In Your FACE

political activism against gender oppression

The complete listing of all subversive actions against gender oppression around the US, along with occasional instructions on how to roll your own.

Issue 2, Fall 1995

MISSION: To cover all actions related to overthrowing gender oppression, transphobia, genderphobia, homophobia or any other political structure which oppresses us or just really pisses us off. Articles on what's happening, how to, how not to, and how to do it again even deeper.

PUBLISHING PERVERTS: Riki Wilchins, along with various disgusting, unprintable, and anatomically improbable suggestions by Lynn Walker, JoAnn Roberts, and Nancy "Ninja" Nangeroni. You can reach us at: IYF, c/o Riki Anne Wilchins, 274 W.11 St., NYC 10014, or E-Male: Riki@pipeline.com, nrn@world.std.com (that's Nancy). Editing, Layout, Production & Attitude by Ninja Design.

COST: **Freebie:** We're included courtesy of your favorite magazine as a free insert. Don't forget to tell 'em you love 'em (and us). Also published on the Web by JoAnn "CyberBitch" Roberts at http://www.cdspub.com . **Or Not:** Or you ditwads could get off your butts and donate a few beans to the cause (since this is all coming out of our back pockets) and send $10 payable to Riki for a year of IYF, delivered hot to your doorstep.

PUBLISHED: 2-3 times a year or whenever we damn well feel like it so just don't give us any crap, okay?

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NO, WE DON'T CARRY ADVERTISING.....but thanks to our distributors, here's where you can get IYF for free (alphabetically): Anything That Moves, Chrysalis Quarterly, Dare To Be Different, FTM International, ITA Newsletter, ITCLEP News, Renaissance News, SCHEMail, Transgender Tapestry, Transsexual News Telegraph.

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To support IYF's important and depraved contribution to gender political activism, plus receive your VERY OWN subscription delivered right to your doorstep it's only going to cost you 10 beans a year. That's right, just 10 shekels: a cheap activism high if ever there was one!

Now, we here at ITF Central realize this is a ridiculous amount to spend for only 2-3 issues a year. But then, we ask ourselves: how bright can you be if you're sitting here reading this? Lynn promises to give the first dozen subscribers 15 minutes of free oral sex. Of course, the second dozen subscribers get 30 minutes of free oral sex. And then it gets really ugly. So subscribe today!

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1995: A BREAKOUT YEAR IN REVIEW

This was a breakout year for political activism against gender-based oppression. As it draws to a close, some highlights:

- **Brandon Teena Murder Trial Vigil, the Tyra Hunter Demo** - In an unprecedented display of outrage and unity, 40 gender activists and friends show up in Falls City NB for the opening day of the murder trial of Brandon Teena. During National Gender Lobbying Day, 35 activists from across the US picket outside Mayor Marion Barry's office to express their anger over the cover-up in the death of Tyra Hunter.
- **TOPS** - Following a particularly vicious media outing of Lt. Janet Aiello of Hoboken NJ, police and fire fighters around the country join together to form TOPS, "Transgender Officers Protect & Serve," a national organization dedicated to fighting discrimination.
- **National Gender Lobbying Day** - 100 gender activists and friends descend on our nation's capital for the first National Gender Lobbying Day, lobbying on critical issues such as employment discrimination, medical care and hate crimes.
- **Conferences** - In NYC, the first National Transexual & Transgender Health Conference. In California, the first Male-to-Male convention is held, and is nearly overwhelmed by enthusiastic attendees.
- **Media -** ABC's 20/20 schedules a ground-breaking segment on the emergence of transgender political activism.
- **Demos, ENDA, & HRCF** - Edged out of the Employment Non-Discrimination bill again, outraged TG activists respond with unprecedented series of demos in over 18 cities. After 6 months of leafleting and picketing by transactivists, HRCF agrees to inclusion and cooperation.

