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6-2001

### June 2001

Buffalo Belles

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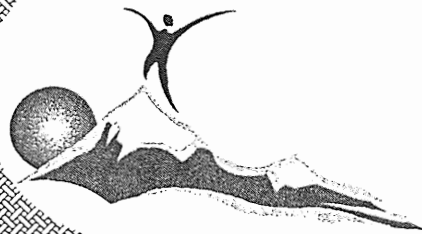
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# THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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**NEXT MEETING:  
JUNE 9  
TIME FOR THE  
NEW LEADERS  
TO EMERGE**

**KATHY'S NOTES: A WHOLE LOT OF REMODELING GOING ON.**

Dear Members,

First off, our meeting place is about to under take a massive remodeling project that will be affecting where we meet for the next several months. Our current meeting room, The Emerson Room is going to be torn off and a much larger meeting hall is to be built in its place. Along with this will be a new kitchen and bathrooms. Probably an elevator to the second floor will part of the project.

All I know is from a phone call with Margo, our church liaison person. The work is expected to start shortly after our next meeting. A project of this size is probably going to keep things quite upset for several months. We will probably meet upstairs in one of the classrooms, as we have in the past at times.

Hopefully we'll know much more before we are directly affected. When it is all done, I'm sure we'll be quite pleased with their efforts.

With the remodeling of our meeting place, it is only appropriate that we do some remodeling of our own. And ours is needed more than our hosts.

Quite simply, it is time for some new girls take over the group. Our current leaders have about had it. Here is what Camille had to say in an Email just a week or so ago.

Subj: *The Fat Lady Sings*  
 Date: *5/25/01 4:08:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time*  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: *Kathy, Rebecca, Holly, Jean, Patti,*

*Dear Ladies,*

*Due to current and future time constraints and in order to avoid total "burn-out", I am ending my association with the newsletter and any month-to-month activities of the Buffalo Belles. I will, however, continue my involvement with outreach & education.*

*It has been fun (most of the time), but it's time for me to move forth.*

*Sincerely,  
 Camille*

*PS: Rebecca has asked what she should do with the current issue she has just finished. I instructed her to send it to Kathy.*

(Kathy's notes continued on page 4)

## NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE ACTION ALERT

### CALL YOUR UNITED STATES SENATORS!

Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced an anti-gay amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) now pending before the U.S. Senate. The Helms Amendment would DENY FEDERAL FUNDS to any public school district that does not afford equal access to its facilities by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Equal access is already guaranteed under federal law and there is no evidence that any school district ever successfully denied access to the BSA. The only effect of the Helms Amendment would be to give Congressional support to the Boy Scouts of America's policy of excluding gay boys and men from its programs.

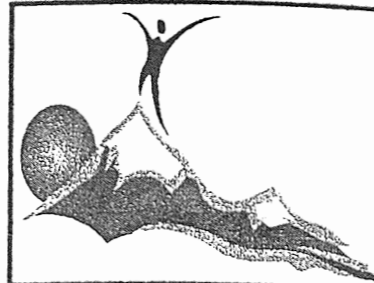
The vote will be close in the Senate and your voice is essential. Help us defeat this anti-gay amendment. Send a message to Jesse Helms and call your Senators (please call both Senators from your state) today. Ask them to oppose the Helms Amendment to the ESEA.

You can find contact information for your senators at <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm> or call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and an operator will connect you directly with the Senate office.

Founded in 1973, NGLTF works to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level.

As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

To reach the NGLTF Communications Department at NGLTF, please call David Elliot, Communications Director, at 202-332-6483 x3303 or pager 800-757-6476 or email [delliot@ngltf.org](mailto:delliot@ngltf.org).



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## Rebecca's Column Between 10-18 years old

My history was not always interesting. This part of my story may not be in chronological order. I'll do the best that I can to make it flow smoothly.

My girlfriend and I were always having fun at her house. She was sort of a Tomboy type person. Her parents were always trying to get her to wear "girls" clothes. Well needless to say, she didn't want any part of that.

