

## Notes From



## the Underground

Objective News for Ottawa's Transgendered and Crossdressing Community

Vol. VIII, Iss. 1 March 1995

# Changing of the Guard

## New Prez Sets Direction for GM

### Election '95



#### The New Executive

- *President - Ronda (acclaimed)*
- *V.P. - Diana Coltridge (9-7)*
- *Treasurer - Carol (acclaimed)*
- *Secretary - Gail (acclaimed)*

#### Backgrounder

- ♦ Ronda is a long-time member who last year as Treasurer revamped the financial accounting procedures of Gender Mosaic.
- ♦ Diana Coltridge, who has been associated with the club for a number of years, is actively involved in the gay community and club outreach. She recently served partial terms as Vice President and Treasurer.
- ♦ Carol joined the club almost three years ago and joins the Executive Committee for the first time.
- ♦ Gail, the only female significant other who maintains an active membership, also joins the Executive for the first time. She is one of five members with the GM Bylaws Committee.

Ottawa (NFTU) -- She proposes a leadership which does not direct people - but involves them. "We are looking for people...we can make Gender Mosaic help you grow as a person and help you be a better person," says Ronda, the 4th Gender Mosaic President, who was elected early this month.

At the February 15th GM-workshop at the ALGBO center, outgoing President Joanne Law handed over club business to Ronda who presented an agenda of inclusion and financial responsibility. "It's important to have fun and grow from it. We can grow as a group and as a fact in society," she stated.

Decisions stemming from a flurry of private post election Executive Committee meetings were handed over to members along with a hefty business agenda.

An anonymous suggestion box was introduced which will be present at meetings and socials. Ideas, comments and criticisms placed in it will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Ronda called for volunteers to join and help form club committees - pointing to a serious need for event locations and new member greeters.

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#### Election Night

Ottawa (NFTU) -- Joanne Law officially announced her resignation as President of Gender Mosaic on the night of elections February 4, 1995 at a social at Hanné's. More than a third of the sixteen persons present, who were eligible to vote, were recent additions to the Gender Mosaic membership list.

Only one of the four Executive positions required a ballot. Former Vice President Linda lost by two votes (9-7) to Diana Coltridge. The other three elected officers were acclaimed. A snowstorm is blamed for the failure of a number of other members to show that night. Carol was the only Executive Committee member acclaimed who was not present.

## Transgendered Rights Recognized

by Kaz Susat

San Francisco (Workers World Service) -- On December 12 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed legislation outlawing discrimination against transgendered people.

The law amends Article 33 of the Police Code by adding transgendered people to the list of groups protected. This allows the city's Human Rights Commission to "investigate, mediate, and issue findings," about discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and educational institutions, as well as in city government.

While this law has the same limitations as other civil-rights measures under capitalism, it

does provide relief from flagrant and open harassment by police, or denial of access to health-care clinics and homeless shelters. Public accommodations include public bathrooms, so the law gives transgendered people the legal right to use these facilities.

This victory came as a result of an increasingly organized and politicized transgendered community, as well as alliances formed with the lesbian, gay and bisexual movement. Transgendered activists and supporters have been pressuring the city extensively since May. Groups such as Transgendered Action and Queer Nation have been organizing against transgendered oppression for several years.

### Legal Issues

## What About CD/TS Youth?

Commentary

by Karen Patrick

They are a forgotten lot - underage transpersons. But they do exist and some want to come out...if there was a place to go. But mixing youth into an adult environment, as is the case with most trans support groups, can be a tricky affair without some legal advice and available counselling. The last thing a group needs are lawsuits laid against its members by angry religious parents, or to disenfranchise a youth trying to come out because no one knows what to say.

The current practice of suggesting to minors they go to the Royal Ottawa Hospital's psychiatrists is in many cases inappropriate and results in the opening of a medical file. Other alternatives need to be available to help a youth explore his/her sexuality and gender identity in a caring environment.

The Youth Services Bureau on Besserer street reports they have had some experience with CD's and TS's. Their Drop-In center offers a professional staff with confidential private counselling for youths aged 12 to 24. The Ottawa Unit on MacLaren offers confidential counselling too. Pink Triangle Services on Bank street also offers a youth group on Wednesday nights.

Trans groups FACTT and Gender Mosaic provide experienced support for adults but to date have limited abilities with youth. These groups are ideal launch points for a transcommunity youth service. But some legal issues should first be looked at.

The University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic, HIV division, says that in legal terms a non-alcoholic social or workshop can be compared to a church group meeting. In other words, it should be legally safe to allow a teenager to drop into a meeting for information.

However this comment comes with the warning that in being a transcommunity support group, you are dealing with greater social scrutiny. If a legal case were pressed, one should expect the courts to side with the classic "White Anglo-Saxon" viewpoint.

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## Notes From The Underground

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## Gender Mosaic

GM is a transcommunity support group based in Ottawa, Canada. GM is open to crossdressers, transgenderists, transsexuals, transvestites, and significant others. The club holds regular meetings and socials. Members receive NFTU free as part of their annual dues.

President - Ronda  
Vice President - Diana Colledge  
Treasurer - Carol  
Secretary - Gail

### How to contact us

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## First Constitution In Works

### Committee to Release Draft Soon

Ottawa (NFTU) -- Checks and balances to protect the confidentiality of members, an Ombudswoman office, and a Code of Ethics are promised in a set of Bylaws being drafted by a Gender Mosaic committee. Chaired by Sophy, the Bylaws Committee of five current and past members was created by a membership vote in late autumn to author a first ever constitution for GM. In a verbal report on February 15th at the ALGBO center, Sophy reported a draft will likely be released at the March workshop with a discussion and vote expected in April.

"The committee voted to keep the draft confidential to prevent misinterpretation of unfinished pages," said Sophy adding it is about six pages long. Four committee meetings have been held so far with a few more anticipated before the draft is completed. Other members on the committee are: Linda, Karen Patrick, Gail and former GM President Alison.

### Workshop...from pg 1

A first ever announced annual budget was unanimously approved at the meeting. The \$1,518 budget anticipates a \$77 surplus by fiscal year end. "We have money in the bank and it's enough to get us through the year," said Ronda. As of February 15th the club had \$742.12 in cash assets. Last year at this time GM was in financial crisis.

