

The Crystal Chronicle

July / August 2004

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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

Notes from the Girls:

Hello Girls,

I would like to say WOW!! And I mean WOW. I had the chance to attend the Pride festival and parade on Saturday with Linda. What fun we had, even a handful of protesters didn't spoil the day. Then to top off the weekend, Bat n' Rouge on Sunday. What a day that was. Drag Queens playing ball in heels and all dressed up. Both days we met girls and guys from The Crystal Club, Slammers and other outings that we have been on. Next year plan a weekend of fun and come out to the Pride festival, parade and Bat n' Rouge. I have photos if you would like to see them, please ask.

Don't forget Saturdays, We have had up to 10 girls attending our Girls night out and we have fun to boot. August is The Crystal Club picnic. This year we are having it at a local park. Please let us know if you are going to attend and if you could bring a side dish and /or desert.

Out and about, your sister, Barbie

Hi girls,

The pride holiday parade was wonderful. During the church service we had a few hecklers but no major problem. The Columbus police officers that were working the grounds were very attentive to the hecklers and helped to keep them under control.

I enjoyed seeing the old cars and many of my friends that were walking in the parade. Everyone was celebrating the day with a freedom to express themselves however they wish to be. Goodale Park had many vendors selling anything and everything from old and new clothes, jewelry of all kinds, to items for the home and junk. Next year if some girls wish to walk in the parade we can make some signs and walk. If enough girls wish to participate we can decorate a float or a truck and ride. It's your club.

At Bicentennial Park, GLBT had a new flavor this year even the animals were enjoying the day. There was a dog that wore rainbow flag like superman. There were dogs with logo shirts, rainbow colors, hats. The best one was terrier type dog had little jogging shoes on and he pranced around like a Drag Queen in a new \$500 dress. Everyone was accepted for who they were portraying themselves to be without any question. { if you were dressed as a female" good, bad or ugly" you were addressed as a lady}. If only the rest of society would treat us like this, life would be grand.

Huggs, Linda



Pam, Jake and Erin

A Discovery Channel documentary changed her life. She watched in amazement as men and women told stories that paralleled her experience. She saw people undergoing surgery and hormone therapy to change their sex, and for the first time in 33 years, she knew that happiness was possible.

Pam knew that she wasn't a lesbian. Although she liked women, it wasn't that simple. She tried to fit in and even married a man at age 31, however something felt fundamentally wrong and the marriage ended.

Jake and Erin met on the internet in a Christian chat room. Weeks of instant messaging led to the discovery that they shared an appreciation for Broadway musicals, Robert Frost, and big dogs.

Three weeks into their electronic relationship, Jake broke the news: He was born a woman. To his surprise and delight, she told him about the two-spirit tradition. Erin was five when her family moved to Warren county, Ohio. Her part-Seminole mother converted to Catholicism to give her children an uncompromising view of right and wrong and the Catholic school reinforced Erin's faith.

But as an adult, while attending a music festival, she met a Native American woman who made her curious about traditional Indian beliefs. Erin came to believe in the "two-spirit" tradition, which holds gay and transgendered people in high regard, because they are thought to have a special purpose.

After months of e-mails, Erin found herself driving 12 hours to New Hampshire to meet Jake in person. They cut their first visit short, but on the drive home, Erin felt compelled to pull off the road. She called him from a pay phone, and they talked about faith, inhibitions, and relationships for three hours. Jake was uncomfortable and nervous partly because of "sex" they had never discussed it, and he didn't know what was expected of him. Jake did not believe in sex before marriage, but he should not have worried Erin just wanted to talk and hang out. Over the ensuing months, they dated long-distance until Erin finally got on a plane to New Hampshire and brought her man back home to Warren, Ohio in a U-Haul.

Jake moved to Trumbull County before he'd completed his sexual reassignment. But by that time, he'd received testosterone treatment for more than a year, so he looked, talked, and walked like a guy. Only Jake's name was still Pam. A name change is at the top of the agenda for most trans-people, but Jake had a hard time deciding on one. He wanted it to be something his mother would like, and he wanted it to have meaning. He decided on Jacob, after an Old Testament character who, he says, literally wrestled with God, refusing to let go until God gave him his blessing. This turned out to be a fitting metaphor, for his struggle with the men representing the law, and those representing God.

