

❖ The Transgenderist ❖

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Community

By Gianna E. [REDACTED] / Copyright © 1996

Numerous times over the years I have heard transgender men and women state that there is no such thing as a transgender community. I also hear people frequently debate and promote stereotypes about other gender-diverse individuals. This particular article addresses concerns people have about the concept of community, and provides information about how to find accurate information about other community members.

First, I would like to share several personal reflections about our subject. I can testify first hand that our community exists, and it contains many of the same dynamics which can be found in other minority communities.

Communities have a variety of dynamics, which can include unity, purpose, connection and focus. They also have structures where people take on different roles. Like a family we have our mothers and fathers or community leaders, as well as new brothers and sisters in the process of coming out. There are also many people who fit somewhere in the middle and take on a variety

of roles which serve their needs. Some of these people are very involved in our community, while others only visit during family reunions.

There is often an abundance of goodwill and generosity within transgender community which comes as a result of our common bonds. People often do not recognize that many private dollars and hours are invested in our organizations,

social functions, Internet sites and other resources. This monthly column is written on a computer donated by a community friend, and before reaching readers passes by half-a-dozen transgender men and women who volunteer copy editing, Internet site maintenance and other services.

Within our community there is also a noticeable amount of politics and divisiveness as members struggle for respect, recognition and self-determination. In the past few years there has been a great deal of name-calling or flaming other's ideas on Internet forums. There has also been incidents involving un-businesslike behavior and political grandstanding by community leaders at the expense of others. At times, even other communities have been unnecessarily berated or attacked in order to "validate" our own.

With these type of situations occurring, it is easy to understand why some transgender men and women believe that very unhealthy dynamics exist and thus avoid seeking out community resources. After years of feeling vulnerable due to social ostracization and being painful closeting, it is easy to understand why some individuals feel sensitive and vulnerable. When people feel vulnerable they instinctually avoid places they perceive as unsafe, and are also likely to feel threatened by "in your face" types of behavior. As a result

(Continued on page 3)

TGIC ELECTIONS!
Feb 13, 1997

In This Issue..

Community

Gianna E. [REDACTED] — Cover

NGLTF ISSUES HISTORIC STATEMENT: CALLS FOR GENDER DISORDER REFORM

Page 2

ICGLTF'S NEW BOOK

Page 5

TGIC ELECTIONS

Page 5

BECOMING

Jennifer [REDACTED] Page 7

UP IN SMOKE

Page 8-9

Arlene Istar CSW CAC

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NGLTF ISSUES HISTORIC STATEMENT: CALLS FOR GENDER DISORDER REFORM

Washington, DC - [December 12, 1996] ONE KIND OF HISTORY was made and another called to mind, as Kerry Lobel, head of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) today sent a statement to the head of the American Psychiatric Association urging that gender difference be eliminated as a mental disorder. NGLTF statement also went out to the APA's Gay & Lesbian Issues Committee. Ms. Lobel's letter also requests meetings between NGLTF, gender activists and APA officials.

The action immediately calls to mind NGLTF's courageous struggle with the APA 25 years ago to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder. Many believe it was the de-pathologizing of homosexuality which enabled the modern gay civil rights movement to emerge and move into the American mainstream.

The question now is whether such an initiatives by NGLTF can help the burgeoning transgender movement do likewise.

The disorder in question - Gender Identity Disorder (GID) -- has come under increasing fire from a number of quarters. Many gender activists decry how GID pathologizes gender-variance, and make the desire for Sex-Reassignment Surgery or hormones into a "mental disease." The direct action group Transsexual Menace demonstrated at APA's last two national conventions, and -- in a landmark action jointly sponsored by the Menace, NGLTF, Bi-Net USA, the Int'l Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Center, and Hermaphrodites With Attitude -- also picketed the APA's national offices in downtown Washington, DC. In fact, the landmark activist group Transgender Nation demonstrated over GID as early as 1993.

Fueling the controversy is the outrage of gay and lesbian activists who see the way GID is also used as a "backdoor" diagnosis to pathologize and treat so-called "pre-homosexual" or genderqueer children. In fact, Phyllis Burke's new book, GENDER SHOCK,

(Continued on page 6)

"...sissy boys..."
"...butchy girls..."

