



tgic. news

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TRANSGENDERISTS INDEPENDANCE CLUBS

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THAN/FEB. 1991

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: - Winnie [redacted]

Hello, Ladies!

As you can see, there's a new name at the top of the column. At the board meeting on December 6, I agreed to do what a Vice President is supposed to do when the President resigns. Fortunately, we had some volunteers to fill the other vacancies, as listed below. This is a volunteer organization - as a general rule, she who volunteers gets the job! Some of these ladies are relatively new to the club, still flushed with the initial joy at finding we exist and filled with enthusiasm for becoming more active and contributing to our growth. Where are the members who have been in the club for several years? We would love to see your pretty faces at our meetings more often.

Talking about meetings, some things seem to be drifting. On the second Saturday of every month, Mother Eve opens her doors to us at 7:30 pm, yet many people don't show until after 9 or later. Come early, it's quieter so we can talk easier and better welcome new members. And, don't forget you can change in the basement if necessary - it's now got a new coat of paint.

A couple of years ago, our Rap Sessions at the apartment were poorly attended. I am glad to say that this has changed for the better - every Thursday we now get a dozen or so people, and lots of lively, informal chit-chat. This is where the plans for our special activities and projects are laid, so come and join in if you want the club to do more. Don't worry about finding a place to sit - we now have some folding chairs! You don't have to come dressed - on average, only about half those attending do (now, don't take this the wrong way!) - or, you can change in the bathroom (it's small, but one can manage).

Unfortunately, our parties at the apartment on the 4th Friday of each month seem to have fizzled during the past year - perhaps because so soon after the Rap meeting

the day before. We will try to revive these parties in the coming year, with special themes or speakers - or whatever good new ideas anyone can suggest. Or, perhaps another day of the month would be better for some members? Let us know what you'd like.

The Thanksgiving dinner at the club room on November 15 was very well attended and much enjoyed by all - those who didn't come missed a great feast and good time. Congratulations to Denise, Katherine, Sue and the others who helped in the cooking and clean-up.

On behalf of us all, I want to thank Dawn, Tammy and Tiffane for their leadership of the club and all the work they have done for us. And, I am especially grateful to Jennifer for continuing in the essential duties of Outreach person and Editor of this newsletter. Also, all the other Board and Committee members who will give continuity of leadership to the club.

My objective as President will be to keep TGIC running smoothly and expand our activities and services as willing hands and finances permit. I was a member of the old TVIC group, joining soon after "coming out" in 1973. Wilma and wife Helen held monthly parties (with a home-cooked dinner!) at their home on Broadway for many, many years.



Unfortunately, they spoiled us by doing all the work, and the club didn't survive the move to the Boston area after they retired. I don't want this to happen again! To maintain continuity and growth, we need to develop new, energetic leaders for the future

of our community. If, after reading this column, you think I am encouraging all members to become more active and take an interest in the workings of TGIC, you are right! How about YOU!?

KATHY/KLATCH - Kathryn H.

In the last issue I promised to talk of my experiences at the 16th annual Fantasia Fair, a 9 day event for TV's, TS's, TG's & couples held in October in Provincetown, Mass. For me (and most attendees) it was the most beautiful and redeeming experience in my life. And, as much as I'd like to tell you all that went on, there is not enough time nor space here. All I'll say is that I'm signed up for next year and would highly recommend it to each and everyone of you.

The most difficult part of going to a Fantasia Fair, is much the same as it is coming to your first TGIC rap session. And that is making contact. As for myself, I went through most of my life thinking (or should I say knowing) that I was the only male who loved to dress in woman's clothes on the entire planet. Even after so many years of wishing there were others like me, it took years more for me to accept it when I found out I wasn't alone. And then I felt that the others like me didn't need to dress as much as I did.

When I found a self-help information number, and got the phone of a crossdresser's group, it still took me another year to get the nerve to call, before I actually called. Perhaps it wasn't the right time to do it, if you know what I mean. But, the frustration

and the need to reach out for help just became so overwhelming that if I didn't I'd do something awful to myself.

Luckily, I took the first big step to make the call, and am I glad I did. It began a whole new wonderful life for me and a great opportunity to meet new and wonderful people. As an example this Christmas, I received 26 cards to my male self and 23 to my Femme self.

I guess the point of all this is that while you may be apprehensive about coming out of a small closet at home to the rap group (a slightly larger closet) or to Fantasia Fair, (a much larger closet) I truly believe you'll find it worth taking the step.

Now, how about a letter?

Dear Kathy,

I'm a crossdresser who's looking for a place to dress in comfort, and to go out from there.

Signed - "Where to wran"

Dear Where,

One motel I stayed in was such a dive, they stole my towels. In their post card picture of the room, the bed wasn't made up! The bed vibrator and the cleaning lady were the same person. But I wouldn't recommend it.

Actually our club room is not a bad place to change in and meet people. My experiences in the Albany area is

limited to the Days Inn in Glenmont - they have been very accepting and quite helpful. Nice rooms and you can ask for a ground floor, with individual exit doors. You can also have drinks and dinner dressed. Info on other places can be had when you come to our rap sessions.

My thanks to Melodi for donating a coat rack to the club room, and did we need it! Thanks to myself for the four folding chairs, but more thanks to the new members who's backsides made the purchase necessary.

Til next time - Kathy

VICE NOTES - Cassandra W.

Hello again ladies!

Well its the start of a new year and our club seems to be stronger than ever. There's a new board of directors now and we are eagerly looking forward to what can happen with this club. There's going to be a few changes in the club, hopefully for the better. We welcome your input as we try to re-shape this club to even better help our members. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, you might be surprised at how many people are regularly showing up, and if this isn't you, well, I hope you reconsider. Even if you don't come "en femme", there are a lot of us that are eager to help you. We now have two couples (at least) that come regularly, so as they say, "the more the merrier".

