

OUR COMMUNITY



May, 1971

FROM EXPERIENCE TO YOUTH

Letter from a young man

Ontario, Canada
April 3, 1971

OUR COMMUNITY
PO Box 35852
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir,

As part of my grade 13 English course this year I am doing a research project on homosexuality. I'm studying it from a social, moral, and legal standpoint. Therefore I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me some information on the subject. I have enclosed a list of questions, and if possible, could someone there answer some of these. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Dear Mark,

Before I answer your questions as best I can, may I ask you some? How old are you? Eighteen? Are you a high school student? Are schools in Canada so much more advanced than U. S. schools that they will allow a report on "that" subject? Are your parents aware of your research? What are their reactions? Most important, are you wondering if perhaps you are gay?

I will answer your questions from my own personal experience. But as there is no "typical" homosexual (as there is no "typical" heterosexual), I can't (nor can anyone) speak for all homosexuals. But I will try to speak for most.

Q. When did you first discover you were homosexually oriented?

A. For as long as I can remember, I knew I was somehow different. I was never seduced by an adult, and I had the usual sex experiences that most pre-adolescence boys have: mutual masturbation. When other boys started getting interested in girls, I tried to be interested too. Although I had many dates and was fairly popular, I just couldn't be as interested in girls as my friends were. I tried to tell myself that I was late in maturing, that in a year or two I would develop in that direction. You see, I had never met a gay person, and thought I was the only one in the world.

When I was 24, I moved to New York City where I discovered thousands of homosexuals. Most were happy, had good jobs, and were responsible citizens. Finally one bright beautiful day I said to myself, "Look Steve, face up to it. You're in your middle 20's and still dearly long for male companionship. You're gay." A huge weight seem to lift from my shoulders. All of a sudden, I was me.

Many boys come out easily at 10, 11, or 12. Others grow up, marry (to prove they are not really "that way"), raise families. Some men die, without ever having accepted themselves.

One of my best friends came out at the age of 65. For two short years he was truly happy, then he died.

Q. Are you aware of the causes or reasons for this orientation?

A. Mark, if I were you I wouldn't try to go into all that just yet. No one really knows what causes homosexuality --or even if there is a cause. What causes heterosexuality?

You can read every book in the library, talk to every "authority" (psychiatrist) in the world, and come up with as many "causes" as there are people. Let me just say this: from the dawn of time to present day, homosexuality has existed in every culture and every age. It even exists in the animal kingdom. We are all to a degree both homosexual and heterosexual. Surely anything as commonplace as we must be "natural." God must have made us. If he didn't, who did?

Q. When you realized you were homosexual, did you try to deny it to yourself?

A. Oh yes. I'd heard the words: queer, fag, cocksucker, fairy, fruit, queen, and on and on. Who wouldn't deny? But names don't bother me anymore. I am me. And what's more, I like me.

Q. Did you discuss this (the fact that you were homosexual) with your parents and/or friends?

A. I tried many times. But tears would come and I just couldn't. Which

in my case was just as well. They wouldn't have understood. Or they would have blamed themselves. They were not to blame. No one was. I am me.

Some kids do tell their parents. Some parents understand (or try to) and continue to love their children. For other parents it's more than they can face, so their gay sons (or daughters) are more-or-less disowned. Should a gay boy or girl confide? It all depends.

Q. Were your years at school (high school or university) spent trying to put on a front and appear straight?

A. (For an 18 year old youth, you sure know the right questions, don't you?) Yes I tried to appear straight, even though I hadn't admitted to myself that I wasn't. Human beings are funny, aren't they?

Q. Have you ever sought therapy? Did you want to?

A. Yep! \$2,000.00 worth. Came to find out my therapist was just as queer as I was. Only he was "adjusted." He did not try to change me: he tried to get me to accept myself.

I was walking across Central Park one spring day. Two very nelly queens were flipping their wrists and camping up a storm. A lady "tourist" followed very close behind, ears wide open so that she might be properly horrified. After several "gasps of shock" one of the little queens turned around, smiled sweetly and said, "Don't be upset my dear. There are millions of us."

My best therapy was my friends. No longer was I alone. With my good friends, my life could be as happy as anyone's.

