

Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2007

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TransOhio Fuels-Up For a Busy 2007

Happy New Year! We hope that the beginning of 2007 was a healthy and happy one and that you're well rested and ready to get involved with the Ohio GLBTQI community!

TransOhio continues to receive amazing submissions of artwork, poetry, reviews, essays and opinion columns. Please keep sending us your work. Also, if you are involved in an organization that has not been added to our local or national resource list, please email us the contact info and we'll get you listed. Additionally, if there are events or conferences that you feel would be beneficial to the Ohio GLBTQI community, please send us the info - we'll also post those dates on our calendar.

Over the next few weeks, TransOhio will be scheduling the second meeting of local trans community leaders. Groups present for our first meeting included, The Crystal Club, the Central Ohio CD Support group and Meral Crane from the Central Ohio Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio. If members of your group would like to be involved, or if your group has not been contacted yet by TransOhio staff, please send us an email at TransOhio@wowway.com.

TransOhio is here to serve the Ohio community. Success depends on you. Get involved. Volunteer to be a part of changing Ohio. Become a part of TransOhio.org.

Register Now! GLBTQI Self-Defense Workshop

TransOhio is sponsoring a second 6-week Self-Defense Workshop geared to the GLBTQI community.

Research shows that potential victims suffer significantly less harm when they resist a physical attack. This 6-week course teaches simple, easy-to-learn self-defense skills that will help you defend yourself against most physical attacks. Some techniques that will be covered are:

- The attacker's vulnerable points
- Effective strikes, kicks and blocks
- Falling safely
- Escapes from pins and grabs
- Assertive body language
- Verbal self-defense
- Relaxation and centering skills that will help you stay relaxed and functional under pressure

Date: Every Saturday, January 27, 2007 - March 3, 2007

Time: 12pm - 2pm (classes are 2 hrs)

Place: Aikido of Columbus, 3003 Silver Drive, Columbus, 43224

Fee: \$35. Fees cover all classes and materials. Proceeds will be donated to CHOICES shelter (www.choicesdvc.org).

****Pre-registration is required. Classes need minimum attendance of 6 students to go forward. The instructor will contact you if this course is cancelled.**

Questions?

Call Kirsten @ 614-268-1641 or email her at kirsten.e@sbcglobal.net or email TransOhio at transohio@wowway.com

Local & National Calendar of Events

January 2007

- GLBTQI 6-week Self-Defense Workshop begins on Saturday, January 27, 2007, 12pm - 2pm. Aikido of Columbus, 3003 Silver Drive, Columbus, 43224.
- La Fraternité du Loup-Garou, Bar night at the Rip Cord, 115 N. Erie St, Toledo, OH 43624. Saturday, January 13, 2007. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Transcendence, a transgender support, rights and visibility group based in Bowling, OH. For more info contact Lagarou@hotmail.com.
- Indy Boyz SOFFA fundraiser calendar, multiple January dates. Contact Neil Russell for info: russell.liam@gmail.com.
- FTMI-Ohio Chapter meeting, Saturday, January 27, 2007. Lakewood, OH. For more info contact Damien Montassi at FTMIOhio1@yahoo.com.
- Tiffany Club of New England - 27th Annual First Event, January 17 -21, 2007. Burlington, MA. For more information: <http://www.tcne.org>

March 2007

- The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference, March 29 – April 1, 2007, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/>

April 2007

- Sixth Annual Trans-Health Conference, Philadelphia, PA. April 5-7, 2007. For info: <http://www.trans-health.org>

July 2007

- CampOUT, July 26 - 29, 2007, Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary, Bloomington, IN. http://www.lagarou.org/campout_2007

September 2007

- Southern Comfort Conference, September 11-16, 2007, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.sccatl.org>
- Out & Equal Workplace Summit, September 27 - 29, 2007, Washington D.C. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.outandequal.org/summit/2007/OutEqual-2007Summit.asp>

Would you like to add your event to our calendar? Email event information to transohio@wowway.com

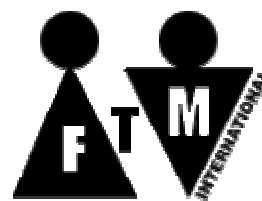
Ohio Chapter of FTMIInternational Forming

The new Ohio chapter of FTMI (Female to Male International) will be meeting on Saturday, January 27th, 2007 in Lakewood, Ohio. At this meeting, we will vote on offices and chapter officers. We'll also discuss what it means for Ohio to have a local chapter of FTMI and what our next steps are.

We will also be discussing the Ohio FTM Conference which is still under production. Please join us and bring your friends, family and significant others. We need volunteers, people, faces, hands, minds and souls to all come together and make this happen for Ohio.

