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JULY 2000

THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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BELLES GREET PUBLIC AT PRIDE EVENT

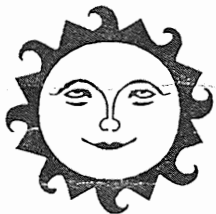
BUFFALO - Saturday June 17, found Janice and Camille (above) ready to meet a public that has never seen the likes of the Buffalo Belles assembled in the park-like setting of Bidwell Parkway and Elmwood Avenue. Armed with information pamphlets, brochures and smiles, the two girls answered questions about what it means to be transgendered, the difference between transvestite and transsexual, gender identity and sexual preference, and how one becomes a member of the Belles.

Camille commented that the day was very successful. "The general public was friendly and inquisitive. We'll be back next year".

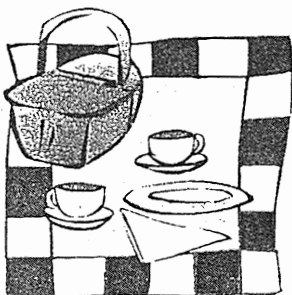
TINA'S PROUD WEEKEND

I had another groundbreaking weekend! I was asked a few months ago by Mistress Kali Ward if I would like to be on the Comptons/PEP float in the Buffalo Pride 2000 Parade. After about 1/2 sec. I said sure. I didn't realize that I would have to do work too! Silly me!! A few weeks before the parade, we realized that there were no decorations, truck, or people committed for the float. So I was now in charge of getting benches, decorations, and drinks. Ms. Kali had the easy job of getting a truck, music, people and organizing everything (just kidding Kali). She also had her friend PJ make some great signs for our float.

(continued on page 3)



- BELLES ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC IS COMING - AUGUST 12.





CAMILLE'S CORNER

June was a wonderful month for the Belles and for me. I have never felt so good about being transgendered. Perhaps being around individuals who are proud of who they are has that effect on me. Meeting someone like Leslie Feinberg, a transgender activist and author, can be inspiring. Or sharing a part of yourself that has been kept buried for decades can liberate your spirit. No matter what the reason, I was energized and want to share some of that energy with you.

First I want to thank those Belles who stopped by to say hello and show their support at the Buffalo Pride 2000 Celebration at Bidwell Park on Saturday, June 17. It was the first time the Belles had a presence of any kind at the Celebration. Jan and I had set up an information table there and didn't know what to expect. We were pleasantly surprised when many people from the surrounding residential area inquired about who the Buffalo Belles were and what being transgendered is all about. Straight, gay, male, female event visitors - had questions that we did our best to answer. Along with the pamphlets and handouts we gave away, we hopefully educated and enlightened a good number of people that day. We'll be back next year. Perhaps with our own float for the parade as well.

On June 15th, a conference was held in the Buffalo area, called "Recognizing the Barriers: Providing Health Care to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Communities". Its purpose was to provide participants an opportunity to explore ways to ensure that all members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (L/G/B/T) communities receive quality healthcare with sensitivity and respect. 110 program participants were there to discuss the experiences of healthcare workers and members of the L/G/B/T communities. Helping to educate and sensitize the healthcare personnel were three Belles: Holly H., Crystal M. and myself. By showing who we are and what we do in our lives, we gave them a clearer picture of what

it means to be transgendered - a view that is quite different than what they may have seen and heard on a program like the "Jerry Springer Show."

The initial feedback has been good and further evaluation of the conference is continuing. Plans are in the making for another healthcare conference that would target members of the mental health social worker professions.

A few days earlier, I had the privilege to attend a discussion and book signing with Leslie Feinberg, who is a lesbian transgender activist, author and frequent speaker on issues effecting the L/G/B/T communities. Published works include, "Transgendered Warriors," "Stone Butch Blues," and "Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink and Blue." I recently read "Trans Liberation" and moved and energized by the powerful words of an individual who has managed to describe our TG experience in remarkable and inspiring ways. I highly recommend it. I am currently reading Leslie's touching fictional 'biography', "Stone Butch Blues," about what it was like growing up in the Buffalo area in the 1970's. If you're interested in seeing how far we have come in the last few decades, you need to read this as well.

