

TGIC NEWS - AUG/SEP 1993

A Publication of Transgenderist's Independence Club, Albany, NY

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]

The backlog of original material for our newsletters has been wiped out, and we are now dependent on current contributions, reprints from other sources, clippings, etc. This issue of TGIC News contains several articles from CROSS-TALK, a monthly magazine published by Kymberleigh [REDACTED] in California. Since changing to magazine format and easily-readable print with issue #39 in January '93, Cross-Talk has become one of the best publications of the gender community, on a par with the quarterly Tapestry, published by IFGE. In exchange for The Transgenderist, TGIC receives copies of both (as well as other CD publications), available for reading in the Club Room. If you are seriously interested in your exploration of gender, I can highly recommend personal subscriptions to both (see ads in this issue):

Cross-Talk, \$7/issue, \$48/year (12 issues)
Tapestry, \$12/issue, \$40/year (4 issues)

As I well know, a monthly publication consumes vast quantities of written material and much time for keyboarding (typing, for those not familiar with computer jargon). To relieve our problems, Kymberleigh has offered to exchange material on floppy disk, and I have gratefully accepted. The articles reprinted here were selected from Cross-Talk #42 by Tina. But TGIC needs to produce more original articles to keep the exchange alive.

All of you creative writers out there, get busy now! How about some fiction? - see Paul's guidelines in the May/June issue. Or, stories such as "What I did in Provincetown", "How I told my wife", "My first shopping trip while dressed", "How it all began when I was 5 years old". Serious opinion articles on the gender phenomenon and the direction of the gender movement would be most appreciated. Submissions in ASCII on a 5 1/4" DOS disk are preferred, but typed or hand-written pages are acceptable.

Contents

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED] ..... 1
DEAR SIBLINGS - Billie Jean [REDACTED] ..... 1
COGITO ERGO FEM - Anne [REDACTED] ..... 4
ROGER'S NOTEBOOK #73 - Roger E. Peo ..... 6
S.O. THERE! - Cynthia [REDACTED] ..... 7
ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... 9
CALENDAR ..... 10

DINNER PARTIES: We are planning to resume our Dinner Parties at the Northway Inn in the Fall, scheduling them on the second Saturday of each month to avoid conflict with the Tri-Ess Chapter LCL which meets in Schenectady on the third Saturday. So, mark September 11 on your calendar, and let's get a large turnout to kick off the Fall season.

For our second dinner party on October 9, we are planning to have Roger E. Peo, an active counselor on gender issues, as speaker. We may also have more on this special program, which will require pre-paid reservations. Watch for further details in our next newsletter.

Dues Reminder! If you see \*LAST\* printed on your mailing label, this means that your membership has expired and you will receive no further newsletters unless you pay your dues before the next mailing.

DEAR SIBLINGS - Billie Jean [REDACTED]

I am the transvestite, Billie Jean [REDACTED]. I am nearly invisible. I am not your "sister" or your "brother." When people look at me they tend to see either a man or a woman. Occasionally they see a male in a dress or a female in pants. Seldom, if ever, do they see "me." Instead, they see through my transvestic self and believe they see a male or female. They do not realize I am watching them through the cracks; that I know they

can't "see" me, the essential me that is always "inside" operating the levers of whatever construct I am operating.

Being invisible is a game I play with the rules. Most people play by the rules. That's why they can't see the game -- they don't know it's a game. The name of the game is either-or. It is a binary construct; a reality but not the truth. The rules go something like this: It is either this, or that. However, in virtually every known binarism, in every case of either-or, there exists an "other." An exception to the rule of either-or. Often this is stated as a "third," such as "The Third World," or "The Third Sex." Phrases such as these seemingly tend to confuse people who play by the rules of either-or. Especially when their educational source has not prepared them for the complexities of truth as opposed to the simplicity of reality. This is why most people who play by the rules believe there is only male and female and that masculine and feminine are synonyms for male and female; anything else is a "perversion." Not so.

