



TG IDENTITY POLITICS

TG Identity Politics

Copyright (c) Callan [redacted], 1996

Are identity politics the salvation of TG people, or the downfall of them? It is a question worth discussing.

I got a packet from Dallas Denny, with Chrysalis 10 and AEGIS News 6 & 7. The theme of this Chrysalis is Transgender Gothic, with an image of Grant Wood's "American Gothic" painting on the front, doctored by JoAnn Roberts to have the heads of Virginia Prince and Harry Benjamin.

It contains my IFGE speech, where I call for transcending the Prince-Benjamin model. Dallas' big piece is on the myth of the Heterosexual Crossdresser, and the communities and people who remain untouched by the traditional gender community -- and how labeling has left them out in the cold.

Both pieces focus on the limits of the old models, on how the groupings of people into convenient labels and concepts limit all of us.

AEGIS News is fronted by Vision 2001, Dallas's analysis of the TG communities national groups. Jessica Xavier writes the lead on politics, noting that to be effective, we have to create people whose primary identification is transgendered, like the gays and lesbians have done -- and if we don't do that, we will fail as a movement

I also read a piece in The Sunday Gazette by Carl Strock who went up to the National Women's Studies Conference up at Skidmore. He came away with amusement at the triumph of identity politics, of how people grouped themselves under labels, and how limiting that was -- even though it seemed to be the central cannon of women's studies. In fact, the conference theme was Boundaries: What separates and connects us? I suspect the answer to both questions was labels -- identity politics.

The biggest gift that The Prince brought to transgendered people was identity politics.

Labels and separations -- not only of those who were not femiphiles or heterosexual crossdressers, but even of those who disagreed, as Dallas points out.

The question we have today is a tricky one. Do we, for political reasons, embrace identity politics, as Jessica Xavier suggests, or do we, again for political reasons, transcend identity politics, as Dallas and I suggest?

Where are transgendered people to get an identity? Our birth families are very different than we are, and are almost unanimously unaccepting, forcing us to lie about who we are, to create a false self. We don't get support in our schools or churches either, limiting our geographic or spiritual identities.

Lesbian and Gay people have the same issues, but they do get support from their lovers. They create families of choice out of a drive for companionship and sexual satisfaction. But Transgendered people don't have those drives. We don't share an

attraction to partners like us. We end up coming together under concepts, under banners. And for a long while, those banners were simple: transsexual, het-crossdresser, drag queen. Problem is that we don't fit neatly there -- the labels were forced, and they were not, as Jessica Xavier notes with some frustration, our primary labels. If TS we wanted to become women (or for some, men) if TV, we were normal het males, and drag queens, normal gay men. We wanted to stay away from the TG label.

And why not stay away? What is the benefit of the TG label? Does it carry status, power, glamour, affirmation? In most cases, no -- it only carries entree to a few support groups.

On a personal level, the transgender label, the history and a few role models, can help us find our own worth, transcend our own shame. But after all is said and done, we have to live inside of a community, and

(Continued on page 4)

in this issue

TG Politics - Callan [redacted]	Page 1
Sex Kills - NY Times	Page 2
Gay Rights in Hartford, CT.	Page 2
Gay Pride March in Buenos Aires	Page 3
Transgendered and Hate Crimes Legislation	Page 4
Talking About it - Callan [redacted]	Page 5
On the Outside Looking in- A Woman's	
Observations of the TransGendered World -by Debbie	Page 6
The Things that I hold Precious -by Jennifer [redacted]	Page 7
Gays ejected from Massachusetts club win lawsuit	Page 9
New Area Clubs	Page 9
Announcements and Calender	Page 10

Sex and the Fruit Fly: Price of Promiscuity is Premature Death

By NATALIE [REDACTED]

WHETHER in the towering tragedies of Sophocles or the basement pulp of Hollywood, sex and death are intertwined: yin and yang, strophe and anti-strophe, head and tail of the same mortal coin. So it is in nature, where the urge to reproduce is fraught with risk, and the cost of raising young drains a parent of resources that might otherwise be devoted to keeping oneself alive just a little bit longer.

Scientists have now discovered yet another reason sex can kill, at least in the case of a favorite laboratory creature, the fruit fly. They have determined that a compound in the male's semen is toxic to the female, and that over the long run (which, by fly standards, means a few weeks), the ingredient significantly shortens her life. And the more partners a female fly consorts with, the sooner will her tiny wings and heart cease to beat.

