

Members of DIGNITY:

April 1970

Everyone wants to be accepted for what he is. Perhaps this is the reason we would like to tell everybody that we are Gay. It is almost like saying: "I'm Gay, does that change your feelings towards me - can you still accept and love me?"

This desire to tell and be accepted is one of the strong motivational drives for the militant Gay movement. However, the paradox lies in the fact that we know we are human beings like anyone else, and that our sex activity has no effect whatsoever on our humanity. We are no less a person; we are no less a human being because we have sex with men. When we truly realize this, we will feel no necessity to tell people about our sex life; there will be no necessity to "role play" in any way.

Some guys play the gay scene to the hilt with the whole fem swishy thing, or the leather and chains and sneer; some people even play it very straight, but it is still a game. Games people play. But why? Why the games? Why the role playing? Why not just be oneself - because that is where the joy in life comes. To be "just oneself" you must have an accurate self image, you must realize your values and have accepted your human weaknesses. You must be aware and you must be objective. If your only claim to fame, your only source of individuality, is that you are a homosexual, then you obviously don't even know who you are... not really. Neither do you know the power you have within, your potential and your capacities as a creative personality.

But it is easy for us to become essoteric, to make ourselves "queer", to be different; to have only gay friends, to have ones social life consist in the empty shallow frustration of the bar scene. Life is too full and rich and beautiful to be eroded away. And it is too short and too precious to be wasted. Even the fact that we gather together as a Gay group can separate us from other people, unless our common bond of homosexuality helps us to enrich our lives, helps us to use our potential and cope with our deficiencies. We are brothers, and like brothers, we must love one another.

And where does our FAITH come in? Faith is not an excuse to explain what I can't understand. It is not a panacea for all of my problems. Faith is a calm force that can bring meaning and joy into the world and inner peace into your life.

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Our coming meeting will at 7:30, Saturday, April 18th, in Fountain Valley near Los Angeles (map enclosed). Tom has been kind enough to make available the rec. hall of Windsor Square for the evening, and this is where we will meet. Hope you can make it! (Saturday, May 23, will be the next meeting in San Diego; keep this date open).

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Roger Pence, 35, would be interested in hearing from any members of DIGNITY who have the inclination to write. His address is: P.O. Box 2322, Baton Rouge, La. 70821