



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRANSGENDERIST'S INDEPENDENCE CLUB, ALBANY, NY

THE TRANSGENDERIST

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

- Winnie [redacted]

The snowstorm on Thursday, March 7 effectively squelched our meeting that night. I called some of our regular attendees, and no one was inclined to drive through the blizzard. However, Joan went and opened the room on time, but left when nobody else showed up. Two others said they stopped by later, and found the door locked. In the aftermath, our dinner party scheduled for March 9 again fell victim to the weather, as have all others through this winter.

DINNER PARTIES

Hopefully, the weather will be better for our first dinner party of the spring season, scheduled for April 13 at 8pm, at a restaurant to be determined. Please sign up at the club room or call 436-4513 and leave a message for Joan by Thursday, April 11, or call Joan at [redacted]. Leave your number so we can confirm the location.

LGBT CONFERENCE WORKERS NEEDED

As announced last month, there will be a TG Caucus in the afternoon of Saturday, April 20 at the Lesbian, Gay, Bi, & TG Conference on the campus of SUNY Albany. In preparation for our participation, TGIC will hold committee meetings during all our Thursday night meetings in the preceding weeks, and all will be asked to do what they can. Volunteers are needed to produce poster displays, handout materials, etc., giving factual information about the transgender community and our issues. Since pictures are most effective in attracting attention, artists are especially critical. All details must be settled by our meeting on April 18. Warm bodies are also needed on the day of the Caucus and the evening before, to man the registration and display tables, hand out flyers, answer questions, escort out-of-town TG guests (two are expected), network, etc. These people should meet at the TGIC Club Room at 11a.m. on Saturday, April 20 for final coordination before going in groups to

the SUNYA campus. Even if you are unable to assist in preparation or attendance at the caucus, you can help by making a special donation to TGIC to cover expenses that the club will incur.

*

TGIC BUSINESS MEETING APRIL 11

All members are urged to attend our business meeting on Thursday, April 11. Besides financial matters, improvements in the Club Room facilities, revision of our by-laws, formation of special interest groups, and nomination of new officers and directors will be on the agenda. If you are interested in the future of TGIC, please mark it on your calendar and come!

*

ICTLEP NOW HAS PERMANENT OFFICE

The International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy established a small permanent office, staffed by one part-time legal assistant, in January. Their address is:

ICTLEP, Inc.
PO Drawer 35477
Houston, TX 77235-5477
Phone: 713-777-TGLC (8452)
Fax: 713-777-0909
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

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FOR "MAN" AND BEAST, LANGUAGE OF LOVE SHARE MANY TRAITS (NY Times, 1995)

WITH the same methodological methods they have long used in studies of animals, scientists are turning their attention to the nuances of human courtship rituals -- otherwise known as flirting.

By turning the ethologist's lens on human courtship, scientists are finding striking similarities with other species, suggesting that the non-verbal template used by *Homo sapiens* for attracting and approaching a prospective mate is to some extent part of a larger, shared animal heritage.

A woman parades past a crowded bar to the women's room, hips swaying, eyes resting momentarily on a likely man and then coyly looking away just as she notices his look. This scenario exemplifies a standard opening move in courtship, getting attention, said Dr. David Givens, an anthropologist in Washington who is writing a book about evolution and behavior. "In the first phase of courting, humans broadcast widely a nonverbal message that amounts to 'notice me,' " said Dr. Givens. "They do it through movement, through their dress, through gesture."

From hundreds of hours of observations in bars and at parties, Dr. Givens discovered that women, more than men, tend to promenade, making numerous trips to the women's room, for instance, both to scout and to be seen.

A second nonverbal message in this earliest

stage is "I am harmless," Dr. Givens has found. The gestures and postures humans use to send this message are shared with other mammals, particularly primates. Charles Darwin, who noted the same gestures in his 1859 book, "The Expressions of the Emotions in Man and Animals," called them "submissive displays."

Perhaps the first serious study of flirting was done in the 1960's by Dr. Irenaus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, an eminent ethologist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. Dr. Eibl-Eibesfeldt traveled to cultures around the world with a camera that took pictures from the side so he could stand near couples and take their pictures without their realizing they were being observed. In research in Samoa, Brazil, Paris, Sydney and New York, Dr. Eibl-Eibesfeldt discovered an apparently universal nonverbal human vocabulary for flirting and courtship.

