In Your FACE!

political activism against gender oppression

The complete listing of all subversive actions against gender oppression around the US, along with occasional instructions on how to roll your own.

MISSION: Cover all actions related to overthrowing gender oppression, transphobia, genderphobia, the nonocracy or any political structure which oppresses us or just really pisses us off. Articles on what's happening, how to, how not to, and how to do it again even deeper.

PUBLISHING PERVERTS: Riki Wilchins, along with various disgusting, unprintable, and anatomically improbable suggestions from Lynn Walker, JoAnn Roberts, and Nancy "Ninja" Nangeroni (in fact, layout & production by Ninja Design). You can reach us at:

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COST: Free. Made available to you courtesy of your favorite gender magazine as a free insert. Don't forget to tell 'em you love 'em (and us).

PUBLISHED: 2-3 times a year or whenever we damn well feel like it so just don't give us any crap, okay?

DISCLAIMER: IYF refuses to disclose our sources; we will not disclose our sources, no matter what you do to us, not even if you tie us up and do unspeakable things to our unmentionable parts, not even if we're tightly handcuffed and obviously enjoying it, except where they're clearly printed below. In addition, we want you to know that our sources are all completely honorable, reliable and 100% accurate, while IYF is responsible for all misrepresentations, distortions and garbling of their stories contained herein (even though most of them were drunk, engaged in having sex with small barking animals, or both, at the time we spoke with them). Finally, all stories you agree with were written up by Riki Anne Wilchins; those you hate were written up by Lynn, Nancy or JoAnn (probably all three).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: As part of our continuing effort to raise our political consciousness to the highest possible levels here at IYF, we will be picketing outside our own office next week where I will personally protest the squalid, degrading and humiliating conditions under which I force myself to work. Persons interested in taking part in this action should contact me directly or simply seek professional help.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

A recent lobbying trip to Washington by four transpeople and friends was outrageously successful. Lobbyists met with legislative assistants, Congresspeople and Senators including the offices of Paul Wellstone, Gerry Studds, Barney Frank, Louis Slaughter, Henry Gonzales, Ted Kennedy, Carol Mosley-Braun, Jay Rockefeller, Mark Foley, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Jerry Nadler to name a few. In addition, they met with lesbigay organizations National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Funds. In all cases, we underlined the same message: the importance of transinclusion in health care and employment non- discrimination. The folks we met on the Hill were extremely interested and friendly; they had just never even **considered** transpeople or their needs. I guess visibility is everything. The effort was so successful, a broad coalition of activists is calling for a National Transgender Lobbying Day, Oct. 2-3 (see ad on back cover).

The Sexual Behaviors Consultation Unit at Johns Hopkins University continues to mistreat, demean, and extort our brothers and sisters, while denying effective treatment and working to eliminate surgical and hormonal options. It's time to picket their transphobic asses. **Please contact Dallas Denny, Jessica Zavier, or this rag if you're interested in participating.**

ATLANTA / AEGIS

Source: Dallas Denny, c/o AEGIS, POBox 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, 404-939-2128

Most people know AEGIS as an organization deeply into the issues of trans healthcare and medicine. They have recently made the jump to a membership organization, and have announced plans to move AEGIS more towards political activism, awareness and advocacy. And... (are you listening James?) AEGIS is beginning work towards a non-discrimination ordinance in local Atlanta.

BAY AREA

Source: James Green, c/o FTM Intl, 5337 College Ave #142, Oakland CA 94618

The City and County of San Francisco has finally passed Article 33, officially amending the city's non-discrimination policy to specifically include transgendered and transexual people. Hallelujah! James and dozens number of San Franciscan transpeople and friends have been working on this since just after the Ark docked at low tide, and it's finally a reality.

By the time you read this, it will have been signed into law. James says this is "just the tip of the iceberg," with additional legislation being introduced to define and extend the general concepts in Article 33. Yes!

BRANDON TEENA TRIAL DEMO

Sources: Nancy Nangeroni & Hannah Blackwell c/o IYF

Last year M2M Brandon Teena (AKA Teena Brandon) was brutally beaten and raped in Lincoln, Nebraska. When he went to the police, the sheriff ("You can call it 'it', as far as I'm concerned.") said there was insufficient evidence. Just for good measure, they publicly outed Brandon. Not long afterwards, he was beaten, raped, and this time, murdered, execution-style. Nancy Nangeroni has repeatedly stressed the need for transpeople to stand up, show up, be there. Hannah Blackwell

and Davina Anne Gabriel have been instrumental in working their local KC connections to help make a demo happen.

