

Polaris



Edition 66

January-March 2006



the Gender Centre Service Magazine

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices.

The Gender Centre is also committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues.

We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, families and organisations, and service providers.

We specifically aim to provide a high quality service which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

the Gender Centre

The place to go for confidential, free services for people with gender issues.



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**The Gender Centre is
staffed 10am-5.30pm
Monday to Friday**

DROP-INS

***Friday 11am - 1pm
Wednesday 6pm - 8pm***

**All other times by appointment
only**



Our Services

- Support and education
- Social and support groups
- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Quarterly magazine *Polare*
- HIV/AIDS information
- Condoms and lube
- Needle exchange
- Accommodation
- Referrals to specialist counselling, medical, HIV/AIDS, education, training, employment, legal welfare, housing and other community services
- Outreach - street, home, hospital and jail
- Counselling and support groups for partners and family

Residential Service

For all enquiries relating to the residential service, please contact us.

Cover: Elizabeth Anne Riley, who has been the Gender Centre Counsellor since 1999, is leaving to take up private practice. She will be much missed by the transgender community. The Gender Centre wishes her every success and major achievement in Macquarie Street. Elizabeth Anne's farewell appears on p.6.

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No. **66**

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THE FINE PRINT

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Polare A Magazine for people with gender issues

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Editor: Katherine Cummings

DEADLINE

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is the
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Elizabeth's Report



At the time of writing my report it is well in advance of Xmas but by the time you receive this copy of *Polare* Xmas may well be a dim memory. Nonetheless I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of all staff and management

committee to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful festive season with joy and good fortune for the year ahead.

2005 was an eventful year for the Gender Centre in many ways. I don't wish to dwell any further on the debacle of the exemption granted to Mission Australia. That is now a *fait accompli* and all that could be done to reverse the decision has been tried without success. In the meantime a committee has been set up to address the problems caused by the exclusion of our clients from A Woman's Place and Lou's Place and we can only hope that alternatives will be found to meet the needs of those transgender women affected. On a more positive note the agitations of groups like the Gender Centre and SAGE did bear some fruit when the ADB chose to reject an application to renew a similar exemption for Edward Eager Lodge.

Centre Restructure

A decision was made early in the year to review how the Centre was structured to provide services and what steps could be taken to improve the delivery of those services. After much discussion and planning a new model was developed that aimed to address identified problem areas in service provision. In particular it was agreed that a greater emphasis be placed on targeting positive outcomes for clients. By focussing on outcomes the centre has been able to develop a system of pathways that provide clients with structured access to programs and services within the Centre, and through external referral, that optimise the likelihood of success. Since positive outcomes differ from one client to another the system is driven by the needs and goals identified by each client.

Part of this process has also involved a redesign of workers' job descriptions to accommodate a more flexible approach to services and to provide each client with access to a cross section of staff expertise and continuity of service delivery. This will ensure that there will always be a back-up worker to assist a client where the original worker is absent or on leave. We are optimistic that the restructure will provide positive benefits for clients and

we will be encouraging feedback along the way to assist us in monitoring and reviewing our service provision practices.

Accreditation

As I have previously mentioned, the Gender Centre has been undergoing an accreditation process with Quality Management Services (QMS) over much of 2005 and this is due for completion early in 2006. I am pleased to say that we have nearly completed our responses to the seventeen Core Standards and the five Community Service Module Standards and these are now being reviewed before submission. The standards measure performance across all aspects of agency operations and have built into them a process for ensuring continuous quality improvement (CQI). Once submitted the centre will receive a report from QMS with recommendations for action. With the availability of both our accreditation responses and the QMS report as guides we will be well placed to ensure that service provision complies with Best Practice.

The accreditation process has been complementary to the restructure process and we are confident that we are well placed to meet all future challenges in agency practice and service provision.

Staff

There have been a number of staffing changes over the past year and I would like to thank all the staff, past and present, for their commitment to the Centre during their terms of employment. I would like to welcome the new staff members who have recently come on board. They are Dan McKinley, Chantel Martin, and returning to the Centre after a five year absence, Sean Taylor. All three are highly skilled and committed to our community and I look forward to the impact of their talent on the work of the centre.

Paula Hartigan, who has been synonymous with the Centre for more years than she probably cares to remember, has moved into semi-retirement. She is still working part-time at the Centre for three days per fortnight so her vast experience is not lost to us. No doubt she will be spending a lot more of her time on a variety of golf courses trouncing the opposition whenever she can. We will be watching keenly to see how much her handicap comes down.

I am sad to report that Elizabeth Anne, our wonderfully expert counsellor for the past seven years, has seized the opportunity to move into private practice and will spend her last day at the centre on December 23, 2005. While

I am sad at her departure I am delighted for her to be taking this next step in her career path. It is never an easy task to replace an experienced staff member and in the case of someone like Elizabeth, with such a great understanding of our community and excellent counselling skills, the task is even more daunting. However, we have managed to secure the services of Gaye Stubbs, who is also a highly experienced counsellor, and to assist her in settling into the role she will spend a few weeks under Elizabeth's guidance before Elizabeth departs. I am sure counselling clients will be quick to recognise Gay's talent and empathy and I take this opportunity to welcome her to the team.

A Tribute to David Toolan

David will not be familiar to many of you but I have been privileged to know and work with him for many years. In

his latest role David was a senior policy officer with NSW Police and worked closely with the Gender Centre on several committees and consultations designed to advance the rights of the GLBTI communities. David was a qualified lawyer and a man with an amazing capacity to bring joy and laughter into any situation. David passed away in late November at the untimely age of thirty-two.

David will be sadly missed by the many people who knew and loved him. Whatever afterlife David has entered into I am sure its inhabitants will be having a drink and a good laugh with plans underway for a heck of a party.

Cheers David!

Elizabeth

Editorial - Katherine Cummings



Not much room to spread my wings in this issue but welcome to 2006 in any event. I would like to add to the chorus of good wishes for Elizabeth Anne Riley, who is leaving us for new challenges. Apart from our missing her for her professional contribution it always added to the interest of the day to have more than one

Elizabeth Riley on the staff. It guaranteed confusion and I suggested more than once that everyone on the staff should change his or her name by deed poll to Elizabeth Riley. This might have created the kind of confusion which results when you try to find a specific Mr Dai Jones in a Welsh village. Ah well, another lost opportunity...

This issue carries an article by Monica Helms about the Transgender Veterans of America, an organisation for tgs who have served in the US Armed Forces. Monica is interested in going international and has suggested any Australians interested should apply to join the TVA. See p.28. My own feeling, as expressed in earlier issues, is that we should have a clear idea of what such a veterans' association might achieve in Australian terms. Any suggestions? Or should we simply arrange to get drunk and play two-up together next Anzac Day?

Laura Seabrook is back with one of her thought-provoking graphic essays (I can't call them comic strips

as there is nothing comic about them). Laura's work is always challenging and I hope to use more in future issues.

There is also a piece by Emily Alpert in California, ("Gender Outlaws") outlining some of the problems encountered by transgendered folk in Californian prisons. Some of the treatment of tgs in California seems quite discriminatory and inhumane. The Gender Centre Outreach Officer, who looks after transgendered inmates in our prison system has promised a comparative commentary on the treatment of tg prisoners here. It is also worth noting that our printer, Outbreak Design & Print, is active in the campaign to improve conditions and enforce human rights laws in our prison system.

A piece by Ruth Padawer ("Like It Or Not, She's Still Dad") records yet another case of a family staying together after the transition of one parent, a situation which seems to be more and more acceptable in society as the years pass. Those of us who saw our families torn apart by transgender issues, and who lost the love of those closest to them because we finally lost a struggle against the need to transition, can only applaud the acceptance given to our tg brothers and sisters and hope that the climate of acceptance becomes the norm rather than being the exception.

There is a book review of *Alice in Genderland* by Tracie O'Keefe and a piece by Gwendolyn Ann Smith on job hunting soon after transition. Several of these pieces are reprinted from the USA by permission. What about some home-grown material?



Katherine

Elizabeth Anne's Farewell



Deartrans community,

It is now time for me to say good-bye.

I have learnt an enormous amount about myself and I want to thank each and every one of you that has supported my position over the years.

I want to thank the Management Committee for their support, the staff (there have been many since I first started in 1999) and especially Elizabeth who always supported me when I needed a shoulder to cry on.

But mostly I want to thank you, the clients who have taught me how crucial it is that individual needs, circumstances and desired outcomes dictate what course any one person will need to take and not the 'programmed' approach that has been historically imposed.

Thank you to those who gave me permission to tape our sessions thereby contributing to my Master in Counselling that I completed in 2001.

I look forward to a continued association with the community as the supervisor of Gaye (your new counsellor). To future clients who choose to see me privately, I will be practising in Macquarie Street in the city and the Gender Centre has my practice details.

I look forward to doing more teaching, some writing, continuing my work at the St James Ethics Centre and on the Executive Committee of CAPA (Counsellors and Psychotherapists Association)

I have loved my time here and I wish each and every one of you happiness and fulfilment for your future. Before I go I want to share with you a piece of writing that touches me deeply. It was given to me by a friend many years ago...

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, your dreams, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the centre of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shrivelled and closed from fear of further pain!

I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it, fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, if you can dance with wildness and let ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without caution to be careful.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true. I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul. I want to know if you can be faithful and therefore be trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see beauty even when it is not pretty every day, and if you can source your life from God's presence. I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes!"

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away. I want to know if you can be alone with yourself, and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.

I doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up after the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done for the children.

It doesn't interest me who you are, how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the centre of the fire with me and not shrink back.

By Oriah Mountain Dreamer (an American Indian Elder)

Take care,

Elizabeth Anne

SOUTH AFRICA SHOWS THE WAY

The highest court in South Africa has ruled that gays and lesbians have the right to marry and has given the national parliament one year to change the words "husband" and "wife" to "spouse in marriage legislation.

South Africa is the first African nation and the fifth in the world to give same-sex couples full marital rights.

In other African countries official attitudes to homosexuality and lesbianism are less liberal and in some cases the penalty for being gay or lesbian is death. It is not uncommon for political and religious leaders to refer to homosexuality as "un-African".

The legalisation of same-sex marriage will be opposed by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, although they acknowledge that they have little or no chance of preventing the enabling legislation.

Getting Down To Business

Issue Sixty-Six

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Many years ago, at the beginning of my transition from male to female, I started to distribute copies of my resume, looking for a job to replace the one I lost shortly after I began to live publicly as a woman. I had a pretty good list of skills behind me, and was targeting workplaces similar to that which I'd just left. Typically, I was – if you'll allow me a slight moment of bragging – a little more qualified than some of the positions for which I was applying.

I soon discovered that my skills would have very little to do with my average interview. Sure, the prospective employer and I would do the dance, but we both knew that my chances were next to nil as soon as I walked in the door. There was usually a slight change in expression, and a slight "tightening up" in the room. When they saw me, they did not see a woman across from them: they saw a man in a dress. They were always polite, though, letting me know that they would interview many others, that my resume was fine, and that they'd be calling me back in a week. They rarely bothered with that call, however. I couldn't even land a temporary position through the local employment agencies. It took nearly a year for me to finally land a position, in a rundown business in a neighborhood so rough that I had to hide against a filing cabinet one day, so as to have some protection from the guns-drawn police standoff happening in the parking lot.

I don't offer this story in an effort to play off your sympathies for what I went through, but rather I offer it as an illustration of what is a common occurrence for most transgender people who choose to enter the public arena. It's not a pleasant experience. What's worse, my experience – while not uncommon – is better than what many out there have faced. I've known more than my share of transgender people who have somehow ended up almost totally unemployable. With this in mind, I was pleased to see a particular bit of inaction from the United States Supreme Court, as the justices decided not to hear an appeal from the city of Cincinnati on behalf of its police department.

It was in the Queen City that a veteran of the city's finest was demoted. This officer had been living as a woman, Philecia Barnes, in her off-duty time, but was still serving on the force as a male.

The story gets complicated in her 17th year with the force, where she was initially promoted to sergeant – or was going to be promoted – when superiors decided that Barnes did not have "command presence." She was then put into the equivalent of "double-secret probation," and finally demoted.

She sued the department, using Title VII under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A jury found for her. The ruling was appealed, and the appeal was rejected – and now the U.S. has sided with those decisions by declining to hear the case. This goes against an established precedent that claims Title VII to not apply to transgender people, but falls in line with similar rulings over the last few years that Title VII may indeed cover transgender employment rights. It all seems to hinge on how one defines sex under Title VII. In 1994, a similar case – this time a transgender firefighter – also used Title VII to protect the rights of a Jimmie Smith, who began to face trouble in the workplace after disclosing in confidence to her supervisor plans to transition. This led to a battery of psychological tests she was required to take. She sued, and was subsequently suspended from duty. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals found in Smith's favor. Of course, this is by no means a 100 percent effective stance for transgender people seeking redress against workplace discrimination. In 2000, an employee of the Winn-Dixie grocery chain, Peter Oiler, was fired. Winn-Dixie made no bones about the reason: Oiler, while not presenting as anything other than male in the workplace, cross-dressed in his off hours. A Louisiana federal district judge found for Winn-Dixie, citing that Title VII did not apply. Title VII has plenty of legal history excluding transgender people from coverage, and it likely only takes the right legal argument – and the right judges – to make the Title VII argument moot. This is why it's still important that transgender protections become explicit, such as in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. I'm actually able to say something positive about the Human Rights Campaign – a rare occurrence – as it embarks on a campaign to educate members of Congress about the need for a transgender-inclusive ENDA. Of course, I can balance that with HRC's lackluster stance on hate crimes legislation and other protections for transgender people, but I digress.

I'm a pragmatist. To me this isn't an issue of pie-in-the-sky wishes. No, to me this is an issue of basic fairness. All those years ago, all I wanted to do was clock in, do my best, and get compensated for same, but my transgender status – a status that was largely irrelevant for the jobs I was applying for – kept me from employment. Jimmie Smith and Philecia Barnes, likewise, had proven their ability to do their jobs – but it was the simple fact that they were transgender that kept them from being treated fairly by their superiors. Through their victories – and maybe even an eventual ENDA victory – perhaps there's a chance, after all.

Gwen Smith will work for food. You can find her online at <http://www.gwensmith.com>. . .



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Gender Affirmation and Liberation (GAAL)

GAAL is committed to providing a service to:

People with the condition of Gender Dysphoria (Transsexualism)

People that are in the process of affirming gender identity by hormonal and/or surgical means or have already affirmed gender identity.

We also...

Actively interact with other organisations that may be of assistance to our members and their families.

These include:

- Other organisations for Women and Men of Transsexual background.
- Friendly health professionals.
- The Monash Gender Clinic
- Department of Human Services.
- Housing services.
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Numerous other organisations.

GAAL is a community support and social group which aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for people in the process of gender affirmation or who have affirmed their true gender to share experiences.

GAAL is not aimed at people who are just exploring their gender identity although we offer referral to suitable services and support groups that deal with this issue.

Social Activities. We also have social occasions, that are outside of the regular support group meetings, where we actively encourage the participation of friends, family, partners and other support groups.

We hold regular meetings on the third Monday of each month at a venue in South Yarra.

GAAL: PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Or call our message bank:

(03) 9517 1237 and one of our committee members will contact you as soon as possible or you can write to us by letter or by email.

Or if you need to contact us urgently:

Ph: 0425 785 666

Alice in Genderland: reviewed by Tracie O'Keefe Issue Sixty-Six

Alice in Genderland by Richard J Novic, MD
Published by iUniverse, Inc, USA
2004 US\$19.95

When I received a review copy of this book I put it on the pile of books to be reviewed and did not hurry to read it but eventually its turn came around. Well – I can tell you it was not what I expected. I guess I thought it would be another biography of transperson and their own version of their finding themselves. Doctors and academics rarely write good autobiographies because they edit too much of the real truth out to make themselves look respectable.

What I got was whistlestop tour of Richard's life as a trainee psychiatrist and his sometimes alter-ego cocaine-sniffing and sexually available Alice. This book is a real good read and I could not put it down. Richard or Dr Novic, MD or even sometimes Alice reveals absolutely everything about his own personal journey to accepting his transvestism. When I say reveals all, I mean just that. He tells us about his middle-class white, privileged, Jewish upbringing as a doctor's son who berated himself with shame about wanting to get sexual in his sister's undies. As his journey progresses, he tells us about his adventures in bars and car parks in high heels and full drag while his wife and children stayed at home.

At times it is difficult to tell if this book is an autobiography, confessional or adventure into self-exploration, and I suppose it really is all three. Richard has probably been able to get to this place because of his years in psychoanalysis, confronting his demons but it is still brave of him to tell us his tale with sometimes lurid veracity. Non-selective disclosure is that bravest of acts from any autobiographer.