Reporting in the current issue of the journal *Nature*, Dr. Tracey Chapman and Dr. Linda Partridge of University College in London and their colleagues said that the purpose of the compound did not appear to be to kill females. Instead, it is the male's weapon in the so-called sperm wars, to insure that his sperm cells, and not those of a rival suitor, end up inseminating a female's eggs. The compound has yet to be isolated and analyzed, but the researchers have determined that it is generated in a specific group of cells within the male's accessory glands, which help produce seminal fluid. It is very likely a multipronged substance, able to destroy the semen of males that had previously mated with the female; increase the number of eggs the female makes that will then be fertilized by the victor's sperm, and reduce more or less successfully her urge to seek out yet another lover.

"We already knew there was some thing costly about mating for the female," said Dr. Chapman. "With this work we tried to figure out what exactly the cost is."

Yet despite the clear hazards of

promiscuity, the female fruit fly nonetheless tends to copulate with more than one male, suggesting that in multiple matings she gains more advantages for her offspring than she loses in cutting her own life short. While scientists have many theories about why the females of so many species shop around when the semen of one male is usually enough to fertilize her entire supply of eggs, in the case of the fruit fly they have no evidence

..mort de la femme.....

to explain the female's fatal lust. In other species, the female may, for example, be ever hopeful that the next dalliance will be with the most genetically endowed male of them all, and this may be a possibility with the fruit fly as well.

Biologists believe that many male animals, including humans, engage in some variation of sperm wars, outfitting their seminal packet with qualities that might lend it the best possible shot at inseminating the eggs of feckless females.

Chimpanzees and humans both produce very large quantities of sperm with each ejaculation, as though to make an impact by sheer volume. But Dr. Chapman and others doubt that mammalian semen contains the same toxic compound found in the male fruit fly's accessory glands.

"This may be a common mechanism among insects, but it's unlikely to be found across the animal kingdom," said Dr. Geoff A. Parker of the University of Liverpool, who first conceived of the idea of sperm competition among males 25 years ago. "The seminal fluid of animals, and the physiology of how it is produced, is very different from that of a fly."

To determine the origin of the compound *mort de la femme*, the researchers performed a series of mating experiments between normal females and males with a variety of defects. One fly stock was able to make seminal fluid, but not sperm cells. (These sterile flies are known in the world of fruit fly genetics as *tudor flies*, after the English royal

(Continued on page 3)

GAY RIGHTS? NOT IN HARTFORD, CT.

By DIANE SCARPONI, Associated Press, 06/20/96

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - People who are celebrating gay pride in Connecticut this month are not celebrating the treatment they've received from Gov. John G. Rowland.

For the second year in a row, Rowland has refused to sign a proclamation declaring June "Gay Pride Month" in the state.

Rowland spokeswoman Nuala Forde said Wednesday the governor felt the proclamation was inappropriate and objected to specific language referring to "people who do drag and transgender people"

"The bottom line is the governor feels any official statement or proclamation issued by him should be read to a second-grade class," Forde said. "There needs to be a line drawn somewhere."

Rowland's decision rankled gay rights activists who said the governor has promised in the past to sign any proclamation that crosses his desk.

"This one did not cross his desk," said Forde. "It did not even get that far. It was raised with him in draft form and it did not proceed beyond that point."

A proclamation that advocated teaching the principles of the Church of Scientology to children also

did not pass Rowland's muster, she said.

Proclamations have been a sometime sticky business for Rowland. The Anti-Defamation League protested his proclaiming Thanksgiving "Christian Heritage Week."

A month later, he declared a week in December "Bill of Rights Week" at the prodding of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union.

The gay pride proclamation was to be read at a gay pride parade in Hartford on Saturday. Events are held in June to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, when gay men and women brutally clashed with police outside the Stonewall Inn, gay bar in New York's Greenwich Village.

The uprising is considered to be the starting point of the modern gay rights movement.

Former Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. signed the proclamation during his years in office, and both present and former mayors of Hartford have also approved it, said Rick Stillson, a Hartford resident who organized the campaign.

"I really feel the underlying thing is (Rowland's) using people who do drag and transgender people as a convenient out for him. I think he does not support us as a people," said Stillson.

(Continued on page 3)

(Sex and the Fruit Fly Continued from page 2)

family that failed to produce male heirs and died out with Queen Elizabeth I, who failed to produce any heirs at all.) Another type of fly made sperm but lacked the so-called main cells in the accessory gland, the cell population known to generate important ingredients of seminal fluid. Females were also presented with normal males, and with males whose genitals had been removed through microcauterization, to assure that the females do not die young simply by being around males.

