

TO ALL OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF INTEGRITY/HOUSTON:

I would like to share some concerns that I have regarding our relationship with Bering Church and our use of facilities there.

Although Reverend Pogue and many people within the church are very pro-gay and want to see a continuation of the work being done with the gay community, such as the Coffee House, there are those within the church that are totally against us and are simply looking for excuses to try and run us out. We have seen evidence of this through such incidents as the sudden request to move our "Gay is O.K." meeting some time ago. It seemed that one individual within the church got hold of one of our fliers and just could not accept the concept of gay being o.k. We have also seen it within the church. The coffee social that precedes the Sunday service was recently moved out of the comfortable environment of the parlor and into the cold atmosphere of the fellowship hall, purportedly because of cigarette burns in the carpet of the parlor. Upon examination of the carpet in the parlor, no ash burns were found. Rumor has it that the move was made because most of the gays in the church smoke, and this was an effort to make things uncomfortable by some of the homophobic Building Use Committee members.

It is also important for you to know that our continued use of the Activities Building for the Coffee House is at the mercy of the Council On Ministries at the church, which is now chaired by an anti-gay woman. You see, the church, or those none gays who we have not worked with, sees that Coffee House as a Bering Church project, regardless of the fact that no church members have bothered to offer any assistance, nor have more than a handful even bothered to attend. In order to make use of the facilities, we had to agree to let the church consider itself a co-sponsor. In doing so, we have had to ask permission of the church to do anything. In other words, we have had to kiss some ass in order to achieve some of our objectives. It was done for a good cause, the community, so I have no regrets in doing so. However; I think that you need to realize that as long as we remain at Bering Church, we will probably have to continue to do so. Do not misunderstand me. I am not suggesting that we leave our present meeting place. We could not ask for better facilities, nor could we find any. What I am suggesting though is that we understand that the only way that we will ever be able to run the Coffee House, I/H, or anything that we now hold at Bering without having to ask permission first, is through use of a facility that we alone own or lease.

I am bringing this up at this time because of an anonymous warning that I received through the church. It seems that there is pressure being put on Rev. Pogue by the Council on Ministries concerning a Coffee House committee. This committee would probably have to be made up of church members for the Council to accept the validity of it. As I said, they consider the Coffee House a church function. This Board would answer to the Council on all matters that concern the Coffee House. It is my feeling as a member of Bering that the Council really could care less about INTEGRITY's role in the Coffee House. I also feel that if the church continues to push for a board such as this that we will be further under the heel of the powers

continued

that be within the church and that the Coffee House will probably have to change from a mostly gay activity to a more straight one. I have already seen evidence that this could happen in the fact that I was required to distribute leaflets about the Christmas and New Year's Coffee Houses at places other than mostly gay ones. This had to be done in order to get permission to do this. (the Coffee Houses)

The role of the Coffee House is certainly in providing social interaction with whoever walks in the door, but the primary reason for our involvement is to provide a social alternative for the homophile community.

I have been requested to try to work with Buddy Calvert and establish some sort of board to satisfy the Council on Ministries. I am going to do so. With any luck, we will probably be able to stay here as long as we want. My purpose for this letter, however, is to point out the fact that our security with regards to the church is not as concrete as I would like it to be. We need to consider this and thereby come up with alternatives for the future, should they be needed.

There has also been a change with regards to use of church property. The new Building Use Committee has adopted a new set of rules that prohibit removing any property from the church for anything but church business and also prohibits the buildings or grounds from being used for any fundraising activities. Whether this has anything to do with I/H, the Coffee House, or the Wesleyan Fellowship meeting there is anyone's guess. I have my suspicions, however.

You also need to know that our request to keep the Coffee House open a little later got favorable response from Rev. Pogue. When I brought the idea of our programs being held at the coffee house, Buddy hesitated. He first asked what type of programs would be held, and then asked that they not be called "INTEGRITY" programs. I am sure he said this to please the Council on Ministries. I don't like it, though. I simply do not like to have this type of restriction placed on us. It goes against my grain for us to have "hide" behind any type of closet door.

Please read this with the understanding that I simply want to point out some possible future problems. We may be able to work them out very easily. Church politics is probably the bitchiest form of politics ever in existence, however, and can be a painful, frustrating thing. Our only alternative to this is self control over meeting space and function. Please consider this and make reports such as this. If we share ideas, perhaps we can find a solution.

With love,

Richard Burkhardt

AGENDA
Integrity/Houston Meeting
May 15, 1980

Old Business

1. Election of new Board Member
2. Vote on mailing list amendment to By-Laws
3. Gay Pride Week
 - a. Parade-Balloons, messages, truck
 - b. Refreshments and entertainment for June 20
4. Meetings
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Place

New Business

1. Gay Pride Week
 - a. Ad for GPW Guide
 - b. Booth at GPC Rally on June 29
2. Treasurer's report
3. Discussion of finances
4. Program report
5. Social Report



GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS • P. O. Box 3887 • Houston, Texas 77001

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All gay/lesbian organizations/church groups/etc
FROM: Fred Paez,
Administrative Assistant
DATE: April 9, 1980
RE: Referrals update procedure

The Gay Political Caucus is in the process of updating and expanding its community referral book listings. In order to make the most of this valuable community service, we need your help. We need to find out certain information on your organization so that we can prepare an accurate, complete and useful listing for your group in our book. Therefore, if you could send me a summary of the information asked for in the following questions, I will be able to prepare a useful entry for your group. If you receive this, and you are no longer active or responsible in the group, please forward it to the proper person. If your group is no longer active, please let me know. Please be assured that the personal information regarding contact people will be kept confidential and other such information is only for our office use.

Thanks for your cooperation.

THE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the correct name, mailing address, and contact telephone number for your organization?
2. Who are the officers and/or contact persons for your group?
3. What is the purpose of your group? Do you serve only a specific constituency? If so, who?
4. Do you hold regular meetings? If so, when and where?
5. Are there any membership requirements and/or dues for your group?
6. If such is appropriate for your group, do you offer counseling and/or peer support? If so, is there any charge and under what conditions is this service offered? (hours, etc.)
7. Does your group offer referrals to or from for specific services and/or problems?
8. If your group is a religious-oriented group, what specific denomination(s) are you affiliated with? Is membership and/or attendance limited to members of that faith?

-over-

9. Does your group sponsor and/or host any regularly scheduled events? If so, what are they, when are they held, and who may attend? Does attendance cost anything? If so, how much?
10. What services does your group provide/offer to the gay community and how are they accomplished?
11. Any other information that you think might be of interest that I have not listed would be appreciated.

In order to prepare a timely referral listing for your group, I would appreciate your response to these questions no later than April 18, 1980 if at all possible.

If you have any questions regarding this inquiry, please feel free to contact me at the GPC offices, 526-2668, between 1-5p.m. Monday through Friday.

FWP/s

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022



May 10, 1980

GPC
P.O. Box 3887
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. Paez:

This letter is in reponse to your community referral book listings. It is hoped that the following information will supply everything that is needed.

1. Our organization is: Integrity/Houston
P.O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022
529-7014
2. The officers currently on the board of directors are:
(1) Mike Ramsey, President (2) Johnny Peden, Vice-President (3) William Levitt, Secretary (4) Ronald Demerin, Treasurer (5) Richard Leopold, Education Director (6) Richard Burckhardt, Publicity Director (7) Ken Iserloth, Social Director
3. The purpose of I/H is to provide an alternative for the gay community to meet in a social environment. We are educational and would desire to foster an understanding between the heterosexual and homosexual communities. Overall however, we are a social group that serves the gay population.
4. We have two meetings a month. The first Thursday of the month is our committee meeting. The third Thursday of the month is our general business meeting.
5. To qualify for membership one must attend a membership orientation class. These are held in conjunction with our coffee house each Friday, the orientation being on the fourth Friday of the month. To date there are no membership dues.
6. We do not offer any conseling services.
7. We do provide any information about gay services that we know of in the community, but we are not a referral service.
8. We are not a religious-oriented group.

A NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION-SINCE 1970

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION-BECAUSE WE CARE

integrity/houston

po box 16041

houston, texas 77022



A NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION-SINCE 1970

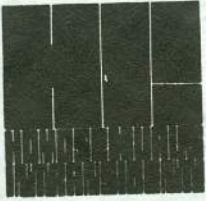
9. I/H does not hold any regularly scheduled events. Fund-raising activities, open houses, dances, etc. are held periodically when desired.
10. Aside from our meetings and the community coffee house, I/H offers several small splinter groups of varied interests designed to broaden the scope of I/H. Also available to the community are "Because We Care", the monthly newsletter of I/H, and the Gay Archives of Texas.

It is sincerely desired that the preceding information is adequate for your purposes. If we can be of any further assistance, feel free to contact us.

In gay pride,

Sincerely yours,

Secretary,
For the Board and
Membership of
Integrity/Houston



HOMOSEXUALS INTRANSIGENT!

April 2, 1980

Gay Archives of Texas
c/o Integrity/Houston
Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Brothers:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the BEST OF HI!
for the movement publications section of the Gay Archives
of Texas collection.

In the U.S. gay liberation movement the over-
whelming majority of gay leaders and organizations put
forth an assimilationist/integrationist solution to the
problem of gay oppression. Homosexuals Intransigent!
founded shortly before Stonewall was the first and only
group to develop and espouse the ideology of homosexual
separatism as the solution to gay oppression. Although
in the hey day of gay liberation immediately after Stone-
wall other separatist groups existed most notably Don
Jackson's Alpine Project in California, we have for the
past several years (as far as I know) been the only such
group in existence.

Irregardless of the position of gay leaders
and/or gay organizations most homosexuals have in the
past and continue at present to adopt a separatist
manner. Witness for example that since the articles
in the anthology were originally published three entire
neighborhoods in San Francisco have changed from
straight to gay, and San Francisco as well as New
York is on its way to obtaining a homosexual majority.

In addition to the BEST OF HI! I enclose
two organizational flyers issued in the past year, one
for the Washington march, and one for Cruising.

Best regards to everyone on your staff from
Christopher Street.

As Always,

Walter J. Phillips
Walter J. Phillips
Vice President

Enclosures: (3)

Homosexuals Intransigent!
135 Christopher Street
New York, New York 10014

FROM HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION

Because We Care

Newsletter of INTEGRITY/Houston

May 1980

Issue 14

Organization Notes...



SEX THERAPIST TO SPEAK AT INTEGRITY'S MAY 9 MEETING

Bill Scott, M.S.W. (Master Social Worker), who is administrator and therapist at the Montrose Counseling Center, will be the guest speaker for the May I/H Educational

Forum. Bill is active in the gay community and has a great deal of knowledge to share. A question and answer period will follow his address. Everyone is invited to attend this Forum at 9:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, at the Coffee House, 3405 Mulberry.

* * *

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS TO BE VOTED ON

The following amendment to the By-Laws of INTEGRITY/Houston will be voted on at the next general I/H meeting on Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. at 3405 Mulberry:

"The INTEGRITY/Houston mailing list is to remain confidential at all times. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to insure that it is not released either in part

INTEGRITY/Houston is a service/fellowship organization for gays and Texas' oldest active gay organization.

I/H Newsletter is published monthly for members and friends of the organization.

Copy deadline is the 20th of each month. Ad rates available on request.

Unsolicited articles are welcome, however, we reserve the right to refuse printing.

P.O. Box 16041, 77022 (713) 694-1732

or as a whole to any individual or organization. Further, no Board member may have access to the list with the exception of the President, Secretary, and Mailing List Coordinator, without a majority vote of the Board. The list may be used only for specific I/H business. I/H business shall be defined as those normal mailouts such as the newsletter, I/H announcements, and invitations to I/H functions."

* * *

APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLICITY CHAIR TO BE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 15

Applications for the Board of Directors' Publicity Chair are being accepted through May 15. The duties of this volunteer position include press releases to community media, membership orientation coordinator, and production and distribution of INTEGRITY literature, besides the seat on the Board of Directors.

Applications and nominations will be voted on at the general meeting on Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., at 3405 Mulberry. If you are interested in this position in Houston's oldest gay organization, please contact Richard at 694-1732, or better yet, send a letter stating your interest and qualifications to P.O. Box 16041, Houston TX 77022.

Member's Notes...

After our beautiful covered dish social last month, Don discovered two pot holders and a wicker tray that had been left. If they are yours, call Richard at 694-1732 . . . Richard Leopold, program director of INTEGRITY/Houston, reports that he needs people who are interested in putting together educational programs to help him with the Program Committee. If you are interested, please call Richard at 524-5180. . . . Our May Covered Dish Social will be held on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. Call 524-8028 for location and directions.

MORE ➔

Editorial...

ANTI-GAY LOBBY MOUNTS ATTACK

Recently a member of INTEGRITY/Houston received a letter in the mail with the headline, "THIS LETTER WILL MAKE YOU ANGRY!", and it sure did.

The letter was from the ultra right group calling themselves the "Christian Voice," who claim to be pursuing the "will of God" by attempting to deny rights to us "militant, godless gays." The letter was a request for funds, naturally, and also included a questionnaire with such questions as "Do you approve of practicing homosexuals teaching your children?", the implication being that if you do not conform or subscribe to their particular twisted, rigid, and harsh form of religion, you are going to Hell. They claim to speak as Christians, but the root of Christianity is love, and they don't seem to know this.

The Christian Voice has also been instrumental in introducing an anti-gay bill called the "Family Protection Act" into the U. S. Senate. This bill calls for the prohibiting of government funds from being used in any abortion or gay related legal cases or the allocation of government funds to any organization that advocates homosexuality as an alternate acceptable lifestyle, and it also calls for an addition to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that would make discrimination against people on the basis of homosexuality legal.

The "Christian Voice" is a prime example of an attempt to make laws on the basis of religious beliefs, a violation of the concept of the separation of church and state. These people are trying to force their values on society through our government. They must not succeed if the concept of human rights is to survive and grow. If you thought Anita was bad, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

For more information on issues of interest regarding lobbying activities, contact Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), P.O. Box 1892, Washington, DC 20013.

-- Richard Burkhart

(NOTE: Although I/H is not a religious organization, two of our goals are to promote

equality and combat discrimination. To do so, it is our responsibility to see that our community is informed of issues such as this one.)

LETTERS

The following was received with no return address or any indication of who sent it. It appears to be an appeal by an older gay for acceptance. If it is, it was sent to the right place. INTEGRITY/Houston welcomes everyone, regardless of age. If the writer of this letter reads this, please know that we welcome you to our fellowship.

"Yes, George, things are much better than when most of us lived in a very small room with no windows, just clothes. It was indeed stuffy. But now the years have rolled on and on. Over the hill, yes, but still walking, talking and wanting. Desires still exist and just as intensive. A beautiful fantasy is fine, but just does not fulfill. Yes, we are different.

"Many of us can join a new group and quickly find small talk and friends. Some of us, a bit older, feel the "cold" and need your small talk. Grey hair does not mean the fire is out in the furnace.

"Accept us, please, and you will be pleasantly surprised at our affection.

"And another thing - volumes have been written about the intrigue in the meeting and development of a relationship. In a conventional situation, the passive partner is pursued by the active one, as a general rule, with exceptions. But with us, the active and passive nature can conflict. We are both at the same time. We become actors, play the part at the time and then change our costume as required. Any wonder, the varied points of view. The search, the aspiration, the trust, the despair . . .

"Two in one, a double personality and needs. Isn't it wonderful that so many make the best of the situation. May we join you?"



Gay Community News

22 BROMFIELD ST., BOSTON, MASS. 02108 / 617-426-4469

THE GAY WEEKLY

May 14, 1980

Gay Archives of Texas
P.O. Box 16041
Houston, TX 77022

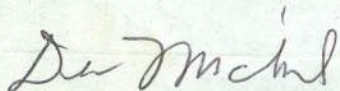
Dear Librarian,

As an archives assembling gay historical materials, I am sure you would be interested in getting a complete set of the Gay Community News on microfilm. We have been in existence since 1973 and have ^{been} documenting the gay struggle in America through news articles, features, letters and editorials for seven years.

