JUNE
1997

The Transgenderist

WILL TGIC MARCH IN THE GAY PRIDE PARADE JUNE 21?

Queer or Straight, if you support queer people in the Capital District, come to the Washington Park Lakehouse at 10:30 on June 21 and join the over 5000 people expected to particpate in Albany's first pride parade and festival in five years. It celebrates 25 years of the Capital District Gay Center, quite a landmark in itself.

After enjoying music at the park, the parade steps off at 12 Noon, snaking though Washington Park and then heading down State Street to the steps of the Capital. There you will enjoy live bands, only four inspirational speakers, The Capital Pride Singers and an array of food and merchandise vendors from around the country.

Come dressed any way you want. If you want, you can march with the "Straight But Not Narrow" contingent of supporters. But come, for the world so they see the support. And for yourself, so you can feel the acceptance and inspiration of a giant accepting crowd.

Parking is availiable under the Empire State Plaza, a short walk from the Lakehouse start and the Capital Park end.

Save the date: Saturday, June 21, 10:30 AM, Washington Park Lakehouse. You

(Continued on page 4)

Actor/Comedian Eddie Murphy found with Transsexual Prostitute

By Steve James

LOS ANGELES (Reuter) - Movie star Eddie Murphy's vehicle was stopped by undercover sheriff's deputies early Friday after the actor-comedian picked up a suspected transsexual prostitute, police said.

Deputy Mark Bailey said Atisone Seiuli, 21, who was seen getting into Murphy's Land Cruiser on Santa Monica Boulevard at 4:45 a.m. PDT, was arrested on an outstanding prostitution warrant.

Murphy, 36, who is married and has four young children, was not arrested.

``Mr. Murphy was apparently not involved in any criminal activity and was not detained," Bailey said.

Seiuli was described by Bailey as a ``transsexual."

``Someone who had undergone some sort of physical altering -- either surgical or with hormones," Bailey said. He gave no further details of the suspect's gender other than to refer to Seiuli as male.

The suspect was booked at the West Hollywood sheriff's station and transported to the Hollywood Municipal Court, where he was arraigned and held on $15,000 bail.

Murphy's publicist said the incident was an innocent mistake and that the actor had been trying to help someone he felt needed a lift home.

``Eddie was restless last night. He got up and drove to his favorite newsstand," said Paul

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The Transgenderist is the Publication of Transgenderist's Independence Club Albany, N.Y.

Transgenderist Independence Club
PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs. 8-10 PM)
Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC) is a nonprofit, educational, non-sexual social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

TGIC Officers
President - Open
Vice President - Open
Secretary - Rhiannon
Treasurer - Winnie [redacted]
Newsletter Editor Gina [redacted]

Committees
FACILITIES - Tina, Edie, Rhiannon
OUTREACH - Volunteers needed
PROGRAM/EVENTS -

The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications.
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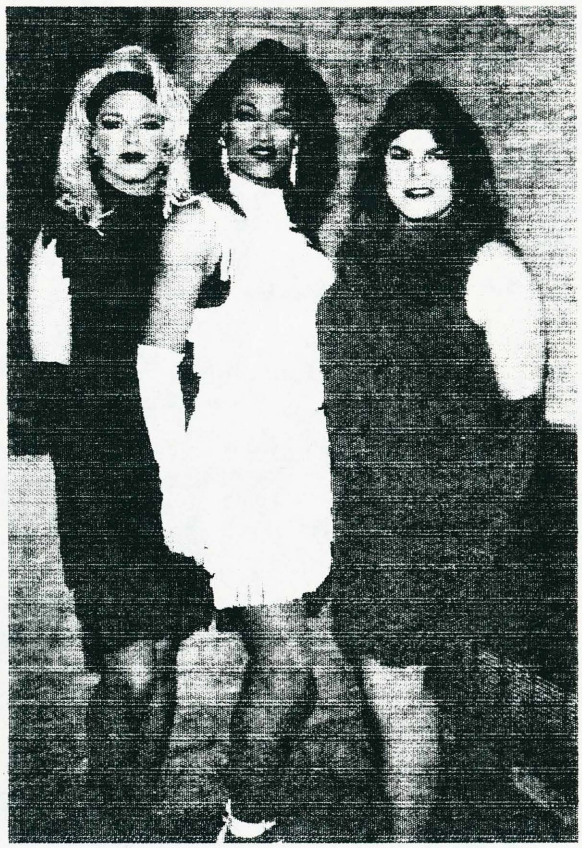
Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e- mail the articles to Jeeena@AOL.COM. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail. If you must attach a file please save it in ASCII format.
Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 - 10pm. 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.



