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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



Address Correspondence
To
Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

HOTLINE: (716) 643-2626

JULY 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:

JEAN
PATTI
KATHY

Dear Sisters,

A nice turnout was had for the June meeting. Our streak of rainy, cool weather continued, unfortunately. Hopefully that one will be broken by the older running streak of gorgeous weather for the picnic in August. Then again, who will complain if it ends next meeting! Sure would be nice to be

able to get outside and enjoy our meeting place's lovely gardens and grounds.

Our meeting topic was about discussing various items. I'll try to give the best report I can about this, but I didn't arrive in time for the discussion session. I am relying upon what others have told me in giving this report.

The BIG topic was whether to "break" up the Belles. The answer given, was a vote acclimation NOT too. Nobody spoke in favor of the idea. A question was asked. "What exactly are the needs of the TS that require such special support?"

Certainly there are special concerns; such as hormones, electrolysis, legal, surgical, etc.

However, when a sister has reached this point in her life, she already has her support in place. She has been in this for awhile now. She has experienced all the feelings and had the problems that any CD faces. Most were/are married, have Children. Jobs. Mortgages, etc.

Then it was asked: "What are the special needs of the CD that requires such special support?" Why of course, Wifie, Kids, Job, etc. Sound familiar?

ATTENDEES

JANICE	ALICIA &
PATTI	DOROTHY
HOLLY	CRYSTAL & TONYA
KATHY	SHARON
MICHELLE	CAROL
JOY	FRAN
ANGELLA	JEAN
CAMILLE	DINISE
SUSAN	

I ENDED UP WITH 48 HOURS OF TREATMENT SO I'M HALF-WAY DONE. I GO BACK FOR THREE DAYS OF TREATMENT IN LATE JULY TO GET THE HAIRS THAT WERE NOT VISIBLE IN APRIL. NOW I ONLY SHAVE EVERY THIRD DAY, MY SKIN IS MUCH SMOOTHER AND SOFTER AND I QUIT USING DERMA-BLEND. IT REALLY WAS WORTH THE EFFORT AND MONEY, EVEN IF MY LIPS DID GET AS BIG AS TEXAS.

IMPROVEMENT BUT AS I SURVEYED THE CARNAGE IN THE MIRROR, I SAID TO MYSELF "DAMN, THIS IS SERIOUS, MY LIPS ARE AS BIG AS TEXAS". I NEVER THOUGHT THE HUMAN LIP COULD SWELL AND STRETCH LIKE MINE HAD. AND TO THINK THAT WITHIN THE HOUR THERE WOULD BE MORE NOVOCAIN AND ELECTROLYSIS!

DURING MY FRIDAY MORNING SESSION THE GIRLS FINISHED MY CHIN AND STARTED ON MY NECK. WHEN WE STOPPED FOR LUNCH I RETIRED TO THE BATHROOM MIRROR TO SURVEY THE FURTHER DEMOLITION OF MY FACE AND TO MY RELIEF, THE SWELLING HAD SUBSIDED PERHAPS THIRTY PER CENT. THERE IS A GOD! AND BREN REALLY KNEW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT. I NEVER DOUBTED HER!

I HAD ASKED BREN WHEN COULD I EXPECT THE SWELLING TO GO DOWN IN MY UPPER LIP AND SHE SAID "SOME TIME FRIDAY" SO I AWOKE FRIDAY MORNING HOPING I WOULD SHOW SOME VISABLE SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT BUT AS I SURVEYED THE CARNAGE IN THE MIRROR, I SAID TO MYSELF "DAMN, THIS IS SERIOUS, MY LIPS ARE AS BIG AS TEXAS". I NEVER THOUGHT THE HUMAN LIP COULD SWELL AND STRETCH LIKE MINE HAD. AND TO THINK THAT WITHIN THE HOUR THERE WOULD BE MORE NOVOCAIN AND ELECTROLYSIS!

THAT AFTERNOON THE GIRLS CONTINUED WORKING ON MY CHIN AND CHEEKS AND WE QUIT AROUND SIX PM. IN THE MEANTIME, THAT LITTLE SIZE EIGHT TRAMP, GENE, WAS DONE AT FOUR AND WAS RELAXING AT THE HOTEL WHILE THE GIRLS CONTINUED TO CATTLE PROD MY FACE. JEAN HAD A CAR AND SUGGESTED GOING OUT TO DINNER; I KNEW MY SWELLING LOOKED BAD BUT I WAS HUNGRY SO I ACCEPTED HER OFFER.

ROOZLE SIPPING HIS SOUP, DRINKING TEA, A SUGAR AND WITH GETTING MY MOUTH OPEN WIDE ENOUGH TO EAT MY SANDWICH. BREN HAD WARNED ME THAT SOME OF US SWELL UP SO BAD THAT WE COULD GET PARTS IN THE PLANET OF THE APES MOVIE BUT SHE NEVER SAID I'D HAVE THE STARRING ROLE!

