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The Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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January 2002

Buffalo Belles

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The Buffalo Belles Newsletter



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*To submit an article for print in this newsletter send to the editor at michelefox32@aol.com by the 15th of each month

January 2002 Issue



Send in your favorite picture for the newsletter! "Show and Tell" what you've been up to and what kind of fun your having!

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Meeting time for our regular monthly meetings has been changed to 7:00pm (See page 10)

Dues for year 2002 are \$25 for full membership and \$15 for supporting. You can send it to the P.O. Box or pay at a meeting. Make your check out to "The Buffalo Belles"

17 members were in attendance for the Dec 2001 meeting. They were;
Patti J., Kathy L., Colleen R., Nancy W., Brenda H., Kendra K., Jo S., Tina M., Victoria C., Ann Z., Michelle L., Denise P., Michelle F., Nancy M., Trissa J., Jean H., Malissa G.

9 members were in attendance for the Jan 2002 meeting. They were;

Jean H., Tina M., Jo S., Michele L., Trissa J., Brenda H., Malissa G., Michelle F. and Kathy L.

Buffalo Belles?

Our group's name "The Buffalo Belles" suggests to some that we are inclusive of MTF CD's and TS's only. But our ad in "Artvoice" along with our website notice clearly spells out our inclusive nature of all transgendered peoples. Currently I question our group's name because it doesn't seem to communicate the same diversity or degree of acceptance that we really do have. For instance, the FTM group may not be inclined to join us based on an inference from our name. It's possible that our name indirectly spells group policy, which is not inclusive of their enrollment with us.

This group's many years of existence has brought members of the transgendered community together giving them hope and assurance that they are not alone. We all can attest to the significance that factor makes in one's life. Our group was originally formed to provide support to the community at hand. That community has grown as social acceptance has risen and as more information is continually being gathered by the caring Medical and Psychological professionals that deal with us.

There are in short, more of us out there. It's an inescapable fact. A change of name may go hand in hand with a change of times.

One possible suggestion for our group's name so far is:

"Buffalo Gender Expression"

What do **you** think?

This is taken from our website:

We are a social and support group for crossdressers, transvestites, transsexuals, intersexuals and other transgendered individuals.

We're proud to be an open group, welcoming those who are MtoF or FtoM, straight, gay, or bi; single or married.

There are 3 goals that guide us as a group:

One – To be an information resource for transgendered people in Buffalo & Western New York.

Two – To provide support and advice to all who are transgendered, as well as family & friends.

Three – To be a social group – we never forget that everyone needs to have friends and fun.

This is our Ad in "Artvoice":

Buffalo Belles, non-sexual support group for crossdressers, transsexuals and transgendered persons.

Please ask yourself this,

#1) Do we want to be all-inclusive as we state we are in our advertisements?

#2) Does our current name communicate that message?

We'll address this again in our Feb. meeting after we've had time to think.

This article is endorsed by Colleen R., Jean H., Michelle F., Patti J., Trissa K., Malissa G., Brenda H., Tina M., Michele L. and Kathy L.

Nancy's Perspective

Have you made any resolutions? Nobody ever follows them so go ahead and do it. I've made one so far. I resolve to write my column without throwing stones. I got a super letter from our editor and she has made it possible for me to see the light! I had a column all written, but tossed it into a snow bank. The old adage "bury the ax" comes to mind. I do have my own style but that's why I chose the title I did. This is my perspective on a lot of different subjects and should be accepted in that context.

What a Christmas party. Lots of good food, music and certainly the chance to get all gussied up with friends. Even the weather held off which is a blessing. I would hate to think if the affair had been scheduled xmas eve!! I don't have a plow on my car. Rochester had 1 1/2 inches of snow in December. Ha, Ha!! Thanks for whoever put the diary on the gift table. It's titled "Secret Thoughts" and I certainly have a lot of those!

