volunteers show up ma

Our volunteer and that should help ea at 48 volunteers. One increase the volunteer various gay/lesbian gro Q-Patrol. We have a 1 that we will be glad to group. Currently we have 3 members who have been trained in giving the presentation.

Funding seems to be going quite well. Our initial expenses for radio equipment, magnetic signs, and tee-shirts amounted to about \$100.00 per month. Of course, we are still just beginning, and really have no track record to indicate just exactly what future needs will be. Our group has been the beneficiary of several fund-raisers and generous contributions. David Westerfield is handling our treasury, and we will publish a financial statement in the near future.

Our database continues to grow, with the license numbers of vehicles carrying suspicious person and assailants. Currently there are about 130 listings in our database. The good news is that we are recording fewer license plate numbers now than when we began in back in November. In the most recent 5 weeks, we have only recorded 4 license numbers, which I think shows that our program is working! Word is getting out to the suburbs that you

IF YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY  
TO PICK ON GAYS,  
PSYCHIATRISTS HAVE A NAME FOR YOU.



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A Message From  
YOUR NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY

can't just go into Montrose to yell at fags without being noticed by the Q-Patrol.

Our mobile patrol is now officially known as the Q-Patrol C.O.P. (Citizens On Patrol). All mobile patrol members have received training through the HPD C.O.P. program. The C.O.P. program prohibits a foot patrol, but there is nothing in the rules that prohibits our Q-Patrol C.O.P. from communicating with the members of our Q-Patrol Foot Patrol. Currently we have 12 of our volunteers trained as C.O.P. members. Additionally C.O.P. training sessions will be given in the future for new members.

## WHO'S COUNTING, ANYWAY?

by Brian Bradley

Each day in America and around the globe, it seems that some new set of epidemiological statistics are released or reported on. With each new report we learn that, indeed, AIDS is not a gay disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) conservatively estimates that at least 75% of the present world caseload of AIDS has occurred among heterosexuals. The WHO self-admittedly states that their numbers are low and that their system of reporting is severely flawed. This results in an inaccurate depiction of the face of AIDS. Not surprisingly, the bias is anti-gay.

The United States, even with its antiquated healthcare system, still spends approximately \$2,500.00 per person each year on healthcare. The average spent in Africa is \$1.50. In most of the world, there is not enough money to pay someone to stand and count the bodies as they die from AIDS. We will never know in this country, let alone in the rest of the world, the true numerical devastation that AIDS has wrought.

The Reaganites made sure there were enough funds available to count the Queers, thus setting the stage to place blame and convolutedly have no reason to properly respond to people with AIDS. Early on, it was said that "AIDS has one thing going for it, it is killing all the right people." This became the Republican and thus America's credo to AIDS.

It will be a very long day before the present federal administration will state the truth about the numbers surrounding AIDS. There is no support from most of our elected officials to assist in fostering an atmosphere that would mitigate the present scientific findings. Our federal, state, and local governments continue to turn a deaf ear to countries needing help in gathering true, accurate, unbiased findings. This would strengthen the fact that AIDS is indeed a global crisis, and not just an isolated and contained disease. George Bush has no interest in knowing why gay men have been disproportionately affected in America. This incredible ignorance will only further put every American at risk.

If our federal government and society ever decides to stop standing by and watching the body count rise, it will only be after perhaps tens of thousands of white, heterosexual men die from AIDS complications. Even then, will we be told these numbers? Probably not.

Until the Bush administration finds the heart, brains, and guts to face this crisis we, the queer community, are left with two things: first the numbers that we do have; and second, the responsibility to do something with them.

I am often unimpressed with the comments from the general public, and more so by the queer community, when I am told that the mere numbers are too much for any one individual to comprehend or respond to. Since the beginning of the AIDS pandemic countless thousands of gay men and lesbians, along with their friends have devoted their lives and resources to caring for people living with AIDS. The queer community as a whole has been the sole source of any positive attention that AIDS has received. Any small progress that has been made is to the credit of this brave and unselfish group of humans. Unfortunately while the majority of the gay and lesbian community who have responded to this modern day plague have been caring for the sick. The job of addressing the politics of AIDS has gone largely undone, by the overall community.

The time has arrived and is long overdue that we get off our collective ass and become more politically involved. It is our only hope that our needs, and thus the world's, will be addressed. How many more must die? How many does it take until we have had enough?

