

THE TRANSGENDERIST

SEPTEMBER 1994

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]

When the thoroughbreds depart and Saratoga once again becomes a sleepy little town, you know Summer is almost over. I went to the track on August 21, a drizzly, sloppy day and bet \$5 on each of 10 races. Came out with \$50.50, won just enough to tip the bathroom attendant. But better than last year.

DINNER PARTY

The first dinner party of the new Fall season is set for *September 10* at 8 pm, and we will again plan to make reservations at the *Northway Inn*. I hope we will get a large turn-out to push these parties off to a good start. Please sign up at the club room or call Joan by Thursday, September 8. *Leave your number* so we can call to confirm whether "go" or "no" and verify the location.

Still, no one has volunteered to plan any special events for the Fall. I hope someone will offer to do something soon. *To promote an event for November in our newsletter, essential details must be nailed-down by September 22.*

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Jackie brought to our attention that there is an article of interest in the September, 1994 issue of *Harper's Bazaar* on page 410: "*A Sex-Change Odyssey*". This is the story of the on-the-job F-to-M transition of a San Francisco police officer, Stephanie / Stephan Thorne. A noteworthy observation (not the first) is the power of hormones to change the mind as well as the body. So beware, anyone contemplating such tinkering! Be *sure* you *want* to change!

THOU SHALT NOT CROSS DRESS

- Winnie [REDACTED]

I spotted an article in the *Times-Union* on August 25, page B-2. The NY State Division of Parole has issued a set of guidelines to monitor rapists and child molesters. Sections of the guidelines resemble a sort of Ten Commandments for those tempted by sexual deviation. At the top of the list of "special conditions", at least according to the reporter, is: "I shall not cross dress or participate in sexual fetishes."

There were no statistics quoted to justify this ranking of cross-dressing as the #1 deviation. In the many reports of actual sex crimes I have read, I have never seen cross-dressing by the perpetrator mentioned as a factor, unless pulling a stocking over one's head is construed to be such. I suppose there may be instances where someone, taking their cue from the Big Bad Wolf, may have dressed up to allay fears and get close to their victim. But this is not someone who *likes* to cross dress, and denial of this privilege would be the least restrictive condition of parole.

It seems that the authorities and media reporters cannot get it through their thick skulls that guys who *like* to cross dress *like* women and may want to *be* women, at least part time, or want to have fun with the parody in the case of drag queens. Who on Earth would want to dress up as someone they violently hated? Rape is a crime of violence against women, as the feminists keep telling us.

The utter fiction of sex-crazed cross-dressers has been promulgated by too many Hollywood "slasher" movies, like "Psycho", "Dressed to Kill" and "Silence of the Lambs". This cruel prejudice against cross-dressers perpetuates a myth and makes it difficult for us to gain acceptance from our wives, girlfriends, and family. As well as from ourselves.

There is only one actual case I can recall that even remotely resembles these horror tales. But even more chilling because of the sheer tragedy of the incident, which I believe can be laid squarely at the feet of homosexual / transgender prejudice and the terror of discovery this causes.

It happened in West Germany sometime between the Summers of 1945 and 1950. I was living in England during this time, and spotted the story in a few paragraphs on the inside pages of the *Daily Telegraph*. Must have been a small town, because I didn't recognize it as one of the places the Allies had bombed, which is how I learned my German geography. As best as I can remember after almost 50 years, the gist was as follows:

The body of a young woman was discovered behind some bushes. Stark naked. The medical examiner was surprised. She had *not* been raped. Just a clean, neat strangulation. The police caught a suspect, a young man. Searched his room and found her clothes stashed away. Arrested him and obtained a confession. They were astonished - the only motive seemed to be the theft of her clothes. Not a sex crime. Just an ordinary murder to cover up petty robbery.

This has stuck in my mind for all these years because I was then a teen-ager, and racking my brains trying to figure out some way of laying my hands on women's clothes without revealing my desires. I scanned the newspapers for weeks thereafter, searching for a follow-up. But none appeared.

Think about it, next time you say "I'd kill for that dress."

LETTER TO EDITOR - Brittany

Dear TGIC:

You have shown nothing but good faith and honesty with me. I guess I have been dragging my feet about joining and that's not fair to you.

