



tgic news

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH BY:

TRANSGENDERISTS INDEPENDANCE CLUBS

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SERVING THE
TRANSGENDERED
COMMUNITY OF
NEW YORK STATE

\$20.00 / YEAR

ET, NOV 1991



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: - Winnie [REDACTED]

Hello, Ladies!

The Fall season has begun, with a most welcome pick-up in attendance at our weekly Thursday night gatherings. On September 28, our first party at Private Eyes attracted about half-a-dozen well-dressed ladies. Good for a beginning, but we had hoped for more interest. However, the October 12 party at Mother Eve's was very poorly attended. Our first "Girls Nights Out", at the Comedy Works at Days Inn on September 21, was much enjoyed by those who came but, again, very few took the opportunity to get out in public - we filled only one table. Those of us who organize and promote these affairs are becoming discouraged by the lukewarm response - we need your active interest to keep ours. Well, Halloween is the traditional time for cross-dressers to come out - and October 31 coincides with a Thursday this year - so, come to the club house, change if you need to, and we will break the meeting early to go out on the town.

Jennifer W., myself and a few others represented TGIC at the "Autumn Accord II" on Oct. 4-6 in Syracuse, including Sue M. and Pam M. who were on the program and gave fine presentations. EON, one of our sister groups in the NY Gender Coalition, are to be congratulated for hosting the event and putting on a good show. They have been refurbishing and are now putting the finishing touches on a large new meeting and office space at their HQ, and announced that they have just incorporated. We discussed the possibility of exchanging visits between members of EON and TGIC during the year, sending delegations to each other's scheduled events, and agreed it was a good idea. All it takes, is for someone to assemble a carload and go!

Julie has volunteered to become Vice-President of the Club, replacing Cassie, who

CONT PAGE 2

NOVEMBER:

- 6 BOARD MEETING - 7:00PM
- 7 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 9 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 14 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 21 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 23 SOCIAL - Private Eyes
- 28 Happy Thanksgiving! - No Meeting
- 30 THANKSGIVING PARTY - Club room 7P

DECEMBER

- 4 BOARD MEETING - 7:00PM
- 5 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 7 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 12 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 19 CHRISTMAS PARTY club 8:00
- 26 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 28 SOCIAL - Private Eyes

JANUARY

- 1 FIRST NIGHT! 432-7092 For details
- 2 RAP GROUP club room 8:00P
- 6 Board Meeting - club room 7:00P
- 9 RAP GROUP club room 8:00P
- 11 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 8:00P

SPECIAL EVENTS:

THANKSGIVING: The fifth Saturday in November we will celebrate a dish to pass Thanksgiving Dinner at the Club Room on Central Avenue. What better way to get rid of all those left overs? Join Us - En Femme at 7PM. Bring your own place settings. There will be no rap group on Thanksgiving day.

CHRISTMAS: We will have a "dish to pass" dinner on Thursday December 19th at the club room at 7PM. Bring your own setting, and a gift for the grab bag of not more than \$5.00 if you wish to exchange. Come En Femme for an enjoyable evening.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONT.

has moved to Rochester. But there are still lots of gaps in the Club leadership. Our next Board/Executive meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 pm. at the club house. Besides those currently involved, I am inviting and urging any club members who are interested in the future of the group to attend and present their ideas - how can we serve the membership better?

TGIC Officers & Directors:

President	Winnie B.
Vice President	Julie
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Denise S.
Director, Outreach	Jennifer W.
Director, IS Affairs	Tiffane V.
Director at Large	Sue M.

Standing Committees:

Newsletter	Open (Jennifer W.)
IFGE Representative	Winnie B.
Programs	Open
Rap Groups	Open
Big Sisters	Melissa K.

Oh Jennifer!!



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Jennifer Wells

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CONTENTS:

President's Column	1
Calendar	1
Letters	3
Open Letter to a Dear Friend	4
Empowerment & Gender Comm'ty	5
Life in the Closet	6
D&S Corner	7
Community Activism	8
Judge Ponders CD'er	11
Hair-Raising Spectacles	11
How Many Men Are TV?	11
Finding Work - Part 2	12
Finding Work - Name Changes	14
Gender Bill of Rights	15
Roger's Notebook	16
Caution Urged on Implants	18
Conference on Transgender Law	19
Classifieds	20

IN THIS EDITION:

We are pleased to welcome Roger Peo Ph.D. to our list of contributors. Dr. Peo is a board certified sexologist and founder of Androgyny Unlimited a counseling service for transvestites and transsexuals in Poughkeepsie, an advisor and member of the board of directors of both IFGE and TriEss, and a longtime proponent for us-folk. We have received a complete collection of Roger's Notebook articles which have appeared elsewhere, yet are still timely, are of interest to all and merit re-publication - which we will do on an "as space permits" basis.

We'd also like to thank Kathryn H., Melissa K., Alicia W., Pam, Tony M., Kymberliegh Richards of CROSSTALK, Transsexuals In Prison Newsletter and Joan H. for their contributions.

POLICY

TGIC NEWS is an outreach tool of the Transgenderists' Independence Clubs of Albany, NY. TGIC is an open social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, spouses, significant others, professionals and others interested in the subject of gender dysphoria. Any non-copyrighted article or material contained within the pages of this newsletter may be reproduced by any media as long as it is presented in total and proper credit is given as to source and author. Reprints for assistance in outreach or professional use are available and are encouraged.

Our community is representative of a very diverse group of people, and as

such it covers a broad spectrum of articles and topics. It would be unfair therefore to assume that just because a topic is presented in this forum, that it is of interest to all people in our community. Articles are selected for inclusion due to their timeliness or general informative nature to some aspect of our community. The articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors of TGIC. In all dealings with this community we urge people to be openminded and tolerant and to evaluate each individual on their merits rather than from generalizations drawn elsewhere.

MEMBERSHIP RATES:	
Membership:	\$35.00
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(per year)	100.00
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DISPLAY ADS MUST BE CAMERA READY	
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(non-members)	10.00

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

My name is Tony M... I'm a FTM. I am just starting out. I got your name from Dr. Leo Wollman. I would greatly appreciate any help or information that you could provide to me about what is going on outside my range of information.