Male and female are biological classifications, masculine and feminine are cultural classifications. Within the biological classification categories for Homo Sapiens, one finds two "other" classifications: True Hermaphrodite (very rare), and Pseudo-hermaphrodite (rare but not uncommon). One often finds that these "other" classifications are lumped into a single category -- hermaphrodite -- the "third sex." This is extremely unfortunate because pseudo-hermaphrodites, those without "equal" parts of male and female, constitute a very broad range of biologically mixed sex attributes -- but, there are not common words to describe what you call a *Fetally Androgenized Female* or a *DHT-Deficient Male* (to use only two examples). The biological facts are -- just the facts, ma'am -- that there are seventy (70) sex chromosome classifications in addition to XX (female) and XY (male). Further, sex chromosome combinations are only one part of a six-step process of sex differentiation all Homo Sapiens go through

(this subject is explored more thoroughly in issue #10 of my newsletter *TV Guise* -- which has been renamed *GenderFlex*).

When we get to the cultural classifications of gender, we arrive with no understanding of biology and are "taught" the "difference" between boys and girls, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, men and women. In other words, the truth of biology is "explained" (or covered up) by the "reality" of cultural rules of either-or. In large measure these rules are fabricated, taught, enforced and reinforced until we individually believe the rules of the game are the Truth. Not so.

It is easy to disprove the "truth" of sex equals gender. Any adept "transvestite" (crossdresser, transgenderist, drag queen, gender bender, male or female impersonator, etc., and not forgetting the transsexual) disproves sex = gender when they deconstruct one gender and construct another. Every person who has been mistaken for their "opposite" sex disproves sex = gender.

As long as Homo Sapiens wear clothing, gender presentation can tend to confuse biological classification (our entire clothed life is a drag). Since we live in a culture that is very gender-specific as regards clothing, decorations, mannerisms, and posture, it is quite easy to "change" genders. We can't "change" our sex (of which we may not be entirely sure of the degree of) as easily, and, in fact, can not do so "completely" (genetically), nor reverse years of biology (hormonal effect on brain and other tissues), nor easily reverse years of cultural conditioning. Transsexual passages do alter hormonal effects, and surgery(s) can provide anatomical "changes."

But that is not a point I want to dwell on here. I am a transvestite. Some times I am a male-man (biology + culture), sometimes I'm a male-woman (biology + culture). Other times I am what I am (whatever that is). I am not a "man in a dress" (culture + culture) when I am a

male-woman, neither am I a "woman in a suit" when I'm a male-man (nor is a female who crosses genders as a man).

The distinction is quite clear to me that biology and culture are different, and yet, when I read the various gender journals from around the country, more often than not the distinction is blurred. Writers who use phrases like "male behaviors" and "male way of doing things" are describing cultural attributes in limited biological terms. This distresses me because it perpetuates the same ignorance "crossdressers" claim they suffer from. If the so-called "heterosexual crossdresser" feels imprisoned by social rules (cultural roles), which the CD knows are not the truth by fact of deconstruction of the masculine and construction of the feminine, why do these CDs fail to use this knowledge and experience in use of language? Laziness? Ignorance? Bull-headed insistence on being "right?" Perhaps.

Whatever the individual reasons and rationalizations used to "defend" their inaccurate use of the language, a great deal of potential educational outreach is lost in addition to perpetuating the same stereotypical misunderstandings regarding sex and gender.

Let me characterize, in biological terms, some significant "female behaviors": Capable of producing ova (eggs), capable of conceiving and birthing a child; capable of producing milk after birthing a child; capable of menstruation; tends to walk with a wider arm swing to avoid hitting hips; generally sits too urinate; produces estrogen compounds on a monthly cycle. Some significant "male behaviors" in biological terms: Capable of producing sperm; capable of fertilizing ova; generally stands to urinate; tends to roll shoulders when walking; produces androgens on a daily cycle. When I read someone's writing describing "male behaviors" or "female behaviors," I tend to imagine biological behaviors. When I read about someone's "female clothes" being preferred to their "male clothes" I wonder if their clothing has got together and made "baby clothes" while in the closet. But it's not so funny

when I consider that sloppy use of language produces sloppy (mis)understandings, and most likely leads to atrophy of cognitive ability.

My comment on limited cognitive abilities comes from my belief that blurring distinctions does nothing to prevent mental atrophy; whereas coming to an understanding of distinctions, and coming to understand paradoxes such as male-woman (or female-man), exercises the mind, leads to expanded consciousness and increases cognitive abilities.

