

#1 February 1969

# © F NEWSLETTER

## Editors note:

Before we start I would like to thank all who have helped to make this newsletter possible. If it hadn't been for them I am afraid that I could have never gotten this letter out, even if it is two months late. I do hope that in the future that our news-let-ter can and will be finished by the last of each month. My hopes also include having the letter published in a more presentable form much like that of our sister clubs and organizations. This will only be possible if all of you will join me and the others who have contributed this time by submitting articles which you find are right or write which you think will be of interest to others. If you have or know of any such material please contact me or send it to the Circle of Friends, P.O. Box 9737, Dallas, Texas 75214.

Thank you

The Editor

## The President's Corner.....

Well ladies and you'all, things are going full blast for the Circle. Our brochure and new condensed membership application as well as our stationary has been printed. We have also gotten out a newsletter and a new constitution thanks mostly to Kelly and others too numerous to mention. We hope that the articles will continue to pour in from all sources.

My goals for the organization as stated at the last meeting seem to be coming a reality, that of members and money for the Circle. To this end many of the members are working with much vigor and we are hoping to see the fruits of their labors this coming meeting and in all our meetings in the future. One of the primary questions often asked by prospective members is Why should I join this club or any other gay club when it takes up my time, money, abilities? I hope our members as well as those thinking about joining reading this will get an answer to their question. Joining the Circle of Friends can mean a new experience in living and a discovery of others who are of a like mind in the promotion of goodwill and friendship among the homosexual as well as the heterosexual community in which we live. That participation can lead to a better understanding of life, happiness, and lasting genuine friendship. That from us to you and them, we can help ourselves as well as help others, and last of all that

homosexuals can be HAPPY, and finding these things is thru participation.....

Until the gavel bangs again....Chuck....

From The Crystal Ball

By Madame Yak

Since the election last January, the Circle has started to move in many ways and already more things are being brought up to work on. The only Special Committee in operation, has been working very hard on getting a workable Constitution ready for a vote at the March Business meeting. The By-laws have been discussed and plans are now to start work on them as soon as possible.

We are still lookin forward to and hoping to get our own place where we can meet for business or social activities. This place is needed for many reasons. The library, for one thing. We need a place where every one can get together at their leisure. A place where everyone can go when he gets tired of the bars or restaurants. A place for our social activities.

The idea for a small gold lapel pin has been in the works for some time now and we are still trying to get the best buy. this will be a small pin that anyone can wear with pride.

The committes that are active now can always use more help and ideas. They are the Program, Social, Membership - Finance, Public Relations and Religion committiees. Anyone wishing to be on or work with anyone of these committiees, PLEASE contact the chairman of that committiee or one of the officers of the Circle. There is still alot of work to do and we need all the help we can get. Get off your backside and start making the Circle everyones Circle, it can be fun.

#### "MONEY TALK"

The dues for the yeat are due now so do not fail to see Paul or Marion.

The dinner party is planed for Mardh 16, and restricted to paid members and we need to know who is planing on attending so please contact Bob when or if your dues are paid. This is the start of our membership drive and we would like to request that each member bring at leas one new member or guest to each of the open meetings this year. Marion will furnish all the membership blanks you need, and they will also be passed out at the door.

Marion and Paul are seeking information and ideas on how to raise funds for the club so please feel free to contact them if you have any suggestions.

Paul

#### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Circle of Friends hopes that 1969 will be a big year for the increase in our membership. A strong membership drive is being planned in conjunction with our regular program and social activities. All members are urged to help us expand by bringing more prospective members to open meetings and open social gatherings.

In this year the membership-finance committee plans to work with the social community in planning more social gatherings, parties, and outings where nonmembers and guests may be invited. It is also urged that small groups of our present member hold informal gatherings with prospective members for the purpose of expanding the work of our present organizations, and urging them to attend our open meetings and/or joining our group.

Are you tired of trying to scream over the sound of music and the chatter of queens at the bars in hopes of informing them of the Circle and its work in Dallas? Do you fill like saying this is a recording after you have answered the same old question for the 90th time in one night? We have the answer. There is now a pamphlet which we hope will answer these and many other questions about the Circle and its work. We also have a membership form in this pamphlet so there won't be a mad rush when the reading is over.

Our group is growing and the grapevine is beginning to sag with the fruit(news) that there is a Homophile organization in Dallas. We are receiving letters from all over the U.S.A. requesting information on our group and how they might become a nonresident member. Most of these people have heard ~~xxxx~~ about it in various publications of their groups. The editor of our newsletter and our public relations committee will be in correspondence with the publications and organizations so as to get the Circle known.

As chairman of the membership-finance committee I urge all to work with me and all the present members this year in our project to increase our membership. Lets build the Circle of Friends into one of the hardest working (and playing) organizations in the country.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Happiness is.....meeting your new neighbor in a gay bar.

At present the homosexual has little choice but to the life of two worlds. He does not have the freedom to change this fact. His freedom lies only at two points: how he views his own life and working to change the conditions that make it necessary for him to live in two worlds.

The Circle of Friends provided a place for a homosexual to relate with non-homosexuals on a basis of mutual acceptance. This experience transcends the double life of gay world and the other world. It provides a glimpse of the future when homosexuals will be free to live in society and accepted as persons.

