
TRANSgenderist

Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club

December, 1999

Closet Available

We still have one closet available in the clubhouse. At least I think we do. Well, then again, maybe we don't, but if you don't check today, you'll never know!

Christmas Party

After exhaustive search (I called Karen), I've found out that the Christmas Party is Thursday, December 16th during the usual TGIC time. We plan on having a cold cut platter, bread and stuff like that there, the soda is already in the refrigerator, and if you would like to bring a dish to share, that would be fine as well. But above all, come!

And don't forget the very special Eve of Christmas Eve TGIC night, and also the Eve of New Year's Eve TGIC night. There's nothing special planned so far, but if you're here, the night will be special anyway.

Thanksgiving Thanks

At this time of celebration and thanks, I would like to offer my own thanks for a spectacular year, Thanksgiving to Thanksgiving. The year began with me sitting in the front seat of my first girlfriend's car, waiting for her to emerge from Ben's Deli with our kosher sandwiches and pickles, her traditional Thanksgiving food. It ended with me breaking up with my third girlfriend, and realizing that as painful as that was, it was not going to be the end of the world. And in between I found so many new friends, came out in Albany as a lesbian and became a regular at Lezgather, had SRS with Dr. Schrang in Neenah, Wisconsin, and learned how to contradance.

In short, I have finally learned how to live as myself. I have come to be at peace in the

center of the busy-ness of life. That is perhaps the most wonderful gift anyone can receive, one that is worthy of a lot of thanks. It ain't perfect, but it is me, what a wonderful, spectacular person to be!

That's what TGIC is all about, finding yourself in a special place reserved for those who had forgotten the joy of being themselves. Whether that finding is for the night or eternity, whether hidden or totally out, it is a time of fun and free expression which changes our lives forever. "The club" is a gender-free zone where we can be with our real friends, the ones who understand us and our struggles completely. It is at the center of a vast array of providers, supporters and groups willing to help us, spread out over four states.

Let us give thanks and celebrate those who make TGIC possible, those who make gender-free living spaces possible, for without them our lives would be so much more empty and unfulfilled. And that includes you, because your dues keep our club alive and vibrant; thank you. And let us give thanks for each other, all the T* people all over the world, one out of every hundred people on this planet (according to some estimates).

--Vix, The Real Vicky [REDACTED]
"Looking Forward to 2000!"

House Parties Wanted

Yes, we're again looking for house party hostesses and hosts to come forth and volunteer for the Y2KT* parties! Sign up today by contacting Vicky; that way I will advertise it in the Transgenderist, and people will come.

Best Wishes, B.J.
— Vix
C.H.

Transsexuality as a Spiritual Discipline

For those who have had the experience of transsexuality, have changed their bodies and lives to fit their mind, it is an event of immense spirituality and calm. It involves the alteration of nearly all human contact on a very deep and lasting level. It is, in a real sense, the forcing of the physical world to match the internal reality of the soul, an immense discipline of commitment to many treatments and also to the cleansing of the body and the mind through meditation.

It is a form of enlightenment, for to become who you really are, you must first know who you are. We have our therapists, our paid helpers on this journey, but we must answer the questions for ourself. Once the mind is clear and focused, the actions needed to attain the goal become clear and the goal is steadily and incrementally attained.

As in most life-altering events, relationships become totally redrawn. In my case I had to leave a 25-year marriage, a marriage I had grown totally out of long ago. I had moved on in my spiritual journey, and she had not. I had passed through the valley of deep depression, had experienced the death of the old self and the rebirth of the new self, and she had not. When I returned from the cocoon, I was a new being, and she was not. The declaration of separation, dissolution of the relationship, was only a legal formality. The relationship had ended long before.

I went back to my spiritual roots as a Christian with strong ties to Zen Buddhism and several other Eastern philosophies, and once I attained the state of accepting change as the proper way of life, the past had no power in my life to alter the present. It was like I had become a new creation, able to see all things as they are, as if they had been created in the instant that I saw them. Life became a wonderful journey; I wake up each day refreshed and think, "Where shall I go today?"

