



t.g.i.c. news

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH BY:

TRANSGENDERISTS INDEPENDANCE CLUBS

P.O. BOX 13604
ALBANY, N.Y. 12212
Phone: (518) 436-4513



SERVING THE
TRANSGENDERED
COMMUNITY OF
NEW YORK STATE

\$20.00 / YEAR

JULY - AUGUST 1991

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: - Winnie [REDACTED]

Hello, Ladies!

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the Summer will be almost over. It has been a quiet time, with about half-a-dozen of our committed members attending meetings at the Club room on Thursdays, and at Mother Eve's once a month. Susan fixed our air-conditioner - some wires came off - and we have kept cool ever since. It's lucky we have a woman who knows how to take care of these things - a bunch of dumb guys almost took the wall down, trying to take the unit out. Thanks, Susan.

Beginning September 28, we will be having parties at Private I's on Central Avenue in Albany on the 4th Saturday of each month. We will be in the upstairs bar, where it is quieter and more private. Several members have been going there after our Thursday night meetings, and enjoying the atmosphere. The location is one block from the Club room, and we will arrange to have it open for anyone who wishes to change there. This doubles the number of parties each month, since we will continue those at Mother Eve's on the 2nd Saturday. This should satisfy those members who prefer Albany over Schenectady, and vice-versa.

Besides these parties, Jennifer has boldly undertaken to organize "Girls Nights Out" in public - see her columns in this and the previous Newsletter. Please, she has taken the initiative - so give her your support. And don't forget the "Autumn Accord" on Oct. 4-6 in Syracuse - as part of the NY State Gender Coalition, TGIC has a stake in this, and your full support is needed - do come if you possibly can. All these events give a full Fall schedule - nobody should have an excuse that there's no place to go when all dressed up.

Well, that's the Good News. The Bad News is, there are lots of gaps in the Club leadership - see the list below. And others

are hinting that their lives are changing, so they may become less active. We need new people willing to lend a hand, and do the work necessary to keep the Club moving ahead. What can you do for the Club? - think about it, even if it's not a listed opening, we can always make room for new ideas. But if you promise to do something for the Club, please be prepared to follow through and get it done.

CONTINUED

CALANDAR:

SEPTEMBER:

- 4 BOARD MEETING - 7:00PM
- 5 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 12 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 14 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 19 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00 (guest)
- 21 GNO Comedy Works - 6:30
- 26 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00 (guest)
- 28 SOCIAL - Private Eyes

OCTOBER:

- 1 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 3 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 4,5,6 AUTUMN ACCORD - SYRACUSE
- 8 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 10 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 12 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 15 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 17 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 19 GNO DINNER/ACT
- 22 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 24 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 26 SOCIAL - Private Eyes
- 29 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 31 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00

NOVEMBER:

- 6 BOARD MEETING - 7:00PM
- 7 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 9 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 14 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 21 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 23 SOCIAL - Private Eyes
- 28 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 30 THANKSGIVING PARTY

on time. Come to the Club meeting on any Thursday, and let's talk about it. The biggest job is putting out the Newsletter - this needs someone with a computer and desk-top publishing software, or at least a good word-processor. Jennifer has done a good job for the past year or so, but she is finding her time squeezed.

TGIC Officers & Directors:

President	Winnie B.
Vice President	Cassandra W.
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Denise S.
Director, Outreach	Jennifer W.
Director, TS Affairs	Tiffany V.
Director at Large	Sue M.

Standing Committees:

Newsletter	Open
IFGE Representative	Winnie B.
Programs	Open
Rap Groups	Open
Big Sisters	Melissa K.

MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Membership:	\$35.00
Couples:	40.00
Newsletter Only	20.00

ADVERTISING:

BUSINESS CARD (per year)	35.00
1/4 page (per insertion)	20.00
(per year)	100.00
1/2 page (insertion)	35.00
(per year)	170.00

NO FULL PAGE ADS
DISPLAY ADS MUST BE CAMERA READY
 Classified / each (members) Free
 (non-members) 10.00

Oh Jennifer!!



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LETTERS

Editor...T.G.I.F. (sic) NEWS

As an advertiser in your publication, I expected articles on education, counseling, and socializing for the transgendered community. I was appalled at the article, "D and S Corner", by Melissa K. in your May-June 1991 newsletter. If you are attempting to legitimize a way of life and create more accepting community, articles of this nature have no place in your newsletter.

I am incensed and disappointed in the editors who chose to print this article.

I want my name removed from your mailing list and all further advertisements for my business are terminated as of this date, August 2, 1991. No further contact is necessary.

Sincerely,
 (Name Withheld by editor)

Dear

I wish I could explain how saddened I am that you found the article "D&S Corner" offensive. Although I too am uneasy about issues dealing with dominance and submission, or sado/masochism, and may find the subject matter offensive; as editor for the TGIC NEWS, I have an obligation to present a variety of material which will appeal to a community with a broad range of interests. One of the facts of life in our community is that many people who crossdress ARE interested in these subjects. Some, no doubt, enjoy domination fantasy to transfer the guilt they feel about needing to crossdress. For others, the reasons may stem from a more violent source. At any rate, regardless of the reason, D&S is hopelessly intertwined with crossdressing for many.

The purpose of TGIC is to provide support FIRST to our members. Because of the sensitive nature of this subject, this continuing column was presented to

the Board of Directors who voted to carry the D&S articles when first submitted (no pun intended) there have been 4 articles in this series so far. That vote was reaffirmed following receipt of your letter... the articles will continue. It is the feeling of our Board that they provide a responsible look at a dark, potentially dangerous and lonely corner of our world, and therefore serve a valid need. Each article has been reviewed heavily for content, and discussed, and disclaimers placed on anything which might have been misunderstood.

If my experience as a discussion leader on CompuServe's Human Sexuality Forum can be used to draw any conclusions, the D&S section there was the heaviest traffic area, exceeding the use of GenderLine - (the area I headed for TV's and TS's and their Significant Others) by 10 to 1 - GenderLine was otherwise the heaviest trafficked area. As distasteful as you and I may find this subject, you can't deny that it is a fantasy enjoyed by many, many people... By covering it up, it won't go away, by discussing it, maybe you can keep it from getting out of hand and perhaps hurting someone.