I am 21 years of age and have been searching since I was 16. Finding Dr. Wollman and receiving your address was really a God send. I have many questions but I don't know where to begin. I am hoping that the information you will be able to provide will answer quite a few of my questions so that I can sort out what is left and ask you directly.

I do have one question now though and a favor to ask. I have a friend who is a MTF. We met accidentally almost six years ago. When we were both looking for who we were. One of the biggest and most heartfelt discussions we've had through out our friendship is whether or not she would be able to give birth to her own children. A week ago a friend of hers sent her a story about a doctor in France who has perfected a Uteral Transplant surgery with full success and his patent is now six months pregnant. His name is Dr. Gustave Cotelto and he has a clinic in St. Etienne, France.

Would you be able to make inquiries and find out if this Dr. and his surgery are real? I would be grateful for any information you can provide. My friend would be eternally grateful. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Tony M. - Swanton, Vt.

Dear Tony,

Please forgive me for taking over a month to answer this letter. Enclosed you will find our regular package of information on TGIC. We meet on the second Saturday each month in Schenectady, and on the fourth Saturday

each month in Albany for a social gathering. We have an open rap session every Thursday night. If you need further information on these gatherings, please contact me directly at 518-432-7092. You and your friend are more than welcome to join any of these gatherings. Further you will find an issue or two of recent newsletters which will help familiarize you more with our group. Also, I have enclosed a fair amount of information relevant to finding services for the FTM transsexual - I hope all this is helpful.

Regarding, the story of transplanting a complete reproductive system from a female to a male or MTF transsexual, I am unable to confirm this story at this time.

About once a year, one tabloid or another reports a story of this nature.. two years ago there was a report of a MTF in Europe which gave birth to a healthy boy from organs donated by an accident victim... reportedly this was a very fortuitous chance which provided a high compatibility of tissue match - this is unconfirmed. Last year, one tabloid reported a TS who was pregnant following surgery performed in New Jersey... the TS even appeared on a nationally syndicated talk show... this was later proven to be a hoax. I have heard several reports of the story you inquire about, but checking the medical abstracts at the NYS Library show no formal publishing of such a feat. Although I can't definitely say that this story is not true, I do find it difficult to believe that the doctor responsible for any of these breakthrough surgeries hasn't published his techniques for professional peer review.

Two years ago, Dr's Granado, and Biber, (two well known, knowledgeable and respected reassignment surgeons) stated on the Geraldo Show, that this sort of surgery was impossible since it would require administration of drugs to prevent rejection of the transplanted tissues... these same drugs, they stated would in effect sterilize or kill any viable ovum in the ovaries. However, new anti-rejection techniques are being

discovered which may someday lead to such a possibility if not currently available.

If Dr. Cotello and his techniques are real, they are highly experimental at this point, very risky, and it would be premature indeed to hope that his techniques would be adopted soon by other surgeons. After all, reassignment surgery itself has been around at least since 1931, and it is still classified as experimental. Also if they are real something should appear soon in the technical journals shortly after the baby's hopefully successful birth.

What has been shown to be possible is a male pregnancy where the fertilized ovum is implanted in the abdominal wall or an ectopic pregnancy. In either case delivery would have to be by cesarean section as the male pelvic structure will not accommodate vaginal delivery.

Like your friend, I too would like to be able to say it is possible to have a baby. For a MTF TS this is often the highest form of female expression, which would provide an incredible sense of completeness and legitimacy and if you will, a sense of purpose. For now, all we can do is hope that someday, techniques will improve, and it will become a reality. I can't express how much it would mean to me, I can imagine how your friend must feel. I'm sorry I can't be more encouraging, but I hope we hear more from both of you soon. Good luck and love to you both.

Sincerely
Jennifer [redacted]

IF YOU HAVE LETTERS OF COMMENT OR QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE ANSWERED, PLEASE DROP A NOTE TO TGIC NEWS AT OUR CLUB ADDRESS.

JULIE DENISON

COUNSELOR AND ATTORNEY AT LAW

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OPEN LETTER TO A DEAR FRIEND

I felt I needed to write you this to try to explain the mixture of emotions I felt last night when you asked me to read for the male parts in Terra Nova. On one hand, I was pleased, that our friendship has grown to the extent that you seem to want to do this together, but on the other hand it underscored to me a feeling that you don't really understand how much it hurts me to try living as a man. Maybe, this might help you to understand... suppose a man lost his leg as a child and spent a considerable part of his life trying to learn to walk with a prosthesis - a false leg. Suppose that man found using that prosthesis painful and awkward, but preferential to life in a wheelchair. Further, suppose that that man was very sensitive to his only having one leg. Would you ask that man to try out for a part in a play as a one legged man, simply because he could do it so believably?

I know I'm not the most believably feminine looking person. I know that transsexualism is something that most people have a difficult time understanding - I did too. I hope though, that by writing you this, maybe you will better understand how much it hurts to have to be perceived as male, or less than female. Maybe you will understand better how incredibly frustrating it is to not be able to find worthwhile work as a woman... to only be able to make ends meet or be viable or believable by resorting to "male" skills, I'd rather be able to leave behind... to get up every morning to have to shave, to know that certain parts of my body will never look feminine, to be nearly six feet tall when most other women are considerably shorter, to see short stubby fingers on hands where you only want to see long gracefully tapering fingers and beautifully manicured nails, to know all the other myriad of details which set you apart. I really don't mind being known as a transsexual, but to be male identified hurts - deeply.

You see, like that one legged man,

I too have a prothesis, only it's made of things like makeup, and hairspray, and things inside that are much less tangible. Like him, my prothesis allows me to walk with dignity - different, but unashamed of who I am. Like him, wearing that prothesis is very uncomfortable, awkward and far from perfect, but going without it is just plain painful. To me, my wheelchair is a perception that people make that I'm male, and the accompanying expectations that go with that perception. It confines and limits me to definitions that don't really fit who I am. You're support has meant more to me than you will ever know, maybe this will help you better understand.

Love Jennifer.



"If I catch you shaving your legs again, you're in serious trouble!"