I have been a TV since I can remember and I will always be: it's a good and enjoyable part of me that I would never give up. I have probably been slow in joining mostly because it's almost impossible to get out during the week, so I probably wouldn't be able to attend any meetings. But the desperation and loneliness of not sharing or being able to share this is overwhelming at times, so maybe I can meet someone I can talk to, or correspond with every now and then, and talk about what we all love about ourselves.

.....

The reason I am writing is, I would like some information if possible. I have decided I have to tell my wife of this, and I have to do it in an intelligent way. I have considered the pros and cons. The bottom line is, they are both important to me in their own way. I really can't or don't want to live if I can't have both. We are very close and have a solid relationship. We don't socialize because we are both former drinkers who don't drink anymore. We are on our second marriage and have been together about 8 years.

I have told her that there is something I want to talk to her about, to lessen the shock. She is already playing the guessing game. So far, it's been mass murderer, want to start drinking again. She has experience in security and has a reputation for not missing anything. Her mind will be working overtime today and she very well might start to add 2 and 2, such as the chiffon skirt that came in the mail a while back, or the lipstick she found that wasn't hers. When we reach this point I know her main concerns are "am I gay?" or "am I headed for the operation?".

I have to assure her that I am a heterosexual CD and that she is very important to me, and it's not a matter of me not loving her. I really want to make all the right moves and not do anything stupid. In the March issue you mentioned the LCL Chapter of Tri-Ess that meets in Schenectady and that they are more oriented for heterosexual couples. I really want my act together as much as possible. I have read all I can. I don't want to have it be a shock to her. I would also like to have some control if possible.

Also, in your June issue you had an article by Barbara Jean Jasen which was extremely helpful and interesting. I am so scared and nervous that I don't know what will happen or what I will do if the outcome is bad. I can't go on like this, not sharing and hiding, and I can't be content on dressing for a couple of hours every two or three months. Life is too short for both counts, which mean more than anything to me.

Well, thanks for your help and I hope it's not too much trouble.

Yours truly, Brittany

.....
Dear Brittany:

Your predicament is very common among crossdressers, and shared by other members of TGIC. I am now separated from my wife (for other reasons) and never told her, so

I can't advise you from personal experience. However, I have talked to others and read extensively; the consensus is that the wife should be told before marriage. But after 8 years, that advice won't do you any good!

The next best thing is to tell her about your cross-gender feelings and dressing honestly and factually, without showing any guilt or shame (which you may have felt formerly). Have some accurate written information handy, and persuade her to read it before jumping to the wrong conclusions and going off the deep end. If she's angry and wonders why you didn't tell her sooner, plead fear that her reaction might be adverse - it's a Catch 22 situation. Then, when she's ready, it would be helpful to meet and talk with other couples. If you can get to one of the crossdressing "conventions", there are usually special sessions for couples, or wives alone.

There are two good books by Peggy Rudd, the wife of a crossdresser: *My Husband Wears My Clothes** and *Crossdressing With Dignity*. Also, there is *The Transvestite and his Wife** by Virginia Prince and *Coping with Crossdressing* by JoAnn Roberts, who are crossdressers. All are available from IFGE, and two* can be borrowed from the TGIC library.

For information on the LCL Chapter of Tri-Ess, write to:

Sharon Stuart
PO Box 870
Oneonta, NY 13820

Tri-Ess also has a quarterly newsletter for wives, *The Sweetheart Connection*, available @ \$12 yearly from:

Linda Peacock
PO Box 24031
Little Rock, AR 72221

Well, I hope this helps you, and do let us know how your relationship works out. There was a couples group in TGIC several years ago, but it is now inactive due to lack of someone willing to organize meetings - do any of you reading this want to take the initiative and get things moving again?

Yours truly, Winnie

THANKS TO STONEWALL 25 COMMITTEE

As a transgendered person, I would like to take an opportunity to thank the organizers and volunteers who created and executed the local events that honored the 25 years of pride that has occurred since Stonewall. The events, ranging from issues forms, to outings in the park, to moving musical performances, gave a chance for a wide range of people to show a wide range of themselves. This celebration of both our diversity and our essential humanity reminds all of us of the enormous potential that every human holds, and that can benefit the world if they are free to express it.

