

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

Vol. 13 No. 11 - November 2001

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The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complementary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member.

News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to the Club before the end of each month. The e-mail address is:
ccnl@tgender.net

Please specify in the subject field that this is an article for the newsletter.

President's Corner

-Tina

Hello Ladies, I am always glad to welcome you all to our club and our social functions. I hope you have been enjoying our schedule we had this year. Diana Brit did a lot of the speakers set ups, and Rachael did several also. I want to thank everyone for being a family. We all need to stick together and enjoy the joy of each other's company. I heard Kelly say the other day she really enjoyed both Halloween parties she went to - both in the Cleveland area and here. I like that. Rachael did an excellent job decorating for our party and Kelly made a super spaghetti dinner, and everyone else who brought food was great. We had a cake and some cookies, snacks, cider and donuts and pop. There were some really great costumes too. I am glad we didn't have to decide who was the best. I can say there were some original costumes too. One member came as a 1/2 man and 1/2 woman - that was nice. One came as Dr Death or Dr Doom, stood very still, and made Kelly a little nervous. One member came in a very provocative outfit that would draw attention from anyone. Very nice (she was an officer too) One came as a French Maid, etc - many, many outfits, if you did not make it you lost out on a great party. Our Christmas party is coming up and promises to be THE EVENT OF THE YEAR !!!!! So please let us know if you want to come - it will be worth every minute of your time and cost (only \$10.00 per member and \$5.00 for guests). And it will be plenty of great food prepared by our Treasurer (Dianna Mills) and spouse. Last year it drew raves, and will so this year too. Please plan on coming and enjoy the best food around for the price, I have a big surprise for several members, and I don't want to give it away - be there!! Or be home wishing you were!!! January will be nominations of officers for our club for the year 2002, and February is election time. Also, it is about time to renew your membership in the club - we need your support - Please help us help you! Thanks to everyone, and I mean new people who came too. Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving and soon Merry Christmas!! We will have a Christmas (Dec newsletter) but I wanted to be the first. Love, Tina

Meeting notes

We had a wonderful Halloween party – many costumes and GREAT food – THANKS KELLY!

Newsletter Editor Needed!!!

We need a new editor for the newsletter!!!

We need a permanent person to take over this important responsibility. Any volunteers should contact Tina.

Valley Gems Meeting

This is a reminder to let you know that the Valley Gems meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly... News from the TG front

Australia : Transsexual Marriage is valid (without lower surgery)
Transsexual marriage is valid
By CINDY WOCKNER Legal Affairs Editor
15 Oct 01

A couple have won a legal battle to have their marriage declared valid after the husband, a female to male transsexual, was declared a man by the Family Court. In a landmark judgment, the Family Court confirmed the marriage was valid and that the definition of "man" should be based on contemporary thinking and not on outdated ideologies.

Justice Richard Chisholm's decision, considered to be significant in terms of the law regarding transsexuals, hinged on when a man is a man.

The Federal Attorney-General opposed the case, arguing the husband was not a man under marriage law. He submitted the meaning of the word "man" in the Marriage Act should be the meaning given when the Act was passed in 1961 - whether a person was a male at birth. The latest decision is at odds with a 1971 English decision known as Corbett, which had been a guide on the subject. Justice Chisholm said "man" should be given its ordinary contemporary meaning. The husband, known as Kevin, was born a girl, with female genitalia and chromosomes. But for as long as he could remember he had perceived himself to be male and had worn boy's clothes and played with boy's toys. From 1994 Kevin presented as a male, started hormone treatment in 1995 and in 1998 had sexual reassignment surgery, but has not had surgery to construct male genitalia. Kevin met Jennifer in 1996 and a year later they were living as a de facto couple, having been told they could not marry legally.

In 1998 Kevin was issued with a new birth certificate showing his sex as male. Then in 1999 the pair were issued with a Certificate of Marriage by a marriage celebrant. The Attorney General disputed the validity of the marriage certificate.

The couple have a child, conceived under the IVF program and have been successful in a second IVF application. Justice Chisholm said the evidence of 39 witnesses who testified for Kevin was striking. "They see him and think of him as a man, doing what men do. "They do not see him as a woman pretending to be a man. They do not pretend that he is a man, while believing he is not . . . They are describing what they see in Kevin. And what they see is a man," Justice Chisholm said.

In his conclusion the Judge said there was no persuasive reason to assume, for the purposes of marriage, that "if a person is a male or female at birth, the person must be a male or female at the date of the marriage".

Full text of the judgment is on the family court's website <http://www.familycourt.gov.au>

SAN FRANCISCO - A federal appeals court has overturned a lower court ruling saying that a male restaurant worker who was taunted for walking

"like a woman" can sue the company under federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination.

