



TGIC, BUTTERFLY, EON

TRANSGENDERIST INDEPENDANCE CLUB-CALL (518)436-4513 OR
WRITE T.G.I.C. P.O.BOX 13604 ALBANY, N.Y. 12212-3604
BUTTERFLY and EON-EXPRESSING OUR NATURE A COLLABORATION
of NEW YORK STATE GROUPS

July 1989

CLUB NEWS

Hi everybody. Since the last time we got together a lot of things have occurred. T.G.I.C. has had its first television interview. It will be a very short piece, which will air on WMHT channel 17, on Thursday July 6 at 8:00pm. The segment will be about seven minutes long and the show is called OUR TOWN TV. Many thanks to the folks who helped me get the show together and for putting your anonymity on the line. The folks from OUR TOWN were very sympathetic and even stuck around for an hour or so after the taping (an hour and a half of interview for a seven minute segment) to just talk to any of the members who chose to do so. We also got an offer to do a half hour Sunday morning show exclusively for us. We will be looking into doing that show after we see how this first piece is done.

The T.G.I.C. tag sale has been going well. Jennifer has generously offered to let us keep everything in her apartment as an ongoing thing until she has a need for the extra space. If you wish to make any donations or to purchase anything please contact Dawn or Jennifer and we can arrange for a good time.

We held a short meeting after the interview on the 26th. Items that we discussed were the officers of the club. They are as follows: Dawn-pres. Danielle-vice pres., Dane-secetary, and Tamie-treas., Winnie-librarian. The Board of Directors will include all of the above officers plus Helen and Jennifer. Our I.F.G.E. representative is Winnie. She will be our liason person when our group needs to deal with I.F.G.E. and when they need us. Susan will be an advisor to our group.

We have instituted a big sister program for new members. As a new member joins they will be "assigned"

to an older member who will take them under their wing, so to speak. They will be responsible for introducing the new person to everyone, making sure the the new person understands how the group runs and our rules. They will keep in touch and hopefully help insure a new member's active participation in our group.

New members will now be asked to participate on the group's standing committees. Hopefully, another way of getting them to feel comfortable with our fellow members and with their own selves.

We are looking for people to assist on a couple of committees. The Outreach committee, chaired by Jennifer, The Shopping Guide revision committee, chaired by Rachel, Membership committee, chaired by Dawn and co-chaired by Helen and Jennifer. Ad hoc committees will be instituted on an as needed basis.

The weekly Rap Groups (christened Thursday's Child by Helen who runs them) have had a pretty good turnout so they will be continued every Thursday anytime between 6:00 and 9:00pm. If the discussions get hot and heavy the time will be extended.

Pam has been working on putting together a day trip and dinner cruise for the fall. As soon as she gets things pulled together I'll get the information out to you all. The preliminary work that she's done sounds great.

I think I've babbled on long enough for this section of the newsletter. Good Luck with your dressing and GO FOR IT whenever you get the chance.

INTERNATIONAL MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY

Friday evenings 6:00-8:00
\$10.00/class

See Dawn or call Susan @ 426-9476
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A couple of weeks ago I recieved a letter from a person who used to be a very active and vocal member of our group. I'm going to run her letter now so that her experiences may be of some help to someone else. Unfortunately I never got to know Diantha very well and that is definitely my loss. Here goes: (I have left a little bit out of the letter to save a little space.)

Dear Dawn,

Good luck and congratulations to you Dawn! Your recent editorial was well written. You do have a difficult job ahead of you and only dedicated membership support will insure all runs smoothly and positive growth continues for all.

As you more or less know much has changed in my life during the past few years. Assuming you and others have heard bits and pieces here and there I'd also like to have this opportunity to fill in some of the gaps.

I'm alive, in good health and Very happy! Life in general has been good to me. I married a wonderful man this past June, then retired early from the high tech world of aerospace shortly thereafter (this past September) and now make my home, with my husband, in a small community in New Hampshire.

