

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 7- July2002

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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

NEWS FLASH

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The CC-Wire reported today that a red faced, embarrassed President of the Crystal Club apologized for an apparent “male” brain cramp. At the June meeting, the President informed the membership that the annual picnic would be held offsite during the July meeting. While the original planning intended for the picnic to be in July, scheduling difficulties with the park site required the Crystal Club to move the picnic to August – a fact that the President had forgotten entirely. Said the President – “Please accept my humble apologies for ANY confusion created by this incident.” So, to set the record straight..

JULY – NORMAL MEETING SITE

AUGUST – PICNIC – PARK SITE, MAPS WILL BE SENT WITH THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER.

Sorry!!!!

NEWS FLASH

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Back to the normal column – I would like to thank everyone for the kind words and feedback on my June editorial – it seemed to strike a chord with many (in a positive fashion).

Thanks to Cathy A. and Rachel for donating the LARGE collection of clothes, shoes, and jewelry for sale, with donations going to the club treasury.

The dog days of summer are upon us, with the sun turning our skin a golden brown (or lobster red) and making our essential makeup run in sweat trickled rivulets. It’s tough being a TG in this weather. Hope everyone is having a good time on vacation, or at least on your day(s) off. Meanwhile, we are diligently attempting to make arrangements for the Christmas party and work out efforts to investigate the PFLAG event in September. More to come as these events develop. In the meantime, enjoy your summer and we will see you at the July meeting!

From: the NATIONAL TRANSGENDER
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Transgenders Take Lobbying Home

It's time for the nation's transgender community to lobby again. But don't pack up the bags and plan for travel to the nation's capital just yet. This time, the transgender community will take the message home.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) is currently calling on their members and non-members alike to pay visits on their federal congressional representatives. Basically anyone who has an interest in transgender civil rights can participate.

The cost is inexpensive for the participants, and it's also quite simple. It is all done in the home districts - not under the guise of professional lobbying, but as constituents visiting their representatives.

The beauty of this is that anyone can "lobby" in this scenario, since one is simply a resident of the district dropping in to "express their concerns." While it is advisable to be professional in appearance when visiting congressional offices, one will not be expected of visitors to have a professional lobbyist's speaking ability. In fact, it may well work to one's advantage to come across as real as opposed to adopting a slick rapport. Virtually anyone can do this.

As your elected representatives, Congress is imbued with the responsibility of hearing their constituents' concerns. "This is part of the job description they undertake when seeking election - this is part of what they're paid to do!" said Vanessa Edwards Foster, Lobbying Organizer with NTAC. "If those who would lobby against us can utilize this tactic effectively, why would we not take the same advantage?"

By bringing this to the home districts, it is hoped to achieve two goals: to have a much better chance of seeing one's representative in person, and to drive home the point that this is each congress member's issue.

With a high staff turnover ratio on Capitol Hill, Foster explained that often times, congressional office staff will mention "never having had a visit from transgender advocates when those specific offices were lobbied only two years prior."

With congress members' schedules when in session, it's extremely difficult to pin them down for a visit on Capitol Hill. The schedules are much looser, and the prospects much better in the home districts. Additionally, having transgenders and their supporters visiting each congressional office around the country allows Congress to see that we are their constituents. "We get the impression that they don't believe that," Foster added. "They think we're up on Capitol Hill as if it's some kind of convention or transgendered event. We must drive home the message that we are indeed their constituents."

"It takes away that invisibility factor."

There have already been a number of congressional home offices visited, and response to the initial calls for participation have been "quite encouraging." Lobbying will continue throughout the summer months until late August. For any information on how to get involved, contact the NTAC Lobbying Committee members, Vanessa at: Moonflowrr@aol.com, Ethan at Transfriendly@aol.com, or contact the organization's main Email at info@ntac.org.

Stonewall Supports TG Community

Stonewall has made a room available to members of the TG Community that need a safe, free place to change. For more Information please contact Angie Wellman at 614-299-7764.