NATIONAL GENDER LOBBYING DAY TAKES OFF

Contacts: Riki, or Phyllis Frye at PRFrye@aol.com

WASHINGTON DC (Oct 4) - Over 100 TG/TS activists and friends took to the nation's capital in the first National Gender Lobbying Day, far exceeding organizer's most optimistic predictions. For many this unprecedented and historic event marked the coming-of-age of the transgender movement, the first time activists from across the US have worked openly in unison for national political change. It also signaled a definitive step past the "conference culture" [*no diss intended -ed.*] which has long been the primary feature of the gender community.

Phyllis Frye (Transgender Law Conference) and Karen Kerin

(It's Time America) coordinated a largely successful effort to have each and every one of the over 500 Senate and House officeholders lobbied by transgender activists. Focus issues included employment discrimination, medical care, and hate crimes. Secondary issues included discrimination in the military and prison conditions for trans inmates.

On Monday, October 2nd a brief photo-op of all attendees on the south steps of the Capitol Building was followed by a national news conference attended by ABC, Fox News, Family News, CNN and Reuters. Then, of course, the O.J. verdict came in and pushed us right off the tube. (Well, Family News Service probably *did* carry us, since they were worried about the critical and entirely absent issue of our teaching children in the schools. Do these folks *ever* get a life?)

On a personal note, it was hard to describe going into the Longworth Building cafeteria at noon and seeing table after table of translobbyists quietly having lunch. It was also fun watching Congressional staffers doing some classic double-takes (Yes, you've just entered GenderHELL. We control your horizontal. We control your vertical. We control your hormones.) It was also fun getting off the underground Congressional subway going to the House, only to watch a carload of TG activists boarding the other side going to the Senate. Hey! Just your average day in Congress, no?

Activists Hold Brandon Teena Murder Trial Vigil

Contacts: Riki, Nancy, or Davina Anne (DavinaAnne@aol.com)

FALLS CITY, NB (May 15) - Approximately forty persons from across the United States traveled here to participate in a quiet vigil outside the Richardson County Courthouse where the trial of alleged murderer John Lotter, 23, was opening.

Participants in the demonstration came from as far away as California, Washington, New York, Florida, Arkansas, and Minnesota, as well as from Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. Present were noted activist/authors Leslie Feinberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Kate Bornstein, who had addressed a crowd of 150 in nearby Kansas City, MO, the previous afternoon.

Though residents of Falls City were generally supportive, some expressed support for Lotter or disdain for the demonstrators. By mid-afternoon, local kids, some apparently neo-Nazi, circled the block, taunting and threatening demonstrators, including spitting, giving "Seig Heil" salutes, and swiping trucks close to demonstrators who dared venture within range.

Marvin Thomas Nissen, 22, also of Falls City, had already been convicted of murder. The day after demonstrators left he agreed to testify against Lotter, who was later found guilty of first degree murder, eligible for Nebraska's death penalty.

No 'Rest In Peace' for Brandon

Contact: Riki

The word is that Diane Keaton's movie on Brandon Teena will star Drew Barrymore and be based on Aphrodite Jone's upcoming book, titled 'All She Ever Wanted'. Rumors in the MTM community are that the portrayal under consideration is of a girl who liked dressing up as a boy. Could it be that even in death Brandon's identity will be appropriated and sanitized to make it palatable to mainstream audiences and genderphobic America? He died for the right to be a man - to be Brandon Teena - and members of the Menace, FTM International, the Men's community and the Avengers have vowed to do everything they can to honor his memory and his sacrifice.

A coalition of groups is planning to contact Ms. Keaton's production group in California to air our concerns. Add your feelings in writing to Diane Keaton c/o IYF, 274 W11th St #4R, NY, NY 10014, or to James Green at FTM International, or Riki@Pipeline.Com.

