

Monthly Columns:

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- The Local Trans Experience
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TransOhio Continues to Build Partnerships

The May 2007 issue of the TransOhio newsletter makes 8 consecutive publications for TransOhio. We're pretty excited as community excitement continues to grow about TransOhio and that people are continuing to share their work with us. Of course, we cannot forget the fabulous people who have volunteered their time to help us with the publication and have aided us in making community events become a tangible reality!

In our first issue of TransOhio in October 2006, we wrote about a few of the goals and visions we have for TransOhio. The first goal was to focus on publishing a monthly newsletter which included work of all types, listings of local and national transgender resources, as well as local and national events.

We've had several tri-state based private businesses contact us about advertising their trans-friendly business (or service) in the newsletter, including several Columbus-based GLBT-owned and operated businesses. It's really been an amazing response. It's been a lot of meetings, a lot of networking and a lot of time in front of the computer and on the phone. But for the people behind TransOhio, it's been a pleasure and a way for them to give back to the transgender community.

Now, for some exciting news.

One of our long-term goals was to form an organization and file for 501(c)3 status from the government. At this point in the development of TransOhio, the resources available for us to do that was going to make it very hard. That said, we've had some doors open for TransOhio and felt that the timing and opportunity was right to make a jump.

The Center on High (Stonewall Columbus) and TransOhio have reached an initial agreement which we feel will be beneficial to the Ohio transgender community. TransOhio will operate under the umbrella of Stonewall Columbus. This is an-amazing-opportunity for TransOhio and the transgender community. Operating under an established, long-time organization, such as Stonewall Columbus, will benefit TransOhio in many ways. Some of which are:

- Ability to apply and write for federal and local grants.
- Ability to print TransOhio newsletters
- Ability to accept monetary donations (TransOhio will be tax-deductible)
- Services donated by businesses to TransOhio could be a tax write-off
- Lots of access to The Center on High space for meetings and events
- TransOhio will be tax-deductible
- Ability to share web presence with The Center on High
- Immediate exposure of TransOhio to larger GLBTQI audience
- Resources, resources, resources
- and more

We are currently finalizing our mission statement for TransOhio as well as revising and reorganizing our list of goals for TransOhio.

We're very excited about this! This move will assist TransOhio in moving forward to meet its goals and vision: To ultimately provide education, outreach and services to the transgender community.

And so we continue...bigger and stronger...



Local & National Calendar of Events

May 2007

- Special screening of *Call Me Malcolm*. Friday, May 11, 2007. St. John United Church of Christ located at 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. Call (859)261-2066 for more information.
- NCTE Lobby Day. May 14 & 15, 2007. Washington D.C. For more info: www.nctequality.org
- Lobby Day for Equality, Statehouse. Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Columbus, Ohio. All day. www.equalityohio.org

June 2007

- Dayton Pride, Saturday, June 2, 2007.
- TransOhio Unity Picnic, Saturday, June 9, 2007. 12pm. Goodale Park, Columbus. Open to the GLBTQI community, friends and allies. More info: transohio@wowway.com
- Cincinnati Pride, Saturday, June 9, 2007. <http://prideisalive.com>
- Cleveland Pride, Saturday, June 16, 2007. <http://www.clevelandpride.org>
- *Call Me Malcolm*, OutReels film screening, Sunday, June 17, 2007. 6:00pm, St. John UCC, 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. For more information, visit: <http://www.OutReels.com>
- Columbus Pride, Saturday, June 23, 2007. <http://www.stonewallcolumbus.org>
- Houston Pride, Saturday, June 23, 2007. <http://www.pridehouston.org/>

July 2007

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

August 2007

- FTM2007, Gender Odyssey, August 21– September 3, 2007 (Labor Day Weekend), Seattle, Washington. <http://www.transconference.org/index.htm>
- Family conference for parents of gender variant and transgender children: Gender Odyssey, August 21– September 3, 2007 (Labor Day Weekend), Seattle, Washington. <http://www.transconference.org/family/index.htm>

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>



SAVE THIS DATE!

TransOhio Unity Picnic

Saturday, June 9, 2007 — 12pm-5pm
Goodale Park, Columbus, OH.

Open to the GLBTQI community, kids, friends & allies.

More info & RSVP: transohio@wowway.com

(keep posted for details or changes)

TransOhio Wants Your Old Books!