Demonstrate on the opening day of the trial of Brandon Teena's alleged murderer. Planned speakers include Leslie Feinberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Kate Bornstein. Weekend of May 15, Kansas City. **Info: Nancy, Davina , this rag.**

For those of us with some extra cash, Brandon's mother has not even been able to afford a headstone; yes, he's in an unmarked grave. You can send donations to: Teena Brandon Memorial Fund, 1204 W0 Street, Lincoln NB, 68528.

Houston

Source: Phyllis Frye, c/o ICTLEP, 570 Firenza St. Houston TX 77035

Phyllis, accompanied by the apparently-ubiquitous Sharon Ann Stuart, Riki (Menace) Wilchins and who knows what other trans-reprobates, will taking several days in March to visit our nation's capital and meet with the Congressional Leadership Conference on Human Rights. They will be lobbying the principal drafters of the ENDA bill (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) which, if it's ever passed, will give important federal protection employment protection to gay, lesbian and bisexual people but NOT, of course, to gendertrash like us. The hope is to get the rest of us (the best of us?) amended into that bill.

This builds on earlier meetings between Ms. Frye and Karen Kerin (of It's Time America), when they met with progressive Republican ("progressive Republican", "jumbo shrimp", "dry ice" ?) Sen. Jeffords of VT, of the Health & Human Service Comte. He has promised to introduce an amended ENDA bill which does include us, if and when the bill is brought to the floor. Ironically, the Kennedy people, previously in charge, were not at all sympathetic, but were swept from the chair of the committee along with the outgoing tide of the recent election. Go figure...

They will also meet with folks from CongressPeople Gerry Studds, Paul Wellstone, Sharon Mosely Braun, Barney Frank, and, of course, several Texican legislators, to educate them on transgender concerns. (Is it just me, or is it a little scary thinking of our trans-sisters running around Congress, putting on makeup in the Congressional Ladies Room, straightening their hose, and then launching an all-out attack to put black Transexual Menace T-shirts on Newt Gangrene and Bob Droll?. Hmmm....)

Phyllis is also working with Sarah DePalma and Cynthia Davis of It's Time Texas (the ten-gallon version of It's Time America) to introduce a bill into the Texas legislature to try to streamline the documentation processes for transgendered people: change of name, sex, birth certificate, etc. They will be continuing their meeting with state legislators and the bill's sponsor to push the bill forward.

It's Time America

Source: Jessica Xavier, c/o It's Time Maryland (POBox 65, Kensington, MD 20895)

Out of ITA's groundbreaking work is blossoming:

IT'S TIME MARYLAND (P.O. Box 65, Kensington, MD 20895) which has begun openly lobbying in the state capital of Annapolis (No, the capital of Maryland is not Washington, DC) for employment protection, and simpler birth certificate changes, and inclusion in anti-discrimination legislation;

IT'S TIME WEST VIRGINIA with Laurie Anne Udovich *[RR 8 Box 24A, Fairmont WV 26554, (304)363-9058, LoriU@aol.com]* who's working on a number of TG issues at WVUniv;

IT'S TIME VIRGINIA, working for transgender inclusion in bylaws and political agenda of the state's gay and lez lobbying group, Virginians for Justice. (Boy are there a lot of righteous-sounding organizations out there. Why don't we start one called, oh, something like: "GenderTrash Rejects for Filth, Corruption, and Perverted Acts with Frozen Zucchini."

March on Washington

Source: Sharon Ann Stuart, c/o Stuart Communications, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown NY 13326

Well, our very own first march on Washington (cover your heart when you say that) against gender oppression continues movin' and groovin' towards becoming a reality. Since it's inception only few months ago, Sharon Ann has been acting coordinator of NTEAC, the National Transgender Educational Action Coalition (the march's very tentative name). And no, this isn't a "march of the gender organizations", it's for you and me and your mom and my mom and your cousin Fred who wore Mom's panties that Sunday afternoon and the rest of us who are gender oppressed or just plain pissed off at all the fear and violence which haunts the borders of our lives (quick, get me an agent...)

During NOW's April 9 March in Washington about Violence Against Women, 4 members of the Menace and assorted other eastern seabord perverts showed up to support the march, hung a Menace T-shirt on the Memorial Clothesline and handed out thousands of flyers to NOW marchers promoting transgender inclusion in NOW's agenda on health care, violence, insurance, and job discrimination.

Medical Beat

Source: Dr. Joy Shaffer

After 9 months of agonizing unemployment and humiliation, Dr. Melanie Erin Spritz has been selected by SUNY Brooklyn Hospital for the prestigious 5 year combined Internal Medicine/Psychiatry Residency. She will begin her advanced training 1 July 1995 and graduate 30 June 2000. She becomes the first openly transsexual person in history to be accepted into medical training!

