

THE TRANSGENDERIST - MAR/APR 1993

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]

Since the last newsletter was two weeks behind schedule and February is a short month, this newsletter is being mailed one week late, after our envelope-stuffing party on March 4. I expect to get back on schedule with the next mailing on April 1. The deadline for contributions is one week earlier.

It's too early to tell if our effort to address a specific topic in a round-table discussion during our Thursday night meetings will be a success. The first attempt (on literature) soon drifted off to other things, but the February 25 "Search for new members" elicited a lively discussion with some useful proposals that we plan to follow up. Anyway, note the subjects listed in *italics* on our Calendar and if it interests you, come prepared to say something. The discussion will start at about 8:30 pm, so get to the Club Room by then.

Our Dinner Party on February 20 was small, unfortunately; perhaps the snow and cold discouraged some, you missed some fine entertainment. There was a good band playing in the bar at the Northway Inn, and Tina and I stayed until they closed. Our next party there is on Saturday, March 20 at 8 pm. Since I will be at the IFGE Convention that week, all coming should get word to Joan H. by Thursday, March 18 if possible.

Dues Reminder! If you still owe dues, please send your payment with the membership renewal form on the last page of the *Dec/Jan TGIC News*. If your renewal date is later in the year, save the form until then.

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TGIC INFORMATION

Last Fall, the short brochure we had been sending to prospective new members, professionals, and other enquirers was enlarged to eight pages of information about transgendered people in general and our Club in particular. I believe that this information should be interesting and useful to current Club members and other organizations and professionals already on our mailing list. Therefore, I am including it in this newsletter, and hope that those of you who have recently joined us or read it in the Club Room will forgive the duplication. The material contains significant contributions by Paul K., Melodie W., Jennifer W. and others besides myself (Winnie B.), who was responsible for the editing. The information is presented in question - answer format. Your comments are invited.

What is TGIC?

Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC) is a nonprofit, educational, social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends. While most of our members are males exploring the feminine gender (and this is largely written from their point of view), females exploring the masculine gender are equally welcome. The term *transgenderist* is here broadly defined to embrace all categories.

What type of people crossdress?

A wide range of people do. For example, a fetishist may wear only one or two articles of opposite-sex clothing, a transvestite (TV) may crossdress completely for periods of varying duration, and a transsexual (TS) will dress and live in the mode of the preferred sex/gender as much as possible, with the goal of obtaining sex-reassignment surgery (SRS). The term transgenderist (TG) is sometimes used in a narrow sense, for those living full-time in the gender role of the opposite sex, but without surgery. There is no rigid division between these categories;

the range of people who crossdress is more like a continuous spectrum. The expression of an individual is often a compromise between what is inwardly desired and what is feasible in society at the current time.

The underlined terms above were originally defined by psychologists, and might be construed to imply mental illness. To avoid this, various other terms have been proposed, but none have been generally accepted by all. However, there seems to be some consensus that the terms crossdresser (CD) and gender community are "politically correct" at the present time.

It is well accepted that up to 80% of the male population will put on girl's or women's clothing at some point in their lives, often as a costume or party gag. While it is very difficult to be accurate, it has been estimated that between 1-10% of men have some desire to crossdress with some regularity. This means that at least 5,000 men in the 1 million population of the Capital District may indulge in this behavior, mostly in secret. The average membership of TGIC is about 75, but several hundred others are former members or have contacted us at one time.

What problems do these people have in common?

The problems experienced by crossdressers are largely caused by the reactions of "normal" society. Particularly for men, wearing women's clothing is not acceptable to society at large, and can make some people uncomfortable. This can lead to complications in the crossdresser's life, especially in family relationships. Whatever the reason we wear these clothes, we all know that it is taboo, and for that reason it is challenging to go out in public. This can lead to feelings of shame, guilt, uneasiness, frustration, and a sense of being an outcast because of the hidden secret.

Wouldn't it be easier to just stop crossdressing?

