THE TRANSGENDERIST

APRIL 1994

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie

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Spring is sprung! Hallelujah! Though my lawn is still buried under several feet of snow, I have faith that it will eventually melt, and this is not the beginning of a New Ice Age. Where's that Global Warming we have been hearing so much about? Well, we have to leave some problems for our kids to solve, so they won't get bored! This issue contains my report of the IFGE Coming Together Convention, Tina's last cartoon strip of her P-town series, and some other items. But we'll need more next month, so keep writing and drawing!

This month, don't forget Moonlight in Manhattan, April 21-24. Coming up in June are two more feature events within a day's drive of Albany, the advantages being that you don't have to pay airfare and you can bring a far larger selection from your wardrobe. The Tiffany Club Spring Fling in P-town is completely unstructured and the least expensive; just relax and enjoy this unusual town. The Be-All in Pittsburgh includes seminars and planned activities for those who prefer some organized things to do.

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DINNER PARTIES: Again, so few signed up for our March party because of bad weather that we decided to cancel it. Anyway, let's try once more in April; I for one will be there if possible. The date is *April 9* at the *Northway Inn.* Please sign up at the club room or call Joan by Thursday, April 7.

1994 IFGE CONVENTION - Winnie

This year's IFGE Convention was held at the Hilton Hotel in Portland. Oregon on March 12-20, and was co-hosted by the Northwest Gender Alliance (NWGA) of Portland and Emerald City of Seattle. I flew out on Saturday, 3/12 and arrived on time: unlike the obstacles I faced in getting to the Texas "T"-Party last month, the weather cooperated this time. After checking in with my friend and room-mate from New Hampshire and Linda changing, we joined a group for dinner at an oyster bar in downtown Portland, followed by a nightcap at the Hilton.

The next day, a lesbian friend who last year moved from New England to the Northwest paid us a visit; we spent the afternoon walking around the "Saturday Market" in Portland (even though it was Sunday!). That evening, we got together in a group and drove to The Chart House for dinner; this is a first-rate steak house located on a hillside with a panoramic view of the city, which looked impressive at night.

On Monday, I went on a sightseeing tour organized by the host groups. Nine of us boarded the van driven by our tour guide Burdran, who provided a snack of coffee and muffins by the roadside on the way. While there was green grass in the valley, there was plenty of snow on Mount Hood, where we dropped off five to go skiing at Timberline Lodge at the 6,000 foot level. The lodge was built by the WPA during the Depression, and is of impressive stone construction with much hand-carved wood decoration inside.

Leaving the high ground, the remaining four of us headed for the Columbia River and lunch in the Dalles. We saw parts of the last hurdles on the Oregon Trail, where the pioneers had the choice of either clambering over the mountains or braving the Cascade rapids on the river; in either case, their wagons were a problem. We stopped by an old lock, that first bypassed the rapids, and then by the Bonneville Dam which has now tamed the river. After visiting a fish hatchery, we headed back up Mount Hood to pick up the skiiers just before dusk.

Before leaving Timberline Lodge, we climbed the stairs to the third floor, which was high enough to reach above the snow banks, and had a drink or two at the Ramshead Bar. Three of the skiiers were novices, and reported that the instructors and lift operators were much amused by their antics. Linda Buten had to learn how not to poke off her wig with her pole as she fell on her fanny-pads, which got soaked! On the way back, we all stopped at the Zig Zig Inn for dinner, then went to bed early that night.

On Tuesday morning, I sat in on the IFGE Board meeting for a while. In the afternoon, and I took a cab to see Patti, Linda a beautiful tall blonde and our favorite hairdresser, who was on the staff at DREAM, from 1973-83. The cab driver was recently from Iran, and had to call Patti for directions to her place in the suburbs! It was so good to see her again, and we reminisced as Patti gave me a perm. Then, Marilyn, who had organized DREAM, showed up to deliver her wigs for Patti's styling, and we met Ashley, a CD friend of Patti. Marilyn gave us a ride back to the hotel, three of us in the front seat, since the back was crammed full of her things!

The major business of the convention started on Wednesday, with an official welcome and a presentation of Vision 2000 by the IFGE Strategic Planning Committee - there was a brief discussion of this at a TGIC meeting in January. To carry out the plan, IFGE needs the support of all of us. This was followed by a luncheon, with Linda Peacock the keynote speaker.

