

March 2, 1977

Congressman Bob Eckhardt
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Eckhardt,

As a devout supporter of civil rights and as a constituent of your's, I would like to urge you to support H. R. 2998, which would add the phrase "sexual or affectional preference" to the civil rights act. I believe that a person should have equal rights regardless of his/her sexual preference or life style. I would appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dale Carter

Dale Carter

BOB ECKHARDT
8TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCE
ENERGY AND POWER



COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
MINES AND MINING

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 17, 1977

Mr. Dale Carter
P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you very much for your recent letter.

H. R. 2998 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee. No hearings have yet been scheduled on the bill.

I hope that the Committee and the House give careful consideration to this measure and ignore the emotionalism and stereotyping which often accompany discussion of this question.

I appreciate your comments on this subject. Please feel free to contact me again if I can be of any help to you on this or any other matter.

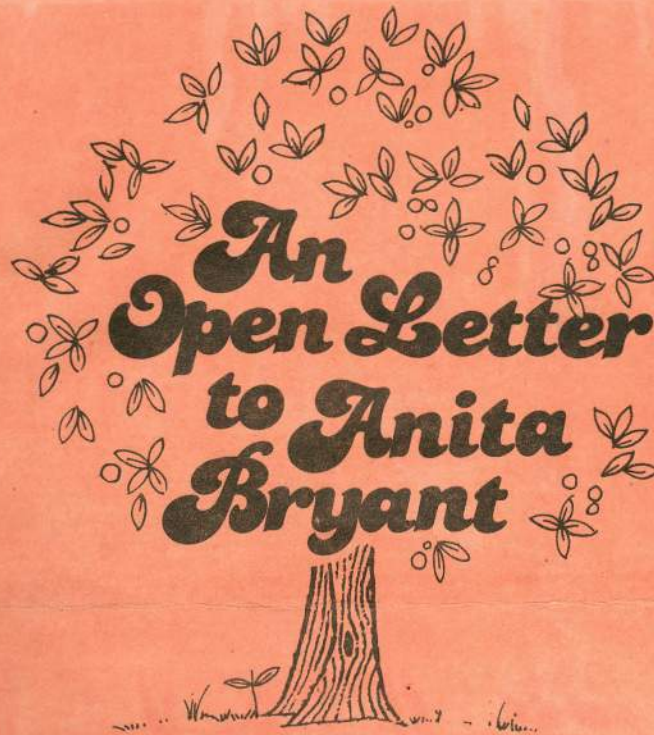
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Eckhardt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Eckhardt

DR. RALPH BLAIR

30 EAST 60TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022



Dear Anita Bryant:

Much as I deplore your views against gay rights, I deplore even more your employment problems arising out of your having voiced those views. I believe that your personal opinions and activities have no more to do with your abilities as a singer or entertainer than people's homosexuality has to do with their abilities as teachers, preachers, or whatever. In light of your own experiencing of employment discrimination due to your involvement with gay rights issues, won't you please reconsider your opposition to the Miami ordinance banning discrimination against homosexuals in employment and housing? After all, its purpose is to protect a long-persecuted minority from the very kind of discrimination which now seems to be aimed against you. At least you have not been denied a house in which to live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Blair".

P.S.: I just heard that you got your job back. Great!
Now, what about others?

GAY RIGHTS NATIONAL LOBBY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 30 June 1977

Virginia M. Apuzzo

Co-Chair

Raymond W. Hartman MEMO TO: ALL GRNL MEMBERS

Co-Chair

Bill Carey

Member - At-Large

Linda Lachman

Secretary

Adrienne Scott

Treasurer

FROM: Joe Totten, Office Manager

RE: LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROHIBITIONS

On June 27, Rep. Larry MacDonald (D-Ga.) introduced an amendment to the Legal Services Corporation Amendments Act of 1977 (HR6666) which would prohibit any use of federally funded "legal assistance with respect to any proceeding or litigation arising out of disputes or controversies on the issue of homosexuality or so-called gay rights." The amendment passed on a roll call vote of 230 to 133 with 70 not voting. It must now be voted on by the Senate and signed by the President to be enacted as law.

If this becomes law, it would mean that no poor gay person could use the federally funded legal assistance program to defend his/her civil rights. This is the first time any roll call has been taken on the gay rights issue. It gives us a picture of where we stand: who are our friends and who are in need of further contact by their constituents. This vote must not be allowed to stand without comment as it singles out gay people as onegroup in the country forbidden to use public monies to protect our civil rights.

Action is up to you. Write/call/visit your senators and urge them to vote against such an amendment should it be introduced in the Senate. Write/call/visit your representatives: thank them if they supported us; ask why, if they did not vote. If they voted against gay rights, try to convince them that poor gay people ought to have as much access to public legal assistance as any one else. Congressman MacDonald should be singled out for special comment as the amendment appears to have been his personal idea.

Send copies of all your correspondence to us at the address below. The address of all members of Congress is: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Senators: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

We will keep you informed.

JOHN TOWER
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE PRODUCTION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

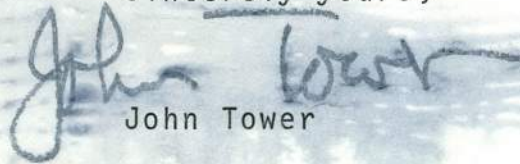
August 5, 1977

Mr. Dale Carter
Post Office Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for letting me know of your opposition to H.R. 6666. Arguments that have been made opposing this legislation have considerable merit. However, the bill must still go through hearings on the Senate side. I shall carefully monitor the progress of this legislation and will keep your views in mind when the bill comes to the Senate floor.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Tower", is written over a light blue horizontal smudge or watermark.

John Tower

JT:sfm

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

500 MCKINNEY AVENUE

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

713-224-5441

DAVID M. HENINGTON
DIRECTOR

August 3, 1977

Integrity
P.O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Greetings:

The NIC office of the Houston Public Library is interested in obtaining information about your organization.

NIC is a neighborhood information and referral service which operates at each of our branches, where we receive and answer questions about community resources.

Would you take a few minutes and fill out the enclosed form so that we may add your organization to our resource file? If you have any descriptive material about your organization, we would appreciate your sending us a copy. Please call us at 224-5441 ext. 204 with any questions.

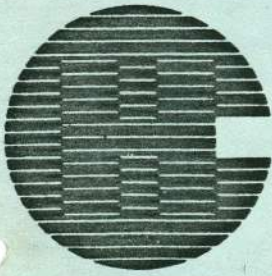
Thank you,

Dianne Summar

Dianne Summar
Head, NIC Service

Please mail to: NIC Office
Houston Public Library
500 McKinney Ave.
Houston, Tex. 77002

DS:ej



CRISIS HOTLINE
P. O. Box 4123
Houston, Texas 77210
713/228.1505

September 7, 1977

Mr. Dale Carter
Integrity/Houston
P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Mr. Carter:

We have received your letter requesting a speaker for October 6, 1977, and are very pleased to accept your invitation. Please contact us to let us know the size of your group so we can bring enough brochures.

