

CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

#46

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CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

AUGUST 1993
(ISSUE #46)



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STUNNED

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200 ROOMS AT WASHINGTON

SEATTLE

SAN FRANCISCO

The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) has begun a survey of the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA).

Since 1979, the Standards of Care have served as minimal guidelines for the hormonal and surgical sex reassignment of persons with gender dysphoria. They are the only such standards in existence, are widely accepted by professionals around the world, and are regularly revised.

AEGIS' survey of the Standards is designed to provide HBIGDA with feedback from the gender community. Initial results are planned for presentation at the HBIGDA conference in October.

A two page questionnaire is being distributed through the organizations within the gender community. (Cross-Talk will also provide a copy of the questionnaire to anyone sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope.) AEGIS is requesting that as many of the survey questionnaires be completed and returned to them by mid-September.

The Standards of Care were last revised in January of 1990.



The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) board of directors, meeting in Denver, Colo. June 26, has set policies regarding the membership of wives/partners and transsexuals.

Clarifying the status of wives and partners who receive the Tri-Ess *Sweetheart Connection* newsletter but are not Tri-Ess members, the board authorized a wives-only membership -- where the crossdressing partner is not already a Tri-Ess member -- for \$10.00 per year, including the newsletter. Such a membership would include the option of also receiving the Tri-Ess national magazine *The Femme Mirror* for an additional \$15.00 per year, and couples' memberships -- which already receive one copy of the *Mirror* -- could include a second copy for the same amount. Wives and partners may continue to receive *Sweetheart Connection* for \$12.00 per year without joining Tri-Ess.

The board also clarified the definition of the

"Friends of Tri-Ess" membership by reaffirming the organization's policy toward heterosexual crossdressers and their partners, while allowing others not qualifying under the policy to affiliate under the "Friends" membership. Such a member would not be eligible to vote on chapter policies, nor hold national or chapter office. The board left open individual chapters' options to allow such individuals to attend local meetings.

A third major decision concerned Tri-Ess members who declare their transsexualism after joining a chapter. Recognizing that a self-declaration does not necessarily indicate an individual will indeed have surgery, the board left the decision of such an individual's chapter membership in the hands of the chapters, suggesting that "rules of conduct" be applied to prevent such an individual from alarming sister members -- and their partners -- unnecessarily.

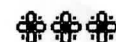
The board's next meeting is scheduled to take place at the Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" November 13 in the Los Angeles area.



A reunion for participants of the "Dream" weekends of the 1970's and 80's is being tentatively planned for next year's IFGE convention in Portland, Ore.

Jennifer Richards, past president of St. Louis Gender Foundation, has announced her intent to gather as many past participants as possible "to honor those who pioneered transgendered weekends that are so prevalent today". Richards says she hopes others will feel, as she does, that "Dream" is an important part of the gender community's history. The specific evening during the IFGE convention has not yet been chosen.

Richards may be reached in care of St. Louis Gender Foundation, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis MO 63117.



The Gender Identity Center of Colorado (GIC) is seeking support for a documentary photography exhibit and book about the transsexual community. GIC has budgeted \$34,275 for its Transformation Project, which is described as being designed to "replace damaging mythology surrounding

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transsexuals with real-life stories". The book and exhibit will augment photographs of its subjects from early childhood through the present with biographical text in an attempt to develop empathy from those who see it.

The project is being coordinated by photographer Barbara Millman, and will take two years to complete. Millman hopes to show diversity within the transsexual community by including post-operative TSs, professionals, persons of color, and female-to-male transsexuals.

Agencies and professionals are being solicited for tax-deductible contributions to the project. GIC has promised acknowledgement in both the book and exhibit to those contributing greater than \$100. They are also pursuing grants for the project, and recently received funding from the Chinook Fund.

GIC may be contacted at P.O. Box 11563, Denver CO 80211.



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Cross-Talk is published monthly as an information and entertainment resource for the gender community. For subscription information, please see page 40. For information on advertising, please call (818) 776-8503.

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

-- *Kymerleigh Richards*

I have been an observer of our community for close to six years now, first as a crossdresser, then as a transgenderist. Thirteen years ago, I was also an observer of our community for a three year period as a self-diagnosed (erroneously) transsexual. During both of those periods of time, I have had numerous opportunities to interact with and observe many individuals who proclaimed themselves to be transsexual. I have also, from my perspective as a journalist, read numerous accounts of transsexuals for whom life was not kind, many times including the report of a post-op TS' death by her own hand.

I have, in all this observation and reading, come to one significant conclusion: The single biggest disservice the gender community has ever done to the transsexual community has been to make the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care public knowledge.

I almost wrote this editorial three times in the past couple of years. I came closest several months ago, after someone uploaded the entire text of the Standards of Care to the Cross Connection BBS; I finally decided I had to write this after a former subscriber sent me two letters denouncing the Standards of Care, supporting "surgery on demand", and urging me to editorialize against the Standards of Care. Her last letter included a photocopy of a reply she had received from our own Roger Peo when she communicated her beliefs to him. Roger tried (in vain) to convince the writer that the Standards were necessary, but all he triggered was the creation and mailing of a full page, single-spaced, commentary entitled *Sadistic Perverse Transsexual Psycho Babble & Mumbo-Jumbo* and a second full page entitled *The Psychiatric Industry's "Gender Dysphoria" Dysphoria*, in which, among other things, the writer condemns F2M SRS!

Unfortunately, this attitude is commonplace among the "surgery on demand" contingent in the transsexual community. My personal feeling is that these types of individuals are the last candidates in the world who should have SRS, and I'm certain those professionals who read this column agree.

Now for the scary part. What if an individual, having the same point of view and opinion regarding SRS, decides that since she can't have her surgery just by asking for it, figures she'll take whatever shortcuts she can to (*continued, next page*)

COGITO ERGO FEM

-- *Anne Blackwood*

How big is your closet? What does it mean to be out of the closet? If the extent of your public excursions is dressing up and going to a CD club, are you out of the closet? If you never go out beyond the company and environs of other CDs, are you out of the closet? If you go out and party at CD clubs with your CD friends, but none of your mainstream friends know about your crossdressing, are you out of the closet, or have you just remodeled your closet?

Hey, I'm an editorial writer, not a journalist; I can ask all the questions I want and not answer them. Of course, I wouldn't have posed them if I didn't have an opinion. My, you're a sharp little cookie, aren't you?

At "California Dreamin'" in 1992 I remarked to another attendee that I thought such conventions, and places like the Queen Mary constituted safe environments and that being there got you out of the house, but not out of the closet. You'd just gone to a bigger closet. As you may recall, the Los Angeles riots broke out a few days before the convention began and law enforcement officers were being called in from all over the state. As it happened, a large number of Highway Patrol officers were billeted at the site of the convention. The person to whom I addressed my remark pointed out that a stroll through the lobby meant a stroll past half a dozen law enforcement professionals (and they **were** professional: to my knowledge, there were no untoward incidences with them), and that was about as public as you could get. I pointed out that the convention was taking place in meeting rooms in the hotel's basement, and a private banquet room, so interaction with outsiders was minimal, and if one was fearful there were plenty of other CDs around to perform escort duty. Well, it was something to think about.

I think you can see what my opinion is. It seems to me that the crossdresser that never leaves his apartment, never ventures forth from that safe abode, but has the nerve to tell one mainstream friend, or girlfriend or wife about his crossdressing is further out of the closet than the CD goes out and parties at the Queen Mary or Peanuts, but wouldn't dream of telling a mainstream friend. Granted, the latter's closet is pretty big and allows a certain amount and kind of freedom, but it is still a closet and he is still in it. The former has faced his fear and overcome it, even if only once. The latter has

faced obstacles and overcome them, but not that fear, the core fear.

The *bon vivant* may be happier, and better adjusted for having found a social outlet for his activity and for having found others who share his "interests", but he is still isolated completely from mainstream society. The homebody may be isolated from the subculture, but has made contact with society at large. Who is better off? I don't know. Frankly, they are both missing something from their lives.

It seems to me that we all need some balance between socializing within the community and socializing within mainstream society. Support groups, whether formal or informal, are useful in helping the individual come to terms with their position in society, but no one can live completely outside of mainstream society. We need contact with both, though not necessarily at the same time. We may need the support of our peers to gain the inner strength to join mainstream society as our whole selves.

Am I out of the closet by my own definition? Yes, I have a dozen or so mainstream friends who know of my crossdressing and how extensive it goes from a psychological standpoint, and I've been known to show up at the Queen Mary (though not for some time). In addition there are at least a dozen or so mainstream types who know I'm a crossdresser. Most of them are in the acting trade and I didn't have to tell them, but when asked I tell the truth. By the same token I don't profess to be the most forthright of crossdressers; there are people in my life that I am still trying to figure out how -- or if -- to tell. I'm not comfortable with the notion of having co-workers know, but then one chooses one's friends and one doesn't necessarily choose one's co-workers. If someone were to tell my co-workers I don't think it would bother me, so long as it didn't interfere with my work. (Several years ago one of my supervisors was a transsexual; she was eventually fired for reasons other than her transsexuality.) I've come a long way since emerging from my isolation, and I've a long way to go.

Perhaps it could be said that the *bon vivants* are in the closet, but out of the house. And Ms. Homebody is out of the closet, but still at home. Me? I'm out of the closet and out of the house, but I'm still in the neighborhood.

[Anne Blackwood can be contacted at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.]

KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ... *continued*

get her way? Let's also presume she has access to one of the (undoubtedly) many BBS systems that have the Benjamin Standards of Care available as a text file, downloads it, and uses it as a "road map" to get to her perceived ultimate destination, surgery. Now, armed with the information that the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association -- with the best of intentions -- distributed to the helping professionals in our community as minimum guidelines prior to recommending a candidate for SRS, she finds a therapist, gives him or her the right answers at precisely the right times (according to the Standards of Care's timetable), does her year of Real Life Test, gets approved for surgery ...

And sometime after the operation, discovers she made a colossal mistake.

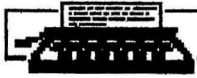
Anne Blackwood, many issues of **Cross-Talk** ago, said that SRS could also stand for Sex Removal Surgery. Ultimately, once you remove the genitals that made you male, you can't put them back. Meaning our "surgery on demand" activist, having circumvented the system, is now stuck with spending her life in the wrong body. If only she hadn't wanted her way so badly that she took all these shortcuts!

Sadly, she used the very Standards of Care that were intended to prevent such a thing happening. And saddest of all, this scenario is **not** fiction; it has happened dozens of times, and it continues to happen every day: A bunch of self-trained Pavlov's dogs, answering their therapists questions on cue, unaware of what they're really doing.

The members of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association will be meeting this fall to consider revisions to the Standards of Care. I would like to suggest a revision that applies not to the patient, but to the caregiver: The Standards should be kept confidential from not only the patient, but from the public in general. It is a good thing to inform the patient that these minimum requirements apply, but no details should -- or need to -- be given. Only by using the Standards in this way can they be of meaningful use to the therapist. Only with this single restriction to the professionals can the circumvention of the system be prevented.

We have an obligation, as compassionate human beings, to protect -- from themselves -- those who would unintentionally do themselves grievous harm. I believe that obligation extends to protecting them from information that they can use to inflict said grievous harm.

there is no good reason to continue to make the Standards public knowledge; but if keeping them private keeps just one misguided individual from taking her own life, then that is reason enough to do so.



VOX POPULI ... Reader letters

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" (May '93) and subsequent errata (June '93): The editorial and errata explanation are not acceptable because of the fictitious accusations made against PPOC; plus, you continue to sidestep taking responsibility for your words and actions.

I listened to your phone message (*regarding the writer's response to my editorial in the PPOC newsletter rather than in Cross-Talk -- Ed.*) and for the life of me I can't figure out why you should be the one that's upset. The real issue is not the formation of some mythical "mega-group", but your totally carefree and misleading editorial and subsequent errata. I re-read your editorial several times and it was obvious that your writings were totally irresponsible from a journalistic point of view because (1) you published an article founded on rumor and innuendo which was completely devoid of fact; (2) you jumped to ridiculous conclusions and made compound statements regarding these non-factual arguments; and (3) you disguised your actual dubiousity (*sic*) of territorial rights under the flimsy argument of the "mega-group". What you wrote is gossip in its lowest form. As a publisher you stepped over the line by printing such an inflammatory and libelous editorial and you, of all people, should know better. The editorial was insulting not only to me personally, but to PPOC, Neutral Corner, and the Boulton & Park Society collectively, and I demand a written public apology for this inequitableness (*sic*).

In a previous conversation concerning the editorial you expressed it wasn't necessary to respond to the article since you were going to issue some kind of clarifying statement at a future date. Well, I read the errata explanation and it still isn't correct. PPOC is not merging with Neutral Corner, but there is a possibility for it to happen at some future date, and if it does it will be up to the membership of the respective organizations and none of your business or concern if we do so. PPOC also does not share your view in this regard.