In humans, one such gesture is a palm-up placement of the hand, whether on a table or a knee, a reassuring sign of harmlessness. Another submissive display is the shoulder shrug, which, ethologists suggest, derives from an ancient vertebrate reflex, a posture signifying helplessness. A posture combining the partly shrugged shoulder and a tilted head -- which displays the vulnerability of the neck -- is commonly seen when two people who are sexually drawn to each other are having their first conversation, Dr. Givens said.

Being playful and childish is another way potential lovers often communicate harmlessness. "You see the same thing in the gray wolf," said Dr. Givens.

When wolves encounter each other, they usually give a show of dominance, keeping their distance. But in a sexual encounter, they become playful and frisky, "like puppies," said Dr. Givens, "so they can accept closeness." The next step is a mutual show of submission, all of which paves the way for physical intimacy.

"We still go through the ritual of courtship much like our mammalian ancestors," said Dr. Givens. "These gestures are subcortical, regulated by the more primitive part of our brain. They have nothing to do with the intellect, with our great neocortex."

The nonverbal repertoire for flirting is "part of a natural sequence for courtship worldwide," said Dr. Helen Fisher, an anthropologist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., and author of "The Anatomy of Love" (Fawcett, 1993). "Mothers don't teach this to their daughters."



"A woman parades past a crowded bar, hips swaying, eyes resting momentarily on a likely man..."

In the long view of evolution, courtship is less about romance than about genetic fitness, the struggle to pass on the maximal number of one's own genes to future generations.

"In evolutionary terms, the payoff for each sex in parental investment differs: to produce a child a woman has an obligatory nine-month commitment, while for a man it's just one sexual act," said Dr. David Buss, a psychologist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and author of "The Evolution of Desire" (Basic Books, 1994). "For men in evolutionary terms what pays is sexual access to a wide variety of women, while for women it's having a man who will commit time and resources to helping raise children."

From this view, the coyness of courtship is a way to "test a prospective partner for commitment," said Dr. Jane Lancaster, an anthropologist at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. "Women, in particular, need to be sure they're not going to be deserted."

Coyness is not seen in species where the female does not need the sustained help or resources of a male to raise her young, said Dr. Lancaster. In species where a single act of copulation is the only contact a female requires with the father of her young, "there's a direct assertion of sexual interest by the female," said Dr. Lancaster.

But in species where two parents appreciably enhance the survival of offspring, "females don't want to mate with a male who will abandon them," said Dr. Lancaster. In such species, "the courtship dances are coy, a test to see if the male is willing to persist and pursue or simply wants a momentary dalliance," he said. "Instead of the female simply getting in a posture for mating, she repeats a promise-withdraw sequence, getting in the mating posture and then moving away."

In humans, flirtatious looks imitate this sequence. The coy look a woman gives a man is the beginning of a continuing series of approach-withdraw strategies that will unfold over the course of their courtship. These feminine stratagems signal the man, "I'm so hard to win that if you do win me you won't have to worry about me getting pregnant by another male," said Dr. Lancaster.

A taxonomy of 52 "nonverbal solicitation behaviors" observed in flirting women has been garnered by Dr. Monica Moore, a psychologist at Webster University in St. Louis. In her research, conducted in singles bars, shopping malls and other places young people go to meet those of the opposite sex, Dr. Moore has found that the women who send flirtatious signals most frequently are most likely to be approached by men -- even more so than are women who are rated as more attractive.

"It's not who's most physically appealing," said Dr. Moore, "but the woman who's signaling availability that men approach."

Flirting is the opening gambit in a continuing series of negotiations at every step of the way in courtship. Indeed, the first major negotiation point is signaled by the flirtatious look itself.

"When a man is looking at a woman and she senses it, her first decision is, 'Do I have further interest in him?'" said Dr. Beverly Palmer, a psychologist at California State University in Dominguez Hills who has studied flirting. "If so, by flirting she sends the next signal: 'I'm interested in you, and yes, you can approach me.'" Once the first conversation begins, there is "a major escalation point," said Dr. Fisher.

"The woman has a whole new basis for judging the man," she said. "A large number of prospective pickups end here."

