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Buffalo Belles

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THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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My Trip To The Poconos

A Daily Journal by Tina Marie

Part 2 (Continued from last Month)

The last big event for this day was the "Fashion show". I was going to be in it and I had 3 outfits I wanted to show off. I spent an hour after dinner getting things ready. I had been in a fashion show for PEP in Buffalo run by Mistress Kali and I knew how rushed I was going to be to change. The show started around 10:00 and it went very well. There were about 10 of us to be in it. This left about 20 to watch. Some of the girls had outfits provided by DFP and some had their own. I had my own. I had my first outfit on and was the second girl out. A quick stroll around to the different groups to show off my outfit and back to my room to change. I had about 8 to 10 minutes and that isn't much time to change a complete outfit. I made it though and as I made my second round I heard Hamish say "You must have a twin. You couldn't change that quick!" This made me smile and I was having fun.

Up to my room for my third outfit. This was my Victorian outfit and I was looking forward to showing this off again. I made it in the 10 minutes again and I got some nice applause from it. It was nice to know that something I had designed was such a hit. I was a little disappointed that I didn't get a chance to see the other outfits. The first time I saw any of the others was when I got my pictures back.

This over, I went up to change for a little relaxing in the saloon. There wasn't any dancing going on so we just sat and talked at the bar. There was music playing, but no one was into dancing that night. Hamish even offered to cook us a late night

Hamish even offered to cook us a late night cheeseburger as we were rather hungry at this point. This was much appreciated. I think I was one of the last to leave the bar. I would pay for this dearly the next day.

I woke about 9:00am so I could get some breakfast before the first event of the day. I knew this was not to be a good morning as my body told me I had too much to drink the night before. This is when I needed the aspirin that I never packed. I did manage to get down for breakfast but was moving rather slowly. It is not easy to put on make-up when it hurts to open your eyes, let alone put a corset on with an unsettled stomach! I thought if I could just eat something, I would feel better. I looked at the plate of pancakes that was brought to me and tried a bit. Then another and that was all I could tolerate. That just wasn't going to help. I went to the front desk and was pleased that they did have some aspirin. I then went the first seminar of the day. It was "I'm OK, Your OK, She's OK" with Constance and Bobbi S. I really wanted to take this in but my head was killing me. I stayed for about 10 minutes and was about to leave when Bobbi asked me something. I still am not sure what she asked or what I answered. (Sorry Bobbi!) I then excused myself and went to my room for some much needed sleep. I woke an hour later a new girl and was ready to go. Thank you, aspirin!!

By this time the talk was over and I still wanted some fresh air so I thought this would be a good time to get in an horse back ride. I was determined to squeeze it in this year! The riding was to go to 1:00 and it was just past 1:00 and I was supposed to have a riding partner which I didn't. I went to the stable and found the ranch hand that was starting us off. I told him I didn't have anyone to ride with so without hesitation he pulled out 2 horses and said he would ride with me.

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Tina's Poconos Trip



CAMILLE'S

CORNER

Notes from a traveler in Trannyland:

February 3, Saturday: Be ready to by 11:30am. to

do a local TV public access show on "Transgenderism". I am a little anxious. Never did a 30 minute show like this before. At least Joy, the other TG person on the show with me, has more experience talking to groups. The show is a positive thing for the TG community. Only negative aspect: it's only available to those hooked up to Lockport Cable. I'll get a video copy of the program to show to the Belles and for possible future broadcast on other cable systems.

February 6, Tuesday: Begin attending board meetings of PFLAG (Parents, Friends & Families of Lesbian & Gays). They are looking for Trans inclusion and advise as more sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, uncle, aunts, friends, etc. come out as transgendered. PFLAG ability to reach the general public's ear about issues of sexual orientation and now gender issues is a nice addition to what the Belles do currently. They are a potent force in the struggle to educate the public.

February 9, Friday: Opening night of "Kiss The Witch", a play at Hallwalls featuring a Trans woman in one of the lead roles. Looking forward to an entertaining evening and to cheering on a good friend. The show runs most of the month, Fridays through Sundays.

February 10, Saturday: Monthly Belles meeting, featuring a 'Safe Sex' demonstration. This should prove interesting. Possible start of monthly discussion group if enough interest is shown.

Out and About

By: Michele Fox

Today is January 05, 2001 about 1:30 am. For the first time ever I went out as Michele grocery shopping. Doesn't sound like much, but it was rewarding. As the minutes passed by I slowly started to wonder why I wanted to do this. But then it hit me, Michele is who I really am. I seemed to avoid contact with people in the store, now afraid of getting made. But all in all, I got the groceries I needed and proceeded to the checkout. No problems, comments or looks really so far. Even the cashier called me "ma'am". I strongly believe I didn't pass. My voice sounded terrible, but I was thankful for the kindness, (or indifference). Altogether this trip lasted 45 minutes, but was worth more than many nights out at a gay bar.