Now for some previews. I called I.F.G.E. and asked about the 2002 BE ALL CONVENTION. It's in Chicago from May 29th until June 2nd. When I get more information I'll pass it along. I would highly recommend you think about going. The chance to be oneself for 4 or 5 days (and nights) is worth the trip. Besides they always have a lot of great vendors and speakers included in the cost. It may be the ultimate TG learning experience to network with sisters from all over the country.

The second preview: The 2002 TG Tennessee Waltz is coming. It's the 16th Annual IFGE Convention and RSA Transperson Educational Colloquium. It will be held at the Nashville, TN Embassy Suites Hotel from Wednesday April 3rd thru Saturday April 6th. I have the information and it looks like it'll be a great event. I can see everything from a pool party to a dinner cruise. If you want more information on this one check the web pages at IFGE.org (click on the convention banner) or you can contact S. Kristine James at

skristinej@aol.com, or Cioe Enterprises, IFGE Convention Management Company, P.O. Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061, at phone 610-759-1761 or fax 610-759-0223.

Looking for a good book? I suggest you get the newly published book *Crossing Over: Liberating The Transgendered Christian*. It's the third book by Vanessa Sheridan and I have all three. The author is a crossdresser who has a goal of starting a TG ministry. You can buy it from www.amazon.com, www.pilgrimpress.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. It should be available soon at Barnes and Noble so look there, or order it directly from the customer service desk at the store.

I had better put a wrap on this. I'm in the Stone Age with my electric typewriter and Michelle will have to do her magic putting this into the next edition. Until the next time...

Your Sister,
Nancy

Dear Miss Suzi,

I do not know the difference between TV, CD, TS, etc. and I do not want to hurt anybody's feelings by saying or asking the wrong thing. Perhaps you can help?

Thank you so much for your very thoughtful letter indeed. First of all, acceptance in their *desired* gender roll is more important than being identified as a **TV, CD, TS, and TG**. The goal for all of these groups is to be *accepted and treated as women* (except, of course, for those relatively few genetic women who wish to and sometimes *do* become men). **M2F** and **F2M** are shorthand for *Male-To-Female* and *Female-To-Male* respectively. It appears that M2F is much more common than F2M situations. **Transgender or TG** is used to describe all of the phenomena of and the people who do behave in ways socially appropriate for, or believe they are members of, the opposite genetic and anatomical sex. One such behavior might

be men wearing women's clothes... and doing so for any number of reasons.

Wearing clothing that is socially appropriate for the opposite sex is known as **crossdressing**. Those who do so are known as **crossdressers or CDs**. The Latin words for crossdressing and crossdressers are Transvestism and Transvestites (trans=cross+vestum=dress). As a group, most people who identify themselves as crossdressers or transvestites (CDs and TVs) are men who like being men and live mostly as men but dress in women's clothes, when they can, because they find doing so to be some combination of physically relaxing, emotionally comforting, or even sexually arousing. They are most likely to be (but are not necessarily always) straight married men whose most frequent and greatest fantasy is to be accepted in a "lesbian" type relationship with a genetic woman. Some, however, do experiment with or prefer dating men or even other TG girls. Some TVs and CDs find out that their motivation lies much deeper than just wearing the clothes.

Transsexuals or TSs are people who believe that they *are or should be members of the opposite sex*. They are not satisfied with their genetic sex and sex characteristics and often take steps (hormones and/or surgeries) to alter their anatomy and change their lives in order to live in the gender role that they prefer. TSs differ from TVs and CDs in that they still feel like women even when they are naked or dressed as men. When dressed as women, they do not feel that they are crossdressing (even though they actually are), but feel that they are dressed appropriately for their preferred gender. Those who have had Sex- Reassignment Surgery (SRS) sometimes refer to themselves as "Post-ops". Those who are hoping to have or are waiting for SRS are called "Pre-ops". Another group has emerged from all of this... Those who wish to and do live as women, take hormones and/or have breast augmentation, but do not

wish to have their genitalia surgically altered. These "Non-ops" look and live like women but still have male genitalia and prefer to keep them.