Most of us who now choose to crossdress regularly have done so since we were very

young, often since 4 or 5 years old, though there are exceptions. We have a need to dress that is very real and very deep. The human brain is patterned by the same biochemicals that differentiate sex, to incline the behavior of the two sexes differently, in a way that is advantageous for survival. The development process is controlled by genes, which are subject to natural variation. It seems that in some individuals, the gender differentiation of the brain may vary significantly from the average, so that their behavior is inclined towards the mode of the opposite gender, in some respects. These persons may rebel, particularly against the artificially accentuated gender divisions promoted by society, and may even feel more comfortable in the role assigned to the opposite sex.

There are no known negative side effects to putting on a dress, high heels, makeup and wig. However, there can be psychological traumas linked to the need to conceal the behavior, or the response of others upon discovery. There can also be psychological traumas if the desire to dress is suppressed or frustrated for a long period. Irritability, depression, recklessness, alcoholism, etc. may be side effects of not dressing enough. Mental health professionals have had no success in attempting to "cure" crossdressing. Being with others in a safe place where the need is implicitly understood can help people deal with these issues.

How can TGIC help?

TGIC provides a safe place to crossdress and express other aspects of feminine behavior, and a place to interact socially with others like us. We can explore the reasons we have for dressing, compare our underlying feelings, see how others have managed these issues, learn techniques for improved presentation as a woman, find out about resources available to us, and, most of all, not feel alone and isolated.

Having the need to dress can be a horrible burden and a dark secret, or it can be a enjoyable activity that, while kept quiet, is in and of itself harmless and fun. Among

Club members, the desire to dress is assumed, and does not need any explanation or excuses. TGIC allows us to openly express ourselves without incurring feelings of shame or guilt. We can discuss fashions, makeup, manicures, shopping, etc., just as any woman would, as well as baseball, biking, golf, hunting, plumbing and other hobbies.

No matter who we are, we like to look good! Our members have compiled a shopping guide for this area, and share many beauty tips on subjects like beard cover, wig styling, and fashion sense. The club is a great source of tips on how to look good and where to find the special items we need.

What kind of activities does TGIC sponsor?

TGIC is devoted to helping solve the problem of "all dressed up and no place to go" for those who crossdress. All TGIC events are planned and conducted by members, so the level of group activity is directly related to individual member volunteer involvement.

Examples of the of activities that TGIC holds are:

Informal meetings are held every Thursday night at the Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany. These are sessions where members can chat about whatever they wish, and meet with other members. Members often choose to stop by a tavern after the meetings end at about 11 pm.

Social parties have been held at friendly bars, and offer a chance to get out. For many years, one was held on the second Saturday of each month, until that particular bar closed.

Dinner parties are held at accepting restaurants, and we plan to have them monthly, sometimes in public seating and other times in a private banquet room.

Business meetings are held to manage club activities, as needed. These are usually held during or before the Thursday meetings.

Classes allow members to gather and listen to an instructor, demonstrator or salesperson on some topic. These have been held on topics as diverse as shamanism, electrolysis, lingerie and jewelry.

Special events are held periodically. These are outings that may include a special banquet or a weekend of activity. They are usually held at a hotel or motel, and allow the chance for an extended period of dressing.

Regional and national events are sponsored by one or more organizations similar to TGIC, and are scheduled at various times throughout the year for periods of from three days to over a week, at locations all over the U.S.A. We encourage those who can afford the time and cost of travel to attend.

Do you have to be crossdressed at TGIC functions?

No, there is no rule (except good taste) about how one should dress at a TGIC event. While we encourage members to crossdress as they desire at our meetings, we do not require it. We realize that many may be fearful about going out crossdressed in public, especially when close to home, and most particularly when spouse and family do not know. From a masculine business suit, to androgynous jeans, to a dress, to a ballgown, members can wear what they want. Especially for our weekly meetings, some may be too busy or rushed to make the desired transformation. Sometimes, members bring an outfit in a bag or suitcase and change at the clubroom. On some party occasions, we will have certain themes to dress around, but they are only suggestions.