The scientists determined that females mated to males with no main cells but with viable sperm cells lived an average of 29 days, the same lifespan enjoyed by a female who hung around with a cauterized male and thus did not mate at all. By contrast, females paired with tudor males that had main cells but were spermatically deprived died after only 21 days, a significant reduction in lifespan. Other experiments showed that the more main cell product the male had, the greater the peril to the female. In addition, the scientists demonstrated that the main cell components did indeed inhibit the female's taste for zealous intercourse, as well as appearing to make a rival's sperm less viable.

Dr. Laurent Keller of the University of Lausanne and Bern University in Switzerland, who wrote a commentary appearing with the report, said that the new results underscored how divergent the needs of males and females may be in the great struggle for genetic persistence. A female wants to bear as many successful offspring as possible, regardless of paternity; the male wants his offspring to triumph over all. That incessant battle of the sexes plays itself out at every stage of courtship, mating and rearing of young.

Even the genes of males and females may be at war, Dr. Keller said in a telephone interview. Biologists have lately learned that in a mammal, the genes responsible for making the placenta are bestowed on the fetus by the father: it is the father who wants to insure that the fetus will be able to gain nourishment from the mother. For her part, the mother's genes prevent the placenta from growing so large that it might drain her dry and keep her from bearing offspring in the future. By the cool calculus of nature, even the sacred bond between mother and child may sometimes pull in conflicting directions. Copyright 1995 The New York Times

(Gay Rights in Hartford -Continued from page 2) Stillson said he offered to negotiate the language of the proclamation with the governor's staff, but was refused.

"We don't negotiate proclamations," said Forde. "Either we agree with the spirit of a proclamation or we don't."

In any case, references to people who do drag and transgender people would not have been cut, Stillson said.

"They're an important part of our movement. People who do drag were involved in Stonewall when this movement began. It was drag queens, harassed by police, who started to fight back," he said.

Arlene Istar

C.S.W. C.A.C.

CHOICES COUNSELING
ASSOCIATES

518-446-9607

266 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054

ILGA Report: 5TH PRIDE IN BUENOS AIRES: COLD WEATHER BUT NO COLD FEET

***1500 march; police harassment; special delegation from Rosario* (report by Rafael Freda, SIGLA, Sociedad de Integración Gay Lesbica Argentina.)**

For the fifth consecutive year, the Gay Lesbian Transvestite Transsexual Gay Pride Parade marched in downtown Buenos Aires. Around 1500 people from LGBT communities under the banners of 22 different organizations gathered in May Square, facing the Cathedral and the Presidential Palace, under cold gusts of wind which without mercy froze hands and noses, but not feet or hearts. The slogan of the March was "Society may oppress me, police may kill me, but we stand still."

Policemen kept away from Pride, allowing a nasty homophobic motorist

to enter May Avenue and launch his car against the demo. The macho chauffeur fled after exchanging angry words and blows with gay men and transvestites.

For the first time ever, a delegation of 40 LGBT activists from the City of Rosario travelled 400 kilometres to participate in the march under the flag of the "Rainbow Collective." They wore Colourful dresses and masks that ridiculed policemen, judges, military and clergy. Later that night, in response, the police interrogated and arrested a Transvestite from Rosario in the heart of Buenos Aires' gay area, trying to press prostitution charges and Police Edicts against crossdressing; as a response to this, a very masculine Porten(-)o gay man kept her company to the Precinct until both were released with no charges.

These incidents could not spoil the joy of the evening, which ended with a song and dress (drag) show in the Two Congresses Square, facing the legislative palace. There was a brunch and party offered for the Rosarians in the nearby SIGLA office, free passes to gay discos for the young ones, and a Gay Pride Special on TOTALLY NATURAL, the only gay radio talk show in Argentina.

A gay pride to remember and celebrate, except for the cold which sent many to their homes sick and wondering why the Southern hemisphere doesn't hold their LGBT Pride days in their spring or summer.

TRANSPeOPLE LEFT BEHIND ON HATE CRIMES AGAIN

[Washington, DC - July 4, 1996]

President Clinton has signed the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 passed by Congress on June 26, which reauthorizes the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. The HCSA, originally enacted in 1990, mandates FBI collection of data on hate crimes based on "race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity."

Despite the fact that the HCSA does not cover transgendered persons, GenderPAC helped a broad coalition of civil rights organizations urge Congress to reauthorize the HCSA after its original mandate expired in 1995.

