The Crystal Chronicle

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The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complementary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member.

News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to Angie Bolin before the end of each month. Her E-mail address is: Angieb65@jadeinc.com

Please specify in the subject field that this is an article for the newsletter.

MEETING NOTICE:
*****As you may have ***** noticed in the last Newsletter, the May meeting date was change to this coming weekend: May 19, 2001
This was due to the Memorial Day Weekend, as most folks have plans for this weekend, this is something that happens just about every year, depending on the fall of the holiday. So see you this Saturday, if you have any questions, call the Crystal Club Hotline, or e-mail a CC officer. It will be the usual location.

Hugs.

President's Corner
-Tina
Hello ladies again!
My, how time flies. Here it is almost the middle of the year and soon Christmas will be upon us once again, that reminds me, you need to mark your calendar for December 1st. That is when our Christmas party is this year. I want to see a larger crowd then last year. We had about 50 people show up, we had a great dinner and lots of fun.

Had several members said they really enjoyed our little chat after the meal. Plan to attend, we may have some surprises for you. Tell everyone you know that are cross-dressers that may not make the regular meetings, to be sure to come.

This month we are having Bravo speak and we will have either Gloria, Rebecca or Erin as our speaker. Then in June we are having our one and only Meral Crane and Dr. Beth Tranen speak. We are also planning our annual cookout or picnic later this year, there are several different choices in mind, let us know your input.

Tina's Joke of the Day-
An old lady stood at the railing of a cruise ship, holding on tight to her hat so that it wouldn't blow away in the wind. A gentleman approached her and said, "pardon my forwardness madam, but were you aware that your dress is blowing in the wind?"
"Yes, I know," said the lady "But I need both hands to hold onto this hat."
"But madam, you must know that your private parts are exposed!"
The old lady glanced down then back up at the man and replied, "Sir, anything you see down there is 85 years old. I just bought this hat yesterday!"
My Blue Bonnet
-Mavis

She wore a bonnet. She covered herself and angels demurred. They could not add to the fullness of her beauty. Yet she caught their purity and made it her mission, too, bringing pureness of character in heart and in raiment.

To me it could not be spoken of with words. It was an inner gladness, a quiet warmness of soul that made me say "Yes." The positiveness of the memory was like a planted seed. Here was a human fulfillment to be treasured and cultivated.

She was a grandmother. She was a mother, She was a sister. She was a childhood friend. She graced relationships everyday like a field of blooming lilies dancing in the sunny wind. She beckoned me to join the dancing, I said "Yes."

Gently, with a bright - eyed smile, her hands lifted over my head and placed the Bonnie Bonnet. "Yes," she whispered. "Yes," she smiled. "You joined us in the meadow, You let your beauty flower. You are one of us" And I said "Yes."

And I tell you even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these.

-Matthew 6:29

A Big thank you to all the volunteer Office holders - the crystal club. -Mavis K. Murray

Campfire Talk
-Kelly

This past March my son and I packed and went on an overnight camping trip. We loaded up the cooler with food, packed the tent and camping equipment in my car, and threw in a couple of thick sleeping bags to keep us warm during the cold, winter nights. Later on that night we lit a fire to stay warm and talked about everything and anything. My son seemed particularly interested in what it was like when I was growing up. I stuttered some; did I really want him to know the truth?

My son is everything I was not at his age. He's confident, happy, and feels good about himself. I, on the other hand, was none of those things when I was his age. I guess I could blame it on parents, it's a good scapegoat to blame others for your troubles. I see people on the net that do nothing but blame other people for their troubles. But the truth of the matter was, I had a part in all this too.

I remember when I was 3 or 4 years old wishing/praying I could be turned into a little girl instead of being the boy that I was. My mother, who I think wished I had been born a little girl, allowed me to do things that girls normally did with their mothers. I also had a few experiences dressing up as a girl; some of you have been here long enough to remember reading about them.

When I reached 13 my dressing went into overdrive. Faced with who I was, and not very happy with what I was seeing, I looked at crossdressing as a means to escape my troubled life. Over the years my parents found out about my dressing and it put a big strain our relationship.

To compensate for feeling guilty about my crossdressing, I began drag-racing and doing other stupid stunts in my car trying to prove to myself and everyone else how much of a man I really was. The risks I took back then, cause me to shiver with fear today - I had more than my share of close calls and for what? I still didn't feel any better about myself. In fact I hated myself even more for wanting to dress up in girls clothes. I would buy some stuff only to purge later on and swear I would never dress up again. Of course I did, it was a part of me only I wasn't willing/able to accept it.

I was fortunate enough to date a few girls during my teenage years that accepted my strange hobby. One ex-girlfriend used to let me come over and wear her stuff all the time. Those were the days I still look back on fondly, even though I look more passable today and do more things as Kelly than I did back then. However, I was still a very unhappy person inside. It was a period where I swore to myself I was a TS - a woman trapped inside a man's body.

When I was 19 I found Christ and become a Christian. I know some people loathe Christianity as being a judgmental religion. Personally, I've seen the same attitude from the people who talk about the 'Religious Right' in a similar fashion and how they enjoy the 'in your face' actions they do to piss other people off. Personally, this action seems
unproductive in getting what you want but that's a matter of opinion I guess. For me, becoming a Christian was one of the single, most life-changing events to happen to me. I began looking beyond myself and seeing how I was affecting others around me.

So here I am, in my early 40's staring into a campfire and trying to tell my son what my childhood was like. Instead of trying to explain my fears, sorrows, and shortcomings, I told him how I felt today. Alive, happy, and proud of whom I was. Glad that I was with him at this time sharing a fire and having a talk with him - and loving every minute of it. That's what was missing in my life back then - a love for life, and a love for myself. How I love myself even if I do fall from grace from time to time- even if I don't always do the right thing the first time - and even if I am a crossdresser.

I'm still growing of course, that's what life is - a learning experience. And I hope that night around the fire instilled some of those lessons of love and forgiveness in my son. I think it did for he is a wonderful kid. For too many years I took risks that almost kill me trying to prove I was worth something. Now, thank God, I can look into my children's eyes and see that I'm priceless.

**Naggie's Corner**

- Ang

Okay, just a small soap box today, actually no box what so ever. I just wanted to let everyone know; I love each and everyone of you. Thank you for the kindness and love you have given myself and the many others that come through the doors at any given time. I find that the friends that I have here are some of the best and closest friends that I have ever had. Each and everyone of you deserves a hug for the things you do for those around you. Take care see you soon, and don't forget to write me something for the newsletter.

**Upcoming Events:**

- May 11, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting
- May 15: Dayton Valley Gems meeting
- May 18-20: First National Conference on Gender
  All events will be at the Washington Court Hotel, right off Capitol Hill. To register for the 1st National Conference on Gender (May 18th - 20th) and 6th Annual Lobby Day and Congressional Gala (May 21st), please visit us at [http://www.gpac.org/ncg/index.html](http://www.gpac.org/ncg/index.html) or call us at (202) 462-6610.
- May 19, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting
- June 02: Dayton Valley Gems meeting
- June 8, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting
- June 19: Dayton Valley Gems meeting
- June 23, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting
  Meral Crane & Dr. Beth Tranen will be guest speakers
- July 13, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting
- July 28, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting
- August 10, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting
- August 25, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting
- September 7, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting
- September 22, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting
- October 12, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting
- October 27, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting
Help wanted ads:

05/01/2001

We need some volunteers, that are willing talk with the owners of their favorite T* friendly place to shop or visit. Present them with a questionnaire, and an opportunity to become pink listed, and advertise for a year in the newsletter. At this time, just looking for willing participants, to get an idea of how many people will be kind enough to help the local retail stores, and the sisters in the group with some valuable information.

