

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 9- September 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

We had a wonderful picnic at the Blendon Woods Park – thanks to all who attended for making the meeting a wonderful evening outdoors. A particular thanks to Barbie and Rosemary for the excellent spread of edibles – she’s a grill watcher; she’s a grill watcher.

At the picnic meeting we voted to move the September meeting to the PFLAG conference. Columbus is hosting this national convention and the PFLAG people have donated free meeting space for our group. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, on Nationwide Blvd. While the conference is being held on September 26th, 27th, and 28th, our club meeting will be held on the normal Saturday.

IMPORTANT: Our meeting time will start at 5:00 PM, and the actual meeting/speaker will start PROMPTLY at 6:00 PM. The reason for the earlier meeting time is due to the schedule of our speaker. Our September speaker will be Courtney Sharp, the first transgendered member to be elected to the PFLAG Board of Directors.

There will be changing areas available between 5:00 and 6:00 PM, and after 7:00 PM for those wanting to change prior to leaving. Additionally, the local Stonewall office is just up High Street and they offer changing facilities. They can be contacted at 614-299-7764.

There will be **NO CHARGE** for those attending the meeting. You can attend the silent auction, all of the vendors, and interact within a safe environment with other GLBT individuals. The normal meeting fee has been waived to offset the cost of parking. If you want to attend any of the workshops or plenary sessions, you will need to register with PFLAG for the conference. They can be reached at www.pflag.org, or by phone at 614-447-5105.

This is a unique opportunity for Columbus and the Ohio/Midwest region to showcase our local organizations. We have the opportunity to interact with individuals who are acting on our behalf at the national level. With so many of our community suffering in silence, I encourage the membership to attend, even if not in TG mode. This is a special chance to gain a voice – if you make your

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The hopes and fears and dreams real to those who are “out” and “outspoken” they can speak for all of us. Board recognizes that many of our members are nervous about attending a meeting in a more “public” setting. Please be assured that there will be many, many people present at this GLBT conference who will be open, accepting, and understanding. The conference represents an opportunity for you to spread your wings while remaining within a “safe-zone.” Just north of the Regency is the Short North area of High Street – a wonderful area filled with restaurants, art galleries, and other neat shops. Please plan on attending the meeting and the conference – this is really a great opportunity for you, the club, and our community. Relax and enjoy a wonderful weekend or evening.

As an incentive for attending – we will have at least one (1) extra seat for the conference dinner on Saturday night. We will hold a drawing at the meeting for this seat – there may be additional seats available for the drawing by meeting time.

If there are ANY concerns regarding your attendance at this meeting/conference, please feel to contact me directly at nikkim@columbus.rr.com - SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE!

TWO ARRESTED, ONE STILL AT LARGE IN BRUTAL COLUMBUS ANTI-GAY HATE CRIME

by: Andy Scahill, Out in America Editor

One individual is currently being held on eight charges, one is on probation and one is still at large for a brutal attack in Weinland Park area east of the Ohio State campus, believed to be motivated by anti-gay sentiments.

Three victims, including a lesbian, K., her transgender partner, D., and their gay male neighbor, M., have sustained extensive injuries ranging from a broken cheek bone to a bruised liver. They have asked that their names not be released for fear of retaliation.

The attack took place on Thursday, July 18, at approximately 7pm when three individuals, one female and two males, approached the couple at their

residence and verbally assaulted them, stating things such as "You don't belong here." The couple's three children, ages nine, ten and twelve, were in the house at the time, but did not witness the incident.

The neighbor intervened, prompting one of the assailants to yell, "I'm going to pull out a knife and slit you from top to bottom and watch your guts spill out, faggot." D. then entered her home and called 911 and was told that police would not be able to arrive for 30 minutes. In the meantime, the attack had escalated and the assailants began throwing rocks, D. told Out in Columbus. K. was dragged into the street, where the female assailant punched her in the face several times while a male assailant held her. K. has sustained a broken nose and severe bruising from the attack.

When D. intervened, one of the male assailants punched and kicked her until she was unconscious, saying to her partner, "We're going to kill your bitch, you fucking dyke." D. listed her injuries as severe bruising, a cracked right orbital, a ruptured vessel in her eye, a broken foot and a laceration on her left ear.

The neighbor was then attacked, causing him to lose four teeth and trauma to his liver. The assault was finally brought to an end by the intervention of the neighbor's brother-in-law. When police arrived, two individuals were taken into custody: 27 year-old Keba Franklin and an unidentified male juvenile.

In a pre-trial motion on Tuesday, July 23, the attorney for Keba Franklin was granted a continuance. Bail was set at \$150,000 for a total of eight charges, including three counts of assault, two counts of aggravated menacing and three counts of ethnic intimidation. Ethnic intimidation is charged when it is believed that an attack was precipitated by a form of prejudice, such as racist or anti-gay hatred. Her next trial date is set for August 19.

The apprehended male, a juvenile, was given probation for the attack. The victims believe that the light sentence may be a result of the victims being unable to attend the hearing and deliver a victim statement, since the hearings for both the juvenile and Keba Franklin were scheduled concurrently.

The second male involved in the attack is still at large and has yet to be identified.

Gloria McCauley, Executive Director of BRAVO is particularly concerned by the frequency of anti-LGBT attacks in this neighborhood. "This is the

third reported attack on a transgender woman in recent weeks. The brutality of this attack and the severity of the injuries is extremely alarming. This is a neighborhood in transition as more openly LGBT folks are moving into the neighborhood. BRAVO has been seeing an increase in reports of anti-LGBT activity in this neighborhood for the last year."

