

Renaissance News



Volume 3, No. 10

Vision - Integrity - Quality

October 1989



Show your colors on Veteran's Day

Transgendered people, if you can forgive the sexist connotation, are like everyone else—they put their pants on one leg at a time. For many transgendered people, a part of their lives were spent putting on the pants that went with a military uniform. So, in an effort to show that its members are really representative of the larger society, the next major Renaissance outreach effort will involve military veterans.

On Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, Renaissance hopes to have a media event saluting transgendered veterans.

The purpose of this event will be two-fold. First, it will show that transsexuals and transvestites have made loyal and honorable contributions to the nation. Secondly, it will be our way of paying special tribute to our members who served in the military. So far as is known, no other transgendered organization has attempted to do this.

Paula Jordan Sinclair is coordinating the media event. She stresses that this will not be a "Privates on Parade" farce.

"We don't in any way want people to think that we are poking fun of veterans or imply that the Battle of the Bulge was won by soldiers wearing panties," she said. "While many crossdressers served in the military, they kept their crossdressing a strictly personal and private affair. We hope that by tell-

ing some of these stories, the public will come to realize that transgendered people are just as patriotic, just as brave, just as responsible as other people."

While plans are not yet complete, the event will center on veterans' personal stories and achievements. Confidentiality will be strictly observed for those desiring it. Sinclair asks that Renaissance members and friends who have served in the military to provide her with the following information, at the minimum:

- Branch of service and dates served
- Highest rank achieved
- Medals or commendations received
- War time action

Other information you may wish to share would be welcome.

A compilation of this information will be released to the public on or around Veterans' Day. While it is not necessary for all Renaissance veterans to participate in this event, or even to provide their names to Sinclair, she is interested in volunteers who may want to participate to some degree.

She stresses that Nov. 11 is drawing near, and she urges all veterans to send their information to her at the Renaissance office. If you wish to speak to her about this project, leave a message on the Renaissance office answering machine.

Have a Ball on Hallowe'en

As far as it goes, this town is pretty dull when it comes to drag. There is no Finocchio's like there is in San Francisco. In fact, there are no drag-bars, per se, anywhere in the metropolitan Philadelphia area.

But, once a year, on the High Holy Day of St. Transvestus, The Crossdresser, the city comes alive with more glitter, feathers and sequins than a production of La Cage Aux Folles. Yes, we are talking about the annual Henri David Hallowe'en Ball.

Held in the Grand Ballroom of the Warwick Hotel, 17th and Locust St., the Ball is the premiere drag/costume event in the city. It is so well known and so outrageous that the "common" folk line the lobby just to "ooh!" and "ahh!" the participants. The hotel provides velvet ropes to hold back the crowd of on-lookers and allow those who wish to make a grand entrance.

The highlight of each Ball, of course, is the costume competition. There are many categories and they change each year, but there are always two categories for drag. Even without the drag, the other costumes are wondrous, amazing, and enchanting. One Grand Prize winner's costume was actually three different costumes in one.

Henri David, for those who do not recognize the name, is the owner of Hallowe'en, one of the finest custom jewelery shops on the east coast, and he is the designer of the Renaissance Mona Lisa charm.

This year the Ball will be held on Hallowe'en night, Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 10:00 p. m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. You won't soon forget it.

Chapter news & notes

Louisanna

New Orleans: Leslie Addison, chapter leader. Write Renaissance N.O., Box 58428, New Orleans, LA 70158 for details. Provisional chapter. Meetings are held in a Metropolitan Community Church.

New Jersey

South Jersey: Tina Louise, chapter leader. Address inquiries to chapter secretary, Emily Sheldon, Renaissance SJ, P.O.Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807. Regular meetings on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Meetings start at 9:00 p.m.

No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.

Scheduled programs: Oct., K-D's Boutique will show lingerie and Savarese Eletrolysis will discuss hair removal.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Teri Kay, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Doors open - 8:00 p.m.; new member orientation, 8:30 p.m.,

main program, 9:30 p.m.

No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.

Programs for the coming months include a psychic, Dr. Bill Stayton, and Dr. Richard Friend.

Reading: Susan Marshall, chapter leader. Write Renaissance RDG, Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607 for the latest information.

The Reading chapter meets twice a month. There is a dinner-social held at THIS IS IT, 801 Walnut St., Reading, second Wednesday of the month. A regular membership-business meeting is held on the second Saturday.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Elsa Larsen, chapter leader. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

This chapter began a regular meeting schedule in September and is also producing a monthly newsletter.

