

THE

\$5.00

TRANSGENDERIST



- A NEW LOOK!
- SPECIAL WIFE'S EDITION
- NEW GROUPS
- YOUR TRUE STORIES
- RUMOR'S, MIRACLES,
LETTERS & MORE

JAN/FEB '92

TGIC · ALBANY

FROM THE EDITOR:



Well, by now you've noticed that something is different this month! THE TRANSGENDERIST will be assuming the function of the former TGIC NEWS as the newsletter for TGIC for a number of reasons. First and foremost is to provide our organization with a more professional look which can be used more effectively not only as an outreach tool (more on this in a moment) but as a potential fund raiser through the sale of advertising, and magazine

sales. From now on, THE TRANSGENDERIST will be available not only by subscription (\$25.00 per year) or with membership (\$35.00 per year), but will be available over the counter from Boulevard Bookstore on Central Avenue in Albany. It is hoped that this move will lead to its being available from other bookstores as well in the near future. TGIC NEWS will continue as a regular feature within THE TRANSGENDERIST, as an input from what we hope will be other clubs who will join us in the economies of scale that producing a joint newsletter will provide. Further this will help the various groups to reduce the inconsistencies and problems created by putting out a monthly newsletter. In this way the local inserts like TGIC NEWS can be used as localized mailers to increase outreach efforts.

How will this work? Each group in NY, and MA will be offered, to start, two pages dedicated to just club news. Bulk mailing economies could allow this local insert to be mailed monthly to therapists, mental health agencies, and anyone who express interest in the group, what we call our "B" mailing list. Every - other month, THE TRANSGENDERIST will be published and mailed to the members, or the "A" list of every group participating. THE TRANSGENDERIST will include the current month local news for all participating groups, plus general interest articles contributed by each group and outside authors. It is our hope that this will be a high enough quality piece that it can be used to solicit business from vendors and service providers statewide, and be proudly displayed on newsstands for sale.

At present, we need to firm up our corresponding staff, and are desperately in need of graphic artists to provide original artwork for both the cover, and internal features. If you can help, please contact me or send your contributions to me care of TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212.

In the long run we hope that these changes will generate better understanding of our community, and better regional communications. For now, until we are infact joined by other groups, THE TRANSGENDERIST will remain the house organ of TGIC. We hope you and your group will join us in this bold endeavour, and that you enjoy this edition of THE TRANSGENDERIST.

POLICY:

THE TRANSGENDERIST is an outreach tool published bimonthly through combined effort of Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC), PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212, and other New York State support groups for Transvestites and Transsexuals. As such THE TRANSGENDERIST will publish informational, educational and fictional pieces relating to the subject of gender dysphoria. Sexually explicit or pornographic pieces will not be published. Contributions of both art work and literary efforts (prose, poetry, research, essays and opinions) are solicited. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission from the publisher. Permission is routinely granted to non-profit support groups for reprints upon notification of intent to print. The opinions expressed in THE TRANSGENDERIST do not necessarily represent those of TGIC, or the editors.

IN THIS EDITION

Wives in the lives of crossdressers almost everyone has struggled with the problem of relationships. We've dedicated eight pages to this subject with input from Roger Peo, Ph.D., Cynthia Thomas, and numerous other writers. What do you do when you are refused the use of the dressing room... NY's public accomodation law may hold the answer. Bless the miracles that happen at Christmas... see A Minor Miracle.

Joining us this month as regular contributors are Julie M. - see Back to Basics, for a look at the causes of gender dysphoria, Laurie B. looks at the IFGE publication Hormones and at her own femininity in Coming Out Capers, and Sherry C. tells us all about The First Mile. Sherry, who logs her excursions will be sharing more or her stories with us in future editions. Thanks go out to Winnie B., Joan H., Katherine H., IFGE, Cena, Roberta, Valerie, Jane, Jamie, Crosstalk, and everyone else for their contributions. This special double issue is jam-packed with good stuff. I hope you enjoy.

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RATES:

THE TRANSGENDERIST is entered as first class mail in the US, and is available for \$5.00 per issue, by subscription for \$25.00 per year or free with membership in TGIC or other participating groups. Advertising - all advertising is reduced 50%. Business Card per year is \$35.00, 1/4 page is \$100.00 per year or \$20.00 per insertion, 1/2 page is \$170.00 per year or \$35.00 per insertion. No full page ads are accepted. Display ads must be camera ready. Classified ads are available to members - free, non-members classifieds are \$10.00 per insertion.

LETTERS TO TGIC

Dear TGIC,

Enclosed is a letter and a newsletter. The letter went out via the IFGE mailing list to people in the western Mass area. The responses to the letter were encouraging enough to result in a newsletter. As you can see, I am trying to get a CD/TV/TS group going in this area and the prospect looks mildly encouraging at this time.

Would you be kind enough to mention my attempt in an upcoming issue of your newsletter? I am hoping to reach any members of your group who live in the western Mass area who would be interested in a group closer to home for them.

Thank You
Roberta [redacted]
PO Box 149
Hadley, MA 01035

Dear Roberta,

I have reproduced your announcement elsewhere in our newsletter. Everyone here at TGIC wishes you the best of luck in your undertaking.

Love
Jennifer

Dear Jennifer,

I thought I'd drop you a line since I just got back the pics from the Comedy Club girls night out... I don't know about everyone else, but I thoroughly enjoyed myself that night. Thanks again for taking the trouble to organize the event. I enjoyed the last newsletter.

Check out the December issue of Mirabella (the magazine) for a rather in depth look at "gender bending" which also has some great pictures. I hope you enjoyed the "Autumn Accord". If you have any interest in the group CDI, I'm enclosing a copy of their newsletter, just so you know what they are about...

Love Cena



Holly, Winnie & Jennifer enjoy "Girls Night Out" at the Comedy Works

Dear Cena,

Thanks for the really fantastic pictures, I've printed them elsewhere in this issue so others can see what they are missing. I'm glad you had a good time, unfortunately, the disappointing turnout has caused this event to be postponed until interest increases. Thanks for the tip on MIRABELLA, we will all probably rush to check it out. (CDI, for those who don't know, is a new group called Crossdressers International based out of NYC. They have week - night meetings with interesting themes in the city for those of you who travel that way. The address is elsewhere in this newsletter.) I hope we see you again soon.

Love Jennifer

JULIE DENISON

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Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for your reply. I would love to join the club. I could attend the social at Mother Eve's on Saturday, December 7th.

It would be helpful if you could give me the address of a motel within walking distance of the club (assuming that is the meeting place). I will meet you as male, but I will attend the social as Sherry.

Now, about myself: I've been a TV as long as I can remember. I dressed in private for years, sometimes going to a gay bar, semi-dressed. That means makeup, no wig or falsies, womens' shorts and top. I would mingle with the women. I go fully dressed for walks, and sometimes to the market.

What I need is social interaction as Sherry with my own kind. I would also like to contribute to the newsletter with articles pertaining to diet and exercise... the goal being to feminize.

Enclosed is \$3.00 for the brochure: "How to Start Your Own Gender Group", I would like to arrange social functions closer to home.

Sincerely Sherry C.

Dear Sherry,

Thank you for your nice letter, by now, December 7th has come and gone, so I hope you had a great time. For others planning to come to one of the Saturday socials, most of the crowd ends up in Albany at any number of bars after Mother Eve's so most of our people stay there... some good motels include: Days Inn at exit 23 of the Thruway, Jeremy's on route 9 north of Albany, The Northway Inn near exit 24 of the Thruway on Central Ave at I-87, the Continental Journey's End off of Route 90 at Everett Road. Most hotels are accepting and the last mentioned is gay managed. None are really in walking distance of the bars, but bus and taxi service is good.

I apologize for not getting out the article you ordered sooner, I had to get them reprinted, and then I lost them...

hopefully you have it by now... if not please remind me. However, you might like to look into Transgender Network which meets in New Paltz, a newer small group near you.

Finally, I recieved your registration for membership... but no dues... which brings up a point... its dues time for those of you who renew at years end. Individual dues are \$35.00 per year, newsletter only... is \$20.00.

Love Jennifer

Greetings Everyone!

How are you all in Albany and elsewhere? Super I hope. I feel terribly bad for not keeping in closer contact these last few months. I've never been able to know where to begin. You all knew the pain I felt, well now I wish I could somehow communicate the joy and pleasure I've obtained being myself. Being Valerie is by far the easiest, stress free, hassle free thing I've ever done... after taking that first step.

I feel really great; and every one knows it. I owe my thanks to many TGIC members who were there for me in helping me deal, learn, and cope with myself. A special thanks goes to Jennifer W. and Denise who are two remarkable women that helped to guide me during my greatest time of pain. Last Christmas I wasn't certain that I'd live to see this Christmas. It is interesting to note that every single day in the past 15 weeks of my life has been like Christmas anyways!

A word for all those individuals who may just be beginning to deal with their "problems"... Just keep holding on. Things will eventually be resolved. There can come a time (as I've come to know) when you will be the happiest person you know.

With Love-n-hugs Valerie S.

Ed. Note - Valerie, has returned to Potsdam SUNY to finish her degree in Nuclear Physics - as a woman.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: - Winnie [redacted]

Hello, Ladies!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope all of you enjoyed the Holidays and didn't eat too much - have you tried on the corset that Santa gave you for Xmas yet? Mine sure feels very tight. Well, we are looking forward to some exciting activities in the coming months - check the schedule. Our Thursday night Rap Meetings at the club house will continue, and are the main activity for becoming more involved with club affairs and planning of special events, as well as talk with other members. So, if you want the club to do more, come and join in.

