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# TRANSGENDERIST

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Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club

January 29, 1998

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## Saratoga Wellness Alliance / Saratoga Film Forum: Paris Is Burning and Forum

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No one seems to have made some notes about the Saratoga Film Forum/Saratoga Wellness Alliance screening of "Paris Is Burning" and open forum for the record. The program was also sponsored by Siobhan Hinckley and the Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council. There were about 75 people there, and a host of them were trans or trans-supportive, including April & Carol, Lori & Yvonne, Debbie & Bridget, Jude'Em & Jeanette, Arlene & Sundance, Lydia & Partner, Karen, Vicky, Diane, Monica, Denise, Tina and Callan (apologies to any I missed).

The film played, and then Johanna of the SWA arranged 11 chairs in a semi circle at the front of the room and about 35 people stayed to participate in the open forum. Angela of the SWA told of her experiences in having us all phone in. We introduced ourselves and the discussion was fast and interesting, lasting about 1 1/2 hour. Issues discussed included, but were not limited to -- the need for society to help the TG -- how we feel about media portrayals of TG people, like the film, -- challenges of partners -- androgyny and the ease of it for women & men -- how gender identity is inborn & gender role is learned -- gender role slip though time -- transvestite vs transsexual vs transgender, sex vs gender -- challenges of confronting normative dreams that say if we were just a little more something our life would be perfect -- Jeanette's outfits and the demand for more

fabulous gay men -- how different women and men really are -- how the children handle challenges of being gendered, especially kid of TG people and TG kids -- desireshift and how TG people handle a range of desire. -- Statistical differences between males and females norms don't take into account the wide range of variation between individuals. -- How canned "answers from magazines"/rationalizations limit discovery of self.

Afterwards, a large group, including Angela & Johanna from SWA went over to Justins @ The Metro for food and drink. Johanna notes that all this proves our "humanness" and that's OK. She also announced that SWA planned to do more on this in the future.

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## JD's Grand Reopening Party

--by Charlene, 1/22/98

I wasn't able to attend the SWA, but I stopped in at JD's around 8:30 or so. The place was jammed, The food was OK, but nothing special, Ziti, macaroni and potato salad, and macaroni & cheese. They had 2-4-1 drink specials all night.

There was no one there that I knew from TGIC, but of course there was about every gay and lesbian who knows JD's exists there. The dance floor was hopping till about 10:30 and then it was time for Rosie and the Harlots.

It was a very good show. The "girls" lipsynced and dramatized several songs and had quite a good act. I had the feeling however that I was about the only one that was TS in the place. I ran into a few gay friends and hung out with them for company. I also made a few new friends and had a pretty good

time.

I was kind of hoping to see someone at least from the group, but figured that SWA stole the show for that department. I wish I could have gotten off work a little earlier to join y'all in Saratoga, but, life is life and I didn't go.

I hope that this fills the gaps for the curious who wondered what happened at JD's.

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## Leno TV

--by Ellen G.

I just saw Jay Leno on TV, interviewing people about odd behavior. Well, he interviewed this young couple, and asked if the woman had any odd habits, to which the guy replied that she slept with her purse. He also asked if the guy had any odd habits, to which the woman replied that he occasionally wore her clothes. So, Leno asked him if this was true, and the guy said with a slightly embarrassed smile, that it was. Then, Leno asked him if he had any favorites, and the guy said it was a black lycra skirt. In fact, he said, there wouldn't be any wars if everyone wore one of those once in a while, without any underwear. Next, Leno asks him if he's wearing women's underwear at the moment. The guy's a bit embarrassed, and hesitates, and his girl urges him to answer, so he says: "Well, I have a big smile on my face, don't I!?"

I just loved it!!! :-)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: THE TREES

StoP tHE LogGINg oR wE WiLl coNtInUE To  
Kill oNe CeleBrITy Each WeEK.  
theRe ARe nO SkInG "aCciDenTS".

## Speak Softly, and Carry a Big Rod

As reported by our roving reporter Stephanie from Bennington, it brings a whole new meaning to tranny safety. From the Bennington Banner, 12/13/97, local/state page:

A Pownal man carrying a gun in a holster through Wal-Mart scared a customer who called police Friday. Police informed the customer it is legal to carry a gun in Vermont.