Are you interested in forming a Renaissance Chapter in your area? Write or call the Renaissance national office.

Renaissance News

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Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community at large.

Events Calendar

October

- 7th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter Lingerie & Electrolysis
- 11th Ren. Reading Chapter Dinner Social
- 14th Ren. Reading Chapter Regular Meeting
- 21st Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
- ?? Ren. Lwr.Susquehanna
- 12-22 Outreach Institute's Fantasia Fair - P'town
- 20 Gay/Lesbian AIDS benefit Romanovsky & Phillips
- 20-22 Dressing for Pleasure, NY
- 31st Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball - Warwick Hotel, PHL

November

- 4th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 11th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 18th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
- ?? Ren. Lwr.Susquehanna

December

- 2nd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 9th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 9th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter Holiday Party-Gr.Valley
- ?? Ren LSV

January

- 6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 13th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

And, don't forget about...

• The last of the Benjamin books, *The Transsexual Phenomena* are back in stock. When these are gone, there are no more. The Deluxe Edition is \$39.95 and the Regular Edition is \$35.95.

• Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the

Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics. A paper on transsexualism is in work.

• 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.

• The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please let Alison know. Write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

• Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

Opinion - **Forum** - Information

What's in a label...*Janice Van Cleve, Emerald City*

Are you a transvestite or a transsexual? How many times have people asked you this? Haven't you asked it yourself, too? But does it really matter what label you wear?

Actually, it matters quite a lot. Labels are powerful symbols. Just by speaking them, we invoke the entire stereotype they represent. Remember what a difference it made when you finally chose a femme name? It seemed to crystallize your new identity, didn't it? A good label appropriately applied can be a real boost to your self-esteem. Besides being potent, labels are necessary. If we were to attempt to originally classify the millions of data inputs our brain receives daily, we would be lost. We must group the data into large patterns on order to use it. Labels help us make sense of the world around us.

We all know, of course, that labels can be dangerous if misused. Misapplication, incorrect definitions or wrong headed groupings of data (If you crossdress you must be gay, or my favorite, if you can quote the

Bible you must be a good Christian!) and the cruel weapon of name calling are just a few examples of misuses. There is another danger, however, and that is "justification."

Some people feel uncomfortable without a label of some sort. If they choose a label for themselves to expand their social horizons or for some other practical gain, no problem. But, if they choose a label just to BE somebody—in other words to justify themselves—then there is a problem.

We often see people in all stages of gender role or social role exploration who feel internal or external pressure to adopt either the "transsexual" or "transvestite" label. Then, they feel obligated to live up to everything included in that label's stereotype, whether or not everything in that stereotype really fits. In fact, they may smother their internal reality to conform to the label! This is foolishness. Labels are created *for* things, not the other way around. One wonders why people who try to live up to their

label gave up a false front in the straight world only to take on another one in the transgendered world.

Many feminists fell into this trap. Once, it was politically incorrect to wear a dress or a bra; only slacks would do. Certain phrases or words were taboo. Every feminist was supposed to be pro-choice on the abortion issue, regardless of her own personal beliefs. To be "truly feminist" you had to become a robot as defined by Gloria Steinem or Bella Abzug (and even they disagreed on what was politically correct). The movement lacked diversity.

In the diverse transgendered community there are many definitions of transvestite and transsexual. But they differ mostly in perspective rather than in substance. The majority of us find we fit a label tolerably well with only a few, little, personal variations that display our individuality without discrediting the label we have chosen. Those who do not fit

continued on page 4

Another point of view...*Janet B., Renaissance, New Oxford, Pa.*

Editor's note: This was received in response to Sunny's opinion piece in the August issue. In order to keep Janet from being swamped by marriage proposals and crank calls, we didn't publish her phone number. If you'd like to contact Janet, we'll be happy to forward mail to her care of the national office.

I am a straight female living with a crossdressing male. I'd known this person for ten years and I'd dated him for ten months before I learned about the secret part of his life.

I am fifty, and after having my own business for many years and dealing with the public, little surprises me. I can be confronted with most anything, and my answer usually is, "Well, okay." So, when my "honey" confronted me with the news of his crossdressing, my answer was, "Well, okay." The only

other thing that came to mind was, "Boy! Am I in for an education."