The local Stonewall events show us again that our individual creativity, brilliance and love are inseparable from our orientation or gender identity, and that denying any part of ourselves, or our community, is denying all of us. We need new ideas and energy to make the transition to a new millennium, empowering all people.

The local Stonewall 25 people understand this, and gave of themselves, time and money, some of them going into debt to finance the events, to make this month-long celebration happen. They did it for themselves, and for their community, straight, gay, bi or transgendered. We must see the beauty in ourselves and in each other.

I personally felt the affection and caring of many people, and for that I am grateful. I am also grateful that I was also able to contribute part of myself to others during this time. I encourage everyone to continue to support the Stonewall 25 group so they may pay their debts, and to thank them for the moments of sharing and dignity they brought to us this June.

Thank you all. Your efforts brought a little more light to shine in this area, and it shines on, and for, all of us.

Callan [REDACTED], 23 June, 1994

WHAT IS A WOMAN? - Jackie

About 1980, a few years after my gender reassignment surgery, I was going to Nancy Bernstein Sklar, Ph.D. for voice therapy and a complete feminization, including lessons in how to serve tea. She was also an unlicensed psychotherapist and one of the best I ever had. I was struggling with my identity as a woman. I wanted to know whether I was really, really a woman

Dr. Sklar said to me

"Jackie, what is a woman?"

"Well," I thought, "a woman is a person with a vagina and breasts."

My therapist threw her notebook down in absolute disgust and announced,

"Jackie, I have a homework assignment for you. Get a note pad and clipboard and pretend you're taking a survey for your thesis, if you like. Ask ten women the question "What is a woman?"

So I did. In Grand Central Station, New York.

Typical answers were:

"A woman is lovely, soft and caring."

"A woman is a person who will get married and raise children."

"A woman is incomplete without a man."

But not one woman said:

"A woman is a person with a vagina and breasts."

Today I believe I am a woman simply because I choose to believe I am a woman and I feel good about that and myself.

Now back to my wife and her non-recognition of my thoughts and feelings. It's the very same thing. I reacted with flat out rage. Here on paper, after having gone through it, the psychology of it looks so cut and dried. Boy, did I go through Hell learning this! Remember my discussing a paragraph back how blind you are going through it?

Recently, reading a copy of Robert Subby's "Healing The Family Within" (which I highly recommend), I came across the statement that the ultimate message the co-dependent acts out and lives out is "Don't be", (Don't be yourself, most certainly don't be assertive, don't examine your motives). This is denial and it is the bedrock of co-dependency. I've figured out most of Carole's reason for being the way she is, but that's not for me to say here. She rejects the reality of herself so I guess she has the right to reject the reality of others. She certainly rejected me! She is in absolute screaming, granite wall denial! Her life is a mess because she is a mess.

I stuck out the marriage because I took the vows seriously, still having a sense of commitment to God. I have to say that the religious trip and the marriage have quite seriously disturbed my ideas of what God is about personally in my life. Lots of lies have gone down the drain.

We did go to marriage counseling, one counsellor after another. These were county assisted programs. We didn't figure we could afford a \$100 an hour therapist. They all focused on ME trying to find out what MY problem was because I was going through extreme anger and rage. One therapist saw the picture right away and realized Carole was driving me nuts. She was far too brutally confrontive to have any effect on Carole. We went through five therapists because they came and went, not us. The last one I gave up on because he just didn't have any answers. I do not recommend

county assisted programs. You must shop for therapy. There's a lotta jerks out there with diplomas and nothing else.

Just before leaving Carole for good, and before making up my mind to do that, I saw the lady who helped me years back, the same one who straightened me out with regard to my mother. In one session, I was describing things and she interrupted me. "Tom, what I hear you telling me is Carole is driving you nuts". ZING!! Suddenly I'm back on course with understanding of what the problem is. Carole is very, very intelligent, and I was convinced for a few years that it was all on my shoulders, and what a load it was! It was Carole's problem all along. My reactions, and only that, were my problem. I compulsively left again and again until I left for good. I now understand that to be inevitable. No healing would occur with her.

Concerning my transvestism and Carole, I told her about it when we got serious together, and it was no big deal with her. She even wanted to explore it with me in our sex life, but as I said, I was under this religious conviction not to crossdress.

