
❖ THE TRANSGENDERIST ❖

JULY, 1996

DENNIS RODMAN: BASKETBALL GREAT BREAKS FREE OF GENDER RESTRICTIONS

By Monica Moorehead and Leslie Feinberg

"I paint my fingernails. I color my hair. I sometimes wear women's clothes."

So writes Dennis Rodman, the greatest rebounder in basketball history, in his number-one best seller, "Bad as I Wanna Be."

Many thousands--possibly even millions--of people of every sexuality in this country cross-dress some of the time or all of the time. Unrelenting oppression has largely driven this self-expression underground.

But the rise of the transgender-liberation movement has opened up space for people to start coming forward about who they really are. In turn, Rodman's bold assertion can only empower others.

Rodman is courageous as a defensive player with the Chicago Bulls on the courts and as a human being. At his premier book signing he wore a sleek silver tank top, matching makeup and a fuschia boa.

When he appeared the next day on Oprah Winfrey's TV show, the audience was packed with youths sporting colorful hairstyles similar to his.

Some sports writers immediately accused Rodman of a "publicity stunt," comparable to the racist Howard Stern's. Stern may or may not be a cross-dresser in private. But his public stance--like the burlesque drag acts by ruling-class white men in the elite Bohemian Grove club--is mocking and cruel.

Dennis Rodman, already a target of racism, ire and innuendo, had nothing to gain by coming out proudly as a cross-dresser. He's open about the fact that his gender expression is not new.

He explains in his book: "As a kid I would sometimes dress as a girl. You play house, you play doctor--everybody does that, but some people like it more than others. I used to go through the whole routine--dress up, wear makeup, act like a girl."

Reaction from bigots ranged from barely concealed baiting to out-and-out foaming at the mouth. Some fumed in the press that Rodman's transgender expression is a "distraction." Madison Square Garden President Dave Checketts raged: "When I saw the pictures of him showing up on the motorcycle with the makeup job, I just couldn't believe this is what it has come to. I guarantee you that as long as I'm running the New York Knicks, he will not be on this club."

Unfortunately for Checketts, Rodman's self-expression didn't distract the Bulls from trouncing the Knicks in this year's playoffs.

Bulls Coach Phil Jackson remarked that Rodman has "reached a heart space with other members of the team I'd never anticipated.

"Dennis has been a real blessing for us, because he's like a

heyoka." Jackson explained that among the Lakota people a heyoka "was a cross-dresser, a unique person ... respected because he brought a reality change when you saw him."

A PRINCIPLED STAND

Vast evidence proves that ancient cooperative societies on every continent respected transgender expression. Today, apologists for capitalism harumph about the right to individualism. Yet while Rodman's labor on the courts brings mega-bucks to the Bulls' owners and the industry as a whole, his unique sense of style and flair--from his hair hues to his tattoos--has drawn the wrath of basketball owners, officials and commentators.

Rodman doesn't identify as gay or bisexual. But he has taken a principled stand in support of full rights for lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals--including athletes. For this, right wingers in Texas once painted an anti-gay epithet on his truck's windshield and slashed its tires.

But that hasn't daunted Rodman. At a recent interview he wore a T-shirt that read "I don't mind straight people as long as they act gay in public." In his book, Rodman writes: "To hang out in a

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Man's World, Woman's World? Brain Studies Point to Differences

By GINA [REDACTED]

Dr. RONALD MUNSON, a philosopher of science at the University of Missouri, was elated when *Good Housekeeping* magazine considered publishing an excerpt from the latest of the novels he writes on the side. The magazine eventually decided not to publish the piece, but Dr. Munson was much consoled by a letter from an editor telling him that she liked the book, which is written from a woman's point of view, and could hardly believe a man had written it.

It is a popular notion: that men and women are so intrinsically different that they literally live in different worlds, unable to understand each other's perspectives fully. There is a male brain and a female brain, a male way of thinking and a female way. But only now are scientists in a position to address whether the notion is true.