AT THE CLINIC BREN GAVE ME MY MORNING CONSTITUTIONAL OF AT THE NOVOCAIN AND THE GIRLS BEGAN WORK ON MY CHIN WHICH IS THE AREA OF MY HEAVIEST GROWTH. AROUND 10AM CARRI MUTTERED "THIS CHIN IS A BITCH!" BUT SHE KEPT PLUCKING AWAY AT IT.

AT LUNCH I CHECKED THE SWELLING WHICH HAD ACTUALLY GOTTEN EVEN WORSE, IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE, AND NOW THE LOWER LIP WAS ALSO A PROBLEM. ONE OF THE GIRLS BROUGHT IN FAST FOOD WHICH WE ATE AT THE CLINIC BUT THE SWELLING WAS SO BAD I HAD TROUBLE SIPPING MY SOFT DRINK THRU A STRAW AND WITH GETTING MY MOUTH OPEN WIDE ENOUGH TO EAT MY SANDWICH. BREN HAD WARNED ME THAT SOME OF US SWELL UP SO BAD THAT WE COULD GET PARTS IN THE PLANET OF THE APES MOVIE BUT SHE NEVER SAID I'D HAVE THE STARRING ROLE!

PAULA ISON

BREN DECLARED MY THREE DAY GROWTH TO BE AN AVERAGE. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD DO MY UPPER LIP FIRST, SINCE IT SMELLS UP THE MOST AND NEEDS THE MOST TIME TO RECEDE. SHE THEN INJECTED NOVOCAIN ON EACH SIDE OF MY UPPER LIP AND CARRI AND ROXANE STARTED THE ELECTROLYSIS.

SINCE NOVOCAIN ELIMINATED ALL THE PAIN, THE TECHNICIANS WERE ABLE TO INJECT STRONGER THAN NORMAL ELECTROLYSIS.

SINCE NOVOCAIN ELIMINATED ALL THE PAIN, THE TECHNICIANS WERE ABLE TO INJECT STRONGER THAN NORMAL ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO KILL FOREVER THE ROOTS OF ALL VISIBLE HAIR ON THE FIRST TRY, WITHOUT BURNING THE SKIN. THE ONLY THING THEY CAN'T DO IS KILL ROOTS OF HAIR THAT HAS NOT YET BROKEN THRU THE SURFACE OF THE SKIN.

WITHOUT NOVOCAIN THE PAIN CAN BE INTENSE, ESPECIALLY IN SENSITIVE AREAS LIKE THE UPPER LIP AND CHIN. WITH NOVOCAIN THERE WAS NO PAIN AT ALL - NONE. UNTIL NOW I HAD HAD ONLY ONE HOUR OF TRIDITIONAL ELECTROLOGY AND THE PAIN WAS SO EXCRUCIATING I WANTED TO STRANGLE THE TECHNICIAN.

EXCUCIATING I WANTED TO STRANGLE THE TECHNICIAN.

THE NOVOCAN TOOK AFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND THE GIRLS WORKED ON ME UNTIL NOON WHEN WE STOPPED FOR LUNCH. WHEN LOOKING IN A MIRROR I WAS EXCITED TO SEE THAT MOST OF MY UPPER LIP WAS COMPLETELY VOID OF ANY HAIR AND WAS SMOOTH AND SOFT. I NOTED SOME MINOR SMELLING OF MY UPPER LIP AND PASSED IT OFF AS A MINOR NUISANCE.

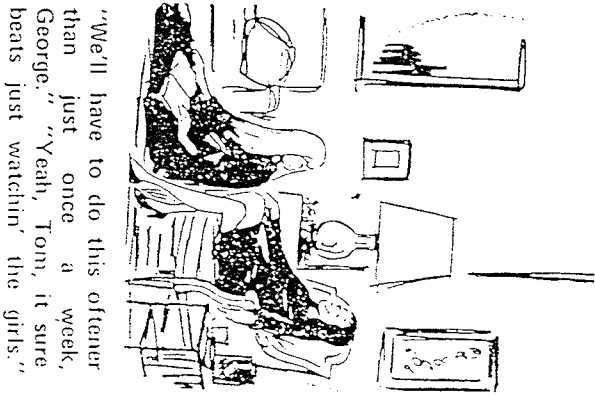
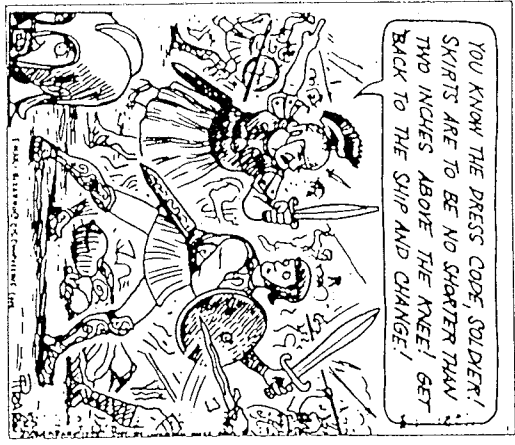
SITTING IN A DENTAL CHAIR IS USUALLY NOT MUCH FUN BUT THE TIME PASSED QUICKLY AS I WAS ABLE TO OCCASIONALLY TALK TO THE GIRLS AND THEY HAD A TELEVISION SET AND A RADIO AND THE PATIENT GETS TO PICK THE SHOW OR THE MUSIC.