I have read everything about crossdressing I can get my hands on. Everything seems to be centered around *acceptance* and the fears of rejection. It is time for people to realize that LOVE is acceptance. How can a woman, if she has any heart at all, turn her back on the one she loves because his feelings are a little different from other males?

None of us are capable of questioning another person's chemistry, no more than questioning another's color. All of us are individuals with different feelings and thoughts. That's the joy of knowing other people. I have always been interested in what makes people tick. Getting to know my crossdressing

lover has been a real joy. I buy him pretty underthings and night things, make him clothes, apply his makeup, fix his hair, the whole bit. Transformation is fun. This person is my friend, my pal, my buddy, my brother, my sister, and my mate, all in one. I love this person. I accept and respect his feelings as a fellow human being. In turn, he loves me for my understanding. I feel no shame in loving him or being involved in this life. Although, it is new and different to me, and I still have a lot to learn. But I don't mind taking on the job of making his life comfortable and fun.

If there are women in our area who would like to talk to me about my feelings, they are more than welcome to contact me.

Label...from page 3

completely under either of these labels often invent a new label or devise a variation of TV or TS that fits them. That is great! They've taken command of the labels, instead of the labels taking command of them.

There are people in the transgendered community who believe they have the credentials to determine how a "true transvestite" and a "true transsexual" should behave. From there, it's an easy step to imagine

themselves capable of judging the rest of us and deciding who is politically correct and who is not.

We do not have to let these people push us around. There are lots of transsexuals who chose not to have surgery, and there are a lot of transvestites who do not own a negligee. Should they be forced to conform at the risk being considered "incorrect" by their snobby peers? Should they feel less whole, less genuine, less justified, because they do not

fulfill the "requirements" of the label? Heavens, no! You should find yourself first, then, if you need a label find one that fits reasonably well. Your justification comes from within. You don't need a label to BE somebody; you already ARE somebody — a unique, wonderful creation with a purpose and destiny only you can fulfill.

...tomorrow I'll identify as a can of chicken soup. It may not be politically correct, but it will nourish me.

Paradise gained or lost?...JoAnn Roberts

We live in strange and scary times. Never before have we enjoyed so much freedom to express ourselves as we wish. Yet, never before, have we faced such threats to our freedom as we do now. A series of unrelated events paints the frightening picture...

In July, Congress chastised Philadelphia's Institute of Contemporary Art and the National Endowment

for the Arts because Robert Mapplethorpe's images were disturbing to Sen. Jesse Helms.

Also in July, the Supreme Court eroded the basis of *Roe v. Wade*, and threw the abortion battle into the hands of a select few—state legislators and lobbyists.

The Rev. D. Wildmond and Ms. T. Rakolta, knowing what's best for you, created Clear-TV, a fundamen-

talist pressure group to force networks and producers to air television shows to their liking.

Everywhere you turn, there is someone who is willing to do your thinking for you. Sadly, that is true even in our own community. Are you going to give up your right to choose? Will you sit by and let someone else care about what happens? Silence = death.

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Paula Jordan Sinclair... **The NewsQueen**

Despite her hard-nosed journalistic manner, this reporter loves happy stories as much as the next misanthrope. We especially love love stories with a happy ending. And so this month we are pleased to tell you that the European Commission on Human Rights has given its blessing to the marriage of Caroline Crosley, 34, and Elias Fattal, 48. Why, you may ask, did that august body have to approve the nuptials? It was because Caroline, who uses the professional name of Tula, used to be known as Barry, and in the eyes of the British courts, Caroline is still a man.

That opinion was not shared by millions of people who saw Tula's appearance in the James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*. Even star Roger Moore was convinced that Tula was a genetic female. But when she applied for a marriage license five years ago, her application was rejected because of her previous gender. Later, she secured a marriage license by not telling the registrar about her past life. When word of the marriage leaked out, however, British officials threatened to annul the marriage. She took her case to the European Commission and they recently issued a favorable opinion binding on British officials.



British officials were more understanding in the case of Toni Hamilton-Smith the divorced father of three who won custody of his children even though he is beginning to change his sex.

In 1984, Toni and his wife divorced. The two girls and a boy lived with their mother for two years. But when they visited their father, who was at this time living full time as a woman, they accepted him as a her. In 1986, their mother allowed the children to live with their father. Two more years passed and the mother wanted the children back even though they wanted to stay with Toni. That prompted a custody

battle in the courts.

"My lawyer told me I got custody because I was so obviously committed to my lovely family," Toni said. "I'm a good parent regardless of whether I'm a man or a woman."