If the fact that by the year 2000, 30 to 40 million people, worldwide will be infected by the AIDS virus is too much to grasp, then I suppose that I should not tell you that by the same year some 10 million are expected to have already died. I will not waste this space on telling you that in America alone, one million men and women are already infected and 150,000 have already died. Forgive me if I am accidentally overheard to say that there is not a cure or vaccine in sight. Also, forgive me for saying there are only two approved anti-viral drugs available and that both of them still have not proved to be very effective in improving the quality or longevity of people living with AIDS. One of these two, AZT, holds the record for being the most expensive drug in the history of medicine. We pay more. We die more. We get less. God bless America.

If these numbers are too daunting, then let us look at the numbers in Houston alone. But first, bear in mind that the official definition of AIDS will change in less than one month. This could cause Houston's caseload to triple. At the present one in 90 people living in the Houston metropolitan statistical area is infected with the virus suspected to cause AIDS. Since 1981 until December 31, 1991, there have been 6095 cases of AIDS from the Houston area reported to the Centers for Disease Control. Of that number, 4145 are no longer living. The death toll stands at 68%. The percentage of reported cases that have occurred via a male-to-male mode of transmission is 75%. Those cases reported in the male-to-male sex and intravenous drug use category is 9%. The cumulative figure is 84%. These Houston figures do not have parity with the national percentages. The most concrete fact that remains is GAY MEN IN HOUSTON, TEXAS ARE DYING 84 TO 16!

Still, our community refuses to become involved with things political. Well, that inaction just might kill you. Our apathy has allowed our gay brothers, and to a lesser degree; but no less importantly, our sisters to continue to die.

We refuse to register to vote by the thousands, and those of us who are registered most often don't exercise that power. We refuse to educate ourselves, or let others lead or educate us. We are a politically pathetic bunch who seem to care more about our ability to exercise our right to drink ourselves into a mental stupor, so we will not have to face the reality that the overwhelming majority of society finds us repugnant and could not care less if we all died.

We refuse to demand, on any large scale, our rights to live in peace. We stand by, more concerned with interior design schemes and the latest fashion trend, than with the killings and bashings that dog our every step. We care more about maintaining our invisible, closeted identities than having our children taken away from us by a governmental system that call us unfit to parent. This is the same system that was created and is supported by a society rife with child molestation and neglect, the same system that fosters wife-beating as a national pastime and sport. We care more about supporting a military system that annually spends hundreds of billions of dollars in the pursuit of death and destruction, and many millions more in persecuting and prosecuting queer soliders, than we do about providing healthcare and the alleviation of suffering. We care more about prostrating ourselves upon the alters of the very churches that are at the root of most homophobia. We care more about appeasing and trying to please family members who will never accept us nor love us than we do about loving ourselves. We spend more time

*continued on next page.*

debating "QUEER" versus "GAY" than we ever did debating justice. The average "good homosexual" never becomes involved in "nasty politics" while the very sexual act that society uses to define us makes us criminals in 26 states and the District of Columbia.

Each time that we fall in love, begin a relationship, have children, apply for a job, take up residency, or even have the temerity to become ill or die, we commit a political act. With each passing day of the Reagan-Bush era the stakes become higher and higher for every gay man, lesbian, or queer. With each passing day more and more of us retreat further back into our closets. Our choices have become fewer and fewer. We can choose the closet, choose a coffin, or try, just try to choose to fight. The enemy is well known and his (the Republican) intention is clear. Either allow AIDS, homophobia, bigotry, ignorance, or inaction to be your excuse for not taking control of your destiny, or realize that our continued existence is an act of pure politics. Then act on that realization. Vote, volunteer, protest, write a check, run for office; or support a candidate. Go to jail, come out of the closet; and stay out, be HIV-positive, and know no shame. Yes, even die with the dignity that you deserve. Do anything except do nothing.

The most important action, at least I feel so, is to do something, anything, about AIDS. This is not our disease, but yet it possesses us. It holds us hostage in talons so sharp that it will rip the very life out of millions more before its hunger is fed. We will have no gay or queer rights when we are dead. We will not run with our children if our lungs are shot from having PCP for the fourth time. We will hold no jobs if our faces are covered with Kaposi's sarcoma. We will have no lovers if they have all died more than two years ago, and we still sleep alone. We will have no friends if we gave their eulogy just last week. We will have no homes if we are better cared for in a hospital. We will have no future if we spend today arranging for our own funerals. We will have no peace, except that which comes on the wings of death, until we have no AIDS.