BREN CAME IN HOURLY TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING AND TO GIVE MORE NOVOCAIN WHEN THE GIRLS MOVED TO OTHER PARTS OF MY FACE. AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY THEY HAD DONE ALL OF MY UPPER LIP, A LITTLE OF MY CHIN AND SOME OF MY CHEEKS.

LOOKING IN THE MIRROR AS WE FINISHED I THOUGHT IT HAD GONE WELL FOR THE FIRST DAY, ALTHOUGH I NOTICED THAT MY UPPER LIP HAD SWELLED MORE NOTICEABLY. BREN TOLD ME IN ADVANCE THAT MOST CLIENTS SMELL REALLY BAD ON THE FIRST DAY BUT BY USING LOTS OF ICE PACKS AT THE MOTEL, THE SMELLING CAN BE CONTROLLED. SHE SUGGESTED SITTING UP IN BED FOR AS LONG AS I COULD SINCE ANY ELEVATION REDUCES SWELLING. I ATE DINNER AT A PLACE NEXT TO THE MOTEL AND THEN DILIGENTLY APPLIED ICE PACK AFTER ICE PACK AS I SAT UP IN BED, FALLING ASLEEP WITH AN ICE PACK ON MY FACE.

FIRST THING THE NEXT MORNING I CHECKED MYSELF OUT IN THE MIRROR TO SEE HOW THE SWELLING WAS. IT WAS REALLY BAD, MUCH WORSE THAN THE NIGHT BEFORE, ALMOST AS IF THE ICE HAD NO IMPACT AT ALL. I JUST LAUGHED AND MARVELED AT MY GOOFY LOOKS AND PATCHWORK BEARD.

THURSDAY MORNING BEEN MET ME AND ANOTHER CLIENT WHO HAD JUST FLOWN IN FROM NEW YORK FOR HER SECOND TREATMENT. THE OTHER EXCELLENT, JEAN WAS BLESSED WITH A VERY LIGHT BEARD, FIVE FINCHES, SHORTER, WEIGHED TWENTY POUNDS LESS AND WAS TWO DRESS SIZES SMALLER THAN ME SO I HATED HER IMMEDIATELY. JEAN EXPLAINED THAT SHE LIKELY ONLY NEEDED ONE DAY OF TREATMENT THIS TIME BUT WOULD STAY THRU SUNDAY MORNING TO GET A REDUCED FEE FAIR.



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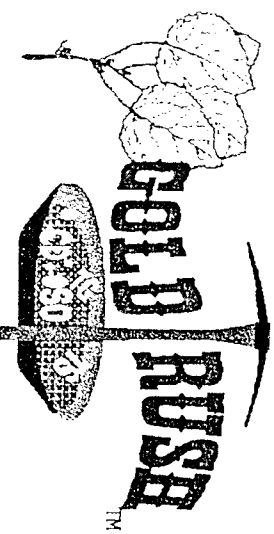
Stapleton Plaza Hotel, Denver, Colorado

September 24-28, 1997

Keynote by Les Feinberg

Sponsored by GDI Enterprises and the

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc.



All Gender Outlaws & Transgender Warriors to attend the

WANTED

Melissa Dixon

Abraham Lincoln - New York City - February 21, 1859
"Let us do our duty and that that faith let us have faith in it."

On Sunday evening, February 23, 1997, 20 transgendered persons gathered in the meeting room of the Quality Inn in College Park, Maryland to begin what was to be a very busy, tiring, and exhilarating two days of visiting our Senators and Representatives to encourage them to include Transgendered Persons in the Economic Empowerment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Of the twenty gathered together Sunday evening, sixteen of us had never done anything like this in our lives.