Q. Have you ever been bothered by the law? By other people?

A. I haven't. Others have. Our people have been burned at the stake. We've been beheaded, beaten, electrocuted, shot, rolled, imprisoned, murdered. And why? Because we loved. And because those who persecuted us just maybe had a deep, well-hidden fear that they might be a little like us too.

Q. Is the homosexual life lonely? When was this loneliest the worst (at what age)?

A. When I was young I had my share of friends, but I was also lonely because I couldn't fully express my fondness (love) for them. But my greatest time of loneliness was when I was least alone --when I was in the Army, putting on a straight front, and surrounded by 5000 men.

Heterosexuals can be lonely too, can't they? But I say this loud and clear: none (regardless of sexual preference) need be lonely. Because there are many lonely people in this world. Find one. Be his friend. Then two people are no longer lonely.

Q. Do you belong to a gay organization? Is it strictly homosexual?

A. The Circle of Friends began with 5 homosexuals, and 4 heterosexual ministers. We've never had better friends. Everyone is welcome. I'm not just a homosexual. I'm a human being first, homosexual second. There is a place in my life for all the love I can get --and give.

Q. Was your work or career greatly affected by the fact that you were homosexual?

A. For most work you must learn to pretend. You learn early. You might be the swishest queen on earth, but you deny everything --till you know your job is safe. How nice to be with friends and be yourself.

Q. Do you feel the motion picture industry is giving the homosexual life an accurate enough portrayal? Are they merely using it for sensationalism?

A. I suppose there are parties like the one in The Boys in the Band, but I've never been to that kind.

No, there have been no accurate motion pictures on homosexual life. If there were, it wouldn't sell tickets. What the world must realise is that we are not too different from straights. Few of us live in black marble palaces, attend bitchy mad parties night after night, molest little children, pluck our eyebrows, wear the smartest clothes, or swish in public.

We are bookkeepers, teachers, doctors, mechanics, artists, politicians, athletes (oh yes we are) salesmen; and some of us are unemployed. We live in large and small houses, apartments, and the dear ol' YMCA. We eat bacon and eggs and watch TV. Like straights, we save some money, and yet try to pay some on the silverware we bought at Sears. In short we are human beings --not exotic creatures or a threat to family life.

But thank God for Hollywood! To sell tickets, the subject has been brought out into the open. Dear youth, when I was your age, I didn't know enough to ask the intelligent questions you ask. Had I seen some sensational motion pictures, I might have.

KING OF CLUBS

★ *The Main Bar*

★ *Great New Sound System*

★ *Les Dames Room (all girls club)*

★ *The Red Room "swinging music"*

2116 N. FIELD

741-0218



Q. Do you agree with the argument that homosexuals have more creative ability than the heterosexual?

A. Not inherently. But because gay people are suppose to be more creative, they may spend more time developing their creative ability. This is like saying that the Negro has rhythm. I own a very long list of famous people who most probably were homosexual, from pre-recorded history to present day, (leaving out prominent living persons who might sue). But what does this prove? Could not a heterosexual submit a list as long? Again, we are human beings. We differ only in our choice of partners.

Q. Have you ever become involved in a heterosexual relationship? If so was it very satisfying?

A. Yes indeed. Many gay people have. And many straight people have had homosexual relations too; haven't they? (According to Kinsey, 3 out of 5 men --to the point of orgasm). For more than ten years I had a very nice affair with a very nice girl. She understood and accepted me. Although we no longer ball, we are still good friends. What could be more satisfying? As I said, I need all the love I can get.

Q. Do you see the lot of the homosexual improving in the seventies and later on?

A. I see the lot of all mankind improving. We had better (all of us) start thinking of each other as brothers and sisters, regardless of sexual preference, nationality, or color of skin. If the world is to survive, we must love each other, accept each other, respect each other, share with each other, laugh with each other, cry with each other.....

LION MAY HAVE SEX CHANGE

Doctors examined Antar the lion at the Egyptian National Circus because he was growing fat, bald, and shy. They said, "If these examinations show that Antar's feminine hormones are greater than his male hormones, a sex operation will be carried out."

