

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 6- June 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

Problem? – or Opportunity?

A few weeks ago I was out on the town shopping – and getting read at every turn. I'm not sure why – I had been out the day before in a MUCH shorter skirt and didn't have a problem – but on this particular day, for whatever reason, I kept getting clocked at every turn. Later that evening, when a good friend called up and asked how things were going, I said "everything is fine except for getting read all day long". She had an interesting response – "So you had an opportunity to educate people today!" Well...not quite – but it got me thinking about being read and my reaction to this event.

One of the hardest aspects about being transgendered is overcoming the sense of embarrassment. I started thinking about this situation and realized that I'm happy with who and what I am and don't feel I have anything to be ashamed of when I dress. My friend was right – I had missed a golden opportunity to educate people.

Let's face it girls – we aren't always going to pass as women. We lack in development in everything from deportment to speech to always blend into society as a female. But we can be accepted, and acceptance requires education. If we have been read, our secret is out anyway – so admitting that your sex and gender representation are not the same isn't revealing a major secret. Remember that people are curious, like to talk (particularly women), and you certainly have their attention.

So the next weekend when I was out and about, when a person read me – I took a deep breath and started a conversation with the women. After a few minutes, she had a far different perspective on the transgendered experience – the painful hours of electrolysis, the risks of unemployment, the challenges related to interacting with the public in the face of existing social conventions about gender roles. At the end of a few minutes, she had a new admiration for the challenges and courage required to be TG. Did I pass? (No) Did I educate and build acceptance? (Yes).

Obviously we need to pick and choose our opportunities – there are times that discretion is the better part of valor. But for those of us who are "out" or "semi-out", remember that change will only come with education. You are, like it or not, an ambassador for the transgender

community. The perception you leave behind will be the image that individual has for the transgender community as a whole. So the next time you are read, consider the problem as an opportunity – a chance to educate someone. Not only will you educate a person about transgenderism, you might just feel a little better about the outcome yourself.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol; Guest Speaker for June

Trooper Jeff Davis of The Ohio State Highway Patrol, Delaware Post will be speaking to us at our June meeting.

He will address sensitivity training given Highway Patrol Officers; the state laws; your safety while traveling in fem mode; what to expect if you are stopped by the Highway Patrol, as well as, other matters of Highway Safety.

I'm sure you will all agree that these are topics of great importance to all of us.

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.

July's meeting will be held on the Second Wednesday, because of the 4th.

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

US Protest Targets Transgender-Less Discrimination Act by D Kerman for Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network 29 May 2002

After three weeks, a homeless transgender activist has ended her one-woman vigil in the US.

Sleeping in a tent by night and making signs by day, Danielle Clarke began her vigil on May 9 as part of an education campaign about the need for legal protections in the transgender community.

"I am just one of the many transgendered people around the country who can't find work," Clarke told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "Many of my sisters are on street corners selling their bodies and resorting to sexual slavery just to survive, and I would like a message sent to the country that my people need a lifting up," she said.

Clarke's vigil took place as the U.S. Senate prepares to debate the Employment NonDiscrimination Act (ENDA). In its current form, ENDA prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. But the bill does not cover transgender people. Though Clarke has lobbied Congress in the past to include transgender people in ENDA, she says she's now come to realise that's not what's best.

"I don't want to hurt the gay and lesbian community from getting their bill passed, just so we could get what we wanted, which is inclusion in this bill," Clarke said. "Maybe it's better to stand on our own two feet," she said.

Though Clarke is a member of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), her views are not the same as the lobbying group's official position.

"Our position on the bill is for inclusion," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, board vice chair of NTAC.

"Employment and economic distress are rampant in the transgender community, and we clearly need this issue addressed," she said.

Foster says the transgender community is not only discriminated against in the workplace, but during the hiring process. She says in its current form, ENDA is incomplete and should be amended.

The bill's congressional sponsors have opted not to make changes to the legislation, and the lesbian and gay political organisation the Human Right Campaign (HRC) has supported that decision.

"Not enough education has been done in Congress on gender identify to get the bill passed with that added, and that's why we support the bill in its current form," said HRC Communications Director David Smith.

"However, we strongly believe the transgender community should be protected from discrimination and we want to work with them to make sure that happens," Smith told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

NTAC's Foster says HRC's position is disappointing.

"We are feeling that the existing organisations that are pushing through the legislation are the self-appointed conservators of the transgender community," Foster said. "By that I mean that there's almost an impression that we are not able to control our own destiny," she said.

"Our position is: give us the access to the individuals who are making these decisions, allow us to plead our own case," she said.

HRC's Smith says Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., has promised to bring ENDA to a vote of the full Senate before the end of the current legislative session in October.

And while Danielle Clarke's vigil is over, her work is not done. She says she is now planning a major march on Washington for next spring to bring to light the needs of the transgender community in the United States and around the world.

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

While I understand the reasoning behind the Exclusion of the Transgendered Community from Enda at this time.

I must express my concerns over this issue, all of you that know me, know that I too have faced discrimination on all levels.

I understand that we of the Transgendered Community are a relatively new addition to original G.L.B. Community & that there are some who are against our inclusion.

But I would hope that we all could put our differences aside, & work to together for a better World for all of our members.

I believe that the Transgendered Communities time to be heard is fast approaching.

I too wish to have access to the individuals who are making the decisions that allow us to be discriminated against.

I want to make a difference for my community, one that will be realized within my lifetime.

Please, I implore you, give us a chance, give me a chance.

I would welcome comments from & or opportunities for me too become more involved in Organizations that could help me in my Quest.

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, that you have enjoyed for many years now.

Beauty Secrets

By Vicki Pennington & Barb Canter-Frech

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 can 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. We are talking about the protection portion of the 5-step skin care program.