In the afternoon, Linda Jean introduced me to her brother, just arrived from Phoenix, Arizona, who she had not seen in many years, and wishes to follow her into sisterhood. Unfortunately, he was called home on an emergency and had to leave the next day; Linda followed on Friday and I did not see her again until we linked up at the Chicago Airport on the way back.

Wednesday night there was a buffet dinner and the presentation of the six Trinity Awards, given this year to: JoAnn Roberts and Alison Laing, both very active in Renaissance and other organizations; from Seattle there was Marilyn who gave us her DREAM and Marsha who has assisted many through the Ingersoll Center; (the S.O. of Nancy Ann Ginny who has devoted her love to ETVC in San Francisco; and Wendy of Los Angeles, who is the Mark Russell of Genderland. Jennifer served as Mistress of Ceremonies and sang a couple of numbers in her own voice; she is very talented.

The Annual Meeting of the Congress of Transgendered Organizations took place on Thursday morning. TGIC is a member and I am your representative, mainly because few from our Club go to the Convention, and they are busy with other matters. The Congress passed a resolution on health care (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and resolved to support and endorse the Stonewall 25 March and Rally on June 26, 1994 in New York City. This is the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in which gays, including many crossdressed, fought back against the police ejecting them from a tavern. However, note that many in our community cannot whole-heartedly support **Stonewall 25** because they do not specifically include "Transgendered" in the title of the March.

In other business, the Congress heard reports of Regional Coalitions in several parts of the U.S.A. A few years ago, TGIC, EON, the CD Network and other groups in upstate NY attempted to form such a coalition, and supported the "Autumn Accord" in Syracuse for two years. Further progress floundered because of lack of people to do the necessary work. If any members of TGIC would like to try again, please let me know.

Also, Renaissance announced the signing of an agreement to raise funds for a transgender film project, requiring between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in grants and donations, which will be tax deductible according to 501(c)(3) rules. The project was endorsed by the CTO, and we will hear more of this later. A new slate of CTO officers was elected, Anne replacing Alison Laing in the Chair. Melissa was designated IFGE Rep. to the CTO.

On Thursday afternoon, I chaired the meeting of the IFGE Nominations & Awards Committee. including the Selections Academy. Together, these groups are responsible for conducting elections to the IFGE Board of Directors and selection of the Trinity and Virginia Prince Award winners. We passed several resolutions aimed at clarifying and improving the election process, and I spent much of Friday afternoon preparing a report for the Board of Directors. At the Board meeting on Saturday, a board member presented our proposals in a formal resolution. Unfortunately, there were conflicts with the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee, and the resolution did not pass. So, I will be busy in the next few months negotiating a compromise. But I can assure everyone that the elections have been and will be fair.

For me, the DREAM Reunion on Thursday night was the highlight of the Convention. I attended all seven DREAMs, beginning in 1973 and ending in 1983; see my article in

The Transgenderist, Nov/Dec 1993, or in Tapestry #67. It was great to hug Marilyn Glorea Patti and other old friends again. It was fun to reminisce and look through the albums of old photographs and see the fading Kodachrome slides projected on the screen. How young we all looked 20 years ago! There was one guy at the reunion who I did not recognize at first: he was Renee, who rode a motorcycle all the way from Phoenix, Arizona to Oregon for DREAM, with feminine clothes rolled GI-style and stuffed into saddle bags; but what a beautiful transformation he made after arrival and Patti's taming of his long, blonde hair!

The reunion event was organized by Jennifer **Mathematical**, who also served as Mistress of Ceremonies; what a splendid job she did! Jennifer, then of Portland, performed a duet with me at the 1983 DREAM; she now lives in St. Louis and is still a dynamo. We released balloons with thoughts for those who could not come to the reunion, and especially for some who are no longer of this world.

On Friday, I said goodbye to my room-mate and went to the Keynote Luncheon, where Phyllis Randolph Frye spoke on political and legal issues; she is chief mover and shaker of the Transgender Law Conference, to be repeated in Houston, TX this year for the third time. This is of interest to all who wish to assert the rights of transgendered people, and not only to lawyers.

Friday evening was "A Night of ESPRIT", another fun time produced by the host organizations that sponsor the annual ESPRIT event in Port Angeles, WA. There was an hospitality hour with Mexican buffet, followed by a Casino Night, and ending with a Pajama Party back in the host suite. At the Casino, I managed to win enough play money at Roulette and Black Jack to make the winning bid on a beautiful nightie at the final auction.