I'm further saddened by your letter because I consider you a friend to our community, yet that friendship seems tenuous by the strength of your feelings on this subject. It seems to me that not too long ago, before people knew otherwise, a similar letter could have been written about all the "sick men going around wearing dresses", and many indeed were! This sort of attitude has caused much needless pain and suffering for those who couldn't understand their, or their spouse's need to express something very deep and intrinsic to their nature. Ignorance breeds intolerance, by presenting this subject maybe both you and I will learn to better understand it.

TGIC as an organization does not endorse S&M, nor are we trying to legitimize a lifestyle which some find offensive, we

merely are trying to serve our community in a caring and supportive manner. To that extent the articles serve to open a dialog on varying opinions and ideas relating to this subject.

Again, I'm sorry you found this material offensive, and we will honor your request to remove your ad, we'll miss your participation in our community.

Saddy,
 Jennifer

Dear Winnie,

I hereby formally resign from my position as Rap Group Coordinator for TGIC. Because of my enrollment in college, and also having begun a totally new life, I will have no time to devote to the responsibilities of the position. It is also doubtful that I will be able to attend many Thursday night meetings.

During the six months or more that I was in charge, it was my choice to leave the Raps basically unstructured. I felt that people talking to other people, one on one, was much more personal and productive, than was a controlled atmosphere. To have a formal presentation or discussion always proved difficult as there were constant diversions of attention by telephone calls and new arrivals. My suggestion for the future of the Rap Group is: keep it informal. Until such time as TGIC has a larger meeting room which could be separated from interruptions, I believe informal is best. Appropriate presentations can still be made, but do not expect them to hold everyone's attention.

I have been a member of TGIC for two years and have observed many attempts to draw people to parties and other festivities. Saturday night socials and weekend dinner parties should continue, of course, for they do serve an important purpose. More people should get involved. But parties are

not what I believe should be the main focus of the club's direction. The most important and crucial part of TGIC's efforts should be in reaching out to and helping newcomers.

Personally, I know how lonely and painful it is knowing that I was the only one on the face of the Earth who wanted to dress in women's clothes. It wasn't until I found TGIC that my downhill slide stopped, and I was able to accept myself and turn my life around. I suggest that the ad in the paper be continued, if not expanded. I suggest that the phone be covered more than one night a week. And I suggest that every effort be made to get the newcomers out to meet others just like themselves. When that happens, they will no longer feel alone in the world, and will stop their own move toward self-destruction. Do not push or pull anyone, nor make them feel that they must do more than they are comfortable in doing, but show them that we are here when they need us.

Finally, I wish to express my very sincere thanks to all those who have made my "exit from the closet" possible. Without the love and support from so many strong individuals I would still be wallowing in a dream unfulfilled. Because of the many warm people in TGIC, my dream has not turned into a nightmare, but is opening up, in living color, before my very eyes. To those people I will forever owe a debt of deep gratitude. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. To the wives, you could never imagine how much your acceptance has helped all of us, a sincere and heart-felt thank you.

All my love, Katherine H.

P.S. To the person or persons who finds it necessary to steal from the Club and, ultimately from all of us, I pity you. The walls and bars around you are of your own making, and you will never be truly free.

CHOICES COUNSELING ASSOCIATES
 Arlene S. Istar Paul G. Postiglione Moonhawk River Stone

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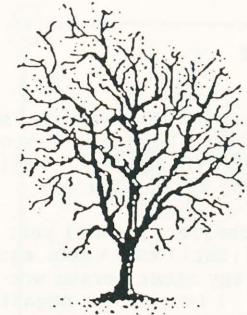
BROCHURES AVAILABLE: The following brochures, reprints and papers are now available from OJRI through TGIC.

FINDING EMPLOYMENT / TRANSITION \$3.00
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 BBS's SERVING GENDER COMMUNITY \$3.00
 ALBANY GENDER PROJECT, PRELIM RPT \$3.00
 GENDER DYSPHORIA - FINDING HELP \$10.00/C
 (handout for counselors' offices - see below)
 HOW TO START YOUR OWN GENDER GRP \$3.00
 ORIGINAL POEMS & FICTION - VOL 1 \$5.00

OJRI is donating the proceeds from sales on the above copyrighted works to be split equally between TGIC and the Albany Gender Project. GENDER DYSPHORIA - FINDING HELP is a single page, three fold flyer which we encourage you to leave or distribute with professionals in your area. Minimum order for this flyer is 100 for \$10.00. If you have works you would like to contribute to fund these two worthwhile organizations, please send them or orders for these items to TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212. Additional works will be forthcoming shortly.

Autumn Accord II

Molly Kennedy



The Fall of 1990 saw the exciting birth of a new cross-gendered group located in Syracuse, New York. Expressing Our Nature (EON), an open peer support group for crossdressers and transsexuals, sponsored a three-day convention for all members and friends of the cross-gendered community. The event was called the Autumn Accord and was held during the first week of November, 1990. Even though EON was less than one year old and had less than 20 active members, the Accord was a success with over 70 people in attendance, including Yvonne Cook from the International Foundation for Gender Education and JoAnn Roberts from Renaissance.

Building on the success from that first Accord, EON decided to make it an annual celebration. Last year's event also energized the entire New York state gender community and was, in a large part, responsible for the formation of the New York State Gender Coalition, a federation of cross-gender peer support groups. Accordingly (no pun intended) the year's Autumn Accord is sponsored not just by EON, but also by TGIC of Albany, The Rochester CD*Network, and Butterfly of Binghamton.

This broader sponsorship promises a bigger and better event than last year with unique vendors with hard to find products and services, interesting speakers and educational seminars. The festivities will include a concert by Romanovsky and Phillips, the nationally recognized songwriting duo who are gay, proud and outrageously funny. Seminars include, self-defense, Crossdressers/Transsexuals and the Law, and a special Luncheon Seminar on Building Bridges to other minority communities. Of course, there is also the prerequisite Make-Over Seminar, too.

Special guests this years will include JoAnn Roberts, Virginia Prince with a very strong rumor that Dr. Vern Bullough (SUNY Buffalo) will be the keynote speaker.

The motto for this year's event is "The Mostest for the Leastest." The sponsors have developed a unique and flexible fee schedule that enables guests to structure their weekend according to their budget. The event registration fee is a mere \$25! The Friday night concert is \$15 and Friday dinner is \$20. A four meal package from Saturday breakfast to Sunday breakfast ranges from \$51.50 to \$57.50 depending on the entree chosen. Room fees range from \$60 to \$75 per night. So, mix and match to your own liking.

