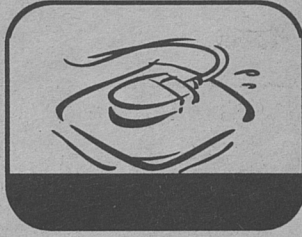


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**CYBER SHARK**  
by miki thomas



## Transgendered Web Resources

In my November column, I promised I would highlight some of the transgender sites available on the Web, but I wound up sick just before deadline.

However, I do eventually deliver on promises and/or threats, so what follows are some of the best sites I found for information on the "T" in GLBT.

enjoyed doing the research for this month's column. I was blown away by the amount of information available on the Web on the transgender community. Given how overwhelmed I felt, I figured the best approach was to visit a few resource sites.

The first one I came across was Christy's Place.

and you are greeted to a plethora of sites for TG chats, Web rings, support groups, and hormone information. However, the focus of this site is mostly Male to Female (MtF).

TG Resources is a huge resource list from Transgender Forum. The site offers two searchable databases for support groups and resources as well as a listing of sites grouped in commercial, non-commercial, political and news-group categories.

Transhistory is another great resource site; it offers articles and site listings on transgender history, organizations, and medical resources. For a more scholarly look at the subject, check out *The International Journal of Transgenderism*, an online quarterly that is peer-reviewed. In addition to full text articles and abstracts, there are some

classic books on the subject available for free at the site.

When I switched my research from general transgender resource sites to more specific sites, I came across topics that, for some reason, never occurred to me as relevant to the lives of transgender individuals. Of course, in retrospect, it seems obvious that they would.

Take spirituality, for instance. Of course there are spiritual concerns among transgenders! Among the Web sites addressing those concerns is the Transgendered Christian Resource. Its focus is primarily on the community in Tampa, Florida, which is especially reflected in the links page, but there are some interesting features such as the "inspirational messages" from Pastor Calvin Tate, "online clergy."

Employment is another concern. The Transgender Employment Links offers articles on transitioning on the job, diversity training, and transgender-friendly employers.

In case you think that there are no Web sources specifically for FtM (female to male) people, there's the American Boyz site. American Boyz is a nationwide organization for FtMs, drag kings, butches, and their allies. Its Web site offers articles and links of

interest to FtMs. However, some of the links are out of date or dead ends.

An excellent web site along similar lines is Butch-Femme.Com. It's dedicated to butches and femmes and it features a FAQ, forums, email groups, and resources. It is a wonderful page and it is a must see even if you are neither butch nor femme.

This is simply a sampler of what's available on the Web for transgender people. However, as I quickly found out, many of these sites are also great resources for those of us who want to learn more about a community that has until fairly recently been mostly on the back burner in the struggle for civil rights.

### FYI

Lily Tomlin is God! I was among the many lucky individuals who caught her when she hit the state with her show *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. If you missed her – or if you are like me and simply can't get enough of her – check out her Web site. It is a wonderful site, with graphics of her many characters as well as photographs from her childhood and early career sprinkled liberally throughout. I guarantee you'll want to spend hours perusing this site.



Christy's Place [www.newbies.net/christy](http://www.newbies.net/christy)  
TG Resources [www.tgsmall.com/info/Rsrc](http://www.tgsmall.com/info/Rsrc)  
Transhistory [www.transhistory.org/](http://www.transhistory.org/)  
The International Journal of Transgenderism [www.symposion.com/ijt](http://www.symposion.com/ijt)  
Transgendered Christian Resource home [l.gte.net/kstamp/frontpage](http://l.gte.net/kstamp/frontpage)  
The Transgender Employment Links [www.cris.com/~Merkins/resources](http://www.cris.com/~Merkins/resources)  
Butch-Femme.Com [www.butch-femme.com](http://www.butch-femme.com)  
American Boyz [www.netgsi.com/~amboyz/](http://www.netgsi.com/~amboyz/)  
Lily Tomlin [www.lilytomlin.com](http://www.lilytomlin.com)

### HOT LINKS

I have to admit that I do not know much about issues affecting the transgender community, which is why I

Christy describes her site as a "transgender resource megasite," and she isn't bragging. Click on any icon

al aside – but accepting *Bardo* on literary terms isn't such a leap if one can accept the following sentence: *Doesn't every life unfold, one possibility at a time, only to reveal that all possibilities were present all along?*

Reading *Bardo* I was reminded of two other fine novels: Mark Merlis's *American Studies* and Dale Peck's *Martin and John*. *Bardo* resembles *American Studies* in that it involves a bed-ridden

man reassessing his life. Structurally, it's more in keeping with *Martin and John*, in which characters with the same names are viewed from myriad perspectives, and certain small details are repeated over and over until they acquire an almost hypnotic power.

While not quite up to the level of those essential gay readings, *Bardo*, at its best – which, ironically, is often when Kraus's prose is most pared down – has a hypnotic power

and honesty of its own. It contains some of the most disturbingly erotic scenes I've read recently, and some of the most plainly tender. The novel, comprised of so many disparate elements, never quite coheres – if it was meant to – but there are a number of scenes worth returning to, just as Kraus does, just as we all might if we are fortunate and strong enough to re-envision our existence in the state known as bardo. ▼

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