(Community - Continued from page 1)

these individuals unfortunately never get an opportunity to see all the behind-the-scenes commitments and positive resources which are also aspects of our community.

Having a transgender identity is a democratic process, and our members come from a wide-variety of social, economic, religious, racial and educational backgrounds. This diversity means that community members also have numerous experiences, opinions and beliefs. When taking the community's well-being into consideration, I encourage people to acknowledge this diversity. Doing so sets the stage for understanding other people's experiences and needs have intrinsic value, and that disagreement is OK.

As we further attempt to understand our community, it is important to recognize one specific dynamic which exists and prevents us from accepting diversity in others. Because we are a minority group of people with special needs, this sets us apart in some respects from the predominant, non-transgender world. Being different is difficult, because it is our different-ness which sets us at risk for discrimination, violence and being stereotyped.

As we grow and build self-determination, we also frequently search for validation internally and externally. While seeking validation, it is easy to attack, disrespect, malign or marginalize other minority persons or communities in order to make ourselves and our issues appear more valid.

However, doing so is wrong. If we desire self-determination and respect for ourselves we must whole-heartedly extend it to others, even if we don't understand their experiences or needs.

As a brief example of this dynamic, many transgender persons self-identity with a label which best matches their experiences. These labels can include crossdresser, transsexual, transgenderist and many others. Other minoritized individuals have also adopted various labels and self-identification which need to be respected. For instance, gays and lesbians in most circumstances prefer not being referred to as "homosexuals." Homosexual is primarily a old-fashioned clinical term, that even in the sciences is being replaced. As such, if an individual is not gay and lesbian, then he or she does not need to refer to gays or lesbians as "homosexuals" in order to make him or herself appear more acceptable.

"Being different is difficult, because it is our different-ness which sets us at risk for discrimination, violence and being stereotyped."

Involvement, is a subject worth consideration when we discuss concepts of community. As people become involved it is important to remember in most circumstances an individual should not expect to get more out of a community than they are willing to invest. Socializing and volunteering for one of the many support organizations located throughout major cities and suburbs is a classic alternative for people just coming into the community. However becoming involved does not necessarily mean one must begin or end there.

Over the past 5 years the transgender community's resources have grown exponentially. With community growth it is now possible to join a wide-variety of discussion groups, a transgender bowling team, attend national conferences on a variety of subject, or even spiritually commune with nature in the company of other gender diverse persons. You may also become politically active by participating in activist organizations such as TS-Menace, Its Time America, or the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment (ICTLEP). If you are uncertain whether a resource exists which suits your interests, ask community leaders if they know of such a resource. If you cannot find a resource you like in your area, start one up. If you are not interested in participation or volunteering, the majority of transgender organizations could use your financial contributions.

Community involvement can also mean transgender men and women taking responsibility for the world around them. As an example, many transgender persons participate in "Pride Parades" which show the rest of the world that the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons ex-

(Continued on page 4)

(Community - Continued from page 3)

ist. Community involvement can also focus on local need. This past year, San Francisco's ETVC (Educational TV Channel) participated in televised fundraising for KQED.

KQED offers a variety of educational programming to Bay Area viewers, and has included a variety of programs inclusive of transgender issues and opinions.

One of the most harmful dynamics which exist in our community are stereotypes. The word stereotype comes from the printing industry, and means to print or make something repeatedly without individual characteristics. When we stereotype people we are saying they have no individuality.

Transgender people despite their diversity are often stereotyped as unstable, socially unacceptable and pathological. Within our own community, transsexuals are often stereotyped as too serious or focused on living in role, and crossdressers are frequently stereotyped as too caught up in fantasy. These and other characterizations simply cannot be applied to all transgender individuals, and it has been my experience that the majority of people have very unique traits which defy stereotyping.

One of the best ways to learn about other gender-diverse persons is to read. Not just one, but several printed or Internet resources which focus on a group of persons' needs and experiences. Another option is simply to ask others about their experiences and needs. In doing so you may come to find that in most circumstances there will be many transgender people you have little in common with, and a handful who are much like you.

