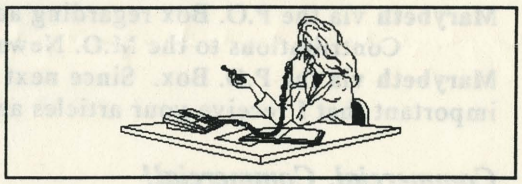
The Monmouth & Ocean News

A Publication of M.O.T.G.
Monmouth Ocean Transgender
An Affiliate of Renaissance Education Association

M.O.T.G., P.O. Box 8243, Red Bank, New Jersey 07701 **April, 1994**

High Notes

by Marybeth, Editor, M.O. News



Many thanks to members of the **NEW GROUP**, an Asbury Park based gay/lesbian social/support group, for their informative presentation about their organization at our March 19 meeting. With **Stonewall 25** coming up on **June 26**, it is very important for us to remember to "be friendly with our friends" and to stress the similarities rather than the differences between our two communities.

Please mark your calendars with these meeting dates:

April 23	**May 28**	**June 25**	**July 23**
August 27	**September 24**	**October 22**	**November 26**
December 17			

Although we try to have our meetings on the 4th Saturday of the month, some dates have been changed to accommodate holidays and other special occasions. Please make a note of them.

Very Important Announcement!!

Our April meeting date has been changed. **Due to a conflict at our regular meeting place, our April meeting will be held on April 23. There will be no meeting on April 30.** Our April 23 meeting will feature a special presentation by **Kate M.**, one of our **transsexual** members, and **Vikki M.**, a crossdresser. Please read Vikki's column, Equals?, page 4, for further information. This meeting promises to be enlightening for **all** members of the transgendered community. A special thanks to Kate, Terry, Vikki and Elaine for keeping alive the spirit of an "open group" for all members of the transgendered community. We hope to see you on **April 23**!

Our **May 28** meeting will feature a presentation by **Dr. Avia Neubel**, "Choosing a Therapist."

Our next business/newsletter meeting will be on **May 13 at 7:30 at Elaine's condo**.

Dates to Remember

Friday, May 13	**M.O.T.G. Business Meeting, Elaine's condo, 7:30 pm**
Saturday, April 23	**Moonlight in Manhattan**
Saturday, May 15	**NJ Lesbian/Gay Coalition Meeting, New Brunswick**
Sunday, June 5	**Pride Parade, Asbury Park**
Thursday, June 16	**Special Stonewall Transgendered Event, Lesbian/Gay Community Center, New York**
Sunday, June 26	**Stonewall 25 March, New York**

Please see **Terry** for further information about Stonewall events and the Gay Coalition.

Thanks to Dianne, one of our very active and generous members, we are in the process of arranging for a phone for M.O.T.G. Stay "on the line" for further developments!

Our small room is available to both **transsexuals and significant others** as a "rap group" room for all those interested. I suggested that we have separate space because we have very different issues from crossdressers, who seem to be the majority group in M.O.T.G. The schedule for the small room is as follows:

8:30 - 9:30 - Significant Others Support Group/Rap Group
9:30 - 10:30 - T.S. Support Group/Rap Group

We ask that our TV members respect our need for our own space.

Our advertising campaign is in full swing. The M.O. News offers full page ads for only **$90.00 a year! Half page ads are $50.00; business card-sized ads are $25.00**. Please contact **Marybeth** via the P.O. Box regarding advertising. **Please support our advertisers!!**

Contributions to the M.O. News are due on the 5th of each month. Please send them to **Marybeth** via the P.O. Box. Since next month's business meeting is on May 13, it is especially important that I receive your articles and announcements **by May 5**.

Commercial, Commercial!

Before and after our **April 23** meeting, I will be having a very special sale of **Mary Kay Cosmetics** at a table in the back hallway. In addition, I will be featuring **new spring and summer colors**, along with "**that yellow concealer**" you have been hearing so much about! If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call me (see ad, page 3) and I will honor the April 23 prices!

Next month **Stephanie** will be starting her own advice column. She would like to receive your letters and promises to answer each and every one personally. Please indicate on your letter whether or not you would like us to publish it in the newsletter. If you would like us to use initials or just plain "Anonymous," that's fine. Just let us know. Send your letters to **Dear Stephanie, c/o M.O.T.G., P.O. Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701**.

A Special Word of Thanks

I would like to thank **Vikki and Dianne** for their consistency in writing articles for the M.O. News and donating their time and energy to our group. They have both demonstrated a genuine interest in M.O.T.G. and in our community.

In addition, I would like to thank **Stephanie** for volunteering to put together an advice column. Writing an advice column is no mean undertaking. Stephanie receives the letters, shares her thoughts and feelings with the writer, sends her response, and then, if the writer agrees, sends abridged forms of both letters to me. Stephanie is not a therapist, nor does she claim to be. But she is a caring, open person who is willing to listen. And she always follows through on her commitments. **Thanks, Steph!**

Thanks for Caring *by Donna, Member, M.O.T.G.*

I just want to say how wonderful and caring everyone is. This means so much to me. Sometimes I find my days during the week upsetting, but I think of my sisters and feel much better. Sometimes I cry when I'm alone. But it's because I'm happy that you care. I'm especially thankful for Danielle and Karin. Thanks for caring.

Love, Donna

Barbara A. Susinno R.N., C.P.E.
Jessica Lynn Porter C.P.E.

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Equals? *by Vikki M., Librarian, M.O.T.G.*

Next month's meeting presentation will by **Kate M. and me**: **"The clothes don't make us equals."** It will include a group discussion about what it is to be a TS or a CD. What are the differences and what are the different needs of each? What can be done to facilitate our getting along with each other?

