



The Transgenderist

The Publication of Transgenderist's Independence Club Albany, NY

DECEMBER 1996



ASSAULT IN ALBANY - A TRUE STORY

Albany, NY. October 29, 1996

Halloween. Time for many participants in the transgender/crossdressing community to wander out of the closets for their annual fling in public. But this story isn't about Halloween. Nor is it about a casual fling in public for one of the capital district's numerous part-time crossdressers. It's a true story, about real life. Here. In the capital of New York State. It's the story of an assault on a woman (which I'll call Chriss) by officials at the Albany Public Library. It's the story of police who refused to let her file a complaint. It's the story of a legislative system which passes laws against harassment and a legal system which refuses pursue these laws.

Imagine this happening to you!

On October 28, 1996, Chriss was observed leaving the restroom of the Albany Public Library. A female guard approached her, rudely informed Chriss that men weren't permitted in the women's restroom, that Chriss was trespassing, and forcefully told her to leave the library.

The guard then followed Chriss on to the elevators. The guard verbally threatened Chriss, saying, "If you ever come back here, I'll physically throw you out on your ears". Chriss responded, "You aren't going to put your hands on me!", at which time the guard grabbed for Chriss, who attempted to defend herself. As the elevator stopped, the guard's daughter tried to break the two apart but only blocked the elevator door. The guard told Chriss to leave but, her way was

blocked by the guard's daughter. Seeing that Chriss wasn't making progress toward the door, the guard grabbed and pulled Chriss's hair, knocked her to the floor, kicked Chriss in the right temple and nose,

punched her in the left eye, and kicked her again in the neck.

The Albany City Police were called to investigate the scuffle on behalf of the library. Chriss tried to press charges against the guard for assault but was informed by the police that the guard had filed a complaint of "trespass" and they would be offsetting complaints. Even though Chriss had at least three witnesses, the police would accept no complaint to be filed against the library or guard.

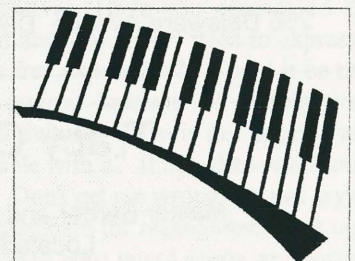
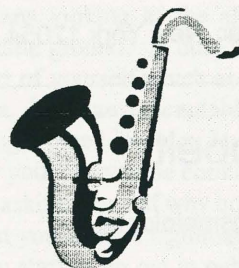
Chriss wants to pursue the matter and is seeking legal representation. She has no money to file suit, and, even though several lawyers said she has a good case, they refused to pursue the matter without a "substantial binder".

The fact that Chriss is a pre-op transsexual woman

(Continued on page 4)

TGIC'S HOLIDAY PARTY IS NEXT THURSDAY

Dec. 12, 1996
6:30PM- 10:30PM
at the club room.



A meat, cheese and relish platter will be provided. Please feel free to bring any other food or drink items or a \$5 donation. Also feel free to bring any musical instruments.

DONATE TO TG ORGANIZATIONS SEE PAGE 8

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TRANSSEXUALS WIN STATE-WIDE PROTECTION IN OREGON

October 14, 1996 Portland, Oregon

Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries announced on October 9, 1996 that the Bureau's Civil Rights Division will accept complaints of discrimination based on transsexualism under current state law.

The announcement culminated 10 months of effort by Oregon transsexuals to persuade BOLI that the state law protecting the civil rights of disabled persons did not exclude transsexuals. BOLI had previously refused to accept complaints of discrimination based on transsexualism.

Portland's Dean Kotula fired the first shot in the struggle on January 20 of this year, when he attempted to file a complaint with BOLI alleging discrimination on the part of his employer. BOLI refused to accept Kotula's claim, citing lack of jurisdiction in matters involving transsexuals. With the assistance of transsexual activist Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan, Kotula contested BOLI's rejection of his claim, citing the American Psychiatric Association's recognition of Gender Identity Disorder as a mental illness, as well as Oregon state law which defines disability to include "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits life activities only as a result of the attitude of others towards such impairment.