Chita, Viva, and Iodine Glam of the Glam Revue photographed at April's Star's Revue.

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(EDDIE MURPHY Continued from page 1)

Block. On the way home, the celebrity stopped at a red light and saw ``a beautiful Hawaiian-looking woman approach his car," the publicist said.

``'You're Eddie Murphy,' the person said to him, and Eddie replied, 'You shouldn't be out so late,'" said Block.

He said Murphy thought the person looked tired ``and he was concerned for her."

``She asked him for a ride home, and Eddie did so, like he had helped people in the past," Block said, adding that earlier in the night Murphy told him he gave $1,000 to a homeless person.

``Nothing happened at all, but Eddie said he will never do this again. However, he will continue to help homeless people," the publicist said.

Bailey said Murphy was seen by undercover officers picking up the suspect --a known prostitute -- on Santa Monica Boulevard. The deputies were carrying out a so-called "prostitution abatement" operation in the area, which is known as a place to solicit homosexual sex.

The incident recalled the case of British movie star Hugh Grant, who was arrested on nearby Sunset Boulevard on June 27, 1995, with a female prostitute in his car.

The hooker, Divine Brown, was charged with lewd conduct for performing oral sex on the screen actor in his car. She was ordered to attend an AIDS awareness class and perform five days' community service. The judge sentenced her to 180 days in jail on two unconnected parole violations relating to prostitution.

Grant, who was in Los Angeles at the time to promote his movie ``Nine Months," pleaded no contest to a single charge of lewd conduct and was fined $1,800 and ordered to take a course on the danger of AIDS.

Murphy, who rose to fame on the TV show ``Saturday Night Live," has starred in several movies including ``Beverly Hills Cop," ``48 Hours," ``Trading Places," ``The Golden Child," "Coming to America" and last year's box-office hit, ``The Nutty Professor."

Murphy and his wife, Nicole Mitchell, who were married in March 1993, have two daughters and a son. Murphy also has a son by a previous

GOTTFRIED ADDRESSES TRANSGENDER CONFERENCE

Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) was the opening speaker at the Third Annual Health Care Forum this morning. The two-day event is being held at the Lesbian and Gay Community Service Center, 208 West 13th Street, Manhattan.

Rosalyne Blumenstein, Director of the Center's Gender Identity Project, which sponsors the event, introduced Mr. Gottfried, saying he was the first elected official to address a formal event of the transgender community.

Mr. Gottfried discussed what he cited as "dangerous trends" in health care, including cutbacks and corporatization of health care, as well as positive developments including growing diversity and sensitivity among health care practitioners. He also discussed the problem of health insurance refusing to cover procedures important to many in the transgender community, including sex change surgery and hormone therapy.

Mr. Gottfried said it was important for the transgender community to strengthen itself and raise the conscioiusness of its members, as well as working with the community, media and public officials to change social attitudes and achieve "the respect that you, like all people, ought to have."

EVITA FIELD TRIP PLANNED FOR TGIC MEMBERS

Anyone else up for a field trip to see Evita on the enormous screen at Schenectady's Proctors theatre?

Evita plays Monday & Tuesday June 2-3 at 7:30, and edenesday June 4 at 2, 5, and 8. The Monday show includes a half hour of organ music from 7-7:30, perfect for stylin' those classic fashions.

The cost, as always, is only $2, with admission to the balcony $1 more, and tickets can be purchased in advance from the box office. Popcorn is fresh and cheap, too.

This extravagant neo-opera, with an incredible look, just calls for bringing out some style.

You ready?

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(GAY PRIDE PARADE Continued from page 1)

will want to be there.

Details: The march is budgeted to cost $10,000, including the cost of a professional entertainer. This is the same as the 1992 Pride March, which was sponsored by the Empire State Pride Agenda. Because CDG&LCC is in the red, all costs will have to be covered by fundraising in the coming weeks before the event.

The core of the march will be the participation of organizations, including non-profit and for-profit organizations. It is hoped that, for example, the bars will help out.

Each organization is requested to provide five marshalls, who will help coordinate the parade. Marshalls will be given a free t-shirt with the pride logo on the front and an advertisement for ID Lube on the back. Marshalls will attend a training on Friday evening June 20, where they will recieve their assigments and t-shirt, along with key info.

One person from each group is requested to attend a planning meeting on June 3 at 7PM, with the names of the marshalls. This contact will also arrive at Washington Park at 10AM to help coordinate.