This is the most clear, graphic and honest account of the wrestling match that many married transvestites deal with in their day-to-day life. Not only did Richard have to deal with growing up and evolving as a person, but he also had to contend that his often sexual obsession with cross-dressing meant he was trying to evolve two personalities at the same time on different days of the week.

I am unsure that in all his encounters with transgender, transsexual and tranvestite people in bars and at a GLBTI centres that he ever really got a good angle on the average transsexual, but after all, why would he if he is a transvestite? I also had the feeling that he kept referring to himself as transgender because he felt it was less controversial than transvestite, but none of that distracted from the book.

Transvestites just coming out may find the depth of disclosure in this book a little too full-on but they ought to read it any way.

Richard's lifestyle may not be right for the average transvestite who is often very closeted and lives in fear of family and friends finding out about their obsession with cross-dressing. However, all transvestites and anyone else for that matter could benefit enormously from reading this book because it shows that learning to own every part of who and what we are helps us all along the road of self-acceptance.



CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

Thank you to all those who attended the 2005 Christmas Barbecue. The great turnout helped to create a festive, easygoing atmosphere that was felt by all.

Everyone present enjoyed a great feast including a selection of delicious meats cooked to perfection (by a great volunteer!), salads of all varieties and of course a slice of traditional Christmas cake with custard.

Ventriloquist Michael Fox, assisted by 'Grandpa' provided laughs all round and capped off a wonderful event.

A special mention must be made to all those who helped tidy up afterwards. It was much appreciated.

I hope all of you, and those near and dear to you, had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. See you in 2006!

Dan McKinley
Outreach Support Worker

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Transamerica Transforms Felicity Huffman

Issue Sixty-Six

by John Anderson

This writer has long had a crazy movie fantasy: To be hypnotized, have certain memory banks erased, and be able to watch “Psycho” without knowing Janet Leigh is going to take that shower in the first thirty minutes of the film. No one’s gotten to do that since 1960.

Recently, however, there was an experience that might not be precisely comparable, but was as singular. Knowing I was scheduled to see something called “Transamerica” — and knowing nothing else about it — I found myself watching a poignant, funny, revealing comedy about a pre-operative transsexual who discovers, on the eve of her re-orientation surgery, that she has a son. The lead actor, if not an actual transsexual, had certainly presented an authentic, honest portrait of a man on the gender fence, full of pathos, pain and well-chosen French sarcasms (“Quel damage ...”).

Only later did I realize the “actor” was Felicity Huffman. “Will you write about that?” a gleeful Huffman asks, inside an upper-story Hollywood hotel room, which seems part flight deck and part of a lost set for “Black Narcissus.” Huffman is looking quite gorgeous — gauzy skirt swirling around great legs, blue heels, a delicate top and sweater ensemble and her hair blown to blond perfection. We get it: She’s counter-programming her own characters — those of both “Transamerica,” (it opens Friday) and “Desperate Housewives,” the dizzyingly successful nighttime soap on which she plays hardened corporate creature Lynette. The effect is delicious, regardless of the motive.

A matter of timing.

Huffman got the role of “Transamerica’s” Bree Osborne — uptight telemarketer and all-around conservative (“I think she might be a Republican,” Huffman says.) — before “DH” premiered on ABC, and largely because writer-director Duncan Tucker had seen her work on the Off-Broadway stage. “I don’t get movie auditions,” says Huffman, who is married to actor William H. Macy, with

whom she has two young daughters. When asked, she says she would have taken on “Transamerica,” regardless of whether or not she’d been doing “Desperate Housewives” (“which I love,” she says in a whisper, as if someone were going to take it away). “It’s a brilliant script, a fantastic part for an actor,” she says. “But I know what you mean — ‘Would you have been protective of your image?’ I can only address it by saying, and I don’t want to be self-deprecating, but I’m not a beauty — it’s not my stock in trade, so I really didn’t have anything to protect.” She recalls a photo shoot she and her “DH” co-stars did during their first season. “We did a lot of photo shoots. And this photographer” — she adopts an Italian accent — “he said, ‘Hey, you know, on TV you are so old ... but here you are Hey look! She’s not so old....’ “It’s good I’m not a crazy actress. I would have been outta there.”



John Anderson

Huffman took the “Transamerica” role of Bree Osborne — unplanned parent (it seems there was this drunken night at college) — dead seriously. “When I got the part, which was shocking and surprising, I didn’t know how to bust into it,” she says. “Just the scale of it felt enormous — the physicality, the turmoil, everything else. So I first had to break it down emotionally to figure out what the internal journey was. And I think it’s a story about figuring out who you really are. I know that sounds trite, but I think that’s what it is we’re all trying to figure out.”



Felicity Huffman in “Transamerica”

She had the good fortune to meet Calpernia Addams and

Andrea James, transgendered film producers with the company Deep Stealth. After reading “everything I could find,” she said, she called them up. “I said, ‘Hi ... my name is Felicity ... and I’m doing this little independent movie ... and I have about six weeks to prepare ... and could you help me?’ And they opened their house to me, and I went over and heard all their stories — ‘What was it like when you dressed like a woman?’ ‘What was it like when you told your parents?’ ‘What was it like growing up?’ ‘What was the surgery like?’”

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Said James: "I've worked with many actors over the years, so it was a real treat to watch her process. Felicity asked really incisive questions about the essential truths of this character, and then expressed them with all sorts of subtle, nonverbal cues. I also work with a lot of people on finding a female voice, so it was interesting to watch her find something much lower and fuller than her current voice."

Praise for the performance. James, who appears at the beginning of "Transamerica" as a vocal coach, compared what Huffman did to an actual gender transition. "Her hard work has already earned her a best actress award at Tribeca for this role, and I have high hopes for additional recognition once the film is released theatrically," she said. "I loved the feel of the film.... It's great to see a film cover trans themes with humanity and humor, rather than pity and ridicule, and only an actor of Felicity's caliber can pull that off."

Huffman said that the mechanics of Bree are complex, as is the role: She is not, the actress said, playing a character who is playing a character. She's playing a character whose identity is in flux. "I know it gets a little convoluted," Huffman said. "It's kind of a pastry wrapped up in itself, because I'm a woman playing a man playing a woman. But Bree's not pretending to be anyone. She's a transgendered woman, which means she was born with the wrong genitalia. She's becoming a woman physically,

and feels like she's a woman inside and has been her whole life. Like she tells her mother. 'You know, you never had a son'." Building sympathy Huffman developed enormous sympathy for the plight of the transgendered. ("one of the last minority groups that it's perfectly all right to ridicule") in the course of researching the role. "I went to some transgender conventions," Huffman said. "One of the conventions was at a hotel, where people would drive up in cabs or their car, and then they walk from their car to the hotel. And I was standing with this woman who sort of escorted me around and we watched as this woman walked in and my escort said, 'You see that walk? That forty-foot walk she just did? It's excruciating.' Because she's out in the world and she's not comfortable until she gets in the room where people accept her. I thought, 'That's how Bree walks through her day.'"

And even though Bree Osborne at one point tells her psychiatrist, "Isn't it funny how plastic surgery can cure mental illness," an operation isn't a cure-all either. "You have to change your mind-set," Huffman said. "And if you can't change that, it doesn't matter what happens underneath your skirt."

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Felicity Huffman with husband William H. Macy

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Would You Like Your *Polare* To Arrive With You The Day It Goes To The Printer? In Colour? Even If You Change Your Postal Address And Forget To Tell Us?

As foreshadowed in issue 64 we would like to experiment with an emailed version of *Polare* in pdf format. You would receive it the same day it goes to the printer, no matter where you live in the world, and all illustrations received in colour would be available in colour, for you to admire onscreen or, if you have a colour printer, print out.

To enable us to do this we will need your email addresses. We guarantee their security. They will not be passed on under any circumstances and will not appear on other people's mailings ... they will be "blind" and only your own email address will appear on your copy of the emailed *Polare*.

The advantages to us will be twofold ... if enough people take part in this system we will save a lot on postage and something on printing costs. We would like to bring *Polare* out every two months but if the emailed edition does not prove popular we will need to remain quarterly

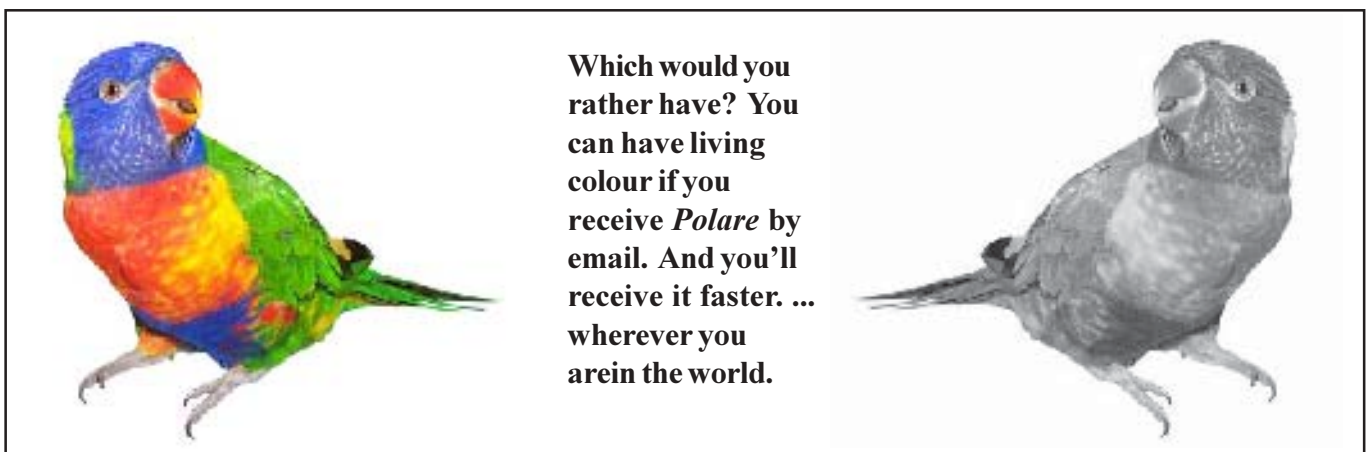
There will still be printed copies for those who do not have access to the Internet or who prefer to pick up the magazine anonymously at one of our Sydney City drop-off points. But every saving from the *Polare* budget will take us closer to returning to bi-monthly editions.

Please think about this carefully and email me on:

resourcestgc@bigpond.com

if you would like *Polare* emailed to you rather than having it posted to you. Thanks for your co-operation,

Katherine Cummings, Editor, *Polare*



Which would you rather have? You can have living colour if you receive *Polare* by email. And you'll receive it faster. ... wherever you are in the world.

Letters to the Editor

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LETTER FROM KATHY NOBLE TO THE GENDER RECOGNITION PANEL IN GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Steve Sandhu,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 November 2005, but can you please tell me where it disappeared to between the 13 September 2005 and your date of the 1 November 2005? It was received by GRP Secretariat on the 13 September 2005, according to an E-mail of acknowledgement.

We have heard from other TS people that there is yet another system in place, which is slowing down the Standard Track applications, as yet more evidence is needed to be able to receive a GRC [Gender Recognition Certificate]. It appears that the evidence being supplied is not enough. Is this correct?

Hope to hear from you soon. Also please be aware that the phone numbers you quote do not operate from Australia. We have to phone 0011 44 845 355 5155. Hope this may be of help, but would like advice as to any changes to acceptability of evidence for both the Standard and Fast Tracks that may have been made. There have been alterations made in regard to medical personnel who can write the reports if the applications from locations other than Britain, such as the verification in August 2005 of the change to GMC listed doctors only. We understand that this change dates back to June 2005, but we were not notified. Therefore, there are many who have applied under both tracks who are having their applications deferred pending more evidence of SRS having been carried out! We consider that as alterations are made to the rules we should be notified, as a lot of time, effort and money is involved. If an application is deferred and an extension of time is given to complete new requirements, it is our understanding that if the revised application is received after the date given for extension, then a further fee may be demanded.

Please verify these points, as the rules are confusing for people who cannot easily phone or pop in to Leicester to ask these questions. I am writing this solely for my own benefit, but for many of us in Australia and New Zealand. The GRP has upset a lot of people by the changes that have been made without informing anyone.

Also it appears that the Scottish applications do not use the same guidelines as England, such as the demand for evidence from GMC listed medicos. Several Scots resident in Australia here have had their applications processed not only to GRC, but to new Birth Certificates.

The Queensland Attorney-General considers the UK approach to giving recognition to transgender people quite bizarre! We are working on a GRC for people in Queensland. How long it will take is not known.

I hope you find this information useful. We would welcome answers to the questions I have raised.

Kathy Anne Noble [GRS/2005/0224]
President, Agender Australia and Changeling Aspects

A LETTER OF COMMENT ON TRANSITION, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MARGARET STUMPP

First let me thank the staff at the Gender Center for their help over the past few months and even though distance has prohibited a hands-on approach, just knowing there are people who have taken up our cause and are providing help whilst we face tremendous upheavals in our lives is somewhat comforting.

The issue I would like to raise in regard to the article on Margaret Stumpp is that of *when does a person transfor?* Margaret Stumpp suggestion is "...to only transition if you absolutely have to." And "...to be very secure in your job" etc. This to me is elitist bull s*** and a woman in her position should realise that transition is better than death for many of us and bugger the job. I'm fifty-seven and have been treated for severe depression for several years.

I have lived the life of a cabbage on anti-depressants and my physical health deteriorated to the point where suicide was becoming a very possible way out. And then BINGO she came in so strong that I could not ignore her. She had a new broom and swept away the remains of a guy who had denied her for far too long. c And "...to be very secure in your job" etc was the last thing on my mind. The very thought now of not transitioning fully would kill me and as I have been saying to the sceptics and misinformed I speak to, "I would sooner invite you to my Tupper Ware party than my funeral."

Prior to my really understanding transsexuality and that it was the issue that had permeated my life for so long, I had lived a very fragmented life, successful in many ways yet always knowing it was not enough... it wasn't me... I was never satisfied. I have embraced transition as a way of salvation, not financial security. I'm back to my best. I feel good about myself and I will get a new job and I will be successful again, no matter what happens. And if a boss doesn't like it he can shove it. And, as far as the front page elite transgendered women go, just remember girls,

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when you see an old tranny stacking shelves in the super market that s/he feels and breathes like you do and needed to change into the woman or man that s/he was born to be, sooner, NOT later.

Jasmine H.
Western Australia.

PS I have a trade certificate as a First Class Sheetmetal Worker, City and Guilds certification in the boot and shoe industry and a BA in Secondary Education (economics)

I have five children, three in their early thirties late twenties and two under eight years of age. My partner is still with me and we continue to have very good dialogue. As to the future I'm on hormones and will have FFS in April 2006 and plan to have SRS in 2007 - 08.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER REPORT

The first activity for 2006 will be Meditation Classes, run once a week for twenty minutes during the Wednesday night Drop In. The Minto Bush Camp has been postponed until 10 March 2006, and is already heavily booked so

There will be two support groups starting, Transgender Youth Support Group (ages from 16 to 25) and Transgender Support Group. Thanks to Sathya for facilitating the Make Up Classes which were very successful, and Sathya would like to continue the classes this year.

The Gender Centre Ball was magnificent. I would like to thank the people who volunteered their time and the transgender community for supporting the event. I'm in the process of organizing two steering committees, one for the 2006 Gender Centre Ball and the other for 2007 Mardi Gras Gender Centre Float. Please phone Sean if you're interested. I will be organizing a Community Forum and would like the transgender community to participate, any ideas for workshops, social activities, support groups and social events would be welcome. I will return to work after the Xmas break on Tuesday 3rd January 2006, and can be contacted on 9569 2366.

Sean Taylor

Community Support Worker

AgenderNSW

Agender NSW, is a non-profit organisation, co-ordinated by volunteers, to provide a social and support group for Transexed, Intersexed, Transgender, cross dressers, families and partners or anyone with gender related issues.

Our meetings are held once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Uniting Church Hall, 48 Regent Street and Portland Road, New Lambton at 6.30pm. Newcastle is a safe, friendly and supportive environment.

Meeting dates for 2006:

11 Jan, 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December.

AgenderNSW President Tanya is also MTF Representative. Josh is the FTM Representative. Glennise is a Sydney-based MTF Assistant to Tanya.

Our aim is to assist everyone with gender issues to achieve acceptance, self-confidence on their journey, as well as letting them know that they are not alone and that we offer them friendship as well as support.

We can assist with basic help and try to steer you in the right direction although we are not counsellors.

We are interested in working with all groups, not taking anything away from any individual nor destroying any group's identity, but rather knowing that all support groups are striving for the same issue. This could be a way of bringing all groups closer together.