Bennington Police Officer Gary Towne said the 61-year old man, whom he declined to name because he was not charged with a crime, was wearing earrings, make-up and had long hair, which helped attract attention to him and the snub-nose .357 magnum he was carrying in a holster.

"As long as you're not a convicted felon, it is legal to carry a gun in Vermont," Towne said. There are no gun permits required to carry a gun in the state.

"We talked to him and he knows the law as well as we do," Towne said.

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## Hong Kong Film English Subtitles

--Contributed by the inimitable Margot

I am damn unsatisfied to be killed in this way. Gun wounds again? A normal person wouldn't steal pituitaries. Damn, I'll burn you into a BBQ chicken! Who gave you the nerve to get killed here? You always use violence. I should've ordered glutinous rice chicken. Beat him out of recognizable shape! Beware! Your bones are going to be disconnected. How can you use my intestines as a gift? This will be of fine service for you, you bag of the scum. I am sure you will not mind that I remove your manhoods and leave them out on the dessert flour for your aunts to eat. Yah-hah, evil spider woman! I have captured you by the short rabbits and can now deliver you violently to your gynecologist for a thorough extermination.

## Food for Thought

I published a short piece in a Transgenderist about the top ten reasons not to have male to female sexual reassignment surgery, thinking them anonymous. I actually ran across the woman who contributed them, Marsha, and found that they were a part of a much larger serious piece which all people considering this serious step in their lives should read. As a correction to the prior "anonymous" designation and as a service to the gender community, I would like to publish the whole article, which Marsha has agreed to. She is a person of remarkable wit and wisdom, and I urge you to get to know her more.

If you write to her, ask her about what happened the first time she urinated following surgery; it proves how funny she really is. --Vix

\* \* \*

Marsha Beverly [REDACTED] began her "real-life" test in May 1996, and completed sexual reassignment on July 16, 1997. A former journalist, she currently is studying psychology and sociology at the University of New Mexico, and plans to become a social work counselor.

\* \* \*

### Top ten reasons NOT to have male-to-female sexual reassignment surgery:

10. MasterCard won't raise credit limit to \$10,000.
9. Have 36 payments left on bass boat powered by 454 Chevy bigblock engine.
8. Can't leave the house without cat putting run in nylons.
7. Girlfriends on Swiss Bikini Team wouldn't understand.
6. Hard to hide "U.S. Marine Corp" tatoos on forearms with makeup.

5. Those damned bra straps rub your shoulders raw.

4. Tired of getting hit on by "Ellen."

3. Sick of being treated like had brains instead of @\$\* removed.

2. Rather be a pig than date one.

1. Miss being able to "aim."

Seriously (and I hope no one took offense at my list), so many of you seem to be in such a hurry to transition to a new gender role. Let me give you some things to think about before you decided to transition, take contra-sex hormones, and seek sexual reassignment:

Negatives (in no particular order):

1. Sexual reassignment surgery will not solve existing psychological problems, and the stress that inherently goes with changing gender roles can exacerbate those difficulties.
2. You can lose the ability to orgasm. The nerves required for orgasm can be severed during massive tissue alterations required in this kind of surgery or wither and die after surgery.
3. Cost. Simple genital reconstructive surgery can cost \$10,000, which must be paid in cash. The costs can rise with tracheal shaves, breast surgery, complications, etc. Very few insurance companies cover sexual reassignment. Also, there are the thousands of dollars you pay for the electrolysis and counseling you will need to even hope for a successful transition.
4. You may lose support from all or part of your family and friends. This depends on the kind of relationships you have forged with those you love, and how open they are to unconventional ideas.
5. You have not been raised in the other gender role. You will have to relearn social and sexual expectations of your chosen gender, and are very likely to commit grievous social errors while you are

learning.

6. You will have to tell people with whom you hope to become intimate about your past, facing possible rejection. If you don't tell, your secret has many, many ways of surfacing without warning.

7. If you are transitioning from a male to female gender role, you will not be taken as seriously as men, it is doubtful you will be paid as much as a man, you will face discrimination when seeking employment in traditionally male dominated fields for which you are well trained, and you will be as vulnerable to assault and rape as any other woman.

8. There are no guarantees you will be accepted by others in your new gender role.

9. You will have to reveal your past in seeking employment, or find three personal references willing to provide references under your new chosen name and gender. Background and credit checks are likely to find major holes in your history unless you reveal the reason your recorded history only goes back as far as the date of your transition.