Will I ever go back to my older pattern of seeking permanence? I tried that in two relationships I had, and in both cases it made me quite sick with anxiety and longing and pain. I have come to realize I had it all wrong. One cannot cage up a butterfly; one must set it free and enjoy its beauty as it was intended to be enjoyed. Life must remain a dizzying dance of freedom and intoxication for me, not the plodding along of each day trying to make the present fit the past. There are way too many wonders to be lived. --Vix ████████

Harvard

The president of Harvard made a mistake by prejudging people and it cost him dearly

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the president's outer office. The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge. She frowned.

"We want to see the president," the man said softly. "He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped. "We'll wait," the lady replied.

For hours, the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't. And the secretary grew frustrated and finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted to do.

"Maybe if they just see you for a few minutes, they'll leave," she told him. And he sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, but he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office.

The president, stern-faced with dignity, strutted toward the couple. The lady told him, "We had a son that attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. And my husband and I would like to erect a

memorial to him, somewhere on campus." The president wasn't touched; he was shocked. "Madam," he said gruffly, "We can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery."

"Oh, no," the lady explained quickly, "We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard. The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical plant at Harvard."

For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. He could get rid of them now. And the lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a University? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded.

The president's face wilted in confusion and bewilderment. And Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California, where they established the University that bears their name, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

[And the moral of that story is self-evident.]

Rules for Writers

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. A preposition is not a word to end a sentence with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat)
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.

12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.

13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.

14. One should NEVER generalize.

15. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.

16. Don't use no double negatives.

17. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.

18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.

19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.

20. The passive voice is to be ignored.

21. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.

22. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.

23. Kill all exclamation points!!!

24. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.

25. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.

26. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.

27. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."

28. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.

29. Puns are for children, not groan readers.

30. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.

31. Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.

32. Who needs rhetorical questions?

33. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

And finally...

34. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Santa is a Woman

[Thanks, Callan!] I think Santa Claus is a woman. I hate to be the one to defy sacred myth, but I believe he's a she. Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing, social deal, and I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off!

For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. Once at the mall, they always seem surprised to find only Ronco products, socket wrench sets, and mood rings left on the shelves.

On this count alone, I'm convinced Santa is a woman. Surely, if he were a man, everyone in the universe would wake up Christmas morning to find a rotating musical Chia Pet under the tree, still in the bag.

Another problem for a he-Santa would be getting there. First of all, there would be no reindeer because they would all be dead, gutted and strapped on to the rear bumper of the sleigh amid wide-eyed, desperate claims that buck season had been extended. Blitzen's rack would already be on the way to the taxidermist.

Even if the male Santa DID have reindeer, he'd still have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost up there in the snow and clouds and then refuse to stop and ask for directions.

Other reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:

- Men can't pack a bag.
- Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.
- Men would feel their masculinity is threatened...having to be seen with all those elves.
- Men don't answer their mail.
- Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described, even in jest, as anything remotely resembling a "bowlful of jelly."

-Men aren't interested in stockings unless somebody's wearing them.

-Having to do the Ho Ho Ho thing would seriously inhibit their ability to pick up women.

-Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment.

I can buy the fact that other mythical holiday characters are men: Father Time shows up once a year unshaven and looking ominous. Definite guy. Cupid flies around carrying weapons. Uncle Sam is a politician who likes to point fingers. Any one of these individuals could pass the testosterone screening test. But not St. Nick. Not a chance.

Greeley Tribune, November 9, 1999

Boulder may ban transgender discrimination

BOULDER, CO -- A proposed revision of a city ordinance could make it illegal to discriminate against people who cross dress.

The Boulder Human Relations Commission is expected to receive a proposal next week to include transgendered people in the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. The city council could act by next month on the proposed revision of the 18-year-old law banning discrimination in housing, employment and accommodations.

