

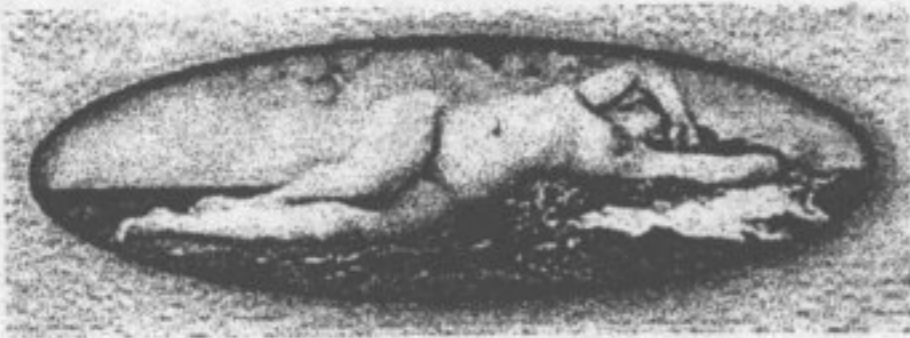
TRANNIES IN LOVE

The Capitol District Journal of the X-Sex

Free! Issue N° 5



trannies in love p.o.box 171 sch'dy ny 12301



The Rite and Invocation of Aphrodite, Goddess of Love and Beauty

By Tina, the Outrageous

In Greek mythology, she's Aphrodite or Venus in Roman mythology. She's the daughter of Zeus, king of all gods and goddesses; though it is said she was born from the foam of the sea. Gold and green are her favorite colors. Her chosen Lover is Aries (Mars in Roman mythology), god of war, son of Zeus and Hera, true wife of Zeus despite his many love affairs.

When attending the rite of Aphrodite in the month of Taurus, late April to early May, the oracle, a priestess chosen by Aphrodite to assume a trance and let Aphrodite speak through her, asks you to imagine yourself by the seashore on a beautiful calm sunny day. You are asked to walk into the sea. In your imagination, you can breathe underwater in total peace and tranquility. You are eventually met by a friendly and very playful dolphin who invites you to ride him to the island of Cypress, today known as Kythera, between Crete and Peloponese. This is the palace and home of Aphrodite.

In the meditation of your imagination, you are brought to the island with apple and Cypress trees (her sacred trees), cinnamon, marjoram, rose, rowan, poppy, mandrake, myrtle, quince and orris root are her sacred herbs.

At this point, Harmony, a local Priestess & Oracle of Aphrodite, having guided us thus far in meditation, goes into a trance and Aphrodite herself speaks. I will not be so presumptuous as to attempt to duplicate in detail, or quote all that she said, but here are some thoughts that especially touched me.

"On your altar, put up a picture of yourself. You are sacred, in the image or God, as are we all. Love yourself. Do not discredit your worth."

"Your home is a sanctuary. Don't let it be invaded by anything that robs you of peace and well-being."

"Eat nourishing, healthful foods, not junk."

"I, Aphrodite, bless ALL love relationships without judgment or bias. All sexual orientation and gender identity are valid."

Do I believe it is from Aphrodite? I have no reason not to. I am quite certain that we are ALL ministered to daily and continuously by people in pure spirit form who love and serve us. They are in God's image like us, but far more evolved as spirit beings. You may call them angels, deities, the Muses and Faeries as I sometimes do, God's minions, whatever. They speak to us through our intuitive sense. Some thoughts start in your own brain and mind, but you are not the creator of consciousness. The Whole Cosmos is the embodiment of consciousness. OK, enough of the heavy stuff.

Back in my childhood, I seemed to have a special affinity for Venus, the Roman goddess of Love and Beauty. I even remember telling my parents I was a "gleener" (a word I made up meaning I was both genders, androgynous. How did that get into me at the tender age of 9?) Today I believe wholeheartedly that we are all both genders in the depth of our spirits. The Goddess Venus, Aphrodite never let that slip away from me!

Cupid is the son of Aphrodite and Aries.

In ancient mythology, the dolphin is associated with androgyny, hermaphrodite identity and sexual playfulness.

Bibliography

Gardner's "Art through the Ages", 11th Edition, Kleiner, Maniya, Tansey

www.open-sesame.com/Aphrodite.html

www.users.netmatters.co.uk/ju90/Dolphin.htm

<http://greek-myth.com/Pale-Horse/corinth.htm>

www.yachting-greece.com/Kythera.htm

The following keywords typed into Google:

"Aphrodite goddess"

"Aphrodite pagan rite"

"Aphrodite dolphin"



Remembering Bobbi Jo

Helen Montage Farrell stands vigil for transgender rights and to honor local transgender activist Bobbi Jo Hahn, who died Aug. 18, 2001. Other transgender activists gathered the same day at Hahn's grave. Hahn was a decorated Vietnam Veteran and founded the *Transsexual Clearinghouse*, a resource guide for transgender people. Farrell organized the vigil in part to draw attention to the fact that gender identity is still not covered by state anti-discrimination laws.

Trannies In Love EVENTS

Every 2nd & 4th Friday
7 PM at the
Social Justice Center
33 Central Ave Albany
372-1027 393-0394

Oct 10-Charlene Dodge
Albany Gender Project
and TS Clearinghouse

Oct 24-Victor Diaz- HIV
Recovery Group- Alcohol &
Substance Abuse

Nov 14-TG Relationships
And Domestic Abuse-
In Our Own Voices, CATS
Albany Gender Project
Arlene Istar Lev

Nov 28-Tina Andrus-
Music Therapy

Dec 12-Mark Hayes of
Housing Works-GENDA
(Gender Expression Non-
Discrimination Act)

Jan 9-Melanie Trimble,
Executive Director- NY
Civil Liberties Union
Capitol Region

Because of the health condition of
some of the old babes involved, this
is a fragrance free event. Perfumes
are a serious health threat to
some. Thanks for under-
standing

Trannies in Love,
Love In Trannies.

Callan Williams, 14 Jan 01

"Show me what you love,
and I will know who you are."
Kate Bornstein

Tranny Choices, Tranny Eros.
Love revealed.

To love gender enough to change it.
To love sex enough to shift it.
To desire truth enough to become it.
Beyond bounds
Of normative

Trans as lust,
lust to become lusted after
or
lust to become?

Trans as change
change to trap lovers
apple of their eye
or
change to leave traps
orange ya glad I came out

Trans as becoming
become what they desire
or
become desire?

An Erotic quest
To become lovable
To become loved
To become love?

Show me me
Through your eyes
And maybe I will love me so much
That I will love you.

I will be who you desire
If I you desire
The beautiful me
I hide.

Revelation reveals
Though masks and changes
Shine the light on my hidden
And yours.

Love for change
Change for lovers
Though the dark places
To light
Beyond night time dances
To daylight lives
Stripped bare of comfort
Facing a whole lover
Man, woman, human.