I am a transvestite. The reason I'm usually invisible is because people think they see me. Some people ask me: "Are you a boy or a girl." And I answer: "I'm both," because I don't usually have the time to explain what a male-woman is. And even if I did, they have no educational background to understand that sex is different from gender; that there are more sex classifications than male and female; more gender classifications than feminine and masculine; more flexibility in the universe than their rigid understanding allows.

Dear Siblings, if you all want to "pass" as women and not be "read" as a man, go ahead and keep the self-deception game going so you can be crushed by the culture when others recognize you have deceived them. Or, Dear Hearts, step into the light of day and take your right to fulfill your own unique potential you were born with -- stop trying to pour yourself like Jell-O into a mold. Become yourself not someone else, otherwise the rules of the game will remain the same.

And, the next time a sibling crossdresser tells you that you are not "acting" feminine enough as you sit sprawled on a chair in full crossed gender presentation, tell 'em this in your best *basso profundo*: "I'm a transvestite, can't you see?"

[Billie Jean █████ can be reached at █████ █████, Sacramento CA 95821. Copies of her newsletter, mentioned above, are \$2. Copyright 1992 Billie Jean █████. Reprinted from *Cross-Talk* #42]

COGITO ERGO FEM - Anne [REDACTED]

I could probably write the following statement anytime in the next decade or so and the controversy would still be raging: "\_\_\_\_\_ just doesn't describe what I am!" OH GOD, NOT ANOTHER "TERMS" ARGUMENT! OK, not another terms argument.

Recently I started seeing a therapist; there were some things that I was having difficulty resolving on my own and so sought professional help. Of course, the central problem revolved around gender identity. I had developed what I called the TV/TS spectrum and put myself in the TV domain. Then I noticed that sometimes I felt as though I belonged in the TS domain. And then those feelings would disappear. So then I came up with the notion of anchor points -- the place where one belongs -- and although there may be some fluctuation, under normal circumstances one always returned to the anchor point.

But I kept fluctuating over to the TS part of the spectrum. So I started to observe what was going on in my life that correlated to these shifts. The answer? Stress. Whenever life got stressful, Anne stepped forward to save the day. Several years ago, my job had me under a great deal of stress (although at the time I was not as aware of it as I ought to have been) which continued for over a year. During that time I became convinced that I was TS. I prayed, God answered. I was to have been a woman.

Then I was laid off. Pfftt! Back to being Mr. Odd. So I thought, "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!" It was then that I postulated the question, "Does stress create or reveal these feelings of womanhood?" And that is the question that had me stuck on a fence, and for which I was consulting a therapist. What I learned was: This is not a question that can be answered by logic. It must be answered by emotion. My answer was, "Stress reveals the underlying woman."

You will note that I have managed to avoid the use of the word "transsexual". And rightfully so, because "transsexual" doesn't describe what I am.

"OH NO, NOT ANOTHER GENDER COMMUNITY LEADER COMING OUT OF THE TS CLOSET, WHO WILL NO DOUBT TRASH US POOR INNOCENT TRANSVESTITES!?"

OK.

Actually, everything I have said regarding transvestism holds true. The recent change in the name of this column is more than just symbolic. But, back to our show.

Why don't I like the term "transsexual"? Well, it's because the word implies that there is something odd about and focuses on my sexuality, when in fact it wasn't my sexuality that was the problem, it was my psychology. I wasn't trying to decide who I wanted to f---, I was trying to figure out if I am a man or a woman. It was my heart that needed attention, not my ... ahem, you know. I don't acknowledge my transsexuality, I acknowledge my womanhood. And there is all the difference in the world.

But, is womanhood a clinical diagnosis? No. Is transsexualism? Yes. But then, it could be said that I have a psychosomatic discontinuity. The causes? Probably organic in nature. The cause is not particularly relevant in terms of deciding what to do with the rest of my life, but is in terms of understanding the condition, and gaining social tolerance.

It used to be you could call someone with seizures an epileptic (I used to be one). Now one says that the individual is suffering from a seizure disorder, or that they have had a tonic-clonic or absence episode. The terms haven't gotten simpler, but they sure have gotten more accurate. I think I'll tell people I have a mind/body disunity, and that the mind wants to achieve unity and so, at the very least I crossdress. At the most I undergo hormone therapy and have SRS. And there is some area in between.

