

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 4 – April 2002

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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

- Nikki

Spring is coming and with it brings new growth. The March meeting was a fun affair, with a great deal of conversation and many happy faces. It was good to see everyone enjoying themselves and getting to know one another.

As this newsletter goes to press, we are nearly set for our meeting speakers for the year. Much thanks to Rachel and Dianna for setting up a nice variety of topics and guests for the coming year. We should be able to post the speakers/events for each meeting on-line, with publication in the next newsletter.

Additionally, Jennifer is proceeding with the review/revamp of our constitution and by-laws. Again, thanks to those who are participating in this important activity.

In September, Columbus will be the site for the annual PFLAG conference. PFLAG members met with Mary Ann and myself in March and appear to be very interested in supporting the transgendered segment of the population under their umbrella. We are currently studying how we can integrate our monthly meeting with their conference. Additionally, they have requested support (volunteers) at the same. As we receive additional information and are able to grasp the impact to the club we will forward information. I do believe that this will be an important opportunity for the Crystal Club to reach out in the community, make our presence know, and still maintain the security of each member. For details on the conference, visit www.pflag.org.

Several members have discussed the possibility of a “support” group meeting after the business/social segments of our monthly meeting. Topics such as relationships with significant others, decisions on hormones, impact on work life, advice on going out, and the issue of children (to tell/not to tell) have all been raised as possible subjects for discussion. One possibility is to post a topic in the newsletter (and website) for discussion the following month. The meeting “facilitator”

would then head the session on a rotating (or volunteer, or random) basis. Other formats are probably also possible. If you are interested in this type of activity, or have a topic for discussion, please contact myself or another board member. The mailing address is on the last page, or email me at nikkim@tggender.net

See you at the monthly meeting!

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.

New Support Group

There is a new TG support group in Columbus sponsored by Stonewall as part of their outreach program

The first meeting was January 5th at noon at the Stonewall office at 4th and High. There is no charge for attending. It is believed that it will be a monthly meeting on the first Saturday of each month.

On a related note, Stonewall has also announced that their outreach support group has moved to the First Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

Meral Crane is acting as the facilitator for these meetings. There is no charge to attend.

Finally, I would like to thank Mary Ann for the fine work she has been doing at StoneWall, as the Transgendered Board Representative.

Reality Theater

The Reality Theater is located at 736 North Pearl Street in the Short North. They were kind enough to host the Gender Awareness Workshop on April 13th. Much thanks to the Theater for their support. Please support the Theater by attending one of their plays as a "Thank You" for their support.

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

NTAC CELEBRATES INTEL'S EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT POLICY

It's not often that you have to give an incentive for a transgendered person to buy a computer. As a group, transgenders seem to be the most lopsidedly tech-savvy (or at least tech-oriented) in the country.

However, there is now a little more incentive to buy computers with Intel products.

During a routine NTAC (National Transgender Advocacy Coalition) search of the Top 50 Gay Friendly corporate entities to work for (www.gfn.com), it was discovered that the Intel Corporation has updated their employment diversity policy on their website to include "gender identity". The change appears to have been made within the last forty days.

In recent history, Intel has certainly not had issues with hiring or retaining transgendered employees. In fact, a number of friends of NTAC have been employees of this progressive company for some time. While mentioning that the company policy was not inclusive, they were quick to add that it was a fair work environment, regardless.

"We must hire, integrate, train and retain the best of the best," states CEO Craig Barrett, from the website's 'Diversity in Employment' section. "The pool is diverse."

The corporate website has numerous reminders that they "value diversity". That commitment to true diversity, even before the policy addition of gender identity, may have been why the policy change never registered on the GLBT community's radar. NTAC does hope to locate the responsible person who made this happen in order to give due recognition.

According to WorkNet section on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) website, only 87 companies or city governments across the country include equal opportunity guarantees for their transgendered employees. Intel now becomes the 88th to enact such protections.

SYDNEY, Australia-- An Australian Attorney General's office has outlined an appeal against a

Family Court decision that determined a transgendered man had a valid marriage with his wife, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. Last October, Family Court Justice Richard Chisholm rules that "Kevin" was legally married to his wife Jennifer." "Having accepted that marriage involved questions of status and the public interest.... the judge should have been slow to interpret the Marriage Act in a manner which departed from the understanding of marriage and the meanings of 'man' and 'woman' at the time the act was passed," an Attorney General's office official said, according to the Herald. A lawyer for the couple, Rachel Wallback, said precluding transgendered people from marriage is form of "biological apartheid."

Gwendilynne's Editorial

I am including this next story in the hopes that it will remind us all that even though we the member groups of the GLBT Community have in fact come a long way since this was written.

We all must remember to stick together for we still have a long way to go to get to where we all wish to be.

The Political Machine only Recognizes Large Numbers of People, as it is their nature.

Queen Of Christopher Street

Homo Nest Raided, Queen Bees Are Stinging Mad

Reprinted from "The New York Daily News," July 6, 1969

By JERRY LISKE

She sat there with her legs crossed, the lashes of her mascara-coated eyes beating like the wings of a hummingbird. She was angry. She was so upset she hadn't bothered to shave. A day old stubble was beginning to push through the pancake makeup. She was a he. A queen of Christopher Street.