A proposal to hold elections in the autumn to coincide with the club fiscal year end was deferred to the April meeting. At the meeting, a 1994 membership decision to allow alcohol at social events for a six month trial period was extended permanently with only one of the 12 members present dissenting. A promise was also made by the new Executive to review the fall membership questionnaire and report back in March. Ronda expressed Executive Committee support to continue GM involvement with Pride Week events and the Ottawa Police Bias Crime Unit.

Under the new Presidency, day to day business and appointments will be handled by the Executive committee with a report issued at the next membership meeting. Members may challenge any decision and call for a vote or discussion. Ronda is promising to limit her own personal opinions at club meetings to offer a better platform to the membership.

An Executive proposal to discuss workshop formats was deferred until March because the hurried meeting was cutoff by the arrival of another group at the ALGBO center.

## Group for Women Significant Others

Ottawa (NFTU) -- Local counsellor Mary Hogan-Finley is offering to conduct a two hour group session for transcommunity significant others. The session, which could accommodate up to ten people, will cost \$10 per person. At this time no date has been set. Hogan-Finley has been researching crossdressing for some time. Women interested in joining the session should contact Joanne Law through the Gender Mosaic Helpline at 770-1945.

### CD/TS Youth...from pg 1

ALGBO runs a Gay non-alcoholic Coffee Club on Friday nights which occasionally attract minors. "We've never had a problem with that," says ALGBO's Bill Hunter referring to the possibility of irate parents wanting to sue or lay charges for "perverting their child."

But for regular youth participation in a primarily adult group, the Legal Clinic suggests proof of age from potential new members. An application form which includes a place for a parental or legal guardian signature of consent would allow a youth to legally join at least most non-alcohol club events.

In the case of a minor who reports his/her parents do not know or accept, the Youth Services Bureau would be the proper place to handle this kind of potentially explosive situation without causing personal alienation.

A Youth Branch is a likely evolution in the responsibilities of the transcommunity. The direction of this kind of move should be to both protect adult membership as well as removing legal barriers to youths who need help.

## Briefly

### Personal Challenge

Ottawa (NFTU) -- The Bias Crime Unit's Gay & Lesbian Liaison Committee wants to envision your idea of a perfect cross dressers' world. David Pepper of Pepper & Holland Associates asks, "what would you like to see done to make your life better?"

You are urged to write down suggestions on how police, medical, government and education services could be improved to better accommodate your lifestyle.

"What would you like to see happen?" says Pepper - adding the workplace, training and general treatment from others is an important part of creating a comfortable world. Mail your ideas to NFTU. They will be passed on.

### Complaining Outloud

Toronto (TransEqual) -- Doctors and police are here to serve you. Medical misconduct by surgeons, psychiatrists, family doctors, etc... includes how you are treated as a cross dresser. Police are required to treat you with civility because you are not breaking the law merely by wearing women's clothes.

If you feel you have been mistreated, harassed or denied proper service direct your complaints to: Police Complaints Commissioner, 595 Bay Street, 9th floor, Toronto, ON, M5G2C2 or call 1 (800) 267-5648. College of Physicians & Surgeons, 80 College Street, Toronto, ON, M5G2E2 or call 1 (800) 268-7096.

### Lottery Funds Crossdressers

Edmonton (From CP File) -- A cross Alberta MLA charged government waste over a grant from the provincial Lottery Fund. The Night Gallery, an alternative Calgary arts and theatre group, recently presented a forum titled, "Bound to be tongue-tied: Gaggling on gender." An event advertisement promised demos of crossdressing, body piercing, sadomasochism and computerized gender alterations. The ad included the insignia for Alberta Lotteries.

"I've said consistently that I don't want to be a censor," said deputy premier Ken Kowalski who is also minister for Alberta Lotteries.

PC backbencher Lorne Taylor charged, "in these days of declining resources, what is the justification for taxpayer dollars going into a project like this?"

Kowalski promised to look into the grant to determine if it was appropriate.

### We want your ideas!



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# A Call to All

*Any organization is only as strong as its weakest part.*

It's time to get involved. To do what you can do best to help Gender Mosaic become your group and make it grow. We've heard the complaints, seen the hand sitting, and watched good talent slip away. It's time to change that. To turn talk into mobilization. It will take many, not just a few. It takes new members as well as the long time ones, and the forgotten ones. It takes encouragement and time.

Notes From The Underground is your vehicle, not just mine. Inside this new format you will find calls for volunteers, time, talent, and information. It's up to you to make it happen. Today this group stands at a crossroads. Do we wish to slip into obscurity or pave a path for better times. The seeds have been sown by the few, now the many must tend to it's maturity.

NFTU has turned its eye on Ottawa, on Gender Mosaic, and on you. We are placing this region at the top, and the group in the spotlight so we can organize, grow, and have more fun. We need your help! No matter how small it may seem...it truly does matter. In the words of the late President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, rather say, what can I do for my country." So - say.

NFTU is here to help you get your ideas and suggestions out in the open. Use it to develop a stronger, more personal, more diverse group. To do otherwise is to waste potential and to let others decide for you what the future is or isn't. Too often one complains or dreams of what may be, but fails to deliver the message or to act upon intentions. That is a clear route back to isolation. It is the prison we had all escaped through this group. We ask you to help where you can, how you can. It is more than your right, it is your responsibility. -- ED.

## Letters

Dear Editor:

It seems that the business meetings at GM lack the common methods and procedures of other organizations. The mode of operation seems to be that everyone talks at once and the person with the loudest voice is the only one heard. More aggressive members seem to feel that it is their right to simply talk over other members who are attempting to express their views. There also seems to be a lack of seriousness. Often jokes and off-track comments end up derailing what could have been a beneficial discussion of the topic being raised.

In order for business meetings to be worthwhile I feel that some rules need to be written down and followed. A suggestion I have is that one person who is not a member of the executive could act as a moderator during meetings. This person could say something such as "The floor recognizes..." followed by the person's name when someone wishes to speak. The moderator would also work to ensure that when someone is speaking they are allowed to talk without interruption. The moderator could also act to bring the group back into focus when joking around or off-topic subjects cause the meeting to go off on a tangent.

In most cases a simple respect for other's right to speak could go a long way in making GM business meetings more beneficial. At present this respect is lacking.

Name withheld by request, Ottawa

**Stay tuned - the Bylaws are coming!**

Is there something you want to see done? Something you disagree with or want more of, a viewpoint to express?

Write to NFTU Letters, P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, ON K1L8E4. Please do not exceed 200 words.

## Finding A True Focus

This column centers around TV's. It is about men who wear women's clothes, particularly those who project an arch-typical feminine persona.

