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Winter 1993-94 - Volume 1 - Issue 1

Queer Needs on Campus 4

Alumni Briefs

▼ Bruce Koff, '75, is a member of the Grinnell College Alumni Board and is serving informally as "Queer Liaison" for us. If you have ideas, concerns and especially offers of assistance (that means you!), please call him at 312/907-8900.

▼ Numerous activities are planned in New York this year to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, including the Gay Games, A Cultural Festival and an international march on the U.N. for lesbian and gay rights. What would you think of adding a Grinnell queer gathering to the list of amazing events during the Stonewall festivities? It would be a fabulous way to reunite with friends, meet each other, meet new friends, students, staff, etc. We could have kawfee and tawk. If you live in New York and could help us find a gathering place, please call Bruce at the number above.

▼ Speaking of reunions, if 1994 is your reunion year at Grinnell, please know that we are planning some very special activities of interest to queer alums. In addition to the lesbian and gay alumni reception, usually held on the Friday of Reunion Weekend, the college also plans to honor the work of Grinnell gay alum Richard Schmiechen, '69. Richard directed several award winning gay-themed documentaries including, *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk* and *Changing Our Minds: The Story Dr. Evelyn Hooker*. We lost Richard to AIDS last year.

▼ Yes, our list is confidential. If someone you know wants to be on our mailing list, have that person drop us a line or call Shane Cook (Director of Alumni Office) at 515/269-4801.

Calling All Queer Alums, Come Join Us!!!!

Would you like to write for the Grinnell Queer Quarterly? Of course you would, what a silly question. Would I like it if you wrote for GQ²? **ABSOLUTELY!** Seriously, we need your help. If you would like to write about some queer thing or some Grinnell thing or anything else you think might be of interest to other queer Grinnellians, please give me a call or send me a letter. As you can tell from this first issue, we try to keep the articles short and to the point, but please don't let that stop you, I love to edit.

Party Anyone?

How would you like to see a party for queer Grinnellians (and others) in your area? Doesn't that sound like a fabulous way to get to meet some really cool queers? If you would like to hold such an event or if you would like to help to organize such an event or if you would like to attend such an event, drop us a line and we will try to help you connect with other queer Grinnellians in your area. While we have a strict policy of not giving out names of those on our mailing list, we may be able to help you connect with other interested parties and/or partiers.

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Grinnell Celebrates Pride Week

Yes, it is that wonderful time of the year again, the time when our community gets together and expresses our pride in our diversity, our struggles and our joys. This year Grinnell has planned a terrific selection of speakers and events that will promote growth and thought. The Stonewall Coalition asked us to extend an invitation to all alums to join Grinnell in its celebration of Pride Week, which begins on Sunday, April 15th and continues through Saturday, April 23th.

- Sun. 6:30 pm Opening Ceremony
 7:30 pm Reception w/ David Halperin
 Mon. 4:00 pm Writing Workshop w/ Judith Katz
 "Marginalized Voices"
 7:30 pm Talk: David Halperin
 "The Queer Politics of Foucault"

- Tues. 3:00 pm Talk: Paula Ettelbrick, Esq.
 "Stonewall 25 Retrospective"
 7:30 pm Reading/Discussion: Judith Katz
 Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound
 Wed. 4:00 pm Talk: Bet Hannon
 "Spirituality for G/L/B People"
 Thurs. 11:00 am Convocation: Gilbert Herdt
 "The Coming Out Rites and the
 Right to Come Out"
 4:00 pm Talk: Joan Nestle
 "The Lesbian Herstory Archives"
 Fri. 4:00 pm Reading: Joan Nestle
 6:00 pm Potluck/Discussion
 "Lesbian Moms"
 Sat. 9:00 pm Talent Show and Party

For more information, please call the Stonewall Resource Center at 515/269-3327.

Book Review

Queer In America: Sex, The Media, and The Closets of Power

In a tell-all style that can be traced to Michelangelo Signorille's earlier days as a gossip broker, Signorille spins a polemic about being queer in America. The book has a pulpy feel to it that elicits a wide range of emotions in the reader. Signorille is (in)famous for his crusade to "out" queers in positions of power. His tactics and opinions have drawn considerable attention and criticism, and whether or not one agrees with him, there is no question that he has already made a significant mark upon queer history and American history.

Signorille starts with a brief flash of an ACT-UP rally in New York and then digresses to tell his life story in which we see him journey from little boy in Brooklyn to trendy

gay media manipulator to queer activist. Having given the reader a context about who he is and where he comes from, Signorille then continues to describe his perception of queer life in New York, Washington, D.C., Hollywood and Silicon Valley.

Like a Damron's guide to queer closets, Signorille describes the flavor of queer life in these different cities by describing what it is like to be "in" and "out" in these markedly different communities. While one may not agree with his conclusions or with the inappropriately overbroad title of the book, Signorille succeeded in making me think, making me angry and making me laugh. Three things I think we could all do more of. All in all, I believe it is a book worth reading.