
TRANSgenderist

Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club

December, 1998

Christmas Party!!!

[Editress' Note: Thanks to The Callan for sharing this *controversial* event <ggg>]

On Thursday, December 17th, the TGIC clubroom will be open from 7-9 with chips and dip. It's a casual family style event.

At 9 PM, Rosie of JD's Playhouse is opening up the backroom *especially* for TGIC members and their friends. Rosie will supply munchies, music and a cash bar as a thanks for the patronage of TGIC people though out the year.

Enjoy just the clubroom party, come down to JDs in your finery, or come to both. Just remember to put December 17th on your calendar!

Holidays to be celebrated at the TGIC Holiday Party on December 17 include, but are not limited to:

- Thanksgiving (Nov 26)
- Chanukah (Dec 13-)
- Wright Brothers Day (Dec 17)
- Winter Solstice (Dec 21)
- Japanese Emperor's Birthday (Dec 23)
- Christmas (Dec 25)
- Kwanzaa (Dec 26-)
- Boxing Day (Dec 26)
- New Years (January 1)

We have received some letters of comment on this party, as listed below.

Dear Editor,

How can you schedule a holiday party and not mention the scared month of Ramadan, which begins on December 21, the winter solstice? This month of fasting and prayer is sacred in Islam, a religion that has more followers than Christianity? In fact, there are more Muslim believers in the US than there are Jews, as some people would like to forget.

To schedule a holiday party without acknowledging Ramadan is to slap the face of all followers of Islam. We are not all terrorists, as you should know -- certainly every belief structure has its extremists, but they are not subject to the heinous stereotypes! Are you saying, by you exclusion of Ramadan that Muslims are not welcome at TGIC, that they are denied? This is certainly the message many of us hear you saying and we find it offensive

Al [REDACTED]
Albany

Attn.: Editor

Do you remember the days when a Christmas party was just a Christmas party and we all had fun? I certainly do! It was a time when people could get together without worrying about being "politically correct" and just celebrate as God intended them to do.

This year, though, you have chosen to make some kind of laundry list of "holidays" to be celebrated, like some bleeding heart liberal. You have chosen to take Christmas from its rightful place and by doing that, you

forget the reason for the season, the message of peace and acceptance that our savior brought into the world with his birth.

This is fast becoming an ABC world -- Anything But Christian -- where good, honest American Christians are becoming a minority and an oppressed class in their own country. We see these assaults to tear down the fundamental Christian values this country was built upon as the destruction of the firm moral base of family values that have made this country great.

A Christmas Party is a Christmas Party, no matter how politically correct you want to make it, and when you demean it with your mushy politics, you offend us all.

One Nation Under God,

SueEllen [REDACTED]
Schodack

To The Editor

Speaking as a concerned citizen of the world, I must express my outrage over your choice to celebrate your "holiday party" on Wright Brothers Day. The Wright Brothers and their development of the aircraft have created the tools of the imperialistic projection of power around the world by the corrupt Amerikan Government.

Ask the resistance fighters in Mexico or the Indonesian peasants if they like being strafed with napalm and bullets from US built airplanes, or if they appreciate helicopters full of armed troops being sent in to express dissent and freedom of speech, the freedom this country claims to be founded on? I think they might say they have little to celebrate over about the inventors of the airplanes that allow oppression to continue.

As these people suffer all around the world, we must suffer with them, because no

one is truly free or happy until all are free and happy. A party insults these brave people and their struggle for justice.

I will not be attending your "party" to celebrate the oppression of people using the technology and greater force that the airplane has come to represent. I will stay away and donate what I would have spent to the cause of eliminating hunger all over the world.

I do hope, though, at least the party will be fully staffed by Union workers and will feature speeches from People Of Color who understand what oppression really is.

Sunstream Rockhaven
Woodstock

[Editress' notes continue] Well, there you have it! Highly controversial, this promises to be a Christmas Party to remember! <ggg> The jokes about PC are neat (thank you Callan!), but one serious fact remains: you have to run, walk, limp or fly to TGIC at 7:30 on December 17th! And I'll probably see you there, G_d willing.

Occasionally, airline attendants make an effort to make the "in-flight safety lecture" a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

"As we prepare for takeoff, please make sure your tray tables and seat backs are fully upright in their most uncomfortable position."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane..."

"Your seat cushions can be used for floatation, and in the event of an emergency water landing, please take them with our compliments."

IFGE Goes to Louisville for 1999 Convention

IFGE has selected Louisville Kentucky for their 1999 Annual Conference, to be held March 18-21, 1999 .

The primary host organization is BGB [editress' note, BGB stands for BlueGrass Belles], with the convention chair being Dawn Josephine Wilson. IFGE also selected Board members S. Kristine James and Alison Laing, both experienced convention planners, to head the convention management team for IFGE.

