we're flying high with issue five!

thanks for keeping us energized friends! we could NOT do this zine thing without your continuous love and support. keep it up!

pssst: we made limited edition patches and one of a kind pins. with extra special thanks to some help from our friends: bri, lea, andrea, christine, and jeff. get 'em at Five Alive! the all gender-side dance party june 12 2009 @ the albert in winnipeg.

how do I get in contact with trans.zine? email: trans.zine@gmail.com snailmail: trans.zine c/o Rainbow Resource Centre 170 Scott St. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 0L3

facebook:

[squeeze] the trans.zine! crew > dee, cass, ethan, steph, laura, juanita, penner, mateo (newbie!) we loooove him and run on.

(how much will trans.zine! cost me?) trans.zine! is a freeish publication, our first four issues were paid for through a variety of super donors and the trans.zine collective. beginning with our fifth issue, each hard copy zine is gonna cost ya twobucks (canada!). available PDF copies will be free, when and where you can find 'em.

available soon via www.kustomkultureshop.com!!!

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STOP SNIFF GROUP
Every Friday 2-3 pm
Mount Carmel Clinic
896 Main Street
Anyone who has used solvents/sniff
You set your own goals for reducing use or quitting sniff
and get the

SASS Group
(sobriety & sanity)
Every Monday from 3:30 to 4:00 PM
at Sage House
For women who are looking for support around their addictions and their experiences on the street. Do not have to be drug/alcohol free to attend.

ACUPUNCTURE
Great for stress relief and anxiety.
Helps with cravings and withdraws.
Soothing and relaxing!
Tues & Fri 5:30-6:30 PM

Street Outreach
Outreach workers driving/walking the streets of the North End connecting with gals working around schools. Provide info and condoms.

SAGE HOUSE
Street Women's Health and Outreach Services
422 Dufferin Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 2Y5
Phone: 943-6379 Fax: 956-0384
Email: sagehouse@mts.net

A Program of Mount Carmel Clinic
For Women and Transgenders who are Prostitutes, Drug Users or Street involved.

Free laundry, bath, food, needle exchange, condoms, bad date sheets, nursing services/testing, counselling, support, advocacy, referrals, information, outreach and activities. We also provide services, and support for those wanting to exit the sex trade or enter addiction treatment.

FREE SUPPER TUESDAY & FRIDAY 5 PM.
Both Sides of Purple

Today my toenails are painted purple
Some blue, some pink, you have purple.
I like to look at my feet that way,
Because that's what I am today...

I'm a boy on the outside but a girl hidden within.
This is when my two colors start to spin
My mind is where blue and pink get all mixed up
I like high heels, nail polish and makeup...

When I go out during the day,
I wear things to hide away,
Clothes to cover the gender I despise
When really I just want everyone to realize;

All I want is for people to see me,
To see me for me, the way I should be well, at least...the way I see me.
It's hard to prove when they just can't see...

I guess I'm not purple today
I'll have to explain some other way,
I suppose today I'm blue,
For pink is my soul's true hue.

I'm not confused, I know who I am,
But it's hard when I feel like such a sham.
Born into one body, but cursing my bad luck,
i want to be a lady, not just an ugly duck...

-Victoria
WOMEN, TRANS & QUEER
BIKE INFO & REPAIR
NIGHTS IN WINNIPEG

The Bike Dump
Mondays throughout the summer; 6-9 p.m.
Located behind the Red Road Lodge (631 Main Street)
Web: http://bike-dump.ca

Orioles Bike Cage
Dates TBA.
Located on the grounds of Orioles Community Club
(444 Burnell Street)
Web: www.bikecage.ca

BICYCLE
- rear caliper brake
- seat post
- saddle bar
- crossbar
- handlebar stem
- handlebars
- brake cable
- brake lever
- head tube
- front derailleur brake
derailluer gear changer
- fork
down tube
spoke
hub
rim
tire
valve
pédal
crank arm
It's been three months since I got to Canada and like many other thousands have done for so many years, I arrived with a huge bag of hopes, high expectations, and, most important, with my experiences, knowledge and determination. All of them brought me here in the middle of the Manitoban winter, looking for a better future for me and those I temporarily left behind in Mexico.

