

“WE WON!”

MONTROSE
V O I C E

The Newspaper of Montrose,
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Friday
November 20,
1981

Good Evening

Montrose weather tonight:
Fair and cold with a low of 40°.

Saturday: Sunrise 6:51AM. Fair
and cool with a high of 68°
Sunset 5:23PM.



**Gay influence
brings out
mudslingers
in Whitmire's
landslide
victory**

pages 3 and 5

**Wisconsin
approves Gay
Rights Bill**

The Nation, page 7

**"Mark Twain
III" responds
to the Voice**

Letters to the Editor,
page 14

**Are the
Voice's
cartoonists
the best in
Houston?**

Of course. Sargent,
Max and Larson,
inside

**Kathy
Whitmire,
shown left**

Portrait by Voice
artist Wayne Buell

Gay influence and homophobic reactions: Biggest noise maker in our largest election ever

By Henry McClurg

The Houston gay community, following recommendations of the Gay Political Caucus, propelled four out of four candidates into city office Tuesday, Nov. 17, including Kathy Whitmire as mayor.

Whitmire, not only gay supported but also a fellow Montrose resident, began her campaign over a year ago by privately soliciting the gay vote.

She won with 62% against "law-and-order" Harris County Sheriff Jack Heard.

Said Lee Harrington, president of GPC, "This is our finest hour."

During the early campaign, supporters of Whitmire's opponents, most notably police union members backing financial investor Louis Macey, attacked Whitmire because of the gay support. At first, she attempted to avoid publicly dealing with the issue.

In the last two months of Houston's longest major campaign, with its largest voter turnout ever, she began to publicly state she was proud of her gay endorsement and questioned the motives of those who questioned the endorsement.

The fact that the gay community was heavily involved in her campaign, from the very early days with both workers and money, was no surprise or secret to her or the rest of the gay community.

Gay was the issue in Houston this election. On radio talk shows, news programs, newspapers, homosexuality and the homosexuals support of candidates was the subject.

It brought reactionary forces into the open. They charged that homosexuals were "taking over." They bought large newspaper ads and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars near election eve

with Western Union sending a Mailgram to 100,000 registered voters.

It all backfired. The Metropolitan Transit Authority, tax re-structuring, City Hall efficiency, the cable television situation, potholes in the streets, and other critical subjects, took a back seat over the question of the political influence of homosexuals in the election.

In the four final races, one opponent openly, and the supporters of the other three opponents of the GPC-endorsed candidates, said the election of the GPC-supported candidates would mean gay people "would control Houston."

Control is too strong a word. But demand that discrimination and harassment, especially by police officers, discontinue, definitely so.

1981 was the GPC's best election ever, winning eight out of nine positions in which it had made endorsements.

GPC-endorsed candidates, after January 1, will sit in the Mayor's and Controller's offices, and will sit in six of the fourteen City Council seats.

In order to be GPC-endorsed, a candidate must go through a lengthy screening process and favorably answer questions.

The GPC did not make endorsements in seven of the City Council races and lost only in the council race for At Large Position One, where incumbent Jim Westmoreland defeated bails bondsman Morris Belt. Westmoreland did not "gay bait" Belt over his endorsement.

In every race where the GPC opponent did "gay bait" or allow his supporters to do so, the GPC opponent lost.

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Montrose Voice

the newspaper of Montrose

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Montrose Mouth

The sweet taste of victory

The community partied all night Tuesday when the GPC-endorsed candidates made a *clean sweep*: four out of four.

Most scary was that hairline win by George Greanias for the District C council seat. Late in the evening, there were only four precincts still not counted in the total, plus the absentee ballots hadn't been added in. Everybody assumed these missing precincts were Meyerland precincts and that the absentee would be heavily for Dick Gottlieb, and Gottlieb was already ahead of Greanias by 800 votes. Two TV stations and several radio stations felt confident Gottlieb would keep his slight lead and win—and they publicly projected him the victor.

So, Gottlieb was on his way to his victory party, all smiles, to make his speech, when ... oops! One of those missing four precincts turned out to be a big Montrose precinct. George wins by 847 votes—out of 43,781 cast!