Each organization is welcome to create banners, floats or other personal expressions. If a non-profit organization wishes to have and staff an information table at the festival, an $25 fee is requested.

TGIC will need to decide its level of participation. Is it worth creating a unit to march, offering marshalls, creating a banner or float, sponsoring an info table? Will TGIC offer any financial support to thi s event? It may simply be desirable to have individiuals participate as to their own needs.

There is very limited time for organization & fundraising before the event, which may impact on the eventual success of the event. But Siobhan Hinckley and the rest of the committee are determined to make it work. If you have any questions, would like to volunteer to contact organizations, or have suggestions for funding sources, you are encouraged to call CDG&LCC at 462-6138, VM 68.

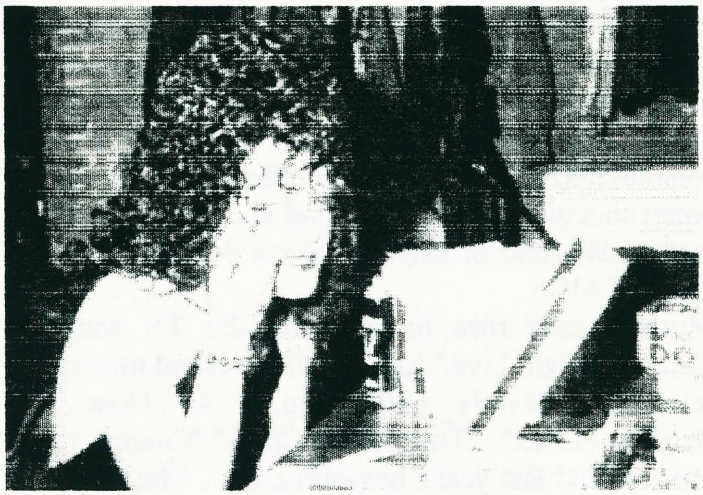
HOROSCOPE FOR GEMINI

Gemini women:

Often the aggressor; you are never embarrassed by your behavior because you never adhere to any standards except your own. Your main requirement: a lover who knows how to take his time. You are a one woman harem, but a partner should be aware that in a relationship, the gemini woman is looking for a combination of the spiritual and the physical, the romantic and the practical. You want to talk to the guy after you tumble with him! Best sex mates are Leo, Scorpio, Aquarians, Libra, and Aries. Favorite gadget: the vibrator.

Gemini men:

He likes it with the lights on in front of the mirror. He can work any partner into the mood because he knows exactly how to evoke the right responses. Oral sex isn't his favorite pastime, but he will take his time with other preliminaries. Tends to be fast and furious, more concerned with satisfying himself than his partner, but he is more adequate in areas of lovemaking that are often neglected by other men. He can tell a woman exactly what she wants to hear. His erogenous zone: move your lips and tongue lightly up his arm.



DANA [redacted] AT STARS MC SHOW, APRIL, 1997

Gender Variants: What Are We?

by Laura Darlene [redacted]

The purpose of this article is to provide some much needed sanity in areas where it is in short supply. It's supportive of the concept that people should have the right to do anything they want to do so long as they are not doing harm to another person or another person's property. It is not designed to take away options, but to increase them. However, within that context, some of what is said here might be disturbing to gender variants, particularly those labeling themselves transsexual, and who are often among the most vulnerable. Reality can be very harsh to someone in the throes of a misconception. So, I don't apologize for anything that follows, but, under advisement, I provide this disclaimer for those of delicate disposition.

Male and female are biological terms ... they are words that transcend species and have specific and clearly defined meanings. When transsexuals co-opt these words they are misrepresenting themselves in an attempt to fit in a world that isn't prepared for those of us outside the bipolar model.

"Why do you buy the lie?" I ask.

The reply comes, "In a bipolar society it's easier to get along if we accept the definitions offered. We may even be denied hormones and surgery if we don't keep the water muddy. So, since the option of (O)ther isn't open to us, we declare as female. We change our sex on our drivers license, on our birth certificate, and on other important documents. If we don't, the world as we know it will come to end."

I answer, "Maybe the world as we know it should come to an end."

"But I don't feel like a male. I feel like a female," comes the cry. Sure, I might feel like a goddess, but that doesn't make me one. Words, contrary to the opinion of some academics, are not mere labels to be changed around by individual convenience or by those with a vested interest in creating new definitions. By attempting to alter the words male and female we do a disservice not only to the meaning of the words, but we steal the sexual identity words meant to label the difference between the sexes. It is theft, purely theft. I suspect most people know it for what it is, a deception, a deception that undermines the credibility of anything else a transsexual might want to say. Once having been deceived, it's difficult to believe someone on other issues, particularly when the deception concerns something as significant as sexual identity.