City Attorney Joseph de Raimes is reviewing a draft of the proposed revision. If approved, Boulder would join nine other cities across the country banning discrimination against people who have changed their sex or present themselves as members of the opposite sex.

City Housing and Human Services Director Susan Purdy said her staff has researched ordinances adopted by several other cities in developing an outline for the Boulder ordinance.

"It's not a large number of people," Purdy said.

A Note from Karen

real good so many turned out for our last meeting...as you may recall, some good ideas surfaced & we've made a start...which soon will need to be TRANSLated (pretty funny, huh?) into organized activity, i'm afraid, so if you can all come again...(or come this week if you couldn't last thursday)...we can take this to the next level...(also),..., arlene lev's holding what sounds-to-be a pretty valuable 'outreach' (forgive this perhaps inappropriate NOMENclature... [even funnier[?]]) meeting for & about transgendered youth on Thurs., at 7 PM in her offices...it seems bobbi jo [REDACTED], helen farrell & perhaps myself will be attending & may be getting to TGIC late...helen has been contacting other trans-groups for possible intergroup affair sponsored more or less by the club in late winter/early spring...bobbi jo has been in touch with gender pac... each has something important to contribute so...if we could perhaps delay the political stuff until after 9PM...or reconvene that component of the meeting when they arrive...might be a good idea...of course, it may not be possible, but maybe you'll want to try...already contacted tina & rachel about this...we'll work it out, but info from helen & bobbi jo should help us decide where to go next...alright -- karen From RaecheLC@aol.com

11/29/1999 Monday 8:44pm

Hello Yvonne,

My name is Alicia Williams, I run the support group in New Paltz, N.Y. I want to ask if anybody in the Albany group is looking for a roommate? In July 2000 my lease will run out, the building I live in was sold to a new owner. The new landlord wants to change it to commerical use. Please pass along my request to everyone at the next meeting on Thursday Night. Here is my telephone number (914) 255-8415
Catch you later, Alicia Williams
aewilliams440@hotmail.com

Darwin Awards

PROOF that "stupid is as stupid does!" the 1999 Darwin Awards!! For those sheltered few of you who are not fully aware of the Darwin Awards, these awards are given annually (and posthumously) to those individuals who did the most for the human gene pool by removing themselves from it.

DARWIN AWARD RUNNERS-UP:

#1 - LOS ANGELES, CA. Ani Saduki, 33, and his brother decided to remove a bees' nest from a shed on their property with the aid of a pineapple. A pineapple is an illegal firecracker which is the explosive equivalent of a half stick of dynamite. They ignited the fuse and retreated to watch from inside their home, behind a window some 10 feet away from the hive/shed. The concussion of the explosion shattered the window inwards, seriously lacerating Ani. Deciding Mr. Saduki needed stitches, the brothers headed out to go to a nearby hospital. While walking towards their car, Ani was stung three times by the surviving bees. Unbeknownst to either brother, Ani was allergic to bee venom, and died of suffocation en-route to the hospital.

#2 - Minneapolis, MN. Derrick L. Richards, 28, was charged in April with third-degree murder in the death of his beloved cousin, Kenneth E. Richards. According to police, Derrick suggested a game of Russian roulette and put a semiautomatic pistol (instead of the more traditional revolver) to Ken's head and fired.

#3 - PHILLIPSBURG, NJ. An unidentified 29 year old male choked to death on a sequined pastie he had orally removed from an exotic dancer at a local establishment. "I didn't think he was going to eat it," the dancer identified only as "Ginger" said, adding "He was really drunk."

#4 - MOSCOW, Russia. A drunk security man asked a colleague at the Moscow bank they were guarding to stab his bulletproof vest to see if it would protect him against a knife attack.

It didn't, and the 25-year-old guard died of a heart wound.