05/01/2001

Help wanted: Reporters/writers needed, a wonderful opportunity, for all you budding writers or want to be writers. Qualified people interested in these positions, should have the following abilities: able to use pencil & paper, or chicken peck on a keyboard, be capable of sending mail or email. The pay is incredible ($0.00 to start, and each year we will add another 0 to the end of your pay, so next year you will be making $00.00, and so on). As far as benefits, the ability to affect those around you in a profound and positive manner, is without measure.

If interested please forward emails to:
AngieB65@jadeinc.com

or snail-mail to the attn of Angie Bolin:
The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Our Purpose
The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

What to Expect at a Meeting
Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids; and often our spouses attend the meetings, too. Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings.

You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn’t a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you.

We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply “women and men”). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don’t need to exacerbate the feelings of people who are already nervous!

You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues
One year membership, includes newsletter $42
Newsletter subscription only $18
Meeting Fees: First Timer Free
Member (of any T group) $10
Member and Partner $15
Non-Member $20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information
Postal Mail:
The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers:
(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:
c@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:
http://www.tgender.net/cc

Contact Policy
All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.

Meeting Dates and Times
Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30 p.m. (for those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually center around a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

A business meeting is held on the second Friday of the month The doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club’s business is addressed, this meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for “real world” issues!

During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.
President's Corner
-Tina

Hello Ladies, I was trying to remember the words Shania Twain used in her song: “Man, I feel like a woman.” Why because of the words says just the way we feel. “Man, I feel like a woman.” We dress as women, we act and try to show the meekness women have, we dress to feel feminine as women usually do.

We dress to really pass as much as we can to have that feeling that women have that men don’t, dainty and delicate (even tho’ we all may not look dainty and delicate) it is the feeling you get when you dress feminine.

Maybe Meral Crane or Dr. Beth Tranen can explain Why we get these feelings. It is natural and we want to be someone else other than our male mode once in awhile. I believe it is like an escape from the heavy loads men carry daily.

This month Meral Crane and Dr Beth Tranen will be our guest speakers. Next month we have Colleen Marshall from Channel 6 News. Let’s see what light she can put on this subject.

Come to our meetings and find out. Start thinking about our Christmas party, we need to know who will be able and want to come, December 1st. Mark it on your calendars, ladies.

Until next time ladies Think feminine and stay beautiful. -Tina

Passing
-Elon Hayes (Submitted by Mary Ann)
(From her website:
http://www.barkingduck.net/ehayes/passing.htm)

It’s an art, what can I say?

But like any art, you can get better at it.

#1: PRACTICE! Practice at home, practice in front of support groups, practice going out. You’ll never get any better otherwise.
DON'T LIE TO YOURSELF. If you look like a bulldog in a dress, then don't go out where you can't pass like that. Get a full length mirror, or possibly one of those triple mirrors. Check yourself over. Find someone who won't be uselessly polite and supportive. Emotional support is nice - emotional support will do you no good if you have to talk to the cops because you believed one of your friends' compliments instead of your own eyes.

Beta test. By this, I mean check out the entire package before you go out. And do it when you don't have to be somewhere. Make sure the clothes fit, that seams don't show unless they're supposed to, that your skirt covers your garters, that your makeup and clothes match, that you know how to go to the bathroom in what you have on. As an anecdote, I wore a catsuit (one piece tight coverall) under some other stuff... when I had to go, I had to take everything off. Make sure that you can eat without sleeves dipping into the gravy. Make sure you can walk in the shoes you're wearing, as long as it'll take. And so on.

Look at what other women, OF YOUR GENERAL AGE, APPEARANCE, AND BACKGROUND are wearing in the way of makeup, clothing, and hair. Very little looks as dumb as a bad pass trying to look like a teenager. If you're in your forties, like a lot of TS's, you can't get away with the silliness that modern teenagers do. Nor can you wear the same things that were popular when YOU were a teenager.

If you're a GenXer like myself, then the rules are a little looser. But you still should dress like the women around you.

ACT LIKE YOU BELONG. Someone who looks like they are half a step away from a psychotic break will attract attention. Be cool. This principle will get you a lot of places. It got me into a closed city council meeting once. Not that I wanted to be there, but the principle applies.

Wear clothes that fit, and shoes that fit. Real women do. Skin tight stuff only works if it's SUPPOSED to be skin-tight. Otherwise it looks like you've gained weight recently or are too blind to admit it. And you look funny, and move funny. And you don't want people to think you're funny, do you?

If out in daylight, check your makeup, etc., IN DAYLIGHT. The harsh light will show up anything you missed in the relatively dim light of your average bathroom, etc. And there will probably be a lot.

Don't stare. Especially in the bathroom. Eye-to-eye contact is fine; eye-to-boob contact isn't (within reason - if something like a brooch or a spider catches your attention, go ahead and look). If you make eye contact, make a pleasant expression, not necessarily a smile, and break.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. When I was waxing my face to get the hair off, I had a week at a time. When I was shaving, I had maybe four hours when I started. Take a day to figure out how long you can last, and then stick to those limits. Check them before you exceed them. Remember, if you're out and past the limit, you probably still have to make it home, which can be over an hour in rush hour...

Book Review(s):
(note: if you read a book that you would like to share with others, please send a review in to the editor.)

CONTESSA
- An Autobiography by Jack Fitzgerald
(Reviewed by Renee Reichenbach)

The story of Contessa, is a story about real life experiences. She was born Clyde Dillard in the deep south where black and white are not blended-you must be one or the other.

He has a father who wants nothing to do with him, except maybe committed to an insane asylum. Making a get away from a college in Arkansas, he makes his way to a school in Mexico, then serves in the U.S. Army at Okinawa. Three years of beatings and humiliation. When he gets out he goes to Cuba for a sex change (SRS). Her hidden talent to sing and entertain is found and she launches a career as an entertainer, Contessa.

She finds love and happiness and has a daughter Barbara. Then the Cuban Revolution by Fidel Castro upsets everything for her again. But she is able to escape to Paris, France with friends where her career grows. In the 50's Contessa returned to the United States as a glamorous International Singer and Movie Star. This woman has been to hell and back in her fight for happiness.

There are other surprises awaiting the reader of this book as well as some helpful passing tips.

It is a good book to read at home or on a beach.
"Meet the Officer's"

**Note: this is a place to get your reigning officer's a little better. I hope this helps everyone come a little closer.**

The President and reigning Queen:

Tina-

Tina is 60 years old, as a male, but as a female Tina feels and tries to act like I'm 35 or 40 year young woman. I like experimenting with the internet and the computer, and can find a whole new world out there.

I love the Crystal Club and all I can do for it. I love being a cross dresser, and I love the feeling I get dressed in women's clothes. I am dressed as a woman daily in one fashion or another.

I go out to restaurants and grocery stores with or without my spouse and many times have been called a woman by complete strangers, maybe I carry and act in mannerisms as a woman. Nonetheless, my spouse wonders why sometimes people call me madam or Miss. I take it as a compliment because that is the feminine side of me.

I have told my wife and my ex-wife about my cross dressing, but none of my children. I think one of them has figured it out somewhat, but hasn't confronted me about it. I guess I like the feelings I have, that are different when I am dressed as a woman... I tend to think more like a woman.

This isn't unusual... I screen phone calls for our club and love talking to other cross dressers. I love making plans and doing things for the club to make it a better club for you and others in the years to come...

Tina is still a mysterious and that is good too... If you ever want someone to talk to and hang out with let me know... I am your President.

Thanks for a great year and more to come, I promise! -Tina

News Time:

"Court overturns ruling that voided transsexual's marriage"

By Anne Lamoy
Kansas City Star
Saturday, May 12, 2001

In a far-reaching decision that sets forth new legal criteria for gender identification, the Kansas Court of Appeals ruled Friday that J'Noel Gardiner, who had a sex change operation in 1994, is entitled to a court hearing on whether she should receive a portion of her late husband's $2.5 million estate.