The more I thought about your editorial, the more I became convinced the facts had to be presented and the PPOC "Forum" was the right place to do it. Since you didn't coordinate with me or anyone from Neutral Corner before you published your

detraction, I didn't feel compelled or obligated to touch base with you concerning the editorial published in *PPOC Girl Talk* criticizing your article. This is not meant as a tit-for-tat retort, but rather as an exercise that you shouldn't use **Cross-Talk** as the community's *National Enquirer*. If you continue to use your magazine to spread rumor and innuendo then you better be prepared to take some heat. **Cross-Talk** has evolved into a very good publication since it went into magazine format and included some professional writers to furnish articles. You certainly aren't doing yourself any favors or enhancing your journalistic reputation by printing this kind of inflammatory trash.

As far as I'm concerned the issue is closed. I certainly hope that you'll think a little bit about the consequences before you print another article of this type in the future.

-- Joan Goodnight, Chairman
Powder Puffs Of California (PPOC)
Yorba Linda, CA

[*Editor's Reply:*] I believe a clarification of terms is in order here. A news article is a statement of fact regarding an actual occurrence of events (such as appears in our "Newswire" section). An editorial is a commentary on issues affecting the readership of a publication (which is what I offer each month in "Kymberleigh's Clipboard"). The two terms are not interchangeable, as Ms. Goodnight seems to believe.

Further, it is not now -- nor has it ever been -- unethical for the writer of an editorial to comment on rumors, provided they are identified as such. The first sentence of my editorial made it clear that I was responding to rumors, and my comments were based on the probability that such rumors might be true. I am entitled to have an opinion on the subject of "mega-group" mergers, even if the actual facts differ from the rumors I based my comments upon. Since this was an editorial and not a news article, I see no reason -- ethically or journalistically -- to issue the "written public apology" Ms. Goodnight demands. I will not apologize for having an opinion.

However, even though the rumors were identified as such at the outset of my editorial, I do have a responsibility as a journalist to issue clarifying statements when necessary. My errata statement was based on Ms. Goodnight's telephone call to me, following the publication of my editorial, stating that there was no merger in the works. The statements in the third paragraph of the above letter corroborate the errata, although I disagree

that such a merger is "none of my business". When you publish a news-oriented magazine, any major occurrence in the community you serve becomes your business.

I do not feel the need to issue further clarifying statements, although after reading Susan Menger's letter last month and contrasting it with Ms. Goodnight's letter, I find conflicting statements, leaving me every bit as confused as anyone else who has read both letters as to exactly what the facts are in this matter. -- *KMR*

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" (June '93): I must admit that I am in almost complete agreement with your opinions. My two opposing views you do mention in your column: (a) in many parts of the country, adult bookstores are the only places to which people can turn when seeking information on CD or TS issues; and (b) it is my guess that the vast majority -- 85% or greater -- of those interested in exploring their feminine feelings, their desires to crossdress, their fears of being gay, their fears of the impacts on their jobs, families, etc., turn to adult bookstores as their very first effort to begin their gender path journey.

I know that is exactly the route I took when I made the decision to examine what crossdressing would mean to me, etc. I knew nothing about support groups, female impersonator bars, whatever. Thus, after stopping in an adult bookstore in the Los Angeles area, I came across *TV Epic* (a "contact" magazine -- *Ed.*) and saw an ad for the Queen Mary. I went there that same night.

Fortunately for me, the first girl I spoke to was Sandy Thomas, and the next was Lynda James. With two such excellent role models and spokespersons, I made the decision to come back the next night ... dressed. After a few more visits, I had the additional luck to meet you, Joni Deer,

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and Jim Bridges. I was one of the lucky ones, because of the people I met at the Queen Mary.

Had I not stopped at that adult bookstore, it probably would have taken me several more months before I would have progressed to the point where -- if ever -- I would have been comfortable going out dressed. I owe it to the adult bookstore and *TV Epic*.

Yes, an argument can be made that I am an aggressive individual, and I probably would have eventually prevailed, had I not met all the nice people that I did as a result of my initial efforts ... in the adult bookstore.

Thus, while I agree with you that much of the content of most contact-type publications are pretty sleazoid, I thank them for being there for me when I needed the information.

As one of the directors for the Southern Comfort Conference (SCC), I have been involved in designing ads, discussions on how best to market the SCC, etc. I have been in communication with the publishers of *TV/TS Chronicle* in an effort to determine if they would advertise the SCC. It turns out that they will, and will also send two representatives (a CD and his wife) to the SCC.

They realize that they have a greater responsibility to the gender community than they had previously thought. In fact, their next issue will include a reprint of one of my articles from our newsletter *All The Beautiful People!* regarding SRS, and Holly Boswell of Phoenix has supplied them with other articles that will be published in the future.

Thus I suggest that we should not tar the entire contact industry with the same brush. Some of them do feel a sense of responsibility and are willing to make the effort to expand their involvement (and professionalism) in and for the gender community. *TV/TS Chronicle* is making a significant departure from the norm, and they are to be congratulated for their new attitude. We will all benefit because of it.

-- *Divinity, President*
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance
Charlotte, NC

Vox Populi is the gender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, please feel free to contribute. Virtually all letters received will be published, subject to editing only for clarity, spelling/punctuation, and brevity. You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to "Kym Richards" at the Cross Connection BBS, (818) 766-8887.

LOCALS STUNNED

FROM ATHENS, GEORGIA, FARE HOME JOSEPH WASHINGTON

SEATTLE

SAN FRANCISCO

This month's subject, dear readers, is dress codes. No, not those rules that, for example, proclaim guests should never wear white to a wedding for fear of showing up the bride or that two queens who appear at an event in the same gown are obliged to throw a hissy fit. These dress codes apply to more mundane situations. Now pay attention, for you never know when you will find yourself in a situation like this ...



First, an Australian beauty contest that was won by a man.

Damian Taylor, a 24-year-old lifeguard, entered the Miss Wintersun contest in Brisbane as a joke. But the joke was on the pageant sponsors when the judges picked Taylor as the winner of the contest, which is a preliminary event to the Miss Australia competition. And that is just where Taylor was headed.

"Now that I've won this, who knows what I can do?" said Taylor, choking back tears, after he won. "I don't want to cause any waves with Miss Australia, but I'm going for it."

Miss Wintersun Chairman Jade Hurley noted that "in these days of equal opportunity" they she had no choice but to accept Taylor's entry form. "We've certainly thrown the cat among the pigeons," Hurley said, "and it could lead to the next Miss Australia being a bloke."

Taylor's father, Bruce, said he was very proud of his son, who, he noted carefully, "was a footballer."

Later, organizers of the Miss Australia contest, perhaps fearful that Taylor could win the crown, said men were free to enter in a special category, but that they could not carry the title of Miss Australia.

So what is wrong with this situation? Quite simply, the dress code for the beauty contests -- actually, the lack of a dress code. You see, Taylor competed in men's clothes. If he had worn a trim one-piece swim suit and heels instead of a Speedo and an glamorous evening gown instead of a tux, nobody would have been the wiser.



The Market, an espresso cafe in Denver, has a dress code, and that's a problem for waiters when the weather turned hot. They are forbidden to

wear shorts. So four waiters donned skirts this summer in protest.

"It's fun," Tony Burran, 25, said of his bright, flowery, chiffon skirt. Aaron Kearns, 21, choose a dark blue skirt. He noted that women could wear short skirts if they shaved their legs. But none of the men went that far.

At one time, both male and female employees were allowed to wear shorts, but the policy was changed because several employees had burned their legs with hot coffee. No logic was offered, however, as to why the same thing couldn't happen to someone in a skirt.

Market owner Gary Greenberg said he had no objection to the men in skirts "as long as they coordinate their blouses with their skirts."



But folks in Palm Beach, Fla., weren't so accepting when the local newspaper ran a photo of a 16-year-old male student walking down the hall of the Palm Beach County School for the Arts attired in a flowery dress. The caption read, "Monday was Gender Bender Day, when students were encouraged to dress as the opposite sex."

The manure hit the ventilator that same day. Radio talk show hosts attacked the school district for having a day for crossdressing. Letters from irate readers followed. "I find it hard to comprehend how the encouragement of crossdressing in any way heightens education," one man wrote.

As it turns out, the event was blown all out of proportion. Gender Bender Day was a part of School Spirit Week, along with such observances as Nerd Day and Backward Day. School officials were not trying to turn otherwise all-American boys into transvestites. But that is the public perception. Student Council member Scott Kinsella said, "People think we're all crossdressers now."



Sometimes, violating a dress code could be explosive.

Shriners in Spartanburg, S.C., were left to accessorize their frocks with matching hats, pumps, and flak jackets after a bomb threat was called in against the club's 15th annual womanless fashion show.

A woman called the Shrine Club a few days before the event to warn the members that if they held their show, the building "will be blown up." The caller, who reportedly sounded middle-aged, was brief but direct, and used some abusive language in reference to homosexuality.

The event is used by the Spartanburg Shrine Club as a fund raiser for the club's many charities, including the Shriner's Children's Hospital.



While the following is not a crossdressing item, it seems an appropriate way to end this lesson on dress codes.

During a three-day crack down on public morals just prior to the Shiite Muslim holiday of Muharram, police in Teheran, Iran arrested 800 women for dress code violations, which included wearing sunglasses in public. Many men were also arrested for wearing short-sleeved T-shirts. Police actions resulted in several clashes between the vice squads and the public. Police defended their actions as the best way to rid the Islamic nation of "vice and social corruption." Observers note that these were the most repressive measures since the mid-1980's when women were doused with paint for showing their hair.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani agreed that "authorities did not behave well: in their campaign "for social and moral propriety and attempts to dissuade the public from corruption." But ultraconservatives have demanded severe disciplinary action against violators of Islamic mores.

To which, Ms. Sinclair responds by echoing the chant of pro-choice forces in drag when Operation Rescue demonstrated in front of a family planning clinic in Philadelphia last month: "We're tired, we're bored, shut up about your Lord."



While in the Middle East, we'll pop in at Jerusalem where Israeli soldiers are crossdressing as a strategy in the ongoing dispute with Palestinians.

While most of the drag squads were Arab dress ("all the better to hide this Uzi, my dear"), some prefer Western style clothing -- short skirts and makeup. The squads have code names like "Samson" and "Cherry."

It seems that crossdressing has a long history in the conflict. Rumor has it that PLO chief Yasser Arafat slipped into a dress and slipped away from Israeli troops during the 1967 war.



If the story about Arafat is true, there should be no

shame associated with it other than it puts him in the same league as Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar who dressed as a woman to escape from troops several years ago.

But one doubts that Walt Disney's heirs are pleased that an unauthorized biography of the creator of Mickey Mouse linked Disney to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, and we don't just mean the claim that Disney was an FBI informant.

In *Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince*, author Marc Elliot reports that Disney was a transvestite, and even cites an example of the very young Disney posing in his mother's clothes in front of a mirror.



Mick Jagger is still alive, but there seems to be no indication that he is concerned about the claim in his unauthorized biography -- *Jagger Unauthorized* by Christopher Anderson -- that he liked to dress up in ex-wife Marianne Faithfull's clothes and frolic about the house as Tina Turner.



While Mick Jagger has pretty much lost his ability to shock his fans, Prince still retains his talent for puzzling them. To celebrate his 35th birthday recently, he had his publicist announce that henceforth he is to be known only as the symbol he designed for his last album -- a stylized combination of the male and female symbols.

The only problem is that there is no spoken word for the name and no keyboard symbol. Nor has you-know-who revealed how it is to be pronounced.

Of course, for us the **big** mystery is what does this mean, genderwise? Is (s)he acknowledging androgyny or hermaphroditism?



Luther Vandross teased his fans in a gentler way recently when he was asked by an interviewer what it would take to get him into a dress.

"A very talented and intense hypnotist. Or Bob Mackie. Whoever asked first," he replied.



It may only take a big Broadway contract to get Jaye Davidson into a dress again. According to rumors on the Great White Way, the star of *The Crying Game* is being considered to take Marla Maples' place in *The Will Rogers Follies* when she becomes too great with Donald Trump's baby.

Others under consideration for the role include Christie Brinkley, Appolonia (the former girlfriend of you-know-who), and LaToya Jackson.



Since it seems the producers of *Follies* are more concerned with signing a big name than with talent, perhaps they should consider Holly Woodlawn, chum of Andy Warhol and inspiration for Lou Reed's *Walk on the Wild Side*.

"Although a celebrity in some circles for more than 20 years, Woodlawn is about to make it big when Columbia Pictures releases a film version of her autobiography *A Low Life in High Heels*.

No word yet on who will portray Holly, but Harvey Firestein (*Torch Song Trilogy* and *La Cage aux Folles*) has been signed to do the screenplay. Production is supposed to begin early next year, according to Woodlawn.



If they even make another movie about Great Britain's royal family, we have a nomination for the part of Lady Colin Campbell, the unauthorized biographer of Princess Diana (*Diana In Private* and *The Royal Marriages*).

For some time, Lady Campbell herself has been the subject of a particularly juicy rumor -- that she used to be a man. Now she is defending her femaleness in court. Her former husband, Lord Colin Campbell, has accused her of being born with "testicular tissue." She has responded that if she had been born today, experienced micro-surgeons could have immediately corrected the problem, which, she adds, has not inhibited her ability to have sexual intercourse.