Of course, in the other races, it wasn't even close. Folks, *we whopped their asses*.

On the national news media that night and the next day, Kathy Whitmire's win was credited due to the gay support, as *we* all know. On both the NBC and ABC network news shows, we were given credit.

Of course, contrary to what mudslingers said, San Francisco did not come to town and orchestrate this victory. *We did it*. But you can be sure San Francisco was watching. And you can be sure they are proud of us.

The Tuesday night GPC Election Central at Parade turned out to be the "biggest fund-raiser we've ever had without any overhead," said Larry Bagneris Jr.

\$5,240 in political donations were collected.

Larry wishes to announce his special appreciation to Bill Conley for his generosity.

Several weeks back the Mouth chastised Montrose nightspots for not consistently keeping their beer cold. We're happy to report that there's now been *great improvement* in this area.

But there's another problem: dust, bugs and crude on the top of beer cans. Yuk.

Now that we've pointed it out to the club managers, I know they'll take whatever steps are necessary to correct the problem.

The Big Party this weekend is the birthday bash of Arthur Cordova, Steve Couch and Richard Stalcup. It's entitled "Name in Lights."

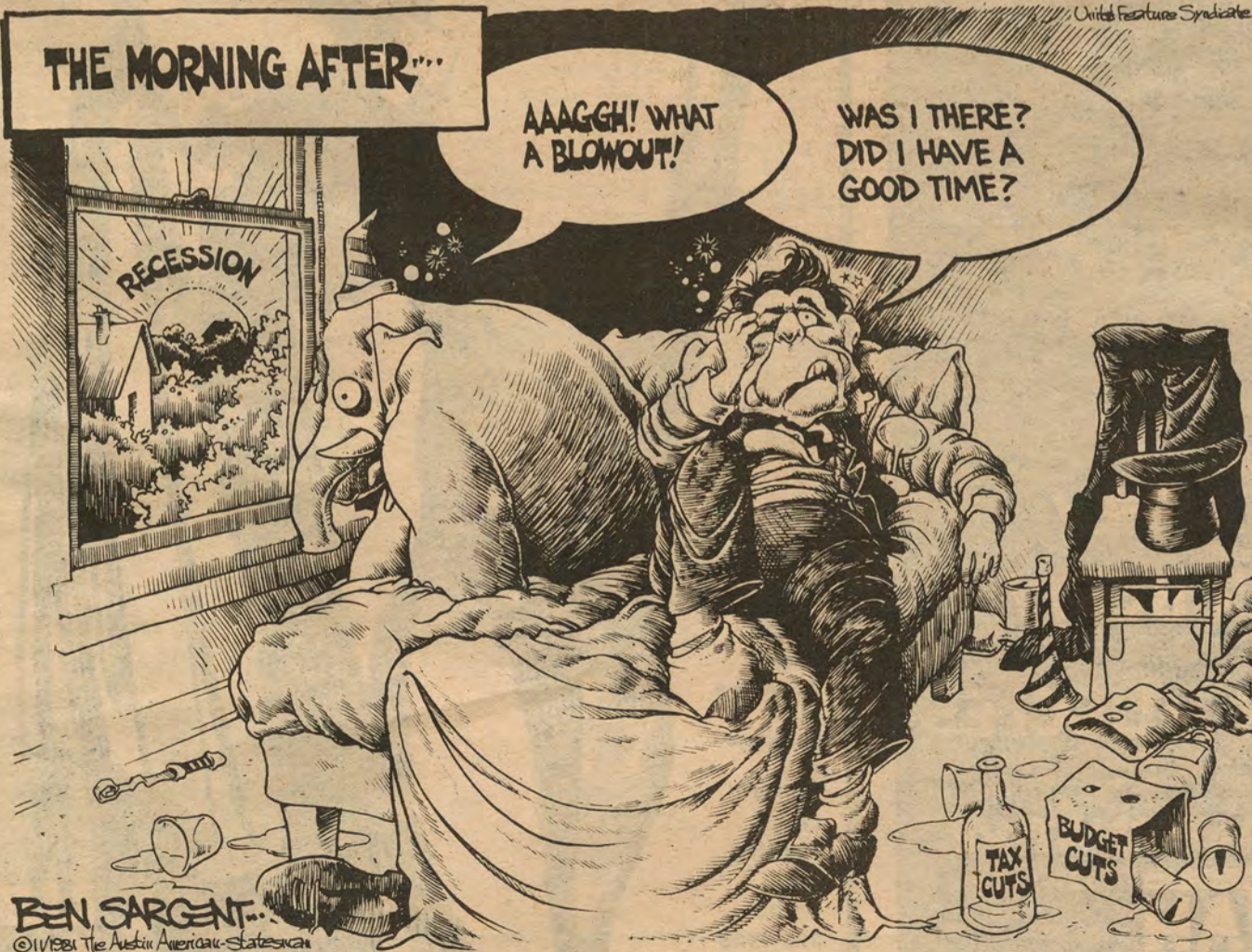
We got a phone call the other day from the Carriage Trade Dinner Club asking for advertising rates.