News from the Bookshelves *by Vikki M., Librarian, M.O.T.G.*

For those who weren't at last month's meeting, a bookstore in Highland Park agreed to carry **Tapestry**! The store is **"All About Books" at 409 Raritan Avenue. Phone 908-247-8744.** They also let me leave some M.O.T.G. business cards. Please patronize this store and mention M.O.T.G.

I spoke to Yvonne Cook-Riley of **Tapestry** and found that they are willing to send us free back issues to use in our outside presentations and to supplement our library. If anyone would like to donate a few bucks, we'd like to send **Tapestry** some money for the shipping charge. They're going to send about 60 issues and the shipping is $15.

Helpful Hint of the Month (A most serious hint)

by Dianne W., Member, M.O.T.G.

Tonight is M.O.T.G. night. Seams straight; makeup, eyeshadow and lipstick on. This girl is off and running in her heels and that outfit that was made for her. A final glance in the mirror and out the door, hand bag swinging on the shoulder. Off I go to the meeting, tokens for the Parkway, extra tissue in the purse, gas tank filled; however, I have crossed a line into another world. The world of those who have no respect for women. I also am a target for that disrespect. Those who might force my car to a halt. Smash my window or even...!!!!

Dianne, you are overreacting. I? Tell me one of those things is not possible and I will tell you that you have not read the paper lately.

Once we have walked out the door we too are vulnerable to all of the above. One would not think of leaving home without "that" credit card, so why leave home without "MACE" clipped to the strap of your shoulder bag? Not in the bottom of your purse hidden by a closed zipper, but within easy reach of your painted nails.

Drive to the meeting not fearing headlights that creep up from behind, that toot from a horn, or that long wait at a red light when someone is peering in, checking us out. After all, that lipstick sized tube clipped to our bag is only a feminine reminder that every girl has to look out for herself when wearing that outfit that was made just for her.

[Editor's note: There has been a lot of controversy lately about the legality of mace. What do you think? Is mace the best defense? How do you take precautions against attack? This GG would love to know. Please write to me c/o Dear Editor, M.O.T.G., P.O. Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701.]

Dr. Roger Peo Passes Away *Excerpt from I.F.G.E. Press Release*

At 7:00 am, Thursday, April 7, Dr. Roger Peo, less than two months after being diagnosed with lung and bone cancer, passed away quietly at his home in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Dr. Peo, a noted sexologist and long-time friend of the transgendered community, was the author of the popular advice column on gender issues, Roger's Notebook. Yvonne Cook, IFGE Director of Operations, stated, "He was one of the first psychotherapists to become actively involved with the gender community. Roger was there for a lot of people over the years who needed his knowledge and help. He will be missed."

In recognition of his many contributions and achievements, the IFGE Board of Directors dedicated the eighth annual Coming Together - Working Together convention to Dr. Peo.

Mirror, Mirror

by Dianne W., member, M.O.T.G.

Mirror, mirror on the wall, am I the fairest of them all?

You'd better believe it. And you don't have to settle for second place after Snow White! But then, that is only if you want to believe Snow White is first and you are second. For shame! Such nonsense!

Mother Nature, who gave Snow White her magic mirror, also gave one to us. A very special mirror we can gaze into and in which we can see the reflection of the other who is an equal part of us. We can cry, fret and frown, but that does not change the fact that "she" is the other side of "me."

In reality, that makes us very special, for Mother Nature extended to us a word that was reserved possibly for us alone to understand to the fullest: compassion! Not sorrow, but the feeling of understanding for others for all the many ways life has been unjust to them also. I challenge anyone to say that is not so. Knowingly, a brief smile might have passed your lips,and that is what mirrors are for: TO REFLECT SMILES. If yours does not, you have Dianne's permission to threaten it with a brick.

On the back of your mirror might be stamped MADE IN TAIWAN. Or France or England. Countries where others also gaze into mirrors with the same frustrations or possibly to see if their mirrors bestow a smile back upon them.

Mirrors were not invented just for Snow White, or you or me. They are but a simple reminder that Mother Nature gave us the ability to look beyond the looking glass and its reflected countenance. They reflect not our pain and sorrow, but the understanding that comes from within, the understanding in our hearts.

Such a precious gift to share, when I understand that this too is an equal part of the other side of me. My own mirror is far more precious than Snow White's, who gazed into hers simply because of vanity. For mine, like yours, is a simple reminder that both beauty and love and bred inside, not outside, our hearts. Mother Nature gave her gift to special people like you and me.

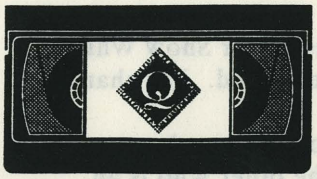
Special editor's note:

Thank you, thank you, Dianne, for sharing so intimately with us. In the brief time I have known Dianne, she has demonstrated to me without fail the true meaning of the word "sisterhood." Would that some of my fellow genetic women, myself included, learn such commitment and dedication! And love. Dianne's generosity and caring are genuine examples of what M.O.T.G. strives to be all about. I ask you to remember that she is still looking for help getting rides to our meetings. If you live in the Toms River area, please contact me via the P.O. Box so that I can pass on your name and number to Dianne. Please give her some of the fellowship she has so freely given to us.

And a special thank you, too, to our other unsung heroes and heroines. Among them are: Elaine, our treasurer and coffee maker; Terry, our other treasurer and liaison with the gay community; and Danielle Richards, our program director. They have taken on commitments and followed through on them. And there are others also, too numerous to mention. Without them--and you--there would be no M.O.T.G. M.O.T.G. has helped me understand more about the transgendered community than I can possibly tell you. And for that I am very grateful.

We hope to see a lot of all of you during the coming months. Help us to grow as a group--and as a community.

Until next month, ladies (to paraphrase Stephanie),
Marybeth



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