

GENDERSERVE NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

Hamilton, Ontario

May, 1987

Editorial

1986 was a year of change in the transsexual support community. The first casualty was GGA, the Gateway Gender Alliance. Georgia [redacted] announced her retirement and the organization was taken over by Sharon [redacted] of the Windy City Chapter in Chicago. Georgia held the rights to the name GGA and Sharon had to change it to National Gender Alliance (NGA).

Another casualty was TVIC Albany. This group had been run for many years by Wilma [redacted], who also decided that the time for retirement had come. The group was taken over by a member in the Boston area, but soon folded.

A Canadian casualty occurred in Toronto at the end of the year. FACT Toronto had been plagued by dissention for almost a year and a dissatisfied group took over control and withdrew from FACT, renaming the organization Transition Toronto. This group has no connection with FACT at present.

Finally, the rumour got around that FACT itself had folded. This is not true. Susan Huxford, as Executive Director of FACT, had for years been urging that it was time that members of the organization took responsibility for running their own affairs. The Constitution had been suspended at the beginning of 1983 and Susan had run the Foundation single-handed for over three years, in spite of the fact that the terms of the suspension of the Constitution set out means by which it could be reinstated. These terms required twelve members to request the Executive Director to call an election of officers, provided that the twelve would themselves present a full slate of candidates. This was never done and Susan was left with the impression that she would have to

continue to run FACT until she dropped dead.

In February 1986 a birthday party was held by the then FACT Toronto in celebration of Susan's sixty-fifth birthday. The implications of this event apparently escaped everyone's notice. Susan intended to retire and devote her time to GenderServe and other professional activities. She therefore approached a number of responsible members with a view to reinstating the Constitution. Things moved very slowly until September and a meeting was eventually held in Toronto on Saturday, September 13, at which Susan handed in her resignation as Executive Director of FACT with effect from September 15. This proved to be just as well. Susan was overloaded with commitments and fell victim to a virus, the after effects of which affected her breathing for months. This has resulted in the virtual suspension of all activities in the GenderServe office since the beginning of last September. Since Easter it has been possible to start work again on a limited basis.

The reorganization committee of FACT is now in the last stages of its work. The Constitution has been revised and a provisional Board of Directors has taken office. Steps are being taken by the new officers to obtain incorporation in Ontario as the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals. Members of FACT are being notified by the new executive of these arrangements and efforts are being made to obtain a mailing address in Toronto. Mail addressed to FACT at P.O. Box 291, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3C8, will experience some delay, but will be forwarded to the new Executive Secretary. Susan Huxford will continue to serve FACT as Treasurer.

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Gender Review

Publication of Gender Review was suspended after the Summer, 1985, issue. Readers will have noted that, from time to time, the publication carried an advertisement for an Assistant Editor. Response was very poor and it was found to be impractical to have an editor in Ontario while the assistant was in California.

As reported overleaf, FACT has now been reorganized. The new Board of Directors has accepted the offer of Micheline [redacted] of Ottawa to serve as Editor and further issues will be published by her. GenderServe will in future have no responsibility for Gender Review. Subscribers who have outstanding balances may apply to GenderServe for a rebate if they wish otherwise their subscriptions will be honoured with future issues of the Review.

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GenderServe

GenderServe Counselling, Education and Research Services will continue to function, but on a limited schedule. A small fee will be charged for all services except initial enquiries. This is necessary in order to cover expenses; the business will remain a not-for-profit concern. Ms. Huxford will once again be available for lectures.

It is also intended to publish a newsletter whenever sufficient items have been collected. This is made possible as the result of having obtained a computer. The first two issues will be complimentary; thereafter a small subscription will be required to cover printing and postage.

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TV-TS Tapestry

The Editor of this publication has notified GenderServe that she is now nearly two months behind schedule

with the preparation of Issue No. 50. GenderServe has notified her that it will continue to distribute Tapestry as previously and that the small profit made will be divided between FACT and GenderServe, the latter using it to cover expenses.

Canadian readers are reminded that it is advantageous to subscribe through this office as advantage may be taken of dollar exchange rates. Former subscribers who have not received Issue No. 49 should be aware that their subscriptions have expired.

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International Foundation for Gender Education (I.F.G.E.)

Merissa reports that the first convention, which was held in Chicago between March 3-9, 1987, far exceeded her expectations. Attendance was close to 150, with over 30 organizations represented. She reports that most of the credit for this great success must go to Dr. Virginia Prince. Susan Huxford, who had been involved in drawing up the constitution for I.F.G.E., was unable to attend as a result of her illness.

Look out for further details in the next issue of Tapestry. A complete transcript and souvenir program of the convention may be reserved upon remitting \$10 U.S. to Convention Abstract, c/o P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778, U.S.A.

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Provincetown Spring Outing

The Tiffany Club cordially invites you to its seventh annual Provincetown Spring Outing at the elegant Boatslip Beach Club. Registration fee of \$100 U.S. should be remitted to the Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778, telephone (617) [redacted]

Information is available from GenderServe concerning a four-day CD weekend in Cleveland, Ohio.