

AMYOT - from page one:

very highly recommended by him. Ms. Amyot has agreed to meet with our people on a no charge basis to help us in establishing an ongoing professionally monitored counseling group. Should you wish to attend this group, please leave a message at the club room with phone number where you can be reached to advise time and location.

Helen has been working tirelessly recently trying to facilitate the establishment of a Gender Identity Center in the area, and to that end has met with many counseling services including the Counseling Center, Alcare, and the County Mental Health association.

TGIC THURSDAY NIGHT RAP SESSIONS:

Katherine H.

When word got out that there was a need for a leader/moderator at the Thursday Night Rap Sessions I readily raised my hand. It appeared to be acknowledged and accepted by at least some of the powers that be. But should anyone challenge my filling that position, it will mean polished nails at 40 paces.

While I don't pretend to be a professional consultant or the like, the fact that I travel from NJ to attend the sessions will attest to my dedication and ability to stay awake.

A short description of what I hope to introduce at the sessions follows. Informal discussion on any subject from 6PM to 8PM, formal discussion on a selected topic until 10PM and informal chat until everyone leaves.

Topics I'd like to talk about would be speech and voice, feminine thinking and attitudes, passing in public, dealing with loved ones and friends, and any subjects the group would like to tackle, but forget football.

So if you have a question concerning a pertinent topic, or an answer to a question, by all means show up. This means YOU! Let's make it work. See you the first Thursday in January... or I'll scratch your eyes out!!.

DECEMBER MEETING REPORT:

Jennifer [REDACTED]

Hey, HEY! Lots of good news this month!!!! Lets start out with old business. Elections last month were held off due to a clause in the Bylaws which states that elections will be held in January! So, we hope to see you at our January meeting to vote for our new officers.

Speaking of the December meeting, we had a record turnout of members and friends... TGIC was responsible for bringing about forty folk to the 145 Club, including: Winnie, Jennifer W., Jennifer G., Paul, Roberta, Sharon & wife, Marsha & wife, guests Abby & Barbara from NYC,

Barbara S., Shelley & friend, Tiffany, Monique, Rachael, Mercedes & friend, Vicki and her guest Elizabeth, Tammy & Sandy, Jessica, Frances Melody, Dane, Liz, Jan, Joan, Rose, Helen, Lisa, Kelly and Caitlin plus a few we were unable to remember so if that includes you... please forgive us.

Welcome to new members Caitlin, Adrian, Ann, (all of the Glens Falls area - did someone post a notice up there or something?) and Janet of Albany. Numerous other parties have inquired about our group lately, and we hope that the new year will find them joining our little family... (last reported to be pushing 90 members) soon.

Speaking of membership remember that dues (\$35.00 for regular members) are due by January 31 if you don't have the bucks, contact Dawn about arranging payments. If you joined in December you are current for 1990. TGIC is the most active club in NYS and one of the most active in the country, don't forget to renew and help keep our club growing!

JANUARY MEETING REPORT:

On January 13th we met at the partly redecorated 145 Club to hold elections. The officers, elected per the bylaws for three year terms included: President - Dawn C., Vice President - Winnie B., Secretary - Tiffany V., and Treasurer - Tammy C. All officers were unopposed and were elected by acclaim.

Plans are underway for a major event to be held in February 1991, tentatively called a Winter Wedding Weekend, this will be TGIC's version of such successful events as the Texas Tea Party, or Be All. The theme will revolve around a raffle for a fantasy wedding with the winner becoming the bride, complete with Gown, Bridesmaids (raffle runners up), limo service, full reception, the works. Tickets to enter the raffle will be made available to all TGIC members and published in many Gender Community Magazines. Look for more details in the next issue of TGIC NEWS.

Attending the January meeting were: Melody & friend, Helen F., Jennifer F., Barbara S., Rachael & her sister, Jennifer W., Tiffane, Dawn, Marsha, Paul, Heidi, Diana, Diane, Winnie, Frances, Kelly, Shelley, and Monique. Guests included, Angela S. and Charliss of Eon, Sheila of CD Network, and Darrin.

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TRANSPIRE - January / February

Jennifer [REDACTED]

NEW YORK'S BLACK HOLE:

Last edition you saw me confront the issue of the lack of functioning groups in the upstate area... well good news... a new group is forming in Rochester to be called CD Network. CD will be holding a dinner at their retreat (address not available) on March 2nd. Dinner Fee is \$25.00 and plans are underway to organize a show of support by attending this event. If you would like to attend, contact me.

Also, Angela [REDACTED] of Syracuse is founding a new group to pick up where EON has left off in Central NY. For information on this group contact you can meet with Angela at our January 13th meeting. She will be visiting with a number of the girls from Syracuse to see how a "REAL" group is run!