The Murder of Deborah Forte

Contact: Riki or Nancy

HAVERHILL, MA (September 12) - On the very day that transactivists were packing up from their vigil at the Brandon Teena murder trial, Deborah Forte was murdered in Haverhill MA. Mr. Michael J. Thompson of Haverhill has pleaded not guilty in Haverhill District Court to the charge of murder. He was ordered held without bail.

Mr. Thompson was charged with the stabbing death of Ms. Forte, who was discovered by her roommate at 9:20 AM on the morning of May 15. Ms. Forte suffered three stab wounds to the chest, each half a foot deep, and in addition a number of slash wounds across her chest, a smashed nose, multiple severe blows to her head and face, and signs on her throat of partial strangulation.

Mr. Thompson allegedly confessed to a coworker that he killed Ms. Forte, after they went to her residence, began "messing around," and he discovered she had a penis.

As with Brandon Teena, The Menace is planning a peaceful Memorial Vigil the opening day of the trial -- both to honor the memory of Ms. Forte, and to protest yet another bloody and violent gender-based murder. Trial date is yet to be set.

Another One, It Just Doesn't Stop: Tyra Hunter

Contacts: Ms. Tracy Conaty (202)628-4160 ex.3303 or Jessica Xavier at TheXGrrrl@aol.com

WASHINGTON, DC (August 15) - Every once in awhile a story hits and you remember how dangerous it is being a genderqueer in this society, even with regard to the most elemental human functions, like helping the sick and injured. Tyra Hunter, a young woman in Washington DC, was struck in a hit-and-run auto accident on August 7. EMS technicians at the scene treated her for severe injuries. In the course of treatment, an EMS technician cut open her pants and discovered that Tyra had a penis. According to witnesses, he began laughing, referred to the prostrate, bleeding woman as a "bitch," and refused to render further medical assistance. Unmoved by bystanders calls that "It don't make any difference, he's [sic] a person, he's a human being," the EMS technician allowed Tyra to lay on the pavement for the next 3-5 minutes while others continued treatment. Finally an EMS supervisor came over and began treating Tyra. She died at a local hospital shortly thereafter. Over 2,000 people attended her funeral on August 12.

Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV) have demanded an inquiry. Meanwhile the Fire Department has demanded its right to conduct an "internal inquiry", which apparently began with refusing all comment and ended with a simple 1 page press release saying they could not determine what had occurred, in spite of the availability of 8 known eye witnesses. [*Smells like a cover-up to us - ed.*]

Menace Demonstrates for Tyra Hunter

Contacts: On the demo, Riki. On Tyra, see story above.

WASHINGTON DC (October 4) - From 8-9am this morning, over 35 gender activists from around the US, most participants in

Lobbying Day, picketed outside Mayor Marion Barry's office. Demonstrators, many in black Menace T-shirts, handed out over 800 fliers calling for a full investigation into Tyra's death and an end to DC Fire Department Chief Otis J. Latin's cover-up.

Deputy Sheriff Tonye Barreto-Neto of TOPS arranged a meeting with the Mayor, at which he pressed Mayor Barry to call for full inquiry into the EMS mistreatment of Tyra Hunter. He also somehow arranged a meeting between TOPS members (incl. Sgt. Stephen Thorn, Fire Capt. Michelle Kamerer, and ex-Officer Marla Anselona) and Fire Chief Latin. Despite 8 eye witnesses, Chief Latin has maintained that no investigation is necessary and the name of the EMS technician involved will not be released.

During the meeting, TOPS representatives pressed hard for a full investigation, better sensitivity training, and an apology to Tyra's mother (promised 2 months earlier). Although the meeting occasionally grew heated, Chief Latin hid behind one transparent excuse after another, rebuffing all attempts at resolution.

Transgender Violence Study Nearing Launch

NEW YORK CITY (October 9) - Transactivists today announced they are nearing completion of a questionnaire for a groundbreaking study of violence against the TG community. Organizers hope to use its results to establish baseline rates on violence against the transgendered.