Oh yes, our suggestion for the silver screen role? Jaye Davidson, who else?



It will take more than micro-surgery to correct Lindsey Phillips' problem. The 38-year-old pre-op transsexual wants her breasts replaced because painful scar tissue has formed around the breasts she grew with hormones. The problem here is that Phillips is an inmate in a Michigan prison for men, serving life for setting a fire that killed a man in 1987.

"I'm in constant pain," Phillips said. "When I went to prison, they took me off hormones and the scar tissue formed. I've got bruises, it looks like someone had beaten me. I had to go to court to get them to give me hormones again, but by then the problem had already developed. Now I'm going to need surgery to get my breasts back to normal."

Phillips has a November court date to plead her case.



The desire for breasts may send a gang of burglars to prison ... if Florida authorities even catch them.

Thieves broke into a Fort Lauderdale store specializing in items for cancer patients and stole prosthetic bathing suits and the store's entire inventory of artificial breasts. The breasts alone were valued at \$5,500.

Police theorize that the criminals were a gang of crossdressers who recently burglarized a dress shop.

"About once every month or two months we have a boutique that suffers a smash and grab by one of these transvestite rings, said police spokeswoman Sonya Friedman.



Finally, want to amaze folks at your next group meeting? Here are some factoids that will convince them of your encyclopedic knowledge:

> Since 1967, Phil Donahue has devoted 17 shows to transgender issues, including the recent appearance of Miss Gay USA for 1993, Sweet Savage of San Antonio, Tex.

> Two researchers, citing a 50 percent decline in men's average sperm count in the past 50 years, say that men are exposed to increased doses of estrogen through hormone-dosed cows and water supplies contaminated by chemical spills. Their report was published in a respected journal.



While Ms. Sinclair tries to drown her sorrows in drink (milk and water, naturally), please be on the lookout for news stories with a crossdressing angle. Send them to her, along with the name and date of publication, in care of Cross-Talk.

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THE MAKEUP MIRROR

FINISHING TOUCHES: MASCARA AND EYELINER

by Valerie Driscoll

Dear Val: I'm getting better with makeup, but I'm having problems with the eyeliner. When I put it on the lower lid, as time goes on, it kind of splotches, smears, and runs, leaving little lines or dots.

-- M.K., California

Dear M.K.: Are you using a moisturizer first? You should, but wait until the skin absorbs it before applying makeup. Some contain mineral oil or other oils that aren't absorbed and may linger on your lower lashes. Your skin may be oily, or your eyes may tear from sensitivity to makeup. Try powder under your eyes and lower lashes before using eyeliner. Make sure the applicator brush you use is firm (with cream liner) or soft (with liquid liner). Then go over the line with eyeshadow on the tip of a sponge applicator to diffuse the line. You also could be one of those people who can't use mascara on the lower lashes because they're too close to the skin.

Dear Val: I have trouble with mascara. It always seems to make my lashes stick together if I use more than one coat, but stopping after the first application looks too skimpy. Should I use an eyelash curler with less mascara? Would wearing more on my lower lashes help?

-- Diane, Texas

Dear Diane: You brought up some excellent questions about the application of mascara. Even if your lashes are long and thick, one coat can show off your beautiful asset. Whether short or long however, the application remains the same. If you use an eyelash curler, do it first, (or after the first application). Hold the apparatus in front of

your eye, press close to the eyelash base, press for ten seconds and release. Now apply mascara.

Don't fall into the trap of pumping the wand into the mascara tube several times. You're only pumping air into it, which will make it dry out sooner! Pump it once and make sure to accumulate a concentration of mascara on the tip. Dab the tip lightly on the tube, but don't wipe it all off! Now dot the mascara at the base of the eyelash with the tip of the wand, starting at the outside corner of the eye. Repeat this twice for the top and once for the bottom.

By the way, I find that a Christmas tree-shaped wand seems to work best.

Pump the wand again and, holding the wand sideways, apply at the base again, then carry it out to the ends. **If the lashes stick together here, separate them immediately or they'll stay stuck!** Apply the highest concentration of mascara to the outer lashes, and use it sparingly on the lower lashes.

I like to apply mascara after face powder since this will help your lashes look thicker. You can also experiment with different colors, but make sure you complement your eye color and eyeshadow colors. Try using black mascara first, then dot the base of your lashes with purple, green, or blue ... or alternate dots of color for a really wild look!

[Valerie Driscoll is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, Calif. You may write her with questions about makeup at 1716 Andree Ave., Torrance 90501; or if you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area, you may call her at (310) 320-5015. Questions of general interest will be answered in this column.]

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MS. BINTHAR DUNDAT: TIPS ON PASSING

HOW TO STAY MARRIED AND IN SKIRTS

compiled by Lynette Tavener

So ... you're under thirty, unmarried (or at least not too heavily engaged), slim, fair, not too tall, don't live with the family, have the kind of face that doesn't look like a building that the local wrecker started on yesterday, and have the interest, then being a TV is a virtual pushover. Especially if you're a non smoker and haven't ruined your vocal chords. Lucky you!!

Spare a thought for those of us who are less well-favored. Most are well over thirty, tall, broad, chunky, three-quarters demolished by the said wrecker, dark as the interior of a Cabinet Minister, married (with an unsympathetic family), and a job security problem.

So what to do?

TIP 1. Stop feeling guilty and ashamed! You can't help it. Not any more than the guy who doesn't want to be feminine! Medical opinion confesses that it doesn't understand the causes of transvestism (but is prepared to offer some good bets!), and even if they did know they generally agree that any cure would have to have been applied very early in your life.

TIP 2 (and I know you've already tried it!). Start seriously to get your best friend on your side. She (your wife) is potentially your best ally, adviser and critic. The key to this problem is **communication**. Read about, talk about, discuss the situation. Damn it, she probably spends half of her time in pantsuits, overalls, or at least slacks, so what is so very different about your wanting to wear, from time to time, a skirt and high heels?

TIP 3 (and vital). If she agrees or even tolerates your crossdressing, DON'T, when dressed, behave like a latter-day Madame Pompadour, in maribou-trimmed negligee draped (you hope gracefully) on the sofa and expect her to do all the things she does, every day. Get up on your high heels and take over the housework and give her a special time. Anything to reward her for her tolerance!

TIP 4. Stop being a male chauvinistic pig (in skirts or out!). Think about her and what she feels every moment of her day. She married what she believed was a normal rather special, spunky guy. Well maybe you're not quite usual, perhaps more special than she bargained for. So what next? Assuming that she is accepting, she will still have several

nagging fears. Is this all there is to his behavior/personality, or is it only the things I can accept that he's telling me? Does he want hormone therapy? Is he transsexual? How secure are we as a family?

If you have been honest and you are not holding back vital details that she should know in case your own security is threatened, then her response probably depends on the depth of your relationship. If she thought to herself "So that's why he's so much nicer than the usual guy", then probably your news will bring you into a closer understanding. But if you're adding another bale of straw to an already burdened relationship, then your ship will need a lot of bailing to stay afloat!

TIP 5. Love -- Real love. Caring, self-sacrifice for your partner, communication. Chatting, sharing fun, cooperating in work. Two in one. Give her a chance. I did, and it worked for over thirty years!

This month's column was based on an article written by a former President of Seahorse Victoria, Jocelyn Hutton, in 1980.

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**Quote from previous Southern Comfort Convention Participant*

TALK SHOWS MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Recently I have had the opportunity to appear on television shows as "the expert *du jour*", as my wife describes my role. My rationale for taking time out of my busy schedule for these shows is simply that I hope to be able to provide some professional objectivity and balance to what can otherwise be a circus for ratings. There is no pay for such appearances and I do not get clients as a result of my appearance.

The producers who actually assemble these shows do a tremendous job in finding and persuading people in a particular situation to appear on the show. Sometimes they have to resort to disguises or hiding people's identities through a variety of camera techniques. In the end their job is to get enough people on the show to make it good entertainment.

When you appear on such a show you usually sign away your legal rights. This is called a "release" and it basically says you can't sue the show or the network if your appearance causes problems for you. Also, you need to realize that you may not know the other people who will be on the same show with you. Lastly, it is crucial to remember that no one associated with the show is formally trained in assessing or dealing with the psychological situations brought up by an appearance on the show. Basically, the purpose of the show is "entertainment" by showing (exposing) intimate aspects of otherwise normal people's lives.

With this rather long preamble, let me describe a recent experience. This show was exploring the impact of transsexualism on people's lives. One

aspect of such an impact was represented by a family in which the father was post-op male to female transsexual. Prior to the show, I had an opportunity to talk with the ex-wife. It was obvious to me that she was quite upset by the prospect of appearing with her ex-husband on this show. She had been assured by her therapist that it "would be good for her". This couple had been married for about 20 years and the ex-husband's final transition was very recent having taken place less than six months ago.

The show came on and the family appeared. Because of the number of people on the stage no one had much time to tell their story. In particular, this couple was not able to say very much about their situation. Things remained calm until the show was over. Then the woman became highly distraught. She began to scream at her ex-husband that she hated him for what he had done to her, then she broke down and cried uncontrollably. Clearly, appearing on this show created emotional strains she was unable to manage.

Is there "blame" in this situation? Probably none that have legal consequences. However, there seems to be a lesson here. Television talk shows are entertainment, not therapy. They also provide a very limited forum in which to do any real education. People who agree to appear on such shows need to realize that they are at the mercy of the producer. Further, once you have appeared, the "genie is out of the bottle". Your privacy has been invaded and your emotions laid bare.

There is an acronym I use in workshops I do to help people analyze decisions -- MARC. It stands for Mutual, Appropriate, Responsible and Consequences. Probably the most important here is Consequences. When appearing on public television, be sure you analyze the possible outcomes. If some seem to be problematic, then perhaps it is better not to participate.

[You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential. Copyright 1993 by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. Others must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of any reprint must be sent to Dr. Peo.]

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THE MANY WAYS OF COMMUNICATING

by Linda Peacock

Marriage: a very important state of being in our society. In today's America, much is being made of family values, yet we are constantly bombarded by the media with horror stories of crime, hate, divorce, spouse and child abuse, anything bizarre and frightening that can be printed. We become so intent on making a "success" of our careers and lives, that we become immune to what goes on around us, and fail to see what and who really is important in our lives.

The point of all this is that I believe that despite how hard we are urged to be in a married state, married couples do not try hard enough to make a success of their marriage. With divorce so easily obtained and accepted these days, they don't and won't work at it, giving up too easily. Please understand that I am making this as a broad general statement, and not pinpointing any individual couple.

Having worked closely with both wives and crossdressers over the last four years, I have observed many relationships, some good and some bad.

I have seen seemingly close and loving marriages collapse and these couples divorce. I have close, single friends who find themselves suddenly alone, not really sure what happened and wondering why they failed. In some of the worst of relationships, the couples will hang on, hoping for a miracle, but neither husband or wife willing to take the first step toward understanding and reconciliation. It is devastating for those of us in a leadership position to see such terrible pain, such complete lack of communication.

What is it that is so important about communication? My thesaurus gives me several definitions, including "conversation, discussion and connection." But the two I like the best are "contact and touch." A couple needs to be in contact, constantly. This is an intimate contact, a state of mind whereby they communicate through thought and intelligence. The communication is verbalized or physically manifested through eye contact, facial expression, or through writing. Marriage Encounter encourages the use of daily notes or letters to your husband or wife, and discussion of those letters and the feelings expressed in them later in the day or at night. In a

transgendered marriage, or relationship, communication is the one, and **only** one thing that can make this marriage work -- all the love and emotion and physical desire cannot work unless there is communication, **constant, open** communication, between both partners.

Communication through touch is also vital. All warm-blooded creatures need the touch of their own kind, and we humans need this touch more than any other creature. There is something very special about touch, such as a hug or a kiss, an arm around a shoulder, the physical comfort of having your partner curled up next to you in bed. We seek the warmth of each other's bodies, and also the warmth of each other's hearts. There are couples in every support group who never, ever touch each other in public. Sometimes, it is because the wife cannot bear to touch her husband while he is dressed. Other times it is because they have not been able to share the need for such touch with each other. Very often, transgendered men are so afraid of losing their wives because of the dressing, that they cannot share what is in their hearts, and their fear keeps them from reaching or touching the one person they love most. There are those who do get up the courage to share with wives, only to have the door shut in their faces. And there are those CDs who are determined to dress, no matter what, and the wife be damned.

The most important two things in any marriage, especially a crossdressing marriage has got to be mutual respect for each other, and the ability to communicate with each other. The crossdresser needs to respect his wife's right to her own opinion, and give her time to deal with the dressing situation. He needs to be tolerant and patient with her, expressing his love, and making sure she knows that it is his complete trust in her that has allowed him to have the courage to share what is deep in his heart. I, for one, was deeply touched that my husband (to be) was willing to take a chance and trust me to accept all of him. That didn't mean I necessarily liked everything about him, but I accepted him as he is, simply Jacque.

