THE TRANSGENDERIST

JULY 1994

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [redacted]

There's not much to report this month. I enjoyed the first week in Provincetown with the Tiffany Club; the weather was fine and, most days, I relaxed on the deck of the Boatslip Motel until the afternoon breeze became too strong, and read a couple of books.

Attendance at our weekly meetings is now averaging about a dozen, including some new members. We hope to see more of you this Summer; as usual, come dressed either way. Some may not want to leave their home cross-dressed in daylight, or have their makeup melt in the heat; we understand. The meeting room is air-conditioned; it's noisy, but keeps the place cool, and you can change in the bathroom.

Now is the time for those of you who would like something more exciting on our calendar to come forward and plan some special events for the Fall; if you don't, nothing will happen. Don't delay, we need definite plans before we make an announcement in the newsletter, a couple of months in advance. ***For an event in September, essential details must be nailed-down by July 21.***

DINNER PARTIES: There were only three of us at the June dinner - me, Joan and Tina. I hope we will get more interest when our parties resume in September.

Overheard at the Gender Identity Clinic....

Intern: "How can I treat a fetishistic transvestite?"

Psychiatrist: "Give her a $100 gift certificate for Victoria's Secret!"

Endocrinologist (to intern): "Why did you give that Japanese TS light bulbs to put in her brassiere?"

Intern: "She asked for something to make her bosom glow!"

Marriage Counselor (to dyslexic TV): "So, you're still fighting with your wife? I told you to kiss and make-up."

Dyslexic TV: "I thought you said make-up and kiss!"

Contents

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [redacted] 1
THOSE HETEROSEXUAL GAYS! 2
WE ARE NOT ALONE... - Fran [redacted] 4
THE MAKING OF TINA (3) - Tina [redacted] 6
MAKEUP FINDS 8
ANNOUNCEMENTS 9
CALENDAR 10

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THOSE HETEROSEXUAL GAYS!

Let's face it. You're a faggot. I mean you dress up in women's clothes, know about makeup, maybe even hang out in gay bars.

Oh, maybe you have never had sexual relations with another man. Maybe you have, but only a few times as an experiment. You are not homosexual.

But you are a faggot. Anyone who is uncomfortable with homosexuals will be uncomfortable with you. Do you think that gay bashers would skip you if they saw you out in a dress? In fact, some states talk about "perceived sexual identity" when talking about gay bashing.

With the approach of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Stonewall riots, where a bunch of drag queens in New York City finally decided to stop police harassment of a lesbian cross dresser, and started the gay rights movement, we need to think about how much we have in common with our gay brothers and sisters.

In fact, Boyd McDonald, collector and publisher of lots of real life homosexual stories argued that homosexual and gay are two different things. Homosexual defines sexual acts, but gay is a lifestyle.

Before Stonewall, sex was just sex. Men, while they didn't discuss it, saw less stigma about homosexual acts. They were just an event in their lives. But gay people defined a lifestyle that was supportive of homosexual relationships. They came out of the closet, so that people who engaged in homosexual acts were seen as somehow in a different lifestyle.

But the gay lifestyle is becoming much more expansive. We see red ribbons on virtually everyone at an awards ceremony. All the hippest discos are full of gay people. Creativity, style, flash all seem to point to gay people.

You don't have to be homosexual to be gay, claims GQ magazine. People are choosing to live in this accepting, colorful lifestyle, even if they are oriented as heterosexuals. We see more and more gay characters on TV, in movies. We begin to accept the gay lifestyle as natural, an outgrowth of how some people are wired.

We know about being wired differently. Many of us know that drag queens are our sisters, expressing their transgender differently because they are oriented towards men and live in a gay lifestyle. That changes their cross-dressing expression.

How do you feel about this? Are you comfortable with the thought that you are ***scare*** the homophobic at least as much as any sissy? Have you thought about how much you have in common with those whose sexual orientation is not typical?

We sometimes think that because we can live our life in a closet that the issues that touch gay people don't touch us. This is not true. We need to be accepting of other people's lives if we ever expect them to be accepting of ours.

But as we come to grips with our lives, we also come to grips with how others may come to view us, and know that living in an accepting world is the best way. And that accepting world is the gay world, the world where lives are open, diverse and comfortable.

Think about supporting gay rights, supporting your rights in your community. The rising tide lifts all boats.

And you too can learn to be proud of being queer, proud of contributions and strength. You will know that you have helped make this world more open for you, and your children. And this is very good.

MAY 26, 1994 METROLINE

!!??!**!! comics

WE ARE NOT ALONE... - Fran [redacted]

Most cross-dressers I have spoken with can recall the time when we thought we were the only person in the world that had this "crazy" burning desire to put on women's clothes. It was not until my fifth decade of life that I found the Tri-Ess organization and discovered that there are thousands who share this compulsive desire.

