TRANSgenderist

Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club July, 1998

The Lazy, Crazy, Hazy Dayz of Summer

It is the time of year when everything gets into a slower gear, when life is meant to be enjoyed and when "getting out" means just that, not just going somewhere else indoors. Typically the club slows down a bit as well. You are encouraged to get out and about; we'll be here all through the Summer, and the conversation is just as interesting as before. And JDs is always there for afterwards.

In my case, things are actually speeding up. I have transitioned, but now I have to transition to the rest of my extended family and friends one at a time. I have seventy-odd places I have to have my name and sex changed, not to mention address. And I face a very large legal challenge this Summer, all while working, saving my time for surgery, leading my children through their own transition and just learning about my new life and status.

It would help me immensely if some brave soul with a computer (or fast fingers) would step forward and be willing to edit the next two issues of the Transgenderist.

Hello? Any volunteers?

– Vicky

Southern Comfort 1998

The Link, then the brochure. ..
<A HREF=3D"http://www.sccatl.org/">

Southern Comfort Conference 1998

Dear Friends,

We are expecting to hold the biggest and best Southern Comfort EVER this year! We sincerely hope that you can attend. Please feel free to forward, copy, and share this news with all of your friends. If you have any questions, please feel free to write to us directly.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Schumacher, co-chair, SCC '98
Shu2Stef@aol.com OR Shu2Stef@sccatl.org

Jennileigh Love, co-chair, SCC '98
jlove1@ix.netcom.com

The Southern Comfort Board of Directors:

Terry [redacted]
Sabrina [redacted]
Maxwell [redacted]
Holly [redacted]

KUDZU by Doug Marlette Boston Globe Jun 11, 87

Announcing Southern Comfort Conference 1998

Wednesday, September 30 - Sunday, October 4

New Hotel!
Terrace Garden Hotel
& Four Points Sheraton
3387 Lenox Road, NE Atlanta 30326

Join your transgender family in the cosmopolitan capital of the South for four days of exploration, celebration and discovery.

* * *

FEATURED EVENTS

Wednesday -- Dinner Theater with Sabrina Marcus (optional) Thursday -- Dinner at Hard Rock Cafe (optional)
Thursday -- Guys Night Out
Friday -- Southern Comfort Talent Show
Saturday -- The Prom That Never Was

* * *

To contact Southern Comfort Conference:
Write: P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591
Call: (404) 633-6470
E-mail: info@sccatl.org
Or visit our web site: <A HREF=3D"http://www.sccatl.org">

* * *

For hotel reservations, call:
1-800-241-8260 (9 am-6 pm Monday thru Friday EDT)

Call before Sept. 1 and be sure to say you are attending "Southern Comfort Conference" to get special room rates. For more information, see "SCC Debuts New Hotel" below.

* * *

You're Invited. Join us for the 8th Annual Southern Comfort Conference. Here you'll find support, information and friends in a welcoming atmosphere of Southern hospitality. Vendors, authors, entertainers and leaders from the entire spectrum of the transgender community will be on hand for four days of learning, networking and fun.

Daytimes are given over to an exhaustive program of informative seminars, shopping at the large vendors area and group luncheons that feature entertaining and provocative speakers from the leadership of the transgender community. From basic info for the newly out to legal, medical and political presentations, and informative sessions on family relationships, sexuality and spirituality--our programs reflect a commitment to serve the diverse needs of our community.

Evenings are devoted to celebration; and the gathering of the transgender clan at Southern Comfort Conference is always a festive affair. See the Preliminary Schedule below for details, but if you enjoy the nightlife, you'll love Southern Comfort -- we provide free shuttle service to after-hours nightclubs each evening.

Southern Comfort prides itself on being an all-inclusive (and economical) conference. Whatever your connection to the transgender community, whether you are transsexual, crossdresser or in between; spouse, partner or family member; straight, gay, bi or omnisexual; post-op, pre-op or non-op; young or old; married or single; FtM or MtF; or of any variance--if transgender is an issue in your life, you are welcome at Southern Comfort Conference.

* * *

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

(Optional events require separate ticket purchase.)