On a personal note I was honored to have been part of the process where Sue [redacted] was voted in as an honorary

TGIC Officers & Directors:

President	Winnie B.
Vice President	Cassandra W
Secretary	Beth W.
Treasurer	Denise S.
Director, Outreach	Jennifer W.
Director, TS Affairs	Tiffane V.
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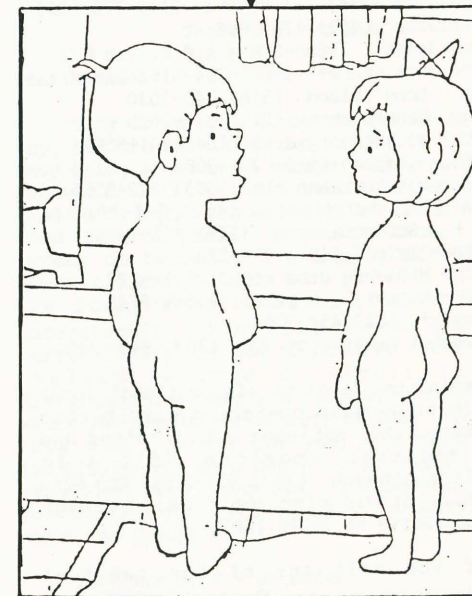
Newsletter	Jennifer W.
IFGE Representative	Winnie B.
Programs	Pam M.
Rap Groups	Katherine H.
Big Sisters	Melissa K.

member. I hope she continues to be an asset to our group.

I would like to re-affirm what I said in the letter I wrote that appeared in the last issue. TGIC has become like a family to me. Life has become a lot brighter since TGIC became a part of my life. I recently went through a very tough time and the friends I have at TGIC were there to lean on. I consider myself lucky to have made such profound friendships that even when issues other than gender dysphoria came up, those friends are there, and I thank them all.

One last topic I really must speak out on is what seems to be a pre-occupation on labels. This labeling process seems to be doing a lot of damage to a lot of people. I don't see where we have to compartmentalize ourselves, and I highly object when someone tries to put me in a pre-labelled slot. There are always going to be exceptions. The key question should always be "are you happy?" and if not, "Can we help?" So if someone asks you for your label, decline, and live a lot happier.

Well I guess I better get off my proverbial soapbox. Take care and I hope you have a good year.



NO, YOU CAN'T TOUCH IT, YOU ALREADY BROKE YOURSELF !!

The TGIC NEWS is an outreach tool of Transgenderist's Independence Clubs of Albany, NY, an open social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, spouses, significant others, and those interested in the subject of gender dysphoria. Any 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 certain topic is presented in this forum that it is of interest to all people in our community. Articles are selected for inclusion herein due to their timeliness, or general informative or interest nature to some aspect of the gender community. The articles herein do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board of Directors of TGIC. The Board of Directors of TGIC urges anyone interacting with the gender community to use discretion and tolerance in forming opinions of any and all persons as individuals; rather than subscribing to ill-informed and preconceived stereotypical views of any person assumed to be a member of a particular set.

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SELF HELP HOTLINES:

The following numbers have contributed by the American Self Help Clearinghouse through CompuServe's Human Sexuality Forum. These numbers have not been verified although I have no doubt as to their authenticity.

Here's a updated listing of Self-Help Clearinghouse contacts in the United States for help in finding or forming a Mutual Aid Self-Help support group for any type of illness, disability, addiction, compulsion, loss, parenting concern, or other stressful life problem. The centers are open weekdays, usually 9 to 5. (Note that New York State now has a statewide toll-free number).

- California* 1-800-222-LINK (in CA only)
- Connecticut (203) 789-7645
- Illinois* 1-800-322-M.A.S.H. (in IL)
- Iowa 1-800-383-4777 (in Iowa)
- Kansas 1-800-445-0116 (in KS)
- Massachusetts (413) 545-2313
- Michigan* 1-800-752-5858 (in MI)
- Minnesota (612) 224-1133
- Missouri (816) 561-HELP & (314) 773-1399
- Nebraska (402) 476-9668
- New Jersey 1-800-FOR-M.A.S.H. (in NJ)
- New York State* 1-800-724-0152 (in NY)
- NY - Long Island (516) 348-3030
- NY - Westchester (914) 347-3620
- NC - Mecklenberg area (704) 331-9500
- Ohio - Dayton (513) 225-3004
- Oregon - Portland area (503) 222-5555
- PA - Pittsburgh area (412) 261-5363.PA
- Scranton area (717) 961-1234
- Rhode Island (401) 277-2231
- SC - Midlands area (803) 791-9227
- TN - Knoxville area (615) 584-6736
- Texas* (512)454-3706
- Greater Washington, DC (703) 941-LINK

*maintains listings of additional local clearinghouses operating within that state. For national U.S. listings and directory: American Self-Help Clearinghouse (201) 625-7101, TDD 625-9053, or via electronic mail through CompuServe at 70275,1003.

If you call any of the regional clearinghouses, kindly mention how you were referred to them by us at the American Self-Help Clearinghouse. Hope this is helpful.

LETTERS:

To all my sisters,

Hi!! My name is now Valerie H. (back in the Sept/Oct 1990 Issue of TGIC News I wrote a letter under the name of Jennifer H.) Well since then I've moved to Albany, and I've attended Thursday night meetings on a regular basis. I have found much acceptance and satisfaction here. The members who regularly participate have become my family. Not in the traditional sense, but rather in the caring, understanding sense. These are the people I socialize with, the people I turn to when I'm feeling down, and they all mean so much to me.

This year I didn't spend Thanksgiving or Christmas with any of my relatives. However I did spend these times with various members of the club. My only regret is that I didn't crossdress for some of these get-togethers. In these times of "Symbolic closeness" I was my "male self"... and unable to be as close as I'd like to be. It is only the Valerie in me that can bridge this gap.

Like many of you, I too am dealing with my "problematic" feeling of wanting to be a woman. I often feel hopeless about ever finding an acceptable solution regarding my gender dysphoria. This leaves me feeling rather bitter towards myself and the world. For those sisters who see me often... on those occasions when I am my male self, please don't feel offended or take things personal if I seem distant, cold or indifferent. I don't mean to be, I just can't help it.

Overall, I get much love and support from the members. I hope some of you non-active members can get up the courage to come to the meetings on Thursday nights. We would all like to see you or hear from you. TGIC has made a big difference in my life... it can help make an important difference in your life too!

Love-n-hugs Valerie

Dear Jennifer,

Enclosed find my check for \$20.00 renewal - newsletter only - membership fee, for the 1991 calendar year.

Your newsletter has helped a lot. Keep up the good work, because it seems that your club has much more to offer than some groups located in my area of Northern New Jersey.

Sincerely, Joanne W.

