

◆ THE TRANSGENDERIST ◆

JUNE, 1996

GINA'S COLUMN

Winnie has passed the hat to me this month to write something in place of her President's Column. The first thing that comes to mind is to acknowledge all of the wonderful

TGIC members that I have met in the two years I've been a member. I remember the first night I came to a meeting. I was not sure what I would find. I had been in the closet since childhood to everyone, including my wife, and now I was about to reveal myself to people I did not know. Despite my nervousness, I attended the meeting and by the end of the night I felt relieved, excited, and overwhelmed. Relieved that I met understanding people who were willing to help me understand what being Transgendered means, (a term I was unfamiliar with at the time). Excited because I would get a chance to explore my feminine side more often and hopefully grow as a whole person. Overwhelmed because I realized there was so much to learn. I borrowed books from the TGIC library and talked to everyone but most of all I listened, listened, listened.

Two years later I know that being transgendered is a special gift and I know that I do not have to wear women's clothing to express my femininity. I feel more comfortable expressing whatever emotion I have; whether it is considered masculine or feminine is really not the point.

I would encourage all those who may have been thinking about joining TGIC or have joined but have never come to meetings, to call or come by on meeting nights. You owe it to yourself to at least give it a try; you really have nothing to lose and your whole life to gain. Love to all,

Gina



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Study Links Brain to Transexuality

NATALIE ANGIER

(Reprinted from NY Times)

A structure deep within the brain, where the tangled roots of sexuality are thought to lie, differs substantially between ordinary men and transsexuals who have been surgically transformed from men into women, scientists have reported. The results raise the tantalizing possibility that transsexuals may in a sense be more female than females.

Researchers in the Netherlands have discovered that a small region of the hypothalamus, located at the floor of the brain, is about 50 percent larger in men than in women, and almost 60 percent larger in men than in male-to-female transsexuals.

The discovery is the first detection of a difference in transsexual brains, and it could at least partly explain why such individuals describe themselves as "women trapped in men's bodies."

The finding may also cast light on the larger issue of sexual identity, of what makes a person feel comfortable - or tormented - in the skin of a man or a woman.

Significantly, the region of the hypothalamus does not differ in size between gay and straight men, and so it cannot be said to play a role in male sexual orientation. Other recent studies have focused on identifying minor brain discrepancies between homosexual and heterosexual men, reporting in general that gay brains appeared comparatively feminine.

Such findings, which remain deeply contested, have troubled many people for the simple reason that gay men overwhelmingly think of themselves as men, not as abnormal women. But genetic men who undergo sex reassignment often claim that they felt like girls from early childhood on.

Dick Swaab of the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research in Amsterdam, who with his colleagues is reporting the work in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, emphasized that this section of the hypothalamus is by no means the entire source of sexual identity.

"I'm convinced this is only one structure of many that are involved in such a complex behavior," he said. "This is just the tip of the iceberg."

In addition, the study remains to be replicated by other researchers, which will not be easy. It was performed by dissecting the autopsied brains of transsexuals, homosexual men, heterosexual men and heterosexual women. Because transsexuality is rare, it took the scientists 11 years to collect six transsexual brains. But while the number of transsexual brains examined is small, Swaab said the results had scientific power because the discrepancies in size of the hypothalamic structure were quite large.

Others in the field agree with this assessment. "These are astonishing data," said Geert de Vries, a neurobiologist at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. "I wouldn't have put my money" on the differences being so large.

The specific region under study is called the central subdivision of the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis.

Research in rats and other laboratory animals indicates that this part of the hypothalamus helps coordinate sexual behavior and the release of essential reproductive hormones. Male rats with lesions in the bed nucleus must work harder than healthy rats to ejaculate, requiring multiple mounts and attempts at intercourse.

But Marc Breedlove of the University of California at Berkeley, who wrote an editorial that accompanies the new report, said that the function of the bed nucleus in human behavior, sexual or otherwise, remained "a complete black box."

In heterosexual and homosexual men, the bed nucleus measures about 2.6 cubic millimeters, about the size of the colorful, spherical head of a pushpin. In women it averages 1.73 cubic millimeters, and in transsexuals the average figure is 1.3. If smallness of dimensions is at all correlated with the feeling of being a woman, then transsexuals may have that feeling strongly.