I remember one time we organized a game where she wore my clothes and I wore hers. Now don't get things in your minds, that we had anything other than dressing-up in mind. So, I brought my "boy" clothes over to her house and we began our fun. She put my clothes (under pants & under shirt, socks, pants, shirt, and shoes) on and combed her hair back. Boy did she really pass as a nice looking boy. Well it was my turn. I put on her panties, stockings, dress, and bra. Of course she didn't have much in the way of breasts yet, so the bra fit me fine. Virtually nothing there to really be concerned about. Now came the part that she didn't think that I looked good enough to pass as a girl yet. She went into the house and came back with her mother's make-up and one of her really nice wigs. By the way, if you are wondering where we are doing all of this, well you can rest your minds. We were not doing it on the front lawn. Her family had a small shed/garage on their property. Well I must say that she really did a great job on the make-up and the wig completed my transformation.

We played that she was my brother and I her sister. We thought that maybe it might even more exciting for us to go to the local store and look at some toys while still being brother and sister. This seemed somewhat scary but when I looked in the mirror, I thought that it was a little girl looking back at me. So we went to the store. When the storeowner saw us, he asked if we were new in town, because in those days everyone knew everyone. This was very tense, because if he recognized me, I would be in a whole lot of trouble with my parents. Well my brother (Sheila) said that we indeed just arrived in town and that our parents had moved in from Iowa, and introduced me as her little sister Sheila and that her name was Thomas. The owner called me honey. I thought that was the highlight of our trip. I was really into this girl thing. We looked around for a little while and then went back to her house. What a blood exhilarating experience for us both to actually become each other's gender even if only for a short time. When it was time for us to change back to the clothes of our assigned stigma, it was very difficult for both of us. We had wished that we were truly brother and sister. We promised that if we had the chance, that we would do it again. Maybe, next time just I would dress-up as her girl friend when we played at her house, and she would tell her mom that I was one of her little girl friends. Her mother loved this because now, finally she had a girl friend instead of boy friends, if she only knew. In fact if my parents knew what I was doing they would have me institutionalized.

My grandmother was very sick and we had to take her to my

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Court Reverses Transsexual Case

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Filed at 1:41 p.m. ET TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)

A marriage involving a person who has had sex change surgery may be valid under Kansas law, a state Court of Appeals panel ruled Friday.

The decision overturns a lower court decision that found such unions violated state law banning same-sex marriages. A unanimous three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals said courts must determine whether a person is male or female at the time of marriage, not at birth. But the panel concluded such a determination may be difficult and ordered the case returned to district court for more proceedings.

A Leavenworth County District Court had declared the September 1998 marriage of Marshall and J'Noel Gardiner invalid because J'Noel once was a man. Judge Gunnar Sundby ruled that J'Noel remained a man, despite the surgery. Marshall Gardiner, who was 85 at the time of the marriage, died in 1999 of a heart attack. J'Noel Gardiner is embroiled in a legal dispute over his \$2.5 million estate with his son, Joe. The son learned about J'Noel's surgery after his father's death.

"The same science which allows us to map the genome and explore our DNA requires us to recognize these discoveries in all aspects of our lives, including the legal ramifications," Appeals Judge Robert Gernon wrote in Friday's ruling.

"We can no longer be permitted to conclude who is male or who is female by the amount of facial hair one has or the size of one's feet. Legal experts said the case could have ramifications on their cognition of transsexuals and their unions across the nation.

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

"There's so little case law in marriages involving a transsexual person that inevitably, other states are going to look at what Kansas does," said Shannon Minter, a lawyer for the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco.

Text of Court of Appeals decisions:  
<http://www.kscourts.org/>

#### Kathy's Notes continued:

You notice whom it was addressed to? All the "gray beards", who funny, turn out to all be TS's. And if Janice or Colleen had Email, they'd have been addressed there also, I'm sure. We have collectively had it. It is time for someone else to step forward.. Our personal lives, our transitions and new lives need too much nurturing to give so much time and effort to the group anymore.

