

THE TRANSGENDERIST

DECEMBER 1994

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]

My excursion in November was to the Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme in the Big Apple, Nov. 10-13. Left Bill's things in the trunk of my car at Rensselaer, took AMTRAK to Penn Station, and walked across the street to the Hotel Pennsylvania. Then, jumped into a cab with some local big city gals who knew a good place to go for dinner, and went out again to a different eatery the next evening. On Friday, my main interest was the IFGE board meeting, where some productive decisions were made.

Several other TGIC and Lambda Chi Lambda members attended the convention; I shared a room with Sharon Ann. Fran Estes was elected to the Tri-Ess board of directors, congratulations, Fran! But, overall attendance was disappointingly low until Saturday, when the downstate gals filled the banquet hall and we had a fun evening with excellent entertainment. The hotel lobby was usually full of European tourists, but no one paid undue attention to us.

DINNER PARTIES

Only Joan and Jackie showed for our dinner party in November. However, we already have nine signed up for **December 10**, 8 pm at the *Northway Inn*, so it is a definite "go". This will be a joint party with the Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess. I hope many more of you will want to join us, so please sign up at the club room or call 436-4513 and leave a message for Joan by Thursday, December 8. We will try to get the small meeting room downstairs, but have not yet made reservations and may not be able to in this busy Christmas season. So, **leave your number** so we can call to confirm the location. I plan to be in the

Club Room between 6:30 and 7:30 just before the party on Saturday, so you can call for last-minute sign-ups or cancellations. And pray that we don't have a blizzard!

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This month, we welcome back our former newsletter editor Jennifer Wells as a regular columnist, and have two more articles by Callan. Also, we have an interesting letter from Jackie and a contribution from Gina Marie. She will be taking pictures at our **Makeup Demonstration** meeting on December 8. So come, get pretty and smile!

MAKEUP DEMONSTRATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT CLUB ROOM

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CHRISTMAS - Callan [REDACTED]

Hallelujah! It is Christmas!

On Christmas we celebrate the birth of a great spiritual leader who brought us many messages.

The most important message was simple: We have the good, we have the God, inside of us. We are children of God, and we have all we need for Joy within us. We also have the bad inside of us. We have free will: We choose the path of fear and sadness or the path of love and joy.

If we see the world as a terrible place, filled with doom and destruction, we will be correct. However, if we see the world as a beautiful place, filled with love and abundance, that will also be correct. The world contains all, and we must choose for ourselves.

At Christmas we attempt to come a little closer to seeing the love and abundance in the world. We take a moment to try and taste the joy.

To see the joy, we must experience, as Jesus did, a rebirth in love.

Too many people have taken the lessons of Jesus and used them to continue fear and division, trying to make it seem that we cannot achieve heaven on Earth. This is wrong.

We must learn to love here on Earth, accepting that all is in balance: the fall with the spring, the old with the young, the evil with the good. As humans, we will never be perfect, but we can put ourselves in balance, where goodness and abundance can fill our lives. As each of us becomes forces of good, we help put the world in balance.

It is easy to be scared of the forces inside of you. It is easy to try to believe what we are taught, that the world is full of horrors, and that includes you. But to

find happiness, we must brave the horrors and search within, finding the good, the God inside.

Much of what we know to be right may be at odds with the modern world. We know, in our hearts, that the key to joy, to goodness, to the best in ourselves and others, the things we search for at Christmas lies within us.

Whoever you are, you are born human, as was Jesus on the day we celebrate today. And as Jesus, you have a special connection to God inside of you. Find the connection, trust it, and feel the spirit of Christmas everyday.

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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

Miss Take's Trivia

In 1958, Christine Jorgensen made a record called *Christine Reveals*. Who else was on the record? Answers to TGIC, Box 13604, Albany 12212-3604!

"Plastics, my boy, the future is in plastics"
or... Transgen...erational (Huh!?)...
Its in the water!

In the movie "The Graduate" the shady businessman advises the newly graduated Dustin Hoffman that "the future is in plastics". Hoffman, who's mind is occupied with more "Robinesque" things at the time pays little heed to this sage advice. In a never released sequel script, Mrs. Robinson becomes pregnant from the liaison with the Hoffman character, and gives birth to a sexually ambiguous "Daemonesque", child who grows up plotting to overthrow the world by depopulating it by producing sterile, sexually androgynous clones. Sound far fetched?

