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integrity/houston
po box 16041
houston, texas

member of
Texas Gay Task Force
National Gay Task Force

77022

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Greetings from Integrity/Houston. In just two weeks Integrity will begin its fourth year as a homophile service/fellowship organization to the Houston Community. We are pleased and gratified at the accomplishments these past three years and look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm and dedication. Election of the Board was held at the last meeting and I/H now has a 7-member board, instead of 5.

The Dallas meeting was a great success and we wish to thank the Dallas/Ft. Worth region for their great hospitality and hosting. We are especially grateful to Rev. J. Harris of MCC for use of their building and their many kindnesses. We are looking forward to having all of you in Houston for the April 5/6th meeting. More on this later, of course.

On February 13, Integrity will hold its annual celebration to begin another year. We have updated our audio/visual presentation; the new Board will be announced and our guest of honor is a great friend of Integrity, and a former administrative assistant to our State Legislator and now a member of Mayor Hofheinz's staff. We are awarding her a beautiful certificate on parchment making her an "honorary homosexual" and presenting a lovely and useable gift she can use at the office.

This year we will launch a membership drive and hope to work very closely with Randy B and Neal P of the Legal Committee. We are gratified to know that two such capable minds are steering this very important committee.

Word from NGTF is that Bella Abzug's bill looks good and has great promise. NGTF is to tackle major discriminators (AT&T, ABC) and individual firms and problem corporations. If you have information, contact Bob Herrick at NGTF with information. PROGRAMS TO KEEP AN EYE ON: Barney Miller, premiering 1/23 8PM. Hot 1 Baltimore, they say, two regular characters are described only as "the insperable George and Gordon." Either they're Siamese twins, a vaudeville act or a gay couple.

According to THE ADVOCATE, Issue 157, "Houston files may include Gay Activists. Mayor Roy Hofheinz admits he's bothered by secret police files which were recently exposed. The major says he "doesn't know that to do about" police intelligence reports on local political dissidents. The police files not only carried routine investigative information, but in some cases they contain information on the private sex lives of those under surveillance. Although the names of people on the list have not been released, many feel that business and professional people who have been active in Integrity, a gay rights group, will find their names included." (emphasis added). We will have to take a "wait and see" attitude. We feel, should we be on the list, we are in good company. The Mayor himself had a file, along with Rep. Barbara Jordan and any number of other outstanding citizens. Will keep you posted.

Our thanks to DOB Dallas, House of the Covenant and Gay People of Austin. Keep up the good work--it is good hearing from you. Thanks again for everything and God bless.

MEETS EACH THURSDAY, 7:30pm, 2020 WAUGH DRIVE

dy



A CHURCH FOR
ALL PEOPLE
IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

3834 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75204
214/826-0291

Rev. Jim Harris
Pastor

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell
Assistant Pastor

Rev. Frank Crouch
Associate Pastor

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS

February 12, 1975
Dallas, Texas

Integrity/Houston
P.O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas, 77022

Dear Friends,

We send you congratulations on this fourth anniversary. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless you as you labor for the rights of His children.

We at Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas are going forward in the planning of the 6th General Conference of the Fellowship, which will be held at the Adolphus Hotel July 29 through August 3, 1975. We will have as our opening speaker Assemblywoman Elaine Noble of Massachusetts, and as the closing speaker, Dr. Norman Pittenger, of London, England, the author of several books on Homosexuality and the Christian. An open invitation is extended to all of you to join us in this conference.

Our new assistant pastor, Rev. C. Shawn Farrell, will facilitate a workshop on "The Bible and Homosexuality" which will run for five consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7:30 beginning March 4th. Rev. Farrell and her other half, Kathy, recently came to us from the Long Beach church. Rev. Farrell, in addition to her duties as full time assistant pastor, is the chairperson for the Christian Education Committee for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

We encourage you in your great work in the Houston area, and pray God's blessings upon you.

The least of his servants,

Rev. James C. Harris

The Rev. James C. Harris, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church
Dallas, Texas

JCH/csf

Morton Schwab
3333 Cummins Ln.
Apt. 180
Houston, Tx. 77027

Neal Parker
Chief Representative
Texas Gay Task Force
1620 West 12th St.
Austin, Tx.

March 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Parker:

As requested by Integrity Houston, a corresponding member of the Texas Gay Task Force, I conducted research into enforcement of §21.06 of the Texas Penal Code in the Harris County area.