We divided into six teams, received our assignments, six senators per team. Our goals consisted of encouraging the Senator to continue to support ENDA with Transgendered included but to ascertain where the Senator stood as far as Transgendered persons were concerned. It didn't really come as a surprise to me that the Senators didn't understand the difference between Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered. In speaking to their staff member that was responsible for ENDA, each one was unaware that we were not included because they assumed that we were Gay or Lesbian. This was the perfect stepping stone to explain the differences and educate them about us.

If you think transgender inclusion in ENDA doesn't concern you, that ENDA is only for transsexuals, think again. If passed, the legislation will also cover YOU, the heterosexual crossdresser. For example:

- If you're afraid of your boss finding out you attended a Tri-Ess meeting, ENDA will protect you from being fired just for being a crossdresser.
- If you're afraid that Deputy Barney Fife will tell your boss that you were wearing a dress when he gave you a traffic ticket, ENDA will protect your job.
- If you've ever been called in for emergency weekend work, and discovered traces of fingernail polish after you got there, don't worry. ENDA's provisions will protect you from employment discrimination.

"The Twenty" were just the reconnaissance force to seek out any areas that need to be addressed in May when Gender PAC sponsors the 4th National Transgender Event in Washington, DC (page 37 of Volume 21 Issue 4 of the *Femme Mirror*). Each of you needs to make a very serious effort to attend this event to let our Senators and US Representatives see that we are serious about gaining the basic human rights that they take for granted.

For those of you who cannot attend in May, you need to start giving your financial support. Several of "The Twenty" are in transition and the transportation, room and meals was a major financial burden. They had scraped together every spare penny they could find to attend in February. I know of one who had planned to sleep on the floor because her budget couldn't be stretched to cover a room. These people are working for you! These people are making sacrifices beyond your comprehension. Is it too much to ask that you commit to a \$10 per month contribution to support organizations such as ICTLEP.

NEW Book Announcement

The Bliss of Becoming One

*Integrating "Feminine" Feelings Into the Male Psyche
Mainstreaming the Gender Community*

by Rachel Miller

Author Gives Hope, Encouragement and Direction to Transvestite Members of the Gender Community

Rachel Miller (California) is the author of the recently published *The Bliss of Becoming One* (115 pages, trade softcover, questionnaires, gender-community resources, bibliography, retail price \$12.95).

About the Book

The Bliss of Becoming One is a guide for members of the gender community, their friends and family, and those interested in understanding transvestism and gender issues. Author Rachel Miller describes a shared vision of an open society and steps that can be taken to turn that vision into reality. In this challenging new book, the author dispels myths surrounding transvestites, encourages transvestites to integrate their feminine and masculine traits, advocates transvestites' joining mainstream society, and promotes emotional health, wholeness and unity for transvestites. Transvestite readers will learn to understand themselves better, accept what they find, share what they learn with loved ones, and help others in the gender community — all through application of the Golden Rule.

- Included in *The Bliss of Becoming One*:
- Why read this book: What's in it for you
- Embracing the premise of an open society
- Defining your personal style
- Overcoming the internalized excuses which prevent change
- Countering religious (and other) objections to transvestism
- Understanding the roles of sexuality and emotions
- How to begin to effect a change in current thought through acceptance of yourself, sharing your secret with loved ones, helping others share the vision, and educating the public about the truth of transvestism.

What the Author Says

"Unless you live alone in a cave," Miller explains, "one of your closest friends is a transvestite who is dying inside because he can't tell you. Society tells such men that there is something wrong with them. Therefore, they suppress their true selves and live in anguish and isolation."

"The sum of all 'valid' reasons society uses for discriminating against...transvestites would fit comfortably in a thimble," Miller continues. "We don't have to stay in those constricting closets any longer. The good news is that, for the most part, the perceptions of transvestites are wrong — and they can be fixed. This book will show how to fix them."

About the Author

Rachel Miller is a heterosexual, married man with a high-paying job in a prestigious company. In every way, he is a respected member of the community. You would never guess that he is a transvestite. He hid that fact due to shame and fear of rejection. In desperation, Rachel began a quest for relief that both led to the discovery of the truth about himself and other transvestites and resulted in his writing *The Bliss of Becoming One*.

How to Order the Book from IFGE

The Bliss of Becoming One can be ordered by calling (617) 899-2212. Visa/MasterCard accepted, or by sending a check or money order (made out to IFGE) for \$15.95 (\$12.95 + \$3 shipping and handling) to:

IFGE
The Bliss of Becoming One
P. O. Box 229
Waltham, MA 02554-0229

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)

P. O. Box 229
Waltham, MA 02554-0229
Phone: (617) 899-2212
E-mail: IFGE@world.std.com

NEW YORK SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, Democrat
202/224-6542 or 800/972-3524, VOTED ENDA YES LAST TIME.