This article appeared in the April 3, 1992 issue of the of *THE NEW VOICE*, Houston, Texas. Reprinted with permission.

# FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA QUEERS BASH BACK

## A QUEER NATION WARNING

## TARGET: HOLLYWOOD HOMOPHOBIA

### Protest at Houston Opening of *Basic Instinct*

by Paul Mullan

The March 20th. Houston debut of *Basic Instinct*, a controversial film featuring three lesbian and bisexual serial killers, was met locally by about 50 Queer Nationals and other non-affiliated lesbian activists demonstrating against the film's homophobia.

A press release from Catherine Did It, the Queer Nation-Houston affinity group focussing upon the film and named after the killer in the mystery, notes the reasons for the protest: "*Basic Instinct* portrays three women involved in the ice-pick murder of a rock star...The prime suspect is a woman novelist whose lesbian lover killed her brother...Another lesbian murders two men to cover up her affair with the novelist...*Basic Instinct* presents a vicious portrayal of lesbians as crazed, psychotic, man hating killers that reinforces the worst stereotypes about gays and lesbians...There is a direct correlation between anti-gay violence and the negative portrayals of gays and lesbians in films like *Basic Instinct*."

Queer Nationals further explain that the film is but one part of a wider tendency in Hollywood to almost universally represent gays and lesbians in a negative light. In the 1991 production, *The Silence of the Lambs*, the gay character is a transvestite serial murderer who flays his women victims and then wears their skin out of a desire to become a woman. In the 1990 film, *Darkman*, the gay figure is an organized-crime leader who severs and collects the fingers of his prey. As National David Fowler states, "We are not only protesting this individual film [*Basic Instinct*], but also Hollywood homophobia in general."

That Friday evening, the protestors congregated on the public sidewalk adjacent to the Cineplex Odeon-River Oaks Theatre on West Gray Dr., and at 6:45 PM, fifteen minutes before a showing of the film was to begin, and marched 100 yards up to the front entrance of the theatre.

Chanting "Homophobia Kills, Dykes Don't" and "Don't Invest in Hate," the demonstrators made their opposition to the film known once they reached the entrance. In a further attempt to dissuade theatre patrons from paying money to see the film, the Nationals also repeatedly chanted "Catherine Did It," so revealing the "surprise" ending to the would-be mystery movie by divulging the name of the killer.