Thank you for your consideration to our organization, and we are looking forward to meeting with you on October 6.

Very truly yours,

Gayla Pastusek

Gayla Pastusek
Administrative Assistant

gp



Mr. Fred Silverman
President, ABC Entertainment
1330 Ave. of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10019

Sept. 13, 1977

Dear Mr. Silverman,

After watching the first episode of the new "Soap" television series, I feel compelled to inform you of this t. v. viewer's opinion.

This show could offer a lot , but there are a couple of things that bother me, My biggest complaint, and the one that I will address here, is with the character of "Jodie". I have always hated names and stereo-types , and both of these have been exhibited in your portrayal of this character. Perhaps the joke is on you , since the producers of this show obviously have never had any contact with an everyday garden variety gay person. Your typical gay person could not be distinguished from any other person, be he/she gay straight, bi, or whatever. I am very distressed that a network with the prestige and reputation of ABC would atually go so far as to allow one of its shows to present a character with such vicious bigotry. You might as well start calling the other characters "Nigger, Wop, or some other derogatory term, because you are telling America that it is o.k. to call a gay a fruit, and you are telling them that gays are limp-wristed, lisping , weirdos.

I have been told that in later episodds Jody decides to have a sex change operation. If this is the case, then Jody is not gay, he is a transsexual. If he likes to wear his mother's dresses, then he is a transvestite. Whether you plan to change this later or not, the damage has already been done. Your lack of factual identification for the public is inexcusable. In my opinion, the only way to save the show is to either do away with the Jody character , or change the character to a more realistic type.

Frankly, the way things are now , I would have to put ABC in a category right next to that of Anita Bryant. (And that ain't too good, brother.) I would like to hope that something could be done to change that.

At any rate , "Soap" will not have this particular person as a viewer . (Not for now anyway.)

Sincerely,

Richard Burckhardt
P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Viewer:

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the concerns you have expressed about the television series "Soap."

"Soap" was selected for our program schedule because it is an exceptionally entertaining program. It is a continuing character comedy that deals with the contemporary problems and relationships of two suburban families in a sophisticated way.

The opening episodes were designed to give the viewer a glimpse of character, conflict and plot complications in a brief amount of time. With the luxury of time, the series will begin to explore these elements in depth. It is the unique character of "Soap" that conflicts, attitudes, moral dilemmas or crises set up in the early episodes may not see resolution for several weeks--a situation that parallels real life more closely than does episodic situation comedy. Although our intention is to entertain, it will become obvious as the story unfolds week to week that characters are not rewarded for irresponsible, amoral or immoral behavior.

ABC's programming philosophy is to present a broadly diversified program schedule that responds to the interests of its total viewing audience. "Soap" is intended primarily for the adult portion of that audience and will be so indicated. It draws its humor and its insight from the elaborately complex inter-relationships of its characters and their lifestyles.

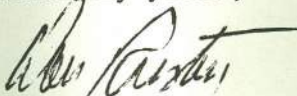
It is obviously impossible for any program that comedically treats contemporary manners and mores to avoid controversy or to appeal to every viewer.

It is the responsibility of ABC's Department of Broadcast Standards and Practices to review all entertainment programming from script stage through final production, to insure compliance with corporate policies and those of the National Association of Broadcasters Television Code.

ABC's policy is not to restrict the presentation of adult subject matter or themes, but to make sure that such subjects are treated unsensationally, honestly and with sensitivity. Special attention is given to all promotional materials associated with "Soap."

In conclusion, "Soap" was created to entertain, not to instruct; to intrigue, not to shock, and, most importantly to provide enjoyment, laughter and occasionally tears to those who become involved in the lives of its characters.

Sincerely yours,



Dan Rustin
Manager,
Audience Information

President Jimmy Carter
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Sept. 29, 1977

Dear Mr. President,

I thought that I would write you a letter to commend you on your stand on human rights. At the same time, however, I feel that somewhere along the line you seem to have lost track of where your priorities should be. I will agree that the rights of oppressed people around the world is an important issue, but what about the oppressed citizens of this country? What about the non-white victims of police harassment? What about the discriminatory hiring policies of such employers as Coors beers? And most dear to my heart, what about the enforcement of the constitutional rights guaranteed all people, including gays? Your strong stand on human rights has yet to be demonstrated here at home.

Mr. Carter, here in Houston people are being beat up, bombed, threatened, and the police just sit back and pretend that nothing has happened. All too often it is the police who are doing the beating and harassing. The victims have committed no crime. They just happen to be gay. This is not just in Houston, it is nation-wide.

I can only hope that you are not of the same school of thought as your fellow Southern Baptist, Anita Bryant. I shudder at the thought of that woman who claims to be a Christian, but would deny 10 - 20% of the population their God-given rights as His children. I too am a Southern Baptist, or that is how I was raised. I prefer to call myself simply "a Christian". I also believe in God's divine love for all of His children, be they gay, straight, bi, asexual, or whatever.

I believe you to be a fair man, Mr. Carter, and that your lack of response to the gay and minority communities in our great country is just a temporary thing. Perhaps you feel like you need more time to get the "feel" of the office. Whatever the reason, we need your help. Please give this some thought and thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Your's truly,

Richard B.
P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022



Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. I appreciated hearing from you, and I welcome your interest.

Jimmy Carter

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

-----NEWSLETTER-----

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Our love and gratitude to T.G.T.F. for the Legislative Report. The untiring efforts of the Legal Committee are a sure sign that a victory is soon to come.

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Integrity/Houston has had a very productive 1977. After meeting at the Inside/Outside bar for several months, we have moved to Wilde'N'Stein book shop, 819 Richmond, and love it. Meetings are held every other thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Beginning in January, meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th thursday of each month. Our programs thus far have included speakers from the Libertarian party, Identity Inc. (transactional analysis), Crisis Hotline, and a lawyer who gave a presentation on "Wills and Legal Questions for Gays". Our rap topics have included: The Gay Bar Scene, Role Playing, Hustling, Gay Literature, and also a meeting of all of the gay leaders in Houston which was called by Integrity. Meetings yet to come this year:

10/20-Rap topic-"Free and Unlimited Sex"

11/3 -Speaker from the Houston Health Dept. -The V.D. Epidemic in Houston

11/17-Open Rap

12/1 -Gays in the Media-Ray Hill is the guest

12/15-Rap topic-"Gay Lonliness"(Christmas party will be announced)

Topics and speakers for 1978 will include; Transpeople, A. C. L. U., "Gay Organizations-Why They Come & Go", Social Workers and How They Handle Gay Problems, & "Discrimination-How to cope with it".

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Integrity/Houston wishes to extend a hearty welcome to the T.G.T.F. Legislative Committee which will meet here on November 14.

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Let's all wish Ken Cyr & Charles Gillis good luck on their new book store. Wilde'N'Stein is one of the few non-pornographic gay book stores in the country and is of great benefit to our community. Integrity also wishes to urge support for the Texas Gay Archives which Ken & Charles are setting up.

