

# Enchante' News

## A Transgender Newsletter



Vol. 2003-05

<http://florida.enchante.tripod.com>

May 2003

### Videos and Other Information:

The Discovery Channel has two really well done videos for sale. I watched the programs this weekend and thought they were really well documented. The two videos are male-to-female and female-to-male transgender candidates and their journeys. If you are interested, they can be purchased on line at Dicovery.Com. Once in the store section, select Video/DVD's, then select the Human Body selection under the Science category.

I am always encouraged with the normalcy of the psyche of everyone that has been down this path. I thought this documentary was one of the better ones I have seen. I think you will agree that you will find yourself thinking, "This story is about me!"

One of the things pointed out was transgender operations performed in Canada are considerably less than here in the US!

Seen anything you would like to share, let us know and we will put the information out in the newsletter. (from the Vice-President)

### Purse Party and....

There was a party hosted by "A Permanent Solution", which specializes in laser hair removal as well as electrolysis, included speakers on a variety of topics. Nancy and Jennifer spoke about hair removal, Jessie about permanent makeup, Kelly is an image consultant, and of course Angeline showed off her line of purses.

It was an interesting learning experience and fun as well. After each presentation there was a Q&A session and time to mingle and browse all the goodies. Of course there were plenty of snacks and drinks. Everyone was able to relax, chit chat, and meet new friends.

For more information concerning the presenters and their specialties feel free to come to our Enchante' meetings or email Enchante' for more information.

[enchante@pjtechie.com](mailto:enchante@pjtechie.com)

### A letter from the Editor

I am glad to announce that attendance at the Enchante' meetings have been on the rise. The May meeting was our largest turnout in the past 6 months, and we hope it continues to grow. We had an interesting group show up and we were having so much fun we let the meeting go on

until after 9:00 p.m. Then some of the girls went out to dinner together.

I have to admit we all had a great time and some interesting conversations. I wish to thank everyone for coming.

### U.N. postpones historic gay rights vote

Courtesy of TGNI Network

On Friday the United Nations Human Rights Commission deferred a landmark resolution on human rights and sexual orientation until next year, apparently after five Muslim nations — four of them United States allies — maneuvered procedural delays.

Libyan chairwomen Najjat Al-Hajjaji's proposal to defer the resolution to the next year's session was voted 24-17 with 12 abstentions, amid protests from Canada, European Union and Brazil.

Friday was the last day of the 59th session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer of the Brazilian delegation in Geneva called it a "double victory," saying if the resolution had been put to vote it might have been defeated. Meyer said, "We have one year to act. ... The issue of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation is on the table, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and other opponents of the resolution will not get rid of it."

On Thursday, Brazil initiated debate on its resolution, titled "Human Rights and Sexual Orientation," arguing that it created no new rights and that it was strictly based on existing treaties.

The opposition came from mostly military-run Pakistan on the grounds that the resolution conflicted with Islam. Pakistan proposed "no action" to avoid a voting on the resolution but was defeated 24-22, with six abstentions. Behind the scenes, the Vatican itself was said to

be pressuring predominantly Catholic Latin American nations against the resolution, sources in Geneva said.

The Muslim bloc nations, namely Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya and Malaysia, succeeded in delaying a vote by proposing five different amendments to the resolution. On Thursday, Al-Hajjaji postponed the vote until Friday.

In Geneva, Jan Doerfel of the International Research Centre for Social Minorities told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network on Friday: "In spite of the unholy alliance between the Holy See and the OIC, this was a monumental step. This has led to victories that have to be built upon in the years ahead."

Faisal Alam, founder of world's first openly queer Muslim organisation, Washington-based Al Fatiha, said on Friday, "I am obviously upset. The issue of GLBT rights has been sacrificed at the altar of political expediency." Alam alleged "blackmail" of the 57-member OIC, U.S. opportunism and the Vatican pressure as the three main reasons that led to Friday's postponement of the vote.

Others felt there were reasons for cheer. Suki Beavers of the Canadian Action for Population and Development said via e-mail, "This resolution was not defeated and we will be back with a vengeance next year. Although we didn't get a full out victory, neither is this a defeat and it is clear that this will be the issue for the (U.N.) CHR next year."

According to Doerfel, the nations who were clearly in favour of the Brazilian initiative were Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine and the

United Kingdom.

Those who were clearly opposed to the draft resolution were Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Syria, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The nations leaning towards no, though not explicitly so, were Argentina, China, Congo, India and Senegal.

The United States led the fence-sitting nations that included Chile, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Vietnam. Other nations said to be in this category were Cuba, Swaziland, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The first-of-its-kind resolution in the U.N.'s 60-year history, the measure had expressed deep concern at the occurrence of violations of human rights on grounds of sexual orientation and urged all states to promote and protect the human rights of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation.

According to the Amnesty International, millions of people across the globe face imprisonment, torture, violence and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

[HMO sues state over sex change surgery](#)  
Courtesy of TGNI Network

One of the largest health care providers in California is suing the state to prevent paying for a transgender woman's sex reassignment surgery.

