

OUR COMMUNITY

FIRST ISSUE, MARCH 1971

If one were to read only the Dallas Morning News or the Times Herald, one would think that there were but a handful of gay people in Dallas. One worldly-wise Dallas city official once speculated that there might be as many as --well, maybe 10,000 of us. Heavens!

I suspect our number is considerably larger. According to Kinsey, more than a third of the total male population has had some homosexual experience, leading to orgasm. This doesn't necessarily mean all these men are gay, but surely Kinsey comes close to the truth when he says that 5% of all men in the nation are predominately homosexual; and 45% are to a degree bisexual. If the same holds true of women, then Our Community is very large indeed. Our numbers are legion! Yet we are for the most part invisible, and rarely are we heard.

Only a very small percentage of us ever go to a gay bar, or to the parks. Very few of us scream and camp in public, or get into trouble with the police. No. To be safe, most of us sit at home lonely and bored --waiting, dreaming, hoping something beautiful will happen to us. Time goes by and we grow old alone. Or perhaps we have our tiny little group of friends. We do not know our gay brothers and sisters. Sometimes we even dislike them. Perhaps we don't know or even like ourselves!

But times are changing! And Our Community wants to be a part of that change. Our Community hopes to be a voice in Dallas --a gay voice urging our people to open up a bit, to come out of our dark closets into the sunshine. Let us offer each other warmth, companionship, and love.

We can do it. This writer can remember when the Gay Movement first began in 1950. There were those beaten ones who said, "Perhaps someday things will be different, but not within our lifetimes!"

Yet within our lifetimes we have seen many changes. Two states have recended their antiquated laws so that now sex acts between consenting adults in private are no one's business except those involved.

Important cases have been fought to the U. S. Supreme Court and won! Other cases are pending.

All the news media --newspapers, magazines, movies, plays, TV, even the comic pages are now taking note of gay people; whereas previously they pretended we didn't exist! Imagine. Millions of us.

The "love that dares not speak its name" now demands to be heard.

Change brings more change. We've had, and will continue to have, setbacks, but things are getting better.

Gay men and women across the nation are rejecting the psychiatrists' "sick theory" and telling them: "Physician, heal thyself!"

We are fight police harrassment and false arrests in court. We are questioning political candidates, writing our state and national representatives, registering our citizens, and voting in blocks. All over the nation, gay men and women are proudly joining all kinds of social, political, and religious organizations for strength, fellowship, and love.

Liberated gay men and women of our nation. Let us take a stand against harrassment and prejudice. Unite. The time has come!

---MAKE A DATE WITH THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH-----

Get in on the fun! March 13 is a date to reserve now. That's when everybody is going to the skating rink. At \$1.25 each, we will have the rink to ourselves exclusively. And that price does include skates. So if you're a cheap skate, just remember that this is the original gay cheap skate. Where else can you get such a bargain in fun with your friends? Don't miss it.

And don't forget that we do have several other dates set up. We've already had a bowling date and a skate date in the past couple of months, and there's more fun scheduled.

We would like to take this opportunity to put in a word of thanks regarding the recent voter registration drive. This effort was backed by the MCC and the Circle of Friends. We particularly want to thank the management and owners of the Bayou, Bon Soir, and the King of Clubs for their cooperation in allowing our representatives to use their clubs for registration, and for sharing the cost of postage. This public-mindedness is really appreciated and needed! The MCC, too, wants to thank the bar owners who permitted our representatives to circulate pamphlets and flyers in their bars, which is an important contact place for a large segment of the community.

For those of you who missed it, we were privileged on February 3rd to hear Reverend Troy Perry, pastor of the Los Angeles MCC, when he spoke to nearly 100 in the Normandy Hall of the First Unitarian Church. Rev. Perry brought us up-to-date on the actions and activities of the Los Angeles church with his inspirational talk. The turnout was very encouraging.

A few of you may have gotten the wrong idea about us. Sorry, but we do not preach hell, fire, and damnation. That's what your conscience is for! The Gospel according to MCC is LOVE! Spread the good word. God loves you; just ask any member of the MCC. Better still, come by and participate in one of our inspirational services. MCC is what's happening! If you want to feel like you really belong, we're just what the doctor ordered. God wants you and you need him and we need and love you, whoever you are. So what are you waiting for?