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God bless you all -- onward and upward-

Richard

Richard

Bob Bullock
Comptroller of Public Accounts
Austin, Texas 78774

Oct. 3, 1977

Dear sir,

We have just received notice that our charter is about to be forfeited for failure to meet our franchise tax requirements. We would certainly like to retain our charter if possible, however, we are not certain as to what is required of us. Integrity/Houston is a non-profit social organization. All of our funds come from donations (You might say that we literally "pass the hat hat"). Our total operating funds very rarely exceed \$50, and the non-monetary assets of the group are almost non-existent. Therefore, we have no way of computing the due taxes. One of the members called your office but received very little help. All they would tell him was that "such and such form had to be filled out". We were sent the form, but we don't know what to do with it.

A lawyer suggested that we might be eligible for an exemption since Integrity is a non-profit group. He also suggested that we might only need to pay the minimum taxes required. Whatever is needed, we would like to try and do it, but we need more than just a form to fill out. We would appreciate some help.

Your's truly,

For the Board and Membership
of Integrity/Houston

P.S. I am enclosing a copy of our Position of Statement & purpose and a copy of our Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of requesting an exemption. If more is needed, please contact us.

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041

houston, texas 77022

692-0325

Walter J. Kautz, President
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
P. O. Box 730
Gainesville, Florida 32602

Oct. 13, 1977

Dear Mr. Kautz,

After reading your statement in the Sept. issue of Florida Agriculture, I felt the need to write to you and tell you that I resent being called a pervert, especially by someone who is ignorant enough to still consider us "sick". The American Psychiatric Association took that off of the books years ago. There has been talk of replacing it with a recently discovered illness called "Homophobia" which is the fear of gays. I submit to you that you show several of the symptoms of this terrible sickness and should consult a psychiatrist.

We are, as was used in the movie Network, "mad as hell and are not going to take it anymore!". We are not, as you say, trying to flaunt our sexuality any more than you are trying to flaunt your's. We do not ask you to accept us if you do not wish to, we merely want our rights as individuals. Is that too much to ask? If it is, then the nation called the United States of America has been a big failure. We love this country. We fight in its wars, we died in its wars, and we support it in every way that you or anyone else does. We have been kicked around long enough. We mean business!

I don't think you realize what it is like to have a nation of gays against you. Ask any of the police who tried to illegally arrest some patrons of a gay establishment called the Stonewall Inn in 1969. The riot that occurred lasted for a week. Or better yet, remember that Alexander the Great was gay, and he conquered half of the world. We cannot run "back to the hills" because we were never there. We have always been here.

At any rate, until the Florida orange juice people shape up, we are going to do all that we can to let our presence be known. Texas and California products will be pushed and, in time, Florida citrus products will be hurt. We mean it!

In Gay Pride,

Dale Carter

integrity/houston
po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

Tom Brokaw
Today Show
NBC TV
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York , N.Y. 10020

Nov. 19, 1977

Dear Mr. Brokaw,

Thank you so much for your choice of questions for Ms. Bryant. It is about time that the world found out the truth about this woman and her so-called morality.

Now that the country has heard her point of view, double sided as it is, the time is right for the other point of view to be put before the country. I would like to suggest that some members of the national gay movement be scheduled for the Today Show some time in the near future to balance the " tide".

Once again , thank you for your efforts in bringing out the truth.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For the Membership of
Integrity/Houston

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

IMPORTANT

Bob Bullock, Comptroller of Public Accounts
Business Tax Division
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78774

To whom it may concern,

The organization known as Gay Integrity/Houston became defunct in August of 1976. The present organization, Integrity/Houston, was started in January of 1977 as a social organization. Integrity/Houston does no business what-so-ever, has no property, has no assets, and does not even consist of the same people as the chartered group. We had nothing to do with the charter of the previous organization. we therefore suggest that the charter of Gay Integrity/Houston be declared null and void.

We remain,

Very truly your's

For Integrity/Houston

integrity/houston

po box 16041

houston, texas 77022

692-0325

1/10/78

Mr. E.P. Gaines
Business Tax Division
Comptroller's Office
Austin, Texas 78774

Dear Mr. Gaines,

Thank you for your prompt response to our recent letter. As I said before, Integrity/Houston was not involved in the charter of Gay Integrity. Gay Integrity became defunct shortly after its charter. Several months later several people got together and formed Integrity/Houston as a social group. The name "Integrity" and the use of the same post office box are all that we have in common with the previous organization. (We assumed use of the p. o. box by merely paying the rent when it came due.) None of us had any involvement in the chartering of the previous group. Even if we did want to become chartered (we don't), it would be impossible since we do not have the funds to do so. We have no property or assets (as a matter of fact, this stationary was donated to us free of cost by a local printer.) The payment of any taxes accrued by Gay Integrity cannot come from us because we have no funds, and because we are not even the same organization, we feel that this is not our responsibility. As I have stated over and over again, We are not Gay Integrity, we were never chartered, and we had nothing to do with that charter.

We remain,

Very truly yours,

Integrity/Houston

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

Mayor Jim McConn
City Hall
901 Bagby
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. McConn,

Due to the recent rash of raids and harrassment by the Houston Police Dept, we feel that we should write to you once again and express our concerns, and very definately, our disappointment, involving the new administration.

In the raids on gay establishments in Houston, H. P. D. officers came into the bars with guns drawn and rifles ready. Now, in a raid where the only charges involved are "public intoxication", there is no reason to have guns drawn, and no excuse for these officers to have done so. It is apparent that these officers, so many of whom refer to the gay community as "Commie hippie wierdo queers, fags, homos, fairies, etc.", are afraid of us for some reason. This is not the type of person that belongs on the H. P. D.. Houston already has the reputation of having the worst police dept. in the country. (Perhaps second to Philadelphia.)

It is true that under Houston's present system of government that the mayor has little control over hiring and firing of police officers, however, you do have control over the police chief, and Mr. McConn, we submit to you that our present police chief is 99% of the problem.

We realize that you have many other concerns regarding the city, but you must realize also that our primary concern at this time is the inequity that is transpiring here. We ARE CITIZENS IN THIS CITY AND DEMAND TREATMENT AS SUCH AND WILL ACCEPT NO LESS. We would like very much to cooperate with the city administration, however, until the present situation is resolved, we will not be able to. We need and ask for your assistance.

We remain,

Very truly your's.

For Integrity/Houston

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY IN THE GAY COMMUNITY FOR SEVEN YEARS

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

Mayor Jim McConn
City Hall
901 Bagby
Houston, Texas 77001

1/5/78

Dear Mr. McConn,

Well, you have been in office only 3 days and you have already gone back on one of your promises. The firing of Nikki Van Hightower, and the manner in which you did so is a real downer for the gay community. Dr. Van Hightower was a supporter of ours as you have led us to believe you are. Both the gay and feminist communities gave you our full support in your election to office, and in one fell swoop you have fired one of the best women in the city administration, gone back on a promise, and caused us to wonder whether we can really depend on your promise to us that you would not allow discrimination against gays in the city of Houston. We would like to believe that we have your support, but you have made it very difficult. Some of us worked our butts off to get you elected, as you know. Please try to keep that in mind in your future decisions.

