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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES

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JULY 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:

JEAN H. PATTI J. KATHY LORRAINE



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

ATTENDEES JANICE G. ALICIA & FATTI J. DOROTHY HOLLY I. CRYSTAL & TONYA KATHY I. SHARON F. MICHELLE G. CAROL S. JOY S. FRAN ANGELLA A. JEAN CAMILLE H. DINISE SUSAN B.

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?

it as hoped. Sh needed from us. RIVERSIDE She She SPM s to explain did tell me WEEKEND: what might in a phone Diane didn't make

received (sorry Jamie!!) for switching regular meeting date for the holiday we Therefore we will keep with our usual umeeting date of the 2nd Saturday, the Those confused, THE NEXT MEETING IS JUI JULY MEETING: only one oliday weekend. c usual unusual ay, the TWELFTH. vote JULY t o our

to t wish the to newsletter. OK, any other rules y submission included in needed??

the Sept. news mail or bring meeting. If an newsletter ţ0 the

or write. We'll have about it. If you can't make the meetings, call a ballot in

way. You hatwo months You have the ne hs to think

If you car volunteer next

nominate another
Or at least volur
to help out in so

rules.

Nominate

yourself,

there

whoever did whatever was someone like you. They reached a point where they wanted to do more Simply put, they cared! There are a few of you reading this who feel the same. That's all it takes. Heart. The one feminine trait that there can never be a panty check for. But the one we CA reach, if nothing else.

It is up to YOU to decide. There are no more

everyone, s worked just fine! / probably disagrees. you can love all. amed to work, what least I thing Can't please you

rules did. *i* willing to stay on a per new two. (Hopefully!)
We have never had a les or regulations. What d. And it has worked juth. Jane Ellen probably dervons ad a formal struct . Whatever seemed ed just fine! At l structure of

willing to provide the continuity

coincide with our fifth anniversary, coming in September. Five years, five leaders.

Joan, Denise, Janice, Kathy, Jean. And like the first three, we'll both also be with you helping out in any way we can.

Patti certainly belongs in the same list as one of the originals, but has taken a more formal role in the last year and will timing is s just fifth perfect as it will

ELECTIONS COMING: Jean and myself (Kathy) have simultaneously and unrelated both decided it is time to step

the need for a separate group, it may indicate that we have NOT always provided the support that a sister needed. Perhaps if we all try harder to really talk to each other, some of these needs will be met. The idea of having more discussion meetings is certainly valid and should be implemented. What seems to be lacking is someone willing to be the moderator for such a group. Who is to be the moderator willing?? Because this question was raised for

once a month and dress something much deeper time existence. and dress s up, that becomes full

divisions in our little sorority. long as we can al chosen as we shall s Whether yo just each of w respect what ther your need is a place to go or has become other, VS. see thas. "Them" degree cas their and CARE succeed regardless gree one has their level; that we y. As all for



haven't developed certainly any

> the few days before the meeting that the location will probably be changed. But will remain in t same general area. Hopefully more information will be forth coming soon and we'll have it before printing deadline.

AUGUST MEETING: THE PICNIC: OUR be has will This h event second. annual the sec

e on the usual first Sat., s always been right up there with the Christmas party, as our finest meeting.

Please come out and join us for this affair! Bring some food to pass. Bring the wife, kids, etc. But do you really need to bring your probation officer? Come join our family picnic!

Please call the hotline and tell us what you would like

specialty! We always eat. And don't forget Ø bring, if you have a om to have plenty to camera. seem

We will also be extending an invitation nearby friends in Rochester & NW PA to jo nearby friends in Rochester & NW PA to jo nour summer celebration. And maybe the pass by again this year! uly we can count
did's/didn't's. us in our will pass Certainly Katie did

οĘ SPLIT: Patti was the lucky winner month and graciously used it in first round in the ladies later month first \$9.00 this buying the 50/50

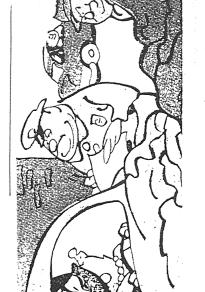
It was also suggested that we HOTLINE:

update our message and its name. The first is easy, the second a problem. What do we call it? As pointed out, it is not really a "hotline", as that means it will be answered immediately, like poison control, or suicide prevention. So what should we call it? Answering Machine Only line? That lacks panache, for sure, good buddy. Got a suggestion?

