



RENAISSANCE OF MADISON, INC.

COORDINATOR'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 1975

Chicago to Dayton:

On June 13-14, I managed to get down to Chicago for the Men's Celebration. Hosting the gathering was the Chicago "Mens Gathering" organization, a loose collective of "mens liberation" groups that include a number of terrific gay people. It proved a really warm (unfortunately wet, too) atmosphere in which to share some feelings, insights, and awarenesses. One of the highlights was the party held on Saturday night at the Emerald City. Bob and George with lots of help from their three other housemates provided a setting to relax, have fun and solidify acquaintances and friendships. Many thanks to the Emerald Citizens and the Chicago Gathering for a fine workshop.

The following week I was in Dayton at a conference for those in ministry to the Gay Christian. Though mostly attended by Roman Catholics there was a determined Protestant minority who continually kept the rest of us on our toes. I had a chance to get closer to the Dignity/Milwaukee chapter and to see where they were and where they wanted to go. Likewise I had a chance to see a broad spectrum of interested people dealing with problems which were of personal concern to them and in their own ministry. For me, to see priests and religions seriously concerned in this area restored a lost dimension to me and, I feel sure, made possible a deepening of my own religious commitment.

I will be going to Milwaukee the fourth Sunday in the month for the Dignity Mass and would invite any of of you to join me--just call the Center in the afternoon. This month the Dignity Mass will be July 27. Also, I will be attending the National Dignity Convention in Boston over the Labor Day weekend.

CARDINAL Brunch:

Special thanks to Ricardo Gonzales and his staff at the CARDINAL BAR for the June 8 Brunch for the Gay Center. Credit for the excellent food goes to Bob Dishmond and Bill Alwin. The pinata was created by David Elrod. Also David Martinelli, Nicholas Miller, Peter Zinman, Andy Feldman, and Eric Anderson deserve credit for the hours of hard work preparing for the Brunch and their work serving that Sunday. Thanks also to all of the people who helped behind the scenes.

Ricardo will be opening the CARDINAL DISCOTHEQUE in Mid-August. Watch for an announcement of the exact date.

After-the-Bar Dance Success:

Whether it was the weather or the stars or the moon, Neighborhood House was jammed with over 200 people at the After the Bar Benefit for the Gay Center. When it got too hot on the gym floor, the front steps provided a convenient spot to sit and smoke and relax before returning to the music. Due to the success of this one we'll try it again this month--July 25 to be exact. Neighborhood House's air conditioning unit will have been repaired by then! Special thanks to Michael Vaughn of the BACK DOOR who loaned us his dancing tapes.

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James Madison Park:

What have they done to you? Mounds of dirt, gravel, and newly planted trees seem to have invaded this once beautiful oasis on the shores of Lake Mendota. Never fear, the ingenuity of man is boundless. Just east of the existing beach is a very suitable grassy area for sunning, etc. and the "sea wall" is ok for shallow diving into the lake.

VD CLINIC Statistics:

At the risk of boring you with statistics, I'm going to survey the fine work that has been done through the VD Clinic since its doors opened in August of 1973.

From the Fall of 1973 through May of this year, 85 Clinic nights were held. There were over 330 patient visits. Eleven people showed positive GC of the throat, 13 of the penis, and 6 of the rectum. That yeilds a total of 30 detected cases of GC in less than a two year period. Further it should be noted, 25 out of the 30 GC cases were asymptomatic. In other words, to truly protect yourself, you will need to schedule routine exams.

We will be publishing a flyer in the near future on Gay VD and hope to circulate them widely through the community. Venereal diseases can be eliminated, but hesitance and repressive reactions to the disease or the thought of your having or contracting it can only encourage its growth. Take responsibility for your own body!

Witalison to Green:

This month Ed Green will take over the Directorship of the Gay VD Clinic from Jim Witalison who is "becoming just another volunteer." Many thanks to Jim on facilitating the move to the Blue Bus location and to Ed for coming forth with innovative ideas on possible expansion of our VD program. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer see Ed or call the Gay Center and leave your name and number.

George Wetzel

GMW/jl

JULY DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 25, 1975 -- Midnight to 3:00AM -- AFTER-THE-BAR Dance at the Neighborhood House
29 South Mills.