The distinction between male and female parents may be blurred even further according to sex therapist Dr. Michael Perry of Sherman Oaks, Calif. He predicts by the turn of the century, men will be having babies.

The pregnancy will be induced by implanting a fertilized egg in the man's abdominal cavity where it will draw blood from the father and grow to full term without giving the man female hormones. After nine months, the baby could be delivered by caesarean section.

While such a procedure would be a medical breakthrough, it does not require any changes in biology. Perry said many babies are born each year that developed in some other part of their mothers' bodies other than the uterus. He said there have been two recent cases where women have had hysterectomies the day after conception and the free-floating fertilized egg attached itself to their intestines.

Perry added that if the practice of male pregnancies becomes commonplace, it will force a re-definition of the terms "mother" and "father." He said that "if a man gives birth, he could be both a mother and a father—and at that point those terms become rather silly." He also said that male pregnancies will change the way men and women view each other."



While on the subject of births, here's one that will gladden the hearts of Elvis fans everywhere. The King is now a queen, or at least a princess. According to Swedish psychic (try saying that six times fast) Sylvia Lindgren, Elvis was reincarnated about six months ago as a blue-eyed girl in Tupelo, Miss.

"It was all this talk about 'Elvis is alive' that made his soul restless," Lindgren said. "It made him yearn to get back to the business of the living." She said that neither the baby girl's parents nor the girl herself know the whole story. Lindgren said she is keeping their identity secret to protect Elvis' privacy.



We all have secrets that we wouldn't want people to know. For some, it may be who we were in a previous life. For others, like George Bush, it may be what we did in college. Part of the president's patrician upbringing included Yale University and membership in the super-select and super-secret Skull and Bones society. The shroud of mystery is so tightly drawn that members are supposed to leave the room if the club is even mentioned among non-members. *Fame* magazine has revealed some of the secret goings on. The revelations are frightening indeed. Can you imagine Bush in a glittering evening gown?

The article quotes several women who somehow gained admittance to the masculine bastion and took part in an initiation ceremony. One woman said she was dressed up in a "ragged rhinestone-studded '30s evening gown" in order to "play a part that was apparently usually played by a man in drag."



While some young queens may aspire to be president, others have more appropriate ambitions, like wearing the tiara of a genuine beauty queen. Here is a quick run down of some new titleholders from the spate of summer pageants. (How do these girls keep their makeup in place in the August heat?)

- Mahogany was crowned as the new Miss Gay Delaware at the pageant held at the Renaissance restaurant and dance club (catchy name) in Wilmington.

- Earlier in Baltimore, West

continued on page 6

NewsQueen...from page 5

Virginia beauty Bridget Nickles won the Miss Gay Mid-Atlantic title. Danee Russo of New Hope fame was one of the entertainers at the event.

• In the big and tall girl category, Carmella Marcella Garcia was named Miss Gay U.S.A. At-Large at the pageant in San Antonio, Tex.

• And speaking of big, the two biggest pageants were yet to be held at press time—Miss Gay Continental 1989-90 was set for Labor Day weekend in Chicago and Miss Gay America on Oct. 18-22 in Dallas.



Promoters of the Miss Gay Continental claim that winning the title nearly guarantees the lucky and lovely girl an income of between \$30,000 and \$50,00 in personal appearance bookings. But some winners are not content and try to freelance to increase their earnings. Cherry Lane, Miss Gay America 1988, is perhaps one of those.

According to published reports,

Lane was recently arrested for drug trafficking in Little Rock, Ark. While at Norma Kristie's showbar, she allegedly sold an undercover narcotics officer 30 hits of an hallucinogenic substance. Bail was set at \$25,000, and Kristie pledged her bar as collateral.



Here is some dish of a local nature. According to our dear friend and dancing partner, bachelor Philadelphia Daily News columnist Stu Bykofsky, Harlow is out at the Bourse, literally. Harlow's, the upscale supper club, closed this summer and reopened as Oggi of Paris. One of our spies told us that a new feature will be dinner shows.

Meanwhile in Atlantic City, An Evening at La Cage has once again broken new ground, which may be why the show is the longest running in the casinos. A new cast member had been added to the female impersonators—a male impersonator.

Stoney Jones does Elvis (as he was during his first life). And in another change, Bobby Bruno's version of Joan Rivers has replaced Drew Taylor's. Taylor, fans may recall, was threatened with a lawsuit by Rivers for lifting her material.