Jake moved in with Erin (they slept in separate beds) and got a job helping the mentally disabled. After the one-year residency requirement for name changes in Trumbull County was met, Pamela became Jacob. He remembers Magistrate Thomas Norton asking hard questions about his gender, as if to impress upon him the seriousness of his petition to change his name. The magistrate read the doctors and psychiatrists letters, and signed off on the name change. This was an important moment in Jake's life, but the task wasn't quite complete. The birth certificate would read "female" for another two years, while he endured several strenuous surgeries. When he was all sewn up and the doctors and psychiatrists had signed off on their work, he then petitioned Massachusetts, his state of birth, to legally become a man. His original birth certificate was sealed, and a new one was issued.

Jake got down on one knee while a violinist he hired played from songs from *Phantom of the Opera* {the tragic romance of a man who cannot show his face to anyone.} he proposed to Erin and she accepted.

Jake felt great. He liked his job, he was in love with Erin, and they'd found a church that satisfied his spiritual needs. The Warren's North-Mar Christian and Missionary Alliance Church follows an exacting interpretation of the Bible that appealed to him.

Erin and Jake were soon active members. Jake, had once toured with the well-known gospel choir the Continental Singers, he tried out for North-Mar's version, known as the Worship Team. The person in charge was delighted with his original guitar compositions.

Erin jumped in with both feet too, volunteering at the church day care on Sunday mornings. They joined a supper exchange for devout couples and went to premarital counseling sessions with a senior pastor. They set a wedding date for August 31, 2002. Soon the pair was accepting hundreds of RSVPs from friends, family and church members. The church was reserved, Jake's dad paid the deposit for the banquet hall, and a

white limousine was hired. Shortly after reserving the church, Jake received a disturbing call from Pastor John Temple, who had counseled the couple and was supposed to marry them. He said "I was told your name used to be Pamela; have you been truthful with me?" When Jake stammered that he had been truthful, Pastor Temple lost his tact, and said "Do you have a penis?" The groom-to-be was humiliated. Had it been anyone else, he might have lost his cool, but he respected the man who had been his confidant for almost a year. Jake said something vague about a medical condition; and "correcting" his anatomy. Later that week, Erin met with the pastor and his wife alone. She came home in a rage, reporting that the pastor had said he would do everything in his power to help her get out of the relationship, because Jake was clearly "possessed." Pastor Temple told her that he had encountered another parishioner like Jake, who had been married at North-Mar before he got there, and that he had personally tried to get their marriage annulled.

When Erin made it clear that she didn't want the pastor's help, she was told that they were no longer welcome to participate in church activities. She couldn't work in the nursery, and Jake would be asked to leave the choir. They could come to services, but that was all.

Jake was scared. He felt intuitively that a preacher like Temple, an excitable conservative activist, would not keep this information under his hat. "I knew we hadn't heard the last of him," Jake says.

Temple tells an entirely different story: He never provided premarital counseling, and he never agreed to marry them. He also goes to great lengths to distance his church from the couple. There is a difference between people who simply show up on Sundays, he argues, and those who are "members of the congregation." Erin and Jake were never true members. But he's clearly unnerved by the subject. He refused to let a reporter speak with anyone involved with the church. Of course, it could be embarrassing for Temple to acknowledge that he had allowed someone "possessed" to sing in his choir and mix in his Bible groups, without his having a clue. When told of Temple's response, Erin says simply, "We will pray for him."

The Incredible Disintegrating Wedding

Erin and Jake found a new church in Warren, with a supportive pastor who didn't have a problem with Jake's sexuality. He agreed to preside over their wedding, which was then a few months away.