Limited Coverage

In effect, HCSA will cover genderqueers if, and only if, they can demonstrate the assault on them occurred as a result of their being "perceived" as gay or lesbian. The difficulty of this can be gauged by the recent brutal slayings of transpeople like Brandon Teena or Deborah Forte. Even in such horrific cases, local officials have been notoriously reluctant to label them "hate crimes," while correspondingly eager to blame the victim's alleged gender "deception" as the cause.

GenderPAC's Response

Said Riki Anne Wilchins, GenderPAC's Executive Director, "In the face of the terrible incidence of transmurders in the past few years, including Brandon Teena (NE), Christian Paige (IL), Deborah Forte (MA), Chanel Picket (MA), Janice Ricks (OH), Harold Draper (NJ), Cameron Tanner (CA), Marsha Johnson (NY), Jessy Santiago (NY) and her sister Peggy Santiago (NY), it is simply unconscionable that people *still* haven't gotten the message that hate crimes against gender people *must* be tracked."

Declared Dana Priesing, GenderPAC's Congressional Advocacy Coordinator who had worked hard for trans-inclusion: "This is a bittersweet event for transgendered people. We're glad to see the Hate Crimes Statistics Act reauthorized and for our gay, lesbian and bisexual brothers and sisters who are once again covered by the Act. And we're pleased to have contributed to the reauthorization process."

"But Senator Mosely-Braun stated on June 27 that reauthorization of HCSA facilitates 'a better understanding of the magnitude of hate crimes nationwide.' Reauthorization won't have that effect for crimes against transfolk, because it doesn't identify or count them.

"So we're also frustrated that our coalition partners and elected representatives don't recognize it's past time to include transgendered people in HCSA. And we're outraged by the knowledge more transgendered people will be harassed, attacked and killed because of their gender identities and these crimes will go unrecorded and unrecognized for the hate crimes they are.

"That is why a keystone in GenderPAC's 1997 Congressional agenda will be to change get coverage within HCSA for all of us in the queer community." [END]

(TG POLITICS Continued from page 1)

while some have postulated the creation of utopian transgender communities, none exist. The best we can get is queer communities, like the gay ghettos of San Francisco, Toronto, Atlanta, and so on.

I suspect that we would find that the level of immersion of a gay or lesbian person into the local gay or lesbian community is directly related to how they primarily identify. If they are active, they are lesbians or gays first -- but for many, who have settled like any other person, they may be lawyer, Mommies, Blacks, town dwellers, councilmembers, Christians or some other identity first. It is a question of the group you see as being your first home -- and and acknowledgment that we all live in many groups, many worlds.

Life, for most people, is beyond identity politics. And the gift of identity politics that Virginia Prince brought to the gender community is a double edged sword, cutting the space for TG people to be themselves -- and cutting separations between TG people and others in their community.

Politically oriented people will jump and run, tell us that the only way to be effective is to be part of a distinct group that can follow them and fight for rights -- by giving time, energy and money to support the battles.

But many of us will wonder how that helps us be more effective in the communities in which we live.

Transgendered people have always been, and probably will always be rare. One or two per nomadic tribe of 50 or so was enough. They have also always spoken for individual expression -- there was never a handbook on how to be a shaman, only stories and tales that lead us to our own personal ways of power and transcendence.

To be effective, transgendered people must create alliances with many others around them -- it is not sufficient to find an isolated community where only TG people live, for such a thing has never existed.

Can we really find our voices as transgendered people using the sword of identity politics? I don't think so -- the separations it creates cut us off from our natural powers of bridging worlds, of showing connection, of cutting across boundaries.

But that doesn't stop people from trying to introduce more identity politics into the world of transgender, and using the fear of separation to drive people together. "If you are not with us, you will be alone, isolated, harassed, killed. Only by standing together can we be powerful!"

Lilly Tomlin: "We are all in this alone." I think, that while I would never want to give up my connections to other transgendered people, I never want to primarily think of myself as transgendered -- or any other label relating to that, like TS or TV. I want to be essentially human, and connect with other humans.

Are identity politics the salvation of TG people, or the downfall of them? It is a question worth discussing.

TALKING ABOUT IT

By Callan [REDACTED] Copyright © 1996

"What in life doesn't get better with better communications?" asks Pamela Angell, a communications counselor working in the Albany area. "After all," Pamela continues, "we communicate with lots of people covering a great many issues everyday -- our spouses, our children, our bosses, our clients, and many more. If we can make that communication more effective by being more aware of what we are saying and how we are saying it, we can make our lives smoother and happier."