(Seminar schedule will soon be posted on our web site)

WEDNESDAY

Noon	On-site Registration Opens
Afternoon	Informal socializing. No seminars or outings.
Evening	Optional Dinner Theater with Sabrina Marcus

THURSDAY

8 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Registration open
Morning	Seminar sessions, Trip to CNN Center
Lunch	Speakers: New faces in the community
Afternoon	Seminar sessions
	Optional sightseeing, shopping
Evening	Optional Dinner at Hard Rock Cafe, Optional Guy's Night Out
Later	SCC Nightclubbing (trans. provided)

FRIDAY

8 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Registration open
Morning	Seminar sessions, Optional Tour World of Coca-Cola, Underground Atlanta
Lunch	Speaker: Marisa Richmond, PhD
Afternoon	Seminar sessions, Optional shopping at Little Five Points boutiques
Evening	Banquet and Southern Comfort Talent Show
Later	SCC Nightclubbing (trans. provided)

SATURDAY

8 a.m.- noon	Registration open
Morning	Seminar sessions, Optional Trip to Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Lunch	Speaker: author Leslie Feinberg
Afternoon	Seminar sessions, Optional shopping at Lenox Mall
Evening	SCC Banquet and "Prom That Never Was"
Later	SCC Nightclubbing (trans. provided)

(Note that all activities are tentative & subject to change.)

PARTIAL LIST OF PRESENTERS

Samuel Allen, Maxwell Anderson, Mariette Pathy Allen, Tony Baretto-Neto, Anne Bolin PhD, Joan Boonin PhD, Holly Boswell, Jim Bridges ,Jeff Brody, Michael Brownstein MD, Linda Buten, Ken Carl, Dainna Cicotello, Lola Cola, Dr. Sandra Cole, Anndi Daniels, Pamela DeGroff, Dallas Denny, Robert Eads, Marc Eden, Evan Eyler MD, Leslie Feinberg, David Knox PhD, Sabrina Marcus, Jennifer Marquette, Jessie McGowan, Dr. Robert Medelsohn, Jerry Kellen McCracken, Roger Millen PhD, Michael Munson, Terry Murphy, Mistress Kia, Dr. Toby Meltzer, Nancy Nangeroni, Douglas Ousterhout MD, Wendy Polley, David Powers, Marisa Richmond PhD, Zantui Rose, Sandra Samons PhD, Gwen Smith, Veronica Vera, Jami Ward, Cathy Weigel RN, Dawn Wilson, Tarynn Whitten PhD, (list subject to change).

* * *

News Flash: SCC DEBUTS NEW HOTEL !

Southern Comfort is moving uptown and upscale to Atlanta's sophisticated Buckhead neighborhood. SCC's new home is the elegant Terrace Garden Hotel (and adjacent Four Points Sheraton), directly across the street from Lenox Square Mall, and half a block from the exclusive shops of Phipps Plaza. We'll be a smidge farther from the bars (don't worry, we'll still have free nightly shuttles!), but this beautifully appointed, business class hotel and brand new convention facility will provide a warm and wonderful new atmosphere for SCC--and a bargain room rate for those who choose to stay right next door at the Sheraton Four Points. Hotel management (which owns both properties) pursued our business enthusiastically, and we're looking forward to a great

experience.

Best of all, our new hotel offers a choice of accommodations with different prices. Here's the details:

Option 1: $79 (single or double) for an elegant room in the eight-story Terrace Garden Hotel. Interior hallways, gorgeous lobby bar, swimming pool, indoor fountains...you get the picture... (No breakfast or happy hour though--see Option 2)

Option 2 puts you steps away--right next door--in the lovely motel-style rooms of the Sheraton Four Points Hotel (like the Holiday Inn), where for $69 a night (single or double) you also get free daily continental breakfast and daily one-hour, open bar happy hour!