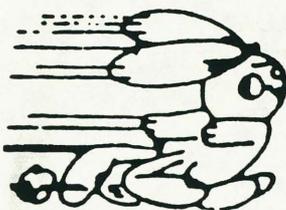
A busy girl lately, Angela has been doing presentations for medical and psychology students recently at both University of Buffalo, and Hamilton Colleges.

And yet a third new group has formed to serve the Mid Hudson valley area of Kingston, Poughkeepsie and surrounding villages. Tentatively called Transgenderist Network, TGN under the leadership of Alicia from New Paltz, has inquired about affiliating as a chapter of TGIC!!!! Late in November the "Middy" Girls held their organizational meeting, and due to advertising and the cooperation with the local mental health agency, drew 10 charter members.

Alicia advises me that anyone interested in attending this new group should contact: TG Network, PO Box 177, Tillson, NY 12486-0177, or phone her at 914-658-8091 prior to the January 19th meeting. Contact can also be made through the Ulster County Mental Health Organization.

To other clubs with whom TGIC exchanges Newsletters, please let us know about your upcoming events so possible interclub visits can be arranged to each others meetings and events. The strength all the clubs can be enhanced by a healthy crosspollination of ideas and visitations. As Merissa at Tapestry likes to say, we create a symbiotic synergism, a whole that is greater than all of its parts... we create a healthy environment for us all to live and grow in. When you get our newsletter, leave it somewhere where your members may read it. Spread it around, help put the word out. We'd especially like to hear from Crossroads Buffalo, LIFE, and Butterfly. Also, thank you to the Gathering in NYC for sharing their excellent newsletter with us.

BARBARA MASTROLANNI, L.P.N.
GINNY SMITH, C.P.E.



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Scientists 'lose' maleness gene

New York Times

Two years ago scientists thought they had found the gene that specifies that an embryo will develop into a male. But it now turns out to be a case of mistaken identity.

Dr. M.S. Palmer at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London and his colleagues reported that they had found some males who did not have the putative maleness gene.

Their report, published in the current issue of the British journal *Nature*, again raises the question of what genetic information determines "maleness."

The original report about the gene came from Dr. David Page and colleagues at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I literally feel like it's back in 1986 or 1987 again," Page said. "The sorts of questions we were thinking about then were now revisiting."

While there are few immediate practical applications for knowing which gene determines whether an embryo becomes a male, scientists have been intrigued with the issue for theoretical and philosophical reasons.

"Sex determination represents a sort of paragon," Page said. "It is perhaps the most obvious question in developmental biology. The organism has to choose between two fates: male or female. If we can understand how that choice is made, maybe we can understand how other organ systems are made as well."

To find the gene, researchers studied people who inherited only small portions of the Y chromosome, the rod of genetic material normally found in every male.

Males have one Y and one X chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes. So geneticists knew that the instructions that determine maleness must be somewhere on the Y chromosome.

Some males, by genetic accident, have two X chromosomes and a tiny portion of a Y.

LEG LOOKS



With hemlines on the rise, fashion has taken glamour to new heights! The basic-black evening dress now stops just above the knee, and leg baring is the new focus. This holiday, look for a new assortment of sheers for night featuring back seams, gold bows and rhinestone details. According to Mae K. Clarke, public-relations manager of Hanes Hosiery, Inc., "A little TLC each day will add many hours of enjoyment to your fine leg wear." A few tips: • To prevent snags when hand washing, remove jewelry and make certain that nails, hands and cuticles are smooth. • Wash-water temperature may be hot, cold or lukewarm—nylons can take it. • Never use bleach when washing hose. • If you prefer to accumulate hosiery and machine-wash once a week, invest in a nylon-mesh laundry bag with a drawstring—no zippers, please. • Whether you hand- or machine-wash, fluff panty hose back to original shape to hasten drying.



Lining tricks

Using a superfine liquid eyeliner, trace an even, barely there line, left as close to the lash line as possible, moving from the inner edge out. Soften the edges with a cotton swab, if necessary.

WHAT'S A BIG SISTER?

Now that we have started a big sister program, people keep asking me what a big sister is. Basically a big sister is one who will extend a little extra effort to make a new member feel welcome in TGIC. This can be done by taking the responsibility to introduce the little sister to the members, familiarizing them with the layout of the clubroom, and programs offered, socializing with them if desired on a more personal level, taking responsibility to contact them so they know of upcoming events meetings and outings and invite them to participate in such events. She is also the front line counselor and friend in the gender community for the new member.

Unfortunately with the number of new members coming into the club, we need more Big Sisters. A big sister should have been in the club at least 6 months, be a regular attendant at club functions and feel she knows a good number of the regular members. She must keep herself current on club events and services and have the time and willingness to try to inform and welcome newcomers. Not exactly an easy task. But one we all should consider. How about you?

