



# tgic. news

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TRANSGENDERISTS INDEPENDANCE CLUBS

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NOVEMBER-DEC. 90

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: - Tiffane V.**

Hi Ladies!

To start with, we had a special board meeting on October 26th. One of the purposes was to select a new president (as I really have a lot going on in my life at present) and board. For the time being, I will be staying in office (with the help of the rest of the board) as there were no takers. If anyone needs to talk with me, please have them send me a note care of the club or through another board member, or via my private PO Box which is PO Box 418, Glenmount, NY 12077.

On Thursday November 15th we will be holding a Thanksgiving dinner at the club room. Sue has volunteered to donate the Turkey, and Denise and Katherine have volunteered to cook. Please let us know if you plan to attend and if so plan on bringing a dish to pass. Everyone is encouraged to come!

On December 20th we will be holding our annual Christmas party at the TGIC clubroom - all are invited - Katherine will be seeing that the clubroom is decorated, and the club will provide sandwiches and punch. We are asking all to donate a \$10.00 gift if you would like to participate in Santa's grab bag. If you would like to bring chips, dip, or a dish of some sort please let us know. No spirits of any sort are allowed in the TGIC clubroom (sorry).

It has been discussed and agreed that beginning one night a month we will be having a guest speaker or other special presentation. One name that came up was Dr. Goodman a local endocrinologist for many of our people, who Sue and I approached. Unfortunately he felt he could not, but felt that Sue and I would be better for that since we have gone through it. We will be holding this seminar the third Thursday

in January, so if you have considered hormones, plan to attend. Other speakers are being approached for other seminars.

We are trying to put a weekend of snow and fun together for the group to take place in January or February and to be held in the Catskills, perhaps near Woodstock. More details will follow when available.

The time has come. Quite a few members have complained to me about the problem of smoke in the clubroom. In view of the rights of everyone involved, I know we aren't going to make everyone happy, but I have noticed that lately there have been a lot more people smoking and with the weather changing we will not be able to open windows all the time. I would like to ask the smoking members to PLEASE try not smoking during meetings (OUCH). Then again, three to four hours without smoking a week could be healthy to us all, and will show our sisters we care about them. I am not going to say you can't smoke, but if we don't try it will be put to a membership vote. (Editors Note - Our landlord has also asked that groups not congregate outside the club building for the purpose of smoking.. this is in response to requests he had from the police when this happened last spring - JW)

Love and Huggs, Tiffane

**KATHY/KLATCH - Katherine H.**

I'm quite sure that you've heard the one about the fellow who entered a store in town and asked for a Kielbasa. The owner replied with, "You've got to be Polish". The fellow asked how the owner had known that he was Polish, to which the owner answered, "Because this is a hardware store."

Now, my apologies to those of Polish descent, and to those who find ethnic jokes far from funny, but I offer it as an example of a true happening. Several Thursday evenings ago, Patty V. shows up to the rap session carrying a very pretty petticoat. I had to ask where she got it (I confess to a petticoat fetish, or thereabouts) and her reply was, "at a hardware store". Yeah right! I can just picture me, a man desiring to purchase women's apparel, going into a hardware store for petticoats. I see a crowbar upside of my head, but not so, as I was to find out. Being that the power of the petticoat is too strong for me to resist, I drove 20 miles east of Troy on route 2, and there it was, on the right, an honest to goodness hardware store, True Value type, selling square dance outfits, and (oh heavenly rapture) petticoats. 'Tis true.

Inside, to the right of everything a handyman would want, in its own little room, attended by the most pleasant of saleswoman, were dresses, skirts, blouses, shoes, and need I say it again - petticoats! So into your car you must get, and go, to the True Value in Grafton, NY that sells square dance outfits. But don't ask for Kielbasa, this isn't a Polish joke.

On a serious note, I among others, have the very great fear that some members of our club feel as if they are being pushed or pulled toward transsexualism. I for one, do not wish to push or pull anyone anywhere. My journey is not your journey, nor is a journey necessary. I will be most happy to answer questions, as will most others in our club, but only you can decide where, when or even if, you will journey. If you ever feel pressure

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therefore to assume the just because a certain topic is presented in this forum that it is of interest to all people in our community. Articles are selected for inclusion herein due to their timeliness, or general informative or interest nature to some aspect of the gender community. The articles herein do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board of Directors of TGIC. The Board of Directors of TGIC urges anyone interacting with the gender community to use discretion and tolerance in forming opinions of any and all persons as individuals, rather than subscribing to ill-informed and preconceived stereotypical views of any person assumed to be a member of a particular set.

from any of us, let us know, stop us. It is not my intention, nor is it my wish to lead you down any road. The road is yours, and you alone must decide where to stand and when to move.

On another topic, Mariette Pathy Allen's book "TRANSFORMATIONS" is not expected to get another printing. You may be running out of time to get this very fine book. Before it is too late, order it from a bookstore and maybe order from several stores and donate a copy to a local library. I have sued this book to help me tell friends about myself, it makes the outcome more positive, believe me. Let's not let this positive influence slip into history.

The survey questionnaire parties we had late in late September were a huge success. We had a good showing Thursday night, and lesser showings Friday and Saturday nights. We totaled about 20 completed questionnaires, and I handed them directly to Dr. Brown and he about fainted. He was quite pleased with our response, saying that our participation was better than even Bolton & Park. My thanks to Ann for taking on the task of copying the surveys. Should anyone still wish to participate, let me know, we still have some left.

Finally, I just returned from the fantastic Fantasia Fair in P-Town, but I'll have to wait to tell you about it in person, or in the next newsletter. Until then, Love, Kathy Klatch.

#### LETTERS:

Dear Katherine,

It was again a pleasure to meet with you at the 1990 Fantasia Fair.

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Needless to say, I was stunned when you handed me 20 completed questionnaires after my presentation! I want to thank you for your efforts on behalf of what we believe to be meaningful research, and I especially want you to thank the sisters of TGIC for their patience and tolerance with these long survey forms. Your club is probably the BEST represented of any organization to date. Being from the Tri Cities myself, that makes the group's participation level even more satisfying to me. Thank you all!!

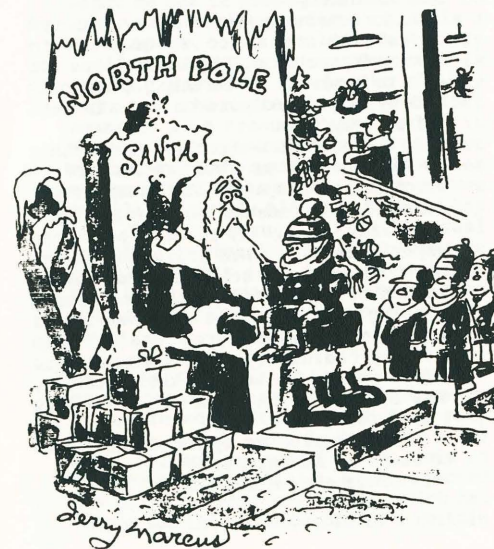
As I mentioned in my last letter, the study is continuing (both the crossdresser and spouse/significant other studies), so any latecomers are certainly welcome to participate anonymously and become a part of all future research projects on other aspects of the crossdressing community automatically, by providing a post office box I can send materials to.

If I am able to make it back to the Albany or Schenectady area, I will try to contact you in advance regarding meeting with your group.

Thank you all again for your interest and support.

Sincerely, George R. Brown, MD

(Additional questionnaires are available



"No, I haven't been a good little boy, but I have been a good little girl."

at the club, please write or pick one up if you haven't already joined in this project - JW)

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Dear Dawn,

I read the articles on your personal exploits with admiration. I'm impressed with your bravery, hard work and results, and your willingness to go public with them. Keep going for it, and good luck although I don't think you'll need it!

I read your latest report in the (July - August) TGIC news with some anxiety, however. To address your complaint, and I'm not looking for a response, I would like to express a view from a different vantage point. You may consider it to be a view from the far back of the closet, but, well, that's where I am. Based on the participation rates vs. the total club membership I may not be the only one in this situation.

Some time back I attended one of your (our) Saturday night club meetings as a male, and met you and several others. I appreciate the way I was received. At the club I expected to meet a bunch of guys in drag, and instead met a bunch of really nice women, some of whom were really good looking. It was rather intimidating. For the standard variety of reasons I cannot pass, never will, and at this point I am unwilling to go to the extraordinary lengths needed for me to be respectable even at a club meeting. There is no way I could attend an event held in public, so while I am glad for your efforts and success in this area, I will not be there.

I continue to belong to the club because I wish to keep up with the news, rooting for those who have gone public or are trying, although I am putting my own personnel efforts in other directions at this time. I also wish by my membership to be counted, and to provide the support and leverage that that gives to those who use the club's name to advance the cause of acceptance. With Love - (anonymous by request)

Dear Anonymous,

Your letter was forwarded to me as editor of the TGIC news without comment, yet I feel I need to comment. TGIC is a support group for ALL crossdressers, fortunately, we are blessed to have some

very talented women in our group. Unfortunately the very concerns you offer are also valid, and we do on occasion, forget that we all went through periods of doubt, and periods where we needed the words, and encouragement of others who similarly experience this need. Sadly, it is only too true that some are more blessed or gifted than others, however, TGIC doesn't run a beauty contest, we don't exist to screen out those who couldn't pass in a dark closet with the light out, we exist to help them accept themselves, their limitations, feel comfortable within the reality of who they are, and offer the opportunity to learn a certain dignity in being themselves in total. The fact that you took the effort to express your views so eloquently indicates to me that you have a lot that you could offer others in our group. I sincerely hope you will reevaluate your decision not to participate, your loss will be sadly missed. With Love - Jennifer W.