But having survived the hit from Preacher Temple, they were about to get slammed by the state. In August 2002, Erin and Jake filled out their marriage-license application for the Trumbull County Clerk of Courts. They paid the \$44 dollars, swore the oath, and made arrangements to pick up the license. A week later, everything went wrong. When Jake returned to the courthouse, a clerk quickly fetched Magistrate Thomas Norton, {remember he presided over the name change} who informed Jake that the county would not sanction the marriage. Apparently, when Jake's Social Security number was entered into a computer, his former name popped up. Norton considered Jake a woman, and same-sex marriage is prohibited. Jake was humiliated again. He remembers saying something like "That has been corrected." But even after being shown Jake's new birth certificate, Norton was unmoved.

Jake was late picking up Erin, who worked in the billing department of a Youngstown medical-equipment company. When he arrived, he found her surrounded by excited co-workers. She wanted to see the license, but before she could get the question out, he shook his head no. Her face crumpled, and they drove home in silence.

They decided to go ahead with the ceremony. They put their energies into making the day as special as possible, license or no.

On the 6 o'clock news, Judge Thomas Swift had explained to a Channel 33 reporter that Magistrate Norton had made the right decision and no matter what Massachusetts says, Jake was still a woman. It was the lead story, and that week other TV stations and the newspapers picked it up. The couple became the target of gawkers throughout Warren Ohio.

The publicity scared their new pastor. When they showed up at church that Sunday, eight days before the wedding, he requested a private meeting, in which he told them that he was unable to follow through. The two don't want to speak ill of him, because they believe that he personally supported their union. A group of deacons pressured him into backing out, says Erin.

But with no pastor, the ceremony seemed doomed. Worse, members of the wedding party were dropping like flies. They lost a groomsman, who was freaked out about the newscast. Then they lost the little ringbearer, Erin's five-year-old nephew, whose father had a change of heart. After the newscast he announced to his wife and the rest of his family "that he wasn't going to let his kid participate in the wedding of 'two fags'." Then

Erin's best friend and maid of honor apologetically explained that, as a schoolteacher, she couldn't afford the negative publicity.

The day before the ceremony, Erin was poring through the Trumbull County phone book, looking for a preacher. She finally reached Reverend Rick Schumacher of the Unity Church Center in Liberty Township. To her relief, he was not interested in the history of her fiancé's organs. The unusual couple came to him for help, and he was glad to give it. But because there was no license, he officiated over a commitment ceremony, not a wedding.

The lack of paperwork didn't make much difference to the 150 guests. Jake's uncle, Mike Kaluback, in a Boston tough-guy accent, calls Schumacher "an absolute jewel!" and says that in spite of the glitches, they "pulled it off good."

Belinda Stein, Erin's aunt, remembers how loved ones rallied to make the ceremony a success: Erin's niece and the child of a friend eagerly took on the missing ring bearer's duties. Erin's little sister was upgraded to maid of honor. Belinda, a Catholic, still finds herself having to defend the couple. She gives the example of a family member who wouldn't stop arguing that Jake is really a woman and that to endorse a "gay" marriage would be a sin. Belinda says. "But I believe some people are born into the wrong sex. Now that we have the technology they should have the right to change it."

Jake's family seems to agree that the two are good together. Martha Kaluback, Jake's aunt, says that she never was able to pinpoint exactly what made her sister's oldest child seem so awkward. But since Jake found Erin, he seems more content in his own skin.

Martha remembers About 15 years ago, when Jake was in his early 20s, his sister had to be fitted for her wedding dress. It was decided that Jake (who was then Pam) would try on a dress as well. The gown was beautiful, but when Pam saw the reflection in the mirror, she broke down crying. Martha didn't know what to make of it, but in retrospect, Martha considers it was a telling moment.

Here Comes the Judge

The Defense of Marriage Act was still just a twinkle in state Representative Bill Seitz's eye when Magistrate Norton refused to sign the license, but the court's stand was unremarkable: Gay marriage is still not legal in any state.

More interesting is Trumbull County's decision to label Jake female, despite the fact that Massachusetts has judged him male. Most recently, Judge Diane Grendell of the 11th Ohio District agreed that Jacob and Erin are a same-sex couple. Their lawyer, Randi Barnabee, says they are now contemplating a federal suit against Ohio for refusing to recognize the Massachusetts birth certificate. "Like most states, Massachusetts lets physicians make these decisions," says Barnabee. "According to the Constitution, Ohio has to accept Massachusetts' [legal documents]."