video Frances Lee has requested that we return a vishe says she lent to the group several years ago. It was a copy of "The Operation" by Dr. Schrang. If you have it, please return it so can forward it to Frances. The continuation of the several it is so the continuation. ago. 1. Schrang. 1. In forward

passage. It IS HELP!: Please read the two articles about the lobbying efforts for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And then write/call/E mail your representative in support of it's passage. It for your benefit!! NEEDS ENDA passage Act. And

Texas having my electrology treatments, I met Ison From an Ohio group. I intended to come home and write an article about my trip. However she sent me a copy of her summation of the procedure and our trip. She put it into words so a letter with you!



"When I dress
like a woman
I drive
like a woman"

NOVOCAIN WHEN THE WHERE'S ARRIVED, MY VISA BİLL REALLY NEED 1 S

I ENDED UP WITH 48 HOURS OF TREATMENT SO I'M HALF-WAY DONE. I GO EACK FOR THREE DAYS OF TREATMENT IN LATE JULY TO GET THE HAIRS THAT WERE NOT VISABLE 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.

AT WORK MONDAY NO ONE SEENED TO MOTICE THE RESIDUAL SWELLING I STILL HAD. THE ONLY NOTICEABLE SIDE EFFECT WAS DEAD TISSUE FLAKING OFF MY CHIN THAT HAD STARTED LUKING THE MIDDLE OF MY TREATMENT AND LASTED FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS. THERE WAS SOME REDNESS AROUND MY MOUTH AND ON MY NECK WHICH LOOKED LIKE A MILD SUNBURN. I ALSO HAD SOME TINGLING SENSATION ON MY NECK AND CHIN BUT ITS ALMOST ALL GONE.

MY NECK. THE SWELLING HAD GONE DOWN SOME MORE AND I WAS INTO THE HOME STRETCH OF MY TREATMENT! THE GIRLS FINISHED BY NOON AND BEING A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, I HAD THEM WORK ON MY UPPER CHEST FOR A FEW HOURS SO I CAN WEAR CLOTHING WITH LOWER NECK LINES. THEN MY NEW BEST FRIEND JEAN AND I WENT TO ANOTHER DANCE HALL THAT NIGHT BUT TURNED IN EARLY AS WE BOTH HAD PLANES TO CATCH THE NEXT MORNING.

FRIDAY NIGHT IS A PARTY NIGHT FOR, ME NO MATTER INCOKED, ESPECIALLY WHEN (JEAN TOLD ME THAT SHE 100 LIKED COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC AND COULD LINE DANCE. I KNEW I LIKE THIS GAL! BREN MANTED TO GO WITH US EVEN THOUGH SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE COTTON-EYED JOE FROM A ONE-EYED JACK. SO AFTER DINNER AT A LOCAL STEAKHOUSE JEAN TOOK US TO THE BIGGEST DANCE HALL I'VE EVER SEEN. BREN ENJOYED THE LIVE BAND AND THE MALE SINGER WHO PUT HIS TEXAS-SIZED HEART INTO HIS PERFORMANCE. BREN REALLY GOT INTO THE THE SPIRIT OF THE MUSIC AND STARTED PUSHING HER TUSH AND WHEN A GUY ASKED HER TO DANCE, THE LITTLE TEASE TURNED HIM DOWN FLAT!

AS BIG 3 AS TEXAS

PAULA

ISON

IN 1994 A F HER ELECTRO 2000" SO I EXPENSE OF LOCALLY. PRE-OP TOLD ME ROLOGY TREATMENT I ASKED HER WHEF FLYING TO TE ENTS F WHY S TEXAS SHE WAS GOING IS AT A PLACE YY SHE WOULD GO TO DALLAS, CALLED "ELH THRU THE COULD GET TEXAS FOR LECTROLOGY TIME AND IT DONE

SHE EXPLAINED THAT INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL WEEKLY HOUR OF PAIN, THE DALLAS CLINIC HAS A DENTIST WHO INJECTS NOVOCAIN WHICH ELIMINATES ALL OF THE PAIN, ALLOWING TWO ELECTROLOGISTS TO WORK ON YOU AT THE SAME TIME, EIGHT HOURS A DAY FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN A ROW. SO SHE GOT FIFTY HOURS OF TREATMENT IN THE SAME WEEK. SHE ALSO SAID THAT THIS METHOD ELIMINATED ANY CHANCE OF BURNING OR SCARRING OF THE SKIN. SHE SAID AN "AVERAGE" BEARD REQUIRED 100 HOURS OF TREATMENT.