The question of brain differences between the sexes is a sensitive and controversial field of inquiry. It has been smirched by unjustifiable interpretations of data, including claims that women are less intelligent because their brains are smaller than those of men. It has been sullied by overinterpretations of data, like the claims that women are genetically less able to do everyday mathematics because men, on average, are slightly better at mentally rotating three dimensional objects in space.

But over the years, with a large body of animal studies and studies of humans that include psychological tests, anatomical studies, and, increasingly, brain scans, researchers are consistently finding that the brains of the two sexes are subtly but significantly different.

Now, researchers have a new noninvasive method, functional magnetic resonance imaging, for studying the live human brain at work. With it, one group recently detected certain apparent differences in the way men's and women's brains function while they are thinking. While stressing extreme caution in drawing conclusions from the data, scientists say nonetheless that the groundwork was being laid for determining what the differences really mean.

"What it means is that we finally have the tools at hand to begin answering these questions," said Dr. Sally Shaywitz, a behavioral scientist at the Yale University School of Medicine. But she cautioned: "We have to be very, very careful. It behooves us to understand that we've just begun."

The most striking evidence that the brains of men and women function differently came from a recent study by Dr. Shaywitz and her husband, Dr. Bennett Shaywitz, a neurologist, who is also at the Yale medical school. The Shaywitzes and their colleagues used functional magnetic resonance imaging to watch brains in action as 19 men and 19 women read nonsense words and determined whether they rhymed.

In a paper, published in the Feb. 16 issue of *Nature*, the Shaywitzes reported that the subjects did equally well at the task, but the men and women used different areas of their

brains. The men used just a small area on the left side of the brain, next to Broca's area, which is near the temple. Broca's area has long been thought to be associated with speech. The women used this area as well as an area on the right side of the brain. This was the first clear evidence that men and women can use their brains differently while they are thinking.

Another recent study, by Dr. Ruben C. Gur, the director of the brain behavior laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and his colleagues, used magnetic resonance imaging to look at the metabolic activity of the brains of 37 young men and 24 young women when they were at rest, not consciously thinking of anything.

In the study, published in the Jan. 27 issue of the journal *Science*, the investigators found that for the most part, the brains of men and women at rest were indistinguishable from each other. But there was one difference, found in a brain structure called the limbic system that regulates emotions. Men, on average, had higher brain activity in the more ancient and primitive regions of the limbic system, the parts that are more involved with action. Women, on average, had more activity in the newer and more complex parts of the limbic system, which are involved in symbolic actions.

Dr. Gur explained the distinction: "If a dog is angry and jumps and bites, that's an action. If he is angry and bares his fangs and growls, that's more symbolic."

Dr. Sandra Witelson, a neuroscientist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, has focused on brain anatomy, studying people with terminal cancers that do not involve the brain. The patients have agreed to participate in neurological and psychological tests and then to allow Dr. Witelson and her colleagues to examine their brains after they die, to look for relationships between brain structures and functions. So far she has studied 90 brains.

Several years ago, Dr. Witelson reported that women have a larger corpus callosum, the tangle of fibers that run down the center of the brain and enable the two hemispheres to communicate. In addition, she said, she found that a region in the right side of the brain that corresponds to the region women used in the reading study by the Shaywitzes was larger in women than in men.

Most recently, Dr. Witelson discovered, by painstakingly counting brain cells, that although men have larger brains than women, women have about 11 percent more neurons. These extra nerve cells are densely packed in two of the six layers of the cerebral cortex, the outer shell of the brain, in areas at the level of the temple, behind the eye. These are regions used for understanding language and for recognizing melodies and the tones in speech. Although the sample was

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(Brain-Continued from page 2)

small, five men and four women, "the results are very, very clear," Dr. Witelson said.

Going along with the studies of brain anatomy and activity are a large body of psychological studies showing that men and women have different mental abilities. Psychologists have consistently shown that men, on average, are slightly better than women at spatial tasks, like visualizing figures rotated in three dimensions, and women, on average, are slightly better at verbal tasks.