Though men may say they are well aware of the tentativeness of flirting, Dr. Buss's findings suggest a male tendency -- at least among college-age men -- toward wishful thinking in interpreting flirtatious looks. In settings where men and women go to meet someone of the opposite sex, Dr. Buss said,

"we find that when you ask men what it means for a woman to smile at them, they interpret it as a sexual invitation."

"But when you ask women what it means," he continued, "they'll say it just indicates she wants to get to know him better."

In interviews with 208 college-age men and women published this month in *The Journal of Sex Research*, Dr. Buss and colleagues found that when it comes to seduction, "the sexual signals that work for a woman backfire for men."

"There's a huge sex difference in how effective different tactics are," he added.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the research showed that for women, direct sexual approaches -- dressing seductively, dancing close, staring into a man's eyes -- worked well in leading to sexual contact. But for men similar direct strategies were failures.

Instead, for men the less overtly seductive tried-and-true romantic stratagems fared best. "For men the most effective approaches are displays of love and commitment," said Dr. Buss. "Telling her he really loves her, that he cares and is committed."

"The coy look a woman gives a man is the beginning of a continuing series of approach-withdraw strategies that will unfold over the course of their courtship.."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WHY NOT YOU?

This new look is the result of my volunteering to help Winnie and TGIC out. Its an experiment to bring your attention to the fact that TGIC needs volunteers. Maybe you have been wanting things to be different or have some ideas that would benefit club members. This is your chance. Are you willing to put some time and effort into it? I hope my volunteering to edit this month's newsletter will set an example for everyone else. If you want to help and don't know what needs to be done, just ask! Winnie has been doing the bulk of the work and she will show you the what, how, where of things. Afraid of making a commitment? That's ok, we'll be glad to let you try something to see if it feels right. I wanted to take a chance and try my hand at editing the newsletter. Although it is a lot of work, it proved to be a rewarding experience. I hope others are inspired by this and come forward. We need you. Thanks.

Gina

Albany Gender Project

Education, Information, Consultation
Referrals, Publications, Seminars

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CTLEP NOW HAS PERMANENT OFFICE
The International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy established a small permanent office, staffed by one part-time legal assistant, in January. Their address is:
ICTLEP, Inc.
PO Drawer 35477
Houston, TX 77235-5477
Phone: 713-777-TGLC (8452)
Fax: 713-777-0909
CROSS-TALK now \$5/issue
Kymberleigh Richards, publisher of the monthly TG magazine Cross-Talk, has announced that she will now concentrate on mail order sales at a reduced price of \$5

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the Transgender Conference April 19, 20, 1996 at SUNY-Albany. Katherine has been asking all members to help in any way they can. We need people to be panelists and hostesses, help organize and write information to distribute at the conference. Please consider donating some of your time to this worthy event. This event is one of the few places where people can get accurate information about Transgendered persons.

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

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

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TGIC General Membership Dues: \$40/yr

RANDOM THOUGHTS (#13)

By Jennifer [REDACTED]

PROFITS OF THE NEW AGE...

or...

The Tao of Transsexualism #1 - Enchantment

In her book *A Woman's Worth* Marianne Williamson states,

"Together we embark on a quest for our own enchantment. It will take us to a place where what is feminine is sacred, as are a lot of other things as well. There we can become who we are meant to be and live the life we are meant to live."¹ (underline added).

Welcome to the first episode of the Tao of Transsexualism. This is planned as series of Random Thoughts which from time to time in the months ahead, we will be exploring thoughts relevant to transsexual spirituality, well being and self esteem.

It has never ceased to amaze me during talks with other gender conflicted persons, how hard so many of us try to see all sides of almost any issue. It also has never ceased to amaze me how hard we try to "fit" into whatever category which the prevalent society says we need conform. Do we need to seek our own enchantment? I've never in my adult life thought of myself as enchanted, but dealing with my transsexualism has provided personal strength and spirituality through a higher understanding of faith. I've often thought that, many transsexuals, when allowed the expression, have a higher sense of spiritualism.

I have always been a fan of Winnie the Pooh. In years past I always made sure that my children had access to Pooh books and stories. Recently, I happened to purchase a taped version of Benjamin Hoff's book *The Tao of Pooh*². In it he takes a look at philosophy and spirituality through the eyes of our favorite bear and relates it to Taoism. Suprisingly many of the principles have meaning for transsexuals as well.