The Autumn Accord II will be held in Syracuse, New York on October 4-6, 1991. The hotels at Syracuse Square are the Hotel Syracuse and the Hilton Tower, which are connected by a sky-bridge. For reservations call 800-255-3892, or 315-422-6032. You must make your own room reservations and be sure to identify yourself as an Accord participant. Registration and meal selections must be made through EON and no later than September 13, 1991. For more detailed information write Autumn Accord II, 523 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204, 315-475-5611.

Something exciting and wonderful is happening in New York this Fall. You owe it to yourself to see first-hand the new and daring gender community taking shape in the Empire State. Join the members of EON, the Gender Coalition and their friends as they celebrate, enjoy and express the beauty and courage of the cross-gender community. If you've never been to any event before, let the Autumn Accord be your coming out party. You won't be sorry you did. EF

COURTESY
 EN FEMME MAGAZINE

FIRST NIGHT OUT

by Michelle

What do the words nervous, self conscious, excited, sexy and feminine have in common? They are all feelings that I felt on my first night out.

My name is Michelle. I'm a 31 year old crossdresser. Until two weeks ago, I had never met any other person who had crossdressed. I bought the magazines and video's and caught just about every episode of Donahue, or Jeraldo, or Sally Jesse Raphael that dealt with the subject, but I didn't think there were any gender type clubs in the capital area. It just wasn't feasible for me to travel to Boston or any similar distance to meet people like myself. I found out about the club a couple of months ago through an ad in Metroland, but I was pretty much denying how I felt so I made no real effort to make contact.

Two weeks ago, I called the number at TGIC on a Thursday afternoon. I heard the message and was happy to hear that the meetings were on Thursday nights - the only night I get out of work easily. I called back Thursday night and spoke to Melissa. We talked for a while and she invited me to meet with her outside the club. Everything was OK, so she brought me up to the loft. The first thing I noticed was how friendly everyone was. Tiffane told me about the club, what it's for, what it does, how it works, and its function. Winnie gave me a few back issues of the newsletter.

I was prepared to dress, but I didn't. I was nervous and it was late so I opted to go out for a few drinks at a local bar with some of the members. We talked about this gender issue till it was late and finally we said our good-bys.

The following Thursday, I decided I was going to go back and join the club. I had to work later that night so when I got out I was rushing. I got in my car and turned on the radio - "LOLA" was playing, which I thought was kind of ironic! Arriving at the club, I met

four members I hadn't met before. After introductions, I decided that I was going to dress. When I came out, I was greeted by cheers of encouragement- Jennifer said, "Give that girl some hips!" I really didn't do a very good job on the make-up or other things such as the wig, but Jennifer was there to help in those areas and soon we made things right. I've started of thinking of her as the girl with the magic fingers because when she was finished with me, I saw Michelle - how she really looks - and for that I could not thank her enough.

After some reassurance and encouragement we all went down to the bar - I was still feeling scared and nervous. Inside there was a guy checking ID's. He looks at my ID, looks at me, looks at the ID again, looks at me again, I said, "Yeah, it's me." and walked in. At the bar, the first person I see is Barbara who hadn't been at either of the two meetings I was at. She is in a word, "BEAUTIFUL", "FINE", "SEXY", sweet and a real fox - I hardly noticed her, as you might guess! Definitely someone I would strive to look like. We got a table in the back and sat there chatting but I am SO aware of how I'm dressed but becoming more relaxed. Everything said to me by everyone was very positive and reassuring. I went up to the bar and ordered a beer... the bartender's head jolted back a little when I spoke, and that made me feel good. A while later, I used the women's room, and in the light I looked better than I thought I could. I was on such a high!!

Little by little, people started leaving. All my big sisters were leaving. Could I survive without my support? Finally, there were only a few of us left so I went with Beth and Valerie back to their place to change so I could go home without offending anyone in my house. I looked in their mirror and I couldn't change because I wanted to stay Michelle for as long as I could. So, I went back to the bar. The closest parking place I could find was about half a block away, and as I was walking

up the street, I saw three guys sitting on a porch drinking. I remembered what Jennifer had said about keeping your chin up, and my right to be there, so I confidently kept walking. They didn't say anything to me till I got past them. Then one of them said, "Strut those heels baby!" I just smiled and kept walking. I got to the bar, walked in, went through the "ID Thing" again. The first person who passed me walked a few steps, stopped and said, "wait a minute". He turned around. I turned around. He walked up to me and looked me over and said "you're not bad!". "Thank you.", I said. Then he leaned forward and whispered, "Don't let any of these guys fuck with ya". Then he smiled and walked away. I ordered a drink and decided that I was going to stay till closing. I had a few more drinks and then decided to play some pool until the bar closed.

It was great, no one bothered me and finally last call was announced. I said good-bye to Bill who was very gentlemanly by the way and as I was leaving, I heard his friends saying to him, "why are you talking to that "drag queen"? I didn't know whether to be insulted or flattered.

The next morning, when I woke up, I wanted to reflect on everything - on how I felt. I felt like I was the little sister and everyone at the club was my big sister. They had all been through it. They were taking care of me, teaching me, keeping me safe, encouraging me, helping me to feel relaxed. I felt that even though they don't know me that well, they truly care and always will. There is something inately good in us, and my big sisters know how it feels.

I'm starting out on a journey that many of you have been on for a long time, this is my beginning - thanks so much - I love you all!



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Suffolk County (516) 348-2999 1-800-462-6786	Queens (718) 262-9100 1-800-462-6787

No names will be asked.

0210

NYS Health Department

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FROM: METROLAND

USED TO BE. WHEN I WAS LITTLE, that when you wanted to change Barbie into one of those slinky costumes she's fond of wearing, you just up and—wham—took off her head.

It would go back on, of course, and she would walk level-headed and curvaceous into whatever fortune slung her way.

These days, I'm not so sure about the heads. I mean, Madeleine wanted her Barbie (whom she's named Josephine, as in Baker) to shimmy into this little Hawaiian number this morning and, after wrapping the pink grass skirt around her 1 1/2-inch waist, I reached for the bandeau top, stretched it out between my thumb and forefinger and, with my other hand, flicked Barbie's head off, about the way you flick the head on a Pez dispenser.

Moments later, there was Josephine (Baker) looking savvy and scanty—and slightly off-center. It was as though we were watching Barbie on Quaaludes, despite knowing that Barbie would never. It was as though we were watching Barbie trying to sue for whiplash, despite knowing that Barbie would never.

I'm beginning to think there is a moral lesson in today's Barbies: If you're going to go around pulling the heads off women like Barbie, you've got to live with the consequences of your deed. This is not the formerly forgiving, snap-her-head-back-on-and-go Barbie.