Last October I sent you some information about us on microfilm, and am surprised that I have never heard from you. Is it an economic problem that prevents you from ordering a complete set of GCN's? How about just getting one volume for \$20.00 and seeing how much use it gets. Or is it that you don't have the facilities for viewing microfilm? In these days of rapidly accumulating piles of historical materials, it seems well worth it to invest in a piece of machinery that enables you to condense the space taken up by the materials by significant amounts.

Or perhaps you just haven't had time to respond. It just take a second to drop me a note, please do if you are interested.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Michel
microfilm coordinator

P.S. I'm enclosing another fact sheet for your convenience.

integrity/houston



po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

Phone: 529-7014 or 694-1732

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEGRITY/Houston, a service and educational organization for Houston's gay and lesbian communities, will present a special showing of the recent CBS Special "Gay Power, Gay Politics" on Friday, May 30, 8 p.m., at 3405 Mulberry.

Richard Burkhart, Publicity Chair of INTEGRITY/Houston and acting director of the Gay Archives of Texas, has announce the special showing in light of the negative nature of the program, and the need for the community to respond to the network.

INTEGRITY/Houston urges all individuals that have not seen the program to make a special effort to attend this viewing.

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cc: TWT
UPFRONT AMERICA
MONTROSE STAR

A NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - SINCE 1970

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION - BECAUSE WE CARE



TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

3225 LEMMON AVENUE WEST, SUITE 333 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75204
DALLAS: (214) 522-5991 HOUSTON: (713) 526-9139

Respond to:

1519 Maryland
Houston, Texas 77006
713/526-9139

July 17, 1980

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

For the last year and a half T.H.R.F. has focused its attentions on two cases which we have determined to be of particular importance. Suit has been filed in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the Texas Homosexual Conduct Statute (21.06). The plaintiff, Don Baker, claims relief under both the Texas and U.S. Constitutions based on due process, equal protection and the inherent right of privacy. Our second case deals with the right of a gay person to meet the good moral character requirement necessary to become a naturalized citizen. The Longstaff case is now on appeal to the 5th Circuit and will have widespread impact for future federal policy relating to gay people seeking to immigrate and to be naturalized.

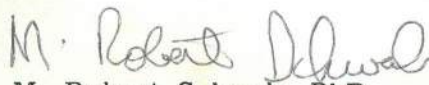
Due to the complexity of these two cases and the tremendous financial resources necessary for going forward, the energy of the THRF board and officers has been largely directed toward them. In order to broaden our scope and to decentralize, semi-autonomous local legal committees have been authorized.

The Dallas Local Legal Committee has been active in investigating allegations of police brutality, and discriminatory enforcement of public intoxication and lewdness statutes. It has assisted in funding cases in some of these areas and is establishing an ongoing defense fund. It has also been active in the area of job discrimination.

I would like to encourage the Houston community to establish a similar committee. So long as funds collected do not benefit any committee member, officer or director of THRF, and are used for the purposes described above, such funds would be tax deductible to the donor. The local legal committee could be standing or ad hoc, single or multi-purpose. Accounting and banking procedures would have to conform to general practice, and no action taken could violate IRS guidelines for public litigating organizations. Except for these conditions, the local legal committee would have full discretion to expend funds raised. In addition it would have access to other THRF resources including our national legal network and statewide publicity committee.

A Houston legal committee could have great impact and be highly beneficial in the event of problems similar to those that we have recently witnessed. If you are interested in being involved, or in supporting our two ongoing cases, please contact me.

Sincerely,


M. Robert Schwab, PhD.
President



GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS • P. O. Box 3887 • Houston, Texas 77001

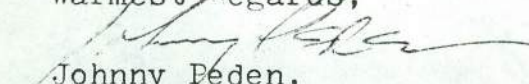
Dear Member Community Communications Committee,

Next Wednesday, August 20th is time again for our monthly meeting. This month we will be having dinner together at the Pink Flamingo Restraunt, 616 Westheimer. Time is the usual, 5:30 p.m.

Lee Harrington, our GPC President, will have just arrived back in town from the Democratic National Convention in New York. No doubt, Lee will have much to share with us about the convention.

But most important, you will have much to share with all of us about what your organization is doing. Please make it a point to attend this meeting so we all can get to know each other better and be supportive of one another's efforts. If you've never attended, let this be your first.

Warmest Regards,


Johnny Peden,
Member GPC Board of Trustees

R S V P by calling 521-1000
prior to Monday, August 18th,
5 P. M.

Referred to Archives

Mr. Ray Hill
Human Rights League
P.O. Box 3624
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. Hill,

I am a student at the University of Texas. My term paper for the course History 349M "The American City" pertains to the development of the Montrose community from 1960 to 1980. Several people have suggested to me that you might be in a position to offer me some assistance in this regard.

As I am sure you are aware, straight libraries regard most historical publications of the Gay community as obscene or of little value. Basic records are not maintained in straight libraries. As a result, the history of Gay community is regarded as non-existent, or, at least, insignificant. Gay people may come to believe that they have no history of any importance. I am sure that I need not point out to you the oppressive effect of this false belief.

I am fortunate enough to have found a professor who is willing to accept a paper on this subject--provided, of course, that the result is a worthwhile piece of scholarship. I will also be allowed to present my paper to a large general university audience which is mainly ignorant of the development of the Gay community. Publication in a journal which straight librarians do take seriously is a definite possibility. For these reasons, as well as for the reason of producing a piece of work which will prove useful to the Gay community, I hope to be able to produce a first-rate work. That is why I ask for such assistance as you may be able to provide.

I need the following:

1) Back numbers of TWT, at least copies of the Houston guide section, at at least yearly intervals for the last five years.

2) Back numbers of "guides" or "address books" for so long as such have been published. You know what I mean: the Houston sections of so-called "cruising guides", such as Bob Damron's Address Book.

3) Photos or slides of the Montrose area and significant events therein.

4) Back numbers of newspapers, bar guides, and the like published in or about Montrose.

In addition, I will be making several trips to Houston. I would like to administer a short questionnaire to several community groups such as congregations. Needless to say, the

Nature of these questionnaires will not identify the persons responding. So, I need some contacts in such organizations--like the churches, who can preview the questionnaires, understand their purpose, and introduce me to the group so as to obtain maximum co-operation. I would not presume to impose on these people if it were simply a matter of a grade, but I am dedicated to the production of a record which will be of value to generations of Gay people to come.

Finally, I will be making a door-to-door survey of small selected areas. I grew up in Montrose, but have not been back to Houston in many years. So, some introductions may be helpful. Also, as I must limit my expenditures as possible, weekend housing at cheap or free would be very helpful.

I have listed everything I need. I know that no one can offer me assistance on every one of the points, but any help you could offer regarding any of these would be greatly appreciated.

Needlesstosay, since this is not regarded a important research by the University--an attitude which I think my paper will change--all expenses must be met out of pocket. Nonetheless, I am prepared to compensate you for all reasonable copy, photoprinting and other incidental expenses.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

Lars Eighner

Laurence V. (Lars) Eighner

2300 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 478-7503

PS: I work nights and go to school during the days, so I am difficult to reach by phone.

9-17-80

You're invited

to inspect our culture
our history
our heritage

AN OPEN HOUSE for the
Gay Archives of Texas

... a collection of books, literature,
publications and more covering the
gay lifestyle

8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday - November 8, 1980

744 Dorchester, 'phone 694-1732

Sponsored by Integrity/Houston (I/H inc.)

Because We Care!

AN EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR GAYS AND FRIENDS AND A FORUM FOR RELATED TOPICS - BECAUSE WE CARE

integrity/houston

I/H,



Inc.

**po box 16041
houston, texas 77022**

Dear community leaders, members and friends,

You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, November 8, for an Open House for the I/H, Inc. collection, better known as the Gay Archives of Texas.

It is our hope that you will make use of this collection in the future by calling me, Richard, at 694-1732 to arrange for a time. The Archives are an extremely valuable resource for our community. There are over 800 books, hundreds of publications from around the world, hundreds of newsclippings, and files on organizations and general subjects. There are also slides and tapes of various events of importance to the gay community.

It is our firm hope that we will eventually be able to house the Archives in Montrose, but until I/H, Inc. is financially able to take on the expense of a facility in Montrose, the Archives will be available to you at my home by appointment.