Antonio Sanchez was a waiter in a Seattle restaurant of Azteca Restaurant Enterprises where he claims he was subjected to daily verbal abuse by coworkers and a supervisor. Sanchez said he told several managers and the human resources director about his problem,

but did not get a significant response. He was fired a few months later for walking off the job in the middle of his shift. Sanchez filed suit in district court, which ruled against him saying he had not been subjected to a hostile environment based on his sex. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that ruling, saying that the "unrelenting barrage of verbal abuse" was severe and pervasive. The appeals' court decision was a departure from other court rulings that have made it difficult for gays to obtain protections under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act because the law does not cover sexual orientation. However, in Sanchez' case there was never a suggestion that the plaintiff was perceived to be gay. Rather, he was subject to harassment based on the fact that he did not conform to sexual stereotypes. The court based its decision on a 1989 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that barred discrimination on the basis of "sexual stereotypes."

Associated Press, October 16, 2001
 Ruling allows transsexuals to sue under disability, discrimination laws
 By Jay Lindsay, Associated Press
 BOSTON - For the first time, the state's anti-discrimination and disability laws have been interpreted by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to grant protections to transsexuals. The rights of transsexuals under those statutes have never been explicitly addressed by the Legislature, and some say the decisions required contortions of state laws. But advocates for transsexuals hailed them as an important step forward.
 "They're fantastic decisions," said Jennifer Levi, an attorney with the

Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. "There's no principled reason to exclude transsexual people from the law's protections." Transsexual people believe they should be the opposite sex, and sometimes undergo sex-change surgery. They differ from transvestites, who wear the clothes of the opposite sex, but don't desire a sex change. The MCAD decisions, both dated Oct. 10, did not determine the guilt or innocence of the defendants, but cleared the way for an MCAD investigation to determine probable cause in each case. The MCAD is authorized by the state to interpret anti-discrimination laws. In one case, first filed in 1995, a transsexual woman named Rachel Jette claimed that her boss at a Honey Farms convenience store in Worcester County harassed her by forcing her to use her birth name, Raymond, and wear men's clothes to work. She later amended her complaint, charging she was discriminated against because of a "handicap or perceived handicap." The MCAD ruled that though transsexuality isn't defined as a disability or covered under disability discrimination laws, it's not specifically excluded either, even though the laws were modeled after federal statutes that excluded transsexuality. "Since the legislature was aware of the exemptions for coverage of transsexuals and did not include such ... it must have intended to include such coverage," the commission wrote. A lawyer for Jette did not return a call for comment. Honey Farms attorney Mark Bloom declined comment. David Yas, an attorney and publisher of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, said the definition of transsexuality as a disability might upset some who consider the condition natural. Levi said the only problem is the stigma associated with disability, saying because transsexuality often requires medical care, it's on par with other disabilities such as poor eyesight. The other case involved a male-to-female transsexual named Charlegne Millett, who alleged in December 1998 that her supervisor at Tutco, Inc. in Worcester disciplined her because of her transsexuality and threatened to fire her after she complained. The MCAD said sex discrimination laws could apply in Millett's case because she says she was harassed "because of the kind of man she is - one who wanted to be a woman." In general, transsexuals are protected by the law because they're often discriminated against for failing to conform with society's expectations for each sex, the MCAD said. Tutco attorney James W. Bucking said the MCAD decision is a "leap," that creates laws about transsexuals where none exist. Current laws protect men and women who are discriminated against solely because of their sex, not because of any desire to change their sex, he said. "They're basically saying sex is an elastic concept, not concrete," Bucking said. "But sex is not an elastic concept." MCAD chairwoman Dorca Gomez said there's limited case law on the issue, but the commission based its decision on those laws.

"The statute specifically says interpretations must be made broadly," she said. Yas said the ruling may prompt the Legislature to consider transsexual rights. "I think attorneys would say, 'Yes, it is a liberal ruling,'" he said. "It's also a possible invitation to the Legislature to amend the ruling."

Two men sentenced to wear dresses Friday, October 26, 2001
 Mike Lafferty
 Dispatch Staff Reporter
 The judge gave them two options -- 60 days in jailhouse orange or an hour long walk down Main Street in a frock.

Jason Householder and John Stockum, convicted recently in Coshocton County of criminal damaging for tossing beer bottles at a car, chose the dresses.

Denting the car, however, was not what drew the unusual sentence from Municipal Court Judge David Hostetler -- it was their rude behavior toward a woman in the car.

"It's not illegal to be obnoxious, it's just rude," Hostetler said yesterday. "Throwing the beer bottles put them across the line and into my clutches." Householder, 23, and Stockum, 21, both Coshocton residents, will serve their sentences from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. today. Hostetler's sentence has drawn support from locals. "I may close up long enough to go see," said Tina Dobson, who operates a downtown gift shop. "I'm going to be a little excited to see how it turns out, but not too excited," said Larry Miller, a probation officer who has the job of making sure the sentence is carried out.