For more information and for directions to the Ohio FTMI chapter meeting, please contact Damien Montassi at FTMIOhio1@yahoo.com and watch for updates on the FTM-Ohio and Transfamily yahoo group lists. We are working on getting the FTMI Ohio yahoo group list up and running as well.

For more information on FTMIInternational and the services and programs they offer, please visit their website: <http://www.ftmi.org>.



The SOFFA Corner facilitated by TransOhio SOFFA's

Bringing the "T" to PFLAG

My first coming out was 5 years ago. I joined PFLAG Houston as a proud mom of a lesbian. I wanted to meet other parents and families who had gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children.

The second time I came out to my fellow members of PFLAG Houston, I came out as a mother of a transman. No one had a clue what to say to me. I signed up to be the person at the front table where you sign in – *first time attendees* (here in Houston) receive a nametag with a "special red dot" – we're extra nice to you. My standard greet to people is, "Hello my name is Susan, and I have a trans son". Most just looked at me, not sure what to say. I was asked to be on the board for PFLAG since I was the token trans-parent. I knew if I wanted to make a difference this was the way to do it.

If you build it they will come. And they did – little by little, people slipped in the door outing themselves as parents of transgender children. It wasn't long before members of the Houston transgender community started attending monthly meetings too.

Our Sunday monthly meeting begins with a speaker. Meeting topics change month to month, but the core of PFLAG is when we split into small discussion groups. As a facilitator of PFLAG Houston's transgender group, I attended PFLAG's "Facilitator Training for PFLAG Small Group" training. In 2006 we had enough people to form a separate Trans Group, which is open to *everyone*. We found that while our issues are the same as parents of gay or lesbian children, we also found the issues to be so different. Though, what we all have in common is that regardless of which part of the G-L-B or T our children are part of, everybody is looking for acceptance and we all put our pants on the same way.

Our Trans Houston PFLAG small group has the largest attendance and consists of all ages, children of parents that are trans, t-men, t-women, their partners and those that are proud friends. Even the gay guys, and other parents from PFLAG sit in our group to find out why it's so popular.

In the small group, I can share my experiences about the physical and mental process of watching my son transition. I can freely and comfortably talk and ask questions about my long term fears of testosterone on my son. In small groups, I hear others talk about how they came out to their parents – or how their parent came out to them. New people are always opening up with their journeys. I know that I have made a difference here at PFLAG Houston. This is why I'm at PFLAG. My PFLAG extended family is a place where we are all in the understanding of what *Unconditional Love* is.

It's a new year and there are lots of opportunities to go to a PFLAG meeting in your area. Bring the T to your local PFLAG chapter and you too can make a difference. And if you're ever in Houston on the 1st Sunday of the month, please stop by and introduce yourself to me!

"Hello, my name is Susan and I'm a proud mom of a transman."



PFLAG Houston meets the 1st Sunday of the month. 2:00 to 4:30 pm. Meetings are held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main at Binz. They can be reached by email at HelpLine@PFLAGHouston.org or www.pflaghouston.org.

PFLAG Columbus meetings are held the 4th Sunday of every month from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 93 West Weisheimer Rd. Columbus, OH 43214. PFLAG Columbus can be reached by email at pflagcolumbus@hotmail.com or www.pflagcolumbus.org.



For more information about PFLAG or PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET), visit <http://www.pflag.org> or <http://www.pflag.org/tnet.html>

Transman in the Military submitted anonymously

I joined the military to serve my country. I never thought that I would be ending my contract happy. I was proud every day in training and overseas knowing I was protecting the ones I loved back at home. I worked side by side with my comrades knowing that I could trust them no matter what disagreements we might have. I would stay in for life if I could do so as a transman. Fellow soldiers show a respect and deeper understanding of differences than what many policy makers and officers give them credit for.

For many people who have transitioned we have spent a good deal of our lives playing the role of someone who we weren't. For myself I have given up that role in order to transition to be the man I am. However, when I have military training I must play that role all over again because there is no legal protection for me to transition; there is no precedent, no regulations, and no how to manual. I spend most of my life today living life as the man I was born to be, but have to pretend to be something else for the military.

The hardest thing about this for me is the military instills in its soldiers the importance of honesty, integrity, and respect. Those

are values that I hold in high regards for myself, but the military regulation requires me to lie in order to serve. If I wanted to continue to serve then I would have to put my transition on hold, as I know some have. However, I joined the military proud of being a soldier and I will leave the military proud of being a soldier. I will never regret the service I have given during this war.