#5 - FRANCE. Jacques LeFevrier left nothing to chance when he decided to commit suicide. He stood at the top of a tall cliff and tied a noose around his neck. He tied the other end of the rope to a large rock. He drank some poison and set fire to his clothes. He even tried to shoot himself at the last moment. He jumped and fired the pistol. The bullet missed him completely and cut through the rope above him. Free of the threat of hanging, he plunged into the sea. The sudden dunking extinguished the flames and made him vomit the poison. He was dragged out of the water by a kind fisherman and was taken to a hospital, where he died of hypothermia.

#6 - RENTON, WASHINGTON. A man tried to commit a robbery. This was probably his first attempt, as suggested by the fact that he had no previous record of violent crime, and by his terminally stupid choices as listed below:

1. The target was H&J Leather & Firearms...a gun shop.
2. The shop was full of customers, in a state where a substantial portion of the adult population is licensed to carry concealed handguns in public places.
3. To enter the shop, he had to step around a marked police patrol car parked at the front door.
4. An officer in uniform was standing next to the counter, having coffee before reporting to duty. Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a holdup and fired a few wild shots.

The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, removing him from the gene pool. Several other customers also drew their guns, but didn't fire. No one else was hurt.

AND THE 1999 DARWIN AWARD
WINNER IS.....

THOMPSON, MANITOBA, CANADA:

Telephone relay company night watchman Edward Baker, 31, was killed early Christmas morning by excessive microwave radiation exposure. He was apparently attempting to keep warm next to a telecommunications feed-horn.

Baker had been suspended on a safety violation once last year, according to Northern Manitoba Signal Relay spokesperson Tanya Cooke. She noted that Baker's earlier infraction was for defeating a safety shut-off switch and entering a restricted maintenance catwalk in order to stand in front of the microwave dish. He had told coworkers that it was the only way he could stay warm during his twelve-hour shift at the station, where winter temperatures often dip to forty below zero.

Microwaves can heat water molecules within human tissue in the same way that they heat food in microwave ovens. For his Christmas shift, Baker reportedly brought a twelve pack of beer and a plastic lawn chair, which he positioned directly in line with the strongest microwave beam. Baker had not been told about a tenfold boost in microwave power planned that night to handle the anticipated increase in holiday long-distance calling traffic.

Baker's body was discovered by the daytime watchman, John Burns, who was greeted by an odor he mistook for a Christmas roast he thought Baker must have prepared as a surprise. Burns also reported to NMSR company officials that Baker's unfinished beers had exploded.



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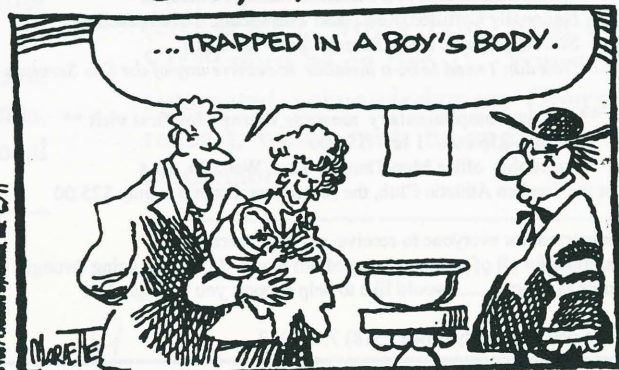
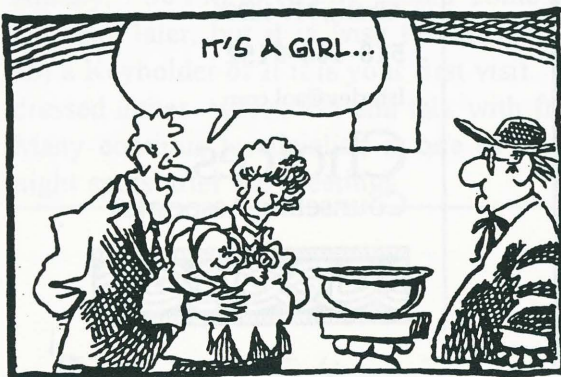
Anything for a buck...