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To all my Sisters,

This is an open letter to all my sisters at TGIC. After 25 years of nursing an ulcer, purging (and then replacing!), fighting myself, I've finally come home.

Let me tell all of you a few things about myself. I've always been a "Loner". I was never a "Jock", but I was too wild for the "intellectual type". What I did at night behind my barred bedroom door when I was growing up was my dark secret. It wasn't until I started reading pornography that I found the word "transvestite". I knew, (you discover through locker room humor), that to be a transvestite was "BAD!!".

As I went off to college, 350 miles from home, I discovered resources to maybe find some answers. No such luck. After 2 1/2 years as a psychology major, my questions were still waiting.

I was in Rochester at the time and the gay community is (was?) very powerful there, and there were 2"drag bars". This was as close as I had ever come to finding someone like myself. Some of them helped me to "come out" once or twice, but there was something missing.

In Rochester I met the lovely woman who was to be my wife. After a breath-taking rapid romance, we quickly became immersed in the special problems I have. Rochester water (read polluted with chemicals) irritated my ulcer, but the strange part was that while "dressed", my ulcer calmed down.

That was 2 1/2 years ago, we now have a son, and we're still trying to deal with "the problem". We've gotten so bad at times that I've made serious attempts on my life. In fact, the night I called TGIC, we had a serious blow-out. I hate the other half of me at times (except is it only half?).

Through TGIC and several extended conversations with members... I'm coming to accept myself. There's a new peace in our marriage. There's still a war within us, but it's de-escalated to just occasional battles. The peace within me is being reflected in all parts of my life. Thanks to ALL of you who show that you care and are willing to listen and so much more importantly, love. I still have my question, but now, I can talk to someone who can say "I know what you're saying", and they REALLY do! Thanks once again.

Love Cassy

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Dear Jennifer,

I received your letter and wanted to take this time to write. Due to severe financial difficulties I was not able to renew my membership. I recently had my home foreclosed on and was laid off from my job.

I really miss attending the monthly meetings and I am looking forward to attending once again. The acceptance I received was wonderful and I felt like a real lady. However, I had a really bad experience with a NYS policeman on the way home as I was still dressed when he pulled me over, while returning from a meeting last fall. It was then that I knew that I needed a great deal of help with my femininity. But I am ready to try to become the woman I know I can be, and I am very interested in the big sister program.

I am enclosing my check for \$35.00 to renew my membership.

Sincerely Barbara R.

#### INTERVIEW WITH CHOICES COUNSELING Conclusion - Jennifer [REDACTED]

This is the conclusion of our three part interview with Arlene Istar of Choices Counseling Service, 79 Central Avenue, Albany NY 12206.

**JW:** Why do you feel that a person from the gender community should seek out therapy.

**AI:** Well I don't necessarily think a person from the gender community should seek out therapy, unless they're needing therapy, and it doesn't have to be around gender issues either. See that's the other thing... if a person goes to therapy for example to quit smoking cigarettes, and you go to see a regular therapist, you're going in there for one very specific thing, and the therapist is saying "AH-ah! I've got a kook here on my hands who will let me deal with all these deep psychological issues and see if I can fix and cure this person. Where I think that one of the things that we offer is just the acceptance. No one wants to come into therapy to deal with relationship issues or recovery issues, or to deal with violence or to deal with child sexual abuse, or the other issues we deal with, or depression, it doesn't necessarily have to be linked to gender issues... it might be but it doesn't have to be. So that what we're offering I think is a safe space. But we are certainly willing to work with someone who is dealing with the confusion or the anger, or the depression of what that means to be a transgendered person in this society. I would guess that a lot of the people who want to come in to see a therapist... its not the gender issues at all. Of my gay clients, I would say that 50% are struggling with sexual identity, another 50% come to me because they know this is a safe place to be gay, and they are just coming to deal with their relationship, or the child-rein.

**JW** A lot of people in the transgendered community are to an extent homophobic. I mentioned earlier about how they struggle, often early in life, with the fact that society perceives any male in a dress as gay, and they have rejected the fact that they may be gay, which has reinforced their homophobia to a certain

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extent. Would you have any words of wisdom or assurance to people who may be hesitant to come here for example to the women's building?

AI Because we're gay?

JW Because you're gay, because you deal primarily with a gay clientele. We have people in our club who, for example won't come to our monthly social at the 145 club because its a gay bar, even though we meet there before the general public is allowed entrance, because they know its a known gay hangout.

AI Right, I think there needs to be some unity between the gender community and the gay communities because our numbers are small, and the KKK's numbers are large. The stats are really frightening on how big and dangerous the enemy really is.

JW The enemy here is really bigotry, bias and misunderstanding.

AI Right, which is reinforced by religious teachings, and politics. I see very much that there are dangers out there that would like to see people like you and people like me ... killed. Like put them on an island and exterminate them or get rid of them or liquidate them. (Arlene is referring to the number of bias related crimes which are on the upswing throughout New York - ed) So I'm a real believer in unity, that when groups that are oppressed unite with one another, the forces are large enough, that we can really make the changes. One of the things I fight the most is the prejudice within the gay community. I think there is a kind of movement within the gay community... what I call an assimilationist move... that says "we're lesbians, and we're in a monogamous relationship and we have children and we're just happy and we live in suburbia, and we have nothing to do with those wierdo's". The assimilationists seem to believe that transgendered people, transvestites or the S/M leather community are ruining the gay community's chance to fit into the American dream. And I'm really opposed to that whole movement of assimilating ourselves and saying "well we're normal", which assumes that other

parts of our community are not; its a very frightening change I'm seeing in the gay community. Sort of moving back. What I would like to see is moving ahead to a bigger unity between transvestites, and drag queens and all these "Titles" that we use for people.

JW We've gotten into a lot of discussion about labels in our community also.

AI I was taking a class at SUNY on working with gay and lesbian clients, and we watched the movie Torch Song Trilogy, and we had a very interesting conversation about the distinction between female impersonators, drag queens, transvestites, and transsexuals. And the question came up about what was Harvey Firestein in the movie. Was he a drag queen, was he... you know it was interesting watching straight people and gay people struggle with these labels.

JW You can get into a lot of mental acrobatics trying to figure those out because you do have a lot of overlap. Especially when you are confusing gay and straight with transvestite and transsexual. Drag queen is generally used to indicate a transvestite from a gay background. etc. Arlene, I would like to thank you for taking the time to talk with us, I hope you will be seeing some of our members visit you.

AI Thank you.

JW One of the problems we have in the gender community is the public image of transgendered people. With the exception of a few people who have written books, like Jan Morris, Rene Richards, Christine Jorgensen and some of the others, the image that the public has of our community is derived largely from The National Inquirer, or what literature they might see in adult bookstores... the chicks with dicks type stuff. They don't realize that by and large, what they see on Donohue, Sally or Oprah is a more accurate presentation of what our community is about. We have relationships, we have a lot of good hard working people, and a lot of them go through a TREMENDOUS denial stage. And its just hard to get them to a point where they will even

seek out therapy. They subvert how they feel about themselves for years. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

AI: Not that I can think of off hand, I'm certainly very open to working with people from the gender community



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## THERE A GENETIC CAUSE FOR TRANSEXUALISM?

Copyright 1990 - Sarah Seton, M.D.

Sarah Seton, M.D., is a resident psychiatrist at a major California medical center and works with transsexuals in her practice. Her interests in addition to gender include pediatric psychiatry. Besides her medical training, she holds degrees in philosophy, computer science and electrical engineering.

A major breakthrough in the understanding of sexuality has occurred with the appearance of four scientific articles in Nature, Vol 346, 19 July, 1990. These articles report for the first time the isolation of a novel family of embryonically expressed genes responsible for sex determination in humans and mice. In addition, a human sex-determining gene which encodes for a protein with similarity to a conserved DNA-binding motif has been discovered. I will attempt in the following review article to explain the significance of this achievement and how it changes the way we will think about transsexuality in the future.

It has long been known that Nature creates females unless some unknown mechanism of sex-determination is activated to make males. In 1959, geneticists showed for the first time that this male-determining mechanism is located somewhere on the Y-chromosome of mice and men. Seven years later, the search was narrowed to the short arm Yp of the Y-chromosome. Next, a highly conserved and repetitive DNA sequence sex-specific in snakes was discovered but this sequence was barely represented in the human Y-chromosome. From 1966 to 1976, an hypothesis held sway that the histocompatibility antigen H-Y found in males was the primary testicular determining factor; it was thought that once the primitive gonad was triggered by this antigen to form the testis, maleness followed. Eicher in 1979, isolated the H-Y antigen in humans for the first time and showed that in male-to-female transsexuals, the H-Y antigen

blood levels were lower than in normal males and in female-to-male transsexuals, H-Y antigen levels closely approximated normal males. However, these results were disputed by other researchers in 1981 who found no such correlation in transsexuals. What finally killed the H-Y antigen hypothesis was the discovery of mice that had testicles but lacked H-Y antigen.