Said Riki Anne Wilchins of the NYC chapter of The Transexual Menace: "Our community sorely needs this kind of study. Everyone suspects the incidence of violence is high, but no one has any systematic data enabling us to call on government agencies and representatives for action. Bashing and assault against this community has to stop, and establishing solid evidence is a first step towards making it happen."

Organizers say they also hope their study will play an important role in upcoming efforts to add transgender as a category in the federal Hate Crimes bill.

The questionnaire was begun over a year ago in coordination with the Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP). AVP is a national organization mandated with tracking gay-related bias crimes, generally regarded as both aggressive and successful in focusing public awareness on gay-bashing. Capping the announcement, Dr. Sandra Cole and Dr. Matthew Witten, respected senior research scientists from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, agreed to assist in the study design, data analysis, and preparation of the final report summarizing the results.

Study organizers are beginning the process of applying for funding from various philanthropic sources. They plan for the questionnaire to be distributed throughout the US, via both institutional and informal, community-based efforts.

Sean O'Neill Demo planned for Colorado

Genderqueer Charged With Rape For Consensual Sex
Coming to a Courtroom Near You: Making Gender-Privacy a Crime

COLORADO SPRINGS - Sean O'Neill, a 20 year-old transgender person, has been charged with the sexual assault of 4 girls who claim they engaged in consensual sex on numerous occasions but were unaware that O'Neill, born Sharon Clark, was actually "a lesbian." O'Neill, who does not use the words "transexual" or "transgendered," reportedly has a fluid approach to gender and lives primarily as a man, preferring male pronouns. Although the events in question occurred years ago when both O'Neill and the women were teenagers, O'Neill is being charged with 11 felony counts, including sexual assault, criminal impersonation and sexual assault on a child. Total penalty is 32 years imprisonment, and O'Neill would be 52 upon release. Charges were originally brought by two policewomen in the ultra-conservation Colorado Springs area, when O'Neill was picked up on a minor charge and admitted to having vaginal sex organs. His previous girlfriends refused cooperate in the prosecution until intensely pressured by the PD, parents, and the DA's office. If successful, the case would effectively equate failure to disclose one's genitals/genital status as a "criminal deception" and any resulting sex, consensual or not, as "sexual assault" or rape.

This poses grave consequences for transpeople who are pre-operative or non-operative, and for trans-men who lack the $60,000 (or the desire) for a complete phalloplasty. Under Colorado's interpretation, the murder of transpeople (like the bloody May 16 slaying of Deborah Forte following her date's discovery of her penis) could be defended on grounds of "justifiable homicide" since they would be engaged in the de facto "rape" of their assailants. This is strongly reminiscent of the odious "homosexual panic" defense, long used in conservative jurisdictions to justify the murders of gay men by offended straights. O'Neill's case is covered in detail in the October issue of OUT Magazine by Donna Minkowitz.

The Menace is planning a series of educational demonstrations in concert with local activists, the M-t-M community, and any interested Lesbian Avengers. Contact Riki@pipeline.com for more details.

TG Peace Officers Establish Nat'l Organization

Contact: Tonye Barreto-Neto, TBHawk@aol.com, or Riki.

NEW YORK CITY (July 31) - As transphobic media attention continued to escalate surrounding Hoboken Police Lt. Janet Aiello, a decorated and distinguished 24 year veteran, transgendered police officers and firefighters from around the country rallied to her side.

Underscoring that Lt. Aiello is neither special in her transexuality nor in her years of devoted public service, Florida Deputy Sheriff Tonye Barreto-Neto (7 yr. veteran), SFPD Sgt. Stephan Thorn (8 yrs.), Santa Cruz Reserve Dep. Sheriff Melinda Whiteway (9 yrs.), and LA Fire Dept. Capt. Michelle Kammerer (26 yrs.), joined together with Lt. Aiello today to announce the founding of TOPS, Transgendered Officers Protect & Serve: a nationwide organization to support and network transgendered peace officers.