We'll still be around to give a hand when needed. But some of you need to come forward now. To facilitate this, most of us are going to STOP ATTENDING THE MEETINGS FOR AWHILE. That way, which ever of you is the cream, you'll rise to the top. And do something for a change, instead of letting others (us) do it all.

PLUS, this is a good way to bring the CD element back into the group. The group has become way to TS orientated in the last couple of years. If you look at who has attended the most meetings over the years, the first eight places are TS's. If you add the number of meetings we've attended, it is more than the rest of the entire group combined since Day One!

So here's the story. The rent for the meeting place, phone, PO Box, etc., will be paid up till the end of the year. But it is time for YOU to start putting some effort in. Get together next Saturday and start taking some initiative. Someone should take attendance, someone needs to swallow her fear and go and pick up the pizza. Sounds like we are short on pop. Maybe someone will bring some. Collect the meeting fees. Have some fun. Make the group what you want it to be. Really. This isn't a test, but an opportunity. Talk to one another. Figure out what you want this group to be, what it should be doing and do it.

When you start to get some of this

out let us know. Write it up for the newsletter. Which will probably also need a new editor before to long. I'll put together a few pages at best for a few months more, but that is it. (Rebecca is going to be away for awhile this summer) Got a question? Get in touch. Need some help? Just ask. Good luck!

Love,  
Kathy

PS I can't go without giving a special hug to Jo. Hope that you recover really quickly and well and can be back with us soon!

Some of you may not know, but Jo has had some health problems recently. She was doing a terrific job as our snack girl, and we are certainly holding her job!☺

Past Belles Meetings-Trench coat night was always a popular theme.



Some may say the basic problem is that CD's and TS's can only get along like dogs and cats. Proof how well that may work::



#### Rebecca's Column

(Continued from page 3)

Aunt Rachael's home. My parents were very upset about that.

My father was a salesman. It was necessary for us to move. I had to leave my girl friend. I'm not so sure if it would be that I wouldn't see her again or being her girl friend. We were both very sad, and cried when it was time for me to leave with my parents. We only kept in contact with each other for about 2 years and then somehow we stopped. I'm sure just what happened. I would always send my letters addressed to her as Rebecca Maurine Chesnutt. She always sent me her letters addressed as Tom.

I had a great deal of trouble in school. It was just like it was in elementary school. I couldn't relate at all with the "guys". Even I didn't try and act effeminate, all the with the exception of a few, who didn't care, thought I was a "FAG". On the way home from school. I was always met by a group of boys who beat me up all the time.

I decided to not be a victim any more. It was about 1963 or 1964. I heard about a sport called Martial Arts. In fact my father wanted me to go, because he thought it would make me more masculine if I knew how to defend myself. In California where I was raised. Martial Arts were quite popular. I joined a dojo near my house, and learned White Crane Kung Fu (also known as Okinawa GoJuRhu Karate). This was great, because I was always teamed up with the girls. I was scrawny and small, so the larger boys who were my same age would beat the daylights out of me. I liked this even though most of the boys made fun of me, because I was exactly where I wanted to be. Besides, the Sense (Teacher) would defend any of his students.

The next time a boy challenged me I was ready but usually got beaten up only because I hadn't learned enough yet to really defend myself. After about 2 years of being one of the Sense's advanced students, I really changed my perspective about fighting and decided only to fight when absolutely necessary. Physical contact was only an option when prevention, avoiding or escape was no longer an option. Now I was smarter, and was careful not to put myself in bad situations.

In High School. President John Kennedy had a fitness program for all students in High School. This was a way to show the other boys that I wasn't a FAG. I went out for football, cross country running, wrestling, free weights, swimming, and endurance classes. The only person that I was fooling was myself. If there was an individual sport that I could be involved in, I was in it. I only made second string in football, because no one wanted me on his or her team. In cross-country, I usually came in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> because the other boys who ran cross-country had longer legs than I did. I had the endurance, but not the speed. Wrestling was not my forte either. I didn't win much. I discovered that sports that involved my competition with another person was just not my way. When I should have the killer instinct, I just couldn't find it within my nature to hurt anyone else. I guess that I was really a FAG.