In response to a letter in *Vox Populi*: No, transvestism and transsexualism are not mental disorders, but that does not mean that neither the TS nor the TV cannot find therapy useful. As was stated, society does not embrace us with open arms, and the perceived or real social rejection leads to

all sorts of mental problems including depression, anxiety, paranoia, thoughts of suicide and the list goes on. For these mental disorders psychotherapy is very beneficial and should not be dismissed out of hand.

A more pertinent question is this; My insurance through my employer specifically excludes transsexual surgery under the classification of elective, cosmetic surgery; now, for some people this may indeed be the case, but for others SRS may be as critical as open heart surgery for someone with severe cardiovascular blockage, however, is it? I think this is only answered on a case by case basis, and insofar as this is the case, transsexualism certainly belongs in the DSM.

I'm sure that my change in gender status will come as a surprise to some and not to others. Transsexuals always seemed to assume that I was one too. Although the term doesn't, as I said, describe what I am it seems to do so better than transvestite. Maybe they sensed something that I missed (or denied). I don't know, I thought it odd. In retrospect, looking back at more than twenty years of writing, the clues are there. As you know, some time ago I changed the name of this column to *Cogito Ergo Fem*

because I felt uncomfortable writing a column entitled *TAG, You're It ...* since the T in TAG stood for Transvestite and I was becoming aware that I was not that. I think that I am intelligent enough, and objective enough to be able to differentiate the concerns of both communities and be an articulate spokesperson for either camp; however, I choose to discontinue filling that role for the TV community as I think my credibility will be too easily challenged. Instead, I will simply write what about those things that concern us on a human level, focusing on the specific effects that they have on all transgendered people.

We are not one united community, and the sooner we recognize that, the better off every one will be. This is nothing new, and I have said it before. Each segment of the spectrum needs to have their own advocacy groups working for their interests, and on those issues that there is common ground and interest those disparate groups should work together. And women's rights is one area we all have a (trans)vested interest.

So, say a final goodbye to the old TAG and hello to the new and improved Anne [redacted]. [Reprinted from *Cross-Talk #42*]

WHY DO OUR SUBSCRIBERS CALL  
**CROSS-TALK**  
 THE GENDER COMMUNITY'S MOST USEFUL MAGAZINE?

NEWS & COMMENTARY ... READER LETTERS ...  
 ADVICE COLUMNS ON MAKEUP, FASHION, &  
 PASSING ... PROFESSIONAL & SIGNIFICANT  
 OTHER INSIGHTS ... CARTOONS & HUMOR ...  
 PUBLICATION & PRODUCT REVIEWS ... CLASSIC  
 "TRANVESTIA" REPRINTS ... HOTLINES, EVENTS  
 CALENDAR, READER PROFILES ... AND MORE !!!



FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF: SEND **\$7.00** FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

Make check or money order payable to Kymberleigh Richards, and mail to:  
 P.O. BOX 944, WOODLAND HILLS CA 91365. CA residents, add 8.25% tax.

CHOICES COUNSELING ASSOCIATES  
*Lesbian/Gay Affirmative*



ARLENE S. ISTAR, C.S.W., C.A.C.  
 MOONHAWK RIVER STONE, B.S., Ph.D. CAND.  
 (518) 439-9270

PAUL G. POSTIGLIONE, C.S.W.  
 (518) 462-5016

266 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054

## Second International Conference On Transgender Law And Employment Policy

9:00 a.m., Thursday, 26 August, through 1:00 p.m. Sunday, 29 August, 1993 in  
 Houston, Texas, USA. Contact Phyllis Frye, 5707 Firenza Street, Houston, TX 77035-5515  
 USA for brochure (send stamped [\$52 in U.S. postage] and self-addressed envelope).

UNDERSTANDING FEMALE-TO-MALE  
CROSSDRESSERS

In this column I will be writing about a minority within a minority -- the female-to-male crossdresser. There has been disagreement both in the gender and professional communities about whether there can be any behavior called female crossdressing. Among the arguments against such a phenomenon is the assertion that women (in our society) can wear any type of clothing they want, so crossdressing is a meaningless term for them. It has also been observed that few women have any kind of fetishistic behavior. Since fetishistic behavior is often strongly linked to crossdressing, this is supposed to "prove" that women can't be crossdressers, at least in the same sense as men.

To be precise, I define crossdressing as the wearing of clothing socially "reserved" for the other gender for sensual, erotic and/or social reasons. Sometimes a crossdressed person will strive to emulate the other gender well enough to be accepted in that gender role.