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EMPOWERMENT AND THE GENDER COMMUNITY by Jennifer [redacted]

Last night I attended my first TAKE BACK THE NIGHT rally. Joining about five hundred other women, we marched through the streets of Albany in protest of rape and abusive treatment of women. Take Back the Night is a nationwide happening - to borrow an old term - where survivors of rape and abuse unite and share. I marched near the rear of the parade, where you could hear every rude, abusive comment from the numerous drunks, drug dealers, and idiots who thought they were being "macho" or what ever by hurling abusive and derogatory remarks as the parade passed by. It astounded me how many missed the point entirely.

I'd never been sexually abused either as a child or an adult - had I? Why did I feel such a strong need to come to this rally? Was it some obligation I felt I needed to meet to prove I too was a woman?

Earlier that evening, we had heard a woman tell how she was gang raped on the bright lit streets of Toronto. As I listened, at first, I felt uncomfortable as I realized, that every day as a transsexual woman, I had experienced rude, suggestive or leading comments on the streets of Albany. Comments which I thought were in reference to what I was. Comments which had become a stumbling block to my self acceptance as a woman. Comments which had made me uncomfortable going about my business without feeling some need to look over my shoulder. Comments which I now understand every woman has to face daily and that more often than not have nothing to do with being transsexual. I also thought of the three gender community members who had survived rape attempts last year in Albany, but were unable to report those crimes. I thought of the thirteen or more transsexual women who were murdered across the state of New York only three years ago.

Another woman, told how as a child, she had had wallboard compound stuffed in her ears so she couldn't hear her

attacker; vaseline put in her eyes so she couldn't see the same attacker - her father. I thought about a daughter of mine who at age four came to visit me in 1975, from her home with my ex wife and her boy friend. My ex told me that our daughter had been showing a puss-like discharge from her vagina. Suspecting the worst, I took my three children, myself and my future wife to the county health department for a VD screen to find that my daughter had Gonnoreah. "NO, you didn't get it from the toilet seat", the doctor said. Fearing exposure if I sued for custody, I told myself that my ex would handle it, and sent my daughter back to the home which had spawned this horror - and hated myself for doing that ever since.

Another woman read through the stages of recovery women who had been raped went through. They sounded incredibly familiar and I realized that they were the same stages I had gone through coming out of denial to accept myself as transsexual. The key to that growth and acceptance was understanding. Understanding that I wasn't some bad person - that I wasn't the one who was wrong. Understanding that I wasn't alone, that not only are there thousands like me today but that there has been a rich mostly positive history of people like me.


Wendi Pierce, chairwoman of IFGE has a saying she likes to repeat - "GO FOR IT". In honesty, I've felt that was a little too encouraging for many people who might be deceiving themselves. Maybe, the "IT" isn't the "IT" I thought it was. Maybe the "IT" is merely the courage to take command of your life. To find the courage to understand, to learn to love both yourself and others and make the hard choices. Many of us could have listened to the presenters that night and drawn parallels to their own lives, but without empowering ourselves to face our own demons how many of us avoid making the hard choices?

I marched with some friends who were serving as parade "peace guards" as myself - as Jennifer with my head

high - something I couldn't have done just three years ago. I marched near the rear, too from respect not wanting in any way my situation to detract from the deep importance in what these women were doing.

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APRIL 29 -
MAY 3, 1992

LIFE IN THE CLOSET

Submitted through GenderLine by Pam.

I have a small room in the basement of our house which is designated Daddys room. In it I have my sewing table with machines, my pattern boxes and fabric boxes. I also have a weight-workout bench, which I don't use often enough, and my television. It is also my smoking room, I am a pipe smoker and am relegated to my room when I want to puff. Because the previous owner made the room a bedroom it has a nice large closet. I told my wife about the real me last December and she said she did not want to see me dressed, but it was alright with her if I continued what I have been for as long as I can remember. Well, I have always kept my female clothes in boxes hidden in various closets, so I just consolidated everything into my one closet. I do need many many boxes but it is a big closet. Now I can hang dresses, blouses, and skirts so they are not crumpled up in a box.

My wife is slowly going through the agony of losing the image of her husband the macho male, and replacing it with "he really does wear heels". She has been upset a few times when the visa bill arrives and there is a charge for shoes. I just keep explaining that: 1. I

am not throwing anything away now and I am replacing trash with good items so after the initial replacement period I will be back on my clothes budget(I hope). And, 2. I can go back to hiding everything completely, which means strange \$ withdrawals to cash and a PO box. She then calms down and accepts a little more of the reality of me. Of course she can't figure out why I would want more than 1 pair of shoes, and why I don't spend much money on "male" clothes and shoes. I am sure she will one day understand, when she accepts me.

Every chance I have alone is used to burrow into my closet and emerge with a proper outfit to wear. This is usually every morning for a couple of hours, and when I am home on vacation or sick time. The best times are when my wife and kids go out of town on vacation for a week or two each year. Then its correctly dressed all of the time except when at work. What we have worked out is my wife will make a loud noise when she comes home and if I am dressed I will tell her. She will then go into another room so that I can go down to my room and change.

One big step that was made for us was she and my kids bought me a pink shirt for Fathers day. She made sure that many of her friends saw it on me and how good I looked in it. Last week I bought her a box of panties that she had asked me to make for her, plain white blahh things. I told her I couldnt do blahh and she did laugh saying the "artiiisst" prefers to make prettier things, and gave me a big hug.

You are right about receiving a pretty gift. (refers to a comment I had made about how good it feels to get a "special" gift from the ones you love - ed.) I know that when she gives me one she has accepted me. I am just waiting.

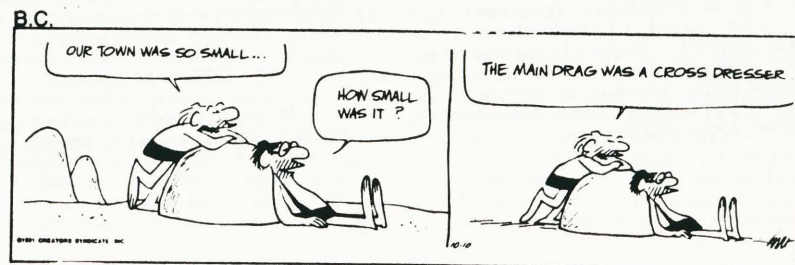
Huggs Pam

D&S CORNER: D&S BEGINNINGS

by Melissa K.