OK, I admit that the script mentioned above is a fabrication; however the premise of the world facing a crisis of survivability due to the development of sexually dimorphic or undifferentiated, and potentially sterile species, including the species homo sapiens sapiens (human beings) is a very real scientific possibility, at least, according to the conclusions of a recent special on the Discovery Channel entitled, "Assault on the Male".

"Assault on the Male", although unrelated, picks up where the program "Brain Sex", from several seasons ago (also on the Discovery Channel) left off (Kind of makes you wonder who is in charge of programming at the Discovery Channel). Where "Brain Sex" helped us to understand the link between hormonal influences on the developing fetus; from where those hormonal influences come is the one step further taken by "Assault".

Opening in the Florida Everglades we learn that alligators and other species are declining in numbers due to an apparent increase of sexual ambiguity, lack of differentiation, and male sterility. Drawing on research from all over the world based on the reproductability of "top predators", this trend is cited again and again from

one species to the next... including humans which have, according to several studies, shown a decrease in fertility, as measured by sperm count, of 50% in this century alone. Further, studies and reports from all over the world, according to this program, indicate an increased incidence of intersexed conditions and "abnormal" male genitalia and reproductive tract development in human fetuses.

Seeking to resolve the riddle of (ahem) dwindling masculinity, leading experts from all over the world convened to share their findings and plot future research. Anyone care to guess what they found? That's right, sertoli cells! "Sertoli cells?", you ask? Yes Sertoli cells. It seems these little buggers control a "complex pattern of hormonal secretions in utero, which determines when proto-gonads begin developing into testes or ovaries, as well as the timing of other events leading up to the creation and functioning of a man (sound vaguely familiar?) as well as a propensity for other nasty outcomes such as testicular and prostate cancer. Anyway, it seems that the thing that effects these cells the most is (surprise) estrogen or Oestrogen as its called in Europe (it was a British documentary). So the search was on to find out from where the estrogen, that might be effecting human development worldwide for over 60 years, was coming.

Apparently, estrogens from the mother cannot cross the placental barrier, so as a source mom was quickly ruled out (mom may have dressed you funny but she's not completely to blame on this one), and the search was on for external estrogenic sources. One of the first culprits found was DES. DiEthylStilbesterol, is a female hormone which from the 1930's through the 1980's was given to over 6 million pregnant women, generally to prevent miscarriage in pregnancies considered for many reasons to be at risk. According to a report on DES in male offspring, between 1949 and 1971 many East coast doctors in the U.S. routinely prescribed DES for all pregnant women.

Follow up studies have indicated a corresponding increase in genital abnormalities in the male offspring of the women in these DES pregnancies (I've been saying for nearly 10 years that we should be looking at DES! So now we know... If the female offspring can file a class action suit against the manufacturer of DES for their fertility problems and win... then why haven't we done likewise? The settlement probably could pay for a lot of surgery! Are you listening IFGE? AEGIS?).

But DES didn't explain the whole problem. So the search continued. As it turned out, many man-made chemicals, including DDT, DDE, Ketones, Heptaclor, PCB to name a few, have an estrogenic effect in animal tissue. Yet there was more, a whole new class of estrogenic compounds was discovered in a research laboratory by accident when estrogenic affects were noted in cancer samples prepared in plastic test tubes. Following four months of searching, the lab discovered a substance called nonylphenol which is used extensively in the manufacture of everything from plastics to paints. How extensively? In one recent year alone in just the U.S. 450 million tons were produced - that's 900,000,000,000 (900 billion) pounds or about 1 3/4 Tons for every man, woman and child in the U.S. So pervasive is this one compound that tests throughout Britain indicated that it was uniformly present in levels of 50 parts per million in water sources; other tests indicated that levels as small as 30 parts per million could cause extensive feminization in species of test fish.

However, estrogens seem to be cumulative in their effects on animal tissue and all chemicals and natural sources have to be considered as part of the whole picture. Because of the cumulative effects these chemicals are being called (of all things) transgenerational due to their abilities to be passed from one generation to the next.

Is the future in plastics? If so are we, the benefactors of post WWII hormonal testing and petrochemicals and transgendered, the future? For the moment, don't drink the water if you value your

masculinity, and hold on tight to Mrs. Robinson, (I think she's growing a beard)... it may be a bumpy ride.

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Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Angel Hart, and I've been hooked on make-up and fashion since I attended the Fashion Institute of Technology. As an Independent Beauty Consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics, I get many transgendered and crossdressing individuals of all levels; from the occasional cross-dresser to the queen of Wigstock, to professional cabaret performers to a now-famous singer. I've always admired these women since the age of eight when a family friend became a woman. Even though I was too young to grasp understanding, I knew the ex-wife of "Johnny" who came to visit us after Johnny "died" possessed the same tender eyes of our family friend, Johnny.