Partners and friends of crossdressers are welcome, as are professionals. In fact, the viewpoint of these others is refreshing. Many non-dressers find the accepting, open atmosphere of TGIC very comfortable and appealing. Of course, they follow the same rules of discretion.

Are your members homosexual?

Studies have shown that the sex-partner orientation of crossdressers is divided between hetero-, homo-, and bi-sexual in about the same fractions as the general male population. However, gay crossdressers, including so-called "drag queens" (DQs) and most female impersonators (FIs, who are entertainers and may dress only when performing) find sufficient acceptance among other gay males that they do not need a club like ours. Most of our club members are heterosexual and live a traditional lifestyle, in a typically male occupation, and very often married with children.

In the past, because DQs and FIs are more open and flamboyant, some engaging in prostitution, they were more visible to the general public, and it was mistakenly assumed by many that all males who dressed in women's clothing were gay. When many gays were "in the closet", they did not wish to associate with crossdressers of any kind, for fear of betraying their secret. Likewise, most straight crossdressers were "in the closet"; to appear in public dressed as a woman without negative consequences, one had to appear authentically female. This was very difficult when men's hairstyles were universally very short and women's wigs were prohibitively expensive.

The situation began to change in about 1960 when wigs came into fashion for women; the price dropped from over \$1000 to less than \$100 almost overnight! Soon after, longer hairstyles became fashionable for younger men, the women's movement encouraged men to be more expressive of their feelings, and the gay liberation movement demanded that different lifestyles be accepted. The first organized groups for crossdressers began to form in the 1960's. It soon became clear among these groups that there is no real connection between crossdressing and sexual preference. Men do not usually wear women's clothing to attract other men, although some have said that heterosexual crossdressers often dress to attract one man - themselves! It is more often done to achieve psychic comfort.

TGIC does not screen for sexual orientation. Heterosexuals, gays, lesbians, and transsexuals with all combinations of genital sex and partner preference before and after surgery are accepted, as our goal is to be an accepting, affirming group for all. However, while accepting a full range of sexual orientations, we do not condone or allow sexual activity at group meetings. This includes "power games" such as B&D or S&M, though some may have a private interest in this type of activity.

TGIC social events are often held at gay bars. This has nothing to do with sexual orientation; rather, these establishments are more accepting of our members. Heterosexuals and their significant others are welcomed and not hassled.

Do TGIC members want to change their sex?

Most people who dress in clothing of the opposite gender do not want a sex change, though many have dreamed of a miraculous transformation at one time, especially as children. Crossdressing does not change one's basic personality, though it may allow them to explore and express certain needs that could not otherwise be fulfilled. If you feel comfortable living most of your life in your present gender, it is doubtful you will want to go through the pain and difficulty of changing it permanently. This does not mean that you cannot enjoy dressing and behaving in the manner of the opposite gender when you feel the need, and learn to be comfortable when doing so. Males may even effect certain body changes, such as beard removal by electrolysis or a feminine hairstyle, in order to "pass" more readily and be treated as a woman when crossdressed.

Transsexuals have a chronic and continuing feeling that their psyche and their body do not match, often since their earliest days of memory. Under pressure from society, many learn to function in the gender role assigned according to their born sex, and can be very successful in that role. However, they feel persistent discomfort when playing this role. Usually,

they become crossdressers, and feel much more comfortable when behaving in the role assigned to the opposite sex. At some point in their lives, they may decide to make a permanent change in their gender function and legal status, and make body changes to match, including hormone therapy and eventual sex reassignment surgery.

The experiences of crossdressers who might be classified as transvestites, transgenderists, or transsexuals appear to differ mainly in degree, and probably represent variations from minor to extreme in genetically regulated gender differentiation of the brain that is not congruent with sex differentiation. Another type of genetic variation of the brain is probably responsible for incongruent sexual orientation. Because hormones and surgery effect permanent changes, it is extremely important that a transsexually inclined person have no doubts whatsoever in their mind that these measures are the right choice of action for them, in order to achieve their desired life goals.

