



Renaissance Newsletter

June, 1971

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN GAY CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECTS;

MADISON'S GAY COMMUNITY ANSWERS CHALLENGE OF ANITA AND COMPANY

Madison's gay organizations are now seeking volunteers to work on a number of new projects as well as some efforts already underway in the aim of upholding the civil rights of gays and improving the quality of the gay lifestyle.

Thanks in part to the challenge of the former Oklahoma beauty queen and orange juice fancier, Anita Bryant, Madison gays have displayed newfound energy in organizing a series of events and projects to mobilize the gay community.

After staging a successful gay art festival, film series, and a benefit dance -- the Anti-Anita Bash on May 1 -- which attracted a capacity crowd in the Memorial Union Ballroom and send over \$1,100 to Miami, the Madison Committee For Gay Rights (MCGR) began two months of intensive needs assessment and planning activities.

The plans were presented to the entire MCGR membership at a meeting on Wednesday, June 29. Priorities were voted on and committees were set up to undertake a variety of gay rights related projects. More details in the July Newsletter. (Ed. Note: We went to print before the meeting.)

MCGR is now looking for volunteers to help in their efforts. If you wanted to get involved, here's your chance. Call the Gay Center at 257-7575 during open hours and leave your name and phone number. Someone from MCGR will contact you and explain the kinds of projects you can get involved in. There will be opportunities for a lot of behind the scenes work: persons with specific skills such as artists, writers, business, are needed and welcome.

The Gay Center is also looking for counselors. A training session has been scheduled for early July. If you're interested, call the Center at 257-7575 for more information.

GAY CENTER DONATIONS DROP

AFTER BRIEF UPSURGE

The Gay Center (Renaissance) is again facing financial problems despite an upsurge in donations in March and recent fund raising activities.

Treasurer Fred Werner reports that the Center only received \$95 in individual contributions in May, compared to \$175 in April and \$373 in March. The Center needs about \$300 a month for expenses, including debt repayment.

Several recent fund raising efforts have helped the Center with its more than \$800 debt to the St. Francis Episcopal Church, plus interest, that was due June 1. Rodney Scheel, owner of the Back Door, has pledged \$1 from the \$3 admission price charged for the annual BD picnic June 25 to go towards Renaissance's debt retirement. The amount is still not known.

Renaissance also received \$59 in net proceeds from the Benefit poetry reading held at the Cardinal on May 16. Many thanks to both the Cardinal bar management -- including Terry Nash and Steve Miller -- and to Rodney Scheel for their help.

The Center is also selling T-shirts -- two styles imprinted with the names of famous gay people, living and dead, for \$5 -- and buttons -- "Closets are for clothes, not people" donation of 50¢ or more -- in an (over)

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(from front page)
attempt to raise money. T-shirt sales broke even while being sold at the BD picnic. They will be sold at the Back Door during the upcoming weeks. This is one way to help the Center.

"Needless to say, individual contributions are still necessary," said Fred Werner.

Please send contributions to Renaissance of Madison, P.O.Box 687, Madison Wisconsin, 53701.

GOV. LUCEY HITS BRYANT, CALLS FOR GAY CIVIL RIGHTS

Gov. Patrick Lucey took a stand against Anita Bryant and her aim of limiting the civil rights of gay people in the US before a group of more than 600 high school girls attending the annual Badger Girls State program in Madison on June 13.

The girls applauded the governor when he said that a person's sexual preference should not be the basis for discrimination and denying basic rights.

Lucey was participating in a question and answer session with the girls when he was asked his opinion of the efforts of Ms. Bryant. Lucey said, in responding to what he termed a "heavy question:"

"I would hate to say anything derogatory about anything as wholesome as Anita Bryant and Florida orange juice. But I really was not awfully pleased with her efforts in that regard. I think that sexual preference ought not to deny any American citizen of all the rights and privileges that other citizens enjoy."

NO, THE NEWSLETTER has not folded. A full issue will be issued in July, as we attempt to begin our monthly schedule after a delay in publication of several months. We plan full reports on the recent activities in the city and region, as well as a summary of important events and activities of the last few months. This being the season of volunteers, we would welcome anyone who wants to help in preparing the newsletter. Call the Gay Center for more information. Thanks.

A special thanks to the new gay bar, Going My Way, for their contribution (see encl.).

NEWS BRIEFS -----

Persons interested in joining a gay volleyball team that will begin playing in July should call the Gay Center as soon as possible. Other forms of organized recreation should be started up soon -- eg. biking, baseball, etc. We'll keep you informed.

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As part of its needs assessment project, the Madison Committee for Gay Rights drew up and passed out more than a 1,000 questionnaires to both gay men and lesbians. The results are being tabulated and analyzed. More in the next newsletter.

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Ray Berger, Ph.D, of the UW-Madison School of Social Work, published a paper based on the Renaissance VD clinic for gay males in the Journal of Sex Research in February. The report, "A Community Based Venereal Disease Clinic for Homosexual Men," concludes that there is a need include cultures of atypical sites of gonococcal infection in males (throat and rectum), to establish patient trust and comfort, and transmit accurate VD information to patients. "Data from the present study confirmed the high incidence of gonococcal infection in atypical sites, and indicated that the community based clinic can attract the individuals in the highest risk group for venereal infection," Berger writes.

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The Gay Center has applied for over \$7,000 for its counseling operation from the Dane County Community Mental Health Services Board. The Center passed the first step of the application process, and is now preparing a detailed proposal.