BOLI subsequently accepted Kotula's claim for investigation, and O'Hartigan then filed her own claim on February 15, alleging that her employer discriminated against her by providing health insurance which specifically excluded "all services and supplies related to Gender Identity Disorder."

BOLI closed both accepted claims in late spring, citing the Americans with Disabilities Act's exclusion of transsexualism. O'Hartigan challenged BOLI's dependence upon the ADA for its policy in correspondence with Civil Rights Administrator Johnnie Bell. Bell was eventually reduced to citing "a Work sharing Agreement with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) that indicates the Division investigates cases in a similar manner as the EEOC investigates cases under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)."

BOLI subsequently reversed its contention that

(Continued on page 3)

(Transsexuals Protection in Oregon - Continued from page 2)

transsexuals are not protected by Oregon law after a series of meetings between BOLI officials and an Oregon attorney who is herself transsexual and wishes to remain anonymous. In a letter faxed to this attorney October 9, BOLI stated "we have reviewed our policy. We will accept, under the current Oregon law, complaints of discrimination based on transsexualism."

BOLI notified Kotula and O'Hartigan the following day that their complaints were being re-opened.

O'Hartigan's complaint, if successful, promises to be particularly important to transsexuals. If her employer, who fired her after her complaint was originally closed, is found to have discriminated against her in the provision of health insurance which excludes the diagnosis and treatment for transsexualism, Oregon employers will be held liable for discrimination solely on the basis of providing inequitable insurance coverage to transsexuals.

"Recent events in Oregon illustrate the need for transsexuals to retain the diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder in the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," O'Hartigan states. "Without a recognized medical diagnosis for transsexualism, transsexuals would not be provided legal protection in the state of Oregon."

For more information, contact:

Margaret Dierdre O'Hartigan PO Box 824
Portland, Oregon 97282 (503) 735-1184

Connections

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12206

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-COLOR ANALYSIS -SKIN CARE
-MAKEUP APPLICATION
518-664-2616

Random Thoughts #16

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

Coming in from the cold

Or.

"It's just a fantasy. Oh, oh, oh, oh!"

It was a holiday morning. I was home from my usual work, and studiously checking my email when the phone rang. On the other end of the phone was an obviously male voice asking for help.

"I got your name from the current copy of the Transgenderist and was wondering if you could tell me about where to get surgery. I only know of one place and I've heard stories about it being cheaper to go over seas."

"Who am I talking with", I asked and he replied. We talked for a moment about what my services were.

"Can you tell me where I should go to get surgery".

I'm always a little nervous when this is one of the first opening comments,

"Why don't you tell me something about yourself first.", I asked. He told me that he felt strange in his own body "you know - trapped?" for all his life starting from at the age of five. He had never been out in public, been seeing a therapist for over a year but, in spite of her requests, never saw her as the woman he said he felt himself to be.

"I think you are getting a little ahead of yourself", I said, "to be looking at surgery that is. You don't really know what it means to be a woman until you have actually tried to live as a woman, and from what you have said, you haven't done that".

"Jennifer, if I could take something when I went to bed tonight, and tomorrow, wake up as a woman, I'd take it in an instant!" How many times had I heard that? This was supposed to reassure me?

"Being a woman is a lot more than makeup and dress. It's not about "passing" either. If you haven't expressed what you feel as the real you to the world, how can you say that you are a woman? Have you ever considered what it really means to be a woman? How will you relate to other people, men, women, children, family, coworkers? At this time you are telling me that you have no experience in what it means to be a woman or not considered what is involved in changing sex. Forget the "magic pill", that's fantasy. Sexual reassignment involves confronting reality. It means having the courage to confront yourself. It means looking at the alternatives. Have you considered the middle ground? Could it be that you merely need to express a part of yourself which needs free expression? Could it be that this isn't an acceptable option because of assumptions programmed into you by our culture? If so is this option valid for you, can you be comfortable with it? If not, then you should be asking yourself why not? Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that you aren't a legitimate candidate for reassignment, but until you start to go out in public with your guard down, as yourself, you have no information to base the final outcome upon. Can you overcome the possibility of ridicule, can you hold your head up with pride, look someone in the eye and say,