* * *

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Full Conference (3 days of seminars and five meals)

Before September 1
- Single - - - - - - - - $195
- Couple - - - - - - - - $390

After September 1
- Single - - - - - - - - $215
- Couple - - - - - - - - $430

Friday and Saturday only (2 days / 4 meals)
- Single - - - - - - - - $175
- Couple - - - - - - - - $350
- Seminars Only - - - $75

Single Day (Friday or Saturday)
- With meals - - - - - - - - - $90
- Seminars only (negotiable)- -$50

Optional Wednesday Dinner Theatre
- A Taste of Mystery with Sabrina Marcus - - $45

Optional Thursday Dinner
- Atlanta Hard Rock Cafe - - $30

THE BEST 1997 BUMPER STICKERS:

Jesus is coming, everyone look busy.
Horn broken, watch for finger.
Honk If You Haven't Slept With Bill Clinton.
I'm just driving this way to piss you off.
Reality is a crutch for people who can't handle drugs.
Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
Keep honking, I'm reloading.
Hang up and drive.
Lord save me from your followers.
Guns don't kill people, postal workers do.
The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
Your kid may be an honor student but you're still an IDIOT!
Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
It IS as BAD as you think, and they ARE out to get you.
If we aren't supposed to eat animals, why are they made of meat?
Forget about World Peace.....Visualize Using Your Turn Signal!
Make it idiot proof and someone will make a better idiot.
He/She who laughs last thinks slowest.
Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math.
Friends help you move. Real friends help you move bodies.
Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.
Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.
Be nice to your kids. They'll be choosing your nursing home.
Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

And my all-time favorite:

Cajuns make better lovers, because they will eat anything.

Of Friends Lost

by Cathryn [redacted] ([redacted])

Editor's note: I met Cathy and her partner Susie in Montreal this year as they were waiting for their surgery with Dr. Menard. They were a wonderful couple, and I am personally deeply saddened by the pain this event has put them both through.

Wednesday, June 10th, at 5:PM.....Julia Kate Morgan entered the 2nd floor mid-town San Diego medical office of her therapist, Rita Powers, for a therapy session. There was nothing to indicate that this was anything more than just another in a long series of such sessions, that is until 5:20.

911 received a frantic call for help from a scared individual who claimed that several gunshots had been fired in the medical office bldg. just moments before. While the police dispatcher was on the line, more shots where heard over the phone. Police and then SWAT surrounded the building and got half a dozen frightened people out of the structure. More gunshots where heard from the 2nd floor, then silence.....

At 8:20 PM SWAT made their way to the 2nd floor, where they came upon the bodies of two women laying in the hallway. One had been shot numerous times about her body, the other had one shot in her head.....

What happened? We may never know the full story, but to those of us who knew Julia, it was apparent that she had simply reached the end of her rope and had lost all hope of ever being able to complete her transition to becoming a post-operative male-to-female woman.

Julia was a Transsexual. Early in her life, Julia was abandoned by her mother and became a ward to the state, spending many terrible and lonely years in the foster care system. These experiences toughened her dramatically from the small happy child she had been and by the time she was of age she felt mean enough to join the military. She served four years in the Navy, and the only good thing she attributed to that experience was that it brought her to San Diego, a city she was to ultimately spend the remainder of her life in.

On discharge, she landed a job at the Naval Hospital as a medical records clerk. She did well with her job and spent almost six years there, though admittedly she had trouble in relating to people on the job. She was always pleasant, and many of her co-workers enjoyed her company, but she was in- experienced in dealing with her feelings, in dealing with inter-personal relationships, and she couldn't ever really develop more than just passing relationships with anyone, even the most intimate of relationships.

She lived a very lonely life, shut within walls of her own construct where she felt safe and protected, but she was just beginning to understand that what she put up to keep out threats and pain was also keeping out love and friendship. She was at a point where she knew how much she was and had been missing in life and it made her very sad.

Miss Morgan had known from early in her young life that she was different from other boys her age, and at some point in adulthood she discovered what a Transsexual is and self-identified with the concept. She was certain for most of her young life that she was really female and in the last year and a half she was taking certain and positive steps to do something about correcting her birth-defect and becoming the woman she knew was within her. This was when she came into our lives.

Some 6 months ago I referred her to Ms Rita Powers, M.A., an intern working off her required hours prior to receiving her license to practice on her own. They had been seeing each other frequently over that six month period, but increasingly Julia was reporting tension between them and her own frustration with the "system" (the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care) and the way she, an intelligent, capable and accomplished adult, was subjugated to a 2nd class position and that her life was rested from

her control and placed into the hands of another who may not have had her own interests at heart. She, over time, became more and more confrontational with Rita, more demanding of an answer..."when can I get my surgery letter?", an answer that apparently was not forthcoming.

