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 4, Spring 1997

MISSION: Cover all actions related to overthrowing gender oppression, transphobia, genderphobia, homophobia and related oppressive political structures.
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FORTE KILLER PLEADS GUILTY, GETS LIFE

[Lawrence, MA: Sep 16, 1996] Michael Thompson was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to the murder of Debbie Forte. Thompson confessed that he had taken Ms. Forte home on May 15, 1995, began "Messing around" with her and, upon discovering she had a penis, killed her. A dozen members of Transexual Menace, GenderPAC, and IFGE gathered in a quiet memorial vigil outside the courthouse. Members of Debbie's family emerged from the sentencing appearing shaken but resolute, declaring themselves satisfied with the conviction and sentence. Many of them stopped by the demonstrators, thanking them for their support.

NATIONAL PUSH FOR GID REFORM HEATS UP

ACTIVISTS PICKET APA HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON

[Washington, DC: Nov 8, 1996] A broad coalition of national queer groups banded together for their first protest on genderqueer issues. Forty activists held a demonstration outside the national offices of the American Psychiatric Association in Washington this morning.

The effort was jointly sponsored by the Transexual Menace, The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Bi-Net USA, and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). Demonstrators protested the APA's continued use of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) as a mental illness, claiming it unfairly pathologizes gender-variant youth and transpeople.

Protesters were met by a representative of the APA's Public Relations Department, as well as 5 members of the DC Police. The demonstration was largely a friendly affair on all sides. The action drew a broad cross-section from the queer community, including bi, trans, gay, lesbian, and herm activists of several races and all age groups.

GID has historically been used as a diagnosis for transexuals seeking hormones for sex-change surgery. However of late, fewer and fewer insurance carriers or HMO's have been covering trans-related medical care, and many now explicitly exclude it. Simultaneously, an increasingly militant combination of gender and queers activists is demanding that the APA reform GID, claiming it diagnoses them as mentally ill simply because they are gender-different.

TRANSACTIVISTS PICKET APA IN CHICAGO

[Chicago: Oct 19, 1996] Forty-eight demonstrators held an hour-long meeting with representatives of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) today during their national conference for hospital administrators and managers to protest the APA's use of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) as a diagnostic practice. A remarkably diverse group of demonstrators, including members of Transexual Menace (NYC, Chicago, LA, Tampa), It's Time America (IL, WI), Queer Nation, the Lesbian Avengers, TOPS, various leatherboys, and at least one intersexed person spent the morning outside this conference vigorously protesting the APA's use of GID.

Demonstrators carried signs and handed out a thousand fliers. In a bit of guerrilla theater, some protesters managed to insert the fliers in hundreds of the APA program guides so they were the first thing attendees saw when registering. Said one Menace spokestrans, "If I want my nose done, it's a 'nose job,' if I want my breasts done, it's a 'boob job,' but if I want my groin done, suddenly I have a 'mental disease.' GID is NOT about psychiatry, it's about punishing difference under the guise of practicing medicine."

MILLION IN TAX $ FOR 'TREATING' GENDER-VARIANT KIDS

According to Phyllis Burke's new book, GENDER SHOCK, for almost 3 decades, the US government has been funding millions in taxpayer dollars to locate, diagnose, and "treat" scores of children for

REGISTER NOW FOR NATIONAL GENDER LOBBY DAY & ACTIVISTS CONFERENCE

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone: E-mail:

☐ Yes, I'll attend the First Activist Conference Sunday May 4th
My senator(2) and

My representative

I can donate $_____to help someone else attend Lobby Day.
I can help out by putting (#) people up in my room.

Questions??? (212)645-1753 or Riki@Pipeline.Com

1st Activists Conference

➤➤➤ *May 4, 1997* ➤➤➤

Lobby Day

➤➤➤ *May 5-6, 1997* ➤➤➤

Both in **Washington, DC**

Conference at same Inn where lobbyists stay.

