



GAY

# RENAISSANCE OF MADISON, INC.

COORDINATOR'S NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1975

Well, After several very false starts it looks as though spring has decided to visit Madison. Trees, shrubs and lawns are beginning to take on the greener, budding look of new life. With temperatures rising it becomes possible to remove some of those layers of clothes that seemed to be our outer skin for so long. Closer looks at other people can do a lot for getting over the winter blahs and into the summer aahhs. I am looking forward this spring/summer to getting a lot closer to people and being willing to share myself with them. Personally I've found this rather risky, but I think the potential for sharing outweighs the potential for pain.

Some really positive things have occurred in the last month and some more are in the offing. Please feel free to sample any or all that might interest you.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Renaissance Board elected officers for the coming year: President: John Lindert, Vice President: Bill Handy, Secretary: Tom Kohl, Treasurer: Mark Lutz. New Board members include Chuck LePard and Les Miescke. The Executive Committee of Renaissance will be in charge of the on-going running of the Gay Center. These people, including the above-named officers and Ron McCrea and Chuck, should be contacted for your input.

During May serious efforts will be made to expand the board (which will meet quarterly) to include a broad representation of the Madison Gay community. Professionals, members of the University community, people who use our services, business leaders and students will be asked to serve. If you think you have something to contribute, why not approach one of the officers and talk about what is involved.

## IOWA CITY CONFERENCE

Three car loads of Madisonians descended on the sleepy Iowa college town the second weekend in April. A photo essay on the Gay Center by Zip Raasch was on display as well as some needlepoint by Chuck Bauer. Many good experiences including a fabulous dialogue with Rita Mae Brown, radical Lesbian and author of Ruby-fruit Jungle (get it and see if she's not one of the funniest novelists you've ever read in a Gay genre), many interesting workshops and a dance on Saturday night where someone named George was done up like ??? and dancing the bump with Zelda Gooch. Sunday's workshop on Gay Collectives capped off a great break and a chance to restore some energies just being together.

## PEOPLE'S YELLOW PAGES

Madison's People's Yellow Pages was published this month and contains a wealth of practical information on available social services here in Madison. At just \$1.00 a copy, this should be next to every phone in town. Check it out at the book coops or at WilMar, which houses the Communications Network—publishers of the Yellow Pages.

## LOOKING AHEAD/NEW AND GOOD FUND RAISING EFFORTS

In a serious effort to get Renaissance of Madison out of debt, a fundraising cocktail party-auction-dance will be held on Sunday May 4 at 133 East Gilman. The \$5.00 admission and all monies collected from the auction will be used to pay off

**(608) 257-7575**

**P.O. Box 687 Madison, Wis. 53701**



the debt. Drinks and munchies will, of course, be included with your admission.

On June 8 the Cardinal Bar will be hosting a benefit brunch for the Gay Center. The affair will be Cuban-style, from 1 to 3 PM with several surprises and a special punch for the \$5.00 donation. Bob Dishmond, maitre d' of Key West, will be chef du jour.

On Saturday, June 21, the Flaming-o Festival and 3rd Annual Back Door Picnic will be held at Brittingham Park. Renaissance plans to hold another auction in conjunction with the event to support the VD Clinic, counseling services, switchboard, speakers bureau and legal services referrals of the Gay Center.

If you would like to participate in and/or contribute to any of the above, please feel free to do so.

#### TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION LECTURE

On Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the St. Francis House lounge, the International Meditation Society in conjunction with the Gay Center will present a free introductory lecture on Transcendental Meditation.

Through the technique of TM, anyone can gain a unique state of deep rest coupled with full mental awareness. This rejuvenating state of rest, which is deeper than sleep, dissolves accumulated stress, increases energy and improves stamina, and allows the mind and body to function in a more efficient and integrated manner.

A substantial and rapidly growing body of research indicates that the regular practice of TM for 20 minutes twice daily improves interpersonal relationships, develops creative intelligence and discrimination, decreases anxiety and tension, diminishes stress-related health problems and improves productivity. The following evening, Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 PM, a second or preparatory lecture will be given at St. Francis House. The Mechanics of TM will be the main topic of discussion. Call George for further details.

#### COLLECTIVE LIVING?

If you might be interested in getting into a Gay collective living situation beginning in July 1975 for at least one year, call the Center and sign up for an organizational meeting before mid-May to discuss location, size, etc.