I mean, I meant no disrespect. But then, here was this wobbly-headed Barbie whose personhood I had seriously violated, all in an attempt to be helpful to my daughter. Talk about class-on-class oppression.

And then I had to listen while my daughter explained to her imaginary friend that Josephine couldn't go out to the playground with her because she was afraid

she'd lose her head. Instead my daughter brought the bombshell-blonde twist-and-turn Barbie who has not yet been violated by her mother. In describing the reasons why this was a more suitable Barbie to take to the playground, she didn't exactly use the words "temporarily abled," but her logic was heading in that direction.

A lot has been written about how unreal Barbie is. And about how this sexism in toyland sends a message to little girls that they, too, must grow bodies like Barbie's in order to be perfect. In a way it's true. Barbie's physique is unreal: her waist about the width of her esophagus, her breasts beyond need of Fiberfil or underwire, her hands always cupped to give the most plastic of shoes and her feet eternally pointed for sores unsuited for virtually every honest profession.

But let's give Barbie a break, anyway. She is what her creator hath made her. And we have bought her, hook, line and sinker.

Besides, whatever unreal expectations of the female body that Barbie is alleged to foster, you can't really call it sexism. Just take a look at Ken. Barbie may have too much of some things, but Ken's not all there.

Yet this quintessential American duo enjoys a far greater range of career and leisure options than most of us can ever imagine for ourselves. Nor would anyone dispute that Ken, despite his (presumed) maleness, plays a subordinate role in Barbie's escapade. Kind of puts you in mind of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, doesn't it? And turns that old maxim on its head that behind every great man there is a woman?

Think of it: Nobody can really take Flight Time Ken seriously as he pushes a cart up the plane's aisle. Yet Flight Time Barbie as pilot looks jaunty. And her twist-and-turn

waist makes navigating in the cockpit a breeze.

All Stars Ken is no Ivan Lendl in his Lycra knee-highs. But All Stars Barbie blends the sangfroid of Navratilova with the bouffant, busty Dolly Parton look. A killing combo on the courts.

Western Fun Ken is not cool, dude. But Western Fun Barbie and her Latina cohort Nia rival Thelma and Louise.

What more could a parent ask for in role models? Strong (albeit strangely built) women of various racial and ethnic compositions who believe that nothing, short of pursuits that require dull clothes, is beyond their achievement. Barbiefest Destiniv. I call it. And what could be more American?

As it happens, Madeleine chose, without any parental coercion, a black Barbie as her first Barbie. She named her Josephine in honor of her day-care teacher. Josephine slept in bliss on Madeleine's pillow.

But my mother, magnanimously acting the role of God in this, decided that it was not good for Barbie-Josephine to be alone and decided that she needed a helper. This was to be, of course, Ken.

Now with a good deal less confidence than God exhibited in creating woman, my mother's voice was edged with anxiety as she asked me on the phone: Did Maddie want a black Ken? Or a white Ken?

Oh, it doesn't matter what color Ken she gave to B.J. It doesn't matter because she's spending her time in an interracial relationship of another sort. It's that temporarily abled bombshell-blonde Barbie with the twist-and-turn waist who really interests Barbie-Josephine.

It's a new age for Barbies. Don't try to mess around with their heads.

—Jo Page

HELP IMPROVE TGIC NEWS:

You can help improve TGIC News! We've run out of our archives of original and collected cartoons also clippings of relevant articles on crossdressing are in short supply, we need you to keep an eye open for these things and to submit them to the club through the PO Box.

Also, we urge you to write your experiences, tips, and perspectives down and send them in for inclusion in future issues. Photos are also badly needed. See yourself in print!! Help TGIC NEWS.

* * * * *

OUTING*
by Anne

OUTING... Nobody likes to be pulled out of the closet until we ourselves feel that the time is right. As a married crossdresser I have hidden my fetish for female clothes from family and friends, but that is not to say that there hasn't been several close calls of being outed.. The first time was when I had inadvertently left a sweater out from a dressing session, that was easy to explain the first time, " I let aa co-worker use our house to break up an office romance." Laugh as you may, it worked. I believe that spouses want to believe that there are no problems.

The second close call and potentially the worst happened on the way home from a night out at Rage, and on my way to Rumors, then on Glen Lake. I was traveling the Northway when a car sped by me, changed lanes to the inside and hit a tractor trailer about a hundred yards in front of me. There was debris all around, some hit my car but I could not stop to either help the victim or give and account to the police or to even check my car to survey the damage from the from the debris. Stopping dressed was the same as telling the world. I could enision the newspaper account: "Transvestite pulls accident victim from falming car". The only thing flaming would have been my standing in the community going down in flames.

They say the third time is a charm, well, that depends upon how you look at it. The third time I got caught, it was luckily by my wife, and not something like the above incident. The scenario is probably very old, wife comes home early from work to find her husband dressed like a barmaid at the bowling alley. (At the bowling alley!????! Don't know what bowling alley you use, but the ones I've seen aren't anything to cheer about - ed note) Shock, disgust, disappointment, hurt and about a couple of hundred other feelings and emotions were exhibited by her - and me, I just tried to fade into the furniture. I thought first about trying to lie my way out of it, it had worked before, but I figured, "what the hell", the only way to go forward was to tell all. I told how I had been doing this since I was 12, and how my parents had caught me about that time in my mother's garter belt and stockings (before pantyhose). I told her how I haad such a great feeling of tranquility and how for those few hours of being dressed I felt thaat I was what I was supposed to be, a woman.

Well, she didn't make me leave, but things were pretty tense for a few weeks. I even had to submit to regular sessions of counseling by a psychologist, which by the way may have given me some reasons for what I do, but didn't stop my urge to dress.