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

IF YOU ARE A RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN, WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY AND HAVE FUN WHILE DOING IT; THEN CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX AND MAIL TODAY.

A SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

MEETS THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH 3:30 PM

THE DALLAS YOUNG ADULT INSTITUTE, 3133 INWOOD RD.

THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS — SINCE 1965

- C.O.F. -

TEXAS' OLDEST HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATION

P.O. BOX 35852, DALLAS, TEXAS, 75235

NAME _____ PHONE _____ ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

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☐ PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION

☐ \$10.00 ENCLOSED FOR ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP

AROUND TOWN

If a stranger steps into the SWINGER, he want be a stranger long. I'd never been in a butch bar before, so I was a little apprehensive when I opened the door: I mean all those butch cowboy types. What if one of those handsome brutes lassod me, threw me down and "had his way" with me! Of course I'd try to defend myself (but I'm not very strong)! This didn't happen, but I'd been there only a few moments before I meet several friendly studs. They said: "If you go once, you'll return often." I did. So will you. It's friendly, like home.

If you've not been to MAARS (formerly PSW of Dallas) lately, you'll want to do so immediately to see their exquisitely costumed drag show. Sonny, the bar's personable and charming host, has many gifted performers, but particularly outstanding is the Black and Beautiful Shalimar! If you dig drag (or even if you don't), you'll want to catch her act. She's good! While you're there, meet Keith, their very handsome security guard. Another unique feature of this bar is that it's one of the few places in town where teen-agers are admitted; no liquor is served. A large dance floor and good music (sometimes by live bands) accomidates the happy dancers. Open every day (except Mondays) from 8 - till! and "after hours" on Friday and Saturday nights.

When the CLUB BON-SOIR first opened, it was a coat and tie affair. Perhaps this was a mistake. A mistake that has been completely rectified by its handsome manager, Don. The club is beautifully decorated and elegant still, but its loyal patrons dress comfortably and the atmosphere is relaxed. It's fun to gather 'round the piano-organ bar and sing all the good ol' songs at the top of our voices. Soon there will be "dancing under the stars" on the outdoor patio, a delightful way to spend an evening. On the 13th of May (8 PM to 11), Club Bon-Soir will celebrate its First Anniversary with a giant gala. There will be free hor d'oeuvres and drinks, plus surprises for everyone. Mark this date on your calendar and meet your friends there.

The big noise in town concern the opening of THE CANDY SHOP. You may have a bit of trouble locating it --just off Cedar Springs on Throckmorton (behind the cleaners I believe), but your efforts will be well rewarded for looking, as this private club has Dallas' only Gay Light Show. You just gotta see this. Truly fantastic! You'll also enjoy the small intimate atmosphere of this friendly club.

Dallas' Newest Fun Spot Frank Caven's
 The CANDY STORE 526-9408
 3014 Throckmorton (off cedar springs)
 you have got to see The Gay Light Show

==MAY MADNESS==

SUNDAYS

6:00 Buffet Dinner, BON-SOIR,
Members free, guests 1.00

6:00 Folk Mass, VINEYARD

6:30 Coffee Hour, MCC

7:30 Church Service, MCC

8:00 Drag Show, RON SUE

9:00 Drag Show, MAARS

MONDAYS

2:00 Hairdresser's Matinee
Beer 35 cents RON-SUE

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 Prayer service, Catechism classes
Silent Language classes, VINEYARD

THURSDAYS

8:00 Prayer service, MCC

8:00 Esperanto classes, VINEYARD

9:00 Drag Show, MAARS

FRIDAYS

7:45 Bowling, L-K Lanes, Call Joe 371-2666
MCC

SATURDAYS

6:00 Informal rap sessions, VINEYARD

==SPECIAL MADNESS==

May 8 SKATE DATE, Fair Park Roller Rink 8:00, sponcer Circle of Friends
Everyone welcome.