* * * *

Dear Tiffane,

I just received your latest newsletter (Nov-Dec) and enjoyed every bit of it. I can certainly appreciate the time and effort involved in putting it together.

I recently applied for membership in your organization and although I received the newsletter and correspondence informing the general membership of the dues campaign, I have still not received a personal communication informing me of where the meetings are held and if there is any specific procedure involved in attending. I am very interested in receiving this information so that I can become personally involved in your group.

I have talked with a member of the club in the past (Pam), and was informed of the general nature of the organization. However, after remitting my dues, and receiving the aforementioned literature, I am at a loss to be able to become any more involved than through letter-writing. I hope you can send me this additional information as soon as possible.

To reiterate information previously submitted, I am a white, married male, and a life-long crossdresser. My wife is aware of my practice, but as of yet has not expressed an interest in participating with me in this activity. My hope is that through involvement with your group, and through the benefit of your wife/mate support group we can reach a point of mutual understanding and participation.

Sincerely - Marilyn

Dear Marilyn,

TGIC holds a regularly monthly social which is open to all interested parties each second Saturday of the month at Mother Eve's, 145 Barrett St.,

Schenectady, NY beginning about 8PM and running to 2. Each Thursday night we hold a rap session at our club room in Albany. The location of this room is not published, and you either have to attend the open social or meet with a member of the board before being invited to come there. Beginning, February 4th, we will be holding the first of what hopefully will become a strong TGIC Tradition, our first healing circle. See the article on healing circles elsewhere in this edition. The Couples support group meets generally on the first Saturday, but is in a reformative stage at this time. Finally, plan to attend our coming out weekend in March also mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

In Sisterhood, Jennifer

* * * *

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for sending the info to me. It made my day, and I will be glad to be a member of your club. Maybe I can understand more about myself. I never want to stop dressing up, I love it so much, and I want to be a woman some day.

Thank you - Brenda S.

Dear Brenda,

Many of us want to be a woman some day, but the sad truth is that it isn't easy being a woman in today's world, and the world still doesn't look kindly on those who try, even briefly, to transcend those barriers. If you are indeed intent on becoming a woman, TGIC is ready to offer you much that you need in the form of balanced support and understanding. Many of us however get carried away in our fantasies, and reality becomes difficult to distinguish, before you make any moves which you may later regret, be sure you know what is real for you, and what isn't. TGIC may be a big help to you in resolving that question. I'd suggest you become involved in our Thursday night rap groups.

In Sisterhood - Jennifer

INNER REFLECTION - Amanda B.

I looked into the past one day
to see what I could see,
I saw a dark and painful path,
a little girl and me.

I tried to push the girl away,
but she refused to go,
And when I asked her who she was,
she asked me "Don't you know?"

I looked along the path some more
and the girl was always there,
I tried to hide in any place
but she always knew just where.

Then one day I turned around
and looked into her eyes,
What I saw, I'd always known
it was never, a surprise.

I sat there for some time that day
and thought for quite a while,
Then I blinked to bring me back
and slowly raised a smile.

I looked up at the mirror then,
and the girl looked back at me,
"I fought you for so long," I said,
"and you were always meant to be."

HALFWAY THERE - New Englander

I don't know which came first, but it was about the age of ten that I detected certain interests that I couldn't explain - and still can't reason with properly.

To this day, nothing has changed. As was, and I guess is, typical, I thought I was the only person on the face of the earth with this particular combination of maladies, and I'm still not too sure otherwise. I have seen one publication that causes me to believe that there are at least a few of us out there.

I recently had the occasion to become a part of the TGIC group, and have met many new friends, most of whom are much more engrossed than I with just one of my two interests.

This club claims a wide spectrum of members and interests, bearing only on a single broad platform of having something to do with a gender situation. They accept, counsel, help, etc., all related interests. (I must be in there somewhere!)

I originally joined the club to perhaps find others with my interests, just to prove to myself that I'm not

alone in my affliction. What a great subject to chat about! I've met some really great people with a seemingly common, neighboring interest, and they've kindled that interest in me; something which has always seemed intriguing, but never strong enough to overcome my insecurities about the project. I guess a bit of exploration is in order.

For the past few decades, I have classified my interests as "fetish", because they serve an erotic void, not an all encompassing void as I believe is the case with many other members. (The fell of silks and satins; nylons, slips, thght satin skirts, have always been a obsession.)

Progression over the years, however, has led to nail polish and high heels; certainly not silky, but erotic never-the-less. Makeup, no. Public, NO! -- at least not yet!

The other, equally strong half of the puzzle is tight but comfortable restraints. I hesitate to even use the word "bondage" because of the S&M, "whips and chains" connotation that typically accompanies the word, but is not my style.

Fortunately, my wife has an interest and we enjoy each other.

Our quests within the club are not to seek counselling or answers to major problems, but just to socialize with others who might share ours or similar persuasions.

So far it has been a success. We've learned and enjoyed. Is there anyone out there fond of Harmony's "Bound for Controversy"?

D&S CORNER - Melissa K.

Twin Peaks: PrimeTime D&S

Setting aside the questions of who killed Laura Palmer, let's concentrate on the deceased prom queen's dark side. Not just her, but everybody in the fictional town of Twin Peaks has another side they keep hidden. From Laura Palmer's obscure lifestyle to Benjamin Horne's ownership of a Canadian brothel named "One-Eyed Jack's". The village itself seems to almost glow with some sort of evil presence.

Television has gotten a lot more forgiving these past years in it's content, and Twin Peaks is a good example.

For those of you not familiar with the show, a quick plot synopsis proves our point:

Laura Palmer, a high school prom queen, all-American, clean-cut girl, is found dead along the side of a river, her body wrapped in plastic. As F.B.I. Special Agent Dale Cooper begins to investigate the murder, we soon learn Laura's life was not so "clean-cut" after all. Among her hidden possessions; the key to a safety deposit box which, when opened, contains a magazine titled: "Fleshworld" including personal ads from her, her friend Ronette Polaski, truck driver Leo Johnson. As the news of Laura's death spreads, her friends embark to find out who killed her. Aubrey discovers that Laura once worked at One-Eyed Jack's and infiltrates the brothel by working there, convincing the head matron of her "abilities" by tying a knot in a cherry stem with her tongue. Later, she finds a man who knew Laura, being serviced while tied to two chairs with his toe nails painted. She tortures information out of him and then fends off advances from her father as he tries to sample the "new girl".