Well swimming class suited me quite well. I didn't have to hurt anyone else. I learned to swim in the ocean so I could

(Continued on page 8)

#### House extends civil-rights protection Cross-dressers and Transsexuals.

By Ariel Sabar Providence (RI) Journal

PROVIDENCE -- A divided House of Representatives voted last night to extend civil-rights protections to transsexuals and cross-dressers, a measure that would make Rhode Island one of three states to bar such discrimination. The bill would prohibit schools, banks, employers, and other non-religious institutions from bias on the basis of "gender identity and expression," a category that would join current protections for race, religion, sex, nationality, age, disability, and sexual orientation. "This bill would protect ... the man who wears women's clothes on weekends to go to parties, it would protect individuals going through sex-change operations from losing a job or having to lie about it," the bill's sponsor, Edith H. Ajello, a Providence Democrat, said on the House floor. The 46-to-41 vote split both Democrats and Republicans. Critics skewered the bill as unnecessary because of the state's landmark 1995 law securing the civil rights of gays and lesbians. But supporters countered that most people who cross-dress or undergo sex-change operations are heterosexual. And many, they said, have lost jobs and apartments or suffered other discrimination because their sexual

identity differs from the physical traits with which they were born. The Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights, the state's enforcer of antidiscrimination laws, said in a letter to Ajello this week that it has had to turn away "a number" of complaints from "transgender individuals" because of the lack of such a law. Advocates to refer to transsexuals, cross-dressers, and others whose appearance use the word "transgender" or behavior does not fit masculine or feminine stereotypes. The bill is broadly worded, protecting anyone whose "gender-related expression is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth." "The measure is likely to meet a chillier reception in the Senate, which has taken on a more conservative cast since the election last year of Sen. William V. Irons as majority leader. If it becomes law, Rhode Island would join two states -- Minnesota and Connecticut -- and several cities with such measures, including Seattle, New Orleans, Atlanta, and Cambridge, Mass. The provision was part of the state's original 1995 gay-civil-rights bill. But it was dropped to gain a winning margin for the broader bill, which advocates had sought for 11 years. Kate Monteiro, the president of the Rhode Island Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights, said the group waited six years to revive the measure

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**Human Sexuality 101**

There are four aspects to Human Sexuality.

1. Anatomical (physical) Sex
2. Sexual Preference
3. Gender Identity
4. Mental Sex

**Anatomical sex**

Anatomical sex is simply what body you are in: male or female. But it is really not all that simple. There are hairy women and very slender men. Facial features can range from more "male" to more "female" regardless of what's between one's legs. In addition, there is the chromosomal nature of being XX, XY, or even XXY. On top of that, we have hermaphrodites.

So, all things considered, each and every one of us can not simply be seen as wholly male or female physically, but truly occupy a range on a spectrum. And, we can alter our physical sexually characteristics (short or long hair, nose jobs, sex change surgery) so that the line blurs even more. True, most people gravitate to one end of the scale that the other, which creates an inverse "bell curve". However, the line from one side to the other is truly unbroken, with more than a few people right in the middle.

**Sexual preference**

This one comes in four flavors: same, opposite, both, or neither. Regardless of anatomical sex, any individual might be any one of these four. What's more, most people find their sexual preferences depend on context and may shift depending on the situation or the person. For example, a man who sees himself as attracted to the opposite sex might not be at all attracted to a female body builder. If he were honest with himself, he would probably find some level of attraction to a very pretty boy. It is the cultural training we have that leads us deny and not even experience the capacity to shift our perspectives here.

In addition, people change over time as well as in different contexts. Some start out being heterosexual, then shift to bisexual, then to same sex, then give up altogether, and then jump back in somewhere else. With the spatial and temporal flexibility in this area, each of us is fluid. But in the range of people as a whole, regardless of where you fall on the anatomical sex scale, any individual might at any time have any one of the four sexual preferences.

