

T.I.P. Journal



New Address for T.I.P. journal!

Because the Gender Identity Center of Colorado will probably be changing its physical location in the near future, I have decided to get a P.O. Box for all the T.I.P. Journal and all other prison related mail. This will actually help me to be able to better serve you all in the long run as it will make it much easier for me to send and pick up all the many letters and subscriptions that I receive. Please remember that when you fill out or request a subscription that I need the name in which you are listed under in the prison system you are in. I cannot except 'female' names as I receive too many returns because of this and although many prisons do allow this, some will not, so to make it easier on myself and to save costs I must ask for your full first and last name and will also not be adding any new names to the expanding data base that this is not included. I'm also not able to add approximately 5-10 people a month who request the journal because I cannot read the address or something like the D.O.C. number may be left out. This actually makes me feel bad because I want to get this out to the ones who really are able to benefit from it so please take your time to print everything so that I am able to read it ok?

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New address for the Transgender in Prison Journal !!

Teeg C/O T.I.P. Journal
P.O. Box 404
Kittredge, Colorado 80457

The time will be running out soon for any letters that have the old address on them to be forwarded to me so I'm just trying to keep reminding people about this. I actually renewed the P.O. Box for another year. Please print your information neatly as there are always several requests that I am unable to read. TG

Atlanta Police LGBT training includes offensive word 'transvestite'

The Atlanta Police Department has recently undertaken serious training on LGBT issues with LGBT liaison officers Patricia Powell and Brian Sharp teaching the classes.

At a recent LGBT citizen advisory group meeting, Officer Sharp said training of the entire command staff has taken place and now training of officers and citizen employees will take place through May. Continued on page # 7

Subscription Information

The TIP Journal is free to all inmates incarcerated in jail or prison. Once paroled, or for those not incarcerated, the newsletter is \$25.00 per year. Once added, you will remain there until paroled or your mail is returned as undeliverable.

Please use this form to ADD or REMOVE yourself from our mailing list:

You must use the name in which you were incarcerated under only.

Name: _____

—

Prison: _____

ID Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

—

State, Zip: _____,

- Please add me, I am a prisoner (Free newsletter)
- Please add me, I am not a prisoner (\$25.00/Year)
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Total Subscription Due: \$ _____

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There are ways to get many of the past issues of the TIP Journal but because of the time involved in getting an old one printed I'll have to ask for a fee but even better yet! If you know someone on the 'outside' with an access to a computer they can look at and download them at;

Gicofcolo.org

Go 7 over at the top of the page to;

'News and updates'

Then towards the top on the bottom right hand corner click on; 'read the GIC TIP Journal'

About the Tip Journal

Editor :
Teeg TG Spirit

The TIP journal is published quarterly by the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc. The views and opinions expressed in the GIC TIP Journal are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions or the official policy of the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, it's board, officers or staff, or that of the Tip Journal and it's editors.

In the past we use to publish pomes and articles that were sent to the T.I.P. Journal but since the rise in cost along with the increase in the demand for this journal we no longer have the space to do so. This is my 5th year in publishing this Journal and from all the feedback that I do receive the overwhelming majority want news relating to what is happening to transgender community within other prisons and what is happening outside that may be either prison or police related. I need to write and report what the majority of you would like to read so although I have not the room in here for these please feel free to continue to send them as I enjoy reading and hearing from you all. Teeg

For those who have suffered abuse !

I am beginning to go through all the many thousands of old letters that I have received over the last many years for a new project that will hopefully help prisoners who have suffered sexual or physical abuse while within the D.O.C. system. The hope is that by You supplying me with any information about attempts of self castration, the withholding of or denial of H.R.T. any sexual or physical abuse due to 'being different' that the people who I will be working with can publish a report that will be read at the highest levels and hopefully will help to create change in the future. I will write more about this later and your names and location will be protected !

Please send all correspondence to:

Teeg c/o/ T.I.P. Journal
P.O. Box 404
Kittredge, Colorado 80457
E-mail: teeg@gicofcolo.org

Females Inmate sues Virginia Prison for housing her with men

Deena Kaye Myers, an inmate at Virginia's Deerfield Correctional Center, has sued 38 employees of the male prison—from Warden Keith W. Davis down to numerous unnamed corrections officers—for housing her with men.