The F.B.I. and sheriff check out the cabin where Laura was last seen alive, and discover several photographs showing Laura tied with her arms pulled up behind her and Leo Johnson's Myna bird perched on her shoulder. Incognito, Agent Cooper talks with Jacques Renault about a broken poker chip. Jacques,



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thinking Cooper is one of the One Eyed Jack's owners, tells Cooper the story of the cabin events the night of Laura's death, saying that "being tied up was Laura's idea." After tying her, Leo released Waldo the Myna bird from his cage and the bird alighted on Laura's shoulder and began pecking on her. Putting a poker chip in Waldo's mouth Jacque told her to "bite the bullet, baby" explaining the broken chip, a missing portion ending up the her stomach.

Another friend of Laura's, Donna Hayward, confirms her friend's behavior to the sheriff and Cooper stating that she knew more about Laura than Laura thought she did.

In another part of town, Nadine Hurley attempts to commit suicide after an invention is rejected by the patent office. Waking up in the hospital several days later, she quickly makes minced meat out of a pair of overly heavy duty leather restraints.

Catherine Martell, would-have-been owner of the Packard saw mill, while trying to hunt down a missing ledger to prove the mill and career is doomed, answers an anonymous tip and finds Leo Johnson's abused wife Shelly tied up and gagged inside the mill. As a homemade bomb goes off, Shelly cries out. Catherine says: "I can't understand a word you're saying, you've got a thing in your mouth." Shelly, is freed, but only she emerges from the mill fire and everybody thinks Catherine perished.

Later a mysterious Japanese business man appears, who turns out to be Catherine in drag. Doing a good job at passing, she is able to fool her husband Pete. She had everything down, the walk, the clothes, the Japanese accent, everything, however, we may not see her cross-dressed for much longer. But who knows?

With the 12/15 installment, to the surprise of everyone, a transsexual, Denise Bryson, formerly Dennis, a DEA agent and friend of Cooper's, arrived at the sheriff's office to investigate Cooper's alleged drug dealings "It's a long story" she confesses. At dinner Denise recounts her transformation to

"Coop", admitting that it's "not exactly something you plan on." How right she is. How many transsexuals or transvestites, aside from professional female impersonators, planned on becoming TS or TV? It's really something you have to discover in yourself.

If you like stories that are both interesting and bizarre, (and have a little kink to them) then you'll like Twin Peaks, and more of Laura Palmer's other side is revealed in the current paperback "The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer" by Jennifer Lynch.



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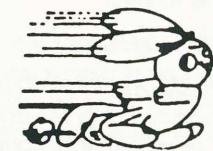
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Letters

Msg. #2403 *TV/TS FORUM*

FROM: Mary [REDACTED]

TO: All

SUBJ: Americans' With Disabilities Act of 1990/DoD Security Clearance Regulations.

In a recent issue of TWENTY MINUTES, it was stated that Senate amendment 722/House amendment 511 had been deleted from the "American's With Disabilities Act of 1990", Public Law 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, 42 U.S.C. 12101 (101st Congress). Nothing could be further from the truth.

Section 508 of the Act, codified as 42 U.S.C. 12208, reads as follows:

For the purposes of this Act, the term "disabled" or "disability" shall not apply to an individual solely because that individual is a transvestite.

It should be further noted that Section 511 of the Act, codified as 42 U.S.C. 12211, reads as follows:

Sec. 511. DEFINITIONS

(a) **HOMOSEXUALITY AND BISEXUALITY.**—*For purposes of the definition of "disability" in section 3(2), homosexuality and bisexuality are not impairments and as such are not disabilities under this Act.*

(b) **CERTAIN CONDITIONS.**—*Under this Act, the term "disability" shall not include:*

(1) *transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting*

from physical impairments, or other sexual behavior disorders;

(2) *compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania;*
or

(3) *psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.*

It is also worth noting that new criteria has been developed for evaluating applicants for DoD (Department of Defense) security clearance.

§154.7 Criteria for application of security standards.

(q) *Acts of sexual misconduct or perversion indicative of moral turpitude, poor judgement, or lack of regard for the laws of society.*

Sexual Misconduct (See §154.7(q))

Disqualifying Factors (behavior falls within one or more of the following categories):

1. *The conduct involves:*

j. *Deviant or perverted sexual behavior which may indicate a mental or personality disorder (e.g. transsexualism, transvestism, exhibitionism, incest, child molestation, voyeurism, bestiality, or sodomy.*

52(67) Federal Register 11222, 11254.

Needless to say, the impact of the "gender community's" silence reaches far beyond the American's With Disabilities Act of 1990.

Msg. #2407 *TV/TS FORUM*

FROM: Gwen [REDACTED]

TO: All

SUBJ: Silence

In this case, silence may be golden, but it's a golden gag on our mouths, golden chains on our wrists, and golden bars on our windows. I wrote my letter to Ol' "Broccoli Buns" Bush, but I guess he just ignored it. Maybe he never got it. He probably has a secretary that does nothing but open his mail, scan it for certain buzzwords, and pass the "subversive" ones to the CIA for inclusion in our dossiers.

Am I peeved by these latest additions to the injustices done to us? YOU BETCHER ROSARY I AM!!! But I'm constantly reminded that our community is composed of individuals that are mostly terrified to show themselves in daylight! You'd think we were a crowd of vampires, both from the reaction society has to us AND to our singular inability to face the light of day.

Is it risky? You bet. Is it dangerous? I'd give that a YES. Is it NECESSARY? Only if we want to be free. If we don't do anything about it, it says two things: we're only as strong as the strongest among us, not as strong as the sum of our parts, and that we really DON'T WANT IT BAD ENOUGH!!!

What would have happened in the South, had one little old lady just gone along with the discriminatory rules and sat in the back of the bus? Would Martin Luther King, Jr. have gone racing Southward with a horde of followers bent on securing civil rights for blacks? Probably not. But she took a RISK. She took the risk that, if the whites on that bus had gotten mad enough, she might have been seriously hurt. She faced the jeers, the hazing, the harassment that followed. She marched, and was seen as a "rabblrouser" and a "boatrocker" and a "subversive", and

was among those that were kicked, beaten, and pelted with dead cats. All she wanted was the same rights that any American citizen is supposed to get, and she didn't want someone telling her that she couldn't have it because she was black.

