
TRANSGENDERIST

Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club

November 1, 1997

Damn!

It is 2 AM, and the ultimate problem has just surfaced. I keep the old TGIC newsletter on the hard disk of my theta system, a small Packard Bell Pentium, but I keep the current stuff on my eta system, a 486 (to those of you who are not into the geekspeak of computers, please chill for a bit). To facilitate transfer and provide backup, I also mirror the newsletter articles on two diskettes, a quite reasonable backup in case of a system problem.

I'm using Juno to pass text around, so I keep the newsletter articles in Juno folders on my eta system, adding to these folders as new material comes in, and backing them up every night. Recently my eta system was getting flakey (computer phrase meaning, well, flakey), so I backed my entire Juno system off of the hard disk and then recreated it from the diskettes. Everything seemed to go OK, but I posted a notice about it on my list servers.

Callan immediately posted back whether I wanted her to repost a bunch of stuff, but I said no, I had the backups anyway. Well, it is now 2 AM on the deadline day, and somehow it is all gone from the eta AND the diskettes. Damn!

Well, what were you going to read about? I have been fascinated by the saga of Sabrina Marie Robb, a state government worker in Florida who has been under attack by no less a noble personage than Strom Thurmond. Newspapers picked this story up by the tons, reporting "Man Wears Women's Clothing at Work." As it turns out, poor Sabrina Marie is simply in transition

with the full support of her managers, and they stood by her the entire distance, much to their credit in the firestorm of publicity. You would have read that, but of course now, you can't.

I would have also given you Callan's acceptance speech for the TGIC Building Bridges award, one that would have made you feel wonderful. You would have read that as well, but now you can't.

I would have also told you about the Halloween party I didn't ultimately go to because of sickness, one of the stranger moments of my life (it turns out that it was morning sickness). Callan said there were about 25 people there, and they had a good time, and Star Studios wants us back and it may well become an annual event. I would have told you about that, but now I just can't.

And then again, I could have told you about the Christmas Party probably on December 11th, or then again, maybe not, depending on many factors. There will be a Christmas Party, that's the only "fer shere" here. But now without my files, I can't tell you about that either.

I can tell you Tina was the smartest, submitting her material in camera-ready form for pasteup to the newsletter. If I can find it, that material WILL be in this newsletter. Thanks, sis.

I managed to recapture some old overwritten files and get this notice and invitation back, but there was little else to recover. Hey, you know, if T* life were easy, everybody would be doing it.

Well, what can I say? I was born at a very early age....

---Vix *dr*

Transgendered THANKSGIVING!

No plans for the holiday? No family in the area? Not going home? Join us in Schenectady for a Celebration of Thanksgiving. See old friends, make new ones. Put aside differences and enjoy the day. Wear your Sunday best or come as you are (or would like to be) from 2 to 9 on Thanksgiving. Bring a dish to pass, bring a friend too if you like. This is in Jennifer's home so space is limited and reservations are mandatory. Please call 432-7092 to RSVP. Why spend the Holiday alone? Join Us!

[Thanks, Jennifer, for this and the following.]

You are Worthy

Do not undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special. Do not set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you. Do not take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless. Do not let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past nor for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life. Do not give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying. It is a fragile thread that binds us to each other. Do not be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave. Do not shut love out of your life by saying it is impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly. In addition, the best way to keep love is to give it wings. Do not dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope; To be without hope is to be without purpose. Do not run through life so fast that you forget not only where you have been, but also where you are going. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.

OK, well that's it. The rest of this newsletter will be scrap paper. No, really, I'll try to find some interesting stuff to fill it in, but this is what I do every Sunday: improvise!

Transcendent Moment

It is 8:40 in the morning on Friday, October 24th, 1997. I'm sitting on a concrete post down by the Hudson River in Troy, New York, staring at that broad river, the sea gulls whirling overhead in their chorus of rejoicing, and a little yellow-brown pill in my right hand.

The river flows broad and free, just as it has for millions of years. The old hymn leaps into my mind:

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, tho' far-off hymn
That hails a new creation;
Thru all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul--
How can I keep from singing?