Last weekend the queens had turned commandos and stood bra strap to bra strap against an invasion of the helmeted Tactical Patrol Force. The elite police squad had shut down one of their

private gay clubs, the Stonewall Inn at 57 Christopher St., in the heart of a three-block homosexual community in Greenwich Village. Queen Power reared its bleached blonde head in revolt. New York City experienced its first homosexual riot.

"We may have lost the battle, sweets, but the war is far from over," lisped an unofficial lady-in-waiting from the court of the Queens.

"We've had all we can take from the Gestapo," the spokesman, or spokeswoman, continued. "We're putting our foot down once and for all." The foot wore a spiked heel. According to reports, the Stonewall Inn, a two-story structure with a sand painted brick and opaque glass facade, was a mecca for the homosexual element in the village who wanted nothing but a private little place where they could congregate, drink, dance and do whatever little girls do when they get together.

The thick glass shut out the outside world of the street. Inside, the Stonewall bathed in wild, bright psychedelic lights, while the patrons writhed to the sounds of a juke box on a square dance floor surrounded by booths and tables.

The bar did a good business and the waiters, or waitresses, were always kept busy, as they snaked their way around the dancing customers to the booths and tables. For nearly two years, peace and tranquility reigned supreme for the Alice in Wonderland clientele.

The Raid Last Friday

Last Friday the privacy of the Stonewall was invaded by police from the First Division. It was a raid. They had a warrant. After two years, police said they had been informed that liquor was being served on the premises. Since the Stonewall was without a license, the place was being closed. It was the law.

All hell broke loose when the police entered the Stonewall. The girls instinctively reached for each other. Others stood frozen, locked in an embrace of fear. Landing in the homosexual beachhead. They ushered the patrons out onto Christopher Street, just off Sheridan Square. A crowd had formed in front of the Stonewall and the customers were greeted with cheers of encouragement from the gallery.

The whole proceeding took on the aura of a homosexual Academy Awards Night. The Queens pranced out to the street blowing kisses and waving to

the crowd. A beauty of a specimen named Stella wailed uncontrollably while being led to the sidewalk in front of the Stonewall by a cop. She later confessed that she didn't protest the manhandling by the officer, it was just that her hair was in curlers and she was afraid her new beau might be in the crowd and spot her. She didn't want him to see her this way, she wept.

Queen Power

The crowd began to get out of hand, eye witnesses said. Then, without warning, Queen Power exploded with all the fury of a gay atomic bomb. Queens, princesses and ladies-in-waiting began hurling anything they could get their polished, manicured fingernails on. Bobby pins, compacts, curlers, lipstick tubes and other femme fatale missiles were flying in the direction of the cops. The war was on. The lilies of the valley had become carnivorous jungle plants.

Urged on by cries of "C'mon girls, lets go get'em," the defenders of Stonewall launched an attack. The cops called for assistance. To the rescue came the Tactical Patrol Force.

Flushed with the excitement of battle, a fellow called Gloria pranced around like Wonder Woman, while several Florence Nightingales administered first aid to the fallen warriors. There were some assorted scratches and bruises, but nothing serious was suffered by the honeys turned Madwoman of Chaillot.

Official reports listed four injured policemen with 13 arrests. The War of the Roses lasted about 2 hours from about midnight to 2 a.m. There was a return bout Wednesday night.

Two veterans recently recalled the battle and issued a warning to the cops. "If they close up all the gay joints in this area, there is going to be all out war."

Bruce and Nan

Both said they were refugees from Indiana and had come to New York where they could live together happily ever after. They were in their early 20's. They preferred to be called by their married names, Bruce and Nan.

"I don't like your paper," Nan lisped matter-of-factly. "It's anti-fag and pro-cop." "I'll bet you didn't

see what they did to the Stonewall. Did the pigs tell you that they smashed everything in sight? Did you ask them why they stole money out of the cash register and then smashed it with a sledgehammer? Did you ask them why it took them two years to discover that the Stonewall didn't have a liquor license." Bruce nodded in agreement and reached over for Nan's trembling hands. "Calm down, doll," he said. "Your face is getting all flushed. "Nan wiped her face with a tissue.

"This would have to happen right before the wedding. The reception was going to be held at the Stonewall, too," Nan said, tossing her ashen-tinted hair over her shoulder.

"What wedding?," the bystander asked Nan frowned with a how-could-anybody-be-so-stupid look. "Eric and Jack's wedding, of course. They're finally tying the knot. I thought they'd never get together."

Meet Shirley

"We'll have to find another place, that's all there is to it," Bruce sighed. "But every time we start a place, the cops break it up sooner or later."

"They let us operate just as long as the payoff is regular," Nan said bitterly.

"I believe they closed up the Stonewall because there was some trouble with the payoff to the cops. I think that's the real reason. It's a shame. It was such a lovely place. We never bothered anybody. Why couldn't they leave us alone?"