We are also appreciative of any and all contributions of magazines, newspapers, tapes, pictures, and anything else that might be of lasting value to our community.

I hope to see you between 8 pm and 11 pm.

Very truly your's,

Richard Burkhart

Director/ Gay Archives
(713) 694-1732

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION; A NON-PROFIT TEXAS CORPORATION

To: INTEGRITY/Houston Board Members
From: Richard Burckhardt
Re: Establishing and maintaining a strong organization.

The following are recommendations that I have prepared concerning strengthening INTEGRITY/Houston. It is my opinion that INTEGRITY/Houston will not be able to service the community in a truly viable manner until the membership is increased, we are financially sound, are able to be truly independent as far as facilities, and can put together truly professional programs for the community. (The programs, in my opinion, are our key to obtaining 501(c)3 tax deductible status, and should be emphasized.)

I. Programs

1. Programs are our biggest drawing card and should be the focus of a good bit of our attention. The better our programs are, the more people will become interested and the better our reputation in the community will be.
2. One suggestion that I would like to put forth is a revival of the once a year meetings that we used to sponsor where representatives of all of the gay organizations attended. Rather than have just a joint meeting, however, I would suggest that we perhaps make it a workshop and rumor control type of situation.

II. Membership and Contribution Solicitation

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 - a) Which are most important?
 - b) Which have been of slight or passing value?
 - c) How well has the group performed?
 - d) What type of programs are suggested for the future?
3. Put together a membership packet to be mailed to all on our mailing list that will include a membership application (and a return envelope), a personal letter from the president, a membership brochure outlining benefits (ie; buttons, voting rights, possibly a membership card entitling members to discounts at events, permanent subscriptions to newsletter, etc.), a copy of current newsletter (a special issue to membership drives), extra information, and a contribution form. (*Note- it is my opinion that a small membership fee at some time in the future would be advisable. What contributions we now receive are eaten up by production and mailing costs of the newsletter, which is very important to the group.)

4. Set up a color coded mailing system coded as follows:
red- high priority (requested info, attended)
yellow- active
green-negative response
blue- no activity

Send a membership form to reds, those who have either requested information or have attended a function. After a second try to get a membership form returned, change their color to blue (no activity) and after about 6 months to a year, remove them from the mailing list. This helps us do away with "deadwood". We can retain a list of these people for special mailings. However, before removing them, it would be wise to send them a letter stating that they will soon be dropped for lack of interest unless they indicate a desire to remain by filling out a required form.

5. Have a new member dinner of some kind to welcome them to the group.
6. Welcome those new members that consent in the newsletter, first name and initial if necessary.
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III. Fundraising Suggestions

1. Founder's Day-type annual banquet
2. A convocation where special awards are given to outstanding individuals or groups.
3. Consider the possibility of retaining a professional fundraiser on a commission basis.
4. An arts festival with music and art.
5. A souvenir publication or publication of the history of the organization.
6. Testimonial Dinner to honor some celebrity.
7. Gay Fashion Show
8. Celebrity Speakers (We would pay an honorarium, so an admission would be collected.
9. Coin cans at various locations, especially after we obtain charitable tax-exempt status.
10. Direct mail solicitations.

Items Needed

1. Printed membership cards
2. Printed contribution forms could combine
3. Change of address forms.

IN TOUCH FOR MEN

1 February, 1980

Richard Burkhart, Secretary
Integrity/Houston
PO Box 16041
Houston, TX 77022

Dear Richard:

Thanks for your letter of the 29th. We're delighted to hear that Integrity/Houston might consider participation in our subscription/funding program.

I'm enclosing one of the order forms, which would be coded for proper crediting to Integrity/Houston. Checks are issued on the first of each month, reflecting the number of coded forms received from each organization for the preceding thirty days.

We'll be happy, too, to make any other materials available to assist you in the program--"What is IN TOUCH For Men?" sheets and sample covers from our latest issue, for example.

I hope you'll decide to join with us, Richard.

Cordially,

Roger M.

Roger Margason, editor

THANKS!

By using this specially-coded IN TOUCH For Men subscription order form, you're helping us fund our most pressing projects. For every new subscription, gift subscription, subscription renewal, or extension of existing subscription IN TOUCH For Men receives with this coding, they will return \$1 to us.

IN TOUCH For Men is the oldest professional-format magazine designed specifically for gay men and emphasizing the positive aspects of the gay lifestyle. Each issue contains celebrity profiles and interviews, travel features, fiction, movie/book/record reviews, gay oriented activities in cities around the world, and classic male nudes.

(You may, if you prefer, order a sample copy. A subsequent subscription order would still result in our receiving the \$1 return.)

JAN 21, 1980

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to commend you on providing a social alternative to the bar scene & reviving the "coffee house concept" in Houston. I'm new to the Houston area & very much wanting to meet people in the Coay community - especially women who are always very hard to find outside the bars.

The Lesbian Task Force of Dallas' N.O.W. sponsored a coffeehouse once a month, featuring women playing music & reading poetry. I've been publishing & giving readings of my poems for about five years now. I'd appreciate hearing from you about the possibility of doing a reading sometime.

Also, are you in need of volunteer assistance with setting up and/or cleaning up? I would be more than happy to help.

Hope to hear from you in the near future. Sincerely,
Lisa Fenton
(211 Stratford # 3, Houston, Texas)

integrity/houston

po box 16041

houston, texas 77022



Dear Readers,

I have said this until I am blue in the face, but I will continue to say it as long as it is necessary, "INTEGRITY/Houston is not a religious organization!" INTEGRITY/Houston is not now, nor has it ever been affiliated with the Episcopal Integrity organization.

INTEGRITY/Houston was founded in 1970 as a social/service group for gays and our friends. Unfortunately, in 1974 a group of gay Episcopalians decided to form a group within their church and decided to call it "Integrity". INTEGRITY/Houston was the original "Integrity", however.

Houston does have an Episcopal organization, but it is called Episcopal Integrity.

So, to all of you that have said that you weren't interested in joining INTEGRITY/Houston because you thought that we were a religious group, we want to invite you to attend one of our new member orientation sessions that are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. at 3405 Mulberry. At this meeting, which lasts only an hour, you will be given background information on INTEGRITY/Houston's purpose, and shown a slide history of the group. After this meeting you are eligible to become a member of Texas' oldest active gay organization.

You are also invited to our regular meetings which are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We offer rap topics, guest speakers, and more. We also host a COMMUNITY COFFEE HOUSE each Friday night from 7-11pm. for all members of the Montrose community and other interested people. All of our regular activities take place at 3405 Mulberry at Hawthorne.

On February 16th, INTEGRITY/Houston will celebrate our 10th anniversary as a service to Houston with a Valentine Disco at the Family Center. Join us and be a part of something special.

Your's truly,

Richard Burkhardt

Secretary

INTEGRITY/Houston

529-7014

A NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - SINCE 1970

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION - BECAUSE WE CARE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 9, 1980

Mr. Richard Burkhardt
744 Dorchester
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Mr. Burkhardt:

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I appreciate having your views on the amendment to the Legal Services Corporation appropriations bill that would bar the use of LSC funds to "defend, promote, or protect" homosexuals.

As you may know, Representative McDonald offered this amendment to the bill, H.R. 7584, and his amendment was adopted by the full House. The Senate Appropriations Committee then deleted this provision when it was reported to the Senate. I certainly understand your concern in this matter, and you can be assured that I will follow this progress of this legislation very closely, keeping your comments in mind.

I appreciate your taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Bentsen



Because We Care

Organization Notes...



SEX THERAPIST TO SPEAK AT INTEGRITY'S MAY 9 MEETING

Bill Scott, M.S.W. (Master Social Worker), who is administrator and therapist at the Montrose Counseling Center, will be the guest speaker for the May I/H Educational

Forum. Bill is active in the gay community and has a great deal of knowledge to share. A question and answer period will follow his address. Everyone is invited to attend this Forum at 9:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, at the Coffee House, 3405 Mulberry.

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS TO BE VOTED ON

The following amendment to the By-Laws of INTEGRITY/Houston will be voted on at the next general I/H meeting on Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. at 3405 Mulberry:

"The INTEGRITY/Houston mailing list is to remain confidential at all times. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to insure that it is not released either in part

INTEGRITY/Houston is a service/fellowship organization for gays and Texas' oldest active gay organization.