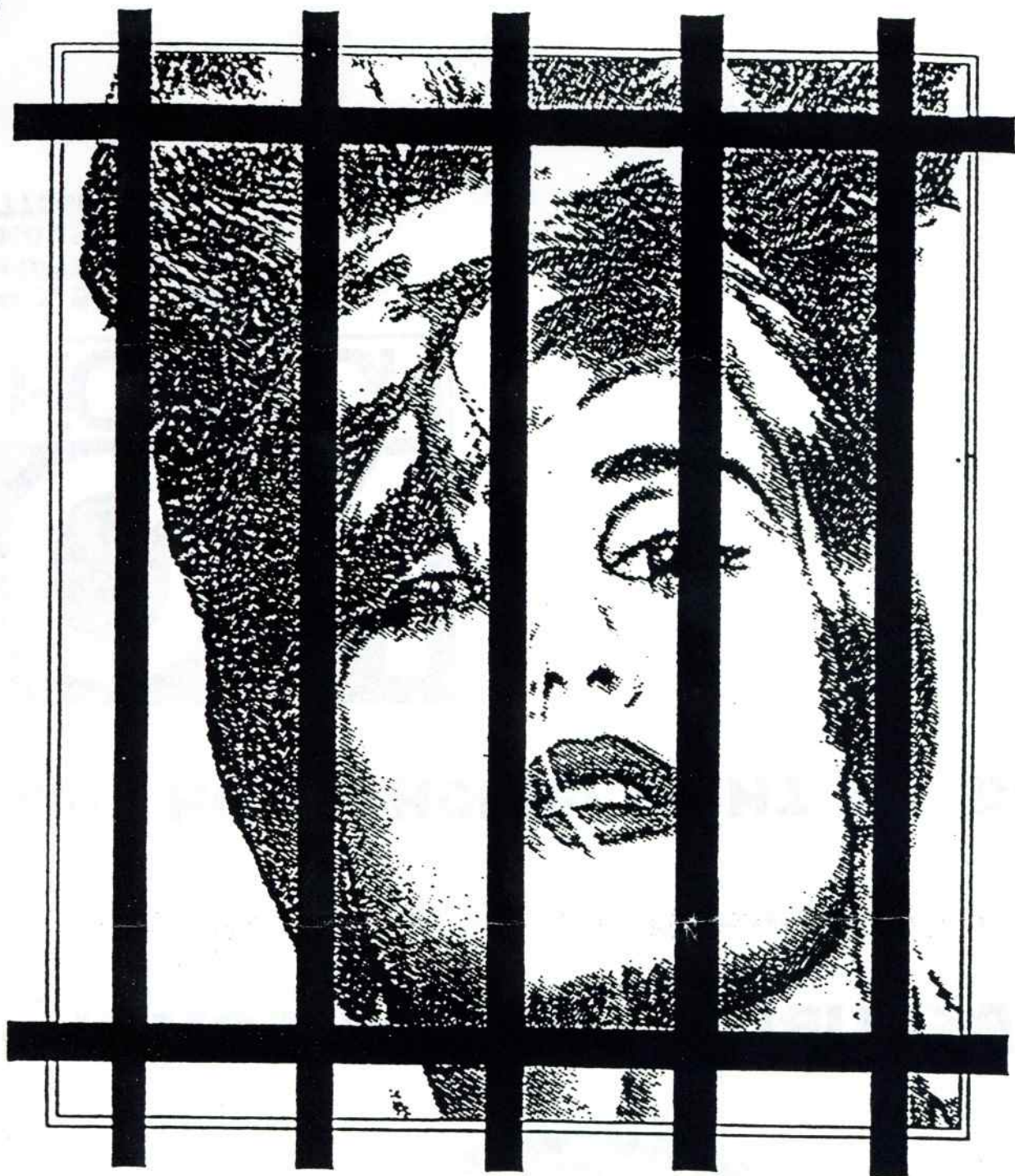
Some theatre-goers, including those angered by the revealing of the film's end, hurled anti-gay and anti-lesbian epithets, but Queer Nationals note that just as many were supportive of the call to boycott the film.

Officers on the scene from the Houston Police Department (HPD) declined to make any arrests of the Nationals, who were technically on private property owned by the theatre.

*Basic Instinct* has been the focus of demonstrations for almost a year. From April-May, 1991, Queers in San Francisco, outraged that the homophobic production was being filmed in a city with one of the most politically powerful gay and lesbian communities in the US, attempted to halt the filming with noisy protests at shoot locations and sabotage against sets.

At 6:00 AM that Friday morning, the Houston Nationals had also hung three large banners from the Southwest Freeway overpasses at Woodhead, Dunlavy, and Mandell, with the ever-present message "Catherine Did It."

# HER ONLY CRIME



# WAS LOVE

QUEER NATION SAYS  
PROTEST THE SODOMY LAW

## **QUEERNATION**

P.O. BOX 66973

SUITE 1017

HOUSTON, TX 77266-6973

We are a grass-roots group. Please send what you can.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

☐ To be added to our "Queers-Я-Us" list, check here.

is fighting for your  
rights, and we need  
your help!

## **CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:**

David Fowler

Brian Bradley

Gary Jarvis

Paul Mullan

Christopher Shay

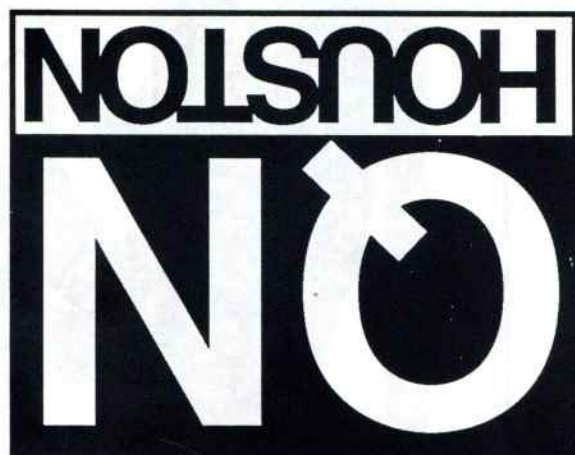
Editor David Fowler

Design and Layout Kelly Martino

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SUITE 1017  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
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**THE REPUBLICANS ARE COMING!**



**GEORGE BUSH: JUST SAY NO!**