Though no longer directly involved with any of the support groups I've kept abreast of the general goings on via various newsletters and publications. Still having a vested interest and lingering feelings of obligation to T.G.I.C. and similiar groups (for I did gain much in terms of knowledge, self-awareness, support, and friendship) I would very much like to return something of value to the community which gave me so much! Yet-it's difficult to find the correct words of expression for my feelings and thoughts without fear of being misunderstood and appearing critical. Somehow, though I do want to share what I've experienced and learned with the hopes of being helpful to others.

Perhaps it's difficult, at least in part, simply because all of my experiences of the past few years have all proved to be so wonderfully positive, well beyond any of my initial expectations.

Contrary to many of the pessimistic and "less than happy" stories which have tended to historically permeate

the gender conflicted communities, promoting fear, anxiety, and apprehension, I did not experience any situation which enough of an emotional impact to imprint me with any lasting feelings of anger, bitterness, despair or helplessness. I wasn't immune to various degrees of negative social pressures (expressed blatantly and subliminally) and at times did feel much hurt which caused my frustration level to peak because of it! (especially early on)

However, I didn't lose my job (was never in danger of being fired or laid off) didn't lose my security clearance (was investigated and psychologically examined) medical insurance covered 80% of all related expenses (initial requests were challenged) all credentials birth certificate, driver's license, passport were easily changed (no lawyers required) lines of credit were maintained, the staff of the gender identity clinic were conservatively cautious during the screening process yet understanding (its their job and I applaud them for doing it well) the surgical teams, the hospital staffs, the follow up physicians, were all courteous, caring, kind and understanding (even the hospital food was good!) In general, most all who I encountered had only my well being at heart.

There was, of course, some immediate post operative discomfort but nothing more than anyone would experience after any form of a fairly complex surgical procedure (much of the discomfort was offset by my own strong emotional feelings of elation)

To date there have been no post operative complications nor any adverse hormonal effects.

My current feelings and thoughts reflect only joy, happiness, a strong sense of well being, appreciation and gratitude.

In retrospect-much of my past life was lived in a sort of limbo-like state. Male physically-female emotionally and completely so predisposed. Today I think, believe, and know I've almost completely achieved the position of a normal woman (subject to the everyday concerns we all experience) occupying an accepted position socially within a desirable community of everyday people who (with or without, mostly without) knowledge of my past accept

as the woman I always was.
with best wishes to all,

sincerely,
Diantha

Thanks for bringing us up to date
Diantha. It was good to hear from
you. Best wishes for a most happy
rest of your life.



"I definitely don't have
your size in beige."

HOW TO BE A SMOOTHY

For the very closet shave:

- *Shave in the morning, when legs are least swollen.
- *Soak legs in the tub for a few minutes before shaving.
- *Rub on a lathering agent like Edge Gel to allow the razor to glide nicely.
- *Shave from bottom to top, against the grain, using light pressure.

If legs are sensitive:

Dermatologists suggest:

- *Switch to an electric razor and shave with the grain.
- *Shave at night to avoid irritation from sun, salt water, chlorine, and perspiration.
- *Apply moisturizer after shaving or, even better, a heavy sunscreen (water proof and PABA free, with a high SPF like SolBar 50, Pre Sun 29 or Soudown 30). There'll still be enough on your legs in the morning for protection.
- *Beware of double track blades; some women find them irritating because the first blade shaves off the hair and the second one takes off some of the skin.
- *Avoid waxing: It can lead to infection.
- *Stop shaving and see a dermatologist if your legs become very irritated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 06/03/89 TGIC WIVES/MATES SUPPORT
- 06/10/89 TGIC PARTY @ 145CLUB
(145CLUB show also)
- 06/23/89 TGIC PARTY @ LOFT
- 06/27/89 BUTTERFLY RAP GROUP
- 06/28/89 BUTTERFLY PARTY
- 07/01/89 TGIC WIVES/MATES SUPPORT
- 07/08/89 TGIC PARTY @ 145CLUB
- 07/28/89 TGIC PARTY @ LOFT
- 07/22/89 BUTTERFLY RAP GROUP
- 07/23/89 BUTTERFLY PARTY

TGIC rap group is held every Thursday
6pm.-9pm. at the loft.