While Miss Sinclair reads several newspapers each day, she may miss an item relating to crossdressing. If you see such an item, please clip it and send it to her at the Renaissance office. Kindly note the name and date of publication.

JoAnn Roberts resigns from IFGE

JoAnn Roberts has resigned from the board of directors of the International Foundation for Gender Education.

In her letter to the board chair, Wendi Pierce, Roberts cited changes in her personal and professional life that prompted the resignation, not any philosophical differences.



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... AND MANY, MANY MORE!



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Discoveries: The Facts About Transgender Behavior — Part 2

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Sex & Gender:

Why We Get Confused

Sex can be a most confusing concept. In the English language the word sex has come to have so many different meanings to different people. Is it any wonder that sex and gender get confused. Sex refers to the physical manifestations of our genetically programmed body. Gender refers to our behavior as determined by our sex.

Sex

There is no one right way to define sex. Usually we rely on external appearance to determine someone's sex. Obviously, when we start dealing with transgendered people who crossdress this means of determination may lead to an erroneous conclusion. Another way to make a sex determination is by genital examination or physical sex characteristics. This is usually done at birth when the attending physician examines the infant and informs the world, It's a girl! or It's a boy! There have been situations, however, where the doctor has made a mistake and eventually it is discovered that the baby boy is really a girl and vice versa. So, examination of the genitals is not always reliable. Finally, through the use of scientific instruments and tests, we can look into the depths of the human body and examine the 23rd pair of chromosomes in the body cells (somatic sex). If we find an XX pair, we declare the person female. If we find an XY pair we declare the person male. What happens then when we find a single X or an XXY? (These combinations are known to occur, and it is the study of these abnormalities that give us some insight into human development.) Are we dealing with a male or a female in these cases?

The answer is not simple and ultimately will be defined by the person themselves as he/she begins to

express gender identity. For most people, gender identity will be congruent (the same as) with their physical/somatic sex. When physical/somatic sex and gender identity are not the same transgender behavior may result.

Sex Roles

Perhaps it is easier to use sex roles as a way of defining male and female. The male sex role is to impregnate, that is the male of a species creates sperm to fertilize eggs produced by the female of the species. The female has several sex roles. They are: ovulation (produce eggs), lactation (produce milk), and menstruation (shed unfertilized eggs). Since the time that mammals first appeared on the earth these sex roles have not changed. Sex roles, based on anatomical sex characteristics, are the only real basis for defining male and female. Every other type of sexual behavior is up for grabs. What we often mistake for appropriate male/female sex roles are really gender roles, and gender roles are constantly being redefined by the social structure around us.

Sexual Orientation

Now it starts to get interesting. In order to continue the propagation of the species males must be sexually attracted to females so that they may impregnate eggs. In all forms of animal life, except humans, this mating urge is triggered by a biological clock, the mating season. Humans, on the other hand, enjoy the ability to have sex for pleasure, almost anytime they want. It is one of the few things that set us apart from animals. We have the option of choosing our sex partners. Usually, a male chooses a female, and even though the sex act may be for pleasure, occasionally a female becomes pregnant. But, because humans are so different and much more compli-

cated than other animals, we see variations in choice of sex partner. Not every male is sexually attracted to every female and vice versa. Our sexual orientation is defined by the body image which causes arousal. For the majority of people the body image is that of the opposite sex, while for other people it is the body image of their own sex. Hence the terms heterosexual (different sex) and homosexual (same sex). If a person is equally attracted to both the same and opposite body images, then the term is bisexual (two sexes). Certainly, sexual orientation develops along with our sexual identity, but sexual orientation is not determined by our physical sex, somatic sex or sex role.

Gender Roles

When we start talking about gender we start using terms like masculine and feminine. These gender descriptors can be equally applied to either sex, male or female, depending on what we wish to imply about an individual. A positive statement might be, "He is very masculine." A negative statement might be, "She is very masculine."

Regardless of one's physical or anatomical sex, set by nature's hand, a person learns his/her gender role. It is that set of behaviors which society says typifies a male or female. Therefore, boys play with fire trucks and girls play with dolls. Gender roles vary by culture and by history. In modern American society, female gender roles have changed markedly in the last twenty years. To be sure, male roles have changed too, but much less so.