In summation, I guess that I am glad I was caught. It sure was a relief to relieve some of the pent up guilt of crossdressing. At the time though, I wasn't so sure if it was a good thing or not. It was a very good catharsis, a lot like the first meeting of T.G.I.C. which I attended. I do not know what I would have done if I had been "found out" before I had met my friends here at T.G.I.C. Thanks for being members of both a support group and also of "family"

* Outing is a term used quite extensively in the gay community. It refers to the intentional exposure of a closeted member of that community, usually by one of the more controversial and politically active gay groups such

CONTINUED →

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as Queer Nation or Act-UP. Generally, high visibility closeted gays, which the group feels act hypocritically on gay issues or who's exposure the group feels might do some good for the gay community are the targets for outing. Recently, the news reported a story about a high pentagon official who was outed due to his hypocrisy of endorsing military anti-gay policies. Outing is a highly controversial tactic within the gay community, and is not endorsed by all gay organizations. (ED)

PERSPECTIVE ON "OUTING":

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

The above letter brings up several good points, not the least of which is a certain sadness that inspite of all the programs which we have tried to bring you through TGIC, that there are still people out there who are essentially terrified of exposure. In this instance, fear of discovery could have very well cost one person everything they hold dear including their marriage, and community position; and, could conceivably have cost another person their lives in an auto accident. Now, don't get me wrong, I don't fault Anne for her inability to risk exposure to help that person, as a mater of fact, I probably would have responded likewise until about three years ago. (Actually, though, I would kind of like to see more headlines like "HERO IN SKIRTS PULLS INJURED VICTIM FROM WRECK") It's sad not only for the potential for what this inaction might have meant, but because so many crossdressers live a private life shrouded in fear - fear of exposure, ridicule, loss of everything they hold dear. Sad too, because this fear keeps us from reaching out to others, similarly afflicted. Finally, it's sad because without reaching out to hold a sister to share your deepest secrets with someone, you keep yourself from learning to give fully of your love, what's more, without that sharing, you can't completely learn to feel good about who and what you are.

Anne's wife demanded that Anne seek therapy - a demand made by many wives who have found themselves in a similar

setting. But just as often that same wife will refuse to participate in that counseling. I wish I had a dollar for every time someone in the gender community indicated that their wives had said, "It's YOUR problem, YOU deal with it!" - effectively washing their hands of the mutual responsibility of maintaining their marriage. I've often wondered if they would have felt the same if returning from a visit to the doctors office the husband said, "I have leukemia, its not fatal, it will affect our future lives severely" - how many wives would say "Its your problem - you deal with it!" If they did how many husbands would stay long in that situation. Or, reversing the roles, how many wives would stay in a relationship when, themselves, having returned from the doctors saying, "Honey, the doctor says I'm pregnant!" - only to hear the husband say, "Well it's your problem YOU take care of it".

Absurd? Of course. Yet many crossdressers long to stay in relations where similar rejection takes place. Let's face some facts, regardless of what you call it, transvestism, transsexualism, crossdressing, THERE IS NO CURE FOR GENDER DYSPHORIA! There has never been a single documented long term "CURE" - not one! A spouse who refuses to participate in counseling, and who refuses to learn the facts about this greatly misunderstood malady is saying that through such narrow-mindedness THEY ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE but can only accept you for who THEY want you to be. Rather lopsided if you think about it, but if this arrangement is acceptable to the crossdresser, then the marriage may indeed survive, but the cost may be severe depression, and stress with possible medical repercussions for the crossdresser. More often than not this attitude is indicative of problems that run deeper than crossdressing, and may indicate a general malaise in the marital arrangement.

On Saturday nights, NBC has a show called SISTERS, the continuing story about four sisters and their relationships. One is married to a crossdresser, and this forms a

continuing underlying theme in their relationships and depicts what many of us go through in a realistic manner. In a recent episode, they visited the counselor to try to cure their marriage. When informed of the details of the ailing marriage, the counselor stated "crossdressing isn't the problem here" the problem is a lack of understanding, tolerance and love for the persons in the relationship for who they are, not for what we may feel the need to make them. Crossdressing, in itself isn't bad, and is relatively harmless in view of the other outlets we could be persuing. Don't shortchange yourself in a bad relationship because you don't meet the unfair expectations of another. Be proud of yourselves, you are truly, beautiful people.

IN DEFENSE:

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

The other night, I found myself in one of the local pubs talking with a handsome young man, who happens to have been born a genetic female. I had asked him and his housemates to participate in a project designed to improve employability of transsexuals during transition which would be presented to the upcoming AUTUMN ACCORD in Syracuse. I was somewhat taken aback by his reply that they wouldn't participate in a TGIC project because TGIC was a "TRANVESTITE club"! Shocked, I immediately went into defense mode, after all, I'm TS, and I put a LOT of effort into TGIC, and this was a project specifically targeting TS's. Not only that, but over the last year TGIC has been criticized (unfairly I feel) for promoting transsexualism. True, most of the current rap group members are TV, but this has only been true recently. During the last year it had been predominately TS and this high amount of activity was demonstrated in the focus of the newsletter. Now the pendulum has swung the other way.

In my fury at his uninformed blindness I missed a bigger point - WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE IF TGIC WAS A TRANVESTITE CLUB? TGIC exists to support everyone in the gender community... TV's TS's Spouses, professionals, and others who aren't sure. The key word here is

SUPPORT and there has been too little of that lately. It seems to have become the vogue in Albany to say, "I'm not like them" with the implication of "I'm better" not being spoken. Another sense one gets is the lack of tolerance for those who are different, and its sad because we are ALL different.

People come to TGIC for support, to learn that they are OK, and others understand. How can we understand if we are too busy standing apart to get involved? How can we expect others to understand us if we can't (or worse won't) try to understand and be tolerant of those similar to us, those in our own community. Who among us can say with honesty that they never made those first tenuous steps toward womanhood, looking over their shoulders every step of the way, fearful someone was there to criticize them. Who can say that they weren't grateful that TGIC had sisters who had already taken those steps. Sisters who weren't afraid to become involved, who weren't so busy being better that they couldn't take time out to talk with someone just starting out down that scary road? Who among us didn't take advantage of the friendships offered?

Over the last year rumor, disention, dissatisfaction, thefts, the weak economy and burnout have fractionated and severely weakened TGIC. At present, we have four or five openings on the board of directors which need filling. We have many new people coming into the club, and many more who look to TGIC to be there when they need it, but who and what will they be looking to if we are too busy being better than them to get involved? Who's going to run the programs, who's going to care, who's going to be there when they need to talk? I know I can't do more than I already am - not and make a living too. If someone doesn't pick up the slack soon, TGIC faces a real possibility of going down the tubes, and how many of us really want to see that?

Is TGIC a TV club? Of course it is!

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Its also a club for new women, old women, MTF, FTM and anyone with a legitimate interest our lifestyle. Its also a repository for information, and a focus which we all expect to continue. But what's more important is that TGIC IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT!!!! The gender community nationwide is more active than ever before, and we're entering exciting times, by putting aside our differences TGIC too will become more active than ever before, and more effective for everyone it serves. Without tolerance, and cooperation it surely will die, and to lose this community asset would surely be a shame.