Before I launch into the article I'd just like to say that it is not my intention nor the intention of TGIC to portray one gender over the other. Or to make one sex less important than the other. While the D&S world may seem rather brutal, it isn't if you take it in context. We all have our fantasies and since the realm of Discipline and Submission does exist in the cross-dressing community it only makes sense that many CD's also have D&S fantasies. Remember, the annual Dressing for Pleasure Gala is essentially a big D&S party and many of it's participants are members of the gender community. As noted by the editor in the previous edition, D&S is very structured and has safeguards to prevent injury by the dominant and the submissive. Any activity of a forced nature that fall outside of the guidelines would certainly not be condoned by me, TGIC or the D&S community as a whole.

More and more progress is made each day that's helping to determine gender identity. But where do D&S tendencies begin? Probably the same as any other interest such as baseball, stamp collecting, even basket weaving. I suppose it could from early conditioning. As a child in the mid 60's to mid 70's, I witnessed many bondage and captivity type stories on television from many different shows. "Batman", "The Man From UNCLE", and "The Wild, Wild West" all had scenes of exotic bondage with a cliff-hanging twist. Even cartoons occasionally took on captivity/Peril type scenarios. ("Josie and the Pussycats" immediately comes to mind.) It almost looked enjoyable since you knew the good guys/girls were never going to get hurt.



And the question that always entered my head was: "What's it like?" And since a question usually invites an answer, experimentation naturally follows.

As an adult my interests were pretty much stabilized, and it's nice to know that I'm not the only one with these kinds of interests. That became apparent when visiting a friend one day and happened to notice a letter in one of his PLAYBOY magazines about bondage. But it didn't go into a lot of detail. And since just about anything of a D&S nature is considered "Hard core" pornography I had to look elsewhere.

At this time I realized there was indeed a sub-culture of this theme, but details of it were elusive. It wasn't until I took a trip with this same friend to Plattsburg when I discovered a Publication completely dedicated to a bondage theme. We went to a news stand which he and a buddy of his called "The Dirty Book Shop". Inside the adults only section I found a whole shelf of material relating to the B&D and S&M interests. Although there were none which had TV's in them, future trips to the "Dirty Book Shop" would find those as well.

A fairly good source for D&S articles is a simple newspaper type publication called "B&D Pleasures". In addition to its regular features were personal ads. I have never answered any of these but have had the pleasure to meet fellow D&S'ers right here in Albany and even within our own group. Another good publication is "Bondage Life". BL is a serious edition which has been described as not being sexually arousing. A kindred spirit brought it to my attention by mentioning an article titled "The Transsexual Bondager". The very first sentence of the article asks: "Is there a reason why so many of our males-in-bondage are also transvestites?" The article goes on to say that "vulnerability, and the need for help or protection, is a large part of the traditional image of 'femininity'. Maybe that's the image that young TV sees as he's watching a female being rescued by her hero and then riding off into the sunset. Another happy ending.

Even nowadays as women become more self sufficient I guess the image remains basically intact. So as the old saying goes: "The more things change, the more they stay the same."



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COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Among the many newsletters TGIC receives in our club room, one of the most interesting is T.I.P. (Transsexuals in Prison). I thought you might enjoy excerpts from an article written by Vanessa Meriwether, CEO for TIP, Inc. and my response to her article:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

It greatly saddens me to think that so many of you out there are not getting

the message that we are sending. Nor are you willing to carry on the struggle that is so important to the transsexual community.

... As I sat back and watched the Gay Pride events that took place this past month, I did not see any transsexual members of our community out there getting things together for our community.

So, get it together, because we here at TIP are not babysitting anyone, and we are not here to hold your hand. Use the information that we give you to help other's in your area, and let others know; we are sending this message "we will not take a back seat to discrimination any longer, we are equal and will remain equal."

Ms. Vanessa [redacted] #24493
 PO Box 30
 Pendleton, IN 46064

Dear Vanessa,

I'm writing in response to your article "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" in the recent edition of Transsexuals In Prison. In it you despair about the lack of support from the transsexual community as evidenced by the lack of coverage or our participation in Gay Pride marches. Maybe I can offer a ray of hope. Let me assure you that you obviously didn't get the whole picture. In Chicago for instance the Chicago Gender Society has sponsored a float in their parade for years with increasing participation every year. In New York, transsexuals participated as an identified group for the first time ever largely through the efforts of Gay Community Center's Gender Outreach program and individuals from both Survivors Of Transsexualism Anonymous and The Gathering. In Hartford the first gay pride parade also saw participation from several members of the XX Club. In Boston, transsexuals provided vocal background for that city's parade.

In our own Albany, myself and other transsexuals participated in the March On Albany for political rights in April for the first time last year... Two of us were also on various organizing

committees networking with both the Lesbian and Gay Lobby, and The Capitol District Lesbian and Gay Community center. Further, I provided entertainment (DJ'ed) for the rally the night before the march. This year, our local group TGIC fielded a contingent of ten marchers, including myself and one other person who acted as Parade Marshalls.

In recent months, gender groups in New York have united to form the NY State Gender Coalition - the first network of this nature in the world. NYSGC has endorsed a program called the ALBANY GENDER PROJECT which among other goals will hopefully become the first lobbying arm ever for transsexuals and transgender rights - I've enclosed the preliminary report on AGP for your review. Other accomplishments include representation on the Pride Agenda - the New Lobbying arm for the New York Lesbian and Gay community, and I recently was asked to assume a seat on the Programing Committee for the Women's Building in Albany.

All the above in Albany, has been accomplished with the help of a dedicated minority who has found the risks worth taking and grew out of a group who only two years ago saw no reason to network with the lesbian and gay communities at all. Surprisingly, one person, a lawyer who had been one of the most verbal in speaking out against involvement in lesbian and gay issues, later volunteered to assist in the preparation of position papers for the PRIDE AGENDA. Similar events are going on nationwide, as for the first time in history transgendered people of all sorts are trying to work together for the common good. In evidence of this, witness the growing regional networking, as well as the introduction of the Gender Bill of Rights and other similar documents presented to the IFGE convention in Denver.