I had known Rita for quite some time, as she had previously been my counselor and had written my 2nd of the two required approval letters for surgery. She had been challenging to me, playing a game of cat-and-mouse with my letter. She liked to use a therapy manner that was threatening to the client, stressful to the extreme, as it exposed the patient's ability to cope with and handle stress and she believed that to be a prime requisite for approval to the surgery procedure and to the high-stress life that could lie beyond it. She wanted assurance that the person in question would be able to handle the stress' that life would bring once they had taken the final step, as there was no-way to take a step back once they had passed a certain point, the surgery.

This time, she failed to read the stress level of her client and pushed just a little too hard. Something snapped.

Julia entered Rita's office at 5:PM Wednesday evening, the same as she had been doing regularly for six months, but this time there was resolution in her step.

She had decided to not be a pawn to the system any more. She was taking control of her life and confronting the barrier that had been placed in her path. If you can't go under or around the object, then you just have to go right through the middle of it, and that's what she had decided to do. She was going to remove the object barring her way to the completion she desperately required.

From within her purse she produced a 9-mm pistol. We will never now what happened in the 20 minutes prior to the first shot being fired, though it is reported that loud voices and shouting were heard from within the office by others in the medical office building.

The first of a dozen shots rang out and echoed in the halls and offices. When the police discovered the bullet-riddled body of the 41-year old mother of two, and the second body with a single entry point wound in the head, they were certain that two woman were involved in this tragedy, and that is the way the press and media handled the story for the first few hours. Later, the coroner's office and a police dept. spokesperson began reporting that the body of the suspected shooter was really that of a man, dressed in woman's clothing, a report that was heralded and repeated with glee by the media. They had a real story here !!!

Perhaps someday society will understand what Transsexualism is really about. Perhaps other "Julia's" in the future won't be pushed beyond their limits of coping by those who really don't care or understand us. Perhaps someday, society will help and understand young people who know that they are the wrong gender from early in life, instead of crushing and squashing them into the round little holes that all square pegs are forced into. This tragedy on Wednesday could have been avoided and, perhaps, there may be a day when the frustration levels that Julia reached may never again be experienced by a confused child.

Those of us in the local "T" community lost two close friends that night, and we will miss them both. Rita, you tried to understand us and you wanted to help, but you were too in-experienced to handle this particular situation. You were a friend and a caring soul, and we shall miss you. Julia, oh..god. If you had just confided your feelings to those of us who cared, maybe we could have helped you. We tried, but you were too frustrated to listen. Your pain at last is over. Rest well, dear child. We will miss you terribly.

Julia was 27.

With love we say Good bye to friends

--Cathryn [redacted] and Susie [redacted]

TWO POEMS

– Bobbi Jo the Twoth

HI HEATHER!

I met a girl the other day who told me what she was
I didn't even ask her, but she told me just because
She had to set the record straight and so she said straight out
"I'm straight. I am. I swear I am. I'm straight without a doubt."
I told her that was fine with me. I said "That's fine, I guess
"You're just as straight as you can be,
although you wear a dress.
A rose by any other name, they say, is still a rose
Your toes and nose are what they are
as everybody knows..

She smiled and took a hefty swig of Miller Draft Ice Light
And said "I think I know ~~exactly~~ what I am, at least tonight.
I'm a transsexual, trangendered transvestite who likes leather
be sure you get the name right and always call me Heather
I'm a lesbian cross-dresser with a taste for S and M.
Sometimes I'm the aggressor, but sometimes I'm very fem.
Sometimes I'm really not too sure exactly what I am
But have no doubt, when I go out, I just don't give a damn.
For I do not wish to be mistook for something that I'm not.
I'm bi when I am with a guy, but otherwise I'm not.

I'm gay when I am in the mood and hetero on Friday
And when I say I'm sometimes crude, at least I do it my way,

which may not be the same today as what it was last week
C'est but se la vie, I know I'm me, and not some kind of freak."

So now I know what Heather is; at least, I have a clue,
And the next time that I see her
I will wave and say

"Hey...you!

FOR THIS I PAID MONEY?

The first therapist said:
"You are simply rebelling against your parents,
but you must understand that what you are doing
is against the laws of god."
(He was Catholic, like my parents.)

The second therapist said:
"You have a deep seated fear of castration;
because your father was the dominant figure
in your home and could not show his love for you."
(He was Freudian. He could not show love either.)