In recent years, transgender activists have lobbied jails and prisons around the country to ensure that trans inmates are housed in facilities consistent with their gender identity. Myers' case is a little different. According to Myers' suit, she was born with a medical condition that caused her to develop "feminized external genitalia," meaning "no scrotum, no gonads, and no penis." Though assigned male at birth, Myers was reassigned as female shortly thereafter and raised as a girl. Her birth certificate lists her gender as female. Results of blood work conducted on Aug. 17, 2010 reveal that Myers' "hormone levels clearly reflect that of a biological female." And Myers identifies as a woman. "I want to make it clear to you," she wrote in one complaint to the prison. "I am not a (hermaphrodite or Transsexual) I AM A FEMALE. My birth certificate states my gender as female. . . . I (do not) belong in an all male prison."

But Myers hasn't always identified as a woman. At twelve, Myers learned of her gender history, and began exploring her gender identity and sexual orientation. In 2003, Myers was arrested for felony robbery and later sentenced to 15 years in prison for that and related crimes. At the time, Myers identified as a man, and went by the name Scott. In court records, Myers is listed under both her birth name, Dena Kaye, as well as Scott, her "alias." Her sex is listed as male.

Some time after her arrest, though, Myers again began to identify as a woman. Upon arrival at the all-male Deerfield Correctional Center, Myers' suit says that she "explained her medical and gender situation and questioned why she was being housed at an all male facility." But she was nevertheless housed in an 88-bed all male dormitory, where she was forced to "use the bathroom, change her colostomy bags, shower and change clothes in an open locker-room style bathroom with 87 other individuals of the opposite gender."

Myers says she suffered "invasion of privacy" and "various degrees of sexual harassment" in the dorm, and was repeatedly denied accommodation for related medical issues. At times, Myers—who requires use of a wheelchair—says she was forced to crawl on the ground to access her bed and shower. Once, the suit claims, a male official with "notebook and camera" visited Myers to "look at any tattoos Myers had . . . ordered Myers to disrobe completely . . . then proceeded to take photographs, both close up and full body shots, of her body including her chest and pelvic regions." In 2008, she says she contemplated suicide.

That year, Myers began making efforts to be transferred away from Deerfield and into a female facility. Four years after entering Deerfield, Myers says that she was physically examined by a prison nurse to determine her sex. "No penis visualized," the report concluded. "Impression abnormal genital anatomy—plan nothing to do." Later, Myers says she was subjected to repeated strip searches and body cavity searches by male corrections officials. In 2009, she had her birth certificate sent to a prison counselor to prove her sex at birth. Myers says the counselor was "shocked" that the document listed her as female. This year, Myers says she underwent several more genital exams in the prison. According to the suit, one Department of Corrections doctor "seemed to still be in 'shock' from the first exam to not find a penis but rather a vagina." In August, Myers underwent a blood test; her suit claims that her "hormone levels clearly reflect that of a biological female."

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Lambda Legal Locations

National Headquarters
129 Wall Street
New York, N.Y. 1005-3940

Western Regional Office
3325 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA. 90010-1729

Midwest Regional Office
11 East Adams
Suite 1008
Chicago IL 60603-6303

Southern Regional Office
730 Peachtree Street N.E.
Suite 1070
Atlanta, GA. 30308-1210

South Central Regional Office
3500 Oak Lawn Avenue
Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75219-6722

Prison Pen Pals
P.O. Box 235
East Berlin, PA. 17136-0235

Write A Prisoner .com
P.O. Box 10
Edgewater, FL. 32132

Prisoner Writes
P.O. Box 78
MT. Holly springs, PA. 17065

Partnership for Safety and Justice
P.O. Box 40085
Portland, OR 97240-0085

American Civil Liberties Union
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Aids Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Just Detention International
3325 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite#340
Los Angeles, CA 90010

East coast Office
1025 Vermont Ave. N.W. Third Floor
Washington, DC 20005

The N.I.C. Project
C/O/ Jamie M. Yarussi
The Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20016

‘A project addressing prison rape’

Innocence Project (National)
C/O the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
100 Fifth Ave, 3rd Floor
New York, N.Y. 10011

Only handles cases where post—conviction DNA
Testing of evidence can yield conclusive evidence of
innocence.