BGB will be joined in this effort by members of a host of other nearby support groups including the Tennessee Vals; CrossPort (southern Ohio and northern Kentucky) and IXE (Indiana), as well as local GLBT organizations and the Louisville Convention and Tourism Bureau. Anne Casebeer, Vice-President of BGB said; "We welcome and invite the help and advice of our friends in the surrounding cities. It's wonderful that we were chosen to host this convention in the Derby City, a central location

in which so many people will be able to travel easily for a conference. This may be the only chance many TG people in this part of the country have to attend a convention. We will host a supportive, informative, and fun conference that everyone will enjoy."

As part of this event, Alison Laing and S. Kristine James are adding two special features. The convention will include a TG Health & Wellness Conference. Ms. James stated that, "To be a happy TG, you need to understand what you need to do to stay healthy." Also, Alison and Kristine are trying to reinstitute the Congress of Transgender Organizations by inviting representatives from all state and local TG organizations to participate in such a gathering at a minimum fee. Since all work and no play makes for a dry conference, BGB is planning to host several entertaining evening events and tours of local attractions. The seminars and speeches will feature well-known

professional gender specialists, some of whom have not previously been presenters at other national TG events.

For more details, watch the world wide web at <http://www.ifge.org> and <http://www.transgender.org/tg/bgb/>, including hotel and registration data, or write or call :

IFGE Convention
P.O. Box 61
Easton, PA 18044-0061
610-759-2347

For local information, contact the BGB at:
BlueGrass Belles
PO Box 20173
Louisville, KY 40250
(502-672-8613 dig, pgr)

If you are interested in presenting a seminar, please forward your questions to Marjorie Demaille at efduhrl@pop.uky.edu, or the BGB mailing address.

"We do feature a smoking section on this flight; if you must smoke, contact a member of the flight crew and we will escort you to the wing of the airplane."

"Smoking in the lavatories is prohibited. Any person caught smoking in the lavatories will be asked to leave the plane immediately."

"Good morning. As we leave Dallas, it's warm, the sun is shining, and the birds are singing. We are going to Charlotte, where it's dark, windy and raining. Why in the world y'all wanna go there I really don't know."

Pilot - "Folks, we have reached our cruising altitude now, so I am going to switch the seat belt sign off. Feel free to move about as you wish, but please stay inside the plane till we land... it's a bit cold outside, and if you walk on the wings it affects the flight pattern."

Feminine boy shakes up small school in Georgia

'I believe in sexual standards in society'
October 29, 1998

CARROLLTON, Georgia (AP) -- Patrick [REDACTED] had heard there was a cross-dressing boy enrolled at his high school. But darned if he could figure out just who it was.

"I looked for him the first couple weeks. The honest truth -- I didn't even know," Patrick said.

One day, he was talking about the mystery to a friend, who smiled and pointed to the pretty blonde at the desk next to his. "I said, 'No way, that's too weird!'" Patrick recalled. "Then I thought about it, and I said, 'So what's so weird about that?'"

But while Patrick and his friends were willing to accept Matthew "Alex" [REDACTED]'s feminine appearance and mannerisms, others in this rural, conservative western Georgia community of about 20,000 weren't. And so 15-year-old Alex withdrew from school under pressure, leaving supporters of the popular, easygoing student wondering what threat they supposedly had been protected from.

"Alex wasn't causing any problems. She got along well with everybody," said classmate and friend Meayghan Denkers. "She wasn't trying to change anybody to be like her or anything."

Diversity in opinion

After a heated October 6 meeting of the board of the small, private Georgian Country Day School, Alex was "invited to withdraw" or face expulsion.

Alex, who had enrolled in September after attending public school, was cited for wearing a tongue ring, but had been called before school authorities earlier about his female dress, makeup and hairstyle.

Most of Alex's classmates -- including some of the boys -- wore bows in their hair in protest until ordered to remove them by the principal. Some indignantly quoted their school handbook, which urges acceptance of "diversity in opinion, culture, ideas, behavioral characteristics, attributes or challenges."

"Alex represents something that's way beyond the experience and the comfort zone of the very conservative people we live with," said Lori Lipoma, Meayghan's mother and a drama teacher at the school. "I really think we all lost something very precious that night."

School officials would not discuss the case.

"We make no comments on students," said Rex Camp, chairman of the board of the school, where tuition is more than \$5,000 a year for the 50 or so high-school students. Kindergarten and elementary students are in a separate building, but one parent of a 6-year-old expressed concern at the board meeting about Alex's effect on younger children.

"I believe in sexual standards in society, and I want my child in a school that holds the same sexual ethics that I do," said Craig Neal.