Health Net Inc. was ordered by the California Department of Health to provide the woman,

identified in court documents only as P.M., with the surgery after the company turned her down.

P.M had appealed to the Department of Health, and an administrative law judge agreed with her doctor that the surgery was necessary. Health Net was ordered to proceed with the surgery.

The company is under contract with California to provide health care under the state's Medicaid plan.

Health Net is suing the state to have the order reversed. The company says sex reassignment operations are not medically necessary.

Brad Kieffer, a spokesman for Health Net, said private health insurers routinely exclude coverage for gender reassignment operations.

"Under these circumstances, we think it right and appropriate for us to seek a reconsideration," he said.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge will decide if the case can go ahead. Until then P.M.'s surgery is on hold.

From the Vice-President, Phyllis:

Wow! Another month has passed and Patty and I have been working diligently on ideas to improve the group and possibly make meetings a bit more enticing. As always, this is your group and your ideas are extremely important to us.

During our conversations we discussed some of the issues that we believe have contributed to the decline in membership from that of a short while ago. Patty and I are very curious about what each of you think would make meetings a bit more inviting and would encourage you to attend more frequently.

Patty has been busy working on locations that would be a bit more fun, and maybe a location or two that would be convenient for just getting together. Can you think of any place you would like to see the meetings at?

I have been working on a list of possible speakers to come and talk with us about some of the issues that are important to us. One of the first speakers, that has agreed to be at our meeting in June will be a person that I have grown to not only respect greatly, but I find to be one of the nicest, fun, and caring people that I know.

Becky is the hair stylist that I frequent. Her salon is in Port Richey off US-19, just north of Chili's restaurant. After arriving here last year I started searching the area for a salon that not only catered to our group; but, had experience with those that are suffering from the effects of chemotherapy. There have been a lot of advancements in hair replacement technology/techniques in the past few years. With balding being as prolific as it is, along with the numbers of those undergoing cancer treatment, many companies have done a lot of research on replacement alternatives and we all benefit. Nowadays it is really hard to detect someone that is wearing a "piece." I had

visited with several shops, most of which were simply someplace to buy the hair but no one really specialized in special orders, custom pieces, application and overall care. Becky is that person that does it all. She has spent a good deal of time training and attending seminars so she can tell you about any of the latest technologies and techniques.

At the first meeting I was truly uncomfortable. I was in a new environment and new people, not sure of what their reaction might be, or even how to approach conversation. I guess I was suffering from the stigma of possible "redneck" attitudes. When I explained things to Becky, she was taken aback for a moment, as most are that have not had that much opportunity to know us. She shrugged and said "Okay, let's see what we can do." Since then initial encounter we have had a lot fun and gossiped about everything you can imagine. All the ladies at the salon are sensitive to our needs and feelings. And take extra care to provide us with that certain extra customer care.

I have visited several salons since then and have not had any luck finding one that is as comfortable, or reasonably priced. Needless to say, I would recommend Becky for all your hair care needs. So, be sure to be at the June meeting! I think you will be happy that you did. The location of the meeting will be announced via email near the first of the month. So, watch the email and, if you are not on the emailing list, drop a jingle to Patty and she will put you on the include list.

Until then, keep smiling and strutting.

Once again, please drop us a line and let us know what you would like to know!

Becky's salon and phone information is:

(See last page)

Supporting Advertisers

Stacy's Hair Company

9822 US Hwy 19  
Port Richey, FL 34668

Becky Anderson

(727) 992-4335 / 846-7369

PJ Enterprises

Computer Assistance

Corporate Training  
Private Tutoring  
Upgrades & Sales  
Trouble-shooting problems  
Web Design  
patty@pjtechie.com

Helpful Websites, Mail Lists, Email Addresses, and Clubs

<http://www.tgni.com>  
Transgendered Network International

<http://www.ntac.org>  
National Transgender Advocacy Coalition

<http://www.temenos.net>  
Temenos LGBT Community

<http://florida.enchante.tripod.com>  
Enchante' - A support group for transexuals  
in the Tampa Bay and surrounding area.

<http://www.gpac.org/>  
GenderPAC - Gender Public Advocacy  
Coalition

<http://www.megalaw.com>  
General Law Info

<http://www.forge.8m.com>  
Forge  
The Florida Gender Equality Project

Egroups:  
ConcerningSRS@egroups.com  
transgender-couples@egroups.com

Yahoo Groups:  
postop@yahoogroups.com  
transgendergazebo@yahoogroups.com  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/trans\\_guys/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/trans_guys/)

Other Groups:  
genderflorida@sheckhosting.com  
SRS-Issues@topica.com

Patty Jean  
PattyJts@aol.com  
<http://ts.pjtechie.com>  
Enchante' President/WebMistress/Editor

Night Clubs:  
Waterside Landing - Port Richey, FL  
Lost Boys - Clearwater, FL