Any questions on times or dates of
parties or rap sessions should be
directed to: T.G.I.C. P.O.Box 13604
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WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

We know that crossdressing can take
up a lot of your free time. We do under-
stand that some of you can't get out of
the house now that the clocks have been
set ahead. We want you to know that you
are welcome at our functions whether you
are dressed "en femme" or not. We like
it when you can but we want you to come
out anyway. The last few parties have
had some real good turnouts and we would
like them to continue. Come on out even
if the time change and the later sunsets
don't permit you to dress.

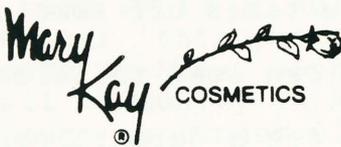
As most of you know Chistine Jorgensen passed away recently after an unsuccessful battle with cancer. I.F.G.E. has established the **Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund**. It has been established with the consent of Chistine's family and the I.F.G.E. Board of Directors.

The purpose of the fund is to create a method by which individuals may provide (through financial contributions) a living memorial which will contribute to the ongoing objectives of outreach, education, community identity and services of the Foundation.

It is the wishes of Chistine's family that this fund assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives and address other transsexual issues.

Contributions to the **Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund** may be sent to: c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, Ma. 01778.

Recognition of contributions will be made to Christine's family, and, unless otherwise specified, published in the **TV-TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL**.



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Marie Lappe
Beauty Consultant

6 W. Erie Street • Albany, NY 12208

STEP INTO THE PUMP THAT FLATTERS YOUR FOOT

With the return of short skirts you may want to don a pair of sleek, feminine pumps. Like we really had to twist your arm.

The key to finding the right pumps is trying on a multitude of styles and sizes. Make use of the special "shoe mirrors" available in most shoe stores, that allow an eye level view of all sides of your feet. Do your feet gap at the instep or heels of the shoes, or do they bulge from the top? do your feet appaer too bony and narrow?

Try on a variety of styles to find the perfect fit and look for your foot-ankle type. Shopping for shoes is just like shopping for a dress. Just as no dress will look the same on any two women, so feet are varied as fingerprints. Since there is no standardization in sizing in the shoe in-

dustry, trying on shoes for fit is extremely important.

Here are some tips on choosing the right pumps:

TO SLIM DOWN WIDE FEET :

Make sure you are choosing the correct width. Try on various makes of shoes to find one that suits wider feet. If shoes are tight, they may cause your feet to swell and look even wider.

Avoid delicate or spiky pumps. Opt instead for a classic pump style to balance your feet. Try a V-shaped vamp that slenderizes and elongates the foot. Extremely high heels are not for you, since they also cause feet to swell.

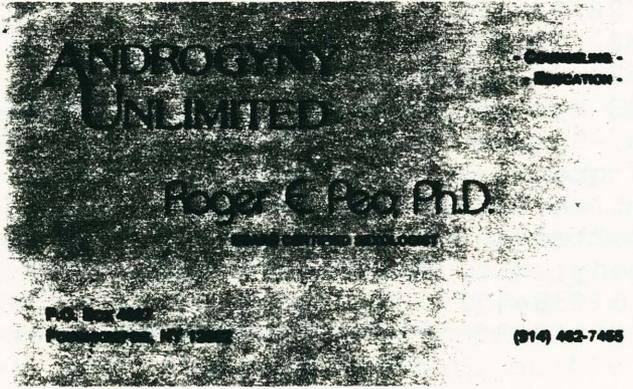
TO SLENDERIZE ANKLES:

Many of the tips for wide feet also apply to wide ankles. Avoid delicate styles and spiky heels that make heavy ankles look clumsier. Stay away from ankle straps or any horizontal lines that are visually widening. Always tone legwear to shoes, preferably in darker shades, for a sleeker appearance. Again, high heels are not a good choice for you.

TO MAKE LONG FEET LOOK SHORTER:

If you think your feet look like canoes, you probably wear a size 9 or larger and a AA or narrower width. For extremely long feet, avoid pointy toed pumps or V-shaped vamps that tend to make feet look slimmer.

Look for sturdier pumps with a rounded toe. Some of the newer closed-up, rounded styles are a good choice for you. If your feet are slender and bony, a more covered-up pump will be more flattering than one with low sides that exposes a lot of foot.