There are so many lies perpetrated on transsexuals and about transsexuals that it can be extremely difficult to defuse them. How do we discuss these issues without making some people uncomfortable? Some males who live and present as women want what is called sexual reconstructive surgery, for many of them they believe that this surgery, along with hormones, will make them female. In reality they become pseudo-females, imperfect imitations of a female. They can convince themselves they are female with fuzzy thinking ... taking female hormones makes them female, a pseudo-vagina makes them female, their desire to have a womb implanted and have a baby makes them female, other women treat them as female therefore they are female, and goodness knows what else. The truth remains, they are males that go through a lot of effort, expense, and trauma to appear as female. There is nothing wrong with such a transition, but we shouldn't have to jump through hoops, deceive people and ourselves, to acquire what makes us happier and healthier people. We are males who want to live primarily as women, but we are gender variants. We aren't females, nor are we pseudo-females, we are something different, something special, and for some of us the ultimate expression of our nature is to reconstruct our bodies in emulation of females.

Examine the newly post-op transsexual. She's told, "Now you are a woman. Go forth and blend invisibly into society. We will help you with your necessary deceptions. You can change your sex on your birth certificate, on your driver's license, on your college records, and on your work record. In fact, all of society is geared to help you deceive the world around you." Next, you are told, "Construct a new past, one consistent with your new gender identity. Forget everything you ever experienced as the opposite sex and never reveal that you have had sexual reconstructive surgery. After all, it's no one else's business." Wrong! It's the business and rightful business of anyone who would seek you out as a friend or a lover. The pseudo-vagina is a construction that works poorly compared to a real vagina. It neither gives the same degree of pleasure to a lover, nor to the transsexual. Orgasm as either a male or a female know it is impossible and bodily secretions, such as are present, are not the same.

When a male discovers he is uncomfortable in the role assigned to males, there is only one other option. He leaps to the assumption that he is a `female' trapped in a male body. It's somehow comforting to view himself in this manner. After all, he feels more strongly about himself than other crossdressers and other gender variants and that gives him license to see himself as inherently different. The only viable answer to this carefully constructed dilemma is to build a fantasy that he is a mistake of nature. The concept that he is a perfectly healthy human being in a society that is too young, naive, and immature to view his differences rationally is simply not available, at least not until now.

I fear in writing this article I appear to be attacking transsexuals, to be denigrating them, but I am not. I myself identify with transsexuals more than any other label, although it fits poorly. What I am attempting is to suggest a more rational explanation for our

(Continued on page 7)

Vanessa's Journal

A Washington Getaway

In March I spent two delightful days in the Nation's Capital. I stayed at a rather inexpensive motel ($39/night) on Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD. Bargain rates at many motels and hotels around the DC Beltway are plentiful. If you drive, pick up lodging brochures when you stop at the Maryland House on your way down. My motel was located on a major street and very close to the efficient DC Metro rail system. That evening, I had a couple drinks at the bar in the lounge. I wore a long-sleeve black dress, black pantyhose and black high heels. I was pleasantly surprised that the bartender charged only $2 for the Sam Adams. The place was not too crowded but I did engaged in pleasant conversation with another patron.

In the morning I threw on a few things very quickly before dashing out to a nearby drugstore for some nail polish remover and other sundries. Back at the motel I took a long hot shower before dressing for the day. Off-black pantyhose and comfortable black pumps, black suede straight skirt, light blue blouse and a red blazer. The day was a bit overcast but with the temperature in the low 60's I was dressed warmly enough. I drove to a Bruegler's Bagel place a short hop down the road. The place was doing a great business but I found a table by the door and enjoyed a large black coffee and a bagel with cream cheese. The waitress complimented me on my amber ring in a silver setting. It's so easy to make compliments. Let's all do it more often.