Likewise, we wives need to be open with our conflicts and frustrations. We need to tell our husbands how we feel, ask for compromise, negotiate. We need to offer them continued

respect and be willing to continue to listen to them, just as they should with us. Mutual respect, coupled with constant, honest and open communication can make the ultimate difference in a marriage succeeding or falling apart. Affection, through touch as well as eye contact, is the icing on the cake, and only strengthens the bonds we make through communication and respect.

The crux of all this is that I want to challenge husbands and wives to make a commitment to each other. Look past the outer person and into each other's hearts. Ask questions, and then listen to the answers. Be patient, try to understand, and even if you **can't** fully understand, love anyway. Hold each other, accept each other, talk to each other. Open the doors of your hearts, and see the light that comes from within.

The intimacy of the sharing of your deepest thoughts and feelings can bring to you and to your husband/partner unbelievable joy in each other. You do not have to totally accept his dressing to nonetheless grow closer as a couple. As you are willing to listen, he will more than likely be willing to listen to your needs. It is vitally important that

the needs of each partner be paramount -- as is the knowledge that through your commitment to each other, you take on the responsibility to love and succor each other, trying to meet each other's needs.

The point is, what do you have to lose? How important is this man to you? Are you willing to listen, to allow him to share what is inside, including the pain he has suffered? And equally important, is he willing to listen to what is inside of you, including the pain you have suffered? Marriage and relationships are two-way streets, not one-way. If your relationship is a one-way street, then there is no relationship. But if it is two-sided, with the needs of each partner of primary importance, there is a chance of real happiness with that partner, if each of you are just that, equal partners, concerned about the other.

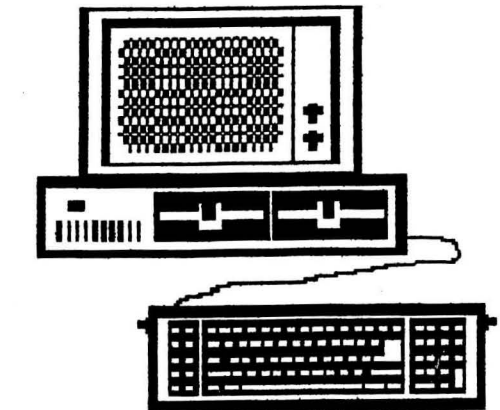
[Linda Peacock is the Tri-Ess director of wives' and partners' concerns.]

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THE BEARDED LADY

THE LINE BETWEEN FANTASY AND REALITY

by Ricky Hunt

Illustration by Rita

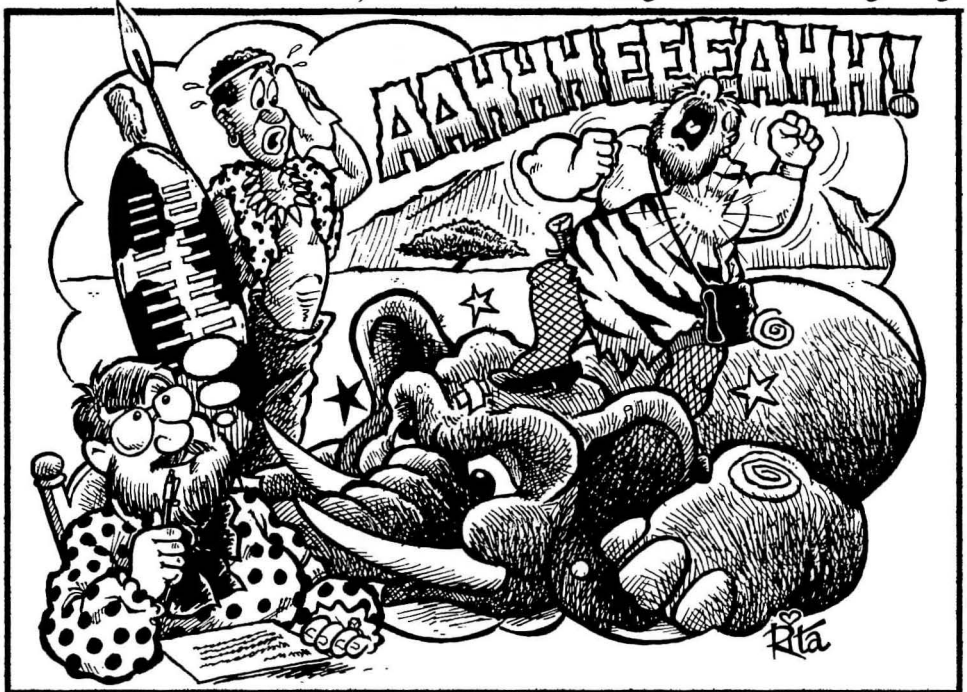
I have had cause lately to muse on fantasy and reality, a subject familiar to the transvestite. My wife and I have become involved with a boy of 12, the same age as our son, who mentally ill. That phrase has never really meant much to me before because I have never come face to face with its reality. I still find it hard to conceive a 12 year old who has uncontrolled fits of violence, starts fires when not closely watched and has made several suicide attempts. The cynic in me can believe this in an adult, but in a 12 year old boy? But I have seen it personally; it's all too true. The kid periodically goes off into a world of his own and stays there until he is ready to come back. The rest of the world, what you and I would call reality, ceases to exist for this boy and it makes not the smallest difference to him what he does to others. His mother is going thru hell trying to cope, his brothers and sisters are scared to be near him, his father is long gone and abused him before he left. It's not a pretty situation, there's not a whole lot anyone can do to help, and even the shrinks can't decide what to do.

So in the midst of this situation, along come several letters from my sisters and their wives. The first thing that crosses my mind is that if I have to have a compulsion, I'm glad it's basically harmless. But when a man has the urge to dress in women's clothing, that urge does not exist in a vacuum; it comes with things like guilt, macho, anti-macho, exhibitionism, self blindness, pride, and a long list of other problems attached.

I'm going to create a sister called Julie to illustrate what I have been thinking about. Of course she isn't real because I would not spread a real person's life out before the world, but all her attributes are from real people, including myself. John is middle aged, married to Sally (who accepts Julie), and a long time crossdresser. She lives too far away from a group to attend meetings, but is an avid correspondent. She can pass if she puts her mind to it, but the hometown is too small for much more

than the occasional walk at night. But being Julie around the house is not enough. Being dressed is wonderful, but she thinks that there has got to be more! So Julie, who is a step removed in reality from John, has decided that John is not very exciting and needs something to spice him up. So those who know Julie and John only thru the mail are treated to his exploits in the war or his work with the CIA or the time he killed an elephant with his bare hands and saved the Zulu king's life and got that ceremonial bow over the fireplace. I'm sure by now you have the idea, and Julie's exploits are just as interesting in a more restrained and feminine way.

I, like most people, tend to take a person (or a letter) at face value so long as there is no glaring

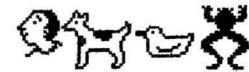


reason to doubt the story. The rub comes in that I also read some of my wife's mail if both she and her correspondents have no objection. Somehow, Julie has taken another step from reality and ignores the fact the Sally is well acquainted with John and is very troubled with Julie's stories. It all seems a bit sad that the three of them live in their own separate worlds and can't get together and be happy with what they are.

Then there's Rose, who has as much chance of passing as a rhino does of (continued, next page)

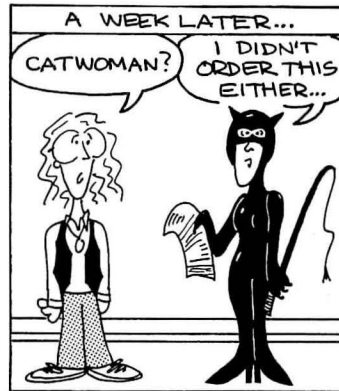


COMICS SECTION



THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner



Tasha's World



here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



THE BEARDED LADY ... continued

winning first place in a contest for Chihuahuas. She has a closet full of dresses, a trunk of jewelry and enough sexy lingerie to outfit a small brothel. She loves being Rose as much as possible, and dresses at home frequently. Her kids and wife are accepting, but it gets old when the bridge party has to be cancelled because Rose just has to get dressed tonight and not later. Rose also doesn't hear the sigh that comes when his son must tell his girl that she can't come over tonight. And why does she have to phone all the time before she comes over for a visit, anyway? Ron knows her family accepts Rose, but has taken that step away from reality and forgets that Rose can be a pain in the neck sometimes. The constant tension on the family is very real, but neither Ron nor Rose is aware of it.

I am not immune from this sort of thing, and am blessed with a wife who is both understanding and willing to let me know when I go too far. But please take a minute and consider the relationship of both yourselves with your family and your friends. Remember that a TV is already in fantasyland. As long as you keep in touch with the reality you are stepping away from, your dressing will remain enjoyable and you can keep things in balance. I hope that I never have to cross off one of my correspondents with the same sadness that I feel when I crossed off that 12 year old boy I started with.

MOVING?
Please remember to send us your new address six to eight weeks in advance!
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FEMINIST EXPERIENCES

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

Monday, 3PM, 21 November 1977, 1708 Sunset Blvd @ "Ouisie's Table was the calendar notation. I'd been Phyllis for fourteen months, a week and a day, but I'd been unemployed for about seventeen months. I was sitting at the cafe called Ouisie's Table enjoying a soft drink with other women I'd met during my journey to get the Houston crossdressing ordinance repealed.

I had found a "home" with many of the feminists in Houston and for the most part had been accepted. A year prior I had met the Women's Advocate for the Office of the Mayor (then Fred Hofheinz), Ms. Nikki Van Hightower. We'd chatted about the women's movement in general about me and the ordinance specifically. Nikki has been a definite leader in women's rights in this region, and we have been allies often.

In January 1977 a new mayor came on board and he and the City Council effectively sacked her and her office. Those macho rascals had hated her for a long time as she had dared to speak the truth about unequal pay for equal work and the many restrictions placed on women seeking to advance professionally.

As a result of that sack, the feminists of Houston mobilized. We packed the City Council chambers to protest and protested for several days thereafter. Yes, I was very acceptable to these women as I was another soldier in the struggle. This was the Houston grassroots of what many women take for granted today while shirking the label of feminist. Shortly thereafter I got active working as a volunteer in the City Council race of Marilyn Whited who made a serious bid -- but alas, she lost. There were very few women elected to anything back then.

As a result of my involvement, when the mailout was issued for the organizational meeting of the Houston Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), I received one. And there I was, hoping to use my engineering degree somehow and earn some money somehow as I was still into the struggle to receive unemployment compensation because of a homophobic State agency. Can you imagine what my \$115 charter membership cost me in proportionate income back then?

Several of us decided to form the nucleus and formed the Board and elected Officers. For the next several months I went to many meetings trying

to help get this group established in Houston. In January the President (I remember her first name was Jeanne) called my spouse and me because she'd just been raped and had only been in Houston for a few months. We spent much time helping her initially through the ordeal and fear. I really felt like I was contributing: that kind of feeling helps the ego during transition, especially if you're unemployed.

Just before the February Board meeting, I was asked to resign by a very rude and homophobic person named Martha. (I know her last name, and I still see her at other events for other groups, and she is still rude and homophobic.) The rest of the Board stood silent as Martha chased me out. Because of my being transgendered, she'd convinced the others, no one would join the group. So I left. (I cried a lot in those years. I went through a lot of rejection from other local groups during that time such as the Houston Aggie Club, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. It was hell. I became very bitter during those years; so bitter that I can only go back into my memory of those times for a short while at a shallow depth or else the intensity re-invades my ego.)

Obviously, as most of you know, things are great now. I practice law successfully and out of the closet, my spouse and I enter our nineteenth year together and all is very well for us.

In July 1991 I met a NAWBO person who asked me to join. I told her the above story. She apologized and said that should never have happened. Later I received a membership application from the local chapter. I wrote a letter to the membership chair asking her to tell the above story to the Board before I made application. The day after the Board meeting, my answering machine had a message telling me when the next meeting was and that I should come.

I have since rejoined NAWBO, and I am out of the closet. I am well accepted, and I enjoy the people there. They have listed me in their membership directory as being a charter member and included in my listing all of the affiliations that I have with you, my sisters and brothers of the gender community.

Transition in 1993 is still difficult, but it is much easier than in 1976 and I made it through. There were some very good hearted people back then to help: there are even more very good hearted people today who will help. Take a risk: reach out.

ACHIEVING EQUALITY

by Laura Denise Masters

There is a growing realization in human rights circles that we simply cannot achieve a humanitarian society if we treat everyone identically. We, therefore, must recognize difference and concentrate upon "appropriate" and "equitable" rather than "same" when resolving equality issues. It should take only minor reflection to see that fair treatment for a disabled person is very different than fair treatment for an athlete. Our best objective is to ensure everyone has **Equal Access To Society**.

What, then, constitutes equal access to society? In principle, it means making sure that social features (law enforcement, medicine, employment, housing, services etc.) are equally available to everyone. In practice it usually amounts to recognizing the unique needs of specific groups and providing appropriate adjudication when a denial of someone's equal access to society does occur.

Each transsexual and transgenderist must have appropriate legal recourse available to them at all

Our best objective is to ensure everyone has equal access to society.

times, and thus can fight back (and hopefully win) when their equal access to society is withheld or systematically altered.