95 percent girl

Alex, who speaks in a soft, feminine voice, began cross-dressing two years ago and considers himself "95 percent girl." Larry Harmon, a Dade County, Florida, psychologist who counsels patients on sexual identity, said such feelings appear to fit a rare condition called gender-identity disorder. He said it doesn't necessarily imply homosexuality, and it's difficult to know how many youngsters have it and why. "I'm not homosexual," Alex said. "I just look like a girl and I dress like a girl. It wasn't anything flamboyant, not sequins or anything. But because I'm a guy. ..."

4

He enrolled in night school but quit in less than a week because he didn't feel the courses offered would help his education goals. He hopes to pursue a career in fashion merchandising and modeling. Alex said Thursday he's looking into the possibility of home-schooling. "I do wish I was still at the Georgian School," he said.

This is a girl

At the Georgian Country Day School -- where Alex said he enrolled to get a better education -- he struck up a friendship with Meayghan and was soon invited to spend nights over at her house. The first couple of times, Meayghan's mother popped in on them unannounced, just in case.

"They'd be sitting there doing hair, or painting nails, and I said to myself, 'This is a girl,'" Lipoma said.

A few weeks into the school year, Alex and his father were summoned to a meeting with school officials. They said that parents had complained, and that he had to dress like a boy, Alex recalled. He refused and was sent home. A special board meeting followed. Under the law, a public school would have had to show that Alex was disrupting education or undermining safety. A private school has more leeway.

Alex's mother died when he was young. He said that his cross-dressing initially caused a rift with his father, but that the older man stood with him in the dispute with the board. Mack McLendon declined an interview. "School is supposed to be preparing you for life," Alex said. "Parents are trying to protect their kids by covering their eyes. It's going to be a real shock for some of these parents when their kids get out into the real world.

[Reprinted Without Permission, but with a whole lot of understanding --V]

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

It seems a man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the branch and wrote "This iz a stickup. Put all your munny in this bag," on a deposit slip. While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller window. So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to Wells Fargo Bank.

After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it, and surmising from his spelling errors that he was not the brightest light in the harbor, told him that she could not accept his stick-up note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America.

Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, "OK," and left the Wells Fargo Bank. The Wells Fargo teller then called the police, who arrested the man a few minutes later. He was waiting in line back at the Bank of America!

YOU MEAN ME?

A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record shop nervously waving revolvers. The first one shouted, "Nobody move!" His partner moved & the startled first bandit shot him.

[These are supposedly true stories! They bring new definition to the word "Dumb." Offered as a public service.]

*Why is it that "abbreviation"
is such a long word?*

Many TGIC members love First Event, the closest major TG event to Albany!

<http://www.tcne.org/1st_ev99.html>

Mark your calendars for the best First Event ever! Dates: Thursday, January 21 to Sunday, January 24, 1999. Location: Crowne Plaza, in Woburn, Massachusetts. Keynote Speakers: Riki Anne Wilchins, Executive director of GenderPac, James Green, Director of FTM International. Planned activities: Thursday pool party, Friday fashion show & buffet, Saturday awards banquet, Sunday breakfast brunch, instructional classes, vendor displays, & much more! -- The Tiffany Club of New England, Phone (781) 891-9325 / Fax (781) 899-3562 / E-Mail tcne@tcne.org

Pricing Packages: (After 12/8/98, Before 12/8/98 if early pricing applies).

Entire Event, 1/21 to 1/24 (\$190, \$175)
All day Fri-Sun, 1/22 to 1/24 (\$165, \$155)
All day Sat-Sun, 1/23 to 1/24 (\$100, \$95)

Classes & Pool Party, Th 1/21 (\$35)
Classes & Fashion/Buffer, Fr 1/22 (\$65)
Classes & Banquet, Sa 1/23 (\$90, \$85)
Brunch only, Su 1/24 (\$20)

Th Classes only, 1/21 (\$15)
Th Evening only, 1/21 (\$20)
Fr Classes only, 1/22 (\$30)
Fr Evening (Fashion Show/Buffer) 1/22 (\$35)
Sat Classes only, 1/23 (\$30)
Sat Evening (Banquet only) 1/23 (\$60, \$55)

Hotel Arrangements: Please call the hotel direct at (781) 932-0999 and mention T.C.N.E, to get the special \$90 / night rate (single or double occupancy). Also available are single occupancy executive rooms for \$104 / night. The Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 2 Forbes Road, Woburn, MA 01801

Prejudice among teens on the rise

[Original by Carol Ness OF THE EXAMINER STAFF, San Francisco Examiner, November 12, 1998. Edited for space.]

A survey of thousands of America's highest achieving high school students shows that nearly half admit prejudice against gays and lesbians, an increase of 19 percentage points since last year. And 15 percent are biased against African Americans and Hispanics, double the proportion in a similar survey last year.

The rising intolerance is just one revelation among many in the poll of 3,123 16- to 18-year-olds listed in the latest "Who's Who Among High School Students." Questionnaires were sent last spring to 7,500 "Who's Who" students, picked by their schools for their grades and activities. The survey results were compiled from those who responded. The poll doesn't pretend to reflect the average U.S. student. Respondents were overwhelmingly white, female, affluent and living in two-parent homes. Only 11 percent live in cities.