We provide a newsletter and other information each month. All members, new and existing, are welcome to join us on these evenings. This gives you the opportunity to make new friends in the same situation as yourself. Contact details:

Agender NSW, PO Box 11, Windale, NSW, 2306 or phone Tanya (02) 4948 1012 or email agendernsw@yahoo.com or apples6@bigpond.net To browse the website go to agendernsw.20m.com Josh, FTM Representative on phone (02) 4937 2184 Glennise MTF Assistant Sydney-based on phone (02) 4578 2782

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For more information contact:

Kristin (GLBT Support Officer)

Direct 9206 2032

kmagill@acon.org.au

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community, health and action

Central Coast Support Group

The CCSG started in the 1990s and is a free, unfunded service to all with transgender issues. It is primarily a guidance service for anyone who is starting on Medical and Psychological requirements under the Benjamin Standards of Care.

(02) 4357 2221 Mon-Sat 10am-10pm

ccmrr@bigpond.com

On a hot Saturday night last June, Don Brunner arrived home with his wife and took off the last suit and tie he'd ever wear, knowing that the life he had always led was about to end.

The next morning, the New Milford plumber glanced one last time in the mirror and emerged from their split level - still very much a father and husband, but no longer a man.

This is a story about a family that could have spun apart, but instead pulled together. It's a story about a stunned New Jersey town that could have spurned a man but instead accepted - at times grudgingly - his transformation. And it's about three kids at that stage of life when conformity is everything, who found themselves in the last place they wanted to be: the center of a small-town drama.

Most men who become women leave one town as Michael and re-surface in another as Melissa. They start over far away from everyone they once loved, cleaving themselves from family, neighbors, co-workers and friends. Don Brunner - the man whose life revolved around his beloved wife and kids - was not willing to do that.

One year ago Thanksgiving weekend, the 47-year-old dad announced to his three children that his masculine exterior had never fitted and that someday he would become a woman. His oldest child, by then in college, wanted reassurance that her parents would stay together.

The middle one, 15, said he was "cool" with the news, though his nonchalance would later unravel. The youngest, at 12, buried her head in her mom's lap and sobbed. "I hate you!" she wailed. "Why are you ruining my life? What happens when everyone else finds out?"

Don Brunner worried about the same thing.

For as long as Don Brunner could remember, he wondered why God had mistakenly poured his soul into a male body. Even in elementary school, Don felt his place was with the girls, but they, like the teacher, disagreed. By 10th grade, when his parents discovered he had stolen his sister's bras and blouses and shoved them in his toolbox, they wordlessly took the clothes away. Don secretly cut a hole in his bedroom wall behind the bulletin board and began hiding his stash there instead.

All through high school, Don Brunner tried to wedge himself into a man's place. He played left tackle for Dwight Morrow High, joined the wrestling team and repaired air conditioners each summer for his uncle's heating and cooling business.

One evening after trying on women's clothes in the privacy of his bedroom, 16-year-old Don came down for a glass of milk and his parents - whose dinner guests were in the other room - noticed what Don had not: He was still wearing clip-on earrings. They sent him to a psychiatrist.

In their few visits, the doctor asked about his career plans. Don said he wanted to be an engineer or a doctor. Neither ever mentioned Don's odd habits.

In 12th grade, at a football game between Englewood and Englewood Cliffs, Don met Fran Gottschalk, a senior at St. Cecilia's High School in Englewood. He followed her to Wittenberg, a small private college in Ohio, so they could be together, and on a day neither clearly remembers, told her his secret. She giggled.

Together, they picked out his first wig from a catalog and his first bra at an Ohio mall. It was, Fran thought, all in good fun. In 1980, they married and soon after, migrated to New Milford, a town where police get more calls for loose dogs, lost cats and broken water pipes than for break-ins or vandalism.

By then, Fran was no longer amused by Don's tendencies. She resented the money he paid for skirts and high heels, thinking it better spent on the mortgage and diapers. As the kids got older, she didn't want to have to explain why their dad was wearing women's silk pajamas. Besides, life in the suburbs was all about conformity, and a husband wearing eyeliner and mascara was hardly normal.

Don battled his instincts, but not always successfully. Whenever Fran discovered that he had caved, she'd throw out his purchases, seething. As the years wore on, the kids sometimes wondered if their tense parents were close to divorce.

As he had in high school, Don surrounded himself with symbols of masculinity. In the early 1990s, Don took a job with a plumbing friend, training as his apprentice and eventually becoming a licensed master plumber. He coached pee-wee football when his son Scott was in elementary school. He helped Jessie, the oldest, build a telescope for her science project. He promised Scott they could take apart an old car and put it back together.

Together, Don and Fran built a family that was known in town for being strikingly close, one that attended each of the kids' sports games together. Don and Scott became so close that Scott, even as a teenager, accompanied his dad to every plumbing job he could.

In mid-2003, Don secretly began taking eight milligrams of estrogen every day. Under his drab, oversized plumber's



uniform, his thick, black chest hair disappeared, his leg and arm hair softened, his chest rounded. In August of last year, when Don came out of the Typhoon Lagoon at Disney World, his unsuspecting youngest child Alyssa yelled, "Dad, you've got man boobs!" Somehow, Don convinced himself Fran hadn't noticed.

Two months later, waiting in the car for Alyssa's soccer practice to end, Don broke down and told Fran about the hormones.

Wearily, she said, "I already know." Don confessed that he yearned for a sex-change operation but conceded that it would be years before they could save the thousands of dollars needed. Fran recoiled at the idea of the operation.

As Don's new shape became more apparent, he and Fran wondered if the drama privately unfolding in their marriage was somehow affecting the kids, the younger two of whom had long seen therapists for depression and low self-esteem. Both therapists, concerned that the kids sensed a family secret, urged the parents to come clean.

On Thanksgiving weekend, Don and Fran rounded up the kids, who flopped down on the bed like they always did for family chats. After the initial shock - and the reassurances that Don was staying in the family and would always be their dad - Jessie and Scott relaxed.

But Alyssa ran into her room, hurled herself onto her bed and screamed that she would never talk to her father again. For more than an hour, Don sat beside her, telling her that even though his clothing and body would be different, he was still the same person. Eventually, Alyssa thawed enough to roll over and sob: "Why can't you be a normal dad? Why do you have to give the boys at school something else to bully me about?"

Later that night, Alyssa called her best friend. "Everybody has weird parents," she groaned, "but mine beat them all."

Acceptance came in fits and starts. On Christmas morning, Alyssa gave her father a black Guess purse, similar to one she owned. Don saw it as a peace offering, but Alyssa, at 12, said she bought it only because she could think of nothing else.

Meanwhile, all through that winter and spring, Scott had been telling the football coach, Bill Wilde, he couldn't wait for the next season to begin. Daily, they would chat about neighboring teams, effective plays and Scott's performance the previous fall.

Off-season training began in March. Each morning, Scott told Wilde he would see him at practice. Each afternoon,

as Scott's teammates hoisted weights and panted around the track, Wilde would see, through the gym window, Scott walking home. He got more and more annoyed; Scott was big, strong and fast, and the defense needed him. Wilde had no clue that Scott's father was slowly becoming a woman, and no idea of how scared Scott was that one of his teammates would find out.

Don started dressing as a woman on family excursions out of town - to the Grand Street Cafe in Dumont, the Friendly's in Tenafly, Charlie Brown's in Oradell. He asked the kids to call him Denise instead of Dad when they were out in public. Scott diligently followed the rules. Alyssa hated her brother's complicity.

"He's not Denise!" she would shout, as onlookers turned their heads. "He's Daddy!"

One house at a time, Fran and Don began knocking on neighbors' doors to tell them that the man who had coached their children, hosted neighborhood barbecues and designed and built the town's best haunted house at Halloween would soon become a woman.

One man blurted, "Does that mean you're going to parade up and down the street in a skirt?" But most reacted in the usual neighborly way, asking how the kids were managing and offering to help in any way possible.

What was said behind Don's back was another matter. On the deli line, in the school parking lot and on the athletic field, tongues wagged: How could he do this to his kids? How could Fran put up with it? Why couldn't he wait until the children were grown?

Fran and Don met with the principals of the middle and high schools to ask that they help protect the kids. Both were supportive. The high school principal even asked Scott to stop by his office every Tuesday, just to assure him all was well.

In July, after Don had hauled the last of his male clothes to Goodwill and legally changed his name to Denise, gossip intensified.

Sometimes, the comments were crude.

Word spread that a couple of high school kids had tried to snap a photo of Denise sunning in a woman's bathing suit in the Brunners' back yard. Scott heard that some kids on the football team were laughing about his dad, and wound up in a shouting match. Another time, a boy in Alyssa's grade insisted that her father was weird. Alyssa flew into a rage and slapped him. In town, some men turned away whenever Denise appeared. The plumbing customers were less fazed. One gave Denise a hug when

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she arrived, then whispered, "Welcome to the other team." Another, in her seventies asked Denise for her bra size. "Maybe I can give you some of mine," she said.

Remarkably, life at home for every one of them became far easier. Denise was more relaxed and happy than Don had been, and to Fran's surprise, she found herself preferring Denise. Outsiders' predictions aside, the kids felt more confident that their parents' marriage would last than they had through all the years their dad was a man.

As the summer wore on, Coach Wilde started calling Scott at home, urging him to show up for preseason conditioning. Scott dodged the calls at first, but finally asked Wilde to come to the Brunners' house. When Wilde arrived, Scott introduced his family: "This is my mom, this is my kid sister, and this is my father. You've probably heard the rumors. He's transsexual."

"How ya doin', coach?" Denise said.

"I'm doin' good, Mr. Brunner," Wilde said, taken aback by Denise's nonchalance. "How are you?"

Scott told Wilde about his run-in with a teammate and explained how leery he was of facing more bullying. Wilde assured him he would talk with the boys, and would kick anyone who harassed him off the team. When Wilde left, he had Scott's promise that he would report to practice.

But Scott still didn't show up. When the team lost its first game in a 35-32 heartbreaker, short of subs and desperately in need of a spare defensive end, Wilde and his assistants decided on a new tack. The following Monday, one coach maneuvered Scott to the locker room handed him his equipment and suited him up.

The first few days, Scott hung back, hovering by the coaches. But once convinced that no one would taunt him, he threw himself back into the game he loved.

At the final game before the playoffs, Fran went off to sell hot dogs for the PTO. Alyssa - who had earlier rummaged through Denise's closet to borrow a belt and earrings - ran off with friends. Wearing rhinestone-studded jeans, small silver earrings and a soft-curved bob that was dyed strawberry blonde, Denise headed for the

bleachers. She nodded to passers-by, most of whom by now nodded back. Nearby, teenagers flirted, parents hawked raffle tickets, toddlers climbed up and down the bleachers. Friends of Alyssa and Jessie, seeing Denise, waved and called out hellos.

The maples in the distance were wrapped in brilliant red and yellow. Underneath, they were the same trees that had provided deep green shade all summer long.

Behind Denise sat a dad whose daughter once played soccer with Alyssa, a man who hadn't seen Don in a long time. Denise took a deep breath, then turned around and asked with forced casualness, "Hey, how ya doing?"

The man hesitated. "Oh!" he chortled, eyes widening. "Hey! How are you?!" He threw out his hand for Denise to shake.

"Good," said Denise. "A lot better now." They laughed.

"I guess you heard."

"Nah," said the man softly. "Nah, I didn't hear nothin'."

The man smiled. "I see your kids all over town," he said. "They're big now. ... They're

OK?"

"Yeah," said Denise. "Yeah, they're OK."

By the time the buzzer sounded, the New Milford Knights had trounced Leonia/Pal Park, 28-12.

Fifteen minutes later, Scott trotted over in his street clothes.

"Good game," Denise said, throwing an arm around her son.

"Thanks, Dad," he said.

Scott glanced at the almost empty bleachers and left the field, his kid sister, mother and father by his side.

This piece by Ruth Padawer first appeared in *The Record* on November 20, 2005 and appears here in its entirety, by kind permission of Ruth Padawer, *The Record* and the North Jersey Media Group.

In Idaho, inmate Linda Patricia Thompson wanted a transfer to a women's prison. A male-to-female transgender woman, or MTF, she had been living as a woman for several years, had changed her name legally, and was taking black-market estrogen when she could. Thompson had never been able to afford sex reassignment surgery, nor could she obtain hormones legally: the signatures of two physicians and a psychiatrist were required, and she couldn't afford the visits. Still, Thompson was assertively feminine, even in handcuffs. At the time of her arrest, she wore a dress and high heels.

But prison officials refused to transfer Thompson or to provide her with estrogen. Inmates are housed on the basis of genitalia, they told her, and in their eyes she was incontestably male. So Thompson took matters into her own hands - literally. In two separate incidents, she amputated her own male genitalia, nearly bleeding to death in the process.

"I thought she had to be nuts," recalls attorney Bruce Bistline, who handled Thompson's case. "But apparently that sort of self-mutilation is not extraordinary in the transgender prison population. The level of desperation is just that high."

When genitalia - not gender identity - decides placement

"I've been raped, physically beaten, extorted, pimped out/sold, intimidated, manipulated, threatened, humiliated, [and] harassed by both officers and inmates" writes transgender prisoner Meagan Calvillo of her experiences in various California prisons since 1999. Calvillo's description is not unusual. Outside of prison, transgender people are among the most marginalized in the United States; inside it, they confound a system that's ill-prepared to serve

them, or even to decide where to put them.

"There's no real legal standard" for determining the placement of transgender prisoners, says Chris Daly, director of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco.

At present, most California prisoners are assigned to male or female prisons on the basis of their genitalia, the same method applied by most states.

"There's a state-level mandate that prisons be segregated by sex, which they've interpreted to mean genitalia. Every prison we know of has interpreted it the same way," says Daly. As a result, transgender people who choose not to undergo sex reassignment surgery - or lack the means to do so - are housed with people of their birth gender.

"For instance," says Daly, "someone who's male-to-female, if she hasn't had surgery or hasn't been able to access it yet, will be housed with men - regardless of how long she's lived as a woman, or what her gender presentation is like."

One such person is Dee Farmer, an MTF whose landmark 1994 Supreme Court case, *Farmer v. Brennan*, found that prison authorities are liable for "deliberate indifference" to inmates' safety, including situations of likely sexual assault. Farmer brought the suit in 1990 after she was brutally raped and beaten by another inmate in an Indiana prison.

The assault occurred two weeks after she was placed in the general male population, despite her breast implants and longtime use of estrogen.

When housed with male prisoners, MTFs rapidly become the targets of sexual assault, as Farmer's case illustrates. Some, like Farmer, have developed breasts from surgery or years of estrogen treatment.

Others, though male in appearance, are immediately relegated to the bottom of prison's social hierarchies by virtue of their feminine self-presentation.

As for female-to-male transgender people [FTMs], "while they don't face the same type of violence [from fellow prisoners], they face a lot of oppression on the part of guards," explains Judy Greenspan, co-founder of the Trans/Gender Variant in Prison Committee (TIP).

"When they're strip-searched, many FTMs who have had their breasts removed or take hormones are put on display. It's psychological brutality. They're demonized."

Everyday humiliations for both MTFs and FTMs include verbal harassment, frivolous strip searches and gender-stereotypic "grooming standards," which set requirements for men and women's hair length, facial hair, and use of cosmetics.

"Prison guards refuse to call them by their chosen names or use their correct pronouns," says Greenspan, exasperated. "They look at trans- and gender-variant prisoners as deviant."

Isolation is no safe haven

Protective custody for so-called vulnerable inmates, including those who are HIV-positive, offers a modicum of safety to transgender prisoners - at least from assaults by other inmates. Another, more common option is to confine transgender prisoners individually, in what is known as administrative segregation.

"It's pretty much standard throughout California - except for San Francisco - that housing tends to be separate [for transgender prisoners]," explains James Austin, a physician affiliated with the Sacramento Sheriff's

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Department. “So most of the facilities are single cells. We don’t have any ability to accommodate them otherwise.”

However, when assaults come from prison guards, as they frequently do, administrative housing isn’t safe, either, and may even be worse. Many individual confinement pens are intended for short-term punitive stays, or for highly aggressive, violent prisoners.

“Administrative segregation is basically punishment,” explains attorney Alex Lee, director of the Transgender, Gender-Variant and Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP). “In

prison, people call it the jail. It’s much more restrictive, and a lot of trans folks in prison get put there simply because the prisons don’t know how to take care of them, and they’d rather err on the side of being more restrictive than not.”