Con pals Inmate connections L.C.C.
465 N.E. 181 #308
Portland, OR. 97230

The above are some of the resources that may be of help to you including the some for a pen pal service which we do not supply. I cannot forward any pen pal letters or begin a service here. These are services that I was able to find and hope that you who seek this find them helpful. As I receive this information I read them before putting them in here and because of space I cannot put all that they do into an issue as some are multi pages long and there is not enough space in the T.I.P. Journal to add all their services. If the organization is not listed in here then it is likely I do not have any personal knowledge of it so when I receive some of the many letters which I receive every month I am simply overwhelmed. I try to answer as many of them as I can and those that include a S.A.S.E. have the best chance. Try to remember that this is basically a one woman operation and I do read and save each and every letter that I receive. Thank you all for your wonderful support and keep your letters of encouragement coming!

In one sense, it's encouraging that Myers was assigned to a male facility in the first place. The state of Virginia has no law protecting trans people against discrimination on the basis of their gender identity. Even if a biologically female inmate like Myers identified as a man at sentencing, the state law doesn't guarantee that the inmate would be placed in a facility consistent with that identity. But the state court's flexibility on the gender issue appears not to be shared by its Department of Corrections. Myers case demonstrates that gender is complex, fluid, and at times, arbitrary. Even prisons must be less rigid on the issue.

German court rules cross-dressing prisoners okay

(Reuters Life!) - Jailed transgender men and women in Germany will be able to wear whichever clothes they want after a court on Tuesday ruled that personal rights superseded security concerns when it comes to clothes.

An incarcerated transgender man first brought the suit to court because a state prison would not let him wear women's clothing as he had done before entering prison.

The prison said the ban was due to "security concerns" because the prisoner choice of clothes might make him a target for attacks.

But Germany's individual rights and anti-discrimination laws protect a prisoner's right to choose his or her clothing, the court said, and trump hypothetical security concerns.

Unlike many other countries, prisoners in Germany do not wear uniforms.

Utah police to undergo transgender training

A normal traffic stop lasts no more than 10 or 15 minutes. Especially a routine stop because of a faulty taillight. However, that was not the experience for John Smith (name has been changed).

"Everything was going fine and normal until the officer took my information back to his car, where he pulled my records," Smith said about the incident, which occurred in 2003.

The officer would have seen on his records that Smith used to have a different first name. And a different gender. He was not born a biological man and his old name was obviously female.

"That's where the mistreatment began," Smith said. "He grilled me. I was polite and courteous. He was rude and abrasive. But the mistreatment didn't start until he had found my records."

Smith said he was delayed more than hour for a faulty taillight. He did not have any reason to be detained. There were no warrants for arrest or any other reason for the officer to suspect him of wrongdoing.

"I didn't file any complaint with the police," Smith said. "I just want to get to work and go home without being bothered. I don't want to expose myself to more possible mistreatment or prejudice," he said.

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Ninth Circuit Recognizes Link Between Cross-Gender Searches and Sexual Abuse of Inmates

In an *en banc* opinion released yesterday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the search of a male jail inmate by a female cadet, who touched his thighs, buttocks, and genital areas while other officers watched, amounted to an unreasonable search in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Just Detention International served as *amicus curiae* in the case, *Byrd v. Maricopa County Sheriff's Department*.

"This is an important decision, as cross-gender searches of male detainees rarely are recognized as a serious problem even though they are directly linked to sexual abuse" said Melissa Rothstein, Senior Program Director of JDI. "As the Court notes, everyone has the right to personal dignity, regardless of gender and custody status."

Recent studies by the Bureau of Justice Statistics have found that, in both adult and juvenile facilities, most sexual abuse of male inmates is committed by female staff.

In reversing the ruling of the Arizona District Court, the Ninth Circuit acknowledged the link between cross-gender searches and sexual abuse committed by corrections staff. Among other sources, the Court cited the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, which was established by federal law to develop standards addressing sexual abuse in detention. The Commission's standards, which are currently under review by the U.S. Attorney General, prohibit cross-gender searches in non-emergency situations.

"The decision in *Byrd* underscores the need to limit intrusive cross-gender searches, particularly in non-emergency situations," said Rothstein.

JDI is pleased that the Ninth Circuit has taken this important step toward protecting the safety of the 2.4 million people behind bars.

Utah police to undergo transgender training Cont from Page 5

Smith's experience is far too common, said Christopher Scuderi, executive director of Transgender Education Advocates of Utah (TEA). This is why he, along with his wife, Teinamarrie Scuderi, associate director of TEA of Utah, are working closely with the Unified Police Department (UPD) to develop a training video for law enforcement. While the video is still in the scripting phase, Christopher and Teinamarrie have high hopes for the training.