We are through force of circumstance involved in a relationship. There are fundamental truths about relationships. No relationship can withstand totally honestly. Many relationships are at their most enjoyable, when people know very little about their partners.

In direct opposition there is the truth that the higher the level of reality that can be acknowledged, accepted, and celebrated, the stronger the relationship. The process of sharing higher levels of realities, can itself be a life-affirming process. Everyone needs to be appreciated for "who you are".

## Pushing the Comfort Zone

Belinda Dore



Is there a fine line? Yes and it depends on each person's criteria of what they want their relationships to be like. More complications. One must acknowledge that the line exists lest one blindly crosses it, hurting yourself or others. Yet think too much about it, and you rob the relationship of spontaneity and humanity. Deconstructing relationships makes great conversation, but it is also the path to madness.

These dynamics can be applied to the individual. Consider TV "A" who is socially and sexually active, and who commits some time to, and believes she can count on support from, the "community". She will respond in a more resilient manner to an external source informing her of the reality that she is a TV, than TV "B" who is buried within the closet. The first says "no shit Bwana" and carries on. The second throws herself on the sword of shame where she remains impaled.

TV A and TV B can be the same person, separated only by time and experience. TV B can enjoy hours of ecstasy from the act of putting on makeup, but this is at the expense of staying within an enclosed sphere of the imagination. To TV A, putting make-up on has become a



## Era Ends!

### GM Prez Joanne Moves On

Ottawa (NFTU) -- She has been criticized for holding the reigns too tight - but she is also regarded as a leader who dedicated her fulltime efforts to this club.

On February 4th, Joanne Law voluntarily stepped down as President of Gender Mosaic - ending a near four year tenure which brought this group further into the outside world.

In her own personal life, Joanne has lived in her feminine role more and more since joining GM in its early days. In the past few years as President, she has lived as her feminine self nearly fulltime. That time was used to personally advance GM in finding more transfriendly stores, organizing functions, meeting new members, and reaching out.

1994 was Joanne's banner year to step out onto a larger stage. She appeared on CHRO-TV, was interviewed on 54Rock's Sex with Sue radio show, and was part of a Stonewall Commemoration program on Carleton U's student FM station. She helped hold the GM banner in the summer Gay Pride day parade which saw the largest turnout in its local history. Joanne was also involved in the Pride Day organizing committee and increased outreach contact with the Gay community.

In September last year, GM took a large step in moving its business meetings from Joanne's personal home to the ALGBO center downtown. It was the first time for the club to meet regularly in an open location.

But Joanne's ambitions can not be said to have come without cost. Critics expressed concern over an apparent growing forcefulness and control of too many functions. It is a seemingly common charge in many groups after a leader has remained for a lengthy period. However, on election day she silenced her critics by officially announcing her resignation from the GM executive.

Joanne remains a valued member and has agreed to serve as club Librarian. She will continue to answer the club phoneline for an undetermined time. Outside GM, she is still writing her regular crossdressing column in the Hot 'n Bothered newspaper. An ambitious personal plan may include a late year opening of a crossdresser's specialty store somewhere in the region.

All the best and good luck Joanne!

drag. Not that she still doesn't enjoy the delicious sensations of perverted decadence, but those are now relegated to the realm of leisure time activity and shared experience. They also require a lot more hardware.

Her rewards come from taking risks and overcoming her fears. Life without risk is mere existence. "The secret to happiness?" asked Nietzsche... "live dangerously," he replied. Risk adds zest...to food, to travel, friendships, to sex. "Personal growth" which is a buzz word in the T-community comes from overcoming one's demons.

See COMFORT Page 8

Contact NFTU via Fax at (613) 741-3007 (9am-5pm ET)



## Medical Notes

### Estrogen, the Smart Drug?

Buffalo (From Ottawa Sun) -- A U.S. researcher reports older women can beef up their brains with estrogen. Dr. Uriel Halbreich of State University of New York at Buffalo says the estrogen doesn't create a sudden genius, but post menopausal women taking hormone replacements are able to think and remember more keenly.

### Gender Risks in Health

Toronto (From CP File) -- The Heart and Stroke Foundation reports some health risks are unique to women. Smoking and taking oral contraceptives dramatically increase a woman's risk of a heart attack. More men develop heart disease and are at risk at an earlier age than women. But the gap narrows after menopause and evens at about age 65. Blood cholesterol is at higher risk for heart disease in older women because of reduced estrogen levels. The female hormone promotes the "good" cholesterol creating a natural protection. Many studies show improved cardiovascular health and protection from osteoporosis with estrogen replacement in older women.

## Past Minutes

These are some ideas raised at previous Gender Mosaic meetings which never totally got off the ground. If you wish to help make something happen - VOLUNTEER.

### Public Library

(i) Obtain a listing of all CD/TS books and periodicals on file. (ii) Build a contact with library to encourage larger stock of gender-oriented information.

### Specialist Presentations

To get a Speech Therapist to agree to a group session for GM members.

### Crossdressers' Survival Guide

There's still only talk of updating this wonderful national listing of CD/TS stores and services.

### Job Bank

The idea was to contact businesses to see which ones may be open to hiring open crossdressers and transsexuals.

### Computer Bulletin Board

For someone with an extra phone line and computer. To set up a GM CD/TS BBS for the local area.

## Pollution Emasculating Life?

Science News ran a two part series in the summer on pollutants which may be emasculating human males and wildlife around the world. Many of these, such as pesticides, are present in drinking water, urban air and food. These pollutants are suspected of interfering with normal fetal development by either blocking male hormones or mimicking female hormones.

A list of 45 environmental contaminants or classes of agents in the October Environmental Health Perspectives paper include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and commercial chemicals. Most of the agents of greatest concern are now banned from use but remain present in the environment.

The article points to research indicating an alarming drop in sperm count in human males over two generations. Other conditions such as testicular cancer in adults and undescended testes in newborn males appears to be on the rise.

"Environmental hormones" are suspected of gender-bending effects on birds, alligators and fish which have already begun to exhibit the emasculating of these pollutants.

Medical experts say early human development depends on a series of molecular "switches" to produce males. If these biological signals don't take place a female is produced by default. Researchers are seeking to identify the precise mechanisms of this natural female-to-male transformation in birth. In humans, the male reproductive tract begins development around the seventh to 14th weeks of pregnancy. If pollutants mimicking female hormones are present in a certain quantity at a critical stage, male development can be interfered with.