With that definition, some people would suggest that women who wear articles of masculine clothing and yet are obviously women are not crossdressers. The fallacy with such a statement is that we do not usually know the reason why the woman is wearing such clothing nor do we know if she is sensually or erotically aroused.

Often men link women's clothing with female sexuality and eroticism, but do not realize that women could have similar feelings about men's clothing. Just as the average woman does not understand why a man would want to become feminine, the average crossdresser can not understand why a woman would want to emulate masculinity. Also, the male-to-female crossdresser often dislikes his masculine costume and can't wait to shed it so it is hard for him to understand why such clothing might have sensual or erotic connections for a woman. (Most women do not experience

the clothing they normally wear as sexually exciting. Many women, given the choice, would not wear some of the clothing they are expected to wear.) Further, history has documented cases of women who successfully masqueraded as men. Generally their true sex was discovered only when they were injured or after death. It is speculated that the reason for the disguise was to permit them to engage in activities that were restricted to men. Of course it is possible that some of these women were transsexual or lesbian. Regardless, they were also crossdressers.

I have talked to and corresponded with female-to-male crossdressers. Except for a change in pronoun and the types of clothing preferred, the sentiments seem the same.

So, the female-to-male crossdresser does exist, probably in many fewer numbers than the male-to-female crossdresser. Why don't we hear more about them? Perhaps women's freedom to wear a wider variety of clothing may give some the latitude they need. However, I suspect a larger reason is that there is no place for them in the transgendered subculture.

Since the gender community is primarily a male environment is it possible that ignoring (or denying) the existence of women who crossdress is chauvinistic? In other words, crossdressing is a male phenomenon (even though they are imitating women) and women are not allowed to participate! This denial and the generally second-class citizenship of women can isolate the female-to-male crossdressers.

*[You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval. A copy of any reprint is requested. Reprinted from Cross-Talk #42]*

S.O. THERE! - Cynthia [REDACTED]

## THE "UPS" AND "DOWNS" OF A MARRIAGE

Dear Cynthia:

Just to tell you a little about us, we have been married for 20 years and we have two children, one a boy of 14, and the other is a girl of 6. Both of them did not know about Jane until maybe a month ago when one of my son's best friends walked in on (Jane) 50% dressed. Wanting to spare our son's feelings, we chose to tell him instead of him finding out from his best friend. Well, we sat down and told our son and gave him every book and article we could think of to help him. (He just sat there and didn't say anything.) It was so traumatic for both of us. Then he wanted to talk to another crossdresser other than his dad. So I talked to our outreach director from our club and he was more than willing to come over and talk to him. He did, and I think it helped a whole lot. I think he did this just to see if there were others out there like his dad and that his dad was not crazy.

Everything has been okay. He doesn't talk to us about it and we don't push him. We just do the same thing we have been doing when he did not know about it to show him that things have not changed. He did tell me though that at least he won't be lied to anymore and he will not hate his father. He also stated that he doesn't want to see (Jane), so we promised that would never happen. We will just have to go one step at a time and see what goes on. My six-year-old girl still doesn't know and we choose not to tell her. I feel she is just too young to understand.

Anyway, when we first got married, (Jane) was a heavy, abusive drinker. Later down the line when I found out about her crossdressing, I found that (Jane) was trying to suppress that side of herself, objected to it, and would not want to talk about it. She finally went to A.A. and has been sober for four years now.

I think that issue and getting rid of the drinking helped me to listen better about (Jane) and the whole issue of crossdressing. I've only been really supportive for about 7 months now so you could say (Jane) was in the closet for 20 years.

When we went to our first meeting, that is where I made my 180-degree turnaround. I just could not believe all the couples that were out there and had the same story to tell. And so many people that we met were loving and caring. They just all made you feel better about yourself and the situation you were in. It made you feel not alone anymore.

We have fun with it now. I'm not always positive about everything, but I hope that feelings will be behind me one of these days.

Everything has opened my eyes from saying "you're weird and crazy" to "there's nothing wrong with this." He's the same person I chose to love and marry 20 years ago. He's right underneath the makeup, high heels and wig. It's only the outside that changes. The heart and the person are still inside. That's where it makes you feel a little bit better about it all. And I found it helps to have correspondence with the other crossdressers and their wives. That helps a lot. It is people like that, that are so caring, that they care enough to take time to sit down and write to you and talk about everything that has happened since their findings.

