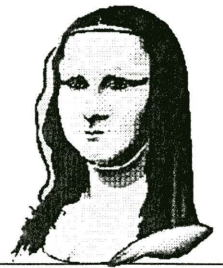


# Delaware Renaissance



vol. 1. no. 6

NEWS LETTER

September





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THE NEWSLETTER:

This is your Newsletter. We want you to participate by submitting material, but there are a few rules:

1. Deadline is the last day of the month for the next month's Newsletter.
2. We must know the name of the person who is submitting material (your name will not be printed if you don't want it to be); and if the article has been previously been published, we must know the author and the source.
3. If material is submitted on disk it must be in DOS, ASCII .TXT format.
4. We will not type or retype, correct or edit material submitted. We will cut and paste articles to fit. We prefer high contrast black & white material. As a guide to size, look at any numbered page in the Newsletter. Your material must fit between the top and bottom bars and be no wider than they are.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

3	Ren So. Jersey
10	Ren LSV-Cosm. Surgery
10	Ren Delaware
17	Ren GPC
22-25	CDS Pocono Weekend
24	MOTG 4th Anniv. Mtg
	Guest: Leslie Feinberg
29-2	4th Annual S. Comfort, Atlanta, Ga.

OCTOBER

1	Ren S. Jersey
8	Ren LSV
8	Ren Delaware
15	Ren GPC
16-23	20th Anniv. Fantasia Fair Provincetown, Mass
31	Henri David's Halloween Ball

DECEMBER

10	GPC Christmas Party
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**DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY, GO SHOPPING!**

by Jessica Charlene Brandon

For those among us who might be fearful or embarrassed about buying woman's things, be it clothing, shoes, lingerie, jewelry or cosmetics while in your male guise, I'm here to tell you there's absolutely nothing to be afraid of. I've been doing this for several months now and have learned that the primary objective of a salesperson is, bluntly speaking, to separate you from your money, I've discovered more and more that they don't really care what you buy as long as you buy something, *anything*. Let me give you a few examples.

Exhibit A: On a sunny Saturday in early June, I visited Ballow's Shoes in Bristol after reading in the yellow pages that they carry women's shoes in large sizes. After I told the salesman what I was looking for (dark colored pumps with low heels for walking around Atlantic City in size 13), he showed me no fewer than seven pairs of shoes in different shades and styles and waited patiently on me while I tried them on. He even offered to take me to a rear office away from prying eyes, but I boldly checked out each pair on the floor, in plain sight of anyone out in the street. Finally I decided on a comfortable pair of navy pumps. It was an enjoyable experience and the salesman was very helpful.

Exhibit B: That same day, I ventured into New Jersey and, out of curiosity went to the Moorestown Mall. Even though I love malls, I had never been to this one before. I went in John Wanamaker's and, stopping at the Clinique counter (Aside: the reason I chose Clinique was because they don't do animal testing), I was drawn to a display of skin care supplies for men. A saleslady approached and asked if I was interested in the supplies. I said yes, and, after getting information from me about my skin color, it's condition (normal, dry or oily, mine's the latter) and whatnot, she gave me the correct supplies I needed.

When she asked if I needed anything else, I came right out and told her I wanted some cosmetics as well. The saleslady, to her credit didn't do a double take or give me a suspicious look, in fact, the only look she gave me was a professional one to determine what shade of foundation would match my skin tone. After two tries by swabbing a small amount on the side of my jaw, she got a match, then we went on to powder, translucent over oil free since the foundation already was. Blush was a tricky one for her, she tried eight different shades (on the back of my wrist) before she found the appropriate color.

After that came eye shadow, eyeliner, mascara, lipliner and lipstick, the works.