### Perspective

## The Silent Tree Fall

by Karen Patrick

*"Two months ago a Gender Mosaic member on a rare mall outing was spotted by a surprised fellow worker. He was fired from his \$42,000 a year job two days later, cited for poor performance despite nine years of service and two promotions. The company is prepared to offer only a small out of court money settlement. This member is asking for our support...a noisy rally in front of his old office to attract media attention to a serious social injustice against crossdressers."*

### Would YOU show up?

It will be a soul searching moment if (or when) this situation occurs here. For many, such a public act of unity would justifiably be too great a leap of personal risk. A tree...a life, would fall silently in the social forest.

Before our community can effectively take on the larger world, we need to consider our local environs first. We can not mold the masses until we can cope with ourselves, our peers, and our own town. This is not simply the act of repeating aloud, "I'm okay" once a month at a private club social. It is about how we grow in self realization and personal expression. It's about overcoming genuine fear from social stigma. And about how we get there.

### Gain Dignity - End the Isolation

Only one who accepts the inner self may embrace another and those differences which inevitably arise. True dignity is demanding of respect for self and others. Isolation is caused by selfishness, division, constant self justification, and fear.

The transcommunity is a forum for offering help and friendly environs - not forcing it. We must recognize that none is above another...we are all simply unique. Do we dread our sexuality or that of others? Do we judge ourselves and others by superficial standards? Do we strive to promote serious arenas of discussion to attain self understanding? Do we help those we affect to better cope with our realities? Do we still fear too much?

Before we may truly take on the world to create our longed for utopia, we must deal with those things which reside within and around us. These are the major challenges which we must focus on, simply...the little things...the real things. Only then, in time, can we defiantly stop the silent tree falls.

## Sun Bashes Transsexuals

by Karen Patrick

The Ottawa Sun's editorial staff have carried their NDP bashing into the transcommunity. The Friday February 17th editorial chastises Ontario Health Minister Ruth Grier's defence of funding sex reassignment surgery while dropping 20 other procedures - including circumcision of new-borns from OHIP coverage. The money (up to seven approvals a year at \$25,000 each) does not seem to be the issue for the Sun. Rather, they make light of transsexuality.

"Granted, the moon is full this week and strange things can happen, but isn't this ruling on full-funding for sex-change operations taking the NDP's affirmative action program to a ridiculous extreme?" they say. Instead of discussing health care priorities, the Sun seems to prefer a stance which demeans the transsexual community - hence the entire transcommunity!

NFTU can supply copies of the editorial article by request. To send a message to the Sun address it to: Letters to the Editor, The Ottawa Sun, 380 Hunt Club Road, Ottawa, ON, K1G 5H7 or fax (613) 739-0930.

### Meet Others Like Yourself



### Join Gender Mosaic

and end your isolation.

*Gender Mosaic is a non-sexual crossdressers Support group which holds regular workshops, socials & other functions. We work together to provide a safe, secure environment so you can become comfortable with your lifestyle.*

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# In The Closet

Everyone has their fears. It's a natural part of life. You may have a family or wife who doesn't know, a career to protect. Maybe you just don't really want to walk down Rideau street in full drag...that shouldn't be a source of guilt!

Protecting your privacy is an important part of crossdressing for most. You step out at your own speed and should make no apologies for it. So let's deal with some practical matters.

Open your own postal box for starters. It allows you to receive all kinds of mail (like NFTU) under any name you want. Boxes range in price, but at last check it was about \$60 a year. The box is registered under your legal name, but mail is sorted according to box number and names don't matter. You can have mail forwarded to your initials. The postal service will only take exception if they think you are operating a business in a private box as business rates are almost double.

Getting dressed for a transcommunity social is fairly easy as long as you bring your clothes with you. Arrange to arrive a bit early and change in the bathroom. Bring some baby oil or makeup remover so you will leave with no traces afterward. If you're a new member, just show up in your regular male clothes, relax and get to know a few people until you feel comfortable enough to change. Most of all, try not worry about how you look the first time. Yes, it's important to look great, but don't stop yourself because you're not Christy Brinkley. No one is anyway!

If you have to store your clothes in the garage, try to wash them once in a while. Do this at a laundromat. If you're worried about people seeing things, just mix in a few male items and they'll figure you're married. If you look nervous they will stare, but not because of what you're washing. It'll be because they'll be wondering why you're such a nervous guy!

Feel free to send in your questions to NFTU In the Closet.

## Do the Right Thing...But Why?

by Sharon Ehm

As a TS, you are expected to jump through all kinds of hoops for doctors and psychiatrists. The idea is that you are supposed to prove that you can successfully live and be accepted as a woman. It is presumed that if you can heel, rollover and learn various other tricks, you will be rewarded eventually with the carrot of approval for surgery. (Notice I said "the carrot of approval" rather than the approval itself. But that's another story) Believe it or not you can end up facing discrimination for becoming too good at "passing".

I spent about six years spending all of my spare time preparing for living full-time. Thousands of hours were spent on electrolysis, practicing my voice, mannerisms, movements, and developing my appearance. Becoming a woman was too important for me to risk ruining my chances for success by not being properly prepared in

advance. I never began living full-time until after I was ready and mostly passable. After I had been living full time for a few months I came into contact with some "big league" doctors and psychiatrists and I became quite adept at doing things to prove to them that I could make it.

The worst problem that I have now is that after two years, I am still unemployed. I live on welfare and can never afford to go out, eat properly, or buy myself the things that most people take for granted. I spent last winter living in a motel room where the average temperature rarely went above 60, and on more than one occasion was as low as 46 degrees. During that time I'd usually have a can of beans one day and pea soup the next, and nothing more. Great for the waist line. I lost 14 pounds. But not good for the soul.

During this time I was seeing an occupational therapist who no matter

how upset I was, would only tell me how great I was doing. Why? Because I passed. She told me that I was doing better than most TS's she knew at being accepted as a woman. She later decided that she couldn't do anything to help since I was doing so well.

I have encountered this attitude with everyone that I have met who was an employment counsellor, psychiatrist or therapist who claimed to be able to help me get a job. One place, a service that helps people who have barriers to getting employment has pretty much put me on the back burner. After making all kinds of promises, nothing has come through. It seems as if they are assuming that since I "pass" I can therefore get a job on my own without any special help. I am also now getting increasing threats from Welfare that I will get cut off if I don't keep looking for a job. This combined with living in total poverty is adding unbearable stress to my life.