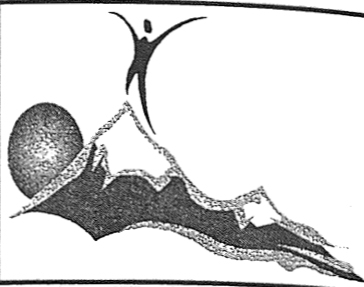
Leslie, although currently living in New Jersey, is also a WNY native and is interested as to what is going on in our area. Leslie has expressed an interest in addressing the Belles and hopes to visit us sometime in the near future.

I hope your summer is brimming over with fun, energy and fulfillment. Take care.



JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Camille	Kathy
Colleen	Kelly
Crystal	Kendra
Donna	Nancy
Janice	Patti
Jillian (guest)	Tammi (guest)
Jo	Tina
Karen (guest)	Victoria
Karoline	



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NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi ladies!

First, I want to thank all those sisters who wished me & Jo a happy birthday last month. I finally hit 39, and I think Jo is 59! For those of you who missed it (come to a meeting once in awhile) we had cake, ice cream, party plates, napkins, etc. We didn't go with candles since nobody knew the number for 911, and the threat of fire was very real. It was also good to know that a few gals can carry a tune when singing "Happy Birthday."

If you would like to celebrate your birthday - bring a cake and a smile - we'll be glad to sing for you. It's not too late to give Jo, or me, a small gift. A gift certificate would be fine.

Remember the Million Mom March? I saw a flyer recently, and my friend Karen suggested we update some issues. How about, "The Hundred 'Society of Old Wrinkled Sisters' March." This would be for transgendered restrooms in all public places. Not a bad idea!

The Million Moms say we need gun control to prevent suicides. Well, in Germany they kill themselves by hanging, or bashing in a skull with a beer stein. Should we march to regulate rope? How about the mandatory use of plastic beer steins? Don't forget the Japanese use a knife or sword. Marching in Tokyo for knives under two inches might work.

I won't continue in this direction, but I can think of a wide variety of useless regulations congress could pass into law - if they haven't already done so!

Been shopping recently? I have to tell you I went to the Bon Ton to see if any bargains were available. Guess what? THERE WERE PLENTY!! I got a new skirt that was listed at \$40.00 retail - marked down to \$7.46. Since I was in the mood, I got another skirt listed at \$16.00 for only \$5.96. I love when that happens, don't you? I won't even begin to relate my fun at Lane Bryant that same day, but I can tell you it was fantastic. Don't be wary at the mall. The clerks are only interested in the color of your money (or credit card). Get out and have some fun. The look on a clerks face when you browse through the lingerie section is worth the trip!

Have fun this summer no matter what that fun may be!

Your sister,
Nancy

TINAS' PROUD WEEKEND

(Continued from page 1)

The day of the parade I got up at 7:30am, dressed and got to Ms. Kali's by 10:00. We then got our collection of float decorations together and off to Kleinhans to see if we indeed had a truck to decorate. As luck would have it, we did! So the next 2 hours we spent decorating the truck with streamers, balloons and signs. When we had arrived earlier, the parking lot was almost empty, but by 1:00 it was packed with all kinds of floats and people. Everyone was having a ball with all the activity. We had 2 other people helping with the decorating. Cathy (the owner of the truck) and Alex. Alex turned out to be the hit of our float. She had the best outfit for a parade. A G-string and a little Duct tape to cover a couple of things! She was going to be our hood ornament and do body poses for the trip. She had picture-takers running after our float for the whole parade.

Sherrill, the owner of Comptons, had given us bags of plastic shot glasses, with 2-for-1 drink tags on them, to throw. So we pulled out at a little after 1:00 and were on our way. I lost track of how many people we had on our float at the beginning (6 or 7) but we had it full by the end. The parade was a ball and all the people were great. It was much bigger and longer than I had thought it was going to be. It was quite a thrill to be out in the daylight with thousands of people watching us. To think a year ago I was afraid to just step out of my house and now I'm in a Parade! It lasted about an hour and at the end we found Camille and a few other girls at the Belles information table. It was so much fun just to stroll around in the daylight amongst a crowd of people. I felt very much at ease there! I wanted to spend more time checking things out, but Ms. Kali and I had to move on to Comptons to set up a PEP information table.