In September 1991, I left Carole for good. I had been compulsively leaving for the past couple of years. I've learned that compulsion is very subtle, but still an inevitable driving force. Nobody holds a gun to your head, and nobody is taking over your arms, or legs, or your brain, but resist and resist, and you're gonna do it anyway. That's compulsion. Sometimes it's identified only through 20-20 hindsight.

I got a room in Schenectady. After a couple of months by myself, my head cleared, and as I've said, I began to see how Carole's behavior fits into the pattern of a co-dependent in deep denial. The most significant lesson I've learned from the marriage so far is to see clearly what a horrible, serious debilitating crippler denial is.

There is another extraordinary syndrome I want to discuss. During my religious trip, I had the "Night Terrors". There was a different reaction to the deep emotional stress of my marriage. I had experienced a genuine "Jekyll and Hyde" phenomenon. This was so real to me, the only thing missing was the potion. In the "Hyde" state, my whole mindset changed, along with my countenance and body language. It was a truly schizoid experience. This was an approximately monthly occurrence for five of the six years of my marriage. It took the first year for it to build up. I very rarely was able to see it coming. Most of the time, I would be sticking it out. Then I would change, and getting away was the only thing to do and all else mattered not. Any opposition to this ENRAGED me. I am just about dead certain this happens to a lot of other guys enmeshed in domestic violence situations. Studies of domestic violence situations have shown cyclical violence episodes. I attended night class domestic violence therapy courses during my marriage. It did little good because it never addressed the real problem.

Another mechanism I've learned about through personal experience is the self image. At various times I have been given nicknames that stuck to me for prolonged periods. Two of the best examples were my college days and my hippie days. The college was only two years, being a community college. The hippie thing lasted years, and years, some of that still in existence today in certain places among certain people. My character and personality seem to flourish much more readily under an assumed name when used constantly instead of my given name. It's as if my given name, Tom, is irrevocably associated with a suppressed, inferior self image, and taking another frees me from that stigma. Guess what's happening with Tina these days, she's flourishing. Tom isn't doing so bad either now that piece of psychology is unearthed.

I also mentioned before that compulsion to dress up was strongest after a prolonged period of misery. The "alter ego" of the

whole persona of the transvestite certainly provides an escape mechanism out of a battered self image.

So how goes it now? I've been out of the closet as Tina for about two years now. I've done stuff that I've fancied all my life, and for many years figured that I would never really do that. Not just going shopping and passing, but cultivating places where I go repeatedly as a woman, and I am accepted with no problem. It's a blast and a high. Do I get read? Yes, on occasion. My sense of who and what I am is healthier and stronger than ever before, so being read is no big thing at all.

Of course, I am still going through changes, and there are more changes to come. But now there are more pleasant changes than bad ones. I have even received healing through dreams. A while ago, in a dream the message came through to me "That farm is gone, isn't it. It's not there, it's gone. I can't go back, I sold it and the new owner tore the old house down and built his own place. It's gone and there's no going back." I've been dreaming of being back on the farm two or three times a week for God knows how long at this point. Finally the message got to my subconscious where the dream stuff comes from. Finally, my subconscious has gone from denial to acceptance of that loss. Dreams can be a tool of healing. I am going to wrap this all up with a little synopsis out of the journal I keep as, and for Tina.

(To be concluded next month)



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Götterdämmerung

The Smallbany Experience

By your pal, Miss Take

Hello, and welcome, all you denizens of the underworld we call Smallbany. It's time for another journey past the light and into the heart of decay – and we're not simply talking about going to the porn bookstore in Troy with Babs! Let's whip around the Capital District and see what the bad news is.

Bars

According to the Capital District Lesbian & Gay Community Center, the (Sm)Albany area has the second highest population of gay people in NYS, right after NYC and Rochester. At least that's what they said promoting the Pride Picnic. If you missed it, the Empire State Pride Agenda is having a big blowout at Heberts catering on September 19. Go and support them, and ask the totally hot Sherri [REDACTED] why they don't follow ICTLEP's suggestion and add gender to the anti-discrimination bill they can't get through the Senate.

Third biggest. Great, but then why can we only support three gay nightspots?