We also plan to continue getting together on the second Saturday of each month at Mother Eve's in Schenectady, and on the fourth Saturday at Private Eyes in Albany. However, we no longer have any special arrangements with these clubs, and there are no party fees; we will be just regular customers. We will endeavor to have at least one club officer or representative be there on these nights to talk to prospective new members and pass out our literature. So, if you are approached by someone interested, you can encourage her to come along and meet us.

I remember reading in some dictionary where a transvestite was defined as "a person who enjoys wearing clothing of the opposite sex". Well, the club is here to help increase your enjoyment of this behavior. One really can't enjoy it if you feel guilty afterwards, have to hide it from everyone else, and continually worry whether you are crazy and where it will all lead to. While I still sometimes speculate on what are the causes of this urge to cross-dress, I long ago gave up all guilt feelings and know it is right for me. And, I know I am not crazy. Remember Cyndi Lauper's hit of a few years ago - "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"? That's the attitude I take - why should females be the only ones allowed to wear pretty clothes and act giddy, while men must dress like penguins and be serious?

Yes, I admit, there is a sexual component to this urge; it isn't only the clothes. In the 18th Century, men wore some pretty fancy clothes (at least, the aristocracy) that look "sissy" to modern eyes. Yet, several of the most famous transvestites in history lived in

that era - the Chevalier d'Eon, the Abbe de Choissy, and Lord Cornbury right here in New York. They still wanted to wear women's clothes, despite the frillies then available to men. And, I have read of a transsexual quoted as saying "If women wore sack-cloth, that's what I'd want to wear". For myself, when dressed as a woman, I feel it is entirely appropriate to behave as a woman and make myself as feminine as possible. Perhaps this can be explained as a natural curiosity to learn what it means to be a woman, so far as I can. With the barrier between the sexes established by Nature, one can never really know, but I feel I have a better inkling than most men.

I have arrived at these feelings about myself by getting out to meet and talk with others, comparing notes on how it began and progressed to where we are now, what we would like to do in the future, and how to get there. It is necessary to decide for one's self where we fit in the wide spectrum of cross-dressers; by this I mean the range from fetish-underwear, through full-drag and full-time to transsexual. One should definitely not hurry in this process of self-evaluation; go step-by-step, as far as you need to. And along the way, we can accept our nature and have some fun, without worrying about the whys or wherefores. So, come to our club meetings, and let's party!



ENGLEMANO
"Isn't that cute? He's already trying to fill his father's shoes."

BOOK REVIEW
by Laurie B.

HORMONES, Dr. Sheila Kirk, 3rd Edition
(1992) 89 Pages, \$8.00 (\$1.50 P&H).

This basic and relatively short book provides vital information for the transsexual (M-F or F-M) contemplating hormone use. Starting from simply anatomy, the role hormones play in the physical development is clearly sketched out. After a few sections on the ins-and-outs of hormone choice (and why good medical care and supervision is a must), what one can expect from proper hormone use is explained.

The book details the degree of breast development one might see (M-F), effects on sex drive, body/facial hair growth, eyes (hormones can radically change eyeglass prescriptions), etc. For F-M, the danger of cardio-vascular disease is brought out. Much more is actually described than can be brought out in a review.

Quite startling are the general dangers of hormone use, including some which are potentially fatal (plebitis) unless one is on the alert.

On the whole, this starter book on hormones is an absolute must for those thinking about taking the leap, or just curious.

The book is available from TGIC through Winnie B. for \$8.00 or from IPGE (PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778) for \$9.50 including postage and handling.

NOW AVAILABLE!



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The 1992 Edition
by Sheila Kirk, M.D.

HORMONES
The 1992 Edition
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This second edition, revised and updated, is an important educational resource for persons interested in hormone therapy. It remains the "essential" primer for both Female to Male and Male to Female individuals.
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RUMORS, RESPECT, AND "WHAT SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING" - A Message to Some of Our Older Members.

An Editorial By - Jennifer [redacted]

This morning, I chanced, on the street, to run across someone I haven't seen in a long time, and stopped by to say hello. In the course of the conversation, he commented that in recent years, a lot of the fun had gone out of the group. "Used to be" he continued, "that a bunch of us would get together and chat about hair or makeup, or run to New York for a night on the city... and have fun!" Something which happens all too rarely anymore.

What had happened? Was the economy solely to blame for the lack of participation by members of TGIC, or was there more? In a recent conversation one person, we'll call him Sam, said that he had been approached by a member of our club who was trying to confirm a rumor they had heard that I (Jennifer Wells) was running drugs in a major way from Florida to New York for him (Sam).

Now I can't deny that last summer, I went to Florida, but it was to visit my sister, and introduce myself as a woman to her. I can't deny that I had no visible source of income at the time, but my income came from the sale of my marital home the year before and in May I finally got the proceeds following divorce litigation. Nor can I deny that at one time in years prior when I had hit my lowest point in self respect and didn't care if I lived or died, I approached Sam to ask if he knew of a way I could make a lot of money fast... and he did say that I could make a trip to Florida for that purpose (transporting drugs) - I don't know if he was serious or not. I admit that I considered it, but I also rejected it as an option. I saw a friend in college get killed while tripping on acid. I have a good friend who is a regular user of cocaine and I've watched as that drug has ruined his life. Although, I have been known to take an occasional drag on a marijuana joint, I find the use of hard drugs totally abhorrent, and

completely destructive, not only to the individual but to our society as well. I'd never become part of their distribution or marketing.

I've survived the last two years on a lot of help from many wonderful people, and on my intelligence, determination, wits and numerous skills. I've learned that I can respect myself for what I am, and that many people who have gotten to know me as myself... flaws included, have grown to respect me too... I don't need to screw things up trying to make the quick score... unless its in the lottery. Money just isn't that important to me. People are.

I don't know how widespread this rumor is, but I print it to hopefully lay it to rest for the absurdity it is. I'm not ashamed of who I am or what I've done... I have nothing to be ashamed of but the thought of jealous people spreading detrimental and malicious rumors is frustrating.

Unfortunately, I'm not the only victim of rumor. One of our sisters, I was told this summer, was accused of soliciting for prostitution and that Colonie police had a warrant for her arrest. When I confronted the person in question... she denied it and I suggested she call the police to check it out... she did, and it proved false. Where did this rumor come from? Petty Jealousy? Some bitter person seeking some twisted revenge? What good did it accomplish? Neither person involved participates much any more in the group.

Another person in our group stands accused by the rumor mill of being highly solicitous (for sexual purposes to the extent of almost raping one person), of other members of the group... but the accuser is nowhere to be found, and the truth will probably never be known. Although this is unsubstantiated this person, was ostracized by the group and, no longer participates.

We can't deny that over the past year we have had a number of thefts from our club... two people state categorically that they know who is guilty... but they seem to lack any proof other than suspicion... but

suspicion to them is enough to convict. At least two different members stand accused, probably without their knowledge of something they may or may not have done.

What it comes down to is intolerance, and lack of respect for others with whom we share so much. Is this reflective of a lack of respect of ourselves? Whether TV or TS, fetishist or fantasist, admirer or curiosity seeker, are we all so much different? Can we learn to overlook the differences and seek the person hiding inside? Can we learn, to let down the shields of jealousy, and self protection and enjoy each other for the things that are different? Can we forgo the ever present urge to 'spread the dirt' about some one else? If not, let me remind you that there are laws against libel and slander... maybe we should think more about these when we "gossip", think about what damage we may be doing... even unintentionally.

People, we're supposed to be a support group here... where folks can meet to discuss and act on their deepest, darkest secret passion with others who understand. We all have a passion for dishing the dirt, I admit I have been guilty too from time to time. Usually, however when I realize I'm wrong, I try to apologize to the party offended. Maybe for the new year, it's time for all of us to try harder to keep an open mind, to respect each other more inspite of our differences, confront the lies, half truths and distortions, and put the rumor mill to rest for once and for all.



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INTIMATE APPAREL

TURKEY: THE CASE OF RAMAZAN (DEMET) DEMIR

30 September 1991

Although homosexuality is not proscribed by Turkish law, gay rights activists have been subjected to harassment, intimidation and ill-treatment. In recent years homosexuals and transvestites, in particular in Istanbul, have begun to address these problems publicly. Some have spoken nationally and internationally on behalf of those marginalized in Turkish society. Transvestites in Istanbul are concentrated in Cihangir, a part of Beyoglu district, and have frequently complained about harassment by the police.

On the night of 10 August 1991, the houses of several transvestites in Istanbul were raided by local police. Six were detained, including Ramazan (Demet) Demir.

Ramazan (Demet) Demir, a member of the Istanbul Human Rights Association and a gay rights activist, was released without

charge on 16 August. He then called a press conference in which he alleged that he had been severely beaten with a length of rubber-covered steel hose by the Chief of Police at Beyoglu Police Station. On the day of his release Ramazan (Demet) Demir had obtained a medical report from the Forensic Medical Institute certifying that he had injuries consistent with his allegations and indicating that he would be unfit for work for five days. There have been several reports this year of similar beatings inflicted by the Chief of Police at Beyoglu Police Station who is said to have vowed that he will clear the neighborhood of transvestites.

On 20 August, Ramazan (Demet) Demir was once again taken into police custody. According to his account, he asked the police officers why they were detaining him. They said that it was because he was a homosexual. He protested saying that the law does not prohibit homosexuality. The police officers asked him which law he was referring to. Ramazan Demir replied that he meant the law introduced by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. On 21 August, he was charged under Law

5816 with insulting the memory of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and was formally arrested. He is now held in Sagmalcilar Prison. His trial before Beyoglu Fifth Criminal Court began on 5 September and is due to continue on 17 October.