Drag Queens are usually (but not necessarily) gay men who prefer to be men but who dress as and emulate women for entertainment or prostitution purposes. It seems that the word "drag" is an acronym coined by William Shakespeare who annotated his play scripts with DrAG for **Dressed as a Girl**. Drag is the art, the illusion, the costumes, the fantasy, and the magic of female impersonation.

There is quite a bit of overlap between all of these transgender groups and a certain amount of variability and interchangeability between the appropriate terminology as well as individual changes in "TG-status" over a person's lifetime. That is to say... People change. This certainly adds to confusion about and even within the transgendered community and is especially confusing for the general public at large. Regardless of labels, all transgendered people are seeking social and self-acceptance while being true to their own selves. Many have lived and continue to live in shame, guilt, and fear and do not need any further insult from others as they struggle to liberate themselves from the repression, suppression, and depression found in their sad dark and lonely closets.



Taken at the January meeting. From left to right are Tina M and Trissa K

Transsexual Rights in Spotlight Following N.J. Court Ruling That Condition a Handicap

Monday, July 09, 2001

By Catherine Donaldson-Evans

FOX NEWS

Respond to Editor

Email this Article

NEW YORK — A New Jersey appeals court ruling that transsexualism can be considered a handicap under state law has raised questions — and hackles — over the legal rights of people who change genders.

The decision, handed down by an appeals court, could set a precedent for other states and pave the way for a broader definition of laws concerning both discrimination and disability.

Critics say the ruling goes too far. "That's stretching the idea of disability. Stretch it too far and it becomes meaningless," said Walter Olson, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute think tank and publisher of the Overlawyered.com Web site. "It's been a worry about disabled rights law that nobody knew where it was going to stop."

The question of whether homosexuality should be deemed a handicap has come up before, and it's a notion usually opposed by gay rights groups.

"We would not view sexual orientation as a disability," said David Elliot, communications director with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Is it a disability for straight people? I think it's offensive." He declined comment on whether gender identity is a handicap.

Addressing the case of a male doctor from Camden County, N.J., who was fired when he became a woman, the New Jersey appeals court ruled last week that transsexualism can be considered a handicap under state law and that it's illegal to discriminate against someone who changes gender.

The court overturned a trial judge's dismissal of the case of Dr. Carla Enriquez — formerly Carlos — against West Jersey Health Systems, sending it back to the lower court for trial.

"We conclude that a gender identity disorder, specifically gender dysphoria or transsexualism, is a handicap under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and that the LAD precludes an employer from discriminating on the basis of someone's sexual identity or gender," the appeals court's three-judge panel concluded.

Enriquez claims she was wrongfully fired in 1997 as medical director of West Jersey, a learning behavior center, after she — as Carlos — began wearing emerald-stone earrings and long hair, painting her nails and growing breasts.

The transformation, she says, was part of her medical treatment for gender identity disorder — which culminated in 1998 in a male-to-female sex-change operation. That same year, she sued her former employer for wrongful termination.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Elliot, while disputing the notion that sexuality is a handicap, did praise the New Jersey ruling for deciding it's illegal to discriminate against transsexuals — in the workplace or anywhere else.

"Civil rights law should be expanded to cover not just sexual orientation but gender identity," he said.

Some worry the New Jersey decision could further saturate an already lawsuit-ridden

justice system and handcuff employers in management decisions. One critic said a line needs to be drawn about what's appropriate at the office and what's not.

"I'm going to start wearing a hula skirt to work because now I know I'm protected," said lawyer Philip K. Howard, author of *The Lost Art of Drawing the Line: How Fairness Went Too Far*. "It's extreme. Peculiarity is something the law shouldn't protect."