A three-judge panel overturned a Leavenworth County probate judge who declared the 1998 marriage of Marshall and J'Noel Gardiner void because she "was born a male and remains a male for purposes of marriage under Kansas law."

In a 25-page ruling, the appellate court ordered the case sent back to Leavenworth County District Court, saying: "A trial court must consider and decide whether an individual was a male or female at the time the individual's marriage license was issued and the individual was married, not simply what the individual's chromosomes were or were not at the moment of birth."

Marshall Gardiner, who was 85 or 86 when he married J'Noel Gardiner, was a Leavenworth resident. He died without a will in August 1999.

Joe Gardiner, his son from a previous marriage, is contesting J'Noel's claim to half of Gardner's estate. The appellate court ruling said Joe Gardiner and his father were "estranged."

J'Noel Gardiner, who is in her early 40s, is an assistant professor of finance at Park University.

The case has garnered national attention from the American Civil Liberties Union and groups that advocate on behalf of gays, lesbians and transsexuals.

"This is a groundbreaking decision," said Anne Coughlin, professor of feminist legal theory at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "It really goes to the heart of personal identity."

The ruling has significant implications for transsexuals throughout the country, said Hector Vargas, state legislative lawyer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C.

"It's probably the first time that a court has essentially said that sex reassignment surgery is irrelevant to how a couple lives," Vargas said.
J'Noel Gardiner's attorney, Sanford P. Krigel of Kansas City, said he was pleased at the ruling. Reached by telephone at her office Friday, J'Noel Gardiner refused to discuss the case.

Joe Gardiner could not be reached for comment. His attorney, William M. Modrcin, said his client would have to decide among several options, including appealing to the Kansas Supreme Court, requesting a rehearing before the entire appellate court or returning to Leavenworth County District Court.

From the start, the case has hinged on the issue of whether J'Noel Gardiner was a woman when she married Marshall Gardiner, a former state representative and stockbroker.

Under Kansas law, only couples of the opposite sex may marry. Only one state, Vermont, recognizes "civil unions" between couples of the same sex.

The couple met in May 1998 at Park University, where Marshall Gardiner was a contributor and alumnus. In documents from the district court case, J'Noel Gardiner stated that Marshall was told in July 1998 about her prior history as a male. They were married in Oskaloosa, Kan., on Sept. 25, 1998.

The appellate court ruling says that evidence in the court record pointed to a conclusion "that Marshall knew of the transsexual nature of J'Noel, approved, married, and enjoyed a consummated marriage relationship with her."

Both sides agree that J'Noel Gardiner had long suffered from gender identity disorder, believing from before puberty that she was female, even though she had male genitalia.

In the early 1990s, she began electrolysis to remove body hair on the face, neck and chest. Court records show that she had been named Jay Ball and had been married to a woman from 1988 to 1993.

Beginning in 1992, she began taking hormones and in 1993 had surgery to change her voice. All the while, the appellate court said, J'Noel was receiving therapy and counseling.

In 1994, after undergoing sex reassignment surgery - which involved converting the external male genitalia into female genitalia - she sought and was granted a court order in Wisconsin directing that her birth certificate be amended to state that she was female.

The appellate judges reopened the issue of the validity of the marriage by saying that "we can no longer be permitted to conclude who is male or who is female by the amount of facial hair one has or the size of one's feet."

The ruling lists eight specific factors, gleaned from a 1999 Arizona Law Review article, for the district court to consider when deciding a person's sex. Most of the criteria involve medical conditions that sometimes muddy the distinction between males and females.

In addition to chromosome makeup, the appellate court directed the lower court to consider gender rearing, sexual identity and sexual reassignment surgery, among other factors.

"I'm very surprised the court of appeals adopted the eight-point test," Modrcin said. "Kansas is now the first state that says you can change your sex for the purpose of marriage."

To reach Anne Lamoy, call (816) 234-5994 or send e-mail to alamoy@kcstar.com 
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**Dear T* Fashion Advise column**

Full of good advise? Have a clue on fashion? Here's your chance to help your sisters. Take their questions and give them answers, help them decide between the Hot pink or the black lipstick. Help them with their fashion disasters. Email the editor, if you are interested in this position, your name will be kept in strict secrecy.

Girls if you need help, have questions about what's in what's out, what colors you should be looking at for that Blue Strapless number in the back of your closet, then start sending them in to: ccnl@gender.net
**Beauty Tips**

Available space for you

Okay so there is nothing here yet, but here is your opportunity to shine, a volunteer from the audience. I would do this column, but when you are as naturally beautiful as I am, there are no tips. Or maybe I'm a bit too much of a tom-boy to give this space it's due... Drop me a line if you have a tip to share, or would like to take this column over.

**Reviews Movies/Music/the Arts**

Please use this space to share with your sisters things that interest you. Review your favorite local theatre, or sports team. Tell people how you felt about a movie, or a band you saw in concert last week. Review a new release from a favorite band. This is a space to step away from the T* stuff and share a little more about you and what you like. Whether it is Transgender related or not, it can be about anything. Send it, share a little about what you like, find out a little more about the people you see at the meetings, and their likes, or dislikes if need be. As Transgendered people, there is more to your life than the dress or what shade of lipstick to wear. We each have lives that go on & on, share a small part of that, become a little freer.

**Naggie’s Corner**

-I would like to take this time to apologize to the group and everyone receiving this newsletter. I know that the last 3 or so have not been up to par with what you might expect from a newsletter, and frankly I am disappointed in myself, for that. Starting with this Newsletter I hope that what you will find is much improved over the previous ones. If you as the reader have any suggestions, things you would like to see, please feel free to send me your ideas either through E-mail or regular mail. I will see what I can do, and how it might fit.

The help wanted ads are hopefully to peak your interest in writing some stuff for the newsletter, or to get more involved with the club’s functions/organizing. We have some stuff coming up relatively quickly that could use some volunteers. Like the picnic, Halloween party?, Christmas party. Get involved, if you would like to help contact one of your officers.

The more you do, the more you will get out of it, that is a true statement. That goes with all facets of our wonderful group, think about an officer position for next year, there are always a few to be had, it seems. For now, thanks talk with you soon. Love & Joy -Ang

**Naggie’s Corner**

Part-2

I hope this finds all of you well. I write this with a sad heart, this will probably be my last newsletter, I hope that someone will willing take the newsletter over for the July issue. I will do it if necessary, but someone will have to print it, and mail it. As I will be in Kansas, sometime after the 8th of June or so.

I did have some big plans for the rest of the year with our newsletter. I have been disappointed in the past few newsletters, but then again, no-one has shown much interest in helping me by submitting articles. I have to this point refused to make this my newsletter, as I think it should reflect the people in the group, not the individual editor. But that doesn’t seem to work, so I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter, and the features in it. I also hope something in here inspires you to become a part of your club through the newsletter. I hope too, that the person that takes over for me, will be strong enough to realize that they may have to do this by themselves at least for a little bit.

I seem to have no choice in the matter, my moving to Kansas that is. I have been laid off at the job I was at, over an agonizing 2 weeks of being in limbo. It seems that there are too many people in the office, compared to the field. So I, in order of seniority, seem to be the low person on the totem pole. Now they will have no money problems... (okay like I believe that). I have changed over the last three years, and now they have a feeble excuse to let me go, so I feel they are using it.

Of course, here’s the kicker, I moved back home, for a couple of reasons. Just as I do, the house gets sold, that we have been renting, so now I have to find a new place to live, for my family in 30 days. Do you have any idea how many places will not take dogs. I think pets should be allowed in most places, if you can provide good references. Of course now I have to explain that I am in between jobs, and that I will be working shortly... most places want to hear that you have been on a job for 6 months minimum.