One-fifth of the students said they know someone their age who has committed suicide.

"Declining social and moral values" was picked by 46 percent (up from 25 percent) as the biggest problem facing their generation, far outstripping crime/violence, lack of motivation, drugs and AIDS.

Relatively small numbers said they were prejudiced against Jews (5 percent) or Muslims (8 percent), the only religions surveyed. Most dramatic was the rising intolerance of homosexuality.

Asked, "Are you prejudiced against homosexuals?" 15 percent said "very" and 33 percent said "somewhat." Last year, the total was 29 percent. Racial or ethnic prejudice rose as well, especially against African Americans and Hispanics.

Sept. 9, 1998
RD 2, Box 70B
Cambridge, NY 12816
677-5662

Dear Vicky,

Here's a reply to the note on "Aging Transsexuals" in the Sept. issue of The Transgenderist. Sorry it's not in approved format, but I don't have a writing machine that can turn out clean copy at less than 10 characters per inch.

You're doing a great job with the newsletter. Brava!

Dr. Anne Vitale's observation, reported in the Sept. Transgenderist, that Internet access was a common denominator among the MTFs she saw in their late 40s and 50s, seems to me to be a bit simplistic. I believe there are other factors besides the Internet that encourage so many of us to come out and seek help at this point in our lives.

First, society has become more tolerant of the gender-deviant. The 1950s and '60s, when we were growing up, were very homo- and queer-phobic. If you've forgotten just how bad they were, check out Jonathan Katz's "Gay American History." Even if we had come out then, we would have had no safe place to come out to.

Second, there's been a blossoming of literature by and about TSs and TGs that simply didn't exist 10 to 15 years ago. Books like Kate Bornstein's "Gender Outlaw" are put out by mainstream publishers and can be ordered through mainstream bookstores. You don't have to poke through sleaze in the back of an "adult" bookstore to find serious literature by and about people like us.

Third, by the time we hit our late 40s and 50s, most of us have achieved some security in our relationships, professions, and finances. We can afford to explore the scary parts of where we don't fit in.

Fourth, we can find therapists and doctors who will let us make our own decisions about how far we want to transition and what kind of person we want to become. Not every doctor will insist that we become "normal" (i.e., straight) men or women who docilely meet all the approved gender stereotypes.

Finally, coming out requires a maturity many of us simply didn't have before now. Dr. Richard A. Isay, in his book "Becoming Gay: the Journey to Self-Acceptance," had this to say:

Middle age brings an increased awareness of the "finitude of life." With this awareness comes the enhanced desire, before it's too late, to repair discontinuities between one's needs, wishes, and ambitions and longstanding social responsibilities and expectations. Perhaps we are then better equipped, because of previous experiences resolving conflict, to confront heretofore repressed or denied needs and wishes and to tolerate the losses sustained by the expression of those needs. Therapists are often sought at this developmental stage, and they may be helpful in resolving this difficult crisis of middle adulthood.

-- Evan [REDACTED]



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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 [REDACTED]

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Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to [REDACTED]. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail.

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 PM to 10 PM. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise to call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the local night spots after the meetings.

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BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is \$25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:
IFGE (617) 899-2212
PO Box 229
Waltham, MA 02154-0229

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked.

(NYS Health Department)

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

TGIC On-Line

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

JOIN TGIC
STOP

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

Calendar and Events

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

Events of Note

- December 12 Twenty Club, Hartford, CT
Transsexual Support Group
- December 17 TGIC Christmas Party,
Clubhouse
- December 19 Lambda Chi SSS
Christmas Party ?
(Sorry, no details yet)
- January 21-24, 1999 First Event,
Woburn, MA
(See Article This Month)
- February 16, 1999 Mardi Gras Party
or thereabouts Proposed, for planning
(Well, How About It?)
- March 18-21, 1999 IFGE, Louisville
- March 21, 1999 Equality Begins at Home
Grassroots GLBT lobby

TGIC XMAS PARTY DECEMBER 17

The annual TGIC Xmas Party will be held in our Club Room on our last regular meeting date of the year. Thursday December 17. Once again, we will have a sandwich platter, munchies, punch, cookies, etc. Mark it on your calendar. If anyone can bring some extra folding chairs for the occasion, it would be appreciated. We also could use some additional seating for our regular meetings, if anyone wishes to donate or loan some chairs.

NO TGIC MEETINGS ON HOLIDAYS

Our Thursday night meetings will be suspended on the following dates:

- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 31 New Years' Eve

JOSEFINA A. SPECKERT M. Ed.

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Comments? Vicky E. [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED], Albany, NY 12203.

All the news that fits.