Dr. Gur and his colleagues recently looked at how well men and women can distinguish emotions on someone else's face. Both men and women were equally adept at noticing when someone else was happy, Dr. Gur found. And women had no trouble telling if a man or a woman was sad. But men were different. They were as sensitive as women in deciding if a man's face was sad - giving correct responses 90 percent of the time. But they were correct about 70 percent of the time in deciding if women were sad; the women were correct 90 percent of the time.

"A woman's face had to be really sad for men to see it," Dr. Gur said. "The subtle expressions went right by them."

Studies in laboratory animals also find differences between male and female brains. In rats, for example, male brains are three to seven times larger than female brains in a specific area, the preoptic nucleus, and this difference is controlled by sex hormones that bathe rats when they are fetuses.

"The potential existence of structural sex differences in human brains is almost predicted from the work in other animals," said Dr. Roger Gorski, a professor of anatomy and cell biology at the University of California in Los Angeles. "I think it's a really fundamental concept and I'm sure, without proof, that it applies to our brains."

But the question is, if there are these differences, what do they mean? Dr. Gorski and others are wary about drawing conclusions. "What happens is that people overinterpret these things," Dr. Gorski said. "The brain is very complicated, and even in animals that we've studied for many years, we don't really know the function of many brain areas."

This is exemplified, Dr. Gorski said, in his own work on differences in rat brains. Fifteen years ago, he and his colleagues discovered that males have a comparatively huge preoptic nucleus and that the area in females is tiny. But Dr. Gorski added: "We've been studying this nucleus for 15 years, and we still don't know what it does. The most likely explanation is that it has to do with sexual behavior, but it is very, very difficult to study. These regions are very small and they are interconnected with other things." Moreover, he said, "nothing like it has been shown in humans."

And, with the exception of the work by the Shaywitzes, all other findings of differences in the brains or mental abilities of men and women have also found that there is an amazing degree of overlap. "There is so much overlap that if you take any individual man and woman, they might show differences in the opposite direction" from the statistical findings, Dr. Gorski said.

Dr. Munson, the philosopher of science, said that with the findings so far, "we still can't tell whether the experiences are different" when men and women think. "All we can tell is that the brain processes are different," he said, adding that "there is no

Archimedean point on which you can stand, outside of experience, and say the two are the same. It reminds me of the people who show what the world looks like through a multiplicity of lenses and say, 'This is what the fly sees.' " But, Dr. Munson added, "We don't know what the fly sees." All we know, he explained, is what we see looking through those lenses.

Some researchers, however, say that the science is at least showing the way to answering the ancient mind-body problem, as applied to the cognitive worlds of men and women.

Dr. Norman Krasnegor, who directs the human learning and behavior branch at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, said the difference that science made was that when philosophers talked about mind, they "always were saying, 'We've got this black box.' " But now, he said, "we don't have a black box; now we are beginning to get to its operations."

Dr. Gur said science was the best hope for discovering whether men and women inhabited different worlds. It is not possible to answer that question simply by asking people to describe what they perceive, Dr. Gur said, because

"We all live in our different worlds and our worlds depend on our brains."

"when you talk and ask questions, you are talking to the very small portion of the brain that is capable of talking." If investigators ask people to tell them what they are thinking, "that may or may not be closely related to what was taking place" in the brain, Dr. Gur said.

On the other hand, he said, scientists have discovered that what primates perceive depends on how their brains function. Some neurons fire only in response to lines that are oriented at particular angles, while others seem to recognize faces. The world may well be what the philosopher Descartes said it was, an embodiment of the workings of the human mind, Dr. Gur said. "Descartes said that we are creating our world," he said. "But there is a world out there that we can't know."

Dr. Gur said that at this point he would hesitate to baldly proclaim that men and women inhabit different worlds. "I'd say that science might be leading us in that direction," he said, but before he commits himself he would like to see more definite differences in the way men's and women's brains function and to know more about what the differences mean.

Dr. Witelson cautioned that "at this point, it is a very big leap to go from any of the structural or organizational differences that were demonstrated to the cognitive differences that were demonstrated." She explained that "all you have is two sets of differences, and whether one is the basis of the other has not been shown." But she added, "One can speculate."