We are interested in books by trans writers or written about transgender and transsexual identities and experiences.

TransOhio will donate all books to the library at The Center on High.

Contact us at transohio@wowway.com to make your donation!

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

Thank you for your participation in the
2007 GLBT Census of Central Ohio.
You Counted!



Open Mic @ TransOhio— Rainn MacPhail



Rainn MacPhail. Photo provided by IndyBoyz/INTRAA.

We met Rainn at a trans group last summer and spent most of the evening talking. We talked about our experiences as transmen and the world around us. Sometimes the moment you meet somebody, you can tell that they have a good heart and that their energy is good. Rainn was one of those people. We remember him asking us right away, if we had any animals. We do, and so began our conversation about our love for animals and nature. We remember there being a long pause in our conversation when he told us the types of animals he had...rabbits, lizards and the cause of the long pause...cockroaches! We were sure the expression on our face was one he'd seen before.

Rainn was killed in an head-on car accident on April 27, 2007. He was 39. He was a teacher, an environmental activist, a writer, friend and son.

Rainn shared some of his poetry with TransOhio, and we've published his work a few times over the last 8 months. In honor of this kind and loving soul, staff and supporters of TransOhio would like to share with you some selections of poetry Rainn shared with us for publication.

Crossing and Chasms

But the bluish light envelopes me and the feeling of falling stops.
It is replaced by fatigue and invading sleep.

Is this what it feels like at the end of all things?

I cannot think anymore, but go unconscious into a world I cannot see clearly.
It seems as if it is a dark woods--a woods I have never traveled.

Then I wake,

not knowing what awoke me,

and I find myself now lying on the other side of the chasm.

The world is seemingly as it was before—directions and no quaking.
I carefully get up, my body aching, and I look over the chasm.
The swirling light is gone.
A soft hand touches my shoulder.
It seems familiar.

As I turn to face the body of the hand that has touched me, her face smiles at me.
Her eyes seem to chide me as if saying it took me long enough.
No words come to me,
but that doesn't seem to matter to her as she takes my face into her gentle hands
and her warm lips touch my own, sending a long-forgotten warmth through my body.

Somewhere in her touch is home.

Somewhere in her eyes is the path that I now take.

We walk together forward towards a light that I couldn't see before.
I can hear the outside world again—the croaking of frogs and calls of birds
—the feeling of a cool spring breeze.
I had forgotten the color of sunlight and the feeling of warming earth under my feet.
Slowly it begins to come back to me as I walk with her down this new path.

I am no longer afraid or alone.

Mirror, Mirror

Does a mirror reflect reality?

Or is it an illusion created by cascading light?

My Self never appears in the mirror.

People are like the mirror to me, for my Self is not even seen by others.

All they see is the character masque created to exist in the world of living unreality.

The masque imprisons and buries the Self and the pain.

Perhaps I exist on the back of the mirror—
that which lies covered and unseen.

Night and Day

Caught between night and day,
I feel trapped and unable to find a way--
a path--

through the quarters of my own experience.
Mirrors shatter around me as I wander the halls of my soul--
shards of reflected faces that are not my own glare back at me.

Or are they my own?

There is a gentle calling in the distance—
a whispered dream unrealized in an unopened room that I cannot reach.
Stairs are missing—
the way is blocked,
but yet the voice still beckons.
I know if I reach it I will stand face to face with my true reflection in a mirror undamaged.
And in that reflection she too will be there,
having waited with enduring resolve for me to become finally aware

of Truth,
of Compassion, and
of Self.

Coming Out Letter to a Co-worker

Dear Co-worker,

Where to begin? I will say first off that you are one that has asked questions, albeit perhaps half-heartedly and somewhat sarcastically, about why I have long hair and most recently earrings. None the less I actually appreciate you asking, because I am sure a lot of other people here have their own questions and ideas about me. Now, whether you really want to know or not you're about to find out the truth anyway.

I am a transsexual. What I am *not* is a drag queen, "tranny", cross-dresser, freak of nature or any other derogatory term used by close minded individuals who refuse to see me as a real person. I have a heart, I've got blood and I feel pain just as anyone else. I am a transsexual. Sparing you the sad story of a misspent childhood and youth I will simply say I have for many years, for as long as I can remember, considered myself to be female as far as my brain and emotions are concerned. The problem with that is the fact my physical form did very little to suggest what I knew to be true deep down inside of me. I would urge you to do some research on this subject to educate yourself on this matter if you actually do want to know more about this misunderstood condition affecting more people than any "study" could possibly give justice to.