Gender is responsibility
Relationship is responsibility
Freedom is alone
And seductive

Bold attracts
But attraction without responsibility
is just drama.

Trans and Arrogant.

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Trannies In Love - Charlene Dodge/AGP 33 Central Ave. Albany 7PM 518-372-1027	11
12	13	14 Albany Gender Project- Womens Bldg. 79 Central Av Albany 7:30 518-785-7866	15	16 CATS - 6PM Albany 518-465-4771	17 Open Mic - Tina Andrus at Spring Eagle 123 Jay St. Sch'dy 7PM 518-631-0556	18 Tri-Ess Schenectady
19	20	21	22	23	24 Trannies In Love - Victor Diaz- HIV Recovery Group- 7PM 33 Central Av. 372-1027	25
26	27	28 Albany Gender Project- Womens Bldg. 79 Central Av Albany 7:30 518-785-7866	29	30	31	

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Albany Gender Project- Womens Bldg. 79 Central Av Albany 7:30 518-785-7866	12	13	14 Trannies In Love - TG Relations/Domestic Abuse Panel 33Central Ave. 7PM	15 Tri-Ess Schenectady
16	17	18	19	20 CATS - 6PM Albany 518-465-4771	21 Open Mic - Tina Andrus at Spring Eagle 123 Jay St. Sch'dy 7PM 518-631-0556	22
23	24	25 Albany Gender Project- Womens Bldg. 79 Central Av Albany 7:30 518-785-7866	26	27	28 Trannies In Love - Tina Andrus- Music Therapy 7PM 33 Central Av. 372-1027	29
30						



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Albany Gender Project- Womens Bldg. 79 Central Av Albany 7:30 518-785-7866	10	11	12 Trannies In Love - Mark Hayes - GENDA 33 Central Ave. Albany 7PM 518-372-1027	13
14	15	16	17	18 CATS - 6PM Albany 518-465-4771	19 Open Mic - Tina Andrus at Spring Eagle 123 Jay St. Sch'dy 7PM 518-631-0556	20 Tri-Ess Schenectady
21	22	23 Albany Gender Project- Womens Bldg. 79 Central Av Albany 7:30 518-785-7866	24	25	26 Trannies In Love - Social Justice Center 33 Central Ave. Albany 7PM 518-372-1027	27
28	29	30	31		Fri. Jan. 9 TIL- Melanie Trimble- Exec. Director NYCivil Liberties Union Capitol Region Chapter	

2003

BITCHY XZHAOUXIYE'S REVIEW OF TRANSGENDER GROUPS AND HANG-OUTS

COLORED AMERICAN TRANSGENDER SOCIETY (CATS) This is the most dynamic local group, of trans gals of color, involved with social and medical issues. They meet monthly at the Whitney Young Health Center in Albany. Call Harry at 518-465-4771.

SOCIETY OF THE SECOND SELF (Tri-Ess) Tri-Ess is the oldest, most stable TG group in the area. It's dignified, fun and diverse. They have social meetings monthly at a great club in Schenectady. You can find them thru their national mag, The Femme Mirror, 8880 Bellaire B2 Ste. 104, Houston TX 77031, or call Trannies In Love with a way for them to contact you.

ALBANY GENDER PROJECT (AGP) The AGP is a tax-exempt service and advocacy group dealing with TG health, housing, legal and other social concerns. They developed the Transsexual Clearing House guide to area TG services, and TIL is an off-shoot project. They've been picking up steam at their meetings every other Tuesday at 7:30PM at the Womens Building, 79 Central Ave. Albany. Call 518-785-7866.

TRANSGENDER INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC) This small club has become extremely restricted and suspicious and doesn't get along well with any of the other TG groups. Their clubhouse has been closed except for the monthly business meeting and they no longer frequent their main meeting place, Club Phoenix, because two of their officers were banned there after one of them agitatedly threatened to kill a man who was talking amicably at their table. They've been drifting to different bars Friday nights looking for a place to settle into. Defensive, hard-drinking two-fisted military types especially welcome. Call 518-436-6789.

CLUB PHOENIX The area bar of choice for trannies, especially Friday night karaoke. Karaoke, yikes. 348 Central Ave. Albany.

OTHER COOL BARS
 Chia Bob's- 1036 Crane St. Schenectady
 Ferry Street Pub- 95 Ferry St. Troy
 Oh! Bar- 304 Lark St. Albany
 Waterworks- 76 Central Ave. Albany

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Yes, trannies go to church too. Most who do go to MCC, an open, loving and positive spiritual center. Services are 1PM Sundays at 275 State St. in Albany.

SPRING EAGLE MAGICK SHOPPE Trannies with a more pagan bent frequent Spring Eagle, a cool shop that has a variety of daily activities and services. They're practically Schenectady's Alternative City Hall. 123 Jay St. 518-631-0556.