Persons who believe they are, or may be, transsexual are welcome in TGIC, and can meet others in the region who are facing the same issues. There is much common ground between transvestites and transsexuals during their transition, and the Club sponsors activities of interest to both. Interaction with others having a different perspective can help one clarify one's mind and decide among alternative options. TGIC has resources of information about transsexuality, and sponsors some group meetings where the topic is mainly of interest to transsexuals. We cooperate with other groups that specifically address transsexual needs, and endorse the standards of care set by medical professionals for managing the transition in an orderly and successful manner.

I'm not sure I fit into one of your categories.

We have no firm categories in which to place anyone. The key to TGIC is acceptance. We welcome anyone who is exploring their gender issues, from fetishists

to transsexuals and everyone in between. While none of our members is exactly like you, they can acquaint you with examples of a wide range of behaviors that can help you to understand yourself, to feel part of a community, and not be alone.

I think I need some help.

TGIC is not a counseling group. While talking with peers can be valuable, we encourage you to seek professional advice if you feel you need it. Club members can recommend knowledgeable counselors who can help to resolve problems with your own feelings or in your relationships with family and friends. Especially, if you do not feel comfortable in your gender, you should find a professional who understands gender issues and discuss the matter. It is mandatory to obtain the approval of a mental health professional before medical treatment of a transsexual can begin.

How can I get my wife to understand?

The response of a wife upon learning of her husband's crossdressing can vary from immediate rejection and divorce, to grudging tolerance, to remarkable understanding, to near complete acceptance. However, the latter adjustments must usually be developed over time. The initial reaction may depend on how she first learns of it, and the solidity of the marital relationship.

Most wives have considerable difficulty in understanding why their mates would do such a thing. Couples have tried many ways to handle this problem, but there is no easy answer. It is important for both partners to have good, accurate information about this behavior. Counseling is very helpful, but only if both parties participate and the professional has some knowledge of gender issues.

Don't force the issue - let your spouse handle things at her own pace. Be prepared to negotiate and compromise, and to modify any agreements if the situation changes over time; this applies to both parties. Maintain and cultivate your traditional husband-wife relationship, and don't let

crossdressing swamp your happiness. There are many couples in TGIC, and most will be happy to help others adjust if they can; group meetings of couples or partners can be arranged. Similar considerations apply if other family members, such as parents or children, learn or are told of the behavior.

What services does TGIC offer?

TGIC holds regular meetings and sponsors special events, as described above, and publishes a newsletter monthly for members. Members have also compiled a shopping guide listing local stores and services that are sympathetic to our needs. The cost of these publications is funded from club dues. Club dues also fund other small expenses, such as phone and mail expenses, clubroom supplies, advertisements to inform people of the group, initial mailings to respondents, assistance to other groups in support of gender causes, and items such as sending flowers to hospitalized members.

TGIC rents a small clubroom on Central Avenue in Albany, where meetings are held. The clubroom is a focus for the informational materials, including a small library of books on gender issues and fiction with a crossdressing theme. We also have newsletters from other groups around the country, brochures, catalogues, videos, booklets, etc. Most of this material is available for loan to members. There is a "Key Club" for members who rent a locker in the clubroom, giving them access at any time to dress as desired. The cost of the clubroom apartment is funded from these locker rentals.

TGIC has no paid staff. Volunteer members organize all activities, including the work of writing and publishing the newsletters. We always want to provide more opportunities to dress, and more services, but this can only be done if more members take the initiative to plan and carry out the necessary work. We encourage active participation.

KINKY KORNER - Ed H.

Not too long ago, there was a regular column in our newsletter on the subject of D&S, or Domination and Submission. We received one letter of disapproval. With that, and changes in newsletter staff, the column has vanished.

In my limited readings on the state of the outside world, I have drawn a conclusion that we who share our common interest also have a higher than average number of people interested in "kinky" things, particularly "bondage". Those who profess both interests indicate a connection between the two, and it might be interesting to feel out the membership to see how prevalent this idea is, and whether or not an occasional piece in the newsletter on the subject is warranted.