I have been trying to get a job over the last week or so, but to no avail. I feel I have good talents, good references, and everything that would seem to be important. But after 10 interviews, 40 plus resumes,
June 2001 Crystal Chronicle

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HELP WANTED:
05/01/2001-We need some volunteers, that are willing talk with the owners of their favorite T* friendly place to shop or visit. Present them with a questionnaire, and an opportunity to become pink listed, and advertise for a year in the newsletter. At this time, just looking for willing participants, to get an idea of how many people will be kind enough to help the local retail stores, and the sisters in the group with some valuable information.
05/01/2001-Help wanted: Reporters/writers needed, a wonderful opportunity, for all you budding writers or want to be writers. Qualified people interested in these positions, should have the following abilities: able to use pencil & paper, or chicken peck on a keyboard, be capable of sending mail or email. The pay is incredible ($0.00 to start, and each year we will add another 0 to the end of your pay, so next year you will be making $00.00, and so on). As far as benefits, the ability to affect those around you in a profound and positive manner, is without measure. If interested please forward emails to:
conl@!gender.net
or snail-mail to the attn of Newsletter editor:
The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287
05/01/2001-Ideas & suggestions needed for the upcoming Crystal Club picnic, the scary Halloween party & the fantastic Christmas party. If there is an idea you would like to throw at us, something you would like to see, please contact an officer of the Crystal Club.
06/01/2001-Volunteers for decorating and planning of the upcoming Crystal Club picnic, the scary Halloween party & the fantastic Christmas party. If interested, please contact an officer of the Crystal Club.
06/01/2001-Newsletter editor for a highly respected newsletter, for The Crystal Club. Do to circumstance beyond their control, the position is available. Please be prepared to offer your talents to the club, pay is little, but the benefits that you and the others that read the newsletter are immeasurable. Please see or talk with a club officer.

umpteen applications, the only place thus far now that has offered any position, has been at $7.00/hr part-time, I can't even seem to get the temp companies to use me. I guessed it must be one of three things. Either my previous employer is giving a less than favorable reference, which would not be in their best interest, or the beautiful long red hair I had (yes, I said had), bothered them, that being the fact that in their eyes I am a male, and probably shouldn't have, such nice hair (and yes I did cry the whole time I was having it cut off, and the balance of the that day plus the next. I feel like I have thrown away my identity. Just a note to those that might be worried, this was not a purge thing, it was... I guess a survival thing, money is hard to live without). The third and final thing that it could be, is that God has decided I need to move on, and back to Kansas.

Maybe I went to all the wrong places. Maybe I should have tried a little harder, I don't know. All I do know is that savings acct. is almost gone, the car payment is due, and my son deserves to have a roof over his head. So I am moving back to Kansas for now, with my wife & son. We will be living in her brother's house, and I will find a job out there, and start over...again.

So if there is a willing sacrificial lamb out there that thinks they might like to do the newsletter, let me know, I will pass it on. Otherwise I will attempt to write it from the windy plains of Kansas, until, the 2002 elections. But someone will have to keep me informed about what is really going on, because I won't have a clue. My email will work for a while, but I will be changing it sometime after moving, I will let the appropriate people know.

Until we meet again, my dear sisters, I give you my love, and my prayers that your lives will continue to prosper. Hugs & Kisses, all around.

Love & Joy-Angie

Upcoming Events:

(please note various groups have different procedures, you should always contact the group, if you would like to attend one of their meeting so you can go through their screening process, and get location information).

If you are a member of another local group also please email the newsletter editor, dates of your meetings and upcoming events, and they will be posted here. Please also include a contact name and way to get hold of you, so that our members, or others close to your area, may be able to visit.)
The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

Our Purpose
The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

What to Expect at a Meeting
Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too.

Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings.

You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn’t a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you.

We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply “women and men”). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don’t need to exasperate the feelings of people who are already nervous!

You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues
One year membership, includes newsletter $42
Newsletter subscription only $18
Meeting Fees:
  First Timer Free
  Member (of any T group) $10
  Member and Partner $15
  Non-Member $20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information
Postal Mail:
The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers:
(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:
cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:
http://www.tgender.net/cc

Contact Policy
All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.

Meeting Dates and Times
Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30 p.m. (for those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually center around a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

A business meeting is held on the second Friday of the month. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club’s business is addressed, this meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for “real world” issues!

During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.
The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

http://www.tgender.net/cc

Vol. 13 No. 6 - June 2001

Current Officers
President - Tina
Vice President - Valerie
Treasurer - Dianna Mills
Secretary - Jenifer
Newsletter Editor(s) - Open
Meeting Coordinator - Group
Screening Officer(s)
Internet - Rachel
Phone - Tina
Web Mistress - Mary Ann
Assistant - Nikki
Librarian - Valerie

The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complimentary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member.

News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to the Club before the end of each month. The e-mail address is:
ccnl@tgender.net

Please specify in the subject field that this is an article for the newsletter.

President's Corner - Tina

Hi ladies here it is August already. With two football players passing out and dying with this extreme heat, I urge you all to wear protective clothing but don't overdress in this heat. Get plenty of water and stay in an air-conditioned place when you can, if not in front of a fan. I don't want to lose any club members from heat exhaustion. Next meeting (this month) we are having Colleen Marshall from Channel 4 come to talk with us - only her - no cameras. So you won't be on TV. We are also having Regis Wigs set up a section for anyone who wants to look at and/or buy wigs. Next month is our Picnic and it is going to be in a place different from last several years. It will be held at our normal Social meeting place. The picnic is to start getting under way about 4 pm and about 7:30 we are having a speaker (rather 2 speakers) from Mary Kay Cosmetics. They are Barb Canter-French and Dawn Boyd. I set it up with Jill Van Valkenburg thinking the other ladies couldn't keep their appointment with us, so Jill bowed out. She said that Barb is good at dealing with transgender customers (us). So be sure to check out her products and buy if you need something. Then in October is our Halloween party. Last year we had two ladies come in wedding dresses, and a lot of interesting costumes. It is not a requirement to wear a costume for that party, but this will give you that excuse to come dressed as a woman and tell them at the costume shop so you can buy those things you need to achieve the feminine look. No Social meeting in November because of all the holidays in them month, but early December (Dec. 1st) we are having the Christmas party and we want it be the event of the year. We want all members to come to that and bring a spouse or close friend (someone that will not look down on us as cross-dressers). More about it later - all I can say is Diana Mills and her spouse is doing most of the cooking and last year did one fantastic job. It is well worth it for you to be with your family of cross-dressers then. We will have some guests there too, and if you aren't a member, we want to see you there too - but all must make advance reservations so Diana knows how much to prepare. Ok ladies. We are having a great year full of talented people speak with us for us and provide us with information. Please take advantage of each meeting and come.

Thank you. Tina
Meeting notes

We did not have any speaker at the July meeting. Mary Ann brought the tapes from PFLAG and the recently shown television documentaries on transgendered issues. Thanks Mary Ann! The next two months will be busy with several excellent speakers – it won’t be long before the weather starts turning nasty, so come out now and enjoy the weather as well as some excellent speakers / presenters.

Newsletter Editor Needed!!!

As many of you are aware, our former newsletter editor (Angie Bolin) had to step down from her position. Angie had lost her employment in the recent economic downturn and was unable to find work in the Columbus area. She has relocated to Kansas and is doing well.

However————

We need a new editor for the newsletter!!!

Diana was kind enough to complete the newsletter for July and Nikki for August, but we need a permanent person to take over this important responsibility. Any volunteers should contact Tina.

Valley Gems Meeting

This is a reminder to let you know that the Valley Gems meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly...