February 18, Sunday: First fundraiser of the season to benefit Pride Buffalo (the group who puts together the GLBT Pride Parade & Rally). I'm hoping some Belles will stop by to support the show being put on at Mickey's Saloon (44 Allen St., on the next block from Secret's). Starts at 8:00pm. If you've never been to Mickey's, drink's are inexpensive, and it's TG friendly! Other fundraisers will be happening the next few months.

February 24, Saturday: "Cause For Celebration" is one of the bigger events of the year, raising funds for AIDS Community Services. It's a very dressy affair. (Perfect for us Tgirls to show off our nice outfits!) I've always wanted to attend in the past and this year I'm planning on being there. I'll have information and tickets at the Belles February meeting for anyone who's interested.

Time-warp to June:

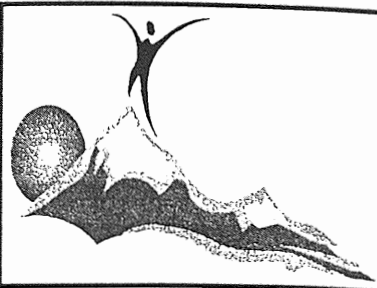
The month of June is GLBT Pride Month and it gets off to a great start the first weekend:

June 1, Friday: "Razzmatazz" a variety show at the Hamlin House. (A dinner is included.)

June 3, Sunday: The day of the Parade and Rally. Last year we made history (herstory?) by having a presence in the form of an information table at the rally. This year we'll top that by having a float in the parade! We have commitments by three Belles so far to ride in the Belles T-truck. It's still early but think about participating or volunteering in some way.

TBA date: One of the many events that go on during the month is a series of workshops for the GLBT community and the general public. I want to offer a workshop/lecture on Transgender issues. Please contact me if you are interested or have suggestions.

And during this entire period: Having a wonderful time and a lot of fun.



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My Trip To The Poconos

(Continued from Page 1)

I had never ridden a horse before, so he gave me a rather gentle and easy to ride horse. He was easy to ride and I just about did nothing but a small kick to get him going. It was fun to ride through the trails and see the scenery. We did pass a group of hunters on the way on 4-wheelers and I asked them if they had seen anything. They said no, just a pretty girl. <blush> I heard one of the younger boys giggle a bit as a rode past. Oh well. I did find out later that they were neighbors and did know "we" were there. The ride lasted about an hour and when I got off I knew why girls rode side saddle. My thighs was a bit sore from the spread over the saddle.

It was now lunch time and I did enjoy this after skipping on the breakfast. I now had just enough time to get to the shooting range for the Annie Oakley Rifle contest. I had taken second place last year and wanted to better this if I could. The weather was exactly the same as last year - windy and cold. The wind caused a problem for me last year as it blew the target around. It is hard enough to hit the target, let alone a moving target. I took my practice shots and had a good grouping. Just a little high and just to the right. I made the small adjustments for the shots that counted and I did end up taking first by just 2 points. The competition was very close.

I quickly departed to the warmth of the lodge and just in time for the "Service Descriptions" seminar given by Stephanie W. I always enjoy her talks and she has so much knowledge on the "how-to's" of Maid service. There is an awful lot to know in order to do it right. This lasted about an hour and next on the agenda was the swimsuit contest.

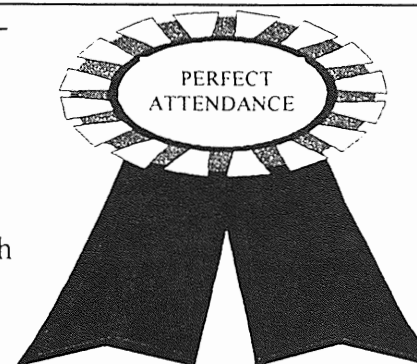
I was waiting for this! I had wanted to do this last year, but it wasn't able to be fit in last years activities. I had brought 2 suits with me and I decided to try the one that I picked out last year. I did get to wear the other one in Atlanta, so I wanted to give this one a try. This one was a bit more challenging to keep things hidden. I also was trying some new sticky pads to hold my breast forms in place. They didn't work so well, but they stayed put anyway. There were originally just 2 of us signed up for the competition, but was glad to find out that a lot of girls decided to go for it in the last few minutes. I think there were 8 of us and I placed runner-up in this contest. It was a lot of fun posing for the judges.