Executives of the West Jersey Health Center for Behavior, Learning and Attention approached Enriquez in early 1997 to express discomfort over her gradual transformation. Defendant John Cossa, the center's vice president, told her to "stop all this and go back to your previous appearance," according to court documents.

In June, Enriquez was diagnosed with gender identity disorder. A month later West Jersey fired her without cause, giving her 90 days written notice as required by her employment contract. The center prohibited her from writing a letter about her condition to patients and co-workers. Enriquez has since retained half her patients.

The appeals court decided she was wrongly fired because of gender issues, but said she hadn't sufficiently proven she suffered from gender dysphoria. Their ruling allows her to make the case for that in the lower court.

Sufferers of the condition, which the American Psychiatric Association calls a mental disorder, feel trapped by their biological gender. Treatment can include psychotherapy, hormone medications and a series of intensive sex-change surgeries.

Olson thinks that while laws probably need to be more sensitive, courts don't have the authority to force social awareness.

"It's all very good that society becomes more understanding, but it should not be done by the courts simply decreeing one

fine day, "We've changed the law for you," Olson said.

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act says transsexualism isn't a handicap. It also defines disability as an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

New Jersey is one of only 12 states that include gender orientation in their anti-discrimination laws. Two states, Minnesota and Connecticut, specifically ban discrimination based on gender identity.

"The Winn Dixie Campaign"

Call for Solidarity Today (4th January) marks the 2nd anniversary of Peter Oiler's firing by US grocery giant Winn-Dixie. In a remarkable display of bigotry, the truck driver with 21 years service was fired when managers discovered that he wore women's clothes in his leisure time.

Instead of going quietly, Peter and wife Shirley have become the figureheads in a growing international campaign which includes the web-site <http://www.ShameOnWinnDixie.com>, supported and maintained by American Civil Liberties Union activists.

In December 2001, the company tried unsuccessfully to get the site shut down, but campaigners remained defiant and the site continues to expose their shameful behavior. Today, people are traveling from across the States to protest in front of Winn-Dixie's national headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida. To coincide with that, the campaign is asking people from all over the world to call the Winn-Dixie office and register their views. Last year this was hugely successful and helped energize the activists outside to know that those who couldn't be there were flooding the phone lines. The campaign also encourages e-mails calling for a change of heart from company bosses.

Here's who to contact and why:

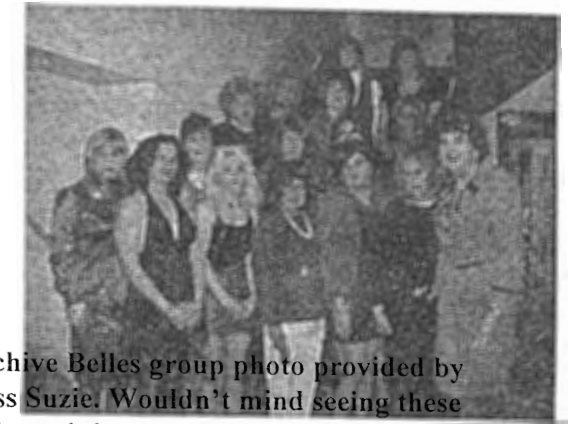
MICHAEL ISTRE -- MichaelIstre@winn-dixie.com; (504-731-2200) Istre is the President of the Winn-Dixie branch in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, where Peter Oiler worked. He was one of the two people who made the decision to fire Peter Oiler, and he is ultimately responsible for all of the division's employment policies.

GREGORY MILES -- GreggMiles@winn-dixie.com; (504-731-2200) Miles swore under oath that he is the other person who made the ultimate decision to fire Peter Oiler, since he oversees the warehouse and distribution center where Peter Oiler worked. He also said in a recent deposition that he supported firing Peter Oiler because customers might "put two and two together" if they saw Peter Oiler cross-dressing in public off-duty, and think that Winn-Dixie supported that "lifestyle."