The saleslady spent nearly a half hour with me, and from the way she went about her job, it didn't matter her that I was male, only that I was a customer and she did all she could to help me make the right purchase. And what a purchase it was too, a good hundred dollars! After years spent buying cheap stuff in drug stores, supermarkets and five & dimes, I had no idea high end cosmetics could be so costly (i.e. eight fifty just for a liplining pencil!!), but it was worth every penny for the help and courtesy I received. I told her as much and, with a smile she appreciated my compliment and told me if I ever needed help that I was welcome back anytime. I plan to take her up on that.

Exhibit C: Prior to the May meeting of the Greater Philadelphia chapter, I made a truly colossal blunder. I had packed everything I needed for my evening of feminine fun except for my outfit! To this day, I still can't figure out how in the world that happened. Along with my wig, makeup case, lingerie, toiletries and jewelry, the only other items I had were a pair of white pumps and a bag to match. Now I had to buy something to go with them. Fortunately, J.C. Penney's at the King Of Prussia mall was near the motel I was staying for the day and since I buy most of my clothes there because they carry tall sizes, I went there on my crucial shopping

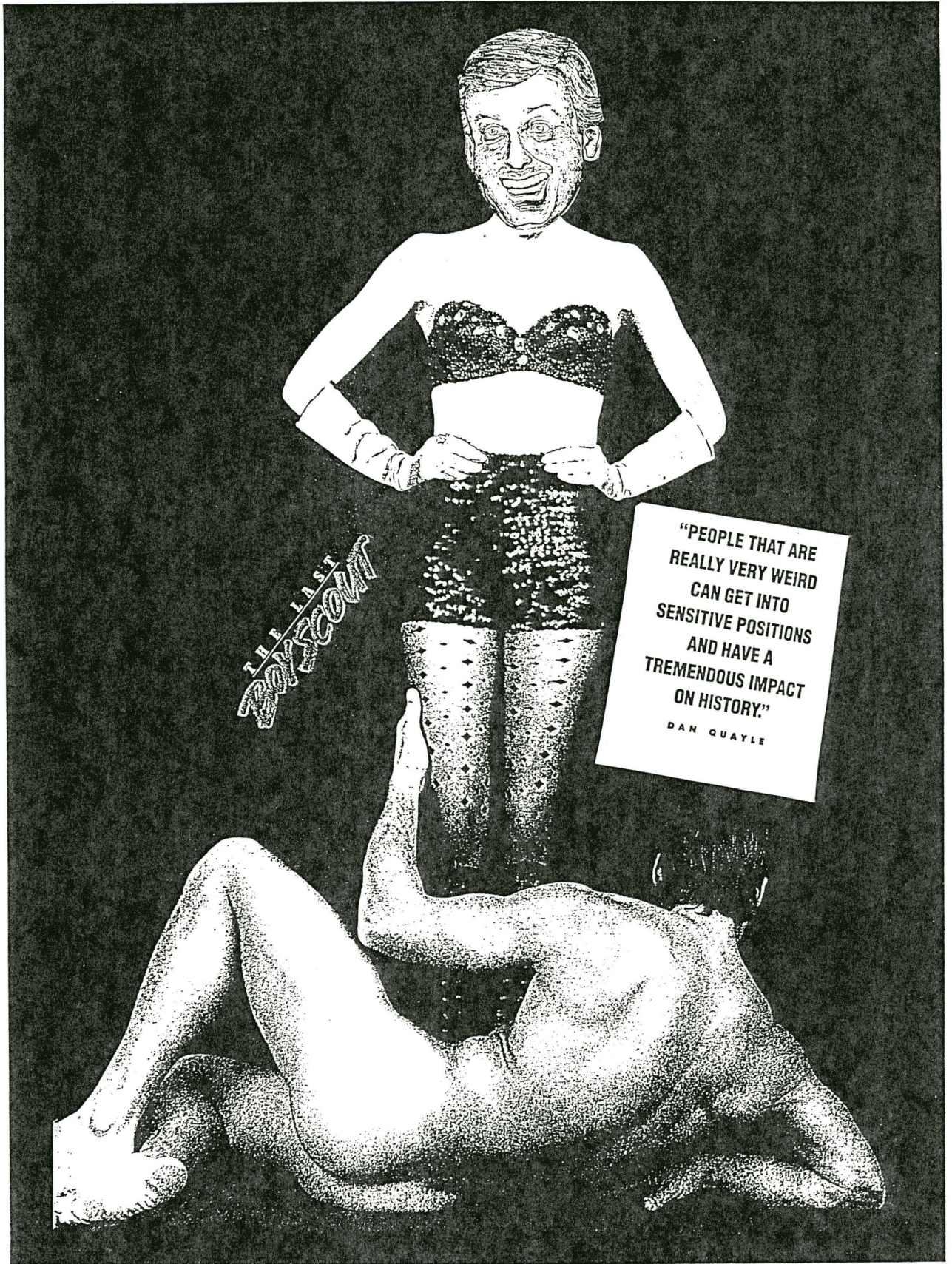


expedition.

Once I arrived at the store, I spent a good twenty minutes looking at all sorts of outfits before I settled on a sharp purple suit with black pinstriping. However, I couldn't for the life of me decide on what color blouse to go with the suit, so I walked up to a saleslady and told her of my problem. When she asked what color shoes is "she" going to wear with the suit, I calmly told her MY shoes were white and that the suit was for me. Nodding, the saleslady led me to a rack of blouses and picked out a nice white silk shell and told me this would go well with both the outfit and my shoes. After she rang up my purchase, the saleslady gave me a sincere smile and said she hoped I enjoyed the suit. Simple as that.

The bottom line is you should never feel embarrassed about buying women's clothes when in male attire. Only a real busybody will care, and when you get right down to it, it's none of their business. As long as you calmly go about your business, know your size and know what you want beforehand, shopping for your "better half" can be a truly wonderful experience.