Continued on Page 5

Jo S. wins the "Perfect Attendance" award for 2000.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The only other to even hit double figures was Kathy with 10. But Patti still leads with the most overall with 74



NANCY'S



PERSPECTIVE

Happy February, Belles,

Whenever I approach my typewriter my mind goes blank. I know, some would say that happens all the time! It's fun to see the glow coming from my new fuzzy pink slippers as I poke along, so hopefully I'll arrive at a topic you can all relate too.

First order of business is thanking Rebecca C. for stepping up and becoming the editor of our newsletter. Thank you!! At least I know I'll still have an outlet for my thoughts - no matter what they are.

A couple of things happened in January that reminded me of the diversity within the transgendered community that we are a part of. One need only look around and be observant. I went to the CD Network meeting in Rochester on January 6th (along with fellow Belle, Jo) and I met a gal who throws a big wrench into the theory that most of us have, on how we evolved to where we're at now. I know that a lot of different gender types have been identified, so it's always good to meet someone who breaks the mold, so to speak. She told me that she got the desire to start expressing herself as across dresser after seeing the movie, "Like A Woman". She said she was intrigued by the idea, and decided to try getting dressed up. She now does it a lot, and has taken the step of joining a support group. I asked her if she had any prior urge to do this, and she says no. There was no childhood involvement, or any clue until she saw the movie. She is probably 35+ years old (I never ask a woman her age) and so this leap forward is very interesting to say the least. I have only talked to one other sister with a similar beginning, and I still hold to the belief we are born transgendered.

The other "thing" that happened to me last month took place on one of my days off. I had invited Karen T. to stop over and try on some shoes I was about to get rid of. It's not easy finding another woman with feet as big as mine, so this was a way to help build someone else's wardrobe. She was at my place about an hour when Cleo J. stopped over to hang out.

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Laura Antoniou VISITS PEP BUFFALO, NY

March 3rd - Laura Antoniou VISITS PEP BUFFALO, NY. Laura Antoniou's work has become well-known in the erotically alternative community, primarily for her "Marketplace" series (The Marketplace, The Slave, The Trainer and The Academy), regarded as "the SM fiction of choice among pansexuals" by the editor of SM Classics. The next Marketplace novel, The Academy: Tales of the Marketplace (to be published in first quarter 2000 by Mystic Rose Books), is described as "a sort of Arabian Nights of the Marketplace, with individual stories woven into a larger tale full of political intrigue, difficult choices, and of course, searingly hot sex." Laura Antoniou will be doing a reading, Q & A, and will sign copies of your books or you may purchase a signed copy. Don't miss this opportunity to meet her!

Half of All Men Want to Be Girls

Men have a softer side Daily Record Tuesday, January 16, 2001. Men aren't obsessed with breasts, beer and ball games, new research claims. Instead, they like and respect women - and nearly half would like to be one. Forty-six per cent of men aged 18 to 35 questioned for a survey said if they could be born again, it would be as a woman. The survey claimed men only behaved badly in stereotyped TV shows and adverts. The researchers found 86 per cent wanted to get married, 97% would happily work for a woman boss and most would forgive infidelity. The average man prefers Marilyn Monroe-style curves to skinny bodies, but maintains looks are not as important as a sense of humour. And if men really are obsessed with sex, then their needs are being met. 90% are satisfied with their love life. There is a definite soft side to the 21st-century British male, according to the survey for Cosmopolitan magazine. Three in four think a woman could do their job, three in five remain friends with exes and 46 per cent spend free time with their partner rather than mates. But some habits die hard. The average man sees five women a day he'd like to have sex with.

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Continued from page 3

No sooner had Cleo arrived when Donna showed up! What a hen party we had going. I filled them full of coffee, and it was fun to sit around and exchange some thoughts.

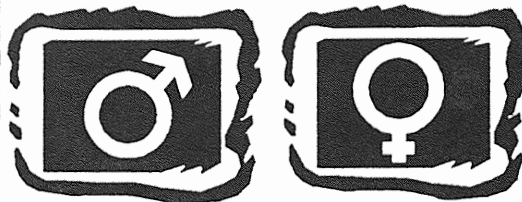
What struck me was how they all deal with being married (unlike me who has been divorced for 100 years) and that relates to the diversity I mentioned. One gal has an open and trusting relationship with her Significant Other (S.O.). They share everything, and have been doing this for 30 years. Another gal has never told her S.O. and they have been married for 25 years. She gets a chance to dress up, but not as often as she would like. The last lady says her S.O. knows about her, and helps by accepting it, but doesn't want anyone else to know about her desire. She stays dolled up at home most of the time, but her S.O. has a problem even thinking there may be other CD's around the city. Three different ways to handle a similar problem. How do you tell your wife? Or family... Where do you fit into the diversity puzzle? Think about it.