#### GAY RIGHTS

This summer a Gay Rights Project will be organized in Los Angeles by the National Lawyers Guild. If you are or know a law student or legal worker interested in this kind of work, contact:

Project Coordinator  
Steve Schliefer  
4118 Franklin Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90027  
213-663-7462

#### MOVING?

Please let me know any change of address or correction by dropping me a line in the enclosed envelope.

#### Hassled?

If you feel that your personal or legal rights have been abused, please notify the Center. Police hassles or "tough guy" confrontations will not stop unless we stand up to them. We will gladly handle legal referrals.



## FREE TIME?

I so often hear the complaint that there's nothing to do in Madison. This has not been my experience. Here are some things I've found:

- Be a reporter for Free for All and get the latent journalist in you out and on paper. The group is radical but sensitive--you could learn a lot and do a lot. See the latest issue for time and place of the next meeting.
- Do you like camping? (Yes, Grace, we know you like that kind of camping.) Our summers are great opportunities to get out and away from town and take a good look at the countryside. Take some friends along. If you add canoeing, you can explore some of the lush waterways and lakes of the upper Midwest.
- If you're more sedate, try getting through the Carlos Castaneda series on American Indian mystic Don Juan or one I've found which is a great introduction to that great Gay bugaboo, behavior modification: Behavior Mod by Philip Hilts, Harper & Row, 1974.
- Suggest a group you would like to join or form through the Center, and we can see if enough people are interested to get it off the ground.
- Call me up or drop a line telling me what else around here brings you delight.

## IN CONCLUSION,

I hope to see and get to meet many of you at the cocktail party on Sunday, May fourth. If Renaissance will make a reasonable offer, it now looks like I will be staying in Madison for another year. If you are interested in getting more involved in the Center, ring me up and we can talk about some possibilities.

George Wetzel

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## JUST IN: GAY INFO DATA-BANK

A new project named "Gay Info Data-Bank" is offering its Resources Packet for educational outreach on homosexuality as social issue, homophobia as social problem. About 20 readings on 17 sub-topics. The packet is designed for everyone, but especially for non-gay and "newly-gay" people. Quite useful for all educators, social service people, libraries' vertical files, etc. The material reflects the four major stances of gay liberation: social sciences, literary, art, and (homophobic) "conventional wisdom" of the dominant culture. Non-profit, but they need \$2.00 contribution to manage printing, postage costs. Write: INFO DATA-BANK, c/o G.P.U. Inc. (Dept. M), P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, WI. 53202



- If you are interested in the Gay Center  
-- If you are not now supporting the Center . . .  
Please consider the following:

Renaissance of Madison, Inc.  
Box 687  
Madison, WI. 53701

I agree to pledge (\$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00) per month until December, 1975 or a one-time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the support of the Gay Center, i.e., the V.D. clinic, free male peer group counseling, speakers and panel bureau, phone information services, and legal services provided by Renaissance of Madison, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

A monthly newsletter will be mailed to those who support Renaissance. The newsletter will serve as a reminder that your monthly pledge is due. (If you would like us to give you a ring to remind you, check here \_\_\_\_\_) All contributions should be made by check so that the check will serve as your receipt.

If you wish to make an income tax deduction, make the checks payable to THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS. An addressed envelope is enclosed to facilitate this process. (We are in debt. We need your help. Further questions may be directed to our treasurer, Mark Lutz, or any Board member.)

P.S. Why not consider pledging just 10% or your 1974 income tax rebate to Renaissance?

P.P.S. You can get \$50 a month from Bio-Resources for selling you blood plasma. Why not pledge 1/10 to Renaissance? Call 251-3213 for details, or ask George.

P.P.P.S. If you would be willing to support Renaissance programs in some other way, please let us know.

P.P.P.P.S. If you are in business and might be interested in advertising through our mailings, call the Center for rates. Any benefit ideas which would promote your business and help Renaissance are welcomed.

- Check if you would like another copy of the Renaissance flyer outlining out projects and services.
- Check if you would like someone added to our mailing list who is not now receiving the newsletter. (We must use your name as our referent.)
- I would like to talk to one of the Board members about serving on the Board.

Other suggestions or recommendations please add below: