



RENAISSANCE OF MADISON, INC

COORDINATOR'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 1975

PANELS

More than eight separate panels and discussions permitted us to meet and interact in lively conversation with over 800 people in recent weeks. A great many believe that such public education and information as well as public relations is the best way to eliminate society's ill-informed opinions and prejudices. If you know of groups which might be interested in having a panel or would like to discuss our handling a specifically tailored discussion, please don't hesitate to suggest that they contact us.

FLYER

Last month you received a copy of a flyer spelling out the goals, methods, and projects supported by Renaissance of Madison, Inc. We use these flyers to let others know who we are, what we are doing, and how to reach us. They were not printed for free and cost us nearly 10¢ to produce and print. While wide dissemination is certainly encouraged, there is a financial limit.

FINANCES

Mark Lutz reports that again this month we don't have enough money to pay the coordinator's salary. That position is now half-time and pays \$200 per month. Hardly a huge financial obligation, that, and our inability to meet it points up the fact that we have trouble. Some facts: fewer than 30 individuals support Renaissance on a regular monthly basis; only one gay-owned business gives monthly support; ideas and action on fund raising have not been forthcoming; we have a debt of \$1500.

Clearly the continuation of gay community services in Madison is at stake. We provide a number of sorely needed health, education, and helping services which must terminate if we cannot afford to remain in operation. Sadly, no fairy god-person has descended from on high to solve all our earthly tribulations. We must do that ourselves. We need more money, we need it soon, and we need it steadily. Those of us who staff the Center are already expending much time and energy on the daily functioning of our services--we cannot simply pick up the task of fund raising by ourselves. You must help. Please give it some thought. Any offers of ideas and/or time will be joyously accepted.

CONFERENCES

Between now and June several gay conferences will be held throughout the Midwest. Two will be described this month and others as we get notice.

March 7-8-9, 1975 "A Call to Action" Ann Arbor, Michigan Gay Academic Union

This will be the conference of the Midwest branch of the Gay Academic Union.

Objectives:

- * To explore existing legal rights of Gay people, to consider some of the possible goals in reforming academic by-laws which discriminate against gay women and men, and to discuss some practical methods of achieving these goals.
- * To explore the problems of gay academic organizations, of organizational group dynamics, and of the practical problems that must be dealt with in gay organizations.

(608) 257-7575
P.O. Box 687 Madison, Wis. 53701

* To explore means of setting up gay studies programs in new or existing academic contexts.

One car is scheduled to leave from Madison on Friday March 7 about noon. If you are interested there are several places left. If you have a car and would like to drive, please call the Center and leave your name. Flyers on the conference are available from the Center. Housing will be provided, if available. Costs will include a \$7.00 registration fee, meals, transportation and incidentals. Return time would be about 6:00 p.m. Sunday March 9. Places filled on a first come, first served basis.

April 11-12-13 Gay Pride Conference Iowa City, Iowa GLF

More dope on this next issue, but you might want to pencil it in on your calendar and call the Center for details.

VETERAN?

Are you a veteran? Were you hassled in the service? Receive a less than honorable discharge? New laws allow you to have your discharge status reclassified so that it is not identifiable.

A local veterans' organization is very interested in helping you to get your classification changed. They are also willing to help set up and provide assistance for a rap group of gay veterans. If either of these opportunities interest you, please call the Center and ask George for more details.

"THE HOMOSEXUAL IMAGINATION"

Available at the Gay Center and at the Madison Book Co-op: The Detroit Gay Liberator carries a review of the November, 1974 issue of College English. The entire issue is devoted to a celebration of the gay imagination in literature, in the classroom, and in criticism. If you are interested in a scholarly organization's approach to gay scholars and their concerns, check out the review and get a copy of the issue itself. Price and address are available in the article.

MEN'S LIBERATION GROUP

Last December a group of men met at the WilMar Center to set up an ongoing men's organization. Consciousness-raising groups, activity groups, etc were possible, depending on the number interested. If you would like to check out this group you could call George at the Center or attend their next meeting and see for yourself-- Saturday, March 8 from 1 to 3 PM at the University YMCA or Sunday, March 9 from 2:30 to 4:00 PM

Both meetings are part of International Women's Week celebrations.

The group's newsletter is available at the University YMCA on request, or at the meetings.

COUNSELING

With the implementation of the counseling skills workshops which are being sponsored by trained personnel from Awareness House the staff is becoming more comfortable with the ongoing skills required to do peer group counseling. A motto to which we can subscribe is that you do not have to be "sick" in order to feel better. Very frequently the ability to sit down with a sympathetic and understanding listener will be sufficient to enable you to sort out some problem or situation which may be troubling you. We do not have all the answers to questions but we can help you to discover and get in touch with the situation so that the solution will be one tailored to your own situation. While we are willing to rap on the phone, face to face dialogue is the most productive form of communication. Why not give it a try?