Stonewall is also hosting a Free Support Group, the normal meetings are at 7:00pm on the First Wednesday of the month.

This is an opportunity for members of the TG Community to come together in a Safe & Secure atmosphere to air their concerns, make new friends, as well as, have a place where they can feel free to be themselves.

Meral Crane is the facilitator of the group, she welcomes all interested people to attend.

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

Cross-dresser's lawsuit calls Cedar Point unfair
Cleveland man seeks redress in clothing spat

By STEVE MURPHY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

SANDUSKY - A Cleveland man has sued the parent company of Cedar Point, alleging that he was illegally removed from the amusement park last year for dressing as a woman.

Harry Prather, also known as "Mother Rachael," filed suit last week against Cedar Fair L.P. in Erie County Common Pleas Court. According to the complaint, Mr. Prather is a cross-dresser who entered the park June 17, 2001, "dressed, as he is 80 percent of the time, in female's clothing."

The suit says Mr. Prather and two friends attending the unofficial "Gay Day" at Cedar Point had been in the park for about 90 minutes when a security officer approached and told him to come with her to a security area.

The employee and three other security officers questioned Mr. Prather about his identity and "told him that his clothing was unacceptable and that he could not wear a 'costume' in the park," the suit states.

Mr. Prather was escorted out of the park and given a refund for his admission, said his attorney, Larry Zukerman of Cleveland.

"He says, 'This is my lifestyle, this is what I wear,'" Mr. Zukerman said. "It fell upon deaf ears."

He said Mr. Prather had on "a simple little frock, sunglasses, gloves, and a purse, which is what he wears all the time."

Janice Witherow, a Cedar Point spokeswoman, said Mr. Prather was asked to leave for violating the

park's dress code, which she said has been in effect "for a number of years."

A copy of the code, which is given to all visitors along with a park map, says that shirts and shoes must be worn at all times, swimwear must be sufficiently covered, and clothing with profanity, suggestive pictures, and pictures of illegal substances are prohibited.

But Ms. Witherow said the park also has "a dress code policy that prohibits costumes of any type to be worn in the park, and this is for safety and security reasons. We need to be able to identify our guests should something happen, and we can't allow one sex to be dressing up as another sex and entering restrooms where they're not supposed to be."

Asked how the park defines a costume, Ms. Witherow replied, "Anything that is atypical dress would be deemed as a costume."

Mr. Zukerman disagreed. "It's not a costume," he said. "You can put it on a woman the same as you can a man. There's no mask, there's no tail."

The suit says the park "caused injury, mental suffering, shame, embarrassment, humiliation, degradation, and trauma" to Mr. Prather. It seeks compensatory and punitive damages in excess of \$25,000 on each of eight counts.

Besides damages, Mr. Zukerman said "we'd also like them to change their policy. Any human being should be admitted as long as they don't cause any problems and their sexual orientation is highly offensive."

Ms. Witherow denied that any discrimination took place.

"Cedar Point has a policy of not discriminating against any of its guests," she said. "However, we have policies and procedures ... we strictly follow, and we deemed that this person was in a costume, which is against our policies."

Gay Day has been an unofficial tradition among gay-rights activists for a number of years. Activists visit the park on Father's Day and wear red or bright rainbow colors. It has not caught the attention of many people.

This year, however, the conservative "traditional values" group, the American Family Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, complained about the

event and urged the park to notify people.

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The full text of Cedar Point's published dress code, from their web site:

Dress Code

Cedar Point has a dress code designed to maintain the park's family atmosphere. Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times, including entering and leaving. Swimwear must be sufficiently covered. Profanity, suggestive pictures and pictures of illegal substances on clothing, and clothing generally considered offensive are prohibited.

Recommended Clothing: Dress for comfort. Cotton is practical, since it's cool and dries quickly after water rides.

Sneakers are the best footwear; make sure they're broken in to prevent blistering. Be prepared for all types of shore can change unexpectedly. Cedar Point rents lockers to store extra clothes.