Let's for one minute visit my reasoning for leaving this company. If you could consider your reaction and feelings at this moment as you are reading just imagine that reaction a hundred times over. For people who have known me close to 10 years or so it would be very difficult to accept such a drastic change if I were to show up for work on a Monday as a woman. Even harder for them to imagine is me dressed as a woman even though I feel I do quite well considering... Anyway I don't feel I would be accepted in an environment where the words queer, fag, homo and other overly manly emotions are on display on a daily basis.

Since I have the luxury of occasionally picking my battles I chose to not go through my transition through this company, though I dwelled on it for some time before making a difficult decision. I won't even get into the idea of speaking to our customers over the phone. I chose to leave this and work with another company who was aware of my transition plans and seemed accepting of my situation. This company that I thought was so understanding and openly prided themselves on a "policy of accepting diversity in the workplace" turned out to be anything but when it came to the point of actually hiring me. Suddenly I was no longer qualified to be a customer service/data entry agent with their company despite my years of phone and order entry experience that I would have brought with me. That whole mess is another story entirely and I won't go into detail other than to say I feel that company isn't as open to diversity as they think they are.

And so I come back to you and me. I am not telling you this to make you feel sorry for me. I am not telling you to make you regret asking me questions about my appearance. I honestly don't really know why I am telling you this. Part of my reasoning is the fact that I will not hide my true self from anyone anymore. If someone wants to know what is going on with me, to take the time to ask, whether they mean it or not, I will take the liberty of telling them if I feel they will benefit by hearing my story. Upon learning the truth it will then be up to them on how to handle the news and if they choose to do anything with that knowledge. Perhaps people will learn something of themselves and realize that clothes and physical appearance aren't all that people think they are.

If you should so choose to want to talk about this I am more than open to discussion. Most of my friends have been accepting and I feel that it is because I have encouraged them to talk to me and ask questions instead of shutting me out and allowing someone else to form their opinion of what transsexuals are really all about. Most transgender people just want to be able to pursue a normal life as much as any other person out there. Sure *some* are more flamboyant and make themselves out to be fools but trust me that it is more exception than rule from what I have come to learn as I reach out to others in a similar situation as I am currently working through.

Obviously there is much more to this story but I will save that for another time if we get that far. Thanks for listening, or reading as the case may be (if you still are for that matter). As I said before please feel free to ask questions if you want or feel free to do nothing and never speak to me again, either way at least now you know what "my deal" is and the truth in this case shall set me free.

Sincerely,

K.P.

SOFFA Talk (Significant Others, Friends, Family & Allies) – Ask Anna...

“How do I handle family difficulties as I my partner begins to transition?”

“I’m just starting to date an FTM, do you have any advice?”



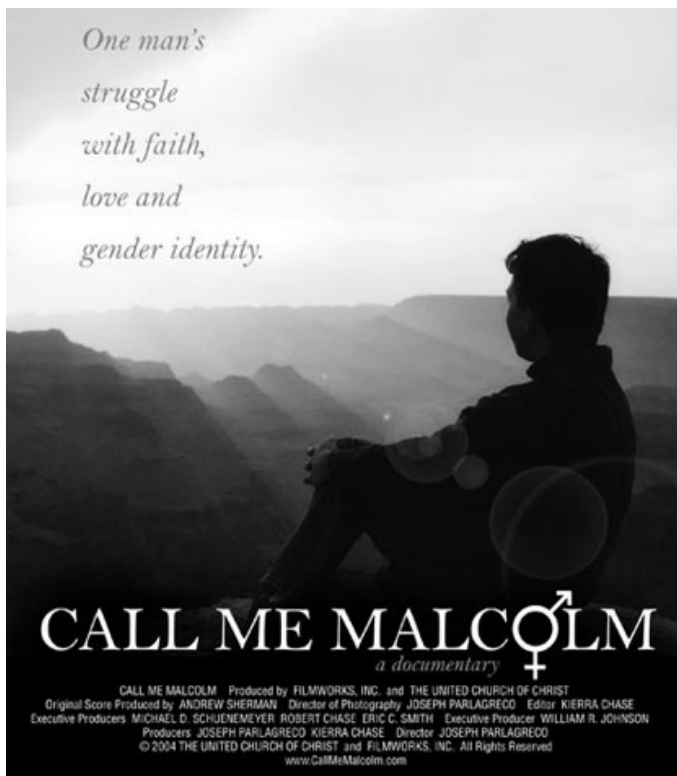
As a friend and ally of the transgender community, here’s some general advice and observations about being trans and dealing with SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies) people in your life. When you first come out to people in your life, everyone will have a different reaction. While I certainly hope that they all turn out well, I know that they often don’t. Many people will feel as though they are losing someone dear to them, and in their experience, they truly are.

