



TGIC, BUTTERFLY, EON



TRANSGENDERESTS INDEPENDENCE CLUB CALL 436-4513 OR WRITE TGIC
P.O. BOX 13604 ALBANY N.Y. 12212 BUTTERFLY AND EXPRESSING OUR
NATURE (EON) A COLLABORATION OF N.Y. STATE GROUPS

7/88

Calendar Of Events

- 06/18/88 EON Party
- 06/24/88 TGIC Business Meeting Albany
- 06/24/88 TGIC Party Albany
- 06/25/88 Butterfly Rap Group
- 06/26/88 Butterfly Party
- 07/02/88 TGIC Mate Support Group
- 07/09/88 TGIC Party 145 Club
- 07/21/88 TGIC Rap Group
- (We will hold the rap group only with one weeks advance notice. If you want to attend or have a rap group, please call one week in advance. No one will be present to hold the rap group if no advance notice is given)
- 07/16/88 EON Party
- 07/22/88 TGIC Business Meeting
- 07/22/88 TGIC Party
- 07/27/88 Butterfly Rap Group
- 07/28/88 Butterfly Party
- 08/06/88 TGIC Mate Support Group
- 08/13/88 TGIC Party 145 Club
- 08/18/88 TGIC Rap Group
- (We will hold the rap group only with one weeks advance notice. If you want to attend or have a rap group, please call one week in advance. No one will be present to hold the rap group if no advance notice is given)
- 08/16/88 EON Party
- 08/26/88 TGIC Business Meeting
- 08/26/88 TGIC Party
- 08/27/88 Butterfly Rap Group
- 08/28/88 Butterfly Party
- 09/03/88 TGIC Mate Support Group
- 09/10/88 TGIC Party 145 Club
- 09/15/88 TGIC Rap Group
- (We will hold the rap group only with one weeks advance notice. If you want to attend or have a rap group, please call one week in advance. No one will be present to hold the rap group if no advance notice is given)
- 09/17/88 EON Party
- 09/23/88 TGIC Business Meeting
- 09/23/88 TGIC Party
- 09/24/88 Butterfly Rap Group
- 09/25/88 Butterfly Party
- 10/01/88 Mate Support Group
- 10/08/88 TGIC Party 145 Club
- 10/20/88 TGIC Rap Group

 * THE INTERNATIONAL *
 * FOUNDATION *
 * For GENDER EDUCATION *
 * Is having an open house *
 * July 23rd and 24th *
 * In their new facility in *
 * Waltham Ma. come see your *
 * New facility & IFGE at work for *
 * you. Box 367, Wayland Ma. 01778 *
 * or call 617-358-2305 *
 * *****

NATIONAL NEWS

We are now able to sell you the Tapestry Magazine. If you are unable to get it please contact us for a copy. It's the only magazine in the community devoted to the issues that face us. It is now available to you locally. See Dawn or Ren'ee for your copy.

The Benefit at Tracks in New York City was great the people organizing it were very hospitable. I had an excellent time and so did everyone who attended. Mariette had her work on display for all of the people who attended and she had all the wonderful pictures of the people in the community for the people to see. The whole benefit was great. You might join us sometime at one of the benefits. You'll have a good time.

Mariette Pathy Allen wishes to make a report to the community and her letters are available upon request to anyone who receives this newsletter. I'll briefly outline her letter to you in an effort to get the newsletter out to you. Three months ago the New York Post published an article attacking the gender community, with Mariette's work as the center of the controversy. She had a very difficult and expensive time because of the Post's article. The Post settled out of court (they very rarely do). Mariette only received a small

Any questions on the above? Write or call us. TGIC PO BOX 13604 Albany N.Y. 12212-3604**518-436-4513

amount, just enough to cover the lawyers expense. The New York State Council on the Arts was able to defend their grant's and awards. Tiger, the legal defense fund for the community, has collected funds for defense of people in the community. Lastly, Mariette received support in the way of letters, phone calls and many other communications, and wishes to thank the many who showed their support. To add it all up. The Post is the only loser. And general concensus is that we probably appear in a much better light now than before the Post article. Mariette wishes you all well.