The Principle of The Uncarved Block:

"Pooh looked at his two paws. He knew that one of them was the right, and he knew that when you had decided which one of them was the right, then the other one was the left. But he never knew how to begin."

Many of us in the gender community are like Pooh. We know that one gender is male, and when you had decided which gender was male, then the other one must be female, but some of us never know how to begin. Through this "not knowing" is the wisdom to just be. Pooh, after all just was...himself. By being himself he has become a lovable part of childhood for people everywhere. No apologies are offered for his unique and distinctive way of looking at things.

Later in his book Hoff further illuminates this concept further by what he calls the "Codelston Pie Principle" or as he quotes Pooh:

"A fly can't bird, but a bird can fly."

This principle is very simple yet many overlook it, its the concept of trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. If you demand that a person defines themselves in a limiting capacity you take some of their dignity, but more than this you that something away from society. You don't need to justify yourself or your existence. Nor should you ignore the simple reality of just letting things, or in our case people, be as they are.

The uncarved block teaches us about simplicity, Codelston Pie about being ourselves. Or as Hoff puts it:

"When you discard arrogance, complexity, and a few other things that get in the way, sooner or later you will discover that simple, childlike and mysterious secret known to those who study the uncarved block: Life is fun!"

We don't know how to put it into words, although this writer and many others try, we just are -- what could be simpler?. Apparently, Pooh understood these truths and don't we all want things to be as simple as the life Pooh lived?. Maybe it's time we look at childhood with new eyes.

In the next Tao of Transsexualism: "The wise are not learned, the learned not wise".

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¹ Williamson, Marianne; *A Woman's Worth*, Random House / Ballantine Books, New York, 1994, ISBN: 0-345-38657-4, p. 6.

² Hoff, Benjamin, *The Tao of Pooh*, New York, Harper Audio Division - HarperCollins Publishers, 1993.

SOME EXCERPTS FROM CQ CQ- NEWSLETTER OF NEW YORK CYBERQUEERS:

Saturday and Sunday, April 20-21 -- OUT AND EQUAL IN THE 90's, The Fifth Annual National Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Workplace Issues. Run by NGLTF, the conference addresses issues like the "out" career, organizing employee groups, domestic partner benefits, dealing with closeted people in positions of power, mentoring the next generation, and (we like this), how to be a "digital queer". Out and Equal will be held at the Ramada Hotel Civic Center in San Francisco, CA. For more information, contact NGLTF at (202) 332-6483, ext. 3444, wpconf@nglrf.org, or tune in on <http://www.nglrf.org/nglrf>.

Thursday, May 2 -- THE NETWORK'S SPRING FLING at Tavern On the Green. The Network's gala fundraising event of the year! After April 15, it's \$70, but if you buy your ticket before that, it's a more palatable \$55. Speaking of palatable, there's food, entertainment, and plenty of Network types to network with. For more information, call (212) 517-0771.

ACTION ALERT: SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

As you may know, John Lotter, who killed transsexual Brandon Teena and two other people, was recently given a death sentence. Saturday night live featured this story on their "Weekend Update" segment. With a USA Today article projected behind him, Norm MacDonald said.

"In Nebraska this week, a man was sentenced to death for attempting to kill a female crossdresser who accused him of raping her. Sorry if this sounds harsh, but in my opinion, everybody in this case deserved to die."

Harsh? If you ask us, it's as harsh as a jigger of Sauza Tequila!! Please give NBC a piece of your mind: Warren Littlefield, President
NBC

3000 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank, California 91523

E-mail: entertainment@nbc.com or nbcshows@msn.com

FASHION INTERNET

It was only a matter of time that the designers and the geeks teamed up. Fashion Internet is a Web site that chronicles the New York Scene. There are articles on topics such as spring fashion, Dr. Martens, or "The Clueless Guy's Guide to Buying a Suit". There are also "showrooms" by designers such as Bill Blass, Donna Karen and others. What could be more New York? More Cyber? More "je ne sais quois"? <http://www.finy.com>