So today it is my turn to sing. Today I sing with the sea gulls their cry of the ultimate freedom, to be and to belong and to live. Today I am not alone. Today I sing a song of fellowship with you all, and I give you my toast:

To all my sisters and brothers and friends everywhere, whether in times past or times present or times to come,

To each of you, unique in your abilities and potential and life, to each and every one of you,

This one's for you.

The Dance!

Dedicated to Karen [REDACTED]
and all of my other late onset sisters.

The Dance! The Dance!
Come, give your soul a most glorious chance.
The Dance! The Dance!
Come to the dance with me.

From the beginning you picked up the tune,
You heard it and hummed it both morning and
noon,
Cherished it, nourished it, hugged it at night,
And followed it forward to endless delight--

The Dance! The Dance!
Come, give your soul a most glorious chance.
The Dance! The Dance!
Come to the dance with me.

People were telling you how you should act,
"Now straighten up, kid, or you'll fail, that's a
fact."
You played at their roleplay as best you could
do
While dancing to tunes that were heard just by
you--

The Dance! The Dance!
Come, give your soul a most glorious chance.
The Dance! The Dance!
Come to the dance with me.

You knew the lines as you acted the part,
Responses so easy you knew them by heart,
Leaving your spirit to yearn for the Spring
When spirits emerge and come eager to sing--

The Dance! The Dance!
Come, give your soul a most glorious chance.
The Dance! The Dance!
Come to the dance with me.

Life has a mean way of trapping us all
Until we have passed through our Summer and
Fall.

Winter's approaching, there's only one chance
To pick up your tune now and go to the
dance--

The Dance! The Dance!
Come, give your soul a most glorious chance.
The Dance! The Dance!
Come to the dance with me.

Slip on your mid-heels and dive in your dress,
And put on your makeup (but don't make a
mess),
We're going dancing, the dance of self-worth,
The tune is enchanting, a song of rebirth--

The Dance! The Dance!
Come, give your soul a most glorious chance.
The Dance! The Dance!
Come to the dance with me.

Karen Renee, you'll see!

The Dance! The Dance!
The Dance! The Dance!
The Dance! The Dance!...

[Diary, 10/6/97]

Velveteen Rabbit

"Real isn't how you are made. It's a thing that happens to you. It doesn't happen all at once. You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time your are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

--The Velveteen Rabbit

April in Boston: Bisexual Conference

From: Wayne Roberts
<ausbinet@rainbow.net.au>

5TH INTERNATIONAL BISEXUAL
CONFERENCE BOSTON, MA, U.S.A.

April 3 - 5, 1998

The fifth International Bisexual Conference (IBC5) will be held in Boston, April 3-5, 1998. The theme for the IBC5 conference is "One World, Many Faces: Unity and Diversity in Bi Communities, Queer Communities, and the World." The three day conference will feature more than 100 workshops, panels, presentations, papers, and performances. Conference tracks include:

- Activism
- Youth/Student
- Media/Culture
- Gender
- Bisexual History
- Safer Sex/HIV
- Sexuality
- Non-Bi Partners/Families
- Film and Video
- Our Bodies: Differing Ability, Health, Image
- Global /Regional /Racial /Cultural /Class Differences
- Organizing
- Writers/Literature
- Relationships
- Research/Theory
- Spirituality
- Personal Growth
- Computer/Internet
- Performance
- Track X (other sessions)

Conference presenters currently include bisexuals from England, Germany, Finland, Canada, Argentina, Scotland, Australia, Netherlands, and the USA. The expected attendance is 600 - 700 bisexuals, friends, and allies. The conference language is English, with some presentations and workshops in Spanish. Travel Assistance Grants may be available to bisexual people from developing countries and to youth and students to attend the conference. For more information, call the Boston Bisexual Resource Center at (+1 617) 4249595, email

info@biconf.org, or visit the IBC5 conference web site at: <http://www.biconf.org>

Further information, including a registration form, registration fee, a call for workshops, presentations, panels, where to apply for a travel grant, etc. will be posted at the IBC5 web site, all bisexually-oriented email mailing lists, and in bisexual print outlets such as Anything That Moves magazine, the BiNet USA quarterly, and local bi newsletters. So start planning now for your spring trip to Boston. See you there.