Growth in political activism is happening, slowly, but sadly there are by far too few people becoming involved, and far too many who frustratingly will never become involved. In the mean time we can expect more bills like the Americans With Disabilities Act to become law. For those unfamiliar with this bill, which becomes law next July... Essentially, transsexuals and

transvestites along with a host of other "undesireables" have been excluded from guarantees of necessary medical coverage if disabled. Who knows, maybe when the first transsexual who is refused medical coverage under the law dies, it will make these people wake up. Keep up the good work on your end.

With Love,
Jennifer Kane
Outreach Chairperson TGIC
Coordinator Albany Gender Project

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Jennifer Kane
Personnel Manager

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NEWSMAKER

Hampden County judge ponders cross-dresser

By NANCY GONTER

Roy Rosenthal wore a gray skirt, green tank top and blue pumps to his pre-trial divorce hearing in Hampden County Probate Court in Springfield yesterday.

He asked Judge Rudolph Sacco to call him "ma'am." Sacco tried his best to oblige.

For the past two years, Rosenthal, a Blandford resident who prefers the name Terri, has been dressing like a woman all the time.

Gloria, Rosenthal's wife of 13 years, is seeking the divorce. When they got married, her husband wore women's clothes only in their home. In 1989, he began wearing women's clothes to functions and to her parents house, her attorney, William A. Frasco, told the court.

"It became intolerable," Frasco said.

Rosenthal told the judge he does not want a divorce.

"Just because I wear women's clothes doesn't mean I can't do my duty as a husband," he said.

Wearing women's clothing is his "constitutional right," Rosenthal said.

"I'm not here to judge constitutional rights. I'm here as a domestic relations judge," Sacco said.

Frasco told the court he had been unable to contact "Mr. Rosenthal" for a meeting.

"Don't call me Mr.," Rosenthal said.

"What should we call you, sir?" the judge asked.

"Call me ma'am," he replied. Sacco tried.

"Do you have a lawyer, sir ... ma'am?" the judge asked later.

Sacco told Rosenthal to get a lawyer to represent him and set a Dec. 6 date for the divorce hearing.

Hair-Raising Spectacles

The shoes were size 14 and the gold-painted nails polycarbonate, but the fun at Manhattan drag-fest Wigstock was 24-karats pure. The seventh annual carnival of cross-dressing rocked to the retro sounds of Dee-Lite and Ultra Naté, but the true stars were the



PHOTOS BY JOE MAJOR

Attention! Ginger snaps to it

crowd. (Ask any would-be Lip-putting on this much makeup gives new meaning to Labor Day.) Keeping those falsies straight can be tiring, too. Signs organizer Lady Bunny, "Even we club folk need a day to relax and just have a good time."



Growth potential: A bloomin' wig

FARAI CHIDREYA and
CARLA KOEHL

Sense About Sex

ASK BETH

How many men are transvestites?

Dear Beth:

Several times you have mentioned transvestism in your columns. I am about to let my girlfriend, who I hope will eventually be my fiancée, know there are times when I would rather wear her panties and pantyhose than my own underwear. Can you tell me what percentage of men enjoy this? Maybe it will help me convince her I'm not really off the wall but I and others like me lack the acceptance that gays now generally enjoy.

LEWIS

I have never seen a statistic on the percentage of transvestites, but I get a steady stream of letters from them. Most people assume that cross-dressing is a sign of ho-

mosexuality. It is not. Some gay men like to dress in women's clothes, but not all, and most transvestites are not gay. Many have wives. I hope this persuades your girlfriend.

...

Dear Beth:

I am 17 and I like to dress in women's clothes, but my case is different. When I was 16 I had to have my enlarged breasts removed. I only did it for the sake of my family's embarrassment. Now they are growing back, and my mother is going to make me go through that hell again. I realize that what I really want is a sex change when I turn 18. My mother said she will never talk to me again if I do. I

don't want that. I love her so much, but I have to live a life of my own. How can I make my mother understand how I feel?

CONCERNED

Your feeling that you were born in a body of the wrong sex is called "gender dysphoria." It is not the same thing as transvestism or homosexuality. However, it is a feeling that is very difficult for most people to understand.

Some people with this condition change their minds when treated by intensive therapy. Most, like you, want what is called a sex change, though this isn't always 100 percent satisfactory either. You need to find a knowledgeable therapist who can talk to you and your mother.

FINDING WORK DURING TRANSITION - PART 2 by Jennifer [REDACTED]

In part one we discussed how to go about making yourself more saleable to a prospective employer. In this part we will discuss where to look, and alternatives to conclude this series.

WHERE TO LOOK:

So, now that you have your ducks in a row (?) where do you look? This mostly depends on the sort of work for which you are looking. As in most of the rest of this subject books have been written which are more valuable than I could ever be, but assuming you are just starting out cross-working, and are unemployed... one of the best places to start is a temporary employment agency... especially if you have an ID problem as described in part one. Temp agencies generally focus on certain types of employment, and offer you the advantage of working in your chosen sex for the client employer while carrying you on their (the temp agency) books under your legal identification. I have worked with a number of temp agencies, and have found them all without exception, to be extremely helpful finding employment. (I've often suspected that they find placing transsexuals as an interesting challenge in what is often a boring job. Also taking a job with a temp agency gives you the opportunity to check how realistically you are able to perform in a day to day work environment as the sex of your choice, with relatively little risk of a possible failure following you for a long time. The disadvantages are of course that working full time at a temp job usually for low pay, precludes your ability to find better employment by tying up time. However, it can give you the all important legitimate track record as someone who has proven their legitimacy, and can provide references for you, plus some relatively immediate income. One temp agent has become one of my best references.

Permanent employment agencies are always

good to contact as well, however unless you have exceptional qualifications in a particular field, they probably won't be of much help, as their survival depends on placing the most qualified, non-controversial persons, in high paying or difficult to fill positions. Contact these people, but don't hold your breath... In two years, I've yet to get a single interview from an employment agency.

Want Ads should be reviewed religiously and appropriate resumes and cover letters sent out...(even if you are currently employed) a Word Processor is invaluable for this if you can afford it.

