



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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]

The only significant rain in the entire month of August fell on the day of Ed's barbecue. But that didn't deter those who wound their way up the mountain to his hideaway in the forest near the Massachusetts border. The bunch of a dozen or so club members and family simply moved inside for a great grilled steak and salad dinner. Ed gave us a tour of his place, including the boob factory in his basement. In the evening, Melodie introduced us to some interesting party games. Before departing, all agreed it was a good idea to have more get-togethers of club members outside of our Thursday night meetings. So, if any of you get the urge to host a party, make your plans at least a month in advance, I'll announce it in our newsletter, and let's have more fun and friendship!

The dinner party arranged by Francine at the Caunterbury Restaurant in Saratoga was also a great success, drawing ten people. Being a non-race day, the place wasn't crowded, we had a nicely decorated private room, with good, friendly service and a fine meal. Francine put her announcement on a computer bulletin board and enticed Vanessa from Long Island to "come out" for the first time! Like I have said before: A liberated TV is a closet TV with a suitcase, over 100 miles from home. Thanks, Francine! The parting consensus was: Let's go there again sometime!

We plan to resume our dinner parties at the *Northway Inn* this month. I will try to schedule them to avoid conflict with the Tri-Ess meetings. The first is set for Saturday, **September 23**; sign up at the club

room or call 436-4513 and leave a message for Joan by Thursday, September 21, or call Joan at [REDACTED].

Some of you may not be aware of the political controversy debated in several articles this month. Briefly, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is now before Congress. The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) supports a version that includes Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual but *not* Transgender people. Apparently, they believe it has a better chance of passage if restricted to those who look "normal" and do not assault the delicate visual sensibilities of the general public by dressing in "clothing of the opposite sex". And maybe they are correct in this assessment. But, can you imagine any U.S. law prohibiting discrimination against religious sects, except certain Jews, Amish, Sikhs, and others who dress "funny"?

The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP) and others are fighting to get Transgender included in ENDA. If we are not included from the start, it will be much more difficult to get us added later, even if then supported by HRCF. And, there will be no precedent, so we will likely be dumped from any future anti-discrimination legislation to make it passable. To avoid discrimination, we must be passable.

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The way you deal with gender affects your gender issues. Sounds obvious, right? You know that your crossdressing, transgender, transsexual issues are all wrapped up with the way you deal with gender. You have been exploring feminine things for a while now. But you may be ignoring your gender.

The thing that many people forget is that there is not just one gender. At gender conventions, we tend to fall into the trap that Virginia Prince set, venerating all that is feminine. But the flip side of the gender coin is masculinity, and no coin with only one side has any value. To explore our gender, we must not only explore the feminine in us, we must also explore the masculine in us.

While inner explorations and masculinity would seem to be contrary, they are not. Many women, as they explore their own gender issues, understand that they must explore the masculine, strong, and outwardly focused parts of themselves in order to be whole. They must understand both the feminine and masculine inside of themselves.

This process of exploring our own constructs of masculinity can lead to surprising results. One guy, who joined a men's group, finally came out and told them he was transgendered. His process of exploration of gender through the group had led him to his own discoveries, and the group was very supportive of his decision.

Because most of us never explore what our masculinity means, we are cut off from that part of ourselves. For some that means clinging to stereotypical behaviors we learned from the men around us, even though they don't work for us. We do all the guy things, never realizing that they are not the only symbols of masculinity, but rather just a set of behaviors our father had. We wear a dress and growl, thinking that will prevent us from losing our masculinity, when our real masculine side is something that can never be taken from us.

For others, the lack of exploration means we deny anything that looks remotely masculine to us. We see the masculine as anathema, something to be despised, and we run from it. This cuts us off from a great source of power that women are learning how to tap into in themselves. We tend to stay down, and never take control of our own power and strength.

In the extreme case, we see both of these behaviors, with someone clinging to a set of supposedly masculine behaviors and then declaring themselves transsexual and supposedly running from the same behaviors. Yet the exercise can seem hollow to others, because the essential components are never changed, only the surface. It is not sufficient to just change on top - real change must always occur at the level of meaning.

People who do this kind of a flip-flop end up with the worst of both worlds, alienated from themselves and others. They live in a world where there is no stable underlying meaning that can bend and shape with the passing of time and interaction with others. Their reliance on dogma, and not on inner acceptance, leaves them brittle and isolated. Without depth, we are two dimensional, and must fight off any force, good or bad, that threatens to tip us over.