MAKE A LITTLE HISTORY

please mail this form to: GenderPAC, 274 W. 11th St. #4R NYC 10014 or GPac@GPac.Org

having the disease of Gender Identity Disorder (GID). Says Burke, "Government records indicate that, since the early 1970¹s, at least 1.5 million dollars was awarded from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)," adding that, "[This] is probably the tip of the iceberg." This "research" and "treatment" continues today with children as young as 3 or 4 years of age. Often, their only "disorder" is running afoul of the APA¹s traditional fear of sexual or gender difference. Treatment has run the gamut from basic psychotherapy, to round-the-clock reward/punishment regimes of behavioral modification, to forcible institutionalization in a psychiatric ward -- sometimes complete other psycho-active medication, writes Burke.

Daphne Scholinski is one such child who was involuntarily committed by her parents from age 14 to 18, after being diagnosed with GID. An athletic teen, Scholinski did not want to wear dresses or be submissive. After 3 months in Œtreatment,¹ she attempted suicide. Said she, "Most people die after they get out. The recovery from the system is what gets people in the end. Life expectancy of my friends is pretty low. Most of my friends are dead."

NGLTF CALLS FOR GENDER DISORDER REFORM

Contact: Tracey Conaty, (202)332-6483x3303 tconaty@ngltf.org

[Washington, DC: Dec 12, 1996] Kerry Lobel, head of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) today sent a statement to the head of the American Psychiatric Association urging that gender difference be eliminated as a mental disorder. NGLTF¹s statement also went out to the APA¹s Gay & Lesbian Issues Committee. Ms. Lobel¹s letter also requests meetings between NGLTF, gender activists, and APA officials.

The action calls to mind NGLTF's courageous struggle with the APA 25 years ago to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder. Many believe it was the de-pathologizing of homosexuality which enabled the modern gay civil rights movement to emerge and move into the American mainstream. The question now is whether such initiatives by NGLTF can help the burgeoning transgender movement do likewise.

Said activist-academic Jacob Hale, "We are calling for the APA and psychiatry in general to get out of the business of policing bodies, gender, and desire. These diagnostic categories fail to meet the most minimal criteria for any sort of mental disease. This is because they are fundamentally about imposing hetero-normativity on all people…"

HERMAPHRODITES WITH ATTITUDE! PICKET DOCS

Contact: Cheryl Chase, CChase@ISNA.Org

[Boston: Oct 26, 1996] In the first public demonstration by intersexuals in modern history, 26 gender activists gathered to protest the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) for their continued support of Intersexed Genital Mutilation (IGM). The protest outside the AAP¹s annual meeting was jointly called by Hermaphrodites With Attitude (HWA) and The Transexual Menace.

IGM, touted by the AAP as helping intersexed bodies achieve "normal genitals," has been roundly denounced by hermactivists as the moral equivalent of giving homosexuals electroshock and lobotomies to help them achieve a "normal heterosexuality."

Conference attendees were, by turns, shocked, bewildered, and defensive as they emerged for lunchtime to face a battery of hermactivists armed with fliers and banners. A number of pediatricians stopped and chatted with protesters about their concerns. Declared an HWA spokesherm, "Doctors are now cutting into 5 intersexed infants every day. If we can save just one child from IGM it will be worth it. Congress has decided that African infants have the right to keep their genitals; now we¹re fighting for the same right for American children."

LA TIMES DETAILS INTERSEX ABUSE

[Los Angeles: Nov 20, 1996] The LA Times Metro section today carried an article titled, "Suit Over Gender Confusion Settled," about the settlement of a lawsuit brought by an apparently intersexed woman who was arrested and abused by transphobic officials.

Candice Sue Penn was allegedly forced to remove all her clothing in front of numerous sheriff¹s deputies and inmates, ridiculed, threatened, embarrassed, humiliated, and forcibly incarcerated at the Men¹s Central Jail in March 1995. The County Sheriff¹s Dept. agreed to pay Penn $30,000 in an out-of-court settlement for "emotional distress" after Penn filed suit in federal court.

Penn had originally been sent to a woman¹s facility where inmates complained that she was a man. She was then examined and sent to the men¹s facility, re-examined, and then transferred back to the women¹s jail the following day. While at the men¹s jail, Penn alleged that she was "attacked, threatened, and subjected to abuse" by other inmates.