As a transgendered person in Mexico I had to cope with lots of ignorance and its most common expression: fear. And fear shows up in many different ways and has many different repercussions as we all have known and lived in a way or another. Being stared at with jaws dropped, being called names on my back or hearing silly giggles as I walked by were not really big issues, I got to master the art of ignoring those reactions, fear was absent. But it was, and still is, action what triggers an entire defense system in me, but sadly there were situations when I knew there was no way I could defend myself, and I explain: Thank God I was never physically attacked and verbal aggressions were almost inexistent, people in Mexico are generally respectful, and, it is worth to say, globalization has had a positive effect on Mexican society regarding tolerance (but not acceptance yet) to LGBT lifestyles; unfortunately such tolerance has limits there, and they are defined by personal interaction and ignorance. When I came out to my friends, clients and business contacts I had a fairly good response, 50% of them answered my "come out email" with supportive comments, the rest took some of those actions I could not do anything to defend myself from: Kept silence and walked away from me. During the next six months only half of that half that supposedly supported me actually kept contact with me, I had lost 75% of my business contacts in 10 years in only six months, not because I were irresponsible or dishonest or unprofessional, but simply because I decided to express myself freely as a woman.

Discrimination against women is well known and an every day practice in many workplaces, even though there are anti-discrimination laws (barely enforced). Now I had to face discrimination with the "aggravating" fact of being a transgendered woman or, to the eyes of the ignorant, "not even a woman". As a
transgendered architect working in a macho dominated industry, I suddenly realized I had no future in Mexico. So, it's been three months already since I arrived to Canada, stepping away from fear, the fear of the ignorant, which, sometimes is contagious and makes me wonder if I made the right decision about transitioning. And from time to time I receive here the same stupefaction looks I received in Mexico, and the silly giggles from some fearful people in a bar or a fast food restaurant, but the enormous difference is the reality of Canada as a humanly imperfect progressive society, politically conscious and correct where nobody cares about my gender or sex or marital status or age or race or nationality, and laws are enforced. That is a big help to make fear go away.

---

Help support camp aurora
A Camp for LGBTT and Allied Youth
August 24-27, 2009 Camp Manitou Winnipeg, MB

Please help us make camp aurora a reality.

Camp aurora is a 4-day, subsidized summer camp that will focus on building and nurturing the leadership capacities and resiliency of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, and allied youth ages 14 to 21. The primary goal is to support youth to further develop their self-esteem, decision-making abilities, and leadership skills so that they can make significant contributions to their schools, communities, and home environments.

camp aurora is organized through a volunteer committee with assistance provided by the Rainbow Resource Centre. campaurora@rainbowresourcecentre.org rainbowresourcecentre.org
MEDICINE
Man Becomes Woman

When ex-GI George Jorgensen left the Bronx, New York, he was a gangling young man. When reporter John C.Mahon returned to his native city ten years later, after two years, five major operations, and a change of name (his, she was Christine Jorgensen, the tabloid sensation of the day), he was a woman. Jorgensen, whom Mahon had met by chance on the street, was not the only person to undergo sex reassignment; there was also actress Edna Effie, who changed into Effie Brown, and still another person, called Roger. Jorgensen became a woman, Effie an Indian, and Roger a man.

Ndinawe
Training Program
Child & Youth Care Worker

A Red River College accredited, community-based education and training program for individuals previously involved in the sex-trade.

How to Apply
Women, Transgender, and Men who are over the age of 18, and have previous experience in the sex-trade are encouraged to apply.

For more information please contact the Child & Youth Care Worker Training office:
582-1978 (Monday to Friday).

http://www.risk-stretch-or-die.saskscanadian.com

A documentary film by Saskia Heyden

RISK, STRETCH, OR DIE

Director: Saskia Heyden
Producer: Saskia Heyden
Editor: John Jorgensen
Screenwriter: John Jorgensen
Stills: John Jorgensen

The story of the life of George Jorgensen, a transwoman who underwent sex reassignment surgery. The film explores the challenges and experiences of transitioning from male to female, and the impact on both personal and societal levels.
The Transsexual Voice

Spring 1985

Phoebe - Before and After

The road to consciousness and culmination of our being is certainly a rough one. But it is only half the battle. Just as life doesn't end with sex-reassignment surgery, anything less than continuing to struggle and fight for our human rights and the rights of our fellow transpersons at home and elsewhere is not enough. A famous Mexican fighter for women's rights once said, 'we are not a race, and we do not have a separate destiny. We are women and we must fight for our rights.'