It took us about an hour to set things up and then we both just crashed and relaxed for the rest of the evening. We talked to people that were a bit curious about PEP, had some food and drink and listened to the band "Anatara". We put things away about 9:00 and just socialized for another hour or so. We then decided to head to "Joey's", a new bar next to Secrets. Ms. Kali wanted to visit there because it is a new place owned by an old friend of hers. It has a beautiful patio and a nice area in the front with tables to just sit, talk and relax. By this time I kept asking people if I still looked OK as I was getting a bit nervous about not shaving since 7:00am. I was still doing OK! At least that is what I was told. At Joey's, we met up with a few more girls and sat and talked until about 1:30am. I was now very tired and I was turning into a "pumpkin" so we called it a night. It had been a very busy and fun day. At this point I will have to thank the weather gods for the nice weather! I can't wait until next year!



(For those who missed it, we are running the story that appeared in the June 11th Sunday Buffalo News)

CLOTHING CROSSROADS

Miss Suzi's Boutique Attracts Distinctive Clientele



By LOUISE CONTINELLI
News Staff Reporter

There's a clothing boutique on Delaware Avenue, on the edge of downtown, called Miss Suzi's Studios, that might legitimately be called an attraction. Customers from as far as London have stopped by, as have folks from California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and Michigan.

"This place had been vacant for a while. I looked in - it had last been a beauty salon," said the proprietor, who goes only by the name Miss Suzi. "I thought, 'I could make this work.'"

Inside the store is a collection of showgirl wigs, sequined gowns, corsets and high-heel shoes.

Oh, by the way, Suzi's target audience is not women. And Suzi isn't a woman, either.

As Gay Pride events kick off this week in Buffalo, you won't find many who are more proud than the proprietor of Miss Suzi's Studios, a store that caters to cross-dressers.

Thanks to performers such as RuPaul and Divine - whose careers found audiences outside the gay community - and films such as "The Crying Game," "To Wong Foo" and "The Birdcage," cross-dressing has come out of the closet. To some degree, cross-dressing has crossover appeal.

Still, it's fair to wonder if a boutique offering women's clothing to men, owned by a man who calls himself Suzi, might be a target for people who find the whole idea somewhat odd. A customer, who asked that her name not be used for this article, called it a "courageous step" when Miss Suzi opened the shop.

But nearby residents call the owner and the store welcome additions to the neighborhood.

Retired Buffalo State College geography professor Paul

Beudet, who lives on nearby Edward Street, says he has "never heard of any problems" with Suzi clients. "I give them credit," he said. "There is a mix of people here. It's one of the more vibrant neighborhoods."

"Diversity is critical to the heart of a neighborhood, and you have to like it to live in an urban environment," said Nancy Tobin, who relocated her Super Coups business to 374 Delaware Ave. "People enjoy walking here, they like the mix, and that encourages diversity."

All of this is good news to Miss Suzi, whose middle name is James but otherwise will not reveal a given birth name.

"I love this neighborhood. Diversity implies acceptance," said Suzi, a staunch supporter of the Gay Pride activities this week.

Assembling for this year's parade begins at 11 a.m. Saturday in front of Kleinhans Music Hall. Other events include Tea-by-the-Sea from 3 to 7 p.m. next Sunday on the Buffalo waterfront west of the former Crawdaddy's Restaurant.

The annual festival will kick off at 7 p.m. Friday with a show featuring performers in drag and other Buffalo singers and musicians.

Chances are, some of the performers got their clothes at Miss Suzi's.

The Miss Suzi's clientele represents a cross-section of the community; 40 percent of the customers are women.

Miss Suzi wasn't planning on a "drag to riches" story, hoping instead to simply make a living.

The entrepreneur, who is fortyish, is more than just a business owner; Miss Suzi wrote the study "A Biobehavioral Model of Sex and Gender Role Behavior in Animals With Implications for Gender Identity Disorders in Humans."

Call Suzi a business person. Call Suzi a researcher. The locals have another name: neighbor.



* MAKE-UP VANITY TABLE *
* AND 4' ROUND MIRROR *
* AVAILABLE FOR *
* FREE! *
* CONTACT CAMILLE ON *
* HELP LINE (879-0973) *

A CROSS-GENDER QUESTIONER

by Richard E. Dotter and O' James S. Fleming

Please respond to each item by agreeing (yes) or disagreeing (no). Please respond to all 55 items.