SUIT ALLEGES POLICE INTERSEX BRUTALITY

Contact: Marsha Johnson@aol.com

[Hoffman Estates, Ill: Jan 16, 1977 from an article by Mike Spitz in ŒOutline¹ Magazine] The family of Logan Smith, 23, who died shortly after being released from police custody, has filed a wrongful death suit against the Hoffman Estates police. Smith had been in a car the police had stopped for a minor traffic violation. An altercation ensued after the driver, Smith¹s brother, was maced by the arresting officer. Smith, complaining of sever pain, was taken to a hospital which allegedly failed to recognize the seriousness of his condition and released him back into police custody.

He died of a septic infection resulting from, as the suit alleges, being "seized with unreasonable force, kicked in the stomach, and sprayed with pepper gas." Smith, an intersexed person who had been raised as a female until the age of 15, was born with an external bladder which had required a series of surgical procedures to rectify. The police maintain Smith died from complications from sex-change surgery.

VT RALLIES FOR CROSSDRESSING TEEN

Contact Jess Bell, TransVT@aol.com

[Burlington, VT: Oct 5, 1996] Dozens of local supporters and members of the Transexual Menace gathered in front of the downtown Unitarian Universalist Church today to voice their support and concern for suspended crossdressing teen, Matthew Stickney. Demonstrators handed out hundreds of fliers to the amused and often supportive crowd. The local Ben & Jerry¹s provided free ice cream coupons to the demonstrators.

Stickney, who identifies variously as gay, drag, and cross-dressing, was suspended from Burlington HS on Sep 9 when he wore a dress to class. He said it was his way of showing pride in his identity. After being verbally assaulted by other students, the principal accused Stickney of "creating a disturbance" and demanded he change his attire. A series of confrontations ensued and Stickney was suspended.

NY TIMES PRINTS GROUNDBREAKING STORY

[New York City: Sep 8, 1996] The NY Times printed a story on emerging gender activism by staff writer Carey Goldberg on the front page of the Nation section of its Sunday¹s edition. Entitled "They Fight for Respect," the article covered the Deborah Forte Memorial Vigil, the emergence of the gender movement along with the Transexual Menace and GenderPAC, and also covered the 1st National Gender Lobbying Day and GenderPAC's congressional lobbying by DC attorney Dana Priesing. The article included a very wide number of movement figure, including Jamison Green, Jacob Hale, Dana Priesing, Alison Laing, Dr. Barbara Warren, Nancy Nangeroni (*no accounting for taste*), and Riki Anne Wilchins (*ditto*).

MEDIA CATCHES ON TO GENDER ACTIVISM

•The Dec 10th ADVOCATE featured an article entitled "The Transgender Revolution." Staffer John Gallagher covered the many changes and developments in the gender movement since his original groundbreaking piece 2 years ago. Highlighted issues included the founding of GenderPAC and the rising controversy over GID. THE ADVOCATE¹s back page featured a startling "Last Word" by Gabriel Rotello. Titled "Transgendered Like Me," it opened, "Do I look transgendered?... Yet I increasingly believe that I am transgendered. What¹s more, I believe that if you are lesbian or gay or bisexual, you are too. And I believe that an emerging definition of all gay people as

transgendered is the wave of the future."

•THE BAY AREA REPORTER's veteran columnist Bob Roehr, who is syndicated in 25 queer publication, wrote a positive piece entitled "Transgender Issues Prominent in Capitol," which profiled the recent meeting between HRC and gender activists on ENDA.

•IN THE LIFE, a PBS show aired nationwide, featured it's first piece on gender activism. The 8 minute piece had interviews with Kate Bornstein, Leslie Feinberg, Riki Wilchins, and Martine Rothblatt, and showed pictures from the Brandon Teena Memorial Vigil, the 1st National Gender Lobby Day, and the founding of GenderPAC.

•OUT MAGAZINE followed Susan Stryker's GID piece last month by mentioning National Gender Lobby Day, GenderPAC, and Hermaphrodites With Attitude in their annual "OUT 100" list.

Trans Murder In Cleveland

[Cleveland, OH: Jun 13, 1996] Today the body of Janice Ricks was found. She had been shot twice. No suspects have been identified by police, nor has a motive been given. Local news media have carried little coverage of the murder, with one station briefly mentioning that a man who went about in women's clothing had been killed, although Ms. Ricks was reportedly living full or nearly full-time as a woman.