During your exploration you will also find that it is commonly acknowledged by others that transgender men and women rarely fit into stereotypes. For example, in their book "Life with Vanessa," authors Vanessa & Linda Kaye suggest that "there is no one transgendered person who is exactly as they are defined." Throughout their book they then go on to describe how they have been able to become more accepting of diversity, which has positively effected their family and community relationships.

In our final examination of community, I would like to remind my readers that the transgender community is also comprised of people who do not necessarily

have gender issues or a firsthand interest in cross-dressing. Specifically, I am referring to family members and significant others. Frequently while pursuing transition or dressing, we tend to forget these important people in our lives. Significant others, including wives and husbands, often are overlooked at social occasions, at transgender events and in printed literature. This should not be so for these are the very people who support our day-to-day existence with caring and compassion. Significant others and families need support and resources as much as any other segment of our community. It is also imperative we do not assume what their needs are, but rather ask. Or, if you yet do not know how to ask, read as much information about their needs as you can.

Because it is a new title, I am including "Life with Vanessa" as a resource in this article. The book is primarily written for "wives" of crossdressers.

However, do not be too quick to assume that it is not of value to other partners and family members, including those of transsexuals and transgenderists. This is particularly so since the authors share their experiences firsthand as a couple with one openly transgender partner. Also, each section ends with excellent questions couples may ask in order to better understand each other's needs. You may order "Life with Vanessa" for \$10.95 + 1.50 s/h from Creative Design Services, AEGIS, IFGE or Linda & Vanessa Kaye c/o 6957 N.W. Expressway, Suite 121, Oklahoma, OK 73132

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TGIC ELECTIONS

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

TGIC's Annual business meeting will take place on Thursday, February 13, 1997 at 7:30

- ♦ **The purpose of this meeting is to nominate new club officers and directors, review the financial status of the club, and make important decisions regarding the direction of the club for 1997.**
- ♦ **The smoking policy will surely be discussed and a decision will be made regarding smoking at club meetings.**
- ♦ **Also on the agenda is how the club can recruit new members in the most effective way.**
- ♦ **If you have ideas and suggestions on any topic, come to the meeting, bring the idea to the table and lets discuss it.**
- ♦ **Your input is needed and appreciated.**

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy

(ICTLEP) announces that its fifth annual book on transgender issues is near completion and will be released in January 1997. Entitled Proceedings V, it joins an annual series beginning in 1992 of transcribed presentations and appended papers dealing with the multitude of legal challenges faced by transgenders along with strategies for progressive change in the law as it relates to transgenders.

Proceedings V features reports dealing with the legal needs of transgendered people of color, of FTM's, and of those transgenders who are not transsexual. In addition there are several reports devoted to the non-USA, TG legal issues and the full text of the recent European decision that makes USA federal law look silly in its mis-handling of transgender employment discrimination. There are also extensive reports on (1) the history of same-sex marriage, (2) the beginning of the end of any requirement for genital surgery "before" legal sex correction, (3) the background work by and joint statement with NCLR on GID change, (4) the new handouts generated by TG advocates within PFLAG, (5) the parallels between the feminist and the transgender communities, and (6) the legal underpinnings that draw the homosexual and the transgender communities together.

The book price is \$65.00. As always, there are discounts for multiple purchases, plus shipping and state tax if applicable. As always, ICTLEP encourages lesbigratr (shorthand for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and rhymes with alligator) activists to push their local university libraries, local law schools and local large employer corporation with Human Resources Departments to order the set for reference.

Individual articles from this and preceding volumes may be purchased by contacting ICTLEP at 713/777-8452 or ictlep@aol.com.

An "INDEX to Proceedings I-V" will also be published in the coming weeks. It is free of charge. It is being posted on the America On Line, Keyword, "ICTLEP" and on the web page at www.abmall.com/ictlep. It will be mailed to the ICTLEP snail mailing list and can be sent as an attached file either in ASCII and WP6 on request.

(NGLTF Continued from page 2)

details how psychiatrists and even the US government have worked to located, study, diagnose and treat "sissy boys" and "butchy girls" simply on the basis that they are gender-different. The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) has been particularly concerned with this practice.

To bring together organizations and individuals concerned about such issues, a National Coalition for Gender Reform has recently been formed by gender activists Riki Anne Wilchins, Jacob Hale, and Susan Stryker. The Coalition is using the NGLTF statement as a guide -- which itself draws heavily on a position developed by NCLR and the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy.