Unfortunately, the prevailing misconception of D&S and its other names, Bondage & Discipline, S&M, etc., is that it consists of torture and pain, someone enjoying himself at someone else's expense. Images of whips and chains prevail, REAL sadism.

Yes, there certainly is much of that around, but to say that *all* bondage is sadistic and painful is like saying that all music is hard rock!

"Bondage", or perhaps more interestingly, "Love Bondage" bears absolutely NO similarity to the stereotype. It is people enjoying erotic roll play.

"Consenting adults"! We hear that phrase all of the time, and I believe in it. But what is most important is BOTH partners consenting and NEITHER wishing to be somewhere else at the time! Trust and trust respected.

Obviously, the best relationship results when both partners are deriving erotic pleasure from their love-game, from the same fantasy. They both say, "Gee, let's do that again!".

I guess the second best alternative is when one partner looks forward to the fantasy as a manner of giving pleasure to the other. Erotic for both is certainly best, but erotic for one and just plain fun for the other isn't too bad, either. They still say, "Let's do that again!"

A third situation, (hopefully one that can be upgraded to one of the above), is where one partner is perhaps not really enjoying the game, but congenially offering his or her services to please the other, somewhat like washing the dishes.

Anything beyond this does not fall into the realm of this article! If you prefer more, look elsewhere for reading material!!!

FANTASIES! The thoughts which go on in our minds and turn us on during loveplay! I guess we all have them. Some are more attainable than others.

Perhaps we want to sleep with Kim Bassinger or Kevin Costner and during foreplay or intercourse our thoughts stray to someone who really isn't there. (I guess I'd have to rate those two fantasies as rather "unattainable".)

ROLL-PLAY! What if your partner pretends to be the movie star you'd like to sleep with? Roll-play, sure. Kinky?

What if your partner teasingly pins your arms over your head and pretends to affectionately ravage you? Or you do it to your partner!

What if one partner pretends to be an intruder and *gently* takes the other by force, perhaps tearing off some clothing in the process?

What if your partner asks for a blindfold, or asks you to wear one?

Here are the beginnings of "taking" and "yielding", friendly surrender, a bit of roll playing that heightens and prolongs love play. It is amazing what a few turns of a scarf around wrists and bedposts can do to set a scene and extend an evening's pleasure - - for BOTH partners!

While these ideas might be called "kinky", they certainly should not be objectionable in today's world, nor in these pages occasionally.

With this as an introduction, I hope to investigate this subject. Please drop me a line, at the TGIC address, and let me know your views, interests and experiences, (anonymous if you wish). I really would like to hear from everyone who has even entertained such thoughts - - just a note to let me know that you approve or disapprove of this subject being in the newsletter once in a while.

Enjoy! Come to the Club Meeting on March 11 and talk about it!

TGIC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President Winnie B.
Vice President Joan H.
Secretary Joyce W.
Treasurer Winnie B.
Director Tina A.
Director Ed H.
Director Paul K.
Director Sue M.

TGIC PUBLICATIONS

Transgenderists Independence Club (TGIC), PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, Phone (518) 436-4513, is a nonprofit, educational, social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

The Transgenderist

Bimonthly (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) to Members, Subscribers, prospective new members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Devoted to TGIC self-help and outreach to others, with original articles by Club members and local news of significant interest outside of our membership. Club business and other matters are limited to updates.

TGIC News

Bimonthly (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) to Members, Subscribers and prospective new members. Devoted to TGIC business and inreach from others, containing Club business matters, local news of little interest outside of our membership, selected reprints and other outside items such as clippings and cartoons.

TGIC MEMBERSHIP DUES

General Member \$40/yr
Couples \$45/yr
Key Club / large closet \$40/mo
Key Club / small closet \$30/mo
Key Club / attic storage \$15/mo

All the above categories include a one-year subscription to both TGIC News and The Transgenderist, mailed First Class.