Networking: The old saying goes.. "it's not what you know... it's who you know" and this is especially true in job searching... use your time to get out and meet new people... expand your contacts, join new groups. The activity will keep your mind off possible financial problems, and help you experience your new role, learn social skills and make contacts that can be invaluable in finding the new job. Get out of the gender community or the gay bars and into the real world. MTF's might get involved with churches, theater, women's groups, etc. FTM's might look into politics, community involvement, professional associations. Either group could look into learning new skills or furthering education. In short, the more you let it be know you are looking, the more options will come your way.

SELF EMPLOYMENT: How about going into business for yourself? Everyone has salable skills or abilities. During the two years I was looking for work during transition, I tried everything I could think of to make a living. Many of my skills found a demand in others in the gender community, doing makeovers, selling wigs, peer counseling, escorting less open transgendered persons, doing seminars or giving lectures, writing articles, publishing a magazine. Meanwhile, I found miscellaneous odd

jobs in carpentry, landscaping, word processing, commission sales, just to name a few. None of these things required any more investment to start than the cost of some flyers and a phone. Make an inventory of what you can do, and what you like to do. Talk to others to get impartial feedback or let them know you would like the opportunity to do what you wish, and ask their assistance. Often some well placed flyers can keep food on the table and your self confidence from slipping.

Write Letters. If you can afford the time and postage, identify potential employers in your desired field, and send them a letter of introduction, inquiring about opportunities with their company. Send this to an appropriate corporate officer in the area you seek employment rather than the Human Resources or employment office. Let them know you will be waiting for their reply. Most of the time this will be referred to the employment office, but occasionally you may get a personal letter from the corporate officer with an unexpectedly positive reception.


AVOID THE WELFARE TRAP:

How about welfare? In many states the benefits on welfare can be overwhelming for those who know how to play the systems, and for those who are most likely looking for employment at the lower end of the employment scale, it can be seductive. When you consider that for most people various "Welfare" programs offer, combined benefits of Unemployment, welfare, rent benefits, medical benefits (including SRS under certain circumstances in some states) fuel subsidies, food stamps, legal advocacy, clothing and furniture allowances plus various other programs, it isn't hard to see that you might have to make in excess of \$20,000 to do this well on your own. However, what are the costs? Welfare robs you of your sense of self worth and self importance, let alone your dignity. It provides the recipient with basics to maintain life but not enough to break out of the

welfare trap. Don't get me wrong, welfare has some great programs for short term emergencies, but usually they don't respond quickly enough to help in short term emergencies, and they are geared for the long term recipient. In order for anyone who is transsexual to survive and be viable in this world it is crucial that a healthy sense of self worth and importance be maintained. Without this, you just can't make it... this makes the cost of social programs as a way of life for the transsexual just too expensive, and leads to a self destructive negative spiral. As a proud member of today's transsexual community you owe it to yourself to avoid the welfare trap.

IN CONCLUSION:

Finding employment is a job in-itself but the rewards in our situation can be tremendous. If we remember a few simple basic social constructs - Tact, civility to others, exude an air of confidence that demands respect, treat others honestly and fairly and as you yourself would like to be treated, you may not get rich, but opportunities are out there.



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ADDENDUM TO "FINDING WORK" - NAME CHANGES:

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

The previous two part article, "Finding Work During Transition" had already been completed by the time that I went to the 1991 Autumn Accord in Syracuse. While there, I attended the "Transsexuals and the Law" seminar given by our own Pam M. and Syracuse's Molly K. where, I found that some of the information given in part one of this article was in error. In specific, I refer to the material on name change and identification. New York State, I learned is indeed a Common Law state which means you have the legal right to call yourself any name you wish merely by using that name - without a court order. Further, all identification can be changed to reflect the name you chose, except your birth certificate, without an order. You do have to be able, however, to prove that you do use the new name before you can change your major ID. In Albany, I found the folks at DMV on Pearl St. to be extremely helpful, in specific one Linda Lindstrom the department supervisor who explained just what I needed to change my driver's license, and registration. DMV it seems has a sheet (Form MV-44.1) which lists acceptable identification for proof of a name change. According to the form you are asked to "bring one or more of the documents listed below that add up to a total value of 6 or more. At least one of them must have your signature on it. If the total value of your documents is less than 6, bring as many different proofs as you can. An office supervisor MAY approve them. For your own protection, we need to make sure you are who you say you are." Some of the proofs listed and their values are listed below - this is not a complete list:

- NYS Photo Driver License 6
- Parents Affidavit if under 18 6
- US Passport 3
- Foreign Passport 3
- Citizenship papers 3
- Drivers License not NYS 3

- Credit Card 2
- Social Security Card 2
- Welfare/Medicaid Card 2
- Computer printed pay stub 2
- School ID with picture 2
- Check Cashing or ATM card 1
- Employer ID card 1
- Bank Statement 1
- Insurance card 1
- Food Stamp Card 1

I had almost what I needed, but decided to change my bank records which I thought would be a n easy change... seems the bank had to close my old account, and open a new one in the new name, but to do that, they required a major form of ID! - Dead End.

Returning to DMV with the proper identification, I asked for Linda, who took me to the front of the line, checked my ID, OK'ed the name changes, and changed both my registration and license... it took about 15 minutes. If you live in Albany County and have questions, Linda can be reached at 473-5665, and she'll be happy to help you.

Social Security was next... they too have a similar list of required documentation, but they also require an ID in the old name. The person on the desk tried to tell me I needed a court order, but I explained that my lawyer said otherwise, and asked her to check with a supervisor... about five minutes later, she returned... somewhat frustrated looking, and processed my name change. Maybe this is the person I talked with when I researched the earlier piece... but it proves a point... not all bureaucrats know the rules and if you are sure you are right... stick by your guns and ask to speak with a higher up. Social Security however will NOT change the sex on your records without a court order, but sex isn't indicated on the Social Security Card so this wasn't a major concern to me at this time as all I was seeking was legal identification to facilitate employment.

In the next edition, I'll try to share some enlightening information I

learned from this seminar on the New York State Public Accommodation Law and the Human Rights Administration - Unless of course Pam would like to do this for me?