For transgendered people, the challenges in communicating are myriad. We have to explain notions of gender that we may not even understand. We have to be effective in gender-based communications in a gender we are not socialized in. We have to deal with sensitive issues of sexuality and identity that can challenge other people. And we have to do all of this with the handicap of growing up with a shameful secret we kept hidden, learning to keep people at arm's length. The one thing all TG people share is being stopped from communicating who they are inside -- being shamed into the closet.

"Your greatest vulnerability in communications is often your greatest strength," Pamela says. "The same challenges that make you unique and scared also give you power to see things in a special way, and to make connections. In working with transgendered people, I like to help them find that strength, those inner resources and bring them to the fore in a way that opens up the power they were born with."

Pamela's background is varied. "Communication touches on nearly every aspect of everything we do in this culture. It is the expressive wellspring of what we are as human beings, which means it is at the core of all the social sciences. Communication encompasses psychology, linguistics, history, literature, and even a little Zen. I've studied all these fields since the theoretical principles in each came from communications."

Pamela is a Ph.D. candidate in communications who has been a communications director for a state agency.

Currently, she is teaching at the university level, seeing private clients, leading seminars for corporate clients in topics such as "Gender & Communications," and even doing a little Tarot reading. "I have studied Eastern religion for 25 years, and I find that reading Tarot helps me tap into my psychic self, to be able to verbalize the things that we all see on a non-verbal level. Reading the Tarot allows me to open to that wave and help people see things in a new way."

Tall, thin, and leggy, crowned with a halo of curly blonde hair, and stylishly dressed, Pamela says that breaking gender rules is an important part of anyone finding themselves. She loves to wear the right mascara, but is as likely to order the "Hungry Man" breakfast as a salad. Pamela's life has been about finding the right expression, from pretty accessories to a power attitude -- finding the balance, making it all harmonize. For her, it's not about masculine or feminine, but about how to be masculine and feminine in harmony.

"Communications is about interpersonal connections and credibility," says Pamela, "and I work with clients to help them make connections in all areas of their lives and to make the best possible presentation." That may include everything from wardrobe & make-up tips to working on how to break through fears of intimacy and exposure. "I'm not a psychologist, and I make sure clients know that up front, but by working with people, either alone or in couples, I can help them improve communications, to open up a channel and to learn, explore and use the communication process. This can help people find what they need for themselves," says Pamela.

As a communications therapist, Pamela uses a wide range of tools, from visualizations & meditations to actually going out into communication situations to give feedback and suggestions on how to be more effective, both in terms of the gender assigned at birth and the gender of choice. This arsenal of possibilities allows her to encourage play, exploration and deep learning.

"One of the most important things I do," Pamela notes, "is to help people communicate better with themselves. Often, we don't really listen to our body, our heart, and our spirit, and, usually, when that internal communication gets better, all aspects of our life get better."

I have worked with Pamela, and found her to be understanding, insightful & creative. I wanted to focus on sharpening my communications skills in presenting transgender outside of the gender community. Pamela's background, training and fabulous personal sense of style have helped me enormously with those issues. Her thoughtful questions, as she listened to my story, helped me to focus and to grow. More than that, I found that Pamela had the ability to help me become more clear on my blocks and concerns, and the ability to help me examine them.

She has learned to integrate & harmonize strong feminine and masculine perspectives in her own life, and that personal experience gives her a unique perspective to serve as a mirror for transgendered people.

Pamela brings a great sense of joy and positive energy to her work. She is affirming of success, focusing not on how we have lost, but how we can win.

Her warm energy and quick wit can make anyone feel safe and accepted.

For me, Pamela is a wonderful coach, counselor and friend. If you have communication issues, either in relationship or simply in daily life, it may be useful to call (518) 489-5249 and simply talk about it with Pamela.

**Communication
Counseling**
Individuals * Couples
Relationships * Career *
Personal

Pamela Angell, MS (518) 489-5249

On the Outside Looking in- A Woman's Observations of the TransGendered World

By Debbi

As an outsider, I have been very confused by the world of the TransGendered. What is TransGendered? I have met drag queens, they are very different from transsexuals, who are very different from transvestites, who are very different from effeminate gays, who are different from cross dressers. In my attempt to understand the similarities and differences in these groups, I spoke to a few people in each one. However, instead of resolving my confusion, it has only made it worse. And this is only the male to female population. My contact with the parallel universe of the female to male population has been even more limited. So I cannot even begin to muse about them.

As an aside, I am not trying to inflame anyone by attempting to "Label" people. But the attitude, "Let's just accept everybody as they are" just doesn't work. It is most disconcerting to try to relate to someone without some commonality. And just being human is not enough. The TG community is populated by people that can hardly be called usual or mundane. Actually just the opposite is the norm, most TGs are very interesting, articulate, warm and fun. Definitely not the norm, but also not very knowable. A very large portion of the TG mystique is being something that you are not (by genetics, at least), and acceptance takes patience and delicacy and a huge leap of faith.