I drove directly to the area of the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial. Huge waves of middle-school kids poured out of buses and blanketed the grounds. I was just another tourist. I had no problem finding other tourists who obliged my requests to snap my picture. Panic! My camera battery died. Finding the gift shop, I squeezed through the throng of adolescents loading up on postcards and purchased a replacement. I drove then to the area of the Lincoln Memorial. I parked on Pennsylvania Avenue about midway between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. I walked leisurely through Independence Mall stopping to ask a sweet lady take my picture against the background of the Washington Monument. I walked in the direction of the Vietnam War Memorial. I joined the many people who moved slowly down a long incline and then up back to ground level to view the great black marble wall engraved with the names of the thousands of sisters and brothers who lost their lives in that tragic affair. A veteran was pleased to work my camera. Then I walked the short way to the Lincoln Memorial. I lingered at Lincoln's statue reading the inscriptions of his speeches. From the top steps of the Memorial the view across the Reflecting Pool and over the Mall toward the Washington Monument held my gaze.

My next stop was the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception next to the Catholic Theological Seminary. On the way I made a wrong turn and found myself in a rather run down neighborhood. The biggest problem was avoiding driving into tank traps, huge craters in the streets. This lone lady must have looked rather nervous dodging street people and road hazards while still trying to find her way out of the maze. The virtually deserted Shrine was most peaceful in sharp contrast to tumult of the crowds of tourists swarming about the government monuments downtown. After relaxing over a hot cup of coffee in the snack shop, I bought a few postcards then joined the rush hour commuters leaving the District.

As I drove back to Long Island that evening pleasant memories of my Washington getaway filled my mind. I heartily recommend that you all make such a short excursion to our Capital as a great way to enjoy the sights along with the rest of America.

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(GENDER VARIANTS Continued from page 5)

nature that relieves us of the essentially self-deprecating view of ourselves as a mistake. At our best I find we are beautiful people, every bit as beautiful as a healthy mature male and a healthy mature female and in reality we are neither completely male nor completely female. For lack of a better word I use galla when describing myself and gallae, or gender variant, when talking about the vast phenomenon of males who present as women.

Because of the deceptions in a bi-polar society which doesn't provide a place for us, we view ourselves as closer to female than male. We work hard to modify our bodies, to grow breasts, to construct a pseudo-vagina, to dress, act, and talk in the manner of a female. We tend to make it as hard as possible for anyone to recognize that we are or ever have been male. We are encouraged to do so by the `gatekeepers' (the name given to the medical professionals who either provide or deny the services we seek.) We repudiate everything that we sense in ourselves which might reflect masculinity, denying with vigor that there is anything about our intellectual or emotional capacities that is not purely female. What we fail to note is that all these modifications wouldn't be necessary if we were so far removed from being male as we like to imagine. Let's not take that thought too far ... it makes us uncomfortable.

Understand, society isn't concerned about transsexuals. It is concerned that a transsexual's gender identity threatens the present concepts of sex and gender. Society is not prepared for gender variants and the implications that comes with such variance. If transsexuals can be viewed as freaks of nature, and transvestites can be viewed as psychologically damaged men, and drag queens as clowns, and other gender variants as ... well, as anything except normal healthy human beings, then the facade remains intact. Which is why the medical community not only helps us with our deceptions, but encourages us by participating in them. We are given anything we want, encouraged to believe anything we feel like believing, and, in return, it is hoped we go along with the program. Don't question anything, don't examine anything closely, and, whatever else you do, don't ever doubt the bi-polar construction. Just be a good little girl and we'll let you play pretend with the other little girls.

Transsexuality is a vindication of gender roles and, of all gender variants, is considered the least odious. Not that transsexuals aren't grotesque to many people, they are, but they are physical anomalies that can be fixed. They aren't like queers, gay males particularly, who make us examine our own sexual identity. Certainly they aren't screwed up like transvestites who wear women's clothes and masturbate. Transsexuals, born male and who wear women's clothes, have a physical affliction. Their brains are feminine even though their bodies are male. They are nothing like a transvestite, males who wear women's clothes because they are inherently perverted. Still even transvestites, as disgusting as they are, are better than the drag queen, the guy with big tits, tons of makeup, and who sticks his dick in everything that walks. That is the lowest of the low.

Consider this, there are post-op transsexuals, pre-op transsexuals, transgenderists, transvestites, cross-dressers, drag queens, and she-males. Each group represents biological males who, to one extent or another, present as women and the majority are infinitely busy persuading themselves that they don't have anything in common with the other groups. In fact, the other groups are generally regarded with the same lack of respect as society holds all gender variants. I submit this is not only irrational, it is essentially self-destructive. Our world is determined to keep us divided. We are encouraged to deny the obvious connection between us. If we are fragmented, kept apart, our differences maximized, we are vulnerable. If we ever recognize one another as sisters, minimizing our differences, we become stronger and, at the same time, we begin to deconstruct bipolar definitions. We are not merely male, not merely female, we are (O)ther. We are gallae!