Well, we said we'd be happy to send it to them. And then we told the woman something we tell all potential advertisers so as not to mislead them: "You do know this is a gay publication, don't you?"

She was silent for a few seconds and then said, "You people do eat, don't you."

Those ad rates were rushed right out.

Sargent



Gay-supported candidates make clean sweep in the run-off

Gay influence and homophobic scare tactics: Leading topics in the election

Continued from page 3

■ Musical Chairs

Rice University professor George Greanias steps in as City Councilman from District C (the Montrose/Meyerland District). The present District C City Councilman, Lance Lalor, becomes City Controller. The present City Controller, Kathy Whitmire, takes over the mayor's chair, booting present mayor Jim McConn on the floor.

Jack Heard, Dick Gottlieb and Leonel Castillo ended up only being pretenders to the thrones.

All four to be holding those new positions Jan. 1 got there with the votes from the gay community.

In Montrose, all the GPC-supported candidates received record vote totals. Whitmire took 85% and Lalor 84% of the Montrose vote.

A typical Montrose precinct was number 34, which includes much of the area bounded by W. Alabama, Montrose Blvd., Westheimer and Smith. Whitmire received 1291 votes there and Heard took only 143.

Overall, Montrose experienced a 51% voter turnout, higher than all other major areas of the city except Meyerland, which had a 55% turnout. Meyerland also happens to be included with Montrose to form City Council District C and it is Meyerland where Dick Gottlieb had strong political support—support almost strong enough to give GPC its only defeat Nov. 17.

Greanias won by a slim 844 vote margin, out of 43,752 cast in that race.

Lalor had a much easier time winning the Controller race beating former Immigration and Naturalization Service director Leonel Castillo. Lalor took 59% of the citywide vote.

Attorney Jim Greenwood, in the At Large City Council Seat for Position 3, won over P. O'Brien Murphy, a western wear store owner. Greenwood received 64% of the citywide vote.

Greenwood had the endorsement of virtually every political group in the city, ranging from the GPC to the Houston Police Patrolmen's Union.

Murphy used Greenwood's GPC endorsement as a campaign tactic, mailing out letters to 200,000 voters saying