May 9 BUFFET DINNER, 6:45 Vineyard

May 13 FIRST ANNIVERSARY PARTY, 8:00 Bon-Soir

May 15, WEDDING, Call 824-0770 for information MCC

May 20, OUR COMMUNITY DEADLINE

May 25 LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH Party, 8:00 King of Clubs

May 30 MEETING, 3:30 Circle of Friends,

June 1 OUR COMMUNITY, Issue #4

June 26-27 CHRISTOPHER STREET LIBERATION DAY PARTY for everyone. Sponcer MCC

CLUB BON-SOIR

For The "IN" Crowd

Free Buffet Every Sunday 6-8 pm

6PM-2AM DAILY

5601 WEST LOVERS LANE 351-9521

DALLAS, TEXAS

AROUND TOWN

GRANDE CENTRAL STARPORT is in the process of organizing a Community Theatre in cooperation with HOOKA NOTES. This will be Avante Garde Theatre in the Round. Needed are theatrical technicians and performers. Also singers, poetry readers, and musicians are needed for the "free stage" performances. Any artists wishing to sell their wares will be given display space.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO THE WISE DEPARTMENT

Don't (repeat don't) visit the johns at the Student Union Bldg, or the library on the SMU campus for any reason. You might find it very expensive. DON'T. And another thing, I don't care how "closety" you are, it would be wise to carry a good lawyer's phone number with you at all times. You know, and I know there are lawyers whose eyes light up with dollar signs when a gay citizen gets into even minor trouble. But there are other lawyers too. Get one NOW. If you need bail, call the Alert Bail Bond Company 744-2221. So plan ahead. And be careful! (Also pass the word to your gay brothers).

===== =CLASSIFIED ADDS= =====

(Rates: ten cents per word, 1.00 minimum)

YOUNG GUY 25. Will be in Dallas in August. Would like to hear from guys 18 to 30. Especially likes western and college types. Would also like more information on Dallas Gay Scene. Write to Ken - PO Box 703, East Orange, N.J.

AVON LOVERS: Call Vicki for your goodies. 358-5064

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Call 946-4354 for application. Must have experience in remodeling, home repair, painting etc. Must be reliable, honest, and conscientious. We stress quality workmanship, prompt service, and reasonable costs. Must have own transportation and references.

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Due to a very busy schedule this month, Dr. Nymm's advice (all kinds) to people (all kinds) will not appear. However, he will be back with us in the June Issue. In the meantime, if you would like to ask this popular handsome doctor a question (any kind), please address it to Dr. Nymm, OUR COMMUNITY, PO Box 35852; Dallas Texas 75235

MAARS



spectacular

lavish DRAG SHOW!

thurs-sun 9pm

TEENAGERS welcome

EVERYONE welcome

**DANCING POOL
BYOB**

SET-UPS COFFEE

1819 N. Henderson

824-9710

BAYOU	3717 Rawlings	Private club, dancing, young college type, Very Popular
CLUB BON-SOIR	5601 W. Lovers Lane	Private club, dancing, room, Sunday Buffet at 6:00 - Elegant, relaxed.
THE CASTLE	McKinney & Haskell	Drag shows, Mixed crowd
CHIP INN	3224 N. Fitzhugh	Girls bar, but boys welcome, Drag show.
DENNIBELL	1324 Commerce	Interesting at night only, beer bar, rough trade, Caution.
THE DISCUS	2900 McKinney	New bar, Drag show, catching on fast
GALLERY ONE	3133 A. Live Oak	Beer bar, older types
GRAND CENTRAL STARPORT	2107 N. Harwood	Teen-agers welcome, no liquor, Light Show, folk singers, dancing, unique
GALLEY	4234 Oak Lawn	Restaurant, reasonable prices, good food
GENE'S MUSIC BAR	307 S. Akard	One of the oldest bars in Dallas. Mixed crowd rough trade, Caution
HIGHLAND LOUNGE	Monticello and North Central Expressway	Beer bar, Girls mostly.
THE HOUSE	4621 Ross	Mixed crowd
HORSESHOE BAR	1305 Commerce	Mixed crowd
JENO'S	4818 Gaston	Mixed crowd, quiet, sedate
KING OF CLUBS	2116 N. Field St.	Private club, dancing, game room, live piano bar, very popular, Les Dames Room, girls
MAARS BAR	1819 N. Henderson	Teen-agers admitted, no liquor, BYOB, dancing, drag shows, very popular
NEPTUNE	2906 N. Henderson	Beer bar, girls mostly, fun bar
ORCHARD CLUB	2311 N. Henderson	Private club, electric dance floor, live music on weekends, dress restrictions for girls
RON SUE	3236 McKinney	Beer bar, drag shows, very popular