Take care,

Your sister, Nancy

*Time to renew your membership.
If you can't remember whether
you paid, check your envelope-
your status is next to your name.*

**"SAFE SEX"
DEMONSTRATION
March 10th**



**You will be
enlightened,
amused
and
surprised!**

**This event is not to be
missed.**

**Presented by
AIDS Alliance**

My Trip To The Poconos

(Continued from Page 3)

After the contest, it was time for dinner. Stephanie, Micki, and I were going to help with this meal in maid style. We took a table at the back for ourselves so as not to disturb the other guests when we had to bring food and take away plates. We worked as a team and one would eat and the other 2 would serve. This worked well, but we still had to eat fast. Micki and I were also being judged for our service at this time. At the end of the meal we both walked the length of the room together and curtsied for the guests. They showed their appreciation with some nice applause. At the awards ceremony, Micki ended up with best Maid service and I ended up with best Maids outfit.

The last scheduled event for our trip was the talent show followed by the awards ceremony. There were just 3 doing the talent this year. I had tried it last year and had decided to pass on this for this year. The first girl was Donna who did a Patsy Cline lip sync. She was very good and dressed the part well. She ended up winning. Because of the small number of participants, she actually did 3 songs, changing outfits and all! The second girl out was Jenn and she did an impression of bacon frying in a pan. I give her a lot of credit for doing this. I wouldn't have had the nerve. We all had a good laugh and enjoyed her show. Last was Tiger Lady and she did a drag show- dance as a male and stripped to a female throughout her dance. She was a ballet teacher-dancer and it showed. She was fun to watch. The show was soon over and it was time for the awards.

I can't remember all the awards that were given out, but I do remember mine. Besides "Best Maids Outfit" and "Miss Annie Oakley", I won "Best Costume in the Fashion Show" and "Belle of the Ball"! I was so happy and a little embarrassed as they announced my name 4 times. I was there to have fun so I just entered everything! (Except the talent contest.) There were 2 other contests, but no one signed up for these. We all passed on the Horseshoes and the Archery contests. I didn't want to break a nail! I'm sure that was the reason for the others also.

So that was it! We were done and we just partied the rest of the night and enjoyed the last of our weekend together. Not much dancing again. Just chatting and drinks. I called it a night around 2am and went off for a restful sleep.

Sunday, I woke around 9am to a very messy room after 3 days of changing. I didn't even want to try to pack yet. I went downstairs to see the others for the last time. Some were dressed and some were back to their male selves. I had quite a few surprises when I had to ask who they were. I so wish we didn't have to change back and I'm sure many of the others would agree with me.

I couldn't put it off any longer. It was time to pack and head for home.

I asked Denise if she had started yet and she said she was all done. I told her I would be a good 3 hours and if she didn't want to wait I would understand. She did decide to go so as not to have to drive the last few hours in the dark. It did take me the 3 hours to pack everything back up along with a dozen trips to my car. By the time I got done almost everyone was gone. Bobbi S. was the last one left as I took the last load to my car. I said a quick good-bye and thank you for everything and off she drove. I made one last walk inside to get my schedule board and to make sure I didn't forget anything. I had a short talk with the help that was left and thanked them for everything. The ranch was empty when I got there and now it was empty again.

My trip home was a good one. I had 5 1/2 hours to think about the events that had just taken place and the time passed quickly. My first stop was at a rest stop. I was scouting out safe places and this one was fairly empty. At least no trucks there. There were a few cars, but not too many to make me nervous. I went right into the ladies room and there were 4 women in there. They were chatting with each other and they glanced at me as I passed by to get to the stall. I listened for any break in their conversation and didn't hear any. Phew! There was just one left as I went to wash my hands and check my makeup in the mirror next to her. No problem and I was glad. On the way out I passed two more people going in and again no problem. It was dark at this point with just the street lights for illumination.

My next stop was for gas. I keep looking for a station that was just off the thruway. I couldn't find one that I could see before I got off. My gas was low so the next one was mine! I got off and found a Mobil station. As I pulled in I saw a pickup truck with a few hunters in it and one filling up the truck. This was not ideal by my standpoint, but I chose my timing so I was filling up my car as he went in to pay. (Still no card slot on the pump!) I finished and went in to pay as he was getting into his truck. I didn't want a close up confrontation and my timing was good. I went inside and there was a young girl trying to get directions from another person. I had to wait for her to move to get to the counter and as she noticed me waiting she did give me a look from head to toe, but no reaction at all. Just checked me out and back to her directions. The counter worker didn't react at all either. Just "How much?" - "Thank you" and off I went. The rest of the drive was fine, except my cruise control stopped working. I hate that!