Of course we are all encouraged to blend into the woodwork, to disappear. There is the argument to practicality. It's not practical to tell people that I'm transsexual, or a gay male, or a lesbian. I could get fired from my job. Or if I tell a prospective employer I might not get hired. I can't survive outside of the closet (our euphemism for lying and hiding.) It's true enough that some companies, a few, might fire you or not hire you. But living a lie isn't worth what is gained. The self-hatred that is engendered when you lie to acquire what you wouldn't otherwise acquire reeks of self-denigration. Society doesn't force us to lie. We chose to lie because we give in to fear. Deception for the purpose of `practicality' is not the behavior of a responsible mature adult. It is never justified.

One of the points I am trying to make is that a male presenting and living as a woman, is just that, a male presenting and living as a woman. A is A, A is not something other than A. Some of these males take hormones, have orchiectomies, and sexual reassignment surgery and some do not. Some live full time as women and some present as women only partially. Some of these males are conflictual basket cases and some are mature stable individuals with confidence and immense personal presence. Does this mean there are no differences? No, but the differences should be minimized, not maximized. In a long life, having lived most of it openly, I have developed many friendships among gender variants. I have been in the position of privileged confidante. Gay males have approached me and disclosed transsexual inclinations, as have she-males, crossdressers, transgenderists, and transvestites. Pre-op and post-op transsexuals all too indifferently dismiss these declarations, as if they have no meaning unless the individual is on the high road to transition. But they were heartfelt admissions not made lightly and show clearly, in my opinion, the connection between all males who live and present as women.

Should we fear honest colloquy because some people might try to use it against us, perhaps to make laws forbidding males to have SRS or to live as women? I think not! We have to fight one battle at a time and the first battle is to establish our own identity and that can't be done with deception. Of course we have a right to alter our bodies in any manner possible, but so does every other gender variant and we shouldn't have to view ourselves as mistakes of nature to do so.

We do indeed have a right to alter our bodies chemically or surgically. We also have a right to dress up flamboyantly and prance around on a stage for entertainment. We have a right to

(Continued on page 9)

Letters

MORE ABOUT LINGERIE FETISHISISM

Dear Winnie,

Thank you so very much for your recent letter, sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Thank you for the newsletter and article by Callan Williams. I find the newsletter fantastic and the article was very informative. Again, I just want to thank you for corresponding with me, you have helped me greatly thus far. Your insight has shed some very valuable light onto this issue for me. Everything you have said has been well taken.

I am working on dumping my guilt about my lingerie fetish, but it still feels like a really big secret, so at this point you are my only outlet. I hope that's not intrusive or taxing for you, if it is, just tell me, OK?

I called TGIC Thursday night, 3/13, but you were busy. I was received very nicely on the phone. Thank you for the invite to TGIC, but I currently work on Thursday nights. I would greatly enjoy meeting with some like-minded folks, but I think I'm having some concerns over my sexuality. So I'm a little unsure about myself or my feelings at this point. I have always considered myself straight, but over the last couple years my feelings towards crossdressers, TVs and TSs have grown, just as my own fetish has grown. I often think about spending some time with a beautiful woman, and perhaps having an opportunity to explore a special surprise.

Winnie, I hope you don't think I'm crazy or strange. I'm not, I'm a regular guy, with a regular life and job. I'm a good guy, honest and friendly, but my feelings will not go away. I'm not sure what to do.

I hope I haven't said too much, if I have I'm sorry. I would love to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, (signed), 3/16/97

*

Dear Friend,

I am glad that I have been able to help you, and will try to help some more. You say you are having some concerns over you sexuality. This is a normal reaction of transgendered people to the expectations of "normal" society. Since women dress in sexy clothes to attract men, it is often assumed that men who dress in sexy women's clothes want to attract men as sexual partners, and they are labeled "latent homosexuals" even if they don't actually express homosexual behavior. I can assure you that it ain't necessarily so. You should rely on your own instinctual feelings to decide what label you should wear. Lie to the rest of the world if you must, but be honest with yourself. You may want to consider some of the ideas suggested by other transgendered males to guide you.

There is the "super-heterosexual" viewpoint: "I like women so much that I want to be one" or, "I'm a male lesbian." The in-your-face crossdresser challenge: "I'm just a guy in a dress - what's your problem?" The gay drag queen perspective: "I'm just having fun, but all my friends know what's under my dress." And the classic transsexual concept: "I'm a woman trapped in a man's body." Take your pick, or invent your own: "I Love Lingerie!" Whatever you choose, people will call you "queer."