Dr. Witelson emphasized that in speculating she was "making a very big leap," but she noted that "we all live in our different worlds and our worlds depend on our brains."

"And," she said, "if these sex differences in the brain, with 'if' in big capital letters, do have cognitive consequences, and it would be hard to believe there would be none, then it is possible that there is a genuine difference in the kinds of things that men and women perceive and how these things are integrated. To that extent it may be possible that in some respects there is less of an easy

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cognitive or emotional communication between the sexes as a group because our brains may be wired differently."

The Shaywitzes said they were reluctant even to speculate from the data at hand. But, they said, they think that the deep philosophical questions about the perceptual worlds of men and women can eventually be resolved by science.

"It is a truism that men and women are different," Dr. Bennett Shaywitz said. "What I think we can do now is to take what is essentially folklore and place it in the context of science. There is a real scientific method available to answer some of these questions."

Dr. Sally Shaywitz added: "I think we've taken a qualitative leap forward in our ability to ask questions." But, she said, "the field is simply too young to have provided more than a very intriguing appetizer." Copyright 1995 The New York Times

Rodman (Continued from page 1)

gay bar or put on a sequined halter top makes me feel like a total person and not just a one-dimensional man.

"It seems that people feel threatened when an athlete does something that is not considered manly. It's like they've crossed over some imaginary line that nobody thinks should be crossed."

Rodman noted, "The NBA image of a man is the one they put out on the commercials, with guys smiling and waving to the crowd. ... Isn't there room for some other kind of player out there? Some other kind of man?"

"I want to challenge people's image of what an athlete is supposed to be. I like bringing out the feminine side of Dennis Rodman."

BARE-KNUCKLE BALL AND PAINTED NAILS

Rodman grew up in the impoverished Oak Cliff projects in Dallas. At age 19 he was homeless. He pushed a mop at night as an airport janitor for \$6.50 an hour. He battled virulent racism at Southeastern Oklahoma University.

Rodman hadn't played a minute of basketball before he turned 21. He arrived at the NBA as little-known second-round draft choice. And then he turned rebounding--one of the least favorite chores in basketball--into a science. And an art.

Whenever the basketball leaves a player's hands, Rodman begins calculating angle, arc and trajectory of its flight. When that ball bounces off the rim, he has positioned himself to snatch it mid-air. He does it like nobody's ever done it before.

That's how Rodman helps secure victories for his team without ever having to personally score a point.

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ACLU Submits Statement Before House Anti-Gay Marriage Hearing; Says Legislation is Unnecessary, Unprecedented and Unconstitutional

WASHINGTON -- The American Civil Liberties submitted statement today before a House subcommittee hearing on a bill that would outlaw marriages between lesbian and gay couples, calling the bill "a deplorable act of hostility unworthy of the United States Congress."

"For more than 200 years, Congress has left the business of granting marriage licenses to the states," said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "That tradition should not be disturbed. This bill throws it on the trash heap for no reason other than to belittle the relationships of lesbian and gay citizens."

The Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee held hearings Wednesday to consider a bill introduced last week that would deny recognition of future marriages between same-sex couples by redefining marriage in Federal law as a "legal union between one man and one woman."

That would have the effect of treating legally married gay couples as strangers under all Federal laws and programs, from Medicaid through the tax code.

A second provision of the bill would attempt to carve a "gay exception" to the Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause by allowing states to ignore same-sex marriages performed in any other state. That clause guarantees that the rights of people in one state will be honored by the other states. Congress has invoked its power to say what effect other state laws have on only four occasions -- and only when it sought to promote uniformity among the states.

That provision explicitly applies to judgments of state courts, including divorce, inheritance and commercial judgements which take account of marriage, the ACLU said. To that extent, it is an "unmistakable violation of the Constitution," said Coles in the statement submitted jointly with Laura W. Murphy, Director of the ACLU's Washington National Office.

"The United States Supreme Court has ruled again and again that the Full Faith and Credit Clause obligates every state to respect the judgements of other states, including judgements of divorce," they added.