The second session of the IFGE Board of Directors meeting took place on Saturday. I sat in to listen to some of the proceedings, which ran smoothly and effectively under the guidance of Linda as Chair and as Vice-Chair and Sharon Ann Parliamentarian. Sharon is a member of TGIC and also leads our local Tri-Ess group. She must have memorized Robert's Rules of Order, and no one challenged her decisions As mentioned above. I on these matters. was involved as Chair of the N&A Committee. In between all these meetings, I found time to attend some of the very interesting seminars taking place throughout the week.

Saturday night highlighted the week with the Virginia Prince Award Reception and Banquet. This year honored Ellen in her home town of Portland. Ellen is a long-time member of Tri-Ess and a co-founder of NWGA, and has held offices in both groups. I first met Ellen many years ago, at one of the DREAM events, when she introduced me to the fun places to go in Portland. She is an IFGE Director and was host Chair for this 1994 Convention. In 1991, she received a Trinity Award. For the evening's celebration, Wendy was Mistress of Ceremonies, beginning with a recap of the previous V.P. Award winners. The ceremonies were lightened with a number of skits performed by the Drama Queens, Sabrina and Callan (AKA Paul).

After finishing my roll of film, I returned to my room and packed my bags, ready to get up early on Sunday morning and catch a 10 am flight home. So, I missed the final wind-down and passing of the ball to next year's convention hosts, who will be the same people that have made Southern Comfort such a good event. Mark your calendars to take a week of vacation March 12-19, 1995 and go to Atlanta, Georgia, where it will be even warmer than Oregon was this year!

Cross No More

Barron's 2/28/94

Cross-dressers got a tip of the tam from the Royal Bank of Scotland, which last week said it will issue two credit cards with photo IDs to each of its transvestite customers — one straight and one otherwise. Now, about those kilts

TGIC

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 Vice President Secretary Treasurer Newsletter Editor



The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications.

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TGIC General Membership Dues: \$40/yr

3 ANNUAL TRANSGENDER LAW AND POLICY CONFERENCE **TRANSGEN '94** August 17-21, 1994 Houston, Texas, U.S.A. Mark your calendars for the 3" Annual \$ Transgender Law and Policy Conference -TRANSGEN '94! NEW REDUCED RATES!!! This conference is a MUST attend for 17 EVERYONE! It's all about your job, your health, your rights, and your documents it's for you! IT'S OUR FUTURE! 37 For more info or to order 1992/1993 conference proceedings, please write to Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney, Executive Director ICTLEP, 5707 Firenza St., Houston, Texas, 77035-5515, U.S.A.

 (713) 723-1800
 ☆ A <u>MUST</u> for your library! 1992 or 1993 written <u>or</u> audio proceedings, \$65 each; 1993 VHS video proceedings, \$95 each. Check or money order payable to ICTLEP, Inc.

Answering machine: (713) 723-8368 FAX:

TINA IN P-TOWN - Tina



The Transgenderist

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PROFILE

Transgendered male living predominantly as a woman. Prefer to accept work as same and willing to sic an attorney on anyone who feels otherwise.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Publishing articles, cartoons & artwork in Gender Community publications. Perform as musician in Gender Community, nursing homes in straight world, street music in Provincetown, all in femme gender. Working on autobiography.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Worked as overpaid, underworked clerk (male, of course, can't you tell?) for the United States Census Bureau. Latham, N.Y. 1990-91

Mailgirl (or male-girl if you must) for Gypsemal Co., Highhand, N.Y. Company folded when all their concrete crumbled, including several bridges. 1988-89

Legal secretary for Dewey, Cheatum & Howe, Wormyville, Ma. Left because I wouldn't sleep with any of them! Hired for my looks, not ability. 1987

Nanny (well before Mrs. Doubtfire). Got bad reputation from Bigdud family who didn't read me, but thought I was a foreign spy and launched a smear campaign. Also accused of teaching kids bondage, but it was their idea all along. 1985-87

Waitress/Hostess/Dishwasher for Filthy Phil's Greasy Spoon, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. One night, the ghost of Doc Farone visited Phil, told him to retire, move to Florida, and write his memoirs. Hated dishwashing anyway, ruined my nails. 1985

Undercover informant for FBI, Classified. Boy, did I get into some very high class, swinging parties, WOW! Part-time, on-off 1980-90 Girl Friday for Ben Dover & Co., Sasafrass, N.J. Left because I was rumored to be "The Other Woman". Didn't even know he was married. Boy, did he know how to wine and dine! Look him up. 1983