Cleaning Out the Closet

Well, it's Spring again and once more I'm thinking about cleaning out my closets. One year I actually got past the contemplation stage and began to move stuff around, but before long it was October so I decided to just leave everything where it was after all. The situation is really not that bad, and I have found that with the clever use of crowbars, bar clamps and pneumatic jacks I am able to get things in and out of the closet fairly well.

I used to live with a man who was intensely structured and his closet reflected a similarly precise bent of mind. His suits were all hung on special hangers turned at the same angle so that none would touch the other. Allowing them to touch would have not only been disorderly but raised the prospect of uneven fabric wear and, though unlikely, an unsightly wrinkle. He kept them arrayed by color, running the entire rainbow of hues from sand beige to slate gray. Once I made the mistake of trying to hang up one of these suits, but my handiwork was so sloppy and incautious that I was fortunate to be let off with only a cursory beating.

For me it's different. A closet isn't just a place to hang clothes and stack up shoe boxes. It's an archive of experience, fashion and emotion. My closet is my own private time capsule, and perhaps when I am gone archeologists will revel

in the depth and breadth of middle class artifacts discovered there, like a virtual Tut's Tomb of white bread sensibility. As I have struggled to establish some semblance of existence as a woman few fads and trends have gone unrepresented in my vault.

Preparation of a complete catalog will undoubtedly occupy a squad of grad students for many a semester, but here ^{are} a few samples chosen more for personal nostalgia than cultural significance.

-- two (2) Laura Ashley print dresses, which I wore to church when I was first tentatively coming out.

-- a record (for you youngsters, that's a vinyl disk with tiny grooves which can be deciphered by an instrument called a "phonograph") given to me by Diamond Lil, one of the old time female impersonators from down in New Orleans. She does an incredible, throaty, breathy version of "Just A Gigolo."

-- a custom made for moi black leather miniskirt and chain-mail bustier, whomped up by two leathermen who for some reason thought I would look ravishing in hides. I guess they couldn't handle the Laura Ashley look. Nowadays I could probably get one thigh into the skirt.

-- one (1) pair of red glitter 5" heels in a box marked "fuck me pumps". Used in a stirring rendition of "Strut" by Sheena Easton.

-- wig with a hair brush stuck in it. I think I had been drinking and was trying to rat this hair up when the brush got hung up. I just threw it in the closet figuring I could get it untangled later, but somehow I've never found the time.

-- roll of duct tape.

-- three (3) videocassettes: "Unleash Your Personal Power," Anthony Robbins; "Using

Your New Hair Extensions," Priscilla Presley; "The Operation," Eugene Schrang.

-- shoe box full of hair bows, including a black-and-white polka dot one. I swear, I must have been drugged. Also, a big jar with about 40 hair bands sticking in it, which I obtained during the Marlo Thomas phase.

-- Pepto-Bismol colored bridesmaid dress from the one wedding I have been in. It didn't look any better on me than it did on a genetic girl.

-- set of Progressive Diameter Stents. Great product.

-- my nail "tackle box", with every known size of nail tip and twenty-five bottles of nail polish that are all crystallized. I used to do nails before I realized it wasn't helping.

-- robe from Grand Palazzo hotel that got stuck in my suitcase. I left a bikini there so I guess it's even.

-- pair of tennis dresses. What was I thinking?

-- incredible electric blue evening gown with about thirty pounds of bugle beads for "coming out" party. Previously worn by runner-up in Miss Georgia pageant; wonder why she didn't win?

Looking back over all this junk, which is the tip of the iceberg, reminds me of the demented peregrinations I have pursued thus far. If you could chart the course it would probably look like the readout on O.J.'s polygraph. Will the future be as unpredictable?

Consider this.

When you start making plans for the future, first take a look at your closet. Remember how you felt ten, five or even three years ago, what your hopes and dreams and aspirations were then. Try to recall what you then envisioned your

future to hold. Now pick up the objects that are the momentos of what actually transpired in those years, and see how close to the mark your predictions and expectations were.

For most of us, what actually occurs is far removed from what we think will happen. There are people we have yet to even meet who will become important influences in our lives. Events will occur to alter our existence dramatically which, if someone were to describe for us today, we would consider outlandish. Where we will be, who we will be with, and how our lives will be structured are essentially unknowable. The process of change is linked with life itself, and in some sense is its defining quality.

