

Illinois Gender Advocates



Advocacy for the Transgender and Gender Variant Community

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2003

Springfield, IL and Key West, FL Adopt Transgender Rights

From the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC)

Tuesday night, January 7, 2003, Key West became the first jurisdiction in Florida to enact legislation protecting the human rights of transgender and intersexed people. By a unanimous vote, the Key West City Council amended the city's Human Rights to include 'gender identity or expression.'

At about the same, the Springfield, IL city council passed a similar ordinance covering both sexual orientation and gender identity. The Springfield vote was 8-1 in favor of the ordinance, with one abstention.

The ordinance in Key West protects people from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and lending. By including those whose gender identity or gender expression is different from the expectations of some parts of society, the Key West ordinance becomes the most inclusive civil rights legislation in the state.

The measure in Springfield includes gender identity under the definition of sexual orientation as "having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness." The ordinance passed following a long debate in which opponents raised objections based on religious grounds and on the alleged health menace posed by homosexuals. Proponents argued that discrimination against anyone is unacceptable and that the legislation merely promotes equal treatment for all.

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**The Next Meeting of
Illinois Gender Advocates
Will Take Place at 7:30 p.m. on
Thursday, February 6, 2003
And Will Be Held at
Transformations
146 N. Oak Park Avenue
In Oak Park**

Miranda Writes...

SONDA – What Would You Choose?

By Miranda Stevens-Miller

Last month, after a battle that lasted 31 years, New York became 13th state to pass legislation to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination. SONDA, the Sexual Orientation Nondiscrimination Act, was signed into law by Governor George Pataki. It was a hard-fought battle, and in the end the New York LGBT community came out a winner. Or did they?

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Springfield, Illinois and Key West Vote In Transgender Rights *(Continued From Page 1)*

In testimony before the Springfield city council, Rick Garcia, Political Director of Equality Illinois, challenged the morality of those who invoked religion to oppose the ordinance. “Let me remind you that people invoked God and the Holy Scriptures to oppose the abolition of slavery, to oppose the vote for women, and to oppose integration – positions people of goodwill find morally repugnant today. The basic foundation of our Judeo-Christian tradition is justice and mercy, not intolerance and bigotry.”

Following the Key West vote, Janice Carney, Executive Director of the Florida Gender Equality project (FORGE) stated, “I am delighted that Key West is starting the new year with a strong stand on transgender civil rights.” Carney, who is also a member of NTAC, added, “the Key West City Council was very courageous in recognizing the humanity of transgender people.”

“For people who’ve felt a lifelong sense of personal isolation brought on by biological occurrences beyond their control, unanimous passage of this human rights ordinance was in essence saying we acknowledge and accept you as fellow human beings,” Scott Fraser, Administrator of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Key West, said immediately following the Key West Council’s unanimous vote. “Although this sounds so very basic to most of us, it’s been a long-time coming” for gender distinctive individuals.

FORGE and Key West Community Center were part of a coalition, including Equality Florida, a statewide social justice organization, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who also provided assistance to local activists.

“It was a great coalition,” said NTAC Chair Vanessa Edwards Foster who contributed to the effort. Foster, who also worked on the first transgender-inclusive legislation in Texas, added, “Enactment of the first trans-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance in another conservative southern state – another of those initial toeholds – is indescribably gratifying. Especially in Bush country!”

Key West and Springfield became the 55th and 56th jurisdictions in the United States to enact transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination laws.

Introduction of GLBT nondiscrimination legislation is currently under consideration in Rockford and Peoria, IL and is expected to come before the Illinois state legislature this year. Carney noted that the transgender coalition is carrying the Key West victory forward to other Florida jurisdictions, including Miami/Dade County, St. Petersburg, Orlando, and Seminole.

“I pray from deep in my soul,” Carney added, “that this action will open other hearts and minds to transgender inclusion.”

Founded in 1999, NTAC – the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition – is a §501(c)(3) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgendered, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

How to contact us...

Illinois Gender Advocates

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Telephone Hotline:

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Please leave a message. We will get back to you as quickly as possible.