In 1971, the sex-reversal phenomenon was discovered: a fully developed male with XX-chromosomes, the genetic endowment of females. Since that time, phenotypically normal females were found with XY-chromosomes, the genotype of males. By 1984, there were so many cases found that the prevalence was estimated to be one in twenty thousand births -- fairly common. While these sex-reversal patients are sterile in many cases, they have all the sexual characteristics of the opposite genetic sex; there has been one case reported in the literature of an XY-female bringing a normal infant to term with the help of hormone therapy.

With so many sex-reversal patients, geneticists were able to study the nature of this phenomenon. They found in the case of XX-males that a crossover in Yp to Xp during paternal meiosis occurs which effectively places the male sex-determining factors on the X-chromosome(s). These segregate into the haploid zygote as a modified X which when combined with the maternal X at conception creates a fetus with an XX-genotype containing the genes crucial for differentiation of gonads into testes instead of ovaries. In the XY-female, the opposite occurs by deletion of the crucial portions of the Y-chromosome. The mutation is heritable and segregates exclusively with the Y-chromosome; in fact, offspring of these females have frequent non-disjunction and often produce XXY daughters and XYY sons. Genetic analysis of the mutated Y-chromosome shows that there are no gross deletions or rearrangements and no loss of Y-specific gene functions apart from testis determination.

By deletion analysis of XX-males

in 1986, the testes determining factor (TDF) was further narrowed to the interval 1 of Yp near the pseudo-autosomal X-Y pairing and exchange region at about the center of Yp. By 1987, an XX-male came along with the only Y-chromosomal regions outside the pseudo-autosomal region comprising intervals 1A1 and 1A2 and an XY-female patient with a translocation between the Y-chromosome and autosomal 22 (X,t(Y;22)) who lacked only 1A2 and 1B regions; hence TDF appeared to be in 1A2, a 140 kilobase long region, which when isolated and cloned was found to be a gene which varied little in other species, indicating its importance in evolution. The new gene was dubbed ZFY for the zinc-finger protein that it expressed on translation; the protein has six amino-acids which have residues which bind a zinc ligand and appear to function as a DNA binding transcription regulator. ZFY looked like a candidate for the putative TDF until three XX-males and one XX-intersex were found in 1989 who lacked the ZFY gene. All three men, however, had segment 1A1, another 140 kilobase segment, and showed abnormal reproductive tracts suggesting that they lacked genes for completely normal sexual development while being unquestionably men. In addition, the ZFY gene in mice (Zfy) proved to be associated with germ cells and not the crucial somatic cell lines responsible for testes determination. Therefore, ZFY was not TDF but TDF was located somewhere in 1A1.

We mentioned above the XY-female with an X,t(Y;22) translocation who had 1A1 but not 1A2 or 1B regions. If we are now saying that the putative TDF lies somewhere in 1A1 and this female had 1A1, then why wasn't she male? The answer is that further study of this XY-female's chromosomes showed a second deletion involving just that part of 1A1 detected in XX-males which was deleted along with a considerable portion of the adjacent pseudo-autosomal pairing and exchange region.

These 140 kilobases in 1A1 were subsequently refined down to a 60 kilobase subsegment of 1A1 using newer DNA

markers on the above three men. By 1990, the region containing TDF was narrowed further to the distal 35 kilobases of 1A1, then to a 2.1 kilobase sequence (pY53.3) containing two nested open reading frames, the inner one being a single copy gene less than 250 bases long called the SRY gene or sex-determining region of Y. There is no other open reading frame in the 35-kilobase testes determining region of the human Y-chromosome than this conserved motif; however, small exons apposed to repetitive sequences may have been undetected by researchers.

The 80 amino-acid protein that this SRY gene encodes is highly conserved in evolution (90% identity), being found in mating yeast *S. pombe* (Mc protein) through mammals to man. This conservation in the face of divergent evolution from yeast to man underscores the 237 base pairs as an important functional domain. The protein is homologous with nonhistone nuclear proteins called High Mobility Group proteins which function as DNA-binding transcription factors (HMGI and HMG2) associated with transcriptionally active chromatin. Furthermore, the protein is homologous with the human Upstream Binding Factor (hUBF), a type-one RNA polymerase, responsible for transcription of sequence-specific DNA regions.

Cloning the DNA sequence Sry in mice corresponding to the SRY gene in humans reveals 80% homology with the human sequence over 237 bases and when expressed as a protein corresponds to the 80 amino acids from fission yeast. Even more fascinating is the close homology to four genes on autosomal chromosomes (p4.2.2 for example on chromosome 4) which express the same 80 amino acid motif; these autosomal genes are expressed at 8.5 days post conception in the mouse. This motif constitutes a gene family scattered across the murine genome doing many different jobs related to sex differentiation.

The Sry in mice and SRY in humans is expressed in the adult testis but nowhere in ovary, lung, or kidney. It is expressed for the first time at 11.5 days post conception in the mouse

along the urogenital ridge, location of the primitive gonads, at a time and place of testis determination. The gonad is composed of four cell lines: supporting cells, steroid producing cells, connective tissue cells and germ cells. The ovarian pathway can be thought of as the default pathway -- Nature makes females.

The consequence of TDF (Tdy in mice) gene expression switches the fate of the supporting cell precursors in the indifferent gonad of the urogenital ridge from that of follicle cells to Sertoli cells thereby changing the sexual fate of the offspring from female to male. Tdy must act in concert with other regulatory molecules responsible for the formation of the urogenital ridge and then for gonad development itself.

Under the influence of Sry, supporting cells differentiate into Sertoli cells, steroid producing cells into Leydig cells, germ cells into mitotic arrest, and supporting cells into the connective tissue and blood vessels which eventually form the mature testis. The characteristics of male development appear in mice at 12.5 days post conception as the Sertoli cells proliferate and form the testicular cords. In the female (default) pathway, in the absence of TDF, germ cells enter into meiosis, follicle cells differentiate and aggregate around oogonia and steroid producing cells give rise to theca cells. Connective tissue cells do not need to organize to form the early ovary. Germ cells are not required for testis development but are for development of ovaries, suggesting dependence on genetic expression from the germ cells in the phenotypic female. Thus, sex differentiation and sexual dimorphism among mammals is tantamount to testis determination.

At present, SRY (Sry) is the most promising candidate for the TDF (Tdy) gene yet discovered. Further proof will require insertion of an Sry gene spliced into the genome of an XX mouse and observing whether the mouse changes sex into a male. If it does, it will be proof that the Sry is the Tdy

gene. If, however, the mouse does not change sex, it would not disprove the hypothesis but rather indicate that there are other genes involved on the Y-chromosome or that the transgene was implanted too late for the critical period of testes differentiation. Similarly, a copy of a Tdy mutant gene knocking out the Sry by genetic recombination in an XY mouse thereby producing a phenotypic female would be hard to dispute.

The implications of this research are immense. Once the TDF gene is cloned, it can be used as a probe to decipher the entire functional and structural biochemistry of sexual dimorphism in all mammals including humans. The TDF gene, by encoding for a DNA-binding protein, may be at the start of a regulatory cascade of gene expression existing across the genome involving autosomal as well as sex chromosomes. Since an ensemble of genes appears to be involved, mutation, deletion or transposition of one of these individual genes may lead to a defective protein or enzyme that would lead to incomplete expression of normal sexual development. As in the case of sex-reversals, we would understand intersexed syndromes as incomplete expression of certain steps in the cascade. In fact, the incomplete sexual development of the brain of transsexuals may be found to be the absence or presence of certain genes in the cascade responsible for triggering the formation of neural patterns corresponding to gender identity and behavior appropriate to the opposite reproductive tract.

Once the TDF is positively identified, monoclonal antibodies can be formed and tagged with fluorescent dyes that indicate the presence of the genes crucial in the formation of gender identity and thereby a blood test could be created for transsexuals, ending once and for all the problem of independent verification for gender dysphoria. Using recombination of mutant genes or splicing of genes in the cascade, it will be possible to knock out maleness to create females or cause testes to form from ovaries creating males from

females; in other words, the sex of your child would be made to order.



"AND TO THINK YOU AND I  
ONCE PLAYED FOOTBALL WITH  
HIM."

**SHOPPING NOTES:** - Jennifer [redacted] Recently, as you know I had a presentation to make to the National Association of Social Workers. Checking my wardrobe before the presentation, I discovered I needed a professional look and that my wardrobe was sadly lacking in this area. With checkbook in hand I jumped in the car and headed out to my best new find...

**ONE STOP SPORTSWEAR** - located off of Central Avenue in the Colvin Center (behind Denny's) in Albany, as well as in the Barbizon Plaza on Wolfe Road, OSS is the discontinued outlet for such stores as WeatherVane, Peter Harris, Avon and many more. Values there include such hits as Three pairs of slacks for \$10.00, two blouses for \$10.00, Suits for \$20.00, expensive dressy blouses for \$10.00 each, and jeans for \$10.00 each. (I saw one blouse in Calcoors one week for \$25.00 and bought it the next week at OSS for \$10.00, I saw a pair of jeans in Penneys catalog for \$30.00 and bought them at OSS for \$10.00) styles and selection are constantly changing and it merits a weekly stop.