The Gender Bill Of Rights

by Sharon Ann Stuart

Our founding fathers wisely provided a Bill of Rights to complement the Constitution which they drafted as the foundation for our democracy. The Bill of Rights guarantees our individual freedoms - speech, assembly, press, bearing arms, and so on. These rights are so much a part of our everyday lives that we often take them for granted. It is worth remembering that our meeting this week in Denver is a right (to assemble) guaranteed by our Constitution. The right to publish this Newsletter and to speak out on gender issues is likewise protected by the piece of parchment we call Our Constitution.

I have long felt the need for a "Gender Bill of Rights". After all, consumers, hospital patients, handicapped persons, employees, children and even animals have statements of their rights, adopted by various organizations, and and carrying more or less weight depending on the clout of the particular interest group. Those Bill of Rights statements which are adopted by State Legislatures or the Federal Government become part of the law of the land.

If I were asked to draft a "Gender Bill of Rights" it would read as follows:

"As a free human being and member of the Gender Issues Community I assert and claim the following rights:

1. To express the masculine or feminine gender in dress and behavior, according to my choice, regardless of my birth sex.
2. To change my birth sex from male to female or from female to male, at the time and manner of my own choosing.
3. To live openly in the sex and gender of my choice, and to be free of discrimination or penalty in education, employment, public service, and religion.

4. To enter into nurturing relationships with others of either sex or gender.
5. To parent children as a member of either sex or gender.

This would be my "Gender Bill of Rights". I invite all of my IFGE sisters and brothers to consider this question of gender rights. Please write to me with your comments, ideas and questions. My address appears below.

I would offer these further observations in closing. My "Gender Bill of Rights" would apply to persons of legal age - not to children whom the law presumes to be incapable of making such choices or commitments before a certain age (18 in some States, 21 in others).

Also please note that one can assert and claim a Right without ever exercising it. For example, the US Constitution guarantees me the Right to Bear Arms, but I have never owned a firearm. Thus, my gender Right number two can be asserted and claimed by transvestites but never acted upon.

To a large degree we in the Gender Issues Community already enjoy and are exercising the Rights I have stated; but we all know how much further there is to travel on the road to total gender freedom. Articulating these Rights in a succinct, forthright way as I have attempted to do, could be a powerful and effective means of implementing social reform through education and the use of the political process to enact legislation of a "Gender Bill of Rights".

Please help me to refine and improve my "Gender Bill of Rights". My address is Sharon Ann Stuart, PO Box 870, Onconta, NY 13820.



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**ROGER'S NOTEBOOK
(#61)**

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

In many of my 60 previous columns I have spoken on behalf of people who seem to have little voice in the community. Sometimes these viewpoints have made some readers uncomfortable because they have a different perspective on the subject. In the past six months two readers have strongly disagreed with what I have written. This column is a reply to them, in the spirit of continuing dialog rather than choosing "sides".

The first writer was Phaedra Kelly in a column in Cross-Talk, July 1991. She took exception to my description and comments about one man's (fictional) compulsion on gaining entry to a women-only tea room (Notebook #54). My position was that people have the right to reserve places in which not everyone is welcome. I wrote that such exclusion is often necessary for personal growth. Only when such limitations deny others access to socially or economically essential elements is it properly challenged.

Ms. Kelly, I believe, missed my point. She quotes historical events in which women invaded male bastions to gain various rights including voting. I believe that these incidents were appropriate, based on the fact that women were denied social and economic power. She then goes on to point out that female sexuality can be as intense as male sexuality. Somehow this justifies Ms. Kelly's conclusion that it is permissible for either gender to invade the other gender's private spaces so long as the invader is up front about the 'sexual and adrenaline high' that results.

Ms. Kelly describes me as old fashioned because my professional experience has led me to the conclusion that women want or need this security more than men. Regardless, let me expand the discussion by talking about the gender community instead of women's social groups. From my observations, many of the organizations in the gender community go to great lengths to assure privacy and security for their meetings. Elaborate screening of potential members and limited knowledge of meeting places is common.

I suspect that people in the average organization would be infuriated if they were 'invaded' by persons who were either simply curious or got 'a sexual high' from breaking into their meeting. There would be more than anger if such an intrusion were directed toward physical attacks on the members. In sum, we all need private and secure places. Invasion of these places 'on a lark' is inexcusable.

The other writer who took exception to my writing was Linda Phillips, in Cross-Talk, September 1991. In #57 I had written about my experience on a television show that primarily presented only one side -- the nearly unconditional acceptance of cross-dressing by the wife. I wrote about the potential effect on women who could not be as accepting as Ms. Phillips wife is of her husband's cross-dressing.

I have probably talked to as many wives as has Ms. Phillips but under totally different circumstances. The women she sees have most likely already made some accommodation to their partner's cross-dressing. The women I see are still struggling with the issues and their relationship. The one valid point that Ms. Phillips makes is that many of the husbands (of my clients) are not honest with their wives and also have a lot of guilt and shame over their cross-dressing. This guilt and shame does strongly influence how they relate to their wives. It is the women in these relationships that I work with. From these experiences I have come to believe that there are a significant number of women who do not whole-heartedly accept their husband's cross-dressing and perhaps never will.

The thing that outraged me about Ms. Phillips rejoinder was that she accused me (and other professionals) of labelling people as sick so that we can make money from curing them. I am also outraged by Ms. Phillips implication that I am trying to preserve the social status quo so that I can "make more money". If she bothered to become aware of my actions within the gender community, the professional community and in society at large, she would know that I have worked to change perceptions about gender issues. To the extent I and others in the community are successful in achieving a more positive social attitude toward gender to that extent will there be fewer clients for me to work with.

If she ever asked other professionals, she would discover that serving the gender community is far from a money making proposition. Most professionals that I know could not earn a living if they had only clients with gender concerns. In my particular case, less than 5% of my income comes from working with such clients. I find it sad that so many people in the gender community believe professionals are self-serving individuals whose sole purpose is to make money from persons who struggle with gender issues. Yes, there are uninformed professionals who do more harm than good, but that is also true for any other profession. Not everyone is completely altruistic nor are any omniscient. The majority of professionals who serve your community are there because they care, not because they want to take advantage of you.