Our team visited Ms. Marcia S. Lee. As the meeting progressed, the educating was obvious as she began to understand what our problems are. She stated that she wanted hard copies of actual job discrimination against transgressors. Locals can do a lot to shore this one up with education and visits when Senator is home State during recess. Therefore, your job is — not only but especially, if you live in New York State — to write a simple and courteous one page letter to the Senator with attention to Ms. Lee to inform them of specific employment discrimination that you have faced or fear as a transgendered person.

NEW YORK SENATOR ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, Republican,

202/224-6542 or 800/972-3524, VOTED ENDA YES LAST TIME. This office was too busy for our team to meet with anyone for the two days but a conversation did take place with staffer Bob Gabriel. He asked that our paperwork be left at front desk for his later review. He stated that he was not aware that transgressors were omitted from last ENDA. He said he was not sure if Senator would support a lg-inclusive ENDA because Senator does not really know our people. This is the only potential red flag so far and can be easily cured with education and face to face meetings by constituents. Folks who live in New York State must get active to keep this a yes vote and to insure that it is transgender inclusive. Therefore, your job is — but only if you live in New York State — to write a simple and courteous one page letter to the Senator with attention to Mr. Gabriel to inform them that you are transgender, and a brief synopsis of your employment difficulties or fears of same.

NEW YORK (Rochester) REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, Democrat.

202/225-3615 or 800/972-3524, SPONSORED ENDA LAST TIME IN HOUSE. He indicated that our team had time remaining from its Senate visits and met with Stuart Spencer. He was very informative and had lots of his Representative would probably be transgender inclusive. He was very informative and had lots of tactical ideas to share. Therefore, your job is — but only if you live in New York State — to write a simple and courteous one page letter to the Representative with attention to Mr. Spencer to inform them that you are from their state, that you are transgender, and a brief synopsis of your employment difficulties or fears of same.

A courteous, short, follow-up phone call would help and an appointment to meet your Senator when the Senator is home in your state would be outstanding. **THERE NEEDS TO BE FACES AND STORIES FROM CONSTITUENTS FOR THEM TO LATCH ONTO.**

I know that everyone who is reading this is not in a position to do either of these, however, in every chapter there is at least one sister who is out to her employer, neighbors, etc., who better to make an appointment for a short visit. It certainly would not hurt if some of the wives would call and/or visit. Your Senator and/or Representative has no reason to "out" you, this is not a promise that it would not happen, but making enemies of voters is not the business of a politician.

The full list of all Senators who voted YES for ENDA in 1996 and the full list for Representatives who Sponsored ENDA in 1996 can be found on the ICTLEP WEB Page www.abmail.com/ictlep or if you are on AOL use the KeyWord ICTLEP. Look them up and get in touch with yours if present and talk with him or her about the need to include transgressors in ENDA.

I am well aware that the vast majority of you will give a stifled yawn to this article as well as my other articles on why you need to get involved to fight for basic human rights for all transgendered persons. How many acts of discrimination, harassment, beatings and, yes deaths does it take to make you realize that "Things are not what they seem"? The county that I live in just decided to refuse funding for any group that doesn't fall in line with their concept of "family values". It was started because the religious right was against a Pulitzer Prize winning play about a young gay man with AIDS. Today a play, tomorrow will we *ALL* be driven back into our closets? "Things are not what they seem."

Finally, to those of you who will sit around your support group meetings and say that we are wasting out time, etc., I'd like to quote you an ancient Chinese proverb, "To those who say something cannot be done, you need to get out of the way of those that are doing it."

were representatives from Bi-Net, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Lesbian & Gay Task Force. It was heartening to see so numerous and so diverse a group coalesced on such an occasion.

Ms. Femme Furber

6/97 The Chi Houston

desire for being politically active, and yet I still feel the pull. However, I will try to keep my most strident activist rantings contained to the newsletter articles, lest I appear preachy. Keep in mind, these excursions are not always 'all work and no fun,' as my next article will indicate. Consider taking a crack at lobbying for yourself, and for the rest of the transgendered community.

apparently easy victory. Personally I think that a victory like this, albeit a lesser one, will serve to galvanize self-confidence in the transgendered community, especially for future lobbying attempts.

These and other instances of violence were alluded to in a drafted letter carried by our various groups to both senate and house offices. The letter--addressed to Atty. General Janet Reno--basically asked for inclusion of the transgender category to the HCSA, were to be signed by the supporting legislators in both houses of Congress, and then forwarded to Janet Reno's office. We were able to enlist the support of Rep. Barney Frank, who will draft the letter on the House side, as well as Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Kerrey who will draft the Senate version. Based upon reactions from the various staffers we met with, we came away with an absolute victory. The reason for the easy win was that the members did not have to take a congressional vote to support this, only a signature on a letter to amend an existing act through the Dept. of Justice. For obvious reasons, this garnered us support from members who denied our requests for support on the ENDA bill; thus, the apparently easy victory.