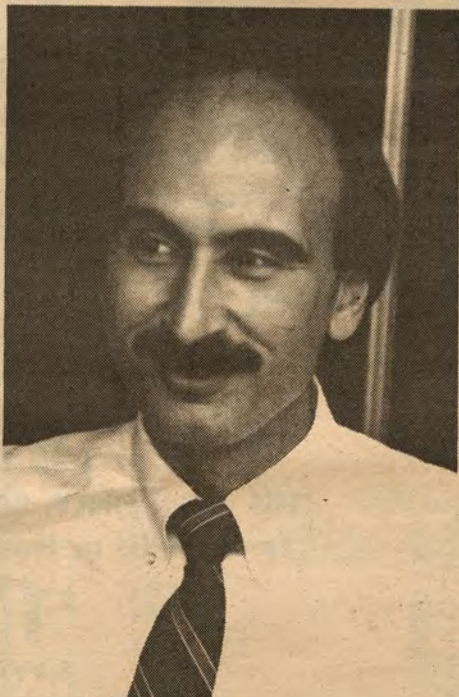
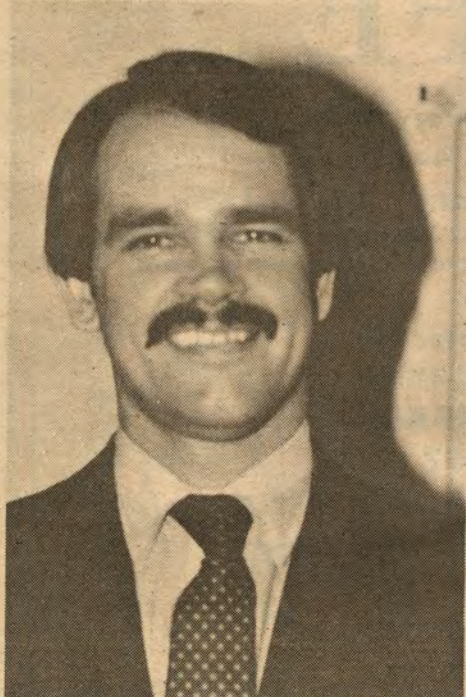
Celebrating the victories at the Parade

Greenwood would favor, among other things, hiring homosexuals as police officers.

Greenwood responded, according to the Houston Post, that a vote for him was not a vote for "a strong homosexual influ-

ence in Houston, whatever that means, and it's simply not true."

All four winners Nov. 17, including Greenwood, showed up at the GPC's "Election Central" after the results were final and received cheers from the crowd



Lalor, Greanias and GPC's Larry Bagneris Jr.



PHOTOS BY ED MARTINEZ

Did you vote?
In some elections, just a few votes determine a winner.

George Greanias 22,314
Dick Gottlieb 21,467

and gave thanks for their support.

■ "The Mailgram"

About a hundred thousand Houstonians found a two-page Western Union Mailgram in their mailboxes Monday or Tuesday, election week, that strongly attacked Whitmire for her gay support.

There was great mystery over who sent it and who paid the \$200,000 Western Union bill.

Western Union was refusing to reveal the information.

The Mailgram stated it was from "Houston Concerned Citizens," a name registered by Houston attorney Walter Pink Nov. 16—the same day most of the Houstonians received their copies.

Pink was said by reporters to have been accompanied when registering by William C. Morris III, a real estate investor living in the affluent River Oaks neighborhood bordering Montrose.

When a reporter and a photographer from the Houston Chronicle went to Morris's home to ask him about the letter, he fired two gun blasts above their heads.

Attempted assault charges were later filed by the reporter and the photographer against Morris.

Morris had said he had received threatening telephone calls earlier from people who identified themselves as gay and was fearful of his safety.

However, according to the Chronicle employees, Morris stuck his gun out of a window and said "You want a story, I'll give you a story," which would mean Morris knew the men were reporters, not gay assassins, as he later said.

The Mailgram charged that Whitmire would "repeal ... Texas Statute 21.06 which makes homosexual activities in public parks, streets, etc., against the law."

Section 21.06 defines all homosexuals acts as illegal, including those in private by consenting adults. The law is under constitutional challenge in federal court in Dallas. As mayor of Houston, Whitmire would have no jurisdiction over Texas state laws anyway.

The letter charged that gay people were not a true minority, saying, "True minorities are born into their minority status. Homosexuality is a chosen lifestyle."

A report released this year by the Kinsey Sex Research Institute at Indiana State University said that homosexuality may be biological and determined by nature before birth. Earlier research had said a person's sexuality may be caused by environmental factors out of the person's control. No recent extensive scientific study has said sexuality is a matter of self-determination.

The Mailgram charged that Whitmire had agreed to "promote homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle and help to make it mandatory to teach it starting at kindergarten (and) secure positions for the homosexuals on the police force and as teachers in public schools."

Whitmire, as mayor, will have no jurisdiction over school curriculum. She had stated early in the campaign that as long as Section 21.06 was the law, she would not advocate violating the law.