Now, here we are, faced with the same decision. Do we knuckle under, and go sit in the back of the bus, or do we say NO, and sit up front where we want to sit? Do we unlock the closet doors and face the light of day, or do we skulk around, afraid of what people will say? I got news for you all, bad news. IT AIN'T GONNA CHANGE UNLESS WE CHANGE IT!!! It's gonna stay just as it is, just as discriminatory, just as unfair, just as cruel, and JUST AS DANGEROUS unless we get off our petticoats and DO something! Every time we stay quiet to "protect" ourselves, we lose another foot of ground—and that loss will endanger us FAR MORE in the long run than the risk of exposure NOW. Better to be exposed NOW, when there aren't any laws against us than LATER, when the laws have been written and we can't fight back!

But, unfortunately, even though there are a few people in our society that will stand up and take the heat for the rest, that few aren't going to be enough. I can only risk so much, and Mary Elizabeth can only risk so much, and Lynn can only risk so much . . . then we can't survive. Only by coming together will we be able to beat this thing into submission! We need the community to decide for ITSELF whether it wants to be a community or a market, whether it wants to be served, or exploited . . . whether it wants to be a part of the

culture, or part of the culture's leavings. We have a chance. But we've got to take it NOW — not later.

The late Robert Heinlein once said "There are no such things as 'rights', only 'opportunities'. And opportunity doesn't knock, it just scratches lightly at the door." If we don't take the chance that we might win, we're doomed to lose! Let's hear some more on this, folks! XXXOOO Gwen

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"Next time you come out of
the closet. Herb, bring your
blue suit; it needs to
be cleaned."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1990

THE RECORD



John Eck of Elmwood Park, a transsexual, listening Tuesday as an appeals court ruled he can call himself Tina Lindsay.

Court OKs name change

By Mary Jo Layton
Record Staff Writer

Transsexual, on appeal, wins yearlong battle

Ruling that a lower court judge "denied without good reason" a transsexual's request for a name change, a state appeals court said Tuesday that Elmwood Park resident John W. Eck can legally call himself Tina Lindsay, the name he has used for nearly 10 years.

Although the name change will not become legal until the three-judge Appellate Division panel issues a written ruling, Lindsay, 49, and his lawyers were pleased with the decision.

"I've waited a long time," Lindsay said after the proceeding in Hackensack. "So I guess I can wait a little longer."
Judge Sylvia B. Pressler, presiding over the panel, said Lindsay's request "was denied without good reason."

She reversed Superior Court Judge Birger M. Sween, who ruled in February that it would be fraudulent for the name change to take place because Lindsay

has not undergone the surgery that would make him a female.

Lindsay's lawyers said their client has no intention of engaging in fraud but simply sought to exercise his constitutional right to call himself whatever he pleases.

"Our client, for whatever reason, ran into a judge who just didn't like the idea," said attorney Ruth Harlow of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The reception we received here is very encouraging because these judges were dealing with this as purely a legal issue," Harlow said. "The fact that our client is a transsexual posed no extemporaneous issue."

In the last two years, according to Harlow, New Jersey courts granted name changes in six similar situations. "There is precedent for this in New Jersey," she said.

Lindsay, who has lived as a woman for nearly 10 years, filed the name-change petition in August 1989.

Lindsay said the inability to legally change his name has cost him greatly.

When Sween rejected the request for the name change, "I was devastated," Lindsay said. "I didn't know what to do."

Once an executive in a computer programming business, Lindsay said he hasn't worked in several years because of the legal problems surrounding the use of his name.

"Now I can look for work," he said. The legal name change will make life easier, Lindsay said, but in his mind, he's been Tina Lindsay for a long time.

"I don't know where I got the name, I've been using it so long," he said.

TRANSSEXUALS IN THE WORKPLACE -- A GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS

by Barbara L. Chambers, Contributing Editor (West Coast)

(Gender Expressions Magazine grants permission for this material to be freely copied and distributed provided that the article is reproduced in its entirety and this notice is retained intact.)

To the employer: possibly you were presented this material by one of your employees, quite likely soon after learning that the employee was undergoing or had already undergone a "sex change". Much information and misinformation abounds in the media, but little of it is helpful to the employer in comprehending the new status of their employee. Also, small or new companies are likely to have never encountered such a change in status before; hopefully the text that follows will be useful and informative. This article is written in respect to the case of the male-to-female employee; however, most of the information applies identically to the female-to-male employee if the sense of the pronouns and gender-specific statements is reversed. The remainder of the text is presented in question/answer format.

WHAT IS A TRANSSEXUAL?

The answer to this question is best given in rather technical medical terms. Strictly speaking, a transsexual is a person with the condition known as Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, a psychiatric term which means "feelings of conflict and discomfort felt by a person due to the anatomical gender of their body." Research indicates that Gender Dysphoria Syndrome is the psychological condition which results from a birth defect in the matching of brain and body, similar and perhaps related to the condition known as intersex, in which a child's body at birth has genitalia which are not clearly either male or female or has characteristics of both male and female. In other words, transsexuals are persons born with a perfectly normal and healthy

brain of one gender, but in a body with a perfectly healthy and normal anatomy of the opposite gender. The affected person lives with a struggle to reconcile their natural personality, gender identity, and body image with their physical body and social status until a time in their lives when the conflict becomes too great to bear and they seek medical help to change their anatomy and social role. No effective psychotherapeutic treatment for transsexualism exists, since the only defect is the mismatch of body and brain, and a healthy gender identity (even a mismatched one) cannot be changed; therefore the only effective treatment is to surgically change the gender of the body to align with the person's natural gender identity, a "sex change". Such a treatment is effective in relieving the secondary problems of depression, low self esteem, and anxiety which often accompanies gender dysphoria, and the patient is then able to pursue a normal life in their new gender.

Today, transsexuals are potentially valuable research subjects in the new studies of pre-birth programming of gender identity and personality into the brain during fetal development, though the rarity and desire for privacy of transsexual persons often makes the gathering of data difficult. At present there is little agreement in the medical community as to the cause of a person being born transsexual; researchers and physicians today are largely divided into groups advancing theories of either genetic causes of fetal - development causes. Environmental conditions seem to have an effect on how long the individual is able to adapt to their reversed-gender life situation before seeking medical help to correct it. Transsexualism is rare, occurring at a rate of one for every ten thousand births. Currently, no method capable of detecting the condition at birth is known.