Did a stint in circus as bearded lady (didn't shave). King Bros., Nosmo & Nopar Circus, summer 1981-82-83-84

Switchboard operator/Receptionist for Deaf, Dumb & Blind Institute, Hohocus, N.J. Severe communication difficulties. 1983

Speechwriter for State Senator Horsen A. Round, Wachayues, N.J. He didn't like my jokes. I didn't like his Russian hands and Roman fingers. 1982

Seeing Eye Guide & Manager for famous old black blues singer, Blind Crippled Lush. Boy, did I learn to play guitar from him, WOW! 1978-82

Manager/Founder, Purple Toad Coffee House, Succasuna, N.J. Folk music, Drag Queens Avant-Garde, off-off-Broadway, Minority Political Activism, Native Americans, Science Fiction Freaks, Mae West Fan Club. Driven out by religious fanatics. 1975-78

Santa Clause Elf at Sears, Paterson, N.J. Double-drag, a TG impersonating a male elf. You know I am a real elf anyway. Christmas 1978-79-80

GOALS

You know the answer to that. WE GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!!!



The Transgenderist

April 1994

DR. ROGER PEO SERIOUSLY ILL - Winnie

I have heard that Dr. Roger Peo of Poughkeepsie is very seriously ill and now hospitalized. Dr. Peo has been a good professional friend of the gender community, has attended many of our conventions, and is the author of the popular column "Roger's Notebook" which has been printed in many gender community publications, including those of TGIC. We had planned to have Dr. Peo come to Albany and speak to us last Fall, but a date conflict prevented it from happening. I am sure that all members of TGIC will wish it is possible that Roger might recover.

The Board of Directors of IFGE, on behalf of the membership of The International Foundation for Gender Education, passed a resolution to dedicate the work of the eighth annual "Coming Together, Working Together" Convention, March 16-20, 1994, in Portland, Oregon to Dr. Roger Peo in recognition, honor and gratitude for his invaluable contributions to the gender community and for his life's work.

OUTREACH INSTITUTE OF GENDER STUDIES

The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, founded by Ariadne Kane, has changed its name because of the growing involvement of the Institute in a wide panorama of gender-related educational and research activities.

The Outreach Institute of Gender Studies will continue to sponsor Fantasia Fair, the oldest gender convention of its kind in the world. In addition, the Institute will continue to produce *The Journal for Gender Studies*, as well as an array of other educational and outreach programs for helping professionals, gender conflicted individuals, their friends and loved ones, and the community in general.

For more information about The Outreach Institute of Gender Studies, call our new phone number (207) 621-0858 or write us at our new address: Outreach 126 Western Ave. Suite 246 Augusta, ME 04330

For information about Fantasia Fair: Fan/Fair Ltd., Dept. IN PO Box 15368 Boston, MA 02215-0368

The Tiffany Club of New England cordially invites you to its

14th Annual Provincetown Spring Fling

> Tuesday, May 31, 1994 through Monday, June 6, 1994

> > at the elegant

Boatslip Beach Club

in the beautiful Cape Cod community of Provincetown, Massachusetts



The Tiffany Club of New England, Inc.

P.O. Box 2283 Woburn, MA 01888-0483 (617) 891-9325

"TRANSGENDER" ADDED TO OFFICIAL TITLE IN S.F.

"Transgendered" has been added to the official title of a standing committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC), a move which establishes the first governmental body in California to formally represent transgender people. A resolution creating the Lesbian/ Gay/ Bisexual/ Transgendered Advisory Committee was approved by the Human Rights Commission on February 24, 1994.

The HRC also passed a resolution to hold a special hearing on May 12, 1994 to hear testimonv on the problems and discrimination faced by transgender people in areas that include employment, housing, medical care, public accommodations and treatment by police. Testimony is certain to disclose how transgender people are routinely harassed, demoted and fired from their jobs. Many landlords refuse to rent to the transgendered and we are subjected to violence which often goes unaddressed by local police services. Public services, including medical and social services, are often denied transgender people particularly the poor and homeless.

Recommendations on how to address these concerns, including an ordinance making it illegal to discriminate against transgender people, are expected to come out of the hearing. (This news was passed to TGIC by ETVC, a sister group of more than 450 transgender people in the S.F. Bay Area, and the largest organization of its kind in the world. Several of its members are involved in the effort now ongoing before the HRC to eliminate legal discrimination against transgender people).