AL ROWLAND -- AlRowland@winn-dixie.com; (904-783-5000) Rowland is the President and CEO of Winn-Dixie nationally, based at the corporate headquarters in Florida. While not directly involved in firing Peter Oiler, he is responsible for setting a tone within the company and could have intervened when he learned of the termination.

Each of these people needs to know how you feel about Winn-Dixie for firing Peter Oiler. They need to know that Peter Oiler and his wife of 25 years, Shirley, nearly lost everything when he was fired. Winn-Dixie's leaders need to know they were wrong, and that people are paying attention. Also, more constructively, Istre and Rowland need to know they can implement policy changes in Louisiana and company-wide, respectively. If they wanted to, they could enact personnel policies immediately that said all employees will be judged solely on how they do their jobs -- not on discriminatory factors, including sex stereotypes and gender identity, expression

or characteristics. Imagine what that kind of basic fairness would do for the company's image..



Archive Belles group photo provided by Miss Suzie. Wouldn't mind seeing these girls again!

[7] USA: Florida --Winn-Dixie Protest Draws Increased Support

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DATED JANUARY 11, 2002
From: the NATIONAL TRANSGENDER ADVOCACY COALITION (NTAC)

As the stoplight changed to green, semis rumbled through the intersection; yanking hard on the airhorns as they passed. Interspersed between the cars and pickups, the big rigs of various large and small company signage -- a couple with large letters spelling "Jesus Is Lord" under the company name -- honked their support to those gathered on the sidewalk.

A long, rangy line of people stood along the length of the block in front of a low-slung, unremarkably modern office building in the crisp sunshine. Holding signs with slogans saying "Winn-Dixie Unfair to Transgenders" and "Winn-Dixie & the Taliban Try to Control the Clothes You Wear," the crowd waved and whooped their appreciation at every thumbs-up and enthusiastic honk from passers-by.

On this day, supportive passing motorists overwhelmingly outnumbered the

vocally negative ones.

Approximately three dozen hearty souls braved the near-freezing winds on Friday, January 4, 2002, to march in front of Winn-Dixie's corporate headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida. Nearly half of the protesters came from outside of the Jacksonville area. Equality Florida sent two from Tampa, and the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) drummed up another thirteen more from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Iowa, Texas and Louisiana as well as eight individuals from Georgia.

The campaign against Winn-Dixie was held to refresh awareness in the ongoing civil rights case filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) against the Fortune 500 food retailer.

At issue is what the nation's transgender community calls a wrongful firing of Peter Oiler - an employee with over twenty years on the job. Winn-Dixie, however, claims they were justified in terminating him after Oiler told his supervisor he crossdressed occasionally on weekends.

Company executives say that an employee who cross-dresses while away from the workplace on his own free time is bad for the supermarket's "image." Critics challenge that argument, noting that the "image" was never a problem in all the prior years the truck driver worked for the company. Instead, they believe this creates precedent for Corporate America to set standards of how employees will live, dress and act on their own personal time.

President of Jacksonville's ACLU, Ken Hurley added that the suit seeks to "correct the injustice done to Mr. Oiler, and to establish case law that should help eliminate this type of sexual discrimination in the workplace."

One protester who stopped to pick up lunch at a fast food franchise a block away from Winn-Dixie recounted a telling slice of public opinion in Jacksonville. Melissa White of suburban Atlanta described how "women standing in line

began talking of how awful it was what Winn-Dixie did to that man that crossdressed."

When an older gentleman became curious about their conversation, Ms. White added that "the first woman started explaining the case to the older man, and others who began listening in offered their opinions," all shocked and dismayed at Winn-Dixie's behavior.

It appears public opinion may be aligning behind the Oilers' case. "They recognize that a corporation which would limit an employee's freedom to express his identity also [would] not respect the other basic rights," said Courtney Sharp, a transgender activist who traveled to the protest from New Orleans.