ON THE TOWN:

This month, features the Waterworks 76 Central Avenue, Albany, NY. The Waterworks is predominantly a gay bar with a rustic decor. The long narrow building features a CD Juke Box kept busy during the half price happy hours (4-8PM daily) pumping out a wide variety of music from Patsy Kline through Niel Diamond on to Expose and the Jets. Happy hours on Friday and Saturday nights are hostessed by the lovely Carol a fixture on the Albany Gay and Crossdressers scene. The front finds lively action with the men and women on the regulation size pool table. While the central bar area has good talk and fun. The rear of the bar finds a small but well lighted dance floor which jumps to the sounds of DJ's spinning the latest in dance music blends on Friday and Saturday nights. Parking is convenient in the neighboring municipal parking lot.

The Waterworks welcomes crossdressers to come and "let their hair down" for an evening of fun. Special shows are held irregularly but in recent months are monthly occurances with the lively Beach Party (bikini optional) in November Christmas with Dolly (Parton - look alike) and Friends (Kenny Rogers and Mae West look alike) in December, and a Male Dance Revue in January. Check into the Waterworks and say HI to Carol.

COMING EVENTS:

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo - Picture a dozen men with painted faces daintly prancing about stage in costume and tutus as ballerinas and you have the world famous Ballet Trockadero!! Friday January 19 and Saturday 20th 1990. Tickets are \$10 and \$20 from the boxoffice at the Proctor's Theater in Schenectady.

Also, if you are feeling charitable, "Our Brother's Keepers Foundation" of groups supporting people with aids and their families has special seating available for a \$30.00 donation for the Saturday performance. A reception in the Mezzanine will follow the performance. Contact Linda at 456-4781 to make your donation.

This is a great opportunity for those so inclined to go out dressed and mingle with real society. BT has played all over the world and reportedly provides a very entertaining evening with their farcical presentations of major ballets!

Other coming events you may find interesting, include a show of Mariette Pathy Allen's photographs from her book "TRANSFORMATIONS" at the Simon Lowinsky Gallery, 584 Broadway, NYC from January 9 to February 28 1990. Mariette will also be available to sign her books at the ICP Bookstore Exhibit, 1130 Fifth Ave. NYC from January 23 to February 4, 1990.

Laura Micheals presents, "TG's - A Transvestite Lovers Fantasy" Featuring "the fabulous Gaylord - a man to be experienced" at the Annex 673 Hudson St, NYC January 18th 9PM call 212-989-5914 for information.

Also, your favorite NYC hangout Aphrodisiac at Speed Limit 55 has moved. Reportedly they moved due to the need for more space for bar, performances, dressing rooms and dance floor. Their new address is 1705 Broadway, between 53rd and 54th Streets. Ladies are free before 12AM. Call 212-223-1051 or 212-246-6759 for information.

Finally, Rage in Albany will be hosting an evening of drag as a fund raiser for AIDS on March 16th. Details are still sketchy, but among the notables will be the ever popular Hazel, and lovely Lauren Michaels. This should be a fun evening... so plan on attending!!

TRAVELS:

Field trips being considered for the upcoming months:

Renaissance Meeting in Philly February 17th. CD Dinner in Rochester February 2. Boston Trip to Jacques February 24th. If you are interested in making any of these trips contact Jennifer for details at 518-432-7092.

POLITICAL:

Recently there has been much talk with in the gender community and many other minority communities about Senate Bill 933. SB933 has been offered before the Senate to guarentee rights of the disabled in our country. An ammendment to the Bill offered up by a Senator from Colorado specifically precludes these rights to, Homosexuals, Alcoholics, Cumpulsive gamblers, child molesters, Transsexuals, Transvestites, and several other "undesireable" types of people. Not only would this bill preclude members of these groups from rights for treatment of their specific problems, but given how it is written, it

would also preclude any member of these groups from rights to be treated for any non related handicap.

Time is short on this one, we urge you to write your Senator and ask that s/he vote no on SB933 as ammended. This sort of discriminatory admendment is a danger not only to the people covered by the exclusions, but for our country as a whole.

ASK DR. RUTH - Dr. Ruth Westheimer

Q. Ten months ago I walked in on my boyfriend having an affair with himself and wearing women's lingerie. I had known him for more than a year and never suspected. He had been doing this since he was 6. And he has tried to make me think he feels very guilty about it, but I don't think he even wants to stop it. I think he is addicted to the feeling it gives him.

I have tried to understand and even went to the length of researching the problem, but could find no help. How can I get help in ending this problem, or at least in understanding it? This is important, as I hope to marry him some day.

A. I can't imagine what research you could have done, since you write as though you had been told nothing about transvestism. Before marrying this maan you definitely should talk to a psychologist specializing in this kind of behaviour - in hopes of understanding it.