Gender role is usually the outward expression of one's gender identity. It is from a person's gender role (outward behavior) that we begin to make assumptions (often erroneous) about their gender identity and sexual orientation. A male

continued on page 8



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Discoveries...from page 7

may be effeminate by current social standards yet be exclusively heterosexual. But, because of our social definition of what is appropriately masculine and feminine, we may assume, incorrectly, that this male is homosexual.

Social politics play a large part in defining acceptable gender roles. In our male dominated Western society, it has always be acceptable to aspire toward male gender roles, even if the aspirant is a female (although with severe limitations). Conversely, it has never been completely acceptable for a male to aspire toward female gender roles. Hence the source of a lot of guilt and shame over transgender behavior when a male or female steps over the societal boundaries and bucks the system.

Gender Identity

So, a person's gender role is a set of behaviors which society says are acceptable based on that person's sex (and sex role). When we are

comfortable with and accept this societal definition of our gender role, it is because our gender identity is the same as our physical sex. Gender identity is the personal, psychological, and emotional identification with our sex role. A normal male acts masculine (gender role) and is psychologically comfortable with his male sex role (gender identity). When there is a conflict between society's definition of gender role and our own idea of our gender identity, we may experience a feeling of being ill at ease with our gender/sex roles.

Some professionals do not like to separate gender role and gender identity. They see them as two sides of a single coin. They are intimately related. Just as there is no single way to define a person's sex, there is no single way to define a person's gender.

Sex and gender - one physical, one emotional - combine in ways that are almost endless.

(To be continued.)

Enigma

*No one knows her like I do.
No one knows her at all.
She's always there,
yet out of sight.
Just waiting for a call.*

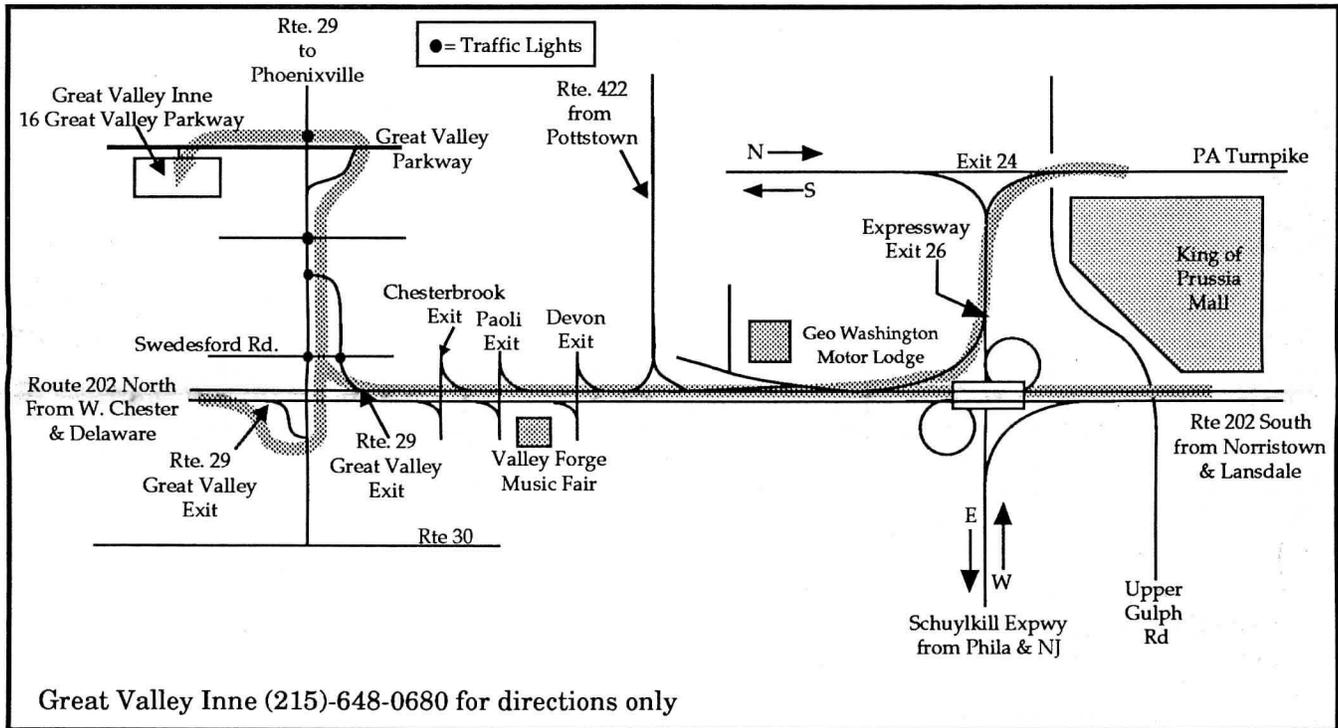
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the dearest friend
That anyone could be.
Yet, only I have ever seen her
Once she's been set free.*