We cannot hope to address our gender issues without addressing the complete and total range of our internal gender: masculine, feminine and all points in between. The only successful way to deal with any part of your gender is by embracing it, not denying it. We must reach down to the bedrock of our own personalities to build a firm foundation for our future growth.

This process of inner exploration is crucial for anyone's growth, transgendered or not. Jungian analyst Robert A. Johnson, in his book, *Lying with the Heavenly Woman*, talks about how much of the things that bring people joy - love, warmth, compassion, caring - are essentially feminine. On the

other side, Jungian analyst Clarissa Pinkola Estes, in her book, *Women Who Run With The Wolves*, talks to women about accepting and using the wild, masculine parts of themselves.

Raising children also demands a respect and acceptance of both sides of gender. As parents, we have a responsibility to show our children effective ways to use all their strengths, not simply raising tough boys and sweet girls. Each child must be able to draw on a complete range of skills and behaviors, not just a limited set, or they will not be able to prosper in our changing world.

We become transgendered and happy not simply by amputation, but rather by a conscious process of creating, in this case, a self that is whole and happy. This inner process is a key to being a good human, no matter what your issues are. Accepting your masculinity is a vital part of accepting your femininity, and vice-versa.

There are advantages in exploring both sides of you. You may be able to find a "point of rest," as Joseph Campbell calls it, that lets you express the wholeness of your gender without having to go to extremes. On the other hand, a full exploration may mean that you are more comfortable when you do go to extremes. You will be more effective in the world because people see you as a whole person, not someone hiding something, even from themselves.

How you understand and deal with your masculinity is a key determinant to how you deal with your transgender. Taking the time to understand how you were raised, and to question the assumptions about gender that were passed to you as you grew is the best way to deal with your gender issues - all of them.

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Kate Wants You!

My name is Kate Bornstein, and this is a call for submissions for an upcoming book I'm working on, called "*My Gender Workbook*." It's a follow-up to my first book, "*Gender Outlaw*." It should be out from Routledge some time in the fall of 1996, with illustrations by Diane DiMassa, creator of "*Hothead Paison: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist*." Lookin' to make it a fun piece of work.

The book will contain a section which, hopefully, will weave through the entire book, called "*1001 Ways To Live Without Gender, By People Who Do*."

So, I'm looking for a *lot* of outlaws and in-laws to respond to the following questions:

- 1) Do you consider that you break any rules or laws or conventions of gender? If so, which ones? How do you do that?
- 2) Have you ever had to, or do you now have to overcome any fear regarding breaking gender conventions? Which fear(s)? How do you overcome that?
- 3) Do you consider that you live, or have lived either all or part of your life without gender? Could you describe how that works for you?

Please feel free to write as many responses as you like, to one, two, or all three of these questions. Answers can be humorous, serious, or in any vein whatsoever. They can be poetry, cartoons, slogans, or they can be more questions. The only thing I'm asking is that they be *short*, because I want to include as many people's voices as possible.

Sadly, there's no payment available for these, but I'll be very glad to credit your words as you like. Please do include your name and a way to contact you (email, fax or snailmail addresses, please) to get permission in writing from you to publish your words. Deadline for submission is October 31st (Halloween), 1995.

You can get your responses to me in any number of ways:

- 1) e-mail them to: 1001ways@eor.com
- 2) fax them to 206-860-5030
- 3) snail mail them to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Seattle, WA 98122, USA

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do **not** email submissions to my OutlawGal address. Thanks!

Finally, if you have any contact with any lesbian, gay, bisexual, transwhatever, SM, sex worker, feminist, radical faerie, new male, queer or radical zines or newsletters, bulletin boards, BBSes, newsgroups, mailstrings, phonetrees, websites, comix, whatever: please pass this request along!

Thanks very much.
Sincerely,
Kate Bornstein

Transgender Differences or Sameness?

From: diana@usaor.net (Diana Scott)

Subject: Transgender Differences

I wrote the following letter to a number of gender rights activists. I am interested in receiving any comments anyone chooses to make. Thanks.