It was about 7:00pm and I was an hour from home. I started to think I didn't want to go straight home, so I decided to stop at Secrets (one of my favorite bars) for a drink to unwind a bit. There were not very many people there and it was perfect to end the trip with. I had a nice long talk with the off duty bartender (Frank) and ended up being the last one there and left about 12:30 for home. I was very nervous the whole time there though. I had almost everything I owned in my car and I was sooo afraid that my car would be stolen.

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My Trip To The Poconos

(Continued from Page 5)

I looked out the window every 15 minutes to make sure it was OK!

I had the next day off from work so I didn't have to unpack anything right then. So I went inside and relaxed and thought about the last 4 days. I had left as Tina on Thursday and now it was Monday morning and I was still Tina. Will I ever be able to stretch these days into weeks and then into months and then.....

Tuesday it was back to work and this is the first time I got rather depressed. Not as bad as after my trip to Atlanta. My job is rather "blue collar" and walking back through the door and seeing all the guys I work with was not what I wanted to see. As a friend told me, "It is just too male" and I agree. I wanted to turn around and go back where I had just had so much fun. Oh well.. Got to pay the bills!

I would like to give a special "Thank You" to Bobbi Swan and everyone else that made this another great vacation!

Anyone desiring a complete version of this "My Trip To The Poconos" please contact Tina Marie.

FEMALE SELF-DEFENSE
By DONNA BOTHWELL SMITH

My friend Carol just finished taking, according to her, the most amazing self-defense class, sponsored by Shandwick, and she wanted to share some really valuable info with you before it goes out of her head. The guy who taught the class has a female friend who was attacked last year in the parking garage at Westport Plaza in St. Louis one night after work and taken to an abandoned house and raped. He started a women's group and began teaching these classes soon after. This guy is a black belt in karate and trains twice a year with Steven Segall. He and the others in this group interviewed a bunch of rapists and date rapists in prison on what they look for and here's some interesting facts:

The #1 thing men look for in a potential victim is hairstyle. They are most likely to go after a woman with a ponytail, bun, braid or other hairstyle that can easily be grabbed. They are also likely to go after a woman with long hair. Women with short hair are not common targets.

The second thing men look for is clothing. They will look for women who's clothing is easy to remove quickly.

The #1 outfit they look for overalls because many of them carry scissors around to cut clothing and on overalls the straps can be easily cut. They also look for women on their cell phone, searching through their purse or doing other activities while walking because they are off guard and can be easily overpowered. The time of day men are most likely to attack and rape a woman is in the early morning, between 5 and 8:30 a.m. The number one place women are abducted from/attacked at is grocery store parking lots. Number two is office parking lots/garages. Number three is public restrooms. The thing about these men is that they are looking to grab a woman and quickly

move her to a second location where they don't have to worry about getting caught. Only 2% said they carried weapons because rape carries a 3-5 year sentence but rape with a weapon is 15-20 years. If you put up any kind of a fight at all, they get discouraged because it only takes a minute or two for them to realize that going after you isn't worth it because it will be time-consuming. These men said they will not pick on women who have umbrellas, or other similar objects that can be used from a distance, in their hands. Keys are not a deterrent because you have to get really close to the attacker to use them as a weapon. So, the idea is to convince these guys you're not worth it. Several defense mechanisms he taught us are:

*If someone is following behind you on a street or in a garage or with you in an elevator or stairwell, look them in the face and ask them a question, like what time is it, or make general small talk, I can't believe it is so cold out here, we're in for a bad winter. Now you've seen their face and could identify them in a lineup, you lose appeal as a target.

*If someone is coming toward you, hold out your hands in front of you and yell Stop or Stay back! Most of the rapists this man talked to said they'd leave a woman alone if she yelled or showed that she would not be afraid to fight back. Again, they are looking for an EASY target. If you carry pepper spray (this instructor was a huge advocate of it and carries it with him wherever he goes), yelling I HAVE PEPPER SPRAY and holding it out will be a deterrent.

*If someone grabs you, you can't beat them with strength, but you can by outsmarting them. If they grab your wrist, pull your wrist back so your hand is in waving position (palm facing forward) and twist it toward yourself and pull your arm away. It is hard to hold onto wristbones that are moving in that way. They stumble toward you and you stumble back, so you can use that momentum to bring the same out and backhand them with your knuckles in the forehead, nose or teeth.