I am willing to teach skin care classes for 3-6 people at TGIC (I used to live in an apartment below for a couple of months), or to meet one-on-one at your home or mine to let you try make-up, fragrances, skin and nail care.

I assure you that *all* requests, facials, etc., will be strictly confidential, and privacy is assured. I look forward to seeing all you special ladies look your very best. Thank you.

Angel M. Hart

So you look across the room and see a person who is dressed wrong. Maybe its a woman with a stick on mustache. Maybe its a man in a dress. Maybe its someone who looks good, but there are is just something odd: big shoulders, big hips, or a different attitude.

Transgendered people can often challenge our social behavior. One of the first things we decide, usually instantly and subconsciously, is the gender of the person we see. Boy or Girl? Man or Woman? When we get mixed or ineffective messages, we often feel a sense of discomfort, as illustrated by Saturday Night Live's Pat.

It even gets more complex if you see someone who changes too quickly. Most women have a reasonably consistent hairstyle, but plastic hair often allows transgendered people to look different every time you see them. You may meet people who look female at one time, and male the next time. This is tough to deal with.

So what do you do when you see a transgendered person? How do you respond?

The best solution is to respond to them in the way that they are presenting. If they are wearing woman's clothes, treat them that way, or as a man in man's clothing. Most transgendered people understand the confusion, and will quickly help you get comfortable. While some can be quite strong in their preferences in how they want to be treated, they will always give clues.

After spending sometime in the gender community, one starts to judge people by their energy, personality and eyes rather than by other physical cues. Pronouns tend to get mixed up and things become quite flexible. Words like homosexual and heterosexual lose meaning: is someone with a penis who is manifesting as a woman, and has a sexual preference for women a lesbian or a heterosexual? It's much simpler to talk about sexual orientation in terms of woman-oriented, male-oriented or bisexual.

The fact that what can seem to be a heightened interest in clothing can begin to remove the meanings we give clothing is quite interesting. Often crossdressers will wear sexy outfits, not to attract men, but just for themselves. The meaning of the outfit is changed, is not for seduction but for pleasure. When we unhook the traditional messages that are associated with clothes, we see that the key is not the clothing, but the humanity, the intent of the person.

Many transgendered people wear clothing out of context, and those that are keyed into the contextual meaning of clothes, from flannel shirts to garter belts, may become uncomfortable. Clothes may have different and even conflicting meanings when worn by a transgendered person. However, acceptance of clothing as simple ornament frees all of us from the limits that often accompany what we wear. We can all wear pretty lipstick if we want, and it doesn't mean anything, other than we like pretty lipstick.

It can also be uncomfortable to get very mixed gender cues from a crossdresser. A pretty woman who slugs back bourbon and talks about sports in a deep voice may seem just a bit odd. It is important to remember that not all crossdressers are actively trying to change their gender role. Some are just guys who only want to look pretty. If you do get strong messages from someone that they are a guy, however they are dressed, treat them that way.

Women may also be transgendered. Female-To-Male transsexuals are not uncommon, although crossdressing is less prevalent. This may be because women have more latitude to present masculine attitude and dress if they choose to than men do to present feminine attitude and dress.

The two most common questions that crossdressers get asked are: Are you gay? Are you going to have surgery to become a woman?

Are we gay? As many male-oriented crossdressers, usually known as drag queens, know, most gay men are not interested in someone who looks like a woman. They love men, and want a man. Wearing a dress to attract a homosexual man is not effective. You may get some closeted, bisexual, or experimental people, but this is rare.

Do we want to become women? Usually not. Most crossdressers do not see a strong need to have the sexual reassignment surgery that will change their sex. The desire to act or live in another gender role may be very strong, as it is for transsexuals who do want surgery, or non-existent, as it is for fetishists.

This transgression of gender roles, of being able to cross between is one of the most difficult things for many people to handle. An old joke goes, "In the battle of the sexes, men see crossdressers as traitors, women see them as spies. And they both want to shoot them!" However, as we become more understanding of limits that gender roles have put on us, and the need to accept the diversity that we are born with, there is more and more understanding.

Not all transgendered people are nice, although many are. Many are still ashamed of their in-born need to express transgender in a way that society says is unacceptable. They have grown up in the closet, and are angry with both society and themselves. Transgendered people are just regular humans, with all the faults and joys of any human.