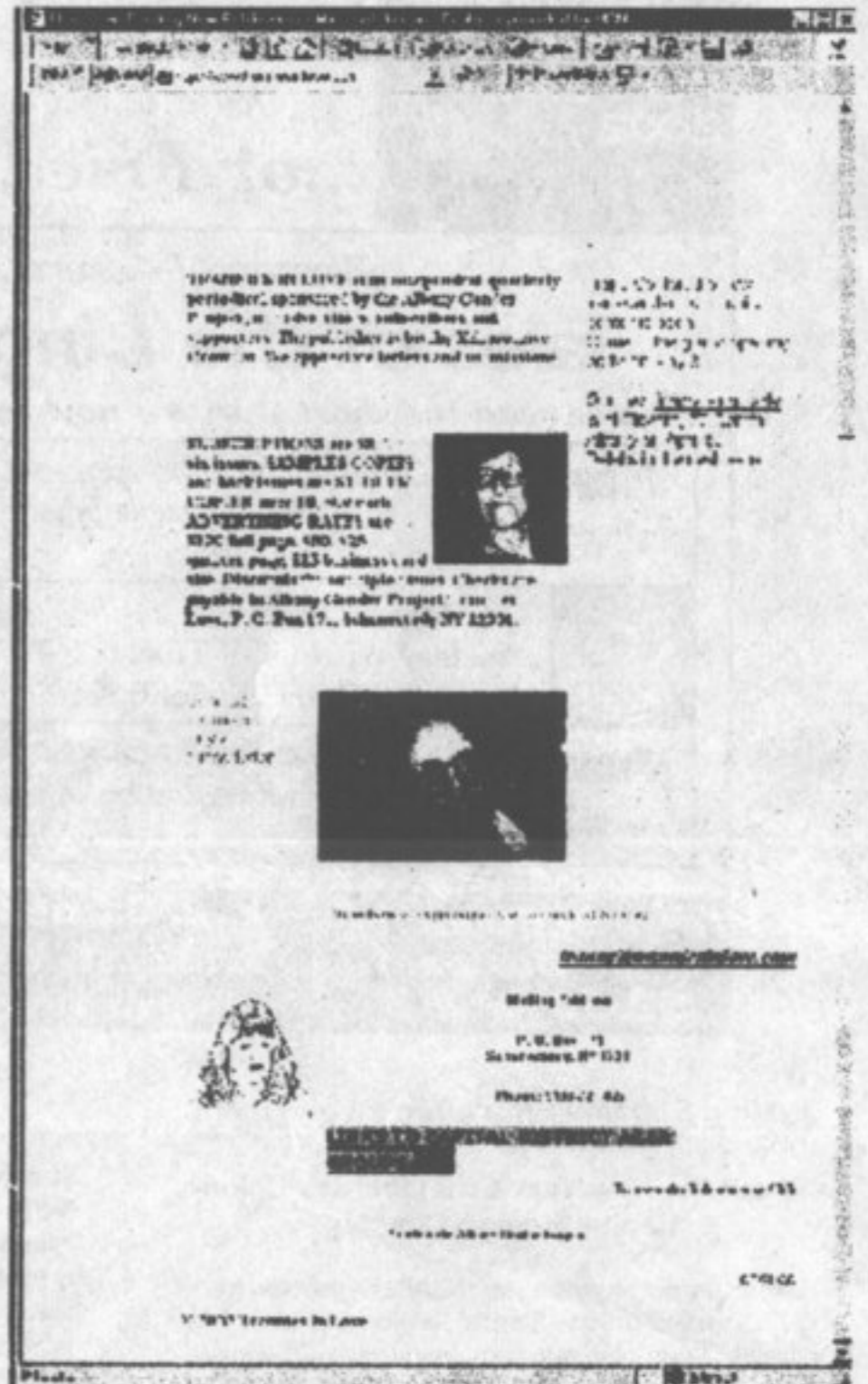
CAPITAL DISTRICT GAY LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER The CDGLCC Rainbow Café is open every night at 7PM. They have a terrific GLBT library and a host of programs, activities, referrals and the newspaper, COMMUNITY. 332 Hudson Ave. Albany. 518-462-6138.

IN OUR OWN VOICES/PROJECT (SANO) In Our Own Voices is a community organization for GLBT folks of color that deals with health and domestic violence matters. They're currently setting up a phone hot-line as a part of their anti-violence project with other area agencies. 518-432-4188.

BLEEKER CAFÉ Good eats. Great atmosphere. Dove & State Streets, Albany.

FAVORED TRANS-FRIENDLY SMUT SHOPS
 Cinema Art Theater- 289 River St. Troy
 Another World- 145 Erie Blvd. Schenectady

Trannies In Love Outrages All With Its Website <http://www.tranniesinlove.com>



Transgender Capitol District Online

Your electronic connection to the heartbeat of the Capitol District Transgender Community.

To join, send a message to TCDO@yohaoogroups.com. Instructions how to join will be sent to you via return e-mail.

123 JAY STREET
 SCHENECTADY NY 12305
 (518)631-0556

**SPRING EAGLE
 MAGICK SHOPPE**

"There's a lot of twisted stuff at this show, but this is the most twisted stuff here."
 -- G.L. Dryfoos at Wizard World East, 2002

Do You Like Your Detectives Hard-Boiled...



...or Fried?

"Great art, very quirky stories. I want a bread doll of my own."
 -- Bill Shafer, writer, "GlueBoy"

"Loathesome and disgusting."
 -- M.R. Hopkins

Blaster Al Ackerman's

Tales of the Ling Master

You've read the short stories -- now read the mini-comics!

Preview #1 "Jimmy, 'or, The Bread-Doll Fancier"
The Miracle of Life in a Suitcase
 12 pages



"I, The Stallion!"
Ancient Wisdom of Tibet
 8 pages -- Starring Jack Saunders!

Preview #2

Preview #3 "The Squid Boys of Terre Haute"
Close Encounters of the Third Grade
 12 pages -- Cameo by John M. Bennett!



\$1.00 each
 postpaid
 \$2.50 for all 3

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 ejbarnes@theworld.com



Justice.Equality.Education.Involvement

About the New York Civil Liberties Union-Capital Region Chapter

Like its parent organization, the ACLU, the New York Civil Liberties Union - Capital Region Chapter - is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization devoted exclusively to protecting the civil liberties of all persons, and to extending them to persons traditionally denied fundamental rights. We seek to preserve and enhance the principles embodied in the United States and the New York State Constitution. The Chapter receives no governmental funding and is supported by individual contributions, grants from foundations, and over 1300 dues-paying NYCLU members in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Washington, Warren, Columbia and Greene Counties.

Through litigation, advocacy and public education, we strive to ensure that the civil liberties guaranteed to all of us by the Constitution are not infringed by the government or private individuals.

Since our founding in 1991, the Chapter has challenged racism and police brutality and defended freedom of expression and privacy, including reproductive choice, right here in your community. We have protected the rights of people of color, women, lesbians, gay men, and handicapped persons from discrimination. We have sought to expand the rights of the mentally ill and the homeless, and to establish the right to counsel in landlord/tenant cases. We have fought to secure the right of students to an education free of censorship.

The Capital Region Chapter is a visible and articulate defender of civil liberties. Staff and Board Members appear frequently in the media, and in public forums to educate and promote individual rights and fundamental freedoms upon which our nation is based.

Chapter Activities

New York Bill of Rights Defense Campaign
 The Capital Region Chapter supports and is dedicated to furthering the goal of restoring civil liberties curtailed by the government since September 11th. Through a three tiered program of education, mobilization, and legislation, the campaign seeks to defend against the erosion of civil liberties by the government.

Legal Advocacy and Litigation

The Chapter office receives numerous requests for information, legal representation, and assistance on civil liberties issues. We respond to these requests by providing information, and with the assistance of volunteer attorneys, we undertake advocacy on civil liberties matters. The Chapter also initiates litigation to redress more serious civil liberties violations or to commence precedent-setting lawsuits with the assistance of cooperating counsel.

Protecting Reproductive Rights

The Capital Region Chapter sponsors educational events to highlight current issues in reproductive rights on the national and state level. We continue to monitor threats to the availability of reproductive health care in services affected by hospital mergers, medical insurance inequity, Medicaid funding, and all intrusions into reproductive decision-making by a woman and her physician.

Students' Civil Liberties Issues

The Capital Region Chapter is dedicated to informing young persons of their rights at school and in the community. The Chapter holds workshops informing teens of their rights at school, in the community, and when encountering law enforcement.

Community Forums

The Chapter holds public forums to address and debate timely civil liberties issues.

BECOME A CARD CARRYING MEMBER OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION!