TWENTY MINUTES TO CEASE:

Recently we were saddened to hear that one of the best sources for information for the transsexual community, TWENTY MINUTES published as an adjunct to the XX CLUB in Hartford, CT. was ceasing publication. TWENTY MINUTES publisher Becky, states that recently there has been a lack of both subscription and editorial support and that this coupled with the fact that she will be moving to other areas soon means an end to this vital source of information and entertainment. TGIC NEWS wishes Becky well in her new location and would like to offer our services to pick up the slack that the loss of this service represents.

Although it is always sad to see a community publication fold, we are pleased to announce a new publication to serve the transsexual community from AEGIS in Decatur, GA. Using a professional glossy format, the new publication CHRYSALIS QUARTERLY looks like an excellent effort and well worth the \$20.00 subscription fee. For information, contact AEGIS - CQ, PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA. 30033-0724.

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ALBANY GENDER PROJECT TO FORM

SYRACUSE, NY. On Saturday, August 3, 1991 at a regularly scheduled meeting of The New York State Gender Coalition, a plan was proposed and unanimously passed to undertake an in-depth program to foster community awareness and legislative involvement geared toward improving life for and services to New York's gender dysphoric peoples, often referred to as the gender community by insiders. Long time gender community leader and activist, Jennifer Wells of Albany, made the initial presentation and was chosen as Coordinator for the program.

The New York State Gender Coalition, was formed in the spring of 1990 "to provide aid and communication to local gender community groups; to enable them to provide support services, (and) to organize the collective membership into a cohesive force for progressive change... through social, political and legal activism". It's composed of delegates from gender dysphoric support groups in Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Binghamton, New Paltz, New York City, Long Island and Northern New Jersey.

From her home in Albany, NY, Ms. Wells, made the following statement:

"Gender Dysphoria is incidious in its nature and the people afflicted with this problem have been unjustly stigmatized by our society. The vast majority, for fear of ridicule and being ostracized, never even dare come to terms with a demanding inner need to express characteristics in their nature which our society reserves for members of the opposite birth sex. Often this suppression manifests itself in forms of stress related illnesses. For those seeking to understand this inner nature, they find they often have to run a gauntlet of uninformed or ill informed, though sometimes well meaning "professionals", marital discord or divorce, unemployment, discrimination, harrassment, legal and welfare prob-

lems, hospitalization (both medical and psychiatric), lack of information, lack of sympathy and support from a misinformed public, fear, depression, denial, substance abuse often even suicide. In New York State, for example, there isn't a single center with comprehensive services for these people. Indeed, what little there is available in the way of services is scatered and often made needlessly inaccessible. This lack of services is a contributing reason why some are forced to commit crimes such as theft and prostitution merely to survive. Adding to this stigma, is the ill-informed and outdated impression that this population is in someway mentally disturbed - an impression fostered for years by "professionals" whose research conclusions were drawn from impossibly small samples of patients who may in fact had mental problems. Although this is possibly valid for some, it just doesn't hold water in light of recent research into sexual differentiation which supports the view that severe gender dysphoria has a definite medical basis. It is our hope that the Albany Gender Project will be the vanguard for addressing this situation in New York."

Gender Dysphoria is commonly referred to as transsexualism or transvestism. Leading authorities on this subject estimate that 3 to 5% of the entire population has some form of gender dysphoria, or nearly 500,000 people in New York alone. For most, the problem is a minor fascination with the apparel or life role of the opposite sex, and is sometimes sexual in nature. For the transsexual or severe case the problem can be life threatening, and stories of self mutilation and suicide abound within the subculture.

The Albany Gender Project will undertake a multifaceted approach in resolving this dilemma, which will involve research and information gathering; increasing public awareness, understanding and support, and lobbying state and local legislatures to enact programs designed to service this

population.

"The establishment of a full service, full time gender identity center, able to provide a coordinated program of knowledgeable professional services including medical, legal, and psychiatric; social services including, welfare counseling, resocialization, retraining, and employment opportunity; and community services such as community education, information, referral and outreach; is the ultimate goal of the Albany Gender Project. We hope to be able to show that addressing these areas in this manner with governmental funding, will be a more economical and valid use for taxpayer resources than continually pouring moneys into programs which address the symptoms not the cause... programs such as welfare and other social programs, psychiatric care, substance abuse and even law enforcement." Wells stated.

Provisionally named the Special Legislative Project, the Albany Gender Project plans to work in conjunction with the NYSGC, its affiliate groups and other groups nationwide to further mutual goals.

For a complete up to date report on The Albany Gender Project, send \$3.00 to Albany Gender Project, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212.

For information on the New York State Gender Coalition, support groups for Gender Dysphorics in your area, or to inquire about speakers on this subject contact: Albany Gender Project, as above, or The New York State Gender Coalition, 523 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204.

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FINDING WORK DURING TRANSITION: - PART I
by Jennifer [REDACTED]

Finding employment is never a job that people enjoy or look forward to, let alone during a time of transition for the transsexual. And let's face it, the employment picture in many parts of the country has been less than spectacular in recent years which makes matters worse as many employers tend to go with "safe" (read "mainstream") candidates for most openings. Unfortunately, most pre-op TS's DO NOT fall into this category! Of course transition is not a good time to be looking for work so the best advice is probably to stay with your present job if you can. Usually, if handled right, most employers will at least allow you to try transitioning on the job just as long as your change doesn't negatively reflect on the business or work environment... but that is a different column. So, if you happen to fall into the situation where you feel you either can't or don't want to transition in your present position, or you find you need employment while in transition, here are some tips which may be helpful.

PRESENTATION:

Probably, the single most important (and most difficult) thing you need to do to prepare yourself for the job hunt is to be sure you have a good HONEST concept of who you are, where you're at both emotionally and realistically, and how you REALLY present yourself as a member of the sex of choice. In other words, if you don't pass (I hate that word, but there's no gentle way to put it) flawlessly, can you deal with people's reactions in a positive manner? Do you have the courage in your conviction to be frank, with the prospective employer, if need be about your situation? Do you know enough factual information to answer just about any question about your situation in a truthful and positive manner? If you aren't sure, most support groups have libraries which may be helpful. Your therapist or a not too close friend can

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help you arrive at an honest appraisal of your presentation, but make sure they know you want an honest evaluation! No therapist yet? Maybe you're getting ahead of yourself. It's been my experience that people are usually willing give you the benefit of the doubt even if they "read" you if you are confident, assured, and comfortable in yourself, if you aren't, then maybe you need to talk with your therapist more about reality versus fantasy. Before looking for work, you definitely need to escape the paranoia of constantly looking over your shoulder, and develop a healthy "so what if they read me... I can deal with that... worse could happen" sort of attitude. This also helps to key you into avoiding the same sort of situations that may be dangerous or uncomfortable and hence avoided by persons born in the desired sex, but you might not think anything about in your birth sex. (ie for the MTF... walking down a dark street alone in a bad neighborhood at night).