E-Mail:

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Miranda Writes... *(Continued From Page 1)*

Thirty-one years ago... that was shortly after the Stonewall Rebellion. The shot heard round the gay world. The beginning of the gay rights movement. And it was Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson who struck the first blows for freedom and equality, right there in the Stonewall Bar in New York City. It is often mentioned that Stonewall was started by the drag queens. But it wasn't until Sylvia Rivera passed away last year that the world learned anything about her and about her life as a transgender woman.

Thirty-one years! Back then, there was very little understanding or even awareness of the transgender community. When the gay rights activists kicked Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson out of the gay rights movement, they didn't understand that the only successful movement is one in which no one is left behind. When they disenfranchised those who were just too queer for the queer movement, they didn't realize that they were denying a part of their family. When they left the drag queens and transsexuals out of SONDA 31 years ago, they didn't realize that the LGB community is not complete without the T.

And now, 31 years later, it has become a world where the Human Rights Campaign can do a national survey on

transgender awareness, and find that most Americans not only have heard the word “transgender,” but also understand what it means. It has become a world where 61 percent believe the country needs laws to protect transgender people. It has become a world where another conservative eastern state, Pennsylvania, can pass a hate crimes law that includes both sexual orientation *and* gender identity. It has become a world where 14 cities and counties across the country can add gender identity to their human rights laws... within a single year!

But some things will never change. Discrimination is still visited upon those who are most visibly queer, and those who are singled out for gay-related hate crimes are often those who are gender variant.

In my last column, I said that with all the success the transgender rights movement has had over the past few years, it should be downright embarrassing to leave gender identity out of new human rights laws. Well, shame on you, Empire State Pride Agenda, for accepting anything less than full coverage for the New York LGBT community.

I know you are feeling empowered now that your bill has passed. I know that you have sworn that you will work for full equality under the law within the next ten years. I know that inclusion of gender identity is part of your goal of full equality. But do you really have the stomach for it? The average length of time between passing sexual orientation nondiscrimination laws and amending them to include gender identity is 13.8 years! Do you really have the stomach to put up a fight for another 13.8 years? I doubt it.

And how about your supporters and donors? Do your big donors, the ones who have allowed you to hire the high-powered lobbyists, do they have any feeling one way or the other about inclusion of a couple of trannies in their state laws? What do they care? They’ve gotten their piece of the pie, and now they’re feeling fat and happy. And how about the high-powered public relations people that you’ve hired? Yeah, you know who I mean. Are you going to keep the same consultants who characterized transgender people as representing the “murkiest depths” of human sexuality?

The Empire State Pride Agenda is so arrogant that they don’t even know what they lost when they sold out the transgender community to get SONDA passed. They think that they are a major force in New York, but they lost the trust and respect of much of the community, and of quite a few of the elected officials who should be counted as their allies. Something went terribly wrong in New York. Deals were struck, long-term friends were lost and lifetime enemies were made. And in the end, the New York LGBT community may have actually been the loser.

Could the same thing happen here in Illinois? Who knows? What if the Illinois Nondiscrimination Bill were hanging on one vote, and that vote depended on removing gender identity from the bill? What would you choose?

Miranda Stevens-Miller welcomes your comments at MirandaSt1@aol.com.

Feedback...

Problems? Questions? Disagreements? Want to submit an article? Please write to us. We love to get mail.

Board Members of Illinois Gender Advocates:

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Beth Plotner
BethJD@earthlink.net

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Diana Williamson
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Staff Directors of Illinois Gender Advocates:

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Jostime@earthlink.net

Legislative Director:

Miranda Stevens-Miller
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Whatever

IGA Wants You

By Beth Plotner

Now that we have the Chicago and Cook County ordinances passed, we’re just getting warmed up. Though we are continuing many of the things we have been doing we need your help more than ever! It’s not just what we will keep doing but the other things we will be concentrating on.

Of course we still want to have a Pride event this June. So okay who wants to work on this event? A small handful of people can’t do it all. What about the Pride Parade? Who wants to help plan our presence? Then of course there is our annual report on discrimination. We need help to go through the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ files. Want to read some reports?