1. When I wear women's clothing I do not consider it "crossdressing" because my true, gender is feminine (or mostly feminine)
2. I have an alternative "fantasy" cross-dressing wardrobe, which is too sexy to wear in public.
3. I have adopted a feminine name, which is now my legal name.
4. If I am wearing a sexy dress, I sometimes feel more attracted to men.
5. I believe I am a "woman in a man's body."
6. Sometimes I have acquired more sets of fancy underwear or other sexy clothing than I need.
7. I have a driver's license or other valid identification showing my "female" picture and name.
8. I eat in restaurants in my feminine role several times a year.
9. In my feminine role, I usually feel like I am a woman.
10. Sometimes I get a sexual thrill when I see my feminine image in a mirror.
11. While in the feminine role men I did not know have bought me refreshments or drinks.
12. I have lived entirely or almost entirely) as a woman for more than six consecutive months.
13. I prefer to think of my feminine name as my real name.
14. While in the feminine role, I have been escorted to a restaurant by a man as his date.
15. When I feel tense, wearing something feminine will usually make me feel a little more calm.
16. I have lived entirely (or almost entirely) as a woman for one year or longer.
17. I can experience feelings of being female at any time, no matter how I am dressed.
18. Buying and using beautiful makeup will often make me feel sexually excited.
19. I have received ten or more hours of electrolysis.
20. I have received fifty or more hours of electrolysis.
21. While in the feminine role, I have been escorted to some kind of event by a man on a date.
22. Even when not in the feminine role I reveal some feminine mannerisms (or I used to).
23. Putting on lipstick or perfume often makes me feel erotic or sexy.
24. I can enjoy being a woman, but at other times I enjoy functioning like a man.
25. I often prefer hosiery and high heels to the more ordinary style many women wear.
26. Being in the feminine role is almost always a sexually arousing experience for me.
27. While in the feminine role, I have danced with a man.
28. Wearing beautiful lingerie usually gives me sole sexual excitement.
29. When in my feminine role I feel I am expressing my "true self," not putting on an act.
30. I have talked to a physician about obtaining female hormones (whether obtained them or not).
31. While in the feminine role, I have been passionately kissed (on the lips by a male).
32. If it were possible, I'd choose to live my life as a woman (or I do so now)
33. Some specific articles of clothing usually have an especially powerful effect on my sexual arousal.
34. I have taken female hormones regularly for three months or longer.
35. While in the feminine role, I have had a physical encounter with a man that went beyond kissing.
36. When I must put aside my feminine role for even a short time, it is very hard for me to do so.
37. Wearing beautiful clothes and makeup often brings me greater sexual pleasure than other sexual activities.
38. Often I become sexually excited just thinking about being a woman.
39. I have taken female hormones regularly for six months or longer.
40. As a man, I am exclusively attracted to women.
41. I almost always wear one or more items of feminine apparel under my male clothes.
42. I often become sexually excited when I shop for women's clothing, shoes, or makeup.
43. I have taken female hormones regularly for a year or longer.
44. As a man, I am attracted to both women and men (not necessarily equally).
45. I daydream or think about being a woman at least once a day.
46. I often become sexually excited when I read about men who become women.
47. I have discussed with a physician possible (or actual) cosmetic surgery to improve my feminine appearance.
48. In the feminine role, I am exclusively attracted to women.
49. I daydream, or think about being a woman at least ten times each day.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

50. Being in the feminine role is a super-pleasure for me.
51. I have received a small amount (or more) of cosmetic surgery to improve my feminine appearance.
52. When in the feminine role, I am attracted to both men and women (not necessarily equally).
53. After several hours (or days) in the feminine role I'm usually ready to change back into men's clothes.
54. Being in the feminine role often produces strong feelings of exhilaration.
55. On one (or more) occasions, while in the feminine role I have had a sexual encounter with a man.