Subscriptions:

The Transgenderist, 6 issues: \$25
TGIC News, 6 issues: \$25
Single copies of either: \$5 each

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DIGNITY CRUISE IV - Peggy Rudd

ROYAL CARIBBEAN TO BAHAMAS, MAY 20-24, 1993

Dignity Cruises offer an opportunity for crossdressers and those who love them to share many first-time experiences. For example, how many times have you wished to escape into a world of fantasy: a world of beauty and splendor? Have you ever wished to dine in a formal room where you can savor a delicious seven-course meal while wearing your very most feminine attire? Has anyone ever helped you with your chair or opened a door for you? How many times have you wished to experience elegance in every waking hour? Or perhaps you have wondered just how much "Lady Luck" would smile down upon you if you played blackjack, roulette, poker, or craps in your most elegant, formal gown.

The Dignity Cruises to the Bahamas in 1991 and 1992 provided a magical world for all the happy travelers in our group. Some of the girls tried some fancy footwork in several pulsating nightclubs. Others enjoyed watching the lavishly costumed dancers bring rousing renditions of Broadway's and Hollywood's best shows. During the day, Calypso music set the mood for lazy hours on the sun-swept beaches. Beautiful aquamarine water and palm trees provided a backdrop for the photographs taken.

The group that made up 1992's Dignity Cruise experienced the wonder of a magical world on board the Royal Caribbean's *Nordic Empress*, and no one wanted it to end. We encountered no problems and were well accepted by both crew and our fellow passengers. I don't remember who said it first, but before we had returned to Miami, each of our happy travelers said, "Why can't we do this every year? Once is not enough! Could this become an annual event?" This convinced me that Dignity Cruises provide a rare benefit available in no other activity, and became the motivation to move forward with plans for 1993.

Once again you will have the opportunity to sail on board the Royal Caribbean's beautiful *Nordic Empress* to the Bahamas, on May 20-24, 1993. The price for this cruise is \$545, or for \$698 your trip will include air fare from most cities. These prices are based on double occupancy. For those who book air through the cruise line, there will be a high-quality hotel available for \$49 per person on May 20th in Miami. Each year we have a dinner with other members of the gender community from the Miami area, and always have a lot of fun.

Early booking is important, because the paper track required to make this cruise so special takes about 45 days within the offices of Royal Caribbean cruise lines. Also, when the decision is made to book a cruise with our travel agent, a \$100 per person deposit is required. Melanie and I have already paid deposits for 32 persons, to guarantee lower rates and the date we requested.

Dignity Cruises are a not-for-profit activity sponsored by Peggy and Melanie Rudd. All profit goes to Royal Caribbean cruise line and our travel agent. We feel this is right, because they have done so much to make our groups feel welcome and accepted. Our reward comes when we see so many people from our community find a new level of self-acceptance, self-fulfillment, and a true sense of inner beauty. This is surely the ultimate fantasy.

Last year, some people were disappointed when they found that reservations were closed six weeks before sailing. So don't delay, send a deposit of \$100 *now* to our travel agent:

Anne, of Cruise Ahoy
11211 Katy Freeway, #300
Houston, TX 77079
Phone (713) 556-1513

For additional information, write to:
Dr. Peggy Rudd
c/o P.M. Publishing
1811 Crutchfield
Katy, TX 77449

1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON, APRIL 25

This March for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation now specifically includes the Transgender movement, and refers to sexual identification, gender and gender expression in their Action Statement. A lot of planks in the platform cover issues that are facing the transgendered community on a daily basis. We need to support and endorse the March and if possible attend and march.

The Host Committee for Transgendered plans to have a booth set up so they can help you when you come to Washington. The host committee will try to provide support to visiting transgendered persons by help with housing, transportation, last-minute updates, and general assistance. Organizations or groups may have pamphlets or handouts placed in the booth. If any individuals or groups can help to man the booth and/or donate money for the permits and other events planned for the weekend of the March, contact:

Joy E. Clarke, Coordinator
Host Committee for Transgendered
[REDACTED]
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Phone: [REDACTED]

Locally, if you would like to participate or contribute to the March, contact:
Capital District Committee, Phone 395-0591
PO Box 642
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Buses from the area are scheduled, April 24-25. Flyers with more information are available for perusal in the Club Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLICY: Short announcements and advertisements from Club Members are published free for two consecutive months (once each in TGIC News and The Transgenderist), unless cancelled by the originator or a specific request to continue is made.