But, no Professional looks I liked in my size! So... off to Gloria Lauren to check out the fall selection... GL had

some great clothes as always, and they are always very helpful, but alas, nothing in a price I could afford (sigh), but Jane the sales clerk there suggested Peter Harris Plus (I didn't know PH had a plus store)....

PH Plus, 952 Troy Schenectady Road is located on route 7 west of I-87 in Latham. THIS STORE IS GREAT!!!! Bonnie Plaza, the manager made apologies for not being able to allow me to use the common dressing room (a favorite sore point with me) but was very helpful otherwise. Their number is 783-1938 and they will arrange private hours (prior to opening in the mornings preferably). The clothes were gorgeous, of better quality and selection included both professional and casual looks. I bought a burgundy blazer and fantastic print skirt, but decided against a beautiful but rather pricey blouse...

So it was off to Cramer's Half Size shop in Stuyvesant Plaza. Although some of the sales clerks there seemed a little uneasy, they were very helpful, and I located just the blouse I wanted, as well as a great drop neck sweater in custy rose, a necklace and earrings to complete my outfit. Prices are in the moderate to high range, and they have a fair selection of shoes and boots in wide sizes up to 13 at the back of the store. Selection is great from casual to very dressy and formal.

My outfit complete I was ready to bowl them over in Saratoga. A few days later however, I discovered a new store in the Windsor Plaza (the new Shop & Save Plaza on Wolfe road) Its called BeautiFULL Woman and it has great formal and better quality casual looks for reasonable prices. I didnt get a chance to talk with the sales people there as they were quite busy, and I really didn't need what they had for sale, but its worth a look see.

## Police try to ID man in chimney

### Face of skeleton in woman's attire is reconstructed

By MICHAEL C. BUELOW  
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — With the help of Smithsonian Institution anthropologists, police have reconstructed the face of a cross-dressing man whose skeleton was found in a chimney last year.

It is, investigators hope, the first step toward identifying the man and possibly tracking down his killer. Authorities doubt that the man climbed into the chimney voluntarily; it is more likely, apparently, that he was killed and stuffed in a place where he wouldn't be found for a long time.

How long, no one is sure. "There was no skin or muscle left. Based on the damage to the clothes, he could have been there between two months and two years before the bones were found," Police Detective James Grann said.

The skeleton of the slim man clad in a woman's dress was found Sept. 3, 1989, by the owner of the Good 'N Loud Music store near the University of Wisconsin's main campus.

The shop owner was removing a basement boiler from his chimney when he found a human skull. An excavation crew opened the base of the chimney and found the full skeleton clad in a paisley-print sleeveless dress, dark shag sweater and medium-heeled shoes.

With the help of forensic dentists and pathologists, police determined the man was white, slender, about 5 foot 5 inches tall, had straight brown hair and was between the ages of 18 and 22.

Beyond that, his identity and cause of death remain a mystery.

"We don't know if the chimney was the death scene. We don't know if he was put in there or jumped. We don't know when it happened. We just don't know whether this was accident, homicide or otherwise," Grann said.

There has been speculation that the man may have been the victim of another man who turned violent after discovering that his date wasn't a woman. That theory is derived from two breaks in the skeleton's pelvis, suggesting someone may have stomped on it.

Grann said he couldn't confirm any theories without more evidence, but he acknowledged that the breaks apparently resulted from blows to the front of the body. "It may have been from a stomping or from entering the chimney," he said.

Several months ago, police sent some of the remains to the FBI, which uses experts at the Smithsonian in Washington to reconstruct facial likenesses from skeletal remains.

Anthropologists placed some skin on the bones and produced two renderings complete with facial features.

Detectives plan to distribute a computer sketch and a clay sculpture throughout the city in hopes of jogging someone's memory.

## Classical Gas

When the San Francisco Symphony staged a 70th-birthday performance for violinist Isaac Stern last week, a graceless ballerina tiptoed onstage and picked up a cello to perform in Saint Saens's "Carnival of the Animals." It was renowned cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. "I will only do this twice in my life," Rostropovich said later. "Yesterday was both times—the first and the last."



# Fretting over fashion and 5 o'clock shadow

## Cross-dressers hold conference

By Sue Weibezahl Naylor  
Staff Writer

JoAnn Roberts' leather skirt squeaks as she shifts in her chair. She adjusts a shoulder pad with a practiced hand tipped by long red nails.

"One of the things we're concerned with is covering a beard," said Roberts, a Philadelphia man attending a weekend celebration of transvestism at the Quality Inn North in Syracuse.

"JoAnn" is the name Roberts' coined for his alter ego. His first choice was Roxanne.

"I wanted to shorten it to Roxie, but my wife thought that sounded too trashy," said Roberts, whose real first name is Joseph Anthony. "This way, she can call me Joe, no matter how I'm dressed."

Concealing five o'clock shadow, choosing flattering wigs and the emotional ramifications of cross-dressing were some of the issues discussed by the participants.

They came from as far away as New York City and Boston, some 65 cross-dressers ranging in age from the early 20s to the mid-60s,

hoping to meet others with similar interests. This was the first weekend-long meeting of EON — Expressing Our Nature — a Syracuse-based group of transsexuals, transvestites and their supporters.

Because many of those attending have not yet told family and friends of their desire to wear women's clothes, they asked that only their "feminine names" be used.

"Charliss," a co-founder of EON, said the group was formed about 10 years ago and new members are screened carefully.

"It's not an opportunity for sexual solicitation," he said. "It's a support group; an education group."

Charliss, who is more than 6 feet tall, wore low-heeled black pumps. Her lavender blouse and flared black skirt were set off by leopard print earrings and a jangly gold bracelet.



AARON GOODMAN/Contributing photographer

JOANN ROBERTS, left, publisher of Lady Like magazine and Terry M., pose before a display of wigs available to cross-dressers.

"Most people have been doing this most of their lives," he said. "We are not a recovery group. We're not trying to correct something. We focus on people's self-image, their fear of public opinion. We're different. We kind of bend the cultural mores. People find it difficult to accept."

Transvestites could "wait for the day society accepts us," Charliss said, "but that would be waiting for people to change their minds on their own. That doesn't usually happen very quickly."

David Duerr, general manager of the hotel, said the weekend confab didn't present any unusual problems.

"They're people — we plan for them just like everyone else," Duerr said.

"We don't discriminate," he said. "Their money is green."

The group had several rooms reserved at the motel — one for a cosmetic artist to do "make-overs," one to register new arrivals, and one to display the paraphernalia necessary to make a convincing transformation.

A folding table was lined with pairs of synthetic breasts in all shapes and sizes.

Some cross-dressers prefer plastic bags filled with birdseed, JoAnn said, "but that makes noise when you move and you always run the risk of birds attacking you when you go outside."

On another table, dozens of wig stands were set up with different styles and colors ranging from

platinum blonde to auburn, black and frosted.

Fifteen years ago, the U.S. had 12 groups for transvestites and now there are 97, said George Cook, who had been a funeral director in Indiana until discovering a need to express his feminine side.

Now "Yvonne" wears a stylish red skirt and blazer, coordinated necklace and bracelet and discusses the goals of the International Foundation for Gender Education in Boston, where he works as director of operations.

Yvonne's girlfriend is also a cross-dresser. A woman, she dresses as a male in her "Dan" persona.

"This is a phenomena that hits every social and economic strata and most cultures in the world," Dan said. "It's not discriminatory. It hits the whole spectrum of society."

JoAnn said his teen-aged children are so accepting of his cross-dressing, his daughter offers wardrobe tips and even borrows some of his clothes.

"I do have to work on my walk, though," he said. "It's a conscious effort to remember to sway my hips — otherwise I look like a football player."

# Daily Freeman

Kingston, N.Y. Friday, September 14, 1990

## Some men dress up for happiness

### Transsexuals, cross-dressers seek strength, with self-help

By BLAISE SCHWEITZER  
Freeman staff

**D**RINKING diet soda, and munching on sand wiches, the support group that met last Thursday on the third floor of an Albany walk-up didn't look so different from any other. Except that some of the men in the group answered to names like Tiffane and some wore dresses and padded bras and some of the men wore brassieres to support breasts growing as a result of hormone therapy.

Only one biological woman, Beth, attended with her husband to take part in the Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC) meeting to try to deal with her husband's confusing urge to dress as a woman.

As the meeting got underway, group members introduced themselves, told what sort of gender orientation each of them has and why each takes part in the group. The group allowed a reporter at a meeting to help with public awareness, and to give others with gender-conflict problems a way to find out about the TGIC. A smaller, smaller group exists in New Paltz. It is called Transgender Network, but members there were wary about publicity for security and anonymity reasons, and would not allow a reporter to sit in on a meeting.

Some support-group members called themselves cross-dressers or transvestites — men who occasionally give in to the urge to dress as women. Others said they are transsexuals and believe themselves to be psychologically female but physically male.

At the meeting, several members talked about how far along they are toward undergoing gender re-assignment (sex change) operations. One man, wearing a black multi-pocketed jacket and a green blouse part open to expose the swell of his breasts, has been taking female hormones for nearly a year. Wearing red perfume and a streaked wig, he admitted to being older than 25 years old and is a slender 5'10". He said he plans to have a sex-change operation at the very first opportunity.