Discrimination is a single event that denies a person equal access to society. Complaints of discrimination must be quantified in three ways. First, you must be treated differently than others in the same circumstances. Second, you must be treated differently by one agency than by another in similar circumstances. And third, the discrimination must have occurred for a clear reason.

Sounds like gobbledey gook, doesn't it? To clarify, let's consider this rather simplistic example: Mary is a transgenderist who routinely shops at Woolco and tries on their women's clothes without problems, but when she decides to shop at J-Mart for a change she is refused try-on privileges because "We don't let males use the ladies' changing rooms here." This meets all three criteria. J-Mart treated Mary differently than the other women shopping there, Mary was treated differently in J-Mart than in Woolco, and the different treatment occurred by reason of Mary's maleness. J-Mart discriminated in provision of Facilities on ground of Sex, and a human rights complaint could be filed.

Oppression is the systematic use of discrimination to limit a group's access to society. One of the more severe examples of oppression in Canada is the operation of Gender Clinics. This practice meets our criteria for discrimination. First; these clinics treat transsexuals differently than any other patient group, second; they treat their patients differently than other clinics treat the same patients, and third; the different treatment is because of the patient's discomfort with their Sex. This is discrimination in medical services because of Sex. The criterion for oppression, that of broad application to a group, is met when we consider that the discrimination is embedded into the Clinic's policy, and affects all sex-change candidates equally.

(I do support pre-surgical caution in regard to sex-reassignment but I cannot, in good conscience, support the current practices of Canada's Gender Clinics.)

There are, of course, many other examples of oppression and discrimination. Some, like our treatment in jails, are so blatant as to rival the atrocities of the holocaust.

Others, such as receiving a disproportionately small pay raise, are so subtle as to often go undetected. All must eventually be challenged.

It is time to face reality. If we are to overcome the many limitations upon our equal access to society there are a number of things that must happen within the transgenderist and transsexual communities:

First, we must stop all the backbiting and bickering that goes on between groups and we especially must put a halt to it within each group. Until we can demonstrate group consciousness and common agendas we are going to remain utterly powerless within society.

Second, we absolutely must demystify our existence. The days of magical explanations and sweeping generalities must come to an end if we are to ever be understood by the public or within legal processes. Confused expressions such as "I've always felt female," when uttered by an obviously male person contribute nothing whatsoever to the public understanding of our situations.

Third, we need to acknowledge that transsexuals, transgenderists and transvestites are indeed three separate groups, with differing agendas. In my recent negotiations with the Canadian Human

Rights Commission (CHRC), fully half our time was spent sorting out reasonable delineations between these groups. Our first point of agreement was that we needed very pragmatic definitions if the new policies are to hold up in a courtroom.

The following is taken from a draft copy of the new CHRC guidelines: "A **Transvestite** is a person who sometimes wears the clothing society assigns to the opposite sex, but who does not perceive her or himself as being of a gender that is in conflict with her or his biological sex. A **Transsexual** perceives his or her gender to be different from her or his biological sex, will often live according to gender, and will often have surgery to change biological sex. **Transgenderist** is a term used to describe a man (gender) in a female body (sex) or a woman (gender) in a male body (sex) who lives as her or his gender without necessarily feeling the same need to change her or his sex as would a transsexual."

Fourth, we must divorce ourselves from the gay community, hopefully in an amicable way. One of the most prevalent misrepresentations about transsexuals and transgenderists is that we are motivated by extensions of homosexuality. Until we eliminate this particular error from public and clinical thinking, we are going to constantly fall victim to both the prejudices dumped upon gays and those dumped upon our own communities. We can rid ourselves of half our problems simply by establishing separate group identities.

Finally, we must fight to eliminate the mental illness model of our situations. We have been needlessly tossed into the "disorder" bin by nothing

more scientific than the bigotry of the psychiatric profession. The belief that we are crazy, no matter how carefully we couch it in politically correct language, is the biggest source of discrimination and oppression in our lives. We should neither need nor want special care or considerations because of our transgenderism, or transsexualism. Our problems are imposed upon us by an unaccepting society; it is they who need to change, not us.

Perhaps the best closing comment I can offer comes from one of TransEqual's supporting members. She says: "Consider the absolute foolishness of claiming to have escaped all oppression, when, in fact, you have spent half your life cringing in the closet and once out, you end up asking a psychiatrist for permission to be yourself."

[Laura Masters is the founding member of TransEqual, a human rights advocacy actively engaged in the promotion of equal rights and dignity for Canada's transsexuals and transgenderists.]

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We are pleased to announce that a limited number of copies of "Cross-Talk" issues 39 through 42 are now available to our readers who may have missed these issues. (Issues #1 through 38 were published in newsletter format, and are no longer available.) If you have only recently discovered "Cross-Talk" and want to complete your set of magazine-format issues, now is your opportunity!



#39 (January '93): Advice for flying *en femme*; crossdressing in the opera; creating a more feminine body shape; avoiding masculine behaviors; developing a sense of self; feminization through meditation; part one of fiction story "Peter's Problem"; differing modes of communication between men and women.

#40 (February '93): Nancy Cole's "In Search of A Community"; the guilt associated with crossdressing; methods for revealing CDing or TSism to family and friends; the differences between "style" and "fashion"; potential pitfalls in choosing a femme name; teenage TS expelled from school for crossdressing; reincarnation as a possible explanation for crossdressing (part one); conclusion of fiction story "Peter's Problem"; basics of foundation; female conversation patterns.



#41 (March '93): Feminine speech and vocal techniques; part two of reincarnation as a possible explanation for crossdressing; basic wardrobe building advice; the true story of a crossdressing Civil War hero; dealing with harassment, confrontation and violence (part one); tips on creating realistic bra filler; communication in and by the TS community; how wives can tolerate a crossdressed husband at a national event; Minnesota clinic charged with poor post-SRS medical care; relationship challenges for the transgendered; final chapter in the origin tale of "Khen-Draa" comic serial.

This issue was never made available at retail, and is in extremely limited supply.

#42 (April '93): Conclusion of harassment discussion; report on crossdressing models; female-to-male crossdressers; determining femme clothing sizes; highlighting and contouring your makeup; reincarnation (conclusion); sharing one's lifestyle with friends and loved ones; a tongue in cheek look at new terminology; answers to CDers most often-asked questions; how couples should go about setting limits; parallels between gays and the gender community.



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(Please make your check or money order payable to Kymberleigh Richards.)

BEING PREPARED

by Joan Fry

In my previous article, I discussed attitude. Along with that, you must also be prepared.

Being prepared has to do with anticipating things that could go wrong and being ready to deal with the problem. There are certain things you can do to lessen the risk of being read. There are also things you can do in advance to head off many unpleasant encounters that could happen. Remember: you want to fit in, you do not want to become a target.

Since I spend plenty of time in malls I will stick to them as examples. Always wear long sleeve tops; they can be light weight, but short sleeves just don't hide the muscles built up as a teenager. Wear very loose bracelets and watches. Let them hang down on the back of the hand -- they make the hand look smaller. Carry a sweater or a jacket over your hands; the hands are normally a dead giveaway for most of us. Every where you go these days is air conditioned, so the sweater or jacket will never look out of place. When you have to use your hand -- paying a bill or looking at clothes or shoes -- only use your thumb and the finger next to it. Keep the other three fingers tucked into the palm of your hand. You then only show small portion of the back of your hand and two fingers. Trust me, it works.

When shopping for tops always wear a top or a dress that will open from the front. You never want to take anything off over your head; it can lead to problems.

Whenever you go out you should always slip an extra pair of stockings in your purse. Accidents do happen and can be disastrous when you are not prepared.

Make sure your nose

and ear hairs are properly cut. There is a five power magnifying mirror called "Big Eyes" being sold at drug stores for about \$13.00. If you can pass a makeup and hair test with this mirror, you will not have to worry about any one else seeing anything. Everything will be just the way you want it day or night.

For you girls with tummies like mine, tops with banded bottoms hide a multitude. Remember we are built different than females. Another item I would not be without is the "Hip-Slip". It gives you the smooth flowing hips you want and it looks natural and is soft to the touch. It is nothing like the padding many of us wore at one time. Padding is rigid and does not put the curves where you need them.

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These are some of the things you can do to make your excursions comfortable and pleasant ... but being prepared mentally is also very important.

You have to imagine yourself in different situations and determine how you will react. I have done this many times, but sometimes you can get caught short. One time I was on a garage elevator in Pittsburgh and a man jumped on just before the door closed. He immediately started talking, and I knew I had to cut him off. I just turned and faced him and gave him a look that would shut anyone down. I thought of that situation many times prior to it happening. Be prepared.

Another time I was in the drug store when I felt a teenage girl studying me; when I looked, she was. I immediately went a picked up a box of cotex, and the girl turned and walked away. The cotex is something to remember when you are using ladies rooms; always have a quarter or two in your hand when you go in. If someone is looking too close, buy a cotex and go into a stall; you will be all right. Be Prepared.

Once I was with a female in a store similar to K-Mart. My female companion was a couple of aisles away when a teenage girl came running around the corner and knocked me right on my fanny. I did not say anything, I just let her help me up and let her apologize. All I did was smile and nod. She came back three times before we finally left the store just to see if I was all right. I just smiled and nodded.

Be prepared for any and all events you can think of

Accidents can be disastrous if you're not prepared.

to help you out of any ticklish situations.

One last thought: Go to the motor vehicle department and tell them you lost your license. They will issue you another one. Keep one in "his" wallet and one in "her" wallet. The license is something you never want to forget. Have credit cards issued as: *Ms. (Initial, Last name)*: Everyone will accept it without a second thought.

Chat with other girls, ask them what experiences they have had and what they did when the unexpected happened. I'm sure you will get some great answers. Finally, learn to accept constructive criticism ... we all need it!

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TAKING OUR MAGAZINES "OUT OF THE CLOSET"

by Barbara Jean Jansen

Here is a question for you: How old were you when you first started crossdressing? Here is a second question: When did you first learn that you were not alone in your desire to crossdress?

Well, if you were like most of us girls, crossdressing started in the early teens, or even younger. A lot of other factors were then involved in determining when you first learned that you were not alone in this desire to dress as a girl.

I myself was about 12 or 13 when I first started my crossdressing, and I think I was about 21 or 22 when I first learned that there were others or even knew that there was a name for this phenomenon. I did not have sisters; I was an only child in my family and I would often find myself when alone going into my parents' bedroom to put on my stepmother's clothes. Of course my parents did find out. Locks were put on the bedroom door (I always managed to find the key or to spring the lock though) and they then sent me off for some brainwashing sessions with the local witch doctor (psychologist). Now this was back in the early sixties, and I do not recall him ever making mention of the word transvestite or even telling me that there were many men that crossdressed.

Shortly after I got out of the Navy I was in a local magazine store (we did not have the adult bookstore in our town then) and I saw a magazine with an article about men who dressed as women. Well, I got the magazine and it was through that magazine that I found out about Virginia Prince and *Transvestia* magazine. From there I did send off for some copies of *Transvestia*.

In one of Virginia's editorials she made mention of parents who would come home and find their teenage son hanging by a rope. There was never a note, but the clothes that the boy was wearing was pretty indicative of what was disturbing him so much that he felt he no longer wanted to live. Of course, out of fear of being outcast by society the family would always keep this information private.

Today our society has become a little more open and much better educated on the subject today than it was back then in the sixties. But given the fact that the teenage years are the most tumultuous in any person's life, I wonder how many young boys still end their lives, or attempt to end their lives due to being crossdressers.

It is due to this one fact alone that I have for years been an advocate of our getting our publications out of the realm of "for adults only". There is nothing more that I would like better than to be able to go to my local magazine stand and find our crossdressing magazines, located next to publications such as *Ms.* and *Ladies Home Journal*. Now we do have quite a few publications that could very well be put down below with these magazines, with no age restrictions for their purchase. *Femaline*, *LadyLike*, and *Tapestry* are some that come to mind. So why do they remain available only thru the adult bookstore or via the mail? Certainly even someone like Jerry Falwell would not find anything pornographic in these; these magazines are so clean that we cannot even classify them as "soft porn".

Why are our magazines available only through adult bookstores or mail?

I guess part of the answer lies in the subject that they deal with. Many people who seem to accept us would not be willing to accept it if their own son was a crossdresser. It is the "this only happens to others" concept. How well educated a parent is also plays a big role in determining their willingness and ability to accept crossdressing in their own family.

Mom may be more willing to accept and understand than dad is. But as Virginia Prince said in an article entitled "Understanding comes before Acceptance", men have ruled this planet for the past 5000 years. The women's movement has only been around for the past 300 or so years, so forget anything that they have done; it has only made a minor dent in society's way of thinking. Then we have the silver screen to inform us of what men are supposed to be like. I really do not think that dad is quite willing to accept the fact that his son is anything other than what the world expects of him. If anyone is reluctant to change, it is the men in our society. They have a position of power and fear that anything like this will be a relinquishing of their power.