There is the classic *Waterworks*, the local male cruise bar. Seven nights a week for the downstairs neighborhood bar, while the upstairs disco goes from Thursday thru Sunday. Second Saturday's are a hoot, with Stars Motorcycle Club sponsoring a leather nite. You can wear that cute little bustier and pouch you bought at *Savage Gifts*, right next door.

Big fun at the *Waterworks* comes when they book a traveling drag performer in. Jimmy James has been in attendance, as well as the wonderful *Roxy*, who brought a whole cast of characters in her suitcase, on her way out to a big P-Town engagement.

The lovely TS Christine (who sold her house and is planning on SRS soon) was a star of the show sitting on the railing. What a glamourpuss! *Roxy* played it for big, big laughs.

Look out for the Doctor, Mr. Tommy Scharf, his Karaoke machine and his wheel of specials on Thursday nights. Get a few belts, then belt one out yourself!

Power Company is the new player, a NYC dance bar with a great DJ that can pump on weekends. They had a big Madonna Mania event, with the *Beyond Blonde Ambition* show, featuring Raphael as Madonna and some dancing that would stir up anyone's juices

The big winner in the Madonna look alike contest? TS Christine in a bare midriff and slit bell bottoms. Hot Hot Hot!

T dance, 6-12 on Sunday for \$7 with all you care to drink and plenty of dance music. Weeknights, *Power Company* keeps the lights on with a poundin' piano bar after 9PM, with plenty of entertainment. Free parking on the lot on the corner in the evenings.

And *Club Ozz* is out of the closet, our old *Deceptions* in fierce new drag. Upstairs is more clearly a dance club, with fewer seats and tables, along with new lights and an enhanced sound system. Its all painted & pretty now, in burgundy with sponge marks and the nouveau hip alka-seltzer towers everybody is talking about. Opening night was a hoot, with even the legendary Barbara making a (always) stunning appearance. She refused to comment on the rumors that she is not working in *To Wang Foo*, *Thanks For Everything*, *Julie Neumar*, the movie being shot in NYC with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo as three drag queens because she was just too sexy. "My lips are sealed," she is quoted as saying. Oh, those casting couches. BTW, look for RuPaul's cameo in *Woo Fong*.

Rumor in the little girls room is that downstairs will be opening soon, with pool tables and games, a cozy retreat, designed with the womyn in mind. Dave DeSisto's hot oldies nights are back, with the next one on September 10 from 6-10, with the promise of fun music, reduced drink prices and lots of gals. You should have seen TS Christine in her turquoise mini and bra top under matching jacket! Girl, ain't nobody got legs that long!

T dance is Sunday from 7-10, where \$7 to smiling Evelyn at the door will get you open bar on well drinks and domestic beer. Wednesday is country line dancing. Thursdays from 8-11 is Bev & Trish's Karaoke Sweats, with 2-4-1 drinks all night. Come watch Billie do *Purple Rain*, outsinging [The Artist Formerly Known As Prince], or, as Madonna called him, the dwarf dipped in pubic hair.

Of course, there are a couple of old standbys in Schenectady. *Clinton Street Pub* and *Blythewood* are still keeping the Electric City crowd lit up. We'll stop by and tell some stories from there in a future *Götterdämmerung*.

Films

There are a couple of hot flicks on the must see list.

Just Like A Woman stars Julie Walters and is the story of an older woman who has an affair with a man and finds out he's a TV, so she helps him come out. Hollywood theatrics, but some poignant moments according to our spies in L.A. who have seen the picture which is now in limited release.

The big hooting noise comes from *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, an Aussie flick about three drag queens on a cross country tour, that "will change you, the way you look at life, and most importantly, the way that you dress." It has opened to great reviews and a lot of laughs.

Terence Stamp plays Bernadette, a TS who shepherds her charges through the outback, including performances to wild disco by campfire for a group of aborigines. Stamp researched the character well, and brings depth to the movie.

When will these films hit Smallbany? Your guess is as good as mine!

Media Alert

Our own Julie [REDACTED], a pre-op TS, who was denied custody of her daughter purely because of her gender dysphoria, is scheduled to appear on *Sally*. Even though Julie's ex was seen to need help, and not to be a good choice for guardian, the psychologists report said that gender dysphoria alone was enough reason to deny custody. In fact, Julie was ordered only to visit wearing boy clothes.

