

Happy October everyone!

As I had stated in my last months view, I was going to try and keep the ball rolling on doing what we could for the people who lost all their possessions in life from the two storms that hit along the Gulf Coast. I was overwhelmed by the response to what people in our community were doing to help out. We had two very successful fundraisers at the bar and forwarded the money on to the proper people who were assisting the gay and lesbian community that was hit by this disaster. If you were not at either event I encourage you to please check out the web site and send whatever amount you can. The other part of this tragic story was all the animals that were displaced in the storm. I know that the bay area alone received approximately 700 animals, each in need of temporary homes until their owners could get re-established and bring their loved one back home. One of the hardest things for me to see on television is the poor helpless animals, all in cages and longing to be held like they use to be before some rain storm came and changed there tiny short lives. I would love to turn on to CNN and see that each and every one of those pets have been placed and are cared for in a nice safe loving home. If you have the space or know of someone who does and could take in someone's loved dog, cat or even his or her bird, please make the call today. When I was in the club after I had put out the request for help in last months view, this man walked up to me and let me know that he was NOT going to be donating any money nor was he going to donate any time because of all the looting that he watched on the television.

Jon's VIEW

Well, for anyone of you that know me, it took all I had to not verbally jump down this man's throat. I am not sure what words hit my mouth first, but I have to be honest, I am sure they were not the ones I was really thinking. It caught me so off guard I just asked him what about the thousands and thousands who did not loot and about their situation. I asked him to think of everything that he had touched that day. Everything from the time he set his feet on the floor next to his bed that morning, until this very moment when he was standing there next to me. Now visualize everything you had touched that day was now gone. Who would you turn to if you were to have to start all over again? Now think again about the thousands upon thousands that had to do just that. Just getting a copy of your home insurance policy would no longer be possible. Many times in my life I have had to put myself in someone else's shoes and see the world through their eyes in disaster such as the AIDS crisis. When that disease first hit our community I had to look at the situation so many men were in because they had no other place to turn to and families just were not available – they

disapproved of their son's/daughter's life style, and turned away. Today you now have places for people to go and get the help and support they need if they are HIV positive. I look at the hurricane situation with the same things happening to people through no fault of their own. Now they can only look to people who have homes, jobs, and cars. pets, to be there for them. So if you have not done so, please find some way to help and still sleep at night in that warm bed you go to every night <or whose ever you may end up in.> My next thought is on the two individuals our President has selected for his FIRST nominations to the US Supreme Court. I have always said, when someone with whom I disagree with, or does not have the same political beliefs as I do does something right or good for the country – I will be the first one to stand up and applaud that individual. As a gay man I was stunned to see that the President chose two people who seem to be in the center with most of their views.

Granted, they are not the individuals I would have chosen, but then again my party did not win the last election either, and I think that is something we have to keep in mind. However, what I was prepared for was for Mr. Bush to pick a candidate like he said he would during his last campaign – “a Scalia or Thomas.” We have a long, long time with these new Justices and all I can think of is that had he chosen someone so far to the right we could have had a long time to catch up with what we have fought so hard for and for so long. I for one applaud the new Chief Justice for NOT having the stripes on his sleeve that Reiquest had started with, and to see that his two adopted children will have their own genetic back ground that both their parents will have to deal with. That will provide him with more insight to the world than any church could ever give into their household. Even our Vice President must have had some say or input with the President’s choices and he being the father of a lesbian, no matter how far to the right one may go, you still have your own to keep an eye out for. I think that is why God puts so many gays and lesbians in all these far right wing families to be honest. From Phyllis Schafer to Dick and his lovely wife - it could not have been a better ending. A bit humbling. Well, that is all for me. Check out the web page for the upcoming events and please think before you drink and drive.

Jon Crovo & Champ
October 2005

Jon's VIEW

"Granted, they are not the individuals I would have chosen"



John Roberts



Harriet Miers