It's funny during a time of war when retention is dropping the military would rather kick out soldiers based on their sexuality then keep them for the service they have performed and want to perform. Most people are busy battling against the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, but no one battles for the right of non-gender conforming individuals and/or transsexuals.

There are many barriers to transitioning while in the military and many barriers that would have to be overcome. However, it is a battle that should be just as important as the right for Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Gays to serve. The military has lost a man who is willing to serve ongoing for his country and I have lost a family of comrades that I have always and would protect if called upon again.

Call for Essays— for BEYOND MASCULINITY: Essays by Queer Men on Gender and Politics

Gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer men's gender identities often exist somewhere outside the traditional categories of "masculine" and "feminine." Sissies, drag queens, and leather daddies alike play with gender in a way that cannot be accounted for in traditional understandings of maleness. This collection - part blog, part anthology, part audiobook - aims to shatter traditional understandings of maleness and point towards a new understanding of how queerness and gender intersect. ***DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 31, 2007***

BEYOND MASCULINITY is looking for contributions in four areas. Contributors should not feel bound by these categories - they should rather be seen as potential prompts:

I. Intersections of Identity: How do race, ability, class, and other kinds of identities and experiences intersect with gender and queerness -- and how do these intersections complicate our relationship to traditional understandings of "maleness?"

II. Feminism / Gender / Politics: How can feminism inform our understanding of queer male gender? Can queer men be feminists? How can we use our queerness as a political tool? What does male privilege look like for queer men?

III. Bodies, Desire, and Pleasure: What kinds of male bodies are desired? Fetishized? Where does sexual desire intersect with queer gender and how are these politics mapped out on our bodies?

IV. Queer Male Communities: How are our identities produced through our communities? How do the gender norms and politics of gay/bi/trans/queer male communities both liberate and constrain us?

We're looking for queer male writers to step up and contribute their thoughts to this online project. We're looking for personal / political essays. No academic papers, fiction, or poetry will be accepted. ***This is not your typical bookstore anthology.*** It will be only available online - and it will be completely free of charge to the public. With its unique implementation of media, this anthology aims to change the way queer non-fiction is done.

About the Editor: Trevor Hoppe is a Masters of Arts Student in Human Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State University. He has a long history of LGBTQ campus organizing as an undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he helped found the GLBT-Straight Alliance. While at UNC, he also helped found the Southeastern Unity Conference, which was focused on investigating the intersections of queerness with other kinds of identities. His essays and editorials have been published in several publications, including The Advocate, Boston's Bay Windows, San Francisco's Bay Area Reporter, The East Bay Alternative, and American Sexuality Magazine.

For more information on the project or to submit your work, please see our website: <http://www.beyondmasculinity.com>

Questions? Contact Editor Trevor Hoppe at <mailto:editor@beyondmasculinity.com>.

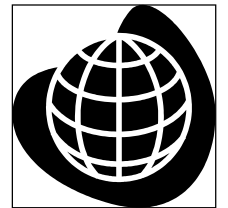
Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization): www.bravo-ohio.org
- Central Ohio CD Support: www.crossohio.org
- EqualityOhio.Org: www.equalityohio.org
- Gay People's Chronicle: www.gaypeopleschronicle.com
- Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio: www.genderprogram.com
- Outlook News: www.outlooknews.com
- PFLAG Columbus: www.pflagcolumbus.org
- Stonewall Columbus: www.stonewallcolumbus.org
- The Alpha Omega Society: www.aosoc.org
- The Crystal Club: www.thecrystalclub.org
- TransFamily of Cleveland: www.transfamily.org



National Resources

- FTM International: www.ftmi.org
- Hudson's FTM Resource Guide: www.ftmguide.org
- Human Rights Campaign: www.hrc.org
- Out & Equal Workplace Advocates: www.outandequal.org
- PFLAG: www.pflag.org
- PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET): www.pflag.org/tnet.html
- Tgcrossroads: www.tgcrossroads.org
- Transster.com: www.transster.com



Local Trans-Friendly Shopping & Services

An advertisement for "Private Desires Lingerie & Erotic Boutique". The ad features a black and white illustration of a woman in lingerie. The text includes the store name, address (1018 W. Main - Zanesville, Oh.), a note about location (just 2 blocks west of the Y-bridge), a list of products (Adult Lingerie, Video, Novelties and Accessories), and operating hours (Open Mon-Sat: Noon-Midnight, Sun: Noon-8pm). The slogan "Stuff To Spice Up Your Love Life!" is at the bottom, along with the website www.yourprivatedesires.com.

Dr. Timothy E. Moats, D.D.S
Family Practice

656 High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Tel: (614) 885-6698
Fax: (614) 433-7952

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