*She moves with grace
into my life
Whenever I should call.
She warms my world,
she fills my life
She lifts me when I fall.*

*No one knows her like I do.
But, if she gets around
She'll meet some friends,
she'll find a home,
She just wants to be found.*

Stephanie Anne Alwood

Greater Philadelphia Chapter Holiday Party Saturday, December 9, 1989 Map to Party Location



Party-Party!

Rock 'N' Roll!

Twist and Shout!

Don your gay apparel!

Let your hair down!

Dance your panthose off!

Hors d'oeuvres

Buffet & Music

Prizes

The 1989 Holiday Party will be held at the Great Valley Inne, 16 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern on Saturday, December 9th. The festivities will begin at 7:30 PM with No-Host Cocktails. Ms Charlene has some surprises planned for us all. The cost is \$25/person for Members and guests. Everyone is invited to attend. You must return this registration form and payment to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter Renaissance office no later than **November 29, 1989.**

Holiday Party Registration

Yes I am planning on attending the 1989 Renaissance Holiday Party.

Please reserve _____ spaces for me. Enclosed is my payment of \$_____.

Send tickets to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to Renaissance, P.O. Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020

National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

FLINT, MICH. — Word of a new national group for crossdressers and transsexuals reached us in August.

The **National Association of Crossdressers (NAC)** is chartered to provide peer support and social events nationwide, according to NAC organizer **Grace Bacon**, one of the founders of **Crossroads**, a support group in Michigan.

The NAC has a central office located at 21823 Van Dyke in Warren Mich., which also happens to be the location of **Lavender And Lace**, a TV boutique mentioned here recently. Bacon says, "The central office is neither a social organization nor a support group. It is an administrative office ... to help organize local chapters." She goes on to mention cities like Denver, Kansas City, Columbus, Louisville and New Orleans are in need of support groups. Bacon must not be reading this newsletter, else she would know that each of those cities already has a support group.

We also think Bacon made a tactical error in her choice of names for the organization. Transsexuals, generally, do not consider themselves to be crossdressers.

NGN

ROYAL OAK, MICH. — We also learned from the August issue of the *Crossroads Chatter* that the 1989 **Be All You Can Be Weekend** shattered all attendance records for this event with 267 participants. This is probably a record for any event sponsored by our community. Maybe the producers of **Be All** could take over the IFGE convention and put it on the same par?

NGN

WOODLAND HILLS, CALIF. — In an unprecedented move a Tri-Ess chapter has rescinded its affiliation with the Tri-Ess national organization.

The August issue of *Cross-Talk*, from the former **Delta Chi** chapter, noted the change in status was made under an agreement between Tri-Ess national, **Virginia Prince** of the **Alpha Chapter** and chapter president **Kymberleigh Richards**. A proposal to become a satellite chapter of Alpha was rejected.

Under the reorganization, the group has renamed itself **The Valley Girls** to better reflect its core membership in the San Fernando Valley.

Support from the membership for

the change was "near unanimous."

We'd like to welcome The Valley Girls to the "open" skies.

NGN

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. — Our deepest sympathies go out to our sisters in Serenity for the loss of their founder, **Nikki Bee**. The group is named after the "Serenity" prayer used in many 12 step recovery programs like A.A. Bee was a recovering alcoholic and often wrote about how to apply the 12 step philosophy to crossdressing. She died after a brief, but painful, bout with spinal cancer. A memorial service was held at the Sept. 8 Serenity meeting.

NGN

ALBANY, N.Y. — We'd begun to wonder if there was some sort of epidemic of anti-crossdressing fever rampant in upstate New York. It had been quite a long time since we'd heard from **TGIC**, **Butterfly** or **EON**. The mystery has been solved. All three groups are alive and well, operating in a collaborative effort. We think that's a good way to revitalize the groups.

Anyone in the area interested in finding out more about their activi-

continued next page



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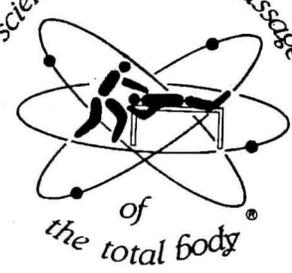
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National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

ties should contact TGIC at P. O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212, or call 518-436-4513.