"The video is essentially Trans 101," Christopher said. "It will cover everything from how to handle routine traffic stops to where to place people that are transgender when they are arrested."

The video is being produced in close association with the UPD, whose representatives have been extremely receptive to TEA of Utah.

"Everyone at UPD has been great," Teinamarrie said. "We don't want to paint anyone in a bad light. We just want to help in any education opportunity possible."

Atlanta Police LGBT training includes offensive word 'transvestite'

The APD made available the documents and Power Point presentation being used to train officers. Special emphasis is paid to the fact that LGBT people have often faced discrimination and harassment from police in the past. The Stonewall riots are also explained in the training as part of the queer community fighting back against police harassment and as the spark that started the modern gay rights movement.

And while most of the education plan seems fairly proper and empathetic toward the LGBT community, we couldn't help but be struck that in the definition section of the Power Point presentation, where such words as "sexual orientation" and "transgender" are accurate, the police continue to want to use the word "transvestite."

According to the APD documents that are being used to train officers about the LGBT community, a "transvestite" is: "Someone who dresses in clothing generally identified with the opposite gender/sex. While the terms 'homosexual' and 'transvestite' have been used synonymously, they in fact signify two different groups. The majority of transvestites are heterosexual males who derive pleasure from dressing in 'women's clothing'. (The preferred term is 'cross-dresser,' but the term 'transvestite' is still used in a positive sense in England.)"

However, "transvestite" is not a word that is accepted in the LGBT community. Rather than teaching police officers that the word is positive in England, the APD should specifically state that "transvestite" is considered highly offensive here, so that cops will not use it and inadvertently offend citizens.

According to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or GLAAD, "transvestite" is a derogatory term and "cross dresser" is the correct terminology. Of course, a cross dresser is completely different than a transgender person as well.

The APD defines "transgender" as: "A general term applied to a variety of individuals, behaviors, and groups involving tendencies that diverge from the normative gender role (woman or man) commonly, but not always assigned at birth, as well as gender roles traditionally held by society. Transgender is also the state of one's gender identity not matching one's assigned sex. "

That is a generally good definition.

But to include "transvestite," however, as a term to explain people in the LGBT community is not accepted anymore, nor has it been for many years. The APD's efforts to reach out to the LGBT community and to provide this training are to be commended, but it appears that there is still more that needs to be understood.

Utah police to undergo transgender training Cont from page 6

““The video will hopefully be out by this summer, but might take a little longer than that,” Christopher said.

“When the video is released it will hit the ground running,” he said. “Eventually all police officers in the state will receive the training, and all new members will too.”

The UPD is very supportive of any effort to train or educate the officers, said Lt. Justin Hoyal, of the UPD.

“We’re putting together this video to help educate our officers on the issues that the transgender population is facing,” Hoyal said.

While the exact wording or content of the video has not yet been established, the UPD and TEA of Utah are working together to come up with a video that would best maximize impact and training, Hoyal said.

This is not the first time TEA of Utah has helped to educate a business or agency. The education and advocacy group has helped train fortune 500 companies, small businesses and even educate individual families.

“We are not a support group,” Teinamarrie said. “We are an education and advocacy group.”

When there is a lack of training or education, people that interact with transgender people will often contact TEA for assistance. While many of the referrals come from Equality Utah or the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), TEA of Utah strives to respond to all advocacy needs or education opportunities.

“Some businesses contact us when someone working there is transitioning,” Teinamarrie said. “Most companies want to ask questions about things like how to work with restroom facilities.”

TEA also helps educate and speak with individual families. When family members find out someone they love is transgender, there are a lot of concerns, Teinamarrie said.

“The most common concern is that their son or daughter won’t find someone to love,” Teinamarrie said. “We want to help families see that Trans people are just as likely to find love as someone else.”

TEA of Utah is also an advocate force. For example, when there are issues about changing the gender marker on a driver’s license, TEA of Utah can get involved and assist. Another example might be a department store that won’t allow a person that is transgender to use dressing rooms or even purchase clothing.

To request help, simply go to the website, www.TEAofUtah.org and fill out a request. All submissions are confidential.

“We can’t help people if we don’t know they’re having problems,” Christopher said.

Christopher and Teinamarrie started TEA of Utah in 2003 because they didn’t see any advocacy or education groups for transgender individuals in Utah.

“Being Trans is very different than being gay,” Teinamarrie said. “There’s a lot more to fear.”