PREPARATION:

Next, you need to prepare for the job search in your new sex. Books galore have been written on this subject and since it entails many things that any job search would involve, for brevity, we will only give a few brief pointers, and key on what may be necessary to alter for the transsexual. I'd recommend you read any number of good books on job hunting, and writing a good resume, one in particular is "WHAT COLOR IS YOUR PARACHUTE", which gives many excellent tips. Generally, resume writing services can't do anything for you that you couldn't do better for yourself because of your unique situation, with a few basic understandings. Basically, things to concern yourself with are... 1) Focus on the type of work you wish to do as a member of your future sex... what is likely to be a good starting point for a new career? Can you bring previous experience to your new career and if so, how will you present that in your resume?

2) Editing the resume. Many of us have years of work behind us in our former sex and related careers... can you use this information, and how much of it on your new resume... you'd be surprised at how much you can use if given a new slant... for instance, my resume indicates that I'm a former President of a Jaycees group under outside activities. If however you are looking to start over... say as a clerk or secretary, telling your prospective employer that you were formerly district sales manager will make you look over qualified... which brings up the question of filling holes in resumes for information deleted. In the above scenario it might be better to list the employer and state that "you were given full charge responsibilities for a sales department". The employer will assume that you mean secretarial responsibility as in "administrative secretary or assistant" and this is what you want them to think. Other techniques for filling holes from deleted or derogatory information (an employer who won't give a favorable reference - for instance) for MTF's is the excuse of family demands - it's OK to be vague on the resume about this, but be prepared to explain if it should come up... most of the time it won't. For Female to Males.. quite often filling in employment history can be more of a problem, often this can be explained by stating that you were looking for a career position, and to make ends meet, were self employed. It's important that the FTM resume gives the impression of continuous employment and progressive advancement in a career field - something that's isn't as critical for the MTF as gaps in employment history are common and acceptable for women in our society as women tend to enter and leave the workforce while men generally work toward a career and career advancement. Sexist, but true.

3) Contact former employers or at least one or two who respected you as an employee, and which you feel might be able to give a good reference. Phone them and present them with details about

what you are doing... and why. Be sympathetic with their surprise, and answer all questions fully to help them understand your sincerity. Explain that you will be following up with a letter with additional information, and that you would be happy to meet with them if they desire this. Let them, know that a letter of recommendation would be appreciated, and if they could help you with any referrals to find new employment that that would be very much appreciated. Finally, let them know you understand that this is difficult for them too and that if they can't cooperate you understand. Many TS's have been very happily surprised at how helpful former employers have been in directing them to new work, and the recommendations given. A sample letter to your former employer is given at the end of this brochure... don't forget to include your new resume. About a week or two after this letter is sent, check back by phone, and answer additional questions, and ask if they will try to be of help.

4) Personal references are important to establish for any job search, and generally for the TS, the best references are persons who know you only as your new self, but who may know about your past. Generally, with personal references the more impressive the reference, the better the case they can make for you... however, avoid references likely to slip or embarrass you... for example, the reference checker is likely to ask... "how do you know this person?" You probably don't want want someone to say... "I'm her electrologist", or "I'm her endocrinologist", or perhaps "I handled his name change", as these responses could lead to further questions.

5) Make sure your expectations are realistic for the job you seek. If you are MTF, generally you will have to take a pay cut of generally about 30%, but possibly up to 50%. However, you don't want to let the employer know this if possible, as it will lead to questions about why you are looking for a position

with less income. Be sure that you can adjust to the reduced income. It's extremely rare that income levels will be maintained... and if they can be... its usually at the risk of promotion opportunities or future pay increases. If you are FTM and you aren't looking for at least a 20% pay increase, you might raise the prospective employer's curiosity as to your career goals and apparent lack of ambition - men generally only make a lateral career move if they have no other choice... otherwise they are looking for advancement - either in the form of better opportunities, promotion or more money.

6) Contacting the employer... Generally, I endorse being a honest as necessary with the employer all through the hiring process, and to this end have tried all methods during my own job search, to explain the difficult questions. For me, an impending bankruptcy precluded my name change, so I found it necessary to try to find work as a woman, while my legal name and SS# were still in my male name. Needless to say this required some explaining. Opinion varies with who you talk to as to how much you should explain. And depending on where you are in transition and what has been changed, if you should explain at all. My situation gave me an opportunity to try several methods. At one point, I sent out my male resume with a cover letter explaining my situation... I was surprised as to the number of replies and interviews this technique generated - actually more than my male resume had been generating... it also produced one job offer which I didn't take. Whether the cover letter should mention your unique situation or not is probably best left up to the individual and the type of employment sought. However, since the resume and cover letter should be focused toward getting the interview... I feel in retrospect that probably at this stage of the employment process, it's giving the employer more information than they need, and is unnecessary unless there is some glaring discrepancy which you feel would

disqualify you without explanation. A better edited resume, and contacting my previous employers soon eliminated my overt discrepancy and my resumes were soon going out looking like a well qualified woman, with an appropriate cover letter to match.

7) Identification. If you are in the position where you are seeking work as one sex and/or name, while legally another... identification can be difficult. In more and more states this has been recognized as a needless problem by the authorities, and programs have been established to facilitate you in establishing your new identity. I found myself with both of these problems as employment under the new Immigration and Naturalization Service laws requires anyone working in the US (whether or not you are a citizen) to provide his employer with two forms of ID - Usually a social security card and driver's license or birth certificate. In New York, as in some other states, it is now legal to present the Department of Motor Vehicles with a letter of explanation of your situation from your therapist or physician, and DMV will change the sex on your driver's license. Further, you can change your name on your license to just your initials rather than your full name. Changing to initials for first and middle name is also acceptable to the folks at Social Security who will issue a new card once the proper form has been filed. With these changes, you have established yourself as an employable entity in the sex of your choice... and you can fill in any name you choose for the employer. For me Richard Bruce could become Rebecca Brice for example. However, I desired to use an entirely different name and couldn't change my name until my bankruptcy cleared. Checking with Social Security, about using different names with my SS#, (it's illegal to have more than one SS#) I was informed that in our situation, it was technically illegal to use a different name with a SS# without a legal name change... BUT... with prior notification, and as long as there was no intent to commit

fraud, they would not prosecute... however a message might be sent to the employer indicating that they showed a different name (your original one) going with your social security number. No big problem as long as the employer knows that this might happen. Further, I found out that in some states (like New York) Birth "Certificates" are given out by the hospitals, which are different from the legal document filed with vital statistics. Not legal documents these "certificates" are usually accepted by the employer as meeting the needs of the INS laws for proper identification... this is relevant because some of these hospital certificates **DO NOT SHOW THE SEX...** mine didn't. Contact the hospital where you were born to see if they have these records.