WHY AREN'T THERE ANY FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUAL PERSONS?

There certainly are: about 45% of all Transsexuals are female-to-male. Male-to-female Transsexuals receive the largest amount of exposure through the media of TV and print, apparently because they are considered more "newsworthy" in our traditionally male-oriented society.

ARE TRANSSEXUAL PERSONS HOMOSEXUAL?

No, transsexualism has nothing directly to do with sexuality at all; the "sex" root of the word refers to gender rather than sexual preference. This misconception, largely disappearing today, apparently resulted from public confusion of transsexuals with two much larger groups: effeminate homosexuals (gay males imitating feminine mannerisms or dress as an expression of their sexuality) and transvestites (males, usually heterosexual, who find enjoyment in wearing female clothing); neither of these two groups has the body-identity gender conflicts which are experienced by transsexuals and lead to an eventual change of physical gender. Transvestites outnumber transsexuals by at least 50 to 1; gay males outnumber transsexuals by about 900 to 1. In addition, these other two groups are composed entirely of males only; transsexuals are nearly evenly divided between male-to-female cases and female-to-male cases. Transsexuals, both before and following surgery, may be heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, or celibate, with the proportion of celibacy being somewhat higher than with the general population of women. Transsexuals are NOT members of any known AIDS high-risk group.

DOES THIS AFFECT OUR COMPANY'S MEDICAL INSURANCE?

Many group insurance policies have specific exclusions which limit or eliminate payments for transsexual surgery; if your policy has no such exclusions, your employee may seek coverage for medical expenses under your current plan. Insurance companies with exclusion provisions do so only because

the surgical costs are expensive -- surgical and hormonal treatment for transsexuals has been legally established as medically necessary treatment, and not cosmetic in nature. An insurance company might, for instance, have a similar exclusion for liver transplants, another very expensive procedure. Whether or no your insurance company provides coverage, it should not affect your rates.

WILL THIS AFFECT THE PRODUCTIVITY OF MY EMPLOYEE?

Often, the employee in their new gender role is more productive and produces higher quality work than in the past, due to the improvement in their own self-esteem and motivation. Time off from work to recover from surgery procedures may be necessary, however -- but it should be noted that your employee will have no need for maternity leave in the future since she will not be able to bear children, so net time lost from work may prove to be less than in the case of your other female employees. The process of changing gender usually takes several years to complete, with surgical, hormonal, and social changes progressing at different rates with different individuals; you can expect a dramatic change in her appearance and in the expression of her personality. Your employee may already have completed much or most of the transition before advising you. Transsexuals are often conservative individuals and frequently set high standards on their appearance and performance following their gender change. If your employee is doing heavy physical work, bear in mind that her entire muscular structure will change to female norms, and she may not handle tasks requiring physical strength as easily as she did before. (the opposite applies to the female-to-male course.)

HOW DO OTHER COMPANIES HANDLE THIS?

With the increased public awareness of transsexuals today, the major problem which remains is that the employee is a

object of curiosity among co-workers for several days following her appearance in her new gender role. Very large corporations with large numbers of employees may encounter a transsexual employee every few years, and often set up internal guidelines. In nearly all cases, a memo is circulated among coworkers informing them simply that the employee will return to work at a certain date as a female employee. Some companies call a short meeting of coworkers at which management and the employee is present to inform them of the change and to answer any questions which may appear; this technique is particularly effective in keeping the transition smooth. One company (IBM) also transfers the employee laterally for several months to a different department; at the end of that time she is given the option of either returning to her original department or staying in her new position. If the employee is new to the company sometimes no action at all is necessary, since her former gender status may be undetectable to others, or even to management itself.

WHAT IS MY EMPLOYEE'S LEGAL STATUS?

Upon completion of her surgery, under state law in every state she is considered to be female, and entitled to all the considerations applying to that gender. There are differences in details of how administrative law handles such cases from state to state -- your employer will take care of any needed legal matters concerning state and federal identification papers, tax status, social security, and legal name change herself. Please note that for employers participating in a state-subsidized equal-employment plan, your employee may now be a "double bonus" person, fitting into both the female and handicapped categories, and entitling the company to a substantial subsidy (details vary from state to state).

The preceding article is made available courtesy of GENDER EXPRESSIONS MAGAZINE - Spring 1990. On behalf of GenderLine, LGIC and the transsexual community, I

would like to thank Barbara Chambers and GENDER EXPRESSIONS for a truly fine effort at explaining a complicated little understood issue in brief, easily understandable terms for the concerned employer. This article is reprinted here in hopes that it may be of help in preparing your employer for your impending transition.

Woman Dating Cross-Dresser Asks If Clothes Make the Man

DEAR ABBY: My problem is one I cannot discuss with anyone else because it's very personal and somewhat embarrassing.

I am a divorced, 45-year-old woman. I recently met a very charming, handsome, 48-year-old gentleman. I was attracted to him immediately. He is divorced, intelligent, masculine and well-educated.

On our first date, he told me that he was very much attracted to me, but he had something to tell me if we were to have a second date. Then he told me that he enjoys dressing in women's clothing occasionally. He insisted he is not gay or bisexual, but he has a "need" to cross-dress occasionally. (This includes makeup, high heels, a wig and women's clothing -- which I assume includes women's underwear.)

He told me that his first marriage broke up because his wife couldn't deal with his need to cross-dress occasionally.

Abby, this man is totally masculine and I am very much turned on by him, but I don't want to become involved in a situation I can't handle.

What can you tell me about men who cross-dress? I can't believe they are 100 percent male. Are there any women who have dated (or married) such men who can give me some advice?

— PEG IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR PEG: Your charming, intelligent, masculine friend is a transvestite. Contrary to popular belief, not all transvestites are gay or bisexual; they are biological males who have an emotional need to dress as women occasionally. Many transvestites marry and have children. In some instances, their wives are aware of their need to cross-dress and are very supportive.

However, some wives find this kind of behavior bizarre and disgusting and are unable (or unwilling) to accept it.

Your friend rates high marks for being honest with you on the first date. Whether you choose to become seriously involved with him will depend on your ability to be non-judgmental about his sexual needs.