Non-transpersons are often forced to live under ourselves from this phrase because they are not aware of what we are truly capable of. Some would rather have us all along be the non-transpersons, roll over and play dead, or eliminate us altogether.

MUSE ATTACK!

All the Pretty Horses

www.prettyhorses.net

Trans-Fusions: Trans-Genre Compilation

http://trans-genre.net

RAE SPOON

www.raepsoon.com

NAPA BRENNET

www.namadbrennet.com

(Nick Stevens) of Coyote Grace

www.coyotegrace.com

TONA BROWN

www.myspace.com/tonabrownviolin

1985
trans.zine!

PATCH!

trans.zine!

2007

Made by: Delal
Image: Haeli Cass
Printing: Jeff + Cass

ACTOR SLASH MODEL
www.actorslashmodel.com

DANA INTERNATIONAL
www.danainternational.com

ATHENS BOYS CHOIR
www.athensboyschoir.com

LIPSTICK CONSPIRACY
www.lipstickconspiracy.com

ANATURALE
www.myspace.com/anaturale

GEORGIE JESSUP
www.georgiejessup.com

(Rocco of) ICE CREAM SOCIALITES
www.myspace.com/icecreamsocialites

KATASTROFHE
www.katastrofhe.com

LISA JACKSON
www.myspace.com/lisajacksonmusic

FOR THE LAST TIME
IT'S NOT A LIFESTYLE.

got a genderqueer playlist you wanna share? know of a musician you’d like to add to this list?
please contact us at trans.zine@gmail.com and we’ll include it in an issue of trans.zine!
Rhiannon's Electrolysis Story

By Rhiannon

Next to surgery, as many of you know, Electrolysis is a big part of transitioning. It is a time-consuming process that can take months to years to complete. The timing depends on a few factors. One is whether you are on hormones, what dosage and another is the texture and thickness of your hair. The thicker the hair the harder and more time it takes to remove.

I began my ordeal on December 2, 2007 with a lady you met at one of our club meetings. Evelyn Woodward. She has become one of my dearest and closest friends. During Evelyn's training she required a few models to practice leg hair removal. I offered to be one of her subjects. She prefers working with the transgenders as they often have more hair than the average woman. (Women wax and shave) Her son was also going through a change and they were shocked at how much this part of society was charged for the process.

After Evelyn graduated we lost touch for awhile. I had no idea where she disappeared to. Then one day, out of the blue, she contacted me. I was very happy to hear from her. I didn't know anyone else, as well as I knew and trusted her, and I always wanted her to do the electrolysis. She began working on my legs. At this point I was not on hormones. She recommended that I wait until I went on the hormones, so that the hair would begin to thin out on its own. It would take a lot fewer sessions to remove it.

At this time she was more interested in treating transgenders male to female clients who were on hormones. She is so generous to everyone. She doesn't have specific rates, as she knows most TG's have little to no money. She is known to work out deals, on a one to one basis with her clients. I didn't see her for awhile, as I was waiting for my doctors to take me to the next step and give me my hormones. After being on the medication for approx. 4 months I called her. She was very happy to hear from me. She knew that if I was calling her I must have progressed to the next level in my transitioning.

Evelyn recommended that I not do my legs, just wax them for now, and work strictly on my facial hair. I agreed. So every Thursday at 1:00pm I visit my friend and she does her magic to unwanted facial hair. My hair is fine so removing it is not really painful. She figures it will take about 2 years to complete the face. Then we can make a decision if there are other areas that need to be addressed.

I highly recommend anyone who wants electrolysis done, to visit Evelyn. She is completely TG friendly and accepting and you won't regret the trip. If you want more information about Evelyn, please see me at one of our club meetings and I can help you get in touch with her.

In order to deal with this issue the American Academy of Pediatrics was kind enough to print an international consensus paper2 about people in my situation, people who have developed differently such that their gender is unknown. They determined that gender can be determined by the child from the age of 18 months onward, and that if they haven't rushed off to surgery at birth, the child must be consulted in determining their gender, before the surgeons get involved.