Many TS's are getting Family Benefits Allowance so that they can adjust to their new gender role without the pressures of daily financial survival. This also spares them pressure from their Welfare worker. Guess what? I can't get FBA. Why? Because I am doing too well. After all, I pass! I have approached two psychiatrists about getting FBA and was refused by both. One says that going on FBA will hurt my chances of getting approval for surgery with the Clarke Institute. They both say that because I have had job interviews as a woman that I have therefore accomplished too much. My occupational therapist used the fact that I had gone out dancing a few times as a woman in a singles bar as her reason for deciding that I was doing too well to be considered for

## First Experiences

### The Dread of Being Read

by Jennifer

I am a young male to female transsexual who is just coming out of her closet. On the whole I would consider myself passable, except for being tall. Nothing that I read or any advice I received could have truly prepared me for the first time I was read.

The incident occurred on a May afternoon and will remain etched in stone forever in my mind. I left my apartment, that is in a neighborhood that is not exactly friendly to anybody who is not a white Anglo-Saxon male. I was in the elevator with a couple of other people, who accepted me as I appeared. Feeling confident I left my apartment building.

I was walking from the building to catch a bus to go downtown before my 5 o'clock doctor's appointment. On my way, I passed by three teenage boys. I must admit that they made me entirely too nervous. Two of the boys just kept walking past, but one of them read me. This individual stopped in front of me and made the comment, "nice clothes buddy!"

I was initially floored by the event. I ducked back into the building and quickly recovered. I retrieved my sunglasses from my purse and put them on, in case tears started to flow. Once again I tried to make my way to the bus stop. With my confidence and composure regained, I was sure that the boys were long gone. Big mistake!

The same boys drove by me as I walked and started yelling things at me. The only thing that I could pick out was the first thing that they yelled at me. "Look at the guy in the black coat dressed as a woman," they screamed! There were many other barbs being thrown at me but the first one was stuck in my mind and blocked the others out.

I have always been a rather shy person who would tend to blend into the background whenever possible. I could not seem to shake the feeling that every set of eyes on the world were upon me. I was wishing the earth would swallow me up whole. Still, being close to home I just retreated and cried for what seemed to be an hour.

The incident did not best me though. After recovering fully and fixing myself up again, I went to my doctor's office fully dressed.

*Send NFTU your first experiences!*

FBA.

I can't even get my regular psychiatrist to provide me with any protection from being cut off of welfare. I told him that I should never have prepared myself so thoroughly for living as a woman and that I should just grow my facial hair, and start going out wearing work boots and ball gowns so that then I could get FBA or any other help. He agreed.

### Significant Others Connection (for women only)

You need an understanding friend too!

When your husband or boyfriend joined GM or Fact he found himself surrounded by new friends who let him experience and express his feelings openly.

But what about you?

Are you alone with this? Do you have anyone to talk to who shares a common experience? Would you like to have someone to talk to?

NFTU wants to help connect you with other women whose husband or boyfriend is a TV or TS.

If you wish to share your phone number or address with other women please write to:

NFTU SO Connection  
PO Box 7421  
Vanier, ON., K1L 8E4

(for women only)

Your interest will be held in confidence from GM and Fact members unless you specifically indicate otherwise.

You have the right to not be alone.



# The Last Action Trannie

(starring Ahnette Schwarzenfemmer)

by Sharon Ehm

A shopping mall, late at night in a lingerie store. All is still. Camisoles and corsets begin to waver on their hangers from a gentle breeze. A nylon blows across the floor as two watchmen shine their flashlights through the window. Suddenly there is a flash of light. "Did you see that?" one watchman asks the other. "See what?" replies the second watchman. "I would have sworn that I just saw Milton Berle in a dress. I think we've just been working too hard."

"This is the last time I'm going to tell you!" Sergeant Johanson screams. "Someone's out there blowing away trannies. I've got the entire force working day and night. I've got the chief, the Citizen's Action Committee, and now, the mayor on my back. And after your latest escapade, you're off the case! Go home and get some rest. And if I catch you out on the streets carrying that bazooka in your purse you'll be ticketing parked cars until your nail polish chips off. Do you hear me Schwarzenfemmer? Oh and one more thing. Why don't you forget this silly 'being a woman' thing. If you keep showing up here looking like this you can forget about that promotion. Oh where's my ulcer medicine!" Pressing his telephone pager button, he screams "Marg, get me my ulcer medicine!"

At a Reitman's store a TV browses through the racks. "Look out!" screams the store clerk, as she spots a Milton Berle look-alike drawing a

sawed-off shotgun from underneath her skirt. Suddenly the TV realizes that the hole in the skirt she's holding up to herself isn't just in the fabric. She's flung against the wall and slides slowly down to the floor in a pool of blood.

"I'm here!" shouts Ahnette. "Do it now!" The electrolysist puts down the newspaper she'd been reading and begins to work on Ahnette's face. "More power! Turn it up!" Ahnette commands. She winces as bolts of current enter her face and the electrolysist plucks out more hairs with her pipe wrench. Suddenly Ahnette catches a glimpse of the newspaper and reads the headline. "TV dies at Reitman's...story page 6". She gets up suddenly, causing the electrolysis needle to break off in her face. "We're not finished Ahnette, I'll have to charge you for a full hour." "No problemo," Ahnette replies, grabbing her purse.

Outside on the street Ahnette approaches her pink Harley. She catches her heel in a man-hole cover. With a twist of her ankle she flings it through the window of a nearby parked car. Ripping off the sun glasses of a passing hooker babe, she sits side-saddle on her bike and pulls out an armor-piercing, anti-tank gun from under her garter belt. She looks in the mirror, adjusts her sun glasses and starts the engine.

Stopping at a phone booth she opens a phone book and scans down the page marked 'R' with her finger. Sarah A Reitman, Sarah J. Reitman,

Sarah L. Reitman, Reitman's Fashions. With her fingerless opera-gloved hand she dials the number. "What's the address dere?" she asks.

Ahnette enters the Reitman's store and goes up to the counter. "May I help you?" the sales girl asks. Suddenly Ahnette sees her reflection in a mirror and realizes that she hasn't put on makeup since her electrolysis appointment. "I'll be back," she says turning to leave the store.

On her way out, she spots a small business card on the floor with the words 'Gender Alternatives' and a

Silicon spatters and sprays from them but Ahnette remains standing and continues to return fire. Finally after several minutes of total destruction, they stop shooting. Ahnette removes her leather blouse and her bullet-proof ammunition-strapped bra. "Don't leave home without it," she says holding up her bra. She tosses one of her breast forms at the feminator. "Catch," she says as it explodes in the Feminator's hands, blowing out all the walls in the room.