TRANSPIRE

Transpire will be a monthly feature of our newsletter written by Jennifer [REDACTED]. It will contain news and other items of interest to our community from across (Trans) the empire (pire) state. If you have any club, outing, or political news please submit it to Jennifer at the TGIC postal box.

CLUBBING: Heels and flashy outfits have been tearing up the streets of the Capitol District lately. Members of TGIC in recent months have been frequenting the numerous local clubs where we are welcome. The following clubs welcome & appreciate our patronage: The 145 Club, 145 Barrett St., Schenectady. This is our home every second Saturday of the month. The Playhouse, Rage, Ester's, The Waterworks, and the Last Straw, all located on Central Ave. in Albany. Look for profiles on your favorite spots in future Transpire columns.

Joining our little band of revelers have been sisters from as far away as Springfield, Vermont, Syracuse, Montreal, and New York City. New York City?... speaking of the rotten apple, seems that this has become a popular TGIC weekend retreat, as a number of girls have been taking irregular trips south on a semi-monthly and monthly basis. Clubs which have been treated to the scrutiny of our "morals" committee include Tracks, Tunnel, Eighty-Eights, Don't Tell Mama, Monster, and Pyramid Club. Rumor even has it that a package weekend featuring minibus transportation down and back, hotel, shopping and clubbing may be coming in the fall. If it's successful it could become a regular event.

SHOPPING: If your pockets have excess jingle, check out the following places to leave that extra weight...J.C. Penney's Cosmetic counter at Crossgates Mall. Ask for Cory, tell her that Jennifer sent you. Cory is a good friend to the Albany gender community and a regular on the club scene, she will be only too happy to make suggestions and help you find the colors that are right for you. ... Also while at Crossgates, look into a little boutique called **Contempo** on the lower level. They have alot of exciting fashions in sizes up to XL, and if you can be up-front and tell them that you dress, they are only too happy to help you out. Yes, you may use their dressing rooms too if you ask first. Check out their clearance rack while you are there too.

In recent months TGIC has gone through many changes in leadership, elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a listing of the new officers and committees. If you haven't liked the way the club was run, let me assure you that now is the time to get involved. We are heading in new and dynamic directions, in areas of outreach, public relations, as well as peer support and social activities. To do this, we need your help. You are the ones that make this club what it is...What is it you ask? TGIC is the descendant of the original club for crossdressers in the USA. Such dynamic clubs as Tiffany, ETVC, CGS, and Renaissance all can trace their roots to what happened here in Albany about 30 years ago. We have the longest running tradition of open support in the country!!

For a relatively small populated area like the Capital District of N.Y. TGIC serves over 60 active members and is growing at a rate of between two and six members a month. Believe it or not, this makes us one of the largest groups in the country. We haven't even begun to reach those out there who live in abject fear of discovery, fear of recrimination, and fear of losing whatever is important to them in their lives. If you know of others who can benefit from our club, of meeting others, of learning. If you know of groups and organizations willing to learn about our lifestyles, let us know about them...bring them into the group. Only by extending a helping hand can we all stand tall and proud of this special part of our personality.

Recently we have formed a speakers bureau, an outreach/membership committee, an activities committee, and a public education committee. If you are not already on one of these committees **JOIN IN IT DOESN'T HURT.**

POLITICAL NEWS

In April and May, word came to us about work being done in Ill. by CGS with the Attorney General's office regarding protection of the rights of transgendered people from discrimination, and abuse which derives from it. The attorney general was very interested in working with CGS to secure this very important area. In a similar move, the TGIC outreach committee has contacted CGS to determine the format

they followed in obtaining this support, and initial correspondence will be sent to the NYS Attorney General, in an effort to likewise secure our rights in New York. It has further been discussed that a separate political action group, tentatively called the Albany Gender Project be formed to pursue this objective and that it will report to all of the New York gender groups, both gay & straight. We will keep you advised of developments as they arise. If you would like to help with this project, contact Jennifer through TGIC.

That's our Transpire section for this newsletter. I hoped you liked it. Questions or comments may be made to Dawn or Jennifer through the club PO box.