Your thoughts about exploring a special surprise with a beautiful woman are somewhat ambiguous - do you want to give her the surprise, or do you want her to surprise you? I will assume the former, which would indicate you are basically heterosexual. The response of a female partner to a disclosure of crossdressing can vary from "I'm outta here, and never call me again" to "I'm curious, tell me more." If she is willing to stay and listen, and you have patience, you may persuade her towards varying degrees of tolerance, acceptance, and cooperation, or maybe actual enjoyment of your behavior, if you are lucky. But don't expect us to introduce you to such rare women - finders, keepers!

Whatever gave you the idea that we might think you are crazy or strange? That would be like the pot calling the kettle black. We all have a regular life and job, and many of us are married. Transgendered people include doctors, lawyers, engineers, business executives, computer consultants, construction workers, salesmen, police, hairdressers, and many other occupations. I know many of them, and they are among the nicest people you could wish to meet. So, why don't you visit TGIC and find out for yourself? We don't bite.

Sincerely, Winnie, 3/28/97

*

ERRATUM

More than two paragraphs were inadvertently ommitted from Winnie's answer to the previous "Letter From a Lingerie Fetishist" in the April issue. A correction in the may issue still omitted the paragraph. Hopefully, the end of the top paragraph in the third column on page 8 should be replaced by:

If I had consulted a psychologist at this stage, I might have been mis-diagnosed as a fetishist, though I have never cross-dressed for the purpose of masturbation.

My lingerie phase ended after I had mustered the nerve to go out and buy shoes, dresses, and makeup; things that a guy does not usually buy for a woman. The final item was a wig, purchased in about 1960 when wigs came into fashion for women and prices became affordable. The first time I saw a complete woman reflected in the mirror, I knew I was "hooked" and began to create more opportunities to cross-dress. Eventually, "decoupling" took effect and I now react to clothes in much the same way as a typical woman - do they look good on me? Of course, I still like lingerie as underpinnings for my skirts and dresses.

It was still some time before I was able to make contact with other crossdressers, joining our Albany club in 1973. You are more fortunate, since you have already found us. A nice thing about associating with other CDs is that one doesn't have to try to explain why he wants to wear women's clothes (no one has a really good answer) - it is taken for granted. One can concentrate on cultivating a feminine image and developing appropriate mannerisms, so as not to attract undue attention when going out in public, and explore one's transgendered feelings in comparison with others. Today, there are numerous TG "conventions" where one can spend several days with many others in safe surroundings.

You might think that my advice is an "out of the frying pan, into

the fire" solution for lingerie fetishism. Some transsexuals have suggested it is the start of a slippery slope onto the operating table. However, one can stop at whatever level where one feels most comfortable. TGIC includes members of all stripes. Pay us a visit soon and get other opinions. Winnie Brant

Free Secure E-Mail

Do you have trouble joining the TGIC e-mail list or participating in the TG e-mail because you don't have a secure e-mail account? If you are worried that your kids or spouse might get into your mailbox, you simply need another e-mail account.

If you have a computer with Windows and a 9600+ modem, you can get free e-mail. A company called Juno provides advertiser supported e-mail to and from anyone on the Internet You install their application, and use it to send, recieve and store e-mail over your modem link. In return, they ask you to fill out a profile on your interests, and show you advertisements in a corner of a screen, usually offereing products you can buy. They may also send you mail about interesting offers.

Juno's privacy agreement is simple: They will never release your specific data. They may tell their advertisers how many people fit in a specific group, but they will not release the e-mail, snail-mail or name of the individual users. This is in Juno's interest because they want to keep their customer base secure so that advertisers will choose to use Juno to get in touch with them.

The application is nice, if not quite standard. It includes an address book, spell chack, up to 256 folders for storage, saving drafts and more.

When you run it, it offers a list of usernames (you pick your own username on signup) and prompts for a password. If the person running the program doesn't have the password, they can't get in to see the in-box, out-box and folders for that name.

For those of you who only have e-mail at work, or who don't want to use the family account, this is a very effective way to use mail, including being able to join any mailing lists, like the TGIC list. It does NOT allow access to any other part of the internet, like the World Wide Web (WWW), only to e-mail.

If you want a copy of Juno, send an e-mail to <Signup@juno.com> with a mailing address for them to send the disk to. Alternatively you can just get a copy of the disk from someone who has Juno -- just diskcopy it onto an old AOL or CIS disk.