I am Diana Scott, a 48 year old post-op TS and a gender rights activist. I have founded the Pittsburgh chapter of Transsexual Menace, a member of AEGIS, actively involved in the Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group (TSG), a participant in the upcoming National Gender Lobbying Day in Washington DC, and I am currently developing a series of Christian education classes on transgenderism for the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Community Church. I am also a veteran of the civil rights and anti-war movements (as well as a veteran of the U.S. Army).

I am writing you to express my opinion and to obtain your opinion about a growing division in the transgender community.

I am a TS and I have a number of TS friends who are also active in the gender rights movement. I and others have noticed recently a growing division in the transgender community that has sometimes led to harsh words and shattered friendships.

During recent discussions with TS friends, both in and outside of Pittsburgh, the following things seem to be clear.

1. With some notable exceptions, most non-TS people in the transgender community are very reluctant to get involved in the gender rights movement. When we asked the local TV groups here in Pittsburgh to help us with our efforts to get local laws changed, ALL flatly refused. (Other gender rights activists in other cities have told me they are facing the same problem.) Some TS's, who I disagree with, are beginning to wonder aloud, "Why should we work for the rights of people who are not willing to help us in the struggle?" My answer to this question is simple. It is the RIGHT thing to do.

2. It is clear to TS's here that it would be EASY to get local laws changed that would extend legal protection against discrimination for both pre-op and post-op transsexuals. However, given the current political climate, it will be very difficult to get that same protection extended to TV's, drag queens, etc.

While I and most other TS's still believe we should and must work for the rights of ALL transgendered people, some of us, including me, are NOT willing to forego a partial victory on the way to complete victory. (A part of a loaf is better than none.) I and others here believe that anytime any sexual minority obtains legal recognition of their rights, it helps ALL sexual minorities by further changing the political reality and thereby the corresponding future political climate. That is why I refuse to work for the defeat of the ENDA bill. I would rather see the ENDA bill passed without extending coverage to me and other transgendered folks than see it go down completely in flames. (However, I will and do work to educate HRCF and their supporters about the need for transgender inclusion in the bill.)

I believe my approach of accepting the winning of some battles on the way to winning the war is both pragmatic and realistic. However, for voicing my opinion, I have been pilloried by many non-TS persons in the transgender community. Many non-TS transpersons view my opinion as a kind of betrayal. I disagree. I think it is reality and I am NOT suggesting that, if we can win rights for TS's on some level, we should stop and forget about our other transgendered brothers and sisters. We must continue to

work for the rights of ALL transgendered people until the war is finally won.

I think we must be willing to accept different viewpoints and strategies in the gender rights movement. If not, disputes will result that could tear us apart and do more to defeat us than any political opponent.

One more topic I would like to briefly address concerns my discussions with business people about employing transgendered people. Many businesses say they are willing to hire a transgendered person but ONLY if that person will commit to one gender. They do not care what the employee's physical gender is but they want an employee who will consistently come to work and dress at work as a woman (or man). They say they cannot accept someone as an employee who is constantly changing -- one day a man, the next as a woman and so on.

I have been a business woman for a long time. I understand and, to some degree, support the views of these business people. In today's social climate, having someone constantly switching back and forth between genders would result in problems with fellow employees and any clients or customers they deal with. In a perfect world, we should be able to come to work one day as one gender and the next day as another gender. However, we do NOT live in such a perfect world or in a vacuum. Although societal attitudes will hopefully change in the future, we must realize that some minimal accommodations to existing societal attitudes are required by EVERYONE. It is not right but, sadly, it is the way it is in the REAL world.

I am looking forward to receiving your comments.

Regards,

Diana Scott.

A Reply

From [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Scott,

After reading your letter about transgender differences ("A part of a loaf is better than none") I wanted to send you a copy of a letter I just sent to HRCF. Whether or not part of a loaf is better or not, it seems to me, depends on who's getting the partial loaf, what it costs them, and who has to go hungry so they can have it, doesn't it? That phrase reminds me a bit of 'To make an omelet you have to break some eggs' which again seems not to give the eggs much of a voice in the matter.

While I respect your right to your own opinion, and understand your attraction to 'pragmatism', I would just like to respectfully point out that some forms of pragmatism can be both short-sighted and ethically null. To me, nothing can be truly pragmatic if it ignores the lessons of history. You cite your own involvement in the civil rights struggle. As you know there were many divisions regarding tactics in the struggle for African American civil rights (eg, NAACP vs the Black Panthers), but those fighting never waffled from the demand that 'race' not be used to deny civil rights and said 'Well, it's OK to deny rights to someone whose skin is really dark black...or someone who lives in a ghetto and isn't Our Class...or someone who's in prison or on welfare...'