7) Finally comes the interview. Plenty has been written about interviewing and interview technique so I won't go too much into this except to offer a couple of tips that have served me well. First, one of the biggest problems people have interviewing for work, is the mental attitude they develop by the pressures they face if they don't get the job... they go overboard with tension that this creates and its important to dispell the tension so you can be relaxed and think during the interview. Chances are that you won't be offered every job you interview for. If you recognize this, its easier to develop a "I'll give it a good shot, but it's not the end of the world if I don't get it" attitude, which will help relax you and give you a better impression of being in control. Sometimes it helps to interview for jobs you don't want to help you practice relaxing during the interview. Besides, it's nice to be offered a job you don't really want, and to be able to say "I've decided to keep looking" or something comparable. You're in control, and knowing that "SOMEONE" wants you can give you a badly needed boost. Secondly, practice with a friend for the interview, someone who has been to a lot of interviews and knows the types of questions asked. Also, have them throw

at you some questions that are totally outrageous or prying in nature and practice handling these as well... it can again help dispell the tension of the interview... and prepare you for anything. Generally, interviews are a pretty basic meeting and review of the resume unless you are trying for executive, technical or security related employment. To this end it may be helpful to view the interviewer as someone who you just met who is a potential friend that you want to get to know, and want to like you. Remember you want to get to know them too, so ask questions!!

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TGIC NEWS is an outreach tool of The Transgenderists' Independence Clubs of Albany, NY. TGIC is an open social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, spouses, significant others, professionals and others interested in the subject of gender dysphoria. Any non-copyrighted article or material contained within the pages of this newsletter may be reproduced by any media as long as it is presented in total and proper credit is given as to source and author. Reprints for assistance in outreach or professional use are available and are encouraged.

Our community is representative of a very diverse group of people, and as such it covers a broad spectrum of articles and topics. It would be unfair therefore to assume that just because a topic is presented in this forum, that it is of interest to all people in our community. Articles are selected for inclusion due to their timeliness or general informative nature to some aspect of our community. The articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors of TGIC. In all dealings with this community we urge people to be openminded and tolerant and to evaluate each individual on their merits rather than from generalizations drawn elsewhere.

CLASSIFIEDS:

TGIC NEWS will accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any TGIC member. Classifieds may be edited or rejected subject to decisions of the News committee.

TGIC would like to thank Paddy Aldrich of Toronto's Wildside Studio for sending us a replacement for Marriette Pathy Allen's book Transformations. Our earlier copy was stolen or taken out and not returned. Also, we are missing Dr. Doctor's book Transvestites and Transsexuals, if you have this, please return it.

FREE: One of our members has donated an extensive collection of makeup, wigs and shoes to the sisters. Come to one of the Thursday raps to see if you can use any of these items.

FOR SALE: Single family home in Cohoes, if interested, call TGIC Thursdays and ask for Debbie.

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous wigs (New and Used) reasonable. Foam wig heads \$1.50. Wigs styled \$10.00. Makeovers \$65.00. Information and Publications. Contact Jennifer 432-7092.

INVESTORS WANTED: I'm seeking investors who are seriously interested in financing a legitimate boutique, selling wigs, clothing, supplies and services to the gender / drag community; as well as distinctive and unique gifts for a genetic female clientele. If interested please contact Jennifer at 432-7092.

GUESTS TO VISIT RAP SESSIONS

During the months of September and October we will be welcoming a number of guests to our Thursday night rap group. Beginning on September 19 we will be welcoming Jennifer Kane, a GG who is a professional employment specialist working for Snelling and Snelling Temporaries in Colonie. Jennifer will be looking to meet people who are currently living transgendered lifestyles (or planning to do so soon) in preparation for transition. It's our hope that this visit will be useful in helping Jennifer prepare her presentation on FINDING EMPLOYMENT DURING TRANSITION which TGIC is sponsoring her to present in Syracuse at the Autumn Accord on October 5. If you are TS or looking to find work while cross-living we hope you will attend September 19.

September 26, Hawk Stone from Choices Counseling will be visiting the rap group to discuss the need and interest in a professionally facilitated support group, as well as to inform us of the services available through Choices Counseling.

On October 10 and again on October 24 Jon Darnowski will be displaying his collection of Jewelry at our Rap group. Come early and check out some of Jon's beautiful pieces.

Rap groups have taken on a new look this fall with more in depth sharing of experiences. Toward this end, Raps will continue to begin at 8PM, with the first hour being a general socializing. At 9PM the discussion will focus on selected topics as listed below. Please come and share your experiences. Topics may be bumped depending on the interests and needs of the group present, and in such cases the topic will be rescheduled.

SCHEDULE:

- 9-19 Finding Employment (guest)
- 9-26 Value of Counselors (guest)
- 9-29 Early experiences

- 10-3 Providing support
- 10-10 Networking (guest)
- 10-17 The Basics - presentation
- 10-24 Dealing with crisis (guest)
- 10-31 Wives and lovers
- 11-7 Newsletter party
- 11-14 The Basics - make up & wigs

Around 11PM quite often our rap groups turn into a social as many of the girls find enjoyment heading out to nearby Private Eyes for a nightcap and a little dancing. Thursdays also finds us being welcomed to the Knickerbocker Pub and the Playhouse where our own FRAN entertains on the Keyboards. Join us Thursday nights this fall at TGIC.

REMEMBER: GIRLS NIGHT OUT

9/21 6:30 P.M. GLENMONT
 DAYS INN - THE COMEDY WORKS
 \$21.95 INCLUDES DINNER & SHOW
 CONTACT JENNIFER 432-7092
 TRAWAY EXIT 23
 ROUTE 9W 1/2 MILE SOUTH
 ON RIGHT.

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