*If you are grabbed around the waist from behind, pinch the attacker either under the arm, between the elbow and armpit or in the upper innerthigh. HARD. One woman in a class this guy taught, told him she used the underarm pinch on a guy who was trying to date rape her and was so upset she broke through the skin and tore out muscle strands - the guy needed stitches. Try pinching yourself in those places as hard as you can stand it. It hurts.

*After the initial hit, always go for the groin. You might think that you'll piss the guy off and make him want to hurt you more, but the thing these rapists told our instructor is that they want a woman who will not cause a lot of trouble. Start causing trouble and he's out of there.

*When the guy puts his hands up to you, grab his first two fingers and bend them back as far as possible with as much pressure pushing down on them as possible. The instructor did it to me without using much pressure and I ended up on my knees and both knuckles cracked audibly. Of course the things we always hear still apply. Always be aware of your surroundings, take someone with you if you can and if you see any odd behavior, don't dismiss it, go with your instincts. You may feel a little silly at the time, but you'd feel much worse if the guy really was trouble.

*Please forward this to any woman you know, it's simple stuff that could save her life.

enise taking pictures of Tina modeling



Tina Oakley takes aim-First place!



Tina gets taken for a ride

**TRANSGENDER ACTIVISTS SEEK LEGAL PROTECTION** By Inga Sorensen

The evening began with a gentle solidarity.

The roughly 50 folks who had come to Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village Tuesday evening were asked to observe a moment of silence for those who had perished in violent acts simply for being who they were: transgender people.

On each folding chair a sheet of paper was placed listing 17 named and unnamed transgender or gender-transgressive people who died during the past 12 months "due to prejudice, hatred, and violence." The roll call of the dead included Amanda Milan of New York City, whose throat was slashed in front of the Port Authority Bus Terminal in June. (More than 300 people crammed into a July memorial service for Milan, whose killing, some say, marked a turning point in the political movement to obtain justice for transgender people.)

November 28 is the annual Day of Remembrance honoring the transgender dead, and on this night, people collected at the Village church for a forum that primarily addressed New York's new hate crimes law and its applicability to crimes against transgender people. Representatives from local district attorneys' offices, the New York Police Department, the state attorney general's office, U. S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler's office, and transgender and gay organizations were among those in attendance.

It took 11 years of legislative tussling to pass a gay-inclusive hate crimes bill in the Empire State. The measure, which was signed into law July 10 and took effect Oct. 8, stiffens penalties for the commission of crimes based on, among other categories, gender and sexual orientation. It does not include explicit protections for transgender people by, for example, covering gender identity.

The law requires all of the state's law enforcement agencies to keep statistics on bias crimes, and a jury or judge can find that a crime was motivated by prejudice even when the defendant was mistaken about the victim's identity.

"The truly ironic thing is that the people who are most hated are those who are excluded from the hate crimes bill," said panelist Paisley Currah, a political science professor at Brooklyn College and co-author of the recently published Transgender Equality: A Handbook for Activists and Policymakers.

Currah noted that four states -- Minnesota, California, Vermont, and Missouri -- have hate crimes laws that contain language that explicitly include crimes committed against people because of their gender identity or gender expression.

Currah then criticized backers of New York's law for purposely excluding transgender people. "They knew what they were doing," when they made that decision, Currah told the audience.

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TRANSGENDER ACTIVISTS SEEK LEGAL PROTECTION

By Inga Sorensen
(Continued from page 7)

The new law was heavily promoted by the Hate Crimes Bill Coalition, which includes the Empire State Pride Agenda, the state's largest gay political organization and a primary player in the push for the measure.

"It was a political calculation," conceded ESPA's legislative counsel Ross Levi, who journeyed down from Albany to appear on the panel. But, he told onlookers, he did not believe the lack of trans-explicit language negated transgender people from being covered under the law (a contention bolstered by remarks from representatives for the Manhattan, Queens, and Bronx district attorneys, all of whom said their offices would apply the hate crimes statute in crimes they felt were motivated by anti-transgender bias. And, they said, they felt a court would back their interpretation and application of the law in those cases).

"It's a no-brainer for us," said Eric Rosenbaum, a Queens County assistant district attorney who works in the Special Victims Bureau.

Kristine Hamann, executive assistant district attorney for New York County, agreed: "It will be fine," she assured the crowd. Hamann said prosecutors are "the ones who have to make the case" to the courts, which she felt should pose little problem in this regard. Why? "Because the word gender is the word gender -- it's very broad."

But Laura Edidin, director of legal services for the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, which provides counseling, advocacy, information, and referrals to survivors of anti-gay violence, highlighted the fact that the new law is a statewide measure.