"Yes, I am", if that is what it takes? The purpose of the real

(Continued on page 4)

(Random Thoughts - Continued from page 3)

life test is to help to determine the reality of your desires. It's designed to give you and your therapist a tool to answer the questions which would otherwise haunt you the rest of your life. Reassignment isn't right for everyone, there are even a few who say it isn't right for anyone. There is only one person who can answer the question of whether it is or is not right for you, and that's you. But try to keep an open mind while you are finding out, and use the tools that are given you. The answers are there, but there is no easy way to get those answers, and, certainly, no magic pill." (c) Copyright 1996 - Jennifer [REDACTED]

(Assault in Albany - Continued from page 1)

should not even be an issue. To all outward appearances, she looks to be just like any other woman. She is medically required to live full time as a woman --including the use of the women's restroom -- as part of her medically proscribed program. A program she has followed for three years.

Apparently - as is all too often the case -- knowledge of her transsexual nature, for this guard and perhaps the police as well, colored their judgment and concept of fair-play and the law. Perhaps their ignorance and preconceived notions of who they thought transsexuals are, contributed to the situation and made them collaborators in conspiracy. A conspiracy to deprive Chriss of her basic human rights, of her dignity and pride, and to expose her to physical abuse which no one should made to endure. All this from those to whom we look for protection. It's not Rodney King, but the principles are similar. In any case, with laws against harassment and assault, someone should be coming forward to speak for her, who will? *(The identity of the woman who was assaulted has been protected for her anonymity - Chriss is not her real name)* (c) 1996 Albany Gender Project - Jennifer [REDACTED]

The Albany Gender Project is an education / information project and an advocate for rights for transgendered people. For more information email Albgender@aol.com or call (518) 432-7092

COMING OUT

By Gianna Eveling Israel copyright, 1993

When we think of communications many thoughts may come to mind, conversing by telephone, chatting through modems, speaking to family and friends or even our own gender leaders educating a group of budding psychologists. As individuals experiencing various levels of gender issues and self awareness, we often find ourselves becoming more in touch with new feelings, experiences and needs. Sharing these discoveries is important providing pathway for enriching ourselves, our relationships, and our communication skills.

"Coming-Out" or disclosing, particularly in pre-established relationships can be intimidating. While we normally feel comfortable speaking about daily needs and occurrences it is easy to overlook communications as an important tool cementing relationships together. Concurrently, a common thought pattern within a pre-established relationship, is the unrealized assumption that those individuals "know what our needs are," hence making difficulty rise when revealing new material. With focus being aimed directly at us, we may draw on conclusionary fears, "I may be rejected," or "I feel so ashamed, how can I expect their respect." Be careful to not allow these fears or pre-judgments to become self-fulfilling.

With our communications skills unaccustomed to sharing such intimate, self-revealing information, viewing coming-out as risky is certainly appropriate.

Allow caution to speak sensibly by evaluating disclosure appropriateness. One fundamental question I encourage clients to ask in this evaluation process is, "Will disclosing my transgendered status enhance the quality of the relationship?" If the answer is no, you need to seriously reflect disclosure relevancy.

An important benefit you can derive from talking about your needs, firsthand with your counselor or therapist, is the opportunity to build on disclosure and communication skills. Also a professional specializing in gender issues will be able assist you in finding the right definitions to describe the phenomena and needs you are and will possibly be experiencing. Here is a primer to start with:

Transgendered - an umbrella term encompassing

one or more individuals dealing with transsexual, transvestite, transgenderist or androgyne issues.

Transsexual - an individual who transitions in progressive stages, interpersonally, physically and socially, aimed at living as a member of the opposite sex full-time. Wishes genital reassignment in addition to hormones and other surgical and cosmetic procedures.