So, since anatomical sex does not determine sexual preference and sexual preference is independent of anatomical sex, the two factors are independent and can be multiplied together to determine a great range of human sexuality on these two points alone. Already we can see there are a tremendous number of combinations!

**Gender Identity**

Gender Identity describes where on the scale of masculine and feminine behavior an individual falls. Clearly this is a range. What's more, each of us changes in context as well. Men who

are very macho on the weekend playing tackle football with friends might be very demure during the week at their job as a bank teller. And, over time, we all change. Most men are more masculine at age 35 than they are at age 80.

Gender identity for any one of us does not fall at a single point, but ranges in a segment of the masculine/feminine line. Which segment we define depends on our conditioning as a child which "locks in" somewhere between age 3 and 5. Then, for most of our lives, we move up and down that segment, feeling uneasy if we get close to one of the ends of our personal range.

Now, since masculine or feminine is a range and does not depend on sexual preference or anatomical sex (we all know masculine women and feminine men) then we can multiply that in as well and create an ENORMOUS number of combinations of human sexuality.

**Mental Sex**

In the 12th to 14th week of pregnancy, a developing fetus will get a wash of hormones over its brain. Boy babies get a flush of testosterone, girl babies get a flush of estrogen. Testosterone has a direct impact on the level of the neurotransmitter Serotonin in the brain. As testosterone goes up, Serotonin production goes up.

Serotonin is an "exciter" which stimulates the firing of the neurons. When they fire, the neurological activity of the brain takes center stage, and the biochemical aspect of the brain steps a bit into the shadows.

In contrast, estrogen increases the relative amount of the neurotransmitter Dopamine. Unlike Serotonin, Dopamine is an inhibitor, which means it lowers the tendency for neurons to fire. This does not mean it diminishes mental processes, but rather that the biochemical processes of the mind take center stage and the neurons step into the shadows.

If the effect of this flush of testosterone or estrogen only lasted for the two weeks the chemicals are present, it would have no lasting effect on the mind. But, for reasons we shall see later in this book, the brain "locks in" to a bias toward the neurology or the biochemistry. It is this bias that makes a mind more focused on logic or more concerned with feelings.

In truth, this hormone wash can vary in intensity from individual to individual, so that any given person may range from very heavily favoring the neurology or the biology to being more evenly balanced in which kind of processing takes control.

As nature would have it, again for reasons we shall later explore, most people are born very heavily biased to one side or the other. Still, this just indicates our preferred method of thinking - the kind of thought process we fall into first or most skillfully. Each of us, however, often employs the other manner of thinking when the first one is at a loss or when we need an internal second opinion.

The neural networks of the brain function in a binary fashion so those with a testosterone wash tend to see the world in more logical terms, more spatial terms. The biochemistry of the brain functions in a more wave-like fashion, so those with an

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**Human Sexuality 101**

*(Continued from page 6)*

estrogen wash tend to see the world in more experiential terms, more temporal terms. Spatial thinkers look outward and first see things in terms of their arrangement and where it leads. Temporal things first look inward and see things in terms of what they mean and how they are going.

Because men tend to fall toward the spatial end of the scale and women to the temporal, society has built up rewards to motivate the population based on the expectation of this bias according to anatomical sex. And, most nearly often, this is an accurate system. But when something causes an individual to get the opposite pre-birth bias than anatomical sex would suggest, he or she is technically a transsexual.

Why do I say "technically"? Because the practical definition of a transsexual would be someone who actual has surgery to change his or her anatomical sex, or at least someone who truly wants to. In truth, most of those born with the opposite bias are never aware of it, and would be appalled to even consider changing their sex.

In a like manner, there are many who have had sex change surgery (called SRS for Sex Reassignment Surgery) who are not mentally transsexual at all. Why? Because gender identity determines how masculine or feminine we wish to be, and society determines the range of behavior which is acceptable along that scale, based on anatomical sex.

So, a man with very feminine tendencies might wish to change their anatomical sex through surgery, whereas a man with a masculine gender identity might be quite comfortable as a male, even though he is true transsexual in the mental sense.