HER RESPONSE CONSIDERATION A FEW THOUS THE MATTER S NNSE MADE SENSE BUT O NTION. SO I MADE A M OUSAND BUCKS IN MY OETTITISTY THE COST MENTAL NOTE THAT IF WAS A N I EVER N I WOULD MAJOR FOUND D GIVE

GUYS BUT I STILL HAVE TO SHAVE EVERY MORNING FOR WORK. WHEN I WANT TO SPEND A FULL DAY AS PAULA I MUST SHAVE IN THE MORNING AND THEN AGAIN IN THE LATE AFTERNOON SO I DON'T TURN INTO A PUMPKIN BEFORE MIDNIGHT. AS I WENT OUT EN FEMME MORE AND MORE, IT GOT TO BE REALLY ANNOYING SHAVING TWICE A DAY JUST TO STAY OUT FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT TIME. SO EVERYTIME I APPLIED MY DERMA-BLEND BEARD COVER I THOUGHT HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO RID MYSELF OF THIS PROBLEM FOREVER.

DESPITE STILL NOT HAVING THE MONEY, MY SPOUSE AND I DECIDED THAT I SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE THEORY THAT THE SOONER I HAVE IT DONE, THE SOONER I CAN ENJOY THE BENEFITS. SO LAST NOVEMBER I CALLED ELECTROLGY 2000, HAD MADE AN AFFOINTMENT FOR MY FIRST TREATMENT WHICH WAS TO BE FOR APRIL 23-26.

TECHNICIAN WHICH INCLUDED THE A PRE-OP NAMED BREN PIRONIO. A NON-REFUNDABLE THE PHONE WITH J> \$800 DEPOSIT A CREDIT CARD. WAS NEEDED WHICH THE HOURLY RATE SERVICES OH THE DENTIST I I MADE S \$88 OVER

AT WAS IG PLANE
WAS ONLY
A MOTEL
S \$12 EACH RESERVATIONS Y \$224. ON T L 6 WHICH NE H WAY. THE ONEAR DECEMBER, THE DELTA CLINICS RECOMMENDATION I THE CLINIC. THE AIRPORT

I GOT THINGS IS THE S TO DALLAS ONE OF THE S ARE REEEALLY BIG IN T SIZE OF CINCINNATI'S DR A MOTEL 6. S TEXAS. THE AIRPORT IS
THE MOTEL ROOM WAS TEN WAS

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 23RD, BREN MET TOOK ME TO THE CLINIC. I FILLED OUT A TECHNICIANS, CARRI AND ROXANE, WHO WOU!

THEY WERE REALLY NICE GIRLS, AS THOUSENESS, DANA AND CHRISTIE. MET ME AT THE MOTEL TA FEW FORMS AND MET WOULD WORK ON ME EVERY AS WERE THE OTHER

DURING MY FRIDAY MORNING SESSION THE GIRLS FINISHED MY CHIN AND STARTED ON MY NECK. WHEN WE STOPPED FOR LUNCH I RETIRED TO THE EATHROOM 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 EE 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.

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!

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

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

INCE NOVOCAIN ELIMINATED PRICE TO INJECT STRONGER TILL FOREVER THE ROOTS OF PRITHOUT EURNING THE SKIN.

THE THE SKIN. ED ALL THE PAIN, THE TECHNICIANS WERER THAN NORMAL ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO SEALL VISABLE HAIR ON THE FIRST TRY THE ONLY THING THEY CAN'T DO INTERMEDIATE THE SURFACION OF THE SURF

WITHOUT NOVOCAIN
SENSATIVE AREAS LI
THERE WAS NO PAIN
HCUR OF TRDITION
EXCRUCIATING I WAN WANTED IN THE PAIN CAN
S LIKE THE UPPER LI
XIN AT ALL - NONE. U
CICNAL ELECTROLOGY
WANTED TO STRANGLE AN BE INTENSE, ESPECIALLY IN LIP AND CHIN. WITH NOVOCAIN . UNTIL NOW I HAD HAD ONLY ONE GY AND THE PAIN WAS SO LE THE TECHNICIAN.