McCauley continued, "We are very interested in hearing from folks who have experienced or witnessed these types of incidents in the area." BRAVO is working with the victims, police and prosecutors in this case to ensure that the victim's needs are met and justice is served as these cases work their way through the courts.

BRAVO is reminding the community to stay alert, trust your instincts and be aware of your surroundings. Contact BRAVO (toll-free at 1-800-86-BRAVO; locally at 614-268-9622) if you want to report similar incidents or to discuss ways you can protect yourself, your friends and your community. [7/24/02]

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.

Transgendered Women Gunned Down

In Washington DC

Two transgendered women have been murdered as they sat in a car parked at the side of a Washington, DC road on Monday.

Their car was parked at the curb (sic) in the south-east area of the city. Both women suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the body and head. Local officials said that neither woman showed any vital signs when paramedics arrived on the scene.

The victims' names are being withheld pending the notification of their next of kin.

Witnesses told police that a black vehicle drove up alongside the Toyota and then the shooting began. The car then sped off.

Detectives from the DC Police Violent Crimes Branch have taken over the investigation. Officers said it appeared clear that robbery was not a motive, but it is not known if the killer or killers knew the victims were transgendered. "It is too early to determine if this was a hate crime," one officer said.

Transgender Law Making Strides

Transgender rights law - that is protecting the rights of people whose identity does not match the genitalia they were born with - has exploded in the field and in the political arena, becoming a new wave of civil rights in this country, according to experts. And experts concerned about affixing privileges to specialized groups say that the transgendered population is taking privilege too far. It's "another step down the road towards radical individualism," said Linda Chavez, civil rights expert and president of the Center for Equal Opportunity. "I think it's going too far.

"We gave certain rights and protections to people so they could not be discriminated against because they were born with certain characteristics and couldn't change them. Now we are facing a situation where they can change their characteristics ... and then we confer upon them special protections. It's sowing confusion and it's very problematic," Chavez said.

But too far or not, it appears transgender rights are already bestowed on transgendered individuals.

"It's totally exploding - in law, the amount of litigation, the laws passed, the law reviews written," said Paisley Currah, associate professor of political science at City University of New York and board member at the Transgender Law and Policy Institute.

"Transgendered people have become more organized and [are] moving beyond merely a support system for each other to actually fighting for their rights," she added.

"Transgender" is actually an umbrella term for a diverse group of people bound together by one characteristic: they do not identify with the gender into which they were born. They include individuals who dress and behave as the opposite sex, as well as those who have undergone surgery to change their sex, also known as transsexuals.

The number of transgendered people in the United States has been largely undocumented, but is still considered to be small, said Pauline Park, a transgendered woman and co-chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy.

"This is a marginalized community, the group is small compared to the total population," Park said. "This translates into political weakness. But compared to what it was 10 years ago, it's huge and more powerful and largely more effective."

Its effectiveness is apparent in the changes in law, academia and social work.

So far, 46 jurisdictions -- including states, counties and cities -- have laws prohibiting discrimination against transgendered people. Minneapolis, Minn., wote its first anti-discrimination law against transgendered people in 1975. New York City recently rewrote its human rights law to protect "gender identity and expression" against all forms of discrimination, including housing and employment.

There are also a number of major public and private employers who have protections for transgendered people on the books and even local union bargaining agreements that include such provisions.

And that is not all. Today there are at least two court cases pending over the legal status of transgendered persons in marriage, as they relate to spousal rights and child custody. There are even more cases being hashed out over employment discrimination and hate crimes.

"There are a lot of legal issues coming out now," said Julie Greenberg, a professor at Thomas

Jefferson School of Law who has written extensively on transgender rights for law review journals. "For one, the transgender movement is willing to come out of the closet and push the issue and two, people are becoming more aware of it."

Opponents of gay rights who say the transgender movement is a logical outgrowth of the successes of the gay and lesbian movement are concerned that the breakdown in gender identity will result in a breakdown in family.

"The common link is the desire to disestablish or to deconstruct the two-sex system which most people view as natural," said David Wagner, a law professor at Regent University, which was founded by religious conservative Pat Robertson.

Wagner said he thinks the gay rights movement, much less transgendered rights, has a long way to go in terms of acceptance.

"I just don't think that anti-discrimination in this case has been as widely accepted by the American people in the same way Americans accepted civil rights in the 1960s," he said.

That may be evidenced in the lackluster response of states to recognizing same-sex unions, despite a great push from the community. But people like Park are convinced that the transgender movement -- with or without the coattails of the gay rights movement -- is making great strides.

"When we formed three years ago, no one from New York City or New York State was talking seriously about transgender law," she said. "Now, transgender rights are at the forefront" of gay rights issues.

"We have been able to transform our cause," she said.

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!

For those of you who have experienced make-up that runs, we would like to come to your rescue, we have the solution to your problem ladies.

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

Barb Canter-Frech

bcanterfrech@yahoo.com

Victoria Pennington

vpennington2000@yahoo.com

Independent Beauty Consultants

Upcoming Meetings

September 2002

13 Business Meeting

28 Club Meeting - **PFLAG**

October 2002

11 Business Meeting

26 Club Meeting - Halloween Party

November 2002

Thanksgiving Break / No Meeting

December 2002

Christmas Break / No Meeting /

Jan. 2002 to be announced

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
One year membership, email newsletter only	\$30
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.