NYCQ MEMBERSHIP

Membership in NYCQ is \$25 per year. This entitles you to up-to-date news about NYCQ, to vote on NYCQ issues, and it helps us carry out our mission. If you're interested in joining, send a message to NYCQ @ aol.com, a check to the snail-mail address below, or better yet, come to one of the meetings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Internet: NYCQ@aol.com, NYCQ@nycnet.com
Infobot: NYCQInfo@nycnet.com
News Submissions: NYCQNews@aol.com, NYCQNews@nycnet.com

Mail: NYCQ,
Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center
208 West 13th Street
New York, NY 10011

TGIC TO HOST RIKI OVER LUNCH

Riki Anne Wilchins, of The Transsexual Menace, will be TGIC's guest speaker at the LGBT Conference in April. TGIC welcomes all members and friends to meet Riki over lunch at the clubroom, Saturday, April 20, between 10am and 1pm. Come and be entertained by this dynamic speaker and transgender activist. This is a non-smoking event.

Transgendered Magazine

The TG Community at Your Fingertips

For anyone dealing with issues of Gender Confusion, Crossdressing or Transsexuality. Informative Articles about this Alternative Lifestyle. National Lists of Organizations & Gender Clubs. Places to Shop. Services and Health Professionals. Beauty, Fashion, Humor, Stories. Fun and Much More!

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Jeanette, Alycia's partner, has been a sychotherapist/educator for more than 20 years. She brings extensive experience in group dynamics as well as insight into a partner's perspective of the journey.

Joyce will add a special flavor to the group by facilitating creativity, movement, and meditative experiences.

Catherine, also a crossdresser for over 20 years, will trouble shoot business/ non-group issues as they arise.

We promise you a fulfilling and rewarding experience as you explore your own personal journey.

This dynamic retreat will be held at UU in the Pines, a Unitarian Universalist Retreat Center near Brooksville, Florida - about 50 miles north of Tampa. This is a rustic, modest and serene country setting, complete with 13 acres of rolling hills, hammock forest, trails, unheated swimming pool and campfire site, that provides a rural atmosphere that is quiet and promotes additional renewal through rest, relaxation, exercise and play.

The home cooked meals, served family style, provide a warm and relaxed atmosphere. The Main Lodge provides a number of spacious and comfortable meeting rooms. A separate guest house consists of simple, clean private rooms, each containing two twin beds.

The Pines is a 'safe place' to experience crossdressing in a retreat format. Administration is fully aware and thoughtful in providing a respectful environment where individuals can grow and flourish.

As space is limited to 25 participants, make your reservations early for the May 2nd thru May 5th event. Workshop Fee of \$390 includes Meals & Accomodations. A 50% non refundable deposit must be sent with registration.

For further information on this or other planned 5 or 7 day events in various other locations, contact:

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Transvestites Sue The Argentinian Police Force

On Thursday, February 8, A.T.A. (Argentinean Association of Transvestites) sued the Buenos Aires police force under discrimination, persecution and illegal incarceration charges.

It was announced at a press conference -covered by the country's most relevant media- where Maria Belen [redacted] and Loana [redacted] (A.T.A.) together with their lawyer Angela Vanni, denounced the many hardships endured by transvestites in Argentina.

* Every night, around 100 transvestites are arrested in Buenos Aires only. It can happen anywhere - at a bar, in a shop or taxi- and it is not necessarily related to prostitution. Transvestites are arrested under police edicts (unconstitutional in character, as it's the very police that promulgates them) penalizing the act of "wearing clothes that belong to the opposite sex".

* Transvestites are verbal and physically abused by the police, and they have even been threatened with death in case they reveal those abuses.

* Police is not allowed to keep anyone arrested for more than 10 hours in Argentina; usually, transvestites remain 24 hours in jail.

* Many transvestites are arrested when they go to the police station to bring food or clothes for a previously arrested friend.

* Whenever transvestites try to appeal their arbitrary detention, the appeal is usually destroyed by the police and it never gets to Court.

With this action, A.T.A.'s transvestites place themselves before society as individuals having rights of their own, in still another of their brave and dignified acts. The group has been operating for about two years. Its main activity is to fight against police brutality, but they also work intensely to raise their peers' self-esteem through consciousness and support groups and their daily presence whenever a transvestite is arrested, sick, or has been abused by her family.