SCORING:

1. Here are the "yes" and the "no" items for the Cross-Gender Identity Scale. Count the total number of the following items (1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 22, 29, 32, 36, 41, 45, 49) you marked as "yes". Then total the items 24 or 53 you marked as "no." Add your total "yes" items and "no" items for this scale; IDENTITY TOTAL =

2. Here are the "yes" and the "no" items for the Feminization Scale. Count the total number of the following items (3, 7, 8, 12, 16, 19, 20, 30, 34, 39, 43, 47, 51) you marked as "yes." This scale does not use any "no" items. Add your total items for this scale; FEMINIZATION TOTAL =

3. Here are the "yes" and the "no" items for the Sexual Arousal Scale. Count the total number of the following items (2, 6, 10, 15, 18, 23, 25, 26, 28, 33, 37, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54) you marked as "yes." This scale does not use any "no" items. Add your total items for this scale; AROUSAL TOTAL =

4. Here are the "yes" and the "no" items for the Cross-Gender Role Scale. Count the total number of the following items (4, 11, 14, 21, 27, 31, 35, 44, 52, 55) you marked as "yes." Then total the items 40 or 48 which you marked as "no." Add your total "yes" and "no" items for this scale; GENDER ROLE TOTAL =

RESULTS:

Comparison Results for Transvestites - Transsexuals:

Identity 7 - 12

Feminization 2 - 10

Arousal 9 - 4

Gender Role 4 - 8

Compare your totals to these average totals to get an indication of where you fall on the continuum.

Editors Note: No one test can determine your true identification as TV or TS. This questionnaire is just one of many tools to help you get a better understanding of yourself.

CROSSDRESSING MOVIES TOP LIST OF 100 FUNNIEST FILMS

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Something about men in women's clothing obviously tickles people's funny bones: "*Some Like It Hot*" and "*Tootsie*" came in at Nos. 1 and 2 on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 funniest American movies.

"*Some Like It Hot*", Billy Wilder's 1959 classic starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe, topped the list. Lemmon and Curtis play musicians who witness a mob massacre and dress up as women to hide out with an all-girl band.

Sydney Pollack's "*Tootsie*", starring Dustin Hoffman as a down-and-out actor who finds soap-opera success masquerading as a woman, came in second, as determined by about 1,800 actors, directors, studio executives, critics and others in the movie industry.

Voters chose their funniest movies from a list of 500 nominees compiled by the institute.

The rest of the top 10, in order, were:

3. Stanley Kubrick's "*Dr. Strangelove*"

4. Woody Allen's "*Annie Hall*"

5. the Marx Brothers' "*Duck Soup*"

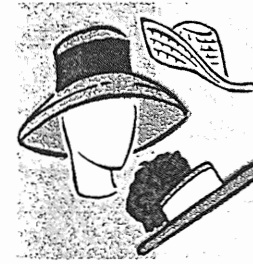
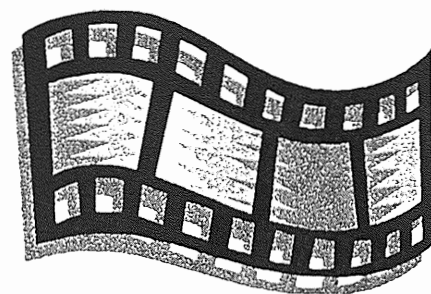
6. Mel Brooks' "*Blazing Saddles*"

7. Robert Altman's "*M.A.S.H.*"

8. Frank Capra's "*It Happened One Night*"

9. Mike Nichols' "*The Graduate*"

10. Jim Abrahams, David and Jerry Zucker's "*Airplane!*"

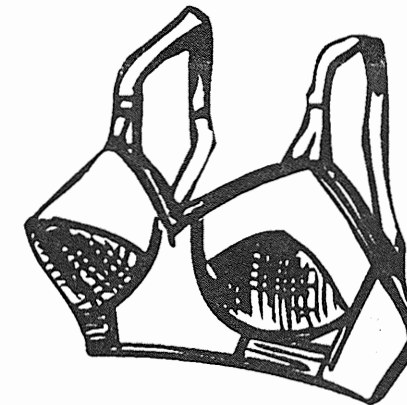


FASHION, STYLE ... AND YOU



The Bra Report

When was the last time you measured yourself for a bra? For many of us, it was in our teens, with a mom standing outside the dressing room! Or more than likely not. Anyway, we asked several fitters to give us some guidelines for finding the correct bra. They also apply to bathing suits.

**How to Measure:**

Wrap a tape measure around your body, immediately under your breasts, just above your rib cage. Write down this number. Add 5 inches. That's your band size. Example: you measure 29, add 5 and that becomes 34. If you measure an even number, say, 30, then go up one--add 5 and 1 and you should try a 36. 36 is now your band size.