Declared Lt. Aiello, "This isn't a 'transgender' thing, or even a 'transsexual' thing; it's about the first black cop on an all white force, the first female cop on an all male force, or the first lesbian or gay cop on an all straight force. It's about the courage anyone must have to struggle against prejudice and discrimination, and still go out every morning and put your life on the line."

Her sentiments were echoed by Dep. Sheriff Barreto-Neto, who stated, "We hope that once word about TOPS! gets out, no transgendered peace officer anywhere will ever again face the kind media transphobia Lt. Aiello has, without the support and fellowship of brother officers."

In a related action in Hillsborough County, FL, Deputy Sheriff Tonye Barreto-Neto 'came out' in a sometimes raucous, sometimes supportive press conference attended by both major local dailies, four local TV affiliates, and a number of radio stations. As home to the major metropolitan center of Tampa, Florida, Hillsborough County has one of the three largest sheriff's departments in the US. Deputy Sheriff Barreto-Neto is believed to be the first sworn officer to 'come out' as a TS deep in the Bible Belt.

Gender Organizations Get Well-Endowed

Contacts: Lynn Walker at NatashaNZ@aol.com or (718)836-6215; Yvonne Cook-Riley at IFGE@world.std.com or (617)894-8340

CINCINNATI, OH (June 10) - During the most rousing "Be All You Can Be" conference in recent years, attendees spontaneously donated money for transactivism. Allison Laing, the recipient of much of the unrsolicited cash and checks, responded by huddling with several members of gender groups as well as others who were legends in their own minds. Contemplating the new current of activism racing through GenderLand, and loath to use the money on a "one-shot" basis, they opted instead to endow an educational action fund. Called "GenderPAC," it's purpose will be to support trans educational activism nationwide on an ongoing basis.

As if this were not enough, at *Southern Comfort* the first GenderPAC fund-raiser was held. Ms. Terry Murphy, dressed to kill and apparently frantic with anticipation of the Saturday night banquet, accosted every attendee in sight plus several clearly perplexed members of the hotel's kitchen staff and succeeded in collecting over $1,000 in donations.

Activists Call on NOW for TG Inclusion

COLUMBUS, OH (July 21) - A horde (a pride, a covey?)of gendertrash activists and friends attended the 1995 NOW National Conference to educate, run around in black Menace T-shirts, and petition for passage of a resolution calling for trans-inclusion.

A sign of things to come, one of the earliest signatories (thanks to Tonye of TOPS) was Ms. Ellie Smeal, a past-president of NOW. Out of 700 attendees, your GenderGang signed up almost half.

Unfortunately, the conference never got beyond debate on the first few resolutions, and the remainder were tabled to the National Board for a later date. Ms. Smeal and key national staffers pledged privately to work for passage, and the National Membership Coordinator requested a trans-inclusion information packet be mailed to all 50 state chapters.

On the last day, NOW attendees staged a march to the State Capital Building. The TG contingent entered the square early and mounted steps facing the Capital Building, so entering marchers saw transgender activists, most in black Menace T-shirts, lined up behind Phyllis Frye's ubiquitous 30-foot long "Transgendered and Proud and We Vote" banner with their right fists high in the air. Reliable sources report the cheers from NOW marchers were heard in Cincinnati.

HRCF/ENDA Actions

A sampling of events affecting HRCF's decision to include transfolk in ENDA. We regret space limits fuller coverage; all quotes edited:

San Antonio - [Contact: Tere Fredrickson TereF@aol.com] "3 of us leafleted the HRCF event with Candace Gingrich. Just short of 200 folks attending. No negative responses to our leafleting or to our message but a lot of very positive encouragement. Candace is now the proud owner of a black Transexual Menace T-shirt. She thanks us (told her it would be a collectors' item some day) and 'The ICTLEP Reporter'. Geez, folks love those TM T-shirts."

