

Dignity

HOUSTON

Vol. XII No. 2 February 1985

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

February 1985

By the time you read this Newsletter article the January referendum concerning employment opportunities for lesbians and gay men in this city will be history. A great many things will have been said and done, and a large amount of money will have been spent to promote what are fundamentally a set of prejudices.

I do not pretend, nor do I assume, that most Houston residents are without prejudice. I have areas of prejudice in my life and I assume that to be true for most of my readers. A prejudice is, literally, "a pre-judgment." A decision based not entirely on reason, facts or logic but, quite frequently, dearly held and often vehemently defended.

As a human being I must honestly learn how to live with my own prejudices as well as those of others. As a Roman Catholic I can look to the Church for inspiration and counsel as to how to deal with prejudice in my own life and to the inspiration of Jesus Christ in dealing with prejudice as a role model. As a person who is gay I can look to the community for comfort and support in our newly won gains in overcoming the prejudice against us. And as I look around this fourth largest city in this nation for examples of leadership and positive forward it is sometimes hard to discern.

With well-financed campaigns appealing to the fears of the voter many lies are being promoted about this community that make me hold my head in shame.

I spent thirty-three years of my life hoping to successfully deny my gay orientation to myself and those I loved. It was than a lie and will always continue to be so. I know of few gay people who would choose freely to be gay, but I know many who have freely chosen to acknowledge their gift of sexual orientation and expression as the only honest way to live their lives.

Of course, some can argue that it is a free choice to express your sexual orientation. And I would agree. But it is a free choice to express being Jewish, Roman Catholic, Hispanic-American, Black, left-handed, red-headed, etc. To deny those realities is to do serious damage psychologically if not physically to your own person and sense of individual self-worth.

It seems to me that one of the major roles that religion has been proud of proclaiming throughout history is its role in civilizing and taming the most obvious prejudices and predelictions of human behavior.

If organized religion cannot or will not recognize the roots of oppression in the modern questions of sexuality and sexual manipulation and continues to ignore the enormous amount of work needed to accomplish such goals, then it may be that those who revel in the sexual manipulation of others and pander to the prejudices and fears of the citizens of this country will succeed, for a time.

The taste of such a victory will surely, and in the not to distant future, sour in their mouths as they finally begin to look honestly and compassionately at those whom they have sought to crucify.

It may just be that the forces of prejudice and fear and hatred will have to triumph here (as in Hitler's Germany) before honest, compassionate and sensitive leadership will prevail.

And the bottom line of this will be that we must learn how to nurture, support and protect ourselves from the waives of negativity stirred up by frightened, fearful and threatened "leaders."

Shalom,

George M. Wetzel



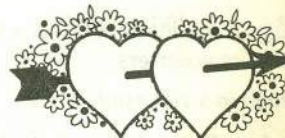
MEMBERSHIP

We extend a warm welcome to the following sisters and brothers who have joined our group or have renewed their existing memberships:

Michael D. ... Guy C. ... Bob H. ... Paul S. ...
Patrick T. ... Ron C. ... Kathleen S. ... Miguel E. ...
Kelly M. ... Louis P. ... Chip K. ...

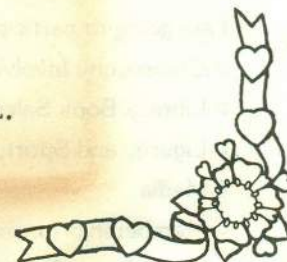
The following persons' memberships are up for renewal this month:

Vincent C. ... Kevin C. ... Rolando C. ... Carolyn C.
Frank D. ... Nick E. ... Ron F. ... Maureen F. ...
Sheila G. ... Phil H. ... David H. ... Bob K. ...
Peggy R. ... Peter S. ... Daniel S.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH:

Feb. 6 - Eldora G.
Feb. 15 - Bob L.
Feb. 17 - Manuel L., Gustave L.
Feb. 18 - Michael K.
Feb. 24 - Tim L., Garry K.
Feb. 26 - Calvin C.
Feb. 27 - Jon B.