Shortly after this discovery which freed me up so dramatically (and relieved me of many fears and guilt) I read a monograph about "Cindy" in Mariette Pathy Allen's book, *"Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them."* (E.P. Dutton). As I read and personally related to Cindy's experience an uncontrollable wave of sadness arose in me and I began to cry. Ms. Allen quotes Cindy:

> "It is difficult to describe how overwhelmingly awful you feel when you know, absolutely know, that you are fundamentally different from the people all around you. To feel alone in a world filled with people. Unable to talk to your parents, your siblings, or friends because you are crazy. I grew up believing this. From the time I was five, until eighteen, it was my firm, unflagging belief that I was only moments away from being institutionalized.
>
> Long before I knew what a crossdresser was, I thought that I had schizophrenia. How else could I explain why whenever I saw a woman, my first reaction was not to who she was or her physical appearance but, rather, to her clothing? My immediate fantasy was about what it would be like to wear clothes and look like her. Clearly there was another person inside that wanted to do this awful thing."

When, like Cindy, you find yourself different than the majority of those around you, it seems there is something that is personally affirming when you discover or read about others who are like you.

Recently while staying in a hotel in San Francisco I came across a yellow-page ad in the wig section for "ROSALIE'S NEW LOOK" hair salon. The ad claimed the largest selection in town of the most popular brands of wigs. Rosalie offers private rooms for consultation and makes house hotel and motel calls for fittings. At the bottom of the ad was, "Cross Dressers Welcome"! The only reason I can think of why I was fascinated with this ad was, that it once again, reminded me that there are indeed, many of us out there. If not, why would Rosalie devote space in her ad to specifically mention cross dressers?

While in San Francisco I visited two of the most renowned galleries in Carmel which show the work of two of the most famous photographers of all time, Ansel Adams and Edward Weston. I have always been fascinated with the work of these men and own many books containing portfolios of their work. I purchased a biography of Edward Weston written by Ben Maddow, *"Edward Weston - His Life"*, (Aperture 1973). The author provides many insights in the life of Weston, most written from Weston's own journal which he kept almost daily. In it I found the following (page 19 ff):

> Cole said, "Oh, he was famous for that kind of thing." Many of the parties, including his own, were costume affairs. Edward Weston almost always chose to wear women's clothes; and did so without the slightest self-consciousness, and indeed, with the pride of the amateur. He (Edward Weston) wrote, for example:
>
> The Mardi Gras party went off with a bang! Masking, costuming and drink loosens up the most sedate. Tina and I exchanged clothes, to the veriest detail. I even squeezed into a pair of mannish shoes which she had just bought. She smoked my pipe and bound down her breasts, while I wore a pair of cotton ones with pink pointed buttons for nipples... We imitated each other's gestures. She led me in dancing, and for

the first few moments everyone was baffled. After while I indulged in exaggerations, flaunted my breasts and exposed my pink gartered legs most indecently.

And again in Mexico: (Weston wrote:)

"Carnival" week just passed. I "stepped out" but once... Lacking enthusiasm I planned no costume until almost time to leave. But one idea came at that late hour, to look at Tina's left behind clothing - dress as I have before - become a girl. So "Miss Weston" took the arm of "her" gentleman friend and walked down Avenida Chapultepec!

The author Maddow continues to write on page 20,

Possibly the pattern for these gatherings originated in Mexico, but it persisted upon his return to Glendale:

From Weston's journal:

Peter's party was one of the gayest ever. Dressed as a fine lady, evening gown and trimmings, I had a chance to burlesque the ladies, and did... Galka Scheyer... had begged my leather breeches, puttees, pistola and Texano, so I got in exchange her outfit even down to the panties, and a marvelous make-up job to boot. As a ravishing woman I was a success with the women.

A few sentences later, the author Maddow writes:

This kind of dress-up-and-have-fun was not unusual, given Weston's circle of friends and the general social milieu that existed in California in the 1930s. It was by no means his own invention; and it was certainly common to exchange genders. What is remarkable is the persistence of Weston's habit; for the recurrent caricature of himself as a woman, not once, not several times, but often, is not simply the feminine side of any of us, genius or idiot. Weston actually performed in this transformation on stage...

For Weston, who lost his mother when he was five, it might conceivably be read as the wish to return, to be closer, to be as intimate as clothing to skin - for clothing is surely a sort of skin - to his vanished mother.

My intention in sharing my discovery about my photographic idol, Edward Weston, is not to present another theory of why people crossdress. I offer it believing it will be of interest to you as I found it to be.

There is something consoling, affirming and fascinating connected with reading about individuals who have a propensity to do something that is different from the "norms" of society, specially if one can personally identify with this "different" behavior.