Transvestite or Crossdresser- an individual who crossdresses on occasion as an opportunity to explore opposite gendered experiences. Wishes to retain original gender role and social position.

Transgenderist - individual who wishes to crosslive part to full-time. Feeling most comfortable in the medium ground between a transsexual and transvestite. Not interested in genital reassignment but commonly interested in hormones or other cosmetic or surgical procedures.

Androgyne - an individual who wishes to take on the characteristics of "either" or "neither" gender part or usually full-time. Rarely interested in genital reassignment. Occasionally interested in castration, hormones or cosmetic surgical procedures. Sexual Identity or Orientation - indicates to whom we are attracted, whether it be the same, opposite or both genders.

Gender Identity- basically indicates how we feel inside and what our presentation is to the world.

Biological Gender - indicates our genital sex at birth

With these definitions in hand, here are some effective communications and self-disclosure strategies:

PREPARE FOR COMMUNICATING

Much like going to a business meeting, prepare a list of items you wish to discuss. Think about the list several days, talk with a knowledgeable friend or counselor about its contents. -Dan, our imaginary transgendered person has recently arrived on the fact that he's transgendered and is about to tell his wife, Karen, about his issues. Dan first spoke with his counselor about his feelings, strategized a communication plan and finally has defined for himself a level of confidentiality to request from Karen.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Dan asked Karen if they could spend an hour together after dinner because he needed her support on some personal issues.

VALIDATING THE RELATIONSHIP

An important door opener in successful communication! It reaffirms the relationship and its strengths exist. Dan stated, "Karen I want you to know I've drawn a great deal of happiness from our eight years of being together. What I have to share is very personal and I feel I can trust sharing it with you. Dan also sought a confidentiality agreement at this time.

RELIEVE STRESS BY REVEALING

Just about now our imaginary character is starting to sweat a little. Like many great communicators, he found that by telling Karen he was feeling a little nervous he was able to kindle her empathy. Feeling a little more comfortable he can now move on...

EFFECTIVELY SHARE THE FACTS

"Karen, after several months of confusion and intense soul-searching I have come to realize that I am a transgendered individual." There Dan did it! He then continued to share information he knew which related to his being transgendered... He also talked about his experiences, needs, and need for her continued love and empathy.

AFFIRMING THE OTHER PERSON'S NEEDS, FEELINGS, AND BELIEFS

Dan patiently sat through Karen's initial confusion that "she was the cause of his issues," moving on to reassure her that she was a loving, faithful and feminine companion. He answered her questions as best he could. Karen wanted to know if crossdressing in front of their children was harmful, Dan wasn't sure, he referred that

(Continued on page 6)

(Coming Out Continued from page 5)

question to a future discussion until after he saw his counselor. It is important to remember the other person may have beliefs and needs which vary from your own - The best of friendships are built on acknowledging this fact and on keeping communication lines open!

SEALING THE COMMUNICATION

It is important for any good communication to have a proper closing. Dan thanked Karen for taking time out for listening and for her empathy. He also reminded her that he valued his relationship with her as irreplaceable, then giving her a warm hug.

Communicating individual needs such as self-disclosing gender and sexuality issues won't always be this easy. However you have just reviewed some powerful communication tools that help. With practice you will find an increased sense of empowerment and satisfaction. Remember that after sharing something so revealing, "Coming-Out," you well deserve spending some time alone to positively reflect on your personal success! Reward yourself in a special way!

GIANNA E. ISRAEL provides nationwide telephone consultation, individual & relationship counseling, evaluations and referrals. She is principal author of The Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care, writes Transgender Tapestry's "Ask Gianna" column; is an AEGIS board member and HBIQDA member. She can be contacted at (415) 558-8058, at P.O. Box 424447 San Francisco, CA 94142, or via e-mail at :gianna@wco.com">Gianna@wco.com

What Sex Am I ?

will repeat on Discovery Channel December 22 at 9pm and 1am Eastern and Pacific and again December 29 at 4pm Eastern and Pacific time. The program is available for purchase through Joseph Ferry Productions at (212)877-7700.