News from the TG front

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- On July 23rd in The Franklin County Court house, Columbus Ohio Magistrate Nancy Novack issued a surprising and unfair custody order in favor of the estranged wife of a Transgendered woman. The magistrate denied custody to Dawn Kereluik FKA Donald even though Forensic Psychologist and the child's Guardian Ad Lidem both recommended primary custody be placed with Dawn. The Psychologist logged over 70 hours investigating the family, and child, and the guardian ad Lidem spent over a year reviewing paperwork, discussing with the family and interviewing with the child. They both felt that the child would be better off in Columbus which has a more accepting atmosphere, and counselors, peers and church members who understand the child's unique situation. In addition she would have the support of her two stepsisters who are currently living with her father and her partner. The child currently lives with her mother in Eaton Ohio which does not have Columbus' diversity and has very little to offer the child in support. Both of the experts in this case felt the mother placed undo stress on the situation due to her anger over her estranged husband's transition however the magistrate ignored the experts citing "the court is unwilling to accept the notion that the best way for Heather to deal with her father's Transgendered issues and unconventional lifestyle is to place her in the center of it". The father Dawn Kereluik and her partner Katheryn have filed an objection with the court.

July 20, 2001 Posted: 2:23 p.m. EDT (1823 GMT)

(FindLaw) -- In Enriquez v. West Jersey Health Systems, the court held that New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination protects transsexuals from discrimination both on the basis of disability and on the basis of sexual identity.

Carla (born Carlos) Enriquez was a biological male afflicted with gender dysphoria, a gender identity disorder also known as transsexualism. The preferred treatment for gender dysphoria is sex reassignment, a transformation that takes years to complete.

Before surgery that changes the individual's anatomical gender to align with his or her psychological one, transsexuals begin the transformation by assuming the external appearance of the opposite sex. For Carla, this meant shaving her beard, piercing her ears, growing long hair and wearing a ponytail, and, by virtue of hormonal therapy, beginning to grow breasts.

Meanwhile, Carla was working as a doctor in private practice. Her contract with West Jersey Health Systems provided that either party could terminate the relationship upon 90 days
written notice, with or without cause.

Upset with her external changes, the higher-ups at West Jersey Health confronted Carla and, according to her complaint, told her to "Stop all this and go back to your previous appearance." When Carla refused, she said, she received a letter terminating the professional services agreement.

Transsexuals and sexual-orientation discrimination

As do many other states, New Jersey has a law prohibiting employers from discriminating on the basis of sex. Unlike most states, however, New Jersey also prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of "affectional or sexual orientation," a provision added by the legislature in 1992 and defined to include heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality. One question in the Enriquez case was whether this provision was broad enough to encompass discrimination against transsexuals. The New Jersey court said no. Because most transsexuals, including Carla Enriquez, are not homosexuals, the court refused to apply this provision of the statute.

Transsexuals and sex discrimination

Enriquez did, however, receive a favorable ruling on another ground. She also alleged a more traditional sex discrimination claim against West Jersey Health, on the theory that sex includes gender and forcing men to "act like men" and women to "act like women" constitutes gender discrimination.

This argument has not, thus far, been successful in cases proceeding under Title VII, a federal law prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sex. No federal circuit court has squarely held that transsexuals are protected by Title VII, and several have held that they are not.

The New Jersey court, however, interpreting New Jersey law, ruled that Carla was correct: Discrimination against transsexuals constitutes gender discrimination. (The court also held that discrimination against transsexuals might constitute illegal disability discrimination under New Jersey law).

The effect of Waterhouse v. Hopkins

While the New Jersey court's ruling differed from those of federal courts that had confronted the same issue, the New Jersey court did find one federal precedent persuasive. It relied on the United States Supreme Court's 1989 decision in Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins, which took a very broad approach to defining sex discrimination.

In Waterhouse v. Hopkins, the plaintiff was denied partnership in an accounting firm, at least in part because she was too aggressive, cursed like a truck driver, and did not walk, talk, or dress in a feminine manner. In short, she was a woman who acted like a man, and for that she was dealt a career-stunting blow.

The court held in Waterhouse v. Hopkins that Title VII forbids employers from discriminating against an employee for failing to live up to gender-role expectations. You can't, in other words, punish a female employee for not being feminine enough.

Refusing to allow employers to discriminate against transsexuals who dress and maintain an outward appearance that is inconsistent with their anatomical sex would seem to be a logical consequence of the Waterhouse decision.

If a female employee cannot be punished for not being feminine enough, then certainly a (biologically) male employee like Carla cannot be punished for not being masculine enough.

Yet with the exception of the recent New Jersey ruling, courts, for the most part, have stuck to their guns despite Price Waterhouse. That is, they have continued to interpret Title VII and its state counterparts to permit employers to punish transsexuals for, in essence, failing to conform to gender expectations. Why?

The law of dress codes

There has been a long-standing anomaly in Title VII case law that permits employers to maintain sex-specific dress and grooming codes. Employers can, for example, require that men wear short hair, while allowing women to grow theirs long. They can also require men to wear business suits and ties, while requiring women to wear dresses. Decisions upholding these kinds of rules are anomalous.
because they seemingly permit precisely what Title VII clearly forbids: treating employees differently on the basis of sex. Not surprisingly, the reasoning of these decisions is unconvincing.

To justify the dress and grooming codes at issue, courts have at times resorted to platitudes about employers having the prerogative to run their business the way they see fit. But, of course, there are lots of ways employers might see fit to run their business that we do not allow.

For example, we do not allow employers to hire only white employees, nor to fire older workers and replace them with younger ones. Yet dress code cases, in effect, allow employers to insist on Archie Bunker's world, where "girls were girls, and men were men."

**Dress codes: Not gender-neutral**

Other courts have attempted to claim that dress and grooming codes are not really discriminatory but are actually gender-neutral, because they require men and women alike to adhere to generally accepted community standards. That these standards are different for men and women, and themselves the product of sex stereotypes, is conveniently ignored.

After all, it is not as if, for example, men traditionally happen to wear beige, while women happen to wear navy. Rather, high heels, long hair, and dresses connote particular "female" traits -- suggesting the wearer is pretty, sexy, demure, fashionable, or what have you. Conversely, short hair and business suits connote the "male" traits of being no-nonsense, all-business and in control.

Moreover, the extra time needed to take care of long hair, and the impediments to movement that high heels and dresses can impose, suggest that they embody not just a style, but a concept of how women should spend their days, and how they should move and behave.

The sheer time investment in dressing "like a woman" can be daunting. Just ask any businesswoman running, in high heels, to make her plane after blow drying her hair and putting on makeup for an hour. Or better, ask her male colleague, already calmly seated on the plane and reading the newspaper.

The future for transsexuals

In any event, however unconvincing their justifications, the dress code cases are bad news for transsexuals. Courts have generally allowed employers to insist that men "dress like men" and women "dress like women" -- and that is precisely what pre-operative transsexuals cannot do.

Still, the New Jersey court in Enriquez was not alone in extending rights to transsexuals. Rather, it followed a small number of state courts that have interpreted state anti-discrimination laws more broadly.

Perhaps federal courts will someday recognize that Waterhouse v. Hopkins cannot be reconciled with their narrow interpretation of Title VII, and follow New Jersey's lead.

Joanna Grossman, a FindLaw columnist, is an associate professor of law at Hofstra University, where she teaches Sex Discrimination, among other subjects.

**Meet Your Officers**

**Nikki – Asst Web-mistress**

In the past several months, each of the officers has taken a turn at introducing themselves. Additionally, the officers have attempted to provide the club members with some insights relative to their thoughts on the club and possible future directions. Since I have somehow become saddled with "titling" the newsletter this month, I guess that it is my turn to express something in this column.