I/H Newsletter is published monthly for members and friends of the organization.

Copy deadline is the 20th of each month. Ad rates available on request.

Unsolicited articles are welcome, however, we reserve the right to refuse printing.

P.O. Box 16041, 77022 (713) 694-1732

or as a whole to any individual or organization. Further, no Board member may have access to the list with the exception of the President, Secretary, and Mailing List Coordinator, without a majority vote of the Board. The list may be used only for specific I/H business. I/H business shall be defined as those normal mailouts such as the newsletter, I/H announcements, and invitations to I/H functions."

APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLICITY CHAIR TO BE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 15

Applications for the Board of Directors' Publicity Chair are being accepted through May 15. The duties of this volunteer position include press releases to community media, membership orientation coordinator, and production and distribution of INTEGRITY literature, besides the seat on the Board of Directors.

Applications and nominations will be voted on at the general meeting on Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., at 3405 Mulberry. If you are interested in this position in Houston's oldest gay organization, please contact Richard at 694-1732, or better yet, send a letter stating your interest and qualifications to P.O. Box 16041, Houston TX 77022.

Member's Notes...

After our beautiful covered dish social last month, Don discovered two pot holders and a wicker tray that had been left. If they are yours, call Richard at 694-1732 . . . Richard Leopold, program director of INTEGRITY/Houston, reports that he needs people who are interested in putting together educational programs to help him with the Program Committee. If you are interested, please call Richard at 524-5180. . . Our May Covered Dish Social will be held on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. Call 524-8028 for location and directions.

MORE ➤

Editorial...

ANTI-GAY LOBBY MOUNTS ATTACK

Recently a member of INTEGRITY/Houston received a letter in the mail with the headline, "THIS LETTER WILL MAKE YOU ANGRY!", and it sure did.

The letter was from the ultra right group calling themselves the "Christian Voice," who claim to be pursuing the "will of God" by attempting to deny rights to us "militant, godless gays." The letter was a request for funds, naturally, and also included a questionnaire with such questions as "Do you approve of practicing homosexuals teaching your children?", the implication being that if you do not conform or subscribe to their particular twisted, rigid, and harsh form of religion, you are going to Hell. They claim to speak as Christians, but the root of Christianity is love, and they don't seem to know this.

The Christian Voice has also been instrumental in introducing an anti-gay bill called the "Family Protection Act" into the U. S. Senate. This bill calls for the prohibiting of government funds from being used in any abortion or gay related legal cases or the allocation of government funds to any organization that advocates homosexuality as an alternate acceptable lifestyle, and it also calls for an addition to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that would make discrimination against people on the basis of homosexuality legal.

The "Christian Voice" is a prime example of an attempt to make laws on the basis of religious beliefs, a violation of the concept of the separation of church and state. These people are trying to force their values on society through our government. They must not succeed if the concept of human rights is to survive and grow. If you thought Anita was bad, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

For more information on issues of interest regarding lobbying activities, contact Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), P.O. Box 1892, Washington, DC 20013.

-- Richard Burkhart

(NOTE: Although I/H is not a religious organization, two of our goals are to promote

equality and combat discrimination. To do so, it is our responsibility to see that our community is informed of issues such as this one.)

LETTERS

The following was received with no return address or any indication of who sent it. It appears to be an appeal by an older gay for acceptance. If it is, it was sent to the right place. INTEGRITY/Houston welcomes everyone, regardless of age. If the writer of this letter reads this, please know that we welcome you to our fellowship.

"Yes, George, things are much better than when most of us lived in a very small room with no windows, just clothes. It was indeed stuffy. But now the years have rolled on and on. Over the hill, yes, but still walking, talking and wanting. Desires still exist and just as intensive. A beautiful fantasy is fine, but just does not fulfill. Yes, we are different.

"Many of us can join a new group and quickly find small talk and friends. Some of us, a bit older, feel the "cold" and need your small talk. Grey hair does not mean the fire is out in the furnace.

"Accept us, please, and you will be pleasantly surprised at our affection.

"And another thing - volumes have been written about the intrigue in the meeting and development of a relationship. In a conventional situation, the passive partner is pursued by the active one, as a general rule, with exceptions. But with us, the active and passive nature can conflict. We are both at the same time. We become actors, play the part at the time and then change our costume as required. Any wonder, the varied points of view. The search, the aspiration, the trust, the despair . . .

"Two in one, a double personality and needs. Isn't it wonderful that so many make the best of the situation. May we join you?"



May 13, 1980

Mr. Richard Burkhart
Integrity/Houston
P.O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Dear Richard,

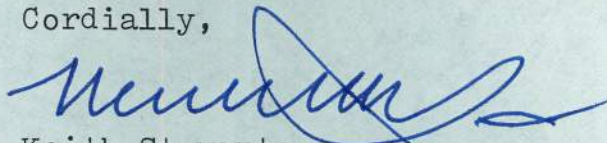
I read with great interest your editorial "Anti-gay Lobby Mounts Attack" in the May issue of Because We Care. Although I found the editorial had much to commend it, there were several points with which I feel compelled to disagree. If I may, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few things that were somewhat confused in your article.

The two sentences with which I disagree occur in the fourth paragraph of your article. For the sake of convenience, I will deal with each sentence separately. First, you state that the "'Christian Voice' is a prime example of an attempt to make laws on the basis of religious beliefs, a violation of the concept of the separation of church and state". If you will refer to your U.S. Constitution, you will find that it prohibits the government from establishing a state religion. Thus, the doctrine of the separation of Church and State was designed to prohibit governmental interference in religious activity, not the reverse. The Founding Fathers were attempting to avoid a situation like that in England, where the Church of England was established and effectively controlled by the secular government. Their goal was religious freedom, not secularized government. The Founding Fathers recognized the validity of individual citizens, and even groups of them, to pursue change in a democratic system based on the beliefs and values they cherish--be they religious or secular beliefs. You must realize that religion, too, has special interests: prayer in public schools, the licensing of church schools, tax exemptions, etc. If we decree that religious groups no longer have the right to participate in the democratic process, we will have placed the decision-making power in the hands of the government and disinterested observers. This would result in the effective disenfranchisement of a sizable portion of the citizenry of this country, and I think this is much more undesirable than the supposed violation of the separation of Church and State. There are two things that must be kept in mind when one is discussing the concept of the separation of Church and State. First, it is simply a concept. It represents an ideal. We will never arrive at a situation in this country, or any other democratic country, in which religion and politics are completely separate. As long as people are motivated by religious beliefs, and as long as the government is composed of "the People," religion will be involved in politics. The only way to maintain a strict separation of Church and State is to decree that religious groups cannot legally participate in the democratic process. If this were the case, one would certainly have separation of Church and State, but one would also have a state religion. What would you rather have? The second thing that must be kept in mind is that religious people have as much right to take action on the basis of their convictions as do atheists, humanists, existentialists, or you. How would you feel if someone said you could not work for change based upon your conviction that "...the root of Christianity is love..."?

The second sentence in your editorial with which I would like to disagree is this: "These people are trying to force their values on society through our government". I would take issue with your choice of the word "force". As long as one works through the democratic process, one is not forcing anything on anyone. They have just as much opportunity to win or lose as everyone else. With this statement, you have placed yourself in the midst of hypocrisy and paradox. Why are they forcing their values on society while we are not? If your assessment is correct, gay interest groups which use the democratic process are also trying to force their values on society. Your contention is illogical and not well thought-out. As I said earlier, every individual citizen in this country has the right to utilize every democratic method available to bring about what he considers to be "the Good Life". Because everyone disagrees about what kind of life is good, it is inevitable that conflict will result. If we are to keep our process of decision-making democratic, it is essential that we ensure that every citizen has an equal opportunity to participate.

I have read several things you have written, Richard, and the overriding impression I get is that you are all too easily swayed by emotionalism and sensationalism where religion is concerned. It would almost lead one to the conclusion that you have not fully worked out the conflict between religion and homosexuality in your own mind. I hope this assessment is wrong, because you have a lot of people depending on you to have your act together. In this age of confusion, alienation, and misunderstanding, it is imperative that those of us who are in the forefront of social change be concise, clear, and consistent. I would encourage you to think things out more fully before you set them down on paper to be picked apart by people like me.