If you cannot accept this kind of behavior, say goodbye and forget him. But if you choose to have a relationship with this man, I suggest that you contact women who are happily married to transvestites. (Their numbers would startle you.) There are groups of transvestites who get together with their families to socialize and exchange experiences.



"Coming Together - Working Together" Convention

April 8 thru 14, 1991

Program Schedule

This program schedule is tentative and subject to change. A detailed 'Participant's Guide' with program explanations, speakers, and locations will be included in your registration package.

Monday, April 8	Tuesday, April 9	Wednesday, April 10	Thursday, April 11	Friday, April 12	Saturday, April 13	Sunday, April 14
All-Day Skiing and Sightseeing Trip	Theme: Getting In The Mood	Theme: Scope, Depth, Interaction	Theme: History	Theme: Personal Issues	Theme: Growth And Well-Being	Theme: Reverence And Dedication
Convention Staff Meeting	Convention Staff Meeting	Convention Staff Meeting	Convention Staff Meeting	Convention Staff Meeting	Convention Staff Meeting	Convention Staff Meeting
Open Business Meeting	Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)	Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)	All-Day Transsexual Program	All-Day Transsexual Program	All-Day Transsexual Program	All-Day Transsexual Program
Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)	IFGE Finance Committee Meeting	IFGE Finance Committee Meeting	All-Day Female-to-Male Program	All-Day Female-to-Male Program	All-Day Female-to-Male Program	All-Day Female-to-Male Program
IFGE Fund-raising Sub-committee Meeting	IFGE Fund-raising Sub-committee Meeting	IFGE Fund-raising Sub-committee Meeting	IFGE Congress of Representatives Committee Meeting	IFGE Congress of Representatives Committee Meeting	IFGE Congress of Representatives Committee Meeting	IFGE Congress of Representatives Committee Meeting
Our Community and the World	Trinity Awards & Reception	Trinity Awards & Reception	IFGE Legal and By-Laws Committee Meeting	IFGE Legal and By-Laws Committee Meeting	IFGE Legal and By-Laws Committee Meeting	IFGE Legal and By-Laws Committee Meeting
Trinity Awards & Reception	Buffet	Buffet	IFGE Educational Resources Committee Meeting	IFGE Educational Resources Committee Meeting	IFGE Educational Resources Committee Meeting	IFGE Educational Resources Committee Meeting
			IFGE Membership Committee Meeting	IFGE Membership Committee Meeting	IFGE Membership Committee Meeting	IFGE Membership Committee Meeting
			A History of the Gender Community	A History of the Gender Community	A History of the Gender Community	A History of the Gender Community
			Defining Our Space	Defining Our Space	Defining Our Space	Defining Our Space
			Getting In Touch With Your Nurturing Instincts	Getting In Touch With Your Nurturing Instincts	Getting In Touch With Your Nurturing Instincts	Getting In Touch With Your Nurturing Instincts
			Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)	Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)	Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)	Keynote Speakers Luncheon (\$)
			Reaching Your Goals By Eliminating Your Goals	Reaching Your Goals By Eliminating Your Goals	Reaching Your Goals By Eliminating Your Goals	Reaching Your Goals By Eliminating Your Goals
				Speaking As A Woman Moving With Grace	Speaking As A Woman Moving With Grace	Speaking As A Woman Moving With Grace
				How To Use The Gift of Crossdressing To Bring More Joy Into Your Life	How To Use The Gift of Crossdressing To Bring More Joy Into Your Life	How To Use The Gift of Crossdressing To Bring More Joy Into Your Life
					Support Groups: Getting Your Program Together	Support Groups: Getting Your Program Together
					Small Group Dynamics: Leading a Rap Session	Small Group Dynamics: Leading a Rap Session
					Keynote Speaker Luncheon (\$)	Keynote Speaker Luncheon (\$)
					Professional Panel	Professional Panel
					Close Encounters in Public Settings	Close Encounters in Public Settings
					Formal Awards Banquet	Formal Awards Banquet
						Religious Service
						Open Forum
						Wind-Down Brunch
						IFGE Board of Directors Meeting



NEWS NOTES

* TGIC News to get new Editor. During a recent TGIC Board Meeting, Editor Jennifer Wells announced that she was unable to continue as editor of TGIC news due to the demands of her new life. Jennifer began working as a woman in December, and is leaving to arrange her life to enable her to live full time as a woman. Jennifer will continue to be a contributing editor for the TGIC News in the future.

Heidi, who many of you may not know, but who is one of the earliest members of TGIC and a member of the earlier TVIC will be succeeding Jennifer as editor. We feel Heidi will continue to improve TGIC NEWS which is already one of the best newsletters for the gender community today. Heidi will begin her duties as editor with the MARCH / APRIL edition.

*** LARGE PRINT EDITION AVAILABLE**

While we are blowing our own horn, last year we went to a reduced size format on the TGIC NEWS to enable to bring you more of value, and not increase our postal bills. Well, this has brought some complaints from some people who have had trouble reading some of the overly reduced material. Unfortunately we aren't able to mail full size editions without increased

costs but we have decided to offer limited numbers of large print editions to those who want them for an additional \$5.00 per year (to cover the postage) Help us help you end eye strain.

*** HEALING CIRCLES TO BE OFFERED:**

Beginning Tuesday, February 5th Jennifer Wells will begin offering weekly healing circles for those who feel they need to talk more indepth about what is bothering them than is able to be done during the weekly rap sessions.

A healing circle is a small indepth discussion group of from five to eight people who meet regularly amongst themselves to discuss mutual problems and needs, including but not limited to marital problems, substance abuse, lack of direction or determination of self, personal identity and more. The healing circle concept requires a commitment from those participating to BE THERE for every meeting, ie. a commitment to the circle. Once established each circle will be closed to outside participation and will become a support group onto itself. This is necessary to ensure the integrity of discussion without losing focus. The circle will be limited to three senior (active) members of TGIC - if the interest is there, with the remaining slots to be filled by those who need to discuss their problems. It will

TRANSGENDERIST INDEPENDANCE CLUB DUES NOTICE

NAME _____
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 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE (____) _____
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING _____

 DO YOU WISH TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP? YES NO
 DO YOU WISH TO RENEW YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION? YES NO
 FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS: CLUB DUES-\$35.00 (includes newsletter)
 NEWSLETTER ONLY-\$20.00
 SPECIAL INTERESTS YOU HAVE THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP _____

 IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RENEW, WOULD YOU LET US KNOW WHY? _____

DUES ARE DUE PLEASE RENEW

18

meet for one hour beginning at 9PM each Tuesday night for a trial period of two months.

