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Title: *Freedom Newsletter* (MCC)

Date: February 1983

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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Freedom

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."
— Galatians 5:1

The Newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Vol. 1, No. 11

February, 1983

SOMETHING ELSE

Love is full of surprises! It just isn't predictable. It scares people. A lot of gay people are especially frightened by it. Evidence is rampant in the gay bars. People need and want love and grasp at straws in a setting that fosters one-night stands, even when the majority of participants decry such behavior.

Why is it then, that gay people are so crowded into such a setting? Scared of love? Yep! Scared of surprises, too. Sex with strangers is predictable. There may be different sexual activities, different physical apparatus, different lines of communication, but they are going to have sex — without strings!

Roy Orbison was a big singer in the 60's. Every song was filled with heartache: "Breaking Up Is Breaking My Heart," "Only the Lonely," "Crying," "Running Scared" and it's flip side "Love Hurts."

Although "Love Hurts" was a flip side, it still got a lot of airplay and in the 70's a group called Nazareth did it again. There is no answer in the song to the problem love presents. If there were an answer, the surprises would be gone. The terrific joys would be gone; and the pain, too, would be gone. All of that makes love interesting and the grower of a fuller person for those who experience it.

Roy sang:

Love hurts, love scars, love wounds and mars.

Ask any heart not touched tho' strong enough to take a lot of pain; take a lot of pain.

Love is like a flower, holds a lot of rain. Love hurts.

I'm young, I know, but even so I know a thing or two, I've learned from you.

I've really learned a lot, really learned a lot, Love is like a stove — burns you when it's hot. Love hurts. Love hurts.

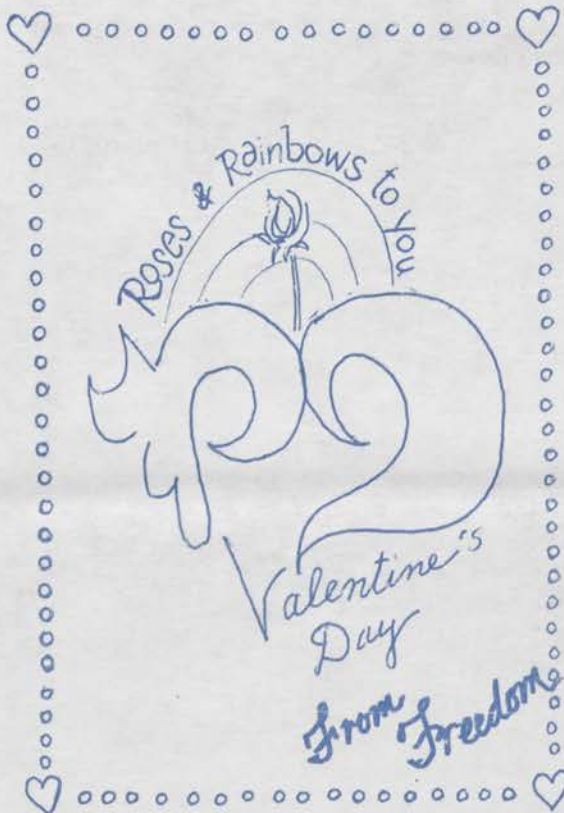
Some fools rave of happiness; blissfulness; togetherness. Some fools fool themselves I guess, but they're not fooling me.

I know it isn't true; know it isn't true. Love is just a lie, Made to make you blue, Love hurts. Love hurts.

His assessment of Love is really very safe. The singer comes away immune. He's like a lot of gay people at the bar. That song could be a theme song as we march out of the bars... "Love hurts. No thanks." But someone will always remind us, "It's better to have love and lost than never to have loved at all." We nod. We keep on singing "Love Hurts."

— Colin Kreitzer





This year marks New Beginnings for us as Gay People who are followers of Christ. I submit that this year we should explore our past relationship with Christ and embark on working with that relationship in the year 1983. I think that we should start to search the scriptures for improving our life as followers of Christ and start to commune with our Brothers & Sisters in Christ for we can enhance our life so much better through the Scriptures & Fellowship. I would like to suggest that 1983 be a new start for those who have put Christ on the Back Burner. It's time to really think about what you are doing to Christ & to yourself. I know that some followers of Christ are hurting & if so you should commune with God & seek the answers that you need. I am a great believer & not letting anything stand in the way between Christ & me.

If you are in that state cast out that obstacle which is separating you from your Christ. You can begin again for Christ brought you through 1982 even when you forsook him. Christ will accept you if you confess on your lips that Christ is your Saviour and that you need Christ in this year of NEW BEGINNINGS.

BUDGET REPORT

Al

In early January members of the Lancaster worship group met to devise a tentative budget for 1983. This budget was presented before the full church January 30th. As proposed, the monthly expenses average about \$385. Besides current expenses for rent, newsletter, worship co-ordination and denominational fees, several new items have been budgeted. These include regular line items for conference expenses, literature, Food Bank, hospital flowers and special mailings. Also one time expenses for Arthur's ministerial exams and seed money for the Gay Ran group are included.

Since our 1982 income averaged \$205 monthly, an increase of \$180 monthly or about \$45 each week will be necessary to meet proposed expenses. Each of us will need to prayerfully consider our personal commitment to the work of this church. In this way we can find ways to meet or surpass these financial goals.