Ohio is one of only three states that resist changing birth certificates.

Sexual reassignment has been viable for only a few decades, and there are no laws explicitly banning unions of transgendered people. Transsexuals marry all the time; sometimes to people of their own sex, sometimes to people of the opposite sex, depending upon the vigilance of the county clerk who signs the paperwork. But Randi Barnabee cautions against losing sight of the person under the microscope. From the first hearing on, Jake's loved ones say, he has been studied and scrutinized like a lab monkey.

At the initial hearing on the license, held less than a week after the ceremony, Judge Swift asked Jake point-blank about his organs and surgeries. Sitting attentively in the courtroom was Pastor John Temple.

Understandably, Jake found the questioning intrusive. Barnabee advised him to stay silent. In the, the judge chose not to rule against Jake and Erin on the basis of Jake's toolbox. He used Jake's previous marriage instead.

Skeleton in the Closet

Before Jake met Erin, and when he was still called Pam, he was briefly married to a man in New Hampshire. It ended in divorce, and although Erin knew about it, the two never discussed it. Regrettably, when Erin filled out the probate clerk's questionnaire, she checked "no" to the question of whether either of them had been married before. Jake didn't notice. Erin says that her fiancé's former life had completely slipped her mind, because the man she loves has never been married to another woman.

After Magistrate Norton gave them the bad news, they submitted an amended application, with Jake's former marriage and divorce duly noted. The court accepted the new paperwork, but Judge Swift would cite their original failure to disclose in ruling against them. The judge had already made up his mind, she believes, and

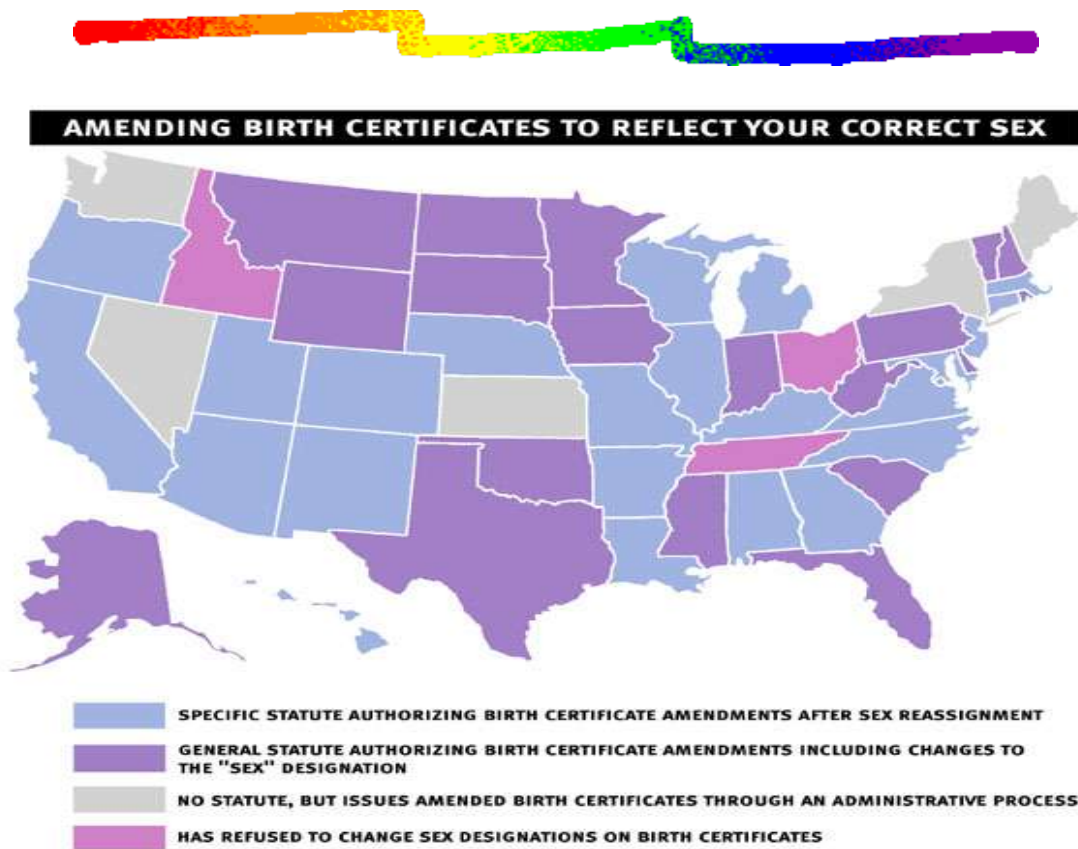
was just looking for reasons to support his decision. Jake and Erin have one card left to play: They can sue in federal court to force Ohio to abide by Massachusetts' ruling.