Some scientists cautioned that the estrogen treatment the transsexuals took as part of their sex-change therapy may have affected the size of the hypothalamus; but the Dutch researchers tried to rule out that factor by including brains of transsexuals who had stopped estrogen years earlier, as well the brains of men and women with varying hormonal conditions.

In no case did the size of the bed nucleus appear to be influenced by adult hormone levels.

The researchers are now trying to collect autopsied brains from women who were surgically changed to men - a considerably less common type of transsexuality than male-to-female - to see if their hypothalamic regions are of masculine dimensions.

Some scientists remain guarded about the meaning of the latest work, as do people in the increasingly activist "transgendered" community, which includes transsexuals and those born with conditions like hermaphroditism, in which both male and female sexual organs are present.

"I think that these studies have a very poor history of reproducibility, and that they're undertaken with a particular social agenda," said Cheryl Chase, editor of *Hermaphrodites With Attitude*, the newsletter of the Intersex Society of North America.

But Dr. Joy Diane Shaffer, director of the Seahorse Medical Clinic in San Jose, Calif., and herself a transsexual, said the results jibe with those that she and her colleagues were gathering, using a very different approach to brain analysis.

They are using magnetic resonance imaging technology to scan the brains of hundreds of living people, including heterosexuals of both sexes and transsexuals of both directions.

gender as an adult are so great, that you'd expect people who make the role switch to be substantially transgendered" in the brain, said Dr. Shaffer.

She estimates that there are perhaps 10,000 male-to-female transsexuals in the United States. Many more might become so if they could afford it, she added, and in fact transsexuals often do seem to be among the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

There are a number of famous transsexuals, including the tennis player Rene Richards, the model Tula and the writer Jan Morris. Transsexual sexuality is diverse, with some preferring male partners, and others choosing women as lovers.

Swaab proposes that the sexual variances in the size of the bed nucleus arise during fetal development, and thus are essentially built in.

"The social pressure to conform to the role of birth assignment is so strong...."

But Roger Gorski, a neurobiologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, said the possibility could not be ruled out that the changes in the hypothalamus occurred after birth, perhaps as a result of one's behavior while growing up, or even during the sensitive period

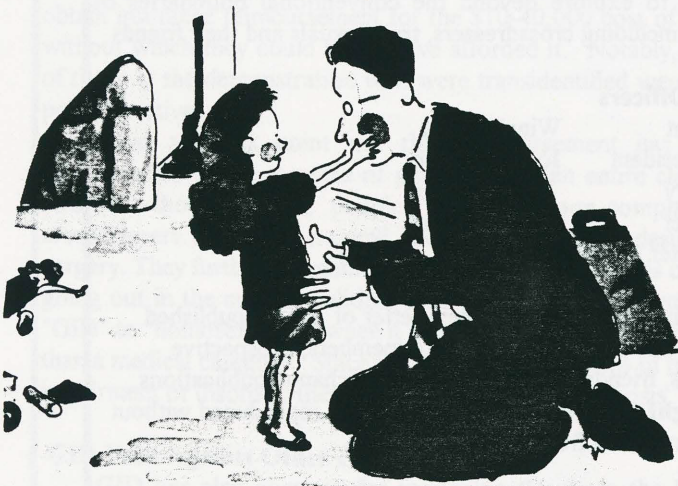
early in adolescence when a surge in sex hormones flooded the brain. Copyright 1995 The New York Times