August Cook Out Planned

We will be having a Cook Out at Blendon Woods Metro Park on August 24th, 2002.

If you would like to attend please R.S.V.P. Us at either (614) 322-2904 or (614) 481-3373.

If you are planning on bringing any food with you we would like to know this as well.

Gwendilynne's Editorial

In Reference to the Cedar Point Incident, I emailed Cedar Point about the above article. In my email I explained that I am Transgendered & live fulltime as a woman, & that I am in the process of Gender Reassignment.

I told them that I had been considering visiting their park this year, & wished to know if I would also be asked to leave the park if I visited there.

To Date I have not been contacted by Cedar Point to address my questions.

If you would like to contact them yourselves. Cedar Points telephone number is (419)-626-0830.

You may contact me at Gwen_Farrar @ Hotmail.Com, Or call me at (614) 481-3373.

On a Different Note:

I would like to point out to the Group called Concerned American Women & all others that support their position, that woman have insisted for years now that they have the right to abort unwanted pregnancies because it is their bodies.

Following this logic, doesn't that also hold true for members of The Transgendered Community. who wish to make changes to their bodies for our own reasons.

Shouldn't we have the same rights where our bodies are concerned, rights that you have enjoyed for many years now.

Summer Nail Care

Hey, it's summer time! Let's show off those gorgeous finger & toe nails!

Preparations:

1. Use your favorite Bath or Shower Gel to clean nails on your hands and feet.
2. Get an inexpensive nail brush at the discount store to clean under and all around your nails.
3. Use your favorite Body Scrub to exfoliate away dry skin.

Then gather the following:

Several Cotton balls, Cuticle Cream, an Orangewood Stick, an Emery Board, Base Coat, Nail Polish and Top Coat.

Remove old polish and shape nails using an emery board. Tip: Weak or soft, fragile nails appreciate being filed in one direction. "Sawing" using a back and forth motion can make them weaker. Toe nails should be shaped straight across rather than curved.

Apply Cuticle Cream. A good Cuticle Cream contains a moisturizing complex that can be used frequently to keep cuticles flexible and more resistant to splitting. Apply to each cuticle and gently push each cuticle back with a blunt edged orangewood stick wrapped lightly with cotton.

Ready Set Go!

For a natural manicure simply use a nail buffer to smooth the nail leaving a slight shine. When applying polish proceed as follows: Slightly loosen all nail color caps before beginning any polish application.

Apply Base Coat to first hand (or foot,) using a 3 stroke method (side, middle, side). Tip: Start at the pinkie or smallest toe and work your way towards the thumb or big toe to prevent smudged nails when working across your wet nails.

Apply Base Coat to second hand. The Base Coat protects your nails from being stained by red or deeper colored polishes.

Next apply the first coat of your favorite nail color to the first hand. Apply this polish to your second hand and let dry slightly. Apply second coat of polish to both hands and let dry slightly again.

Now apply a Speed Set or Quick Set Top Coat. A good quality Speed Set or Quick Set drying Top Coat gives your nails a glossy finish while it reduces chipping and improves the nail color intensity. Tip: Extend the life of your manicure by reapplying this Top Coat every other day.

Pedicure Tips: Give your feet a warm relaxing foot bath and buff away any dry skin found on and around your heels. Place individual cotton balls or use a specially made and inexpensive pedicure sponge to separate each toe for ease in polishing. Start with the smallest toe and work towards the biggest toe. Once nail color is completely dry, (about 30 minutes,) apply your favorite hand cream.

Coordinating nail and lip color with your wardrobe creates a timeless, classic look, however, everyone knows those summer days call for fun and trendy too!

Please feel free to contact us. Your comments or questions are welcomed.

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Independent Beauty Consultants

Fires New Hope

Cleveland--A transgender woman called "Mrs. Doubtfire" by co-workers has settled an employment discrimination case against United Consumer Financial Services of Westlake to her satisfaction and strengthened TG worker rights in the process.