The third therapist said:
"Do you do this
because you want to be like your mother?
Tell me...how does it make you feel?"
(She was non-directive. No answers...just questions.)

The fourth therapist said:
"We don't know what causes this...
and we don't have a cure,
but I'd like to know more about it."
(He was a modernist...and not too well-adjusted himself.)

And the last therapist said:
"Does it make you feel better?"
And I said:
"Yes"

"Does it hurt anyone?"
"No."
"So?" she said.
"What's your problem?"

Thanks to Melodie, Cathy, Callan, and Colleen
For their contributions. — Vicky

Transgenderist's Independence Club
PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs.7:30-10 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	Tina [redacted]
Secretary	open
Treasurer	Winnie [redacted]
Newsletter Editor	Vicky [redacted]

The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Copyright 1998 TGIC unless otherwise stated. No part may be reproduced without prior permission from the originator.

Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to [redacted] The article should be part of the body of the e-mail.

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 PM to 10 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 local night spots after the meetings.

***

A chicken and an egg are lying in bed. The chicken is smoking a cigarette with a satisfied smile on its beak while the egg is frowning, looking a bit POed. The egg then mutters, to no-one in particular, "Well, I guess we answered THAT question!"

TGIC On-Line

All transgendered people are invited to join TGIC On-Line, an informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC) . Messages exchanged on TGIC On-Line focus on events of interest to transgendered people in a region from Lake Placid to Newburg. If you are interested in joining the network, or want more information about TGIC, send an e mail message to: TGIC-request@hartebeest.com with any subject line and in the message body, the text:

JOIN TGIC
STOP

(Please note: JOIN TGIC must be on line 1. STOP must be on line 2) You will receive an automated acknowledgment (Journal) of your request, which must be approved with the list moderator.

Struggling with GID is a fight to be our real selves, the archetypal hero/heroine's quest, complete with dragons, betrayal, unexpected allies, wicked step-parents, magic weapons, dangerous journeys, and triumph over fear.

--Toni Blake

Tracy Oppelt

Master Barber and Cosmetologist
Located at:

Maria's Hair Care
1573 A Central Ave.
Colonie, New York
518-869-5604

CLOSETS AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Two closets in the TGIC Club Room are now available for rent at $30-$40 per month, including a key to the room. If you are interested in a closet or becoming a Key Club member ($10 per month) please call, write, or come to a meeting.

JOSEFINA A. SPECKERT M. Ed.

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH,
MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNSELING

100 WENDELL AVE, SUITE 302
PITTSFIELD, MA. 01201

(413) 499-5858

Connections
Psychotherapy Associates

MOONHAWK RIVER STONE, B.S.
PH.D. CANDIDATE

10 Colvin Avenue • P.O. Box 6370 • Albany, NY 12206
(518) 446-1261

Arlene Istar Lev
R-CSW, CASAC

321 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518/463-9152

Choices
Counseling Associates

Lady Di's
Specializing in Nails, Pedicures, Waxing,
Electrolysis, Permanent Make-up & Hair Care

Laura Spratt
Electrologist
Nail Technician
Dermatician

Peter Harris Plaza
952 Troy-Schenectady Rd.
Latham, N.Y. 12110
782-1426

Calendar and Events

TGIC meetings are held Thursdays at 7:30 in the clubhouse.

Events of Note

July 9	"Paris is Burning," movie about NYC drag balls, at the CDG&LCC 7:30-9:00
July 11	Twenty Club, Hartford
July 15-19	S.P.I.C.E. VI for crossdressers and spouses, Atlanta, Georgia
July 25	Twenty Club Picnic Details on their web page
September 30-Oct 4	Southern Comfort
September 27-October 4	Albany Pride Week
October 18-25	Fantasia Fair

The Black Party (in Utica): Saturday, July 25, 1998, 10:PM, Hedonism and Decandecen Rules!

That Place, 216 Bleecker Street, Utica, NY, 13501. For more Info, contact Spunky at borsct@borg.com or look at http://www.borg.com/~borsct/page22.html.

Several girls from the Sunshine Club, way across the Berkshires in central Massachusetts, dropped by JDs three weeks ago. They suggested a mutual activity with TGIC during the Summer. Any ideas?

Comments? Vicky E[redacted] Albany, NY 12203.

All the news that fits.