VANESSA'S JOURNAL

I am absolutely floating on air and wanted you to be the first to know. This morning I joined Mary Kay as a Skin Care and Beauty Consultant. This news, while exciting in its own right, must be supplemented by a description of the circumstances under which this occurred so that you can understand the part about floating. Every month the Long Island Mary Kay directors and consultants, as all directors and consultants do throughout the country, meet one Saturday morning for breakfast, training, recognition, and networking. I was invited by my friend, **Linda Catanzano**, a Mary Kay Sales Director. Linda gave a skin care class at the club last month. I was so excited I hardly slept that evening. As a measure of the importance which I placed upon this meeting, I arrived exactly on time. This timeliness on the part of an incurable procrastinator is rare. I thoroughly enjoyed a full morning of fun and information shared with about 100 women. We sat at tables for ten and engaged in pleasant conversation. These meetings put a lot of emphasis on recognition of the accomplishments of the ladies. Even coming to a meeting as a guest, as I did, merited recognition. Guests stood up and were applauded. Since I elected to become a Consultant then and there, I received special recognition for being a new Consultant. I was invited to come to the podium to announce my name. There I received the new consultant's gold leaf on a gold chain necklace. Linda put it around my neck and accompanied me as I walked across the dais as the roomful of ladies cheered wildly. Actually, it was probably a normal level of applause, but for me it sounded like the thunder of Niagara Falls. Oh, I should mention that purely by coincidence I decided to wear a pink suit for the occasion. Pink, of course, is the identifying color for Mary Kay products and for the Cadillacs. Several women took note and complimented me on my selection. I learned from my attendance at this meeting how Mary Kay empowers women. They can be successful at a business while having a great time and helping others to have healthier, better-looking and better-feeling skin, not to mention increasing the glamour component. The guest speaker, Diane Shaeffer from Allentown, PA, said some things that surprised me. On the subject of makeup, apparently many women don't know the first thing about it and sort of randomly wander through department stores grabbing up this and that brand from the lovely dolled-up ladies. Sound familiar ladies? I can relate to that. Through it all, I was perfectly at home and felt just like one of the girls. It was simply great. You must do it. All the thanks goes to Linda for having faith in me and being wonderfully supportive and encouraging.

Linda and I will be making a return trip to Albany in June.

Vanessa [redacted] < [redacted] > P.O. Box 2165
Setauket, NY 11733



Shanaha

"I love you, too, Daddy, but it just kills me that you're a man."

TGIC THEME NIGHTS

To improve attendance and morale, TGIC will be having theme nights. It is not required to dress for the theme, but think of the fun! Your participation is appreciated.

- May 30 Luscious Leathers: Motorcycle Mamas (STARS MC Weekend)
- June 6 Prom Night: A New Beginning
- June 13 Bastille Day: Chanel or Bust!
- June 20 Black Pearls & Hip Replacements: Liz Taylor
- June 27: Always A Bridesmaid . . .
- July 4 * Miss Firecracker '96 (No official meeting but feel free to come to the club room)
- July 11 Women In White: Nurse Night
- July 18 Spandexfest!
- July 25 Come as Your Favorite Gabor
- August 1 Coffee Tea or Me?: Flight Attendants To Go
- August 8 A (Donna) Summer Night: Disco Time
- August 15 Sunset with Kathie Lee: Cocktails in Southampton
- August 22 Monaco Casino: A Tribute To Princess Stephanie
- August 29 Wigstock North! (Wigstock Weekend)
- September 5 Back To School-Girl
- September 12 Trailer Park Tits: WhiteTrash Nite
- September 17 Pearls & Cotton: Barbara Bush Night (Bea Arthur-OK)
- September 19 Alpine Breezes: Drindl Night
- September 26 Belles Are Ringing: A Little Southern Comfort
- October 1 Flannel Time: Dykes 'R Us
- October 7 Melons & Salami: Gina [redacted] Night



Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration in *The Transgenderist*. You may e-mail the articles to Jeeena@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 form. It will be unreadable if you save it in your own word processing format. You may also bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Many of the articles printed in this month's newsletter were submitted by **Callan [redacted]**. Special thanks to her for news and views from all over the world.

PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs. 8-10 PM)

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.

TGIC Officers

- President Winnie [redacted]
- Vice President Joan [redacted]
- Secretary Joyce [redacted]
- Treasurer Winnie [redacted]
- Newsletter Editor Gina [redacted] (acting)

The *Transgenderist* is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Copyright 1996 TGIC. No part may be reproduced without prior permission from the originator.

TGIC General Membership Dues: \$40/yr.

TRANSACTIVISTS PROTEST APA - CALL FOR END TO "GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER" [May 5, 1996 - New York City]

This afternoon over a dozen gender activists from the queer community, Transsexual Menace (CT), Transsexual Menace (NY), Transsexual Menace (Men), and TOPS, demonstrated outside the annual meeting of American Psychiatric Association and called for an end to diagnosing transpeople as mentally disordered. The diagnostic category of "Gender Identity Disorder" (GID, also known as "gender dysphoria") is routinely applied to anyone seeking sex reassignment surgery (SRS).

Activists handed out over 1,000 leaflets [text follows]. Others held up signs saying "Keep Your Laws OFF My Body" and "Gender Euphoria NOT Gender Dysphoria." The demonstration continued for several hours while attendees arrived, many of whom stopped to chat with demonstrators. Some seemed shocked at the sight of so many black "Transsexual Menace" T-shirts outside the convention hall, while others were amused, intrigued or supportive.

