



RENAISSANCE OF MADISON, INC

COORDINATOR'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1975

HAPPY EASTER (or what have you) TO ALL OF YOU.

As a sort of present let me share with you a poem I read in a publication called "Another Men's Gathering Newsletter," Box 11076, Chicago, IL. 60611. March, 1974.

RESPONSES

IN THE DAYS OF MY INFANCY I WAS HELD BY THE MAN WITH THE HUGE HANDS
The roughness of his hands did not frighten me
But his fear of his own tenderness frightened me

IN THE DAYS OF MY BOYHOOD I CEASED TO BE KISSED BY THE MAN WITH THE
BRISTLING WHISKERS
His whiskers did not tear at my flesh
But the lack of his kiss tore at my soul

IN THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH I HELD THE HAND OF MY BROTHER AND ADMIRED HIS
NAKED BEAUTY IN THE LOCKER ROOM
His naked beauty did not frighten me
But my own embarrassment frightened me

IN THE DAYS OF MY YOUNG MANHOOD I LEARNED TO LOVE WOMEN AND HATE
QUEERS
The love of women has frightened me a little
But not as much as the awful power of my hatred

IN THE DAYS OF MY MANHOOD MY HANDS HAVE GROWN HUGE AND ROUGH, AND MY
WHISKERS BRISTLE
My manhood has frightened me a little
But not as much as the fear of the infant I hold in my hands
The fear of the boy I dare not kiss
The fear of the tender touch of my brother
The fear of appearing queer.

--John

GAY PRIDE CONFERENCE, Iowa City, Iowa, April, 11 - 12 - 13

This gathering, repeating a grand success of last year, is hoping to take a closer "look at the variety of lifestyles in the Gay Community." By attempting to share and understand these differences we hope to come to a better understanding of what we are about.

Appealing to both "leaders" and "non-leaders" within the total gay community this should prove an excellent spring excursion and chance for rejuvenation. Dinners, a dance, films, spiritual celebrations, brunch, and many and varied workshops should include something for anyone who wishes to sample.

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

One car, at least, will leave from here about 1:00 pm on Friday, April 11 and return about dusk on Sunday, April 13. Expenses will be minimal and housing will be provided if adequate notice is given. Please call George and reserve a place or volunteer to drive and take others. Car providers should be excluded from travel expenses. Lesbians are equally represented on the panels and conference organizers and are being encouraged to attend.

THINGS TO DO DEPARTMENT

Several prisoners, named below, have written the Gay Center requesting correspondents. If any of you feel like you would like to write, please do so. I am sure it gets very lonely in prison and receiving a letter can put a bright spot in anyone's day. If you have some extra Easter joy to spare, this might be an excellent way:

William W. Foster

21181

Box 900

Jefferson City, MO. 55101

Bill Lee Mumford

Box 431

Waupun, WI. 53963

Noah's Ark is in need of volunteers and consultants to help out organizations and groups that seem to have lost the ability "to solve issues for themselves." If you are interested in knowing more about what is involved and how you can help, call Andy at 251-2888/

Communications Network, a community-based, alternative counseling-rap-crisis-information-referral service could use volunteer operators. If you are interested or would like to discuss the requirements, hours, etc. call 256-4448 or come to the weekly open meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM, Wilmar Center, 953 Jenifer St.

Dignity, a national organization for Gay Catholics, has opened a chapter in Milwaukee. Every Sunday evening at 7:30 in Newman Hall, 2528 E. Linnwood Ave., UWM, Mass for the Gay community is celebrated. If interested, check it out for yourself or write them for more details.

Vet's House, an organization designed specifically to help the Viet Nam Era Veteran has again contacted us in an effort to ascertain whether gays feel they have been discriminated against while in service or by the Selective Service System. If you think that might be the case and wish to discuss this in further detail, call Mike at 255-8388.

Something to read? To acquaint you with the periodicals and other publications available at the Center I will list five and name two typical articles contained in their latest publication. If you would like to check these out, feel free to visit the Center during open hours: 1 - 5 and 7 - 10 PM.

1. Contact--National Gay newspaper printed in Houston, Texas. Contains a Gay guide which is updated every three weeks.
2. Integrity--Publication for Gay Episcopalians.
3. Dignity-- Monthly publication for Gay Catholics. Boston and Chicago editions.
4. The Advocate--New Format and type style with features on records, films, and politics still make this the most widely read of gay publications.
5. Gay Times--Lots of explicit pictures with several stories and articles on more erotic themes.
6. RFD--A magazine for Gay country men to break down their isolation and let them share their dreams and delights.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION (EOC)

Recently the EOC had the range of their interests expanded to include that of "sexual preference." This breakthrough marks a beginning of the breakdown of the legislation affecting Gay people in Madison. Kudos to those on the Commission, advisors and committed Councilpersons who helped to get this amendment passed. The Gay Law Students' Association, especially, deserves credit for providing assistance and encouragement.