My first personal contact with the TG World was through my husband. He liked to read about male to female transformation, he enjoyed television shows where men dress in women's clothes, and he liked to borrow some of my more classically feminine clothes to wear occasionally. He played with makeup and nail polish and eventually bought his own. This was it, and although I had some really tough times with his "hobbies", I tried to be accepting and supportive. He called himself

"TransGendered". So in my naiveté, I was content with my understanding.

But then I met Cassie, a TransGendered lesbian. Cassie had had full sexual reassignment surgery, and I had no difficulty accepting her as a true woman, and very quickly she became one of my very dearest friends. But her "TransGendered" was VERY different from my husband's "TransGendered". I became very concerned that my husband perhaps was considering reassignment and finally gathered up the courage to ask him. His reply further confused me.

"Im not transsexual, I'm TransGendered, a cross dresser."

What I was to learn was that anyone who moves outside of the traditional role of birth-assigned gender is "TransGendered", regardless of the degree of movement. Well, to a genetic woman born and raised in WASP household where everything was very clearly stated and delineated, this completely threw me. I needed a more precise language to keep things clear in my mind. This language was not to be used to make any value judgments, but to avoid embarrassment on both sides of a conversation. Lack of clarification is one of the easiest ways to say something totally

stupid and to make everyone uncomfortable. So I began the search for a method of common language.

I began at the dictionary, which was no help at all. Under transvestism, it said cross-dress; big help that was. The people who defined themselves as cross-dressers seemed different than those who called themselves transvestites. The distillation of my conversations is that cross dressers have no desire to change their sex-assignment, that they are comfortable in their birth sex and the assigned clothing and lifestyle of that sex, but that they enjoy wearing clothes of the opposite sex. But there was a lack of desire to live as the opposite sex on a full time or even a majority time basis. Sexual orientation appears to have little influence, both gays and straights cross dress.

The next point on the "line" is transvestites. The commitment to live in the world of the opposite sex seems to be greater in the transvestite, the degree of comfort and belonging increases while "dressed". "Living as" is very often the dream of the TV. Those I have met have expressed no desire for reassignment, they are content to be a boy in a dress, and only wish to be accepted as such. Motivation for

(Continued on page 8)

Transgenderist Independence Club
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]

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

Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to Jeena@AOL.COM. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail. If you must attach a file please save it in ASCII

THE THINGS THAT I HOLD PRECIOUS

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

The things that I hold precious
were the sounds of children's laughter
on a bright sunny summer day by the lake.

The gentle words of a lover
strolling hand in hand
along leaf littered rural roads in autumn.

The incredible beauty of a child
coming to term in its mother's womb
The miracle of birth, life starting anew.

The warmth of family at holidays
gathered around sharing memories with their young
as sumptuous aromas of unforgettable dinners drift.

The remembrance of a boatman
making his way across a still, sun streaked lake
through the dawn's clinging banks of fog,

canada geese honking, wings flaping on the water
the echo of some distant fish jumping
muted, disembodied voices, floating in the stillness.

natural simple things, the diversity and colors of flowers,
water flowing along a streambed
seasons changing, plants and animals coming and going.

The distructive power by the same nature.
Ice, blacked by the first warm days in spring,
propelled by wind, tearing the lakes winter cover

The awesome feeling of ineptitude and
helplessness of humankind, confronted
with distructive power of forces without control

But, they said, "men don't feel, and appreciate
these sort of things. This is what a woman feels."
So I became a woman.

**Connections**

Psychotherapy Associates

MOONHAWK RIVER STONE, B.S.

PH.D. CANDIDATE

(518) 446-1261

10 Colvin Avenue • Albany, NY 12206

**JOSEFINA A. SPECKERT M. Ed.**

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH, MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNSELING

100 WENDELL AVE., SUITE 302 • PITTSFIELD, MA 01201

(413) 499-5858*Albany Gender Project*Education, Information, Consultation
Referrals, Publications, SeminarsJennifer [REDACTED]
Coordinator

518-432-7092

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

(The Things I hold Precious - Con't from previous page)

Then they said, "you were born a male but now you are female? We can't accept that."

So I had no identity.

Then they said, "you are unworthy of being loved."

So I had no lover, or family.

Then they said, "you are unsafe to leave alone with children"

So I had no children.

Then they said, "you are different so we have no jobs"

So I had no job.