This is all based on the discounted theory that the only mark of a gender shift is a three hour surgical procedure on the genitals. We know, however that sex is between your legs, and gender is between your ears, and Julie used to be gender dysphoric. Now, living as a woman, she's fine. Her gender is correct, even though her "cultural genitals" (Kessler/McKenna *Gender, An Endomeriological Approach*) don't match what's in her panties, but as reporters found out — the public says "Who cares?"

Julie is fighting hard, but this takes money and time. She has her book in the computer, and is getting lots of understanding around her work, especially after people understand her journey by reading her story.

If you want to support Julie, either with a letter or some cash, drop it off to Winnie at TGIC. We have to take care of each other, else who will, eh honey?

Reading Material

The August 23 *Advocate* magazine is chocablock with articles about the transgendered. Ru Paul is interviewed, and there is an story about Leslie Perez, one of the TG activists in Houston. Those Texans know how to change!

The most interesting article is titled *For the Transgendered, 1994 is 1969*, a reference to the Stonewall riots that gave birth to the modern gay liberation movement, and that were remembered in July. (The Capital District celebrations, 25 days, were great!)

From Denice Norris to Dallas Denny, Phyllis Randolph Frye to Rikki Ann Wilchkins things are happening.

Reports back from Camp Trans at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival are that eight TS were welcomed onto the grounds, after years of a womyn born womyn exclusionary policy. One observer said it was like watching Rosa Parks board the bus in Birmingham Alabama.

The concept that transgender is an inclusive term for all of those who transgress gender roles, from wearing panties under their suit to having surgery is coming to be very clear. The differences between us are not differences of type, but rather just of degree and environment. When we look inside, we are more alike than we are different, and if we do not all hang together, we will surely all hang separately.

From the media to the academics (Check out *Third Sex, Third Gender*, edited by Gilbert Herdt for breakthrough essays on transgender by people like Anne Bolin) it is clear that the time for freedom of gender expression is now. We are here, we are good, let us be out.

You'll see more and more on this topic, so check it out! It's a closet popper fer sure!

Travel & Conventions

As Winnie likes to say, there's nothing like a good convention to air out the old closet! Put you back in fine fettle, relaxed, refreshed and maybe even reeducated!

The final planning for Southern Comfort 94 is in place, and pre-registrations are up 25% from last year. It's going to be a big, wild meeting, with more learning, more fun and more breakthroughs than ever before.

From a secret late night soiree at an Atlanta area S&M club to powerful presentations from the leading thinkers in transgender, SC94 will be a blast. I even hear those old geezers The DramaQueens are going to haul themselves out of retirement for this one. This must be the longest comeback tour in genderoid history, if you don't count The Prince (the one not dipped in pubic hair.) SC94 is in Atlanta from September 29 to October 3. For more details, see the ad in this issue.

IFGE has completely revamped their convention to focus on the goals of their Vision 2000 mission statement. They plan to bring everyone who is advocating for freedom of gender expression to IFGE Atlanta Action!, March 12-19, 1995.

"IFGE Atlanta Action! is unlike any other transgender convention," says Merissa Sherill Lynn, acting executive director of IFGE. The convention will not have any newcomer or grooming tracks, focusing only on gathering leaders to share ideas, techniques and energy. The convention is designed to directly help the grassroots community leaders that IFGE depends on to do the work of education and development throughout the country.

Wanta take your place among the leaders? Plan for a trip to Atlanta this March. (Yvonne guarantees it will be warmer than IFGE Minneapolis Action 96!)

Shopping

Word is our own (where have you gone?) Jessica had a nice time at her *Glamour by Olan Mills* shoot, right in the torn up Crossgates. As the makeup artist stripped off the beard cover, she noted "Something's going on here," but both she and the female photographer were great.

Tawny's in Amsterdam is gone. Too many closet cases came in, soiled the merchandise and didn't pay, while too few grown ups came out to support Kelly. And to the fool who went into another boutique and blabbed about how much you knew and how close you were, one message. You aren't close to anyone, and you don't know anything. You hurt someone we like, and that ain't right.