A lady never tells her age, and I quit counting when I hit thirty (and that was a few years ago). I have been trans-gendered since pre-adolescent, but have only been "out" since January of 2000. For many years, I felt guilty and ashamed of my condition -- it became something to be hidden away and kept under tight wraps. Part of the output of this shame and "dark secret" was a great deal of depression and it's related twin – anger. Several years ago I started to re-evaluate my life and my direction. I came to realize that Nikki was a distinct and real part of my personality, and that denying this portion of my psyche was not only limiting my development as a
human being, but also creating life problems in my personal relationships.

I attended my first Crystal Club meeting in January of 2000. Since I was still married at the time (and my spouse did NOT approve), I had to attend the first several meetings in “boy” mode. I didn’t even have a “fem” name and chose Michelle at random. Still, the support and acceptance of the group encouraged me. In November of 2000 I purchased my first wig (along with makeup). The transformation was astounding and I cried all night. The buildup of nearly 30 years of hiding a secret was out, and a wonderful, empathetic, and happy person emerged. I replaced Michelle with Nikki because I felt a connection to this name – that I was in fact, a complete person within this identity.

I now go out regularly in “girl” mode, including the Crystal Club, LNO, and general shopping (or just going out around town). I have moved beyond guilt and shame and can be proud of what I am – a person who refuses to limit their personality around social gender norms. I’ve found that much of being out is/was in my head. If you think scared, out of place, and embarrassed, you will stick out, be noticed, and all of your fears will come true. Alternatively, if you act with confidence and present yourself appropriately, most people really don’t seem to care – they’re generally so wrapped up in their business that they won’t get involved.

I think what saddens me the most is how trans-gendered individuals are treated; not only by the public at large, but even within the GLBT community. Post SRS individuals have told me personally (and quite meanly) that if I didn’t want to go all the way, I wasn’t good enough. It seems everywhere I read that the trans-gendered individual, regardless of their place along the male-female spectrum, are routinely subject to discrimination, ostracism, and harassment. The worst part is that we allow ourselves to believe we are worth less as individuals – we allow our communities, our families, and our relationships to control our identity and self-expression. I’m not saying that we should all show up at work tomorrow in a dress – but until we can be proud of who and what we are, how can we be accepted by our families, friends, and communities? I believe that we need to reach out and help the many members of OUR community learn to be at peace with ourselves – and cease to be our greatest enemy.

This is one of the primary reasons that I volunteered for the web site position. I firmly believe that the Internet provides a powerful tool for the trans-gendered community. For the first time, anyone with access to the web can find out that they are not alone. We need to reach out to the community – we need to join together, and we need to support each other. A famous quote says it best – “together we must stand, for individually we must surely fall.”

I think the second important aspect for the club is to encourage support for our spouses and families. We need to unite those in our relationships behind us, with understanding, with information, and with assistance. We need to focus beyond our own issues and remember that these individuals have their own concerns relative to the trans-gendered persona(s). If we cannot achieve the support of those closest to us, how can we ever hope to achieve acceptance in the community at large?

I’m not sure what the future brings, either for myself, or for the club. But I would like to support those ideas and activities that lead to happier lives for both our selves and our families. Life is too short to be miserable and unhappy. Maybe if we learn to accept our selves first, then we can convince the world to accept us as we are.

Beauty Secrets
By Vicki P.

Ladies – what no takers on giving out beauty secrets? Maybe you are just shy. The truth is that many genetic men and women have just as many problems “looking beautiful” as trans-gendered individuals. This column is dedicated to supporting trans-gendered individuals improve their looks and appearance, improving their own self-confidence and their ability to be accepted in the community.

I’ll start the ball rolling by recommending a book. “Color Me Beautiful” by Carole Jackson is a paperback priced under $10 that is full of good ideas. Have you ever noticed that some outfits seem to attract positive attention more than others? Are there certain outfits that you routinely wear because you feel better wearing them? Ms. Jackson’s book
explains some of the reasons why.

Based upon your coloring (hair, eyes, and skin), you basically fall into one of four “seasons” – Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. You look (and feel) your best when your wardrobe (and makeup) matches your appropriate coloring. So what color’s are best for you? In the following sections I will discuss the types of colors that go best for each “season” – if a number of these colors appeal to you, you’re probably within that type. For more details – read the book!

I’l start with winter. A winter person looks best in cool colors. Elizabeth Taylor, Cher, Audrey Hepburn, and Maria Osmond are examples of winter coloring. Winter’s can wear pure white, black, and true grays (from icy to charcoal). They can wear primary colors (pure red, yellow and blue), and the darker counterparts, such as icy tones. Winter’s should avoid pastels, golden yellow, gold orange, rust, peach, orange-reds, yellow-greens, and most browns and beiges.

Examples of summer people include Cheryl Tiegs, Farrah Fawcett, and Caroline Kennedy. Summer’s wear pastels and soft neutral colors well. Think blue, rose, soft lavender, orchid, and mauve pastels. The darker tones of plum, burgundy, and raspberry will also complement the summer type of complexion. A summer should avoid gold tones, oranges, yellow-greens, and all yellow undertones.

Famous people representing the spring category include Sally Struthers, Zaa Zaa Gabor, Marilyn Monroe, Debbie Reynolds, and Julie Andrews. Springs should think clear warm colors, such as yellows. Crisp peaches, peachy-pinks, orangey-reds, yellow-greens, camel, and golden tans work well. Light ivories, medium violet (and blues) are also good choices. Spring’s should avoid burgundy, black, pure white, colors with blue undertones, and dark (or muted) colors.

Finally, autumn examples include Carol Burnett, Ann Margret, Lucille Ball, and Katherine Hepburn. Autumn’s are best complemented by golden undertones, warm colors, and earthy shades. Olive-green, orange-red, bittersweet-red, moss-green, turquoise, gold, coffee-brown, and pumpkin are appropriate choices. Muted or clear tones are fine. Avoid black, pink, gray, blue-reds, and colors with blue undertones.

Use these guidelines to select your clothes, makeup, and hair coloring and you will go a long way towards looking (and feeling) better about yourself. Let’s have some more contributions, or beauty tips for the next column!!!

Upcoming Meetings

August 2001
25 - Crystal Club regular meeting

Colleen Marshall will be speaking, along with a representative from Regis Wigs. There will NOT be any television cameras, so please feel free to come. This should be an interesting speech and represents an opportunity to show a prominent member of the local media about ourselves and our organization.

September 2001
14 - Crystal Club business meeting
22 - Crystal Club Picnic

The annual picnic will be held outdoors (weather permitting) at the normal monthly meeting site. Additionally, representatives from Mary-Kay will be on hand to provide some example facials, and provide some tips. These ladies are trans-friendly and have a number of tricks to improve your look. The lead representative spent several years in theater and has experience transforming the male face into a female presentation. This should be an excellent event.

October 2001
12 - Crystal Club business meeting
27 - Crystal Club Halloween Party

Come in a costume or not – always a good time.
Reading Material

Girlfriend – Men, Women, and Drag
by Holly Brubach and Michael J. O'Brien
(Photographer)

Synopsis
As Brubach and O'Brien travel across the world to investigate drag, readers are introduced to a wonderful group of vivid personalities who bring cross-dressing to life.

From the Publisher
"Drag is a loaded topic, triggering ferocious responses in a wide variety of people. There are men (both straight and gay) who abhor drag for its flamboyant display and find it alarming that the transition from masculine to feminine can be made by means of something so facile as a change of clothes, and others who are seasoned spectators, who go out and look at drag queens the same way some guys watch Monday Night Football. As for women, there are those who consider drag queens their soul sisters, and others who feel insulted by drag as a mean-spirited, sexist caricature. There are intellectuals (men and women alike) who champion drag as a laboratory for what is known in academic circles as 'gender studies.' And finally, there are those who consider drag decadent, perverse, reprehensible."