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

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

BREN CAME NOVOCAIN W THE END OF LITTLE OF CAME IN HOURLY TO SEE HOW : AIN WHEN THE GIRLS MOVED TO ND OF THE FIRST DAY THEY HO E OF MY CHIN AND SOME OF MO TO OT WAS DOTHER DONE DONE DONE DONE DOING AND R PARTS OF MY AM AW OL) GIVE MORE / FACE. AT PPER LIP, A

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 NOTICABLY. BREN TOLD ME IN ADVANCE THAT MOST CLIENTS SWELL REALLY BAD ON THE FIRST DAY BUT BY USING 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 AS I SAT UP IN BED, FALLING ASLEEP WITH AN ICE PACK ON MY FACE.

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

THURSDAY MORNING BREN MET ME AND FLOWN IN FROM NEW YORK FOR HE CLIENT, JEAN WAS BLESSED WITH INCHES SHORTER, WEIGHED TWENTY P SIZES SMALLER THAN ME SO I EXPLAINED THAT SHE LIKELY ONLY N THIS TIME BUT WOULD STAY THRU SUAIR FAIR. IE AND ANOTHER CLIENT WHO HAD JUNE HER-SECOND TREATMENT. THE OTHER THE AND HAS FORTH OF TREATMENT OF TREATMEN) HAD JUST
THE OTHER
), WAS FIVE
TWO DRESS
ELY JEAN
TREATMENT
A REDUCED

"You brought your wife's wig in? Of course we can style it. But why are you so nervous? Mr. Smith here wears his when he comes in."

YOU KNOW THE DRESS CODE, SOLDER!
SKIRTS ARE TO BE NO SHORTER THAN
THO INCHES ABOVE THE RNEE! GET
BACK TO THE SHIP AND CHANGE!

IFGE
The Bliss of Becoming One!
P. O. Box 229
Waltham, MA 02254-0229

Visa/MasterCard accepted, or by sending a prder (made out to IFGE) for \$15.95 (\$12.95 and handling) to:

'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.

What the Author Says "Unless you live alc

Author Gives Hope, Encouragement and Direction to

by Rachel Miller

Integrating "Feminine" Feelings Into the Male Psyche

Mainstreaming the Gender Community

The Bliss of

Becoming

One

Transvestite Members of the Gender Community

Inshed The Bliss of Becoming cover, questionnaires, gender ography, retail price \$12.95). Rachel Miller (California) is the ished *The Bliss of Becoming C* is the author of the recently pub-ing One (115 pages, trade soft-der-community resources, bibli-

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 cociety 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

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

recan't tell you. Society tells such men that there is ing wrong with them. Therefore, they suppress their ves and live in anguish and isolation.

le sum of all 'valid' reasons sociarrangainst

open so

nalized excuses which preve

(617)

Countering religious (and other) objections to transvounderstanding the roles of sexuality and emotion dow to begin to effect a change in current the hrough acceptance of yourself, sharing your secretoved ones, helping others share the vision, and earing the public about the truth of transvestism.

NEW YORK SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, Democrat 202/224-4451 or 800/972-3524, VOTED ENDA YES LAST TIME.

Our learn visited Ms. Marcia S. Lee who was most courteous. As the meeting progressed, the Cur learn visited Ms. Marcia S. Lee who was most courteous. As the meeting progressed, the ceducating was obvious as she began to understand who we were and what our problems are. She stated that she wanted hard copies of actual job discrimination against transgenders. Locals can do a stated that she wanted hard copies of actual job discrimination against transgenders. Locals can do a tot 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 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, 202724-6542 or 800/972-3524, VOTED ENDA YES LAST TIME.
2027224-6542 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, place with staffer Bob Gabriel. He asked that our paperwork be left at front desk for his later review. Sure if Senator would support a gaincusive ENDA because Senator does sure if Senator would support a gaincusive ENDA because Senator does sure if Senator would support a gaincusive ENDA because Senator does easily cured with not really know our people. This is the only potential red flag so far and can be easily cured with active to keep this a yes vote and to insure that it is transgender inclusive. Therefore, your job is — but active to keep this a yes vote and to insure that it is transgender inclusive. Therefore, your job is — but attention to Mr. Gabriel to inform them that you are from their state, that you are transgender, and a attention to Mr. Gabriel to inform them that you are from their state, that you are transgender, and a biref synopsis of your employment difficulties or fears of same.