Another problem in getting our magazines out of the realm of the adults only and onto the open magazine stand comes in means of distribution. In printing an adult magazine one would do the layout work, and then send it off to a magazine distributor who would do the printing and the distributing via the adult bookstores. Printing runs are small

compared to that of other magazines and there are much fewer returns. To go through open magazine stands, much larger printing runs are needed and there is the possibility of many more returns which the publisher would still have to pay for in the printing run. Thus there is the problem of a large financial backing needed to go on the open magazine stand.

But I think the really big problem would be in us. Would we be willing to purchase our magazine if it was available at an open magazine stand, with no plain brown bag to put it in?

"Hey Joe, long time since I seen you. Hey, what are you doing with that magazine? Don't you know that's for those sissy guys that like to wear dresses? Come on, you're not one of them ... are you?"

You get the message. If the magazine were available on an open magazine stand would you buy it, or would you still want the security of the adult bookstore or via mail concept? Talk about peer pressure! And consider the teenager who was to purchase one of these magazines ...

I guess in the end, before we can come out of the closet with our publications we ourselves must first come out of the closet. We must work harder to educate society that we are simply normal men who wish to express and not suppress our feminine qualities. We also must unite with the women liberation movement to end the practice of treating women as second class citizens. And most important, we ourselves must show that **WE** consider women as equals, that **WE** will not tolerate them being treated as anything less than equal.

We must show that we have no shame, but immense pride in our being crossdressers, that our crossdressing is simply a tool used to bring out and develop the finest qualities in our personalities.

When I wrote the by-laws for our local Tri-Ess chapter, I put in a provision for minor crossdressers to join. Written and notarized permission from the

custodial parent was required, along with the requirement that the parent themselves attended the meetings. What about the group that you belong to? Are you ready to accept minors into your group? I think parental attendance is one way to show the parents that they have little to fear in us.

As the cigarette ad said, "You came a long way baby to get to where you are today." Yes, we have come a long way since the sixties, but we still have a long way to go. It may be many years before we find our publications on the open magazine stand, available for purchase by anyone of any age. But we are the one who will forge the way. Just as the women of today are forging the way to changing the ideas that society has toward them, we are forging the way in changing the ideas that society has toward us. How do you want society to view you and what are **YOU** doing toward that goal?

EDITORIAL COMMENTS? Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax us at (818) 347-4190, or send e-mail to "Kym Richards" through the "Cross Connection" BBS at (818) 766-TVTS.

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THE SHOPPING MAVEN

by JoAnn Roberts

Product: Stretch Satin Half Slip (Hip Slip)
Source: Victoria's Secret Catalog, P.O. Box 16589, Columbus OH 43216 (1-800-888-8200)
Cost: \$25 plus \$4.95 p&h
Rating: A

I love getting these catalogs. The lingerie is so sensual and the models are just incredibly gorgeous. I've wondered for a long time if I'd find anything that would fit from here. Recently, I decided to take a chance based on my daughter's experience order from the catalog.

In a recent catalog I noticed an item that is selling under the name Hip Slip, not to be confused with an item of the same name sold by Elaine Edwards of IXE in Indiana. Basically, this is a short sheath of Lycra with a built in thong. Its purpose is to hold in the tummy under all those clingy Lycra-cotton knits that are so popular right now. I have a few of these and I admit that my "figure" could use more help, so I ordered one, along with some other items.

When the package arrived, I dropped everything to

try on this particular item. I was somewhat skeptical that it would do anything at all except make me feel uncomfortable. Girl, was I wrong. The slip looks like an old-fashioned open bottomed girdle and in a sense it is, but with all the advantages of 1990's modern fabric technology. I wriggled into the slip and pulled the 1-1/2 inch waistband up high on my torso. So far so good. The thong doesn't give much coverage and narrows to a skinny cord in the back. So, a simple tuck won't work here. You will either need to do the tuck 'n tape trick as described in my book *Art & Illusion* or wear panties under the slip. The slip clings to your body like a second skin but affords easy movement. The tummy area has an additional panel of Lycra to help smooth it out.

Okay, now for the acid test. After donning my bra, I picked a tight cotton-Lycra skimp from my closet and dropped it over my head. Wow! It looks like I really have a girlish figure. The waistband pulls me just enough to give a nicely defined waist and the skimp just flows over the curves of the slip. I'll be damned. It works and it's comfortable!

Now, I've seen lots of our girls wearing these Lycra dresses, and few of them really have the bodies to show off in them. This stretch satin half slip is just the item to help mold your body into the hot, sexy hourglass these fashions require.

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NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW

by Kymberleigh Richards

After a hiatus forced by personal concerns, Sandy Thomas has resumed publishing what many consider to be the best TV fiction on the planet with two excellent novels, *My Son, The Debutante* and *My Son, the Bride*.

As the titles suggest, these books comprise a two-part story in which a newcomer to a California high school is asked by the class beauty to join a "gender bender" club in which the guys attend parties as girls and vice versa. Bending the usual rules of "logic and believability", the boy's parents -- with little trepidation -- go along with the idea and enthusiastically join in the process of his feminization.

What makes for an interesting twist is that near the end of the first book the focus shifts from the original crossdressed boy to one of his classmates, who in the second book proceeds to become involved in a relationship with another male classmate. Midway through the second book, the original character returns to participate as a bridesmaid in his (her?) classmates' wedding.

The shift of focus to a second set of characters adds depth to what is already a very readable and engaging story. If Sandy's hiatus means more of such quality material has been working its way through the pipeline, we can all look forward to many more enjoyable tales.



I have been meaning for some time to mention my dear friend Lee Frances in this column and publicly compliment her on the fine work she has been doing for the past few years with her quarterly newsletter *Grace and Lace*.

This comprehensive, 16-page newsletter deals exclusively with the religious issues concerning crossdressers, transgenderists, and transsexuals who are also Christians. The most recent issue was devoted to the topic of salvation, with several uplifting articles and a reprint from *Tapestry* concerning the oft-quoted passages from Deuteronomy "prohibiting" crossdressing. *Grace and Lace* is typically full of such positive energy, as well as reassurance about the negatives so frequently invoked by well-meaning mainstream Christians.

What amazes me is that Lee manages to publish a couple hundred copies of her newsletter without

charging for subscriptions. She truly is doing the Lord's work and deserves your support.

If you believe -- as I do -- that this work should continue, I'm certain your donations (checks made payable to *Grace and Lace*) would be most welcome. Lee's address is P.O. Box 31253, Jackson MS 39286.

And if you're a Christian in need of spiritual support of your crossdressing, you might want to ask her to add you to the mailing list.

ARTISTS!

"CROSS-TALK" needs tasteful crossdressing oriented artwork for future issues' covers.

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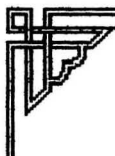
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HOMOSEXUALITY AND BISEXUALITY

by Lee Risemberg
Director, Pansocial Center

I want to know if a person is born homosexual or bisexual, and also if those are conditions that can be cured.

There are some theories that proclaim a person is born either gay or straight; in a way that holds true, but it is not as simple as it sounds. It is not an either/or proposition. I subscribe to the theory that all individuals are born gay **and** straight; in other words, they are born bisexual, with the potential to relate sexually with either anatomical males or anatomical females. It is only in this sense that human beings are born homosexual or heterosexual.

What happens after birth is that during the first two to three years of our lives, we are bombarded with a barrage of messages regarding our sexuality, some

I subscribe to the theory that all individuals are born both gay AND straight ... that is, bisexual.

subtle and others not so subtle. Some of these messages can be violent; a perfect example of a violent message are the severe beatings a child may receive from the parents if he or she is caught touching his or her genitals or someone else's.

It is during this period of our lives that we develop our sexual orientation; that is, to which anatomical gender we are going to be attracted for the rest of our lives. One of the messages we receive is that we can only be attracted to one or to the other gender.

If we believe this premise, we may develop a homosexual or a heterosexual orientation by actually placing the equivalent of an imaginary lid on the potential to be attracted to one or to the other anatomical gender. A large number of individuals, probably as many as 60%, do not buy this particular message and remain bisexual for life, even though they may not be fully aware of it. They may be threatened by it or they may not actively function with both men and women during their lifetimes, but they are nevertheless potentially bisexual.

Some individuals will become aware of their

bisexuality late in life, others never will; those who somehow discover their bisexuality after having been functioning as strictly homosexual or heterosexual individuals give credence to the myth which says that some people **change** from homosexuality to heterosexuality after they meet the "right person" ... their "savior", so to speak, but there are no such saviors in real life.

Those individuals were **always** bisexual without being aware of it; there are others who know they are bisexual and act on their attraction to men and women but manage to keep both worlds separate for their entire lives ... their gay and straight worlds ... and neither world knows about the other. This existence can be very frustrating, but it is much more common than people think it is.

When someone who is bisexual happens to be monogamous -- which is also very common -- that person will, for years at a time, be in an "exclusively homosexual relationship" or in an "exclusively heterosexual relationship", but he or she always remains potentially bisexual for the duration of each exclusive relationship. It can be said that these individuals are "serially monogamous".

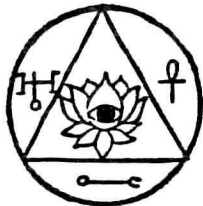
Can homosexuality or bisexuality be cured? The answer is a definite **no**, because sexual orientation of any kind is not an illness, and only an illness can be cured. Neither can it be changed; after sexual orientation has developed no individual has a choice about attraction to others, although he or she may choose not to act on it. A homosexual or a heterosexual individual may choose celibacy as a lifestyle, but may not choose to function sexually with the anatomical gender to which he or she is not attracted.

A bisexual individual may choose to function in a gay or straight lifestyle, because he or she has the **potential** to function with either anatomical gender. Bisexuality is **not** a period of transition from homosexuality to heterosexuality or vice versa; nevertheless, most people who are not bisexual insist that that is what it is. Many bisexuals choose to pass for straight among their heterosexual friends and gay among their homosexual friends in order to avoid the flak that comes from either side; they in fact live in two

closets.

The reason sexual orientation cannot be changed is that during the time in which we are developing it, we are also developing language. During that time, we record impressions in our mind through images; eventually, when we have fully developed language (by age two to three) most of us have lost that ability to record messages in our mind through images or to retrieve those already there. We then start doing it almost exclusively through words; consequently, we cannot change through the help of word therapy any of the messages that were recorded in our minds with the use of these images. Therefore the impasse in the efforts of the mental health profession to change sexual orientation.

[This article originally appeared in **Cross-Talk** #16 (1990).]



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by Sophia & J. Urania

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Some people think they are generous because they give away free advice.

It's August and it's hot, so settle back and cool off with this month's HotStuff!



The early buzz from EuroFantasia, held in Ebeltoft, Denmark, this past May, says the event was a qualified success. About 50 people attended, representing almost 15 different countries. The daytime activities were great, according to firsthand reports, but the town rolled up its sidewalks at night leaving little or nothing to do. Fortunately the American delegation entertained the "troops" with guitars and lots of singing. One "song" they didn't want to hear, though, was the one "sung" by Merissa Sherrill Lynn of the International Foundation for Gender Education. Apparently, Lynn's keynote speech offended many of the attendees, especially those from Germany.



What's the best selling nail polish in the U.S.? Depends what part of the country you come from. Some examples: New York, Clairins Beige Naturel; Dallas, Chanel Coco Pink; Los Angeles, Revlon Pink Nude; Miami, Chanel Coco Beige; Boston, Chanel French Pink.



Another new-old product is Chanel's Lip Basics, a powder lip liner and gloss in a compact. The matte liner is applied with a wet brush and the gloss applied over the liner. It's been done before.



Birthdays this month: Jerry Garcia, Peter O'Toole, Lucille Ball, Joe Jackson, Alfred Hitchcock, Gary Larson, Robert DeNiro, H.P. Lovecraft, Ray Bradbury, Elvis Costello, and Sean Connery.



Fall fashions (yes, sweetie, Fall) are a mixed-bag of recycled ideas, or *recoup*, as they say in *Francaise*. There's a little bit of everything from Stone Age to 70's retro (ugh!). The stylists are leaving it up to you to figure out what looks good together. The key piece, all seem to agree, is a long, fitted jacket. There's everything from velvet frock coats to very practical, wearable, flattering styles. Some jackets are long in front, some in the back, but the essential elements are long and fitted: The long vs. short skirt-debate is skirted this Fall with pants, loose and baggy, slim and body

hugging, belled, pleated, fitted, knitted, plain or fancy: One element of fashion that has never gone out of style is being emphasized for Fall and that's a tailored white shirt: Proponents of short skirts refuse to be rebuffed and they found support from Yves Saint Laurent who will have short skirts in stores this Fall. Thankfully, last year's Olive Oyl look was nowhere to be seen. Lagerfeld, Westwood and Karan all showed just-to-the-knee skirts: If you are wearing a short skirt this Fall, you'll stay warm in a long coat. New styles were almost to the ankle. Most are fitted and full cut, with military and princess styles in the lead. Capes are buzzin' as well: As for color, this is a no-brainer, black is the only one you'll need (Hey, they don't call me the Black Queen for nothing). Of course, all black can be boring, dahling, so splash on a little claret, loden or navy, then get out that white tailored shirt.