GENDER-ORIENTED ART EXHIBITION

Dress Codes: The Art of Crossdressing

March 10 - May 30, 1993

Hours: Wed & Thur 12-9pm; Fri-Sun 12-5pm

Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)

955 Boylston Street, Boston, MA

(across from the Hynes Convention Center)

Phone (617) 266-5152

ICA is a world-class museum, the oldest institution dedicated to contemporary art. This special exhibition will feature visual art, video, film, performance, and educational programs. We are encouraged to attend and meet the public. Flyers with more information are available in the Club Room.

If you would like to visit this special exhibition as a group, please write or call TGIC as soon as possible, suggest a date, and we will try to organize carpools.

LOTS/NE

Loved Ones of Transsexuals / New England is a support group for the family and friends of transgendered persons. The first meeting was held on February 10 at IFGE in Waltham. For information, call (617) 894-8340.

ARTISTIC WRITING

Very creative personality wishes to meet others of like mind for fun, love, or whatever. Call [REDACTED], ask for Eric.

FOR SALE

Weighted synthetic breast forms. Everybody likes them! Sized per liquid ounces of water, 10, 12, 14, 16 ounce, etc. \$40.00 per pair. Write to: Ed, Box 501, Williamstown, MA 01267.

HORMONES BOOK

The Club has copies of this book by Shiela Kirk for sale @ \$8 if picked up in the Club room, or \$9.50 by mail. Ask Winnie.

TIFFANY CLUB BBS

The Tiffany Club of New England now has a gender-related Computer Bulletin Board Service. This board has been designed to provide information, support and education for our sisters in the community. There a number of areas for discussion on many of

the various topics important to all transgendered people as well as an extensive selection of files, case histories and resource information. All interested parties are invited to call:

(617) 899-3230 4 Lines - N81

BIG SISTER IN VERMONT

Karen Ann Kerin is one of our members who is out and politically active on behalf of the transgendered community internationally, nationally, and in Vermont. She is willing to help others in the region. You can write, call, leave message or contact her by FAX, TTY, or Modem at:

Karen Ann [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Montpelier, VT 05602
[REDACTED]

NEW ADDRESS

A noted counselor in our area has changed his mailing address:

Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.
PO Box 3445
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(914) 452-8405 (same)

PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS CARDS

If you are a counselor or other professional willing to help or provide services to transgendered clients, please send us your business card (or other small ad) and we will place it in our newsletter *free*. Black print on a white background is preferred, because it copies better.

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 - 10:30 pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise 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.

MARCH 1993

- Mar. 11 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Introduction to "Love Bondage"
- Mar. 18 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sizing clothes
- Mar. 20 Saturday, 8 pm
Dinner Party, Northway Inn
- Mar. 25 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Beard cover
(Apr. News deadline)

APRIL 1993

- Apr. 1 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Outrageous Outfit Night
- Apr. 8 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
How to organize a special event
- Apr. 15 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Shopping in public
- Apr. 17 Saturday, 8 pm
Dinner Party, Northway Inn
- Apr. 22 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Makeup
(May News deadline)
- Apr. 29 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Why do I crossdress?

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

Contact TGIC for more information. Some registration brochures are available in the Club Room

- Mar. 14-21 *IFGE Convention*, Philadelphia
- Apr. 23-25 *Moonlight in Manhattan*, New York
- Apr 28-5/2 *California Dreamin'*, Burbank
- Apr 29-5/2 *Poconos Fantasy Festival*
- May 20-23 *Paradise in the Poconos*
- May 20-24 *Dignity Cruise to Bahamas*
- June 1-7 *Tiffany Club Spring Fling*, Provincetown, MA
- June 9-13 *Be All You Want To Be*, Chicago, IL
- July 9-10 *S.P.I.C.E. - Spouses / Partners International Conference for Education*, Dallas, TX