Said Emilia Lombardi, a spokestrans for Transexual Menace, "Janice's death reminds us how many people there are on the margins of society, often overlooked and forgotten. Many of these are people who are isolated and alone, having little or no contact with trans or queer communities which could help and support them. How many others must die alone, or suffer in silence?"

Brandon Teena Revisited

[Lincoln, NB: Dec 4, 1996] The murder of Brandon Teena is once again in the spotlight. The first week in November, Sheriff Charles Laux, who refused to protect Brandon following his initial assault and rape complaint, was elected as a Richardson County Commissioner. The vote was a tie and decided by a coin-toss.

Many in the queer community felt that, had Laux followed up on Brandon's original compliant, Brandon and friends Lisa Lambert and Phillip DeVine might still be alive. Said Tony Barreto-Neto, Exec Director of Transgender Officers Protect & Serve (TOPS) and a Florida Deputy Sherriff, "In my opinion, Charles Laux is guilty of criminally culpable negligence in the triple murders. I have examined Brandon's original signed complaint, and there is no question that [Laux] had probable cause to make an investigation and take the perpetrators into custody BEFORE they carried out their threat to kill Brandon. He didn't act because Brandon, like me, was a transexual."

GenderPAC Updates

GENDERPAC FORMALIZED AS NATIONAL MOVEMENT

[King of Prussia, PA: Nov 2, 1996] In what one attendee called, "the most important political event for transpeople since the Stonewall Riot," 12 organizations representing the heart of the trans community signed Articles of Association for GenderPAC today, highlighting an often intense, day-long meeting.

The signing marks the first time the gender community has consolidated its resources to address gender-based oppression. GenderPAC is a "public advocacy coalition," dedicated to "gender, affectional and racial equality." It began in June of 1995 as a loose-knit advisory group of trans-organizations to raise money and direct activism. However, it's focus quickly grew to include such activities as congressional lobbying, hate crimes, employment discrimination, National Gender Lobbying Day, community-based research, and legal advocacy.

MORE NATIONAL GROUPS JOIN BOARD

•BiNet USA - Represented by Stephanie Berger (Virago@slip.net), BiNet USA is the country's largest bisexual group, representing scores of local and regional chapters across the US.

•National Gay & Lesbian Task Force - Represented by Betsy Gressler (BGressler@ngltf.org), NGLTF, the country's oldest gay organization, has a brilliant history of field organizing and grassroots mobilization.

•National Center for Lesbian Rights - Represented by Shannon Minter (shanminter@aol.com), NCLR does extensive work in lesbian rights, including the use of GID against gender-variant children.

GENDERPAC AND N.O.W. MEET ON TRANSINCLUSION

[San Francisco: Jan 25, 1997], Representatives of GenderPAC and other groups made an impassioned presentation to NOW's prestigious President's Conference this afternoon, pursuing ratification of a 2 year-old transinclusion resolution which has languished at NOW's National Board. The Conference, an annual roundtable event, was attended by the heads of NOW state chapters. The hour-long meeting included 25-30 state presidents as well as Patricia Ireland, NOW's National President. The presentation, which opened with GPac's Exec. Dir. Riki Anne Wilchins, continued with a discussion of the theory and politics of transinclusion. Strong presentations were made by Cheryl Chase, Exec. Dir. of the Intersexed Society of North America, author/activist Susan Stryker, trans-academic and activist Jacob Hale, among others.

VIOLENCE STUDY WEBPAGE LAUNCHED

[New York City: Aug 18, 1996] Emilia Lombardi, National Research Coordinator for GenderPAC, today announced the launch of a World Wide Web page for the national survey on trans-violence currently underway by GenderPAC. The survey Web page is located at http://www.cdspub.com/srby.html and can be filled out online. The survey was developed with the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP), a group which pioneered research and advocacy for gender and queer people, and is directed at anyone trans-identified, gender-variant, or genderqueer. Those unable to access the Web, can obtain surveys by contacting Lombardi c/o IYF. All surveys are anonymous.

BORED MEMBERS

Acting President - Tonye Baretto-Neto (TOPS).
Acting Vice President - Dallas Denny (AEGIS).
National Membership Coordinator - Alison Laing.
Public Relations - Jess Bell. Legal Services - Chris DeEduoardo.