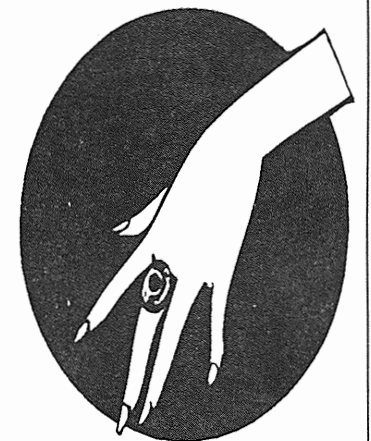
Now measure around the fullest part of your bust. If this number is one inch above the band size, then you wear an A, if it's 2 inches a B, 3 inches a C, etc. But, remember that cup size is proportional to band size--it does not stand alone. For example, a 36C is the same as a 34D and a 38B depending on the cut, style and make of the bra. The best thing to do is always to try it on. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help with fitting. Most women don't measure themselves accurately. If you're not sure, call a department store and ask if the lingerie staff is trained to fit bras, or try a good lingerie shop. The most common mistake women make is to wear too large a band size and too small a cup size.

Note: Although this report was written for genetic women, the same basics apply. You are probably wearing a bra that does not fit you correctly. Time to go shopping.

ASK THE MAKE-UP DIVA

Question: What is the best nail polish remover? I heard Tony and Tina have a one that contains botanicals. Is it better to use a polish of this type rather than something I buy at the drugstore?

Answer: To be honest, I don't see the point in spending a lot of money on polish removers. I'm sure Tony and Tina is a great brand and the part botanical oils/part remover is a great concept, but using your favorite hand cream or cuticle cream after removing old polish would work just as well to moisturize dry cuticles. I've tried the T&T brand before and I found it didn't do anything that any other nail polish remover can do.



There are many lower-end brands of nail polish remover that are just as good as pricier brands like Tony and Tina or Nailtiques. My favorites are Sally Hansen and Cutex. If you have natural nails you may want to use a non-acetone formula as acetone can be harsh on the nails. If you have artificial wraps or tips, you must use non-acetone polish remover because acetone can erode or even "melt" the nail tip or wrap. Both Cutex and Sally Hansen make moisturizing formulas with ingredients like vitamin E as well as nail strengthening formulas because nails can be left very dry after removing nail polish. It's always best to follow up with hand or cuticle cream.



ISSUE OF TRANSGENDER RIGHTS DIVIDES MANY GAY ACTIVISTS

By Chrissy Cada, Boston Globe Correspondent

DENVER - "You may have noticed that some of our gay brothers and sisters are hesitant to acknowledge us as part of the movement," Dana Rivers said to the banquet hall filled with men (and former men) in evening gowns. "It seems they think we're a little weird."

The keynote speaker's comment started a ripple of laughter that sent sequins sparkling and gold lamé flashing as it rolled through the crowd of about 200. One particularly husky laugh was enough to knock a wig loose.

"Well, I say to them, it is our weirdness, our differences, our queerness that unites us," Rivers concluded.

The post-operative male-to-female transsexual (she prefers to be called simply a woman) was speaking at Gold Rush 2000, a gathering of transgender people from across the West.

Rivers spoke about becoming an activist after she was fired from her job as a high school teacher in Sacramento when she underwent a sex-change operation. She urged the audience to leave the comfort of conferences like the one they were attending and to join her in being visible in the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) movement.

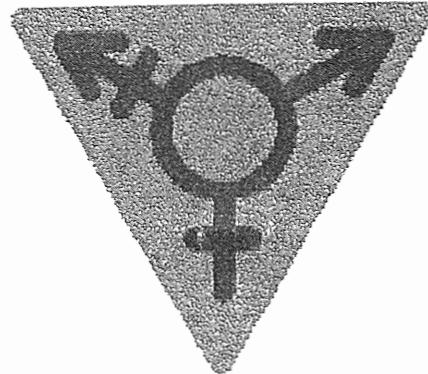
Putting the "T" in the GLBT is the aim of Rivers and other representatives of the transgender community who say they are often the forgotten or shunned segment of the gay-rights movement. Now, they are seeking the same protection from discrimination and visibility they've seen their gay counterparts gain in recent years.

Rivers said it is important for the transgender community to affirm its place in the gay community through involvement in gay-visibility events such as next Sunday's Millennium March on Washington for Equality.