Cordially,



Keith Stewart
2915 Blue Lakes
Missouri City, Tx 77459

May 17, 1980

Mr. Keith Stewart
2915 Blue Lakes
Missouri City, Tx 77459

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your recent letter. It is good to know that someone is actually reading the newsletter.

When I speak of the separation of church and state, I am speaking of the idea that the government should be run in such a manner that the religious convictions of one group does not overrun the convictions or lack of religious conviction of others. I am well aware of the Constitutional ramifications of the doctrine of separation of Church and State. It is true that I failed to make myself clear on this matter. The concept that I speak of is simply a personal belief of my own.

It is my opinion that church and state should be, to the best of our ability, be truly separate. It is true that this could not be done without violating the rights that are due all Americans. I simply feel that the making of laws by virtue of religious convictions very often violates the rights of others who may not subscribe to the same beliefs, as in the controversies over the legalization of marijuana, homosexuality, etc. I also defend the rights of those who do not subscribe to any religion to live their lives without constraints being put on them by their Christian, Moslem, etc., counterparts.

You are correct that the only way to make a complete separation of church and government is by prohibiting religious groups from any participation in government. I certainly do not approve of this. What has resulted then, is a "power play" between those who would like laws made as a result of their religious convictions, and those who oppose the "concept" of religion based laws. As is evidenced by the tactics of such groups as the "Christian Voice" and the "Moral Majority", this "power play" has come in the form of scare tactics and falsehoods, such as spreading the the ideas that homosexuality is synonymous with child molestation or "recruitment", and a form of mental illness. We, then, have no choice but to fight.

When a situation such as that mentioned above comes about, and we (gays) lose, any resulting laws are indeed "forced" on us.

The democratic process is a wonderful thing, but it does have its drawbacks in that it affords nothing to the minority involved except the opportunity to go back and try again. In the meantime, the minority remains oppressed. This is precisely what happened to us when the Texas Penal Code was revised to make homosexuality a Class C misdemeanor. Our lobby effort failed in having it removed, so we went back to the old drawing board and are still trying.

My point is that as long as those who support us are in the minority, we are, in fact having other's values placed on us through many laws that have their basis in our Judeo-Christian Puritan background. The obvious solution would be a policy of "live and let live", which we know will never come about.

Everyone certainly should have equal opportunity to bring about change in our system. I feel, however, that religion is a personal

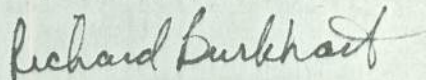
matter and that each individual should have the opportunity to live with or without it as they choose. When laws are based on certain religious beliefs, it is my opinion that they violate the rights of those that do not subscribe to that particular belief.

As for any conflict between my personal faith and my homosexuality, I assure you that there is none. My conflict with religion would stem from people and their interpretations of religion. Just because some people believe one thing about some particular subject does not mean **that** other people from other backgrounds will agree. Homosexuality, in my opinion has no more to do with belief in, and acceptance of Christ than heterosexuality.

Thank you for your letter. I agree that the article could have been better, and clearer. I do not, however agree with all of your ideas on religion, government, and society, but I do respect your right to believe the way that you do, since it does not affect my own.

I remain,

Very truly your's,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Burkhart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Richard Burkhart
744 Dorchester
Houston, Tx 77022



MOVIMENTO DI LIBERAZIONE OMOSESSUALE FEDERATO AL PARTITO RADICALE

Torino, 12 dicembre 1980

Dear brother, dear sister,
with reference to what was agreed upon by the International Gay Press during the I.G.A. meeting in Barcelona, FUORI! has been chosen to make a list, as complete as possible, in the form of a general catalogue of lesbian and gay publications in the world. In this connection we require the following informations:

1. Owners of your newspaper or magazine
2. Director
3. Seat and postal address
4. Name of responsible for international affairs
5. How often and number of copies issued.
6. Size and colours
7. Condition for subscription

and all other information you may think useful, such as, for instance, when it first appeared, number of copies issued so far, etc. We kindly ask you to let us have your replies within one month after you have received this letter, to keep a bit organization. It is also extremely important that you let us know the name and address of other publications appearing in your country that are not listed herewith, or that your correct possible mistakes contained herein.

Eventually do we have to ask you send us samples of your publication and, if you can afford it to send us all back issues and keep sending new ones. We are available to exchange, and if necessary we can pay for mailing expences.

In gay solidarity

P.S. For United States see at list in '80 Gayellow Pages, national and local address.

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beginning in June of 1980, INTEGRITY/Houston will resume meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

Richard Burkhart, Publicity Chair of INTEGRITY/Houston, noted that the recent move to Friday nights at the Community Coffee House has been discontinued. It was decided that the Friday night activities at the Coffee House should remain social oriented, whereas INTEGRITY/Houston meetings consist of forums and administration.

Beginning June 5th, INTEGRITY/Houston will hold its general meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month at 8 p.m., and its educational forums on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The forums will be preceded by new member orientation sessions at 7 p.m. All meetings will be held at 3405 Mulberry.

#####

cc: TWT
Montrose Star
UPFRONT America

A NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION-SINCE 1970

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION-BECAUSE WE CARE

To: INTEGRITY/Houston Board Members
From: Richard Burckhardt
Re: Establishing and maintaining a strong organization.

The following are recommendations that I have prepared concerning strengthening INTEGRITY/Houston. It is my opinion that INTEGRITY/Houston will not be able to service the community in a truly viable manner until the membership is increased, we are financially sound, are able to be truly independent as far as facilities, and can put together truly professional programs for the community. (The programs, in my opinion, are our key to obtaining 501(c)3 tax deductible status, and should be emphasized.)

I. Programs

1. Programs are our biggest drawing card and should be the focus of a good bit of our attention. The better our programs are, the more people will become interested and the better our reputation in the community will be.
2. One suggestion that I would like to put forth is a revival of the once a year meetings that we used to sponsor where representatives of all of the gay organizations attended. Rather than have just a joint meeting, however, I would suggest that we perhaps make it a workshop and rumor control type of situation.

II. Membership and Contribution Solicitation

1. To attract new members, one major benefit needs to be emphasized. Since our tax exempt status will probably be obtained as an educational group sponsoring forums, discussion groups, panels, lectures, etc., this would probably be our source of emphasis. Our Coffee House can be included in this as long as we maintain that it is an educational function, meaning that it is a place where social interaction is maintained between people of various lifestyles (Gays & Straights). Also, our programs will be held there.
2. A poll of which services are most valuable should be taken.
 - a) Which are most important?
 - b) Which have been of slight or passing value?
 - c) How well has the group performed?
 - d) What type of programs are suggested for the future?
3. Put together a membership packet to be mailed to all on our mailing list that will include a membership application (and a return envelope), a personal letter from the president, a membership brochure outlining benefits (ie; buttons, voting rights, possibly a membership card entitling members to discounts at events, permanent subscriptions to newsletter, etc.), a copy of current newsletter (a special issue to membership drives), extra information, and a contribution form. (*Note- it is my opinion that a small membership fee at some time in the future would be advisable. What contributions we now receive are eaten up by production and mailing costs of the newsletter, which is very important to the group.)

4. Set up a color coded mailing system coded as follows:
red- high priority (requested info, attended)
yellow- active
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blue- no activity

Send a membership form to reds, those who have either requested information or have attended a function. After a second try to get a membership form returned, change their color to blue (no activity) and after about 6 months to a year, remove them from the mailing list. This helps us do away with "deadwood". We can retain a list of these people for special mailings. However, before removing them, it would be wise to send them a letter stating that they will soon be dropped for lack of interest unless they indicate a desire to remain by filling out a required form.