The dust and smoke clear revealing a still standing Feminator. "I'm the good Feminator," the Milton Berle look-alike says. I was sent back in time to rid the Twentieth century of trannies who are waiting for society to change before they do anything on their own. It's all so that TV's and TS's will have a better chance in the future. Just call your Sergeant he knows all about it. It's top secret." "That stupid Sergeant! I thought I could trust him," Ahnette

## Ahnette pulls the trigger blowing Roselle into trannie dust

phone number on it. She returns to her apartment and after putting on her makeup, calls the number. A recording says, "Our next meeting will be held tonight at the Palace Community Centre."

She hangs up the phone, opens her lingerie drawer, and removes several machine guns and machetes. She puts on a bullet proof, ammunition-strapped bra and a garter belt with matching fuchsia grenades. After fixing her hair she leaves her apartment.

In a small meeting room the group has gathered. "I wish society would hurry up and change so we could go out and dress how we like," Roselle says. "I don't know but if I were a Navaho Indian Berdache living five hundred years ago I'd be having a wonderful time," replies Kate.

Suddenly the door bursts open. "Eek its a Feminator!" shrieks Roselle. "Excuse me," the Milton Berle look-alike says to her, "I've got business to attend to." She pulls out her laser guided machine pistol and points it at Roselle illuminating her facial hair. "Please don't shoot!" they all beg.

From behind the Feminator echo the words, "Get down!" Ahnette raises her anti-tank gun and blows a hole through the Feminator's back. The Feminator turns and fires several rounds from his machine gun directly into Ahnette's \$350 breast forms.

replies angrily. "So he cooked up a story and dumped me in a meat grinder. I don't do this kind of work!"

Suddenly all the trannies start to panic. "Please don't let the Feminator hurt us!" they beg. "Do you think that if society was more accepting that there would be less Feminators?" Roselle asks. "Shaddup!" Ahnette screams. "I don't think the Navaho Indians used Feminators," responds Kate. "Alright that's enough!" says Ahnette, as she pulls out an anti-aircraft bazooka from her overnight bag, "Asta Lavista Trannies!"

With a force strong enough to break her nail, Ahnette pulls the trigger blowing Roselle into trannie dust. Throwing down her bazooka, she pulls an Oozie out of her shoe and begins shooting. Kate falls backward from the weight of hundreds of bullets, crashing through a large plate glass window. Another staggers forward and smashes through a table.

The Feminator begins laughing and opens a digital display on her wrist. "Now it's time for Uncle Miltie to tell a joke," she says as she starts laughing hysterically. Ahnette realizes that the Feminator is about to self-destruct and runs from the room. She reaches the building entrance and is flung into the air by a small nuclear explosion. At last the future is safe for all good trannies and the force of the explosion has transformed Ahnette into a real woman.

## Peer to Professional Referral Service



Finding good professionals is so often hit and miss.

We need your help!

GM is compiling a database of professionals and services recommended by its members.



If you have found a good GP, specialist, counsellor, psychiatrist, etc., who is open to crossdressers and / or transsexuals - Let us know!

Please fill out the form below (in confidence) and send it to:  
GM Peer to Professional Referral Service  
P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, Ontario, K1L 8E4

Name of Doctor or Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (What a CD or TS would want to know about this professional):

\_\_\_\_\_

Your rating: Approachable ☐ Open ☐ Informed ☐



Tell us about your deepest fantasies,  
your wildest experiences, your greatest  
highs and most embarrassing moments!

Mail to NFTU, Kiss & Yell  
PO Box 7421, Vanier, Ont., K1L 8E4  
Please limit stories to 1000 words or less.



## Classified Ads

For a limited time NFTU is offering FREE classified ads. Your ad must be 40 words or less. Personal ads are accepted. All free ads will be placed based on space available. Please indicate how many issues you wish to run your ad in. If you are selling something please let us know when it's sold so we can pull the ad. NFTU reserves the right to edit or refuse ad submissions. NFTU is not responsible for personal contacts made through classifieds. Only Gender Mosaic members may use the GM P.O. Box and must indicate a mailing name in the ad.

To place a classified: Mail ad to NFTU Classifieds, P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, ON, Canada, K1L8E4. Please print message clearly.

Professional services and registered businesses - contact NFTU for rates.

**Help NFTU** by clipping articles about crossdressers and gender issues from newspapers and magazines. Please include the issue name and date. Forward clippings by mail to NFTU.

**Wanted:** Volunteers to write articles for NFTU. Send to P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, ON K1L8E4

**Auburn Wig**, medium length, nearly new. Asking \$75, was \$246 new. Includes foam stand. 741-3007.

Your classified ad can be placed here FREE! Write to NFTU.



Gender Mosaic

### Police Action

Gender Mosaic is now represented with the Ottawa Police Bias Crime Unit's Community Liaison Committee.

If you have been teased or threatened, beaten up, stalked or followed, discriminated against, or made to feel insecure about your transsexual or crossdressing lifestyle by other people, police or stores and institutions...



Help us report these actions for your safety.

Write down a simple description, location and date of what happened and mail it to GM Police Action, PO Box 7421, Vanier, ON, K1L 8E4.

Your confidentiality will be respected.  
No incident is too small.

You have a Right to Your Lifestyle and a Right to Police Protection.



## Thanks for the Memories

Our thanks to former editors Alison, Belinda, and Leigh for keeping the faith over the past seven years. As anyone in the media can tell you - it's a thankless job. We've gone from two pages in Issue One (Winter 88/89) when Gender Mosaic was called "New Ottawa Women" to nearly 30 pages in the Sixth Anniversary Issue. Now we're trying to be a bit austere with the budget again. The contributions of Alison, Belinda, and Leigh should not go unnoticed. They are long time members who involved themselves in every aspect of Gender Mosaic. They are among those who helped this group grow.

## GM is in Capital Xtra !

**Xtension is Capital Xtra's free 24 hour computerized touch tone information service.**

**For GM Info :**



1. Call 237-9872
2. Wait for main menu
3. Dial 1 and wait for instructions
4. Dial code 2071 and the GM message plays

**Capital Xtra is a free monthly Lesbian and Gay magazine printed by Pink Triangle Services.**

## Clubs & Services Registry

If you have a club you would like listed here, contact NFTU. Listings are free.