Membership in the NYCLU will also enroll you as a member of the ACLU.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

	Individual	Joint
Basic Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Contributing Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Supporting Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Sustaining Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	

Joint memberships increase our lobbying power!

Please make checks payable to NYCLU.
 Membership dues are not tax deductible.

Volunteers are always needed,
 please give us a call
 if you are interested!

Mail to:

NYCLU
 Capital Region Chapter
 90 State Street
 Albany, NY 12207

dream makers
02/08/98

Callan Williams

the question is:

how do we believe in our possibilities, in our dreams?

how do we face the dream breakers and find the dream makers?

how do we trust the call of our heart in the face of a society that believes in breaking the spirit of people?

how do we move beyond the wounds and the scars that taught us to stay small?

where is the empowerment of ordination the affirmation of dreams?

a few years ago i proposed that a conference "vanguard of gender exploration" find a new mission statement because their old one was a lie as the edge moved on and they cater to weekend crossdressers

"the empowerment conference" was my suggestion power ideas possibility thinking dream affirmation life building.

make the town meeting on "what are the requirements for a successful transgendered life"

but no. too challenging politics and wounds and parties which go hand in hand in the minds of activists who prefer the stick than the carrot and wonder why success & abundance eludes them and they scrap over scraps

the crumbs from people who don't claim their own success or keep their success separate compartmentalized from their transgendered party nature.

success begets success abundance begets abundance dreams nurture dreams possibilities cascade into possibilities but defense begets defense wounds beget wounds pain nurtures pain fears cascade into fears

the seeds you tend the plants that grow are the seeds you get so why do we tend the fear, pain and wounds?

a queer empowerment conference not about people of color not about people of transgendered experience not about women who love women not about men who love men but about individual possibility about personal responsibility about one humans power about each person's dreams

where no one stands up and says what about the hurt what about the oppressed what about the marginalized what about the disenfranchised

but rather they stand and say I will help the hurt find healing. I will help the oppressed find freedom I will help the marginalized find the center I will help the disenfranchised find their voice and this is how I have done it. This is how I will do it. Will you, as an individual, join me in this pursuit?

A conference where people don't discuss what is wrong do discuss what how to be right don't discuss how the system is bad do discuss how the individual can do good don't discuss why it can't be done do discuss how it can be done don't discuss global problems do discuss individual solutions

a place where people are beyond their wounds acting from their highest self believing in the possibilities of other people of success of happiness of making connections of making change of their own power

this is the challenge to celebrate success not just to mourn failures to celebrate playing big not just to mourn the crushing that keeps us small to take our power not to mourn its loss.

dream makers coming together not about what others must do but about what I must do to change my own world change that ripples rings of success reaching outward touching more and more and changing our world

create the future self beyond wounds ordained as an individual to make dreams come true when we come together to believe in each other to believe in our self. and believe in the power and beauty of our dreams.



IN OUR OWN VOICES, INC.

Capital Region Anti-Violence Project

In Our Own Voices (IOOV), a community-based lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered people of color organization has created the **Capital Region Anti-Violence Project**. The purpose of the project is to improve domestic violence services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people, particularly people of color, in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Montgomery, Saratoga, Columbia and Greene Counties.

The Anti-Violence Project

Support Line for LGBT Victims of Domestic Violence

- speak confidentially with LGBT staff or volunteers
- receive referrals for counseling, emergency assistance and other general information from 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday

Community Education

- brochures and fact sheets about LGBT domestic violence
- presentations about LGBT domestic violence for interested community groups and agencies
- a website which provides a guide to LGBT resources

Training

LGBT and people of color face special issues when dealing with domestic violence. IOOV's Anti-Violence Project offers training and technical assistance to domestic violence programs who work in our community.

Community Change IOOV represents LGBT people of color in local and regional networks of agencies who deal with domestic violence. Through these associations we work to ensure inclusion of LGBT concerns in community-wide efforts to end domestic violence.

This project was supported by a grant administered by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

In Our Own Voices
LGBT Domestic Violence Support Line
Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm
(518)432-4341

24-hour DV Hotlines

Albany—(518) 432-7865
Columbia and Greene—(518) 943-9211
Montgomery—(800) 721-2173 or (518) 842-3384
Rensselaer—(518) 272-2370
Schenectady—(518) 374-3386
Saratoga—(518) 584-8118

New York State Adult Domestic Violence Hotline
English 1-800-942-6906
Spanish 1-800-942-6908

Collaborating Partners

YWCA of Schenectady
(518) 374-3394
Unity House of Troy, Inc.
(518) 274-2607
Equinox, Inc.
(518) 434-6135
Domestic Violence Services/Saratoga Rape Crisis
(518) 583-0280

In Our Own Voices, Inc.
33 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
Office Phone: 518.432.4188
info@inourownvoices.org
www.inourownvoices.org

Serving the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgendered People of Color, their friends and families.

Your Message Here

372-1027

The Big Secret

Callan Williams, Copyright © January 1997

-The Big Secret

I know a secret about transgendered people.

It is our most dangerous secret, the one that few dare speak. Even in these days of openness, where everything is boldly stated, veneers are ripped off, shells are stripped away, there is one truth we still have trouble with.

In the sea of compassion, in the face of victims, in the teeth of oppression, there is one thing that is still too dangerous to stand up and say. One thing that will stir up all the controversy, from haters to advocates.

The big secret? The truth so dangerous we have to hide it?

Simple.

Transgendered people are coded to be happy and successful.

Transgendered people are coded to be happy and successful.

-- It's Not True!

Can that really be true? Can we all have the possibility of success and happiness, of being a vital and valuable part of the fabric of this culture in our soul?

Advocates will yell that we cannot be happy. "The oppression of one of us is the oppression of all of us. We must live with compassion for the suffering of those transgendered people around the world who face a cruel world everyday. We must come together to halt oppression."

Haters will tell us "You cannot be happy unless you follow the rules, unless you accept our savior, our code, our morality."

And we buy into this. So many of us want to stand up and say "I am a victim of cruel fate! I didn't choose to be this way, and it's just not fair!" We ask others to be compassionate towards us, to excuse our behavior, to rationalize our choices based on our pain and suffering.

In other words, many of those who want to bring TG people together, those who hate us, and our own beliefs all converge to convince us that we are suffering, that we should suffer, must suffer.

And then we believe that if we are not suffering, we are doing something wrong. To announce that we are not suffering seems like a callous and insensitive act, rejecting the truth that this heterosexist culture stacks the deck against gender transgression.

We can share our pain. We can share our oppression. We can share our shame. But can we share our success? Can we walk into a support group and talk about the big raise we got and have people be happy? Can we talk about new cars, or great lovers?

Sharing success can be frightening. It can't be true.

-- It Is True.