-----A CHICKEN COOP FOR DALLAS?-----

In America, there are many homophil organizations, for adults only. Some are purely social, and serve a **very** worthwhile purpose. Others are political, and work to change unfair, unenforceable laws. There are educational organizations that provide public speakers to lecture at Universities, clubs, and conventions. These speakers are often on educational TV and radio "talk" shows. There are religious organizations that serve the spiritual side of the gay community.

Some organizations are militant. Their members picket and parade to correct social and legal injustices.

New organizations come into being almost daily. It is believed there are now more than 50 in the nation. Some have only a few hard working members. Others, like SIR of San Francisco, have close to a thousand members, and all kinds of interesting activities.

Yet the ones who need guidance most, are the very ones who are excluded from most of these organizations. I'm speaking of chickens.

It's very frightening when you are very young. You've never been seduced by a dirty ol' man that your parents warned you about. Yet you know you are different. You've known it for as long as you can remember.

Who can you turn to? Your parents? Your minister? Your favorite teacher? Would they understand? Or would they turn away?

You're told: "Date some girls." You've tried that --many times. And you've enjoyed it. Perhaps you've even gone "all the way." But still there is something within you left unsatisfied. Why do your eyes still dance when you see a handsome youth? Why is it you can't study? Why do you toss and turn, unable to sleep at night, thinking of someone who hardly knows you exist? And still you date girls.

You're told: "Go out for sports. Lift weights. Develop a powerful body. Queers don't have muscles." And so you try. But you soon discover that gay guys do indeed have muscles. Yes, some even ride motorcycles, usually not in high heels. And besides, when it's time to shower with all those healthy young studs, you find you're just as gay as before you worked-out.

You're told: "Take cold showers and long walks." But even the longest walk and coldest shower must eventually end.

You're told: "See a psychiatrist." But that costs a lot of money. Besides, don't they know that there are gay psychiatrists?

You're told; "Read the Bible. Pray." Surely they must know that you've secretly prayed a hundred-thousand times. The Bible condemns. It also contains the most beautiful love story of all times --the story of Jonathan and David.

And you're told; "Oh, you'll outgrow it." They mean well, don't they? But in their ignorance, how cruel.

Some young men come out quite early and fairly easy. Others can't face the truth alone without help. Sometimes they kill themselves. Some young men are disowned and driven from home when their parents suddenly find a stack of carefully hidden muscle magazines, or when they are caught with that awful boy across the street.

Where can the young man go to find the answers to his many questions? "Why am I different?" "Can I be cured?" "Am I the only one?" "Must my life be tragic --forever alone and unhappy?" "Can God love me, even though I'm queer?" "Is the screaming, flaming queen the only kind?" "What if I took hormones?" "Is there anyone in the world like me, with whom I could live and love for the rest of my life?" "What if my folks should find out?" "Or my boss?" "Can I serve my country without being found out?" Above all, "What will happen to me when I grow old?"

If there are many questions, there are even more answers. Answers like the kind you find in books like "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex but Were Afraid to Ask." Too late the young man learns that books about homosexuals are most frequently written by heterosexuals. And most frequently, these books do more harm than good.

When Reverend Troy Perry visited us in Dallas, he spoke of his church's Cool Aid. This is his group of teen-agers, only about half of whom are gay. Yet they accept each other. (How unlike their elders.) They have social and religious activities, but mostly they have a place where they can go to meet others their age who understand them. What better purpose could a church serve? Surely this is the best place to find answers --or to find that sometimes there are no answers.

Dallas urgently needs such a place. Otherwise where will our teen-agers go? The lonely streets and dangerous parks? Or are they to be told: "You'll outgrow it."

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THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND HE KNOWS I'M GAY

There are only 500 copies of this, our first issue. Will you help us to reach as many people in our community as possible? When you have finished reading this, please give it to a friend.

Dear Friends,

Because Our Community wants to represent all gay men and women in the Dallas, Ft. Worth area, we welcome your criticism, suggestions, and advice. At this time the issues are given away free to anyone wanting one. Our start is humble we know, but we will get bigger and better. Eventually we must become self-supporting. We will need to sell our issues and take subscribers.

We also appeal to our brothers and sisters in business to advertise with us. Our rates are reasonable: we exist to perform a service, not to make a profit.

In the meantime, if you would care to help (with money or effort) we would be delighted to receive it.

Most sincerely, Steve Jonsson (Editor)
Box 35852

HOORAY FOR TRUE

If you did not see the very interesting article in the January issue of True magazine on what life will be like some years from now, by all means find a copy and read it. In outlining some of the changes that will have occurred (was it the year 2020? I've misplaced by copy) the views on sex are most interesting. The author points out that looking upon sex merely as a way of increasing the population must be reconsidered, what with too many people on the earth in 1971.