I don't think there is much point in trying to "end this problem". But if you do love this man and want to marry him, you should know that you would be joining a great many wives who know their husbands do feel compelled to dress like women at times. It is not an addiction. It is a powerful psychic need, established a long time ago, even before he was 6.

Authorities agree that the majority of married transvestites are not homosexual. In fact the like women so much that they need to dress like them. I can't make you unnderstand that in so many words, which is why you must talk to a counselor or psychotherapist. Not for him but for you, to help you understand.

I would never suggest anything except that you try to understand, because these men do need women and their women do love them. But you should think the matter over thoroughly before committing yourself to marriage.

PERSONAL STORIES

TIFFANE:

I thought I would write a little bit to lett our family know what has been going on since I decided to go ahead with the change.

I went non-stop telling my family what I felt and what I was going to do. Let me tell you it went well. 95% told me that hey love me and would stand witth me in what I was going to do. The support they have been giving me is great. Now on the other side of it I have my father who is so-so about it and is trying to deal with it. He asks my

mother how I am doing and tells her that he still loves me. My two boys will not talk to me. They are young yet. I am hoping things will change sometime soon.

To show you some of the support I am getting, my older brother had some unkind words to say, well, my little brother who's nickname is Baby Bear (get the hint) jumps up in his face and said "I'll rip it off if you open your mouth again and say anything bad or against Tiffane's life change".

As far as telling my job, I thought was going well. I work in the medical field. The people I worked with had no problem with it until the nun's who run the place found out about me. They went looking for my head and got it. Out the door it went.

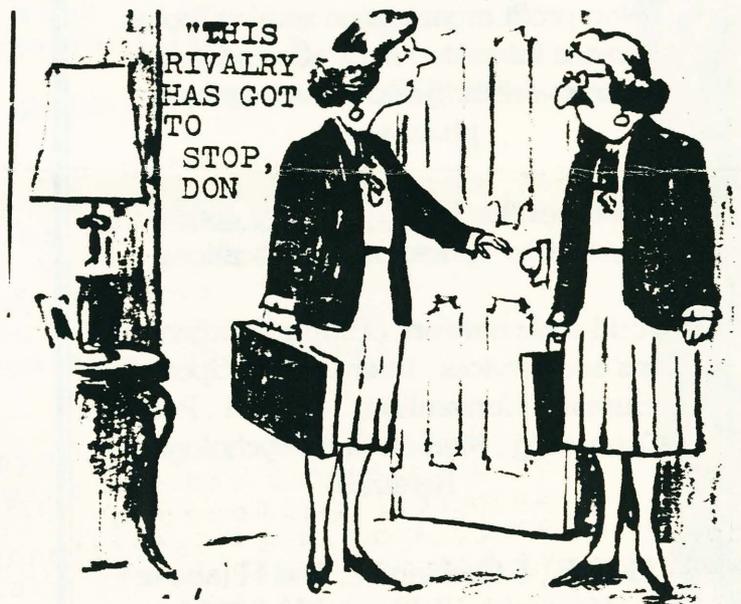
But to every cloud there is a silver lining. The place I now work at knew about me before they hired me. People I worked with told them I worked hard and what happened was not fair. They told me they were glad to have me and were looking forward to seeing my changes. Also they would help me if I had problems - I love it!

Now, as far as my program goes, I have been on estrogens almost four months and am doing very well. There are only two problems, tenderness of the breast (ouch to touch) and when I have to dress as a male I have to wear loose shirts. (I am showing too much - I love it!)

I am very happy now and hope these stories help those of you who are thinking of change.

Love & Hugs - Tiffane

THE FAR SIDE By **GARY LARSON**



CLASSIFIEDS:

TGIC News will accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any TGIC member, and for a fee of \$5.00 from any non-member for 3 inclusions. Classifieds may edited or rejected subject to decissions of the News committee.

OH Jennifer / TGIC Boutique - Now carrying the ITS A WIG! and Rene of Paris (by special order) lines of wigs available to Gender Club Members everywhere at 10% below retail. Call or Write for a catalog of these beautiful wigs! PO Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181 or 518-432-7092.

GIRLS LIKE US several members of TGIC are now taking bookings for parties in NY and NE. Services include DJing, Hostessing, and original Drag comedy and song. For information contact 518-432-7092.

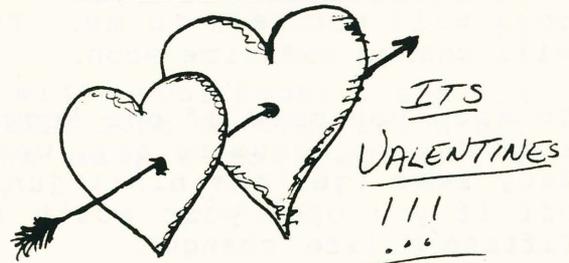
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