I hope we can in time start other circles perhaps with other group leaders, to focus on specific areas, for couples, transsexuals and perhaps gay members as well, but for now the first will concentrate on general problems related to gender dysphoria. This is an experiment in the healing circle concept and is meant for those who feel they REALLY NEED more indepth discussion of problems their gender conflicts have created for them. If this is you, please call Jennifer at 432-7092 to reserve your spot, this will NOT be a general admission night for all club members. Reservations will be required for admission to the circle. If you are not interested in serious discussions, have not reserved your spot in the circle, or are not able to make a commitment to trying the concept for at least a month, please do not show up to break the circle. If the healing circle concept is a success and you are closed out of this circle, we will try to start other additional circles on other nights. Hopefully this will empower our community to take some control over their own lives and destinys.

IS CROSSDRESSING LEGAL IN NEW YORK?

Jennifer [redacted]

From time to time I am asked about the legality of crossdressing in New York State, and generally my answer has been vague, in that I had heard from a number of sources that there were indeed laws on the books against public crossdressing in New York State, but no one, up to and including the Attorney's General office seemed able or willing to shed any light on how they were worded or to quote sections of the law covering this action. In spite of this, I knew of noone who had been arrested for merely being crossdressed in public. So my answer generally had been something to the effect of "there may be laws on the books, but they aren't enforced" While struggling through the book "THE TRANSEXUAL EMPIRE" copyright 1979 by Janice G. Raymond, I spotted a reference on page 38 and again on page 41 to the New York State Code of Criminal Pro-

cedure, Section 887, subdivision 7 which she maintains expressly forbids female impersonation. Well, I'd heard that song and dance before and promised myself to look up the exact wording to settle the debate once and for all.

Not too long ago, I found myself needing to make a visit to the New York State Library, and while there I consulted McKinneys Guide to Consolidated Laws of New York State, 1990 version, which told me two things, first, the law is now called the Criminal Procedure Law, and it only goes as high as section 730! Pursuing this farther with a helpful librarian, I soon learned that the whole state criminal code was rewritten in 1984, and being shown a cross-reference table from the old law to the new law, it became evident that there was no crossreference to the new law for section 887 of the old law... it was skipped in the table! Back to Mckinney's Index I went and looking under entries for Transvestism, Transsexualism, and Crossdressing, found NO REFERENCES TO ANY OF THESE TOPICS IN NEW YORK STATE LAW. Further checking likewise found no references.

Checking under Sex and Sex related laws, I was led to section 130 of the NYS Penal law which deals with rape and sodomy among other things and found some interesting things I wanted to share with you... in the paragraph outlining definitions it shows "deviant sexual intercourse" as any contact between two people of an oral - genital, oral - anal, or genital - anal nature. Again no reference is made to anything else which can be construed as "deviant sexual intercourse" (no, its not illegal to make love to your wife while crossdressed, just so long as its conventional intercourse). Consensual sodomy, is defined as deviant sexual intercourse, in section 130.38 however and is considered a class B misdemeanor. Along this line, I noted one case decision which may be relevant, in the decision, the "defendant's conduct in rubbing his covered penis against covered buttocks of two males 11 and 13, constituted sexual contact" (People vs Boykin 1987 AD2d 513NYS 2d 310) sexual contact in this case meaning sodomy!

So gang, that makes us legal as long as you aren't doing anything illegal otherwise (sodomy is illegal) that could get you in trouble. So if

CALANDAR:

JANUARY

- 3 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 10 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 12 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 17 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 24 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 26 NYSGC closed meeting
- 31 RAP GROUP - Club room

FEBRUARY:

- 5 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 7 RAP GROUP - Club room 7P
- 9 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 7:30 P
- 12 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 14 RAP GROUP - Club room 7P
- 19 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 21 RAP GROUP - Club room 7P
- 26 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 28 RAP GROUP - Club room 7P

MARCH:

- 1 CABIN FEVER EXTRAVAGANZA
- 2 CABIN FEVER EXTRAVAGANZA
- 3 CABIN FEVER EXTRAVAGANZA
- 5 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 7 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 9 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 12 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 14 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 19 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 21 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 26 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 28 RAP GROUP - Club room

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.

OH Jennifer - Wigs, styling, carrying cases, heads, wig spray, conditioner, eyelashes, makeovers, breast forms, publications: Guide to Gender BBS's, Original Fiction & Poems, The Complete Makeover, General Information, Drug Information, FTM Information, Surgeons doing SRS, TS employment aids. Soon to be carrying Tapestry. 518-432-7092 Please leave a message.

NOTICE!!!! Who ever took the footlocker from the clubroom. Please return it. Pam V would very much like the return of her wigs.

NEW SHOPPING GUIDE AVAILABLE Our new shopping guide to the Capital District and Eastern New York is now available. If you never received yours with your membership... its free, otherwise a donation of \$3.00 is requested. Contact the club with your request.

NOTES:

* Theseus Counseling Service announces the beginning of a series of get away weekends for couples dealing with crossdressing and other problems. Ari Kane director of Theseus tells us that these weekends will be held throughout the coming year at a scenic retreat and supportive retreat inn in Vermont. The program to be called HOPEFUL (Helping our partners experience the fullness of United Love) allows each participant to explore various dimensions of gender (not sex) roles as an individual and in a couple relationship.

For more information contact: Ari Kane, Theseus Counseling Service, Box 368 Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215.

LEGAL ...

you are out... watch that dirty dancing!

(Please note, this article concerns state level laws only, there may indeed be some local laws which concern cross-dressing. This article is for general information and is not a legal opinion, to be sure in your area, check a local law professional or your District Attorney's office). Further, I asked Pam M our group counselor to review this article before publication, unfortunately Pam was unable to get back to me in time and I will try to publish her comments at a later time. She did say however that there may be some strange decisions on the books under the state laws regarding vagrancy, and what constitutes vagrancy which loosely or specifically interpreted might include crossdressers, so the final verdict isn't in, but it looks like we aren't running any immediate risks.