Householder and Stockum were riding with another man in a car Oct.

13 in Coshocton when they stopped next to a man and a woman in another car, authorities said. One of the three men made a derogatory comment toward the woman, then the trio followed the couple through downtown, about 65 miles east of Columbus. At one point, Stockum and Householder threw several beer bottles, denting the car. The third man in the car, who was not identified and did not throw bottles, was not charged.

Hostetler has a reputation for unusual sentences. He said the overcrowded Coshocton County jail forces him to be creative. "I've got a jail with 52 people that's supposed to hold 36," he said. "You run out of options." The judge frequently orders people convicted of a second or third speeding violation to write essays. When vandals were found guilty of throwing eggs, Hostetler ordered them to write "I will not throw eggs" 1,000 times. When vandals broke \$19,000 worth of automobile windows, Hostetler ordered them to auction their possessions to pay for the damage. "I got everything from paintball guns to baseball-card collections," he said.

When Householder and Stockum appeared before Hostetler Oct. 18, the judge ordered them to be more respectful of women and fined them each \$250.

"I ought to make you walk up and down Main Street dressed as a woman," Hostetler told the two men.

He ordered them to dress "demurely." "We're not doing the bikini top and thong," he said. "It's got to be a dress, and it has to be respectful. They are going to don a wig and a little makeup. "Both have sisters who are going to help."

Upcoming Meetings

December 2001

1 - Crystal Club Christmas Party

Directions to Christmas Party

Take 315 to Henderson Road.

Go East on Henderson to High Street.

Turn left (North) onto High.

Turn left onto Weisheimer

The Unitarian Church will be on your left.

Beauty Secrets By Vicki P.

Have a beauty secret? A tip for the rest of the group? Something that speeds up the transformation? A good place to go for clothes or services? E-Mail the news editor at ccnl@tgender.net to have your tip included in next month's newsletter.

Reading Material

Crossdressing with Dignity: The Case for Transcending Gender Lines
Peggy J. Rudd

Synopsis

Is society ready for men who openly express femininity? Can men transcend gender lines and maintain their sense of self-worth and dignity? These are the questions asked to over 850 crossdressers worldwide in a survey used as the basis of this book. From an early age boys are taught to follow the stereotypes of maleness. When the inner desire to express femininity exerts a greater force than the desire to live up to the appropriate image for masculinity, conflict may develop. This provocative book addresses these conflicts and provides solutions.

Crossdressing With Dignity continues where Dr. Rudd's first book, My Husband Wears My Clothes, ended. Society places the crossdresser in a defensive position. The crossdresser frequently experiences many feelings of guilt because of his love of the feminine. Am I gay? Do I want to become a woman? These are many of the questions asked by the crossdresser who is seeking answers. Is it possible

to be a crossdresser and maintain a sense of dignity. This book may answer many of the questions asked by the crossdresser, the significant persons in their life and helping professionals. The end result should be a personal growth which leads to self-fulfillment and acceptance.

Reviews

From James Young - Ph.D, New York 5 Stars

This book on crossing gender lines is a classic! Crossdressing With Dignity by Dr. Peggy Rudd is based on a survey completed by 859 crossdressers worldwide. This book addresses the many fears, guilt and other emotions faced by the millions of men in the world who have crossed gender lines through their love of feminine attire and femininity. This book should be read by every mental health and counseling helping professional.

From Brenda Thomas - Texas 5 Stars

This book helped me find myself! After reading Dr. Rudd's wonderful first book, My Husband Wears My Clothes, I was eager to read her second book, Crossdressing With Dignity. I was not disappointed. This book gave me the answers I was seeking about the fears and guilt feelings I had experienced most of my life when I admitted to myself and others that I was a crossdresser. After reading this book which describes over 800 crossdressers like me, I know I am not alone and I am an OK person. In fact I learned I may have found the best of both sides of my personality, the femininity I love and the masculinity that provides balance in my life. Thank you Dr. Rudd for writing this book!

The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

Our Purpose

The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

What to Expect at a Meeting

Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too. Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings.

You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn't a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you.

We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply "women and men"). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don't need to exasperate the feelings of people who are already nervous!

You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues

One year membership, includes newsletter	\$42
Newsletter subscription only	\$18
Meeting Fees: First Timer	Free
Member (of any T group)	\$10
Member and Partner	\$15
Non-Member	\$20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information

Postal Mail:

The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers:

(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:

cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

Contact Policy

All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.

Meeting Dates and Times

Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30 p.m. (for those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually center around a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

A business meeting is held on the second Friday of the month. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club's business is addressed, this meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for "real world" issues!

During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.