NGN

NEW YORK CITY — Another group we thought was lost has also resurrected itself. **The Gathering** is still operating and has once again begun publishing a newsletter. The Gathering is a TS-only support group and visitors/prospective members must contact the group prior to attending a meeting. They can be reached at P. O. Box 29, New York, NY 10021.

NGN

CINCINNATI — We've followed the trials and tribulations of **Heather Peerson** (*Crossport*) in this column over the last year. Peerson was fired from her job after her employer told her that wearing women's apparel would not be tolerated. Peerson, a transsexual, was in her Real Life Test at the time, and, of course, she disobeyed the order.

Now we learn that she has won a victory of sorts. Peerson had applied for and collected Unemployment Compensation after her firing. Her former employer contested the payments and Peerson had to go before a review board.

The board found, "The dress code which the employer established just for the claimant was unreasonable and the claimant's violation of this specific code did not constitute misconduct in connection with the work, which would justify the suspension of the claimant's unemployment compensation benefits rights."

Bravo, Heather! Another small step taken in the right direction. It would have been so easy to just give in and not put up with the hassle.

NGN

ANYWHERE, U.S.A. — One of our all time favorite sci-fi books is back on the market, *Venus Plus X*.

Written by **Theodore Sturgeon** in 1960, this book explores the myths, differences and similarities

between men and women through the construct of a new "race" of humans called the Ledom. The Ledom, you see, are both sexes in one body. Look for this fascinating novel in major bookstores.

NGN

DEVON, CONN. — From humble beginnings...

Just a mere two years ago, our friend **Denise Mason** began publishing a newsletter called "the connecticutView." Subscriptions grew and grew and finally the View has decided to become a full fledged support group.

With the help of **Judy Summers**, **Corine Klewer**, and others, the View is off to a good start, beginning with the formation of an advisory council. Anyone in the Connecticut area should contact them at P. O. Box 222, Devon, CT 06460.

NGN

ST. PAUL, MINN. — You've seen those boudoir photos in the slick magazines and you really want a set for yourself. So, you set up your trusyt 35mm, squirmed into your sexiest negligee, set the self-timer, and jumped in front of the lens. Now what? Who you gonna call to get those racy pix developed?

The answer might be **Fast Forward Express**. We received a tabloid catalog from them recently and it appears that they will discreetly process your prints. Not only that, they put your photo on just about anything. Write for their catalog of services and prices at P. O. Box 4609, St. Paul, MN 55104 or call 612-292-8257

NGN

WAYLAND, MASS. — The 4th Annual "Coming Together" convention sounds like an orgiastic delight but it's really the **International Foundation for Gender Education** confab of groups. The convention is slated for March 20-25, 1990 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Natick, Mass.

The full registration fee is \$225

per person, with a 10% discount if you register before Jan 1, 1990.

For further details contact IFGE, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 or call 617-894-8340.

NGN

MADISON, N.J. — Talk about keeping good company. **Dr. Robert Francouer** is just about finished editing the latest edition of his textbook on human sexuality, *TITLE?*

The book has a revised and expanded chapter on gender dysphorias, including much new material on transvestism, transgenderism and transsexualism.

The special consultants listed for the chapter are names well known in our community: **Leah Cahan Schaefer, Ed.D.**, **Connie Christine Wheeler, M.S., Ph.D. (cand.)**, **Roger Peo, Ph.D.**, **JoAnn Roberts**, and **Paul Hanson (aka Paula Jordan Sinclair.)** Roberts and Hanson helped to rewrite the sections on transvestism.

Francouer has also chosen to use the Renaissance Background Paper "Myths & Misconceptions about Male to Female Crossdressing" in a highlight box in the chapter. We believe this is the first time our community has had direct input into a textbook on gender issues.

NGN

ISLE OF WIGHT, U.K. — The indomitable **Phaedra Kelly**, sometimes known as the *ParaTran* has taken to the skies to parachute jump, transformed, for charity. Seems there's a 'wee tyke' that needs a liver transplant on the isle and Miss Kelly has taken up his cause. She collected funds from sponsors to make several jumps but twisted her ankle badly after the first one. Nevertheless, Miss Kelly managed to raise over £600 but it's not enough.

Anyone interested in keeping Miss Kelly on the ground should send their contribution (in British £) to the GTA, Flat 5, Afton Lodge, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, U.K.

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