Finally, it must be considered that each of us has an inherent body map in our brains. This blueprint gives us a feeling for the shape in which we expect to find our physical selves. Even if we are typically matched between Mental Sex and Anatomical Sex, our body map may be for the opposite physical sex.

In psychology, stress caused by feeling one is in the wrong body is called genital dysphoria, and stress caused by feeling on is living in the wrong role is called gender dysphoria, which lumps gender identity and Mental Sex into one overall symptom.

Those who have enough pressures upon them from all four of the aspects of human sexuality may choose to remedy their uneasiness through surgical means. Other combinations of these tendencies will lead an individual to choose to cross-dress and experience femininity or masculinity occasionally, yet continue to live in the role which pleases him or her most of the time.

The term "transgender" describes both of these kinds of people. Those who elect surgery are transsexuals, and those who do not are cross-dressers (the term transvestite means the same as "cross-dresser", but is not considered politically correct.)

It should be noted that cross-dressers almost always know they don't want surgery, even though they may fantasize about it for erotic or adventurous purposes. In contrast, most transsexuals start out believing they are cross-dressers, and spend many years suffering an internal conflict wondering if it is something more, even while they try to deny it to themselves.

**Life's a Drag**

by Melanie Anne Phillips

If you think that your head should be hid in a bag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If you dress to the nines but still look like a hag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If you wish that just once you could be on the rag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If you'll never experience two things that sag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If you wear a dress but don't think like a fag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If you tuck it in tight, so it won't swing and wag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If while dressed, thinking "surgery" just makes you gag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.  
If you're living this poem, but think I'm a nag,  
There isn't a doubt that your life is a drag.

**Civil-rights protection Cross-dressers and Transsexuals**

*(Continued from page 5)*

because of lasting rancor over its failure in 1995. She said her group represents transgender people, as well as gays, lesbians and bisexuals. "There was a great deal of pain in the community from the fact that we were unable to get this part of it passed," she said last night in an interview.

"There was need for our community to heal. "She said that the political climate has shifted markedly since 1995: Several House opponents of the gay-civil-rights bill backed yesterday's measure. House Minority Leader Robert A. Watson said he opposed the bill yesterday in part because of what he called "logistical complications. " "Could boys say they feel more comfortable in the Girl Scouts?" he said after the vote. "Is the Miss Rhode Island Pageant going to see competition between men or women?" "Another opponent, Timothy A. Williamson, a West Warwick Democrat, said an employer has the right to assume that the man who applied for a job one day will not show up as a woman the next. He likened the alternative to a kind of employee fraud. "Let the buyer beware," he said. But social activists call those examples fanciful, saying that Rhode Island's several thousand transgender people are not lining up for state-sponsored beauty contests or trying to finagle their way into a Brownie troop. Many, they say, have lived for years in fear of discovery. Monteiro said that one transgender board member of her group leaves home as a woman, stops on the way to work to change into men's clothing, and then dons women's wear on her way back home. "This is one of the most stigmatized group of individuals," she said of people born with the physical characteristics of one sex but who identify "in their soul" with the other. She added that nothing in the measure would pro-

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California Alliance for Pride & Equality (CAPE)  
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender  
Lobby  
www.calcape.org

**California Assembly Committee Approves Goldberg Bill Prohibiting Gender-Based Discrimination in Employment and Housing Sacramento, CA (April 26, 2001)**