Then we have our three initial projects. We have our Youth Advocacy. She can't do it all by herself. I'm sure she could use some help in developing her programs. If you're interested either give her a call or send or an email. She'll get in touch with you and let you know what you can do.

So you say youth advocacy isn't for you. Well, how about helping Miranda with her Legislative Advocacy? Miranda puts her heart and soul into this organization. And I know she would love for others to get involved. I'll tell you all a little secret, I hope Miranda doesn't get mad at me, Miranda can't be everywhere at once! There the secret is out.

Maybe your interests run more towards Legal Advocacy. Then of course I can put your interests to work. There is always something happening on the legal front affecting our community. I wouldn't mind having a little help myself you know.

Want to work on the newsletter? I'm sure Diana would love to have you on board. She also pours in a lot of her time and energy into IGA. She could use help too.

Not everyone has time to give I know that's true. We could also use money. Donations may be tax deductible (check with your tax advisor) but just your membership dues alone are not. For a donation of \$250.00 or more you could become a member of our Advocates Club. Working for our rights doesn't come cheap. We need funds to keep doing a lot of our work and keep growing.

Maybe you have some suggestions of things we should be involved with. **Please let us know! We need to hear from you!** Come to our meeting next month and let us know what you would like to do, what you would like IGA to do, what you can do for IGA or what IGA can do for you.

We have the contact information for Josie, Miranda, Diana and myself in the newsletter. The next meeting date and location is also in the newsletter. Be sure to check the website for any possible updates or changes. Tell your friends about us, tell your family, we're open to all who want to be an advocate and supporter of the Transgender and Gender Variant community.

I hope to see you in February.

Notes from the Scullery

Just Like a Tree That's Standing by the Water...

By Diana Williamson

1848, a year of revolution and radicalism in Europe, also marked the beginning of an indigenous American movement

that was characterized at the time as being radical and revolutionary. In that year, a group of women met in Seneca Falls, NY to formulate a proposal that its opponents described as certain to destroy the American family, ruin American society as we knew it, and which was said to be clearly immoral, downright sinful, and against the will of God. The movement was vehemently castigated and condemned by politicians, clergymen, and in the press. Its leaders were arrested, prosecuted, fined, and jailed for their efforts on its behalf.

So what did these women want that caused so much furor? Were they seeking the violent overthrow of the government? Advocating anarchy? Arguing for state ownership of the means of production?

Well, actually, none of the above. They just wanted to vote.

Denying women the right to vote solely on account of their gender seems nothing short of absurd in the modern world. Nevertheless, the road to universal suffrage in the United States was a long and arduous one. A constitutional amendment to grant women the right to vote was not even introduced in Congress until 1878, thirty years after the meeting in Seneca Falls. More than forty additional years elapsed before the amendment finally passed Congress in 1919. At last, on August 18, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified by three-fourths of the states, allowing American women for the first time to participate fully in the democratic electoral process.

Today, transgender and gender variant Americans find themselves locked in an equally challenging struggle to obtain the same rights that the vast majority of our society routinely take for granted. As in the case of the women's suffrage movement, we are not seeking anything that can be truly considered radical or revolutionary. None of us expects to be handed a job, a home, an education, or a family. What we *do* expect, however, (and, indeed, what we demand) is the same *opportunity* as everyone else to obtain these things for ourselves. Job. Home. Education. Family. This is an agenda a true conservative could love.

Nevertheless, regardless of how modest and reasonable our goals may seem to us, they are bound to receive opposition from various quarters. Much of the opposition will, of course, appear in the form of the same old refrains we have heard for many years. We can expect to be accused of advocating special rights. We will be told that we already have sufficient protections under the U.S. and Illinois constitutions. We will be told that being a transgender or gender variant person is a matter of personal choice, and therefore not an appropriate basis for legal protections. The mere fact that such rationales are completely false and without logical or factual merit will not stop them from being vehemently asserted as grounds for denying our goals.

It should not come as a surprise if we are confronted by numerous other objections, both old and new. And, when all else fails, we will undoubtedly be told that our "chosen

lifestyle” is sinful, contrary to biblical teaching, and unworthy of legal protections.