Said NCLR co-founder Jacob Hale, "We are calling for the APA and psychiatry in general to get out of the business of policing bodies, gender, and desire. Without doubt these diagnostic categories fail to meet the most minimal criteria for any sort of mental disease. This is because they are fundamentally about imposing hetero-normativity on all people, by stigmatizing some behaviors and identities as 'disorders' in dire need of 'treatment.'"

Some gender activists have expressed concern that removing Gender Identity Disorder will cause them to lose insurance reimbursement for Sex-Reassignment Surgery (SRS) and related procedures. However, Dr. Wynelle Snow, co-chair of Psychiatrists and Other Physicians for Gender Reform, a Coalition subcommittee, recently noted that their position calls for Gender Identity Disorder's reform -- not removal -- and its replacement with a non-stigmatizing physical condition like pregnancy for individuals seeking SRS. Notes Snow, a psychiatrist and APA member, "I see no reason to continue with a psychiatric diagnosis for which there is no known psychiatric treatment."

NGLTF's outgoing Communications Director, Robert Bray, who has been instrumental in the Gender Identity Disorder reform initiative declared, "Next to NCLR, the Task Force is one of the first major national US gay/lesbian organizations to take stand on this critical subject. I must add that I'm proud to state, that, after 9 years and at least 2,000 statements, releases, and advisories, --- the very last release I wrote was on transgender people and Gender Identity Disorder reform." (c) 1996 InYourFace

All together, the five ICTLEP books present over 1200 pages of the research, discussion and brain storming of some of the following people: seven judges, six law professors, two legislators, twenty-six attorneys and law students, and thirty-two lesbian/gay activists which include some of the following: Stephen Whittle, Spencer Bergstedt, Michael Hernandez, Karen Kerin, JoAnna McNamara, Shannon Minter, Martine Rothblatt, Laura Skaer, Sharon Stuart, Dana Turner, Melinda Whiteway, Dianna Cicotello, Dallas Denny, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Jane Fee, Jamison Green, Gordene MacKenzie, Lisa Middleton, Linda and Cynthia Phillips, and Jessica Xavier.

The index to all five books includes the following headings on transgender issues:

- AIDS in the Transgender Community and High-Risk Behavior
- Anti-Discrimination Law Project Report
- Case Law Citations Dealing with Transgender Court Decisions
- Children and Students Who Are Transgendered
- Criminal Law Project Report
- Cross-Dressing Laws, the Criminality of Wearing Clothing
- Declaration of Gender Liberty, The
- Definitions of Sex and Gender and How Applied in Law
- Documentation Law Project Reports
- Education in Transgender Issues Project Report
- Employment Law Project Reports and Policy Considerations
- Equal Protection Arguments
- Ethical Considerations: Transgenders Should Demand of Their Attorneys
- Evidence, Techniques of Collecting Before the Lawsuit is Filed
- Family Law Project Reports
- FTM Workshop Report
- Gender Identity Disorder and the DSM
- Hate Crimes and Violence Against Transgenders, Case Studies
- Health Law Project Reports
- Housing Law Project Report
- Imprisonment Law Project Reports
- Insurance Law Project Reports
- International (non-USA) Law Reports
- International Bill of Gender Rights, The, and Project Reports
- Intervention Law Project Reports
- Marriage, Keeping Our Marriages, and Same Sex Marriages
- Military Law Project Reports
- Name Change, Birth Certificate, Passport, Social Security, others
- Non-Lawyer Checklist for Transgenders Who Consume Legal Services
- Non-TS, Transgender Legal Concerns for Cross-Dressers and In-Drag
- People of Color Workshop Report
- Probate Law and Civil Commitment Project Report
- Restroom Concerns, Simply Fulfilling a Biological Function
- Strategies for Progressive Changes in the Law
- Surveys of Transgenders in Non-Clinical Settings
- Victories in Making Progressive Transgender Law
- Voir Dire Considerations in Jury Trials for Transgender Client

(Continued from page 6)

Phyllis Randolph Frye, founder and Executive Director of ICTLEP, often wonders, "Why does the transgender community continue to reinvent wheels that have already been invented in the above areas by the above well known and recognized people at annual ICTLEP conferences? I hope that our community will at last discover these resource books, begin to study them and push their local university libraries and employer Human Resources Departments to place these books. We of ICTLEP have been at this task now for over five years, and we have been doing it for you to utilize!"