Our brother Ray Hill has given you the highest of praise. I myself am still a devout supporter of your's. However, that support is going to have to be pushed a little from your end to keep it strong. Please do a little pushing.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

Dale Carter

For Integrity/Houston

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

Houston Chronicle
Viewpoints
801 Texas Ave.
Houston, Texas 77022

1/24/78

Dear editor,

In response to Geneva Kirk Brook's statement about hating "what the homosexuals are doing to our children", I would like to state that we have no interest, what-so-ever in children. We ARE YOUR CHILDREN and are not the way that we are because we were recruited, in some way by other homosexuals. We are this way because it is natural for us.

Ms. Brooks also says that she does not plan to turn her back on her lesbian friends but will offer them her aid in seeking medical, psychological, or spiritual help. I am sure our lesbian sisters appreciate the offer, but it is our opinion that it is Ms. Brooks is the one that needs some psychiatric help. She suffers from a horrible ailment known as "Homophobia" and seems to be in the late stages of it.

The gay community of Houston is in no way trying to force our way of thinking on anyone. If you do not wish to accept us as homosexuals, that is your right. However, we do demand the rights of human beings that are due all human beings. More important than the fact that we are homosexuals is the fact that we are human beings and citizens of this great nation. Basic rights are what this country was founded upon, but until all people are given the freedom to be what and who they are, the "Great American Dream" will continue to be just a dream.

If Ms. Brooks and people like her would open their minds just a bit and find out what we are truly all about, and stop relying on what they were taught or have heard on the streets, then perhaps the gay community could open up to these people too, and we could truly be the total community that we should be.

What we want is not really very much, but what we want, human rights and dignity, are things that we can no longer live without. The time has come.

We remain,

very truly yours

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

Patricia Anne O'Kane
Law Offices of Mae Nacol & Associates
Control Data Building
2000 W. Loop South, Suite 1355
Houston, Texas 77027

1/28/78

Dear Patty,

This is to thank you once again for taking time out of your busy schedule to speak to the group. It is presentations such as your's that give us more insight into the meanings of gay liberation and the gay situation in Houston. We sincerely appreciate your concern and interest.

Please feel free to call on us at any time should you need us for any reason.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For Integrity/Houston

(713) 529-7014

February 8, 1978

Viewpoints
The ADVOCATE
1730 S. Amphlett
Suite 225
San Mateo, Ca. 94402

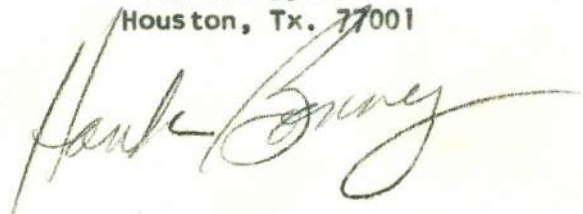
THE ADVOCATE and the rest of the nation fey may find it of interest that Houston's Gay Political Caucus at its last meeting voted overwhelmingly to continue the Coors Beer boycott ("continue" is bold-faced because THE ADVOCATE erroneously reported in one of its late 1977 issues that Houston Gays had dropped the boycott). The recent vote was prompted by the offer (bribe?) of Coors to fund a \$25,000-50,000 study of Gays and their impact on the larger, non-Gay Houston community through the University of Houston if we would lift the boycott. Such studies are certainly welcome and much needed but, needless to say, not at the expense of compromised principles.

Though not a tax expert, I strongly suspect that such fundings are a tax write-off for the good folks at Coors. If true, then that means, of course, that such study(s) would in essence be paid for by U.S. taxpayers (with singles - which most Gays are - bearing their usually disproportionate share). Thus, we have the strange ^eanomaly of ourselves bribing ourselves to help Coors overcome its beer sales doldrums largely instituted by ourselves - a truly funny situation were it not for the serious (and, perhaps, sinister) implications. I'm not sure which I resent the most: their corporate spyings, dishonesties and manipulations or their evaluation of the Gay community's intelligence.

Along the same lines, Florida citrus products are, and have been, under strenuous boycott in Texas, all of which does not mean we do without orange juice for we have all we need from the Valley (Rio Grande, not San Fernando).

We will overlook the previous incorrect reporting but - "Don't do it no more!!"

Hank Bonney
P.O. Box 3942
Houston, Tx. 77001



SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

TO ALL HOUSTON GAY ORGANIZATIONS:

Feb. 11, 1978

Dear gay brothers and sisters,

After the success of our previous meetings of the gay organizations in the Houston area, we would like to invite your organization to send a representative to another gay leadership meeting for a "Community Assessment" discussion and an update of what all of the groups are doing. It is our hope that through meetings such as this our community will be kept aware of what is going on elsewhere and thus be more united and better able to work together and as a whole.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 pm., in Wilder-N-Stein Book Shop, 819 Richmond, 529-7014. We hope to see you there.

We remain,

Very truly yours,

Richard

Richard
for the Board and Membership of
Integrity/Houston

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY IN THE GAY COMMUNITY FOR SEVEN YEARS

Marvin Zindler
c/o KTRK TV
#3310 Bissonet
Houston Texas 77005

February 19, 1978

Dear Mr. Zindler,

In the past few month's the Houston Police Dept. has taken it upon themselves a campaign of harassment aimed at the lounges and bars in the Houston area. The raids have been on both gay and straight businesses. The reasons given have included: Too many people in the building, violations of fire laws, etc. However, arbitrary arrests have been made for public lewdness and public intoxication. The people taken in have no more broken the law than you or I have by sitting at home reading a newspaper. One friend of mine was standing in a bar drinking a clear soda water(He doesn't drink), and was taken in for public intoxication by some officers who came in and pointed out people at random to be taken in for one reason or another, none of which had actually happened. Once they were taken in, they were not allowed to phone a lawyer, a friend, or to even go to the restroom until 7:30 am. the next morning when they either had to pay a fine or go before a judge. The Houston Police Dept. is going on a witch hunt, Mr. Zindler, and are abusing citizens of this city and denying them the rights and freedoms that we cherish so dearly.

Another incident that has been occurring in these illegal raids has been the intimidation of the police "victims" from H.P.D. officers carrying rifles and shotguns during these raids. I submit to you, Mr. Zindler that our police department is using "Gestapo" tactics in its self appointed role of weeding out what it considers to be "Undesirables" in the community.

As stated previously, some of these raids occurred at gay establishments, but, whether you agree to the gay life style or not, there has been no crime committed at these bars(except those committed by the police) and these raids are for mere harassment purposes. The sexuality of the victims is not the issue here the denial of civil rights is.

The people of Houston deserve more than this Mr. Zindler. We need to know that the money we spend on a police force is being put to good use. Instead of going out and harassing innocent people in bars, we need to know that our law officers are doing something about real crimes such as robbery, rape, burglaries and so on. I am asking your help in this, Mr. Zindler, because this is a problem that all of us are vulnerable to and should be concerned about. It's really bad when citizens of our city feel fear instead of pride in the presence of a Houston Police Officer.