**Non-Profit Media**

**"Amazon Country"** (lesbian radio show), Sundays 8-9 p.m., WXPB (88.5FM).

**"Breaking the Silence"** (Del. gay radio show), Sundays, 5 p.m., WXDR (91.3FM).

**"Gaydreams"** (gay radio show), Sundays 9-10 p.m., WXPB.

**Labyrinth**, 4722 Baltimore Ave., 19143; 724-6181.

**Tell-A-Woman**, 1530 Locust St., Box 322, 19102.

**"Womansong"** (Del. lesbian radio show), Sundays 4:30 p.m., WXDR.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S MAKEUP TABLE  
DANIELLE LYNN

Well ladies, I'm back on my soapbox again. I've been working my shapley little buns off, but I'm taking a break to write these columns.

Before I go any further. I just got back from the LSV Luau, and had a great time. Thanks ladies for planning and executing a very pleasant evening. It was a much needed chance to touch base with old friends, have some entertainment, and some great food. The kitchen staff of the Sheraton deserves some credit also. Excellant meal there gang.

However, my heart and thanks go out to a group that performed there by the name of "Lily and Company". I met them recently at the Harrisburg Pride Festival and finally saw them in action at the Luau. Great show! What impressed me the most was their reason for doing these performances. As a community, and as individuals I think we have a tendency to be somewhat selfish. We want acceptance, we want equal rights, we want protection, etc., all well and good. However we lose sight of others in the world and those around us. I'm just as guilty as anyone else. The girls of Lily and Company set aside that and take the proceeds from their performances and donate them to charities such as hospice. (Woman have a tendency to give, not take) My hat goes off to them, God bless you. As a community and as individuals we can learn much

from people such as these. These girls only further my pride in this community.

Our National Holiday-Halloween is fast coming upon us and you girls should start getting your outfits ready. If you don't feel comfortable trick or treating in your neighborhood, come to mine. My neighbors will love it. Afterwards, I'll see y'all at Henry David's Halloween Ball.