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON TRANSGENDER LAW
AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY, INC.
PO Drawer 35477
Houston, Texas 77235-5477 U.S.A.
713/777-8452
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BECOMING

Jennifer [REDACTED]

We all are on a singular journey of becoming.
The only givens shared by all: birth and death.
Between those two givens we wander aimless;
a life's journey.

Like the first to explore a new world,
Each must wander through a wilderness of experience.
So, no two can experience that wilderness identically,
Or make identical choices.

How could they?
Each has wandered a different path,
Has different experiences, feels different needs
Has become different, by their burdens.

The journey is designed to test our worth
To our Creator,
To our contemporaries
to ourselves.

The journey is obstacle littered, by challenges, and rewards
with which we must each learn to deal.
But, since the outcome is always the same.
It is the learning which is important.

Some would choose right,
While, others choose left.
Neither, is more right, or more left, but only, different.
And the differences, our becoming, add to the value of the ex-
perience.

Sometimes we journey together, becoming as one of many.
On flat ground, recognizing that neither is more right or left.
We respect our fellow sojourners, feel blessed,
and share in the learning of their experience.

Most of the time we must become in our own way;
Alone, unencumbered, becoming, on rocky ground.
Carrying our burden of experience, history
Toward the only outcome which is given.

#122596

Up In Smoke

Smoking at club meetings has been an issue which has been a cause for concern for some time. Discussions have taken place at meetings and on the TGIC on-line network. I think everyone knows my opinion on the subject. "Smoking stinks". Although I have always believed in compromise and current policy of alternate smoking weeks seemed to work out, recent events have caused me to change my mind.

I work with people who smoke. I play with people who smoke. I even live with people who smoke. Without an exception, I have found all of the smokers I know to be very aware of the dangers of smoking to themselves and others and to be considerate when around non-smokers. This considerate behavior consists of asking if its ok to smoke, going outside to smoke, or not smoking at all. I naively assumed that all smokers would be aware of how offensive and unhealthy smoke can be to others and they would act in the same considerate way.

Unfortunately, I have been rudely awakened by a smoker who has no respect for others, who not only smokes because it is smoking night, but blows the smoke in your face saying there is no proof that smoking is harmful. This person doesn't smoke in her home or car because she doesn't want to reduce the value of either but apparantly feels it does not matter if others are having difficulty breathing, or are allergic, or get the smell in their clothing and hair.

So in light of this attitude, I am advocating a NO SMOKING policy at TGIC meetings or events. I am tired of giving consideration to those who don't reciprocate.

gina

A black and white movie
smoke curls upwards
seduction and elegance
taps on a sliver cigarette case
scotch neat and a light
languid smoke rings from a lipsticked mouth
the class of smoking

A color slideshow
blackened lungs
cancerous mouths
people strapped to oxygen bottles
dying before their time.

Smoking is freedom.
Freedom to pollute everyones air.
Freedom to use addictive drugs
Freedom to get sick.
Freedom to ask others to pay the costs.

The romance of smoking
was the style of seduction.

The romance of smoking
is the illusion of freedom
the image of independance
a Marlboro man.

Does blue smoke mark freedom?
Does blue smoke mark slavery?
Slaves chained by an addiction
buying a bit of comfort
at the cost of dollars and health?

Do taxpayers, insurance clients
pay the cost of bold freedom
or pay the cost of hard addiction
to drugs sucked down
laced with tar and chemicals?

Is the blue smoke that clouds
saturating clothes, lungs, bodies
the symbol of freedom?

Or is the blue smoke just blown
into the eyes of nicotine addicted junkies
corporate lies about freedom
to rationalize the enslaved?

Callan [redacted] Copyright 1996

BLUES
SMOKE

SMOKE IN OUR EYES

Why on earth should the transgender community of Albany be subjected to cigarette smoke when the vast majority of our members don't want to be?