Minneapolis

Source: Susan Kimberly, 698 Laurel Avenue #4E St. Paul, MN, 55104

Susan, previously and pre-transitionally the Prez of the City Council (that's right, THE BIG BANANA of St. Paul), and now post-everything, just ran for County Commish, a position with real power in the St. Paul area. The net result was about 12,000 to 9,000. Yes, she lost; but how many transexuals do you know who run for office in a major metropolitan area and pull 42% of the vote? 10 years ago it would have been 12,000 to 9, not 9,000. Notably, she won overwhelmingly in of-color and working-class neighborhoods, and lost in the white, yuppie, presumably liberal areas. Go figure... Of course, she was running as a liberal democrat at, well, just the wrong time. While pondering her next move (not a quitter, our Susan), she noted to IYF that "when you're running queer, there's no margin for error; you can't make any mistakes."

Susan says everyone kind of agreed to leave her transexuality in the closet, and her allowing that to happen was a mistake.

"By not talking about my past, I lost my past. So here I was, a former president of the City Council, described as being brilliant at my job. By losing my transexuality I lost all that too... I needed to deal with it."

New York Citaaay

Source: multiple perverts

Well, we've been busy as beavers (not busy with beavers) here this year. The Transexual Menace, ever the perverted genderscum rabble, has participated in a number of successful actions including:

• Contesting the Village Voice's coverage of murdered M2M Brandon Teena (we won't say F2M or F2M in these pages) as another confused lesbian.

• Overturning Gay Games' discriminatory policy that F2Fs would have to compete as men unless they produced a raft of intrusive documentation (this policy completely overturned thanks in large part to lezzie activist Ann Northrop).

• Protesting Stonewall25's curious omission of transpeople and drag from the title of their "Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Absolut-Vodka-Ad" parade. We lost this one, but got lots of concessions, including a place for Leslie Feinberg to speak on the podium. Phyllis Frye's threat to lie down in the parade route helped the Menace look like moderates(!)

• Michigan Womyn's Music Festival's policy of "womyn-born-womyn" only. Over 30 people attended "Camp Trans", outside MWMF's main gate and eventually 7 transpeople were escorted into the festival by a contingent of supportive leather, S/M and Lesbian Avenger dykes from all over the US.

• Picketing, leafletting and confronting Janice "Transsexual Empire" Raymond when she spoke at the local feminist bookstore. 24 Menacites and friends showed up for this one.

• Actions against the Lesbian Sex Mafia's (LSM) policy of "post-ops only." We told 'em we're all pre-op scum as far as them and their panty-check is concerned. Stay tuned - PowerSurge in Seattle has tried the same discriminatory shit (we apologize for the shitty language) and this action is still underway: we may yet get the chance to picket their ass.

• Finally working towards our own Big Apple-brand non-discrimination ordinance, with the help and inspiration of Mr. James ("Jamison" to you) Green (see Bay Area, above).

ESQUIRE article update: 7 members of the Menace and friends held a (friendly) demo outside the offices of Esquire Magazine on 3/29 contesting various transphobic elements of the story in their April issue. The demo was covered by local gay-friendly media, and subsequent meetings with the Esquire staff (plus 500 leaflets handed out) effected some serious consciousness raising.

New Jersey

Source: Terry McCorcal, c/o Monmouth Ocean Transgender Alliance (908)219-9094

Terry and Wendy Berger (along with Riki of NY NOW) introduced a 2-part resolution into the NJ NOW State Convention affirming the rights of transgendered and transexual people. After some discussion, it was passed pretty much unanimously. And get this: part two of the resolution calls for the resolution to be introduced at NOW's National Convention in July (Go grrrrls!)

North Carolina

Source: Holly Boswell, c/o Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

North Carolina Pride has changed its name in response to the prompting of it transmembership. Declaring, "... we paid particular attention to the inclusion of youth, bisexuals, and transgendered persons," NC Pride is now proudly known as NC Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Pride. (No, there are no plans to try to get the name changed further to NC Transgendered, Bi-Sexual, Gay and Lesbian Pride, but it does have a certain ring.)

Ashville's Superior Court Clerk Robert Christy continues to deny name changes to any and all pre/non/I-can't-even-THINK-scalpels -operative transexuals. Phoenix Transgender Support, those intrepid rebels, are looking hard for the three vital things in short supply: time, money, and a willing, warm-hearted, transphillic pro-bono attorney to mount an appeal. We haven't heard the last of this; they move slow down there, but when they do, they generally mean it.