Either sexual or general preferences are a reason to deny someone their rights or they're not. Trying to decide where to draw a line is a slippery slope and only reinforces the idea that some people do not deserve civil rights, which to me is a dangerous and insidious concept. So long as someone's sexual or general preference does not violate someone else's rights (ie child molestation) their own rights must be considered sacrosanct, absolute.

Continued on page 9

**WHO KILLED DAN DIAMOND?
or... "Play it again Sam"**

It's hard to believe that the picture is nearly eight years old. Except for one crease in the upper corner, it's still flat, clear, and it's color nearly as sharp as the day it was taken. In it, he sits in the hospital chair holding his two sons; one newly born, the other - the one who just begs to be hugged with his immense blue eyes and chipmunk cheeks - a little over two. Dan himself looks over them with a look so soft, a touch so gentle it could almost be called a mothering look. A look that speaks of a love and desire so strong that he would do anything to protect them. It's a look strangely shared with - dare I say it? - the Madonna holding her baby Jesus. His face is rounded, with a high forehead and slightly receding hairline, topped by brown and neatly trimmed, wavy hair. His hairy arms muscular, his shoulders broad, he looks like he can carry the burdens of the world on his back. God knows he has had to do his share of that too. It's the only picture I still have of Dan.

Dan lead a busy life, traveling and working to support his family during the week. On weekends he devoted his time to remodeling the ancient brick farmhouse or landscaping the huge yards, and playing with his family. He called it his way of feathering the nest. Dan loved his family. He strove for success and dreamed of the days when they could all be together instead of working their lives away. He longed to spend time with his children, to watch them grow, to teach them all the wonderful things he had learned, the things only he seemed to see with his very special eyes. Inside Dan burned the heart of a poet. He wanted his children to reach for and touch the sky; and be able to write about it so others could understand that joy too. But Dan never lived to see his dream realized, for inside of him burned another passion, so bright, so hot, so impossibly and irresistibly strong. When Dan had married, his wife Margaret learned of this other passion.

One day in April, seven years ago, Dan disappeared. It was rumored that he was spotted all over the east coast. That he had moved by himself to a new town. But none of the rumors were able to be verified. There was one insidious rumor of another woman. But those who knew Dan knew that his loyalty to Margaret was total. This rumor too, was dismissed. The police were called in to investigate. Although the investigation was inconclusive, they suspected murder. The usual suspects were questioned.

Margaret acted like she was crushed, but when pressed by the police she admitted that they had argued before she saw him last. If she knew anything beyond that, she wasn't speaking. She did claim, however, that Dan was alive and sick, but she didn't know where he was. Since the police failed to locate a body, and wouldn't proclaim him dead, Margaret soon began divorce proceedings. Several months later Margaret began taking her sons to a child psychologist, and it was rumored that she too sought counseling, but doctor/client confidentiality prevented the police from finding the reason for the need for this therapy. In spite of these facts the police decided that Margaret, a young professional woman, underinsured, with a big mortgage, had everything to lose and little to gain if she had murdered Dan. The children were too young, so they weren't suspects.

The police questioned Dan's parents and found them beside themselves with worry. They said they had heard nothing from Dan or about Dan's whereabouts. A consulting psychologist was brought in to ask some clinical questions to try to build a profile of Dan's early family life. This had two purposes, the first to try to locate hidden motives of the parents, and the second to see if Dan had any secret passions which might help locate him if still alive. He concluded that although the father was distant, and the mother overprotective and self-effacing, neither showed abusive tendencies. Their descriptions of the early

home life were of little use either... There was one incident that was mentioned - when he was caught trying on makeup - but this wasn't significant and didn't even make his report. The parents were eliminated as suspects when it was revealed that they had an air-tight alibi.

Other relatives, friends and business associates were quickly investigated and lacking motive, dismissed just as quickly. No trace of the rumored mystery woman was ever located.

Dan used to say that his name was appropriate, Diamond. Like a diamond, he shined in the light, and he had many facets, some which few or none knew about. Those who knew him best felt him to be a rare, and beautiful person. Some who knew him best were never questioned by the police. Dan saw that that part of his life, that other passion, was isolated from his home. Just like two opposing facets on a diamond.