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Making television history, **RuPaul** became the first openly gay African-American drag queen to host her own ongoing national talk show. **The RuPaul Show** premiered on VH-1 October 12. Her first featured guest was trans-fabulous Chicago Bulls star **Dennis Rodman**, who gave Ru a big kiss to the delight of the audience. The two went on to discuss Rodman's own show on MTV as well as youth and sexuality. RuPaul's style is very natural and comfortable, and her presence on the airwaves is both positive and entertaining. Let VH-1 know that entertaining and progressive programming like **The RuPaul Show** not only breaks new ground, it's also a lot of fun. Contact: John Sykes, President, VH-1, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036; FAX 212-258-7955; e-mail vh1@here.viacom.com

EARS WANTED!



Transgendered? Transgendered friends?

Have you heard about:

- > abuse by public officials?
- > discrimination?
- > public harassment?
- > sexual harassment?
- > assault or rape?
- > remaining silent bothering you?
- > no help from conventional sources?

Network with us: (518) 432-7092

E-mail: AlbGender@aol.com

Mail: P.O. Box 6307

Albany, NY 12206

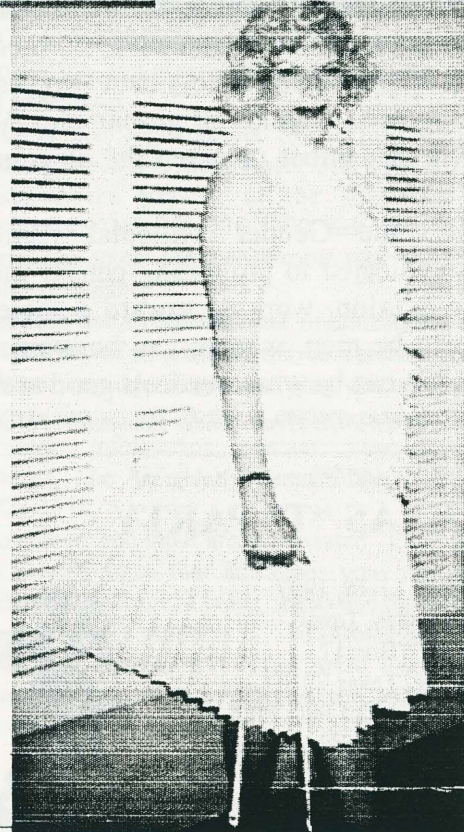
ALBANY GENDER PROJECT
"Building respect - one person at a time"



Halloween '96



Clockwise from top left:
Gina as Moongirl,
Callan,
AlbanyBarb,
Rose, and Tina



GENDERMAC ANNOUNCES WASHINGTON SIT-IN

Takes "Movement Politics" to a New Level

Trixie Dickens, Executive Director of the Gender Millennial Action Coalition, today announced plans for a massive demonstration in Washington, DC in the spring of 1997. "Transgendered people have been treated like crap by our government for too long. We aren't going to stand for it any more, and we're going to Washington to raise a big stink! On May 5th, 1997, we are inviting all transgendered people to 'take a dump for freedom' at our demonstration near the Capitol. This date coincides with a major lobbying event planned by another TG organization, so we expect a lot of participation. The exact site has yet to be determined; finding space for 50 to 100 portable toilets takes considerable negotiation."

Ms. Dickens, wearing her trademark heliotrope tights and mauve sweatshirt with the neck cut out, went on, "Congress has never seen this aspect of the transgender movement. They simply aren't aware of its depth, and we're going to educate them. As a souvenir of this landmark event, we will be distributing small packets of refried beans to each and every Member of Congress. Members with children or grandchildren less than two years old will also receive a packet of guacamole. We hope they will remember us when the chips are down."

GenderMAC, the Gender Millennial Action Coalition, is dedicated to promoting gender luck and gender evolution, working toward a society where men can be men, women can be women, and the rest of us can be whatever feels good at the moment.