Awaiting to hear from you. I remain

Very truly yours,

P.O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77002

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

692-0325

Texas Gay Conference Five
P.O. Box 20254
Dallas, Texas 75220

5/5/78

Dear Gay Brothers and Sisters,

It has recently been brought to our attention that the Texas Gay Conference V. has denied Wilde'N'Stein Books of Houston permission to set up a booth at the conference, but, at the same time T.G.C. V. granted two Dallas based book stores permission to do so. If this is what this conference is all about, then Integrity must be in the wrong Task Force.

The annual Texas Gay Conference is a state-wide event for the benefit of gaymen and lesbian women from all over the state. We are truly disappointed if the Dallas people feel it necessary to discriminate against non-Dallas businesses.

At this point we have not been able to verify all of the facts of this action. If we have misunderstood the meaning of what has taken place, then please accept our apologies for this letter. However, we are interested in getting news of what actually has happened as far as Wilde'N'Stein is concerned. Ken and Charles were both founders of the Task Force and are both members of Integrity. We feel that they should be given any permission(s) that are due them.

Awaiting your reply, we remain,

Very truly your's,

For Integrity/Houston

(713) 529-7014

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY IN THE GAY COMMUNITY FOR SEVEN YEARS

BOB ECKHARDT
8TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCE



COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
MINES AND MINING

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 30, 1978

Mr. Carl Hays
744 Dorchester
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Mr. Hays:

Thank you for notifying me of your support for H. J. Res. 638, which would extend the deadline set for the ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

H. J. Res. 638 was reported out of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights on June 5 and sent to the House Judiciary Committee where it is now pending. Further action is expected during this session of Congress.

I have supported, and continue to support the Equal Rights Amendment and believe that Congress should extend the time deadline for ratification by the remaining states. However, it is also my view that states should be able to rescind their ratification votes if they so choose. To allow an extension of time for ratification without also allowing states the opportunity to rescind would be inequitable.

I appreciate your taking the time to write and inform me of your views concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Eckhardt".

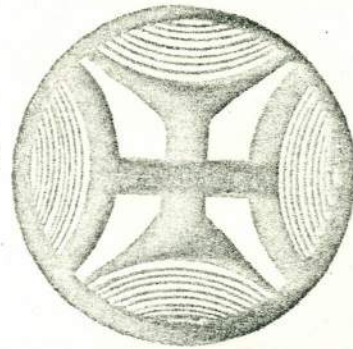
Bob Eckhardt

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

since



1970

Outreach
P.O. Box 2073
Waco, Texas 76703

Dear Gay Brothers and Sisters,

We recently received your letter in our mail box and I opened it without looking at the front of the envelope. Gay Political Caucus used our box for a couple of months while it was being organized. They now have their own office and I am taking the liberty of referring your letter to them. You probably got this mailing address out of a magazine. Some still give our post office box.

Outreach is a welcome addition to the Texas Movement. Waco has needed an organization for a good while.

I am enclosing some material that might be of interest to you. You should also be hearing from G.P.C. soon.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For the Board and
Membership of In-
tegrity/Houston

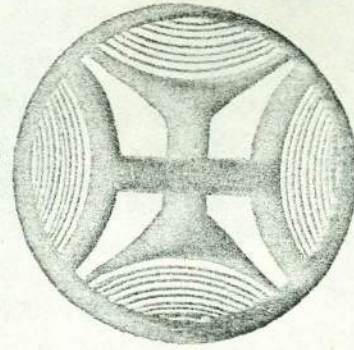
(713) 529-7014

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY IN THE GAY COMMUNITY - BECAUSE WE CARE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

since



1970

Barry E. Clark
c/o OUTREACH
P.O. Box 2073
Waco, Texas 76703

July 7, 1978

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your recent letter. One of our priorities as a Service organization is to aid our brothers and sisters in any way that we are able. In order to answer your questions, it will be necessary to give a brief history of our group.

Integrity/Houston started out in 1970 as a chapter of Dignity. It became apparent after a few months that the activities of the group were too broad based for the purposes of Dignity. The group was asked by the national office of Dignity to stop all political activities and allow only catholics in the organization. Rather than do this, the group changed its name to Integrity.

In 1975 we were incorporated in order to qualify for government funding. After a year and a half of harrassment from the I.R.S., it became obvious that they were not as yet ready to grant a gay organization tax exempt status. In 1977 we reorganized under new by-laws. By this time the people who had set up the charter had moved on to the newly formed Gay Political Caucus as Integrity had passed her "political hat" on to this new group. It was decided that the charter would be dropped since the organization had taken on different priorities than those listed in the charter. It was felt that incorporation was too binding for the "new" group.

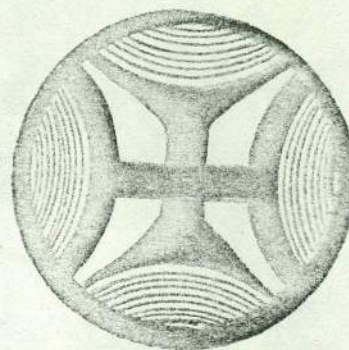
Integrity joined NGTF & TGTF for several reasons. As a supporting member of these organizations, Integrity was able to build a communication network with other state and national organizations. Individual members of these organizations that are in need of information or aid are referred to the member organization in their region. Many of our past membership were referred to us in this manner. NGTF leaders have also, on occasion, donated their time to fund raising activities when they were in the area.

Integrity has never had a lot of money. Our funds come primarily from "passing the hat" at meetings. Additional funds have come from fund raising activities such as garage sales, dinners, dances, and so forth, as well as donations from supportive businesses and individuals. In the eight years we have been

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

since 1970



PAGE 2

around, we have been lucky enough to have developed various resources. When we have needed something, somehow we have always gotten it. Some gay business owners that support our efforts have either donated materials to us or sold them to us at cost. Many of our members are professional artists or craftsmen and are able to donate services. Although we very often work on a "shoe-string", it can be done without large amounts of money.

It seems to us that your first step in getting organized should be to set up a regular meeting schedule. We originally met every week. After the organization obtains a following, weekly meetings may not be necessary. Regular meetings give the group a sense of stability. You may not do very well as far as membership for a while. Apathy is a very difficult thing to fight. Very often the work of the entire group is done by two or three people. This may be necessary for a while.

One very important thing we feel that you should recognize is that you need to start out with one definite purpose. Everything that you mentioned as far as goals are very viable efforts to work for. However; we have seen at least a dozen organizations go under because they tried to start out too big and spread themselves too thin. We suggest that you start out as merely a social and rap group. After you become established, you could begin to expand your activities, slowly.

We would like to suggest that you contact the Forward Foundation of San Antonio. They were the first gay group in Texas (And possibly the nation, too,) to be granted Tax exempt status. After they received this last year, they were able to obtain CETA funding to pay personnel. I am enclosing a list of references for your use.

We hope that this information will be of some use to you. We wish you the best of luck.