How about tonight? said Katherine, a transsexual and father of two. Tiffane Vrooman, meanwhile, joked about a lawn-care implement that might be used as an ad-hoc surgical instrument. Vrooman, the pre-term president of TGIC, is also waiting until he is allowed to have the surgery. He said a sense of humor is vital to the process.

Before the male-to-female sex-



Tiffane Vrooman, left, pre-term president of Transgenderist Independence Club, in Albany, is planning on having a sex-change operation. Eric Casse, right, is afraid his marriage will break up because of his gender-identity confusion. A New Paltz group with similar goals, Transgender Network, was hesitant about allowing a reporter to sit in on their meetings.

change operation, transsexuals must live as women for a year and get letters of approval from two psychiatrists — for a psychologist and a psychiatrist and an endocrinologist who keeps track of the hormone therapy.

Some of the men, such as Tiffane and Casse, dress full-time as women in preparation for sex change operations. Others, like Tiffane and Casse, dress only on special occasions.

Tiffane is a nurse. Others in the group, cross-dressers, only dress as women for group meetings or outings. Some of the group members fall in between the two classifications, sometimes transsexuals who are not planning on surgery call themselves trans-

sexuals, virtually all of the time as the other sex according to Peo, but receive "no obvious sexual arousal" from dressing as women. "Perhaps one person in 50,000 has these feelings," several thousand people have had sex-change operations, but are no longer capable of reproductive function.

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### Network news

For information about the New Paltz area group Trans Gender Network, write to PO Box 177, Tiltons, N.Y. 12466-0177.  
For info about the Albany Transgenderist Independence Club, write P.O. Box 13664, Albany N.Y. 12212, or dial (518) 436-4513.

they experienced before they found ways to accommodate their cross-dressing or transsexual urges. Casse and his wife, Beth, agreed to their fears the problem may break up because of Casse's gender confusion. He hasn't yet decided if he is a cross-dresser or a transsexual. Now, with the support of TGIC, he feels he can get his life back together. "It's a 100-mile drive to Albany," he said. "But it's worth it."

Before joining the group he was unhappy because of his gender confusion. He stated his wife, "Just knowing I'm not alone" was enough for some relief, he said. Another group member, Barbara from Marlboro, has lost several jobs because he had so much trouble dealing with his gender identity. Now, with the support of TGIC, he feels he can get his life back together. "It's a 100-mile drive to Albany," he said. "But it's worth it."

Trouble finding help

He said he hopes he can come up with the money required to have the sex-change operation, but said the money (minimum \$15,000) required to go through the sex change will take time to get together.

Members of the group have had trouble finding effective professional help. When Beth and her husband sought marriage counseling, the therapist didn't touch on Casse's gender identity problems as part of the counseling process, and ended up doing the couple more harm than good, according to the couple.

Therapist Roger Peo of Poughkeepsie said many of his colleagues consider the problems of cross-dressers and transsexuals as if they are dealing with disease. He cured rather than live with problems to be cured with Transsexualism is considered a mental disorder. It's the American Psychological Association, and the creators' problems within the subculture because their transsexuals don't consider themselves as having a mental problem," he said.

Peo said he would have to say yes, although I don't 10 percent believe that," he said. He said "Yes, you don't look that bad," Dave said.

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### Many cross-dressers dress as women to escape the pressures of the masculine gender role.

Many of the reasons of the group exist in both cross-dressers and transsexuals cope with lifestyle difficulties, and how to — or whether to — ignore famous members of what is going on in their lives. About 85 percent of the group is comprised of cross-dressers, according to Dave, a cross-dresser who has been president of the Albany-based group for about three years, but is now an activist. He said cross-dressers are even more wary about publicity than transsexuals, so fewer were in attendance last Thursday.

THANKS TO: KATHERINE, MELISSA, TIFFANE, DAN, & LIFE FOR CLIPPING

Transsexuals seek strength with self-help ... page 8



Pen said that therapists who classify people into one of two distinct gender classifications are ineffective. "There have been some pretty strenuous things done in the name of therapy to try to 'cure' people," he said. "Cruel and unusual," aversion therapy as well as testosterone therapy has been attempted, he said. Talking about "curing" persons with such orientations is holding out false hope.

TGIC directs new group members to health professionals that other members have had good experiences with.

TGIC produces a newsletter which includes legal updates and advice on how to legally change names and identity papers and anecdotes of club members' experiences finding work, which can be difficult. They also issue a listing of stores that are sensitive to the needs of cross-dressers and transsexuals.

Group members talked about the relief they felt in finding a place where they feel at home, and meeting people like Dave/Dawn, who sing marriage together. But other cross-dressers and transsexuals talked of the problems they face in their lifestyles.

Rachel (whose lesbian and social-security-card name bear his female name) became nervous as he talked about losing a woman lover because he was intent on going through with the lifestyle change, and the sex-change operation. He now considers himself bisexual.

And even with the support of the group, Beth said she thinks she may lose Casanova/Eric, the father of her 9-month-old son, if he goes deeper into cross-dressing or transsexualism. "That fear is still there," she said.

Outside of the comfortable confines of the apartment where the group meets, members still fear losing jobs or being found out by gawkers on the street. Several talked about being harassed in public ways of being pointed out as different, despite assurances from members "Little kids are your worst enemies," said Casanova/Eric. "Kids are so observant."



## From Masculine to Feminine

And All Points In Between

By Jennifer Anne Stevens

Cost \$19.95 + \$3.50 shipping and handling

Different Path Press  
P.O. Box 251 Harvard Square  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238

A Practical Guide  
for Transvestites, Cross-Dressers,  
Transgenderists, Transsexuals, and others  
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## Craig Russell, 42; Did Impersonations Of Female Film Stars

TORONTO, Oct. 31 (AP) — Craig Russell, who delighted and sometimes shocked audiences with his impersonations of Mae West, Judy Garland and Peggy Lee, died Tuesday night at Toronto Western Hospital. He was 42 years old.

He died of a stroke resulting from AIDS, said Lucie Baistrocchi, a spokeswoman for the hospital.

Mr. Russell was born in Toronto and became interested in show business after a brief meeting with Miss West in 1965. At the age of 17, he moved into her house in Los Angeles and worked as her part-time secretary. He left several months later, apparently after a dispute, and returned to Toronto to study hairdressing. He remained a fan, however, and years later the walls of his apartment remained covered with memorabilia given to him by the actress.

He made his first stage appearance in 1970 when he impersonated Tallulah Bankhead at a gay club in Toronto. For years he was among the best-known female impersonators in North America.

His performance in the 1977 film "Outrageous," in which he played a flamboyant drag queen, won Mr. Russell the awards for both best actor and best actress at the Virgin Islands Film Festival.

His career soured when a four-city tour of Western Canada in 1981 was canceled after Mr. Russell undressed onstage and threw wigs and jewelry at the audience. He was later barred from a talk show in Vancouver.

Mr. Russell recently released a record album featuring a song titled "Glamour Monster." Gino Empry, his manager and publicity agent, said profits from the record would go to AIDS research.

He is survived by his wife, Lori Jenkins, a fan whom he married in 1982.

BEAUTY SALON  
WE HELP TV'S  
IF POSSIBLE



"PLEASE DO SOMETHING WITH MY FACE, MARIE."

THIS ISLAND

## A Real Man's Real Woman



THE MAN dancing in front of us was a better woman than a woman. He was lip-synching "My baby does the hanky panky," and strutting about the runway in spike heels and black net stockings. He had long shapely legs and round breasts and curvaceous hips, and he moved them with an abandon and an energy that I envied. For one thing, he had a far more perfect body than most women. But it was more than that.

Here was a man completely unafraid of his sexuality. Or should I say, a woman unafraid of her sexuality? The way she made love to the audience, staring boldly into our eyes, and seducing us with her smile, was rather unsettling. It was impossible to watch this man — turning us on, as a woman — without having the whistle blown, so to speak, on all sexual roles.

I was at the 25th Miss Fire Island Contest at The Ice Palace, in Cherry Grove. I spent the day talking to female impersonators, and mingling with the gays and lesbians who, here, are free to kiss and hug in public, acting as "effeminate" or as "masculine" as they please. The show and the crowd combined to beg the question: What is a man, and what is a woman, if the men I watched that day — who've crossed the boundaries of society's taboos — could act such perfect women?

"A lot of women don't know how to be women," said Arian Legga West, relaxing in his dressing room, after "Hanky Panky." His wig — a cascade of auburn curls — was draped over a shelf, and he'd pulled his brown hair into a ponytail. He'd slipped out of his net stockings into flowered pants and a matching bikini top.

It occurred to me how self-assured he was, how like a man to be able to sit before me, so nonchalantly, exposing his breasts, combing his hair, adjusting his crotch. It's more like a woman to feel half-ashamed of her body, because it isn't perfect, because men — or the ideal they've created — demand such perfection. But Arian's every gesture seemed to say, take it or leave it, I couldn't care less. I know who I am, and that person defies categories.

Ten years of hormones have given him a woman's breasts and hips, and his makeup — emphasizing eyes and lips and cheekbones — was sensually female. But he's stopped short of a sex change.

What if there were no sexual

taboos? What if men and women

felt free to be themselves,



Anne Raver

whatever

combination of

'masculine' and

'feminine' that was?