If you have something you would like me to write about or have a rebuttal, send it to P.O. Box 4887; Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call (914) 452-8405. All communications are confidential.



'They met each other in hospital where they were having sex change operations'

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CALL TO A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSGENDER LAW

Tentative date and location: weekend of 21-22 August 1992, in Houston, Texas. Both are proposed because of good possibility of being at University of Houston Law Center campus during two week window between classes and because of closeness to Hobby Airport. Conference can also be held elsewhere in Houston while possibly retaining UH Law Center affiliation. Houston is proposed because of central location and because of being conference initiator's locale.

Two types of conference being proposed:

1. Presentation by speakers type: this is the familiar type with presentations by experts in various fields of law. It is the passive approach to legal education that is experienced at most legal conferences.

Negatives: doesn't allow as much creativity from audience and is less efficient as to focusing on how to affect change.

Positives: easy to produce, good opportunity for future networking, presents the current status of the law, easy to document, easy for media to cover.

2. Committee workshop type: here people with interests and expertise in similar areas of law meet in committees and through workshoping techniques explore their area of law and arrive at a consensus as to the present status of the law with an examination of current deficiencies and a strategy to overcome those deficiencies. It encourages active participation in order to yield positive action. Each committee then delivers a written report to the entire body during the final afternoon gathering.

Negatives: much harder to coordinate event, much harder to manage each workshop, imperative that egos be held in check.

Positives: if negatives overcome, it is more efficient in generating momentum toward focused and progressive changes.

-- Both types should discuss family, military, probate, housing, employment, insurance, criminal, discrimination, health and other areas of law and can produce post-conference proceedings.

ARE YOU INTERESTED? All attorneys, paralegals, law enforcement officers, judges and magistrates, law students and anyone interested in law that relates to and effects the entire transgender community are welcome. Write the conference initiator: Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney; 5707 Firenza St; Houston, TX 77035-5515. (Note: Phyllis has been Phyllis since 1976 and has actively practiced law as Phyllis in Texas since 1986. She asks that you photocopy this and send it to anyone and everyone and that all "tg" group newsletters from around the nation copy it from other newsletters. Let's get the word out quickly and begin some face to face discussions at the Fantasy Adventure Weekend in Houston, November 8-10, 1991.)

Timetable: For early face-to-face discussions with Phyllis, come to "Fantasy Adventure Weekend", Nov 8-10, 1991, in Houston (F.A.W., Box 90335, Houston 77090, c/o Jackie Thorne 713/780-3553). Meet with Phyllis for actual Preliminary Planning during the "Texas-T-Party", Feb 28-Mar 1, 1992, in San Antonio (Texas-T-Party, Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163, c/o Linda & Cynthia Phillips, 512/438-7604). All plans are to be finalized at "6th Annual IFGE Coming Together Convention", Apr 6-12, 1992, in Houston (IFGE, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, 617/894-8340).

Caution urged on breast implants

By ROCHELLE JONES

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A top Food and Drug Administration official yesterday predicted that manufacturers of controversial silicone breast implants will soon be required by the government to prove their safety or remove them from the market.

Walter Gundaker, acting director of the FDA's center for devices and radiological health, said he expected the agency to require companies to submit scientific evidence of the implants' safety by next summer.

The action would come nine years after initial concerns were raised about possible health hazards.

He told the House Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee that the FDA should issue a final ruling by March.

Although 2 million women have received the implants for breast enlargement or reconstruction following cancer surgery, the FDA has never ruled on their safety or effectiveness.

When breast implants began in the 1960s the FDA had no authority over medical devices and didn't require

premarketing approval.

At least 2,017 cases of adverse reactions from silicone implants have been received by the FDA.

There have been reports that implants are associated with increased risks of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and cancer.

Subcommittee chairman Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.) criticized the FDA for the "inordinate delay" between the initial reports of problems and the final regulations. He charged that the FDA has failed to educate women adequately about the dangers of implants.

CLASSIFIEDS:

TGIC NEWS will accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any TGIC member. Classifieds may be edited or rejected subject to decisions of the News committee.

FOR SALE: Single family home in Cohoes, if interested, call TGIC Thursdays and ask for Debbie.

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous wigs (New and Used) reasonable. Foam wig heads \$1.50. Wigs styled \$10.00. Makeovers \$65.00. Information and Publications. Contact Jennifer 432-7092.

FOR RENT: We have been contacted by a number of people who have apartments for rent, are looking for roommates, or will be having apartments for rent soon. If you are looking for a secure place to live where your life style is no problem, contact Jennifer at 432-7092.

DONATIONS WANTED: The TGIC library is looking for donations of books on crossdressing and transsexualism, to replace those lost or stolen, and to expand our library. If you would like to contribute books, please send them to the PO Box or drop them off at the club room. Both new and old books are welcome. Reference and research books are especially needed.

RESEARCH SUBJECTS SOUGHT: Recently we received requests for people to participate in research from two researchers preparing thesis on crossdressing. If you are interested or would like more information contact:

Diane Wysocki
Department of Sociology
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

and

Tere Frederickson
Boulton - Park Society
PO Box 169652
San Antonio, TX 78280-3252

BROCHURES AVAILABLE: The following brochures, reprints and papers are now available from OJRI through TGIC.

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OJRI is donating the proceeds from sales on the above copyrighted works to be split equally between TGIC and the Albany Gender Project. GENDER DYSPHORIA - FINDING HELP is a single page, three fold flyer which we encourage you to leave or distribute with professionals in your area. Minimum order for this flyer is 100 for \$10.00. If you have works you would like to contribute to fund these two worthwhile organizations, please send them or orders for these items to TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212. Additional works will be forthcoming shortly.

WILMA L. RELIEF FUND:

Many of you know our good friend Wilma L. who for years allowed the group TV Entertainers to meet at her place of business. You may also know that in July of this year, Wilma had a fire which did tremendous damage to the gallery. But worse than this, the fire destroyed Wilma's wardrobe! If you have clothes which you no longer need in a size 14 (or so) and would like to donate them to a worthy new owner, drop them by the clubroom and we will see they are directed to Ms. L.

*Wishing you a Christmas
bright with cheer
and warm with love*