And the biggest thing I really found in (Jane) is that there is more loving and understanding about my feelings than there has ever been before in the 20 years of our marriage, and that is a good feeling.

*Always, Nancy*

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for your letter. It's always gratifying to hear from someone that has gone through the "downs" and is now going through the "ups" in their marriage. As

Linda/Jim told me before we got married, "you will never be bored." That was quite an understatement!

It is always a hard decision to make regarding telling the children. We have found, however, IF you do decide to tell them, the earlier the better. After they start puberty they usually have enough new problems of their own, without adding this to them.

We have been married thirty-five years in January, and it has been a relationship I wouldn't take a million dollars for. We've had our problems too, throughout the years, but because we have always been able to communicate, we've always come out on the "up" side of the experience.

Love, Cynthia

[Cynthia ██████ may be reached at ██████ or by writing P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163. Reprinted from Cross-Talk #42]

Cross Dressers Transgenderists Transsexuals

## Come and Find What Others Have Found!

*"This conference helped me see how wonderful and beautiful life can be. I came here feeling alone and empty. Now I am leaving filled, educated, and the happiest that I have ever been in my entire life!"\**

**Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Stanley Biber, World Renowned Sex Reassignment Surgeon**

**More than 75 Hours of Seminars Dealing with Gender Issues.**

**Dozens of Activities and Entertainments.**

**Scores of Nationally Known Speakers & Guests.**

**September 29th - October 3rd, 1993**

## THE 1993 SOUTHERN COMFORT CONVENTION

For Information: P. O. Box 33296,  
Decatur, GA 30033 or (404) 603-9426

*\*Quote from previous Southern Comfort Convention Participant*

## THE TV-TS Tapestry

*the journal for persons interested in crossdressing & transsexualism*

150+ pages of informative articles by peers and professionals with updated listings on conventions, hotlines, counseling groups, medical and psychological referrals, and other helping professionals.

All for \$12.00 an issue. Save \$\$\$ with a subscription at \$40.00 for four issues (\$55.00 first class) and then you can submit a personal listing of your own as well as take advantage of *Tapestry's* mail-forwarding service. Send check or money order payable to I.F.G.E. to:

IFGE  
P.O. Box 367  
Wayland, MA 01778  
(617) 894-8340

International Foundation  
for Gender Education

### TGIC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Winnie B.
Vice President	Joan H.
Secretary	Joyce W.
Treasurer	Winnie B.
Director	Tina A.
Director	Ed H.
Director	Paul K.
Director	Sue M.

### TGIC PUBLICATIONS

Transgenderists Independence Club (TGIC), PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, Phone (518) 436-4513, is a nonprofit, educational, social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transexuals and their friends.

### The Transgenderist

Bimonthly (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) to Members, Subscribers, prospective new members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Devoted to TGIC self-help and outreach to others, with original articles by Club members and local news of significant interest outside of our membership. Club business and other matters are limited to updates.

### TGIC News

Bimonthly (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) to Members, Subscribers and prospective new members. Devoted to TGIC business and inreach from others, containing Club business matters, local news of little interest outside of our membership, selected reprints and other outside items such as clippings and cartoons.

### TGIC MEMBERSHIP DUES

General Member	\$40/yr
Couples	\$45/yr
Key Club / large closet	\$40/mo
Key Club / small closet	\$30/mo
Key Club / attic storage	\$15/mo

All the above categories include a one-year subscription to both TGIC News and The Transgenderist, mailed First Class.

### Subscriptions:

The Transgenderist, 6 issues: \$25  
TGIC News, 6 issues: \$25  
Single copies of either: \$5 each

Copyright 1993 TGIC

No part of any TGIC publication may be reproduced without prior permission from the publisher.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POLICY:** Short announcements and advertisements from Club Members are published free for two consecutive months (once each in TGIC News and The Transgenderist), unless cancelled by the originator or a specific request to continue is made.

### IMAGE CONSULTING SERVICES

A friend of the gender community and frequent contributor to *Tapestry* has recently moved back to New York City. *Mary Lynne* (formerly JoLynne) offers image consulting, counseling and guided visualizations to help people become more aware of their inner female energy. The message on her voice mail box gives a synopsis of her services & costs.