So he's still a man, biologically speaking, but he looked to me like some mythical creature: an androgynous blending of male and female, of yin and yang. He lit a cigarette and introduced his lover, Kevin, who is tall and dark and handsome, the decided male of the relationship. They met over five years ago, and Arian wants a diamond engagement ring. (A clichéd relic of sexual roles, of course, if there ever was one.)

"I think of myself as a woman at heart," said Arian, 27. "I could never have made a beautiful man. I was a sissy kid. I studied dancing and art, while my brothers were playing football." But he learned how to fight when he came out of the closet and ran away from home at 16. He's been a bouncer, a construction worker, a go-go boy, a female impersonator.

"Arian is the effeminate side of me," said Kevin. "I'm very quiet. Arian is very flamboyant."

Kevin's father accepts that he's gay. But he wants him to live with a man. Not this strange mixture, this half man, half woman, called Arian. It's too much for him.

"I've always felt that everybody has a homosexual side," Kevin added. "But it's threatening to most people."

Why? After all, isn't the point to simply connect, simply love someone, regardless of which sex?

What if there were no sexual taboos? What if men and women felt completely free to be themselves, whatever combination of "masculine" and "feminine" that was? What if a man,

got up straight, and then crying when he was hurt, without being called a wimp? And a woman, lesbian or not, could stride into a bar and joke with the boys, and argue political questions, in a voice that meant to win, without being called a dyke.

On the runway, a man sang, "She walks with grace and poise, but she's just one of the boys." And Sal Piro, a 270-pound man, did a brilliant caricature of Madonna's "Material Girl." He pranced and "vogued" and dipped his knees in a ridiculous little outfit that made us realize how silly the whole thing was, whether it was Madonna, with her nifty little body, or this big blond blimp, throwing himself to the floor and shaking his stockinged legs in the air, all the while with a wonderful, stolid deadpan that only upped the ante.

All this was a build-up, of course, to the moment when each of the beauty contestants walked down the runway, in her sequined gown, and her perfect hair, dazzling us with her smile. There could hardly be a greater cliché of female beauty than these men parading in front of us, like ingenues dying to win Miss Fire Island's crown.

The winner, Philomena, was a blond bombshell, wearing a white satin dress, and a lovely smile. And as she accepted her roses, and her tiara, I realized she'd merely stepped out of one hidebound role into another. Yet she was still one of the boys. She could take off her white satin dress and put on pants.

As a statuesque beauty from Albany told me, "I like being Barbara, I like feeling submissive, being protected, it's part of all of us. But I'm Morris, too. It's a man's world, and I like being the boss." Women can't do that because it's not a woman's world.

Outside the Ice Palace, we straights go to work every day, acting out our sexual roles, repressing who we might be, if we shed them. Because to do so would risk our jobs, our lovers, all the boundaries we recognize as us. Imagine defining yourself in any way you pleased. It's like staring into the other side of the looking glass. It's too scary for most of us. And the interesting question is why. //





D&S CORNER - Melissa K.

Kidnapped! A bondage fantasy.

Shelly sat alone in the small, darkened room where she had been imprisoned. She could only guess as to how much time had elapsed since that big brute had grabbed her off the street and dragged her to the old warehouse. And with no light shining through she estimated that it was night time. Now it was quiet outside the door, but occasionally she would hear the voice of the man who had abducted her, only his voice, as if he was talking on a telephone.

Not able to cry out for help because of the banana stuffed inside of her mouth, Shelly tried to kick on the door with her high-heels only to find her ankles tethered by a short rope to her wrists. Each of her hands were bound separately by leather straps which the brute had found laying around the deserted warehouse. Inching around the room she soon realized she was bound in place by an old chain circling her waist and nailed to the floor on either side.

Since she had been brought here, Shelly knew that she must have passed out or something since she did not recall being lugged up in this way.

A few minutes ago she had heard rain pounding lightly on the tin roof of her private prison. Lingered in the air now was the dampness of that brief storm, and it made her nose run slightly. Luckily it was the middle of September, so she didn't have to worry about freezing. Her long, blonde hair was a mess. Full of dirt and who knew what else. She tried again to loosen the biting straps around her wrists, but it was to no avail. They were too tight, and to wiggle at all meant extreme discomfort. Whoever the kidnapper was he sure didn't want his prize to vanish. Shelly could still feel the clothes on her body, damaged but there just the same. He hadn't raped her, thank God! He must just want money.

After what seemed hours of unre-

lenting tension on her joints, a light appeared from underneath the crack of the door. Shelly's knees ached fiercely from being in such a contorted position for so long. Could it be that somebody had found her? Maybe the building was frequented by teenagers looking for a place to do their thing. It was known that several abandon buildings in her home town had accidentally been set on fire by such people. She prayed that this would not be a repeat performance of the big hotel that went up in 1976.

She mustered her strength and tried fruitlessly to kick something, anything to make noise. The light was followed momentarily by heavy footsteps. The door flew open, the bright light blinding Shelly temporarily. When her vision cleared, she saw that the image in the doorway was that of the big brute who had incarcerated her. His right fist grabbed her by the pink sweater she was wearing, and with the other hand he pulled the gag from her mouth. Inflamed by the slow response from his captive the brute grabbed Shelly by her hair. Hair which completely pulled free from her head. Startled by the fact that his captive female was actually a male, the brute stood dumbfounded for a moment before uttering "You! You're no lady!". He stared at Shelly, a.k.a. Sheldon, for a long moment. A surprised expression flashed across his face just before he fled the scene.

As Shelly began to wonder what to do next the answer presented itself. For through the now open door she could see a police car pulling up in front of the building and disembarking two troopers. What a night it had been. Starting out to be the hit of her friends party and ending up kidnapped in a warehouse. Once it was all over she complimented herself on her image. Shelly had obviously fooled many people. But she decided that discretion was the better part of valor, promising to not present such a sharp image so often. After all, it's dangerous out there. Danger. Excitement. Two separate entities, but very closely related.

#### PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS (Biber, Hunt and Seghers)

CONTRIBUTED BY KALMACE  
Post operative patient care for MTF Transsexuals:

Dilate five times a day, 15 to 20 minutes each time, utilizing your middle finger at the beginning and later using a vibrator or the adjustable dilator. Space the dilations over the 24-hour period as much as can possibly be done. It is very important to keep the depth in the vagina especially the first days after discharge. When utilizing the adjustable dilator and squeezing it down, ribs are formed on the dilator, so it is very important to utilize plenty of jelly and place the dilator in such a fashion down toward the rectum primarily for a small distance when directly inside the vagina, without using a screwing motion. When you use a screwing motion the ribs on the dilator might harm the new baby skin that is healing in the vaginal cavity. Graduate to a firm dilator between the third and fourth week.

The easiest place to get a firm dilator is to go down to any adult bookstore and get a plastic dildo. Get it the same diameter as the adjustable dilator when full: approximately 4 cm in diameter and get it two inches longer, which will make it about 7 inches in length. Utilize this in a similar fashion as the adjustable dilator, and continue the dilatation for a period of at least six months.

You may begin intercourse about the sixth week period. It is important in the pre-sex play period to insert K-Y jelly and be prepared for penetration. If you do not use the K-Y jelly, you are going to tear yourself up. When beginning intercourse for the first time, take it slow and easy to avoid any damage that a difficult and forceful penetration may cause.

You are again on female hormones as before surgery; after two or three months, you should consult your

endocrinologist to check the dosage and eventually reduce it.

Sometimes, antibiotics are to be taken after discharge, but even more important than the antibiotics is to drink copious amounts of fluids - 10 to 12 glasses a day. You may also drink a couple of glasses of cranberry juice a day, which will acidify the urine and take away some of the smell. You may also douche, even once or twice a day because the vagina will present some obnoxious material while healing. You may douche twice a day if you wish with a tablespoon of white vinegar to a quart of warm water, not dark vinegar but white vinegar.

Do not do any heavy lifting for a period of six weeks.

If you have specific problems, call my office or write to me. If you have seen a doctor at home and that for any reason he does not understand what is going on, please have him call me.

Remember you are specifically female now. You are subject to all female diseases: you can get Trichomonas infections, you can get yeast infections, and these have to be treated just like any other natural female. It's probably wise to get yourself a pap smear once every year. Remember, you are subject to other diseases as well. Be very careful with your exposures, you can still pick up gonorrhea, you can pick up syphilis and all other exotic diseases that females are subject to.

Keep in touch with me!! Any time you feel like writing, let me know your general status ie. financially, socially, what you think about your body image, and what adaptation you are making to your new role. I'd be more than happy to hear from you. In other words, keep in touch.

## Oh Jennifer!!



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518-432-7092

Jennifer Wells

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\*\*\*\*

Dear Jennifer,

... Up until five months ago, I had been suppressing my deep attachment to femininity. Subsequently, something which had resided deep in my subconscious has become a habit that flourishes on the energy of the desire for self-gratification. This is not so unpleasant, but the conflicting desires to measure up to society's, as well as my own idea of self respect and masculinity is not so comfortable. Again, ignorance and desire bring suffering to me.