Ironically, we may also encounter resistance and betrayal from those who have purported to be our friends. The shameful events surrounding the exclusion of gender identity from New York’s recent Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act provide just one example of what can happen when activist groups become overly focused on their own needs, to the exclusion of others.

So what can we do in the face of such opposition? We should follow the example of the women’s suffrage movement and stand firm in our commitment to achieving goals that we know are fair and just. We must exercise patience, persistence, and perseverance in the face of opposition from any source. We should heed the advice of the old labor union song that declares, “*Just like a tree that’s standing by the water, we shall not be moved.*”

The next regular meeting of Illinois Gender Advocates will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of Transformations, located at 146 N. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park.

Thanks to Our Contributors:

A big thank you goes out to those who contributed articles to the newsletter this month. It is really appreciated from month to month. Thanks!

- Beth Plotner
- Diana Williamson
- GenderPAC News
- Miranda Stevens-Miller
- NTAC
- ISNA

IGA Co-Sponsors “Southern Comfort” and “My Left Breast” at Queer Heroes Film Series

On Thursday, February 27th, IGA will co-sponsor Southern Comfort and my Left Breast at the Queer Heroes Film Series at the University of Chicago.

Southern Comfort is the story of Robert Eads. A trans-man and is fight with ovarian cancer. This documentary won an award at the Sundance Film Festival and has been shown on HBO.

The film follows Robert as he prepares to attend his last Southern Comfort conference in Atlanta in 1998. Southern Comfort is the largest gender conference in the country. It is a moving story of Robert and his partner Lola Cola. I urge all who can attend to come and see this film.

My Left Breast concerns Gerry Roger’s struggle with breast cancer with the help of her partner.

Both films are tales of cancer and the healing powers of love and community.

Take a break from the winter doldrums and come out to see 2 stories of inspiration. Tickets are \$4. The films will be shown at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27th, at the Max Palevsky Cinema, Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E. 59th Street, at the University of Chicago. There is free street parking and free parking in campus lots after 4:00 p.m.

For more information contact DOC Films at the University of Chicago 773/702-8574 or www.docfilms.uchicago.edu. These films are part of the Queer Heroes film series showing on Thursdays now through March 13th.

Important Dates!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as many of these events as possible.

February 6, 2003 (Thursday) – Regular monthly meeting of Illinois Gender Advocates at Transformations, 146 N. Oak Park Ave. in Oak Park, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

February 21, 2003 (Friday) – It’s Time Television, part of the LGBT consortium on Hotline 21, Channel 21 Cable Access TV, Chicago, starting at 6:30 p.m.

March 6, 2003 (Thursday) – Regular monthly meeting of Illinois Gender Advocates, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

March 21, 2003 (Friday) – It’s Time Television, part of the LGBT consortium on Hotline 21, Channel 21 Cable Access TV, Chicago, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Be Sure to Attend Our Next Meeting

Intersex Society to Hold Fundraiser

From Intersex Society of North America

The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) is devoted to systemic change to end shame, secrecy and unwanted genital surgeries for people born with atypical reproductive anatomies. We work to end the idea that intersexuality is shameful or freakish. We urge physicians to use a model of care that is patient-centered, rather than concealment-centered. More information can be found at www.isna.org.

A house party to benefit the Intersex Society of North America is taking place in Chicago. Please attend if you are able. Otherwise, please attend if you are able. Otherwise, donations may be sent to the RSVP address. ISNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Date: Sunday, February 9th, 2003

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Buckingham Building (home of Sharon and David Sytsma), 960 East Randolph, Party Room (first floor)

Ticket Prices: Suggested advance donation \$100 – 250. All welcome.

RSVP: Alice Dreger, 621 Sunset Lane, East Lansing, MI 48823, or rsvp@isna.org

Minutes for the Monthly Meeting of January 2003

By Diana Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2003, in the lower level of Transformations, 146 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois.