Philadelphia - [Contacts: Grassroot QUEERS, Box 1294, Philadelphia PA 19105 or (215)545-7453 x2, or JoAnn at CyberQueen@cdspub.com] *"I'd rather be in ENDA" - WC Fields* "With smiles on our faces, Grassroot Queers and Renaissance handed out Renaissance-supplied informational fliers to all those entering the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where Candace Gingrich was scheduled to speak. Inside the hotter-than-hell auditorium, people fanned themselves with the fliers, which many took and read, thinking they were programs. The highlight of the evening came when Nancy Forest of Renaissance made an eloquent speech, demanding to know who would fight for her as a transgendered woman: who would protect her job, her housing, her basic human rights."

Cincinnati [Contact: Diane Torrance, (513)232-9523, 74322.143@compuserve.com] "On September 26, 5 transpeople and friends openly attended 'Meet the Candidates' night for those running for City Council, Judgeships and the School Board in Cincinnati. They were unprepared for us walk up and say, 'Hi...I'm transgendered.' They gave us an audience and our support group was publicly thanked for it's participation from the podium. Every candidate was enthusiastic about trans-inclusion, even the Republicans. I'm still psyched over getting five people to walk up to politicians and say they are T*s!"

Cleveland-Akron [Contact: Emilio/a Lombardi, 291 Grove St. #1, Akron OH 44302, (216)535-3209 EmilioLombardi@Uakron.Edu] "Representatives from the HRCF were signing people up and soliciting for funds when I arrived at Dancing in the Streets carnival (an AIDS fund-raiser). I first went to their table and talked with representatives about HCRF's actions, to let them know how I felt, and to let them know I would be giving out flyers to let others know as well. I handed out all the flyers I had with me, and, as this was the first time I ever leafleted, I was surprised at how quickly they all were taken, and wished I had more. Overall, people were friendly and were open to what we had to say."

The National Lesbian & Gay Law Association [Contact: Phyllis (Phyllabuster) Frye, PRFrye@aol.com or c/o ICTLEP, 570 Firenza St. Houston TX 77035] NLGLA, the only queer law group affiliated with the American Bar, last year passed a landmark resolution favoring transinclusion in ENDA thanks to Phyllis and Sharon Ann Stuart. "[At their recent semi-annual board meeting] I asked if Sharon and I could have 30 minutes to present the ENDA fight with HRCF. So we gave them the whole story... There were no HRCF supporters, only shock and anger over what HRCF was doing."

New Orleans - The Big Easy [Contact: Nancy Sharpe c/o Gulf Gender Alliance, Box 870213, New Orleans LA 70187 (504) 523-4203] "Local HRCF leadership is very aware of TG outrage over our exclusion from ENDA, and after they agreed to voice their dismay to DC leadership, we called off our planned leafleting at their fund-raiser. The highlight of the evening: keynote speaker and HRCF board member Dee Mosbacker, co-producer of the films "Straight From the Heart" and "All God's Children", challenged the 500+ attendees, 'Who do we think we are, as we go about obtaining our (Gay) rights, to exclude others from obtaining those same basic rights? Who do we think we are to exclude the Transgendered, the Drag Queens and the Dykes?... [I will] not be part of an organization that denies the Transgendered their rights."

Atlanta [Contact: Dallas Denny, aegis@mindspring.com or (404)939-2128] "Wow, what a weekend! Great turnout of t-people for Pride and a very successful action publicizing the exclusion of transgender from ENDA. During Pride, we reassured the HRCF booth crew that we took the action with regret, but this was an important issue. I'm sure I spoke to at least 150 folks myself and, without exception, everyone was receptive... a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. Local HRCF folks were more than decent... in fact, the local public policy coordinator actually offered to display copies of our flyer at their booth!"

