



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

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]**

I had intended to mail this newsletter on June 1 to avoid the conflict of envelope stuffing during the wig showing on May 25, but I've been called to go out of town on June 1. Also, my computer hard disk is having cluster headaches, is near terminal, and might well crash completely before next week. So, you are getting the newsletter a week early.

Thanks to Tina, our title banner is finally dressed up. How do you like it? Look for more of Tina's artwork in this and future issues. Callan is producing a steady supply of ready-to-print articles, but we need more input from the rest of you. By the time you read this, Jennifer Wells should have completed her transition. Hope all went well, Jennifer!

Denise Mason is promoting more interaction between groups in the Northeast, and sent the article on her "connecticut View" newsletter and developing group. She is an old friend, active in the Hartford TVIC when the Albany TVIC was run by Wilma, over 10 years ago. If you would like a free sample of cTView, send a SASE to Denise.

**DINNER PARTIES**

Our May party was cancelled due to lack of interest. Your last chance this season to join a group at the *Northway Inn* will be on June 10; sign up at the club room or call 436-4513 and leave a message for Joan by Thursday, June 8. Or, you can call Joan at [REDACTED]. *Leave your number* so we can call if there are any changes, and please call Joan if you have to cancel after signing up. There will be no parties in July and August; the next will be in September.

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# IFGE Is Dead! Long Live IFGE!

Callan [REDACTED] © 1995

The International Foundation For Gender Education is dead. Merissa Sherill Lynn, the person who was the catalyst for founding IFGE, has left the organization after she and the board came to an understanding that major changes are needed at IFGE, and that Merissa's dedication has left her a bit burned out. Merissa has gone off to recharge her batteries, to reinvent her life, and we all wish her well.

But while Merissa goes off to reinvent her life, IFGE has a similar challenge -- how to reinvent IFGE. This cycle of death and rebirth is nothing new -- shamans have been talking of it for many years, and the business community has come to the understanding that it often becomes time to reinvent, re-engineer, rebirth. We are in a time of rapid and intense change, and we must continuously reinvent ourselves and our organizations to meet current needs. Organizations that fail in this process are soon outdated, left by the wayside by people who find a better value for their time, money and other resources.

To be reborn, IFGE has to become relevant and exciting to the people it serves today. Some, including Merissa in her departure comments, have expressed concern about IFGE becoming too corporate. It is interesting to look at the root of the word corporate, which is corpus or body. The word Corpus even has deep spiritual overtones, meaning the gathering of believers. IFGE has resisted becoming corporate, resisted incorporating (adding into its body) the best of new ideas and trends.

To succeed, IFGE must be an outwardly focused organization, one with an ever expanding body of knowledge, body of influence, body of resources and body of support. In the body of the gender community the IFGE must assume an important role, and with the word "education" in its name, we can assume that role is one of helping us learn about each other, of gathering and distributing knowledge.

The concept of IFGE as a powerful communications system, dedicated to the rapid and wide dissemination of information that can help all of us achieve freer gender expression is not new. The challenge for the IFGE is to actually become an active part of the body that makes a difference in people's lives everyday. If IFGE fails, it may become a totally vestigial organ that will wither and die.

Communications is a two way process. To be effective, IFGE needs to commit to listening and speaking everyday, and in the vernacular and media of the day. This included e-mail access, electronic support, fax bulletins, press reports and other materials, all collected and actively rebroadcast to the transgendered, clinical professionals and academics. The IFGE must be a visible part of the communications about shifts in gender on a daily basis.

For that communication to occur, the IFGE must be an effective communicator, and that means an respect for all the participants in the conversation. IFGE must not try to dominate the conversation, nor must they only listen to the voices that agree with them. For good communications, all must be acknowledged and

understood. The corporate body of the IFGE will not grow unless it works with others, including others who are crying for change. Bodies get infected, and we must hear and respond to the cries of pain to understand where change must occur.

As an active communicator, IFGE must also be willing to keep up with the current state of the conversation through a process of continuous change, of regularly reexamining all actions and programs to see if resources can be more effectively used, or policies, ideas and language need to be changed. To keep up a conversation but not to act on new conditions, knowledge and trends is to guarantee that you will fall out of touch with the communication, and be left aside as a relic.