But no matter what you think of it, there can be no denying that drag is everywhere—The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; Dennis Rodman and Howard Stern; Hedwig and the Angry Inch—and in Girlfriend this fantastic world of gender-bending is explored by former New York Times Magazine style editor Holly Brubach and celebrated photographer Michael James O'Brien.

Wigstock; the annual drag queen invasion of the Pines on Fire Island; the banda d'Ipanema's parade through the streets of Rio during Carnaval; a "Diamonds Are Forever" party in Japan. O'Brien's photographs portray a world of great diversity—witty, flamboyant, touching, and enormously imaginative.

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Brubach, once described as a writer "who could make a safety pin sound fascinating," covers the drag scene in New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Rio, Tokyo, and Bangkok, introducing us to a wonderful group of vivid personalities who bring cross-dressing to life in the unique style of each city. Girlfriend features individual artists and group events:

ISBN: 0679414436
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Pub. Date: January 1999
Retail Price: $40.00 (Barnes and Noble)
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Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too.

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You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues

One year membership includes newsletter $42
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Member and Partner $15
Non-Member $20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information

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Current Officers
President - Tina
Vice President - Valerie
Treasurer - Dianna Mills
Secretary - Jenifer
Newsletter Editors - Angie & Rachel
Meeting Coordinator - Group Effort For Now
Screening Officers
Internet - Rachel
Phone - Tina
Web Mistress - Mary Ann
Assistants - Nicki
Librarian - Valerie

The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complementary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member.

News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to Angie Bolin before the end of each month. Her e-mail address is: angieb65@jadeinc.com

Please specify in the subject field that this is an article for the newsletter.

President's Corner
-Tina

Hello ladies, again we had a great meeting with two great women at our last social meeting. For all you that know Meral Crane, you know she is a wonder to listen to, and does a lot for our community and the transgender people as a whole, both male-to-female and female-to-male. And Dr Beth Trennan, who I only met for the first time at the last meeting. They both had loads of information for us and I am sure helped us in some questions we have about ourselves.

If anyone missed them and would like to see them or talk to them or just meet them, be sure to plan on coming to our Christmas Party on Dec. 1st. (if you don’t know where it is at, see an officer or phone, our clubs phone # 806-7288). We haven’t chosen a menu yet, but if you came last year you know it was good. And Dianna Mills and spouse are preparing the food, so it will be at it’s best.

I made a mistake last month, Collen Marshall won’t be here till the August meeting, this month we are having a wig demonstration and a make up clinic.

You may want to be at this meeting. Speaking of wigs, Meral Crane had some wigs for anyone that needed one no one took any so, I have them for anyone that would like a nice short haired wig. The long haired ones were taken already.

September should be our Picnic and Oct., our Halloween party, and no social event in November, but the 1st day of December we have the great Christmas party. Mark your calendars, make your plans to be there.

For anyone that noticed, at the last meeting we had at least three new ladies showed up, two were with the same name: Gina. And we were honored to have a lady that travels a lot that paid us a visit from the west coast. I tried to talk to them each personally and welcomed them because all members need to feel welcomed and important to us. We are in need of lots of help running this club. If you want to take an active part, please see me or any officer and let them know of your interests.

Thank you ladies, to close this article with this note: "You are today where your thoughts have brought you, you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you" -Tina

News Time:
Tucson may cut off funding for United Way

Arizona Republic, July 3, 2001
(http://www.azcentral.com)
Associated Press

TUCSON -- The city plans to cut off $1.5 million in funding for the United Way unless the charity organization’s nondiscrimination policy is expanded to include people who have undergone or are undergoing sex changes.
News Time: (cont’d)
The nonprofit agency has worked toward protecting gays and lesbians in its bylaws and policies, but not transgender individuals, angering City Council members and local activists, the Tucson Citizen reported. The council voted unanimously Monday to stop payment on United Way funding for the 2002 fiscal year, which began Sunday, if the changes aren’t made by the council’s Aug. 6 meeting.

“One can argue that the United Way will have to find another name for itself because you can’t be united when you’re excluding people,” said Councilman Steve Leal, a Democrat. Council members were lobbied by the city’s commission on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. The group noted that Tucson has had an ordinance banning discrimination against transgender people for nearly two years, yet the United Way’s board of directors voted last week not to add the transgendered to its list of protected groups.

“That’s not a very good example for the agencies they’re going to pass the money to,” said Ron Bogard, a commission member. The United Way board of directors will meet July 26 to decide whether to add the city’s desired policy language.

“United Way clearly benefits the entire community,” said Jill Figueroa, the organization’s spokeswoman. “The sooner we can work this out, the better off we will all be. It’s easy to get involved in the details and forget we’re in the business of helping those who really need it, and that’s probably true of both groups here.”

The council’s action is not directly related to the city’s policy of prohibiting public funding to groups with exclusionary membership practices and foundations that financially support such groups, a response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision upholding the Boy Scouts ban on gay members and leaders.

However, council members said they were upset that a United Way task force that investigated how to comply with that policy had not addressed the transgender issue.

City Manager James Keene yesterday said United Way’s policy of not giving city money or discretionary funds to the Boy Scouts — and other such groups — complies with the city policy. United Way retains the right to solicit private donations for the Scouts.

United Way officials said their board had held off adopting the transgender language in order to look into all the legal questions involved. The task force looked at only the Boy Scout issue, they said.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona has distributed taxpayer dollars to local social service programs for the past 19 years.

Ohio U. designates unisex restrooms
Transgender students have another option
Saturday, June 9, 2001
Mary Beth Lane
Dispatch Staff Reporter

ATHENS, Ohio -- Men. Women. The restroom signs seem simple enough.
But Collin Lovell doesn’t feel right using either.
At the beginning of the school year, the Ohio University senior told school officials that there should be a third choice: unisex.

“If using a public restroom has never been an issue for you, you don’t think about it,” said Lovell, a transgender student who graduates today with an economics degree.

“They (unisex bathrooms) are safe for transgender people who might shock the general public walking into a men’s restroom or a women’s restroom.”

At Lovell’s suggestion, the university recently began to designate unisex restrooms across campus.

About 30 existing restrooms, all single-toilet and equipped with door locks, had been designated either men’s or women’s before. Others had no signs.

Now, new signs make clear that the restrooms are for anyone. OU is among a growing number of universities nationwide that have
accommodated -- or have considered accommodating -- the transgender population, a diverse range of people who -- whether in clothing, mannerisms and behavior, or through hormones and surgery -- cross traditional gender boundaries.

University political correctness? No, just common sense, said Terry Hogan, OU's dean of students.

"We're trying to make the climate on campus welcoming to all students," he said.

The university doesn't track how many students identify themselves as transgender. And until The Post, OU's student newspaper, published a story about Lovell and unisex restrooms last month, few students had given much thought to transgender issues.

"It confused me," said Rusty Rittenhouse, 21, a political-science major. "I've heard of transgender. If you're transgender, does it matter what bathroom you use?"

To some, it does.

"It's a conversation that's being had in many different milieus -- colleges and universities and workplaces," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC, a public-advocacy coalition based in Washington that promotes transgender equality.

"We talk regularly with 'butch lesbians' who are uncomfortable or harassed using the women's restrooms in public places. Unisex bathrooms is one of the ideas being discussed. There needs to be a debate on what constitutes reasonable accommodation for them."

A community college in Oregon recently built a private shower for a transgender student to use after physical-education classes, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Universities across Ohio are watching the trend.

Steve Kremer, director of residence life at Ohio State University, said the school has some single-toilet unisex restrooms.