Earl

THIS SPACE CAN BE YOURS

Contributions are needed, such as news articles; editorials; essays; reviews of books, movies, or plays; short, short stories; poems; art work; et cetera; ad infinitum.

Art should be black on white (pen and ink type). This issue contains good examples for size.

Copy should be typed in 3½ inch columns. Hand written copy will be accepted, but it must arrive early.

Contributions of an "undated" nature may be held in reserve for future issues.

HELP

I need a Lawyer that is sensitive to my needs by the way I am a Gay Man.

Where do you go for VD checking concerning Gay & Lesbian people?

I would like to meet other Gay Men, What other options do I have besides the bars?

I need counselling concerning my sexuality. Can you help me?

Are there any support groups in town where I can rap with other Gay Men and Lesbian Women?

Where is the Metropolitan Church of Lancaster?

I need a Doctor who is sensitive to my needs and will not try to convert me.

I need someone to talk to because I'm lonely. Can you help me?

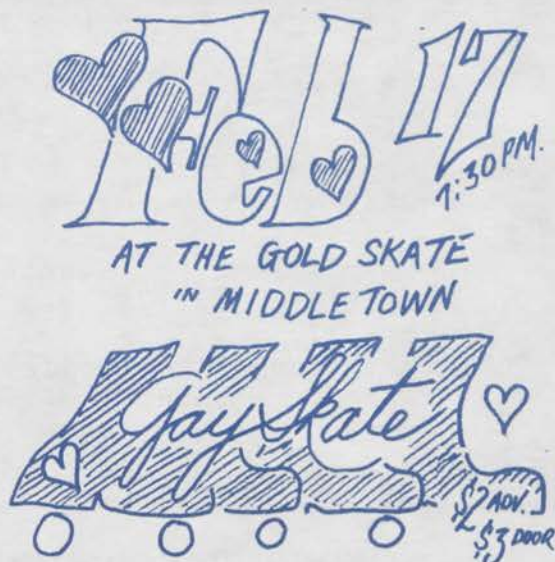
These are a few concerns that Gay Men and Lesbians often need help with which The Lesbian and Gay Helpline will try to provide information for. Please call this service at 397-0691 for it is for you.

Help-line Staffer.

NEW MINISTER "MOVES IN"

Pat Lichty, MCC Harrisburg's new pastor, has found a house in the area, and she and her spouse will be moving in this month. She will begin performing her new duties early in March.

The congregation of MCC Harrisburg is planning a pot luck supper in Pat's honor on March 5, 1983.



BOOK REVIEWS

Want to read a good book about homosexuals in the Vietnam War? Try Charles Nelson's THE BOY WHO PICKED THE BULLETS UP from Avon publishers.

This well-written, fast-paced novel tells of the adventures of Kurt Strom, a medical aid from the South. His tales of war, along with his sexual encounters make for a great story.

And for non-fiction reading, THE SPADA REPORT by James Spada from Signet publishers.

This book is the result of a survey of over 1000 gay men from ages 16 to 77. If you would like to know what other gays think of coming out, relationships, and other gay-oriented matters, this is a book for you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8--MCC Harrisburg board meeting, Ed's house

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17--Gay Skate at The Gold Skate in Middletown, 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20--MCC Lancaster monthly Love Feast/Pot Luck Supper following the regular service

SATURDAY, MARCH 5--Pot Luck Supper honoring Pat Lichty, new pastor of MCC Harrisburg, Friends Meeting House

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

MONDAYS--7:00 pm--Men's Rap/Support Group--Friends Meeting House, Harrisburg.

TUESDAYS--7:30 pm--Evangelicals Concerned Bible Study--1318 Penn Street, Harrisburg.

NOTICE--Tuesday night volleyball sponsored by Dignity/Central PA has been changed to Friday nights, 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army, Green and Cumberland Streets in Harrisburg.



WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Harrisburg:

Sunday Evenings
Friends Meeting House
6th & Herr Streets
Harrisburg, Pa.
7:00 p.m.

Lancaster:

Sunday Evenings
Unitarian Center of Lancaster
538 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, Pa.
5:00 p.m.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
OF HARRISBURG

234-0328

6:00 to 10:00 pm
Monday - Friday
Your gay connection
in Harrisburg!

LANCASTER
GAY/LESBIAN
HELP LINE

397-0691

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Sunday
6:30 to 9:30 pm

FREEDOM Vol. 1, No. 11 February, 1983

FREEDOM is the newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Harrisburg and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It is published monthly and mailed from Harrisburg on the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

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Artwork..... Colin Kreitzer

Manuscripts submitted for publication should be typed, single-spaced, with a column width of no more than 3 1/4 inches (19 1/2 picas). Manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included. Manuscripts should bear the name of the author.

The views expressed in the articles are those of the writers and not necessarily those of MCC-Lancaster, MCC-Harrisburg, or the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization should not be construed as indicative of the sexual orientation or ideological stance of that person, business, or organization.

The Metropolitan Community Church is an ecumenical, Christian church for all people with a special ministry to the lesbian and gay community.