To be effective in communication, the IFGE must build a tradition of respect for others, and show that respect by changing to meet their needs and concerns. In many ways, the gender community has come to see IFGE irrelevant to their lives because IFGE does not appear to understand or respond to their needs, only asking, not giving. To rebuild respect will be a challenge, and take the delivery of a consistent message while actively executing the words of that message. IFGE has to both preach and practice what they preach, and be seen to be reliable, honest, forthright and flexible. It has to work hard to deliver a high quality of product in everything it does, continuously trying to learn from feedback and get better everyday.

IFGE cannot be bound by the quibbling of any number of people who want to grab the microphone for their own power. Only people who are willing and able to be gracious and pass the microphone to others, to facilitate so that all voices may be heard, who understand that power is not in competition but cooperation can work effectively in such a structure.

What the gender community in total will do is simply a collection of what we each will do as an individual. Our corporate body is an aggregate of each one of us, and to work effectively, we must all collaborate on building and growing, not on fighting between ourselves.

For any new IFGE to succeed, it must focus on empowering each individual who is actively working to create new freedoms of gender expression for all. It must be inclusive and positive, changing to meet the needs of all. It must cooperate, not compete.

To do this requires a fresh approach, positive and electric, crackling like the synapses of the nervous system. It requires a daily energy and dedication to facilitating, looking outward and finding ways that you can better help each person become more able to stand up and be an agent for change of the limitations of the bi-polar gender system.

Can IFGE do this? Only if it completely rebirths itself. We may find that it is easier to start over with a new organization, without the baggage that IFGE brings. But in any case, it is important that some organization take the place of being that communication resource, the educator. And whatever organization can stand up and effectively take that position, they will get my support -- and widespread support across the gender community.

**YOU CAN'T DROWN IF YOU KEEP YOUR HEAD  
ABOVE WATER**

or...

**What's that signpost up ahead?**

The countdown has begun! As I sit writing this column, I am hard against the time when the big white bird will wing me off to Biberland. By the time you read this, the deed should be done. Wish me luck!

Changing the subject now, to something which we can all relate to, I think. Picture, if you will, a man who is crossdressed... or perhaps a transsexual woman, and this person is you. You are walking down the street, minding your own business, and maybe you don't feel particularly shiny today. Maybe a little self conscious. Maybe, for those of us so inclined, it's the day you plan on having some electrolysis and you look a little scruffy for a woman. Maybe the day is overcast, or snowy and you suffer from S.A.D., a hideous form of depression which is brought on by lack of sunlight. You turn the corner. What's that... up ahead, in the doorway? Look out - Teenagers on Lark Street! Before you know it, you have entered.... A "TRANS SPOT ZONE"!

Today we offer for your reading pleasure, a selection of victims who have differing ways of dealing with this dreaded occurrence. Our first victim is a young new woman who looks to all casual observations very much the woman she is. Tall and attractive, with the right connections she has the potential to be a model. No one would otherwise guess that she used to be considered male, but, she lives in a "TRANSSPOT ZONE" where any tall woman is suspect. And once spotted, the word gets out as to where she lives and she finds herself constantly hounded by gawkers and teens trying to harass her. Her solution? Attitude! Problem is attitude is reason to live for these teens. They love to try to bait her and with her attitude she rises to the bait. She denies ever being a male and tries to out shout her accusers. Usually this fails and she walks away humiliated.

Returning home she cries, calls friends seeking comfort, and fears going out a little more each time. Soon she finds herself virtually afraid to leave her home for fear of the harangues.

Our second victim is elderly. Normally she presents well for her age, and she has the maturity to know when to stand and fight or to walk away. In the TRANS SPOT ZONE however, no one walks away uninjured. As she walks down the street, she hears the dreaded "that's a man" whispered from the approaching doorway. A chill runs down her back, and she withdraws within herself. Seeing a small crowd of high school age kids in scruffy tattered clothes she decided that today certainly isn't the day to stand and try to argue. She withdraws further into herself, and upon reaching home, she draws a hot bath to try to wash away the embarrassment of being "read". She may cry too, but the embarrassment haunts her, and she constantly asks herself "what did I do wrong to give myself away?"

Our third victim is an attractive middle aged woman. She is fiercely proud of who she is now as well as who she was in a previous life. She doesn't deny either life, is unashamed of what she has gone through to earn her spot in the world, and will admit what is in fact truth. She refuses to be intimidated. As the accusers approach, she hears the dreaded "that's a man". She enters a store. Looking behind her, she sees the faces staring through the store door. Finishing her business she exits the store amid pressing, giggling faces, holds her head high, and confronts the initial accuser. "Did you have something you wanted to ask me?" She asks a 13 year old girl.