What most of them don’t realize is that they will be getting a much happier, more lively and confident person in their place. I personally believe that no matter how positive their reaction to your transition, everyone close to you will go through a kind of grieving process. A part of them will feel lost and disconnected from you at least until the changes start to show and seem more normal and less new. This isn’t to say that they can’t accept the changes you’re going through, but only that you ARE changing and they have to adjust the way they perceive you, the way they treat you, the way they react to your words and behaviors. Essentially, everyone in a trans person’s life goes through the transition with that person. Some can’t or won’t accept it. Many others will try, but do not always succeed. The people that make it through and truly transition with you, those are the people you must keep close to your heart; they are the people that will stand by you no matter what comes next on this transitional journey we all call life.

If you’d like to share your SOFFA experience or ask Anna a question, please email her at TransOhio@wowway.com.

Feedback, responses and advice provided are not intended to take the place of individuals seeking proper medical and psychological doctors. Responses are purely based upon personal experience.

Special Screening of *Call Me Malcolm*



Call Me Malcolm is a 90 minute documentary about a young seminary student who happens to be in transition from female to male. It was produced by Filmworks and the United Church of Christ.

The film follows Malcolm on a cross country journey where he meets with other transgender men, the mother of a teen-aged son who was murdered because she was transgender, a San Francisco police sergeant who transitioned on the force, Calpernia Addams--the subject of the Showtime film 'Soldier's Girl.'

The film will be part of OutReels Film Festival June 2007. A special screening will be held on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. especially for religious leaders in the community. Both screenings will be held at St. John United Church of Christ located at 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. Call (859)261-2066 for more information.

For more information you can contact Tom Miller at (859) 261-1568 or visit the St. John UCC website: www.StJohnChurch.net

Tom Miller - St. John GLBT Task Force Coordinator
<http://www.kentuckyfairness.org/>
<http://www.StJohnChurch.net>

Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization): www.bravo-ohio.org
- Central Ohio CD Support: www.crossohio.org
- EqualityOhio.Org: www.equalityohio.org
- FTMI-Ohio: groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I_Ohio
- 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

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): www.aclu.org/lgbt
- FTM International: www.ftmi.org
- Hudson's FTM Resource Guide: www.ftmguide.org
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): www.hrc.org
- Out & Equal Workplace Advocates: www.outandequal.org
- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE): www.nctequality.org
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF): www.theTaskForce.org
- PFLAG: www.pflag.org
- PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET): www.pflag.org/tnet.html
- Tgcrossroads: www.tgcrossroads.org
- Transster.com: www.transster.com
- InterPride: www.interpride.org/12/2007_Events.htm



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Local Trans-Friendly Shopping & Services

Dr. Timothy E. Moats, D.D.S
Family Practice
656 High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Tel: (614) 885-6698

Alternative Auto Care
136 W. 5th Ave, Rear
Columbus, Ohio 43201
(614) 294-0580
Chris, Owner
www.alternativeautocare.com

Radiant Laser Hair Removal
11138 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
Tel: (513) 489-1900
www.radiant-laser.com

Becca's Hair Studio
3700 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
Tel: (937) 298-9222
Becca - Owner

List your Trans-Friendly
business here!
Email TransOhio@wowway.com for info!

TransOhio Wants Your Old Books!

We are interested in books by trans writers or written about transgender and transsexual identities and experiences.

TransOhio will be donating collected books to the library at The Center on High.

Contact TransOhio at transohio@wowway.com to make your donation!