NY State Police had initially sought to move demonstrators from their site in front of the Jacob Javits Center where the Convention was held. They relented only when several members of TOPS, the national organization for trans peace officers, including Deputy Sheriff Tonye Barreto-Neto and Lt. Janet Aiello, showed their badges and identified themselves as fellow officers. They patiently explained why they were there and negotiated for half an hour, after which Police allowed demonstrators to stay. One trooper privately explained to demonstrators that he wanted to be supportive, having done papers on transsexuality in college.

Dissension Over GID Within TransCommunity

In spite of the demonstration, removing GID as a psychiatric diagnosis has been a source of continuing dispute within the transcommunity. The diagnosis has enabled many transsexuals to obtain insurance reimbursement for the \$10-40,000 cost of SRS, without which they could never have afforded it. Notably, most of those at the demonstration who were transidentified were also post-operative.

Other activists point out this reimbursement has been accomplished at the expense of pathologizing an entire class of tens of thousands of people, including non-complaining crossdressers and transgendered people who have no desire for surgery. They further maintain the tide on reimbursement is clearly going out in the current political climate. Some have compared "GID" to "homosexuality" when it was a disorder: more a political than a medical category. Since they show no symptoms of mental impairment or disorder, they state they resent the diagnosis.

GID Used Against Other GenderQueers

GID has also come under increasing fire from the larger queer community, which has noted its use in obtaining "corrective treatment" for non-complaining gender-variant children as young as 2-4, as well as against "butchy" teenage lesbians and "nelly" teenage gayboys whose parents simply fear the stigma of queer offspring.

This has led some to seek a compromise strategy which, while removing GID as a mental disorder, would retain some medical basis for reimbursement. They point out intersexed "corrective" [sic] surgery is routinely reimbursed without question, although it is often exclusively and openly cosmetic. In addition, they note that childbirth is also reimbursed but is not a disease or a disorder.

Queer Shrinks To Consider GID

Dr. Wynelle Snow, MD, a psychiatrist and member of Transsexual Menace (CT), and Riki Anne Wilchins of Transsexual Menace (NYC) met with members of the Association of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Psychiatrists during the convention, to air transgender concerns and seek the association's support. The AGLBP will be taking up the issues in its upcoming meetings. In addition, Dr. Snow is formally requesting the group change its name to include "Transgender."

Contact: Wynelle Snow MD, WynelleSnow@mem.po.com
Riki Anne Wilchins, Riki@Pipeline.Com

FLASH!

APA Discovers New Disorder:

*** GenderPatho-Philia ***

"an unnatural need to pathologize any gender behavior that feels different, unfamiliar or uncomfortable"

Did you know: the APA supports pathologizing gender behavior in infants, adolescents. Butch girls & nelly boys have even been put on locked wards?

Did you know: "gender identity disorder" is used to treat uncomplaining children as young as 2 or 3 years of age? If your boy plays with dolls or your girl with trucks, you can get them "corrective treatment."

Did you know: If you're a woman who enjoys wearing pants, you're "normal," but if you're a man who likes to wear a dress, you suffer from a "disorder?" Has the APA ever heard the word "patriarchy?"

Did you know: transpeople are routinely turned down for health and disability coverage because they must answer Yes when asked "Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental illness?"

HEY APA!

Get Your Laws Off Our Bodies

We're not quiet.

We're not well-behaved.

And we're not going away.

The Transsexual Menace: Just your average group of guys in dresses and women in pants with poor impulse control.

CAMPUS RAPE PREVENTION PROGRAM TARGETS MEN'S RESTROOMS

The Ohio State University Rape Education and Prevention Program (REPP) has launched a new awareness campaign targeting male students - not in classrooms or residence halls, but in men's restrooms. Several hundred rubber urinal screens will be deposited in urinals across campus this spring, custom printed with the message, "You hold the power to stop rape in your hand."