If you think culture stacks the deck against gender transgression, what about against race? And where was there more racial discrimination than South Africa? But even after 30 years in jail, Nelson Mandela knows the secret.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us. It's in everyone. And as we let our own light

We fear the truth -- the truth that we are powerful enough to change our minds, powerful enough to change our worlds. It is the secret that we keep, the one that we deny -- the hidden truth of our power.

And we fear that truth -- the truth that we are brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous -- because we fear that if we are too good people won't like us, won't love us.

Unless we like ourselves, unless we like ourselves, then we cannot give the love to others that they need, get back the love we need. Unless we accept the dreaded secret -- that we really are coded for success and happiness -- we will always be afraid of happiness and success.

-- But It's Their Fault!

Why can't we be happy? Ask anyone and they can give you a litany of reasons. "Society oppresses me." "My family was dysfunctional." "I am limited." "Others can't give me what I need."

We have been taught that who we are is because of how they treated us -- every they from the creator who played a cruel joke in our genes, to our parents, our teachers, our doctors, our politicians, our business people, even the leaders of the movements we want to help us. They don't get it, they keep us small.

We are all hurting. We have all suffered pain in our past, inadvertent pain, and yes, even deliberate pain that was meant to socialize us, teaching us to kill off parts of ourselves. The nail that sticks up gets pounded down -- and as transgendered people, we have been pounded a lot.

Dr. Robert Anthony: "When you blame others, you give up your power to change."

How do we take our own power?

We must let go of anger and rage. Even House Majority Leader Dick Armey has said: "You can't get ahead while getting even."

Getting even is a trap that stops us from getting ahead, stops us from growing.

- Who We Are, Or Who We Can Be?

Transformation is not about who we are, it is about what we can be -- about releasing the essence of our being. We have spent years being told about the limits to who we can be, and we hold those limits close and painful.

Hear what we claim for our identity, does the following sound familiar?

I AM so afraid of failing.
I AM sick and tired of your behavior.
I AM too poor to afford it.
I AM too old to travel anymore.

It is my essence to BE: afraid of failing.

It is my nature to BE: sick and tired of your behavior.

It is God's WILL for me to BE: to poor to afford it.

-- The Power Of Risk

*Our lives improve only when we take chances
- and the first and most difficult risk we can take is to be honest with ourselves.*
Walter Anderson

To announce that we are not suffering seems like a callous and insensitive act, rejecting the truth that this heterosexist culture stacks the deck against gender transgression, makes transgression a risky act.

Of course, everyone knows that the bigger the risk, the higher the payoff. Taking the big bold risks can result in happiness -- but hiding from them, fearing them, results in suffering. -- but hiding from risks, fearing risks results in suffering.

We all gather together, and we decide to keep our success a secret -- decide that transgender, happiness and success don't fit together. If we feel happy or successful, we have to shut up -- or leave the gender community, cast out as un-compassionate, insensitive and uncaring. The people who have the wherewithal to help often feel cast out and rejected.

-- Compassion Means Sharing Joy, Too

Compassion is vital. We need to care. It is true that one person's oppression is the oppression of all of us. But it is also true that one person's success is the success of all of us. To lead TG into the future, the models must be of healthy, actualized, powerful TG people -- not simply the human tragedy of the few deaths every year and our pain and rage for the hurting.

-- Giving The Gift Of Success

What greater gift could we give the world than the gift of learning how to succeed in this world as powerful, gracious, queer, transgendered people? Is the best tool for ending oppression to bash back at the vague and shadowy figure of the oppressors or to empower the oppressed to take charge of their own life, to face oppression and succeed, find joy and happiness?

This is the secret: We have the capacity to win, to be an effective part of the world, to make our lives better not only for us, but for those we care for, both our blood families and our families of choice.

-- Free To Win, But Only For A Moment

Winning requires one thing: we have to use our own freedom. Steven Covey notes that our freedom exists in only one moment for an of us, and that is in the moment between stimulus and response. Freedom is only in that fleeting moment.

We don't choose the stimulus of our world -- facts like being born transgendered in a world that has no place for transgendered people are not something we can change.

We don't even choose the outcome of our actions, our choices. The rest of the world will respond in whatever way they do.

So is that moment of freedom enough to change our lives? The answer is unequivocally yes. If we act boldly, respond well to what we are given, we can make a happy life. If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

The hard part is taking charge of our own freedom in that moment. Too often, we just react to stimuli out of old programming, rather than respond in the most effective way we can. We follow the fears that are taught us growing up -- and one the biggest fear is that we will be separated, not liked, if we are too successful.

So we know the secret -- that we can choose success -- but we choose not to act on it. We choose instead to find reasons not to succeed, to point the finger at others for our lack of happiness.

-- Discomfort Now, Joy Later

What rationalization do we make in the moment that we blame someone else? Most often it is the fact that any other choice, a choice that would get us what we want is too uncomfortable, costs too much.

We are unwilling to renounce something we want now -- maybe the comfort of not having to face our fears -- for something that we want even more -- maybe the freedom to be who we are.

This is the judgment we make in the moment -- do we come from old programming, or do we put every choice in context? Do we live only in the now, or in the possibility of a better now?

When we are overweight, we often find comfort in food. If we go on a diet, we believe we will find more comfort and health in losing weight. In the moment that we look in the refrigerator, we have to use the moment of freedom to make the decisions: Do I satisfy my comfort now, or do I renounce comfort in this moment for a more long term goal?

This is the way of transformation, dropping the old choices and accepting the new, knowing that new choices will make us into new ways of being. We are, in every way that counts, the sum and total of our choices, and that means to be conscious of who we are and what we can become, we must be conscious of our choices.

This is hard, because in any given moment, the choice will be difficult. The choice to face oppression and stigma to find a greater happiness, to give more to get more often seem completely backwards. Yet, unless we face the world, there is no way we can find joy in it. The possibility of success is small, but the only time you have to succeed is the last time you try, and that means that we must choose the risky path if we want to move ahead, and keep choosing it again and again-- we fail and though failure, find the seeds of success.

- Facing Failure Is The Way To Success

How do we keep our spirits up when we face failure in every moment? How do we keep our eye on the possibilities of success, when virtually everyone around us is telling us that the chances are small --and besides success is not a reasonable goal while others are being oppressed.

How do we find people who will share with us the belief that abundance is possible in this world -- the abundance of love and resources that can change our life?

- Personal Power: Making Connections

We have the power to change our life. Personal power in this world is simple -- it is the capacity to have people agree with you, to work with you, to share goals and dreams, to give you what you need and want. There are many ways of getting this power -- following rules, taking risks, force, persuasion, seduction, and so on, but in the end, the goal is always the same -- to sway other people to do what you want.

Of course, the best way to get people to do what you want is to find goals and objectives that you share, to compromise and trade so that everyone gets what they want. To do that, however, requires compromise, and in compromise, nobody gets exactly what they want, but people get what they need.