In February 2004, a Wyoming judge ruled that prison officials violated the constitutional rights of Miki Ann Dimarco, a person with an intersex condition, by placing her in an isolated high-security lockup for over a year. At the time of her conviction for check fraud, Dimarco was placed at the Wyoming Women’s Center: an unintentionally appropriate choice. Born with genitalia that might either be classified as a microphallus or an enlarged clitoris, Dimarco identifies and lives publicly as a woman.

However, when medical staff saw Dimarco’s genitalia, flustered officials decided to hold her in complete isolation in the prison’s maximum-security wing. Though a prison evaluation placed Dimarco at

the lowest possible risk level, and doctors concluded she posed no sexual threat (she was “not sexually functional as a male,” according to staff), she was subjected to the same living conditions and restrictions as the Center’s most dangerous prisoners.

Administrative segregation “may ostensibly be a safer place,” Lee remarks, but “where are they going to put you to be away from the guards?” Many of Lee’s own clients won’t report abuse from other prisoners for fear of being placed in isolation. Or, as in the case of Tanya Smith, they’ll endure abuse to avoid it.



Tanya Smith

Former prisoners say “Sex was a way of survival”.

In 1995, when Tanya Smith was first incarcerated, she was immediately isolated as “a threat to the safety of the jail population, as a transgender,” she recalls. Smith is a tall African American transwoman with warm, dark eyes and a dainty silver nose ring. Recalling isolation, she purses her lips. “I couldn’t access any visitors. The mental health ward would not come see me at all.” Smith suffers from borderline personality disorder and requires a steady hormonal regimen. After six months, she was finally released to the general men’s population, a situation she found far preferable to isolation, which she refers to as “the hole.”

Three years later, when Smith returned to prison, a prison guard came on to her, saying “Ooh, you’re a real woman. Do you fuck?” Smith says she sometimes stripped for officers to get medical attention, but this guard

wanted more. “He threatened that I’d go back to the hole if I didn’t have sex with him - or oral copulation.” In exchange for sex, claims Smith, the guard kept her out of administrative segregation, protected her from other prisoners, and provided her with food, medicine and clothing, even alcohol and drugs. When asked how she felt about the officer, Smith merely shrugs. “It was a way of survival,” she says simply. “Why complain when I’d get thrown into the hole?”

In California, the most notorious isolation facilities are known as Security Housing Units, or SHUs. Antoine Mahan is a board member of California Prison Focus, which opposes the use of SHUs. He is also a former prisoner who spent two years in a SHU at Corcoran State Prison. Antoine’s rounded face is both feminine and masculine at once: he wears his hair long, and favors women’s blouses and headbands. “People think I’ve taken hormones,” he divulges, “but I never have. That’s just my androgynous features.” He identifies as an African American gay male cross-dresser, but says that, “in prison, I was seen as transgender.”

Homeless, drug-addicted and HIV-positive, Mahan ricocheted between prison and the street from 1991 to 1997. Like Smith, he was approached by officers and prisoners for sex, regardless of his HIV status. Some assailants may have been HIV positive already; others may have wanted oral sex, which has a relatively low transmission rate. At a reception center for HIV-positive inmates, an officer began courting Mahan with food and gifts, hinting that he wanted sexual favors. Later, at the California Men’s Colony [CMC], Mahan says, “I had a lot of guys getting at me, and a lot of officers harassing me sexually. I was what they call in prison

terms 'fresh booty.'" But the SHU, says Mahan, was far worse. In 1997, following a scuffle with another CMC prisoner, Mahan was transferred to Corcoran State Prison, one of the few California prisons equipped with a SHU. There, he says, "I went through more hell than I've ever been through in my life."

Mahan describes the SHU as "a nine by five cell - nine by five by six, that's the length, the width and the height. It was a box. No ventilation whatsoever." According to California Prison Focus, SHU prisoners spend at least twenty-three hours a day in their cells, have no phone access, compromised medical care, and no work training or educational programs.

It is unclear whether transgender prisoners are routinely assigned to California's few SHUs, but California Prison Focus alleges that inmates accused of gang affiliation are regularly assigned there, regardless of their behavior, in a "draconian" effort to wipe out gangs. If transgender prisoners are perceived as making trouble - or provoking it - a similar rationale might apply.

Sky-high incarceration rates among trans people

"There were a lot of queens in jail," Mahan mentions offhandedly. Transgender and gender-variant people, as a population, are incarcerated at even higher rates than the general population of African American men, although the majority of those incarcerated are also people of color.

In San Francisco, a 1997 study conducted by the city's Department of Public Health found that sixty-seven percent of MTF respondents and thirty percent of FTM respondents had a history of incarceration. Almost a third of MTF

respondents had been jailed in the past year. The numbers are staggering: among U.S. adults, only three percent are or have been incarcerated. Overall, "unless they're rich, [most transgender people have] spent a little time in jail," says Judy Greenspan.

TIP volunteer Nedjula Baguio, an



Alex Lee

MTF, offers one explanation: employment discrimination. Trans people are at a disadvantage in today's service economy, she says, regardless of whether they can "pass." Trans people who pass are more easily recognized as their presented gender: they may have taken hormones for many years or opted for breast implants or removal.

Those who don't pass are less easily categorized. Some are mid-transition, some lack the funds for hormones or surgery, and others feel at home between - or across, or beyond - the categories of male and female.

"I don't think I ever pass," says Baguio, despite her lean figure and softly curving mouth; she recalls a tense stop at a rural diner while en route to Vacaville, and winces.

Her light skin is patterned with evocative tattoos: a heart being sewn up, a marionette cut from its strings.

Trans people who don't pass "freak people out," Baguio says simply, and in a service economy, that's fatal. "Most people don't want to have anything to do with you as a potential employee, for all the obvious reasons. Your gender presentation is going to be perceived as 'freakish,' and nobody will want to deal with you, period. You're seen as interfering with money-making."

Smith agrees. Drug-free and out of prison, her job search hasn't been easy, as a former inmate or as a transwoman. "There's not a lot of people willing to hire us," she complains.

But finding work is no picnic for trans people who pass, reports Baguio: when supplying references or a work history for employers, they face another dilemma. If a prospective boss calls a former employer, and asks about Susan - only to hear all about Sean - their reaction may not be charitable.

Consequently, a disproportionate number of trans people engage in sex work. Many turn to drugs to cope with the degradation they experience as transgender people and as sex workers, and are eventually incarcerated for prostitution or drug-related offenses - what Lee calls "survival crimes." Others develop mental illness, another risk factor for landing in jail. Because employment discrimination, arrests, and sentencing patterns fall hardest on low-income people - predominantly people of color - transwomen of color are the majority of the trans prison population.

"It affects queer and transgender people across the board," explains Baguio, "but for those communities [low-income people and people of color], you're dealing with a double whammy." Baguio offers her own experience as a multiracial

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transwoman for contrast. "I'm perceived as lighter-skinned. I'm not targeted a lot. I live in a neighborhood with a lot of hip artists; I'm not living in Lincoln, Nebraska. I have a job where they've been accepting of my transition, and it's not an issue. I make a decent wage and have been able to spend a fair amount of money on my transition, including electrolysis, health care and access to hormones."

Baguio also transitioned after college, insulating her from the hazards of the service economy. She hasn't needed to engage in sex work, and hasn't been exposed to its attendant health risks.

HIV prevalent, hormone provision a battle

Dr. Lori Kohler is the founder of California's only health clinic for trans prisoners, located at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. The dominant health issue among trans prisoners, she reports, is HIV/AIDS.

"Anywhere from sixty to eighty percent [of transfeminine prisoners] at any given time are HIV-infected," she says. "And many are also Hep-C infected. The next greatest problem is addiction."

Most of the prisoners Kohler sees are transwomen of color, incarcerated for nonviolent offenses related to drugs or sex work. Like Baguio, she cites the cycle of unemployment, sex work, and drug addiction.

"These are not women that are working to pay for their drugs - these are women who are working for their lives, and end up using drugs to tolerate the life they're forced into," she contends.

Kohler has been working with transgender patients since 1994, when she took a job at the recently founded Transgender Clinic of the

Tom Waddell Health Center in San Francisco. In 1999, the chief medical officer of the Vacaville facility approached Dr. Kohler and asked her to establish a clinic for the prison's trans inmates. At the time of the clinic's founding, the chief medical officer estimated that Kohler would be serving a total population of ten to fifteen patients. Six years later, Kohler says she's seen roughly 3,000 unduplicated patients, and that there are about sixty trans prisoners at CMF at any given time.

Kohler says that her exposure to trans health issues is unusual among health professionals. "Care of trans people is not something that most medical people understand," she says, and sighs. This ignorance is manifested most clearly, she says, in the issue of cross-gender hormone provision.

"As far as I know, CMF and now CMC [California Men's Colony] are the only two prisons in the country that actually have a physician who's dedicated to providing good care, including cross-hormone therapies," says Kohler. "In all other California prisons, access to cross-gender hormones is not guaranteed. It's sporadic and inconsistent, and only given to very few people."

In 2003, a U.S. District Court in Boston ruled that transgender prisoner Michelle Kosilek was entitled to hormone therapy; in the same year, New Hampshire ruled in favor of similar claims by state prisoner Lisa Barrett. Courts have generally recognized the responsibility of prisons to continue hormone treatment and psychological therapy, in compliance with the Eighth Amendment prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment, which courts have interpreted to include the deliberate withholding of medical treatment. However, prisons have

often been reluctant to provide hormone therapy if inmates do not have an existing prescription. Because low-income transwomen of color usually acquire hormones through the black market, few can furnish legal prescriptions.

As a result, explains Kohler, "most transwomen who are incarcerated end up being taken off their hormones unless they can get a court order - they have to use the legal system to have access to their appropriate medical care."

And in other States, she adds, "it's virtually impossible for them even to get a court order to access care."

Side effects of hormone deprivation can include depression, heart problems, and irregular blood pressure.

Undeterred, Kohler prescribes cross-gender hormones to any trans-identified prisoner: a renegade position among prison medical staff, who routinely ignore her prescriptions. "I'd say about half the medical staff will refill my medical orders if I'm not around, and the other half will not recognize my recommendations," she says. "But I don't think that's any different than the medical community outside the prisons."

No option but jail: Linda Thompson today

After her life-threatening self-mutilation and the lawsuit that followed, Linda Thompson was eventually transferred to Dr. Kohler's Vacaville facility in California.

She was also granted a cash settlement contingent upon a confidentiality agreement about the suit. However, Bruce Bistline's co-counsel, Lea Cooper, says that Thompson chose to violate the terms of the settlement agreement, foregoing most of the settlement money.

“Linda decided that she wanted to get the word out,” says Cooper. “That meant more than money to her.”

In California prisons, Thompson was finally able to access estrogen. Because her genitalia are not readily identifiable as female or as male (something of a conundrum for prison assignment), she was housed in a small facility with other transwomen and gay men.

After her release, Thompson sought jobs in Oregon, Wyoming, Los Angeles, and Washington, but couldn't find paid work - not even sex work. “She said she was too masculine to turn tricks,” Cooper explains.

Eventually, at a loss for what to do next, Thompson was arrested for stealing copper wire from a construction site. “She told the judge she did it [got arrested] on purpose, because she didn't have any more options,” Cooper says.

Thompson is currently incarcerated at the Monroe Correctional Center in Monroe, Washington; on the basis of her birth genitalia, she has been housed in the men's facility. As Cooper describes it, “Linda jokes, ‘What do I have to do, start menstruating to be considered a woman?’”

Prison mirrors what's going on in the outside, so-called free world.

Though both do work that benefits trans prisoners, neither prisoners' rights groups nor transgender advocates have specifically taken up their cause.

“Transgender issues are not on the radar screen of most prisoners' rights groups,” says Judy Greenspan, “and the transgender movement may not be prioritizing prisoners' issues because they're involved in trans survival and support services on the street.”

The Trans/Gender Variant in Prison Committee, co-founded by Greenspan, and the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project, founded by Alex Lee, are two notable exceptions. Greenspan identifies as a gender-variant white woman: biologically female, she doesn't conform to societal expectations of female behavior or appearance. She wears men's clothing, cuts her hair short and is occasionally taken for a man. For twenty years, Greenspan has worked with transgender prisoners, including Dee Farmer of Farmer v. Brennan. Lee is an FTM Asian American attorney who became interested in prison issues during law school and sought to connect them to transgender advocacy.

Lee believes the void in advocacy results from mainstream queer organizations' “assimilationist politics. They want to pretend that we are all law-abiding citizens, that we're perfect angels who want to be just like ‘normal’ straight people.” In doing so, he says, such groups jettison trans prisoners, who are predominantly low-income people of color.

Both TIP and TGIJP advocate for trans prisoners who are currently incarcerated, but when asked, Lee says that “the [long-term] change needs to happen before people go to prisons.”

As Greenspan explains, “prison mirrors what's going on in the outside, so-called free world. There are really no rights in the community, unless you're living in San Francisco.”

But even in San Francisco County Jail, reports Tanya Smith, trans people are reviled. “You'd think the officers out here would think outside the box, in this liberal city, but they don't. It's horrible.”

In light of this reality, Linda Thompson's choice to be rearrested makes sense, despite the harassment she continues to face as a prisoner. For many transpeople, all the world's a prison - on both sides of the bars.

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**P L E A S E
 NOTE!**

Apart from the Wednesday night and Friday morning drop-ins, you should make an appointment before coming to the Gender Centre. This helps us to plan and saves you disappointment.

PLEASE NOTE!

Appointments for counselling should be made directly with Gaye Stubbs, the Gender Centre Counsellor.
 Phone 9569 2366
 on Tuesday or Wednesday.



You're invited to Dinner!



**Friends/Family
all welcome**

**WEDNESDAY
nights
6 - 8pm**

**Yummy food - New friends
- Free -**

75 Morgan Street - Petersham



NEEDLE EXCHANGE

75 MORGAN STREET,
PETERSHAM
(02) 9569 2366
10am-5.30pm
Monday to Friday

A confidential free service for people with gender issues (*See Phinn Borg, Outreach Worker*)

Sharps Containers

Pill Filters
Condoms
Spoons
Water
Fit Packs
Swabs
Dams



Syringes
1ml, 2.5ml,
ml
eedles
g, 23g,
g, 26g

or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr advice, information and referral service. Sydney 02 9331 2111

A REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR

Please save the Editor unnecessary keyboarding by sending your *Polare* contributions by email or on a floppy disk, if possible.

We didn't use a condom and now I'm worried about HIV

THERE'S A TREATMENT CALLED PEP THAT MIGHT STOP YOU GETTING INFECTED*

Within a few hours and no later than 3 days.

CALL THE PEP 24 HOUR HOTLINE
1800 737 669
1800 PEP NOW

For more information and your nearest location AN INFORMATION BROCHURE ABOUT PEP IS AVAILABLE AT VENUES, SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRES, ACON, NUAA AND SWOP OR VISIT WWW.ACON.ORG.AU

Queensland Gender Centre

The Queensland Gender Centre is run solely by a transsexual here in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia with the aim of assisting those in need of accommodation and assistance.

It is open to all those who identify as transsexuals and who are mentally stable and drug and alcohol free.

The location of the shelter is kept confidential to protect the tenants. The accommodation is in an upmarket suburb on Brisbane's upper north side.

You can stay either up to six months or twelve months and we can house up to six people at a time.

If you want more information or are interested in assisting with the project please telephone, write or e-mail the Queensland Gender Centre (see p.38 for contact details)

GENDER CENTRE EVENTS CALENDAR 2006

Items marked * must be pre-booked. If you are interested in taking part, contact Sean or Dan on (02) 9569 2366 or email socialsupport@bigpond.com

POLARE	january Wed 18 HIV/Aids information session 6.30pm	february	march
POLARE	april	may	june
POLARE	july	august	september
POLARE	october	november	december

For more information see the Gender Centre's website at www.gendercentre.org.au or contact Sean at socialsupport@bigpond.com.au or phone 9569 2366 and ask for Sean or Dan

**Friday 11am - 1pm
Drop-in Coffee Morning**

**Wednesday
Drop-in dinner
6-8 pm**

**Op-Shop Extravaganza! Call
Sean to RSVP!! (See ad. p.13)**

MENTAL HEALTH #1

SUICIDE

QUEER

Lama Sealbrook's

STUFF

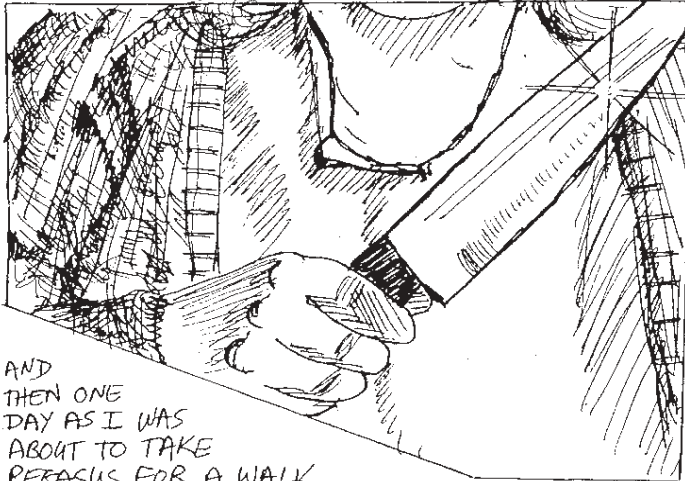
© 2002



THIS INSTALLMENT OF "QUEER STUFF" ISN'T ABOUT THE TOPIC I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED. I WAS GOING TO START A SERIES ON "DISCRIMINATION". BUT THAT SUBJECT JUST DIDN'T SIT RIGHT. I HAD A GUT FEELING THAT I NEEDED TO TACKLE "MENTAL HEALTH" INSTEAD.