 * THE 1989 IFGE CONVENTION IN *
 * SAN FRANSISCO CA. ENTERTAINMENT,*
 * FINE FOOD, LEARNING, WORKSHOPS, *
 * OUTINGS, A GREAT TIME FOR ALL, *
 * APRIL 4, 1989 through *
 * APRIL 9, 1989 ACT EARLY *
 * FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR *
 * WRITE TO REN'EE AT TGIC OR *
 * CONTACT MERRISSA SHERYL LYNN *
 * AT P.O. BOX 367, Wayland, Ma. *
 * 01778 Tell.617-358-2305 *

That is not to say that you cannot get yourself into trouble. If you are otherwise breaking a law, the fact that you are crossdressing is not going to get you out of trouble, and will very likely make it more likely that the police will not just "forget it". The easiest way to get into trouble is to attempt to avoid properly identifying yourself. This will almost certainly lead to a charge of impersonation, hindering prosecution, obstructing governmental administration, etc. The best thing to do is to just tell them who you are, apologize for any inconvenience, and plan on waiting around while the officer checks out who you are.

I say this from personal experience. I was the subject of a traffic stop. The officer looked at my driver's license and politely informed me that I had apparently taken my husband's by mistake. Although flattered, I told him that no, that was my driver's license. After about twenty minutes of checking every record of mine that they could pull up on the computer, the officer very politely told me that he was not going to give me a ticket, just a verbal warning. He then followed me all the way (about ten miles) to the state border.

The moral - stay cool, be polite and non-aggressive, answer all questions simply and in a straightforward manner. Try to stay out of potentially illegal or quasi-illegal situations (ladies rest rooms for example) and just use good judgement in what you do. If the officer gets out of line, don't you respond. You always have the option of a civil lawsuit if he gets too abusive, but you are certainly not going to win (in any sense of the word) if you take up the challenge on the spot. If confronted in a store, apologize for any inconvenience you may have caused, and simply offer to leave.

TV-TS Tapestry Journal

P.O. Box 367
 Wayland, MA 01778
 (617) 894-8340



THE JOURNAL FOR PERSONS INTERESTED
 IN CROSSDRESSING & TRANSSEXUALISM

Tasteful, comprehensive, non-profit, non-sexual
 150+ pages of articles, editorials, letters, personal listings,
 directory of organizations

With this AD. \$10.00 from each
 subscription will be rebated to: TGIC

Single Copy \$10.00 Subscription \$40.00

A new drug is available for the treatment of Aids, but is only available outside this country. The FDA is now holding up the approval of a new drug, called Reticulose. With this drug, purchased outside the US, AIDS victims have showed considerable improvement. Watch for more information on this fifty three year old drug.

 * HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU *
 * The Birthday's we have are *
 * Aug Helen, Angel, Sept. Muffy, *
 * Oct. Brandon, Steffanie *
 * HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!! *

LOCAL NEWS

by a lawyer (but a nice guy anyway)

I recently (5/30/88) conducted a computer assisted legal research session regarding the degree to which crossdressers could be, and have, been subjected to arrest and prosecution. I am pleased to report that there has only been one (1) such in that case in New York State in over twenty (20) years, and in that case the judge found that cross dressing itself is not a valid reason to arrest anyone. A copy of that case is attached to this memo.

WE MISS YOU WHERE ARE YOU

We miss all of you, we would like to hear from all the people who were unable to attend any meetings or functions for awhile: WE MISS YOU!

We need more information for the newsletter.

Remember the P.O. box is yours to use. Feel free to use it for correspondence you are not sure of. Send mail to: TGIC, P.O. Box 13604,

Albany, N.Y. 12212-3604 ATT. your fem or masculine name first and possibly last name initial.

* * * * *
* THE 145 CLUB AT 145 BARRETT ST. *
* * * * *
* Sch'dy N.Y. Dance all night ALA *
* Fem or kick up your heels and *
* listen to piano tunes in the *
* Lounge. If its your 1st time, *
* don't be shy-introduce yourself *
* to Jerry or Eve. They will *
* help you in any *
* way they can, if you tell them *
* TGIC or Ren'ee told you to come *
* Have Fun *
* * * * *

If you would like to express your dislike for the way the Post handled the issue of crossdressing and Mariette's work, please write to The Editor, The New York Post, 210 South Street, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10002, or write:

Kitty Carlisle Hart, Chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts, 915 Broadway, N.Y.C. N.Y. 10010. And a Mary Hayes at the same address. Both of the women listed above were very supportive of us when they were defending the grants.