Michael Scarce, Coordinator of REPP, described the mats as "both functional and socially conscious, with a twist of humor." The campaign is the latest attempt to reach male students who are traditionally resistant to attending REPP's other workshops and programs. "If our goal is to prevent rape on campus, we need to begin with the source - the people who are committing the majority of rapes. The intent is not to single men out, but to implement a variety of innovative marketing campaigns that reach different student populations on campus," said Scarce. The urinal screens encourage men to think about the various things they can do with their penises - to urinate, to engage in sexual behavior, or as a weapon in the case of sexual assault. This conveys the message that rape is an act of violence, not sex, even though "sexual" body parts might be involved.

Founded in 1983, the Rape Education and Prevention Program (REPP) is part of Women Student Services in the Ohio State University's Office of Student Life. REPP implements rape awareness and risk reduction initiatives in the OSU campus community.

Infidelity Is Still On The 'A' List Of Social Ills

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE Thursday, April 18, 1996
By Eric Zorn

When it comes to being an enemy of family values, marriage, children and stable communities, it's hard to top that old favorite activity, adultery. Infidelity is the most prevalent cause of divorce, according to a 1994, cross-cultural University of Michigan survey funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. And divorces, about a million of them a year in the U.S., have a way of being particularly rough on families, particularly kids. The "Janus Report on Sexual Behavior," published in 1993 and based on a survey of nearly 3,000 Americans, showed that 35 percent of married men and 26 percent of married women reported having had affairs. The figure for women was identical to the result obtained by sex researcher Alfred Kinsey some 40 years earlier, though 15 percentage points lower than Kinsey's estimate for male cheaters--50 percent. No wonder country music is so popular.

Given all this, you would suppose that those serious about using the force of law to reinforce the family would be focusing on endemic adultery--starting the War on Hanky-Panky, demanding the appointment of a Monkey Business Czar, calling for random morals testing. So far, though, state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), has taken the boldest step. She has written a legislative amendment that not only upgrades adultery from a misdemeanor offense that is never enforced to a felony punishable by up to 3 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, but that also calls for the creation and maintenance of local registries for paroled adulterers, similar to the registries maintained for paroled child molesters. Feigenholtz calls it "the Scarlet Letter amendment" and said she will attempt to tack it onto the bill now moving through the General Assembly to ban same-sex marriages. She argues that if that bill's supporters are as

enuinely concerned about families as they claim, they ought to be enthusiastic about her crackdown on infidelity.

After all, it's a fair guess that the heterosexual philandering that occurs in one single day in the United States does more actual harm to innocent youths and to the institutions of marriage and the family than has every single long-term homosexual relationship in the history of the world.

This is Feigenholtz's point. The amendment she will submit is a bluff, an attempt to jerk the chains of Republican legislators and conservative pro-family groups for the blatant and gratuitous gay-bashing behind the prohibition.

"This is an in-your-face move," Feigenholtz explained. "These people know there is no need for their bill, that it's simply about platitudes and about (the) November (election). If they're not total hypocrites about family values, they'll take action against adultery: That's what fractures families.

That's what puts extra kids into (the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services). That's what's a moral offense against marriage."

Her foes probably won't take the bait. The Republican majority can and no doubt will bury the amendment in committee without debate, recognizing that most Americans have come to regard their private, consensual sexual behavior as none of the government's business; that despite any good intentions, enforcing felony charges for adultery would create an unpopular intrusion into personal liberties that would clog prisons and devastate the motel industry.

And to the extent that adultery may be more a symptom than a cause of marriage trouble, as some researchers believe, it might not even do much to help traditional families.

Paul Caprio, director of Family PAC, an organization supporting the effort to ban gay marriages, said Feigenholtz's gambit simply "trivializes adultery," a problem he said would be more effectively addressed by changes in the no-fault divorce law.

Officials with other groups aligned with Family PAC expressed tentative interest in considering parts of Feigenholtz's amendment, and efforts to reach Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R-Inverness), sponsor of the original bill, were unsuccessful. On the off chance Republicans do call Feigenholtz's bluff and bring adultery to the floor, as it were, it ought to make for an interesting day in Springfield.

"I'd like to see how many legislators declare a conflict of interest and refuse to vote," Feigenholtz said. "If they don't keep their stones in their pockets, they'll get hurt by flying glass."

(Bill Weeks of GLAAD/Chicago (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) adds: "The only thing wrong with this piece is it doesn't mention anything about the horrific statistics on Heterosexual Child Abuse, Heterosexual Rape, and/or Heterosexual Spouse Abuse.")