OUR WIVE'S VIEWS

I hope this feature becomes an every newsletter event. This month my wife Tamie has written the feature. I would hope that other wives would forward a story about their relationship with their crossdressing mate. This will allow us to continue this section and give us some helpful information to share with new members who have mates.

I was twenty years old when we got married. Like many new brides, I had my own ideas of what a good marriage was. We both worked full time, ate dinner together, did things together. We both very active in the local emergency services. So involved that it was a way of life with us that sometimes got in the way of what we really needed to confront. Four years went by and it seemed that things were rolling on by. We had begun to drift slightly apart. We blamed it on our duties and responsibilities in our chosen "volunteer" careers. One evening I found out the true reason for our "coolness". I found out that my husband, the dedicated outdoorsman, the ultimate macho man was in reality a **crossdresser**.

When I came home that eventful night he was in the kitchen whipping up one of his famous dinners. I thought, "Oh boy! A romantic dinner and probably a special evening at home". These nights were far and few between because of frequent emergency calls. I didn't expect the "special evening" that he had planned. Dinner was just about ready and right on cue, as usual, he had an emergency call to go to. The next thing I knew he was headed for the door coat in hand. On the way out

he tossed me a pamphlet and said, "Read this. We'll talk when I get back". The pamphlet was all about men who crossdress. Surprise!! Surprise!! Now I knew why the fancy dinner was being prepared. I felt like I had been slapped in the face. My God. How could I have married a man who wanted a sex change or worse yet was gay? Why me? What did I do to deserve this? All I could feel was anger, betrayal. I cried and cried and when I finished I cried some more. The book said that it was normal for some men to "dress up". I didn't think it sounded very normal. I felt very alone with no place to turn. I was very afraid of losing my husband. I questioned whether or not losing him would be a good idea. We had had four good or so I thought years of marriage. Was it all going to end here. There were so many questions left unanswered. How or why should I deal with this? I needed to know more.

When Dave returned home we talked and cried together. I asked questions and he answered. He offered to leave. I didn't know if I was ready to throw it all away. As we talked I realized that he was almost as in the dark as I was as to the whys of his compulsion. When I asked why he didn't tell me he said that he thought it would go away if he got married like a normal man and that he could no longer hide it from me. The guilt was eating him up. I was very scared and felt even more alone. I was starting to realize that our marriage, **my** marriage could end over this. I didn't dare tell anyone. What would they think of my husband? Of me? I had chosen him. I was very angry and felt that I was losing the only man in my life, as well as my best friend. What a dilemma. Why couldn't have married a "normal" man?

In sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, and I guess between the lines crossdressed or not. I chose to stay. We could make this work. I still loved my husband and he still loved me.

Dave made inquiries to a local group. We made contact and were invited to a party. God, I thought, there are others like **us**. I'd believe it when I see it. On a Saturday evening late in the year we attended our first party. There were about eighteen people there and even a couple of wives. We had a good time and left feeling a

little more relaxed now knowing that there were other couples going through what we were. It was as if a giant load was lifted off of our chests. Everyone was so helpful and willing to talk. If it wasn't for the support we recieved I don't know what would have happened to us. That night was the beginning of a new life together for us. Even though everyone was so supportive there was still alot of things that I had to get straight in my mind. My husband and I have had many discussions about his "other self" and we will probably continue to have many more. We have been open and honest with each other.

Looking back there have been times when we have had to lie to relatives and friends about our clandestine lifestyle. We are not real proud of that and are working to change that. We have told Dave's parents about him and have gotten their support. Other friends and relatives will follow as our relationships grow.

Soon into his dressing career. Dave began to get good at the "art". He then started to give me pointers. Once again the feelings of anger and jealousy crept in. I felt threatened again. I thought, "Great, now he thinks he can be a better woman than me". "Apparently I'm not good enough". I found out once again, with time, that his pointers were correct. He did much more reading on make up and fashion than I ever did. Our talks continued. Now it was like two friends sitting down to discuss the latest fashion craze. I learned about using colors and make up to camoflage my weak points and emphasize my good ones. I started to have fun. My friends at work tell me that they wish that their husbands would pick things for them like my husband picks out for me. They say that their men won't even go into a women's store because they're too macho.