10. Many of your records cannot be practically changed. Some states won't amend birth certificates. (I'm lucky. New York State will amend a birth certificate after SRS if you live outside of New York City.) You can change your name on your high school records, but records will still show you took boy's (or girl's) physical education.

11. Gender transition is looked down on by most judges in setting divorce or child custody cases. You are likely to come out on the short end of the stick.

12. Your current employer may be hostile about your decision to transition to a new gender role, either firing you outright or making things very difficult for you in the work place.

What has been positive for me about sexual reassignment surgery is that I feel comfortable with my body (again, there are no guarantees here). Gender role transition lifted the burden of living the lie that I was a male (or, perhaps in your case, female). I believe that, perhaps, in time, I will be able to function in a new sexual role, although I

have a lot to learn and work out. I am happier and function better socially in my new gender role than I ever functioned trying to live up to expectations for the gender role I was assigned at birth. And, finally, I can be honest with others about who I am, though some people feel it necessary to substitute one set of lies used prior to surgery for another set of lies to use after completion of SRS. This is not an easy life course to navigate, and every other alternative should be examined before choosing the route you will take. I spent time examining whether I fit into the gay community, whether or not I was a transvestite or crossdresser, and whether I could live androgynously or bouncing back and forth between two gender roles. Only when all other possibilities were exhausted did I contemplate gender role transition and sexual reassignment, and then only after thoroughly discussing my choices with a competent therapist and endocrinologist. This is not a decision you should make lightly, without considering how your choices will affect yourself and others who love you. If you decide this is the road you must traverse, good luck, and may your god (or goddess) walk with you.

Marsha B. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT  
GOES OUT.

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## Alex Myers

Alex Myers sits down to breakfast inside Harvard's Memorial Hall. Amid the marble busts of graduates and historic stained glass, Myers fits right in. Dressed in a loose-fitting running outfit and wearing a baseball cap backward, he is every inch the Harvard stereotype: a lacrosse-playing Exeter preppe whose daddy went here. Except for one thing, which may be a very big thing or a very insignificant thing depending on how you think about things. Under the running outfit, or the conservative blue suit, or the hockey goalie's equipment, he -- strictly biologically speaking -- is a she. Without hormone treatment or a sex change operation, Myers is living as an articulate, intelligent, funny, straight young man with a bright future in science. "I am ..." Myers says, munching on an English muffin, "not your traditional freak."

"It's 100 percent wrong for me to be referred to as a woman," he continues. "And it feels 60 percent wrong to be called a man. I wish there was a pronoun that easily described me."

There is a word, though. Myers, 19, considers himself "transgendered." And here at Harvard, Myers has sparked a campus-wide argument that reflects a larger debate in American society, and in the medical community, about the boundaries of gender and sex, and whether biology is destiny.

The term "transgendered" originally referred to people like Myers, who live as a gender different from their biological sex but don't alter their bodies. But in recent years, the term has become a catch-all word for surgically altered transsexuals, hermaphrodites, even effeminate men and masculine women. (ed note: "transgenderist" was invented by Prince to describe non-surgical but hormonal transsexuals like her. Holly Boswell pushed "transgendered" as a description, which Prince still feels is wrong, since transsexed or transvestite is wrong.)

Critics, including many psychiatrists, suggest that such people may be mentally ill. But Myers says he is a living, breathing, (not to mention mature and well-grounded) example of the notion that gender and sex don't naturally go together, that gender is a construct. "Man and woman -- those are societal molds," says Myers. "I think it's a big trap. I believe gender and sex are two

different things. They are not complimentary forces. ... And I'm hardly the first person to feel this way." True. But at Harvard he is a novelty, in more ways than one. **A stressful time.** Consider that freshman year here is an enormously stressful time when many undergraduates, some homesick, others intimidated-ted by their surroundings, have been known to gain or lose significant amounts of weight. In this hothouse of frayed nerves and terrific insecurities, most students are wary of putting even their most minor frailties out for public consumption.

Then, there's Myers. Last spring, as a freshman, he came out, in his uniquely disarming way, to the entire campus. He gave a lengthy interview to the student newspaper, the *Crimson*. He successfully lobbied the student government, known as the Undergraduate Council, to add protections for transgendered undergraduates to its constitution. And he ignored a fair number of hard stares, as well as a few nasty words, with the stubbornness of someone who used the stairs instead of the elevator to his fourth-floor room in Greenough Hall.