Who killed Dan Diamond? Don't you see, Dan isn't dead, well not entirely anyway. How do I know? My name is Denise, and I'm the "other" woman, and I am Dan or rather, Dan is now me. I'm the passion that Dan fought all his life to hide. I'm the secret shame he buried deep in his heart. I'm the longing to wake just once and be... normal. I'm Dan's inner heart, the madonna that cries out for existence. The beauty that flowed from his soul.

I am me and we long to go home. But the words exchanged that day, the hurt, the pain, the divorce, the longing, the very real sense of loss, can't be overcome. In a very real way Dan is indeed dead. Killed by a lack of tolerance, understanding, and real love for the person he was in total. But, the person who looks out from that picture, holding, protecting his sons, will never die and will never cease that protection. Nor can we go home until the love is total, and unconditional. 'Til then the dreams of all the victims in this drama will remain unfulfilled.

Copyright 1995 - Jennifer [REDACTED]

TGIC

PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs. 8-10 pm)

Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC) is a nonprofit, educational, non-sexual social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

TGIC Officers

President	Winnie [REDACTED]
Vice President	Joan [REDACTED]
Secretary	Joyce [REDACTED]
Treasurer	Winnie [REDACTED]
Newsletter Editor	Winnie [REDACTED]

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

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TGIC General Membership Dues: \$40/yr

Top 10 Reasons to go to Southern Comfort 1995

- 10 Free shuttles to shopping and nightlife
- 9 Value, Value, Value, with rolled back prices & scads of activities
- 8 Three TS surgeons (Menard, Meltzer & Schrang)
- 7 Groundbreaking sessions on the future & spirit of transgender
- 6 More FTM programs, including a major speech by James Green
- 5 Hotbed of activism with Riki, Phyllis, & more
- 4 Full program for partners of TG people
- 3 The gender revolution is here.
- 2 A heaping helping of Hotlanta fun
- 1 Last Southern Comfort before 1996 Centennial Summer Olympics !

For more information about SC95, in Atlanta from Sept. 28-Oct. 1, write to SCC95@aol.com or call our Registration Line at (404) 633-6470.

LETTER TO EDITOR - Katherine [REDACTED]

I read with extreme dismay the seriously derisive commentary by Steve [REDACTED] in the August, 1995 issue of the TRANSGENDERIST ("Albany Gays & Lesbians to Steal 'Bisexual' and 'Transgendered'"). At a time when we, the Transgendered, are building coalitions with our gay and lesbian neighbors-in-oppression, Mr. Kendrick seems all too eager to wage war against them.

[REDACTED] viciously points an accusatory finger at the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council (and all such organizations, it seems) by making caustic allegations without substantiation. He claims there is "subterfuge" and "deliberate malice" practiced against bisexuals and the transgendered by "a few devious gayristocrats," yet provides no proof. He further asserts that even more numerous are the "acts of callous indifference," but presents no evidence.

As if these remarks weren't inflammatory enough, [REDACTED] maliciously characterizes the CDGLCC as "assimilationist bastards," and faults them for moving to include "transgender" in their language--something many of us across the country have been working diligently toward. We should thank them, not club them as [REDACTED] does. He also attacks the AIDS Council of Northeast New York, calling them "money- and power-hungry," when in truth they're determined in fighting a deadly scourge threatening all humans, straight and queer.

Certainly, no one should doubt transphobia exists in the lesbian-gay community. Sadly, however, much of it may be justified. A number of our members choose attire and behavior that perpetuates the objectification of women. We should not expect this to endear us to the lesbian community. A majority of us are so deeply closeted that we won't even fight for our own civil rights, let alone the rights of other oppressed groups. But when we are "out," we are only out to shock, or so it seems.

Of course, there is no denying that homophobia runs rampant in the transgender community. At the first suggestion that crossdressers are homosexuals, most of us become defensive, distancing ourselves from all things gay. While it's true our sisters were at the forefront of the rebellion at Stonewall, precious few of us have ever marched in Gay Pride parades or participated in AIDS awareness events. Thankfully, this is changing.