Although the pediatric association does not want to welcome me into their arms, as it were, they are smart enough to acknowledge that gender dissatisfaction is very poorly understood and the causes remain unknown. They suggest that the issue is related to prenatal androgen, but is difficult to predict based on karyotype, prenatal androgen exposure, degree of genital virilization, or assigned gender. They have confirmed that prenatal androgen is clearly related to behavior patterns. They separate gender from sexual orientation completely. I am happy to say the truth will some day be discovered — rather than having them walk around it all of the time. They have an odd statement in their report that gender dissatisfaction occurs more frequently in individuals with DSD than it does in the general population. It is odd that they separate the two. Did it not occur to them that gender dissatisfaction arises from prenatal gender development in the brain, caused by prenatal androgen, and that people who have not had further influence of androgens or androgen insensitivity and the consequent physical deformities that follow, may still have had the development of the brain affected? When they do connect the brain to the rest of the body, people like myself will be better understood and better treated. Until then, I am left to my own devices. I don't have a psychological condition because I can't afford one. I started to get one but ran out of money. I can't afford surgery just yet, although I was left to my own devices. I don't have a psychological condition because I can't afford one. I started to get one but ran out of money. I can't afford surgery just yet. But this is my medical issue. Dr. [name removed for privacy] once told me that medical treatment is a right of every individual in Canada. I didn't believe him then, and I don't believe him now. He lives in a different world than I do.
I am intersex, or to be more precise I have a Disorder of Sexual Development - DSD.

This is not a comfortable situation to be in when you are older than 18 months.

I have been that way for as long as I can remember and of course earlier. I am amazed at the number of doctors and other professionals who want to cut the head from the body; in effect to tell us the brain is not part of biology. Oh sure they won't say it like that. But they won't say the other either. They won't say that we are spiritual energy beings who merely inhabit a biological space, and thinking is done somewhere outside of the body.

At first glance this may appear to be a silly way to look at things. But stop for a minute.

Where do our thoughts truly originate? Is it in some fantasy world that floats around us? Or do they actually have a physical location in our brains? When they take an electric probe and check different parts of the brain, people start having thoughts. Things that weren't thinking about earlier. Suddenly, out they come. Unless the probe pulled it out of the ethos and inserted it into the brain, I suspect that the thought was there already, stored in the brain.

Our gender is like that as well. There are parts of the brain that determine how we see ourselves. The problem with the brain is that you have to cut it open to really study it. They know that the development of the fetus confirms that gender stamping is done at a certain time, that the development of the brain is affected by hormones, and that if the proper hormones are not there at the right time, or too many are present then the results will affect the development of the brain. If we were to cut someone open and study the part of the brain that has developed at that time, we would expect that the part of the brain that determines gender identity of a person who thinks they are a woman would look like another person brain who thinks they are a woman, and this would be true regardless of what the rest of the biology looks like. It is rather lucky for me that this test has already been conducted and I do not have to lend my brain to science. Autopsies have confirmed that female transsexuals have the same size brain structure as females, and male transsexuals have the same size brain structure as males.

As a result we would expect that such a difference would be noted very early in life, and in fact it is.

---

Electrolysis Ten Top Tips

1. Several months before you start electrolysis, pluck the hair in the area you want the hair to be gone. Plucking hurts more than electrolysis, so your skin will get used to the pain and the process won't be so traumatic.

2. Moisturise your skin every evening. Treatment works better and the skin heals faster when the skin is moist.

3. Do not wear makeup when going to electrolysis. It is hard to clean off the skin and can plug the pores. If the area is not clean, infection can occur.

4. Let your facial hair grow. It has to be long enough for your electrologist to grab it with tweezers. For some people, this means one day growth, for others, it may mean four days growth.

5. Some areas, like the upper lip, are very very painful. Emla is a cream that works to freeze the skin for a while. It is expensive, but used carefully, the worst areas can be managed.

Evelyn Woodward
334 Buyens Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
(204) 774-2300
(204) 294-8944

6. Let your electrologist know when you have started hormone treatments. The way the hair grows and reacts to treatment varies with the hormones.

7. Do not wear makeup after electrolysis for about a day. The makeup may plug the pores and cause an infection.

8. If emla isn't enough, you can go to a dentist and have your upper lip frozen. Dentists are quite cooperative and a lot of hair can be done in one sitting.