We remain,

Very truly yours,

For the Board and Membership of Integrity/Houston

P.S. You might try taking out classified ads in some of the Texas publications. We have had excellent results from them.

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

Houston Town Meeting 1 Coalition
P.O. Box 3624
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Congratulations on the success of Town Meeting 1. Without the untiring efforts of people such as yourselves, the coverage and effects of this massive undertaking would not have been possible. Once again, congratulations.

One very important item that we are curious to know about is the date that the resolutions that were voted upon will be released to the public. Those resolutions are the mandate of the gay community of Houston and it is very important that they be made public knowledge before the effects of TM 1 wear off.

We have also heard the rumor that the video tapes that were supposed to be for the "Town Meeting Archives" might possibly be used for some type of documentary. We are very concerned about this because the community was told that these tapes were to be confidential and kept in storage for research purposes. Release of these tapes could endanger future community efforts because of the betrayal of trust that the community had put in our "leaders". You might also consider the possibility of legal problems that could result from the lack of signed releases from people that were interviewed. Whatever the result, we are definitely opposed to release of the tapes.

Awaiting to hear from you, we remain

Very truly your's,

For the Board and
Membership of Integrity/Houston

(813) 529-7014

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

10-9-78

Dear Mr. President,

In the very near future, voters in California will be voting on the "gay" teachers bill, Proposition 6. This bill would, in effect, make the firing of gay teachers and those that support gay rights legal. This not only denies gay people the right to work, but also would be a violation of a citizen's right of Free Speech. Similar legislation is being held back in Texas, awaiting only the outcome of the vote in California. In other words, the success of Proposition 6 could very likely start a "witch hunt" with gay people as the target.

We appeal to you Mr. President, to come out in opposition to Proposition 6. We need your help in the immediate future to insure that Human rights are not denied a very large portion of the population. With your support of Human Rights, we know that we can count on your support.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For the Board & Membership
of Integrity/Houston

(713) 529-7014 or 694-1732

Richard Burckhardt
744 Dorchester
Houston Texas 77022

IMPORTANT

UPFRONT
P. O. Box 66844
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear UPFRONT,

In the Sept 29 issue of UPFRONT and ad titled "Expose Yourself states that "Ever since the gay movement began in Houston three years ago...". Mr. Van Ooteghem seems to believe that the formation of GPC and his firing from Hartsell Gray's office started the whole Houston movement. These were certainly important events for Houston's gay community, however, the movement has been going on in Houston for at least ten years, and possibly longer

As early as the late 1960's a gay organization called the Promethean Society was started in Houston. Shortly thereafter several other groups came on the scene. In the early '70s came People's Choice, Montrose Gaze, MCCR, Integrity/Houston, Dignity/Houston, The Lesbian/Feminist Task Force Of NOW, etc. As you can see, we had quite a bit going on long before anyone had ever heard of a Gay Political Caucus or Gary Van Ooteghem.

Although many of these groups are no longer around, while they were here they did set a basis for the current Movement that is being carried on by GPC and others. One of the earliest political moves by the gay community of Houston was in the Ron Waters and Fred Hofheinz races in the early '70s. Integrity/Houston campaigned for the both of these men in their first races for office. Through these successful efforts, Integrity and People's Choice were able to begin the first liason between The Houston Police Dept. and the local gay community. Where was G.V.O. and, by the same token, where were all of the people of GPC that are now yelling for everyone to come out of the closet? Where were all of these people back then while half a dozen or so did most of the work in getting something accomplished? I recall a member of Integrity getting a call from someone at Dirty Sally's several years ago while Sally's was being raided. He was screaming "What are you people going to do about this?". The Integrity member merely answered "No, the question is, what are you going to do about this?". The person that made that call is now a very upfront gay person, whereas before he had been a real closet case.

The whole point of this letter is that the gay movement did not begin three years ago. I don't think that we can really put a date on when it actually did begin in Houston, but I do think that Mr. Van Ooteghem is giving himself and GPC and whatever else happened to come along in 1975 more credit than that which is rightfully due them.

Sincerely,

NO PROPOSITION 6

October 24, 1978

Dear Contributor:

We regret that we must again make an urgent plea for help.

The drive to defeat Proposition 6 is in its final stage, and all polls show us in a virtual tie with Briggs' forces.

We have come a very long way, but to win we must buy many more television and radio commercials and begin placing advertisements in newspapers.

Such a media campaign is expensive--some spots cost \$7,500 for 30 seconds of television time. And Briggs says now that he will spend at least \$200,000 during the last few weeks before November 7th on TV and radio. We must, at a minimum, match Briggs' expenditure and show repeatedly the strong, effective commercials we have produced.

We know you have already been generous in this effort. Your contribution made it possible for us to develop the strongest group of supporters--political, religious, labor--ever in a California campaign. The momentum is on our side! Don't let Briggs' media campaign of fear and hate defeat the work that you have helped to fund.

Dig deep once more and give whatever you can. With your help, we will win. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Star

Tom Bradley
Tom Bradley
Mayor of Los Angeles

George R. Moscone
George Moscone
Mayor of San Francisco

Enc.

Dear Friend:

I am writing to ask your support for the re-election of Hartsell Gray, Treasurer of Harris County. As a computer programmer who works for the Treasury, I am able to attest to the fine job he is doing.

Hartsell Gray is an energetic and intelligent person who has transformed the County Treasury into a modern, efficient and secure operation. Since he took office in 1973, the Treasury's volume of business has grown more than tenfold, while his staff has only grown from 6 persons to about 20. This has been possible because of the conscientious workers he has attracted and because of his astute choice of computers and other office machinery. He is one who inspires his employees to good work.

He is an equal opportunity employer and makes a special effort to see that his staff is represented by all the different groups of people in Harris County. Several employees with positions of responsibility are women or blacks or both. On the other hand, he is always firm about expecting results from his employees. He does not hold employees accountable for political or other activities which they may do outside of work. This is an office where no one pries into employees' affairs.

I can say without reservation that he is more qualified than any of his opponents. Any support you can give him would be most appreciated.

Yours truly,



Scott Tillinghast



SCRATCH PAD

11/6/78

Hi —

LOVED THE REPLY TO
"EXPOSE YOURSELF." HAVE
YOU EVER CONSIDERED
PREACHING — YOU WOULD
DO ONE HELLUVA JOB.

IT TOOK COURAGE, INTELLIGENCE & DEDICATION TO
REPLY AS YOU DID. I SALUTE YOU!

HALLOWEEN SNAPS ON
THE WAY — I WON 1ST PRIZE
AS "JOHN BRIGGS FAIRY
GODMOTHER." LOVE

BOB.

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041

houston, texas 77022

Program Director
Channel 13
692-0325

P. O. Box 13

Houston, Texas 77001

11/19/78

Dear friends,

We would like to express our gratitude for the handling of the edition of the Sunday morning show, "Turn On", that dealt with Parents of Gays. The show was handled in a positive manner and was tastefully presented. This particular program was quite a switch from your "Boys for Sale" series.