But people who have come to terms with their transgender have a unique point of view. They see the world in a unique way, with the spirit of one gender and the training of another. Transgendered people can remind us of our common humanity, that the things we share in common with each other are much more important than our differences. And if we can all learn that, we can learn to work together to make the world a better place.

Next time you see a transgendered person, say "Hi." It just might be a pleasant and enlightening experience.

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LETTER TO EDITOR - Jackie

Dear Winnie,

The latest issue of the newsletter was stunningly brilliant. I will say it again, Callan [REDACTED]'s knowledge of transgender psychology, current literature and what is going on in our community is awesome. I believe if I had access to Callan's articles twenty years ago I would have saved many kilobucks in psychotherapy.

With regard to Miss Take's comments on **The Written Word** in the November issue, I would like to share my own thoughts for the newsletter on the subject I call "Forced Into Femininity" adult fiction.

Indulging in TV fantasies of being forced to crossdress does not mean one has not grown up, but is simply a way some men chose to enjoy passing the time. In fact I know some men personally, who like to go hunting, have distinguished themselves in military service, raised a family, and like to indulge themselves in their spare time reading this type of fiction.

Most people spend some time living in one fantasy or another. This does not mean they have not grown up, it is just that spending time or living in or living out our fantasies is a way of being human. Unfortunately some humans believe that other humans must only have "correct and proper fantasies." I remember, when I was a boy, how the priest would tell me in confession that I must not dwell on impure thoughts or I would be committing a mortal sin and be doomed to the burning fires of hell for all eternity. I have read that petticoat punishment and being forced into femininity may no longer be a correct fantasy but a sign that one has not grown up. In fact the day may come when you

will be reported to the transgender thought police who will take you to the local CSW "Counselor" for mind adjustment.

Today most men are gatherers. They spend a major portion of their time gathering money. Some of them in their spare time want to live out being hunters instead of gatherers, so they get their guns and go out in the wilds and shoot ducks, deer and highway signs. Fine, let them, it is better than going to war or shooting the wife.

Some men like to crossdress and read TV fantasy novels about being forced into femininity by the significant dominant female in their lives. This does not mean they haven't grown up or that they cannot distinguish fantasy from reality. Some of the most responsible mature crossdressing citizens I know enjoy these fictional stories.

On the other hand, if we have a short story or novel in which the protagonist decides to gender transgress and then does it, where is the conflict? Where is the resistance and surprise? What kind of a story is that? A boring story.

In case anyone hasn't heard, I love crossdressers. They are the kindest, most understanding people I know.

Best wishes, Jackie, October 30, 1994

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Thanks, Jackie, for your nice comments on our newsletter and interesting thoughts on fantasies. The usual psychological explanation for "forced dressing" fantasies is that they are an attempt to overcome *guilt* - if one is forced to cross-dress by someone else, usually female, then one is not responsible for doing so, and need not feel guilty about it. The stories generally involve various wild, imaginary reasons why some woman may want to make a guy wear sexy, feminine clothing. Based on this theory, once a crossdresser can accept himself and abandon guilty feelings, he should lose interest in these tales. So, interest in such fantasies is taken as a sign of immaturity.

I have an alternative explanation for the fascination of crossdressers with "forced dressing" stories: the urgent desire for complete *acceptance*, especially by the wife or significant other. What woman could be more accepting than one who would actually *want* her man to cross dress, and *force* him to do so, even if he didn't want to? Such women are very, very rare, and maybe nonexistent (if you know of one, please have her contact me!). So, even with a fairly understanding wife, the interest in such stories may not abate. And, one can hire a professional dominatrix to act out the fantasy. But, for the price of one hour at Miss High-Heels' School for Sissies, one can buy 10 Sandy Thomas stories!

Winnie

**Now! More days in '95!
TEXAS 'T' PARTY
7th Annual
Feb. 21st - 26th, 1995
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No other event in the gender world will show you such a great time at such a great price! The Texas 'T' is known for: a wonderful location, food, weather, seminars, and most of all, PEOPLE! Won't you be part of our celebration?



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Please send S.S.A.E., if possible.

Its not easy getting a good photo of yourself but if you understand some basics, you can improve the image of yourself on film. After going to great lengths applying makeup and finding the right outfit, it is understandable to want to preserve that image. But often what you get back is disappointing. Here's what you can do to get professional looking photographs:

The Camera - The most important piece of equipment of course is the camera. Point and shoot cameras are not suitable for professional photography since the flash is attached to the camera, close to the lens, producing a bright harsh light, and red eye. If you can get a manually operated 35 mm camera, it will serve you better than automatic point and shoots.