BUT JUST WHAT IS "MENTAL HEALTH"? DID I REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT? EXACTLY WHICH TOPIC TO START WITH WAS A REAL QUANDARY. BUT THEN I DID KNOW, BECAUSE I BECAME...
...SUICIDAL

NOW THIS HASN'T BEEN THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN SUICIDAL. BEEN THERE, ALMOST DONE THAT, BUT WITHOUT A T-SHIRT TO PROVE IT, BEFORE.



AND THEN ONE DAY AS I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PEGASUS FOR A WALK.



THIS TIME AROUND I WAS FEELING RUN-DOWN AND LOW, WORRIED ABOUT PROBLEMS AND HAVING A RUN OF BAD EVENTS AND SHIT HAPPENING.

SIGH - NO \$\$\$
- FEEL ISOLATED & LONELY - URINARY TRACK INFECTIONS - COMPUTER'S BROKE - CAR NEEDS REPAIRS - SIGH - POOR ME



OK "POOGLES", TIME FOR A BUSH WALK...
WHAT THE!?

IT WAS JUST ALL SO BIZARRE! JUST WHY DID I HAVE 1/2 A PARKING TICKET ON MY FRONT WINDSCREEN?

I COULDN'T GO ON THE WALK. INSTEAD I TOOK PEGGY HOME & FELL INTO A SUICIDAL FRAME OF MIND.



HOW COULD I... BUT-BUT-BUT I DON'T DESER...

WHINE
WHINE
CLICK



HELLO? PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY CENTRE? LOOK-UM-ER I GUESS I NEED HELP.

IT SEEMED THAT ALL MY KITCHEN KNIVES WERE A LITTLE TOO BLUNT FOR ME TO DO THE JOB, AND THE CRAFT KNIFE WAS TOO OLD. SO I PHONED FOR HELP.

I'M A BIT BETTER NOW, THOUGH I HAVE A LOT TO SORT OUT BEFORE I'M "OUT OF THE WOODS"...



ANYWAY, SOME IDEAS ABOUT SUICIDE STUFF.

LOTS OF PEOPLE SAY LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS ABOUT SUICIDE... / THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT IT WON'T DO IT. (WRONG)

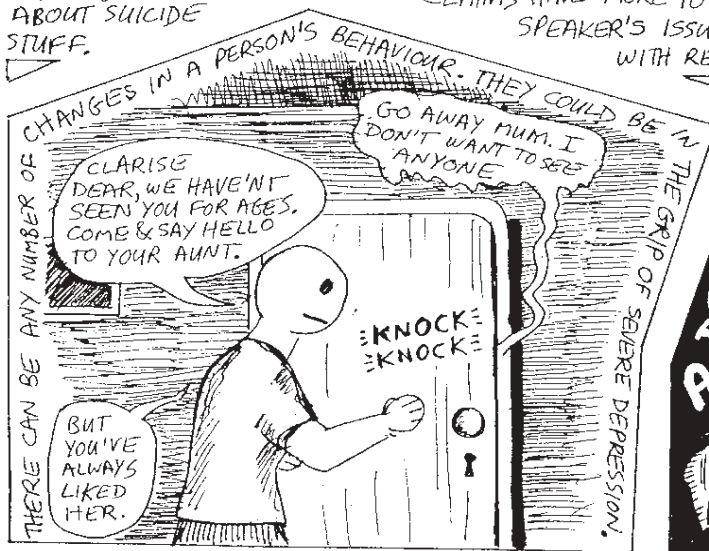


ALL SUICIDAL PEOPLE ARE CRAZY! (FALSE)
PEOPLE DO IT JUST FOR THE ATTENTION (NO!)
SUICIDES JUST HAPPEN WITHOUT ANY WARNING. (ONLY SOME TIMES)

BUT CONSIDER THIS - JUST MAYBE SOME OF THE CLAIMS HAVE MORE TO DO WITH THE SPEAKER'S ISSUES THAN WITH REALITY.

TRUTH IS, SUICIDE SELDOM COMES OUT OF THE BLUE, BUT IS THE ENDPOINT TO A LONG SEQUENCE OF STRESS.

SEX WORK, PUTTING SHIT IN RELATIONSHIPS, ARGUMENTS, MOVING HOUSES, STUFF, BILLS & LOSS, ABUSE, DRUGS, ACCIDENTS, GIBB



SOMETIMES ONE MORE EVENT CAN BE THE "TRIGGER" THAT SETS A SUICIDE ATTEMPT IN MOTION...



SO IF YOU'RE SUICIDAL, JUST WHAT CAN YOU DO?

GET HELP * TALK TO SOMEONE, EITHER FACE-TO-FACE, ON THE PHONE OR BY INTERNET.

ACCEPT YOUR FEELINGS

- * IT'S OK TO FEEL "NOT OK".
- * JUST BECAUSE YOU FEEL A CERTAIN WAY DOESN'T MEAN YOU ALWAYS WILL.
- * TREAT YOURSELF WITH COMPASSION.



OVERCOME ISOLATION

- * SEEK OUT PEOPLE YOU CAN BE HONEST WITH.
- * RESEARCH RESOURCES ON THE NET, LIBRARY & COMMUNITY.

AND IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE SUICIDAL, OR VERY DEPRESSED, WHAT CAN OR SHOULD YOU DO?

DISCUSS

- * TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES.
- * SUGGEST IDEAS.
- * EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS.

LISTEN

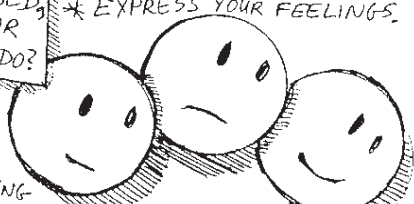
- * DON'T FORCE ADVICE.
- * DON'T MINIMISE THEIR PROBLEMS.
- * DON'T "EXPLAIN" AWAY THEIR EMOTIONS.
- * TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY.

MAKE CONTACT

- * DO SOMETHING SOCIALLY WITH THEM.
- * OFFER TO HELP AND TO LISTEN.

EMPATHY

- * ENCOURAGE THEM TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS.
- * SHOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE.
- * NO PLATITUDES!



"RAZORS PAIN YOU;
RIVERS ARE DAMP;
ACIDS STAIN YOU;
AND DRUGS CAUSE CRAMP.
GUNS AREN'T LAWFULL;
NOOSSES GIVE;
GAS SMELLS AWFULL;
YOU MIGHT AS WELL LIVE!"

The Forgotten Veterans

Issue Sixty-Six

"Diving Officer, bring ship to periscope depth."

"Bring ship to periscope depth, Diving Officer, aye."

"Prepare to fire tubes One and Four."

"Tubes One and Four ready."

"Fire!"

"Torpedoes away. Running hot, straight and normal."

That scene did not come from a WWII submarine movie but from my memory when we did torpedo tests in the Pacific. At the time, I was stationed on the *USS Flasher* (SSN 613,) a nuclear-powered submarine. I am a Navy veteran and I am also a transgender person.

A few years back, a reporter from the *Sacramento Bee* wrote a scathing article about a small veterans memorial in front of the California State Capital Building dedicated to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender veterans. In his article, he stated something to the effect that the term "transgender veterans" was an "oxymoron." He must have assumed that transgender people are born with something that exposes their situation to the rest of the world, so they could never join the military. Everyone would know they are transgendered. Not so.

In reality, most people having a gender identity issue are not fully aware of it until much later in life, long after they have passed the earliest age of which one can join the military.

Other male-to-female transgender people who are aware of their situation early on may join to prove their manhood, or for female-to-male transgender people, to do a job just like natal men do. During the Vietnam War, some joined and volunteered to fight in-country because they felt the Viet Cong could take care of their "problem" for them.

Like gays, lesbians and bisexual people, it would be safe to assume that transgender people have also served in every war America has fought. Web site <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvets.html> chronicles just a few of the women who fought as men in the Revolutionary War. On web site <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvets3.html> you can read about Lucy Brewer who served as a male sailor on Old Ironsides under the name of George Baker during the War of 1812. At web site <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvets2.html> you can read about women who fought in the Civil War as

men. Their identities remained a secret until the day they died. And, on web site <http://www.majorcox.com/columns/buffalo.htm> it talks about Cathay Williams, an African-American woman who became William Cathay and served as a Buffalo Soldier in 1866.



Monica F. Helms

These are just the stories of the women who lived as men and fought for their country. In the 20th Century wars, inductees into the military had to take a physical before they could get in. This cut back on women serving as men. However, many women served as nurses, putting them in the line of fire, which some of them may have looked forward to doing in order to make up for not fighting alongside the men.

When the country initiated the draft, men who felt as if they should have been born a woman fought right next to non-transgender soldiers and sailors. The most famous WWII transgender veteran was without a doubt Christine Jorgensen. Even though doctors had started doing sex-change operations in the 1930s, Christine made the procedure well-known when she came back from Denmark in 1952, right after her operation. She became such big news that she knocked the first H-bomb test right off the front page.

These days, with the Internet and high-speed communications, transgender veterans have come together in groups and organizations, the most notable being the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA,) located at www.tavausa.org. TAVA has members across the country who fit all aspects transgender and intersexed people. The organization has veterans who have served as far back as WWII and every war afterwards. One member who recently served in Iraq would E-mail the TAVA group list on her exploits. She recently came home to begin her transition from male to female.

It is estimated that the number of transgender and intersex people in the population is between .5 to two per cent. This includes any person who crosses the gender lines either on a permanent or temporary basis, such as transsexuals, drag kings and queens, crossdressers and other gender queer people. The number of military people who have served in all the wars is about 48 million, which would mean that the number of transgender people

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who would have served in the military could be between 240,000 and 960,000 since the Revolutionary War. The estimates are that there are 24.5 million veterans still living in America today. By keeping the same figures of from .5 to 2 percent, this would mean that there are from 122,500 to 490,000 transgender veterans living today.

Given all the information that indicates transgender people have served this country in every war, it still amazes me on how easily our service is forgotten by gay, lesbian and bisexual people, especially around Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day. During these patriotic holidays, news items come out about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law and how it needs to be repealed. Since the law has the intent of dealing with homosexual behavior in the military,

people forget that as far as the military is concern, anyone with a gender identity issue is also consider a homosexual. Because of this, several transgender people have already been discharged under Don't Ask Don't Tell. Many GLB people forget this when talking about lifting the ban, so they do not include their transgender brothers and sisters in their thinking.



Monica, 1970

Transgender people have served America proudly. They have received every medal this country has to give to its military personnel, including the Congressional Medal of Honor. They have been in every war and are serving today. They died for freedom, they became wounded for freedom and they came home with mental and physical problems, all because they fought for freedom. They need to be remembered, all the time and every time gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans are mentioned. Let us not forget any veteran and treat all of them with the respect they deserve. And, let us not forget the transgender veterans. We served, too.



Op-Shop Extravaganza!

The Gender Centre is interested in getting a small number of people out and about for some opportunity shopping.

The group will visit a number of second-hand shops in the area whilst also providing moral support and (of course) positive fashion advice.



All clients are encouraged and indeed most welcome to sign up and participate in these events.

Put on your comfortable shoes and bring along some money for the purchases you will make on the day.

To RSVP contact Sean on 9569-2366 or email socialsupport@bigpond.com

Transgendered?

**Would you like
somewhere to go
on Sunday that
accepts you just
the way you are?**

I'm a Pastor looking to start a church in the Sydney area for CD/TG/TS folks.



If you or your SO are interested in attending services, please contact Ps Oliver McMahon at tg@ourlivinghope.info

Gender Centre Library

To borrow books you will need to become a member of the Library. You will need to supply personal details (phone number, address etc.) You can make an appointment to join and see the Library by phoning 9569 2366 on Monday or Wednesday. Ask for the Resource Worker.

Video tapes are not for loan but can be viewed, by appointment, in the Gender Centre.

The Library is now housed just outside the Community Space at the Gender Centre.

**Books may be borrowed for
3 weeks**

If you are isolated for any reason and would like to have material mailed to you, please let the Resource Worker know. Don't forget to include your mailing address!

Change of mailing list?

Mail to:

**Polare - The Editor
The Gender Centre Inc
PO Box 266
Petersham
NSW 2049**

different Gender?
different Address?
different Name?
no more *Polares* thanks?

All my OLD details

All my NEW details



Do you have questions?

Would you like to talk to others in your situation?

Do you need help coping?

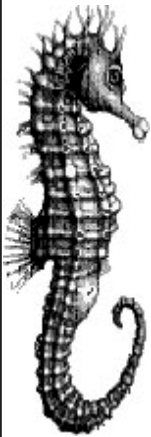
GET-TOGETHERS for Parents, Partners, Friends and Family OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

will be held in response to demand. Phone 9569 2366 and ask for Sean to indicate your interest

In order to allow parents, partners and friends to talk freely and discuss their feelings it is preferred that transgenders do not attend

Want to compare notes?





THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY is a self help group based in Sydney open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, social outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a monthly newsletter.

NSW Seahorse Society

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW INC
PO BOX 168 WESTGATE NSW 2048

Call us on **0423.125.860** and our website is:
www.seahorsesoc.org
Email: crossdress@seahorsesoc.org

“crossdress with dignity”

problems?

You can write to
The Counsellor
The Gender Centre
PO Box 266
Petersham
NSW 2049

questions?

If you do not wish to be identified, make up a name for yourself or come in and talk confidentially with the Counsellor (by appointment only)

concerns?

Hours
9am - 5pm
Monday and Tuesday only
Email:
counsellortgc@bigpond.com.au
Elizabeth Anne 9569 2366

let the beautiful you shine

Make-up Application Department & Self Esteem

Transgender Specialist

Sharon White

AGENCIES

(08) 8277 8085 Mob.0412 183 151

swa@bigpond.net.au

www.sharonwhiteagencies.com.au

PLEASE

READ THIS!

If you are moving, please tell us your new address.

Undeliverable issues of *Polare* waste money that could be used for other services.

Central Coast Transgender Group Forming

A group aimed at networking persons of transsexual history and who live/work on the CENTRAL COAST of NSW, AUSTRALIA. Transsexuals, others identifying as transgender, crossdressers and partners who have a connection with the Central Coast are welcome to join. This group is about fostering friendship amongst ts, cd, tg persons and the rest of the trans community. Even if group emails are not your thing please join the contact list (in DATABASE) so that it might act as an email and postcode directory of who's who on the Central Coast. Feel free to email and introduce yourself to both the group and any members near your postcode:) Whether you are a crossdresser who prefers their topic to be crossdressing; or a transsexual who prefers to converse on matters of transition please respect and tolerate every members right to be different and remember the primary goal is to facilitate contact :) NOT A DATING SITE; SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT OR CONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/centralcoastts/>

Queer Out West

89.3 FM 2GLF *Community*

Radio

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT FROM 10.00PM
UNTIL MIDNIGHT

Proudly broadcasting to the gay,
lesbian, bisexual and transgender
communities in Sydney's West and all
those friendly to the issues

THE GOAL OF "Queer Out West" is to
provide a forum for groups and
individuals to let the community know
about social events, fund-raisers and
other community activities in the
western suburbs, as well as playing
some great music and having a bit of
fun along the way!!

So join Joe, Paul, Beverly, Suze, Matt
and Kathy every Monday night from
10.00pm until midnight.

Do you want to contact us? There are a
number of ways...