Someone else to write to is Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, Capitol Building, Albany N.Y. 12224. Tell him how poorly we are represented by articles like the Post's and remind him, in a reasonable way, that we are his constituents too.

Also send your support to Sherrie Cohen, Director, The Fund for Human Dignity, 666 Broadway, Suite 410, N.Y.C. N.Y. 10012. The Fund is responsible for the grant. If you want good things for the community, please write to the people above. They will affect your future.

Remember BE ALL YOU CAN BE!!
REN'EE and KARYN

Men masquerading as women

Transvestites seeking acceptance for feminine dress

By Paul Grondahl

Staff writer

Just another Friday night at the Turf Inn's Nite-Lites Lounge. The music is Top 40, the drinks are cheap and the illumination is dim.

Three women enter. They are average-looking, conservatively dressed, with low pumps, tasteful makeup and simple jewelry.

A couple quick glances from the bar is all they rate.

What observers don't know is that two of the women are men. They are cross-dressers.

TGIF (Thank God It's Friday), says TGIC (Transgenderist Independence Club of Albany). Let the good times roll.

The worst thing, a cross-dresser will tell you, "is to be all dressed up with nowhere to go."

No need to worry about that at the Nite-Lites Lounge, where the two men have let down their hair (they wear wigs) and allowed their "femme self" to hang out via the ritual of cross-dressing.

The third woman is really, biologically, a woman. She is Ann, wife of Edward/Renee.

"It has taken me a long time to accept his

cross-dressing fully," Ann says of her husband's practice. "At first I thought he was gay and that he was going to have a sex change operation. But now I'm beginning to understand it."

They refer to their practice mostly by initials — TV (transvestite) or TG (transgenderist) or CD (cross-dresser). There are many variations on the theme. In psychological jargon, they all fall under the heading of "compulsive-obsessive" behavior.

An article in the journal *Archives of Sexual Behavior* defines it this way: "Cross-gender identity is a virtually sustained or intermittently occurring wishful fantasy about being a person of the opposite sex."

Nobody can say with any accuracy how many cross-dressers are out there. The International Federation for Gender Education (IFGE) in Wayland, Mass., is an umbrella organization with 167 cross-dresser groups affiliated worldwide. IFGE claims a membership of about 250,000 and publishes *Tapestry*, a glossy, full-color magazine for cross-dressers with a circulation of more than 20,000. Beyond that, estimates of the numbers of cross-dressers, who remain mostly in the closet, are sheer speculation.

Many myths surround them. But, according to counselors who are familiar with the behavior, here are a few things cross-dressers are not: transsexual, predominantly gay, mentally ill or sexually psychopathic.

The first time I met Edward, he was wearing the work boots, blue jeans and chambray shirt of his manual trade. He spoke in a deep voice and had grease under his close-clipped fingernails. He is the father of two, a former Little League coach.

At the Nite-Lites, I met Renee, Edward's cross-dressed feminine alter-ego.

The work blues have been exchanged for a cream-colored silk blouse, white-on-white striped linen business suit with matching pumps and shoulder purse.

His makeup is expertly applied — a soft peach shade that matches the nail polish. The fingernails and eyelashes are fake, but convincing. Renee's voice is a breathy falsetto, a sweet floral bouquet like the perfume.

"This is a form of mental gratification, almost like psychotherapy," says Edward/Renee, 40, president of Albany's 30-member TGIC chapter.

See **DRESS** / F-2

DRESS

Continued from F-1

a local support group and social club.

"This is a way of feeling at ease with myself. We all have a male and female side to us, and this way, I feel like a whole human being."

John/Dawn, 31, a cross-dresser and vice president of TGIC, puts the experience of spending a night as a woman this way: "You can show emotions, cry if you want, do things men are not supposed to do in our society. When you're all done, it's like being totally relaxed."

But there can be trying moments for a transvestite.

"I've got a heavy beard and it takes a whole lot of makeup to cover the stubble," says John/Dawn in his natural baritone, soft enough so people at nearby tables won't hear.

"Intrinsically, I don't see this behavior as harmful," says Niela Miller, a Boston-area counselor who has worked with numerous cross-dressers in the

past 10 years. "There are cross-dressers who are emotionally disturbed. Some are acting out immature, teenage fantasies, and others are very well-adjusted. It doesn't have anything to do with the gender preference, but whether that person is mature or immature."