Ramazan (Demet) Demir neither used nor advocated violence and is, therefore, considered to be a prisoner of conscience. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release. The organization urges that a full, independent and impartial investigation into his allegations of ill-treatment in Beyoglu Police Headquarters be carried out and any person responsible for it be brought to justice.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 8DJ United Kingdom

CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL

CDI NY Office: P.O. Box 29, New York, NY 10021
CDI National Office P.O. Box 61, Easton, PA 18044

212-243-0837

Serving the Special Needs of Special People

CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL CDI IS FOR YOU

Cross Dressers International, hereinafter called CDI, was founded by S. Kristine James now director of the group. Kristine acted after many requests and years of planning. Finally, there are week night programs!

CDI is a non-profit, non-sexual organization open to all who cross dress with a full feminine identity regardless of sexual practices or orientation.

CDI sponsors meetings, parties, dinners, shows and serves as a membership organization serving the educational, social, recreational needs of all cross dressers.

For members and friends, CDI provides friendship and a secure, non-threatening environment. A newsletter is published and supplied free to members. Members receive substantial discounts to all special programs and activities and often free admission. Members also receive discounts on services and merchandise. David E. Tolbin is the advisor to CDI, Karen Cloe is our New York Director and S. Kristine James is our National Executive director.

Can You Come to Our

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Fourth Annual

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SPECIAL WIVES SECTION

ANN LANDERS

DEAR ANN: May I reply to Mel's wife, who wrote about cross-dressing? Since nearly 10 percent of all males have this urge, it is important that people understand it.

I am a heterosexual (as about 75 percent of us are) male transvestite. I began to wear my mother's clothes when I was about 5. As I grew older I read everything I could get my hands on about transvestism to determine what I was. A potential candidate for transsexual surgery? A homosexual? I came to realize that I had two personalities, male that corresponded to my gender, and female that needed to be expressed.

Current research considers this an inborn compulsive behavior that can be triggered at any age by any number of incidents. I have found that cross-dressers who have come in contact with the feminine side of their personality are above average in intelligence and more sensitive to the feelings of others, especially their wives or girlfriends. They are often more secure in their masculinity than many of the "macho" types. Sexual release in most cases is secondary to the sense of physical and emotional pleasure that comes from dressing up. It is not a hobby; it is a necessity. This may explain Mel's irritability when he is unable to dress up.

I would urge Mel's wife to disregard most all of what she has heard about transvestism. There is too much misinformation around. She must remember that this is a factor in Mel's personality that made him the person he is and that she loved him enough to marry him. She should not feel threatened by his feminine side.

Fear of the unknown and apprehension about public discovery are two legitimate concerns. If she sits down with him, talks about it, respects his feelings and keeps the lines of communication open, she will find that her love will be much deeper for this multifaceted person she chose to go through life with. The quality of the relationship will be greatly enhanced by her acceptance and support. — T.J., Houston

DEAR T.J.: Thanks for a postgraduate course in cross-dressing. You've helped a lot of people today.

PRINCE CHARMING VS. THE FAIRE QUEAN: by Jennifer [REDACTED]

"When I was a young girl, every Saturday, Mom would drop us off at the theater for the matinee. We'd scream with delight at silly thriller movie's like THIRTEEN GHOSTS, or some romantic swash-buckler usually starring Errol Flynn. Disney and Cartoons were big too - who can forget Snow White or Sleeping Beauty? When I got older, beach party movies were the big rage. Everyone remembers Frankie, Annette, and Elvis crooning their way through implausible story lines which inevitably led to a glorious romance. The point I'm trying to make is that women (girls) were always portrayed as doe-eyed and helpless, men on the other hand were ALWAYS handsome, adventurous, Prince Charmings, who would ride in on their white horse - larger than life, and handle any problem life could dish out. Like thousands of other women, at the urging of my mother - "someday you'll make a man a wonderful wife", "someday someone will be there for you" she would say - I bought into that stereotype of men. We were taught that we would be cared for, loved, supported... by the most handsome, masculine, sensitive, wonderful man in the world. A man who would handle any problem. Someone we could look up to with doe-eyed inosence and awe and feel... secure. Although unspoken, the implication was always there that the sex would be great too. Like others, I began looking for... MY Prince Charming.

During the seventies with the feminist movement, like so many other women I revolted against the unfair narrow stereotypes of women. In a world so full of wonder why should I have to define myself by such narrow expectations? I was going to be liberated, and part of that liberation was sexual - great wonderful mounds of sexual excitement. But most of my companions turned out to be a beer guzzling, insensitive louts or jocks with their minds ONLY in their crotch. Deep inside, I was still looking for Prince Charming, despite my refusal to admit it.

Then six years after graduation, at a psychological conference, I met him. I knew immediately it was him. Not only was he handsome, and intelligent, but witty. He had such a wonderful self-deprecating way about him - not at all self promoting like so many other men - in fact he was some what shy and introverted. Sensitivity flowed from him in a way that demanded respect. A wonderful, gentle, beautiful man. My Prince Charming had at last arrived. I soon learned that he wasn't with our conference, but was a pilot on layover between flights, and our brief time together became one of my favorite memories. We stayed in touch, and when my marriage ended two years later, I sought him out for consolation.

The relationship grew, but as it grew, I felt he was keeping something - some part of himself hidden. In the heat of the ensuing relationship I chose to ignore the feeling that something held him at a distance. Our relationship was beautiful, intimate, warm, supportive and in every other way complete. In so many ways I had finally been blessed with finding my Prince Charming - the fit between us was that close.

One night, without his knowing it I planned meeting him out of town. I had a conference to attend in a distant city, he, a layover in the same city. As a surprise I arranged for room service to deliver him a sumptuous dinner with champagne and candlelight. Visions of romantic sugarplums danced in my head as I prepared for a surprise interlude.

I was surprised alright! When I reached the room, and knocked there was no answer but I could hear the distinct rattle of movement inside. I called out and got a puzzled reply, and a lame excuse for not opening the door. "My God, he's having an affair", I thought, my life crashing down around me. My sugarplums turning to prunes. In five minutes I had located the hotel manager who was only too happy to let me in... for a hundred dollar tip, to find my Prince Charming with make-up on his face, and assorted women's clothing

protruding from hiding spots where it had been hastily shoved - under the bed.

We talked that night for hours, he trying to explain his feelings to me, me unable to do much more than stare at him blankly through tear swollen eyes. He's GAY! I thought incredulously. He tried to assure me he wasn't - I don't believe him - what if he gets AIDS? Maybe, but even I struggle with this, but what if.. what if he wants to become a woman... a transsexual? Can that really be done? GOD!! I fell in love with a man who wants to be a woman!! But WHY? He's such a beautiful man! I can't stand to look at him right now... he looks garish and rude - ugly, a freak, a fairy queen.

If he wants to be a woman, feels he is a woman, and I fell in love with him... AM I A LESBIAN? Do I really want a woman for a lover... is that what attracted me to him? I'll kill myself first! How can I ever... I want to be with him - love HIM so much. WHY did this have to happen? I know I'll never be able to make love to him again. Is this the man I thought was my Prince Charming? I want to laugh in his face, I want to ground him into the dirt, its sick, perverted, its... he looks so sad, hurt, and ... pathetic.

What if anyone finds out? Oh lord, how would I ever deal with the humiliation? He'd lose his job, our house... I'd never be able to make the mortgage alone. MOM!, no, I could never tell her about this... she'd never let me hear the end of it. Who can I turn to, who can I turn to?

Look at him, I don't know whether to laugh or cry... he, he looks so silly! I slip a chuckle which breaks into a laugh and then into tears. What to do, What to do... leave now, leave!! No, no.. STAY, Stay, stay, but why? I love him, but I'm afraid to love him, to show love for him. I wanted a Prince Charming and I end up with a Fairy Quean.



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ROGERS' NOTEBOOK (#21)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Many of the organizations in the transgender subculture are concerned about couples in which the man is a cross-dresser. There are wives groups and couples groups, often accompanied by discussions on how a woman can be supported in dealing with her cross-dressing partner.

Because of my involvement with your subculture I receive newsletters from many different organizations. Recently I received one from CHIC -- a California-based transvestite support group. In that issue there appeared an article written by a wife of a cross-dresser and addressed to other wives. She called it "The Five Basics for Good Communication". I want to share her ideas but refocus them to you, the cross-dresser, to highlight ways you can interact with your wife.

The first point was Discuss, Don't Attack. Attacking your wife when she is trying to deal with your cross-dressing will do little to resolve a problem. Keep in mind that she is trying to deal with her own feelings as well as yours. By trying to understand what she is feeling through a discussion you can often find a way to resolve the situation.

Next was Keep Your Voice Low and Pleasant. Raising your voice or shouting is a sure way to turn the other person off. No one likes to be yelled at.

Perhaps the most crucial point was Stick to the Subject. Deal with one issue at a time. Don't use the conversation to dredge up all the things you are unhappy about.

Listen to Her Complaints was next on the list. Your wife's needs and concerns are important. You have to really listen to what she is telling you. Find out what is bothering her and be willing to change so that her needs are met.

Last, Don't Make Demands. You do not respond well when someone orders you to do something. The same is true for her.

To this list, I add one more, Be Willing to Re-Negotiate. While you and your wife may reach an agreement on some issue, it is possible that the situation may create feelings for her that are very uncomfortable. She may need to change the previous agreement to keep her balance. Be willing to change.

