



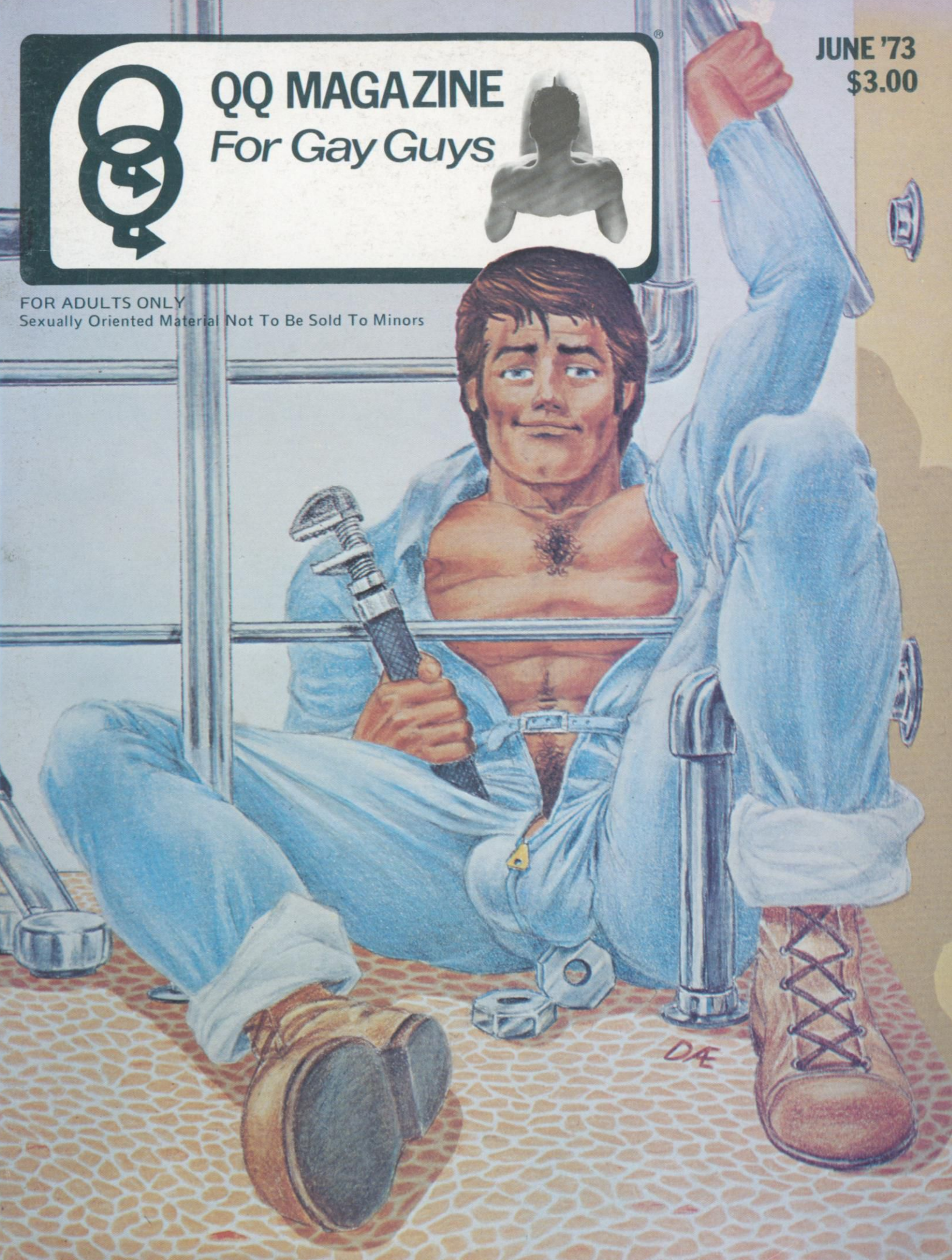
QQ MAGAZINE

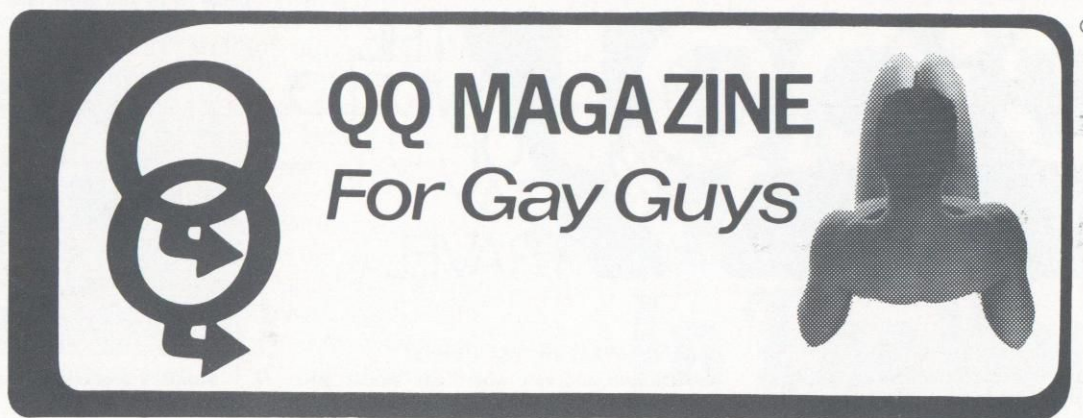
For Gay Guys



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VOLUME 5

NUMBER 3

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SEX:

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT ???