"We have a place there," said Rivers who will speak at the march and is on the event's board of directors. "I'm not a token, I represent a significant segment of the movement, and I'm proud to be there."

However, a sizable number of people in the gay-rights movement said the movement's quest for political and social acceptance would be jeopardized by being identified with cross-dressers, transsexuals who have undergone sex-change operations, and others on the outer edges of gender differences.

That discrimination, some say, is manifested within the movement in such ways as when gay social and fund-raising events leave the "Trannys" off the guest lists as well as when transgendered individuals are heckled by gays. How the two movements fit together is a hot topic within the gay community.



"I have a problem with the transgendered movement riding on the coattails of the gay-rights movement when the two actually have very little in common," said Lynn Raymond, a politically active lesbian who lives in Colorado. "We try to be politically correct and include everybody, and as a result lose our focus as a movement. And, as much as I hate to say it, there is a freak factor with transgendered individuals that sets us back as a movement."

This attitude on the part of gays has some in the transgender movement feeling unwelcomed.

The International Foundation for Gender Education, based in Waltham [MA], is one of the nation's leading sources of information for the transgender community. The group has 1,000 paid members and 10,000 around the country and the world who use its resources.

Although members of the group, including Rivers, will attend the Millennium March, the foundation is not officially participating because some of its members resent how

the transgender community has been treated by the gay-rights movement.

"It seems some think of the [gay] movement as a lifeboat, that they can only bring so many people in before it sinks," said Alison Laing of the foundation. "There's some resentment that if you're not a Log Cabin Republican [a gay Republican group] in a navy suit, they're not fighting for you."

March officials have extended an invitation to the transgender community to compensate for such feelings of exclusion. The march's board passed a resolution supporting inclusion of "visible gender variance," which is a current term for people who present themselves as the opposite sex, and appointed an outreach coordinator for the transgender community.

"We [the gay community] have to do a better job of including these issues," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, co-executive director of the march. "Our community is just becoming aware of the needs of this segment. We've got a long way to go."

Part of the challenge of understanding the transgender community is the diversity of people who fit under the broad label.

"Transgendered includes a continuum of behaviors and feeling," said Beth Firestein, a psychologist who holds a monthly support group for transgender people in Northern Colorado. "From a man who just enjoys the feel and variety of women's clothes to a woman who feels she is truly a man and undergoes sexual-reassignment surgery, they all fit under the category of being transgendered."

To further complicate matters, groups within the movement aren't always in agreement. According to the International Foundation for Gender Education, the majority of male cross-dressers identify themselves as straight. And some heterosexual cross-dressers are homophobic.

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"The transgender movement is not united," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's most powerful gay and lesbian lobbying and advocacy group. "There's education needed inside and outside the movement."

The Human Rights Campaign, whose slogan is "Working for lesbian and gay equal rights," has yet to add the "T."

"HRC is not unique in its evolution," he said. "We were a gay organization in the early '70s, gay and lesbian in the late '70s, and in the early '90s, we started including bisexual issues. Just because the "B" and the "T" aren't stated doesn't mean we aren't doing very important work to end discrimination for all. We are."

The disagreement between the transgender and the gay movement came to a boiling point during a debate on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that aims to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. The bill is in a House subcommittee.

"The transgender community is angry there's not supporting language in" the bill, Smith said. "But in this political environment, it couldn't move forward with that inclusive language. It still might not move forward at all."

Riki Anne Wilchins, an advocate for gender rights, is angered by such sentiments.

"This type of thinking separates and excludes," she said in an interview from her New York office. "It's not even a valid question to ask if this group should be included, they are and always have been a part of the movement."

Wilchins points out that it was drag queens who were involved in the Stonewall riots 31 years ago in New York that began the gay-rights movement. Saying the transgender movement "isn't part of the gay movement is like saying water isn't part of the Earth," she said.

Still, the gay community is split on the question of whether transgendered people should be part of the gay rights movement. Forty-seven percent answered "yes" to the question, the same percentage said "no" and 6 percent of respondents said they were undecided in an on-line poll last May by the Advocate, a gay and lesbian newspaper.

Wilchins is executive director of GenderPAC, a group that hopes to transcend labels such as gay, lesbian, and transgender. "We say everyone deserves basic civil rights regardless of the boxes people put them in," Wilchins said.