Our relationship at present is very strong and growing stronger everyday. We really are the best of friends. Don't get me wrong, I still have days when I can't deal with the dressing and I still ask "How did I get myself into this?". Aside from all of that I'm glad that I stuck it out.

Tamie

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SHELLEY'S TRAVELS

My name is Shelley [REDACTED], and I joined TGIC back in March of this year. Even though I just came out three months ago, I have experienced, in this short time, some of the nicest people I've ever met!! I owe many thanks to renee for meeting with me the first time and helping me, Dawn for her support and words of wisdom, Monique for spending some real quality time in helping me discover SHELLEY. And all of the others I have met to make me feel like I fit in.

The weekend of June 8-11th I attended my first "Be ALL Weekend", in Chicago. I still can't believe I actually went! I must say that I am sure glad I did. Again the girls I met were all so nice. The anticipated turnout was 200. All records were broken with 276 sisters showing up. We were able to express our "femme" selves openly at all times.

But it goes beyond just the dressing. It goes much deeper than that. The support everyone seemed to lend each other was overwhelming. There was a deep sense of love for one another, respect, and true caring that I have never, ever seen in my life. Almost everyone in attendance was, initially, a total stranger to each other. That soon changed.

Sure, some "girls" were absolutely beautiful in every sense of the word, others like myself, were trying very hard to perfect the image. The point I would like to make is this....It didn't matter what one looked like on the outside. It was what was on the inside that counted!

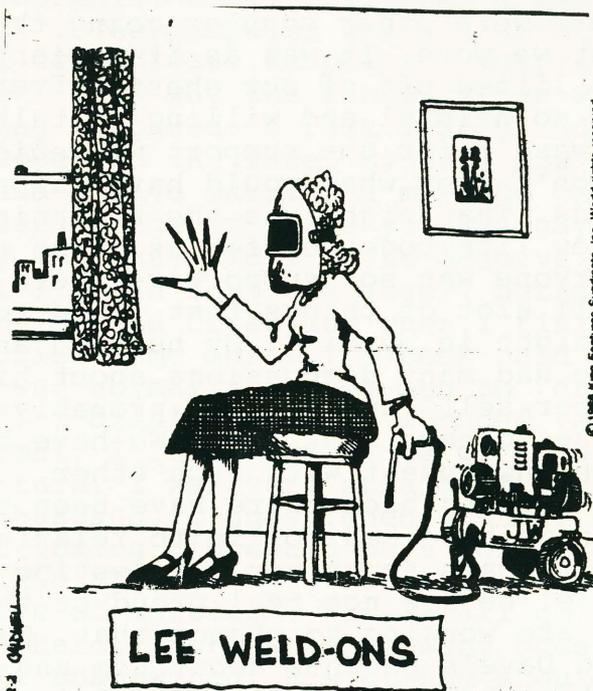
The thing that stands out in my mind the most, was one sister from Wisconsin. She was put on a bus in Milwaukee, bused into Chicago, which was around 150 miles, all by herself. She attended the full weekend until

Sunday afternoon. You're probably wondering what is so special about that? Well, our sister, Ginger, has multiple sclerosis!! To me that takes courage with a capital "C". My hat is off to you Ginger! Even though you will probably read this letter, let me say that you have style, courage, guts, that go far beyond any comprehension!! That's a fact. We can all learn some valuable lessons from you.

Thanks to all for reading this. If any of you ever get the chance to go to one of these conventions...DO IT at least once. You won't be sorry. It was a learning experience that I did not ever expect. I highly recommend it. I know it made me feel good about myself. It will do the same for you. It made feel like I really belong to this unique community!!

God bless and love to all,
Shelley [REDACTED]

Anyone wishing to talk to Shelley about her "journey en femme" may contact her through the club PO box. I will forward any letters to her...Dawn.



"I wrote home and told my parents that I married a local TV personality, but now that they are coming here we'll have to explain what the TV stands for."



"You haven't lost any weight, my dear. That's my bra and panties you're wearing."