

General Gayety

by Leslie Robinson

The Ls versus the Ts



You may well have heard of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. After all, it's been taking place each summer since 1976. For one week, lesbians flock to the northern Michigan woods to listen to music and revel in an all-female atmosphere.

It sounds wonderful. But Phyllis Schlafly is more likely to go than I am. Tents, mosquitoes and communal bathing are my idea of an anti-vacation. So, I'm content to include myself out of Michigan.

Other women are being asked to self-select themselves out of the festival and they're not happy about it. I'm speaking of transgender women. In my view, if they're willing to put up with night after night in clammy sleeping bags that may also house creatures with extravagant leg counts, I say let 'em attend.

For some years transgender women and their supporters have set up Camp Trans, a protest across the road from the festival. In a press release issued after the festival's close in August, Camp Trans said that each year one of its number walks to the festival gate, says she is trans and asks for a ticket. The box office's role in this performance is to refuse and hand over a copy of the policy.

Until this summer. "This time, the response was, 'cash or credit?'" reported Camp Trans organizer Jessica Snodgrass. "They said

the festival has no policy barring any woman from attending."

Camp Trans rejoiced in print, in a restrained, ladylike sort of way. "This is not about winning," said Snodgrass. "It's about making our communities whole again. The policy divided people

against each other who could be fighting on the same side. We want to be part of the healing process."

Before so much as a pimple could heal, festival founder and producer Lisa Vogel released a statement "to correct misinformation" distributed by the trans campers.

"Since 1976, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has been created by and for womyn-

born womyn, that is, womyn who were born as and have lived their entire life experience as womyn. Despite claims to the contrary by Camp Trans organizers, the Festival remains a rare and precious space intended for womyn-born womyn."

Calling Dr. Kissinger. We have a conflict in the wilds of Michigan that needs your attention stat.

In her release, Vogel said the box office told the trans folks the festival is meant for "womyn-born womyn," and would-be entrants are asked to honor that. Michigan's attitude hasn't changed, said Vogel. "If a



transwoman purchased a ticket, it represents nothing more than that woman choosing to disrespect the stated intention of this Festival."

If I have to cope with one more fanciful spelling of "woman," this reporter is break-down-bound.

More to the point, I agree with Mara Keisling, leader of the National Center for Transgender Equality, who told D.C.'s *Metro Weekly* that "it's a very insidious form of discrimination. [Vogel] is saying you'll discriminate against yourself if you're good."

It's discrimination Nancy Reagan could get behind: "Just say no — to yourself."

Vogel has allowed that this is in part a generational issue and I can understand the frustration of older lesbians who worked long and hard for safe spaces, only to be told to share with those they might see as pretend or pseudo-women.

But, transwomen face so much discrimination; that we dykes should provide more is ironic, wrong and gives me hives.

I suspect another part of the problem is the yuck factor, the discomfort around those who play fast and loose with their anatomy. Well, remember that we're in the process of demanding the larger world get over its yuck factor where gays are concerned.

Finally, this animosity cannot make for good vibes in northern Michigan. Soon the mosquitoes will start to complain. ▀

info: LesRobins@aol.com . www.GeneralGayety.com

IMANI MCC BENEFIT MASQUERADE BALL

MILLENNIUM HOTEL
2800 CAMPUS WALK AVENUE DURHAM, NC



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!

OCTOBER 21, 2006

FORMAL ATTIRE 7 - MIDNIGHT
DINNER/DANCE & SUNDAY BRUNCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 919.403.6881

OR EMAIL AT IMANIMCCOFFICE@AOL.COM

VISIT US AT WWW.IMANIMCC.ORG

Triangle
Area



Twin Oaks Campground

North Carolina's first private

clothing optional campground for men only.

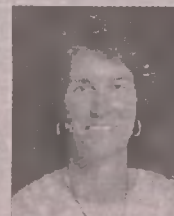
www.ourtwinoaks.com

P.O. Box 173, Bonlee, NC 27213
twinoaks@telco.net Reserve online or call: (919) 742-3203

RALEIGH

Jane Kenan

A sales professional and 29-year Triangle resident



(888) 295-2345

(919) 424-8110

jkenan@mindspring.com

HODGE & KITTRELL
REALTORS

Psychotherapy

For the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Communities

Fear, Loneliness,
Coming Out, HIV,
Sexual Concerns,
Relationship Problems,
Addiction

Mike Katz, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist

(919) 781-0852

Insurance/Sliding Scale



Charlotte Jordan, LCSW

Eclectic Psychotherapist

Over 25 years experience

Supportive, solution-oriented
mental health services for the gay and
lesbian community

Individuals • Couples • Families

WesPark Offices • Suite 4611

Raleigh, NC 27606

BCBS / State Health Plan
Sliding Scale Accepted

919-219-8534

Inner Solutions Counseling



Triangle Family Care, P.A.

106-A Ridgeview Drive

Cary, NC 27511

Dr. Craig Stevens, Board Certified in Family Medicine

Crystal Moran, F.N.P.

Family taking care of Family.

Now accepting CIGNA and PHCS insurance
For an appointment, call (919) 319-6363

Open M-F 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm

THE ANDROGYNY CENTER

QUEER/TRANSGENDER
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

LOU SAWYER, PH.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
(919) 489-8753

3325 DUR-CH BLVD.
SUITE 186
DURHAM, NC 27707

PSYCHOTHERAPY

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE & FAMILY
ADULT, ADOLESCENT & CHILD

Timothy Isley, M.D.

Randall Johnson, M.D.

Teresa McInerney, M.S.W.

141 PROVIDENCE RD., SUITE 230 • CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
(919) 493-0346



Jennifer Mayo, MA, LPC

Psychotherapy

Hypnosis

EMDR

819 Broad Street
Durham, NC 27705

(919) 286-3136
By Appointment Only