9. If you are serious about hair removal, never miss a session of electrolysis. If for some reason you have to miss, let your electrologist know in advance. The best way is to keep regular appointments every week. After all, there are only 52 weeks in a year. Some people can take 300 hours to clear their hair permanently. Missed appointments make the process feel like it will take forever. This is a commitment for both you and your electrologist.

10. Remember, when you see an electrologist, it costs. If you are lucky, you will find someone who will work out a good deal for your treatments, but it costs her for power, filaments, ointments and time.
This is a room with a toilet. There is no gender sign on the door because we support the right of all people, regardless of how they identify, to have a safe place to go.

This may be a welcome concept for some of you, it may be a little off-putting for others.

As these are single stall toilets, there is no real need to signify who can or cannot use this room; it is open to all. As our society moves toward more openness and acceptance, we are hoping to help widen that path.

Removing the barriers (that most people wouldn't even recognize as a barrier, but which can represent a terrifying block for many folks) to fundamental needs such as bathroom use is one way to do that.

Sometimes new ideas can be confusing and create discomfort or internal conflict. We are sorry if we have caused you any uneasiness, but excited to be opening our own eyes to the awareness that gender is a much more complicated thing than the two words "male" and "female" could ever encompass. We hope you will join us on our journey of discovery toward a more open and accepting society.

Please feel free to ask any of the staff members if you would like to talk about this.

In Solidarity, The Mondragon Collective.

Let Trans.Zine! Know Where The All Genders Washrooms Are In Your Community & We'll Put 'Em In Our Next Issue.

ALL GENDERS

WASHROOM
PEEING IN PEACE
A Resource Guide For Transgender Activists And Allies

The Rainbow Resource Centre:
Serving Manitoba's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Two-Spirit Communities

Peer Project for Youth is a program that offers LGBT* and allied youth a safe, fun place to share ideas, learn new skills and challenge/deconstruct homophobic, heterosexism, transphobia, biphobia as well as celebrate queer culture and queer identities. We meet 3 times a month, contact us to find out when our next fabulously, flaming gathering is.

Young and Proud is a youth group for LGBT* and allied youth to socialize, have discussions and access resources. 3rd Thursday of the month, 7-9pm

- Button making
- Queer cheerleading
- Creative writing
- Bowling
- Zine making
- Creative expression
- Movie nights
- Discussion nights
- Potlucks

Phone: (204) 284-2799
170 Scott St @ Wardlaw in Osborne Village
WINNIPEG, Manitoba, CDN
peerproject4youth@rainbowresourcecentre.org

A Publication of the Transgender Law Center
Copyright 2005, Transgender Law Center
Hey Ruve!
Steph asked for a copy of my poem for Tranzine next issue.
So here it is.
Rock and Roll, see you at the gender bender!!!

The familiar but subtle silence fills the locker room.
I place my skateboard and knapsack in a corner locker farthest away.
I feel eyes boring into me, seeking out my faults and comparing them to their own.
I turn my back ignoring them.

I remove my hoody, aware of ONE set of eyes lingering on me.
I turn to confront them.
They are big, round, curious, innocent.
The eyes meet mine, then look up at the mother, then back at me.
A small head points at my buggy kicks, lose fitting t-shirt, shaved mow-hawked head.
A tiny mouth utters, Mommy is a girl!?!?

The locker room draws in its breath creating a pregnant vacuum.
Only one set of eyes dare to stare but all ears are listening.
I pretend not to hear the question, Mommy pretends not to hear the question.
I am observed as I remove my outer layer, for scrutiny is never comfortable.
Again the little mouth utters the huge question, Mommy is THAT A GIRL?

Mommy is forced to notice me, see me and perhaps accept the differences between her and I, maybe the truth.

There I am, small breasts, average waist, mid life cellulite, tattoos.
I am no cartoon Barbie.
My thoughts are independent and mine.
My hair is short, but my consciousness is long.
My face is raised for I do not need paint for the war.
My skin is comfortable, I wear it well.
I embrace my age and the changes she brings upon my body, mind and soul.
I embrace the masculine from within and with out, for the masculine balances the feminine.
Both are sacred and divine.
I am independent and proud.
I speak out loud.
About what I want, where I want and how I want.
I don't care if you want to hear it or not.
I accept the consequences.
I fight, fight and belch out the constraining rules we as women place on one another, through radio, print, media, and participation.