Nothing is magic. Any relationship will have problems that need to be worked out. The lady who made the above suggestions put down in a very straightforward way some very basic truths about working out problems in

a relationship.

Most of the time it seems that you are trying to get the women to accept cross-dressing. It sounds like a one way street, she has to accept without question and the cross-dresser does not have to change at all. Now I know that cross-dressing is a fixed part of a transvestite's personality and will not go away. That does not mean that it should be out of control. In any relationship, there is always a give and take -- a balance. That means control and sensitivity to the other person's needs. Such a balance and consideration requires understanding and concern from both people. That takes work but it can be done. The ideas expressed above can help.

ROGERS' NOTEBOOK (#42)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

A relatively recent activity in the transgender community is the formation of wives' groups and couples groups. In the early 1980s when I began my work with wives, there were only a few groups for them. Some of you know that Dr. Vern Bullough also did a study of wives of cross-dressers. He found that many of these women said they got significant help through such support groups. I am pleased that such groups exist in enough areas that many women can take advantage of this means of support.

Most of these groups are not run by therapists, so I do not expect them to be marriage or group therapy sessions. Relationships that need such support should be getting formal therapeutic help. Rather, I would expect the group to be a sharing of support between people who have some common experiences. Those who have encountered a situation can have an empathy towards others in similar circumstances. Also, suggestions can be made for ways to cope with a particular predicament. The groups I know operate in this fashion. However, I am concerned that support groups and couples groups can be used in harmful ways. There are things that should be guarded against when participating in or leading a group. With innocent intentions of helping a wife to understand or cope, the results can be damaging instead. What worries me is a trend that I sense in the transgender community. As cross-dressing loses some of its

social stigma, there seems to be more emphasis on trying to find new ways to persuade the unaccepting wife to become more accepting and supportive of her husband's cross-dressing. The latest approach appears to be focusing on wives groups as the mechanism to win this approval. What is overlooked in this strategy is a sensitivity to the wife's feelings. The cross-dresser seems to think that if his wife would just learn enough about cross-dressing by talking with wives who have reached some accommodation with their husband's cross-dressing then she would accept his cross-dressing. The pressure the woman feels is tremendous. This tactic ignores gaining any understanding of her emotional response to her partner's cross-dressing.

At the IFGE Convention there was a wives panel. One of the women who spoke was married to a pre-op transsexual and was planning to continue living with her after surgery. While the woman was comfortable with her partner's new gender, she mourned the loss of the male person she had married. To some extent wives of cross-dressers share the same feeling. They married a man for his maleness which cross-dressing can destroy. They need his maleness as much as the man needs her femaleness.

Each couple has to reach their own accommodation with cross-dressing. For some the only solution is for the wife to accept it as part of her husband's personality yet still choose not to participate in or support it. Wives or couples groups provide a very necessary and vital support to those people who are struggling to integrate cross-dressing into their relationships. I do hope that they will always be used to help not hurt.

If you have subjects you would like me to write about or wish to write a rebuttal, send them to P.O. Box 4887; Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call (914) 462-7455. All communications are confidential. [May 18, 1989]

[This column may be reprinted in a non-profit organization's newsletter so long as my name and address appear in the reprinted version.]

* * * * *

The Society for The Second Self
W.A.C.S.

Women Associated with Crossdressers Communication Network



Tri-Ess Sorority

W.A.C.S. Newsletter, Spring 1991

Cynthia Phillips
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\$ 6.00
NEWSLETTER

QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED BY WIVES:

1. What causes this kind of behavior?
2. Can it be controlled or cured?
3. Is it hereditary?
4. If this a compulsion, why can't it be treated like other compulsions - like alcoholism through groups like AA?
5. After the individual recognizes the behavior and finds support through clubs or networks, isn't there a risk that the behavior will become more frequent?
6. How do I cope with this on a day to day basis? Somedays I can discuss it and tolerate it better than others.
7. How do I get over the feeling of being betrayed, deceived by my husband who I thought was always honest with me about everything?
8. Because he is this way, does this mean that he's homosexual?
9. I resent the fact that now I find out he's spent a lot of money on this for clothing, and such - how do I get him to stop this?
10. Why wasn't he honest with me in the first place?
11. I'm afraid he'll draw me more into this before I'm comfortable with the idea. How do I convince him I can't deal with this?
12. I am angry about this but curious, too, but I'm afraid if I show I'm curious, he'll think I'm condoning or accepting the behavior and I'm not... any ideas?
13. Will this last forever?
14. How does it start?
15. What other kinds of behavior go along with the dressing?
16. Will this lead to transsexualism?

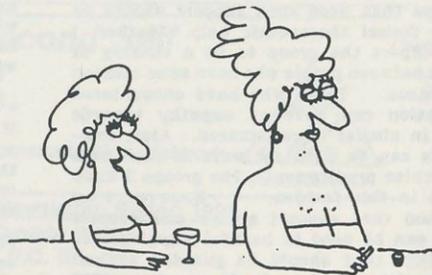
WIVES COMMON CONCERNS

by Jane K. From Genderline

You are absolutely correct when you realise that you don't understand the shock it will be to your wife. I doubt very much that any of us fully do. Here are a few of the fears and feelings that I have gradually learned from my wife that she has/had:

1. She will be the laughing-stock of the world.
2. She is a total failure as a woman.
3. She will lose her husband to sexual reassignment surgery.
4. I will be killing her to preserve the secret.
5. I will kill our children to preserve the secret.
6. I am a very sick pervert unworthy to hold any position in society.
7. Her financial world will collapse leaving her on the street with the homeless/bums.
8. I have been deceiving her for all these years.
9. I have no respect for her.
10. What I am doing is totally disgusting

Some of these were fleeting, some we are dealing with, some are probably permanent. The list is by no means complete, I'm sure others, if they haven't already, can add to it. If she doesn't already suspect and gotten prepared, then you better be prepared for her world to get turned upside down. Naturally, if her world tumbles yours will too. I suspect younger women are more tolerant and take it better.



CALLAHAN

"YOU'RE A TRANSVESTITE, AREN'T YOU? I LIKE THAT IN A MAN!"

TIPS FOR TELLING A WIFE:

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

1. Learn everything you can about the subject.
2. Find a supportive perhaps romantic setting.
3. Tell her that something is bothering you... that you have a problem
4. Tell her that this problem involves her, and tell her you will seek counseling if she joins you.
5. Make sure that she knows how much you love her
6. Make sure that she knows how badly you have wanted to tell her, and how much you have feared her rejection and possible ridicule.
7. Make sure she knows again how much you love her
8. Make her promise to seek counseling with you
9. Tell her that this thing has no cure isn't fatal, but does require understanding, which isn't easy.
10. Tell her how much her love means to you, and how much you love her.
11. Tell her again
12. Tell her that you don't expect her to become involved but felt she needed to know
13. Let her react, answer her questions - BRIEFLY - don't volunteer too much information at this time.
14. Go slowly
15. Tell her its probably best to not discuss it too openly just yet, (unless she really wants to)
16. Go slowly.
17. Tell her how much you love her and how hard it is to be honest with her.
18. Seek Counseling and or tell her about TGIC, give her information only as she requests it.
19. If she is accepting or tolerant, DON'T GO OVERBOARD - you aren't out of the woods yet!
20. Good Luck!

MUCH OF THIS MATERIAL IN THIS SPECIAL SECTION, AND MORE WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE IN BOOKLET FORM TITLED: RELATIONSHIPS: WIVES AND FAMILIES from the Albany Gender Project, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212. \$5.00 per copy.

A WORD TO THE WIVES:

by Jamie submitted through GenderLine

Dear Wives and SO's:

We didn't choose to be the way we are, at the same time we don't deny that we get a certain amount of enjoyment out of our dressing. Most of us have been doing this since before we met you and the fact that we like dressing in female clothes makes us no less masculine than you are less feminine when you are clothed in jeans, a sloppy sweat shirt and tennis shoes. We enjoy looking pretty and the feeling of feminine attire and it is in no way a reflection on your femininity. We are sorry that we didn't tell you sooner, but we loved you so much that we were afraid of losing you and in the back of our minds we erroneously felt that being in love with a woman would somehow quell our desire to dress and that it would go away. We are more sensitive than the average male, we like love stories, we cry at movies and don't have the awful macho tendencies that some of today's males have. We want to be loved and understood.

The fact that we dress doesn't make us any different than the men you fell in love with. We are the same guy and we will love you just as much now as before you knew of our dressing. We understand that it will take you a little while to sort through all of this, but please don't turn away and reject us. We are reasonable people and don't expect you to immediately accept all of this. It's just that we can no longer go on with the charade and need to be able to do some dressing without the fear of being found out attached with it. For some of you it will be easier for you to handle than others. Some of us only want to wear panties or hose or sleep in nightgowns and that will be easier to hide and accept than those of us who like to dress fully. If we don't want to try to go out, then dressing around the house will be sufficient. If we have children still around then some sort of schedule will

have to be worked out.

There are support groups around that have regular meetings and attending them would give us a regular outlet for our dressing. Most of these meetings also have wives and SO's that attend. We wish you would come to one of these meetings and get to know some of the accepting wives and SO's.

We think you will be surprised that we are not the bunch of wierdo's that some of the talk shows make us out to be and we are not into strange sexual practices. We are concerned about the problems of our jobs and the world and have many of the same female concerns that you have, like, what color lipstick to wear, what hair style looks the best, what hose to buy, how to apply makeup, etc. We would like nothing better than to be able to talk with you about these things and get your opinion and help.

