

TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by **Lynnell Stephanie L.**
**Mix & Match or None
of the above**
**Returning to the
dating scene**

Meeting that special someone can be fascinating. As I return to the dating scene, I guess I am lucky to have so many friends that want to hook me up with what they call, "Lovely open-minded women." It's not that I ask to be introduced to the next woman I would meet, fall in love with, and move in, in less than a year's time.

Actually I am growing fond of living alone with my two cats, Dyke and Posz. Being introduced to someone is easier than starting from scratch. The women I'm meeting, through the dating services of my friends, already know that I am ... different. There isn't the hassle of trying to explain myself to someone. "Well girl, there's something I should tell you, I am a pre-op transsexual lesbian." I could never take a *Crying Game* scene. The one when he finds out she's transgendered, slaps the hell out of her, and runs to the bathroom to regurgitate. She sits there bleeding, lights a cigarette and says,



"What were you doing at the bar if you didn't know?" Excuse me! She should have asked him where does he want his teeth delivered? If that was me, I would have regurgitated from kissing a man. Which happened to me recently, but that's another article.

Then there are the old faithful personals. The issues I have with personals are most papers or magazines will list Transsexuals in the "Mix & Match" or "None of the Above" section. After investigating, I found that Lambda Publications [OUT, NIGHT and BLACKLINES] will list transsexual women in the "Women for Women" section, but they prefer if I were honest and say if I was transgendered. Great, at least we won't have to be listed with that guy that wants a lesbian to watch as he masturbates. THE READER, however, says they automatically list all ads which states you are a TS, TV, or CD in the "None of the Above" section.

"It's not that you are bad, it's just that that's where we placed the ads," a READER woman said.

So if we didn't mention in our ad that we were transgendered, we would go in the women section. But who wants to deny who they are hoping to meet someone? Eventually I'll have to tell her, if she doesn't already know, and that's more drama.

Then there's the issue of whom to

date. It seems people that I associate with always tease me for dating what they call "white bread" or white people. It's not like I have never dated anyone of my race. My ex-wife is Black or "wheat bread." So for all of them, here is my explanation: I believe that the Goddess put everyone in my life for a reason. I learned so much from my last lover. I wouldn't be the woman I am today without her help. It doesn't matter to me if my lover is Black, white, or whatever. As long as they can love me for me and give me room to grow. I do find "wheat bread" very tasty and satisfying, but I also know a lot of lesbians struggle to accept that they are attracted to transsexuals. They begin to question their sexuality, and question what will their friends think. It takes a strong woman to date TS's and not worry about what anyone may think. Maybe I won't go out of my way to date "wheat bread" solely, like some people I know. That's because I like to shop around. Of course if one of my dear friends introduces me to, or I met some "wheat bread" that's loving and fulfilling, I would be a fool to turn it down only because I'm familiar with "white bread." Besides "wheat bread" is good for you, and I could use the nourishment.

I find myself thinking a lot about dating, where before it all came naturally. I seriously doubt if I will venture into the personals, it's not that serious, and I learned a lesson from my last experience. I've learned a lot about myself from my last relationship. I know today for my sanity and identity, there are some things I can never do again.

As I prepare myself for the sex-reassignment surgery, I realize the old ways of doing things don't work for me anymore. But when you're in love, you do things that don't feel right, to please your lover. Now it's time to please me. Dating can be fun, if only I remember to relax and go with the flow.

Lynnell's E-mail address is:



So Many Men ...

by **Dwayne**

The Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute was Oct. 23-27 in Newark, N.J. I went expecting a lot from the conference. At first I thought the conference would be a wash because the youth institute wasn't very organized. As the conference went on it became more educational and I began to feel a part of a community of men dedicated to health and the wellness of our community nationwide. I made some great contacts and I felt like I made some friends. I was very impressed by the youth I met at the conference.

The first day, I met Lawrence from El Paso, Tex., and Michangelo from St. Louis. We all bonded and hung out a lot the rest of the week. I talked to them about things that somehow I couldn't even talk to my close friends about, being a young voice for my community, mainly because I felt they understood. As the week passed I met other individuals such as Troix from San Francisco, Matty from New Mexico and so many others, from Minnesota and from right there in New York were Jay Sane and Rodney.

As we talked, our bond and our excitement for this conference grew. We learned the trials that each one of us faced as service providers in our communities. We talked about our fears and we discussed our goals, hopes, and dreams. It was amazing to me. For some time, I had felt like I was just paddling in the same spot and getting

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