My data was kindly provided by the chief of the felony records section and his counterpart in the misdemeanor records section for Harris County. Their information was based on yearly compilations for the 1974 calendar year, the first year in which the new penal code and §21.06 were in force.

According to these sources, no appreciable number of persons were prosecuted under this provision. That is, while a certain small number of such prosecutions might be subsumed under the miscellaneous category in the annual computer summaries of arrest dispositions, the total would be near negligible.

This is not meant to imply that the Harris County police have not been arresting nor the local officials prosecuting individuals for "deviate sexual behavior." My sources state that such prosecution is pursued under §42.01, disorderly conduct. In order for us to obtain an exact count, it would be necessary to examine the arrest sheet in each case charged with violation of §42.01.

It should be noted that §21.06 is a vast improvement over art. 524 of the former penal code under which homosexual conduct was defined as a felony offense. However, while a class C misdemeanor is an improvement, it is a deviance from the approach contained in the Model Penal Code upon which our fine new Texas Penal Code is largely based. Under that ~~approach~~ approach, consensual acts between adults in private are not classified as crimes of any sort. I would hope that we bring the Texas Criminal Code into line with that of the Model Code.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me,

I remain sincerely,

Morton Schwab, PhD.

integrity/houston
po box 16041
houston, texas

77022

June 9, 1975

Dear Sir or Madam:

In June, 1974, more than 200 persons attended the Texas Gay Conference in Fort Worth. Attendees heard national spokespersons Franklin Kameny, Barbara Gittings and Freda Smith, and enjoyed excellently prepared and presented workshops on more than a dozen diverse topics. The enthusiasm and receptiveness to the 1974 conference became the inspiration to present it annually.

Texas Gay Conference II is being held June 21-22, 1975, in San Antonio. Carolyn Innes, National Founder of the Gay Nurses Association, and Gene Leggett, nationally-known Gay minister will be featured. It is also hoped that Morris Kight, founder of the Gay Community Services Center of Los Angeles will appear.

Enclosed you will find brochures giving more details about TGC II, including registration forms. We hope you will make these brochures available to your patrons. The conference provides the one time each year that Gay people throughout Texas gather together in a celebration of positive values. Those who attend will not regret it.

Also enclosed are June calendars of events for Integrity/Houston. Now into its fourth year, Integrity is Houston's oldest Gay organization and offers rap sessions, social events and projects of interest to the Gay community. It is our hope to provide you with new calendars each month to be made available to your customers. If you would prefer not to receive them in the future, please let us know through our mailing address. Otherwise, we shall continue to mail them to you. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

Wishing you a prosperous summer, we remain,

Gratefully and fraternally yours,

Dale Carter

For the Board and Membership
Integrity/Houston

Charter Member: National Gay Task Force; Texas Gay Task Force



From left, Falls, Hill, Anderson discuss gays' plans

—Post photo by Fred Bunch

The Houston Post
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1975

3A

seek to gain acceptance

Representatives of the city's gay organizations took their case for community acceptance to the public for the first time Monday and warned reporters they are launching a campaign to scrutinize media employment practices regarding homosexuals.

A longtime gay advocate here, Ray Hill, also said the gay groups will be checking on the media's response to coverage of stories involving gay issues.

Hill said at a press conference there are existing court test cases to back up their project.

The press conference, at the Metropolitan Community Church, 2020 Waugh Drive, marked the end of gay pride week in the city.

Pokey Anderson of the Gay Political Caucus said they hope to play a bigger role in upcoming elections.

She said homosexual acts are still illegal in Texas and they would bring this up in meetings with candidates in the city election. Anderson said 22 cities have passed civil rights ordinances covering gays. She said there are at least 100,000 gay persons in the Houston area.

Hill said there are still minor problems with police harassment of homosexuals but the problem improved under former police Chief Carrol Lynn who appointed a liaison officer.

"We were sorry to see him go," Hill told reporters.

The Rev. Bob Falls, minister of the Metropolitan Church, said gays in the area would be focusing on outreach programs to promote community understanding.

Falls, who said he once studied for the Roman Catholic priesthood, said the Metropolitan Church hopes to secure a larger building that also will serve as a gay community center.

Hill said the gay community here is one of the largest in the country and "we aren't going to stay under the carpet anymore."