Taken aback by her directness, the girl staggers and looks embarrassed. Falteringly she asks, "Are... are you a crossdresser?" The woman feels the chill run down her spine, the other kids present press around... what will she do, what will her response be?

Holding her head high, throwing back her shoulders, and standing a little straighter, the woman says calmly and directly, "No, I'm not a crossdresser but I am a transsexual woman, and now, because I answered your question, you have to answer one for me. OK?" Suspiciously and reluctantly the girl shakes her head in agreement - fair is fair after all... and besides her mother is standing close and, by now, is listening to every word. "Do you sit there trying to spot people who are different out of curiosity or to make fun of them?", our victim, now going on the offense, asks. Slowly and maybe even believably, she says its out of curiosity. By now she is embarrassed, and sensing this our victim asks, "Is there anything else you would like to ask me about my situation?" Several questions are asked and answered, and our victim learns that these are good kids with a healthy curiosity. Before leaving, the mother joins in to thank the woman for her open minded honesty and approachable manner. A friend has been made, and our victim, now triumphant goes about her business. It still hurts a little to know that others may occasionally see you for just what you are; rather than the person we all want so badly to be perceived as being, but the glow and warmth goes a long way to overcome the fear. There are no tears here. And our victim will definitely again venture forth with her resolute head held high.

A true tale of resolve, of pride of self, of appreciation for truth and honesty. Offered up for your enjoyment from the TRANS SPOT ZONE!

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**Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC)** is a nonprofit, educational, non-sexual social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

### TGIC Officers

President	Winnie [REDACTED]
Vice President	Joan [REDACTED]
Secretary	Joyce [REDACTED]
Treasurer	Winnie [REDACTED]
Newsletter Editor	Winnie [REDACTED]

**The Transgenderist** is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications.

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TGIC General Membership Dues: \$40/yr

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# Humor or Control: The Dina Amberle Controversy

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In the May 1995 *Renaissance News & Views*, Vis-à-Vis columnist Dina Amberle takes Callan Williams to task for a letter Williams wrote to Miss Take, printed in the March 1995 *TGIC Transgenderist*. In that letter, Williams reports on the proceedings of the International Congress Of Sex & Gender, and makes some strong comments about Miss Take's "frivolous" view of transgender. Ms. Amberle takes umbrage at her perception of Williams' desire to control transgendered expression, linking the letter to dress codes and sexual orientation tests, among other control behaviors. Ms. Amberle goes on to chastise Williams for the lack of a sense of humor, and concludes by announcing that "we don't need to run anyone through Callan Williams' -- or anyone else's -- cookie cutter." With this controversy brewing, we decided to ask both parties in this dispute for their comments on Miss Amberle's remarks.

## Miss Take: Take Off Dina!

My, my little Miss Dina! You are quite the little scavenger for carrion -- or column filler, my meat. You chose to pick on my little column, *Götterdämmerung*, a chronicle of the daily life of the damned here in Smallbany. (Yes hon: the title means *The Damned*, like in the Wagner opera, not "Ve Are Der Master Race" as you crudely suggest. Me -- a Nazi! Hah! (although I do look very well in black leather like in *The Producers!*) What does Vis à Vis mean anyway -- *Jumping To Conclusions?*

If you'd ever been a drag queen, you'd know that snaps (that's *put-down humor* for you white folks) have always been a part of the life. Can you say *Camp?* I knew you could. Ol' Callan (and she is mighty old!) and I have had a running feud in our newsletter for some time. She makes a big, bloated, beautiful target, and if I must say so myself, she can give as good as she takes. One of those TraumaQueens, you know. Insert tongue in cheek -- rim job shot!

But you read one letter, and decide that Callan is some smarmy generalissimo trying to order everyone around. You pull out your big makeup brush (though it looks like you use a roller,) and smear Callan with the blood of a thousand Tri-Ess leaders! Maybe you actually oughta read her "multisyllabic diatribes" and find out what she thinks before you jump right in!

Whatever else that big bitch is (and she is mighty big!) Callan is no control freak. She continually drones on (zzzz) about the importance of diversity and works hard to encourage it in this community. Nobody can call Callan a prig (though there are a wide number of other things you can call her.)