### Ottawa Capital Region

#### Gender Mosaic

(819) 770-1945 - GM Helpline  
P.O. Box 7421 Vanier, ON K1L8E4  
TV/TS/TG/CD/SO Support group

#### Friendship and Assistance for Canadian Transsexuals and Transvestites (Fact)

P.O. Box 7421 Vanier, ON K1L8E4  
TS/TV/CD Discussion Group

#### Association of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Ottawa (ALGBO)

233-0152  
318 Lisgar Street  
P.O. Box 2919, Stn. D., Ottawa, ON K1P5W9

#### Pink Triangle Services (PTS)

563-4818  
71 Bank street  
P.O. Box 3043, Stn. D., Ottawa, ON K1P6H6  
Social services agency

#### Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Centre (Carleton U)

788-2600 ext. 1860  
401 Unicentre Building Room 127A  
Carleton University  
Ottawa, ON K1S5B6  
Open to CD/TS/TG

#### Youth Services Bureau

234-5511  
Open to CD/TG/TS aged 12-24  
Confidential counselling & drop-in center  
Sexual abuse, sex & gender orientation & other youth concerns

#### The Ottawa Unit (Youth Services Bureau)

234-5511  
465 MacLaren  
Open to CD/TG/TS aged 12-24  
Confidential counselling

#### ALGBO's Political Action Committee (CAP-ALGBO-PAC)

Open to your concerns  
233-0152

#### Égale

230-1043  
2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1N6E2  
Gay & Lesbian Rights Advocates

#### AIDS Committee of Ottawa

207 Queen St., 4th Floor  
Box 3390, Stn. D.  
Ottawa, ON K1P6E5  
238-5014

#### Gayline

7-10pm daily, 238-1717  
Info & Referral

#### Ottawa Police Bias Crime Unit

236-0311 ext. 245

#### Rape Crisis Centre

729-8889

#### Anonymous HIV Testing

563-2437

#### Ottawa Distress Center

238-3311  
24 hour Suicide Helpline

#### Tel-Aide Outaouais

741-6433  
Français Suicide Helpline

#### Drug Helpline

(800) 567-DRUG

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

237-6000  
Alcoholic support

#### AL-ANON

237-6000  
Support for friends & family of alcoholics

#### Royal Ottawa Hospital

1146 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1Z7K4  
722-6521  
Gender assessment through Forensics Dept.

#### Gay Menage BBS

728-9237 voice  
728-0411 14,400 bps  
728-4499 2400 bps  
(30 mins free per day) Computer BBS contact line for Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Trans

### Central Canada

#### Monarch Social Club

Mississauga "A"  
Box 386  
Mississauga, ON L5A3A1

#### Toronto Crossdressers' Club

49-C Dundas Street East  
Toronto, ON M5A2A9

#### XCorrigia

P.O. Box 277, Stn. A  
Toronto, ON M5W1B2  
S&M Club

#### TransEqual

165 Ontario Street  
Suite 609  
St. Catharines, ON L2R5K4  
Human Rights Advocate

#### Clarke Institute of Psychiatry

250 College Street  
Toronto, ON M5T1R8  
(416) 979-2221, ext 2339  
Gender Identity Clinic for assessments

#### Trans P.O.R.S

(514) 526-5892  
2006 Sherbrooke East  
Montreal, PQ H2K1B9  
Post-op residence and services

### West Canada

#### Illusions Social Club

Box 33002 Glenwood P.O.  
Edmonton, AB T2C1B4

#### Illusions Social Club

6802 Ogden Road S.E.  
Calgary, AB T2C1B54

#### Phi Sigma Chapter - Tri-Ess

Box 40523  
929 - 42nd Ave. S.E.  
Calgary, AB T2G5G8

#### Cornbury Society

P.O. Box 3746  
Vancouver, BC V6B3I2

#### Dream Girls

P.O. Box 535  
Kamloops, BC V2C5L7

### USA

#### I.F.G.E.

P.O. Box 367  
Wayland, MA  
USA, 01778  
(617) 899-2212  
Gender Support & Education Foundation

#### EON


523 W. Onondaga Street  
Syracuse, NY  
USA 13204

#### CD Network

P.O. Box 92055  
Rochester, NY  
USA 14692




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Mail to NFTU, PO Box 7421, Vanier, ON, Canada, K1L 8E4  
Make cheque or money order payable (in U.S. or Canadian funds) to Gender Mosaic. Do not mail cash.

### Comfort Zone...from pg 3

Acknowledging one's fear is a step. It is not growth. Talk is cheap.

The context of the column will be our relationship with society. More and more people are talking of improving that relationship. There is a linkage here. Strengthening our relationship with society is very dependant on our success in strengthening relationships with ourselves and with others in our "community". It means heightening the baseline level of reality with which we accept each other. It means...well, the title says it all.

Many speak of working towards a TV friendly society, a society that accepts the reality of our existence and accepts our relevance; a world where we don't have to hide what we are and what we do. To some it is said in the tone of wishful thinking, a fantasy one has with one's eyes closed. To others it is a real goal to be achieved, even if TV's have to give up everything that makes their crossdressing an enjoyable, if not magical experience. Too many of these people are incomplete humans whose poor self-esteem is compensated for by an inconsistent sense of moral superiority. They scream for acceptance like pitiful sheep, and then turn around and discriminate against people over trivial things as skirt lengths and facial hair. To say that they have missed the boat is an understatement. It seems the more "organized" TV's get the more they generate institutionalized hypocrisy, and the more irrelevant they become to society at large.

I put forth to you that the goal of a TV friendly world is impossible in society as it is currently organized. That trying to work towards this goal entirely within the current "system" and its methods and ethos, will reward us with mere tokenism at best.

What is required is a revolution in the way society looks at itself. Now the word "revolution" evokes pleasant images of thousands of deserving people hanging by their necks down long rows of telephone poles. This type of revolution, as exciting as they are, is bad for TV's as, their aftermaths leave people too busy dealing with real events to spare any time for dressing up. The revolution we would require, would in hindsight, amount to nothing more significant than an attitude adjustment - a subtle focusing of the lens through which people look at the world, a deeper understanding of how the golden rule

can be applied to every aspect of life and every institution in our society. It means building an ethical society. Now this is something bigger than crossdressing itself.

TV's do not come out of closets to participate in social revolutions. I didn't. I came out because I had some serious itches that desperately needed some scratching. One cannot demand that TV's risk jobs, career status over something no more significant than male fantasy fulfillment.