By Nick Anderson, The (Louisville) Courier-Journal, The Washington Post Writers Group

KUDZU by Doug Marlette

Boston Globe June 11, 97



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<http://members.aol.com/tgicalbany.html>

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	Tina [REDACTED]
Vice President	Raechel [REDACTED]
Secretary	Karen F [REDACTED]
Treasurer	Cheryl [REDACTED]
Den Mother	Denise [REDACTED]
Newsletter	Vicky [REDACTED]
House Parties	Leslie [REDACTED]
TGIC On-Line/Web	Raechel [REDACTED]

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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 [REDACTED]. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail.

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 PM to 10 PM. 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.

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

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)

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

TGIC On-Line

All transgendered people are invited to join TGIC On-Line, an informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC). Messages exchanged on TGIC On-Line focus on events of interest to transgendered people in a region from Lake Placid to Newburg. If you are interested in joining the network, or want more information about TGIC, send an e mail message to: TGIC-request@hartebeest.com with any subject line and in the message body, the text:

JOIN TGIC
STOP

(Please note: JOIN TGIC must be on line 1. STOP must be on line 2) You will receive an automated acknowledgment (Journal) of your request, which must be approved with the list moderator.

Calendar and Events

TGIC meetings are held every Thursday from 7:30 to 10:00 in the clubhouse. *See explanation in this issue.

- December 2 Newsletter Printed
December 11, 2-5 Twenty Club, TS Support
 Hartford, CT, Xmas Party
December 11, 7:30-11 Gender-free Contradance,
 Unitarian Church, Albany
December 16, 7:30-10 TGIC Christmas
 Party*
December 18, 8-11 GF Contradance,
 Greenfield, MA
December 18, 9 on Tri-Ess at Yours, Barrett
 Street, Schenectady
December 23, 7:30-10 Regular TGIC meeting
December 30 Newsletter Printed
December 30, 7:30-10 Regular TGIC meeting

We'll see you in 2000. Keep those house parties going!

Thanks to Evan [redacted] [redacted] for :]

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Gender-Free Contradance

The Unitarian Church in Albany sponsors a wonderful program for GLBT people. It is a gender-free contradance, essentially a social gathering and dance for people of all sexual preferences. Hey, even heteros are accepted! <ggg> There is a caller who instructs people on how to dance the particular dance, and occasionally a live orchestra as well. I attended three of these dances and enjoyed them a lot, dancing with both men and women. It is a high-energy affair, water is served (you will drink plenty!), and the cost is usually in the \$10 range, sliding scale usually. If you would like to explore that side of yourself and have a knockout social evening, I recommend it highly!!! --Vix

Female workers want tie rule dropped

The Post-Star 11/27/99

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Two workers in the medical examiner's office have filed formal complaints about a policy requiring employees to wear neckties.

That's ALL employees. Even women.

Patricia Martin and Daphne Moutry-Allen told the state's Equal Rights Division they want to have the rule abolished and are seeking compensation for humiliation and discrimination. Both women have rejected settlement offers.

"Obviously I am concerned about

retaliation, but you get to the point where enough is enough," said Martin, a forensic investigator. "I don't need to look like a man to do my job."

Their complaints are scheduled for a hearing Dec. 3 at the state office building in Milwaukee.

The 1.5-year-old rule came about after the men in the office filed a union grievance complaining it was unfair they had to wear ties on the job. They said ties can drape on a corpse while they work or could provide a way for distraught family members of the deceased to choke them.

After an arbitrator sided with the men, Medical Examiner Jeffrey M. Jentzen ruled both genders would wear ties in the office.

"If this prevails, what's next?" asked Jeff Hynes, Moutry-Allen's attorney. "Are women going to be required to wear wingtip shoes and suspenders?"

Gender neutral does not mean mandating the same dress for men and women, said Ellen Bravo, a spokeswoman for the Milwaukee-based 9to5, National Association of Working Women.

"It's ridiculous. Let's be honest," she said.

Comments? Vicky [redacted] [redacted], or
c/o TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212
All the news that fits.