The case was the first to hold that the 1964 Civil Rights Act covers sexual stereotype non-conformity. After mediation, it was resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both parties on June 28, said attorney Randi Barnabee of Macedonia, who represented the 60-year-old Cleveland woman.

UCFS finances consumer purchases of Kirby sweepers and World Bookencyclopedias.

Because the initial complaint alleged that UCFS violated the woman's right to privacy, her identity has not been made public and the amount of the settlement is also confidential.

Prior to filing the federal civil rights suit, the woman turned down UCFS's offer to settle for \$1,500.

Barnabee told the Gay People's Chronicle in May 2001 that she felt the case had merit and would not allow her client to settle for less than a substantial amount.

UCFS fired the woman July 11, 2000 after she had worked ten days as a temporary worker through Reserves Network. The case was filed in the United States District Court of Northern Ohio in January 2001.

Notes kept by the temporary agency were used to document the woman's satisfactory job performance and the unusually thorough background check conducted by UCFS. The notes also record UCFS personnel officer Debbie Woodworth asking a Reserves Network representative if she "noticed anything peculiar about [the employee]."

Woodworth then told the representative, "Employees here have named her Mrs. Doubtfire . . . but they don't say it to her face."

Woodworth was also present at a July 10, 2000 meeting with collections manager Brian Davis and UCFS vice president William Ciszozon.

At that meeting, Ciszozon asked the woman if she was a man dressed as a woman, and what her gender was because, "by looking at [her], [Ciszozon] can't tell." Ciszozon also wanted to know if she had an operation.

Transgendered Rights Case

When the woman protested the line of questioning, she was told that another employee had complained that "a man dressed as a woman was using the ladies restroom."

UCFS notified Reserves of the woman's termination the following day.

UCFS was represented by attorney Lee Hutton of Duvin, Cahn, and Hutton of Cleveland, who asserted during initial mediation that the woman was unable to perform the essential functions of the job.

Hutton filed a motion to dismiss the case, claiming that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act cannot protect transsexuals. He said a court ruled in a 1984 case, *Ulane v. Eastern Airlines*, that Congress had a narrow definition of "sex" in mind, excluding transsexuals, when the act was passed.

However, Judge Kathleen McDonald O'Malley rejected Hutton's motion, finding that the 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins* says a person cannot be discriminated against for not conforming to the gender stereotype behavior expected by another person or social norms.

This was the first time a court allowed a transgender person to sue an employer for discrimination on the basis of sexual stereotype non-conformity, according to Barnabee, who is transgender herself.

According to Barnabee, this case, "opens the door a little bit" to protect transgender workers, who otherwise have no discrimination protection.

Barnabee has submitted O'Malley's opinion to be published in the Federal Supplement, a collection of opinions used as guidance by federal courts.

Barnabee believes facts of the case had merit, too, but said that had a jury found in UCFS's favor, it could have weakened the persuasive value of O'Malley's opinion on future cases.

Barnabee stressed that the major success of this case was O'Malley's opinion replacing the old *Ulane* decision and allowing Title VII to protect transgender people.

"It's helpful, too," said Barnabee, "that [O'Malley's court] is part of the Sixth Circuit, which is notoriously conservative."

Upcoming Meetings

July 2002

- 12 Business Meeting
- 27 Club Meeting – Speaker Cancelled

August 2002

- 09 Business Meeting
- 24 Club Meeting – Cook Out at B.W.M.Park

September 2002

- 13 Business Meeting
- 28 Club Meeting - PFLAG

October 2002

- 11 Business Meeting
- 26 Club Meeting - Halloween Party

Possible Christmas Site

Valerie has identified that Wolfe Park, located off Broad St. at 62, is available on 12/7 all day. The facilities are large enough to handle our group and the area boasts a fridge, microwave, and fireplace.

I have not personally seen the site, so I am relying on her information.

Charge is \$35/hr, if we reserve and then cancel, there is a \$25 fee.

Looking for input if we want to risk the \$25 and put a temp hold on this site.

Nikki

The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

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.

Screening Officers:

(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:

cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:

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

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

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.

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