Police find clues on AOL Murder probe could lead to loss of on-line privacy

By Scott Bowles
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A strange killing in New Jersey that led authorities to messages on America Online has underscored how on-line computer discussions and e-mail — thought by many computer users to be private — are vulnerable to routine criminal investigations.

Fairfax County, Va., police, helping in the homicide investigation, obtained a criminal search warrant and descended on the company's Vienna, Va., headquarters Monday to perform the first such search of America Online records.

After sifting through electronic information and e-mail all day, officers confiscated dozens of files and turned them over to authorities in New Jersey.

The move has sparked fierce debate on the Internet and given law enforcement agencies food for thought. Although civil and criminal court subpoenas have been served on on-line services in recent years, this week's search warrant has demonstrated law enforcement's ability to reach information some computer users incorrectly thought was confidential.

"In five years, we are going to see police pulling someone's America Online records or CompuServe records" commonly, said David Banisar, an analyst for the Washington-based Electronic Privacy Information Center, a watchdog group specializing in electronic communication issues.

"They are going to have access to very personal, private information," he said. "They will be able to read your messages, find out who you talk to, even what your fetishes might be. And right now, very little of that information is being protected."

But law enforcement sources said that to obtain most computer records, investigators will have to seek search warrants under the same standards that now apply to searches of private homes and businesses. Still, police are enthusiastic about the potentially incriminating information stored in computers.

"It's an area in the future that we'll look at as an avenue to gather information and evidence," said Fairfax County police Lt. Judi Lukens Torian. "We don't want to overstep our bounds, and this would be used only in necessary cases. But there is a lot of information on those disks that could be vital to cases."

The case that led to the search began Jan. 5 in East Windsor, N.J., a suburb of Trenton, where police found the body of Jesse M. Unger, 39, wrapped in a blue plastic tarpaulin and left in the basement of a house. Police arrested the homeowner, George Howard Hemenway, 38, who, according to affidavits, described how he met Unger through a "men for men" chat room on America Online. Chat rooms allow users with common interests to exchange electronic messages as they sit before their computer screens wherever they may be.

Investigators said Hemenway also used the help of several people he met in the chat room, including a 15-year-old boy and a 24-year-old woman, to dispose of the body. Michelle Renee Benson has been charged with tampering with evidence; the boy police say also helped has not been charged.

Fairfax police obtained the search warrant and handed over their information to investigators in Mercer County, N.J., who say they have begun interviewing America Online users who

communicated with the suspects and are investigating whether parts of the plot may have been hatched on-line.

Several crime and computer specialists said Thursday that it was the first time they had heard of a homicide victim meeting his attacker on-line. "There may be information (in the computer records) that helps us determine the motive, the plan," said Peter McNamara, a Mercer County assistant prosecutor. "This is new ground."

And it's controversial terrain. Appeals courts have not specifically ruled on law enforcement access to such records, but Congress is considering several bills that would try to curb some behavior on-line, including criminalizing indecent speech.

Banisar, whose group advocates special due-process protections before authorities can search on-line users' data, said Monday's search illustrates how many people other than the targets can be scrutinized in a computer-based criminal probe.

Mary J. Culnan, a Georgetown University associate professor and expert on computer privacy laws, said many computer users believe what they write on-line "goes off into the cosmos, never to be seen again."

Culnan said there are databases of archived messages posted on thousands of computer bulletin boards that can be easily searched. And savvy users can find archives of e-mail discussion groups and sift through months or years of old messages. "It's a bit chilling, especially if you consider the idea of police pulling up an instant profile on you with the punch of a couple buttons," Culnan said. "We already grapple with the issue of police overstepping their bounds. With technology today, that becomes even more creepy."

Pam McGraw, a spokeswoman for America Online, said that it is the company's policy to comply with subpoenas and that the service cooperated fully. She said that although America Online does not keep records from its "chat rooms," it does keep records of private e-mail for five days before they are purged.

She did not disclose what was turned over to police. "We certainly respect and abide by our customers' right to privacy," she said. "But we also are going to follow the law. We have 4.5 million customers — that's the size of a city. When we have some problems, we have to deal with it responsibly."

Already, some on-line users have sworn to limit what they discuss via computer and promise to cancel their subscriptions to services that turn over files to authorities.

"I'm not a criminal, but I also don't want my sexual preferences, religious beliefs or my politics in a police file," an America Online subscriber wrote Thursday.