Cross-dressers refer to themselves as "gender conflicted" and often they find no resolution. For years they will



HELEN

harbor the secret of their confused sexual identity, afraid to tell their spouse, their children, their friends — denying the behavior even to themselves.

"It's not something that can be cured," said Dr. Roger Peo, a Poughkeepsie sexuality counselor who has worked extensively with cross-dressers for eight years. "We can't get rid of a person's desire to cross-dress, but we try to provide coping strategies and work to control it in their lives so it is not detrimental to relationships."

On the effect of cross-dressing on the uninitiated, Peo says, "When you see a man emulating a woman it pushes a lot of wrong buttons."

Under federal law, transvestitism is classified as a sexual deviation. Organized religion views it similarly. Cross-dressing today remains as cloaked in its secretive sub-culture as homosexuality was perhaps a half-century ago. Yet underground, cross-dressing is practiced where few would even suspect it.

In Albany, for instance, beginning in 1956 in the South End, the Transvestites Independence Club was formed. It reached a peak of interest in the 1970s with a mailing list that numbered more than 300 individuals, according to past members. That group dissolved in 1981 and was replaced by TGIC in 1984.

Albany-based TGIC has about 30 full members and a mailing list of more than 60 people. The organization advertises its monthly parties, which regularly draw about 15 cross-dressers to a Schenectady bar. It maintains a building in Albany at which it holds meetings, has guest speakers, sponsors wives' support sessions and publishes a bimonthly newsletter (TGIC, P.O. Box 13604, Albany, N.Y. 12212; phone 436-4513).

Both the bar's and the building's locations are closely guarded by group members, who fear harassment.

Women's apparel on a man's body is not the most natural fit. Both Edward/Renee and John/Dawn are large, former high school football players, with the kind of bulging calves and stout shoulders even heavy-duty nylons and carefully tailored blouses can't completely hide.

Dawn needs 12B pumps, Renee 11 wide. Renee can squeeze into a size 12 dress, but Dawn has to go in search of a size 26. There is always the worry of dressing rooms and too much scrutiny from saleswomen under bright lights.

Here is an excerpt from a first-person account in TGIC's newsletter:

"One of the hardest things I've found is trying to make breasts and cleavage that looks authentic and is comfortable. I finally broke down and bought a pair of silicone inserts and now those problems are over. Now with my breasts in place, I checked in the mirror for proper hang and cleavage. All was in top form. Next came the girdle. There is nothing like a good girdle to transform a semi-flabby male beer belly into an almost shapely feminine waistline."

But it goes beyond clothes that make



Photo by R. Chevalier

DANIELLE ... in full makeup and wig



Albany, N.Y., Sunday, June 12, 1988

YVONNE

a man want to be perceived as a woman. Cross-dressing is a serious psychological matter.

John/Dawn tells of his troubled teenage years, fighting his urges to wear girls' clothing that wouldn't go away no matter how much football, camping, hunting and supposedly rugged, manly activities he pursued.

"A lot of us get married thinking that will cure the cross-dressing," John/Dawn says. "It doesn't work."

Both Edward/Renee and John/Dawn tell of turbulent periods in their marriage, times marked by violent "purgings" during which each man would burn all his female apparel and try to drive the feminine side from his psyche forever. Always, the old urge would return.

Edward/Renee finally decided to tell his wife after he concealed his cross-dressing leanings from her for years. That was seven years ago, and she still is working on a definition of the lifestyle, although she has gotten used to his hobby by now.

In fact, his wife is starting to get in on the act. They had already been

married as Edward and Ann, yet he desired to be re-joined as wife and husband.

Edward bought a white lace wedding gown with train and was transformed into Renee, the blushing bride. Ann rented a tux, slicked back her hair, got a paste-on mustache and became Kevin.

The wedding party posed for formal portraits at Washington Park in front of the Sailors and Soldiers Monument. The minister was a woman and the others present also gave full rein in dress and manner to their alter-egos.

"It was a wonderful day," John/Dawn recalls with a chuckle, looking over the pictures that show himself in a bridesmaid's gown and his wife in a tux as the best man. "I don't know how to describe the feeling. I really felt like a woman that day. I used to feel like a guy in a dress. Now it's just me.

"It was daring, a rush," John/Dawn adds about the *trompe l'oeil* wedding ceremony. "I was a block away from my best friend's house and nobody suspected a thing. It was icing on the cake."