Local News Roundup

CAMBRIDGE PASSES HISTORIC GENDER PROTECTIONS

[Cambridge, MA: Feb. 24, 1997] The Cambridge City Council unanimously passed into law an amendment to the city's Human Rights Ordinance that establishes broad freedom of gender expression and identity for all persons. The measure adds "gender" to the list of protected categories, and defines gender as "actual or perceived appearance, expression, or identity of a person with respect to masculinity and femininity." The new law also defines same sex, for the purpose of same-sex educational facilities and housing, as "occupying the same social and identity roles as another with respect to being male or female." This makes Cambridge the first jurisdiction to establish a legal definition of sex as based on something other than physiology, and also makes it the first place to provide legal protection for young TG persons struggling with school issues.

PITTSBURGH PROMOTES TG ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

[Pittsburgh, PA: Mar 8, 1997] The City Council of Pittsburgh voted in favor of a bill that would amend their anti-discrimination ordinances to include transgendered people by defining "sex" as, "the gender of a person, as perceived, presumed or assumed by others, including those who are changing or have changed their gender identification." The vote of the City Council was 8 to 1. The trans-community in Pittsburgh has been working with the local Human Relations Commission and the City Council members for the last 2 years. Said Wendi Miller, "We worked with the system and the system worked for us."

CT GOV: NO PRIDE FOR GENDERQUEERS

[Hartford, CT: Jun 20, 1996] The HARTFORD COURANT reports that Governor John Rowland turned down a request by Connecticut PRIDE '96 to have the month of June declared as "Gay Pride Month." The proposed proclamation included references to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, as well as "people who do drag and transgender people." A spokeswoman for the governor said the governor will not sign any

proclamation that he couldn't reading to a 2nd grade class. At press time, IYF staffers were still unable to determine if the Governor has some generalized reading disorder, or if 2nd graders just make him especially nervous.

Conference Addresses TG Prostitution

[Northridge, CA: March 9, 1997} The "International Conference on Prostitution: An Interface of Cultural, Legal and Social Issues", taking place in Van Nuys, California, this March, includes several sessions addressing issues involved in transgender prostitution. Co-sponsored by Cal State Northridge and COYOTE LA, the conference includes groundbreaking sessions and papers entitled "She-Male Prostitutes: Who Are They, What Do They Do, and Why Do They Do It?" "Prostitution in The Transgender Community" "The $1500 Lick and Other Stories: The Lives of Transgender Sex Workers in Detroit, Michigan", and "Asian Pacific Islander Transgender Prostitution."

Holiday Inn Pulls Super-Bowl Ad

[New York: Jan 28, 1997] Holiday Inns of America pulled an ad aired during the Super Bowl last Sunday after some viewers took offense at the ad's subject matter. It featured a transexual protagonist, a leggy blonde returning to her high school reunion, who is recognized by a former classmate as "Bob." The ad favorably compared her $12,000 of 'improvements' with Holiday Inn's billion dollar renovations, and drew favorable responses in pre-airing tests.

TG Prisoner Alleges Sexual Assault

Contact: John Campbell, 131 NW 4th St, #204, Corvallis, OR 97362, johnc@pioneer.net

[Walla Walla, WA: Jan 25, 1997] Crystal Marie Schwenk, a transexual inmate in the WA state prison system, has filed a civil rights action against a prison guard, Robert Mitchell, alleging sexual assault, harassment and intimidation. Another inmate, Donald Snook, who supports Schwenk, stated that many in the prison hierarchy, including the Dept of Prisons Superintendent, have colluded in a relentless campaign of retaliation against Schwenk for bringing charges. The trail is set for 9 a.m. July 14th, Walla Walla County Superior Courthouse, and Schwenk is asking people to show up to support of her cause.

Menace Protests Accused Prison Rape

[Lindenhurst, Long Island NY: Oct, 1996] A small group of Menace activists leafleted this quiet town, protesting charges of prisoner rape against Roy Fries, a Sergeant in charge of internal security at the Suffolk County Jail at the time of the alleged incidents. For 6 years, openly gay inmate Maurice Mathie has pursued his claims that Fries sodomized him at least 20 times while he was in the Suffolk County Jail.