Our approach on for the day on Capitol Hill focused primarily on gaining support for adding a 'transgendered' category to the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HCSA). For those of you unfamiliar with the HCSA, it designates violence against those of a different race, different gender, different religious belief, or a different sexual identity as a hate crime; the FBI then compiles said hate crimes into the various categorical statistics. As it currently stands, the HCSA does not record violence against transgenderers as a hate crime; or, if at all, it records them incorrectly as a gay, or sexual identity hate crime. With so many in the transgendered community who identify themselves as heterosexual crossdressers, as well as the many pre- and post-operative transsexuals who do not identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual, it is necessary to have a separate category for those of us who fall through the statistical cracks--especially considering the severity of those crimes. Some of the most notorious hate crimes included: Brandon Teena, an F2M rape case and subsequent murder victim who received no help from the police in her Nebraska town after reporting the initial rape; Christian Paige, a beautiful M2F from Chicago who was savagely beaten, strangled, and deeply stabbed multiple times by a man who then set fire to her apartment to cover up the crime; and Chanel Pickett, an M2F from the Boston area, strangled to death by her former lover who was only found guilty of assault and battery!

J.C. LOBBYING - PART II

(or HOW DID I END UP HERE AGAIN???)
by Vanessa Edwards

Apologies are in order. Obviously I misspoke on my last column when I assumed that the previous lobbying event would be a one-time affair; thus the title 'Ersatzville Lobbyist's Report,' as in "been there, done that, no plans to go back." In other words, it was history...or so I thought. Not even three months later I find myself back in Washington with apparently very little recollection of what I'd originally planned: do this once and get back to my life. So much for history. I must say that this go-round was much less stressful than the first, though not necessarily much easier...except for finding my way around the city and the senate buildings. We did, however, manage to get lost on one of the three treks traversing the maze of tunnels under the Capitol building, never taking the same route twice. But I digress.

An invitation was extended to attend the May lobbying event by Anne Casebeer of the Bluegrass Belles, with offers to share costs if I would accept. Anne, you may remember, was a very sweet lady whom I'd met on the first lobby event a couple months back, and before I really knew what was happening, I accepted her offer. This particular event occurred May 5 & 6, 1997 and was sponsored by GenderPAC headed by Riki Anne Wilchins of New York. It was a well-attended event with between 50 and 60 individuals from states too numerous to mention. Many recognized names, especially of the East Coast transgendered community, were present for the affair: attorney Dana Presing; Nancy Nangeroni; Alison Laing, head of IFGE; Anne Lawrence; Jessica Xavier, national president of It's Time America; and Tony Barreto-Neto, founder of TOPS--the transgendered police officers' association. Along to document the event in photos was Mariette Patly-Allen, author of the book 'Transformations' and an old friend of mine whom I hadn't seen in over 13 years. We had a wonderful reunion! There were five repeat attendees from the February lobby days: Denise, her S.O. Gayle, and Michelle Hubert all from the Florida panhandles' Pantra group; Anne from the Bluegrass Belles, and of course yours truly. (Guess we're just gluttons for punishment) We also had about half a dozen intersexed (hermaphrodite) individuals among our group, and just as many F2M's. Also along to help us on our initial day of lobbying were representatives from Bi-Net, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Lesbian & Gay Task Force. It was heartening to see so numerous and so diverse a group coalesced on such an occasion.

by Vanessa Edwards

J.C. LOBBYING - PART II

(or HOW DID I END UP HERE AGAIN???)

1. Look for favorite words in the Word List in the Diagram of letters. Find them by reading FORWARD, BACKWARD, UP, DOWN, and DIAGONALLY. The words are always in a straight line and they never skip letters.

Y D D G O W N V O L V A T E W
I G H T F O S V K O T E A W
L I S T C F I N I K I B E
S U R C C M T I N I K I B E
C L D K V V O O N T R I G N E
O H L N L E R P I O T R D Y A
R I E S Y C M F G E M A D Y A
S I M N L H O R M E U A V O L
T I E S Y C M F G E M A D Y A
L E I M V I S O E I E S C A V
E I A F P E B S A V O S N V A
I I V L E I R A V M M A U
T C Y L E I R A V M M A U
S O H Y T A S H S J F S J E H
E S N T I U J S S J O S S J E H
V E T I U J S S J O S S J E H
T E S T I U J S S J O S S J E H
S O H Y T A S H S J F S J E H
I I V L E I R A V M M A U
L E I M V I S O E I E S C A V
R I E S Y C M F G E M A D Y A
O H L N L E R P I O T R D Y A
C L D K V V O O N T R I G N E
S U R C C M T I N I K I B E
I G H T F O S V K O T E A W
Y D D G O W N V O L V A T E W