Legislative Director Miranda Stevens-Miller reported that, following our successes in Chicago and Cook County last year, the organization's legislative agenda has moved on to new challenges. Currently, the Legislative Director is working with GLSEN on state-wide legislation for safe schools, anti-bullying, and dignity for all students in grades K – 12. Much of the bullying and harassment of gay youth is actually due to perceived gender expression. Currently, teachers and staff generally ignore bullying of transgender and gay youth, resulting in a huge dropout rate. Several states already have this type of legislation in force. A large coalition of organizations will need to be involved in the effort to achieve safe schools legislation in Illinois. Such coalition will necessarily include a broad base of civil rights groups, not just LGBT organizations. It is already too late to have safe

schools legislation introduced in the current session of the General Assembly, but the Miranda hopes that a bill will be ready by the next session, which will start in 2004.

Miranda also reported that, thus far in 2003, two cities have enacted laws to include gender expression in their human rights ordinances. Those cities are Springfield, IL and Key West, FL.

Beth Plotner reported that we will once again sponsor our annual Transgender Pride Event in June of this year. Anyone wanting to participate in the planning of the event should contact either Beth Plotner (BethJD@earthlink.net) or Diana Williamson (DianaAW@aol.com), or should call the IGA hotline (312-409-5489).

We will also be preparing our annual report on discrimination and hate crimes in order to document as fully as possible all such events that occurred in Illinois during 2002. Any person who was the victim of discrimination or a hate crime on account of gender expression is encouraged to contact Beth Plotner to provide a statement for the report.

Guest speaker for the evening was IGA's Director of Youth Advocacy. She reported that she is currently working with a 13-year old transgender girl who has been placed by DCFS in a group home for boys. As part of her vision for the future of her work with IGA, she would like to: (1) provide direct personal advocacy and intervention for transgender youth who are in crisis situations, (2) maintain a program to educate people who care for children (such as DCFS, therapists, and school counselors and personnel) regarding transgender issues, and (3) make direct support for transgender youngsters available, in the form of a weekly drop-in center and a group home. Lack of funding and volunteers, however, currently prevent many of those goals from becoming a reality. Anyone who would like to help by volunteering time and/or contributing funds should contact her at Jostime@earthlink.net or by calling the IGA hotline (312-409-5489).

Beth Plotner announced that the LCCP Coming Out Against Cancer Dance will be held on the evening of January 18, 2003.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Williamson

GPAC Condemns Shooting of Miami Gay Man

From GenderPAC News

WASHINGTON, DC (Jan. 6, 2003) The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition today condemned the New Year's Eve

shooting of a gay man in South Beach, Florida following the attackers' discovery that 23-year-old Earnest Robinson was male.

According to news reports, two men approached and then propositioned Robinson as he left a local gay nightclub in the early morning of Jan. 1. When he identified himself as a man, one of the alleged attackers shot Robinson in the shoulder while uttering an anti-gay epithet.

Robinson, who reportedly said that he has feminine features and is often mistaken for a woman, was not in drag on New Year's eve.

Said Executive Director Riki Wilchins, "The fact that this shooting took place in a tolerant, gay-oriented resort like South Beach sends a terrible message that no one is safe. Men who are in any way feminine are at special risk. Our condolences go out to Earnest's family and loved ones. Congress should send a clear message and move to pass the hate crimes bill."

Police arrested Adrian Miller, 19, and Billy Ledan, 19, and charged them with attempted murder-hate crime, which, according to State Attorney's Office spokesman Ed Griffith, could lead to prison sentences of 15 years to life. Robinson, who was hospitalized following the attack, has since been released.

The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition is the national organization working to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes.

Steroid Use Spiraling Among Teenage Boys

From GenderPAC News

December 18, 2002 – An obsession with masculinity is driving American men and teenage boys to obsessive exercise and steroid use, according to new reports.

In a new book, Dr. Harrison Pope, Katherine Phillips, M.D. and Roberto Olivardia, Ph.D. have termed this relentless pursuit of male muscularity "The Adonis Complex," the "Secret Crisis of Male Body Obsession."

According to IIME Magazine, in 1972 only 1 in 6 men reported disapproval with their appearance. Now nearly half of men are unhappy with their bodies. In fact, American men now spend \$4 billion yearly on gym memberships and home exercise equipment.

According to the author, the problem is even worse for teenage boys who are now taking steroids in record numbers, pursuing idealized masculine bodies that are unattainable for most with chemical help.