5. Have a new member dinner of some kind to welcome them to the group.
 6. Welcome those new members that consent in the newsletter, first name and initial if necessary.
 7. Try a new member counselling session where new members are invited for interviews with the President who will cover the main objectives of the organization, and discover the new member's interests and motivation for joining.
- III. Fundraising Suggestions
1. Founder's Day-type annual banquet
 2. A convocation where special awards are given to outstanding individuals or groups.
 3. Consider the possibility of retaining a professional fundraiser on a commission basis.
 4. An arts festival with music and art.
 5. A souvenir publication or publication of the history of the organization.
 6. Testimonial Dinner to honor some celebrity.
 7. Gay Fashion Show
 8. Celebrity Speakers (We would pay an honorarium, so an admission would be collected.
 9. Coin cans at various locations, especially after we obtain charitable tax-exempt status.
 10. Direct mail solicitations.

Items Needed

1. Printed membership cards
 2. Printed contribution forms
 3. Change of address forms.
- could combine

NEWS FROM NGTF

NGTF

National Gay Task Force

80 Fifth Avenue • New York, New York 10011
(212) 741-5800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 1980

IMMIGRATION VICTORY FOR GAYS

Suspected gay aliens will no longer be subject to probing interrogation on their private sexual life by immigration authorities under a new policy announced by the Department of Justice, September 10th. The National Gay Task Force and Gay Rights Advocates were given advance notice of this decision by Associate Attorney General John H. Shenefield at a special Justice Department briefing on Tuesday, September 9. The new policy replaces the parole procedure in effect since August, 1979. The State Department is expected to bring its procedures for visa applications into conformance with Justice Department guidelines.

Henceforth, only those individuals who self-identify themselves as homosexual to immigration personnel will be subject to exclusion. Wearing political buttons, T-shirts or other symbols expressing support for the gay rights movement will not be sufficient to trigger inquiry into an alien's sexual orientation. However, a button or other sign which states that the wearer is a homosexual or the identification of an individual as homosexual by a traveling companion would lead to specific inquiry. If the suspected alien answers 'No' to the question, "Are you a homosexual?" he or she will be permitted to enter the United States without further inquiry.

NGTF RESPONSE

"This decision is the culmination of years of work to bring about more enlightened and sensitive enforcement of the 1952 Immigration Act," commented NGTF Co-Director, Charles Brydon. "Combined with Carter Administration support for Senator Cranston's bill to remove the infamous anti-gay language from the Immigration Act, it is an important practical political victory for the gay rights movement.

"I want to commend the Department of Justice for the humanitarian approach implicit in this decision. From a situation in which immigration officers were free to ask any question that came to mind about an individual's private sexual life to establish that person's sexual orientation, the field of inquiry has been dramatically limited to a single question. The Justice Department has shown considerable sensitivity toward the right to privacy of all people by this decision. This is vital to lesbians and gay men. We believe the decision has created a standard that should be a hallmark for all government policies concerning gay people.

... MORE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 1980
Page #2

"This does not mean that we are satisfied with the provision which permits the exclusion of those who choose to identify themselves as homosexual," cautioned Brydon. "However, the decision does establish a narrowly focused area of disagreement and creates a basis for litigation on the merits."

DON KNUTSON OF GAY RIGHTS ADVOCATES COMMENTS

"Of course, I am disappointed that we have been unable to convince the Justice Department to abandon enforcement of this obnoxious law altogether," commented Don Knutson, Legal Director of Gay Rights Advocates. "As a practical matter, however, today's decision is very close to total victory. No longer will any alien be subjected to interrogation, harrassment or exclusion because of his or her private sexual conduct. Visas will be issued and access to this country assured regardless of one's sexual orientation. We expect to promptly challenge in the courts the remnants of the exclusionary policy which would deny entry only to those who may make unsolicited and considered statements regarding their homosexual orientation. We remain confident that that challenge will succeed."

- 30 -

For Further Information Contact:
C.F. Brydon, 212/741-5800

6100 Richmond Suite 114-B
Houston, Texas 77057

August 28, 1980

Integrity/Houston
P. O. Box 662393
Houston, Texas 77006

To My Dear Friends in Integrity/Houston:

I am happy to respond to your recent newsletter request by sending the enclosed dues. Additionally, in appreciation to the organization where I experienced my "professional coming out," I am sending another check for \$50.00. Since the memorable evening when I "came out" to your group, my life has only become richer in depth and experience, in the freedom to be myself, and in my ability to be more open and loving.

Please use my contribution in whatever way you deem necessary. I wish a productive and dynamic future for Integrity/Houston. Celebrate the fact that you are different!

Sincerely,

Travis Peterson BY R.N.
Travis L. Peterson, M.S.W., S.P.

Enclosures: 2 Checks
Membership Form

TLP:rh
8/28/80

Leenah Bond



OCTOBER 1980

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER 1980

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER 1980

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Mcc Bering 11 am	3 MSA STADIUM Bowl 9 pm	4 ELECTION DAY Get out & vote!	5 G.P.C. 4600 main 7:30 pm	6 I/H Board 7 pm I/H Member 8 pm Wilde-n-Stein 10pm	7 Coffeehouse 7:30-midnite Host: Levitta	8 Archives OPEN house 8-11 pm 694-1532 wine & cheese → 1111 Dr. ...
9 Mcc Bering 11 am	10 MSA	11 VETERANS' DAY	12	13 Wilde-n-Stein 10pm	14 Coffeehouse Host: Carl & Richard Movie: "Gerty, Gerty, Gerty Stein is BACK, BACK, BACK"	15
16 Mcc Bering 11 am	17 MSA	18	19 GPC 4600 main 7:30 pm	20 I/H Program 8 pm Forum "Health CARE for Gays in the '80s" - speaker Wilde-n-Stein	21 Coffeehouse Host: Jim	22
23 30 Mcc Bering 11 am	24 MSA	25 	26	27 Coffeehouse 2pm-6pm THANKSGIVING (covered dish) CARI & RICHARD Wilde-n-Stein	28  Coffeehouse Host: Ken	29

Canadian Gay Archives

Box 639, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1G2

Phone (416) 863-6320

Oct 9, 1980

J M. Burch / C.R. Owens
Integrity / Houston
P.O. Box 16041
Houston
Texas
U.S.A.
77022

Dear people:

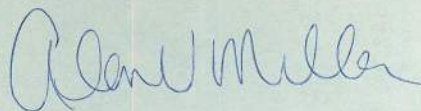
We have beaten you to the organizing. To date we have most
gay archives and libraries across North America and the world listed
in our latest bulletin the Gay Archivist (not in print yet).

Our intention was to do the same thing you propose - dialogue
by all means.

However, our conference Walt Whitman in Ontario is slated
fro Oct. 18 / 80. Until that we are extremely busy. When all is relaxed
and untensed I will write with the list you need.

Sorry until then

Alan V. Miller



AN EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR GAYS AND FRIENDS AND A FORUM FOR RELATED TOPICS - BECAUSE WE CARE

integrity/houston



po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

September 27, 1980

Ms. Barbara Gittings
Task Force on Gay Liberation
PO Box 2383
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Gittings:

Integrity/Houston (I/H Inc.) has for some time now been gathering printed material, both periodicals and books, to form an archive of local interest. As the collection has grown, there has come to our attention material from other communities and even other countries. We suspect that this may be a common experience of other groups.

With increasing interest in Gay history, research and expression we want to give serious consideration to the development of a unified network of resources for the preservation and compilation of materials written, recorded, produced in any artistic medium, of importance to the Gay community. This could provide access to artists, researchers and writers who want to describe and portray the Gay experience.

Do you want to join us in a dialogue, discussing what the details of this idea might be? Please let us know on or before October 16, 1980, so we can see if there is support for this idea. If such interest seems to exist, we can then facilitate this dialogue and develop ideas and plans.

An ambitious plan! Best to discuss it with me by phone because I'm swamped with paperwork. (215) 471-3322 - Barbara

Yours truly,

John M. Burch
John M. Burch

Carl R. Owens
Carl R. Owens

P.S. If you know of other organizations that might be interested in this kind of project, please send us names and addresses.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Post Office Box 35852 ----- Dallas, Texas 75235-

6146 St. Moritz
Dallas, Texas 75214
7 October 1980

Dear Integrity/Houston,

The Gay Organization Of Dallas, Texas' oldest (and still active) gay organization, would be delighted to join with you in historic dialogue.

Phil Johnson

Houston
12-8-80

Dear Editor - "BECAUSE WE CARE",

Yes, again, a letter from 'author unknown', and on PINK paper!