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 upcoming Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Of the twenty gathered together Sunday evening, sixteen of us had never done anything like this in our lives.

"Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us dare to do our duty". Abraham Lincoln - New York City - February 21, 1859

Melissa Dixon NC-4303-D

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 Transgenders included but to ascertain where the Senator stood as far as Transgendered persons were concerned. It didn't really come as a surprise to my team 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.

NEW YORK (Rochester) REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER, Democrat, 202/225-3615 or 8009727-3524, SPONSORED ENDA LAST TIME IN HOUSE.

202/225-3615 or 8009727-3524, SPONSORED ENDA LAST TIME IN HOUSE.

Democrat had time remaining from its Senate visits and met with Stuart Spencer. He indicated that his Representative would probably be transgender inclusive. He was very informative and had lots of lactical 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

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.

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.

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 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:

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.abmall.com/fctlep 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 transgenders 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."

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.

"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.

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.





G

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All Gender Outlaws & to attend the

P. O. Box 229 Waltham, MA 02254-0229 Phone: (617) 899-2212 E-mail: IFGE@world.std.com

Gender Education (IFGE)

NEW Book Announcement

International Foundation for

COLOHADO Transgender Warriors



Keynote by Les Feinberg
September 24-28, 1997
Stapleton Plaza Hotel, Denver, Colorado
(303) 443-6409

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Come for the Beauty, leave with Something of Value

"We'll have to do this oftener than just once a week, George." "Yeah, Tom, it sure beats just watchin" the girls."

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.

about half a dozen intersexed (hermaphrodite) individuals among our group, and just as many F2NI's. Also along to help us on our initial day of lobbving

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 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 activistic, 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 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

nistory. I must say that this go-round was 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 Priesing: 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 Pathy-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. Gavle, and Michelle Hubert all 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

flawlessly 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 that together smoothly. Most all of my remaining appointments were with Dr. Kurt Buis, a therapist who works extensively with transgenders 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 Kudos go out to the various indiviteamed up with. Kris Pratt, a polithe HRC, and Rosalyne (Roz) 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 personally vocate with

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 Chanell Pickett, an M2F from the Boston area, strangled to death by her former lover who was only found guilty of assault and battery!

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 HC3A, were to be signed by the supporting legislators in both houses of Congress, and then forwarded to Janet 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. Personally I think that a apparently easy victory like this, alb galvanize selt-continence in community, especially for future lobbying attempts LINDA bill; thu Livory. Personally I think is, albeit a lesser one. With confidence in ciall.

Our approach on for the oray 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 ransgenders as a hate crime; or, if at all, it records hem incorrectly as a gay, or sexual identity hate rime. With so many in the transgendered community who identify themselves as heterosexual fferent race, different gender. lief, or a different sexual identity of FBI then compiles said hate industries categorical statistics. As it of HCSA does not record designates virace, different ylence against those of a gender, different religious al identity as a hate crime; aid hate crimes into the cs. As it currently stands, record violence

lobbying event would be a one-time affair: thus the title 'Erstwhile 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

Apologies are in order. last column when l

Obviously I misspoke on my assumed that the previous he a one-time affair; thus the

Look for the favorite words in the Word List in the Diagram of letters. Find the by reading FORWARD, BACKWARD, UP, DOWN, and DIAGONALLY. The words are always in a straight line and they never skip letters. Draw a circle around the word in the Diagram once you've found it and cross it off the Word List. Words overlap and letters are used more than once. However, you will never use up all the letters in the Diagram.

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I MAY NOT EVEN DO IT, BUT I WAS HCPING FOR SOME UNDERSTANDING SALLY FORTH

Girl

42.

substitutes. old you to sacrifice Pele will accept no

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

D.C. LOI

BYING -

PART

(or HOW D

END UP HERE AGAIN?!?)

by Vanessa Edwards

Estate Q transsexual with Ales 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 sexchange 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.

us Alone!

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 saving 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 women, 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 Millet