The Tripod - Even if your wife or friend is willing to snap the photo, you should still use a tripod. A self timer is necessary for self portraits and one can be added to those cameras without one. Otherwise a long cable release works. Both can be purchased at camera stores.

The mirror - A full length mirror, one that can be placed directly behind the camera, will be very useful when posing. Place it in such a way as to be able to see yourself comfortably when in front of the camera.

The background - Hang a white sheet or other solid color material on a wall for a clean background. This will make you stand out. Place a chair or stool about 5 feet from this background to minimize shadows falling on the background.

Lighting - Any light source that is very strong and small will produce harsh shadows. A light source which is large will produce soft pleasing tones. The sun is NOT a good light source since it is, relative to our position on the planet, small and bright. It produces harsh shadows. On the other hand, the sun behind an overcast sky produces a large diffuse light source, which is soft and pleasing. To reproduce this effect indoors, you can take a flash

unit, (small and bright) and aim it at a white ceiling, wall, or poster board thus making the light large and diffuse. Any way you can get the flash to do this is OK. The one problem with this is that the more diffuse the light, the more powerful the flash needs to be. You can compensate for this by using higher speed film (ASA 400) and by opening up the lens, letting more light in. For those who understand f stops, a compensation of 3 stops will do. Another way to produce soft diffuse light is with photofloods. They can be purchased at a camera store and come in two types; one balanced for indoor tungsten film, one balanced for outdoor film. The latter bulbs are blue and these should be used with regular outdoor film. Two or three bulbs should light up a room nicely, especially if the walls and ceiling are white. The drawback with using photofloods are that they are bulky to set up, and become extremely hot. Be careful!

Action - Set the camera up on the tripod vertically and look through, focusing on the chair. A common error is to take the photo from too far a distance. Move in close, just leave room and don't cut off your head. Focus carefully and you won't be disappointed. Place the mirror behind the tripod and set the automatic timer. Walk to the chair, sit down, and strike a pose. Remember to smile and vary your poses.

Now that you have several rolls of photos, (you did take more than one after all that trouble?) where do you get them developed? Don't bring them to the local drugstore, department store. Send them mail order.

One popular mail order house is: Clark Photo Labs P.O. Box 96300 Washington, D.C. 20090.

If all of this sounds like too much trouble, come to the makeup demonstration on Dec. 8 where I will be taking photos of volunteers. Why not set up your own photo shoot? See you there.

Götterdämmerung

The Smallbany Experience, December 1994

By your pal, Miss Take

Why is it that November always seems like a hangover? From waking up and seeing Regis looking like a refugee from *Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme*, as he switched with the demonically perky Kathie Lee for Halloween, to the gubernatorial victory of candidate even the Republicans (at least the gay ones in NYC's *Log Cabin Club*) couldn't endorse, this has been a tough month.

That bleak valley between Halloween and Christmas, punctuated only by a triptophane loaded dinner with a dysfunctional family where all the boys watch football and snooze. Out of the closets and into the kitchen with the rest of the gals! It's Donna Reed time, pearls and candied yams! Just stay out of the sherry so you can remember which you wear and which you eat! (Although, with a nice polyurethane finish, yams make great earrings! Use a festive holiday marshmallow design, with lots of glitter!)

But life, such as it is goes on, even though, after the first of the year, for many state employees, it won't. Maybe all the queer ones will go first - after all, they won't have any legal protections. More reason to support Pride Agenda, to mark the words of the grocer's son about how separation between groups is destructive & divisive. Remember - if they're after queers, they're after you, you crossdressing pervert, you gender outlaw!

But you can't stop the future, no matter how much you Rush. So let's chat about what we may see there.

Convention Requiem

Only 34 registered attendees at *Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme* in NYC. The day of the free spending TV hobbyist seems to have died with Regan-Bush! Maybe its just the closed views of *Tri-Ess*, or part of a trend that made IFGE almost miss their room-night obligation in Portland, but things change.

All I want to know is what Sharon [redacted] means when she says she *outed herself* in November! Sounds like a great story from the ICTLEP queen!

Bars

We need lots of choices in queer entertainment and nightlife to make Smallbany a place that people want to go. At least that's the opinion of the owners of Power Company and Oh Bar!, who want to see a good thriving market of fun. It's the Crossgates Mall phenomenon, where having lots of good competition makes for lots of good choices that bring the customers out in droves.