Then they said, "you are traitor to your sex, but you are not a woman"

So I had no gender.

Then they said, "you are a threat so you must leave"

So I had no home.

Then they said, "God will condemn you"

So I had no religion.

But nature said, "Come, come to my loving arms
and I will embrace you forever"

#062296

(Outside Looking in Continued from page 6)

dressing appears to be more of a desire to emulate women because they really like them, as friends and partners.

Transsexuals (complete, transitional, permanent fence straddlers, or dabblers) are an entirely different group of people. It is miraculous that they have been to discover who they are at all, let alone convey who they are to others. The few I have become close to have a pact with me to ignore my faux-pas and not think ill of me. Because it is impossible to say all the right things. I strive to make people comfortable, but some things can't be done. We can't talk about the pigs men can be (she used to be one). Bitching about periods and PMS is another non-starter. Children are difficult, because if she fathered any she probably lost the custody battle. As you can see, the easy subjects between women are not too hot for this group.

Lastly, are the people that seem to resist any label. They feel that the word TransGendered is sufficient to completely answer any question. These people cross barriers with enviable facility. They work very hard at being the best and it shows. But my intuition senses that there is a great deal of pain behind the marvelous facade and I wish something could ease it. I fear I will never be allowed to get beyond the razzle-dazzle. But I can't challenge it either, I have to wait to be allowed in.

I have been trying to understand a concept, gender, whose meaning seems to be in the eye of the beholder. I have been told that gender is between your ears, but I still have not been able to discern who put it there. Was it God/dess, society, or one's own view of self? I don't know if there is a consensus on that one, because if there is, I haven't found it.

Who are you, what can we talk about, where are our boundaries, how can we connect in a way that is meaningful? And what is TranGendered?!!!!!! Well, we can always talk about the weather and hemlines.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP

Love?

Sex?

Partners?

Parents?

Employment?

Legal?

Sad?

Lonely?

A new structured support group for those who are actively pursuing a transgender path is forming. The group will be a serious forum to share the joys and challenges of our daily lives as transgendered and transexual people. A talking stick will be used and the group will set and enforce guidelines to create a safe and focused space.

Starting August 12, 1996, the group will meet on the **second and fourth Monday** of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, in the TGIC loft, a private space on Central Avenue in Albany. We encourage people to plan to come regularly so that they can more effectively participate in the group.

Gays ejected from Massachusetts club win lawsuit

12 Jul 1996 BOSTON, (Reuter) -

The Massachusetts anti-discrimination watchdog agency has ordered a former nightclub owner to pay a gay man and two lesbians \$10,000 each for emotional distress suffered when they were tossed out of the club six years ago.

The case comes on the heels of last month's Supreme Court ruling striking down an amendment to Colorado's constitution that would have prohibited anti-discrimination laws from including protections for lesbians and gays. The landmark rule held the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause prohibits government actions based on anti-gay prejudice.

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) said the award was the first in the state involving anti-gay discrimination in a public accommodation.

"These rulings show that non-discrimination laws have vitality in the 1990s. Both stand for people being treated equally and eliminating any double standards," said Mary Bonauto, the attorney with Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders who represented the three in the Massachusetts case.

"We're saying that if you open your business to the public, then you must serve the public," said MCAD Commissioner Charles Walker, who wrote the decision.

He said the \$10,000 payment per person was for emotional distress.

"This is a dollar figure based upon the assault of their dignity as human beings."

Richard Cresswell of Scituate, Mass., Kelly McSorley of Boston and Jacqueline Stoll of New York City, were among a dozen gay men and lesbians at the Stocks and Bonds Restaurant and Bar in 1990. The Boston nightclub closed two years later.

During the evening, as the group danced and "demonstrated physical affection for each other in a similar manner to the opposite-gender couples," other patrons "gawked," snickered" and "mocked them," Walker wrote. None of the security personnel intervened.

When Cresswell and his partner, Jamie

Pierce kissed, a police officer on paid private detail grabbed Cresswell by the neck, lifted him off the floor and pushed him out the door.

Then other bouncers tossed both McSorley and Stoll, who suffered back injuries, from the club, according to the decision.

Walker said club owner George Varoudakis, who failed to appear at any MCAD hearings and could not be reached for comment Thursday, is responsible for paying the damages.

"It's been an awful long time in coming, but it definitely was worth the wait," Cresswell, a carpenter and musician, said of the decision. "There is a feeling of vindication."

CHAZ OF N.Y.