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 protects us from the sun, when it contains SPF. Foundation is to those of us who use makeup, what a canvas is to a painter. On our canvas, 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 we can get a bit frustrated. After all, how much fun is it to try to return a makeup item to a regular store?

We thought this subject might be a good place to begin our series. Lets 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 complexions 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 within your shade level. 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 it seems unfair to not let you in on a makeup artist's ability to enhance or correct secondary skin tones, 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. Using 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 base color, place a stripe 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. No

March for Gender Rights

Source: Diane Dale

>>> Date: May 20, 2002

>>> Announcement: Planning for the "March For Gender Rights" Commences (GA,US)

On Saturday, May 4th, two dozen transgender principals and activists the planning of what promises to be a seminal event in the history of our transgender movement....The March For Gender Rights.

This initial planning was facilitated by Sabrina Marcus of the Southern Comfort Conference, and Rory Gould of the Washington Gender Alliance. The purpose of the meeting was not to detail the event itself but rather begin to explore the issues that might form the principal theme(s) of the March, and to set up a preliminary organizational structure that will help develop and deploy it.

It was universally acknowledged that the March must represent the entire transgender and gender variant communities. Indeed, the diversity of the TGV movement is its strength, and every sector will not only be welcomed but expected and urged to play a prominent role in the March.

The specific theme of the March is yet to be determined. Suggestions ranged from Transgender Pride; to Fostering Transgender Awareness; to Education; Community Unity and Community Building; Equality Under the Law and ENDA; Respect and Acceptance; and Freedom of Gender Expression.

Five participants were elected to a non-partisan committee to establish communication with various gender leadership communities. Having broad-based and proper representation at the next planning meeting, and every planning meeting, is of paramount importance to ensure an inclusive and successful March.

While no specific date has been set for it as yet, it was clear that the March would be at least a year in the making...possibly two. This will give everyone and every group enough time to prepare. Naturally, financial considerations are critical. Money is needed both to produce and attend the March. The

Transgender Fund (www.tgfund.org) was designated as the chief financial arm of the March. It has set up a Select Initiative on its website to receive contributions that will be invested in the event. To get things going, the Fund has provided a \$1,000 Grant to the March's organizers.

This March will be transgender milestone...an event with Purpose, with Pride, and with Promise. More information will be forthcoming on how everyone can get involved in the early stages of its development.

Concerned American Women

Source: Lori Buckwalter

>>> Date: May 22, 2002

>>> Open Letter: I am A Concerned American Woman (OR,US)

Ms. Riggs...

I understand that you are associated with an organization called Concerned Women for America. It occurs to me that your group's name ought to relate to some of the concerns that I have experienced.

I know the concern of losing my employment, when as a professional woman of 20 years experience, I was fired, not because of performance, but because of who I was. I know the concern of seeking a job for many months, while my family suffered and feared, knowing that doors were closed to me because of this same issue.

I know the concern of being denied appropriate needed medical care because of unfair exclusions from a medical system that verified the consider my requests.

I know the concern of being denied equal access and consideration of the law when I sought custody and child support for my minor children. I know what it's like to love and support my children, to know that they wanted very much to be with me, and yet to realize that unwarranted presumptions about my parental fitness put our family in jeopardy.

I know the concern of being denied the opportunity to purchase a home because of other's prejudice.

I know the concern of being refused access to businesses and public accommodations because of others' perceptions of me and my family, and

the concern that I would be threatened with arrest if I went about my life in public space.

I know the concern of my family and me being threatened, harassed, physically and sexually assaulted on a regular basis by those who presume that they have cultural and moral permission to do so.

I know the concern of living in society that regularly demeans and discounts me and others like me, in which groups are formed that actively encourage my exclusion and denial of a decent and dignified life. I know the concern of living in a country that betrays its principles for the gratification of bias, bigotry and hatred of a powerful minority of self-appointed arbiters of acceptability.

These are very real concerns. They actually happened to me and my family, in this very real world.

So...

I thought your organization might be interested and supportive of my concerns, since I am a Concerned American Woman. Then, I read your press release of May 20, in which you warn our lawmakers not to listen to my concerns, or those of others like me.

Instead, you referred to the fiction of a comic character from a late-night rerun farce, and to the legal fiction that there is a demand to give preferential treatment to women who are like me, when in fact the only request was to not use who we are as a basis for perpetuating our concern, our fear, our exclusion and abuse, merely because we are transsexual or transgendered.

So I must conclude that your concerns are not for a real America, nor for the very real women like me who hope that the values of fairness, dignity and human worth promised by our society will be more than fictions themselves. Instead, your concerns are apparently to maintain the favorite fictions which support a cruel and bigoted regime which would work to eliminate us and our families.

It baffles me that any American woman can forget that religious and political arguments were used to prevent women and racial minorities from being a part of this culture, or that the violence against them retains its permission because of that exclusion. Perhaps a confrontation with the reality of life has

given me this perspective.

Perhaps this reality is inconvenient in your fictional world. I truly regret that, because we have a lot share and learn in the real world.

Pride Parade/Festival

Saturday 29, 2002

The Parade: kicks Off at 1:00pm
From Goodale Park in the Short North.

The Festival: runs from 2:00pm to 6:00pm
In Bicentennial Park in Downtown Columbus.

For more info. www.Stonewall-Columbus.Org

Comfest

Saturday, June 29th & Sunday, June 30th 2002

Live music / Vendors / Tables

For more info. www.comfest.com

Upcoming Meetings

June 2002

14 Business Meeting

22 Club meeting - State Highway Patrol Speaker

July 2002

12 Business Meeting

27 Club Meeting – Laser Hair Removal

August 2002

09 Business Meeting

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

September 2002

13 Business Meeting

28 Club Meeting - PFLAG

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.