"I'm not worried about the people here," she said, referring to the local district attorney reps on the panel. Instead, it's those who were not there -- those from the small towns, rural enclaves, and other locales throughout the state's sprawling terrain -- those are the folks one must wonder about. How, Edidin inquired, will those police, prosecutors, and judges "handle the force of this law?" (Some attendees also spoke about the abuse and dismissive attitudes they say they encountered from the NYPD.) There are hundreds of local law enforcement agencies in New York, all of which will need to learn how to identify and handle hate crimes -- and there are dozens upon dozens of prosecutors, each with his or her own prerogatives. Thus, while some local prosecutors and some Hate Crimes Bill Coalition members have said they will attempt to ensure the interpretation of the law is broadly applied, it remains to be seen how successful that effort will in fact be.

There has been some talk about amending the law to explicitly include transgendered people. Pauline Park of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy has

advanced the notion in the past, and did so again Tuesday night. But some at the meeting cautioned against such an action, suggesting that if lawmakers respond negatively, transgender people will have no chance of being covered under the law.

"Right now we believe that we can prosecute [anti-transgendered bias crimes] under the statute," said Rosenbaum. But, he added, "there is danger in pressing for legislative change" in that when you start getting more specific with the law's language, "it's no longer so flexible."

Edidin added that if an amendment attempt fails, "then they'll say, 'See, it doesn't include transgender people.'"

Park discussed her concern that the law's language is ambiguous -- and thus open to interpretation.

And, she noted, there is "no [case law] evidence to suggest that transgendered people would be included under the law." In addition, Park said, district attorneys are elected -- meaning that without explicit protections, an incoming district attorney can apply his or her own take on the law, conceivably opting to not apply the statute to crimes against transgendered people.

"We cannot leave this to the discretion of a new district attorney," she stressed, adding the amendment idea should at least be floated before dismissing the concept.

Others at the meeting voiced objections to the hate crimes law for other reasons. During a question-and-answer period, Carolina Cordero Dyer, a board member of the Audre Lorde Project, a gay people of color organization based in Brooklyn, expressed concerns that the community had "adopted a tough-on-crime strategy." It is similar to the position she shared with the Blade in June, when she said, "We're living in a time where the criminal justice system is used to discipline and punish people of color and queer people of color, and youth in particular. In that kind of a context calling for tougher sentencing is really about emboldening that movement of criminalization of youth of color."

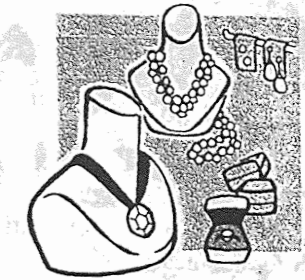
And community activist Bill Dobbs said there "are more than enough laws to keep everybody locked up."

But others offered another view. Donna Cartwright, a NYAGRA member and the forum's primary organizer, said explicit inclusion for transgender people would "send an important message." Another participant spoke about the hardships of the transitioning process (the concerns around losing one's job, the ever-present fear of harassment and abuse), "I need for this law to be specific," came the plea. "I need that in so many different ways."

This article appeared in the New York Blade issue of December 1, 2000



FASHION, STYLE ... AND YOU



A surefire way to play up your assets is to choose colors that complement your hair, eyes and skin tone.

Doris Pooser in her book *Secrets of Style*, has chosen to sack the traditional "seasonal" categories (winter, spring, summer, fall) in favor of more practical and familiar style color types. They are: Deep, Light, Bright, Muted, Warm and Cool.

Deep (Vivid coloring)

Hair: Dark-Black, dark brown, chestnut, auburn.
Eyes: Deep-Brown, brown-black, hazel, rich green, olive.
Skin: Beige, olive, bronze.

Recommended colors: Those that are medium to deep in range, like navy, deep brown, blue, purple, charcoal gray, emerald green, mahogany.

Light (Soft, delicate, fair coloring)

Hair: Light to dark blond, ash blond, golden blond.
Eyes: Blue, blue-green, green, aqua.

Skin: Light-Ivory to soft beige, pink, peach.
Recommended colors: Those that are medium to light and are neither too warm nor too cool, such as grayed-navy, blue-green, turquoise, cocoa, light to medium blue, coral pink, light to medium pink-orange.

Bright (Contrast in color of hair and skin tone)

Hair: Medium to dark-Ash brown to golden brown, black.

Eyes: Bright and clear-Blue, blue-green, turquoise, steel gray, light hazel.
Skin: Light-Ivory, porcelain, beige, translucent quality.

Recommended colors: Clear, primary colors like true red, true green, true blue. Also try aqua, violet, bright pink, periwinkle.