1-10-97 Janet Ay

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Kudos go out to the various individuals I personally teamed up with. Kris Pratt, a policy advocate with the HRC, and Rosalynne (Roz) Blumenstein, a Rawlsey's beautiful 17-year post-op TS and director with the Gender Identity Project in New York, accompanied me on my earliest visits to the Texas House members Bentsen, Brady, Archer and Jackson-Lee. Personally this team was my favorite as we were a complement to one another and worked together smoothly. Most all of my remaining appointments were with Dr. Kurt Buis, a therapist who works extensively with transgenderers in San Diego. Dr. Buis and I sat in on a meeting at Sen. Specter's office with IFGE's Alison Laing, Valerie Harvey, Ph.D., Shannon Ware of It's Time Missouri, and Angela Bridgman. Also accompanying Dr. Buis and me on some of the later visits were Anne Casebeer from Louisville, and once again Shannon Ware from the St. Louis area. To a person, I was very impressed with everyone I worked with, and we also appeared to leave an equally good impression on all the staffers we visited.

Once again, this goes to show that there are tangible goals that can be attained for the transgendered community, and other goals that must be attained if we are to ever enfranchise ourselves. However, it can't be done if we allow ourselves to rely on a tenacious few to do it for us all. At the risk of sounding ardently activist, we need all the support we can get. Regardless of whether it's monetary, or more importantly warm bodies up on Capitol Hill--or whichever level of government--telling their stories and making their voices heard, we can always use more support. Obviously ICTLEP and GenderPAC will welcome any contributions you can spare--and both are non-profit organizations. Lobbying in person, however, is something that can't be described fully unless one experiences it for themselves. At the risk of sounding trite, it is very empowering--you come away with a real sense of accomplishment. It gets into your blood. Lord knows I never had the desire for being politically active, and yet I still feel the pull. However, I will try to keep my most strident activist rantings contained to the newsletter articles, lest I appear preachy. Keep in mind, these excursions are not always 'all work and no fun,' as my next article will indicate. Consider taking a crack at lobbying for yourself, and for the rest of the transgendered community.



"I told you to sacrifice a GG and not TV Pele will accept no substitutes."

WORD LIST

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Beaumont | 21. Heels |
| 2. Bikini | 22. Hose |
| 3. Blouse | 23. Lace |
| 4. Brassier | 24. Lady |
| 5. Bust | 25. Mascara |
| 6. Camisole | 26. Nightgown |
| 7. Chemise | 27. Nylons |
| 8. Chevalier | 28. Pantyhose |
| 9. Corset | 29. Petticoat |
| 10. Cosmetics | 30. Pink |
| 11. Culotte | 31. Satins |
| 12. Dainty | 32. Scarf |
| 13. Dame | 33. She |
| 14. Dress | 34. Silk |
| 15. Falsie | 35. Skirt |
| 16. Female | 36. Slip |
| 17. Feminine | 37. Transvestite |
| 18. Foundation | 38. Uplift |
| 19. Girdle | 39. Wig |
| 20. Form | 40. Woman |
| 41. Corsetlet | 43. Top |
| 42. Girl | 44. Soft |



SALLY FORTH

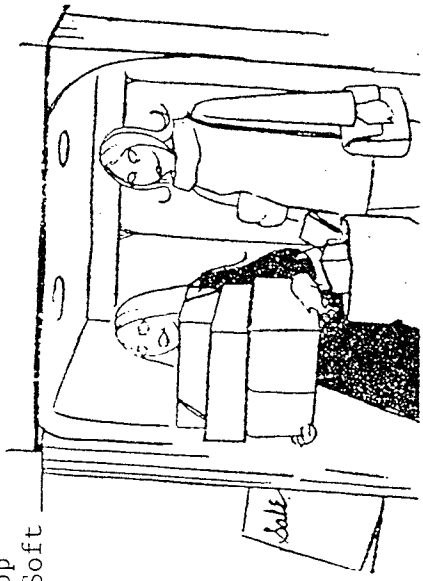
"YOU'RE RIGHT, TED. I HAD A KNEE-JERK REACTION TO YOUR TALKING ABOUT GETTING YOUR EAR PIERCED."

"I DO UNDERSTAND. IN FACT, WHILE YOU'RE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FEMININE SIDE MAYBE I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH MY MASCULINE SIDE."



"C'MON, TEACH ME HOW TO LEAVE WET TOWELS ON THE FLOOR. STANDING."

"I DON'T THINK THIS QUALIFIES AS UNDERSTANDING."



"Oh, Oh. Don't look now but here comes my wife. I told her I was going shopping for a TV set!"