Shirley Evans, a neighbor with two children, agrees that the Stonewall was not a rowdy place and the persons who frequented the club were never troublesome. She lives at 45 Christopher St.

"Up until the night of the police raid there was never any trouble there," she said. "The homosexuals minded their own business and never bothered a soul. There were never any fights or hollering, or anything like that.

They just wanted to be left alone. I don't know what they did inside, but that's their business. I was never in there myself. It was just awful when the police came. It was like a swarm of hornets attacking a bunch of butterflies."

A reporter visited the now closed Stonewall

and it indeed looked like a cyclone had struck the premises.

Police said there were over 200 people in the Stonewall when they entered with a warrant. The crowd outside was estimated at 500 to 1,000. According to police, the Stonewall had been under observation for some time. Being a private club, plain clothes men were refused entrance to the inside when they periodically tried to check the place. "They had the tightest security in the Village," a First Division officer said, "We could never get near the place without a warrant."

Police Talk

The men of the First Division were unable to find any humor in the situation, despite the comical overtones of the raid.

"They were throwing more than lace hankies," one inspector said. "I was almost decapitated by a slab of thick glass. It was thrown like a discus and just missed my throat by inches. The beer can didn't miss, though, "it hit me right above the temple."

Police also believe the club was operated by Mafia connected owners. The police did confiscate the Stonewall's cash register as proceeds from an illegal operation. The receipts were counted and are on file at the division headquarters. The warrant was served and the establishment closed on the grounds it was an illegal membership club with no license, and no license to serve liquor.

The police are sure of one thing. They haven't heard the last from the Girls of Christopher Street.

Out of this came the STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) organization which was led by Marsha Johnson and the late Silvia Rivera, and the militant Gay Liberation Front. Everything changed for us because of the action taken by these brave people that night. STAR has reorganized and has been staging memorial events on the anniversary, as well as continuing the work that was started that night.

Warm Regards from the history student
Cindy (who is really rather shocked that she remembers all of this because she was 15...
but not as frightened as her best friend of 32 years

Rick, who was 17 at the time, who came out as a result of Stonewall, and taught Cindy all about this)

Beauty Secrets

By Vicki Pennington & Barb Canterfrech

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.

Hands down, the most often asked question we get seems to be you help me select a foundation color? The answer is YES, YES, YES!

Many of us have some pretty scary things hiding underneath the bathroom vanity, you know those bottles way back there in the corner. No, we are not talking about bugs, spiders, or heaven forbid, dust bunnies. Talking about the protection portion of the 5-step skin care program. The protection step of this skin care

formulais known foundation. For anyone wondering about a 5-step skin care program, it's that cleanse, exfoliate, freshen, moisturize and protect business that we've heard about at one time or another. If not, more will be said about that later!

Foundation or base, applied to a cleansed and moisturized face serves to protect us from the sun, if it contains SPF, the ozone, smog another things like these elements. It is also to

those of us who use makeup, what a canvas isto a painter. On this foundation, we apply all of our many makeup tips, tricks and brush strokes. If, however, the face is too yellow, too pale, too dark, too pink or too orange after applying the foundation color, well, we can get a bit frustrated. After all, how much fun is it to try to return a makeup item to a regular store?

So we thought this subject might be a good place to begin our series. Color selection. Let's begin by looking at your freshly cleansed and moisturized face, free of all cosmetics. Note any secondary coloring on the face such as obvious red, pink or gold tones. Your complexion's coloring will fall into one of the following Shade Levels: Ivory, Beige, Light Bronze or Bronze.

Apply a test stripe of foundation along the cheek, jaw line and slightly down onto the throat. If you are unsure which color to start with, begin with the middle color within your Shade Level. Select the next lightest and the next darkest color. Apply a stripe of each of these colors side by side next to each other on the same side of your face. Go darker or lighter as necessary until you find the shade that begins to show softened edges and disappears into the skin. This color is your best color match selection! We could stop here, but seems unfair to not let you in on a makeup artist's ability to enhance or correct secondary skin tones, which are sometimes referred to as under tones.

A bit of sparkle can be added also to correct a complete lack of undertones. This one little extra step can dramatically enhance the face giving it a more finished and beautifully polished look. For example, those with complexions having secondary red or pink tones can try using a neutral base or warm base color within the correct Shade Level. Use of a foundation with a neutral or warm base can help even out the face color for a flawless finish. If you are unable to determine a foundation's base color, place a strip of each color in the same Shade Level on the back of your hand. The foundation base colors become easily identified as cool or pink based, warm or more gold based, or neutral, meaning it is without a predominant warm or cool base. If still in doubt about which color will work for you, apply each color, one by one and see which looks best on your face. We can help you find the foundation color that is best for you! E-mail us if you want to make this test. We will be glad to help you find your best foundation color! We welcome your questions and comments.

Upcoming Meetings

April 2002

12 – Business Meeting

27 – Club meeting – Kate Anderson - Stonewall Director

May 2002

10 – Business Meeting

25 – Club meeting – BRAVO Speaker

June 2002

14 – Business Meeting

22 – Club meeting - State Highway Patrol Speaker

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.