The fact that we have confided in you says something about how we feel about you. The more you love someone the more of your inner feelings you want to share with your loved one, so please try to understand. Keeping this inside has caused us some stress and very lonely times, so please don't shut us out, just when we need you the most.

Hugs and Kisses.



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DEALING WITH "TRANSEXUAL" FEELINGS By Cynthia [REDACTED]

(From "W.A.C.S." the newsletter of the Women Associated With Crossdressers Communication Network)

One of the things I hear over and over is the fear a great many of you have, that of losing your mate through his involvement with transsexualism or his desire to take female hormones. In the case of hormones, the majority of transgendered males that take female hormones, only take them for 6 months or less. They are frightened by the changes their bodies go through and this causes them to reassess their decision. The same is generally the case with transsexual feelings. These feelings are yearnings the CD goes through which may last for a shorter or longer period. I can share my own experiences with you and assure you that in most cases, the love the average crossdresser feels for his wife is so strong, it makes the desire for these things to wane in time. My husband had a problem concerning his transsexual feelings. However, since we had no support group in those days and no one to turn to but each other, it took ten years to work through it. This is only one of the reasons I feel support groups are so necessary to couples in this situation. One of the things I had to point out to him repeatedly was, "You can not BE a woman", you can LOOK like a woman, which you do when you dress. Medical science can't do any more for you than a "cosmetic" change in your body which will make it APPEAR female. No one has the right to look under your skirt to see if you are male or female. You are a unique individual. Why let the doctors make you appear physically like 50% of the population, (assuming that is roughly the gender mix) when you are that unique blend of both genders? Believe me, it is more rewarding to be able to be in either gender you want, when you want, and after all, this is the way you were born!" Even as confused and upset as he was at that time, he was able to see the logic in

this. With a lot of talking and love we worked through this time in our lives.

Remember, most crossdressers go through these feelings at one time or another. Unfortunately it becomes our problem too. When he goes through this it can ruin a relationship, along with lives, if you don't know how to deal with it.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR WIVES ANNOUNCED

On January 26, 1992, Jennifer Wells will hostess an informational tea for wives and other women involved with crossdressers and transsexuals. This meeting is for the benefit of the women in our lives to foster better understanding, and encourage development of a mutual, wives support network. **IT IS NOT THE INTENTION OF THIS GATHERING TO TRY TO SELL CROSSDRESSING OR TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE OPINIONS OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE IN ANY WAY.** Jennifer will strive to answer all questions of a general nature relating to crossdressing in an honest, straight-forward, empathetic and unvarnished manner. Specific situational issues will be encouraged to be discussed by the women present.

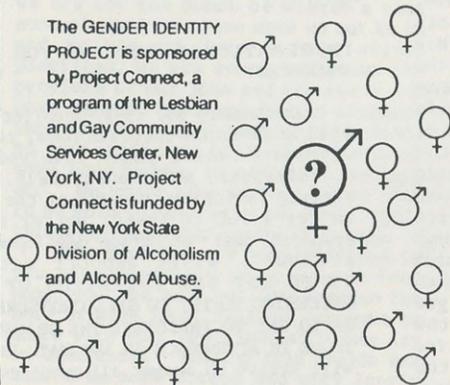
It is hoped that women will come with honest feelings and questions. Although Jennifer will act as facilitator the emphasis will be on the women to meet others in like situations, network, and organize or not as deemed necessary by the participants. In an effort to maintain confidentiality of the participants, other than a brief report as to the success or failure of the tea, no report will be made to TGIC or its members as to the nature of the discussions held.

If you have questions about crossdressing, fears, feel threatened or confused or just need to talk to someone who is concerned about how you feel, please plan to attend. We hope this provides a meaningful, informative helping event as well as a relaxing, non-threatening environment. For further information please contact Jennifer [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

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by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D

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No names will be asked.

A MINOR MIRACLE by Jennifer [REDACTED]

Mommy, there's animals on the porch, my almost six year old son exclaimed excitedly in a manner that I remember only too well. It was Christmas morning, and there were animals on the porch. In the rush that was typical of many homes on Christmas morning my former spouse imagined that he meant that there were squirrels or maybe birds on the porch, and off-handedly dismissed the comment.

Mommy, there ARE animals on the porch, he persisted, as my three year old joined him both at the window, and in chorus. For God-sakes, I can imagine my ex thinking, Christmas day, and all they can think about is some squirrel on the porch, as she continued to ignore the comments.

But Mommy, there are BEARS on the porch, they continued. Bears? On a porch in suburban Syracuse, she thought. This was too much and joining them both at the window she saw... bears. Teddy Bears! Big loveable, huggable, teddy bears. Two of them. Both held a bow with two candy canes in one paw, and a small gift in their laps with a tag that said, "from Santa". Nearby, sat a small bag of gifts "from Daddy". A set of footprints led away in the light, fluffy snow toward the street. It was Christmas morning, a time for miracles.

It was the third Christmas, we had been separated, my spouse, not understanding or able to deal with where my life was taking me, decided that she and the kids would be better off without me. A decision that led to a lot of pain by all involved. The first Christmas apart, I spent most of the day missing them all, crying, waiting for a phone call that never came, and contemplating suicide. The following year, the pain had lessened, and it was I who was helping others who were contemplating suicide as the phone rang repeatedly, but not with the call I

longed to receive. This year, I vowed would be different. My level of self acceptance was such that I could cope, and my finances gave me enough spare money to not only buy small gifts, but make the drive to Central New York as well. This year, would be different, I told myself. At least they would know that I was thinking of them. That is, if I didn't chicken out again as I had thrice before, when the fear and pain of rejection had prevented me from stopping after making the three hour drive.

Christmas Eve, it was morning, and to be honest, anything that could be taken for Christmas Spirit was bottled up so deeply, I had even forgotten where to look for the bottle opener. I looked at the bears sitting in my whicker chair, and asked myself if I really wanted to do this. Was I ready for more rejection, I wondered. I didn't have an answer, but kept moving ahead. The bows were attached to the candy canes and the packages wrapped. I spent extra time on my hair, and applied light makeup. Black pants, burgundy turtle-neck, and raglan knit over sweater, boots - nothing elaborate. After all, I didn't want to shock anyone who may not have heard about my transition. Grabbing the bears by the ears, my purse and the bag of gifts, I headed out.

It was quiet that morning, no traffic which seemed to me odd for a Christmas eve morning, but none the less, good sign. As I headed west, without a definite plan, I decided to visit the neighborhood where I grew up. The sun was shining through the crystalline dusting of light snow outside, and I took this as a good sign. It was cold, and I worried if my car would make the eight hour round trip, and wondered how things would work out. Providence, I decided... I'd leave it all to providence. In the year before, I'd learn to trust in providence or faith if you will. Many times I had been down to my last cent, and faith saw me through.

Nearing Syracuse, I needed to refuel. Leaving the Thruway, I sought

out a convenience store near Chittenango and gassed up. While paying, the woman on the counter wished me "Merry Christmas M'am". I've been living as a woman fulltime since April and much of the time for two years before that. Yet it always warms me to be called by the feminine pronoun by strangers. Another good sign.

Passing through Syracuse I drove more slowly, partly to take in the sights, partly from apprehension. I passed our old home which was somehow changed yet the same. Rounding the end of the lake I grew up on, I decided to drive through the old neighborhood, and then drive past my brother's farm. I had no definite plans of stopping. Passing my Aunt's house, I toyed with stopping... no, what if they hadn't heard yet, I thought. Three years away, and now this? Approaching the farm, I noticed my brother's truck, and decided to stop and wish him a Merry Christmas, after all he already knew and was supportive.

The visit went well, but during conversation, he said; the secret is out. With this in mind I decided to go upstairs and say Hello to my step-mother. She greeted me warmly by my old name, but with a puzzled look in her eye - she hadn't heard. As I explained my lifelong desire to correct my life and be a woman, she became very supporting. I left with an invitation to stay, stay in touch, and come back soon.

Back toward the lake I traveled, next stop, my aunt's home. Her son, my cousin and elder by five days, had been my closest friend growing up, and I wanted their feedback. Unfortunately, my cousin wasn't home, but my aunt and I had a really nice chat. Again, I found strong support.

Next came my sister, so into town I headed. Pulling into her driveway, I realized that she may have company and backed out to leave. Driving away, I decided to stop and a nearby convenience mart and call her. "Where are you?" she asked when I told her who it was. Before long, my sister a registered nurse, and I were chatting about hormones and my work with the Federation

for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Again very supportive. Seeing that I was noticing her staring at me, she said, "I'm sorry, I just can't get over how different you look". We parted with a big hug, and again an invitation to stay.

I decided to try the lake once again to see if my cousin was home. On the way, I stopped to see my other cousin and probably second closest friend growing up. As I arrived, he looked somewhat shocked to see me, but again was very friendly. He was preparing dinner for his son, mother and sister who he expected to arrive soon. While showing me around his new home, he asked if I would like to stay for dinner - I declined, not wanting to impose any further - but did stay to meet the rest of the family. Everyone was tremendously supportive. I left with a warm glow. I never thought my family would handle this well, but at least overtly, the support was incredible. But the big task was yet ahead... would I stop or chicken out?