Apparently, I have to remind you of the Miss Take disclaimer: **This column is for entertainment purposes only. Reader discretion is required!** Get in the middle of a family fight and you can get your tit in a wringer! (I keep learning that one the hard way.) Jumping to conclusions can be very dangerous, dear Dina, especially in high heels!

## Callan [REDACTED]: Freedom Of Discourse

Dina Amberle's Vis-à-Vis column has always been one of the many interesting parts of the excellent *Renaissance News*. Ms Amberle has always been on the forefront of transgender issues, creating a précis of the broad spectrum of gender journals that blanket both this country and the world, bringing us the newest in trends and notions.

While I may not agree with her assessment of my intentions, I firmly will agree that she has the right to make up her own mind and comment on all that she sees. The key to growth in the gender community is the process of coming out, of becoming whole and integrated. We must encourage all to find, as Joseph Campbell says, "the privilege of a lifetime: being who they truly are."

The only way that we can mature is to be open and forthright in our discourse. Anyone who pushes to keep secrets, to hide their activities, may be coming from a place of shame. I have seen many examples of this inside the community, people trying to grow in the darkness of the closet, becoming twisted and ill from the lack of pure sunlight.

Ms. Amberle's attempt to bring sunlight into the community, and her impassioned plea for both a broad sense of humor and the embracing of diversity are clarion calls that we must all heed. While I regret that she mistook my clumsy attempts at humor, I am pleased that she continues as a voice in the wilderness for the rainbow that can only flourish in the sun, and healthy, broad, loving growth in transgender.

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**Editor's Note:** In the same May 1995 issue of *Renaissance News & Views*, JoAnn Roberts reveals that *Miss Take* is a pen name of Callan [REDACTED].

## EIGHTH ANNUAL CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE TRAVELS TO THE MOTOR CITY

Washington, D.C. -- May 1, 1995 -- Creating Change, the pre-eminent national gathering of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender activists, will be hosted this year in Detroit Michigan, November 8 through 12. All conference events during this eighth annual conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will be held at The Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

Major program elements of this year's Creating Change Conference have been locked in. NGLTF is pleased to announce that Urvashi Vaid, writer, veteran activist, dynamic speaker and executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force from 1989-1992, will address the conference at the traditional Sunday closing brunch/plenary session. Vaid is currently completing a book that critiques our political movement. Vaid's book, *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* (Anchor Books), is due out on October 11, 1995, just weeks before Creating Change.

As in past years, several all-day pre-conference institutes are scheduled prior to the core workshops and roundtables of the conference. On Wednesday, Nov. 8, the two simultaneous institutes will be the annual "People of Color Organizing Institute" and "Eliminating Racism: Doin' The Right Thing" On Thursday, Nov. 9, the two simultaneous institutes will be "Building Alliances Across Race, Class & Gender Lines," ( and the new "Youth Organizing Institute."

To make Creating Change more useful as an organizing and strategy-building event, this year's conference will feature a new format -- Organizing Roundtables on a number of topics. These all-day sessions will allow attendees to immerse themselves in one issue. The Organizing Roundtables will cover the "how do we do it?" stage of an issue and will then progress to the "what to do next?" stage of organizing.

Some topics that will be covered in the Organizing Roundtable format include: rural organizing; people of faith organizing; speakers bureaus; equal marriage rights; anti-violence work; family issues; and workplace/employee organizing.

Back at this year's Creating Change by popular demand -- skills-building intensives. These all-day instructional sessions will be offered on topics such as fundraising and campaign management.

The always provocative Hot Topic Series this year will include presentations on transgender/gender identification issues and the New York City sex club/safe sex debate.

Creating Change attendees will also be provoked and enlightened by a screening of *Black Is...Black Ain't*, Marlon Riggs final and award-winning film. The 82-minute film prominently features the perspectives of those who have been silenced because their complexion, class, sexuality, gender or speech have rendered them "not black enough," or conversely, "too black."

For more information or to receive a Creating Change 1995 registration brochure, call 202/332-6483, ext. 3329.

## New Laser Hair Removal

THERMOLASE STOCK SOARS 30% AS FDA CLEARS HAIR REMOVAL SYSTEM

by David Stipp, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

San Diego - ThermoLase Corp.'s stock price soared 30% following its announcement that the Food and Drug Administration approved sales of its laser-based hair-removal system.

ThermoLase said its technology represents a fast, painless alternative to electrolysis, the technique used to permanently remove unwanted hair by electrically heating hair follicles with tiny needles. Electrolysis, often used by women to remove facial hair, represents a \$1 billion annual market, ThermoLase said. A spokesman said the company plans to establish a nationwide chain of hair-removal centers.