- Is Compromise Giving In?

Many people reject success because they believe that the choices we have to make to exert our personal power -- our ability to have others support us and our choices -- require us to renounce too much of ourselves. They talk of a slippery slope that begins with compromise and ends with total assimilation and the loss of identity and self.

This is the question we all face in every moment we make a choice: When do we sell out our dreams by renouncing too much in the moment, and when do we sell them out by not renouncing enough? When do we risk too much by putting off our dreams, and when do we risk too much by demanding satisfaction right now?

To make the decision in the moment requires striking that balance -- and also trusting that the only time you have to make the perfect decision is the last time you try. In this life, balance comes over time and not in the moment, and it is only though going a bit too far, becoming unstable that we find our center and stability.

-Losing Balance, Moving Forward

"To walk, we have to learn to lean forward," says the British psychotherapist Robin Skynner, "lose our balance and begin to fall. We let go constantly of the previous stability, falling all the time, trusting that we will find a succession of new stabilities with each step.... Our experience of the past, and of those dear to us, is not lost at all, but remains richly within us."

We fall forward into the future, losing our balance in every moment and regaining it.

- Imperfection Is Required

One of the hardest things about being a grown up is always knowing that you are making imperfect decisions -- that every choice you make is wrong in some way or other. We, as beings in a finite world, can never make perfect decisions that satisfy everyone in always -- we can only make the best decisions we can, make them boldly and strongly.

The compromises, the balances we have to make to get what we want are often difficult, always tough. We need to be balance, even in the truth that moving forward requires losing balance. To claim our own success requires claiming it even in the face our own failures -- and that is not a simple task.

For me, being a grown-up is when accept that we are in the generation of the parents, that we have not only the responsibility, but also the power, to take charge of our own lives and our own extended families and our own communities. So many people today -- TG or not -- seem to not want to grow up, to think that life is simply all about them and their pain and problems.

It is only through service to others that we find ourselves. This outward focus, focus on taking our own power and doing something about it, choosing to be a part of the community, is the only way we can become empowered.

-The Beauty Of Our Scars

As transgendered people we are scarred, scarred by life and by fate. We fail and we get hit and we get scarred.

For me, those scars are marks of wisdom, of hard earned lessons that make us even more beautiful!

When the Japanese mend broken objects they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold, because they believe that when something's suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful.
Barbara Bloom, American artist

- Success demands responsibility.

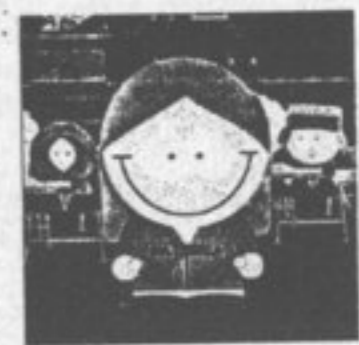
Success demands responsibility. Accepting success means accepting responsibility for our own lives.

If we assume that we are all the same, what do we assume about other people?

South Park Transnies



Jayme



Charlene



Kaylie



Susan



Helen

Being compassionate towards others is good and important. We all have pain.

But assuming that others also have the capability to take charge of their lives, that others can also take responsibility and succeed is the challenge.

If we accept that everyone is capable of success, then we demand that they work towards that. We begin to understand that true compassion is to ask people to actually come through and do their best, rather than simply excusing their actions based on their inability to actually do the work.

This balance of compassion and responsibility is a tricky one. To be successful, we must be compassionate towards ourselves and others, but we must also have an expectation that people will take responsibility for their own choices and their own lives, not simply blame others or decide that they are incapable of making things better.

Is this the reason that people resist success, both in themselves and in others, because success demands that we take responsibility for our lives and our choices? It is question that we must ask.

- The Dream Of Supporting Success

As Bette Midler said, "The hardest thing about being successful is to find someone who is happy for you."

My dream is that I can find a support group where, when you announce you got a promotion and a raise, you can do it with pride and with the joy of others -- not a feeling of shame that you are enjoying good fortune while others suffer.

So this is my quest -- to find a few more people who are ready to stand up for their own power as individuals, and in doing that, make models, money, and change that can help everyone to be able to stand up and express their own unique and beautiful selves.

We heal when we can be honest. We can be honest about our feelings of pain and desperation, but the one thing we cannot yet be honest about is our hopes and dreams. When we dream too big, we set up a tension, a need for others to bubble burst.

- It Comes Down To You

If Rosa Parks had taken a poll before she sat down in the bus in Montgomery, she'd still be standing.
Mary Frances Berry

There is only one person who can tell the truth about you, and that is you. To admit that you are coded for success, that you have the power to take responsibility for your own life and own happiness is something that you must do for yourself.

After all is said and done, you have the responsibility for your own secrets, your own fears, your own pain and your own possibilities.

Do you want to believe that you have the possibility of changing your life, finding success and happiness, or do you want to believe in the inevitability of pain and oppression?

Ironweed Collective meeting. 98

Grand St., Albany. Mondays, 7 PM:

The Ironweed Collective is organizing a space at 98 Grand St., which will be a meeting space for activists and community members, a library, and an artists' workshop, including a music studio. 436-0929.

Suzy Poe

Interviewed by Eric Ewing

Suzy Poe is a creature of flux, change made flesh. Everything can be questioned and interpreted. "Facts" are subjective, and nothing is static. I met Suzy through her long-lived publication "Popular Reality", which is a collection of letters, articles, fiction, and art. Back then her name was David Nestle [she was male], and I understand that this wasn't her original name either.



PopReal itself has died and been resurrected many times, and you know that every issue you get may be your last. A new issue will always give you something to think about, and often a new WAY of thinking about something familiar. It's this exploration of ideas, often with challenging themes, that make Suzy's world exciting.

In the early 1990's, Suzy published a book entitled "Confessions of a Holocaust Revisionist". The book wasn't so much about refuting the Holocaust as it was a memoir Bradley Smith, a man who can't accept the version of reality he has been served. The focus is on HAVING a different point of view rather than the point of view itself.

1997's Acid Party Programming Video has snippets of porn, suicide, self-destruction, and the banality of breakfast while reading a newspaper. It's half what-I-did-on-my-vacation and

half psychological terrorism. A great film to leave running at a party just to watch conversation stop dead once in a while.

The rich vein of absurdist humor, prankster philosophy, and witty surrealism runs through everything Suzy touches, and the following interview catches a piece of this.

EE- How long has Popular Reality been in existence? What caused you to start the paper in the first place? Its beginnings were in anarchist activities. How has this changed since then? How has the world changed?

Poe- PopReal's been in existence for 800 years, and was passed to me in 1984 by the 14 Secret Masters of the World. It was never strictly anarchist. It was not that easily defined. More like cheap crackpot junk you find under your shoe in the parking lot, but just barely too artfully done to dismiss totally. The bent is more toward creative literary meanderings now, but not without a subversive spirit.