He is the only campus figure in memory here, who can legitimately claim to have stretched the noggins of Harvard's professors and students, who take particular pride in their open-mindedness. Before Myers, few had heard the word transgender, and fewer knew anyone who was open about the identity. Before Myers, the Bisexual Gay Lesbian Student Alliance, or BGLSA, expanded the horizons of others. When Myers showed up to the first meeting last fall, he expanded theirs--with a T: It's the BGLTSA now. "The issues Alex raised have created one of the most interesting debates I've seen at Harvard," says Lamelle Rawlins, president of the Undergraduate Council. "I'm incredibly impressed with Alex. He's so inspiring, so brave, and so articulate." Last spring, as the Undergraduate Council changed its constitution at Myers' urging, Rawlins joined Myers in asking Harvard to do the same. They want this 361-year-old university to amend its legal policy to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "gender identity." Such a change is serious business, and the proposal has received a serious reception. Of course, this is Myers, and so his campaign has included no protests. No sit-ins.

Just some quiet meetings with the deans. He is more insider than outsider, a closet activist whose appeal is "I'm just like them."

"The way I look," he says about his conservative attire, "sometimes I walk into meetings on transgender stuff, and people think I'm there to protest [against] them."

**The Alice years.** While most of Harvard sleeps, Alex Myers is up at 6:30 a.m. every day, ready to run. Five miles later, he has barely broken a sweat. Myers has always been athletic. He grew up in Paris, Maine (pop. 4,492), where the center of town was the YMCA. His parents, both native New Englanders, owned a house down a short road from an egg farm. Doug Myers, Harvard Class of 1968, is a lawyer, and Sue-Ellen Myers works with disabled children. They named their second child for a great aunt who was strong enough to lift her own car in the air and eccentric enough to make her cats do tricks for their meals. Alice Myers was Alex Myers' given name. A tomboy, Alice "dreamed of playing goalie for the U.S. Olympic hockey team." Her hair was so short and spiky that a sixth-grade teacher told Alice's parents, "Your son is doing well in my class."

At the beginning of ninth grade, Alice was sent to a prestigious boarding school: Phillips Academy in Exeter, N.H., where she reached a series of important conclusions about her own identity. At first, Alice came out as a lesbian and was active in the school's Gay-Straight Alliance. "But I knew that wasn't what I was," Myers says now. "At that time, though I knew it was the only community that let women be masculine. I figured that might be the best I could do."

During the summer after her junior year, Alice went to Harvard Summer School and participated in discussion groups for lesbian women. She also met people who had "transitioned" from one gender to the other "and suddenly it seemed natural in my head to live this way." Before returning to Exeter, Alice sat down with her parents in the kitchen and told them she was transgendered. They were supportive, but wary. "They expressed some concern about my fitting in, and not estranging myself," Myers says now. An older brother was warmer, and took Myers along to look at women together. "He told me, 'It's good to have you as a brother.'"

When senior year at Exeter began, Alice had become a man named Alex, who wore a coat and tie to class. "It confused my teachers," says Myers. "They couldn't control the class at times. One took me aside and said, 'I don't know how I'm supposed to refer to you.'" When Myers applied to Harvard, the college's interviewer abruptly ended the interview when he noticed the name Alice on a form and Alex, in coat and tie, explained his change of gender. A week later, Harvard called Myers and asked him to interview again because the alumnus was unable to give a fair opinion.

Myers legally changed his name when he turned 18 during the summer of 1996. (The judge advised that Myers not apply to The Citadel). He spent his freshman year in a single room, where he shared a bathroom with five male students. On the wall to his room, near pictures of Elvis Presley and professional hockey goalie Andy Moog, Myers kept a photograph of his girlfriend, a striking redhead who attends Brown University in Rhode Island. **Being open.** He managed to keep his biological sex a secret for his first two months at Harvard, but the presence of so many fellow Exeter graduates made anonymity impossible. "For the first few weeks, people were treating me as a nerdy, sort of conservative white guy," says Myers. He came out to other dorm residents in November by inviting them to a panel on transgenderism. About half of them attended.

"There hasn't been anything openly hostile, and Alex has made friends because he's Alex," says Christa van der Eb, who lived in the same dorm last year. "But some of the guys here don't know what to make of him... On the whole, he's raised consciousness, and he's the most mature, diligent person I've ever met."