Muted (Neutral look)

Hair: Medium range-Medium ash brown to dark ash blond.

Eyes: Gray-green, hazel, brown-green, brown, dark green. Skin: Ivory, beige, bronze, golden. Freckles and ruddiness common. *Recommended colors:* Soft, blended shades that are neither too warm nor too cool, including rose-brown, blue-green, salmon, rust, watermelon, medium green, warm pink.

Warm (Total golden glow)

Hair: Medium range-Blond or brown with gold, red or strawberry highlights.

Eyes: Warm-Green, hazel, brown, topaz, blue-green, teal.

Skin: Golden-Beige, ivory, bronze. May have freckles.

Recommended colors: Those that reflect a golden tone, such as beige, peach, yellow, warm red, golden brown, camel, moss green.

Cool (Softer look)

Hair: Ash brown.

Eyes: Cool-Rose-brown, gray-brown, gray-blue.

Skin: Cool-Beige, rose-beige, pink.

Recommended colors: Those that reflect a gray or blue tone, such as plum, lavender, burgundy, pink, blue-green, slate.

Remember that certain colors-like black, white, gray, navy, true red and true green-are considered "universal," meaning they can be worn with flair by anybody. Also remember that playing around with color is fun, so don't feel tied down to a limited palette of hues. Similarly, if you find that you were not represented by any of the above categories, don't despair. Wear colors that you feel comfortable in, or ask friends what shades suit you best.

Congratulations! It's time to go shopping. Some strategies to consider:

Acquire the classics: No matter what style you decide to embrace, it's a good idea to stock up on basic garments that can serve as a foundation to a variety of looks. You've heard of the ubiquitous Little Black Dress, right? Get one. When paired with the right pieces, that baby can get you through a variety of settings. Timeless separates like a nice pair of black pants, a white button-down shirt or an all-purpose gray cardigan will come in handy as well.

Mix it up: Not everyone can afford to shop at Lord & Taylor, which is why it's important to be resourceful in putting together your wardrobe. Pair a Kmart tank top with a slightly more upscale Eastern-inspired skirt. Scour thrift shops for retro work pants, kitschy T-shirts and vintage wool coats.

Congratulations! It's time to go shopping.



COMING EVENTS



DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE CHANGES, CALL TO VERIFY THE TIME AND PLACE OF EVENTS

- FEBRUARY TBA** GLBT COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS SERIES Workshops & Lectures on Transgender issues.
- FEBRUARY 3** ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm
- FEBRUARY 10** BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm Upstairs meeting room. "Safe Sex"
- FEBRUARY 11** "PAGEANT" A musical comedy play opens Thursday at Daemen Theater, 4380 Main Street, Amherst. Phone 839-8540.
Beauty pageant with all contestants played by men.
- FEBRUARY 16-19** FIFTH ANNUAL TRUE SPIRIT CONFERENCE, Washington, D.C.
This three day conference focuses on the social, physical, emotional, spiritual and relational health of all gender variant people on the FTM spectrum and their significant others, friends, families, and allies.
- FEBRUARY 18** CURLY'S CHESTNUTS (ROASTED ON AN OPEN FIRE)
Sunday-8:00pm
Mickey's Saloon, 44 Allen Street, Downtown Buffalo. A fun fundraiser with all proceeds to benefit Pride Buffalo.
- MARCH 3** PEP BUFFALO 8:00pm
Compton's, 1239 Niagara Street, Buffalo Special Guest Laura Antoniou, Erotic Author.
- MARCH 10** BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 6:00pm
- MARCH 21-25** 15TH ANNUAL IFGE CONVENTION
Chicago, Illinois (info: 610-759-1761)
- MAY 10-13** SPRING FLING 2001, Provincetown, Massachusetts
For more information: www.tcne.org
- JUNE 6 -10** BE-ALL CONFERENCE - DETROIT 2001
- JUNE 3** PRIDE PARADE & RALLY
Parade starts at 1:00pm, down Elmwood Ave. Rally starts at 2:30pm, Bidwell Parkway and Elmwood Ave. Tea Dance starts at 5:00pm, location TBA. Last year we made history (herstory?) by having an information table. This year we'll have float in the parade. We already have 3 volunteers to ride in the float. Think about participating or volunteering in some way.

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Jennifer M.
Tina Marie
Denise P.
Susan D.
Candi (Guest)
Joan L.
Colleen R.
Rebecca C.

Kendra K.
Holly I.
Nancy M.
Terri J.
(& wife Sue)
Trissa J.
Jo S.
Isabel (Guest)

Kathy L.
Brenda H.
Kim K.
Camille H.