The Assembly Labor and Employment, yesterday, endorsed AB 1649, by Assembly member Jackie Goldberg, a bill that would clarify for purposes of the Fair Employment & Housing Act that discrimination on the basis of "sex" would include prohibited acts of discrimination based on actual or perceived gender. AB 1649 incorporates the definition of "gender" from Penal Code Section 422.76, which is defined as the person's actual sex or the perception of a person's identity, appearance, or behavior, regardless of whether different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth. The Labor and Employment Committee, with seven members, approved the bill on a 4 - 2 vote. Four Democratic Assembly members supported the bill. They include committee chair Paul Koretz, Jackie Goldberg, Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley. Republican Assembly members Dennis Mountjoy and Anthony Pescetti opposed the bill. The committee vice-chair, Gloria Negrete McLeod, did not cast a vote. Two witnesses who have suffered the pains of employment discrimination testified in support of the bill. Dana Rivers, a board member of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), and Alessa Adamo, of Fairfield, California, described the anguish and financial devastation both experienced when they were terminated shortly after informing their employers of their transition as male-to-female transsexuals. Providing further testimony was Sheryl Harris, LGBT Workers' Rights Project Attorney at the Employment Law Center, Legal Aid Society of San Francisco. Also joining in support of AB 1649 were representatives from the ACLU, CAPE, California Labor Federation AFL/CIO, California NOW, FTM International, Lambda Letters Project, MALDEF, and other civil rights, labor, and faith-based groups. Various organizations and legal experts have been working to pass this critical piece of legislation. They include the ACLU, CAPE, the Employment Law Center at the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Lambda Letters Project, the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Jean Harris, CAPE's executive director, said, "No one should be subjected to employment and housing discrimination because of gender-related characteristics that are irrelevant to a person's qualifications. Discrimination stifles individual initiative and destroys people's livelihood. It prevents every person from living up to their fullest potential. "AB 1649 will go next to Assembly Appropriations Committee for fiscal consideration.

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**Civil-rights protection Cross-dressers and Transsexuals**

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hibit employers from enforcing a dress code, so long as that dress code didn't make distinctions between transgender people and everyone else. Gwendolyn A. Spencer, 49, a government worker from Portsmouth, adopted her female name just eight years ago and in 1998 started going to work dressed as a woman. She says discrimination is rampant. Just a few years ago, she believes a landlord unfairly turned her down for an apartment. "Without the bill, people can still be fired from their jobs, kicked out of homes, denied employment," Spencer said last night in a telephone interview. "Transgender people don't have any civil rights without this bill. "The bill would enable victims of discrimination to file complaints with the state Commission for Human Rights, which can impose fines and penalties and in some cases grant awards. The commission is also a first stop for discrimination lawsuits on their way to Superior Court.

**Rebecca's Column**

(Continued from page 5)

beat just about anyone. However, I was usually 2<sup>nd</sup>. So I decided to do diving. This was very dangerous and scary, so not many even tried. I started off with the low boards (3 feet to 15 feet). After practicing every day after school, I progressed to the higher boards (20 feet to 45 feet). I think that 45 feet was all the school insurance would allow. I'm not sure about any of you, but when you are standing at the end of the 45' board, I often wondered if I would actually miss the Olympic size pool that now looked like a postage stamp. The board was slowly moving under the motion of my racing heart. One time I jumped but didn't have my head exactly positioned right (I must have been off about 1/4 degree) and had a stiff neck for about a week.

Free Weights suited me well too. I worked myself up to the highest in the class. I could squat 125#, curl 60#, Bench 150# for 25 repetitions. Also Bench 350# for 2 repetitions. I guess this was kind of good for an 18-year-old kid.

Endurance gymnastics was suited for me as well. Full peg board. 100 push-ups, 100 sit-ups, rings, horse, etc.

Well now at the age of 54, there is no way that I wouldn't even think about doing those things any more. Just to make a point however, all the training in high school has helped me even now. I'm very healthy for an old man. Ha!

This doesn't quite take care of the 10 years that I promised, but I want to save military for one whole article by itself.

I'm so glad that I don't need to prove anything to anyone any more. I am also glad that I've decided the path that I have now chosen.

Love to you all, Rebecca J. Chesnutt



**FASHION, STYLE  
... AND YOU**



**SKIN CARE**

By Rebecca J. Chesnutt

A Toner is a skin care product that's used after cleansing and Exfoliation to remove any excess oils, freshen the skin, tighten pores temporarily, and return the skin to its natural pH.

Toners return the skin to its natural pH after you use a more emollient cleanser. Be careful with toners that contain which hazel or alcohol; these can be very drying to the skin. However individuals with oily skin types may find the drying properties have a balancing effect to their skin.