Chicago [Contacts: Debbie Johnson, Jdebbie@aol.com or Stephanie Young at 73257.2514@compuserve.com, both contacts for the new It's Time IL] "Well we did it! Wow, what a blast the Chi-town HRCF fund-raiser was! 7 of us trudged down to Navy Pier and passed out nearly 1000 leaflets, working in groups of 2s and 3s, for a little over 2 hours. The Chicago Police were very cool and even read the leaflet. Exec. Dir. Elizabeth Birch came out and talked with us. Two great moments: we pressed a flyer into the hands of two of the wealthiest guys from my home town, who looked delighted to get it. One said he was thick with the leadership back East, and shocked at the exclusion. The other was an elderly gent who stooped as he read the pamphlet - he could have been an emeritus professor of ornithology: 'Jesus,' he said. 'Damn! and I'm a radical Fairy!'"

Jamison Green Nothing special about ENDA, I just like James and thought this was a good place to plug his well-known smile and the men's community. - StarStruck Rikster

Divas Dish Drag Discrimination [Contact: Lynn Walker at NatashaNZ@aol.com or (718)836-6215] New York City - September 7 : For the first time, members of the Imperial Court, the nation's oldest and largest drag organization, openly expressed their concern on being left out

of the Human Rights Campaign Fund's current Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Excerpted from a 2 page letter from Mr. Charles Ching (AKA "Coco LeChine"), President of the Imperial Court of New York:

"We are writing to express our concern that the currently proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act has been drafted to exclude the issue of transgendered persons in any concrete way... The Imperial Court of New York... is part of the International Court System, [founded] 30 years ago... Every member of our organization would like to encourage the inclusion of transgendered individuals in ENDA... we feel that this is an imperative. We feel that it is the utmost importance to remember that we are none of us protected, until we are all protected."

Leading TG Org to HRCF: End ENDA TG Exclusion

[Contact: Allison Laing at IFGE@world.std.com or (617)894-8340] Waltham, Ma - August 7: Ms. Allison Laing, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), the nation's largest transgender educational organization, issued an open statement today to Ms. Elizabeth Birch, Exec.Dir. of HRCF. Calling on Ms. Birch to reverse HRCF's 2 year-old policy of exclusion of transgender groups from its ENDA coalition, the statement was unprecedented for IFGE, which has previously concerned itself strictly with networking and support.

And the headline you've been waiting for.....

HRCF & TG Activists Agree to Work Together

WASHINGTON, DC (September 18) - After a marathon 4 hour meeting on Sunday, Sept. 17 with TG activists, the Human Rights Campaign Fund issued the following statement:

"HRCF has made a commitment to work with representatives of a spectrum of the transgendered community with a specific focus on hate crimes. HRCF has also committed to assist transgender representatives with an amendment strategy in the context of ENDA. The strategy does not include re-introduction of the current ENDA; the language of the current bill remains as is. Both groups will work in good faith to continue dialogue and to build coalition in the context of ending violence and discrimination against this community."

Present at the meeting were representatives of the American Boyz, the Transgender Law Conference, It's Time America, It's Time Texas, Transgender Nation and The Menace. In light of the agreement of HRCF officials to work with the TG community on ENDA, hate crimes and developing an on-going rapport, representatives of the NYC Menace suspended all demonstrations at HRCF fundraising events. Said Menacier Riki Anne Wilchins after the meeting, "For the first time in history, transactivists have coordinated a concerted, sustained, and ultimately successful nationwide demonstration on behalf of our political rights. Our time has come."

It's Time, Texas!

Contact: Sarah DePalma, ita@phoenix.phoenix.net or Tere Fredrickson at TereF@aol.com

"On April 2, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas held 'A March on Austin' in support of their hate crimes legislation pending in the state senate. As promised, It's Time, Texas! was there waiting for marchers to arrive with our protest because TG people were left out of the legislation. We staked out an area directly in the path of the marchers on a little knoll which gave us high visibility. I must say it is incredibly intimidating to look down hill at 5,000 to 7,000 people coming directly at you. I can't count the number of people who told us they were glad we were protesting and how many more said they agreed with our position on inclusion. We had distributed 2,500 flyers earlier for them to hold up as a sign they believed in inclusion and many did exactly that. Others peeled off from the march and stood with us, their flyers held high in the air. It was a genuinely moving experience."