HEALTH CARE RESOLUTION - CTO

The following resolution passed by the Congress of Transgendered Organizations at the IFGE Convention on March 17, 1994:

It is noted with regret that President Clinton's proposed American Health Security specifically excludes Act "sex change surgery and related services" from the Guaranteed National Benefit Package. We believe that this unjustly discriminates against American men and women who seek such treatment for the condition known as gender dysphoria. Sex reassignment surgery is an accepted, proven, and necessary We find that the medical procedure. exclusion of sex reassignment surgery and related services denies vital health services to a whole class of men and women who are struggling to cope with gender dysphoria. We find this exclusion to be objectionable, callous, and unjust. In this light, we strongly urge President Clinton, Congress. and Hillary Rodham Clinton, as Chief Health Policy Advisor, to guarantee access to this vital medical treatment within the proposed American Health Security Act.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BOOKCASE WANTED

With recent donations of books and magazines, the bookcase and file cabinet in our Club Room are overflowing. If any of you have a spare bookcase you are willing to donate to the Club, please contact us. Measure its size, so we can make sure it will fit somewhere in the room.

HORMONES BOOK

The Club has copies of this book by Shiela Kirk for sale @ \$8 if picked up in the Club room, or \$9.50 by mail. Ask Winnie.

TRI-ESS MEETINGS

The LCL Chapter of Tri-Ess, a National organization for heterosexual crossdressers, meets in Schenectady on the third Saturday of each month. They encourage wives and girlfriends to attend, and have a more active couples focus than TGIC at this time. Members of TGIC are welcome to attend their meetings; there is a meeting fee to pay for the motel suite. Contact us for LCL meeting times and location. In a reciprocal agreement, members of LCL are welcome at all TGIC meetings and dinner parties. Several individuals are members of both groups.

DRESSED TO THRILL, May 20-21, 1994

If you are interested in exotic fashions and are going to be in Southern California this weekend, you may want to attend this banquet and ball in Long Beach, sponsored by Versatile Fashions and hosted by Mistress Antoinette. Contact TGIC for more information, or write to: Versatile Fashions, PO Box 1051, Tustin, CA 92681; Tel: 714-538-0257.

STONEWALL 25, June 26, 1994

To mark the 25th Anniversary of the *Stonewall Rebellion*, there will be a March & Rally in New York City on Sunday, June 26 and other activities between June 23-27.

A block of rooms for transgendered participants has been reserved by the **Greater New York Gender Alliance** (GNYGA). Contact TGIC for more information, or call Linda Frank of GNYGA: (212) 765-3561, Monday through Thursday evenings from 6 to 10 pm EST.

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

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

RELIGIOUS RIGHT REVIEWS

The American Family Association (AFA), The Christian Film and Television Commission and others keep a watchful eye on movies and TV and encourage their readers to lobby the producers, networks and sponsors against what they consider objectionable, which includes **anything to do with cross-dressing**, as seen in the following example:

> CBS used its DESIGNING WOMEN sitcom to focus on cross-dressers in the May 7 episode, written by Daniel Margosis and Robert Horn, and directed by David Steinberg.

> Carlene and other series regulars discover that Carlene's new boyfriend is a cross-dresser. "I'm not gay," he explains. "I'm a heterosexual guy who just happens to like dressing up in women's clothes."

> He appears in one scene wearing a wig, a dress and women's accessories. In the closing scene, Carlene decides to "identify" with him, so she dresses in a man's suit.

> Along the way, scenes featuring these confused characters provide ample opportunity for jokes about genitalia and rerection.

> Among the advertisers was: Chrm. Tim Crull, Nestle USA, Inc., 800 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91203, Phone 818-549-6000, Carnation food products, Fancy Feast cat food, L'Oreal hair care products.

July 1993 AFA JOURNAL

CALENDAR

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

APRIL 1994

Apr 7 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm Apr 9 Saturday, 8 pm *Dinner Party, Northway Inn* Apr 14 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm Apr 21 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm Apr 28 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAY 1994

May 5 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm May 12 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm May 14 Saturday, 8 pm *Dinner Party, Northway Inn* May 19 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm May 26 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

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

Tawny's Boutique

A store welcoming the transgendered community

- * Regular & full-figure clothing
 * Shoes, wigs, breast forms, lingerie
- * Hosiery, cosmetics, jewelry & more
- * Understanding, helpful & confidential

22 E. Main St., Amsterdam, NY

Note: Tawny's is now on the first floor and open to the public. If you wish complete privacy, call first and make an appointment.

(518) 843-8761



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