*

It was dark when I left my cousin's home for Syracuse. I promised myself a nice dinner at Candies, a prominent gay supportive restaurant and bar. I told myself, I would let providence determine if I would see my kids if and when I stopped later. On arriving at Candies, they were closing - "we've just called last call", they said. It was only 8:00 PM, but it was Christmas Eve. "No room at the inn", so to speak, as I chuckled to myself. It was time to get it over with. Parking on the street, I watched for a while. It was snowing lightly, just enough to give Christmas a clean white appearance. Opening the door, I grabbed the teddy bears by the ears, got the bag and walked to the porch. I was shaking so badly, I nearly dropped the bag. Setting the teddy's on the porch, I summoned the nerve to press the door bell - No answer - although I could clearly tell that there were people home. Providence, I thought, and turned and walked away half hoping some one to spot me, half fearing to be spotted.

All day I waited for the call. "Don't expect too much and you won't be hurt", I told myself. At 11:00 PM the phone rang. A nervous small voice which at first I didn't recognize on the other end said, "There were animals on the porch this morning". There was a lot of pain, and some bitterness in her voice. But more, I sensed fear. Fear to reach out to someone I think she still loves, but can't love. Fear more perhaps of the future. She said that her aunt had recently died, that her mother, was in ill health and she feared her death soon too. But I think most she was afraid to be alone. It's not easy to be alone. Hanging up the phone, I sat stunned, the call had come. I cried for almost two hours... happy tears for the first time in years. I'm crying now as I write this.

All the way home, the night before, I listened to and sang along with the Christmas Carols on the radio, and prayed. Somehow, I knew my prayers were being heard. After all, it was Christmas eve, and Christmas is the time for miracles. It's too early to tell where this will all lead yet, but this much I can say; sometimes prayers are answered. Merry Christmas to all. Merry Christmas Mary Ellen.



"I'm a bachelor myself."

COMING OUT CAPERS - by Laurie R.

Since transgender behavior is more a frame of mind than a reliance on costume, the initial "coming out" can be made in whatever clothes one is in, provided the disclosure is made subtly, and obliquely - and, is somewhat in line with the group behavior. But once you've got your foot in the door,

On a recent shopping trip with my wife, her two daughters and their young sons, I decided to test the waters with regard to the degree of "female behavior" that could pass. When the women started discussing bra's and nail polish in the car, I jumped right in with my opinions on what was fashionable ("I like low cut bra's that show good cleavage"), and asked about the polish and lipstick colors that were most suitable for my own skin tone ("earth tones", came the answer from one of the daughters after I modelled my hand in front of her).

My wife, who knows and supports my crossdressing, tried to soften the shock to her unknowing daughters by alluding to my "natural male excitement" over bra's, but the naturalness of my inclusion in the discussions seemed to turn the trick. At the store, I joined right in as we went through the pants, blouses, bra's, and panties, as well as the nail polish and lipstick sections. By quietly working into the flow of the discussions, and keeping up with the group, I became one of the girls (I withheld comment on the 42D bra's we came across until my wife expressed amazement, and then I smiled in feminine agreement).

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After we returned to the house, I was invited to paint the right hand nails of one daughter (she had trouble keeping her left hand steady with the brush). We exchanged comments on the proper techniques for nail polish application, as well as further helpful hints on color selection. At no time during this days' "capers" was an attempt made to act "manly" or reserved, and my transgendered self was there for all to see.

Despite my wife's apprehensions that her daughters would think me homosexual, the next day the daughters called to express their enjoyment of the abovementioned shopping trip. They stated that it was a pleasure to have a man sharing in their conversations as they travelled about the store, instead of seeing men run away to the fishing section. In addition, they were overjoyed at the good mood I was in, and the jokes and fashion comments that were shared (my relaxation was noted by all).

Although Laurie is worlds different from the "male" me, the change in behavior when Laurie was in public did not bring shame or accusations, but an unusual and unforeseen acceptance and welcoming by women. Transgender behavior translates into sharing, caring, communication, good taste and lightheartedness, traits that women find refreshing and close to heart. Whether or not such behavior leads to crossdressing acceptance, one gains an opportunity to naturally express their feminine side in public.

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BACK TO THE BASICS by Julie M.

I'm writing this article for the newer members of the club and those still not really sure what the basics are. I am not going to discuss make-up, clothes or wigs. There is, however, one question that all of us have asked: "What on Earth am I?" (I could have chosen from a lot of easier topics, but this one is the most pressing for quite a few of us.)

To understand the problem of gender dysphoria, we must first learn the difference between sex and gender. Usually, they are dumped into the same bucket... in reality they are quite different, and the differences are important. Sexuality is the easier to define, and can be addressed by the question: "Who do you prefer as a sexual partner?". For example, if you are male and see yourself as male, you might prefer a member of the opposite sex, a female - this would make you heterosexual; if you prefer a partner of the same sex, you would be homosexual; then again, if you see beauty in either sex, then you are bi-sexual. So far the definitions have been easy, but it does get screwed up. What if (being gender dysphoric) you are physically a male, but mentally a female... as a woman attracted to a man, are you hetero or homosexual? As a woman attracted to other females, are you in fact a lesbian? This question has stuck in my craw for years.

This question of sexual identity should be discussed and understood before starting therapy toward sexual reassignment. You might feel that as a male attracted to another male you must be a female, where you are merely gay. It's easy to draw the wrong conclusions. Opening this can of worms causes a lot of problems and once opened, they can never be put back in.

Gender is the other side of the coin. Which gender you are depends on your physical make-up. It's controlled by the DNA that is present in each and every cell of your body. Every living human does in fact start out as a female. Scientists have discovered that

at about the fifth week of pregnancy, a chromosomal trigger can occur. This trigger causes the embryo to alter its program and grow into a male. If no trigger occurs then the embryo continues to develop into a female. But what happens when this trigger is delayed or is ambiguous? This could explain androgenous males, males having both the characteristics of the male and the female.... slight of frame and little body hair for instance. A hermaphrodite is an androgenous person having the sexual organs and often the secondary characteristics of both the male and female.

Gender dysphoria is not a simple subject to understand. To comprehend it, it has to be broken down into issues that are as different as the people themselves. All too often, it is found under the heading of sexual deviation, which has about as much truth to it as the comment that "all blondes are homicidal". It includes both males and females, not in equal proportion, but the effects are basically the same. There are female to male and male to female cross gendered people, for them the fears, loneliness, confusion and frustration are more or less the same.

Being gender dysphoric does not mean that you have to be gay. We can be bisexual, straight or gay. We are different people, each with our own needs, wants and tastes. A person's sexuality is up to them and must be dealt with separately and must be dealt with separately before considering reassignment. Whatever you decide you are, remember, it is your decision. It is as natural as the nose on your face and you should be comfortable with it. Trying to force yourself to accept the wrong thing will just hurt you as well as your

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partners. Don't just listen to your family or friends, you can ask their opinion, but the decision is yours. The answer does in fact lie within you. You have to dig into your self, face the facts that are found and be comfortable with them.

This article is one of a series I will be writing with the hope that it could be useful in helping you understand, not only yourself, but for the people that you wish to try to help understand you.

Good luck to all - Julie

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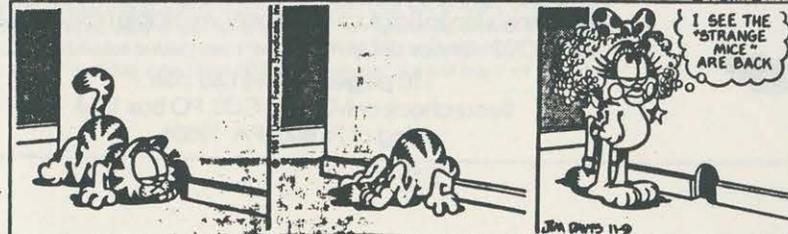
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Host Organizations: Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Tau Chi Chapter-Tri Eas, Boulton & Park Society, Delta Omega Chapter - Tri Eas, Women Associated With Crossdressers, & Heart of Texas Alliance

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GARFIELD



BY JIM DAVIS

Ex-judge kills family, turns gun on himself

Associated Press.
NEW YORK — A retired state judge shot and killed his wife and son, then turned the gun on himself, police said Sunday.

The bodies of Milton Goldman, 71, his wife, Phoebe, 70, and son Richard, 30, were found at 1:40 p.m. in his Chelsea apartment, said Officer Janice Johnston, a police spokeswoman. All were dead at the scene.

"It seems that he shot his wife and son, then himself," she said.

Police found the son in the living room, and the judge and his wife in the bedroom. The son and the wife both were shot in the chest, and Milton Goldman had shot himself in the mouth with a .38-caliber gun, according to police.

Andres Tirado, a doorman at the London Terrace apartment complex, said he became suspicious when he noticed that newspapers delivered to the judge's apartment door had piled up since Thursday.

Tirado said he went to get the superintendent, the two entered the judge's apartment and found the bodies.

Neighbors said the son, who did not live with his parents, was apparently unemployed and a transvestite.

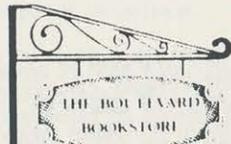
Sonya Miller, who has lived in the building for 27 years, said he had "dressed like a lady. He was very beautiful with makeup. (The parents) were very much against it, they were very disappointed. I think this is what it was about."

Neighbors said police had been called several times to break up fights between the parents and the son, who they said was at times abusive toward them.

"There was always a problem there, the son was always sick emotionally," said Miller.

She described the parents as wonderful, loving people. "They adored him, but he gave them a lot of pain ... He used to hit them, he used to be very angry."

Police said Milton Goldman had been a state administrative and compensation judge, but had no other details about his work.



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THE FIRST MILE by Sherry C.

It was August of '91 when I decided to venture out. I picked a Sunday morning, got up at 4 A.M., and started to get dolled up.