The ACLU also attacked the same provision as "very bad policy." "This is one nation," the statement continued. "It does not make sense to say to Americans that the existence of their marriages depends on which states they travel through on vacation, or which states their employer transfers them to

Americans have a right to go from state to state, and giving up one's most central, most intimate relationship should not be the price of exercising it."

The bill, entitled the "Defense of Marriage Act," was drafted in close association with radical conservative groups who have sought to elevate the marriage issue into presidential politics. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate last Wednesday. The issue over same-sex marriages have been raised in response to a Hawaii Supreme Court ruling in May 1993 that the denial of marriage licenses to three lesbian and gay couples may violate the state's Equal Rights Amendment. The Justices sent the case back to the trial court, to decide if the state can prove a "compelling state interest," in denying marriage to same sex couples. The case will go to trial in August later this year, and a final decision from the state supreme court is not expected until 1997.

"To hang out in a gay bar or put on a sequined halter top makes me feel like a total person and not just a one-dimensional man."

CONSERVATIVES, GAYS AND THREATS TO THE FAMILY

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE May 16, 1996

COMMENTARY

By Stephen Chapman.

Okay, conservatives have changed my mind. Allowing gay marriage, I have been persuaded, will destroy the family, weaken Western civilization, turn America into Sodom and Gomorrah, increase the trade deficit with Japan, endanger the family farm and promote tooth decay. The impeccable logic of conservative opponents is simply too powerful to deny.

They have done us the service of noting that permitting gays to wed would violate the age-old conception of marriage and radically alter the most vital institution in our society. Besides, as they point out, it conflicts with clear biblical admonitions. Leviticus 20:13, for example, says: "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them." So by all means, let's ban it.

But once we have banned gay marriage, there is plenty of other work to be done. Of course, those troublemaking homosexuals are busy 24 hours a day trying to wreck the American way of life. But they amount to only a tiny percentage of the population, which means they can only do so much damage. Some of our moral and social decline, I am compelled to admit, must be lamed on . . . heterosexuals.

Yes, when you look around at the troubles plaguing the American family, you notice the surprising fact that most of them have nothing to do with homosexuals. Take the best-known ailment, namely the proliferation of births to unmarried women. These, from all appearances, are the direct result of male-female liaisons that once were confined to the marital bed. Say what you will about homosexuals, they produce very few illegitimate children.

Nor, since they are not allowed to marry, can they be held responsible for another epidemic social problem: divorce and broken families. This plague likewise is confined to the straight portion of the population. So barring gay marriage will apparently do nothing to cure it.

Family breakup has consequences for all of us. Kids whose parents split up are more prone than others to fall into poverty, drop out of school, suffer poor health, commit crimes, smoke cigarettes and bear children out of wedlock than kids from intact families. Similar problems afflict children whose parents never married in the first place.

Now, we hear lots of ideas on how to discourage family dissolution and out-of-wedlock births: Overhaul the welfare system, get rid of no-fault divorce, create new tax breaks for families with children, clean up television, abolish sex education and so on.

But all this merely avoids the obvious. What we really need to do is outlaw sex outside of marriage and outlaw divorce, preferably with death by stoning for violations. Absolutely no one should be allowed to do anything that might produce a baby until they enter into marriage, and no one who enters into marriage

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Transgenderist's Independence Club
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Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC) is a nonprofit, educational, non-sexual social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

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The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to **Jeena@AOL.COM**. The article should be part of the contents of the e-mail. If you must attach a file please save it in ASCII or another universal form. Another special thanks to **Callan** for submission of articles for this month's newsletter.

Rodman (Continued from page 4)

He has raised basketball to a new level of excitement, the way offensive players Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan did when they entered the league. Yet although Rodman won his fifth rebound title this year, the coaches denied him a spot on the NBA All-Stars team. Bulls coach Jackson and fellow team members denounced this outrage.

Only unabashed bigotry could deny Dennis Rodman his rightful place in NBA hall of fame. But he deserves tribute for off-court valor as well.

He makes no bones about his cross-dressing: "If I want to wear a dress, I'll wear a dress.

"After years of struggling with my identity--who I was, who I was going to be--I've become totally confident about being who I am. I can go out to a salon and have my nails painted pink, and then go out and play in the NBA, on national television, with pink nails.