We, the transgendered, will be "invited to sit at the leadership table" of gay, lesbian, and bisexual councils when we demonstrate our eagerness to work toward the common goals. Each of our communities face formidable foes in ultra-Conservatives and the Religious Right. They are well organized and heavily funded. Yet surely we can oppose them successfully if we band together and reach out to our comrades in this struggle.

But, while [REDACTED] promised in his commentary no "rumors, gossip, [and] backbiting," that's exactly what he presented. He has done well to widen the gap between our "neighbors," and made more difficult the job before us. I can only hope the damage he's caused isn't irreparable.

Mr. [REDACTED], if you want to help, please don't! For with friends like you, we don't need enemies.

Sincerely,

W. H. S. W. S.
Katherine [REDACTED]

8/6/95

Boys Will Be Girls And Girls Will Be Boys (or whatever)

Or, It's the ENDA the World As We Know it;
Clones Feel Fine.

(c) 1993, 1995 Anne Droid. Used by permission.

It's heartening for a girl to know that the more things change, the more they stay the same... Now that Ms. Droid has entered into the transgendered stage of her life, as well as the decade before the mid-life crisis, she wonders: will the in-your-face activism of her younger days fall to the wayside and mellowing, gentle wisdom set in? Sigh -- if it were only so.

Much has happened between then and now. Two years ago, I witnessed Dick Dadey of the Empire State Pride Agenda promise that he'd "put on Doc Martens and march screaming in the streets" if either the New York State civil rights law didn't pass the legislature, or the ban on gays and lesbians in the military failed to lift. Suffice it to say: neither has; he hasn't (yet). Much Ado About Nothing seems to be the theme of local progressive politics in recent history: much fund raising, much organizing, much chest-beating ... not much else, though. A Big Noise that Signifies Nothing.

Now look, I'll be honest here. I'm just a baby TS in the cosmic scheme of things. But, as I learn more about the scene and the players within, I can't help but notice a certain familiar pattern unfolding.

This ENDA thing, fr'instance. It's been up before Congress twice; it's been successfully amended twice by the Humyn-Born-Humyn Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) to dis-include Transgendereds in its language. Never met an HRCF person? You will, if you attend any queer activities with regularity -- they're the ones with clipboards, armed with a solicitation-for-funds schtick and a missionary fervor that would do a fundie or a Moonie proud.

You may or may not be aware that there has been a dialogue, of sorts, between the "HRCF coalition" and a few transgendered. What tends to emerge from these meetings seems to be a bevy of Beltway lobbyspeak and a dearth of concrete concessions for the Transgendered community. Not that I think that this is a Bad Thing, per se. Such snubbery by the grown-up queers for the last decade polarized and mobilized enough Bisexual activists to such an extent that HRCF and the other powerbrokers had to do something to recognize them and include them; such an infusion of disinclusion can't but help get the Transgendered community out of their walk-in closets and into the streets and legislative Lobbies.

I know for a fact that the assimilationist powerbrokers will gleefully shoot themselves in the foot to spite their face (pardon the mixed metaphor), and go to any lengths to evict a drag queen, a byker dyke, or any other genderoid from their public relations apparatus. However, I can't but be amazed about the sheer stupidity and short-sightedness of these recent ENDA moves. These people actually think that the public makes a mental distinction between gays/lesbians/bisexuals versus transgendered people!

Wow, they must think that their education and outreach must actually work, and that kicking the leathermen and drag queens out of the picture was a good move! Unfortunately, the facts of the case, the realities of the levels of queer awareness possessed by the "silent majority" of Americans, and the gay/lesbian movement's **OWN HISTORY** show that this is a really **DUMB** move. Ask any transitioning transgendered person working a traditional job; it is no mean feat to get colleagues to accept that person as a TG/TS rather than some sort of "fag" or "dyke"; "Gee, don't all gay men wear dresses and molest kids? That's what Jesse Helms says." Read *Coming Out Under Fire* or *Conduct Unbecoming*, books about last year's hot-button topic, "Gays in the Military", and note for yourself how many queers were outed against their

will because they didn't seem "butch" or "femme" enough as compared to their apparent external sex.