My environment at home is probably much healthier than most people with the same problem. I live with my fiancé. I told her of my desire to act out my various feminine fantasies before I started indulging in them. This was five months ago, and today I dress up in women's clothes to some varying degree, daily. Tolerance of my behavior in the household is inconsistent. Sometimes both my girlfriend and I actually enjoy giving each other the attention that feminine maintenance requires. There are other times when we both feel insecure, and the experience becomes very uncomfortable and a healthy amount of self pity sets in. I have found nothing that ends this merry go round of feeling which is constantly dancing between my fiancé and I; but communication is good, and even when understanding is elusive, our commitment to learning to love and respect each other is not.

At this point, I would like to thank you for the responses and the newsletters. It made me feel more relaxed that I am not the only person in the world with this problem. I want to feel more relaxed with myself. I am happy to tell you that the newsletter put out by the club sold itself to me. I would like a one year subscription. I found most of the articles touching, sensitive, and informative. Also, I appreciated the touches of humor bounced back to me from scattered places in the publication. In addition to this, I would like a shopping list of the various stores that cater to the gender community.

Before I go, I need to ask a question. At this point, I feel a

certain shyness about participating in group rap sessions. This will probably become less of a factor in the future; and I was wondering if I needed to be a member before I could join in? Is this rule the same for my fiancé? Again, thank you for your time!!

Timidly, (Name Withheld)

Dear Timidly,

TGIC is always happy to welcome anyone with a sincere interest of any nature to attend one of our rap sessions or a social function. Of course we do encourage those who participate to join the club as it is these supporters who make the outreach work such as the newsletter possible. If you and your fiancé would like to attend a rap session but don't know where the club room is located, you can call to arrange an appointment to meet for your screening any Thursday evening at 463-4513, or you can reach me other times at 432-7092, just leave a message on my machine if I'm not home.

Sincerely, Jennifer W.

**IN PASSING - NOTES FROM ALL OVER:**

\* Cynthia [redacted] the wife and "best friend" of Linda, a crossdresser and member of Boulton & Park Society in San Antonio TX informs us of a new newsletter for the wives of crossdressers to be called WACS (Women associated with crossdressers). Cynthia is a member of the board of directors of B&P and has been married to Linda for 32 years. We highly recommend this effort and hope that wives everywhere will join Cynthia in making this venture a success. For more information you can write Cynthia care of Boulton Park Society, PO Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252.

**TGIC Officers & Board:**

President (pro-tem) Tiffane V.  
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Secretary: Cathy & Beth  
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Director of Outreach: Sue H.  
Directors at Large: Danielle W.

**Standing Committees:**

Newsletter: Jennifer W.  
IFGE Representative: Winnie B.  
Programs: Pam H.  
Rap Groups: Katherine H.  
Big Sisters: Melissa K.

\* Theseus Counseling Service announces the beginning of a series of get away weekends for couples dealing with crossdressing and other problems. Ari Kane director of Theseus tells us that these weekends will be held throughout the coming year at a scenic and supportive retreat inn in Vermont. The program to be called HOPEFUL (Helping our partners experience the fullness of United Love) allows each participant to explore various dimensions of gender (not sex) roles as an individual and in a couple relationship.

For more information contact: Ari Kane, Theseus Counseling Service, Box 368 Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215.

\* Dr. Peggy Rudd, announces her new book CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY is now available from IFGE, PO Box 367, Wayland, MA. 01778 for \$12.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. Picking up where her previous book, MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES leaves off, this book represents a collective input of more than 800 crossdressers, and addresses the emotions that surface when men transcend gender lines.

\* NY Gender Community gains lobbyist. At the November meeting of the New York State Gender Coalition held in Syracuse on November 4th, announcement was made that the PRIDE AGENDA, one of NY States strongest and largest lobbying organizations had ask the Gender community to be represented on their board of directors. Pride Agenda a lobbying organization formed earlier this year from the combination of the New York Lesbian and Gay Lobby with other predominantly gay lobbying efforts is seeking to broaden their base of representation by extending their lobby efforts to include other groups with similar concerns. Earlier this year the Gender community was one of a number of "alternative lifestyles" communities which exhibited their support of legislation pending in Albany by supporting the efforts of the NYSLAGL. Representation on the board of the Pride Agenda will be handled by Molly, a lawyer and member of EON in Syracuse. We at TGIC commend Molly for having the courage to come forward to declare herself to handle this important

position. This move marks the first time the gender community has had a legislative watchdog and lobbying effort concerned with our issues. We wish Molly and the Pride Agenda the best of luck in carrying the hopes of us all. And urge your support of this fine and foresighted organization.

**A VISIT TO THE REAL WORLD - PART 2**

**SHOPPING: Purse-String Politics**  
- Jennifer [redacted]

In recent months we have made great strides in the Albany area of eliciting the support of numerous merchants. Merchants who have bent over backwards to help us make selections, guard the dressing room door, or even arrange special shopping hours or appointments which minimize the loss of confidentiality to the crossdresser and possible negative interaction with regular patrons. Merchants who have realized that crossdressers are good business and good for business, and require only a small amount of patient understanding to produce results. And why shouldn't they? Crossdressers generally tend to buy higher tag clothes, are very appreciative of some understanding specialized attention, and by and large spend a LOT of money. They understand that most of us are clean, rather well established, looking for some respectful use of their services the same services they extend to any other patron, and not for some voyeuristic thrillseeking. Some of the merchants who have been particularly helpful to our community include Contempo, Merry-Go-Round, Penneys, and Wild Pair in Crossgates, Gloria Lauden and The Half Size shop in Latham, The Answer in Cohoes Commons, Ursula of Switzerland and Mme. Pieres in Downtown, Solomons and numerous others at Colonie Center.

Because of this amount of cooperation and support I guess it should be expected that we might become somewhat complacent about stores wanting us and extending us services. Therefore when we run into a store or situation where these services are not offered - to wit, the use of the dressing room, it sends a message that we are NOT wanted, it sets us back, it serves to smack hard at our

faces of the still painfully evident truth that we are not understood, are viewed with suspicion, and that misunderstanding is still rife in society as a whole. Its also interesting to note that of the stores where we are most accepted (better quality stores and chains) you would think had the most to lose from their established clients being resentful or nonsupportive of our needs. Not being the case, these stores tend to love our business, its the lower end and large midclass chains where the "established" policies, and lack of services for our shoppers is viewed as contrary to the needs of the established patrons... guess they don't recognize quality as well as the better stores. - Bad business call folks!

On a recent visit to Colonie Center, I stopped at a store I patronize regularly, a store which has clothes which fit me rather well, and occasionally has some very nice clothes. A store where I personally have spent over \$400.00 in the last two years. Where, six people who I have sent or at least know of and who patronize it regularly, have spent a grand total of over \$4000. It had always seemed strange that of my many visits never once did the sales clerks ask if they could help me even though they were cordial upon check out. I'd never asked to use the dressing rooms, as I know my sizes rather well. Upon selecting two rather interesting dresses (I felt I needed a new dress for some upcoming events like the Poconos Outing) I asked to use the dressing room to see which was the more flattering to my coloration, and was flattedly advised that men weren't allowed in the women's dressing rooms. (I'm TS Hun, but not full time yet - wonder if they would have stopped me if I had been dressed?) I asked again if she might not mind standing guard outside the dressing room, which was right next to the check out desk, and there were no other women in the store at the time. Anyway, (get this if you want to know how ridiculous this store's policies are - if you can believe them) the clerk proceeded to inform me that even the cleaning men weren't allowed in the dressing rooms! (Do I look like I was born yesterday?)

Shocked, I left the store in a huff, I've never encountered such nearsighted idiocy in store policies in the Albany area before!

Walking down the mall however, I said to myself, I wonder if these people realize how they project themselves, and also realized that I wanted that dress. Returning to the store, I grabbed the dress, went to the register and informed the clerk (perhaps more brazen than was necessary) that I would take the dress but I would "have to report this incident" She rang up the sale and politely asked if I would like to see the district manager who was in the store at the moment... nervous from trying to control my frustration and anger I said yes. I explained our network, (this newsletter is mailed to over 150 people and organizations, which gives is a local audience of about 400 people, and an national audience of over 1000 - this is a national chain store) and the situation to the manager. I explained how many people I know use their store and what this meant to them in dollar volume of busines. (actually the figure given above is probably very low) I explained I wouldn't call for a boycott, but would report the incident so you could decide for yourselves if you wished to shop there. I won't mention the name of the store, but its outside of Sears on the Second level of Colonie Center and serves large women in this store plus is affiliated with another chain which serves women who are less "plus" sized.

I ask that you use your discretion, is this the sort of place you want to shop?

**SHARON'S HINTS AND TIPS: Estrogen Therapy for MTF Transsexuals**  
- Sharon [REDACTED]

This article was originally written for the ETVC Newsletter and later appeared in the newsletter of the Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose. Individuals are invited to copy or distribute this article, provided that the full text is included and proper credit is given.

This issue I thought I'd digress from my usual "do it yourself" topics to something you should not "do yourself" - the

use of estrogens by transsexuals. Most of this admittedly technical information I obtained from research at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center library, though literature is scarce on the subject even there.

Estrogens are powerful steroid hormones, chemicals which affect the form and function of the body and its organs. There are three basic human estrogens: estradiol, estrone, and estrial. Estradiol is the most active form and estrial is the least active. In women, large amounts of estrogen are produced by the ovaries, and in men a small amount is present due to chemical conversion of testosterone.