The enclosed Leas and Rental Guide is for your perusal if you are interested. It does a good job of spelling out many areas where the EOC can be of assistance to you. Please note on the back page that "sexual orientation" is a listed category for which it is now not legal to discriminate. Redress is possible. If you require legal assistance or wish to discuss the possibility of discrimination further, call George or any of the Center's counselors at 257-7575.

At the State Assembly David Clarenbach reports that he is working on amendments to existing legislation which would expand state laws on open housing and public accommodations to include sexual preference.

At the University of Wisconsin, The University Committee--Madison has proposed that nondiscrimination relative to faculty employment be expanded to forbid discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This is a positive move to end the fear and anxiety implicit in employment situations.

If you know of areas where improvements have been made or are being made in Gay rights, please let me know so that fact can be publicized.

ANN ARBOR CONFERENCE

I'm sorry to have to report that I was snowed in and unable to make it to Ann Arbor. I did receive a program, however, and the promise of some follow-up details. Will keep you posted if and when these arrive.

MEN'S LIBERATION GROUP

Again, for those who may be interested, consciousness-raising, cooking, and dance groups are growing out of Turning Point, a Men's Liberation group which is located at the University YMCA. If you think you might be interested, drop in at their next pot luck lunch on Sunday, April 13 at 1:30.

COUNSELING

February saw the greatest number of counseling contacts for any single month since the Center opened. Over 90 contacts attest to the rising usage of this service and, I trust, to the growing confidence and faith in the program. A look at the March statistics indicates that it will show an even greater number of contacts. If you are not familiar with these services, please check the Renaissance flyer or call 257-7575.

BENEFIT

On Thursday, March 20, _____ gave a benefit for Renaissance at the Cardinal Bar. The \$25 is a fine way to support local talent and be entertained as well. May this support continue.

IN CONCLUSION, I want to let you know that the past month has been a very good one for me. My energies are growing by the day, and I am pleased. Though it is impossible to get to know each one of you personally, I would like to extend an open invitation (Dutch treat, of course) to any of you to have lunch or a drink after 5:00, so you can get some idea of just where the Center is and where I am. Thanks.

George Wetzel

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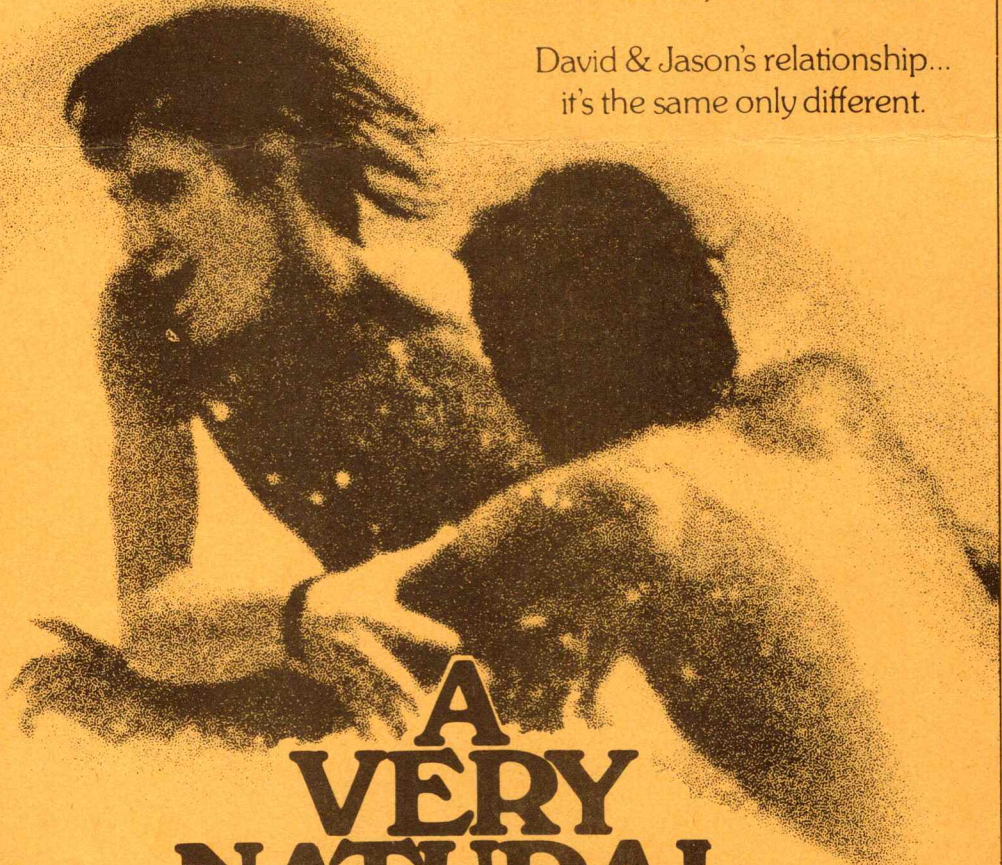
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LOVES, WHATEVER YOUR PARTNER PREFERENCES
...an eye-opener and a heart opener."

— Norma McLain Stoop, AFTER DARK

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— A. H. Weiler, N. Y. TIMES

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46 N. PARK

APRIL 18-20

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