For the cerebral part of you, your bookshelf must sport the latest in sex-brain research (it helps if you've read them, too, dear). The buzz is about *The Sexual Brain* by researcher/author Simon LeVay (\$22.50). LeVay is the scientist that discovered the differences between hetero- and homosexual brains. This book is very broad in scope and attempts to explain LeVay's thesis that human sexual behavior is rooted in biological mechanisms. The other buzz is about *Behavioral Endocrinology*, edited by Becker, Breedlove and Crews (\$37.50). I know this sounds like a real snore, but anyone interested in how hormones affect humans needs to read this book. Both books are available from MIT Press, 55 Hayward St., Cambridge, MA 02142.



Another book buzz concerns *In A Time Of Fallen Heroes: The Recreation of Masculinity* by R. William Betcher, Ph.D., M.D. and William S. Pollack, Ph.D. (Atheneum Press). In this book the authors propose that undesirable masculine traits can be transformed rather than eliminated. Thus, aggression is transformed into courage, while a lust for power is moved over to authority to get things done, etc. I often feel that my crossdressing has helped me transform some of my undesirable masculine traits into better masculine traits. That's one reason I feel that those who deride anything

masculine are missing at least 50% of the story. When I see a person refer to their masculine persona as their evil twin and the like, I really feel sorry for that person because they've not learned to transform the "evil" into "good."



There's buzz 'bout tattoos. Tattoos have always seemed so exotic and "forbidden", yet they are more popular today than ever. A decent sized tattoo will run you between \$50 and \$60. Of course, you can always get a temporary tattoo that goes on with water and comes off with baby oil. I like these myself and they do look real. But, if you want a really temporary tattoo, take a look at CK hosiery by Calvin Klein or Berkshire's line for pantyhose with a "tattoo" on the right ankle. The CK are available only in skin tones, while the Berkshire also come in sheer black. Price: \$8.50 to \$13.50.



Eyeliner trick -- line your eye with a pen liner or a wet-cake liner and let it dry. Then dip a small brush into a matte shadow the same color as your liner and trace it over the line you drew, patting the shadow into the line. The line will not smudge or flake off until you wash it off.



QuikBuzz: Maybelline Great Lash Mascara, with a cultlike following, is now available in a waterproof style. You can't miss this gem in its distinctive pink and green container. Be environmentally correct and fashionable at the same time when you use Origins Kohl Mine Coloring Sticks. They're soybean based and come in six shades. Cover Girl Ultimate Finish Liquid Powder Make-Up gives a flawless finish in a flash and it's only \$5.95.



Now you can do wax at home with salon-style results if you use Nair Natural Wax Hair Removal Strips. Just smooth them on and pull (ouch!). Only \$4.99.



Looking for just the right wrist or ankle bracelet but (a) you can't find the right length, and/or (b) you don't want to spend a small fortune? Well, well, my babies, you need to find one of those "Chains

By The Inch" vendors. Most of these chains are 14 carat gold layered over a base metal and the better quality chains have a lifetime warranty that the gold will not wear off. Typical prices are \$1.00 to \$1.50 an inch.



Cosmopolitan's discovered what every guy (and TV) already knew. Men go bonkers over women with long hair. Sure, short hair is easier to tend, but long hair is sexy, and that's one reason they make wigs!



A reader sent me the cover from the June 28th *New Yorker*. It shows a feminine face getting ready to shave off a beard. Can anyone tell me what the cover story was about?



As we fade from Summer into Fall, take a look at these shimmery shadows: Revlon Sun Gold Shimmer; Christian Dior Ombre Express #557; Prescriptives' Hot Pink and Canary; and, finally, Lancome Rose Nuance.



Max Factor International has done a makeup makeover on its own makeup line. They have new colors, new cases and new formulas too. Check it out.



The "hacks" are hackin' at the *DSM* again. The *DSM* is the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual* of the American Psychiatric Association. In one sense, it is their dictionary of mental disorders. I've seen at least two articles recently that take the *DSM* to task because of a perceived oppression of transgendered people. I guess some people just can't read and some will never learn, while others don't want to learn. The *DSM* does not oppress anyone. It is people who misuse the *DSM* who do the oppressing. Gawd! Should we do away with dictionaries, too?



Jamie Fay Fenton of San Jose, Calif., wrote to ask what it is about Secret deodorant that makes it "made for a woman." (continued, next page)

WANTED: Gender community-oriented boutiques and alternative press bookstores to carry "Cross-Talk" for retail sale.

On-going profit potential and attractive wholesale rates.

**Write: Kymberleigh Richards, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365
or call (818) 776-8503.**



NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

August 26-29, 1993: Second International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policies, Houston TX. Write Phyllis Randolph Frye, 5707 Firenza, Houston TX 77035 for information.

September 16-19, 1993: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (215) 640-9449.

September 23-26, 1993: Second Annual New Woman Conference, San Francisco CA. Information from NWC, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick ME 03908, or by calling (206) 676-5870.

September 29-October 3, 1993: "Southern Comfort", Atlanta GA, sponsored by the SouthEastern Regional Conference. Write P.O. Box 33296, Decatur GA 30033, or phone (404) 603-9426 for information.

October 14-24, 1993: 19th Annual "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA, hosted by the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute. Information from 405 Western Ave. #345, South Portland ME 04106, or by calling (207) 621-0858.

October 28-31, 1993: "Fall Harvest '93 Weekend", Kansas City MO, hosted by the five MAGGIE groups (Crossdressers And Friends, St. Louis Gender Foundation, Iowa Artistry, River City Gender Foundation, Wichita Gender Alliance). Details from Fall Harvest, P.O. Box 35061, Overland Park KS 66214-5061, or call (913) 649-8878.

November 10-14, 1993: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", Burbank CA. Event open only to Tri-Ess members or heterosexual crossdressers. Host chapters: Alpha, Omega Chi, Tri-Chi. Details from Holiday En Femme, 1757-D W. Carson St. #306, Torrance CA 90501.

February 25-27, 1994: 6th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio 78270.

March 12-20, 1994: International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together" convention, Portland OR. Information from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

(Please send information on national gender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.)

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ON THE ROAD

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HotStuff! ... continued

Advertising, Jamie. The ads "say" that Secret is pH-balanced for a woman's body, but I've used this product and nothing untoward happened.



Another reader, Dee from New York, wrote and sent me photos from the early part of the century that showed both males and females crossdressed. There was one photo from 1920 showing a "Bachelor Club" that put on a "Womanless Wedding" complete with bride and bridesmaids. Seems this was a common "event" back then. Anyone know anything about similar events?



The Masters & Johnson Institute and Research Venture Group, Inc. have teamed up to create and market an "infomercial" and an Audiotext "900" phone line to provide "competent and professional" information on human sexuality. Vewwy intewesting ... but it's been done.



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WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

that **Cross-Talk** is printed using recycled paper and soybean oil-based inks.

Cross-Talk is, we believe, the first environmentally-friendly publication in the gender community.

Our thanks to Anne Newkirk Niven and her staff at Arena Press for making this possible at reasonable cost.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph Judd



1/1/64: George Barrows in a gorilla suit sneaks up on a crossdressed Danny Kaye, on *The Danny Kaye Show*, CBS.



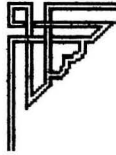
3/22/72: Debbie Reynolds performs with Rich Little in character as Carol Channing, on *The Kopykats*, ABC.



1/14/61: Ken Murray portrays Keely Smith while his two daughters give their impressions of Louis Prima, on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, CBS.



11/27/80: Peter Scolari and Tom Hanks create the alter-egos of Hildegard and Buffy to move into an all-girl hotel on the premiere episode of *Bosom Buddies*, ABC.



THE BEST OF "TRANSVESTIA"

LET'S TALK ABOUT OBSERVATION

by Barbara Stevens

[Editor's Note: Before the Tri-Ess Femme Mirror, there was a FPE (Phi Pi Epsilon) publication of the same name that appeared as a companion publication to Transvestia from December 1961 through January 1966. Within the 46 issues of the FPE Femme Mirror, we have discovered sixteen commentaries that, with minor editing, still make perfect sense three decades later. The first commentary in this series appeared in the premiere edition of the Femme Mirror, and was written by Barbara Stevens, who was associated with FPE and Chevalier Publications at that time. This series will be continued in future issues with commentaries written by Virginia Prince (now a Cross-Talk associate editor).]

Observation: Who observes what ... and how much. So many of us worry about being read when out "dressed" in public, or of being discovered wearing pretty panties under our male attire, or more often, that some horrible person will discover that we shave our arms then expose us to the world as some sort of oddball. In the main this is just not true. People see what they expect to see.

A frame of reference is the most important part of observation. For instance, if you were to see a round object in the sky (flying saucers?!?), it would be impossible for you to tell the size of the object unless you had a frame of reference. To your eye a toy balloon just a few hundred feet in the air would appear as large as an object that was a mile wide but much higher. Only by seeing a familiar object nearby to compare the mystery object with, or by knowing the altitude, could you learn anything about the size.

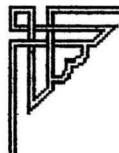
The same holds true in impersonation. Any crossdresser who has been in a group of other CDs will tell you this. In such a group, even though you **know** that you are a man in femme attire and you **know** that the others are men too, you see them as women and think of them as women. Your eye sees skirts ... and in your lifelong frame of reference skirt means woman! When the CD is in public and is assumed to be a woman because of the skirt, he must completely change the observer's frame of reference in order to be discovered. A typically

male action, male voice, or lack of confidence will attract attention, but normal female actions and walk will not. The average person sees a thousand automobiles and a thousand women every day. A particular car would have to be painted with purple and yellow polka dots to stand out and a particular woman would have to be very different to attract attention.

So much for public impersonation. Of equal importance to many of us is the discovery of our secret while we are in male attire. For years I was afraid every time I shaved my arms or legs that someone would notice. A frame of reference holds true here also. In order to see that you have shaved your legs a person will have had to notice that you had hair on your legs before ... and they just don't! I had this brought home to me by a friend who habitually wore a beard. Now, there is hardly any feature that could be more noticeable than a beard. And yet, when he shaved it off I saw him three times before I noticed that there was something different about him .. and then I had to figure out **what** was different! Furthermore, he told me that most of his friends reacted in the same way. His sweetheart didn't notice it until he kissed her and she **felt** the lack of hair on his face!

In my own case eyebrows were my bugaboo. I had long ago stopped worrying about people discovering my shaved arms and legs. To the one person who did I just said that I didn't like body hair and we both let it go at that. But recently I started plucking my hitherto John L. Lewis-type eyebrows. Now they are down to a fine arch that is damn feminine. To date not one person has noticed. My final test will be when I go home for Christmas and see if my mother notices.

To wind up, in most cases your fears of discovery are groundless. There is one exception: A crossdresser we know who goes everywhere *en femme*, who belongs to a womens' club, and who stays at the YWCA, has been read as a man in woman's clothes twice in all his experience. Both times his impersonation has been pierced by the most observant and least inhibited creatures on the face of the earth ... children! (When *en femme*, avoid them like the plague!)



OTHER POINTS OF VIEW

ACCEPTANCE

by Rebecca Ann Petersen

Over the last few years, I have heard a high percentage of CDs say, "I wish I were accepted by family and friends and the rest of society, for what I am". I have also noticed that a good number of these wishers can't accept themselves for what they are. I will interject at this point that I was also one of those that could not accept the fact that I crossdressed, until about five years ago. I was not only unhappy about my feminine persona, but I was also not thrilled with my masculine persona. As a result, I was a very unhappy individual most of the time. This did not stop the dressing, but every time that I did dress, I was not any happier. In other words, I was in the same unhappy condition no matter how I was dressed. I kept saying to myself, "I dress because it makes me feel better", but the truth of the matter was, it wasn't working.

I won't bore you with the details of how I came to grips with the situation and finally achieved self-acceptance. But what I will share with you is the end results of many related subjects and how they mesh, thereby resulting in peace of mind and self-acceptance.

First, let's define acceptance by society in general. I personally believe that for us to hope for society in its entirety, to accept crossdressing as normal behavior, by their definition, is a lot to ask. Yes, it's possible that this may happen, but I don't think that any of us will live long enough to see it. To condition the rest of the world to think like us, is a huge task and possibly one that **should not** be undertaken. Normal behavior is a definition dictated by a large portion of society. Being realistic about the situation, another portion of society -- including most state lawmakers, medical professionals, some family and friends, and of course the gender community -- believe crossdressing to be normal. So is crossdressing by definition, abnormal? Well, the answer is dependent on who you were to ask. Most learned professionals, when confronted with the fact that you crossdress, will usually ask, "Is this a problem for you"? Again, by basic definition, if it isn't a problem for you, but for someone else, then the problem lies with the other party. Another point I will bring up is if society doesn't notice that we are crossdressed, then that could be construed as almost as good as acceptance, because it presents

no problem to anyone. Some CDs, however don't feel as if they are accepted unless the observing party realizes that they are looking at a man dressed as a woman. This concept, by my definition, is stupid.