Let's face it gals, we must respect each other's lifestyles, whatever they are at the moment. The golden rule is simple, and it is respect them and they will respect you. You go around shooting your mouth off, somebody is going to shoot your dignity off, and we'll see how you like it.

TGIC
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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]
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Ed's Forms continue to set the pace for value. Order your glow-in-the-dark forms now for Halloween! Just a pair of floating boobs in the darkness.. sounds like fun! Great with that new peek-a-boo bustier you ordered.

Finale (Finally)

And that reminds us all that Halloween is right around the corner! Shop early for costumes, get something outrageous, and for one glorious weekend, you, whoever you are, can throw open your closet and party down!

Stay tuned to *Götterdämmerung* for our big *Sniff The Drag Queen* contest, where your nose can win you respect, affirmation and maybe even a prize, (or a Prozac, whichever you need.) And if anyone has seen Kenny's hormones, drop them in the mail, c/o Miss Ursula, will 'ya?

This is Miss Take, saying "Until next time, take it or leave it!"

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SEPT. 29 -

OCT. 2, 1994

Come join your gender family in Atlanta for three days of seminars, discussions, presentations and fun! At the 4th Annual Southern Comfort Conference you'll learn about yourself and your relationships; socialize with hundreds of gender peers; meet and learn from community leaders, famous physicians and other helping professionals; shop 'til you drop among specialty gender vendors and at area malls, and, even better, sample Atlanta's exciting nightlife. And all for a very reasonable price. There's plenty of learning and fun at Southern Comfort Conference for everyone in the gender community: crossdressers, significant others, transgenderists and both M-F & F-M transsexuals. Come join us!

TO RECEIVE A FREE BROCHURE
CALL (404) 875-5749

OR WRITE

SOUTHERN COMFORT CONFERENCE
P.O. BOX 77591

CHOICES COUNSELING ASSOCIATES

Lesbian/Gay Affirmative



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266 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLICY: Short announcements and advertisements from Club Members are published free for two consecutive months, unless cancelled by the originator or a specific request to continue is made.

ITALIAN NIGHT DINNER & SOCIAL

At the Wayland House, 6pm, Saturday September 24.

This is your chance to meet the friends of IFGE at a swell party! Only \$10 in advance; send reservations and check by Tuesday, September 20 to:

The Wayland House
PO Box 3128

Shawsheen, MA 01810-0804

For information & directions:

(617) 894-8340

Pick up flyer in TGIC Club Room, ask Winnie.

LOVE IS A MANY GENDERED THING

GIFT (Gender Identity for Families in Transition) is an educational seminar for the families and friends of transsexuals, to be held on Sunday, October 2, 1994 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Northshore Holiday Inn in Skokie, Illinois. Presenters are Randi Ettner, Ph.D., a noted clinical psychologist and expert in the field of gender dysphoria, and her husband Fred Ettner, M.D., a family physician and lecturer. Registration prior to August 31 is \$75 single, \$50 for additional guests (\$85/\$60 after August 31), mailed to:

GENSEM

8810 Gross Point Road - #23
Skokie, IL 60077

For more information, contact Erica Erf at (708) 470-8626

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked. (NYS Health Department) **Albany Area:**

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

CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER 1994

- Sep 1 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Sep 8 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Sep 10 **Saturday Dinner**, 8:00 pm
Northway Inn
- Sep 15 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Sep 22 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Sep 29 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

OCTOBER 1994

- Oct 6 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Oct 8 **Saturday Dinner**, 8:00 pm
Northway Inn
- Oct 13 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Oct 20 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Oct 27 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

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

- Sep 15-18 *Paradise in the Poconos*, PA
- 9/29-10/2 *Southern Comfort*, Atlanta, GA
- Oct 6-10 *Tiffany Club Fall Fling*,
Provincetown, MA
- Oct 16-23 *Fantasia Fair*, Provincetown
- Nov 10-13 *Tri-Ess Holiday en Femme*,
New York, NY
- Nov 17-20 *Fall Harvest '94*, Iowa City

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Melodie [REDACTED]

"Once the cards are dealt, you have to play your hand because it's the only hand you have. If you're strong, you eventually make peace with yourself. You react positively to those points which eventually define you."

- *Stephen Solomita, A Good Day to Die.*