This experience contributes to the freedom of the individual member not only by providing a way of viewing his own life as a whole person, but as well by providing him the opportunity to work toward a more sane society in which he as well as other members of society are free to live.

Doug McLean

#### PSYCHING OUT !!!!

Are you simply gay, leading a well adjusted, satisfying life? Or are you neurotic as well as gay? There are difficulties enough for the well adjusted homosexual, but for the neurotic homosexual, life can be one traumatic experience after another. It is an often repeated characteristic of neurotic people that their actions are not such as will bring them satisfaction. In fact, the neurotic person is his own greatest enemy because of the things he will do that actually make his plight worse in place of better. It is this limiting of the persons enjoyment of life that can cause the person so much pain. And, unfortunately, a neurosis tends to feed upon itself by causing behavior which is unsatisfying, so that the unfortunate victim becomes even deeper embeded in this non-satisfying behavior pattern, like a person in quick-sand.

There are gay persons of my acquaintance who are perfectly well adjusted and lead a very interesting, satisfying life. These people do not sit around and bemoan the fact that homosexuals are not openly accepted by everyone. They make the best of the present situation and hope for the better tomorrow.

Examine your own habits and activities! Are they merely activities to kill time and a means of delaying facing and accepting what you are. Or, do you spend your time in activities that are truly satisfying? Remember that the person who will benefit most from the discarding of neurotic behavior is yourself.....

George Harris

### Religion and The Circle

Religion today is experiencing a new birth and a tremendous change of viewpoints. This is not a rebirth of organized or secular religion but a new birth of individual spiritual awakening. The change in viewpoints is as great as man's change from earthbound viewpoints to airborne or more recently spaceborne viewpoints. This new birth of individual spiritual awakening will ultimately make an impact on religion and world development greater than that of the work of Martin Luther. The awakening is not going to begin tomorrow, it is happening now.

The change in viewpoints goes hand in hand with the awakening and the change between the old and the new can better be illustrated by an example. Consider a man who lives in a forest covered area and has an old earthbound viewpoint. He might worship the "Great Spirit of the Tree" as the giver of life and creator of the world. When this man encounters a man who lives in the desert and worships the "Great Spirit of the Water", he might believe this desert man to be following a false god and condemn him as a heretic and an unbeliever. The reverse is also true. Until a broader or higher viewpoint is reached in that the same spirit created both the tree and the water, no understanding or love can exist between them. When they come to understand that they are both seeking the same thing then co-operation, harmony and progress will be possible. For from an expanded viewpoint religion in its true sense is man's search for meaning. This search for meaning can be expressed in many ways; it may be through belief in a Superior Being, love of your fellow man, a search for greater truth in scientific areas or any number of other ways.

The primary program of the Religion Committee shall be to become aware of the significant events and movements relating to man's search for meaning and how these movements can be related to the whole purpose of the Circle of Friends. Specifically we hope to create a better understanding of the spiritual and emotional needs of the homosexual with the church and the general public. By working and counseling with as many ministers and other interested people as possible. In working with these people we hope to be able to expand some old viewpoints so that greater co-operation, harmony and progress will be possible. Our aspirations not only include the general public's acceptance of the homosexual's search for meaning as valid along with others but we also hope that our own viewpoints and outlooks will be enriched by this work. This last statement regarding our own viewpoints leads to another specific area of the program of the Religion Committee, in that we shall attempt to educate and enlighten each member to meet his spiritual and emotional needs by council with other members of the Circle, professional people, and other qualified persons who may be available. This is not meant to imply that this committee will attempt to preach to or indoctrinate every member of the Circle, rather we hope to serve as a point of exchange of ideas and information for interested members and the general public.

Chairman of the Religion Committee

## Homosexual Rights

Why is there an organization which deals with the homosexual? Why the Circle of Friends?

Because the homosexual American citizen finds himself denied many of the unique and special features of American life that are guaranteed by the Constitution and its Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence.

The homosexual American citizen feels he is being denied many of the liberties and freedoms guaranteed by those documents and enjoyed, without second thought, by his fellow American citizens.

### "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"

Homosexuals are rarely treated as equals and they are often placed in a status of inferiority. The Federal, state and local governments not only discriminate against them grossly and pointlessly, but these institutions serve to maintain the prejudice against them.

### "ALL MEN ARE ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, AMONG THESE ARE THE PURSUITE OF HAPPINESS"

But the homosexual American citizen who participates in sexual acts within the privacy of the home, without force and with other consenting adults is subject to criminal sanctions in 49 states that range from a \$500 fine in New York to life imprisonment in Nevada and other states.

Notoriously, persons accused of homosexual acts often suffer loss of job and shame before family and friends.

Surely a citizen's private sexual relations with other consenting adults are an important and proper part of his personal "pursuit of happiness." Yet, upon pain of severe punishment by the society around him, the homosexual American citizen finds himself denied this "unalienable right."

I present this to you the reader in hopes that it will provoke thought and help render more articles for our news letters.

This article was taken from a pamphlet printed by the Eastern Regional Homophile conference, and will be continued in our next news letter.

According to reliable estimates, there are some fifteen million male and female homosexual American citizens- about 10% of the non-juvenile population - making them the largest minority group after the Negro. But what ever statistics may be adopted, it cannot be denied that this group is a significantly large segment of the populace.