"When I cross-dress now, it's just another way I can show all the sides of Dennis Rodman. I'm giving you the whole package. I'm becoming the all-purpose person. I'm like the running back that can break one to the outside and also go over the middle to catch a pass."

- END

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should be allowed to escape it. Voila! No more illegitimate births and no more children of divorce.

Conservatives should be especially attracted to this proposal. For centuries, sex outside the bounds of marriage was treated as a grave sin and even a crime. A young man who impregnated someone could expect to get a visit from her shotgun-toting dad, who would try to persuade him to make the mother-to-be an honest woman. The book of Leviticus prescribed a simple punishment for adultery: death. I can see Pat Robertson nodding in approval right now.

As for divorce, marriage has always been conceived as a bargain you could get out of only if you were willing to make the sacrifice of dying first. The law used to make divorce hard to get. By making it easy, we've given our endorsement to something that was previously thought of as deeply immoral, just like gay unions.

By enacting these tough new laws, we would be upholding centuries of tradition. We would also be undoing a radical change that has already been made in the institution of marriage. Today, no one needs to get married to engage in sexual relations, and couples don't have to stay married once they wed. If we're not too squeamish, though, we can put America back on the straight and narrow.

Unfortunately, I'm afraid conservatives will not rally around my idea. For one thing, it would be embarrassing to conservative political figures such as Newt Gingrich, Ronald Reagan, Phil Gramm and Bob Dole, each of whom is currently on his second wife. For another, it would not sit well with legions of conservative citizens, who either have already resorted to premarital sex, adultery or divorce or prefer to keep their options open.

Heterosexuals are prepared for great sacrifices to uphold morality and preserve the traditional family, just as long as someone else makes them. And isn't that fair? They threw the party, so let gays pay the bill.



"We're all sisters under the makeup."

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"I've never said this to a woman before, but here goes: We're not paying you enough."

RANDOM THOUGHTS #14

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

**“To some a punishment,
to many a gift,
To others a favor.”**

- Seneca

“I’ve gone through this twice with her now.” The goodly natured woman removing the hairs on my face was saying. She was speaking about a mutual friend. Two weeks before I had ask her if she had heard anything about Daisy. Daisy had moved to Florida two years ago to start a new life with her fiancé, marry, and - she hoped - become a mom. The woman confided that she had: Daisy was ill, wasn’t doing well and in a home where she had care around the clock. She was too weak to return home, and her family was going to Florida to be with her.

The woman went on to say that she went to school with the person who became Daisy. Hesitantly, she confessed that she had a crush on that person in school - but to no avail. They became friends and she watched helplessly as harassment drove him from the area, to Florida where he tried unsuccessfully to live as a gay male. When he returned, years later, he did so at the encouragement of his family. He did so explaining that he was a woman and was going to start to explore transsexualism. He became Daisy. The woman mourned for the loss of the person she knew, whatever dreams she may have had, but supported Daisy’s decision in word and deed.

When I met Daisy, she lived around the corner from me. At the time, I was learning to accept myself as transsexual and had just landed my first full time job as a woman. I saw her waiting for the bus mornings as I walked to work. The slightest hint of stubble poked through her otherwise flawless makeup giving the skilled eye just enough clue as to her state. Over the course of months we grew to be friends - not close - but

voyagers on the same ship so to speak. We couldn’t have come from more different worlds. She had always been well... Daisy, even as a male. She adored Marilyn Monroe, and show tunes, pill boxes, marijuana (when appropriate), cats, and... children - she cherished her nieces and any other children. She had an easy-going style about her that spoke of a natural femininity that I envied. She was an immaculate housekeeper and someone who remembered the important, little things - like birthdays. I, on the other hand, had grown up in a white, heterosexual world, married, fathered children and tried to deny what I felt inside. She respected my ability to be frank about my situation, deal with adversity and fend for myself without coming off as masculine.