Far from the stereotype -wearing simple, comfortable clothes and almost no make up-, remarkably bright, Loana [redacted] is one of the group spokespersons. She is 33, partly Native American and was born in Salta - one of the most conservative Argentinean provinces. She knew from the very beginning that she was, in her own words "not a man, neither a woman ... I'd say, a different kind of woman". Her childhood bore the mark of severe physical and emotional abuse; her father used to introduce the family to strangers by saying: "my daughter, my son and ...that". At 13, Loana fled from her province straight to an old house inhabited by transvestites of all ages and shapes.

Since then, she is a sexual worker. But last year she decided to quit "the streets" and studied clothes design at a public school. Many times she went directly from the police station to class, but she never stopped going. Loana graduated few months ago and now is starting to develop her own sewing/design business.

She estimates to spend an average of 4 nights "in" (arrested) and 3 "out" every week. Many times doctors refused to assist her at a public hospital because her appearance did not relate to the male name in her papers.

All those horrors she tells in a quiet manner, almost with pride: she thinks they show patriarchy's essential weakness, as it can only maintain itself through violence. But what does not forget is the pain she felt when A.T.A. was refused entrance to a feminist conference organized by ATEM (a feminist group in Buenos

Aires): "We weren't going to talk. We just wanted to listen, to learn", Loana justifies herself, as if it were needed.

She and her peers study and discuss with two female anthropologists the slippery question of genders. They visit the most sordid hotels and shanty towns to bring medicines for AIDS stricken transvestites, to chat with the old ones and to teach the young that it is better to shout in a demonstration than to cut your wrists to stop being abused. Every night policemen do not have it easy: organized transvestites are always there, ready to fight every arrest as if it were their own. And as soon as they are "out", they ran to their lawyers' office to keep up the fight.

As Loana and her group actively joined the Lesbian and Gay Movement, many of us have learnt a lot about dignity, courage and humanity. We have the joy and the privilege to walk with them in their struggle. Because today they stand up as protagonists in the face of corrupt and yes, fragile, powers that beat and kill, lacking the courage to face the fact that there are many wonderful ways to be human.

Alejandra [redacted]
Escrita en el cuerpo - Archivo y Biblioteca Lesbica
(Written on the body - Lesbian Archives and Library)"

[redacted] Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
E.mail: [redacted]

Publication for GLBT Families

"In The Family" is a new quarterly periodical devoted to the interests and concerns of GLBT families. Three issues have appeared to date.

The second issue of ITF (October, 1995) featured a cover story authored by Editor Laura Markowitz entitled "When The Mirror is Wrong: An Interview With Gary Sanders."

Gary Sanders is a psychiatrist and family therapist who has worked with transsexuals and their families as Director of the Human Sexuality Program and Associate Director of the Family Therapy Program in the medical faculty at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The article is constructed in a question/answer format and accompanied by photos of Loree [redacted], her FTM partner Marcelle and Marcelle's child, a handsome boy named Kai. The photo captions and the cover tell the story of Loree, Marcelle and Kai. It is a wonderful article about a wonderful family.

The editors expect to include material on TG families in the future.

We will be including "In The Family" on our PFLAG-T resource list.

The subscription rate is \$22.00 (\$26.00 U.S. outside the U.S.)
Single copies are \$5.50 (\$6.50 international).

Send check or money order to: "In The Family, P.O.Box 5387, Takoma Park, MD 20913.

The editor can be contacted at: Tel: (301) 270-4771, Fax: (301) 270-4660, Lmarkowitz@AOL.COM.

Sharon [redacted]
Co-Facilitator, TGS-PFLAG

SUNSHINE CLUB BANQUET

The Sunshine Club of Western Massachusetts presents Dr. Yvon Menard M.P.F.R.C.S.(c) of Montreal, Canada in a talk and video presentation on the surgical procedures for the F2M and M2F transsexual on May 4, 1996.

Ariadne Kane, noted author, counselor, and lecturer, founder of the Outreach Institute and creator of *Fantasia Fair* will be one of the guest speakers at this 4th Anniversary Banquet.

Dr. Sheila Kirk is also tentatively scheduled to speak.

There will be an information booth and bookstore at the day long event. Contact: Sunshine Club, P.O. Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035-0564 or fill out the registration form available at the TGIC clubroom. Admission for Dr. Menard's talk is \$10 advance, \$15 at the door.