In American Stock Exchange composite trading, ThermoLase closed at \$23, up 9.75 a share. The company is 69%-owned by ThermoTrex Corp., which in turn is a publicly traded unit of Thermo Electron Corp., of Waltham, Mass.

Hair-removal creams, waxing and shaving don't stop hair from growing back. Electrolysis does, but it is a laborious, painful process that works by heating and coagulating tiny blood vessels in hair follicles, one at a time. Effacing 1,000 to 2,000 hairs in a typical mustache can take 30 to 50 visits to an electrolysis center, costing a total of about \$1,000, said Ed Locke, ThermoLase's director of corporate development. "Each hair takes one minute and feels like a bee sting," he said.

ThermoLase's technique typically takes two visits, and "doing an upper lip takes about 10 minutes," he said. The company's method employs application of a proprietary lotion that penetrates hair follicles, then shining a special laser on the area. The lotion conducts heat from the laser into the follicle to achieve "the physiological equivalent of electrolysis" without pain or the unwanted destruction of surrounding tissue, he said.

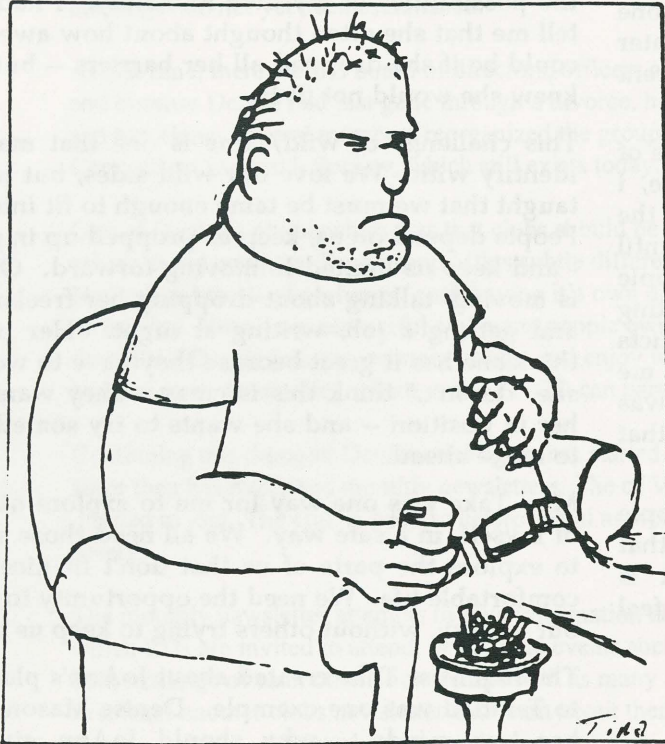
The company said it conducted clinical tests with dermatologists in California and New Jersey, gathering data on 114 participants, most of whom were female.

The company's hair-removal centers will look like "upscale" salons but will include medical supervision of the hair-removal process, Mr. Locke said. The company said it plans to open its first center in La Jolla, Calif., by the third quarter. "Our intent is to populate the world with (the salons) at a relatively rapid rate," Mr. Locke said. Prices haven't been set, but are expected to be similar to those for electrolysis.

4/18/95, Wall Street Journal  
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# I USED TO BE A SLOB!

THEN I GOT A HOLD OF MYSELF.  
I LOST WEIGHT, TOOK STOCK OF MY  
APPEARANCE, ADOPTED A FEW NEW  
GROOMING HABITS AND IT MADE  
A WHOLE NEW PERSON OUT OF ME!



BEFORE



AFTER

## Brandon Teena Vigil

Wed, May 17, 1995

Heya guys,

Just wanted to update you on the vigil to KC this past weekend for Brandon Teena.

Leslie Feinberg or someone else may have already done that but she's really busy with her book so I will assume s/he hasn't.

The people in Falls City as far as the Sheriffs' Office were great, we did not have any problems what so ever. In fact Dep. Steve the Assistant Chief Dep. couldn't have been more helpful.

There was only one incident that I know of involving a truck full (?) of radical skinheads, which I was told was strictly admonished by Dep. Steve. At the time Mariette (photographer) and I were at the dreaded farm house where Brandon was killed along with 2 of his friends. I

can't tell you what violence and anger and love I felt as I stood there looking at the blood left on the carpet that they couldn't get up due to the sheer quantity of it. I simply prayed and said I was sorry.