I think of the evolutionary nature of our future as a matter for joy and delight. When we recognize the mystery and fundamental unpredictability of tomorrow, we cast off the burdens we carry in an effort to direct it. That those burdens seem so heavy is because, in fact, we seek to influence and control matters far beyond our dominion. Rather than fighting to manage the unknowable, the wise among us accept a more human and therefore attainable role for themselves. It is in our appreciation, understanding and response to the matters of today and those occurrences which brought us here that our true comfort and effectiveness lie.

Have a good day. TGIF!!!

-- Andrea [REDACTED]t

<http://www.mindspring.com/~arblaw/>

[Published with permission; thanks, sis!

--Vix] *gr*

The Cyclomethicone Revolution

I have spoken about foundation makeup before, but now there is a whole new generation of base makeup out there using the ingredient cyclomethicone, a silicone based ingredient that allows makeup of extraordinary coverage and staying power, up to 16 hours.

The first of these makeups was Ultima II Wonderwear, followed by its sister Revlon products, Revlon Colorstay (around \$9) and Almay Amazing Lasting Makeup. Cosmair brought out Lancome Tient Idole (around \$20), L'Oreal Feel Perfecte and Maybelline Great Wear (around \$7). Proctor and Gamble gave us Max Factor Lasting Performance and Cover Girl Continuous Wear (around \$6). Each of these has a slightly different formula, but they all are based on cyclomethicone.

Sara Fox, of the Crystal Club, was the person who first discussed these with firsthand use. She was pleased both that one or two coats of Almay Amazing Lasting gave enough coverage for her beard, and better, that they stayed on for quite a long time, even in wet conditions or on oily skin, such as on a long hot day of a charity walk. The advantage of makeup that does not rub off on clothing, especially for those of us who have to wear makeup on our necks, is inestimable.

Each one of these is a liquid that requires mixing before application. The makeup looks like latex paint coming out of the bottle. The makeup sets in about 60 seconds, so you are required to do one section of the face at a time, so blending can take place. To remove this makeup, soap and water or other cleansers are required, and Ponds is introducing cold cream again, including a clear cold cream, that is specially designed to remove these new makeups.

It is far from clear what the tradeoffs are for each one of these formulas are. Details like a pump,

available from Lancome and Charles of The Ritz, can be very valuable, because this makeup sets hard.

The primary key to choosing a foundation is, as always, color. A stripe of the foundation should disappear on your face in sunlight -- not on your hand, and not in other light. It is tempting to try to use foundation to change the color of your face, becoming more pale or more tan, but those effects are best saved for only those locations where the lighting is low and dramatic, not for everyday use. Most of the companies offer testers on the displays and small low-priced sample bottles, and CVS & RiteAid have specific cosmetic return policies so you can try, while the prices and return policies of Wal-Mart and K-Mart are attractive.

Other cosmetics are also using cyclomethicone. Revlon Colorfast Lipstick, Almay Lasting Lipstick and L'Oreal Color Endure are examples of lipsticks that will last a very long time, and more arrive everyday -- you can even buy specialty formulas at Sallys. Keep the top sealed from air, and remember to wait 60 seconds to set. While they also carry lip liners, these use a different formula.

Almay has also introduced a blush and powder in this formula, which both go on like a creme-to-powder. The powder has good coverage and comes in three different shades.

I suggest that if you need a long lasting, great wearing foundation, with a good finish and excellent coverage, you look for one of these new formulas in sample size, and try it. It is a breakthrough that has real advantages that you might enjoy.

[Contributed by Callan ██████████.]

Fall Makeup

what's hot in makeup? maybelline says "velvet crush," deep burgundies with highlights of gold and olive. rich, it seems, is in. l'oreal wants us to "fall in deep" with a lavish collection of berries & spices is in, and that mix and match is the way to go:

- mix textures, with a dewy glow and matte lips
- mix colors -- try a different color of polish on pinkies
- mix lush velvet and delicate embroidery
- even mix feminine and masculine styles. . . boy meets girl.

all the new lip colors -- honey honey, mulberry, spiced up and plush velvet -- come in both colour riche and colour endure formulas, for dewy or matte & lasting looks. revlon is selling us stone ends, a collection of deep earth tones in a pink granite, mauve slate, and matte stone ends. the older fleshtone colors are still around, very similar but without the punch and depth of stone ends, which are much more muted than the very current collection. all these play along with the bold and bright collections of the junior colors, all those sparkly, glittery events that the kids love, but become only effective as an accent for we (gracefully) aging divas. with the current mix and match approach, though, you can be as witty as you choose with a touch of fun meeting classic, earthy and rich colors

makeup is definately an accessory, meant to be changed as you would change your earrings or a scarf, not something to stay static. you create an ephemeral work of art that joins your face and your talent every time you pick up a brush, so create something that is fun and expresses you well.