This blatant ignoring of reality is insulting. It's insulting not only to transgendered, but to nellie gay men and butch lesbians. It's insulting to boys or girls who want to dress in ways not traditional to their gender or work in fields not appropriate to their grown-up sex role (once again, in the military, the purges centered on healthcare workers for "men", and mechanics and pilots for "women".) It's also foolish, considering the rapacious media-political machine employed by the hatemongering Right. National organizations were all ready to dis-include Bisexuals from civil rights laws and leave them out in the fight against Colorado's discriminatory "Amendment 2" -- until it was leaked out that these "Family Values" types planned to include Bi's in their own new bills. The Family Values types figured that too many gays and lesbians might survive school, government, or other job purges by pulling an "Elton John"; claiming, in other words, to be Bisexual rather than Gay or Lesbian and therefore were part of a protected class.

You can rest assured that, should ENDA somehow pass without including Transgendereds, that homophobia will find a new home in Transphobia, and that queer people will lose homes, jobs, and kids with no recourse to the law unless they can maintain their "appropriate" role 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: *The Radical Right NEVER Sleeps*.

I think that, perhaps its time for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual organizations need to look at their own internalized Transphobia, especially in its manifestation as the tendency to draw lines and build compartments that neither exist in any real sense and create a "Them" that is really more "Us" than they realize or want to admit to themselves. Trying to fence off the "good queers" from the "bad queers" engenders shame in the community and, in the end, is a futile and self-destructive strategy that wins few civil rights and is a poor foundation for building community.

With love and napalm,

Anne.

Local Note: The Capital District Bi-Trans Caucus wants YOU. We are planning meetings, "consciousness-raising" and fabulous actions to endear ourselves to the local Community, and "explain" to them exactly what we expect "inclusiveness" to be. A motto:

ASSIMILATION = DEATH



Petticoat Fashions and Apparel

- Petticoats and Pettipants
- Skirts and Blouses
- Country Western Fashions
- Fabulous 50's Doo Wop Outfits

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COURTLY LADY
P.O. Box 2165, Cincinnati, OH 45201-2165

September Happenings

September 4: TG Employment Day

"You gotta fight for your right to be queer!" as Mistress Formika reminds us in *Wigstock: The Movie*, and one of the most basic rights is the right to employment. Being pigeonholed because we are black, gay, TG whatever, is wrong: we all need to stand or fall on who we are as an individual.

The folks at ICTLEP think this should be obvious, and it should be obvious that TG should be included in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), but the gays & lesbians at the Human Rights Defence Fund (HRCF) don't agree, so a group of TG folks is working hard to be included.

Today, Labour Day, they ask that you get together with friends and celebrate our right to work. While you're at it, do a little protest against HRCF exclusion, tell some stories about how you as a TG person have been treated at work (celebrate successes, note losses) for the database and gather a few bucks to see that you have someone representing you at TG Lobby Day in DC on October 2.

Want more details? Call TGIC.

September 6: Waterworks Reopens

They fought the law and the law won, but Albany's classic gay bar is back today. Look for Melodie on the stool by the pool table where she spent all 12 hours of the open bar closing party!

September 11-15: Lavender Languages III

A group of queer scholars gather in Washington DC to talk about how language and identity intersect. The Saturday morning panel on gender, where Riki Anne Wilchins and Callan [redacted] come together for the first time after their public battle should be a hoot!

Mid-September: To Wang Foo, Love Julie Neumar

Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo as three drag queens who travel cross country in this big Hollywood movie produced by Stephen Spielberg. If this doesn't set the fashion tend for Halloween, nothing will!

September 29-October 1: Southern Comfort 1995

The fifth annual Southern Comfort Conference, featuring five big conferences in one hot place: *Transgender Spirit & Future*; *Transsexual*, with 3 surgeons and lots of FTM stuff; *Partners issues*; *Gender Activism*, with Phyllis Frye, Martine Rothblatt, Riki Anne and more; and *Crossdressers* with lots of activities & nightlife. Fun -and enlightenment - for all!

September 30: Bi/Trans Caucus Meeting

The Capital District Bi/Trans Caucus, a group formed by bisexuals and transgendered activists, will hold it's first meeting to focus on the needs that our two very similar communities share.

No matter who you are, this safe space can be a place for you to meet other people like yourself, create new alliances and work together on common threads.

October 2-3: TG Lobby Day in Washington DC

1994's big place to be is TG Lobby Day in DC, where TG people from all over the country remind our legislators that they represent transgendered people too! There are TG people in every state and district - but most legislators have never met one, or heard what they have to say about their issues. This is our chance to stand up for ourselves. Come in boy clothes or girl clothes, but come.