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THE MAKING OF TINA (3) - Tina [redacted]

Now I touch on a delicate, but necessary subject. Tranvestism and gender bending is an odd behavior (No!!! You don't say!!!) It may be odd because of a screwed up and insufficient self image, in turn from lack of understanding, guidance and, often enough, lack of love from parents during childhood. What other kind of thing comes from mildly or severely dysfunctional parents? Lotsa stuff, isn't there?!

We at T.G.I.C. have to screen new members. So do all the other groups, one way or another. I'm new as a member of a support group, so I have not experienced a great deal of contact with lots of other like people; even so I've had one bi-sexual, one adult child of an alcoholic, and some just plain paranoid, still severely victimized by guilt and shame and not even able to talk about it to anybody. I was like that years ago. So it's a Pandora's Box sometimes, with Heinz's 57 different varieties of behavioral idiosyncrasies (if they're little) or neuroses if they're not so little. I found out that I get screwed up in a relationship with a woman because I played a variation of my mother's "poor me" hypochondriac tapes. I grew up learning that behavior. In 1971, my father died. My mother drove me nuts for the next few years, doing to me what she had done to my father.

A girl friend in my life at that time twisted my arm enough to go see a very talented therapist. She opened up a whole dimension of knowledge regarding the emotional behavior of people, the idiosyncrasies, hang-ups, insecurities, neuroses, psychoses, dysfunctions, whatever. I began to have a whole new picture of life, and the way people behave. It also started me on the road of soul searching, and discovering and learning myself. This road I will travel the rest of my life, and for me, self exploration is not a bad trip, I enjoy it. Some are not so fortunate. There's this thing called denial which I will get to later, and that's a crippler. We're all walking wounded, folks, every one of us on this planet has an issue or two, small or large, that puts a quirk in our life and a hitch in our git-along.

So now let's catch up on the sequence of events. In 1960, I went out in public as Tina. In 1966, I got arrested and it put a serious crimp in the life of Tina, and I attempted to go straight by getting involved with women instead, only to find another problem in that area. I got involved in the hippy scene in Saratoga. Those people struck me as having a better attitude with life than any I had met yet. They had a sense of sensitivity that I took to immediately. They explored life, explored themselves, deferred judgement, and put a high priority on getting yourself together. I quickly became one of them. Some are still my best friends today. I learned more about brotherly love from these people than any other societal group. But none of them know about Tina. I did have some very nice non-romantic friendships with women, some of which I wanted to make romantic, but they didn't, or else I was paranoid with my garbage.

The arrest fed the guilt and shame. It was very hurting, not healing. A year later, after my affair broke up, I started cross dressing again in the confines of my own apartment. By 1970 I did a little explorative public going out, and got arrested again. But this one had an entirely different outcome. This was in Schenectady. As Tina, I drove a block from my apartment to go to a bar to get cigarettes. On the way home the car stalled and wouldn't start. A friendly guy helped push the car to the curb. Then the cops showed up and asked for registration and license. God Almighty, was I paranoid. I stayed in character claiming that I didn't have my license, and had moved from California recently. They put me in their car and ran a computer check, no Tina came up. We went down to the station. Finally, one said, "Look, if you're a guy, just come out with it. We don't care about that. Just show us your license." Boy was I relieved. I was so

relieved, I woke up the next morning with the thought, "Wow, I really can just go out as Tina with no more trouble with the law, I am so relieved and happy about that".

That didn't happen. My father was having health problems and I moved back up with my folks. Tina went back on hold for a year. Then my father died in November, 1971. Then, after a week or two of numbness, my mother started to really drive me nuts. She had a psychiatric history dating back to a nervous breakdown in 1950. There had been trips to the psychiatric ward, and that continued.

That was the worst emotional strain I had ever experienced up to that point in my life. The past four years had not been filled with misery, they had been pretty good. This was a hard life with some heavy duty stress dealing with my mother, and she had me pretty well under her thumb, guilt induced by her hypochondriac, passive manipulation. I didn't know this yet. The revelation of therapy was to come into my life in 1974.

Tina partied out there when Mom was in the psycho ward. This place was out in the country. In a year's time there were four or more trips to the mental ward for my mother. Her psychiatrist finally got her into a home for retired ladies in Saratoga. It was not a nursing home or special care facility, just a boarding house with room and board. It worked, let them handle her from now on. I inherited the farm. Yes, it was a farm, sixteen acres and a house. No animals, not a dairy farm, but workable land. I got involved in gardening, alternate energy projects, solar projects, methane projects. I got two of my good hippy friends out living with me. They were responsible people, not wackos by any means. I eventually quit my television repair job, became a subsistence farmer full time, did part time jobs, including some self employed stuff. From about '72 to '75, life was awful good out there. Tina went back into fantasy land.