Myself being in law enforcement, for how much longer I don't know, I felt rather disgusted and ashamed and somewhat responsible for the atrocity perpetrated on Brandon by the Sheriff, who I am glad to say is no longer there.

On the 14th we had a memorial service where Kate Bornstein, Leslie Fienberg, Minnie Bruce, and an author who I won't even bother to name here as she doesn't deserve recognition, but that's another story. The service was great and the feeling of loving energy was overwhelming. I am very proud to have been a part of it.

tbhawk@aol.com

the hawk is flying as a predator  
a victim.....

Nevermore.

# Miss Take & I

Callan [REDACTED] Copyright © 1995

I've been outed, officially. Though everyone in Albany knew that I wrote the *Götterdämmerung* column as Miss Take, some e-mail chatter with JoAnn Roberts gave her the information to share with the world in her *Renaissance News* column. Interestingly enough, this came at the same time that Dina [REDACTED] was beating me up for a letter I wrote to Miss Take, one she saw as humorless and controlling. Dina later announced that she was taken in by my two different writing styles and that she "loved it."

There has been some chat about the schizoid nature of Miss Take. Whenever people asked if it was me, I replied "Winnie won't tell anyone who writes the column," which is not an answer, but was true until she confirmed Kym Richard's suspicions. Some people told me that they knew it was me because the writing style was the same -- a response that contradicts Dina's observation. I think that they knew it was me for other reasons, as simple as knowing that I was there at events Miss Take reported on, or even that there were few active writers in the group.

The truth is that I liked having an alter-ego. People often form an impression of us, and we get to like that impression, think it's fair -- but know that it is limiting. We get painted into a corner, and start to feel restricted:

No sooner do we think that  
we have assembled a comfortable life  
than we find a piece of ourselves  
has no place to fit in.

Gail Sheehy

As transgendered people, we are well aware of that piece of ourselves that doesn't fit, into any given life. We watch Bernadette in *Priscilla*, trying to find a quiet, settled life -- but still having quite a streak of drama in her. Marianne Williamson has noted that this is a culture that has fewer problems with pain than with ecstasy -- ecstatic women, ecstatic people are out from the bounds of control, speaking the truth, and coming from joy. Ecstasy takes us beyond the bound of humiliation, and humiliation is the key to cultural control.

Many of us have to swallow our ecstasy, our drama, our queerness. We try to numb it with pills and liquor, keep it hidden away.

Miss Take is an out, loud queer bitch. No intimidation will work on her, no boundaries. I recently saw the legendary Kandi Kane on *Jenny Jones*, and felt a wild spike of energy to see her energy, truth and joy. Wild clothes, wild thoughts, wild woman. Many of us feel

our own wild woman stir when we see one of them up on stage, want to hoot and holler and smile.

In my everyday life, I don't get to be that out. I have obligations and limits, neighbors & parents, friends and partners. They think that they know who I am, and one piece of that is being stable, solid -- not some ecstatic queer priestess.

The truth is that I am all of these things --- and many more. If you think you know all about me, you're wrong. I keep getting surprised by the richness and the possibilities of my own humanity. I had a friend tell me that she often thought about how awesome she could be if she dropped all her barriers -- but that she knew she would not fit in.

This challenge of wild/tame is one that many of us identify with. We love our wild sides, but have been taught that we must be tame enough to fit into society. People depend on us, keep us propped up in position -- and keep us limited in moving forward. One friend is moving, talking about dropping her freelance work and getting a job, writing at night. Her pals, who think she has it great because they have to work while she "doesn't," think this is crazy. They want to keep her in position -- and she wants to try something new to move ahead.

Miss Take was one way for me to explore other sides of myself, in a safe way. We all need those safe ways to explore the parts of us that don't fit nicely in our comfortable life. We need the opportunity to dive into our ecstasy, without others trying to keep us tame.

The flap Miss Take created about JoAnn's planned trip to Trinidad was one example. Denise Mason writes of her two minds -- why should JoAnn give up an enviable life -- or why should JoAnn limit herself to keep a life? Life is, when it works, a continuous process of growth, with each of us playing different roles at different times. To not be tame, to be in conjunction with others is a tragedy.

**The worst thing in life is never to be used by anyone for anything.**

**Kurt Vonnegut, *Mother Night***

But never getting to explore your own wildness is also a tragedy. We need to be supported in our own exploration of the range of who we are -- and of who we can be.