Estate of transsexual with AIDS awarded \$30,000 in prison suit

By DAN HERBECK
News Staff Reporter

A federal jury awarded \$30,000 to the estate of Dana K. DeVilla, a transsexual convict who died of AIDS in Albion State Correctional Facility.

After an unusual trial in which lawyers used a deposition from Ms. DeVilla to help her speak to jurors after her death, the jury found that former women's prison Superintendent Sunny Schriver failed to train her employees properly on the handling of inmates with AIDS.

"I was treated rottenly," Ms. DeVilla said in a transcript read into the court record. "Because I had AIDS, I was to be exploited and made to live like I was a freak." Ms. DeVilla, who died in 1995 at age 36, claimed she was abused and mistreated in the prison, located in Orleans County. The prison has since been the target of numerous other allegations of mistreatment, raised by Amy Fisher and other inmates.

"We're very gratified," said James Ostrowski, who represented Ms. DeVilla's estate with co-counsel Salvatore P. Abbate. "The jury spent a lot of time deliberating this case, and they came to the conclusion that they believed Dana's story. I think Dana would feel she was vindicated."

Assistant State Attorney General Joseph F. Reina said Thursday he is planning to appeal the verdict.

"We feel the verdict goes against the weight of the evidence," Reina said.

Ms. DeVilla claimed prison officials held her up to ridicule by illegally circulating the word that she had AIDS and had undergone sex-change surgeries. Ostrowski read jurors a 200-page transcript from a deposition she gave years ago.

Ms. DeVilla described how she was born as a male in the Bronx and named Kevin Otis. She said she grew up in Westchester County, had a series of sex-change operations in the 1980s. She told how she later moved into a life of crime, passing bad checks and at various times using almost 20 aliases, male and female.

Abbate told jurors that, under state law, prison health officials could not tell anyone — including other prison employees — about Ms. DeVilla's illness.

Ann, just want to see you
us Alone! 6/9/97

ASK ANN

He won't change, she won't leave

Dear Ann Landers: I am a frustrated woman who is married to a cross-dresser. I have read your columns saying some wives and girlfriends enjoy their cross-dressing sweethearts and husbands and promote their "hobby." This certainly is not the case in our house.

For the past several years, I suspected my husband was wearing my clothes. I have had to discard many items that were stretched out of shape or torn. When I couldn't find a bra or a blouse, I knew that "Don" had acquired it.

Our home life is miserable. Don's mother still continues to manipulate him even after all these years. He has never been able to stand up for himself, which infuriates me and has caused some hot arguments. Counselors have suggested I leave him or "take him as he is" because he will never change. We've been married for 25 years, and I don't want a divorce, nor do I want to damage Don's image. His friends and family members hold him in high regard, and the people he works with think he is wonderful.

My woman friends are under the impression that we have the perfect marriage. I don't know what to do, Ann. Our family life is terrible, and I cry a lot.

— Lonely in the Metropole

Dear Metropole: There is no way I can help a woman who tells me her home life is miserable, she is frustrated and unhappy and cries a lot, but she does not want a divorce.

You say counselors have suggested that you accept Don as he is or leave him, but you don't want to do either one. It appears to me that you are going to be miserable either way. Your best bet is to develop some outside interests, stay in therapy, put a lock on your closet door and keep your underwear where Don can't find it.

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO WEAR A PRETTY DRESS?

What would it be like to sit while I pee?
To put ribbons in my hair, without mommy scolding me!
I'm going to have to hide, I guess.
What would it be like to wear a pretty dress?

What would it be like to have a doll of my own?
You know, someone to hug when you feel all alone!
Dad keeps saying to me "You're different than the rest".
But he doesn't know how I look in a dress!

Why can't I play with the girls at school?
Hopscotch and jump-rope seem really cool!
The boys are too rough, and everything is a test.
I wouldn't want them to see me in a dress!

What would it be like to kiss a boy?
To have him call me on the phone, after he walked me home.
Coach says I should play football, a game I detest!
He's trying to stop me from wearing a dress.

What would it be like to make love to a man?
To feel the strength of his arms, and the softness of his hands!
But my marriage is really the best.
She doesn't even mind my wearing a dress!

What would it be like to give birth to a child?
To feel her inside you, while you wait for her smile.
Since the kids have been born, our life has been full of duress.
She doesn't want them to see me in a dress!

Forty years have gone by and I'm still waiting to live.
My thoughts and feelings are mixed, something has to give!
There is no one left to impress.
I spend a lot of time in public wearing a dress.

I'm desperate now, and my back's to the wall.
I feel like a woman, but I'm so damn tall!
The only way to get out of this mess.
Is to change my body to fit this pretty dress!

Charlegne