Call [REDACTED] or write to:

Mary Lynne [REDACTED]

New York, NY 10025

### THERAPY GROUP FOR M-F TRANSSEXUALS

A new group to assist transgendered men in developing a healthy, proud, affirming identity as a M to F transsexual, facilitated by *Moonhawk River Stone*, will begin meeting at the offices of:

#### CHOICES COUNSELING ASSOCIATES

266 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054

**FIRST SESSION: Wednesday, August 11, 8-9:30 pm**

**NEXT SESSIONS:** 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, 8-9:30 pm

Sliding scale fee \$25-\$40 per session will be charged. Flyers with more information are available in the Club Room, or write to TGIC.

### THE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The *Gender Identity Center of Colorado* is sponsoring an important book and documentary photograph exhibit about transsexuals, to replace the damaging mythology surrounding transsexuals with real-life stories. The project is coordinated by *Barbara Millman*, an accomplished photographer and friend of our community. *The Transformation Project* is national in scope, will take two years to complete, and is asking for your support through a tax-deductible contribution. See the article and form in the *Jul/Aug* newsletter.

### HBIGDA STANDARDS OF CARE SURVEY

Since 1979, the Standards of Care of the *Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc.* (HBIGDA) have served as minimal guidelines for the hormonal and surgical sex reassignment of persons with gender dysphoria. They are the only such standards in existence, and are widely accepted by professionals around the world.

*American Educational Gender Information Service* (AEGIS) is conducting a survey of the Standards of Care in order to provide HBIGDA with feedback from transgendered persons, and plan to present initial results at the HBIGDA conference in October, 1993. Questionnaires are available in the Club Room, or by writing to TGIC. All transgendered persons are urged to participate and respond to AEGIS by **September 15**.

### MILITARY LAW QUESTIONNAIRE

If you have ever served in the armed forces, please participate in this study of crossdressers in the military, even if you did *not* cross dress while in service. Pick up a questionnaire in the Club Room or ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

### ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked. (NYS Health Department) **Albany Area:** (518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

## Health officials warn Thai men about dangers of enlarging penis

BANGKOK (Reuter) Public health officials in northern Thailand have warned men not to seek the help of charlatans to enlarge their penises.

Dozens of men are receiving medical treatment in northern provinces after quack doctors injected their organs with a mixture of olive oil and chalk powder to increase their size, a senior health official in the northern city of Chiangmai said Thursday.

So far three men have had to have their penises amputated to avoid life-threatening infections after such injections, the official said.

Dr. Thongchai Termprasit, head of the Chiangmai provincial health office, was quoted by The Bangkok Post as saying that men should be satisfied with what they have and avoid such unorthodox measures, which can cause cancer. **7/24/93**

## CALENDAR

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 - 10:30 pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the Central Ave. night spots after the meetings.

### AUGUST 1993

Aug 5 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Aug 12 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Aug 19 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Aug 26 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

### SEPTEMBER 1993

Sep 2 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Sep 9 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Sep 11 Saturday, 8 pm  
*Dinner Party, Northway Inn*  
Sep 16 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Sep 23 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Sep 30 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Oct 7 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Oct 9 *Special Party, Northway Inn*  
*Speaker: Roger Peo*

*Tawny's Boutique*

CATERING TO TV, TS AND CD'S

- \* clothing
- \* makeup
- \* special request orders taken
- \* confidential service
- \* helpful understanding staff
- \* great fashion & makeup tips

CALL OR SEND FOR YOUR FREE CATALOG  
Tawny's Boutique  
P.O. Box 169  
Hagaman, NY 12086  
(518) 843-8761

ALL CATALOGS ARE SENT IN PLAIN COVERS

## MAJOR COMING EVENTS

Contact TGIC for more information. Some registration brochures are available in the Club Room

Aug 26-29 *Second International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy*, Houston, TX  
Sep 16-19 *Paradise in the Poconos*  
9/29-10/3 *Southern Comfort*, Atlanta, GA  
Oct 15-25 *Fantasia Fair*, Provincetown  
Oct 28-31 *Fall Harvest Weekend*, Kansas City, MO  
Nov 10-14 *Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme - Hollywood Extravaganza*, Burbank, CA

## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"You know, it was supposed to be just a story about a little kid and a wolf ... but off and on, I've been dressing up as a grandmother ever since."