Mommy breaks her gaze, dresses little eyes in a hurry.
She drags her by me and out the door like I'm some kind of a disease or infection.
The question is never answered.
The locker room breathes again as I plug my umbilical cord into my ipod. Leaving the question to be answered by those who silently ask it, every time some one like me enters the women's locker room.

Kitty
Peace Out
As parents, we are supposed to love our children unconditionally, and I can honestly say that all I want for Rune is to have a healthy, happy life in whatever shape or form he chooses. Over the past few years I have met many of Rune’s friends, colleagues, Professors and I am blown away by the love, compassion and respect they possess… my world should be so lucky, and I am humbled by the courage, strength and conviction they show in living their lives the way they were meant to, not necessarily the way society dictates. I want to thank you Rune for including me in your world.

BRAVE PASSIONATE LOYAL EMPATHETIC
These are a few more words that would describe my son Rune. I love you Rune.

Jo-Anne Martin shared these moving words at the 2008 Winnipeg Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20, 2008). The 2008 WTDOR organizing committee would like to thank Jo for her compassionate reading and her endless love and support of trans.zine!
knowledge would help Rune find happiness in his life.

Then came the hard stuff. Rune told me that he wanted to be more androgynous; that he didn't want to identify as a girl or boy. He told me that he was going to change his female birth name to Miles Rune Brooken. I had trouble understanding this and argued that the name was a "boys" name and he was contradicting himself. I know now that Rune was preparing me for the next step, but I still wasn't getting it. There was lots of tension in our home and lots of heated discussions. Rune then asked that we start using the pronoun "they" when referring to him. This was really awkward for us but we did our best. When Rune started talking about taking a low dose male hormone, testosterone, I was totally out of my comfort zone. I remember asking "why can't you just be gey...just be a dyke?" It was shortly after this that in true Rune fashion; he made the decision to move out while he began his processing, as he thought it would be easier on all of us. I would be lying if I didn't say that my thoughts at this time consisted of "maybe they will change their mind" and "how am I going to tell people" and the big one "what will people think". I admit I assumed the ostrich position....and stayed in DENIAL for some time. Rune's sister and I decided to consult a psychologist to talk about what we should do - and the advice we were given was for us to do nothing - it was Rune's deal and he should be the one to tell people. We decided instead to help Rune tell the family and we started a little bit at a time until all the family knew. Close friends came next and now as we all meet new people it becomes easier to say, my son or my brother.

In April of this year, Rune went to Montreal and Toronto to meet with Doctors to discuss surgery. It was at this point that I came 100% out of denial and into reality. Rune is a man in a woman's body. It is real, it is happening and I will be with Rune every step of the way.
I am going to start our story on the day Rune was born. September 7, 1981 was one of the best days of my life. I was expecting my first child; it was Labor Day and the baby was 2 weeks overdue. It was just like Rune to make his grand entrance, on his own terms. I went into labor in the morning and the baby was born at noon. At first, the Dr. said “it’s a boy” but when they turned him over, they said “wait, it’s a girl” – it seems the umbilical cord was between the baby’s legs, giving the appearance of...well...a package. I think about that day a lot and hear those words...“it’s a boy”....was it a coincidence.

Rune’s school years were painful. It seemed like he just didn’t fit...with the girls or boys. It was almost like the kids knew he was different. The struggle that Rune endured at high school was very hard to watch, not only for him but for the people who loved him. I remember a time when he was babysitting his female cousin and while they were in a public washroom, cleaning staff came in and accused Rune of being a boy and told him that he had to leave the ladies room. At the time we were appalled, but if we knew then what we know now, I am sure Rune would have been thrilled to be called a boy.

Rune’s life changed in University. He came out as queer in 2002. He was scared to tell me and I wish I knew then what I know now – I am sorry Rune if my words of wisdom weren’t that wise due to my lack of knowledge or experience with the gay community. This was a happy time for our little family and we all hoped that this self...
I am a stone child

Right now my heart hurts so much that I can’t ever cry.
I feel alone, very, alone, even when there are people around.
I feel lost and in a daze.
I pray to my god for help!

PLEASE HELP!

Please . . .

What more can I do?

I always say "I AM SORRY!!!"
But I don’t know for what?
I must have hurt someone very, very badly . . . in order to feel this way!

I am sorry

I am sorry

I am sorry

Forgive me . . . please . . . please . . .