Myers is wary of becoming a prisoner of his transgender label. He plays in the band, dabbles with wrestling and still harbors hockey dreams. He bypassed Harvard's popular liberal arts majors in favor of the hard science of geology. He is an officer of the BGLTSA, though friends say that was something of an accident. At a noisy meeting, Myers raised his hand when he thought he heard a speaker ask if anyone in attendance was "transgender." In fact, Myers had unwittingly signed up to be the group's treasurer.

His campus-wide coming out last spring was masterfully low-key. In his speech to the Undergraduate Council, he joked about "playing for both teams." He argued that while he is the only openly transgendered student at Harvard, others may follow. By explicitly prohibiting discrimination, Harvard can show it is "trans-friendly," he says. At the same time the Undergraduate Council voted to change its constitution and back Myers' appeals to the Harvard administration, the Cambridge city council voted unanimously to include protections for "gender expression" in the city's Human Rights Ordinance.

"Alex and I resonated on a very deep level," says Nancy Nangeroni, 43, an engineer and male-to-female transgendered person who says Myers helped with the city bill. "We don't believe in beating people up, or using militant gestures to win rights."

Conservative students were exasperated. "I feel someone has to speak out to the fact that there are only boys and girls in the world," said Christopher M. Griffith, who graduated in June. "Harvard cannot go against the rule of God or the rule of this country."

Griffith and others pointed to the American Psychiatric Association, which lists "gender identity disorder" as an illness. The association's diagnosis seems to describe Myers in some ways ("evidence of a strong and persistent cross-gender identification"), but not in others ("low esteem" and "school aversion or dropping out of school."). Dr. Lawrence Hartmann, a Harvard professor who is past president of the psychiatric association, cautions: "Not every sexual oddness is a disorder. I think we should learn from people who are different, rather than assigning quick pathology to their condition."

Even when conservative students question his mental health, Myers seems nonplused. He defended one of his sharpest critics, Stephen Mitby, when Mitby received an anonymous hate letter last spring. "He has claimed responsibility for his own comments, which I respect," Myers told the Crimson.

Asked about Myers, Mitby says: "It's a mental illness. And to recognize gender identities apart from sex not only denies biological reality, but

overturns the findings of medical science in the name of political correctness." But Mitby adds: "Alex is articulate, intelligent and confident. I respect his courage."

**Advocating change.** Among most students, Myers seems to have succeeded in making his a righteous cause. The Crimson weighed in with an editorial, urging Harvard to change its discrimination policy to protect the transgendered (It already extends that protection to gays and lesbians). The administration is the final challenge. Myers, along with the student body president ("We get along because I'm so straight and conservative," Myers says) and other student leaders, have met twice with Harry Lewis, the college dean. Winning him over is the first step in changing the policy, but it won't be easy. With a fund-raising campaign that requires Harvard to raise \$1 million per day, the university may not want to enter the culture wars. "If Alex is lucky," says one senior administrator, "we'll change the policy fast -- in about four years."

Lewis, for his part, says he is reading up on transgenderism. "Harvard does not tolerate discrimination based on anything unrelated to a student's abilities and interests in taking advantage of the educational and other opportunities Harvard has to offer," he says. But as for the specifics of gender identity, he has more questions than answers.

This year, as a sophomore, Myers says he will try to "further inform" the student body about transgenderism, in hopes that even his fellow students will put pressure on the dean.

"Changing people's minds is like hauling a heavy cart up a hill. It's slow, so we won't be doing the confrontational ACT-UP tactic of chaining yourself to the desk," Myers says. "I'll just keep wearing my blue blazer and tan pants, like everyone else."

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**The small closet in the TGIC club room is available for \$30 a month including a key to the room. Ask for details!**

**Transgenderist's Independence Club**  
PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604  
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs. 7:30-10 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	Tina [REDACTED]
Secretary	open
Treasurer	Winnie [REDACTED]
Newsletter Editor	Vicky E. [REDACTED]

The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Copyright 1998 TGIC unless otherwise stated. No part may be reproduced without prior permission from the originator.

Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to [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, 7:30pm to 10pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise to call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the local night spots after the meetings.

**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

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## 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.

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## TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

Meetings are held in at the Days Inn, Nott Terrace in Schenectady. Call Monica at (518) 863-2783 or Evelyn at (315) 894-5421 for further information.