For social events, fund-raiser and out n'
about contact

Miss Beverly Buttercup via:

email: beverlybuttercup@hotmail.com

Fax: (02) 9605.3252

or write to:

PO Box 3357 Liverpool, NSW 2170

For general enquiries, community news,
contact Joe or Paul via:

email: queeroutwest@hotmail.com

phone: (02) 9822 8893 (10pm-midnight
only)

We are joined once a month by
Jonathon Street from ACON
Western Sydney. If you have any
enquiries or questions you can
contact him via
email: aconwest@acon.org.au
phone: (02) 9204 2400

AUBURN SEX WORKER PROJECT

**If you are involved in the
sex industry and live or
work in the Auburn area,
why not drop in for a
cuppa and chat to us
about the services you
want in the area.**

**This service provides free
condoms, lube, dental dams,
needle exchange, information
and referrals.**

Please call Sashi on (02) 9646 2233

or

0408 445 753

for a confidential and anonymous
chat or drop in at the Community
Health Centre

at

9 Northumberland Road,

Auburn

(next to RSL)

This project is run by the HIV/HEP C Prevention
Service to increase the services available to
sex industry workers who either work or live
in the Auburn Local Government Area.

**Don't Forget To Tell Us If
You'd Like To Receive
The Email Edition of
*Polare!***

In CoLoUR!!!

And Sooner!!!!

resourcestgc@bigpond.com

An Open Letter To The Community from Jenny Lovelace

Happy Holidays!

Many of you have been good to me this year and I am not sure how I can adequately say thanks to any of you – but I am saying thanks to all. I am so very grateful.



Jenny Lovelace

Being so busy with post-graduate studies has made being fully myself difficult and this will continue well into 2006. When my studies are complete I will start creating the life I have planned. This includes my transgender research which continues quietly, almost passively. Contacts in Australia and overseas continue to expand. I am collecting a broad range of transgender data that is clinical, biological, anthropological, sociological, historical, legal and so on. This is often quite easy because there is much in writing and many people, both academics and lay people, are more than happy to assist or to exchange information if they too are researching.

I have started from the basic notion, shared by many transgenders and researchers, that the extreme advocacies of either end of the nature-nurture debate are based on low quality research, which I and others must competently critique if any views we put forward are to have any meaning or usefulness. Too often, conclusions seem to be dogmatically drawn to fit an ideology rather than from an adequacy of data and a competency of analysis. Reality is whatever it truly, and only, is!

As a clinician I am primarily interested in helping people like us, and those who are close to us, to come to know who and what our unique, true and unimpeded feelings about who and what we are - really are. Then, and only then, can the influences of what (we think!) we know about biology and environment be brought to bear to help all of us to deepen our own understanding of, and our responses to, who and what we are so that we can make our own decisions with the best possible chance of having no regrets – ever.

It is incumbent upon all of us to be totally honest with ourselves first, and then with our helpers if we are to be capable of truly knowing who and what we are and what our best options are – irrespective of the opinions and wishes of anyone else. It is also incumbent upon us as supporters and professional practitioners, especially those of us who are counsellors, to be able to read and crosscheck the outward signs of ‘inner truth’, verbal, vocal, dermatological, behavioural and so on, so that we

may at least increase our ability to assess with accuracy the degree of self-knowing and honesty within the people we support. It does not matter how much people who lie are responsible for the consequences of their own dishonesty. It does matter that we hone our own skills of observation through every sense to ensure that we reduce, as far as possible, the kind of tragedies that, around the world, all too often happen when unprepared transgenders are confronted with realities that they could have been helped to pre-evaluate.

Hasn't anyone heard of Harry Benjamin???

Some transgenders seem to be threatened by other transgenders' ways of understanding their own gender diversity and their own unique and different ways of being. We are all delightfully different whatever our similarities. So long as we truly know who and what we are, we can act to create our own unique lifestyles as best our circumstances and our personal choices allow us. Then all others can think what they like!

Needless to say I am not supportive of any form of discrimination among any groups of transgenders or SOs from any other transgenders or SOs. I must say how pleased I was to experience, during 2005, the all-embracing inclusiveness that is expressed by the Carrousel Club in Adelaide.

This year I have been touched by many other people's beauty and courage. Their journeys, both full and part time, are as M2Fs, Ft2Ms, Androgynes, Pangenders (no, I am not alone!) or as SOs, children, family, friends - whatever. We live with so much challenge and so much pain, so much joy and so much deep, deep beauty. It is such an honour and such a pleasure to know these, the most real of people.

I wish you all the very best – always.

Jenny Lovelace

December 2005

jennylovelace@hotmail.com

ADVICE FOR THOSE SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR “FORMER” GENDER

Andy Blair informs us that if an FTM, who has had his medical records changed to “M”, is claiming on a pap smear test, for instance, the claim should be made via the Medicare Assessing and Benefits Area, GPO Box 9822, Sydney 2001, or it may be rejected on the ground that it is not appropriate for the gender shown on Medicare's records.

International Sex, Gender & Sexuality Clinic

Director: Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH, RMCAPA, PACFA

Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapist & Counsellor

Specialist in Sex and Gender Identity Issues

- Face to Face Consultations in Sydney
- Telephone & Videophone Consultations Available
- Trans Life Coaching
- Hormonal and Surgical Referrals When Applicable
- Member of Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association
- Author of *Sex, Gender & Sexuality: 21st Century Transformations* (1999) & Co-Editor of *Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex & Gender Diversity* (2003)

Ph +61 2 9562 6802

Australian Health & Education Centre, 3 Glebe Place, 131-145 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2027

www.healtheducationcentre.com

OUTER METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY TRANSEX-INTERSEX SUPPORT

“O.M.A.C.T.S.I.S.”

**Our service provides support for individuals and their families,
affected by the issues of transsexualism and/or intersex
conditions**

**We are able to offer social support and out-of-hours professional
counselling services by telephone.**

For further information and social support please phone

Tanya (0249 481 102) or

Glennise (0245 782 782) or

Gina (0247 511 402)

We will soon be in other areas

Fit, Fitter Fit X!

For over a quarter of a century Fit X Gym has been in the business of serving Sydney's GLBTQ community with low cost fitness options. We are a nonprofit group, run by volunteers which enable us to keep costs down.

Fit X Gym recently celebrated it's re-opening in the ACON Building. We're open M-F 4.30–7.30pm.

Now we're easier to get to, even by public transport, just a short walk from Museum Station. Fit X Gym @ ACON is very close to Hyde Park, 9 Commonwealth St, Darlinghurst is probably a 2 minute walk.

Three mornings per week we reserve the gym exclusively for Hiv +ve folk. We subsidize The Positive Access Project (PAP) so that people with a health care card can join in, for only \$2.50 a visit or even cheaper is getting a 10 visit card for \$20.

I'm the attendant on Fridays. When I think about what I like most about PAP, it is how relaxed it is.

When I see groups getting together and having a chat about this or that, I can't help think different we are to other gyms.

Can't stand the super loud music?

Loathe the idea of prancing around in fashionable gym wear?

Shudder at the thought of all those mirrors!

So do I. Next time you're in the Acon building, why not pop down to Fit X Gym and say hello?

You'll find only a few mirrors and regular people taking control of their health. No G strings in sight. It's not a fashion parade. No Muscle Marys or testosterone pumped bubble heads.

Oh! The music, we encourage people to bring their own!

In a recent issue of Polare I was prompted to consider the experiences of transitioning people. We are your body shape change experts. If there is enough interest in getting a group together, we at Fit X Gym would like to see how we could best fulfill your needs.

Send me an email, the address is at the end of this article. Let's talk, would you prefer the gym to reserve a time exclusively, like we do for PAP? Or would an outreach program suit better?

Let's create a safe place, that's relaxed, unpretentious and friendly. Where, we at Fit X Gym can support you in this journey, so that you can reach YOUR goals. Talk to Ingrid our qualified trainer and she'll be happy to devise a plan just for you, individually. To book for your Free first time, ring 0400 712 964.

Are you interested in a career in the Fitness Industry? Why not volunteer some time with us, see if it's something your interested in. Also, if you are currently studying, Ingrid our fully qualified instructor can supervise the practical component of your training.

So next time you're thinking about getting fit, or fitter—think Fit X Gym

Fit X Gym @ Acon, 9 Commonwealth St, Darlinghurst,

Ph. 9206 2000 or Ingrid 0400 712 964 james@rebalancelifecoaching.com

Diverse Sexualities Access Project

Improving access by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people to community and generalist services in the Nepean

This new four-year project aims to improve access to community and generalist services by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people in the Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Local Government Areas. It will work with a wide range of peak, funding and policy-making bodies, service-providers and other stakeholders in order to build community partnerships, provide information, advocate best practices relating to service provision and promote the needs and views of local young, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

An integral part of my role as Project Worker will be active consultation with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people. I am very interested to hear about your experiences in accessing community and generalist services in your area.

Have you ever:

- Had a hard time finding a service that you needed?
- Been discriminated against or treated with disrespect by a service?
- Had your needs ignored by a service?
- used a service that treated you really well?

If you would like to let me know about your experiences, offer suggestions, or get more information about the project feel free to get in touch with me using the contacts below.

Robert Reynolds
Diverse Sexualities Access Project Worker

Diverse Sexualities Access Project
PO Box 627
Penrith, NSW, 2751

Phone: (02) 4721 5024
Mobile: 0439 481 008
Fax: (02) 4721 5922
Email: outsidein@pnc.com.au

This project is funded by the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and auspiced by South Penrith Youth and Neighbourhood Services Incorporated.

Anybody forty years old or older wishing to join a social club for meeting, friendship or just communication with others who are lonely...

This is an opportunity to meet others who are the same boat.

It can be a way of exchanging phone numbers or meeting people in your area who are looking for someone to socialise with or make friends

for more information please contact TANYA on (02) 4948 1012 or Fax (02) 4948 1017 or email apples6@bigpond.net.com



FTM Accommodation
 Folks going to Melbourne in regards to any stage of GRS. Accommodation is available which is close to the hospital and the surgeons rooms. Information on how to get around in Melbourne is also readily available.
M I C H A E L
 Ph: (03) 5975 8916 or 0405 102 142
 pathwaysau@yahoo.com.au

A Touch of Glamour
 359 Parramatta Rd, Leichhardt
02 9550.9654
 Tue-Fri 9.30am to 5.30pm
 Sat 10.00am to 4.00pm
 Lovely Lingerie - (10 - 26)
 Bras, Gaffs
 Shoes & Boots - (7 - 14)
 Corsets, Waspies
 Breast Prosthesis
 Wigs, Beardcover, etc.
www.glamourworld.net

The Wisdom Development Centre
 Personal empowerment and achievable lifestyle goals with financial freedom.
Live Your Dream Please phone: Madeline or Dennis (02) 9488 9943 or 0402 145 583

May I Have Your Attention Please!

An ad. this size costs \$11 an issue, including GST.

Online Counselling N.S.W
 GLBT Friendly Qualified Counsellor.
 Free public Self-Help Forums.
 Contact: Alex Gibson.
 Email: alexg75@pnc.com.au
www.onlinecounsellingnsw.com

The Caci Clinic
Laser Hair Removal
 The Caci Clinic offers professional and friendly service to its many transgender clients. Come for a free consultation or call us for a chat.
Treatments from \$70!
 Clearskincare and The Caci Clinic
 Level 1, 100 New South Head Rd
 Ph:(02) 9328 7111

Beauty Therapist GLBT Friendly
 Fully qualified for all your Beauty needs
 waxing - tints -make-up -facials - massage- reflexology - manicures - pedicures- aromatherapy - earpiecing
Mobile service available servicing Camberra and environs
Phone Simone 0414 517 376

FREE HOME TUTORING in reading and writing for adults (nights preferred)
 Call Margot 9335 2536 or Mim 9335 2350
 @ Petersham TAFE

Wigs International
 12 King Street - Newtown 2042
www.wigsinternational.com.au
wigsinternational@bigpond.com
 ★ We specially invite all Polare readers to a 20% discount on all our wigs. (Custom made excluded)
 ★ You can have the hair you've always wanted - gorgeous!!!
 ★ Private rooms available (transgender friendly)
 ★ Call Jodie or Ingrid - 9519.5206

crossdressers!
 Looking for closeted guys who dress up as women. Invitation party fun meetings, join free! Feminisation secrets revealed "come out". New lifestyle, self-esteem, confidence. Send SAE for information to Les Girls, Locker 504, Burwood, 1805

Goods and services advertisements are the responsibility of the Advertiser under the Trade Practices Act. The Gender Centre does not imply an endorsement of the goods, services or advertiser. The Gender Centre recommends that consumers exercise common sense and draw their own conclusions on the goods and services advertised in Polare. The Gender Centre will not be held responsible for any misfortune nor will it indemnify readers against any harm incurred. The distribution of Polare is targeted and is not intended for general distribution.

To Place an Advertisement for Goods and Services in Polare:
 Please contact the Editor of Polare: resourcestgc@bigpond.com or by faxing details to 9569.1176 attention to Polare Editor. Advertisements are included in Polare based on the space available in the magazine. Advertisements in this section should not contain images or logos and should bear some specific relation to the transgender community. Services and goods provided by and for transgender people are preferred.

New South Wales

THE GENDER CENTRE

Counselling

Provides counselling to residents and clients living in the community. For more information or an appointment contact the Counsellor on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday 10am - 5.00pm.

Outreach service

Available to clients in the inner city area on Tuesday nights from 6.00pm to 2 a.m. and on Thursdays from 10am - 5.30pm by appointment only. Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Friday 10am - 5.30pm. Also available to clients confined at home, in hospital or gaol - By appointment only. For an appointment contact Outreach Worker - 0407 929 915.

Social and support service

Provides social and support groups and outings, workshops, forums and drop-ins. For more information contact the Social and Support worker.

Resource development service

Produces a range of print resources on HIV/AIDS, medical and other information relevant to people with gender issues and their service providers. We provide printed information including a bi-monthly magazine *Polare* and a regularly updated website at: www.gendercentre.org.au

For more information contact the Resource Development worker on Monday or Wednesday.

Drug and alcohol service

Provides education, support and referral to a broad range of services - By appointment only. For an appointment contact the Outreach or Social and Support worker.

Residential service

Provides semi-supported share accommodation for up to 11 residents who are 16 and over. Residents can stay for up to 12 months and are supported as they move towards independent living. They are also encouraged to consider a range of options available to meet their needs. A weekly fee is charged to cover household expenses.

Assessments for residency are by appointment only and can be arranged by contacting the Counsellor, Outreach worker or Social and Support worker.

For partners, families and friends

Support, education and referral to a wide range of specialist counselling, health, legal, welfare and other community services are available for partners, families

and friends of people with gender issues. For more information contact the Social and Support worker.

For service providers, employers and others

Advice, support and workshops are also available to employers, service providers, students and other people interested in gender issues. For more information contact the

Gender Centre General Manager, 75 Morgan Street or PO Box 266

Petersham NSW 2049

Tel: (02) 9569.2366

Fax: (02) 9569.1176

gendercentre@bigpond.com

<http://www.gendercentre.org.au>

For after hours counselling contact **Lifeline** on 131 114 or the **Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service**

4pm-midnight seven days on

(02) 9207.2800

1800 805 379

<http://www.glcnsnsw.org.au/>

2010 - TWENTY TEN/ RECONNECT

Twenty 10 is a Sydney-based gay and lesbian youth support service. We provide counselling and accommodation support to young gays and lesbians between the ages of 13-25 years. The Reconnect program is a NSW-wide program and, where appropriate, re-connecting youth with their families.

PO Box 553, Newtown, NSW, 2042

Youth callers needing help:

Sydney local: (02) 8594 9555

Rural NSW : 1800.65.2010

All other callers:

(02) 8594 9550

Fax: (02) 8594 9559

Email: info@2010.asn.au

Web page: www.twenty10.org

ACON-AIDS COUNCIL OF NSW

Information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Tel: (02) 9206.2000

Fax: (02) 9206.2069

tty: (02) 9283 2088

ACON-HUNTER

129 Maitland Road

PO Box 220

Islington 2296

Tel: (02) 4927 6808

Fax: (02) 4927 6485

hunter@acon.org.au

<http://www.acon.org.au>

ACON -MID-NORTH COAST

4 Hayward Street

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: (02) 6584 0943

Fax: (02) 6583 3810

ACON -NORTHERN RIVERS

27 Uralba Street

Lismore NSW 2480

PO Box 6063

South Lismore NSW 2480

Tel: (02) 6622.1555

or 1 800 633 637

Fax: (02) 6622 1520

northernrivers@acon.org.au

ACON-WESTERN SYDNEY

6 Darcy Road,

Wentworthville, 2145

Tel: (02) 9204 2400

Fax: (02) 9891 2088

aconwest@acon.org.au

AFAO(AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS)

National AIDS lobby and safe sex promotion organisation.

PO Box 51

Newtown 2042

Tel: (02) 9281.1999

Fax: (02) 9281.1044

ALBION STREET CENTRE

HIV testing, clinical management, counselling and support, treatment and trials for HIV/AIDS.