The monthly news letter sent by Intergrity/Houston is read each issue. The basic concept is "the group is a failure". The blame is placed on poor attendance, poor attitude and that all the work is done by the same four.

Could leadership be the problem?

I have attended several gatherings. Only one had more than twenty people. The "clicks" and the "known" conversed, the strangers, including me, just sat, then ~~w~~ent to a bar after a short time.

May I make a few polite suggestions?

Write about what is right with I/H. Write about the interesting social activities, the plans to meet new people, the fun and games enjoyed the conversations and repartee. Write about others activities, not the leaders (?) and their self justification. Names or initials are not required, just positive worthwhile activities.

The archives idea is great, ~~but~~ the "aint I great for doing it" aint.

"Because we care" is a great statement, but as is said "action speaks louder than words".

Extol those that come to the meetings, please discontinue your lack of people at your functions. We NEED your organization, we NEED your help, but PLEASE get some worthwhile leadership to run the group.

Stop bad mouthing a wonderful group. Help us, help each other instead of making it more difficult.

Chuck

integrity/houston



**po box 16041
houston, texas 77022**

AN EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR GAYS AND FRIENDS AND A FORUM FOR RELATED TOPICS - BECAUSE WE CARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The December I/H, Inc. Educational Forum will feature Bill Scott, MSW, of the Montrose Counseling Center, who will speak on "Beating the Holiday Blues".

The holiday season can be a lonely time for many people, but it is an especially lonely time of year for many lesbians and gay men who have neither family nor lovers to spend it with. This program will address this problem and offer some solutions.

The program will be held on Thursday, December 18, at 3405 Mulberry, and will begin at 8 p.m. All are invited to attend this enlightening program.

#####

(713) 694-1732

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION; A NON-PROFIT TEXAS CORPORATION

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022



September 27, 1980

Ray Hill
729 Manor
Houston, Texas 77015

Dear Mr. Hill,

On behalf of Integrity/Houston, Inc. we would like to sincerely thank you for taking some of your time to come and speak to the community on the Fred Paez case.

Being such an informed and respected member of the gay community, we are always delighted to have you keep us aware of the myriad of developments occurring.

Please feel free to come and speak again in the near future. If we can be of any further assistance, don't hesitate to contact us.

In gay spirit, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

Secretary,
For the Board and
Membership of
Integrity/Houston, Inc.

A NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - SINCE 1970

HOUSTON'S OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION - BECAUSE WE CARE

TO: Board of Directors, INTEGRITY/Houston
FROM: Richard Burckhardt
RE: I/H Community Service and Resource Center.

Dear friends,

It is my considered opinion that we need to remove INTEGRITY from Bering Methodist Church. I feel that the church's politics is interfering with our purposes and activities, and that it will eventually tear INTEGRITY apart.

During the brief discussion that I had with Rev. Pogue last Friday evening, I came to realize that our presence in Bering is also causing friction in the church. There is a movement in the church aimed at removing Rev. Pogue. The gays within the church are a major factor in this movement, and we all know that if Rev. Pogue leaves, we will be left out in the cold.

The longer we remain at Bering, the larger and more complicated our problems will become. We don't need this. We have a hard time as it is trying to get new members and get them involved.

We also have the problem of our restrictions at Bering. During my previously mentioned conversation with Rev. Pogue, I got the impression that any programs or events that we have at the Coffee House will have to be of a "General" nature, meaning that we will not be able to do any programs that are for gays only, or that even remotely resemble a gay topic. As long as we keep the Coffee House at Bering, we are going to have to bend to their rules. The Coffee House is a Bering Church function, as far as they are concerned, and we are just volunteering to help them with a church project. I, for one, am tired of this situation. I have lost patience. I am grateful to Rev. Pogue for all of his help, but...

I also know that we are in a bind as far as facilities go. Where would we move to? I don't have all of the answers, but I have some suggestions. Take them or leave them as you will. These are only some thoughts that I have had.

We have talked about opening a resource center and archives library for a long time. The problem that we always run into is money. I will get back to money in a minute, but first, let's imagine that we had a minimum of about \$600 per month coming in. I will grant you that \$600 a month won't get you much in the way of facilities, but it would give us something to start with. Say, for instance, we leased a building somewhere in Montrose that had a good sized room in it and a few smaller ones. The large room would house Coffee Houses two or three times a week by INTEGRITY and perhaps some other groups. We could use one room for the Archives, rent out one or two for offices, and have a telephone information service somewhere also.

Now, let's look at what we have. We would have a gay resource center, which Houston does not have. We would have space to do our programs and fundraisers, which we do not have now. We would be providing the

community with a type of community center, until MAC gets off the ground or something better comes around. I could go on and on.

Now, what do we need to do in order to get the funding for such a project? I feel that we have taken a first step by trying to get tax-exempt status. If we do get it, our job will be that much easier.

My first suggestion is that we try to solicit sponsors for the center. A new center of a similar nature has just opened in Austin and their current source of funding is from sponsors. Different sponsorship amounts of \$10-500 could be pledged monthly. Sponsors could be acknowledged in our newsletter, plus they could receive membership in INTEGRITY. We might have to make up some type of new membership dues or whatever, but I am not opposed to a small membership fee.

A major task that will confront us will be that of Public Relations. In order for something like this to work, we will have to make more of an outreach into the community than we have done in the past. We need to put together a program or presentation of some sort that can be used to convince people that what we plan on doing is truly worth sponsoring and that what we are doing is truly Because We Care.

Other groups in the country have taken on bigger projects with less than what we have. We need to do something. I feel that we will end up losing the Coffee House if we don't, and the Coffee House is one of the most vital activities in our community today.

I am begging you, people. We have got to find some solution to our current crisis, whatever that solution may be. As I said, I am losing patience with the current situation and am afraid that if it keeps on that I will become totally infuriated with the entire situation and withdraw from it entirely. I am even more afraid; however, that the same thing will happen to all of you.

I remain,

Very truly your's,

Richard Burchhardt

I/H Resource Center Pledge Card

UPON RECEIVING A MONTHLY PLEDGE STATEMENT FROM I/H, I WILL DONATE \$ _____ A MONTH (JANUARY - JUNE 1979).

\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____ (OTHER)

NOTE: INDIVIDUALS WILLING TO PLEDGE MONTHLY WILL RECEIVE A STATEMENT BETWEEN THE 25TH AND 30TH OF THE MONTH FOR THE NEXT MONTH.

I WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST A COFFEE / COCKTAIL PARTY FOR THE I/H FUND. I WILL INVITE 10-50 FRIENDS AND WOULD LIKE FOR SOMEONE TO ATTEND TO TALK ABOUT THE I/H PROJECT in Houston AND ASK THOSE ATTENDING TO CONTRIBUTE. PLEASE CONTACT ME!

Richard Burkhart
P.O.Box 16041
Houston, Tx 77022

Audience Services
CBS Television Network
51 W.52 St.
New York, N.Y. 10019

4/28/80

Dear sir or madam,

Thank you for your contribution towards reinforcing the ignorance of the American public! Your recent "Gay Power, Gay Politics" was a masterpiece of slanted, sensationalistic, trash.

The entire program was full of misleading views, all of which centered on two very minute parts of the Gay community, drag and S/M. It is true that there are those within our community that participate in such activities, however, heterosexuals participate in the same or similar activities. The difference is that your program pointed to these two activities as being the normal Gay lifestyle. They are not! Your omission of this, and many other facts, made us look like sexual monsters.

I protest your unfair treatment of my people. I would suggest that you try to make amends. You (CBS) have admitted that we now have power. Do you really want to see just how powerful angry people can be?

I remain,

Very truly your's,

Debra Danburg
1201 McDuffie #174
Houston, Texas 77019

April 18, 1980

Dear Debra,

This is to thank you sincerely for taking the time out of your busy schedule to speak to Integrity/Houston. Your presentation was quite interesting and very well received. It is always gratifying to have those in our community who are working for us to come and share some time and thoughts.

Please feel free to keep in touch and don't hesitate to give us a call should you need our assistance for any reason.

I remain, in gay pride

Faithfully yours,

William Leath

Secretary,
For the Board and
Membership of
Integrity/Houston