Asked why the Menace took this action, a spokestrans declared, "Prison rape is a national disgrace. Yet gay activists ignore it for fear it will be mislabeled 'homosexual rape,' and feminists ignore it for fear that it dilutes their focus on rape against women. But gender-based oppression includes ALL forms of sexual violence."

Menace Protests For Chanelle Pickett

[Cambridge, MA: 27 Feb 97] About 35 GLBT activists gathered today outside the Middlesex County Courthouse in a peaceful vigil for slain TS Chanelle Pickett as the trial of William Palmer, her alleged assailant, was to begin inside. During the quiet gathering activists handed out leaflets and carried banners proclaiming, "There's No Shame in Loving Transexuals" and "Not Dressed to Be Killed." New England television, radio, and print media covered the event, and were mostly accurate and sympathetic in their coverage.

Court proceedings were continued at defense counsel request to an April date, because of new evidence. The judge warned against biasing prospective jurors with leafleting. Organizer Nancy Nangeroni later assured the DA's office that, "The last thing we want to do is bias the jury or impede proceedings. We're confident that justice will be done."

International News

KOREAN COURT SAYS TRANSEXUALS CAN'T BE RAPED

[Seoul, South Korea: Jun 14, 1996] South Korea's highest court has ruled that two men who sexually assaulted a female transexual cannot be convicted of rape. The decision hinged on whether a post-operative transexual is legally a woman. South Korean law recognizes rape only against women. "Though the victim in this case behaves as a female, the person cannot be recognized as one because, among other things, his chromosomes remain unchanged and he cannot get pregnant," Justice Chong Kwi-ho told the court. Chong upheld a lesser charge of sexual assault, sentencing both attackers to 2.5 years.

VIOLENCE AGAINST BRAZILIAN TRANSPEOPLE

[Brazil: Feb 11, 1997] The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) and Grupo Gay de Bahia (GGB) released a report today detailing the ongoing persecution of Gays, Lesbians, and Transvestites in Brazil. In 1996, the report documents 126 murders of gay, lesbians, and transvestites due to their sexual orientation. The term "transvestite" in much of South American includes transexuals. Said Luiz Mott, author of the report, "Behind its international reputation for welcoming sexual diversity, Brazil hides a shocking secret: a homosexual is murdered every 3 days."

"TODAY WE ARE ALL TRANSVESTITES"

Contact: Alejandra Sarda, ales@wamani.apc.org

[Buenos Aires, Argentina: Feb 11, 1997] Transgender activists held a demonstration today at the Buenos Aires Justice Palace to denounce the systematic human rights violations against transvestites by the government. 30 transvestite, lesbian, gay and bisexual activists called for an anti-transphobia campaign aimed at the general public. The Palace's main door was blocked by life-sized dolls carrying the names of some of the 64 transvestites murdered by police in the last year. Said Luciana Kerner, of the Young Gay and Lesbians' Group, "When the Israeli Embassy... was bombed, we all became Jews…today gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and heterosexuals, we are all transvestites."

GenderPAC & HRC Lobby Together on the Hill

[February 28, 1997] Today marked the turning of a corner as -- for the first time - the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC) made a series of joint calls on Capitol Hill. Organized by HRC's Senior Policy Advocate, Nancy Biermeyer, the day's activities were devoted to educating congressional offices education around bi, drag, intersexed, and TG issues, as well as promoting ENDA trans-inclusion with the bill's sponsors.

Lobbyists Nancy Buermeyer and Kris Pratt (HRC), Dana Priesing and Riki Wilchins (GPac), and Deb Kolodny (BiNetUSA/GPac) called on a half-dozen congressional offices. The meetings, all constructive, in most cases included a basic "Gender 101" as GPac lobbyists sought to represent all marginalized groups within their mission of fighting "gender-based oppression," including transgenders, bisexuals, the leather community, crossdressers, the intersexed and transexuals.

Said Dana Priesing, "We're trying to cast as wide a net as possible in pursuing our goal of "gender, affectional and racial equality.'"

In summary of the day's work, Nancy Buermeyer stated, "Education is one of our strongest tools in working with Congress, and I look forward to working with GenderPAC to continue this vital first step."