He said a year and a half ago only one gay organization existed in Houston but now there are eight, including the church.



the
Gay Organization
of **Corpus Christi**

July 22, 1975

Mr. Bill Buie
Integrity
P.O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Bill:

Things have been happening so fast and furious here, it's been a real hassle just to keep everyone up to date. I'm sending you a full set of the nine newspaper articles, which ran on the front pages of the Caller-Times every day from Sunday, July 13th through Sunday, July 20th.

In addition, we've had a radio talk show, and television coverage from the NBC affiliate when Ray Hill and Rev. Bob Falls were in town.

Overall, the response from both gays and non-gays has been incredibly positive. As you will see, there are isolated statements in a few of the articles which would have been better left un-said and un-printed . . . but the total picture is a very good one, and we are most definitely pleased.

Next on the agenda we're going to be working very hard to get the hot-line going, and setting up a speakers bureau for local organizations. There are more radio talk shows planned for August and September.

Loma love,

Loma Fellows
Publicity Chairperson

P.O. Box 675/Corpus Christi, Texas/78403

August 28, 1975

The Honorable John Lindsay and
Harris County Commissioners:

My name is Robert M. Falls. I am an ordained minister in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

I am here in the love and understanding of Jesus Christ as a Christian. One of the most formal obligations of a Christian is to struggle against evil, whether it be moral or physical.

A Christian can only resign him or her self passively to the acceptance of evil when it is clear that he or she is powerless to do anything about it. Hence it is on utterly false Christianity which preches the supine acceptance of social injustice, ignorance, impossible working conditions, and war as though it were virtue to "take all this and offer it up" without even attempting to change anything. Christian virtue is far from the stoic resignation which accepts the decess of "fate" with a carefully cultivated insensibility.

A true Christian has no patience with the concept of "purity of intention" which is completely divorced from the act performed.

A christian may not have a really pure intention to do the will of God if, in fact, we are completely indifferent to the quality of the work performed in response to the demands of life which are in fact God's own demands.

The genuine purity of Christian action will indeed teach us to work without undue concern for the results of our efforts, but will not make us uterrly indifferent to the work itself since we will see clearly that our work in a communion with God, our Creator, in which we not only unite ourselves to God but also save and transform the material world in Christ.

Therefore, in behalf of my brothers and sisters who are homosexual, I request this body to expeditiously move to insure the Civil Rights of "Gay" members of the Houston-Harris County Community.

At present, this Body has made significant efforts to guarantee the Civil Rights over which they have jurisdiction are extend to all minorities except those whose sexual or affectional preferences are toward those of the same gender.

The Honorable Judge John Lindsay and
Harris County Commissioners
August 28, 1975
Page Two of Two

I am of the opinion, as many, that this omission is un-Christian as well as not in keeping with the principles of our American freedom. At a minimum, this Body should add the words "sexual or affectional preferences" to existing Civil Right policies now covering race, creed, national origin and sex. To fail to do so requires individuals discriminated against to seek regress in our Court system. This is ~~energy consuming and~~ costly to the taxpayers and to individuals seeking regress.

A case in point is our brother, ^{GARY} VanOoteghem, who at this hour with the assistance and support of the American Civil Liberties Union is considering a suit under Article 42, Section 1983 U. S. C. A. Further statements regarding this matter will be announced at a news conference at 2020 Waugh at, Indiana Street, M. C. C. R. at 2:00P.M. tomorrow. I wish to remind you that the cost of this suit will of course be paid by the citizens of Harris County.

Ample precedent exist for one to conclude that Mr. Van Ooteghem will be successful in his suit. But all of this could be avoided by the simple extension of Civil Rights to Mr. Van Ooteghem and thos similarly situated.

Gentlemen, I urge your immediate and careful consideration of Civil Rights to all men and women in your employ.

Robert M. Falls

RMF:pg1

INTEGRITY/Houston

3512 DAVIS 528-0423

P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

STATEMENT OF POSITION & PURPOSE

PREFACE

People by instinct are gregarious and social and have always and everywhere sought the company of their fellows. People band together to express common interests, to enjoy social intercourse to realize common goals.

For these same reasons we who are homophiles at all times and places have formed identifiable communities--overt and covert--by whatever degree the prohibitions of our larger societies have allowed.