Tel: (02) 9332.1090

Fax: (02) 9332.4219

ANKALI

Volunteer project offering emotional support for People Living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, friends and carers. One on one grief and bereavement service.

Tel: (02) 9332.1090

Fax: (02) 9332.4219

ASTRA(ASSOCIATION OF SEXY TRANSVESTITES)

An erotic social club for the bold and the beautiful! All ages, shapes and sizes. Discreet meetings, weekly parties.

PO Box 502

Glebe NSW 2037

BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION(BGF)

Provides direct financial assistance, financial counselling, employment support and supported housing to people in NSW disadvantaged as a result of HIV/AIDS.

Tel: (02) 9283 8666

free call 1800 651 011

web www.bgf.org.au; email

bgf@bgf.org.au

BREASTSCREEN

Phone 132050

CENTRAL TABLELANDS TRANSGENDER

INFORMATION SERVICE

Provides information and directions for anyone seeking medical or psychological assistance in changing gender. Provides information on gender friendly services available in the Bathurst, NSW Area. Brings together transgenders, their families and friends and provides support and understanding in a non-counselling atmosphere.

Operates 9 am - 8pm Mon - Fri

Tel: 0412 700 924

CELLBLOCK YOUTH HEALTHSERVICE

Free and confidential holistic health service for young people between the ages of twelve and twenty who are homeless or at risk. Medical and dental services, counselling, music and visual arts program, health promotion.

SPACE group for young people questioning their sexuality or gender.

142 Carillon Avenue, Camperdown

Tel: (02) 9516 2233

(CSN) COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

Transport and practical home based care for PLWHA. Volunteers welcome. Training provided.

Sydney Mon-Fri 8.00am-6.00pm

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills

Tel: (02) 9206.2031

Fax: (02) 9206.2092

csn@acon.org.au

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 9204 2400

Fax: 9891 2088

csn-westsyd@acon.org.au

6 Darcy Rd, Wentworthville, 2145

PO Box 284, Westmead, 2145

Hunter

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4927 6808/Fax 4927 6485

hunter@acon.org.au

129 Maitland Road, Islington, 2296

PO Box 220, Islington, 2296

MacKillop Centre - Hunter

Training and development opportunities for PLWHA

Tel: 4968 8788

Illawarra

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4226 1163

Fax: 4226 9838

illawarra@acon.org.au

47 Kenny St, Wollongong, 2500

POB 1073, Wollongong 2500

Mid North Coast

Outreach project: by appointment

Tel: 6584 0943

Fax: 6583 3810
 mnc@acon.org.au
 4 Hayward St, Port Macquarie,
 2444
 POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

FOLEYHOUSE

A safe and supportive residential service for people at risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV, HAV, HBV and HCV and other infectious diseases. Assessments for residency are by appointment only and can be arranged by contacting a Residential Support worker.

6-8 Bellevue St,
 Surry Hills
 PO Box 331, Surry Hills NSW
 2010
 Tel: (02) 9211.0544
 Fax:
 (02)9211.0778 admin@foley.org.au
www.foley.org

HIV AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

For HIV positive IDUs and their friends. Meets on Wednesdays. Contact Sandra or Tony at NUAA.
 Tel: (02) 9369.3455
 Toll Free: 1800.644.413

INNERCITYLEGAL CENTRE

Available to discuss any legal matter that concerns you.
 Tel: (02) 9332.1966

INTERSECTION

Coalition group of lesbian, gay, transgender and other sexual minority groups and individuals working for access and equity within local community services and their agencies.
 Christine Bird (02) 9525.3790

KIRKTONROADCENTRE

Needle exchange and other services
 Clinic Hours:
 Monday to Friday, 10am - 6pm
 Saturday to Sunday, 2pm - 6pm
 Outreach Bus - Every Night
 100 Darlinghurst Road
 (Entrance above the Kings Cross Fire Station - on Victoria Street)
 PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW,
 2011
 Tel: (02) 9360.2766
 Fax: (02) 9360.5154

LES GIRLS CROSSDRESSERS GROUP

An independent peer support group for transgender people. Free tuition, job assistance, friendship and socials, general information. Bi-monthly meetings.
 Coordinator,
 PO Box 504 Burwood NSW 2134

LIVINGSTONE ROAD SEXUALHEALTH CLINIC

Provides a free and confidential range of health, counselling and support services.
 182 Livingstone Rd
 Marrickville NSW 2204
 Tel:(02) 9560.3057 (2-5pm)
 Fax: (02) 9568.333

NEON

is a support and social group for transgender people of all ages. It's a chance to get together and discuss experiences, gain support and make friends. We meet at the ACON-Hunter office on the last Wednesday of every month from 7pm to 9pm.
 Tel: ((02) 4927 6808 (ask for Cath)
 email: cadams@acon.org.au

(MCC)METROPOLITAN COMMUNITYCHURCH

MCC Sydney is linked with other MCC churches in Australia as part of an international fellowship of Christian churches, with a special concern for any who feel excluded by established religious groups. MCC deplors all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression - and seeks to share God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race or gender.
 96 Crystal Street, Petersham 2049
 Phone: (02) 9569.5122
 Fax: (02) 9569.5144
 Worship Times:
 Sundays 10.00 am & 7.30 pm
mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au
<http://www.mccsydney.org.au/>

NORTHAIDS

A community based organisation providing step down and respite care for PLWHA on the Northern Beaches.
 Tel: (02) 9982 2310

MOUNTDRUITTLUXFORD ROADCLINIC

Provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.
 Ph: (02) 9881 1733
 Mon 1.00pm-4.00pm
 Wed 9.00am-12.30pm
 Fri 9.00am-12.30pm
 Every second Thursday 9.00am-12.30pm

NEWCASTLE SWOP

SWOP at Newcastle has a Mobile Sexual Health Team
 0249 276 808

NUAA - NSW USERS AND AIDSASSOCIATION

A peer-based community organisation providing education on safe injecting, safe using and safe sex. Information on services for injecting drug users. Free needles, swabs, water, spoons, condoms, dams, gloves and lube. Free newsletter and material on HIV and AIDS and other topics of interest or concern to people using drugs illicitly..

345 Crown St, Surry Hills, NSW
 2010
 PO Box 278, Darlinghurst, NSW,
 1300
 Tel: (02) 8354 7300
 Tollfree:1800.644.413
 Fax: (02) 8354 7350
admin@nuaa.org.au

PLWHA) PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst NSW
 2010
 Tel: (02) 9361.6011
 Fax: (02) 9360.3504
<http://www.plwha.org.au/>

NAROOMA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.
 Level 2, Parramatta Health Service,
 158 Marsden (cnr. George St)
 Parramatta 2150
 Ph: (02) 9843 3124
 Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm
 Tue 10.00am-4.00pm
 Thu 4.00pm-7.30pm

Tel: (02) 4782.2119
<http://www.hermes.net.au/plwha/plwha@hermes.net.au>

POSITIVE WOMEN

Can offer one-on-one support for HIV positive transgender women. Contact Women and AIDS Project Officer or Women's HIV Support Officer at ACON.
 Tel: (02) 9206.2000
<http://www.acon.org.au/education/womens/campaigns.htm>

REPIDU

Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users
 Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm Sat & Sun,
 1 - 5 Deliveries Tue, Fri 6 - 9
 151 Pitt St, Redfern, NSW, 2016
 Tel: (02) 9699.6188

SAGE FOUNDATION(Sex and

Gender Education Foundation)

A voluntary lobbying organisation made up of gender variant people to lobby the government to ensure equal treatment in all respects of life. Sage is a non-profit organisation. All are welcome.
 Ph: 0421 479 285
 Email:
SAGE_Foundation@yahoo.com

SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW

The Seahorse Society is an incorporated non-profit self help group funded entirely by members' contributions. Membership is open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a newsletter.
 PO Box 168, Westgate, NSW 2048
 or Tel: 0401.007.894
<http://www.geocities.com/seahorsesoc/>
seahorsesoc@hotmail.com

SOUTH COAST of NSW

from Ulladulla to the VIC Border. We are a group of like-minded people trying to establish a social and support group. Jen Somers, Sexual Health Counsellor, Narooma Community Health Centre, Marine Drive
 Narooma, NSW 2546
 Tel: (02) 4476.1372
 Mob: 0407 214.526
 Fax: (02) 4476 1731
jenni.somers@sahs.nsw.gov.au

(SWOP) SEX WORKERS OUTREACH

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT PROJECT
 Provides confidential services for transnians in sex work within NSW.
 69 Abercrombie Street
 Chippendale NSW
 PO Box 1354
 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
 Tel: (02) 9319.4866
 Fax: (02) 9310.4262
info@swop.org.au
<http://www.swop.org.au/>
 0249 276 808

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

An organisation which provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in welcoming, comfortable, safe and friendly spaces. Pub social in Newtown on 3rd Sunday of every month followed by a meal. Everybody

welcome.

PO Box 281 Broadway NSW 2007
Tel: (02) 9565.4281 (info line)
sbn-admin@yahoo.com
http://sbn.bi.org

SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS

Supporting, socialising and liberating bisexual pagans living in the Sydney region.
PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

Welcomes FTM Men.
PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111
Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)
paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au

SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

Provides free, confidential health services, including sexuality, sexual function, counselling and testing and treatment of STDs including HIV.
Level 3, Nightingale Wing, Sydney Hospital, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW, 2000.
Tel: (02) 9382 7440 or freecall from outside Sydney 1800 451 624 (8.30am-5.00pm) Fax: (02) 9832 7475
sshc@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

TOWN & COUNTRY CENTRE

Drop In Centre - Weekly Coffee Nights - 24 hour ph line - regular social activities - youth services - information, advice and referral - safer sex packs and more! - for bisexual, transgender folks and men who have sex with men
80 Benerambah Street, Griffith
PO Box 2485, Griffith, NSW 2680
Tel: (02) 6964.5524
Fax: (02) 6964.6052
glsg@stealth.com.au

WESTERN SYDNEY HIV/HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE

Needle and syringe program
158 Marsden St, Parramatta NSW 2150
Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Fax: (02) 9893 7103

WOLLONGONG - TRAN

Transgender Resource and Advocacy Network.
A service for people who identify as a gender other than their birth gender. Providing a safe and

confidential place to visit, phone or talk about gender issues.
Thursday AND Friday 9am - 5pm
Tel: (02) 4226.1163

WOMENS & GIRLS DROP IN CENTRE

is a safe, friendly drop-in Centre in inner Sydney for women with or without children. Shower, relax, read the paper, get information, referral and advice.
Monday to Friday - 9.30 - 4.30pm
177 Albion Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010
Tel: (02) 9360.5388

A.C.T.

A GENDER AGENDA is a non-profit group committed to providing support, education, information and relief to people living with any type of sex or gender related condition (whether symptoms are physical or mental and are attributable to genetic or other origin).
PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT, 2602
Ph: 0419 188 048
Fax: (02) 6247 0597
Email: polar@homeemail.com.au

AIDSACTION COUNCIL OF ACT

The AIDS Action Council of the ACT provides information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support services for people living with HIV/AIDS
Westlund House, Acton, ACT 2601
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6257.2855
Fax: (02) 6257.4838
info@aidsaction.org.au

PLWHA (PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS)

People living with HIV/AIDS ACT provides peer based support, advice and advocacy for people with HIV/AIDS in a relaxed friendly environment.
Westlund House, Acton ACT 2601
GPO Box 229, Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6257.4985
Fax: (02) 6257.4838
plwhaact@hotmail.com.au

SWOP ACT (SEX WORKER OUTREACH PROJECT)

Provides services for people working in the sex industry in the ACT.
29 Lonsdale Street, Braddon, ACT, 2601
PO Box 67, Braddon, ACT,

Directory Assistance

2601
Tel: (02) 6247 3443
Fax: (02) 6247 3446
E-mail: actswop@webone.com.au

Northern Territory

NORTHERN TERRITORY AIDS & HEPATITIS COUNCIL

(incorporating People Living With HIV/AIDS and/or HEP C, the Needle Syringe Program, the Sex Worker Outreach Project and Community Education)

GPO Box 2826, Darwin, NT, 0801
46 Woods Street, Darwin
Tel: (08) 8941 1711
Freecall: 1800 880 899
Mensline: 1800 181 888 information and referral for gay, bisexual, MSM and men who are curious about their sexuality
Email: infor@ntahc.org.au
www.ntahc.au

Queensland

(ATSAQ) AUSTRALIAN TRANSGENDERIST SUPPORT ASSOC. OF QLD.

A non-profit organisation providing counselling, support, referral and information, crisis counselling, drug and alcohol for transgender people, their families and friends.
Ph: (07) 3843 5024
Email: trans.atsa@pacific.net.au

BRISBANE GENDER CLINIC

Doctors from private practices with an understanding of the transgender community ARE available for consultation by appointment each Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.
Phone (07) 3238 4081
Level 1, 270 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000

GOLD COAST SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

A public sexual health clinic with an interest in and experience of transgender medicine. Medical staff, nursing staff, dietician, psychologist. Referral to speech pathology, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, surgeons available. Consultations free, by appointment.
2019 Gold Coast Highway
PO Bopx 44, Miami, Qld, 4220
Ph: (07) 5576 9033
fax(07) 5576 9030

QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE

Transsexual semi-supported accommodation available to those who identify as Transgender and who are drug and alcohol free. Accommodation available for six or twelve months.
PO Box 2032, Windsor, QLD 4030 Ph: (07) 3357 6361
australia_post@hotmail.com
www.geocities.com/

SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF QLD

We provide a safe environment for members and other persons in their lives to meet and socialise and offer counselling where possible. We are wholly self-funded And open to both sexes no matter what their sexuality
PO Box 574 Annerley QLD 4102
www.geocities.com/
WestHollywood/8009/
seahorse@powerup.com.au

(SQWISI) SELF HEALTH FOR QUEENSLAND WORKERS IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

Provides a confidential service for trans working in the sex industry in Queensland. Offices in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Cairns. Also has an exit and retraining house for sex workers wanting to leave the sex industry.

404 Montague Road, West End, QLD

PO Box 5649, West End Qld 4101
Tel: 1800 118 021
Fax: (07) 3846 4629
Email: sqwisib@sqwisi.org.au

Andrejic Arcade, Suite 32,

55 Lake Street,
PO Box 6041, Cairns, Qld, 4870
Tel: (07) 4031 3522
Fax: (07) 4031 0996
Email: sqwisc@sqwisi.org.au

Level 1 Trust House

3070 Gold Coast Highway,
Surfers Paradise, Qld, 4217
PO Box 578, Surfers Paradise, Qld 4217
Tel: 1800 118 021
Fax: (07) 5531 6671
Email: sqwisicg@sqwisi.org.au

Level 3 Post Office Arcade

Flinders Street, Townsville, Qld, 4871
PO Box 2410, Townsville, Qld, 4810
Ph: 1800 118 021
Fax: (07) 4721 5188
Email: sqwisit@sqwisi.org.au

TRANSBRIDGE

A support group for transgenders in the Townsville area. We have connections with sexual health, mental health, AIDS counselling and others by association.

374 Fulham Road, Heatley, Townsville, 4814

If we can help you at any time we have a mobile phone for twenty-four hour support at:

0412 168 299

Home phone/fax (07) 4779 9229

partners. Also provides information on transsexualism for the community and people with gender identity difficulties.

SATS C/o PO Box 907

Kent Town SA 5071

or the Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Service (Gayline) on: (08) 8334

2223 or country on 1800 182 223

or Sarah on 0409 091 663 or

www.tgfolk.net/sites/satsg/hrt.html

email: satsgroup@yahoo.com.au

GENDERAFFIRMATION AND LIBERATION

is a caring self-help group for transsexed people. It meet monthly to support people who are in the process of gender/sex affirmation (transitioning or transitioned).

PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Tel: (03) 9517 1237

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gaall>

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF VICTORIA

RhED in the sex industry

Are you interested in contributing to

RED, the magazine produced by the

RhED Program? If you are, please

contact RhED on (03) 9534 8166

Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm

SEAHORSE CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc.

A fully contituted self-help group financed by members subscriptions.

Full or postal membership is open to

transpersons who understand and

respect the purpose of the club.

Partners are also considered to be

members. We have private monthly

social meetings with speakers from

relevant professions. Besides a

monthly magazine and a library, we

offer a contact mail service.

GPO Box 86, St Kilda, VIC, 3182

Tel: (03) 9513 8222

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~seahorse>

seahorsevic@mbox.com.au

(TGV) TRANSGENDER VICTORIA

Transgender Victoria is dedicated to achieving justice and equity for people

experiencing gender identity issues,

their partner, families and friends. We

provide support on a range of issues

including education, health,

accommodation and facilitating

assistance with workplace issues for

those identifying as transgender,

transsexual or cross-dresser.