Colleges that discuss restroom policy should be commended, said Jeff Redfield, executive director of Stonewall Columbus, a gay-rights organization.

"It's those kind of accommodating steps that go a long way toward equality," he said.

mlane@dispatch.com

"Meet the Officer's"

**Note: this is a place to get to know your reigning officer's a little better. I hope this helps everyone come a little closer.**

Secretary: The incredible Jenifer

I am a twenty-three year old that lives in Westerville, Ohio. Jenifer is currently is the secretary of the Crystal Club. The reason that I joined the club is probably for the same reason that many other members joined the club, for the support of people that have the same desires to express another side of their being. As a club, we are able to share situations and experiences that many of us at one time or another have gone through. I am glad that I made it known (except for my family) there is a female persona in me that needs to be expressed. It was October 31st, 1999 that I was able to come out as a crossdresser. At that time, I was in college living in a fraternity house and surrounded by many friends. Some would accept this part of me, others would not and there were some that didn't seem to care either way. I do give a lot of the credit to a professor at college and her friend (who is also a crossdresser and former member of the club) as major supporters to my coming out. They both helped me a lot during my final year of college. I am very glad that I came out when I did. One of the quotes that I live by that has helped me come out is "On the other side of fear is freedom". I don't know who said or wrote this but it is so true! That quote has helped me to go out in public as Jenifer, go to a formal dance sponsored by the college as Jenifer and go to a Gala in Erie PA. There was one problem with going to this gala...it was way above my comfort level as a new crossdresser. There are several reasons why this was above my comfort level but I will name two. First, I was going to an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. Secondly, I participated in events as Jenifer for a full day which I had not done prior to that
day. It was the power of that quote and Diana Mills that not only made me feel comfortable, but I had a great time.

I also would like to thank Rachel Andrews for helping me to take these feelings of dressing as a woman and be able to perform with them. Yes, I have performed one time so far at a small bar called Woody's. I plan to do get better and do many more performances in the future. This seems like an aspect of my life that I want to be really good at. I know ladies that I seem to be rambling on so I will wrap things up. Before I do, I would like to say where I would like to see this club in the future. First I would like to see a membership of one-hundred or more active members and I would like to see those members get together and do more things than just go to meetings and LNO's. Also I would like to say that if I didn't thank you by name in this article before now, I would like to do so now. I have to say that everyone is supportive and has helped me in the club. The club would not be in the good position that it is now if it weren't for the "sisterhood" of this club. If you have any questions, you can email me at "mailto:sweetjenifer77@hotmail.com" or just talk to me at one of the meetings.

Your sister,
Jenifer Matthews/Secretary

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**Book Review(s):**
(note: if you read a book that you would like to share with others, please send a review in to the editor.)

**Reviews Movies/Music/the Arts**
(note: if you there is an event or exhibit you would like to share with others, please send a review in to the editor.)

**Beauty Tips**
(note: Available space for you to share your beauty tips, please forward to the editor.)

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**Dear T* Fashion Advise column**

**Naggie's Last Corner**

-Ang

From the windy Kansas wheat fields, I send greetings and love from Toto. As a a number of you know this will be my last newsletter for the Crystal Club. This saddens me, and I hope that you do not feel that I am abandoning you. My continuous prayers go out to you and for you. I have found some things out here in "God's country" that I had lost a few years ago. Actually hid away, and neglected.

For the first time in my life, I have stopped and listened to what God had to say, and where he wanted me to be. Not that this is where I wanted to be, but it's not my place to question Him. To be obedient to Him, and to seek to glorify Him in whatever way he may chose to use me. He has supplied a roof over my family's head, a job for me, and has given me an opportunity to see that my life was in such disarray. My priorities were askew, so many people have been telling me that I should find a way to make myself happy, and to follow my dreams, I have come to find out that this is wrong. That while I should be happy and content in my life that I should not be my first priority. I had tried to put aside some of the more important things in life, like my family, my belief in Jesus, how important it is to reach out forgive those around me, that I feel have offended me in some way. To look at those around me and offer a helping hand, a warm hug, and a love that comes from the belief that we are so much more than nameless faces, put on this earth to live out our tortured lives until we die, and return to the ground.

As I have said in a previous article, I believe in God, and Jesus, and that He came to save "me" some 2000 years ago, from an eternity in Hell. This is not a sermon, or some right wing Christian talk, meant to infiltrate the sanctuary of the Transgender community. I truly believe God placed us here on the Earth for some reason, he made us this way with a purpose in mind. Don't ask me what it is, I don't know, I won't pretend to know. What I do know is that I love each and everyone of you, and I miss you. And one day in the not to far off future we will meet again, and embrace each other like old friends. Thank you for being there when I needed you, I wish I could have done more, but I don't always get to make the plans, and
there are other things I need to do, places I need to go, and people that I need to meet. I have been blessed by so many of you, and the things you have said and the support you have given me. Keep in touch, my email addy will be: mtbolin@msinter.net feel free to write, I will try my best to write back as quickly as possible, and may on occasion drop in to give you something for the newsletter. Peace be with you, I love you all, may all your prayers be answered and may those answers bring joy to your heart.

Love & Joy,

Angie

Upcoming Events:

July 28, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting

August 10, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting

August 25, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting

September 7, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting

September 22, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting

October 12, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting

October 27, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting

November 9, 2001 Crystal Club Business Meeting

December 1, 2001 Crystal Club Christmas Party

January 11, 2002 Crystal Club Business Meeting

January 26, 2001 Crystal Club Social Meeting

HELP WANTED:

05/01/2001-We need some volunteers, that are willing talk with the owners of their favorite T* friendly place to shop or visit. Present them with a questionnaire, and an opportunity to become pink listed, and advertise for a year in the newsletter. At this time, just looking for willing participants, to get an idea of how many people will be kind enough to help the local retail stores, and the sisters in the group with some valuable information.

05/01/2001-Help wanted: Reporters/writers needed, a wonderful opportunity, for all you budding writers or want to be writers. Qualified people interested in these positions, should have the following abilities: able to use pencil & paper, or chicken peck on a keyboard, be capable of sending mail or email. The pay is incredible ($0.00 to start, and each year we will add another 0 to the end of your pay, so next year you will be making $00.00, and so on). As far as benefits, the ability to affect those around you in a profound and positive manner, is without measure.

If interested please forward emails to: ccnl@tgender.net or snail-mail to the attn of Newsletter editor:
The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

05/01/2001-Ideas & suggestions needed for the upcoming Crystal Club picnic, the scary Halloween party & the fantastic Christmas party. If there is an idea you would like to throw at us, something you would like to see, please contact an officer of the Crystal Club.

06/01/2001-Volunteers for decorating and planning of the upcoming Crystal Club picnic, the scary Halloween party & the fantastic Christmas party. If interested, please contact an officer of the Crystal Club.

06/01/2001-Newsletter editor for a highly respected newsletter, for The Crystal Club. Do to circumstance beyond their control, the position is a available. Please be prepared to offer your talents to the club, pay is little, but the benefits that you and the others that read the newsletter are immeasurable. Please see or talk with a club officer.
Our Purpose
The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

What to Expect at a Meeting
Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20’s to our 60’s, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too. Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings.

You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn’t a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you.

We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply “women and men”). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don’t need to exasperate the feelings of people who are already nervous!

You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues
One year membership, includes newsletter $42
Newsletter subscription only $18
Meeting Fees: First Timer Free
Member (of any T group) $10
Member and Partner $15
Non-Member $20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information
Postal Mail:
The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers:
(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:
cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:
http://www.tgender.net/cc

Meeting Dates and Times
Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30 p.m. (for those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually center around a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

A business meeting is held on the second Friday of the month.
The doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club’s business is discussed, this meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for “real world” issues!

During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.

Contact Policy
All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.