There have been bright spots. Thanks to the internet, they've spoken with many others in similar situations, and last year Jake and Erin surrounded themselves with nearly 1,000 transmen at the True Spirit Conference in Washington, D.C.

The pair has since been going to another church in Akron, Emmanuel Fellowship. The now-retired pastor is a lesbian, Jake was asked to be a part of the search committee for a new preacher.

Unfortunately, the prognosis for getting marriage license remains poor. The couple could move to another state and try their luck where nobody knows them, but there's no guarantee that their Ohio experiences wouldn't be repeated.

They're suffering from battle fatigue, today they are fighting for the marriage license they applied for two years ago. However they know that fighting it out in federal court could benefit others down the road. Jake said, in retrospect, there is only one thing I would have done differently; I would have asked Erin to move to New England.



States with Gender Expression, Identity Protections Surpass Those with Sexual Orientation

WASHINGTON, DC (June 30, 2004) With a ruling last month by the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, the number of states where it is illegal to discriminate against employees based on their gender expression and identity have surpassed those banning sexual orientation alone for the first time, marking a remarkable milestone for an issue that was barely known nationally just a decade ago.

Gender expression refers to an individual's manifestation of a fundamental sense of being masculine or

feminine through clothing, behavior, and grooming. Gender identity refers to an individual's inner sense of being either male or female. "Everyone - male, female, of color, gay, straight, transgender, young or old - has the right to work and contribute their talents and skills, regardless of whether they fit someone's ideal for a real man or a real woman," said Riki Wilchins, Executive Director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC). "More and more courts are making this clear, and it is a trend that will only continue."

Altogether, 21 states now have protections in place that ban workplace discrimination based on an individual's gender expression and/or identity; 14 states currently have laws banning sexual orientation discrimination.

Although the issues are separate, because many employees face both gender expression and sexual orientation discrimination, the issues have been linked in the popular mind and often proceed in tandem with sexual orientation protections being passed first, and then gender protections a few years afterwards. Two rulings by Federal Circuit Courts have applied Federal law to gender expression and identity protections. The recent ruling by the 6th Circuit Court in *Smith v. City of Salem* applied to four states: KY, MI, OH, and TN. The 2000 ruling in *Schwenk v. Hartford* by the 9th Circuit Court applied to nine states: AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MO, NV, OR, and WA.

In addition, four states have passed laws that specifically ban gender expression and/or identity discrimination, including CA, MN, NM, and RI. Courts in MA, NJ, and NY, and Administrative Agencies in CT, HI, and VT, have all issued favorable rulings that extend gender protections under existing state laws.

Favorable federal law rulings by federal courts: 11) AK, AZ, (CA,) (HI,) ID, KY, MI, MO, NV, OH, OR, TN, and WA

"There is a growing consensus among legislators, courts, and the American public that discrimination simply because an employee fails to meet outdated gender stereotypes is not only unfair but illegal," said Riki Wilchins, Executive Director of GenderPAC. "The courts are increasingly willing to correctly apply existing state and federal law as intended: ensuring that gender expression discrimination is inseparable from sex stereotyping and outlawed accordingly."

Both the 6th and 9th Circuit Courts relied on interpretations of the 1989 *Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse* decision, in which the Supreme Court held that discrimination based on "sex stereotypes" was illegal. The Supreme Court based its ruling on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans discrimination "because of sex."