NEW NIGHT SPOT IN ALBANY

JD's PLAYHOUSE is now open and several TGIC members attended. The atmosphere is upscale, clean and sharp with a great ventilation system for cleaning smoke from the air. Sporting two bars, a great dance floor, and a friendly crowd, it is perfect for TGIC members to socialize after meetings since Thursday nights are 2-4-1. See you there.

KOTL BBS Needs Your Help

KOTL is an electronic bulletin board (BBS) serving the Transgendered/Lesbian/Gay Communities in the lower Hudson Valley of New York. We are the only bbs of it's sorts within a 6 county area here in New York. We offer FREE Internet, and FREE Adult Access! Everyone is given 20 minutes per day FREE, but we ask for help through subscriptions which give you the caller more time online, no ratios and eligibility to Contests with giveaways like Sound Cards, CD-Rom games, Audio Cd's, Gift Certificates, etc

We are in a bit of a financial fix! We really need your help to stay online! If you think having such a bbs online then please help us out! Please! We are . We've been online for 3 years come Dec. 2 1995, but between Internet charges, phone bills, and cd upgrades for the bbs we are in the hole: \$1232.07!!! We need help ASAP!!!!

If you think a TG/Lesbian/Gay BBS which offers FREE access is worth having online, please help us out!

If you'd like to call KOTL OnLine:

Node 1 (914) 246-1642

Node 2 (914) 247-0631

If a LD call for a BBS is too much for you, we would really appreciate a donation to keep such a support bbs online.

If you would like to make a donation (even a dollar would really help right now!) please make check or money order payable to: KOTL BBS Send check or money order to: KOTL BBS POB 509 Glasco, NY 12432 USA

If you donate and you want something advertised, please send the info as we would be happy to make up both ANSI & RIP ads on the bbs for you in appreciation!!!

Thank you so very much for any help you can give to support our efforts in serving the Transgendered/Lesbian/Gay Communities...

Hugs,

Staci (staci [redacted]@kotl.com)

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess holds monthly Saturday meetings at a motel in Schenectady. The planned schedule is: Apr.20, May18, June15.

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is \$25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:
IFGE (617) 899-2212
PO Box 229
Waltham, MA 02154-0229

CROSS-TALK now \$5/issue

Kymerleigh Richards, publisher of the monthly TG magazine *Cross-Talk*, has announced that she will now concentrate on mail order sales at a reduced price of \$5 per single issue of 32 pages. Subscription rates are \$48 for one year, or \$84 for two years.

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral.

No names will be asked.
(NYS Health Department) **Albany Area:**
(518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

**NEW WEB PAGE
FOR CROSSDRESSERS**

This web site was set up by Yvonne for Crossdressers in the Capital District. The address is:

<http://www.albany.net/~yms/>

We would appreciate feedback on this or any other internet site that may be of interest to our community.

TGIC ON LINE- If you want to keep up with breaking news about TGIC, join TGIC ON LINE. Send e-mail to JEEENA@AOL.COM. (That's 3 e's)

TGIC ON LINE is an informal discussion/chat providing a forum for opinions, information, club news and anything of interest to the Transgendered Community.

CALENDAR

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

APRIL 1996 (NS = No Smoking Meeting)

Apr 4 Thursday Meeting 7:30 pm

Apr 11 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

TGIC BUSINESS MEETING

Apr 13 Dinner Party, 8:00 pm

Location to be announced

Apr 18 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

Apr 19-21 1996 LGBT Conference

University at Albany

Apr 25 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAY 1996 (NS = No Smoking Meeting)

May 2 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

May 9 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

May 11 Dinner Party, 8:00 pm

Location to be announced

May 16 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

May 23 NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

May 30 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

Apr 25-29 California Dreamin', San Francisco, CA

May 15-19 Esprit '96, Port Angeles, WA


May 16-19 Paradise in the Poconos, Canadensis, PA

June 6-9 Be-All, Detroit, MI

June 13-16 Tiffany Club Spring Fling, Provincetown, MA

July 3-7 TRANSGEN'96, Houston, TX

July 24-28 S.P.I.C.E., Wilmington, DE



ESPRIT '96
Port Angeles, WA

MAY 15th - 19th

Catch the Spirit!
Esprit
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98057-1101