And for me, I know that I can speak with many voices. I enjoy being Callan, safe, sane and slightly pedantic. But I also enjoy being Miss Take, out queer and slightly crazy. The Prince once told me that I wasn't accepting "both sides" of me. I told her that I thought there were many more than two sides, and I was exploring them -- or maybe, more accurately, we are exploring ourself.

Right, Miss Take?



## The 'connecticut View' biography...for publication.

The 'connecticut View' originally was started in 1986 by Denise Mason, because there was no TV/CD club in Connecticut since the burning down of the Hartford TVIC back in the late 70s. Denise was the Newsletter editor for the Hartford TVIC, so it was natural for her to organize a group through a newsletter publication.

Little did she realize that within 2 years she would have 165 members not only from Connecticut but all the surrounding states and as far as California and Florida. The concept was to use the newsletter as the hub of information, and if outside activities were planned, notification would be disseminated in the newsletter about these special events. Several meetings and parties at boutiques and wig salons were run, but formal meetings had not yet been established.

At that time, there was no board of directors, officers or others who participated in the running of activities, and because Denise had just gone through a divorce, her priorities changed, and was unable to run so large a group alone. Several members reorganized the group and eventually changed it's name to the Connecticut Outreach Society, which still exists today.

One of Denise's philosophies was that clubs should be able to exist and become more interactive with each other yet not compete. Each group offers subtle differences, which its members should be able to choose. Not unlike brands of perfumes, each having it's own distinct character, some strong, while others flowery or woody. Yet all are successful and many people own several different aromas. In the same way, Denise feels TV/CDs can join one or more groups and enjoy what each offers. Better yet, why not have every club have an open door policy where every TV/CD can participate in any clubs activities, at cost.


Continuing this thought, Denise once again has started 'the connecticut View' in November of 1994, and since then has published monthly newsletters. The cTView is an open club, no one is screened, all are invited to join. The club is open to heterosexual as well as bi/gay crossdressers, their friends, S.O.s or lovers.

The monthly newsletter attempts to give information about other clubs and their activities, outside events at which CDs are invited to attend, or national events such as in Ptown or Poconos. It is Denise's idea to swap bulk mailings of each others newsletters with as many clubs that want to participate, so that others can see first hand another clubs newsletter and learn about them and their activities. In this way, everyone can sample and join additional groups which interest them.

Currently the cost to subscribe to the cTView is \$15. for a subscription of 10-12 issues. Plans are in progress to host monthly meetings, at an additional cost shared by only the participants. Contacts and acceptance by several boutiques, wig salons, photo studio, restaurant, lawyer, Gay Men's Chorus and others have been made, with further dreams of hosting a multi club activity, drag ball or group vacation weekend being planned.

A Membership Directory is available with only its members receiving a member address list. Members not wanting to list their address can use the clubs free mail forwarding program.

Membership information can be obtained by writing Denise Mason, P.O. Box 2281, Devon CT 06460.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

The Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess meets in Schenectady once a month on Saturdays at 7 pm; interested TGIC members may attend as guests, call us for more information. Next meeting is June 17.

### IFGE MEMBERSHIP

The International Foundation for Gender Education is now a membership 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For details, write to:

IFGE  
PO Box 229  
Waltham, MA 02154-0229

### ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral.

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(NYS Health Department) **Albany Area:**  
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## CALENDAR

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

### JUNE 1995

Jun 1 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Jun 8 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Jun 10 **Saturday Dinner**, 8:00 pm  
*Northway Inn*  
Jun 15 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Jun 22 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Jun 29 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

### JULY 1995

July 6 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
July 13 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
July 20 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm  
July 27 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

### MAJOR COMING EVENTS

- Contact TGIC for more information.

Jun 7-11 *Be-All '95*, Cincinnati, OH  
Jun 14-18 **TRANSGEN'95** (4th Annual  
*Transgender Law & Policy*  
*Conference*), Houston, TX  
Jul 26-30 *Spouse/Partner International*  
*Conference for Education*  
**(SPICE)**, Memphis, TN  
9/28 -10/1 *Southern Comfort*, Atlanta, GA  
Oct 15-22 *Fantasia Fair*,  
Provincetown, MA  
Oct 26-29 *Fall Harvest*, St. Louis, MO  
Nov 15-19 *Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme*,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

(413) 499-5858

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