I don't go to bars (other than JD's Playhouse for socializing with transgender friends) because I won't be around drinking. I don't go to shooting galleries because I don't want to watch people shoot up heroin in front of me. And I don't hang out with people who watch sports on television because personally I can not stand the competitive nature of sports viewing and can't stand to hear the thick, guttural sounds that come out of people when 'their team' is winning or losing.

Transgender people are fortunate to have found each other. Without one another we would feel even more estranged than we do. We're a rare lot. We are redefining gender for ourselves, speaking to an inner need, and we are there for each other every Thursday night. Let us enjoy what we have.

Bickering over cigarettes is such a minor cause and it isn't related at all to what we're here for. Face it: the vast majority of us do not smoke, and do not want to be around cigarette smoke at TGIC.

We are a support group; a support group, not a war zone for irrelevant issues nor a stomping ground for members furious about outside issues. I don't attend TGIC for battle amongst members; I go for extended community and common interest. Sharing, even... I would like to see as many transgender people as possible be comfortable at every meeting. If comfort means less air pollution -- and it does -- than why even permit smoking on alternate weeks? Forget it, drop it, close it out, it's not even a transgender issue.

What do you want to have around you, best case scenario? Do you want to breathe in second-hand puffs of cigarette smoke as we gather in community on Thursday nights? If we return to a total ban on cigarette smoking, we won't be the first or the only group to ask cigarette smokers to please smoke downstairs or outside. *Judith* [REDACTED]

SKUNKS ARE NICE

Not too many years ago the club was non-smoking for a year or so, spurred mainly by the efforts of Katherine Hawkins. Then, smoking started again, but for a time, most of the girls (with only a few exceptions) were considerate enough to minimize their smoking in the small clubroom.

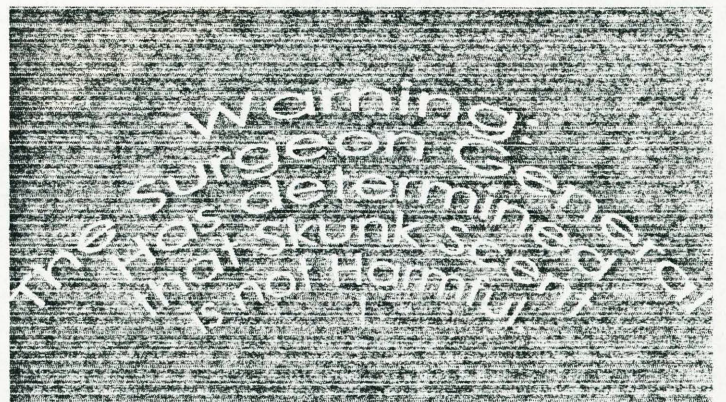
Now it appears that "smoking nights" create the sense of "smoke all you want", (or is it again just a couple of smokers who still have absolutely no regard for non-smokers in the room?)

We are becoming two separate clubs. I don't believe that I am the only non-smoker who basically "seldom or does not attend at all on smoking nights".

On non-smoking nights, the girls have merely to go downstairs to get their occasional nicotine fix. Weighing that against subjecting everyone to the foul smell and burning throat and lungs of a smoke atmosphere should result in a reasonable offer to

make the club non-smoking again.

I have only the slightest bit of sympathy that smokers are gradually losing their "rights" to smoke in many places. I happen to actually like the smell of skunk, but I don't have the "right" to spray skunk scent around the club room --- or do I? *Ed*



TGIC MEETINGS

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. Smoking is not permitted at meetings unless marked with (S)

January 2(S) Ladies, Start Your Diets: Loose Clothing Night

January 9 What I Bought At Lohemanns: Clearance Sale Escapades

January 16(S) Show Us Your Panties: The Skater's Waltz

January 23 Australia Day: Celebrate Kylie & Olivia!

January 30 "Is That Real Fur?" (Bring Paint!)

February 6(S) MardiGras '97: Purple & Green & Gold

February 13 **TGIC ELECTIONS AND BUSINESS MEETING** Lover Come Back: A Tribute To Torch Singers

February 20(S) Break My 'Art: More Makeup Please!

February 27 Banker's Hours: Suited For Success Newsletter Night.

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

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

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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.

publications. Copyright 1996 TGIC. No part may be reproduced without prior permission from the originator. Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to Jeena@AOL.COM. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail. If you must attach a file please save it in ASCII format.

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