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International Foundation for Gender Education  
*presents*

# CROSSING BORDERS TORONTO 1998

IFGE's  
12th Annual Convention  
March 24-29

Hosted by

XPRESSIONS at..

TORONTO COLONY HOTEL



## Calendar and Events

TGIC meetings are held Thursdays at 7:30 in the clubhouse.

### Events of Note

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|---------------------|---|
| February 14         | Twenty Club   |
| February 26-March 1 | Texas "T" Party   |
| February 28         | Twenty Club   |
| March 24-26         | Full Circle of Women Conf.  |
| March 24-29         | IFGE's Crossing Borders<br>Toronto 1998                             |
| March 28            | Twenty Club, Dr. Schrang  |
| July 15-19          | S.P.I.C.E. VI for<br>crossdressers and spouses,<br>Atlanta, Georgia |
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### You're Invited!

Set your sites on Toronto, Ontario, Canada for the 12th Annual IFGE Convention—the most important gathering of transgendered leaders, educators, activists, personalities and associated professional held each year. In 1998, IFGE makes good on the "International" part of its name and mission by heading to Toronto for its yearly gathering of the community.

Join us at the beautiful Colony Hotel in chic downtown Toronto for Crossing Borders/Toronto 1998—a week of learning, networking and celebration. Our visit their is being coordinated and hosted by Xpressions, southern Ontario's largest, oldest and most active open transgendered support group. The leadership and members of Xpressions are eager to share the joys of their international metropolis with the rest of the transgendered community. They've planned lots of exciting events for Crossing Borders participants, from shopping and tours to spectacular theater outings (Toronto is the world's third largest theater city behind London & NYC!). And they have primed the world-famous Toronto nightclub scene to help celebrate this historic gathering of the transgendered community. The city's popular nightclub district is located nearby our host hotel.

Daytimes during the conference you'll have the opportunity to met and hear presentations by some of the most respected and accomplished individuals in the community. Activists, leaders, educators, lobbyists, authors, medical practitioners, performers, spiritual leaders, gadflies, publishers, vendors...you name it...they will be presenting seminars, and meeting and mixing with the community at large at IFGE's Crossing Borders.

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**TGIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 1998**

At this time, all members please check your mailing label. In the top right corner is a summary of your membership status. The meanings of the code letters are:

- MG - Member, General individual
- MC - Member, Couple
- MA - Member, special mailing
- K0 - Key Club, no closet
- K1-K5 - Key Club, closet #1 - #5
- SS - Sample Subscription to new prospects.

Following your membership code letters, the date through which your dues are paid is indicated in year/month order. You may pay dues in advance at any time; when received, the date will be incremented by one year. We allow a four-month grace period. For the last issue, \*LAST\* will be printed on the mailing label in place of the date. Then, if dues are not received before the next newsletter is mailed, you will be dropped. Dues remain at \$40 per year in 1998 (\$45 for couples). For those who may be short of cash at the time, we can offer a 6-month extension for \$20, or a 3-month extension for \$10. NOTE: For KEY CLUB members, the date indicates the

month through which your rent has been paid. Please keep monthly payments up to date.

We are mailing our updated TGIC Membership Directory this month, to members only. Inclusion on the list is optional. If you joined TGIC in 1997, you have been added under the category (include name, address and/or phone or not) that you gave on your membership application form. If you wish to be added, deleted, or change your category for the next revision, please inform us at any time.

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**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND  
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

	JAN 96	JAN 97	JAN 98
Current members	56	59	64
Potential members	13	19	11
Friends	9	8	10
Professionals	20	21	20
Clubs & magazines	41	41	18
TOTAL	139	148	123

During the past year, 24 previous members dropped out of the Club, but were replaced by 29 new members (or former members re-joining). Also, 60 prospective new members did not join the Club, and were dropped from our mailing list after receiving four issues of our newsletter. These statistics are typical of our experience for a number of years, and not unusual for other TG groups. There are lots of us out there! We continue to exchange newsletters with other clubs in the Northeast, but have dropped most of the more distant groups, since few members show interest.

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**CLOSET AVAILABLE FOR RENT**

The small locker-closet, leftmost in the TGIC Club Room, is now available for rent at \$30 per month, including a key to the room. If you are interested in becoming a Key Club member, please call, write, or come to a meeting.

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Comments? Vicky E. [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
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All the news that fits.