We hope that the Gay community of Houston and Channel 13 might be able to work together in the future. Realizing that our relationship in the past has been somewhat strained, an effort on both of our parts will be necessary. You have started the process. Perhaps we will be able to contribute to it also.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For the Board & Membership of Integrity.

Telephone (713) 529-7014

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY IN THE GAY COMMUNITY FOR SEVEN YEARS



For release: November 28, 1978

Contact: Cleve Jones, 863-5367 (415)
Chris Perry, 621-5772, 626-3621 (415)

HARVEY MILK MEMORIAL - NATIONAL DAY OF FREEDOM

Friends of Harvey Milk are being asked not to send flowers in his memory but instead to help fulfill his dream of a national march and rally in Washington, D.C., next July.

On June 25, 1978, speaking to a quarter of a million people gathered to celebrate Gay Freedom Day, Harvey Milk called for a National Day of Freedom. "I call upon all minorities and especially the millions of lesbians and gay men to wake up from their dreams--to gather in Washington where over a decade ago Dr. Martin Luther King spoke to a nation of his dreams--dreams that are fast fading, dreams that to many millions in this country have become nightmares." The message of the National Day of Freedom would be, in Harvey's words, "Wake up . . . wake up America. No more racism, no more sexism, no more ageism, no more hatred. No more!"

To make that National Day of Freedom a living memorial to Harvey Milk, contributions can be given to a special fund for that purpose. Checks should be made payable to "A United Fund" and mailed to: 1 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102.



Speech at Gay Freedom Day
June 25, 1978
San Francisco

My name is Harvey Milk -- and I want to recruit you. I want to recruit you for the fight to preserve your democracy from the John Briggs and the Anita Bryants who are trying to constitutionalize bigotry.

We are not going to allow that to happen. We are not going to sit back in silence as 300,000 of our gay sisters and brothers did in Nazi Germany. We are not going to allow our rights to be taken away and then March with bowed heads to the gas chambers. On this anniversary of Stonewall, I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commitment to fight. For themselves, for their freedom, for their country.

Here in San Francisco, we recently held an election for a judgeship. An anti-gay smear campaign was waged against a presiding judge because she was supported by lesbians and gay men. Here, in so-called liberal San Francisco, an anti-gay smear campaign was waged by so-called liberals.

And here in so-called liberal San Francisco, we have a columnist for the San Francisco Examiner, a columnist named Kevin Starr, who has printed a number of columns containing distortions and lies about gays. He's getting away with it.

These anti-gay smear campaigns, these anti-gay columns, are laying the groundwork for the Briggs initiative. We had better be prepared for it.

In the Examiner, Kevin Starr defames and libels gays. In the Chronicle, Charles McCabe warns us to be quiet, that talking about gay rights is counter-productive. To Mr. McCabe, I say that the day he stops talking about freedom of the press is the day he no longer has it.

The blacks did not win their rights by sitting quietly in the back of the bus! They got off!

We will not win our rights by staying quietly in our closets... We are coming out! We are coming out to fight the lies, the myths, the distortions! We are coming out to tell the truth about gays!

For I am tired of the conspiracy of silence.

I am tired of listening to the Anita Bryants twist the language and the meaning of the Bible to fit their own distorted outlook. But I'm even more tired of the silence from the religious leaders

of this nation who know that she is playing fast and loose with the true meaning of the Bible. I'm tired of their silence more than of her biblical gymnastics!

And I'm tired of John Briggs talking about false role models. He's lying through his teeth and he knows it. But I'm even more tired of the silence from educators and psychologists who know that Briggs is lying and yet say nothing. I'm tired of their silence more than of Briggs' lies.

I'm tired of the silence. So I'm going to talk about it. And I want you to talk about it.

Gay people are painted as child molesters. I want to talk about that. I want to talk about the myth of child molestations by gays. I want to talk about the fact that in this state some 95% of child molestations are heterosexual and usually committed by a parent.

I want to talk about the fact that all child abandonments are heterosexual.

I want to talk about the fact that all abuse of children is by their heterosexual parents.

I want to talk about the fact that some 98% of the six million rapes committed annually in this country are heterosexual.

I want to talk about the fact that one out of every three women who will be murdered in this state this year will be murdered by their husbands.

I want to talk about the fact that some 30% of all heterosexual marriages contain domestic violence.

And finally, I want to tell the John Briggs and the Anita Bryants that they talk about the myths of gays, but today I'm talking about the facts of heterosexual violence and what the hell are you going to do about that?

Clean up your own house before you start telling lies about gays. Don't distort the Bible to hide your own sins, don't change facts to lies, don't look for cheap political advantage in playing upon people's fears. Judging by the latest polls, even the youth of this state can tell you're lying!

Anita Bryant, John Briggs: Your unwillingness to talk about your own house, your deliberate lies and distortions, your unwillingness to face the truth, chills my blood--it reeks of madness!

And like the rest of you, I'm tired of our so-called "friends" who tell us that we must set standards. What standards?

The standards of the rapists? The wife beaters? The child abusers? The people who ordered the bomb to be built? The people who ordered it to be dropped? The people who pulled the trigger? The people who gave us Vietnam? The people who built the concentration camps--

right here in California, and then herded all the Japanese-Americans into them during World War II ... The Jew baiters? The nigger knockers? The corporate thieves? The Nixons? The Hitlers?

What standards do you want us to set? Clean up your own act, clean up your violence before you criticize lesbians and gay men because of their sexuality. It is madness to glorify killing and violence on one hand and to be ashamed of the sexual act that conceived you on the other hand.

There is a difference between morality and murder. The fact is that more people have been slaughtered in the name of religion than for any other single reason. That, my friends, is the true perversion!

For the standards that we set, should we look to next week's headlines?

Well, I'm tired of the lies of the Anita Bryants and the John Briggs. I'm tired of their myths. I'm tired of their distortions. I'm speaking out about it.

Gay brothers and sisters, what are you going to do about it? You must come out. Come out to your parents, I know that it is hard and that it will hurt them but think of how they will hurt you in the voting booth! Come out to your relatives. I know that it is hard and will upset them but think of how they will upset you in the voting booth. Come out to your friends, if indeed, they are your friends. Come out to your neighbors, to your co-workers, to the people who work where you eat and shop. Come out only to the people you know, and who know you. Not to anyone else. But once and for all, break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions for your own sake, for their sake, for the sake of the youngsters who are being terrified by the votes coming from Dade County to Eugene.

If Briggs wins he will not stop. They never do. Like all mad people, they are forced to go on, to prove they were right. There will be no safe closet for any gay person. So break out of yours today, tear the damn thing down once and for all!

And finally, most of all, I'm tired of the silence from the White House. Jimmy Carter: You talk about human rights a lot, in fact, you want to be the world's leader for human rights. Well, damn it, lead! There are some 15-20 million lesbians and gay men in this nation listening and listening very carefully. Jimmy Carter, when are you going to talk about their rights? You talk a lot about the Bible, but when are you going to talk about that most important part: "Love thy neighbor?" After all, she may be gay.