From AOL's Transgender Community Forum

The World Famous 9th Annual TEXAS "T" PARTY

March 11-16, 1997
in Dallas, Texas!
P.O. Box 17
Bulverde, Texas 78163
Phone or Fax: 210-980-7788
e-mail TX T Party@aol.com
Please include S.A.S.E.



Holiday Giving

by Winnie

This is the season for goodwill and giving - toys for children, presents for family and friends. Many charitable, educational and research organizations hope to catch donors in the spirit of generosity by sending out appeals at this time of year. Most are 501(c)3 tax-exempt, and donations to them qualify for tax deductions. The transgender community has a few such educational organizations, such as IFGE, ICTLEP, AEGIS and Renaissance. But there is a significant difference. Many people give to United Way, veterans groups and colleges. People of all denominations give to charities run by religious groups, such as the Salvation Army and City Mission. People who don't have cancer give to the Cancer Society, people with strong hearts give to the Heart Association. But how many non-transgendered people, do you suppose, give to our transgender organizations?

I am suggesting that all of you give serious consideration to making a substantial contribution to one or more of our TG charities. They are run by a handful of dedicated individuals with little personal recompense. Unlike many other charities, very little is spent on fund-raising. Directly or indirectly, I am sure that their educational efforts have benefitted most of us - in publishing magazines aiding self-understanding, in educating the general public to accept us, in convincing psychiatrists that we are not sick, in fighting intolerance and discrimination, in running conventions that we can enjoy. You have benefitted - now is the time to pay back and help further our cause.

As a supporter of IFGE from its inception and a current board member, I am rather partial to this group, which is the largest. At this time, IFGE is having financial difficulties and needs your help. The transgender community needs IFGE, and its failure would be a serious setback; someone would have to invent an organization to replace it. If you would like something in return for your contribution, become a member or upgrade your present membership; at least, buy a book from

their catalog.

The addresses of IFGE and some other organizations are given below; checks can be made out to the initials. Please include a note to indicate that you are responding to this appeal in *The Transgenderist*. Your contribution may be tax-deductible on Schedule A. Note that TGIC does not have 501(c)3 status and we are not seeking donations to our club; our expenses are covered by membership dues on a break-even, non-profit basis. However, if you wish to make an anonymous donation to another group, we will accept your cash, MO or check and forward the amount to whichever group you designate. Thank you

International Foundation for Gender Education

IFGE

PO Box 229

Waltham, MA 02254-0229

International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy

ICTLEP

PO Box 35477

Houston, TX 77235-5477

American Educational Gender Information Service

AEGIS

PO Box 33724

Decatur, GA 30033-0724

Renaissance Education Association

987 Old Eagle School Rd., #719

Wayne, PA 19087

Transgenderist Independence Club

PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs. 8-10 PM)

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

TGIC Officers

President Winnie [REDACTED]

Vice President Joan [REDACTED]

Secretary Joyce [REDACTED]

Treasurer Winnie [REDACTED]

Newsletter Editor Gina [REDACTED]

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

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Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. For best consideration articles should be on 3 1/2 disk or e mailed to: Jeeena@AOL.COM.

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

TRUE SPIRIT CONFERENCE

If you identify as a f2m, mtm, transman, butch, tomboy, masculine female, drag king, or crossdresser, or are you a significant other, friend, family member, or ally (soffa) this conference is for you.

All gender variant people categorized at birth as female but feel that is not a complete description of their total selves are welcome to come and join others in exploring our true spirit within.

Keynote speaker: Leslie Feinberg author of *Transgender Warriors* and *Stone Butch Blues*. Feinberg came of age during the 1960s as a young drag king in the factories and gay bars of Buffalo, New York. Since then s/he has been a grass roots activist, journalist, and lecturer on behalf of the lesbian/gay/bi and transgender movements.

Other authors will include Gary Bowen, author of the Stoker Finalist novel, *Diary of a Vampire*; Cecilia Tan, editor of *Genderflex*; and others. The two day conference will feature speeches, presentations, workshops, panels, informal caucuses, a dance with live music by transgendered musicians, a pool party, and an exhibit hall with vendors and displays.