Since **Camp Trans 1994** was canceled, you can be sure that this is the place that people will gather and will remember, the place that our family will gather to stand together, tall and proud. You will want to be there, so hop in the car and exercise your privilege and rights as an American - say that diversity is important and everyone deserves to be treated right.

Questions? Riki@Pipeline.COM or PRFrye@AOL.COM, or call Winnie at TGIC.

Continued from page 4

Rights are not something those nice folks in Washington 'give' us. By virtue of our inherent dignity as members of the human family we are all born with them, and if they are being denied then we must fight against that denial. To me that is an essential paradigm: 'Man is born free but everywhere is in chains.' We are not slaves asking concessions from the master, but free individuals claiming our birthright.

And yet those who call us friends, brothers, sisters, who are fighting for their own rights, ask us not only to step aside and be quiet so they are not distracted from their fight, they also want us to wait outside, hungry, nose pressed against the glass, while they eat their partial loaf. How long shall we wait there, patient and well-behaved, our hunger unabated? I think you ask much when you ask us to stop being 'divisive' so others can get on with an agenda that leaves us out in the cold. Some people are willing to accede to that request in the name of 'community unity.' But you must ask yourself: How long will the concept of 'community' itself endure when we are divided into those with rights and legal protections and those without? If the gaylesbi community is 'inside' the magic circle and the transpeople 'outside,' where is the community? HRCF does not have the word 'trans' in its title. They obviously do not consider transpeople part of their constituency. So why should transpeople treat them with deference? If it's 'OK' for them to dump us for 'pragmatic' and 'realistic' reasons it seems to me it's 'OK' for us to cease regarding them as allies, and to regard transpeople who support their action as quislings. A betrayal is a betrayal, even if some prefer to call it a 'pragmatic and realistic tactical compromise.' I'm sure those who huddled in their apartments while their Jewish neighbors were dragged away into the night and fog believed they were making a pragmatic and realistic tactical compromise too.

Like you, I am saddened to see divisions among transpeople, to see friendships riven by this issue. But that, I'm afraid, is one of the upfront costs of pragmatism. The other hidden costs will come to light as time goes on. And ultimately I believe the judgment of history will be that it would have been better to pay the price of uncompromising idealism and fight until we had the whole loaf for everyone.

Thank you for your time and attention, Julian

September 1995

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess is planning to continue monthly Saturday meetings in Schenectady. For the rest of 1995, the tentative scheduled is:

Sep. 16, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 9

GLBT RECOVERY GROUP STARTING

The Equinox Counseling Center announces the start of a 16-week group therapy program for the entire Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community. This group will deal with our unique substance abuse, addiction and sobriety needs. The sponsor is a not for profit provider licensed by the NY State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). To join, contact one of the counselors:

Ganesh Durgadas, M.A.

Karen Schwarz, M.A.

Equinox Counseling Center
306 Central Ave.
Albany, NY 12206-2522
(518) 434-6135

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is now a membership 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Brochures and forms are available in the Club Room. Please contact TGIC, or write to: IFGE, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154-0229, (617) 899-2212

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.

CALENDAR

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 - 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 Central Ave. night spots after the meetings.

SEPTEMBER 1995

Sep 7 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sep 14 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sep 21 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sep 23 **Saturday Dinner, 8:00 pm**
Northway Inn
Sep 28 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

OCTOBER 1995

Oct 5 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Oct 12 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Oct 14 **Transgressing Gender, 1-5 pm**
Workshop Scheduled in Albany
Details in next newsletter
Oct 19 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Oct 21 **Saturday Dinner, 8:00 pm**
Northway Inn
Oct 26 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

- Contact TGIC for more information.

Sep 14-17 *Paradise in the Poconos,*
Canadensis, PA
9/28 -10/1 *Southern Comfort,* Atlanta, GA
Oct 5-9 *TCNE Fall Fling,* P-town, MA
Oct 15-22 *Fantasia Fair,* P-town, MA
Oct 26-29 *Fall Harvest,* St. Louis, MO
Nov 15-19 *Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme,*
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Wanted Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual Subjects

For molecular biological studies of genetic nature of variants of sexual orientation and function. This study requires participation of first degree relatives in at least two families in a larger kinship. Fully confidential.

William J. Turner, MD
1-800-448-1291