That sweetie Patrick is managing both places, and invites everyone in for T and happy hour, or any other time you want some fun. A friendly place, with a bit of sizzle, that Power Company.

The Written Word

Whoever this Callan [redacted] is, lets face it. She is just taking up altogether too much of this newsletter. Winnie, If we just need to fill it up, you can print my column bigger. I think I'd look sweet in 24 point!

Luckily, things are changing. Jen has delivered her *Random Thoughts* column (*random: indiscriminate aimless, haphazard.*) I suggested she call it 'Fer Balls! Jacqui wants to make her own opinions heard.

Jeepers, I don't know why more people don't write for this rag. If you disagree with anything those other writers say, then write it down. Start a dialogue.

As transgendered people, we are the natural radicals, always seeing both sides of an issue. We are the perennial outsiders, knowing that all people deserve respect and dignity. We know what it means to be oppressed. Some of us like to identify with the oppressor classes, to try to make our life easier, but there is always part of us who knows we are each unique.

If you honestly have something to say, there is someone who honestly needs to hear it. So say it here.

The nice thing about all of this is that nobody will argue with me, Miss Take. Who can quibble with perfection?.

Finale

OK, I know the number one question in your mind. What, oh what, can I get Miss take for a Christmas gift?

Well, something thin & green with numbers printed on it (like \$50 or \$100) is great for any occasion. *Fashion Tip*: Cash accessorizes well with any outfit. (Except maybe Birkies, socks & a hippie skirt! Not my style tho!)

But if a big bundle of greenbacks isn't quite in your budget, the other thing this ol' queen likes is company. (I can hear Jen snicker now: "She means an audience!")

So to give me a big present, why don't you come out and keep me company her in Smallbany. Make some queer space, come out and play. If I have only one life, let me live it as a blonde - and a busty one at that!

There are lots of excuses to stay in. Remember that in the long run, living a life of love is much more fulfilling than living a life of fear. We all know that you are afraid. Remember, the people we all respect are the ones who *feel the fear - and do it anyway*, as Susan Jeffers writes.

You will open your own gifts in your own time, in your own way. Even those gifts, like transgender, that you have been told are not "nice." The root of the word nice is to not know. To be nice is to be blind. Your eyes, our eyes, will open. This is the constant quest of humans, to know more, to open more.

What is my gift to you at Christmas? It is merely wrapping up one you have had all your life. Surprise! You are transgendered!

The question is: *Now what are you going to do with it?* Remember: Today is a gift. That's why they call it the present!

Have a happy holiday. As the director said to the actor, "What a Take!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess has published their schedule of meetings in Schenectady, once a month on Saturdays at 7 pm; interested TGIC members may attend as guests, call us for more information.

1994: Dec. 10, 5 pm Xmas Party, join TGIC for dinner. Shopping trips Friday evening & Saturday daytime.

1995: Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18,
Apr. 22, May 20, June 17

FACE & NAILS

The *Merle Norman* Cosmetic Studio at Stuyvesant Plaza is CD-friendly for makeup and manicures. Gift certificates for manicures can be picked up in the Club Room. Call Lora Colucci for appointments: (518) 489-0587

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PH.D. CANDIDATE

(518) 446-1261 10 Colvin Avenue • Albany, NY 12206

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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 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 Central Ave. night spots after the meetings.

DECEMBER 1994

- Dec 1 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Dec 8 **Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm**
MAKEUP DEMONSTRATION
- Dec 10 **Saturday Dinner, 8:00 pm**
Northway Inn
Joint with Tri-Ess LCL
- Dec 15 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Dec 22 *Christmas, NO MEETING*
- Dec 29 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

JANUARY 1995

- Jan 5 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Jan 12 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Jan 14 **Saturday Dinner, 8:00 pm**
Northway Inn
- Jan 19 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Jan 26 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

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

- Dec 5-7 *Investments Christmas on the Cape, Cape Cod, MA*
- Jan 26-30 *Tiffany Club First Event, Natick, MA*
- Feb 21-26 *Texas T Party, San Antonio*
- Feb 23-26 *International Congress on Cross-Dressing, Sex, and Gender, Los Angeles, CA*
- Mar 13-19 *IFGE Coming Together Convention, Atlanta, GA*
- Apr 20-23 *Moonlight in Manhattan, NYC*
- Apr 20-23 *California Dreamin', Burbank*
- Jul 26-30 *Spouse/Partner International Conference for Education (SPICE), Memphis, TN*