LAURA WALSH

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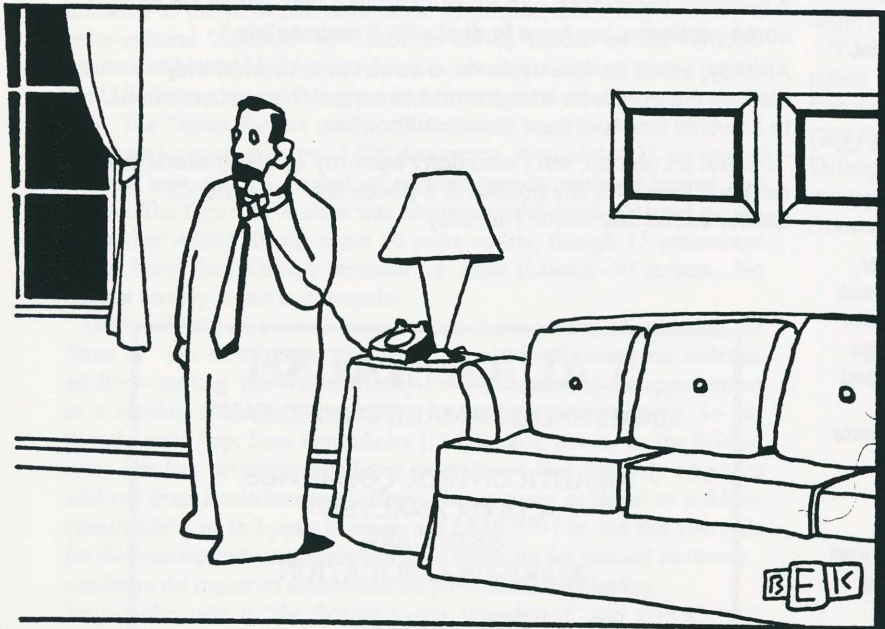
BY SANDRA BERNHARD

“Why do you insist on wearing those outrageous high heels?” the woman asks. I cross my legs and admire the bulge of my calf exaggerated by the arch of my shoe, and stare down at her conservative little boat-shaped slip-on that gives her foot the illusion of floating away down a shallow creek like a withered fall leaf. I sip on a sweaty Scotch and reply warmly, “When I walk out the door in a good pair of heels, and I’m not referring to some kitschy crap that you can buy on a trip to Frederick’s of Hollywood but a really solid set of heels from Manolo or Prada Chanel Clergerie, I never feel vulnerable, there’s no time for any weakness, I feel focussed strong secure, my stride is potent and no one hassles me when I’m standing on the corner hailing a cab, you’d better believe I’m the first fare he’ll throw on his brakes for, you put the two of us just a few yards away, he’ll pass you right by. Why? Because I demand respect and my heels back me up— so don’t go worrying about me, I’ve never been better, care for a cigar?” (New Yorker Magazine)



DONNELLY

“Some kids at school called you a feminist, Mom, but I punched them out.”



BECK

“Listen, Mom, I’m not your little girl anymore.”

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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: Apr.20, May18, June15.

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 communities largest TG Publication at...

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

This exciting new 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 Jeeena@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.

JUNE 1996 (NS = No Smoking Meeting 2nd & 4th Thurs.)

- June 6 Thursday Meeting 7:30 pm
- June 8 **Saturday Dinner Party-** Sign up by June 6
- June 13 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- June 20 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- June 27 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

JULY 1996 (NS = No Smoking Meeting 2nd & 4th Thurs.)

- July 4 No meeting- Independence day.**
- July 11 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm**
- July 18 Thursday Meeting 7:30 pm**
- July 25 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm**

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

June 6 **1st Annual New England Transgender Health Conference**, Hynes Conference Centre in Boston "TG in Society: Culture & Class," TG youth, mental health issues, healthcare, substance abuse, AIDS and more. For info and a brochure, call Jose Cassul-Cruz at Fenway Community Health Center, (617) 267-7766 x561, or Rebecca Durkee at GISST (Gender Identity Support Services, a program of the Beacon Hill Multi Cultural Psychological Association of Massachusetts) at (617) 227-6216

- June 6-9 Be-All, Detroit, MI
- June 13-16 Tiffany Club Spring Fling, Provincetown, MA
- June 18 PC EXPO/PRIDE WEEK BENEFIT.
- 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