EE- Ever had a fork in the eye?

Poe- No, but I've seen Bob Black naked.

EE- How long did you live in Michigan before moving to Schenectady? Why did you move? How is the culture different?

Poe- I was born in Michigan and lived there most of my life. I moved to Schenectady last spring to be near the man I love, but God's put me back into social work here, damn Him. It's been a culture shock here. Folks are more reserved than loud Midwesterners, and more prone to lying and being lied to.

EE- Your Acid Party Programmin well received. Is it still available? people order it? Tell me about the making now? Are they available to public?

Poe- The PR Compilation Video is still available from me for \$25. I've been shooting more porn lately, with small-time sales through ads in smut mags. I've been thinking of breaking down the compartmentalization of some of my activities and advertising my filth in PopReal.

EE- You've changed your name many times and have lived many different lives. More recently, you have changed your gender. Has this affected you as an individual more or less than you expected? In what ways do your genitals define your soul?

Poe- Switching gender, transgressing gender, is an enormous shift in perspective and experience, but not in Self, I don't think. A sex-change reveals how much your genitals don't define your soul.

EE- As a follow-up, how would you define "the individual"? What makes a person who he or she is?

Poe- Individuality is one of those funny paradoxes. What makes somebody who they are is experience and self-examination.

EE- How have others in the zine scene reacted to your transition from male to female?

Poe- Great humor.

EE- You've commented that many writers in your circle have a strong spiritual side. What is your take on spirituality? In what ways have you tapped power within yourself?

Poe- Folks into spiritual stuff are, as a rule, faking it. You're as likely to find the truth in a pool hall as in a spiritual fellowship. I tap my inner power to get up every day and eat and shit and cope with humans.

EE- What zines have you been reading lately?

Poe- IRS regulations and instructions for filing for tax-exempt educational and charitable organization status. It's about 100 pages that the Paperwork Reduction Act claims takes 90 hours for someone who knows what they are doing.



I'm getting back into social work. Tranny social work.

EE- You do not have a computer. Do you feel that Internet publishing has the same spirit as photocopies or newsprint?

Poe- No. Computers are evil.

EE- You publish many of the hilarious books by Al Ackerman. Tell me about some of the pranks you have pulled with him (e.g., the authorship of My Date with Henry Miller).

Poe- My Date with Henry Miller was a classic. Ackerman actually wrote the title piece for the book, and I wrote Bob Black's after word. The publisher didn't know. Bob got paid without actually writing anything. I've floated a number of Ack drawings and a couple of Bob Black fictions that I've done. Some people assume that Bob and Al are fictional characters I created, or that Bob and I are fictions of Al's. Nobody thinks Bob made up Al or me for some reason.

EE- What publishing names from the Eighties do you miss? What publishing trends from the Eighties are you glad to see dead?

Poe- Conspiratologist Jim Keith, deceased. Neoist David Zack, deceased. Poet Brian Clemons, deceased. And Ed Lawrence, missing at home. Glad to see the zine explosion and Church of the SubGenius dead, or at least comatose with little chance of recovery.

EE- You've seen Bob Black naked?

Poe- To put it euphemistically, yes.

Opinionated

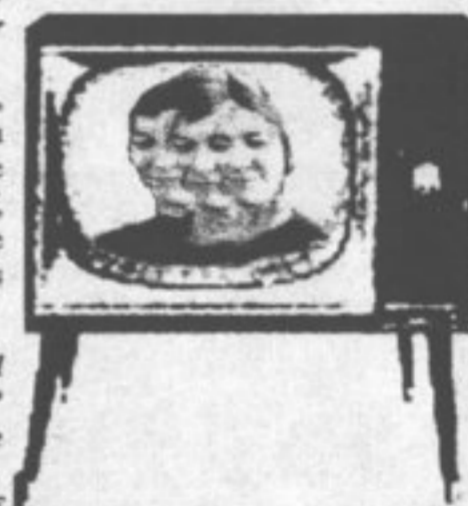


It seems that everyone has some sort of opinion about something. Write about it and let the world know what you think. TIL is always looking for good writing.

Send your submissions to:
Trannies In Love, P. O. Box 171
Schenectady NY 12301

-OR-

E-mail your text-only submission to
tranny@tranniesinlove.com



// Psionic Plastic Joy // Issue 9 //

Trannies In Love
Issue 3 (\$1)
PO Box 171 • Sch'dy,
NY 12301



Suzy Poe has laid to rest Popular Reality (I think... never can be sure what she's doing), and is now publishing TIL, with some help from her friends and lovers. TIL is composed of short articles, letters, ads, and quick graphics. Highly enjoyable, intelligently written. A good slice of the thoughts of some transgender activists.

// Psionic Plastic Joy // Issue 9 //

Dear Susan Poe:

Hello! It was good hearing from you. Thanks very much for sending Issue No. 4 of TRANNIES IN LOVE. I apologize for not responding sooner.....things have been crazy for me, in an everyday sort of way, for quite some time now. I'm really glad to have been contacted by you, though. Many thanks in that department!!

I really enjoyed your publication! (Really cool cover!) Favorite pieces were "The Story(s) of Tina, the Outrageous," the Christopher Robin poems (first time I've ever seen what he looks like, believe it or not!) and "She Spoke of Dick." What I believe makes your publication so good is the broad mixture of prose, poetry, ads for readings and parties, personals ads, information about the ACLU. My opinion anyway! What do I know.....I'm just one more person out there, right?! But in really subtle and marvelous ways that mixture does give a strong, prideful sense of lifestyle, and I think that is wonderful. It certainly was a real joy reading this particular issue of TRANNIES IN LOVE.

In your note you had said that Christopher thought it might amuse me. Well, when something grabs hold of me and has me sailing off into another "dimension," and I'm feeling warm and tingly all over.....it gets kind of hard to distinguish what's going on in my mind! (Hard to explain, I think). And you also said you thought that he thought you (might, just might?) need a shoe/fetish column. Well, that would certainly be really cool, and I'd certainly enjoy contributing to such a column if it ever becomes a reality. In my "later years" (self-hatred! self-loathing! masturbatory guilt-guilt-guilt!) I started telling different folks that I'd been a lifelong shoe/foot fetishist, and I like to think I have something of a unique perspective on the subject! (Hey, if you don't believe me, click into "Marie Kazalia's Underground Stream" on the Legion Studios website: www.legionstudios.com). No, but seriously though, if you decide to go that rat her esoteric route, could you let me know?

In the meantime I've included a copy of new poetry chapbook, the history of candles. I hope you enjoy it. SASE also enclosed, if you'd be so inclined to use me for your own personal doormat in any way, or reasonable facsimile thereof. Keep up the great work. I think you are fabuloso!!