San Antonio

Source: Tere Frederickson, 2931 Burnt Oak, San Antonio, TX 78232-1803 TereF@AOL.COM

We move on many fronts, and it seems like Tere has been busy on all of them. Herewith, the shortlist:

• Tere took the lead in getting the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) to include "transgender" and "gender identification" support in their national constitution.

• She worked to get the San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus to amend its ways, its by-laws and its name; it's now the San Antonio Equal Rights Political Caucus for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered (SAERPC). Now SanAn has the first and only originally lesbian/gay political action group in Texas which supports transgendered inclusion.

• Help move the newly-named SAERPC to unanimously adopt a resolution to:

1) demand the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) include transgender in the Texas hate crimes bill, 2) demand LGRL change their by-laws and name to include transgender, 3) demand LGRL include a transgender member on the Board of Directors, and 4) demand LGRL include transgender in the publicity and documentation for the '95 March on Austin. SAERPC has also come out strong in support of transgender inclusion in the Texas state ENDA bill (Employment Non-Discrimination Act).

Tere states: "Notice, none of this was really an 'in your face' thing on my part [Nobody's perfect, Tere, there will be other opportunities - ED]. It was education, patience, timing, and making just the right contacts. I never brought the issue on inclusion up directly -- I planted a few seeds, dumped some water on them from time to time and voila!" 'Nuff said.

[Do transpeople in Texas do anything besides activism, or has Phyllis put something in the drinking water?]

TEXICAN DEMO:

IT'S TIME TEXAS led a peaceful protest in Austin on April 2 at a large gay rights rally to protest their exclusion by the LesBiGay organiztions from the Hate Crimes bill currently before the state legislature. More in-depth, totall fabricated details in the next issue.

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITRIX

The fight against gender oppression has been joined for centuries, perhaps millennia. What's new today, is that it's moving into the arena of open political activism. And nope, this is not just one more civil rights struggle for one more narrowly-defined minority. It's about all of us who are genderqueer: diesel dykes and stone butches, leatherqueens and radical fairies, nelly fags, crossdressers, intersexed, transexuals, transvestites, transgendered, transgressively gendered, intersexed, and those of us whose gender expressions are so complex they haven't even been named yet. More than that, it's about the gender oppression which affects everyone: the college sweetheart who develops life-threatening anorexia nervosa trying to look "feminine," the Joe Sixpack dead at 45 from cirrhosis of the liver because "real men" are hard drinkers. But maybe we genderqueers feel it most keenly, because it hits us each time we walk out the front door openly and proudly. And that's why these pages are only going to grow. We're not invisible anymore. We're not well behaved. And we're not going away. Political activism is here to stay.

So get out. Get active. Picket someone's transphobic ass. Get in someone's genderphobic face. And while you're at it, pass the word: the gendeRevolution has begun, and we're going to win.

Your Uncle Samantha wants you!

Yes, it's true. Your Uncle Sam wants you up on the Hill, deep in the bowels of our nation's capital, Washington DC (smile when you say that) for **the first ever National Transgender Lobbying Day**, ***Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 2-3.***

Our past 2-day trip to DC was amazingly successful; 4 of us met with the staffs of House and Senate leaders like Senators Jeffords (VT), Moynihan (NY), Kennedy (MA), Rockerfeller (WV), Mosley-Braun (MI), Wellstone (MN), Hutchinson (TX), as well as Rep's Frank (MA), Studds (MA), Rangel (NY), Foley (FL), Luther (MN), and many more.

What was our biggest hurdle? Most of them had never even met a transperson, never thought of us as constituents, never considered our rights and concerns. We've been invisible as citizens.

Now YOU have the chance to change that, once and for all!

Your Uncle Samantha wants You! Instead of 4 of us, National Transgender Lobbying Day is going to put 54 of us up on the Hill. That's right: **5 dozen transpeople and friends**, from every state and territory in the union, all lobbying for inclusion on issues critical to *you and your loved ones* like job discrimination (the ENDA bill), veteran's affairs, child custody rights, and the national health care and insurance.

But we can't do it without YOU: We need YOU there!
Seize YOUR chance to make a little American history...
Stand up! Be proud! Be a United States citizen!

MORE INFO: Riki Anne Wilchins (212)645-1753 or RIKI@PIPELINE.COM, Karen Kerin (802)223-4756, Phyllis Frye (713)723-8368. Shared overnight rooms @$15/night per person, right off the beautiful Univ. of Maryland campus. Subway is $5 per person per day. Some limited scholarships available for those of us who are students or un/underemployed. Come for one or both days. Just be there!