"Everybody wants to be big now," Zeb Nava, a senior at Clearfield High School who has added nearly 50 pounds of muscle mass over the last two years by weight lifting, told the New York Times. Nava, who says he's avoided supplements, added, "The majority now are guys who don't do it for sports. They do it for girls. For the look."

According to the New York Times and TIME Magazine:

- Steroid use among teens has hit nearly half a million annually (federal drug agencies).
- Among high school seniors, steroid use within a month increased 50% last year (federal agencies).
- And between 1992 and 2000, steroid use among sophomores more than doubled (National Institute of Drug Abuse).
- Among 12 – 17 year-old boys, use of steroids and similar drugs jumped 25% between 1999 and 2000, with 20% saying they use them for looks rather than sports (Blue Cross/Blue Shield).
- The last four years have seen a 50% increase of high school students (1.8% to 2.8%) who say they have used steroids (Drug Enforcement Administration).
- Lately the steroid industry is getting help from an unlikely source. One weight-lifting store salesman told TIME that he now sees fathers bringing in their teenage sons.

"The dad will say, 'How do we put some weight on this kid?' with the boy just staring at the floor. Dad is going to turn him into Hulk Hogan, even if it's against his will."

Gay Customer Harassed, Threatened for Being Effeminate

From GenderPAC News

WASHINGTON, DC (Jan. 25, 2003) From the moment Ray Scott and Curtis Waters entered a Washington, DC Food Lion on Jan. 13 store employees began snickering and laughing at them, according to a criminal complaint filed by Scott, and things quickly got worse.

According to Waters, 19, and Scott, 20, five Food Lion employees began speaking loudly in high-pitched voices, "making it a point to walk as feminine as they could right in front of us... even the manager spoke in a higher pitched voice than normal."

When they complained about the harassment, the manager allegedly taunted Scott further and "guaranteed that he would kick my ass." Waters and Scott left the store and called the police. Then the manager, accompanied by a police officer, came out to the parking lot, saying, "I will make this real cut and dry for the two of you: We don't want your business

here... Your money isn't welcome here," effectively banning them from the store.

Scott has filed a criminal complaint against the employee, and said the regional director of human resources for Food Lion contacted him regarding an internal investigation into the harassment.

Food Lion, LLC spokesperson Jeff Lowrance said the company "can neither confirm nor deny such allegations or investigations" as described by Waters and Scott.

Waters said the employees have harassed him every time he has entered the store for the past two months. "[Curtis is] more effeminate, but he doesn't dress anything like that," Scott said of his friend. "He kind of walks with a swish, and his voice is kind of [high pitched]."

Commented GenderPAC Executive Director Riki Wilchins: "Gay men know that if they dare to look and act gay, they risk mistreatment, harassment, and being denied service or public accommodation. We applaud Waters and Scott for standing up for their gender rights, and deplore the alleged harassment they were subjected to."

The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition is the national organization working to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes.

Application for New or Renewal Membership

YES, I would like to join (____) or renew (____) my membership in Illinois Gender Advocates.

Name(s) _____
Name to Be Used on Mailing Label (if different from above) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____
Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____
E-mail Address _____

Membership Level (check one):

(____) Annual - \$15 (____) Supporting - \$35 (____) Household - \$50 (____) Sustaining - \$75
(____) Benefactor - \$150 (____) Lifetime - \$250 (____) Other - \$ _____

How would you like to be involved with Illinois Gender Advocates? (Please check all that apply.)

(____) Keep informed by newsletters (____) Participate in monthly meetings
(____) Participate in actions (____) Join a working group or committee
(____) Liaison with other human rights groups. Please specify _____
(____) Do you have any special skills that could help us out? (legal / legislative, artistic / design, technical / computer) Please specify: _____

Have you ever been a victim of a hate crime or discriminated against because of your gender identity, expression, or image? Yes / No (circle one)

If yes, may we document your case for our report? Yes / No (circle one)

Please mail, along with your check or money order, to:

Illinois Gender Advocates, 47 W. Division St., #391, Chicago, IL 60610