BY CRAIG RODWELL



SEX is damned important to everyone, hetero or Gay. But the question we should be asking is, do we over-emphasize the sexual part of our being Gay males at the expense of developing social, cultural and group contacts between us?

In recent years, the larger American culture which we are a part of has "allowed" us to have Gay bars, baths, movie houses. The rationale being that since there are a lot of Homosexuals in the country, it is in the public interest to keep us isolated in bars, baths and movie houses where we are permitted to commit our "perverted" acts out of the view and minds of the general public. Did you ever wonder why the vast majority of Gay places are located in out-of-the way areas within our major cities?

And like all oppressed peoples throughout history, we have until now accepted this isolation. We go to work every day—in the factories, offices, banks, department stores, construction sites, police and fire departments and even as elected members of local and federal legislatures—and to our co-workers we either represent ourselves as woman-chasers, at worst, or as virtual eunuchs, at best. But almost never are we known as Gay males. Only when we get off work and away from our families do we get dressed in the clothes we prefer, go to a Gay bar and "make out."

How many times have you gone to a Gay bar, stayed for hours, had too much to drink, and been depressed because you went home alone? How many of us go to a Gay bar for the simple and very human purpose of being with people like us and interacting with them on many levels—social, intellectual, cultural and yes, sexual?

Don't get me wrong. I'm not knocking sex; I've had more than my share of it over the years. But frankly, in recent years, I've become more than a little tired of making "conquests" in Gay bars. And, unless I'm deceiving myself, I perceive a general trend among our people away from the "one-night-stand" syndrome towards a real feeling of community and brotherhood based on more than a casual sexual basis.

This trend is part of something which is entirely new in historical terms and has its origins in the United States starting with the Great Depression-World War II era. It wasn't until that time that large numbers of Gay people began to gravitate into "ghetto" areas in every large city in this country. Not even in Europe which we tend to think of as having a more tolerant attitude towards Homosexuals have we seen the emergence of Gay ghettos. Since World War II we have seen Gay ghettos emerging in cities like Seattle, Portland, Salt Lake City, Houston, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Milwaukee, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Washington. And in the larger cities we find two or three Gay ghettos in the same city; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Boston.

My point in bringing this up in this context is that it wasn't until we began relating to each other on more than a sexual basis that we began to relate to each other culturally and socially; and this was due mostly to the emergence of these Gay ghettos in the United States. It wasn't until we began to know each other as individuals in our community and interacting with each other on a day-to-day basis rather than nameless faces who made fleeting contacts in Gay bars.

If you, like thousands of your Gay brothers, want more out of Gay life than just anonymous sexual encounters, here are some suggestions:

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Can you imagine a Homosexual man or woman being acquitted or given a light sentence with a defense that the heterosexual made sexual advances? Of course not. And until heterosexual people are made to respect a Homosexual lifestyle as being just as good, just as valid, just as healthy, and just as equal in the eyes of the law, the murders of Gay people by hets will continue and will continue to be excused by the system.

Until that day comes, we will not receive equal protection and equal justice under the law; and we must take extra precautions to protect ourselves.

So rest in peace, Jack Stafford. If your death serves to dramatize to even one other Gay person the kind of anger and indignation that leads to a healthy demand for self-respect and self-preservation, it was not in vain.

...

SEX: HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

(Continued from page 54)

1. When you go to a party or to a bar for an evening, *talk* with people, get to know them. Get over the idea that you have to go home with him that night and probably never see him again. How many times have you made passionate love with someone one night and then seen him on the street the next night and not even said hello?

2. Have Gay friends over for a casual social evening with dinner or dessert and coffee. And if you're part of a Gay couple, get to know other couples on a social basis.

3. Seek out other Gays where you work. Develop your natural feelings of group solidarity whether on your job or after work. And if you really want to be up-front, wear a Gay Lib button to work. (I'm reminded here of a regular customer in my bookshop who is a postman. And he wears a "Gay Revolution" button on his postman's hat every day.)

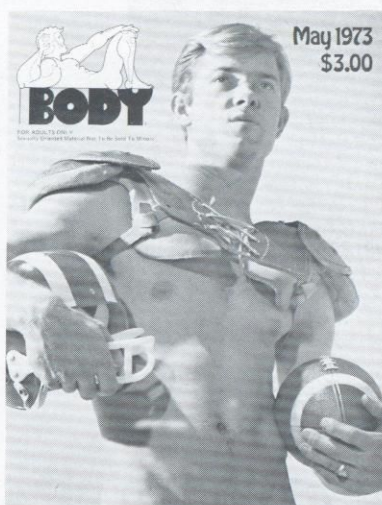
4. Develop social contacts with Gay women. It's surprising how few Gay males have Gay women as friends; and because of this, Gay males have, in general, many false stereotypes of Gay women. The stereotype of a Gay woman as a cigar-smoking, crude, garage mechanic is equally as false as the stereotype of Gay males.

5. Bring your family and Hetero friends into contact with your Gay life. Have your parents over for dinner at the same time as your Gay friends. And as far as your Hetero friends are concerned, if they react negatively to being socially with Gay people other than yourself, the odds are that they are your friends "in spite of your being Gay."

You'll find that by broadening your social and group contacts with other Gay people, *as Gay people*, your sex life will improve as well. And as we get to know each other on more than a purely sexual basis, we realize the great diversity and beauty of our Gay brothers. At the heart of the Gay Liberation Movement, which in the coming generations is going to do so much to change the basic structure of our society, is this feeling of group solidarity and purpose. Try it; you'll like it.

...

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