Although the Oilers suffered a tough period immediately following the firing, Peter Oiler has since secured new employment with a more desirable company. Oiler has no intentions of returning to Winn-Dixie regardless of the outcome of the case.

ACLU's Ken Hurley summed it up thusly: "Civil Rights emanate from civil wrongs. Winn-Dixie is wrong."



Taken at the January meeting. From left to right are Kathy L, Michelle F, Brenda H and Michele L

Authors Needed

by Michelle Fox

Well the first couple issues of the "new" newsletter have hit the mailboxes. I am happy that our group once again has this written instrument that brings us together when we can't make a meeting. What we need to keep going here is input from the group members themselves. I would invite all of you to put to paper what's on your mind in regards to our unique desire to dress or live as women. No one understands "us" better than "us". Sharing experiences and ideas can be very beneficial to the reader and rewarding to the writer.

After all, this newsletter is all about us-

The Buffalo Belles

Hi Girls:

I am in need of shoulder pads from dresses. I know of someone that has a use for them and could use as many as she gets. I sure don't need them myself and have given her the ones I have removed from my dresses. If you have any around, I would appreciate any you could give me.

Thanks,

Tina

TinaMarie022@cs.com

Crossing Over

By Tina M.

I haven't written in some time. I'm glad there is still a newsletter to relate my adventures thru. I hope you all like my stories.

This is not a story of crossing over to TS, but a story of crossing over the border for the first time. Not a big step, but just another little adventure for me.

Of course I have to do this at the worst time to make it fun, so I picked two

weeks after the World Trade Center disaster. Not the best time to try something new like this.

The date was already set as it was for a party that was being held in Canada for another group that had contacted PEP Buffalo. They were renting our room on Saturday Nov. 25th and they were having a party of their own on Friday the 24th. A few of us decided to attend their party to show our support.

It was a dinner party so I wore a nice dinner dress. (Not Fetish attire) I was riding up with Gerry and Samantha, both PEP board members. We left an hour and a half early because we knew there were delays at the border. When we got close we saw the line and knew our decision was a good one. It took us an hour to get across the bridge to the inspection gate. We displayed our American Flag proudly as we entered the inspection area. They were taking a long time with each car, but all were getting thru.

Now for us! This is where the problem started. She first took our ID's and looked them over. I had given her my male drivers license along with my "Tina" ID that I had made on my computer. This was the first problem. When she saw this one, she asked if I had a New York ID. I said she had it. She didn't realize the two ID's were for me. She then said, "There's not four of you." Suspicion starts!

The girl asked us the usual questions and where we were going. We had not thought about what to say, but we didn't want to say we were going to a BDSM party, so Gerry just said a party. She then asked, "What kind of Party" Gerry paused and said "A PARTY" She asked again and Gerry looked at us for an answer. Samantha then said from the back, "It's a party with a group we met over the Internet." I could see on the inspectors face that she didn't like that. An Internet group! More suspicion!

She then handed back our ID's and I thought we were all set until she said pull over to the left and go into the building. Not

good! I was ready for the worst. A long wait, lots of questions, a car search, a body search!

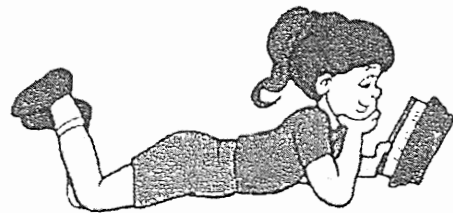
As we entered the building, I was relieved to see but one other person at the counter. We went to one of the custom agents that was free and he asked us the same questions. He also took our ID's and went into the back room. I hoped none of us was on the wanted list! After about 5 minutes of worrying, he came back out and said "Your all set," handed us back our ID's and we were on our way.

As far as my being dressed, that was not an issue. They treated me just the same as the others. So, that's another hurdle jumped. Only a thousand to go!