The 2008 Winnipeg Transgender Day of Remembrance Organizing Committee (Laura Daniel, Stephanie Ross, Juanita Pomarela and Miles Rune Breckon) would like to thank the following individuals, organizations, and groups for their invaluable contributions. Without these folks, the event would not have been possible:

Alayah Alba  Albert Allison  Anonymous donor  Atticus Brain  Bren  Cass  Cat  Chad  Chantal  Charlene  Ciaran Copwatch  dione  Ethan Fe  Fiona  Fleur  Harmony  Jo-Anne Kali  Shiva  AIDS Services  Kristin  Maggie  Mandy  Manitoba Harm Reduction Network  Marjorie Masquerade Group Mikey  Nicole  Nine  Circles  Community Health Centre Peetanacoot  Penner  Rath  Rayne  Rhiannon  Rob  Altymer Sage House/Mount Carmel Clinic  Sarah D  Sarah G Sebashtien  Serena  Shalynn  Sonja  Starbucks  Suss Tash The Black Sheep Dinner  The Edge Gallery  The Rainbow Resource Centre  The Red Road Lodge  The Tallest Poppy the trans.zine! collective  University of Manitoba  -  RPM & Womyn’s Centre  University of Winnipeg  -  LGBT Centre & Womyn’s Centre  Vern  Winnipeg Transgender Support Group and the names escape us, the people we met for the first time, the people we failed to meet, the people we know we forgot, and last but not least, you. YOU - our friends, family, admirers, amours, acquaintances, and allies.

THANK YOU.

Celebrate. Educate. Advocate.

Winnipeg’s 5th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (WTDOR) will take place on November 20th, 2009. For more information about WTDOR and/or how you can get involved, please email: tdorwinnipeg@gmail.com.
The Winnipeg Transgender Day of Remembrance committee would like to acknowledge all individuals who have died because of their gender identity or expression, perceived or actual. Murders that were never reported, or cases thrown out. Files misplaced. Those who committed suicide, or whose deaths were mislabeled as accidents, or are still unsolved. Individuals who died because of neglect by the medical profession. All individuals who were forced to be silent. All individuals who felt threatened. All individuals who are missing. All individuals whose names were never put on this list. All individuals who have been forgotten or ignored.

We remember.

November 20, 2008 marked the fourth annual Winnipeg Transgender Day of Remembrance (WTDOR) and the 10th annual International TDOR. This day serves as an opportunity to recognize, honour, celebrate, and remember the people who encounter or endure discrimination, prejudice, persecution, violence because of their [perceived] gender identity and/or expression.

TDOR is also about raising awareness, educating, and advocating for the rights and recognition of individuals who identify as transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, and/or any variation of these.

Nearly 150 people filled The Red Road Lodge (Winnipeg, Manitoba) this past November for an indoor remembrance vigil and speaking engagement. The free, all ages, event was located in an accessible, drug and alcohol free venue. Featured local folks sharing their living as or loving of trans experience and special performances by Serena Postel, Süss, and DJ Fleur.

Please stop the pain!?

I feel less than worthless.
I don’t want to be here.
I wish there was a magic pill to take it ALL away...

Will things change, or will I ALWAYS come back to this?
Is there anyone that knows how to warm the stone child?
I mean really heal the wound!

I can live with the fact that things weren’t perfect.
But the PAIN the feelings of loss and grief and loneliness with an over tone of self-worthlessness, it’s too much.
TOO MUCH PAIN!
Some days I wish I had never been born!!! (this hurts me inside, but part of me feels that way).

I hold on to the future, as if one day a being of GREAT GRACE will come to me, and help free me from my pain, and protect me from the pain of others.
I feel scared of losing hope!!!
I fear hopelessness.
My hopelessness has a name... and its name is SHAME.

Life is a gift, neither sought nor bought.
It is given because - I am.
Life cannot be earned, nor won.
I could not con my way into it, nor wheedle my way out of it, or refuse it, no matter how it may seem to me.
The gift of Life is like a rose with thorns,
It must be appreciated for both its power to inspire beauty and to cause pain.
No thoughts can take it away.
Nor can hurt lessen its value.

Yet I try so hard to diminish it.
I have been given this gift, because I am worthy of it. In all that I am.
I am loved, we are loved!
We always have been.
Even when we don't feel it, and this is the Simple Truth of Life.

- Anonymous