The Native American theme addresses the Spirit which moves within each of us, granting us visions of who we are and describing our complete essence. We will attempt to explore the manifestation of that essence in the material world as completely as we are able.

The Conference will take place February 22 - 23, 1997, at the Best Western Hotel in Laurel, Maryland (near Washington DC). Conference registrations are \$15.00 before January 1, 1997, and \$25.00 after. Deaf intepretation, child care, scholarships, and other services are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Conference registrations to: True Spirit Conference Registrations, 26-A Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1759. Make checks payable to the American Boyz. Hotel reservations at: 301-776-5300 ask for the True Spirit Conference to get the special room rate: \$65.00 for single or double occupancy.

Vendors and/or educational organizations with items or information of interest to the conference membership are welcome to advertise in the program book and/or to rent tables in the exhibit. Prepaid, camera-ready copy only, please. For more information, contact: True Spirit Conference Vendors, The American Boyz, POBox 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118

Volunteers and input are appreciated. Pitch in to help make this a conference that addresses your needs. Liasons are available for people of color, soffas and differently-abled. The general contact Address is: transman@netgis.com; the paper mail address is: True Spirit Conference, c/o The American Boyz, POBox 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118.

CALENDAR AND EVENTS

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:

PO Box 229

Waltham, MA 02154-0229

The I.F.G.E. has now started, in co-operation with D B Associates, the publishing of a monthly version of Transgender Tapestry to be placed FREE on the internet. You can find this new version of the community's largest publication at: <http://www.tiac.net/users/dba/ifge/ifge.htm>

This magazine will be updated every month and will also shortly carry the I.F.G.E.'s entire line of books and advertisers.

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.

TGIC-On-line

All transgendered people are invited to join TGIC On-Line, a very informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC) an over 30 year old organization for TG people. TGIC meets every Thursday night at a private club room in Albany, and then many go out to several of the area clubs. 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

You will receive an automated acknowledgement (Journal) of your request, which must be approved with the list moderator.

TGIC MEETINGS

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TGIC MEETINGS

December 5 (S) Yuletide Mammaries: A Dolly Parton Christmas

December 12 (NS) **HOLIDAY PARTY** Cheese Balls, Sleaze Balls: Holiday Party Time.

December 26(NS) (ex-)Changing Your Life: Mall Rats Live!

(S= Smoking, (NS = No Smoking Meeting - 2nd & 4th Thurs.)

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

February 22,23, 1997- True Spirt Conference, Washington, DC See article on page 9 for further information

March 11-16, 1997 - Texas T Party, P.O. Box 17 Bulverde, Texas 78163 (210) 980-7788 e-mail: TXTPARTY@AOL.COM

April 15-20, 1997 - California Unity -IFGE/CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' CONVENTION, LONG BEACH, CA

June 19-22-1997- Second International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues- King of Prussia, PA. Guest Speaker: Kate Bornstein. Contact JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D., P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 Phone: 610-640-9449

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess holds monthly Saturday meetings at a motel in Schenectady.

OBITUARIES

Connie Taylor - Joan Haviland has informed us that Connie Taylor of Jamestown, NY passed away in September. Connie was a member of the old Albany TVIC and came with wife Jeanette to a number of Wilma's parties in the 1970s. Unfortunately, the infirmities of old age kept them close to home in recent years. Renowned for her love of high heels, Connie maintained an active correspondence with many friends throughout the country. Her picture appears on page D28 of Transgender Tapestry #76, just below Winnie's. We will miss her.

Suzanne B. Wallace - As reported in the connecticutView of March, 1996, Suzanne Wallace died on October 30, 1995 of a massive heart attack. Suzanne was a founder and leader of the old Hartford TVIC in the 1970s, one of the first groups to rent their own apartment, supported by a key club. A talented engineer, she successfully transitioned on the job and won a legal fight for visitation with her children. In later years, she disengaged from transgender affairs to live as a woman. Those who knew her will be shocked and saddened by her premature demise.