When our homophile communities are forced by societal hostilities into secrecy, however, the positive values of human congregation are made perverse and negative and the community built upon them serves only as a temporary refuge and frantic escape from loneliness, self-hatred and despair. The onus is ours as homophiles to resist this dehumanizing of ourselves and our fellows. We must recognize and affirm the great diversity of personality, belief and proclivity that is dishonored by the stereotypical image of the homophile. It is a hypothetical construct that has no reality. It denies the uniqueness and variety of feelings and experience which define an individual and are the basis of his rights.

We are citizens, entitled by right to all of the privileges and prerogatives of our citizenship. We are human beings and claim the dignity of our humanity.

To these ends we unite as INTEGRITY/HOUSTON, under the following articles of incorporation:

ARTICLE 1. INTEGRITY/HOUSTON is a fellowship for homophiles and will serve as a locus for our friendships and recreation.

ARTICLE 2. INTEGRITY/HOUSTON is a forum for the open discussion of those topics, issues and problems that relate to homophiles. INTEGRITY/HOUSTON will promote thoughtful use of the franchise to achieve the full implementation of our human and civil rights.

ARTICLE 3. INTEGRITY/HOUSTON will foster cooperative efforts with other groups and individuals who seek the betterment of the homophile community, particularly and society generally when such efforts are within the abilities and aims of INTEGRITY/HOUSTON.

ARTICLE 4. INTEGRITY/HOUSTON asserts that homophiles should be active, informed participants in any consideration of our condition and in any disposition of our fate.

ARTICLE 5. To promote our unity and to guide our actions we of INTEGRITY/HOUSTON adopt the following by-laws:

Section 1. Anyone who has attended three (3) meetings of INTEGRITY/HOUSTON is considered a member and is entitled to vote on all matters that come before our body.

Section 2. A planning board of five (5) persons elected from the membership will

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

District
Director

300 E. 8th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Gay Integrity/Houston
c/o Hugh Crell
P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Person to Contact:
Norma C. Offutt
Telephone Number:
(512) 397-5716
Refer Reply to:
E:EX:1002:NCO:ams
Date:

NOV 21 1975

Gentlemen:

Your application for exemption from Federal income tax is being considered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Before a determination can be made, it will be necessary for you to furnish the following information:

1. Provide a narrative statement clearly explaining how you promote the civil rights of all persons regardless of affectional or sexual preferences.
2. Provide a narrative statement characterizing the subjects of interest about which you discuss and correspond with public officials, officials of the Houston Police Department, the Mayor of Houston and other city and county officials and elected representatives to the state legislature. Please include the following in your statement:
 - a. A list of meeting dates and the nature of the subject matters discussed.
 - b. Dates of appearance and subject matters discussed at all appearances before legislative bodies.
 - c. The dates and nature of all legislative activities and programs you have had in supporting or opposing legislation on local, state, or national level.
3. Provide a narrative statement characterizing the typical subjects of interest about which you propose to discuss and correspond with public officials, officials of the Houston Police Department, the Mayor of Houston and other city and county officials and elected representatives to the state legislature. Clearly characterize all activities and programs that you propose to have in the future to oppose or support legislation on local, state or national level.

Gay Integrity/Houston

4. Provide a narrative statement clearly describing the self-awareness programs that you conduct among your members to combat sexism and other forms of affectional and sexual discrimination.
5. Provide a narrative statement describing in detail the subjects of interest that you conduct forums on.
6. Provide a narrative statement clearly describing in detail the dialogues and positive action that you promote to end discrimination against persons based on sexual and affectual preferences.
7. Describe in detail the various interaction activities that you conduct between the members themselves and between the members and other persons.
8. Submit a proposed classified projected budget for two full years of operations.
9. Provide a narrative statement concerning your proposed staff.
 - a. List your proposed staff.
 - b. State the amount of time that each of your staff will devote to the organization's activities.
 - c. State the amount of compensation that each will receive.

10. Provide copies of any newsletters or other literature concerning
The processing of your application will be delayed pending the receipt of the above information. Failure to furnish the information within 15 days of this letter may result in an unfavorable determination.

When furnishing this information, please use the following address:
EP/EO Division, Group 2, P. O. Box 2136, Austin, Texas 78767.

Sincerely,

Norma C. Offutt
Norma C. Offutt
Exempt Organizations Specialist