The Circuit Courts found that discrimination because of an employee's gender expression or gender identity would be "because of [their] sex," and therefore illegal under *Hopkins* ruling.

PRESS RELEASE -- For Immediate Distribution
Contact: Riki Wilchins, Executive Director
Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC)
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The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC) is the national advocacy organization working to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes.

Who is man enough?

Brad Pitt has said he believes his latest blockbuster movie, *Troy*, will start a trend for fashion-conscious men in skirts and it seems many women would welcome the idea.

Charlton Heston chariot raced in his in *Ben Hur*, while Kirk Douglas stood-up to the Romans in one in *Spartacus*. Mel Gibson strode across the heather with one flapping in the wind in *Braveheart*, and the macho Russell Crowe marched in his in *Gladiator*. Even the Monty Python team were fond of the habit of wearing skirts.

David Beckham is a serial offender, first as he strolled along hand-in-hand with Posh Spice and latterly being paid to do it by Pepsi. And Sting got in on the act at this year's Grammy awards. Now Brad Pitt has joined their ranks and likes it so much he believes other men should try it. What are we talking about? Men in skirts. Having donned a very fetching short, leather skirt for his latest blockbuster, Troy, Brad is now singing the praises of men 'letting the air circulate'. He believes all fashion-conscious males should follow his lead and has said: "Men will be wearing skirts by next summer. That's my prediction and proclamation."

Scoff you might, but many men would probably love to swap their trousers for a skirt, especially on a hot summer's day. And it's worth remembering that until about 400 years ago, men wore skirts as a matter of course. There were plenty in The Bible and the Romans and Greeks loved them. That was until someone decided that riding a horse would be much more comfortable in trousers; and, from then on, women were denied the glimpse of a perfectly-formed calf. Of course, in Scotland and Ireland, men have continued to wear skirts, except they prefer to call them kilts. But the influence of Western culture has caused most of the world's men to give up their skirts in favour of trousers. But, perhaps it is time that men fought back. A recent survey conducted in three of America's largest cities - Chicago, New York and Los Angeles -found that one out of five women aged between 21 and 39 would date a man who was wearing a skirt. In fact, a consistent fifth or more of those questioned found this new twist on men's-wear a turn-on, or, at the very least, tolerable. The idea of men in skirts struck 24% as either 'very acceptable' or 'somewhat acceptable'. Nearly 30% wouldn't faint if the trend took off, and 20.3% would not lose their cool. So, what made these women so broad-minded? The reasons ranged from the lofty (everyone should be free to wear what they choose) to the practical (skirts are cool and comfortable) to the novelty value (something new). Sex appeal also came into it. Many women liked the fact that skirts show off a man's legs.

Brad Pitt took a year to make his body into a temple to be admired. However, it's hard to imagine the short leather skirt he wore in Troy would look the same on your average British male office worker. Imagine the scene: You arrange to meet your date at a posh restaurant and he strolls through the door in a leather mini-skirt, his flabby legs looking like a pair of hairy sausages. Oh, the embarrassment. Men, like women, would need to 'work at it' if they wanted to be taken seriously in a skirt. But that's not to say men shouldn't wear them, they just need to do it in the right way. As long-time skirt wearer, fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier, once said: "Masculinity doesn't come from clothes; it comes from something inside you. Men and women can wear the same clothes and still be men and women." That may be true, but it unfortunately underestimates the lag between our intellectual preparedness for the prospect of a gender revolution and our emotional readiness. For while we are happy to see celebrities wearing skirts because we look at them from a safe distance and they pose no threat to our daily lives, seeing your average man-in-the-street stepping out in a sarong, mini skirt or A-line would be another matter. Skirts question men's sexual identity and, in the process, women's too. Certainly, many women are conspicuously uncharitable when it comes to giving the opposite sex its shot at an androgynous experiment, despite the fact females have been happily wearing trousers for decades. Just recall the outcry of disgust a couple of years ago when Victoria Beckham innocently let slip that husband David liked wearing her knickers?