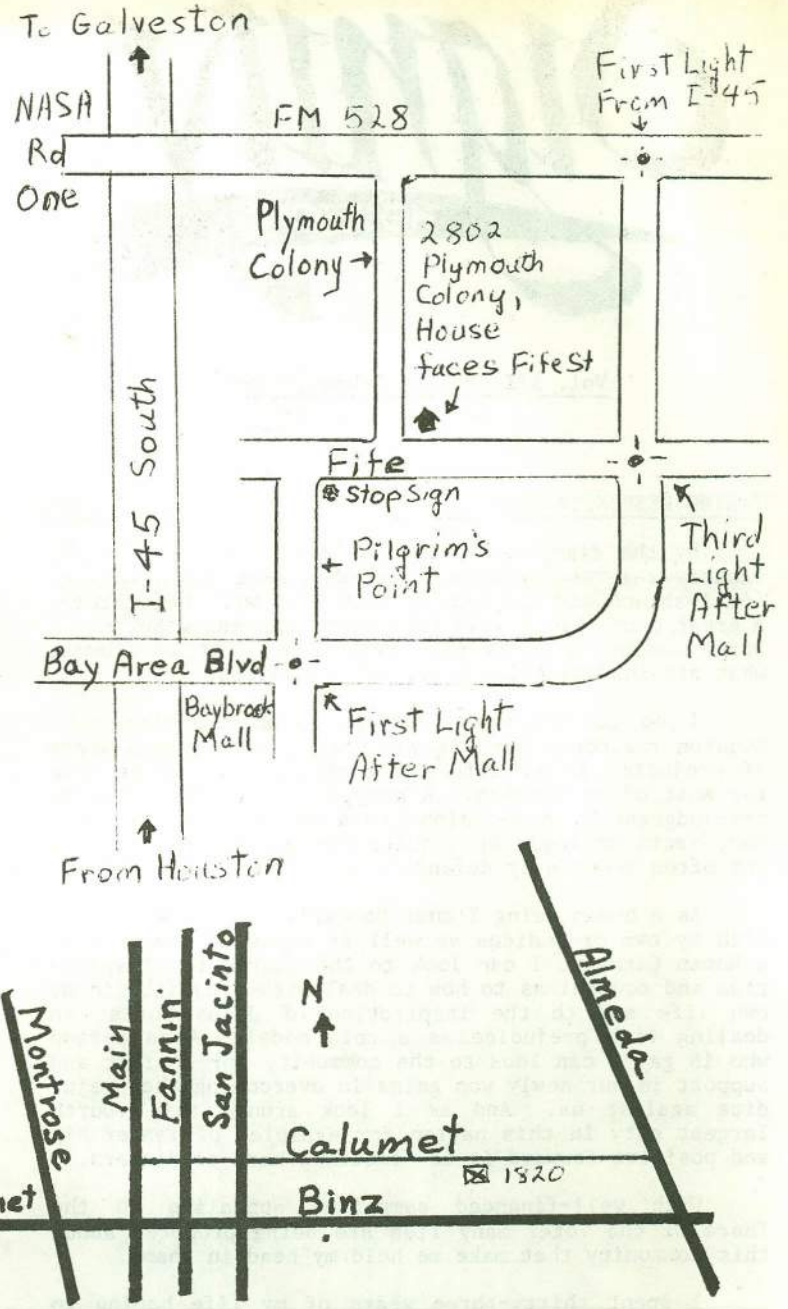


CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 1985

- Saturday: Dignity Mass, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2 (Americana Inn, Buffalo Spdwy & Hwy 59)
- Saturday: Dignity Mass, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9 (Americana Inn, Buffalo Spdwy & Hwy 59)
(Bring nonperishable goods for Deacon's Pantry.)
- Monday: Dignity Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11 Joe N.'s, 305 Avondale, Unit E (523-8389)
- Thursday: St. Valentine's Day
Feb. 14
- Saturday: Dignity Mass, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 16 (Americana Inn, Buffalo Spdwy & Hwy 59)

Deadline for March calendar
(Call B.J. at 864-4120)
- Sunday: "HeartBob's", 1:30 p.m.
Feb. 17 (Valentine lunch at Bob L.'s)
2802 Plymouth Colony, Webster (996-1890)
- Monday: Presidents' Day
Feb. 18
- Wednesday: Ash Wednesday
Feb. 20
- Saturday: Dignity Mass, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23 (Americana Inn, Buffalo Spdwy & Hwy 59)
- Sunday: Covered Dish Supper, 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 24 Abel P.'s, 1820 Calumet, Apt. 4 (523-8307) [SEE MAP]
- Gay Pride Week Public Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
Kindred Spirits
4902 Richmond

see map



Have You Renewed Your Dignity Membership?

(PLEASE DETACH ON DOTTED LINE)

Membership in Dignity/Houston is \$20.00 per year. In addition to the voting privilege, members receive, monthly, both the local and national newsletters.

All information is held in strict confidence.

Mail to: Dignity/Houston, P.O.Box 66821, Houston, Tx. 77266

I am going to participate in the following chapter committees (please check):

- Community Involvement and Education
- Library/Book Sales
- Liturgy and Spiritual Life
- Media
- Membership/Finance
- Social Event Planning
- Woman's Concerns

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE _____ (ZIP) _____
 TELEPHONE HOME _____ WORK _____
 BIRTHDAY: MO. _____ DAY _____