Response to our challenge to caption the cartoon has been virtually nothing, come on ladies. What does it take to light a fire under y'all. Jessica Brandon recently submitted an article to publish, thank you Jessica. It would be nice if we could get some response from individuals within our own Chapter. Let's go ladies, blow the dust off of those pens, PC's, and word processors. I know everyone of you has a story to tell or a viewpoint to express. I know most of you personally and find y'all to be articulate and intelligent, so give it up!

Again I'd like to thank the Staff and Management (and the patrons) of Cactus Bar and Grill. They always welcome us and make us to feel at home. They have also provided us with many chances to educate folks. Our experiances there are always pleasant. Support those that support us and go by and see them on other times other than meeting nights.

Last months Newsletter no doubt left some folks in a tizzy.

If so, sorry. However, let me state our policy. If you have something to say within reason, we'll print it. We are an OPEN group. We bar NO ONE. Our memberships are full voting memberships. Everyone is equal. Myself I find it refreshing. I have little room within me for groups that EXCLUDE for whatever reason. Thank you Stephanie for sharing with us. I agree.

Let me add, however, that I am for unity along with diversity. We as a community need to pull together and work together despite our differences. There is just too much that needs to be accomplished.

Reference to Bobbi Halley's article, again the nail was hit on the head. Our primary reason for being SHOULD be SUPPORT!

From my side of the fence, during a meeting you are so busy that its easy to get so wrapped up that you don't have time to spend with new girls. Making all this stuff happen at meetings can be demanding and very taxing. I promise to keep Bobbi's point in mind. Again, thank you.

Fall and winter fashions are in the stores now. You girls get out there and spend, spend, spend. It's good for the economy and good for the soul.

Have a good month ladies and in your travels, try to reach out to someone with an act of kindness.



**CLASSIFIEDS**

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**BOBBI HALLEY**

A little potpourri this month. I think potpourri is a french word meaning "lack of inspiration". Anyway, just a few bits and pieces.

First off, an update. In a previous article, I referred to the bikers that joined us at the Cactus one evening. We met up again on a recent saturday evening, and were again treated with the greatest respect by them. In fact, at one point, one of them came over to us, and quietly called our attention to an individual shooting pool. "That guy says he's going to 'coldcock' you girls. Don't worry though, there's about ten of us here, we'll watch out for you. He's" just an intolerant a\_\_ hole. The staff of the Cactus caught wind of the situation, Mark spoke to the individual in question and the evening progressed without incident. Thanks, guys, the backup was appreciated.

Now, on the lighter side, I present for your consideration, "MURPHETTES LAWS.

1. No matter how many times you relieve your bladder before dressing, you will always have to go after the finishing touches.
2. No matter how quiet your neighborhood or apartment building is while getting dressed, it will look like Grand Central Station the moment you choose to leave.
3. WHenever you get out of your car (even at 3 a.m. on a cold winter night, there will be a guy walking his dog at the exact moment you leave the car.
4. Just as you finish dressing, a cousin, friend, or Jehovah's Witness will ring the bell.
5. The cable TV always goes out just as Geraldo is about to introduce his first "Trapped Between the Sexes" guest.
6. The bottle of perfume will always decide to burst

in your favorite and most expensive handbag.

7. Although you regularly pass police radar doing 75, and never get stopped, you will be pulled over dressed in your sluttiest outfit only doing 57.

8. No matter how hard you try, the next car over (the one filled with drunken teen-agers) will always find a way to align itself with yours at every red light.

9. The weather will be unbearably hot, cold, windy, rainy, etc. on the night you choose to go out.

10. If you think there is a chance that a friend (who doesn't know about your dressing) will be at a place where you go dressed, he or she WILL be there.

11. You will always have 10 nails, and 9 press-on tabs.

12. When you drop a nail under a table, it always goes to the exact center of the table and is impossible to reach.

13. That missing nail will always show up in an embarrassing place on Monday morning... Like stuck to the back of your threepiece suit.