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Controversy Grinds On

Contact: Davina Gabriel at DavinaAnne@aol.com or 4004 Troost, KC, MO 64110

SOMEWHERE NEAR HART, MI (August 6) - Three transexual women led by Davina Anne Gabriel of KC, MO bravely entered the Festival this week and, once inside, outed themselves. For the first time since Nancy Jean Burkholder was expelled in '91, openly transexual women at Michigan did not encounter any problems with Festival Security or staff.

At last year's Camp Trans, Festival organizers announced they would continue the criteria of "womyn-born womyn only" but it would be up to festival goers to "decide for themselves" (?) if they met the criteria for attendance. Under this policy, a number of Camp Transites entered last year's Festival as openly TS women, stayed for a few hours, and left.

It may be that the yearly outcry from the transcommunity has *finally* changed the policy, but it is still anyone's guess if transfolks will be turned away if they try to enter openly.

Unhappy at G.L.A.A.D. and Sauza Tequila

Contact: Kim Ono (212)255-1966

NEW YORK CITY (September 1) - The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has consistently been one of the more transinclusive national queer groups. But apparently GLAAD-NY's new Managing Director, William Waybourn, has been spiking trans-related stories, including one about Safe Space, which helps queer & trans teens, and the disgusting Tula "Life is harsh - She's a he" Sauza Tequila ads.

Mr. Waybourn indicated that GLAAD does not endorse a "laundry list" of identities, but that "gay and lesbian" is OK (as apparently "non-laundry list identified"? We don't make 'em up, folks, we just report 'em). In addition, he reportedly stated that the Sauza ad was not offensive (?), and that it was not GLAAD's responsibility to deal with it, but the transgender community's. Interestingly, the GLAAD-SF MediaWatch led

with the very story spiked by Mr. Waybourn, noting that "Transgendered people do not make life 'harsh' - transphobic people do."

Late breaking news: Responding to mounting pressure and dissatisfaction, GLAAD NYC agreed to found a TG Caucus. A meeting was called by Assoc. Dir. Donald Suggs for all interested parties for October 12, and over a dozen local activists responded. The first order of business was the notorious ads for Sauza Tequila. If you want to make your own response to this outrageous ad, contact: Gabe Sagaz, President and CEO, Domecq Importers, 143 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich CT 06870.

Yet more late breaking news: As we went to press, Mr. Donald Suggs, Ms. Cathay Che, and three other long-standing and trans-friendly members of the GLAD staff were fired following a series of disagreements with Mr. Waybourn.

Pennsylvania Targets TG/TS Persons

Source/contact: Kristine Holt, kholt@astro.ocis.temple.edu

PHILADLPHIA, PA (Oct 31): Reportedly the Comm. of Pennsylvania has launched a campaign to deny medicaid benefits to TG/TS persons. The DPW is both denying current services and seeking reimbursement from providers for past services rendered. This will discourage doctors from providing *any* services (including psychiatric and counseling services related to depression, alcoholism, etc.) to all TS/TG folk.

Per our source, this policy results from a decision by "a particular director" and "doctors are being... threatened by this director with negative publicity and revocation of *all* medicaid and medicare payments if they challenge what's going on."

Says Ms. Holt: "Pennsylvania's policy is a clear violation of federal medicaid regulations (denying benefits on the basis of diagnosis), and attempts to deny TS/TG folk the benefits we both need and have a right to under the law. A suit challenging PA's policy needs to be filed in federal district court."

The Menace Spreads - Your Local Listing

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