Sex must be considered as a way for two people to enjoy each other, and homosexual type sex is definitely included. Read it, you'll find it interesting and stimulating.

Dr. David Reuben, author of the best-seller "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex but Were Afraid to Ask," walked out of a taping of a Chicago talk show rather than answer questions from homosexuals. A spokesman for WLS-TV said about 10 homosexuals were in the audience and in response to Reuben's refusal to answer their questions, two of them rushed onto the stage and started a shoving melee.

AROUND TOWN

One of the most enchanting places to spend a few hours in The Red Room at the King of Clubs. There is delightful music from the piano and organ. Also there is a cocktail hour from 5:30 to 7:30 daily with free hors d'oeuvre.

If any of our readers need a job as waiter or bartender (full or part-time), and if they have references plus an ID card to prove they are over 21, there are openings from time to time with several of Dallas' best bars. Call Switchboard, and leave a message for Don.

- - - - -INTERESTING ORGANIZATIONS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT-

The Circle of Friends
Box 35852

75235

The oldest homophile organization in Texas. Now in its 5th year. Social and political.

Metropolitan Community Church
First Unitarian Church
Porch Chapel Box 5944
824-0770

Protestant, but everyone (yes, everyone) welcome. Starting a young people's department. Social and religious.

Vineyard
4804 Tremont
826-1536

Catholic Folk Mass for both straight and gay. Classes and fellowship.

The Alternate Group

A group of very nice men and women who give lectures to religious and social organizations.

IF
517 Seminary Society Office Bldg.
Ft. Worth, Texas 76115

Our friends in Ft. Worth

Dallas Young Adult Institute
3133 Inwood Road
Dallas, Texas 75235

Offers all kinds of help to all kinds of people.

The Switchboard
352-0272

Telephone service for people who need help.

The Peg
3520 Cedar Springs
521-0272

Crisis Intervention Center for young people.

A sweet little ol' lady was dinning in a crowded cafeteria, when she was joined at her table by three rambunctious teenage boys. One of the lads, decided to have some fun with her, so nudging his friend under the table, he said, "You know, I was twelve before my folks ever married."

His buddy, picking up the put-on replied, "Aw, my parents never even bothered to marry."

"That's nothing," said the third joining in on the fun, "my mother doesn't even know who my father is."

The kindly-looking ol' lady looked up from her coffee, smiled sweetly and said, "Excuse me, but would one of you little bastards please pass the sugar."

--MERRIE MADCAPS FOR THE MAD MONTH OF MARCH--

MARCH

3	Vineyard	Prayer service, Catechism classes Silent language classes	6:00 PM
4	MCC Vineyard	Prayer service Esperanto classes	8:00 PM 8:00 PM
6	Vineyard	Informal rap sessions on any subject	6:00 PM
7	MCC Vineyard Chicken Coop	Church service Folk Mass Rock Hunt in the Country (Weather permitting)	1:30 PM 6:00 PM
10	Vineyard	Prayer service, Catechism classes Silent language classes	6:00 PM
11	MCC Vineyard	Prayer service Esperanto classes	8:00 PM 8:00 PM
13	Vineyard MCC	Informal rap sessions Skate Date	6:00 PM 8:00 PM
14	MCC Circle-friends Vineyard	Church service Election of Officers (members only) Folk Mass, Free Buffet Dinner	1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM
17	Vineyard	Prayer service, Catechism classes Silent language classes	6:00 PM
18	MCC Vineyard	Prayer Service Esperanto classes	8:00 PM 8:00 PM
19	Circle-friends	Appreciation Dinner (members only)	7:00 PM
20	Our Community Vineyard	News Deadline Informal rap sessions	6:00 PM
21	MCC Vineyard	Church service Folk Mass	1:30 PM 6:00 PM
24	Vineyard	Prayer service, Catechism classes Silent language classes	6:00 PM
25	MCC Vineyard	Prayer service Esperanto classes	8:00 PM 8:00 PM
26	Our Community	Issue #2	
27	Vineyard	Informal rap sessions	
28	MCC Circle-friends Vineyard	Church service Meeting (visitors welcome) Folk Mass	1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM
31	Vineyard	Prayer service, Catechism classes Silent language classes	6:00 PM

Note: The above activities are subject to change. More activities will surely be added. Keep in touch.