14. No matter how many brands of press-on nails you buy, you never get a thumb that fits.

15. One-size-fits all... Doesn't.



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**SEPTEMBER 29—OCTOBER 2, 1994**

ANONYMOUS PROUSE by DANIELLE LYNN

Recently while having dinner with a very special friend at the Queen Bean Cafe, I came across this poem. It touched my dinner companion and myself in a special way. Everyone that I've shared it with says they just keep reading it over and over. I'm inserting it in this newsletter in hopes that it will also find a way into your heart as well. Feel free to write me and let me know how it touched your life.

**A PSALM FOR SHEDDING PRETENSES**

Happy are we when we can be ourselves  
and be thoroughly accepted,  
when our identity and personality  
are appreciated and affirmed.

How sad are we when we chose to pretend  
that we are somebody other  
than the person God created  
or the child a mother knows.

Happy are we who need not mask  
the feelings that flow within us and through us  
and out into the world around us,  
warming the hearts of our friends.

How sad when we are locked up tight  
inside a stoic appearance  
that mask forces  
bound to erupt inexplicably  
in some way.

Help us, O Tower of Fortitude,  
to drop the lifelong defenses  
that prevent us from revealing to any at all  
the self we would wish to be.

Help us, Unmediated Revelation,  
to shed the raft of pretenses  
that orchestrate a substitute image  
for everyone else to see.

In the presence of thou who made us,  
we are who we are  
and who we have been  
and who we are yet to be.

In the presence of those who love us  
into the fullness of our being,  
we can live with integrity.

So much of our lives is by the way,  
so much of us, in between,

enslaved  
until someone who loves us  
sees us,  
and suddenly  
we are a queen.

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TIDBITS  
DANIELLE LYNN

From PEOPLE magazine: Jaye Davidson of The Crying Game fame is starring in another movie due to be released in November. I was going to include the name of the movie and forgot to write it down and have since forgotten the name. Hey folks, I am a blond, I'm allowed to forget. More details next month. From the Filthadelphia Inquirer: An article about how a judge reduced the sentence of a man who shot and killed a homosexual in Salt Lake City. I guess your life is not as valued as a straight persons is. Go Figure. How can we respect the law when the law doesn't respect us?

From The News Journal-Wilmington, De.: In the Crossroads section, an article titled Cross Step. Its about Carolanne Leone, owner of Le Jazz Fitness Dance Centre. She was speaking about the different groups that she has charted out dance moves for. She thought she had seen and done it all. Or so she thought! She then stated that the organizer of a beauty pageant recently contacted her. The participants of the pageant are crossdressers."I've got no problem doing this sort of stuff", Leone said. "The only reservation I have is that some of the contestants may be prettier than me."

The News-Journal, Wilmington, De. again: An article how during the Civil War approx. 400 women fought on both sides. Now during this period of re-enactments, the men are getting their bowels in an uproar over women re-enactors portraying men. These guys

claim that they are re-enacting history, what they fail to mention is that they just want to rewrite the script a little bit. Come on guys, lighten up. Men, go figure. From Bi-Focus, Philadelphia, Pa.: Brown University students add transgendered to the name Lesbian, Gay and Bi-Sexual Alliance. You'll have to take a deeper breath to say it all, but I myself feel that it is appropriate. Thank you folks.



LAST WORDS:

MIA CULPA, all typos, wrong volume numbers, wrong telephone numbers, and all other mistakes, MIA MAXIMO CULPA. There I've got that off my chest!


Big thanks to Jessica Brandon for the dynamite article, also to Bobby Halley and Danielle Lynn for their fine articles.

For those who are interested, it has been two months since I mailed the letter that was published in last months Newsletter and I have had no response of any kind from the addressees. However, I do understand that my sisters in Trenton have tared, fethered and hung me in effigy.

Well it's late so I think ill have my cookies and cream and go to beddy bi....

Lots of love,

Sthephanie



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