Once you are grown and genetic male traits are fully developed, the only way your body organs have of knowing what sex you are is by the levels of male and female hormones which are present. Changing the hormone balance from male to female with drugs causes tissues which are supported by male hormones to diminish and stop functioning and those which are supported by female hormones to develop and begin functioning.

If your doctor has prescribed estrogens for you, it is probably in the form of Estinyl (ethinyl estradiol), Premarin (conjugated estrogens, a mixture of the three estrogens plus estrogen breakdown products) or injections (such as estradiol valerate). Though it would seem to be desirable, no suppository form of estrogen is available except as in the form of D.E.S, a drug which is not in favor today. The most powerful single oral dose is the 0.5 milligram Estinyl tablet, but faster results can be obtained by using two or even all three of the Estinyl, Premarin, and injections. Any of the three will produce in time a certain amount of bodily feminization. The effects include breast development (usually slight to average development; occasionally nearly none or quite a lot, depending on genetics and body type), reduction in size and firmness of the testicles and prostate gland, some reduction and repatterning of body hair, softening of the skin, recontouring of the body due to accumulating layers of feminine body fat, a considerable reduction or

elimination of (masculine) sex drive, and improved effectiveness of facial hair removal by electrolysis. Testosterone levels in the blood drop to very low levels due to effects of estrogen on the brain and directly upon the testicles.

Since testosterone tends to fuel the male emotional characteristics of aggression and competition, many patients report feeling more mild or tranquil. Reduction of male hormone levels may also clear up acne and excessively oily skin. Little or no changes in voice can be expected.

The cost of oral hormone supplements is not excessive. Typical prices are: Provera 10 mg. 100 units, \$40 (generic medroxyprogesterone HCL is less.); Premarin 2.5 mg 100 units, \$35 (generic less); and Estinyl 0.5 mg 100 units, \$50 (no generic available). Injections may run \$30-40 plus office visit charges. Black market prices for the above begin at about three times the pharmacy cost.

Choice of an endocrinologist is best made by personal referral, either by a friend or therapist. The regimen and requirements of doctors varies widely, as does their level of experience in this very specialized field. Many doctors require concurrent counseling by a psychiatrist or psychologist. If you experience any dissatisfaction with your therapist or doctor, a consultation with another may produce different results.

Your doctor may be cautious in prescribing large amounts of estrogens to you if you have any of the following history or symptoms: high blood pressure, any heart disease or defects, clotting disorders such as phlebitis, stroke or cerebrovascular disease, liver function abnormalities, a history of heavy alcohol intake, kidney disease, migraine headaches or seizures, diabetes, family history of breast cancer, obesity, or heavy smoking.

Periodic checkups with your doctor are required to spot early signs of certain dangerous conditions. Among these are: benign or malignant tumors of the liver, breast, pituitary gland (in the brain), and kidney, along with phlebitis and

elevation of blood pressure. Heart attack (myocardial infarction) and stroke have been reported in relatively young transsexuals receiving estrogens, especially those with clotting disorders.

Changes in a part of the prostate gland known as the verumontanum can cause blockage of the urinary tract after long term use - this must be corrected surgically. Lactation or discharge from the breasts can be a sign of a potentially dangerous pituitary gland condition.

Your doctor will administer periodic blood tests and may check the following: testosterone (should be less than 85 nanograms per 100 milliliters), prolactin (should be less than 45 ng/ml), liver function scans, and clotting time. He may also feel your breasts for lumps and listen to blood flow in your major veins and arteries.

Once you have been using estrogens for a year or more, some effects may become irreversible even if estrogen intake is ceased. Certain chemical processes in the brain remain in a female pattern permanently, and changes in brain wave patterns have been reported. These effects may or may not be associated with emotional and personality changes. Breasts and female fat distribution may not subside after administration of estrogens, and sex drive may remain relatively low.

Sudden changes in dosage of estrogens, either increasing or decreasing, have been known to produce severe mood changes. The effects may be likened to going through menopause, puberty, and pregnancy at the same time. Lethargy, depression, anxiety, difficulty in concentration, headaches, abdominal cramping, nausea, and other symptoms have been noted for periods of days or weeks. It may be wise to change dosages as gradually as possible.

Changes in metabolism are common, with weight gain, water retention, and increased appetite as the major effects. Estrogen reduces the ability of the body to eliminate certain drugs such as Valium so that smaller dosages of these medications become as effective as larger dosages were before. This is also true for alcohol so be sure to

reassess your limits. Any physician you deal with should know of medications you are taking - with surgery this can be critical due to the effects of estrogen on the blood clotting rate.

After genital surgery, estrogen doses may be greatly reduced if the desired degree of feminization has been achieved. Since the testicles are now absent, it is no longer necessary to suppress testosterone production. Risk factors are believed to be in proportion to dosage, so the minimum effective dose is preferred for long term use.

It is thought that estrogens should be taken along with a progestin (pregnancy hormone) such as Provera (medroxy-progesterone). A progestin will tend to maximize breast development due to enlargement of the milk sacs themselves (as opposed to breast fatty tissue) and will approximate more closely the natural female hormone balance. A more natural hormone balance may provide some shielding against some of the hazards mentioned previously. Also progestins greatly reduce male sex drive. I could find no agreement in the literature as to the recommended dosage but higher dosages seem to pose no known risk.

Proper medical management of estrogen administration can reduce the hazards and maximize the benefits. It makes good sense to know the facts and follow medical advice when using these powerful drugs.

BARBARA MASTROMANNI L.P.A.  
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THE PERSON DESCRIBED ON THIS CARD IS WHAT IS MEDICALLY RECOGNIZED AS A TRANSVESTITE AND IS NOT CROSS-DRESSED FOR FRAUDULENT PURPOSES DRESSING AS THE OPPOSITE SEX IS DONE FOR SELF-EXPRESSION AND PERSONAL HAPPINESS

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ EYES \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR \_\_\_\_\_

MALE PHOTO \_\_\_\_\_ FEM PHOTO \_\_\_\_\_

FEM SIG

TRANSVESTITE & TRANSEXUAL IDENTIFICATION CARD

MALE NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
FEM NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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**REGULAR MEETINGS OTHER THAN TGIC**

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General Meeting - 2nd Friday

**EON: Syracuse, PO Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031**  
General Meetings - 1st Saturday - Parish  
3rd Saturday House

**TGN: New Paltz, NY PO Box 177, Tillson, NY 12486-0177**  
General Meeting - 1st Friday - Church 7P  
3rd Friday - Church 7P

**TIFFANY: Wayland, MA 508-358-5478**  
Rap Group - Every Tuesday - House 6P  
Open Day - Every Saturday - House 4P  
Wives Support - 1st Friday - House

**XX CLUB: Hartford, CN (TS only)**  
General Meeting - 2nd Saturday - Church  
4th Saturday - Church

**THE GATHERING: NY City (TS only)**  
General Meeting - 1st Sunday

**CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY: Devon, CT**  
Socials - 1st Saturday - House Parties

**LIFE: Hempstead, NY (Long Island)**  
Socials - 1st Friday - 3rd Saturday  
Wives Support Group - 2nd Tuesday

**NOVEMBER**

- 1 - Board Meeting - Clubroom 7PM
- 1 - Rap Group - Clubroom 8PM
- 2 - 4 EON BANQUET - AND 1ST NYSGC AWARDS  
The first weekend event to be  
hostessed by Syracuse Eon - In  
Syracuse - Contact Jennifer
- 3 - Couples Support Group - Contact  
Dawn
- 8 - Rap Group - Clubroom 7PM
- 10- Open Social - Mother Eves 8PM  
(special guest)
- 11 - TS Tea - Contact Rachael
- 15 - Rap Group - Clubroom 7PM - TGIC  
THANKSGIVING SOCIAL
- 22 - Rap Group Canceled - HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!! ☺"
- 29 - Rap Group - Clubroom 7PM

**DECEMBER:**

- 1 - Couples Support Group
- 6 - Board Meeting Clubroom 7PM
- 6 - Rap Group Clubroom 8PM
- 8 - Open Social - Social Mother Eve's  
8PM - Special Guest
- 9 - TS Tea - Contact Rachael
- 13 - Rap Group - Clubroom
- 15 - Syracuse Eon Christmas Party
- 20 - Rap group - Clubroom - Christmas  
Party \$10.00 Value Grab Bag Gift
- 27 - Rap Group - Clubroom

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

**TGIC NEWS** will accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any TGIC member. Classifieds may be edited or rejected subject to decisions of the News committee.

**KEY CLUB OPENINGS:** We have 1 storage closet available for rent for \$20 per month. Key club members have access to the club room for dressing and storage - leave a message on the machine 518-436-4513 or contact Dawn, Tiffane or Jennifer.

**OH Jennifer** - Beautiful wigs, styling, carrying cases, heads, wig spray, conditioner, eyelashes, breast forms, publications, soon to be carrying Tapestry. 518-432-7092

**NOTICE!!!!** Who ever took the footlocker from the clubroom. Please return it. Pam V would very much like the return of her wigs.

**NEW SHOPPING GUIDE AVAILABLE** Our new shopping guide to the Capital District and Eastern New York is now available. If you never received yours with your membership... its free, otherwise a donation of \$3.00 is requested. Contact the club with your request.

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