Jimmy Carter: The time has come for lesbians and gay men to come out, and they are. Now the time has come for you to speak out. When are you? Until you speak out against hatred, bigotry, and madness, you are just Jimmy Carter. When you do speak out, then and only then, will some twenty million lesbians and gay men be able to say that Jimmy Carter is our president too!

Jimmy Carter, you have the choice: How many more years? How much

more violence? How much more damage? How many more lives? History says that, like all groups seeking their rights, sooner or later, we will win. The question is: When?

Jimmy Carter, you have to make the choice, it's in your hands: Either years of violence, or you can help turn the pages of history that much faster. It is up to you. And now, before it becomes too late, come to California and speak out against Briggs.

If you don't--then we will come to you! If you do not speak out, if you remain silent, if you do not lift your voice against Briggs, then I call upon lesbians and gay men from all over the nation, your nation, to gather in Washington one year from now on that national day of freedom, the Fourth of July. To gather in Washington on the same spot where over a decade ago Dr. Martin Luther King spoke to a nation of his dreams... Dreams that are fast fading, dreams that to many millions in this country have become nightmares.

I call upon all minorities and especially the millions of lesbians and gay men to wake up from their dreams ... to gather in Washington and tell Jimmy Carter and their nation: "Wake up ... wake up, America. No more racism, no more sexism, no more ageism, no more hatred. No more!"

It's up to you, Jimmy Carter. Do you want to go down in history as a person who would not listen? Or do you want to go down in history as a leader, as a president?

Jimmy Carter: Listen to us today. Or you will have to listen to all of us from all over the nation as we gather in Washington next year.

For we will gather there and we will tell you about America and what it really stands for.

...And to the bigots...to the John Briggs...to the Anita Bryants ...to the Kevin Starrs and all their ilk: Let me remind you what America is. Listen carefully.

On the Statue of Liberty it says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free..." In the Declaration of Independence it is written, "All men are created equal and they are endowed with certain inalienable rights..." And in our national anthem it says: "Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave o'er the land of the free..."

For Mr. Briggs and Mrs. Green and Mr. Starr and all the bigots out there: That's what America is. No matter how hard you try, you cannot erase those words from the Declaration of Independence. No matter how hard you try, you cannot chip those words from off the base of the Statue of Liberty. And no matter how hard you try, you cannot sing the "Star Spangled Banner" without those words.

That's what America is. Love it or leave it.

December 26, 1978

Dear Richard Burckhardt,

When I got your November 20 letter, I tried to call you, and I left a message with Charles Gillis at Wilde in Stein but perhaps you didn't get it.

When it comes to audio-visuals, I much prefer to discuss items over the phone because that's the easiest way to explain the strong points and weaknesses of particular items. The a-v section of our 1975-76 Gay Bibliography is out of date, the new bibliography won't be ready for several months, and the only thing I have to fill the gap is our Gay Film Festival schedule from the American Library Assn. annual conference this past June (copy enclosed). Our including a film in this smorgasbord sort of festival does not necessarily mean we recommend it. All the films have some flaws, some have more flaws than good points, most work better with certain audiences than with others. These judgments are hard to put into writing, but in a few minutes over the phone I could give you a helpful rundown on whatever films look interesting for your purpose, so do call me!

There are a couple of filmstrips that might also be worth considering, and I'll be glad to tell you about them too.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

In gay spirits,
Barbara Gittings

GAY RIGHTS NATIONAL LOBBY

SUITE 210, 110 Maryland Ave., Washington, D.C. 20002

Tel. (202) 543-2447

Dear GRNL Member:

I am pleased to take the position of Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby. I am looking forward to the challenge ahead as we move into a new and important phase in the life of GRNL.

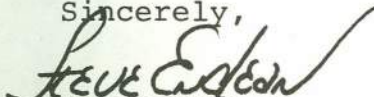
We are at a critical point not only in the life of the organization but in our movement in general. As you know, several cities have now repealed gay civil rights laws by referenda and the climate of the times appears to be one of reaction.

But it is important that we not lose sight of the many advantages we presently enjoy. Lesbian and gay male organizations are larger, stronger and better organized than ever before. Many gay people who had never been previously involved now understand the importance of this effort. There are many more non-gay people who have been made aware of the issue, with a resulting increase in the level of their support. The religious community is increasingly aware of the important role that they must play in support of the civil rights of gay people. In general, the reactionary strategy of attempting to demoralize us and stem our progress appears to be failing.

The Gay Rights National Lobby is committed to playing a major role in the progress toward a just society. There admittedly have been organizational problems in the past, but I hope that we might quickly resolve these problems and get on with the important work of establishing a strong and effective lobbying effort in the nation's Capitol.

I look forward to working for you and with you in the months and years ahead. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions on our efforts, please feel free to call me at (202) 543-2447 or drop me a note.

Sincerely,


Steve Endean
Executive Director

SRE/rd

integrity/houston
po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

since



1970

NGTF Nominating Committee
80 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10011

12/30/78

Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that we submit to you this letter of recommendation for Charles Gillis as a possible candidate for the NGTF Board of Directors. It would be impossible for us to truly express our gratitude to Charles for the many things that he has done for the gay community of Texas. Among these has been his continued use of his WILDE'N'STEIN book shop as the community center that Houston has so sorely lacked. Charles was also a co-founder of the Texas Gay Task Force.

Charles' efforts on behalf of the gay community greatly appreciated and we would recommend very highly for any office and/or honor that he should strive for.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For the Board and Membership
of Integrity/Houston

Telephone: (713) 694-1732

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY IN THE GAY COMMUNITY - BECAUSE WE CARE

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022
692-0325

1/21/78

Mayor Jim McConn
City Hall
901 Bagby
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. McConn,

Due to the recent rash of raids and harrassment by the Houston Police Dept, we feel that we should write to you once again and express our concerns, and ~~very definitely~~ ^{INACED} our disappointment, involving the new administration.

In the raids on gay establishments in Houston, H. P. D. officers came into the bars with guns drawn and rifles ready. Now, in a raid where the only charges involved ~~are~~ ^{is} "public intoxication", there is no reason to have guns drawn, and no excuse for these officers to have done so. It is apparent that these officers, so many of whom refer to the gay community as "~~Commie hippie weirdo~~ queers, fags, homos, fairies, etc.", are afraid of us for some reason. This is not the type of person that belongs on the H. P. D.. Houston already has the reputation of having the worst police dept. in the country. (~~Perhaps~~ ^{ACCORDING TO TIME} second to Philadelphia.)

It is true that under Houston's present system of government that the mayor has little control over hiring and firing of police officers, however, you do have control over the police chief, and Mr. McConn, we submit to you that our present police chief is 99% of the problem. *AND perhaps fits into the category mentioned above.*

We realize that you have many other concerns regarding the city, but you must realize also that our primary concern at this time is the inequity that is tanspiring here. We ARE CITIZENS IN THIS CITY AND DEMAND TREATMENT AS SUCH AND WILL ACCEPT NO LESS. We would like very much to cooperate with the city administration, however, until the present situation is resolved, we will not be able to. We need and ask for your assistanse.

We remain,

Very truly your's,

For Integrity/Houston