Although I had planned to be out the door by 6 A.M., it was 6:45 before I took the leap. I spent twice the usual time on my make-up. I donned falsies (38C), tan stockings, purple mini-skirt, lavender sweat shirt, heels and finally my wig.

The truth was I was inventing excuses to avoid going out. I would put on my fake glasses and take them back off. "Do I need these or not?" I kept looking at the street, "Is the coast clear?"

Finally I looked at my poster of Cory Everson, looked in the mirror, and with knees knocking, out I went. Feeling very alone and terrified, I started down the street. My heels sounded impossibly loud on the sidewalk. I had to leave the street and walk across a parking lot to keep my

composure. The heels were so loud! I walked on thinking, "I can't believe I'm doing this. This is crazy!"

I ran out of parking lot and back on the street, came to an intersection. There were few cars at the red light and I watched the drivers intently, but none of them gave me more than an uninterested glance. I fooled them! They think I'm a girl!

I took off the glasses and stuck them in my purse. I lit a cigarette and walked on, remembering to move my hips. "Twitch your behind, make those falsies bounce, swing your arms."

At the next intersection, a man in a pick-up truck stared at me hard. "Oh shit, he knows!" I pretended to look in a store window, all the time watching his reflection. He was looking at my legs and behind. I smiled and blushed at the same time.

The light turned green, but he continued to stare. I turned the corner, feeling naked. "Later babe!" The truck sped off and I breathed a sigh of relief. "You almost got one hell of a surprise, guy." *Don't Ap. 24*

PINK FLAMINGOS - PICKET FASHION SCHOOL

Boston, MA

Gaylene Harrington, the Founder of the *Pink Flamingos of Boston, Mass.*, and designated GAL Advisory Council member for this group gave us a call recently and told us her story of discrimination. Boston has a number of things going for it, and among them is their Civil Rights Act for the gay and lesbian community. This democratic haven would seem to be liberal in their thinking. Not so, according to Gaylene, who was recently terminated from her modeling job at a fashion show at the School of Fashion Design. Gaylene, a pre-op TS was modeling for a designer who was well aware that she was a TS, and had no problems with her situation. He had a large number of gowns designed to fit her ready to show when the producer decided that he didn't want a "person like her" modeling at his school. "This

surprised me," said Gaylene, "since most of the people at the fashion school are gay and there are laws against discrimination in Boston. I think they fired me because they thought I was gay."

The next day, Gaylene told us, she and some of the girls from the Pink Flamingos in Boston decided to picket the School of Fashion Design to make their point. Apparently it was a point well taken, because they got a considerable amount of support from local people who said they were glad to see that they were standing up for their rights. Her attorney told her that once they determined the approximate loss of income from sales because there was no model, he would file a law suit against the school. To support Gaylene and all members of the gender community, it would help if we each wrote

a letter to the school showing our disapproval of discrimination against members of our minority.

If you wish to participate, write to:

President
School of Fashion Design
136 Newbury Street
Boston MA 02116

If you wish, send a copy of this article

(The above article was edited from *The Genderist*, published quarterly by the Gender Alternatives League, P.O. Box 3392, Napa CA 94558.)

So here I was, rounding the block with my building in sight. My feet were beginning to hurt. A mile of concrete was a new experience. So was feeling the wind move my skirt and wig.

A hundred yards to go. I was feeling like the first time I swam across a pool. A car stopped at the corner and a man got out to use the ATM. I slowed down. I wasn't ready for any close encounters. What if he asked me a question? I stopped and lit another cigarette. The man finished his business and drove away without looking at me. Good, a hundred feet and I'm home.

Just before I reached the corner, a woman in jogging clothes came around it. I flushed. Again my heels seemed too loud. She was carrying a Sunday paper. As we passed each other, she gave me a polite smile. I was too nervous to return it. Besides, the hardest part was coming.

I reached my building, and fumbled with my keys, which I had kept in my hand the whole time. Clutched with white knuckles, actually. I made it up the stairs and to my door without encountering any neighbors.

Once inside, I made myself a stiff drink and studied myself in the mirror. It was ironic. The woman who smiled at me would have been wary if I had been dressed as a male. Instead she had seen another woman. She had heard a pair of heels from around the corner, then saw the short skirt, purse, breasts and hair. I guessed I passed the "ultimate inspection". I had worn a short skirt to draw attention to my legs, which are feminine. An over-sized top to conceal my muscles, and arranged my wig to make my neck look smaller. It worked!

Sherry writes: "Dear Jennifer, I hope (this) will help someone work up the nerve to come out. Although I'm glad I did it alone, a sister to walk with would have been nice. If you know of anyone in the Poughkeepsie area, I would be happy to assist them in that first walk. I wish I had known about TGIC before I took the first walk!"

If you are interested in contacting Sherry, she can be written to care of E. Chapman, PO Box 3753, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

CONTACT OTHERS!!! ANNUAL DIRECTORY!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTACT OTHERS? TGIC WILL BE COMPILING AN ANNUAL DIRECTORY EARLY NEXT YEAR. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ADDRESS TO BE LISTED PLEASE CHECK OFF THE APPROPRIATE BOX ON YOUR DUES RENEWAL FORM, OR LET US KNOW DIRECTLY.

This annual directory will list names and addresses of those trying to outreach to others, as well as a listing of our more devoted vendors, local watering holes, and more! For inclusion, please contact us by February 15th.

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Roberta [redacted]
P. O. Box 149
Hadley MA 01035

Dear TGIC Member,

This letter is less personal than I would like it to be, but that is necessary because I don't know who you are. You are getting this letter because TGIC was willing to forward it to you as a service to a new group forming.

I am a cross dresser, I live in Northampton, MA. There isn't anything terribly unusual about my cross dressing; I had been doing it for years in the closet. I don't resent being a man, nor am I uncomfortable in my male role. But I have a need to be and feel feminine sometimes. About a year ago I discovered the Connecticut Outreach Society and joined that group. By meeting and talking with other cross dressers, I learned a great deal about cross dressing and about myself. I no longer have to think of myself as a sleazy pervert. I have started out of the closet and I am happy with that decision in my life. I learned of the Tiffany Club through COS and some months later joined that group. If you are already a member of either of these groups, you know they are good groups to belong to. If you have never gone to one of these groups' meetings, it is very comforting to be accepted as a cross dresser by other cross dressers.

This brings me to the reason for writing this letter. I recently connected with another cross dresser in the Northampton area and we talked about the idea of a CD/TV/TS social and support group in the western Mass - Pioneer Valley area. We would like to see such a group established. There are cross dressers scattered around this area, and I have a feeling there are many more who do not even know that support groups exist; I didn't until pretty recently. The western Mass area seems to be tolerant of a wide variety of life styles. I think if such a group is established, it has a good chance of succeeding.

We are now trying to contact as many other TVs and TSs as we can to try to establish a core group of interested people. We need this group for more ideas - we have a few, but I am sure there are more good ideas out there. We need to find a meeting place - Northampton is a nice central location, but it is a little close to home for us. Is there another better place? We need people to help with organizing and running a society - I am willing to write letters, maybe even a newsletter for a while. I am willing to poke and prod people for a while, but I am not on an ego trip to start a society, I want this to be as much your group as it is mine.

If the idea of a place closer to home where you can meet other TVs or TSs, a place to go when you are all dressed up, appeals to you, please respond. I hope you will write back and say you are interested in working toward forming such a group, or at least in coming to the group once it is established. I will need to know how I can get in touch with you so I can keep you up to date on what is happening; please give me a name and address that I can write to. I will keep the name and address of anyone who replies confidential; I am not entirely out of the closet and I respect anyone else's wish to remain there. We expect to arrange some sort of get together or organizational meeting as soon as possible. If you know of anyone else who would be interested in this group, kindly pass this letter on to them. Don't wait to see what happens with this group, without you, nothing may happen.

Sincerely,

Roberta [redacted]

Roberta [redacted]
P. O. Box 149
Hadley MA 01035

**N.Y. PUBLIC ACCOMODATION LAW PROTECTS
CROSSDRESSERS:**
by Jennifer [redacted]

How many of us have gone to a clothing store designated for members of the opposite sex, and asked to try on an item of clothing only to be told curtly "Oh, I'm sorry, (sometimes accompanied by an evil grin) but "men" aren't allowed into the dressing rooms - Company policy - you understand". Or how about in a restaurant you are refused service because you are crossdressed? Transsexual living full time as a woman - how about not being allowed use of the ladies room? Ever want to strike back on these injustices?

Recently I attended a seminar on transsexuals and the law given in Syracuse by our own Pam M. and other legal professionals including a woman from the state Human Rights Administration. One of the most interesting things I learned about was the NYS Public Accommodations Law, under which you have specific legal rights to access and services. In brief, a public enterprise can't discriminate against you based on sex or attire, and has to try to reasonably accomodate you. How does this work? Well for example, if the clothing store above refuses to allow you access to the "womens" dressing room, they have a legal obligation to provide a dressing facility for you. This could mean a store room or posting a "guard" on the women's facility until you are done or make any other reasonable effort to accomodate you. In this situation, your reply might be something like, "(evil grin,) Is that so? Then, under the NYS Public Accommodations law, what accomodation are you willing to provide so I can try on this red dress?"

In the restaurant scenario, your reply might be something like, "I wonder how the NYS Human Rights Administration would view your failure to provide accomodation for me under the Public Accommodation Law? Maybe you ought to have your lawyer review your policies?"