The march's Hardy-Garcia said there is some resistance within the gay movement to have sexual orientation considered merely a subset of the greater issue of gender discrimination.

"Many in the gay community worked very hard to identify ourselves as out and proud," she said. "There's resistance to changing that identification now. But whatever theory people subscribe to, the sentiment is the same: We're all facing the same discrimination."

It's a discrimination that is a reality for transgender people and their loved ones living far from the debate in Washington.

One such person is Elia Keller in Salt Lake City, who fears for her husband, Scott, when he goes to the mall as Sandy. Or "Katherine Palmer" (cross-dressers use different names to refer to themselves when they are dressed as the opposite gender), who leaves his home each morning to jog before daylight in a tennis skirt and his hair in a bow.

He fears that if his neighbors see him in the feminine clothes he prefers, they will have him evicted from his condo. Then there are people such as Kathy Haley and Wendi Madsen in Boulder, Colo., who worked to have transgender people protected by the city's nondiscrimination policy.

"It's unfortunate, but in the end, we are defined by our opposition," Rivers said of the entire gay-rights movement. "They don't make distinctions and neither can we afford to. As long as any of us are repressed, all of us are."

You are cordially invited to attend
The First Annual
Abacuck Prickett Dinner Party
for the Upstate New York
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY
and their friends
Saturday September 16th, 2000
7:00 pm to 11:00 pm
at the
Holiday Inn
205 Wolf Road, Albany NY

GUEST SPEAKERS:
"ON BEING PART OF THE TG FAMILY"
Arlene Istar Lev, C.S.W., C.A.S.A.C.
[Psychotherapist and Family Therapist]
"PERSONAL SAFETY FOR THE TG CITIZEN"
Officer Fred Aliberti [Albany Police Dept.]

FEE SCHEDULE:
TGIC Members:
Before August 15th: \$21 per person / \$36 per couple
After August 15th: \$25 per person / \$45 per couple
NON- TGIC Members:
Before August 15th: \$25 per person / \$45 per couple
After August 15th: \$30 per person / \$50 per couple

Information: call (518) 436-4513 or on the web at:
www.nytg.org/dinner.html



COMING EVENTS



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

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| JULY 8 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm |
| JULY 22 | THE MOCHA PROJECT PICNIC - Noon to 7:00pm
Lasalle Park on the waterfront, Buffalo (info 852-1142) |
| AUGUST 5 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm |
| AUGUST 12 | BUFFALO BELLES ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC - 6:00pm |
| SEPTEMBER 2 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm |
| SEPTEMBER 9 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm |
| SEPTEMBER 16 | ABACUCK PRICKERT DINNER PARTY 7:00 to 11:00pm
Albany, NY (for info see page 9) |
| SEPT. 26-OCT. 1 | SOUTHERN COMFORT
Atlanta, Georgia (info: 404-630-6470; www.sccatl.org) |
| OCTOBER 5 - 8 | 4th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CROSSDRESSING, SEX & GENDER, Philadelphia, PA (info: 610 -975-9119) |
| OCTOBER 18 - 25 | FANTASIA FAIR
Provincetown, Massachusetts |
| NOVEMBER 9 - 12 | WESTERN BELLES ROUNDUP 2000
Milford (The Poconos), Pennsylvania
(info: 810-286-6214; www.bobbiswan.com/dude) |
| NOVEMBER 16 -19 | LAKE ERIE GALA 2000
Erie, Pennsylvania (info: www.geocities.com/wellesley/1614) |

THANK YOU FROM NEWBURY ST.

We would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak with you at your meeting on the 6/10/00. You have a wonderful group and we are happy to have the chance to help you with your appearance enhancement needs.

As we mentioned at the meeting, Newbury St. is now offering electrolysis and nail care services. The level of excellence you have grown to expect with your alternative hair care services is extended into these new areas.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming bridal shower in the fall, and glamour makeover/photo shoot! Those of you interested please call A.S.A.P. Remember ladies, we have got to look great in those pictures.

Please feel free to call Newbury St. for details or questions concerning any of our services or any suggestions on what we can do to assist you in creating the most beautiful you possible!

Sincerely, Karen Mariglio-Boyd and Tammy Cotton.
716-694-4528

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