It didn't seem to matter much. In '74, my two friends left to continue their lives chasing their dreams. I was alone out there but not unhappy. Tina started to party again. There's a pattern here. Tina comes out after bad times, prolonged depression, failed romance. This time Tina came out after a failed romance in 1974. The same girl who got me to see the therapist that helped me so much. The girlfriend had her own neurotic issues in addition to mine. Later on, I will get a little deeper into the phenomenon of Tina coming out after a bad trip. I even successfully got in contact with local members of the F.P.E chapter. This was a hetero transvestite support group started by Virginia Prince, but that's another story. The Saratoga scene was shifting the way it always does, a lot of my hippie friends seemed to take off at once, and my social life kinda fell apart. But here I was the owner of my own farm, got dehooked from my passive manipulative domineering psychosomatic hypochondriac mother, I told her to get lost and put her totally out of my life for a year. I was semi independent of outside work, and in general life was pretty damned good.

Then that goddamn, hideous religious thing hit me in the fall of 1975.

(To be continued next month)

At last! A magazine about gender dysphoria for both caregivers & consumers

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MAKEUP FINDS

Everybody knows that to stop red nail polish from staining your nails, especially if you have to take it off for work the next day, you should use a clear basecoat. But who has time? Now, Revlon's Top Speed 60-Second Base Coat lets you get a tough, durable smooth coat in only a minute. Even application, non staining, and, if you wear enamel full time, you get longer wear. Top Speed 60 Second Top Coat or spray nail polish dryer, also helps things move quicker. But if you haven't got them, try puting your nails under cold running water. Simple.

Cabot's Clear Perfection Concealers have long been good for those drugstore value shoppers who have passed on CoverMark or DermaBlend. While Cabots products may be a bit orange for some, their new Clear Perfection Cover Creme Lite, is a nice SPF15 liquid to powder product at a very resaonable price. Many of you will be able to use this, or other liquid to powders, like the fabulous Cover Girl Ultimate Finish foundation to go on smoothly and get a good matte finsh with a minimum of beard cover. All of these come in a compact with a sponge, so you can keep your touchup handy. Make sure you also carry powder, as any creme can get a bit oily as it wears.

It's important to blend your beard cover to get a good color match. Even the widest lines, like Lydia O'Leary CoverMark, suggest blending. One good way to keep the blend is in one of those cute little Japonesque compartment cases that will hold any kind of spreadable cosmetic, like lipstick or cream blush. But if $30 for an elegant case is a bit much, try a daily pill container from the dollar store for a quick, easy and inexpensive carry-along palette.

Maybelline's new Revitalizing line features not only our favorite new model, Rosie ("Yes, I'm 40!") but a good selection of practical, effective and inexpensive cosmetics for us older gals. Try the Matte lipstick, which have lots of pigment for not only a great finish but long-long wear.

Like everyone else, Maybelline has an Alpha-Hydroxy/Fruit Acid based treatment creme in the Revitalizing line. Use any you like, but make sure they have at least 8% of the fruit acids to get the full exfoliating effect. Less potent cremes are great as mositurizers. While exfoliation is good, it won't solve every skin problem, and shaving is one of the best exfoliants there is!

Has L'Oreal made a special foundation for those of us with a dual life? L'Oreal's new Dualité foundation is two products in one. The sleek Dualité compact goes on wet for super coverage with a great, pop, semi-matte finish, or dry for just a touch of color. I love being able to get a perfect complexion using it wet, and then touch up dry any time. Dualité comes in six great shades and is good for all skin types. And besides, anything with a name like Dualité has to be good!

Moisturize, yes! But many of us need a little extra help before we put on our makeup. Lauder for Men Skin Comfort Lotion promises to relieve the pain of shaving, and with continued use, to reduce shaving discomfort by up to 45%! By healing the face, you can shave close all the time. Remember that hot water helps the shaving process by plumping and softening the hair: I shave in the shower. Just tell everyone you use a great Estée Lauder moisturizer, and you'll be as chic as the next gal!

Blue eyes? Try brown liner to make them look bluer, blue to make them look grey, or purple to make them pop green.

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TGIC
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	Winnie [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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TGIC General Membership Dues: $40/yr

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.

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

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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.

JULY 1994

Jul 7 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Jul 14 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Jul 21 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Jul 28 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

AUGUST 1994

Aug 4 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Aug 11 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Aug 18 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Aug 25 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

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

July 6-10 *Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE)*, Chicago, IL
Aug 17-21 *3rd Annual Transgender Law and Policy Conference (TRANSGEN '94)*, Houston, TX
9/29-10/2 *Southern Comfort*, Atlanta, GA
Oct 4-7 *Dignity Cruise V*, Pittsburgh
Oct 16-23 *Fantasia Fair*, Provincetown
Nov 17-20 *Fall Harvest '94*, Iowa City

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