PO Box 762, South Melbourne, VIC,

3205

Tel: (03) 9517 6613 (leave a message)

transgendervictoria@yahoo.com.au

www.vicnet.net.au/~victrans

GENDER-Q

Meets at the Freedom Centre (1/471 William St, Northbridge WA)

on the first Saturday of every month from 1pm-4pm. It is a

free peer-based support session for young people (aged 25 and under)

with diverse gender expression.

Significant others welcome.

Freedom Centre, PO Box 1510,

West Perth 6872, WA

Tel: 9228 0354

www.freedom.org.au

email: info@freedom.org.au

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

See International listings on p.40

MAGENTA

Magenta offers support, education and information to transgender,

male and female workers in the

sex industry: PO Box 8054 PBC

Northbridge, WA 6849

Tel: 08. 9328 1387

Fax: 08. 9227 9606

TRANSCOMMUNITYWA

We provide peer support for, information resources about, and

advocacy on behalf of, people

who are transitioning, are

planning to transition, or have

transitioned. We also organise

discreet social events at which

significant others and supporters

of our membership are welcome.

Contact Michelle on mobile:

0402 236 380 or email

shannlee@tpg.com.au, or Lisa on

0427 973 496, email

lisasonau@yahoo.com.au

TRANSWEST: THE TRANSGENDER ASSOCIATION OF WESTERNAUSTRALIA (INC)

Support, information, advocacy and social events for all kinds of

transgender and transsexual

people. Established 1997

PO Box 1944,

Subiaco, WA, 6904

Mob: 0407 194 282

hmppperth@cygnus.uwa.edu.au

www.geocities.com/transwest_wa

WELLBEING CENTRE OF WA

Service for people with blood-borne diseases such as Hep C and

HIV/AIDS. This service is for

people with issues such as health

problems, relationships, medica-

tion and alternative therapies.

162 Aberdeen Street,

Northbridge

Tel: (08) 9228 2605

South Australia

CARROUSEL CLUB

A non-profit, social group that operates as a support group for persons with gender issues, and provides social outlets. Produces a Club Newsletter every two months.

PO Box 721, Marleston SA 5033

Tel: (08) 8411.0874

ccsai@hotmail.com

www.geocities.com/carrousel_2000

CHAMELEONS

Counselling, information and support aimed at minimising the isolation of transgender people in South Australia.

PO Box 2603

Kent Town SA 5071

Tel: (08) 8293 3700

Fax: (08) 8293 3900

AH: (08) 8346 2516

DARLING HOUSE

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A non-profit, community based resource that operates as a joint project of the AIDS Council of SA and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of SA Inc.

64 Fullarton Rd Norwood

PO Box 907 Kent Town

South Australia 5071

Tel: (08) 362.3106

Fax: (08) 363.1046

SHINE-SEXUALHEALTH

Networking and Education South Australia Inc. (formerly Family Planning South Australia) provides sexual and reproductive health services for the South Australian community.

17 Phillips Street, Kensington,

SA. 5068 Tel: (08) 8431 5177

Fax: (08) 8364 2389

(SATS) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRANSEXUALSUPPORT GROUP

A support group for transsexuals who have changed or are about to change their gender role and for their

Tasmania

WORKING IT OUT

Tasmania's peak body for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities. It provides

a number of services statewide - counselling and support;

professional development, community education and training

in the areas of gender identity and sexual identity; and a "Bfriend" peer support and mentoring

service

Hobart (Baden)(03) 6222 7688 or

0438 346 122

email:baden@workingitout.org.au

Burnie (Meredith) (03) 6434 6474

or 0419 361 128

email:

meredith@workingitout.org.au

Victoria

CHAMELEON SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

While the group does not meet on a regular basis it is there to provide

support and information to those requiring assistance with all

matters.

PO Box 79

Altona, VIC.3018

Telephone message bank service

(03) 9517 9416

email:

chameleonvicgirls@hotmail.com

robr@vicnet.net.au

FTMPHALLOPLASTY

CONTACT

Michael is F2M who has had GRS and

is willing to be contacted for

information and support around

Gender Reassignment Surgery for

F2Ms in particular phalloplasty as

performed by the Monash Medical

Centre Gender Team.

Michael Mitchell. Tel: 0405 102 142

Tel: (03) 5975 8916 messagebank

pathwaysau@yahoo.com.au

Western Australia

CHAMELEONSOCIETY

Provides support to crossdressers,

their relatives and friends.

PO Box 367,

Victoria Park WA 6979

Tel: 0418 908839 (8pm-10pm)

Email: chameleonswa@email.com

www.chameleonswa.com

National

(ABN) AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

ABN is the national network of bisexual women, men and partners and bi- and bi-friendly groups and services. ABN produces a national news magazine, houses a resource library and is a member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).
PO Box 490, Lutwyche QLD 4030
Tel: (07) 3857 2500

1800 653 223

ausbinet@rainbow.net.au
www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet
IRCL (oz.org network) A.B.N.

AGENDER AUSTRALIA

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and family. For information, please write or call.
email:fnoble@powerup.com.au
http://homepage.powerup.com.au/~fnoble

AISSUPPORT GROUP (AUSTRALIA)

Support group for Intersex people and their families. We have representatives in all Australian States.
PO Box 1089
Altona Meadows, VIC, 3028
Tel: (03) 9315 8809
aissg@iprimus.com.au
www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN NETWORK

Australian WOMAN Network is primarily a lobby and health support group for people who experience the condition of transsexualism, their families, friends and supporters. There are email discussion lists for members as well as a bulletin board providing places for both public and member-only access. There is also a large archive of related material available for education and research purposes.

www.w-o-m-a-n.net

International

AGENDER NEW ZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and family. For a detailed information pack, please write or call.

PO Box 27-560

Wellington New Zealand

Tel: (64) 025.575.094

janet@paradise.net.nz

http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/janet/

BEAUMONT SOCIETY

Non-profit organisation for crossdressers throughout Great Britain. Social functions, counselling and a contact system for members. Provides a magazine - Beaumont magazine
BM Box 3084
London WC1N 3XX
England

www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/

BEAUMONT TRUST

The Trust is a registered charity, the aim of which is the support of transvestites, transsexuals, their friends and families. It fosters research into both psychological and social aspects of transvestism and transsexualism and can provide speakers to address other organisations. It produces literature and arranges workshops, develops befriending facilities and assists with conferences.

The Beaumont Trust, BM Charity,
London WC1N 3XX.

http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust/bt.htm

CROSS-TALK

The transgender community news & information monthly.
PO Box 944, Woodland Hills CA
91365 U.S.A.

FTM INTERNATIONAL

A group for female to male transgender people. Provides a quarterly newsletter - FTM.

160 14th St

San Francisco, CA, 94103

http://www.ftmi.org/

info@ftmi.org

FTM NETWORK UK

A support group for female to male trans people. Provides a newsletter - *Boys' Own*
FTM Network, BM Network,
London, WC1N 3XX, England.

www.ftm.org.uk

GENDERBRIDGE Inc.

Support and Social Society for people with gender identity issues, their families, partners and professionals involved in care, treatment and counselling.

PO Box 70060, Auckland, 1230,
New Zealand

Phone: (64) (09) 0800 TGHELP
(0800.84.4357) (24 hrs)

www.genderbridge.org

info@genderbridge.org

GENDER TRUST (THE)

A help group for those who consider themselves transsexual, gender dysphoric or transgendered. Provides trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists and there is a referral procedure to a choice of other therapists.

The Gender Trust

PO Box 3192, Brighton

BN1 3WR, ENGLAND

http://www3.mistral.co.uk/

gentrust/home.htm

gentrust@mistral.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

Support, information, advocacy and social events. An incorporated body established to advance the health, well-being, basic rights, social equality and self-determination of persons of any age or cultural background who are transgender, transsexual, transvestite or intersex, or who are otherwise physically or psychologically androgynous as well as gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

PO Box 1066

Nedlands, WA, 6909, Australia

Mobile ph: 0427 853 083

http://www.ecel.uwa.edu.au/gse/

staffweb/fhaynes

IFAS_Homepage.html

www.IFAS.org.au

IFGE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

Educational and service organisation designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by the Community. Publisher of materials relevant to the TV/TS theme. Produces TV/TS journal - *Tapestry*.

PO Box 229, Waltham, MA

02254-0229 U.S.A.

http://www.ifge.org/

info@ifge.org

IKHLAS

IKHLAS drop in centre is a community program by Pink Triangle Malaysia. Provides an outreach project, HIV/AIDS information, counselling, medication, workshop and skill building for transgender people in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

PO Box 11859, 50760

Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Tel: 6.03.2425.593

Fax: 6.03.2425.59

ITANZ INTERSEX TRUST AOTEAROA OF NEW ZEALAND

Registered non-profit charitable trust to provide a number of educational, advocacy and liaison services to intersexuals, their parents, caregivers, family, friends and partners within the Community and those affected by the Community.

PO Box 9196, Marion Square

Wellington, New Zealand

Tel: (04) 4727 386 (machine

only) Fax: (04) 4727 387

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF AUCKLAND-NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 68 509,
Newton, Auckland,
New Zealand

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry.

PO Box 13 561

Christchurch,

New Zealand

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF WELLINGTON-NEW ZEALAND

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry.

PO Box 11/412, Manner St

Wellington New Zealand

Tel: (64) 482-8791

Fax: (64) 801-5690

Every effort has been made to include accurate and up-to-date information in this directory. To amend your listing fax 02 9569 1176 or email the Editor on resourcestgc@bigpond.com

Contacts

TRANSGENDER 33 YEARS
old looking for female 25-40 with a view to a long-term relationship. Sydney area preferred. Contact Sheena on 0404 367 787 or 0423 277 997

BRISBANE TRANSSEXUAL

Attractive and very feminine. I am non-scene and am looking for a female or transsexual for a long-term relationship. I am financially secure and am paying off my lovely trendy home, in debt like all of us, I guess.

I have a good sense of humour and a great outlook on life. I enjoy being at home relaxing, whether it is relaxing in my tropical garden or watching television or playing games on the Internet. I seek that special person with whom I can share my life. I am located in Brisbane but if you happen to be somewhere else and would like to come here, then do write and tell me about yourself, if possible with a picture.

Box Holder, PO Box 2032,
Windsor, QLD, 4030

MODEL. I'D CALL MYSELF,
an exceptionally modern person, extremely attractive, with fashionable flair for sexy personalised signature label lingerie intimates, frocks, outerwear. Would like to meet nice she-males in transition, very socially oriented, view f/ship and outings.

CODE 012/04

Contacts

FRIENDSHIP TO LOVER
Single cross-dresser living in northwest NSW who loves to wear lingerie, make-up and be very sexy-looking. Age 40. Seeks non-judgemental gentleman age 40+ with interest in dancing and the outdoors. A very loving person to take away my loneliness. Love Chrissie

CODE 015/04

GORGEOUS TRANSGENDER
is looking for a permanent lesbian relationship with a person between thirty and forty years old. Contact Sheena on (02) 9518 3949 or 0401 831 340

MTF AGED 58, VERY LONELY
loving and caring, easy to get on with, happy go lucky, good sense of humour and a great personality. Non-smoker, social drinker, loves country music, rock and roll, sport and children.

Very social, with a good character. Looking for FTM or MTF 50 years old and upward for communication and social outings (Newcastle area).

I am not looking for a relationship or a commitment at this stage (friendship only). For further details contact TANYA on (02) 4948 1012

FRIENDSHIP OR MORE

Forty-one year old, post most-op MTF, HIV+, seeking guy, girl, FTM, MTF 25-45 for penpal initially. Must be open minded, sincere and genuine with a good sense of humour. All replies will be answered.

CODE 002/05

Contacts

34-YEAR-OLD TRANSGENDER
MTF is looking for a 25-40-year-old woman with a view to a long-term lesbian relationship. Interested in playing and watching sport, cycling, running and gymnasium. Sydney area preferred.

Call 0423 277 997

PRE-OP TRANNY CURRENTLY
in prison wants penpal to write and receive erotic fantasy letters. I'm slim, have feminine breasts and enjoy various fetish pursuits. I'm submissive and very playful. All letters will be answered.

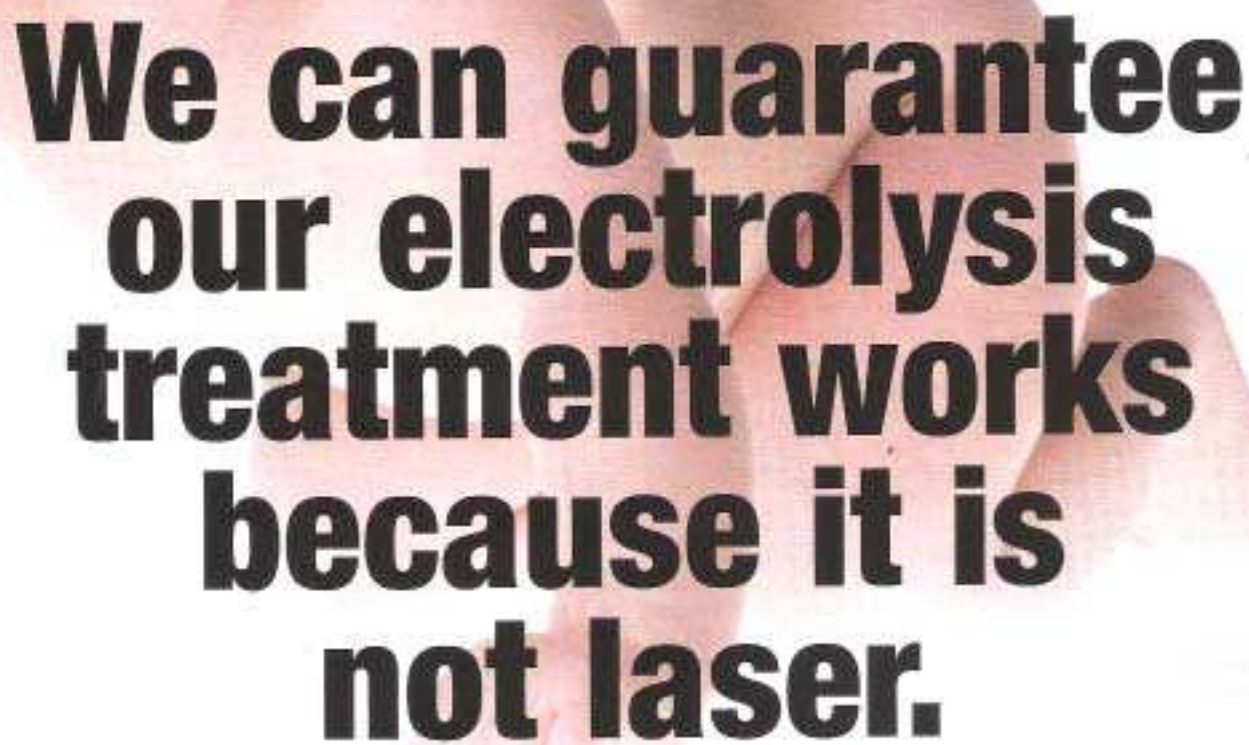
Ms Dee Dougan, Locked Bag 7, Cooma, NSW, 2630

CLOSET TV WOULD LIKE
to hear from other cross-dressers, ts, pre-, post- or non-op or biological or genetic females who like tv.

Jennifer La Rose,
3343 Westerwald St,
Fairview, Halifax, NOVA
SCOTIA, B3N 2S6, CANADA

To contact people here who have contact codes:

1. Write your letter
2. Seal your letter in an envelope.
3. Write the contact code on the outside of the envelope.
4. Mail the envelope to: Community Contacts, PO Box 266, Petersham, NSW, 2049



We can guarantee our electrolysis treatment works because it is not laser.



There's no reason why you can't look as smooth and beautiful as the day you were born.

Permanence can guarantee you can be Hairfree for life with body hair only

where you want it.

Hair growth patterns are as unique as you are. Your first consultation is a complete assessment of your needs.

This initial free visit with one of our Permanence consultants allows us to explain the correct treatment options. From day one you will know the cost and duration of the treatment.

We set out a timetable for the frequency of treatment needed to achieve your desired goals.

Your personal program is monitored to make sure the plan is on track.

Our unique treatment, which is suitable for men and women, teenagers and even younger has transformed the appearance of thousands of people giving them back their life. It is safe and backed by the Permanence 100% guarantee.

To start your hairfree life call and make an obligation free initial consultation.

Drummoyne
170 Victoria Road
Drummoyne NSW 2047
Phone 9719 1391

City
Dymocks Building, Suite 5, Level 3
428 George St, Sydney NSW 2000
Phone 9221 8594

www.permanence.com.au

PERMANENCE

The permanent hair removal specialists