Yours,

Joseph

THE THOUGHT

TRANNIES IN LOVE #4 (Summer 2003): Quarterly newsletter for the transsexual community published by Susan Poe, formerly of PopReal fame. It is the voice of a community that few of us are even aware exists. Contains a lot of material about ongoing events in the Albany area, along with a lot of thought-provoking material as well. I guarantee that reading T.I.L. will be quite an education for most, even those of us who consider ourselves to be rather strident radicals. For a copy, send \$1.00 to: Trannies In Love, P.O. Box 171, Schenectady, NY 12301.



Greetings Susan:

Hello! many thanks for the copy of TRANNIES IN LOVE, I had noticed on page three that you had been mentioned in connection with living in a plastic bubble. Is there any hope for a revived Transcenter?

Many thanks for sending the issue of TIL, I read it avidly from front to back; just hearing from and about my kind was a tonic to my spirits. I found myself laughing like a loon at times, as well as often shaking my head in sympathetic understanding.

Actually Susan, I'm surprised you used any of my poetry, the TS community has been, shall we say, "less than pleased" with my opinions, as expressed in my prose and poetry. I hope you don't catch much fuss for printing it.

Your piece, the one that starts on page nine, had me rolling on the floor, I pray that I never get on your bad side! You take the art of literate disemboweling to a new plateau, turning it into "high art".

I had wondered about the Music Festival, because what they did to Davida, or at least my fury about it, is what brought me out of the closet, and turned me into a very vocal activist. It was an "educational" time, as I watched both my Straight and Gay friends melt away. I have that Music Festival to thank for the quite charming woman I've become.

Why is it that we as TS's, find it easier to come together when our community is against our kind? I would have thought that things would be easier, in a supportive community. Where I grew up, it was dangerous enough just getting caught being Gay, that the Transgendered knew to stay well into the shadows.

Have you heard that Harrington Park Press has issued a Call For Submissions? They are looking for TS Erotica. You probably already know about it, but wanted to share the news just in case. I sent off something, in hopes that it will get a reasonable reading, as I was in another of their collections, the one about Sex Workers talking about their clients.

We lost one of ours the day before yesterday, for some, "passing" is a life or death issue. We all tried to help, where at all possible, but "mirrors don't lie", so a warm and truly gifted and loved woman was lost. You'll probably be seeing a poem about this soon, once I've managed to put some distance between myself and the pain.

Sorry, I meant this to be one of those "upbeat" letters.

Oh! Before I forget, if possible, you might want to tell the person that wrote the story(s) of Tina the Outrageous, that usually, imagination exercises usually don't last, if the person who has sent the malediction is still alive, and has not altered their opinions or feelings on the negative sending. They just accumulate negativity again. Anyway, ask her to ask her Wiccan friend for one of the easier "Boomerang Binding Spells", the kind that anyone can do easily with simple items, most already in the average home. I've had reason to do quite a lot of research on the subject, for one reason or another. In case it hasn't come up, I'm also a Wiccan, another reason I'm rather disliked here.

Enough out of me Susan, thanks again for writing, be well and take good care. I hope to hear from you again.

Warm Regards,
Michelle

THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

IFGE is an information provider and clearinghouse for referrals about all things which are transgressive of established social gender norms. Basic membership is \$35 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. For more info phone (781) 899-2212, e-mail info@ifge.org, write to: IFGE, PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454-

Yo Suzy!

I've been meaning to write you since the publication of TIL #3, where you printed the humorous, though completely accurate report "My Date With Mykel Board." I'm gonna use it in another context, but I can't tell you exactly how, as that would jinx it.

That's not why I'm writing, though. THAT is for two reasons.

First is to tell you that although I love IDEA of the paper (I keep it on the nighttable for "guests" to look at.) it lacks the surreal humor of your other projects. It's way to serious and... I donno.... supportive. I think you need more old drunks writing.

Second, (now that I've got your ire... will you speak to me again?) you know a few places in the area where I can do spoken word? I saw the advert for Spring Eagle. Any more?

Bayartai,

Bayartai



BUY OUR DOO-DADS
Support TRANNIES IN LOVE Non-Profit Transgender Services
Make Checks Payable To TRANNIES IN LOVE - P.O. Box 171 Schenectady NY 12301.

TRANSSEXUAL CLEARING HOUSE
This is the Albany Gender Project's 16 page how-to guide for transitioning transsexuals available from TIL. It includes a comprehensive listing of physicians, therapists, endocrinologists, surgeons, organizations and other services and informative articles for the transgendered in the capitol area. \$5.

VHS VIDEOTAPES
First Albany Gender Project presentations from early 2002 with Susan Poe, Helen Montage Farrell, Charlene Dodge and Wilma Fingerdoo. \$15.
AGP presentations with attorney Doug Broda on Name Change and Estates & Wills. Project ¡SANO! on Domestic Violence. \$15.
Kaylie Lavedure and Susan Poe's June 8 Homo Radio interview. \$15.
Loving My Poops. Choppily (is that a word?) edited video of Troy NY's Fulton Street Gallery photo shoot with several trannies from three local tg groups. Brief nudity, no big deal. Obviously our best seller. \$30.

POSTER SET
Six of our full color 8 1/2 x 11 posters in glossy, high-resolution photo quality. Includes the new TRANS AND ARROGANT poster with a very revealing picture of the notorious Kaylie Lavedure with an extremely pleased look all over her body. \$50 for the full set.

TRANS AND ARROGANT 'FRIDGE MAGNETS
\$5 for the version with the picture of Kaylie. \$2.50 for the version with just the words.



TRANNIES IN LOVE is an independent quarterly periodical sponsored by the Albany Gender Project, our advertisers, subscribers and supporters. The publisher is bitchy Xzhaouxiye Crowbar. We appreciate letters and submissions.

518-372-1027 or 518-393-0394.

SUBSCRIBE TO TRANNIES IN LOVE
Sure, you can get it free all over the place, but a measly \$5 gets 6 issues delivered right to you, plus periodic mailings of our keen posters and other informative updates. A subscription shows your support for TIL and our other non-profit services for the transgendered. Sample copies and back issues are available for just \$1 and bulk orders of over 10 copies are only .50 apiece.

ADVERTISE IN TRANNIES IN LOVE
TIL is distributed free at dozens of locations around the capitol area and has a diverse readership of thousands. Take advantage of our pinhead-cheap advertising rates; \$100 for a full-page ad, \$50 for 1/2 page, \$25 for 1/4 page and only \$15 for a business-card size ad. Discounts are available for ads in multiple issues.

We also have Name-Change packets and reprints on street safety, domestic violence, sexual assault, and building healthy relationships. Just ask. We're developing an extensive library of TG books and periodicals and now have a TG Speakers Bureau for the myriad requests we get to speak to other groups and the media.