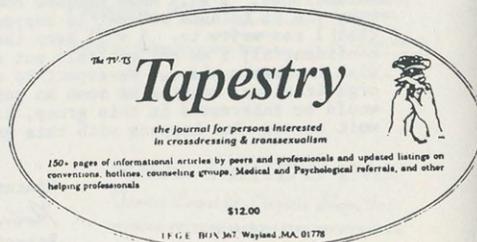
The restroom scenario is still a touchy issue. You may have the legal

right to use the restroom (if transsexual and full time - you don't if you are TV) but the other patrons have the right to complain, and this can lead to numerous complications, and although you may be on legal ground, you will lose in other ways. If you are going to use the ladies room, in NY, make sure you belong there.

But there's more... it seems that this law also covers NY residents out of state! So in theory, at least, say you visit IFGE headquarters near Boston, and go shopping while there. You are refused dressing room or other accomodation - you can file a suit against the store outside of New York under New York law. It does have to be filed however in a NY court.

Gender Law opens a lot of grey areas which can be affected by overlapping laws. Rulings under the NYS Public Accommodation Law on gender discrimination as it applies to our community are few, and the NYS Human Rights Administration is interested in establishing legal precedents in this area. This means... they will help press your case! If you feel you may have a case under this law... have your lawyer contact your local state Human Rights Administration and ask for information about the Public Accommodation Law.

But - a word of warning if you decide to press this case... make sure that you document everything that happened to you thoroughly, be patient as HRA is over worked, understaffed, and under budgeted, and cases of this type normally move very slowly through court, and settlements if any are small.



ON THE SCENE:

Nightlife in Albany and surrounding areas... is it too liberal or the economy too tight? Whatever the reason, very few girls seem to be getting out lately. Maybe the older girls are burned out... maybe the newer girls don't know where they can go safely. For the newer girls here's a rundown of local hangouts - most, if not all cater to a gay or alternative lifestyle crowd and welcome crossdressers and transsexuals. Stars indicate likelihood of not being hassled - more stars are the friendlier establishments:

ALBANY WORKING UP CENTRAL AVENUE:

Ester's - 7 Central Ave. **
Normally a womens bar this is frequented by several TS's.

Roxies - 75 Central ****
Diner open 3AM to 9PM great early morning breakfast spot.

The Waterworks (Downstairs) ***
76 Central Avenue
Blue Collar Gay Cruise Bar - Friendly, relaxed. Karaoke on Thursday. Occasional shows.

The "No Name Bar" (Upstairs) **
76 Central Avenue
Leather, dancing, male strippers, weekends only.

Knickerbocker Pub - 77 Central ****
Trying to become Albany's show bar. Relaxed atmosphere, C&W music a big favorite. Regularly scheduled drag shows may be changing its name to CLUB CABERET

The Last Straw (88 Central?) **
After hours juice bar 11PM to 6AM. May be a tough crowd.

Private 1's108Central ****
Frequent elaborate drag shows, disco, quiet lounge. Home of one of Albany's foremost drag performers: Lauren Michaels.

The Rage 369 Central ****
Loud disco, young crowd, very mixed clientele, both straights and gay, male and female. Occasional Drag shows. Home of "Hazel"

The Playhouse - 519 Central ***
Twin bars, piano bar in front, disco in back on weekends. Gay cruise bar atmosphere. Our own Miss Fran on piano Thurs - Sun.

ALBANY OFF CENTRAL AVENUE:

State St. Pub - State at Lark ***
Largely a neighborhood blue collar bar, few girls go there though.

SCHENECTADY:

Mother Eve's, 145 Barrett St. ****
Traditional home of TGIC Socials. Piano Bar downstairs disco upstairs on weekends. Frequent shows.

Clinton St. Pub, Clinton nr State***
very unusual, very friendly - but not best place for first timers. C&W and Rock are favorites on juke box. Blue Collar.

GLENS FALLS:

RUMORS Dix Road near arterial ****
Sister bar to Rage in Albany good atmosphere - disco, game room - hangout for north country girls

CORRECTIONS:

In the last issue of TGIC News, I stated that Social Security would not change the sex on your records without a court order... WRONG! Seems that the clerk was giving me the run around! Not only that, but after several weeks of waiting and not receiving my new SS Card with my new name, I called SS Administration to inquire as to the hold up. No application had been received! Now what do you suppose that clerk did with it? Anyway, I went back during lunch, and talked with a very helpful gentleman - "do you have a copy of your marriage license" he said seeing that I had checked the box for a name change. "Transsexual name change" I said, and showed him the proper ID. "Would you like to change the sex at this time as well?" he said seeing that I had checked the box for male. "If possible" I said. "No Problem", he said, and made the change. Two weeks later, I had my new card. Be persistent.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- TV/TS Tapestry (magazine 4 times \$40.00 per year) IFGE PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.
- TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSEXUALS: TOWARD A THEORY OF CROSSGENDERED BEHAVIOUR 1988 by Dr. Richard Doctor. from IFGE \$29.95.
- THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIFE Dr. Virginia Prince through IFGE.
- MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES Dr. Peggy J. Rudd. Available through IFGE.
- THE TRANSEXUAL PHENOMENON Dr. Harry Benjamin available at some university libraries.
- TRANSFORMATIONS: CROSSDRESSERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM Harriette Pathy-Allen from IFGE

Say YES to Yourself

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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 Phone: (518)-436-4513

TO JOIN:

Name _____
 Alternate Name _____
 Spouse, SO _____
 Does (S)he Know _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Can we call you? Y/N
 Best time to phone? _____
 Who should we ask for? _____

Special interest in group?
 If so what is it? _____

Core to tell us a little about yourself?

use separate page if more room is needed

I'd like to assist the growth of TGIC and the gender movement by helping out in the following areas: (please check as many as you have interest in)

Public Education _____	Media Appearances _____
Research _____	Planning _____
Political _____	Peer Support _____
Newsletter _____	Club Leadership _____
Fund Raiser _____	Shopping Guide _____
Big Sister _____	Public Relations _____
Other _____	

Although I would like to participate actively in our club, my present situation does not allow for such activity (Its OK we understand) _____.

All information you give us is held in strictest confidence, no publishing or distribution of our members information or release of information is authorized. Information is for club use only.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Newsletter Only (six issues) \$25.00
- Active Member (voting) 35.00
- Couples Membership 40.00
- Key Club (storage, and private use of facilities) (\$35.00 / mo) \$420.00 / year

ALANDAR:

JANUARY

- 1 FIRST NIGHT! 432-7092 For details
- 2 RAP GROUP club room 8:00P
- 8 Board Meeting - club room 7:00P
- 9 RAP GROUP club room 8:00P
- 11 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 8:00P
- 11 NEW YORK STATE GENDER COALITION
- 16 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 23 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 25 SOCIAL - Private Eyes 8:00P
- 26 WIVES INFORMATIONAL TEA 432-7092 for information - 2:00 PM
- 30 RAP GROUP - 8:00P

FEBRUARY:

- 5 BOARD MEETING - 7:00P
- 6 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 8 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 8:00P
- 13 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 20 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 22 SOCIAL - Private Eyes 8:00P
- 27 RAP GROUP - 8:00P

MARCH:

- 4 BOARD MEETING - 7:00P
- 5 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 12 RAP GROUP - 8:00P
- 14 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 8:00P

CLASSIFIEDS:

THE TRANGENDERIST will accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any member. Classifieds may be edited or rejected subject to decisions of the editor. No warranty is made for the accuracy of information given.

Poughkeepsie Area: TV Seeks others for support and friendship. All welcome, contact: Boxholder, PO Box 3753, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

FOR SALE COHOES: Single family home in peaceful neighborhood, large lot, asking \$95,000. For information contact TGIC PO Box 13604, Albany NY 12212.

BROCHURES AVAILABLE: The following brochures, reprints and papers are now available from OJRI through TGIC.

- FINDING EMPLOYMENT / TRANSITION \$3.00
- THE COMPLETE MAKEOVER \$5.00
- BBS's SERVING GENDER COMMUNITY \$3.00
- ALBANY GENDER PROJECT, PRELIM RPT \$3.00
- GENDER DYSPHORIA - FINDING HELP \$10.00/C (handout for counselors' offices - see below)
- HOW TO START YOUR OWN GENDER GRP \$3.00
- ORIGINAL POEMS & FICTION - VOL 1 \$5.00

NEW:

INFORMATION FOR FEMALE TO MALES \$3.00

OJRI is donating the proceeds from sales on the above copyrighted works to be split equally between TGIC and the Albany Gender Project. GENDER DYSPHORIA - FINDING HELP is a single page, three fold flyer which we encourage you to leave or distribute with professionals in your area. Minimum order for this flyer is 100 for \$10.00. If you have works you would like to contribute to fund these two worthwhile organizations, please send them or orders for these items to TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212. Additional works will be forthcoming shortly.

WIGS & MAKEOVERS!!! New and used wigs, professional makeovers experienced with the special problems of men. Foam Heads \$2.00, wig restyling service \$10.00. Information and Publications. Jennifer [redacted]

DONATIONS SOUGHT: TGIC is seeking donations of books with gender themes for the group library to replace books lost or stolen. Duplicates will be donated to local libraries.

RAP GROUP: TGIC hosts a rap group every Thursday night at 8PM at the clubroom. Join us to discuss your special fascination. Come dressed! or Dress here. Meet others like yourself. For screening interview, time and location call 436-4513 Thursday evenings or 432-7092 at other times.

CHOICES COUNSELING ASSOCIATES

Lesbian/Gay Affirmative



ARLENE S. ISTAR, C.S.W., C.A.C.
 PAUL G. POSTIGLIONE, C.S.W.
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