Transgenderist Independence Club
PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
(518) 436-4513 (live Thurs.7:30-10 PM)

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

TGIC Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor

Corrections
Follow
Some
Day!
Sigh....
Rhiannon
Winnie [redacted]
Vicky E. [redacted]

Facilities Tina, Edie, Rhiannon
Outreach
Program/Events

The Transgenderist is the newsletter of TGIC, published monthly and mailed First Class to members, prospective members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Copyright 1997 TGIC. No part may be reproduced without prior permission from the originator.

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

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30pm to 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.

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 is available at:

<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)

Call: (518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

Connections

Psychotherapy Associates

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

518-446-1261 10 Colvin Avenue Albany, NY 12206



Arlene Istar Lev
R-CSW, CASAC

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

Choices
Counseling Associates

Therapeutic Support Group

for Transgender/Transsexual M to F is now accepting new members. Topics include Coming Out, Transitioning, Family issues, Jobs and Careers, Self Esteem. Contact:

Arlene Istar Lev R-CSW, CAS-AC
Choices Counseling Associates
321 Washington Ave
Albany, New York 12206

518-463-9152

TGIC On-Line

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

JOIN TGIC
STOP

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

TRI-ESS MEETINGS IN SCHENECTADY

Meetings are held at "YOURS", which is located at 145 Barrett Street in Schenectady. Call Monica at (518) 863-2783 or Evelyn at (315) 894-5421 for further information.

Calendar and Events

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven."

--Ecclesiastes 3:1

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

Events of Note

Note: TransPositions has been rescheduled, and I will get that information to you as soon as I can get it reposted.

December 11 Tentative Christmas Party

January 16-19 Dignity Cruise #9
with Peggy Rudd

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Electrologist
& Nail Technician
Darien, CT*

*Robert H. Spratt
372 Elm Street
Darien, CT 06820
782-1111*

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?

Call us: (518) 432-7092

Mail: P.O. Box 6307, Albany, NY 12206

ALBANY GENDER PROJECT

Building respect - one person at a time

Tina

Gynecomorphophile: A person, though not necessarily a crossdresser, gets off on men dressing as women.

Beware the lurking, smirking, staring
glaring rubberneck gyneco-morphophile
Two seats down and acts like a clown
as he rubbernecks all the while

He acts so weird, lots more than us
Even the bartender is on the alert
His attempt to relate is so innate
His attentions we do avert

He is put out, there is no doubt
His fascination is no fake
He stumbles and mumbles
and fumbles and grumbles
He seems to be on the make

But on the make of what?
An inept, closet case version of us?
Or just out to bang us,
bug and harangue us
What drives him to make such a fuss?

In our integrity, we do not buy in,
succumb not to his bent beguile
The lurking, smirking, staring, glaring
rubberneck gyneco-morphophile

THE DARWIN AWARDS are given every year to bestow upon (the remains of) that individual, who through single-minded self-sacrifice, has done the most to remove undesirable elements from the human gene pool.

[AP, Mammoth Lakes, CA] A San Anselmo man died yesterday when he hit a lift tower at the Mammoth Mountain ski area while riding down the slope on a foam pad, authorities said. Matthew David Hubal, 22, was pronounced dead at Centinela Mammoth Hospital. The accident occurred about 3 a.m., the Mono County Sheriff's Department said. Hubal and his friends apparently had hiked up a ski run called Stump Alley and undid some yellow foam protectors from the lift towers, said Lieutenant Mike Donnelly of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department. The pads are used to protect skiers who might hit the towers. The group apparently used the pads to slide down the ski slope and Hubal crashed into a tower. It was determined that the tower he hit was the one with its pad removed.



Actually, there was only one of these clowns in an Albany gay bar, but I drew four for dramatic effect.

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