Continued on the last page

the Swinger

**we may be
the only butch bar in town
but we try not to act like it**

mon-fri: 5-2 am

sat-sun: 3-2 am 4419 live oak

824-9236



MCC NEWS

The move is on at Dallas Metropolitan Community Church as we continue to progress and meet the needs of the Community. The most recent move is a change of time and chapels, with coffee and fellowship from 6:30 PM to 7:15. Services are at 7:30 PM Sunday nights in the Normandy Chapel of the First Unitarian Church (4015 Normandy, 2 blocks north of Mockingbird on Preston Rd.) This is a larger chapel with a warm atmosphere to match the spirit of love for all which MCC seeks to reflect. Everyone (regardless of race, faith, creed or any other factor) is invited. Dress comfortably and be yourselves!

A Seder service, such as the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus with His disciples when the communion service was first instituted, was celebrated Holy Thursday, as part of our regular Bible study. We will have more such action studies in the future. The current study is in the book of Genesis and there's still room in this group for more members. (Thursday's 8:00 PM).

Peggy and Dee have announced their intentions of being married at the Normandy Chapel May 15. An invitation is extended to all.

NEWS RELEASE: The Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles has approved the granting of a charter to the Dallas mission. The charter will be presented by Rev. Louis A. Loynes. "Charter Sunday" will be May 23rd.

Rev. Troy D. Perry, Founder of MCC, has authorized MCC-Dallas to start receiving members immediately. The membership in existence on "Charter Sunday" will constitute the charter membership. A Pastor for MCC-Dallas will be elected by the charter members prior to the church services on "Charter Sunday."

CHRISTOPHER STREET LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATION PLANS!

July 26, 1969 was the day gay citizens of New York got fed up with being pushed around by the police. For the first time, they fought back --and won! This is our Declaration of Independence Day. A National Gay Holiday.

Plans are being made in 40 cities across the nation to celebrate this day. In New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Los Angeles, there will be parades. In Dallas there will be a Community Wide Lake Party, sponsored by MCC, with swimming and boating, dancing overnight camping, a hayride, supper and breakfast. A white elephant sale (donations cheerfully accepted). All this on private property. Full details in the June Issue of OUR COMMUNITY. For once in Dallas, let's show our unity. Attend this celebration.



is where it's at



GOD is LOVE
and we can prove it

**METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

4015 Normandy

824-0770

a Church for All People

bring a friend

dress is casual

THE SWINGER 4419 Live Oak Cowboy types, very friendly and popular

THAT JOINT 3307 McKinney Beer bar, dancing, after hours, fun

THE TRIO 3541 McKinney Interesting left-hand side only, Coffee shop
Teen-age hangout

VILLA FONTAINE 1315 Skyles Beer bar, very popular. The oldest bar of
its kind in America, very popular

YE MEETING PLACE 2634 N. Fitzhugh Restaurant, reasonable prices, good food.

THE ATTIC WINDOW 3917 Cedar Springs Coffee House, Folk music, books, rap
Live entertainment Thurs, Fri, and Sat. nights

THE CANDY SHOP 3014 Throckmorton Dallas' newest private club, Fantastic
Gay Light Show.

A TV PERSONALITY commented recently: "There's plenty of violence on television, but not nearly enough sex. Of course, in America, we all realize that violence is acceptable but sex isn't. It would be a terribly dirty, ugly picture to show two people banging away in the bushes, but if you want to show someone blowing a guy's brains out, that's another story. I once watched an episode of Combat and in one hour, 53 men were killed. If mild allusions to sex are more offensive than watching all that slaughter, then something's drastically wrong with our society.

Have you heard about the black belt karate-ist who stuck out his arm to signal a left turn, and chopped a Volkswagen in half.

Or the gay Manhattanite who moved to Long Island so he could be listed in the QUEENS directory

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