Juno simply makes you a bargain: full, free, secure Internet e-mail with the username of your choice in return for you reading (and hopefully responding to) the advertisements that they send you.

We will try to leave some disks at the Clubroom, but if you take them, we ask you return two disks -- make a copy for a friend.

A note about Juno: all saved mail, both incoming and sent, are stored as ASCII text files on the hard drive. This means that while you need a password to enter the application and pick up new mail, anyone who does even a cursory search of the disk files can read all the mail.

This is not true, for example, in AOL, where the disk files are stored in a proprietary binary format.

The Juno choice is a good, simple and flexible one, allowing easy manipulation, but has real holes if you want to keep on-disk information protected.

(GENDER VARIANTS Continued from page 7)

make love to males and/or females, so long as they want to make love to us. We have a right to keep our houses meticulously clean and lacy, or sloppy and dirty. We have a right to slip into a nightgown for a comfortable nightcap before bed and then dress and work as a man the next day.

Gender variants, males who present as women, are as much different from women as women are from men and as much like one another as any man is like any other man, or any woman is like any other woman. Until and unless we recognize our commonality, rather than emphasizing our differences, we will be at odds not only with society, but with one another. Let us stop the deceptions and the lies of convenience. Let us express the reality of our natures openly, honestly, and proudly and demand to be treated as mature adults, not disabled children. Let us look at one another as sisters, not as dysfunctional groups to be listed in a pecking order reflective of nothing more significant than the intensity of our desire for body modification; the guy in the half slip playing with himself at the bottom and the post-op transsexual at the top.

The thoughts expressed here are not something that came easily and they have the potential to cause some people a degree of discomfort. Understandably, there was a bit of painful soul searching involved in their formulation. Hopefully, however, the final result offers a healthier way to view ourselves then what is currently available. It may be hard to give up a bird in the hand for one in the bush, but if the bird in the hand is a chimera and the one in the bush is real, it becomes easier.

EARS WANTED!

Transgendered? Transgendered friends?

Have you heard about:

> abuse by public officials?
> discrimination?
> public harassment?
> sexual harassment?
> assault or rape?
> remaining silent bothering you?
> no help from conventional sources?

Network with us: (518) 432-7092
E-mail: AlbGender@aol.com
Mail: P.O. Box 6307
Albany, NY 12206

TGIC MEETINGS

June 5	Just Drew It: An Homage To Mimi
June 12	Howdy Cowgirl! Trans-West-Ites forever!
June 19	COMMITTEE REPORTS Dancing in The Twilight: The Longest Day
June 26	Always A Bridesmaid. . .
July 3	Miss Firecracker '97
July 10	Policewomen Forever: Pepper, Honey & Love
July 17	Flags High! The Yacht Club Dance
July 24	SpandexFest II
July 31	Too Slim: An Evening at the Fashion Cafe

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is $25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are $40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:

IFGE (617) 899-2212
PO Box 229
Waltham, MA 02154-0229

The I.F.G.E. Internet version of Transgender Tapestry *http://www.tiac.net/users/dba/ifge/ifge.htm*

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked.
(NYS Health Department) Albany Area:
(518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

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 recieve an automated acknowledgement (Journal) of your request, which must be approved with the list moderator.

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

June 4-8, 1997 - BE ALL YOU CAN BE Chicago, IL Naomi Owne P.O. Box10240 Chicago, IL 60610

June 19-22-1997- Second International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues- King of Prussia, PA. Guest Speaker: Kate Bornstein. Contact JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D., P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 Phone: 610-640-9449 email: congrs2@cdspub.com

June 21, 1997 ALBANY PRIDE PARADE 25th anniversary of CDG&LCC.

July 16-20, 1997 FIFTH ANNUAL SPOUSES PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION (SPICE) Peggy Rudd P. O. Box 5304 Katy, TX 77491 915-343-1953 (Mary Jane)melpeg@phoenix.com www.pmpub.com

July 26-30, 1997 19th NATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY HEALTH CONFERENCE AND NATIONAL AIDS/HIV FORUM Radisson Hotel, Atlanta, GA NLGHA 97 Conference P.O. Box 33022 Washington, DC 20033

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda chapter of Tri-Ess holds meetings the third Saturday of the month at "YOURS", a bar at 145 Barrett St. Schenectady. Meetings are at 7PM. Come anytime after 5pm and use facilities to change. Next meeting is ~~May 17~~ JUNE 21

Arlene Istar CSW CAC

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