Some in our community didn’t like Daisy, and because of this, she, like so many other transsexual women, didn’t take part in community activities. I never understood the source of the squabble nor did I care to understand. To me, she was a woman, and had a woman’s life. I enjoyed seeing someone who was successful in just being a woman instead of trying to be one.

The year after I met her we went out together for New Year’s eve. It was memorable for me because it was the last time I went out in what could only be called “drag” and I felt conspicuous. Daisy was her normal self and looked great. That night she met Tom.

Daisy had confided in me before that she had tested positive for HIV. Although she had no outward signs of AIDS, she was concerned that she would be unable to fulfill her dream of having reassignment surgery to make her functionally a woman. She asked about clinics that perform the

surgery - if any accepted HIV+ patients. I indicated that I knew of none and, mindful of the alarming number of false test results, urged her to get retested. Reportedly the retest came back negative and before long she and Tom were planning to move to Florida where she would undergo surgery, marry Tom, and hopefully adopt a child.

Every Christmas Daisy would call and chat. We exchanged cards at other times of the year. Although she eventually broke up with Tom, to hear her tell, things were going well. When she came north to visit her family she'd call but somehow we were never able to meet. I wish we had found time to get together again. Although I wondered, over the years, why she never completed her surgery, I never suspected that she was still HIV+ or that she had developed full blown AIDS.

Daisy died at 7:30 P.M. Sunday, June 2, 1996 in New Port St. Ritchie, Florida. She died from complications derived of AIDS. She was 38. Her body was cremated and her ashes spread in the Gulf of Mexico per her request. Although she never realized her deepest wish, she was every bit the woman she felt she should have been by birth. Life will go on without Daisy, as it will when we each meet our time. The goodly natured woman will again mourn for the person she has lost, and I... I'll miss her deeply.

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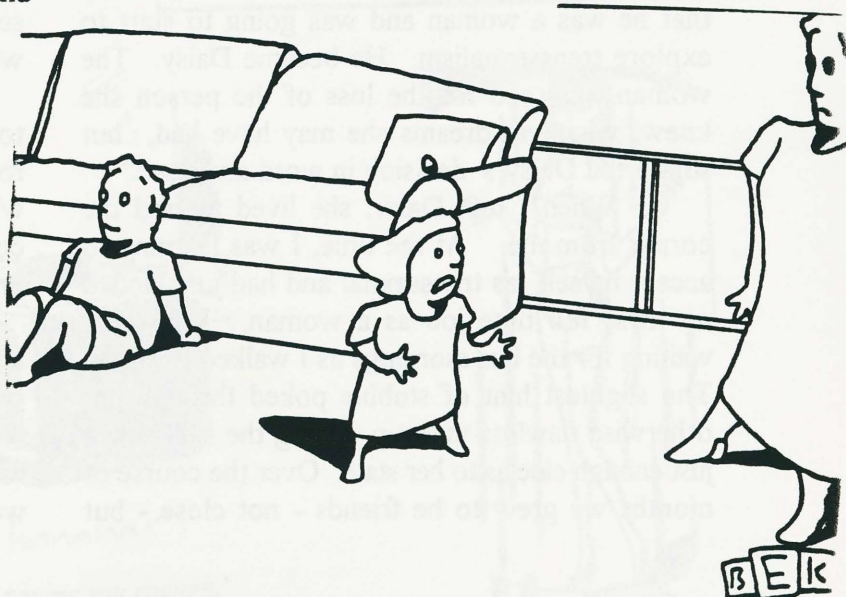
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"Why does he always get to be the boy?"

Second National Gender Lobbying Day Set

GenderPAC, the new national political organization dedicated to "gender, affectional and racial equality" has announced the 2nd National Gender Lobbying Day to be held on Monday and Tuesday, May 5-6, 1997 in Washington, DC.

Last year's Lobbying Day on October 2-3 drew over 100 activists to Capitol Hill to lobby for gender rights issues, including trans- inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Bill (ENDA) and the Hate Crimes Statistic Act (HCSA), as well as issues around trans health care and the treatment of transpeople in the military.

In over 2 days of intense lobbying, activists called on the offices of nearly every one of the 503 Senators and Representatives.