The party was a lot fun and I met a lot of nice people. I found out later, after two nights of being with them, that some of them didn't know I wasn't a girl. What a nice complement. They may have been lying, but I still liked it.

The trip home was fine. They didn't even ask for our ID's. Just "are you all US Citizens" and that was it. I was glad to be home again!

Tina



Read any good books lately?

Send in a review of your favorite TG book and let us in on your favorite read.

*The Editor has the right to edit or return all articles. Negative comments about fellow group members are not allowed. The deadline for submitting an article to the newsletter is the 15th of each month.

PEP Buffalo

Web site:

<http://www.geocities.com/pepbuffalo1>

E-Mail: PEPBuffalo@aol.com

Info: 559-3062

Meeting Dates

(All events start at 8:00)

February 2nd

March 2nd

April 6th

Play Parties

January 19th

February 16th

A 3 Day Event!!

March 15th, 16th and 17th

Big name guests and lots of vendors!
This will be at a local hotel. To find out more check our website or call our info number.

PEP-Buffalo has invited The Buffalo Belles to set up an information table at their March 15-17 event. If you're interested in representing the Belles and answering basic questions curious people may have, contact Michelle at > Michelfox32@aol.com. We could also hand out pamphlets and FAQ sheets. Its one thing for the public to read or hear about a CD, but quite another to meet one! It'd be a chance to reach out "one person at a time".

Meeting time for our regular monthly meeting has been changed from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. The earlier start doesn't seem to be practical as evidenced by members arriving 1-1^{1/2} hours late! (myself included!)

It was also made known at the meeting that the earlier start time was enacted based on erroneous information provided by the cleaning staff (against us) depicting our conduct and departure time to be unreasonable.

So, don't show up at 6:00pm unless you need time to get dressed or plan on making coffee for everyone!

New meeting time is 7:00 pm.



Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Spiritual Concerns & Studies

First Congregational Church of Christ
822 Cleveland Ave.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
an open and affirming congregation
Contact: >> Jean2ts@aol.com 716-283-4707

WHEN: 3rd Sat. of every month

TIME: 6:00 - 9:00 (about)

Downstairs on left side of Church
EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THIS
FUNCTION AND SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE!

Sunday service starts at 10:30 am

Directions: From Buffalo. Go to north Grand Island Bridge. Exit to the Robert Moses Parkway. Travel to the end. Turn right and go to 3rd St. Turn left. This changes to Whirlpool Street. Turn right onto Cleveland Ave. Church on the left.

From Lockport: RT 104 to Whirlpool Street. Turn left onto Cleveland Ave.

A Walk in the Word

Last meeting of the newly started Spiritual group was both rewarding and disappointing. I was disappointed on the attendance. Only one came. My way of thinking is, with the world conditions as they are; I don't know why everyone isn't rushing to the Lord! But the meeting we had was enlightening and very interesting. As a matter of fact it

was so interesting, I didn't even follow the lesson plan that I had prepared. We talked for two plus hours on issues that were not only gender issues. After the meeting I felt a great sensation of accomplishment.

I pray that more will come and enjoy the same feelings that we shared. All are welcomed.

Until The Buffalo Belles editor or the group decides that they do not want me to report on the journeys of the Word, I will keep you informed. (Editor's note: I have no problem with faith-based contributions. They are intended to be therapeutic and we are a "support" group. Jean's query must be answered by the group.)

If some are willing to break away from the Bells meeting to talk on spiritual issues, let me know. We can make it happen.

Last month's subject:

-Who are God's chosen people?
What do you want to talk about?

Next Meeting: 01-20-02

Hebrews 13:5-6 - "...and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' "

As you face the New Year, I want you to find your contentment in Jesus, your companionship in Jesus, and your confidence in Jesus. Then you'll find your comfort and your courage in Jesus. When you are contented in Jesus and He is closer to you than any one on earth could possibly be; when you are confident in the midst of trials and testing that He will provide...then, and only then, will you know the courage that comes from His comforting presence.