TRACY

Master Barber and Colorist

Hair Designers
Village Plaza
1593 Central Ave.
Colonie, New York
518-869-5064
518-869-5065

DO IT! About two years ago, Tracy, a hairstylist from CHAZ of NY visited our club room and gave a demonstration on wig and hair styling to the members present that night. I was very interested in growing my own hair out but concerned about how to wear it when expressing my male self (like at work). Although she assured me that she could cut it so I could wear it in a feminine and masculine style, it took me 2 years to build up the courage to visit the salon. When I did, I was very pleased to find that Tracy was able to do just what she said. Although I was still apprehensive, and didn't know exactly what I wanted, Tracy suggested a light layering style. She was discreet and professional and styled my hair while showing me how to do it on my own. I was very happy with the my new **DO** and pleased that I could easily put my hair back to "acceptable male style" the next day at work.

At my second visit to Tracy last week, I asked her to go a little further in layering as I have become more comfortable with blurring the line between what is acceptable for men and women. So if you have been thinking about doing something different with your own hair or hairpiece, my advice is see Tracy and **DO IT!**

gina

Night Club News

the **G** spot

an alternative space
(and who is more alternative than you?)
music coffee desserts
evenings 8 pm to late
August 3, 10 & 17
church st & main street granville ny
ph. 518 642 9554

Triangles, now reopened in Saratoga in the former Rice Inn location, on rt 29, just in towards town from the east ave/rt 29 junction (D'Andrea, Grand Onion, all that.) All you care to drink \$7, Thursday nights, dancing with former MTV DJ Friday & Saturday. Party down!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

CORRECTION: The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess meetings are suspended for the summer.

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is \$25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:

IFGE (617) 899-2212

PO Box 229

Waltham, MA 02154-0229

The I.F.G.E. has now started, in cooperation with D B Associates, the publishing of a monthly version of Transgender Tapestry to be placed FREE on the internet. You can find this new version of the community's largest TG Publication at...

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

This magazine will be updated every month and will also shortly carry the I.F.G.E.'s entire line of books and advertisers.

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked.

(NYS Health Department) **Albany Area:**

(518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

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.

AUGUST, 1996

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

- August 1-** Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm (Coffee Tea or Me?: Flight Attendants To Go)
August 8- NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm (A (Donna) Summer Night: Disco Time)
August 15- Thursday Meeting 7:30 pm (Sunset with Kathie Lee: Cocktails in Southampton)
August 22- NS Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm (Monaco Casino: A Tribute To Princess Stephanie)
August 29- Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm (Wigstock North! (Wigstock Weekend))

SEPTEMBER, 1996

- Sept. 3- Thursday Meeting, 7:30
 Sept. 10- NS Thursday Meeting 7:30
 Sept. 17- Thursday Meeting 7:30
 Sept. 24- NS Thursday Meeting 7:30

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

- August 15-17 Annual Meeting, Society for the Study of Social Problems
 NYC-Contact Emilio L. Lombardi Dept. of Sociology University of Akron
 Akron, OH 44325 216-972-5358 E Mail: Emilio.Lombardi@Uakron.edu
 Sept. 1-8 Dignity Cruise VII, NYC to Bermuda
 Sept. 19-21 Paradise in the Poconos, Canadensis, PA
 Sept. 26-29 Southern Comfort, Atlanta, GA
 Oct. 20-27 Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA
 Nov. 6-9 Fall Harvest, St. Louis, MO
 Nov. 6-10 Tri-Ess Holiday en Femme, Chicago, IL
 1997- June 19-22- Second International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues-
 King of Prussia, PA. Guest Speaker: Kate Bornstein. Contact JoAnn Roberts,
 Ph.D., P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 Phone: 610-640-9449

Albany NY Area: TGIC-On-line

All transgendered people in the Albany NY area are invited to join TGIC On-Line, a very informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC) an over 30 year old organization for TG people. TGIC meets every Thursday night at a private clubroom in Albany, and then many go out to The Playhouse on Central Avenue at about 10PM. Messages exchanged on TGIC-On-line focus on events of interest to transgendered people in a region from Lake Placid to Kingston. If you are interested in joining the network, or want more information about TGIC, drop a line to Gina at Jeeena@AOL.COM (three e's)

NEXT NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY- 10/11/96

SUNY @ STONY BROOK's LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED ALLIANCE will host an ALUMNI "FAMILY" REUNION IN CELEBRATION OF OVER 20 YEARS OF QUEER STUDENT ACTIVISM ON SB CAMPUS! please contact ALANA SAMUELS-CO-CHAIR if you are/were a member of the Stony Brook Gay Community