Astringents and clarifying lotions usually contain alcohol, which can be very drying to all but the oiliest skin types. Use these with caution, and only when it's really called for — when your skin is very oily during the summer months, or after a rigorous workout.

You may love the pleasantly fresh, tingly feeling that toners and astringents leave on your skin. But if a product is overly drying, your skin will produce more oil later on. Toners and astringents remove surface skin cells, soap residue, and oils from the skin. Although not necessary on a daily basis, they're nice to have in the cabinet or purse on hot, muggy days for oilier skin types, to keep in your gym bag, or just to be used when you need to take an extra measure to be sure that your skin is thoroughly cleansed.

When used in a complete skin care program, the toner will actually set into process the refinement of large pores that men usually have due to very poor skin care. Eventually, even the worst skin will progress in being smoother depending on the severity of your skin's condition.

**Next Month: Moisturizers**

**Electrolysis Wimp Club Report**

On Tuesday May 15, 2001, I went to try them out. Executive Image Services, LLC  
3475 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

My Electrolysis Wimp Meter Rating: 0.28 on the official scale of 0 to 10

My Scale is 0 (Absolutely no Pain) to 10 (Explosion, Smoke, Severe Pain, skin damage, etc.)

Apilus SX-500 is the device that James Walker used to remove my facial hair.

Actually my setting is a 28 on a scale of 0 to 1000.

The Official Setting that an electrologist understands is "Apilus 32 Chin micro uFlash"

Their claim that patients actually fall asleep during electrolysis is absolutely true. I had everything I could do to keep from falling asleep. I got there a little before 9 am and we started right at 9 am. When the free 1/2 hour was over I asked him if there were any other appointments. He said that there were no appointments until 11:00 am. We continued for another 1 1/2 hours. I hate to say, but it was actually fun and I enjoyed the session. He is a very engaging person. We talked the whole time. Most of the time there was no pain. When there was any pain, it was really nothing at all. Sometimes, I didn't think that he was doing anything. I asked him what was happening and he said everything going fine.

There was a print out from the instrument that de-

scribed everything that had been done. During the 120 min. session he removed 303 hairs. I could have had Electrology work done all day long. This is incredible because normally I can only stand 1 hour at a time.

I was impressed. In fact so impressed that I purchased their package for complete facial hair removal. It costs \$3500 to remove every hair on the face. Yes until there is not even one single hair left on the face. I will be going in Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm (4 hours each day) We figured that it would initially take 6 weeks to remove all the hairs in the Anagen stage, and then we will work on the hairs when come into their Anagen stage. The total process might take about 18 months, but this is different for each person. The key is attending every appointment to hit the hairs when they are in the Anagen stage.

Because everyone has different facial hair conditions, I would like to suggest that everyone at least try it once. You can make the judgement for yourself.

Since we met I will have had over 40 hours of treatment. An average of 3 1/2 hours every day. I actually slept through some sessions. The first 1/2 hour is free. Go and judge for yourself. Jim Walker, Executive Image Services, LLC, 3475 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY.  
(716) 812-4247

Those of us who have treatment that I know about: Trissa, Isabel D., & myself.

Take Care, Rebecca



# COMING EVENTS



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

**JUNE 6 -10**

**HATE CRIMES PANEL 7:30-9:00 pm.**  
United Way, 742 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

**JUNE 9**

**BUFFALO BELLES MEETING**

**JUNE 27-30**

**1st ANNUAL GBLT FILM FESTIVAL,**  
Market Arcade Cinemas, Main Street, Downtown Buffalo

**JULY 14**

**BUFFALO BELLES MEETING**-the construction should well be under way by now. We will probably be meeting in an alternative place.

**NOV. 15-18**

**Lake Erie Gala Erie PA.**

## MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Bobby O. (debut)  
Camille H.  
Colleen R.  
Denise P.  
Gina  
Isabel D.  
Jen  
Nancy W.

Rebecca  
Susan D.  
Tammy  
Terry Lynn & Sue  
Tina M.  
Trissa  
Victoria