One can however remind ourselves that TV's, despite themselves, are very uniquely positioned to comment on and induce change in our society. Consider the demographics of your typical TV club. Most of these TV's are white, conservative hetero males. Income wise we are middle to upper middle class. We are the people that every other group loves to hate. We are the establishment. We participate in this society's institutions, we are plugged into its structures, understand its processes, its ethos, its criteria for success. We represent objective reason, order, logic and scientific management in an increasingly bureaucratic society that rewards efficient work-aholic conformists.

At the same time we're TV's who inhabit the other extreme of the social scale and prance about the other extreme of the human psyche. We are both in society and out of society. We are the intersection of Order and Chaos and we can navigate in either sea. We are well situated to understand how Order can both liberate and imprison. We are well situated to understand how chaos is required for creativity and how it can also destroy. We are well placed to optimize the two to further our world and society in general. We do that by applying ethical principles to see if they are being used to help people do the things they need to, or are getting in their way.

Something that a lot of TV's haven't yet realized is that we don't have to be fodder for Hollywood comedies, or filler for the continuous demands of television. We are dangerous people, and our knowledge once verbalized and acted upon, can be very detrimental to the established order of doing things.

Of course there are no guarantees. Everything boils down to personality and circumstance, and we need our share of bald-assed luck to make a TV-friendly world. There is however one more

## Trans Menage

USA (Queer Nation) -- The Boy Scouts of America and United Way of America are being boycotted by the gay community. Both international groups maintain a formal ban on homosexuality.

Ottawa (ALGBO) -- A new weekly dance event starts March 2nd at the ALGBO center at 318 Lisgar street. The licensed Thursday event runs from 9pm-1am and is open to the transcommunity. There is a \$2 cover charge for non-ALGBO members. Every second week is non-smoking.

Ottawa (Menage BBS) -- The Menage Computer Project to fight Aids and Homophobia needs volunteers to help tutor people living with aids in using BBS's and other on-line resources. Volunteers may offer a mixture of home visits and phone consultations. Contact the Gay Menage BBS for more information.

Ottawa (NFTU) -- In an effort to avoid last year's debt problems, planning for the '95 Gay Pride Week is already underway. Although tentative, the parade is scheduled for July 16th along Elgin Street with a picnic on Victoria Island. Last years parade was the most heavily attended in Ottawa history. It also marked the first time that Gender Mosaic formally recognized support of the gay rights movement. However, a flurry of post parade fundraisers was required to successfully pay off creditors.

Mississauga (Monarch) -- Toronto area transgroup, Monarch, has lowered its annual dues by nearly half to \$40. The new rate took effect January 1st.

### Executive Notes

- ♦ Karen Patrick, a near three year member of Gender Mosaic and former journalist, has been appointed Editor of NFTU. She promises an inclusive, timely newspaper style format which places local region interests first.
- ♦ Former GM President, Joanne Law, has been appointed Librarian by the Executive Committee. She will for an undetermined time answer the club helpline and handle incoming mail.
- ♦ The Executive Committee proposes to shorten the business portion of workshops to allow more social time, round table discussions and activities. The proposal will be presented at the March meeting.

GM members may obtain copies of Executive Committee decisions, budgets, and club minutes by request or at GM workshops.

quality inherent to TV's that would stand us in good stead. And that is if we decided to do this, it would not just be because it is right, not just because it is noble, not just because we have to, or not just because we have nothing else to do.

We can do it only when we really want to do it. Because it would be fun. Because it would be our pleasure.

## Events '95

Know of an event? Contact NFTU!  
Call 770-1945 for GM event info

### Calendar Events

- Mar 4 GM Social at Hanné's 7:30pm  
\$2-members \$5-Non members
- Mar 20 GM meeting at ALGBO 7:30pm  
\$2 voluntary cover
- Mar 20 Police/Lesbian & Gay Committee  
5:30pm
- Apr 1 GM Social at Belinda's 7:30pm  
\$2-members \$5-Non members
- Apr 17 Police/Lesbian & Gay Committee  
5:30pm
- Apr 17 GM meeting at ALGBO 7:30pm  
\$2 voluntary cover

### Weekly Events

Thursday's 9pm-1am BAR DANCE at ALGBO Centre Men/Women/TG/TS/CD - \$2 cover, free for ALGBO members, cash bar until midnite, music every Thursday. Non-smoking every 2nd week. (STARTS MARCH 2nd)

Friday's 9pm-1am COFFEE HOUSE at ALGBO Centre Men/Women/TG/TS/CD - No cover, cash non-alcoholic bar, music and dancing. 1st, 3rd & 4th Friday of month.

### Monthly Events

2nd Friday of month 9pm-1am CAFE-STYLE COFFEE HOUSE at ALGBO Centre Men/Women/TG/TS/CD - No cover, cash non-alcoholic bar, music.

### Night Clubs

Centretown Pub...340 Somerset W. 694-0233  
Club 363...363 Bank Street 237-0708  
Coral Reef...30 Nicholas 234-5118  
Detour...283 Dalhousie 241-4646  
Market Station...15 George 562-3540  
Le Pub...175 Promenade du Portage 771-8810  
Thunderdome...75 Prom. du Portage 770-7159

### Out of Town Events

Toronto - *DQ-95* March 9,10,11,12,14,18 at the Bathurst St. Theatre. Drag artistry and professional theatre held only once every three years. Tickets for various days \$25-\$55. Contact Ms. Robynn Layne (416) 534-1530.

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON - Xpressions presents the *1st Annual Spring Gala* at the Pillar and Post. March 31-April 2. \$280-\$340 inclusive. Contact Xpressions via fax (905) 627-2362. There may still be openings.

Toronto - *Betty Page Social Club/Fetish Night* at Boots. 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Hotel Selby. Call: Boots (416) 921-0665 or Northbound Leather (416) 972-1037

Montreal - *Fetish Night* at Bar Lezard, 3rd floor. First and Third Tuesday of the month. Contact Johnny at (514) 270-6065.

### USA Events

New York - *Third Annual Moonlight in Manhattan*, April 7-9th. Contact - Moonlight in Manhattan, c/o Lynda Frank, 330 West 45th Street #3H, New York, NY 10036 (212) 765-3561

Burbank - *California Dreamin' '95*, April 20-23rd. Contact - California Dreamin', PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686 (714) 779-9013

Cincinnati - *13th Annual Be All*, June 7-11th. Write - Be All Weekend, c/o Cross-Port, PO Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0657