Civilizations may have been built and conquered in skirts, but modern man couldn't manage a day in the office in one. Apparently there was an attempt in the US in 1960 by fashion brand Dorcus to market a He-skirt. It failed miserably. And in 1995 a man lost a case against Hackney Council who had banned him from wearing a skirt to work. But wearing a skirt isn't about cross-dressing, aka Turner Prize-winner Grayson Perry. It is just that some men genuinely feel more comfortable in a skirt, and many others might if they had the courage to try it. But for a man to don a skirt in our modern society would be a risky mission indeed, especially where being masculine gains esteem while to dress as a woman surrenders status. Yet, if men weren't prepared to take a few risks with how they look we would never have had the brocaded dandy, the Teddy Boy, the long-haired platform-loving males of the 1970s or the Mohicaned punk. With men and women already wearing so many of the same fashions in the same materials and patterns, shouldn't skirts be universally accepted? Certainly the 100 or so men who paraded through New

York earlier this year in midis, minis and tutus to call for the end of the tyranny of trousers, believe so.

Participant Chris Taylor, 27, summed up the argument when he said: "The male bird is always the pretty one, not the female. Why can't the male human being dress with style and color?"

Story By Jane Hall, The Journal



Editor's notes

The past couple months I have seen many stories that I could have included in this newsletter; however these stories all have to do with gender identity. The world in some ways is starting to open up to idea that gender identity should not be an issue. As you can see gender identity is still a major issue to about ½ of the population. It puts me in mind of a teeter- totter sometimes we have more people on our side and sometimes they do. A lot has happened in the past 40 years. In the 60's we had the 'Hippies' long haired people that wore wild clothes with a lot of colors. If you saw one of these people you had to look closely to see if they were male or female. Our parents thought these hippies were going to contaminate the children. The 70's I thought that the world was ready for a change the age of 'polyester and seersucker and leisure suits. Finally something with color and flair, and having longer hair was not so much an issue. Gay people seemed to come out of the woodwork and make a stand. Then came the 80's fashion took a nosedive back to black and blue jeans. The "holier than thou" world tried to push their religion on everyone. Protesting against everything in the name of the all mighty. The 90's people started to take a stand for their rights and laws started to change across the nation and around the world. Now as this century gets started I see countries around the world opening their doors to same-sex marriages. Also allowing people to change their sex and their birth record and then marry whoever they chose. Then I look at the United States in disgust. This country is not 'United' in any way. The laws change from state to state and in some places county to county. Ohio seems to be one of the worst offenders. They will not allow a person to change their birth record for any reason.

Example: you change your sex because you felt that you were born with the wrong body. Or the doctors screwed up in their decision of your sex at birth. You are attracted to a person of the sex that you were born. You can not get married because you were **born** the same sex as the person that you wish to marry. Now if you are attracted to a person that was born the opposite sex that you born. You can marry that person because you are still the sex of your birth record. Hay isn't that a "same-sex marriage"?

Ohio and few other states go a step forward and refuse to recognize a changed birth record from another state that allows you to change your record. Also if you move to Ohio from a state or country who allows a same-sex marriage according to Ohio law your marriage is not valid.

Being fired from your job because of gender identity is hard to prove. If the company wants to fire you they probably use another reason.



--Where ever you are in your journey be comfortable with who you are.

--If you do not except yourself as you are, don't expect anyone to.

--Masculinity or femininity doesn't come from clothes; it comes from something inside you. If you do not feel it in side, your going to have a hard time passing in public.

--A true friend will tell you what they think, not always what you want to hear, but maybe it's what you need to hear.

Upcoming Meetings:* **August 14, 2004** Business Meeting 7:00pm.

* **August 29, 2004 Crystal Club Picnic:** contact Rachel (cc@tgender.net), Linda Cox (ccnl@tgender.net) or Tina (614-806-7288) for more information and location.

* **September 11, 2004** Business Meeting * **September 25, 2004** regular Meeting

The Crystal Chronicle Information Page

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Postal Mail: The Crystal Club att: newsletter editor PO Box 287 Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

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> **Newsletter editor e-mail:** ccnl@tgender.net

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 6:30p.m. (For those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually centers on a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

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.