Changes from the 1st Lobby Day

NGLD was originally planned for October once again. However, it became apparent that most members of Congress would be in their home states, working on re-election. After consultation with community leaders, as well as several Congressional offices, the dates were moved to May 5 & 6, 1997.

In another break with the 1st Lobby Day but in keeping with GenderPAC's commitment to "gender, affectional and racial equality," lobbyists will be asked to focus on ENDA and HCSA, but also on issues of women's rights, gay rights and marriage, and the increasing tide of racial intolerance in the US. Although this is an aggressive agenda to ask of activists, it nonetheless reflects GenderPAC's mission, and its understanding that these are shared, linked oppressions.

Everyone Welcome

Said Alison Laing, acting co-Chair of GenderPAC: "This is a chance for anyone concerned with gender, affectional or racial equality to show up in Washington and have their voices heard. We welcome all people to participate, to let the incoming Congress know that we are not going away, that no American is free until *all* of us have our rights."

Dana Priesing, Washington DC lobbyist for GenderPAC, declared "Based on my recent visits to Capitol Hill, it's clear that we made an real impression in 1995. Telling our stories humanized us; it made them see us as real people instead of tabloid television subjects. This time we'll be returning with a focused, polished and more professional approach, identifying the bills and the language important to us and working to educate everyone with whom we come in contact." [END]



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(413) 499-5858



The legendary Barbara at last month's TGIC meeting.

Callan hams it up after hours at JD's



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess holds monthly Saturday meetings at a motel in Schenectady. The planned schedule is: July 20, Aug 17, Sept. 21.

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is \$25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:

IFGE (617) 899-2212

PO Box 229

Waltham, MA 02154-0229

The I.F.G.E. has now started, in co-operation with D B Associates, the publishing of a monthly version of Transgender Tapestry to be placed FREE on the internet. You can find this new version of the community's largest TG Publication at...

<http://www.tiac.net/users/dba/ifge/ifge.htm>

This magazine will be updated every month and will also shortly carry the I.F.G.E.'s entire line of books and advertisers.

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.

Albany NY Area: TGIC-On-line

All transgendered people in the Albany NY area are invited to join TGIC On-Line, a very informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC) an over 30 year old organization for TG people. TGIC meets every Thursday night at a private clubroom in Albany, and then many go out to The Playhouse on Central Avenue at about 10PM. Messages exchanged on TGIC-On-line focus on events of interest to transgendered people in a region from Lake Placid to Kingston. If you are interested in joining the network, or want more information about TGIC, drop a line to Gina at **Jeena@AOL.COM** (three e's)

CALENDAR

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 - 10pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise to 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 local night spots after the meetings.

JULY, 1996

(NS = No Smoking Meeting 2nd & 4th Thurs.)

July 4	No meeting
July 11	NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
July 18	Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
July 25	NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

For those wishing to continue theme nights:

July 11-Women in white: nurse night

July 18-Spandexfest

July 25-Come as your favorite Gabor.

On Thurs, July 25, Vanessa will be conducting a skin care and makeover at the clubhouse. Linda Catanzano, a Mary Kay representative will also be here for consultation. If you missed the last consultation, this is another opportunity for you.

AUGUST, 1996

(NS = No Smoking Meeting 2nd & 4th Thurs.)

August 1- Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
August 8- NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
August 15- Thursday Meeting 7:30 pm
August 22- NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
August 29- Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

July 3-7 TRANSGEN'96, Houston, TX
 July 24-28 S.P.I.C.E., Wilmington, DE
 Sept. 1-8 Dignity Cruise Vii, NYC to Bermuda
 Sept. 19-21 Paradise in the Poconos, Canadensis, PA
 Sept. 26-29 Southern Comfort, Atlanta, GA
 Oct. 20-27 Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA
 Nov. 6-9 Fall Harvest, St. Louis, MO
 Nov. 6-10 Tri-Ess Holiday en Femme, Chicago, IL
 1997- June 19-22- Second International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues- King of Prussia, PA. Guest Speaker: Kate Bornstein. Contact JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D., P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 Phone: 610-640-9449