I spent most of my life believing that when I died, God, St. Peter, or whoever makes the decision, would cast me to Hell instantaneously, because I was a crossdresser. Do not pass go, do not collect two hundred dollars, go directly to Hell. I believed this because of my early religious training. I finally realized that this could not be the case, if I were to do nothing more than to actually believe what was taught to me as a child and to look at it from a religious standpoint, rather than the church's standpoint. After all, I was created in God's image. Crossdressing was not something I decided to do one day, out of the blue. In my case I started dressing at age 4. Could I have consciously at age 4, said to myself, "I think I'll break one of God's rules"? Are there actually eleven commandments, the last being "Thou shalt not crossdress"? I was taught that God was all forgiving, not "forgiving to all, except those wearing a dress". Lastly, most heterosexual crossdressers dress because of a huge respect for women and the desire to be more like women. In my opinion, I find it difficult to believe that crossdressers could be lumped into a category with mass murderers, rapists and the like. Come to think of it, if someone would have put a dress and heels on someone like Jeffrey Daumer, it may have calmed him down a bit.

The next item is acceptance by family and friends. Some of you have accepting wives and family, have even told the kids and have friends and business associates that are aware of your situation. Some of you, on the other hand, keep this secret to yourself and no one else in the whole world knows of your situation. Then there are those where the family knows, but can't tolerate the situation. The question arises, "Who should know about your crossdressing?". This is a very debatable question and is open to many viewpoints. It is **my personal viewpoint** that, if you are married, your wife should be told. She should however be told prior to saying "I do". Unfortunately, the telling of our little secret to the little lady usually comes sometime after she picks the rice out of (*continued, next page*)

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

[Editor's Note:] As this issue of **Cross-Talk** was nearing completion, we received a letter from Holly Cross at the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) regarding an editorial that appeared in the June issue of PPOC Girl Talk, the newsletter of Powder Puffs Of California here in Southern California.

While the original editorial did not appear in **Cross-Talk**, its general subject was IFGE's recent mailing appealing for donations to offset the rising expenses of operating IFGE, and Merissa Sherrill Lynn was criticized for her attendance at the EuroFantasia event in Denmark in light of the mailing.

IFGE board member (and **Cross-Talk** associate editor JoAnn Roberts submitted a reply to the Girl Talk editorial, and it was published in their July issue. Holly has requested the opportunity to comment on the subject in our pages, and due to the seriousness of the original complaint, I have decided to grant her request.

While I admit that it would have been better from a journalistic standpoint to also publish the original editorial and JoAnn Roberts' response, there has been some animosity

ACCEPTANCE ... continued

her hair. She now is in a different situation than she was prior to walking down the aisle, and this could be construed as deceitful. The problems related to telling a prospective spouse prior to marriage is twofold. The first is fear of rejection. Most of us feel that whoever we tell will reject us to the point of leaving. The second problem is one of wishful thinking on the CDs part. Most of us have felt that once married, the crossdressing would stop. We soon find out, that not only did it not stop, it got worse. I said to myself, it will stop when I turn 20 ... 30 ... 40 years of age ... when I get married ... when I have children. None of the above events changed my love for the feminine and the associated crossdressing. In my case, I didn't tell my wife prior to our marriage (see the above reasons) but she found out shortly after the "I do's". Now that I look back on the situation, I had a difficult time explaining my crossdressing to her, since I was 19 years old and couldn't explain it to myself. I spent the next 32 years trying to get her to accept me, with little or no luck. During the last two years I finally came to the (continued, next page) between

PPOC's Joan Goodnight and **Cross-Talk** of late (see this month's "Vox Populi" section), and thus we did not request permission to republish her editorial, fearing escalation of an unrelated matter that we now consider closed. -- KMR

I have been asked **not** to speak for the IFGE board, of which I am a member, and I don't. I'm a member of Tri-Ess, and I don't speak for them either. But I have been around; I was there when IFGE was formed, I have been to the first and all subsequent "California Dreamin"'s, ditto the "T"-Parties, ditto the IFGE "Coming Together"s, and many other convention weekends. Usually the whole thing costs me over \$600, and usually it is worth it to me.

IFGE has not much money, but we do get asked to have our leader (Merissa) attend some of these functions. The problem, of course, is who pays. When EuroFantasia asked for her, they paid for her convention (much as "Coming Together" picked up the check for some people we wanted to have attend in this -- and previous -- years) and IFGE paid for the airfare and some meals. Other people took care of other expenses which were not part of the EuroFantasia visit, but instead her visits to a couple of other CD clubs. She paid for the rest herself.

We did the same sort of thing for some of the other conventions, notably the first "California Dreamin'"; IFGE paid the airfare, which was all we could afford to do, and other expenses "were taken care of". As a spectator, I felt that what Yvonne (Cook), Merissa, and Nancy (Cole) did was important to that first try at a California convention, and I was glad that they were there. Similarly, Merissa went to Kansas City for the first "Fall Harvest".

EuroFantasia cost us no more in airfare than some U.S. destinations, and the three people we had there representing us -- each of whom paid their own way -- helped to make an impression for what we call an "international" organization. I hope to get to the next EuroFantasia myself.

So I feel it is unseemly for one organization's publication to comment on the expenses to attend an international crossdressing convention -- in fact, the part that IFGE paid was well under budget -- when they were happy to have the same thing done for them a few years ago.

-- Holly Cross



MOVIE REVIEW: "ORLANDO"

by Charlene Day

If you heard that this movie involves crossdressing, don't see it for just that reason. You will be disappointed.

Orlando is a very "artsy" movie with some interesting period scenes and lavish costumes, but Tilda Swinton is not convincing as the young man, Orlando. She always looks like a woman in a man's clothes. Possibly the long hair and fancy clothes may diminish the effect of manliness, but I don't think so. Her voice and mannerisms are not always consistent.

Young Orlando is "adopted" by the Queen who tells him "You are mine because I love you. Do not grow old. Do not wither away." Apparently the consequence of this last statement is that Orlando always stays young-looking, even after a lapse of centuries.

Later, Orlando becomes Lord of the manor. The year jumps to 1610 and Orlando falls in love with the daughter of a foreign Ambassador. However, she jilts him. He declares "all women are treacherous" and falls into a deep sleep for six days.

The year jumps to 1650. He lives as a bachelor and has taken up writing poetry but he is dismayed to learn that he is not good at it.

The year is now 1700. Orlando is made ambassador to some mideastern country and he forms an alliance with the King. Circumstances cause him to assist his ally in a battle against an enemy. He is disillusioned by the killing, falls into another deep sleep and wakes up as a female. She returns to England.

The year jumps to 1750. There are some scenes about a woman's place in the order of things and she is told that because she is now a Lady instead of a Lord she can not hold title to the manor nor live there any more. She goes into another deep sleep and wakes up in 1850.

I don't know how it all ends because I found that the story drags (no pun intended). I left before the end of the movie.

I think that the writing should have been tightened up. The poetry section could have been left out and the portion where he is Ambassador could have been emphasized. There were a lot of one-dimensional characters as well.

The script did bring out some of the differences between men and women and their status in life.

The costuming is elegant and some of the scenes are interesting, but on the whole I cannot recommend seeing the movie.

Orlando was adapted from a book by Virginia Woolf. I suspect that the original story was more enjoyable.

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ACCEPTANCE ... continued

conclusion "that it ain't never gonna happen", as they say in the south. And yes, to answer the obvious question, I am a slow learner. The one important thing I learned from this situation, is that her acceptance was secondary to my own acceptance.

Sure, it would be great if my wife accepted my crossdressing, for no other reason than that it would make my life easier, but it would probably not make her life any easier. The important factor, was my acceptance. With the acceptance of "Rebecca" also came the acceptance of "Al". This guy wasn't so bad after all, just because "He" became "She" periodically. Once I accepted myself for what I really was, I also discovered I became much more comfortable in my feminine expression. Things became easier in respect to my crossdressing. Appearance, personality and demeanor blossomed.

In conclusion, the words of advice that I am offering are simplistic. Don't worry about the rest of the world accepting you, until such time as you can completely accept yourself.

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Heart Disease Risk for F2M Transsexuals?: Scientists have long speculated that the female sex hormone estrogen protects women against heart disease, while the male sex hormone testosterone increases the risk of heart disease. Now there may be proof based on a study of F2M transsexuals.

Researchers at the Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, noted that after receiving testosterone, patients had potentially damaging changes in their blood vessels that could cause deposit to form. The report, by Dr. Kees H. Polderman, was published in March in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Brazilian Transvestites Suffer Reign of Terror: The San Paulo, Brazil daily paper *El Globo* has reported that as of last spring, 15 transvestite prostitutes have been murdered in the city during the previous three months, apparently by members of a well-organized "extermination group".

According to reports, the group consists of at least four males who lure one of the city's crossdressed street walkers into a car where they are shot through the head, execution style, and their bodies are dumped.

Gay rights groups in the city charge that the police aren't interested in solving the murders because the major concern of the two police stations located in the area where the prostitutes have been picked up is getting them off the streets.

Supreme Court Nominee Has Record on Crossdressing: Circuit Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsberg, nominated by President Clinton to become the ninth member of the Supremes, had ruled against a transvestite who sued the Department of the Treasury for job discrimination.

In 1987, Ginsberg was on a three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia which ruled against an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by a gay transvestite. Ginsberg and her two colleagues on the bench agreed with the lower court's decision to dismiss the lawsuit.

The plaintiff, William Blackwell, had sued claiming that the Treasury Department refused to hire him because he was a transvestite, a condition he characterized as a mental impairment and worthy of protection under the federal Rehabilitation Act ban on discrimination based on disability.

But the lower court had dismissed the claim, stating

that instead of refusing to hire him because of his transvestism, the Treasury Department refused to hire him because it perceived him to be a homosexual, which is not a mental impairment. The reason he was perceived to be gay was that he was crossdressed during his job interviews.

Sociologist Warns Mankind to Become More Womanly: A Swedish sociologist has said that ten thousand years of male domination have brought the human race to the brink of ruin. Par Gahrton, the founder of Sweden's Green Party, says the only hope is for the race to adopt more female values.

"It is the lone-wolf, bachelor spirit which has led us to this evil," Gahrton said. According to his theory, the restless buccaneering spirit of angry men that drove first communities -- and then nations -- to clash with their neighbors, seize land from indigenous peoples, and develop even more terrifying weapons.

"I reasoned that the opposite pole to this in human terms is the grandmother, he said. "Grandmothers must take power now, if the planet is to be saved from self-destruction."

Transsexual Lesbian Leaves Hospital Five Years After Attack That Put Her In Coma: A transsexual lesbian who was beaten into a coma five years ago kept a promise when she walked out of a hospital in Hilo, Hawaii in June.

"Three years ago I hung a sign over my hospital bed that I would eat, talk, and walk out of here by the grace of God," said Diana "S" Holmes, 44. "I couldn't do any of those things at that time -- now all three are fulfilled."

A dozen supporters and several news reporters greeted Holmes when she left Hilo Hospital carrying an American flag. She still remains mostly confined to a wheelchair.

She suffered the severe beating in July 1988 during her campaign for a seat on the Hawaii County Council. No one was arrested in the attack.

When she was first brought to the hospital, it was thought that she would not live through the week. But she fought through a 10-week coma and a six month period when she was in a vegetative state. She emerged and went through rehabilitation, including learning how to read and write again.

She told her friends and reporters that she will fight for civil rights as hard as she did before the attack.



READER PROFILES

To respond to an ad without an address: Seal your correspondence in a stamped envelope and write the subscriber number IN PENCIL on the front. Then place the envelope(s) in a larger envelope and mail to **"Cross-Talk", P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365**. If you are a subscriber, please write your subscriber number with your address on the larger envelope and your forwarding will be free. Non-subscribers, please include \$1.00 per letter to be forwarded.

Anaheim, CA: Stephanie Marie, 31: I am a cabinetmaker and photographer. Have not yet been to any events; I have just made my first trip out to a nightclub and I am looking to become more involved in the gender community. #1478

Bakersfield, CA: Chrys, employed in marketing, and consider myself a writer. I regularly write for trade publications and have had numerous pieces published in "Cross-Talk". I am currently working on an epic-fantasy (dragons, magic potions, etc.). I like long walks and long talks and would enjoy corresponding with those with similar interests. #1144 Chrystine Julian, P.O. Box 60089, Bakersfield, CA 93386-0089

Palm Springs, CA: Ayme, 36, M2F TS, living and working as a woman for the last two years. Tall, attractive, feminine, sexy. Confident and comfortable in any social situation. Interests in Macintosh desktop publishing, music, dining and dancing. Seeks male or female friends. Try the desert lifestyle anytime! #1186

Redondo Beach, CA: Diva, looking for musicians to form a crossdressing rock/alternative band! #1201 D.P. Moore, P.O. Box 207, Redondo Beach CA 90277

Santa Ana, CA: Susan, 45, in business part-time. Enjoy sports, reading, chess and war games. Always dressed at home. Interested in hearing from others; also would like to have a serious relationship with a woman who understands me. #1323

Santa Clarita, CA: Bonnie, 40+, love tennis, golf, shopping, cooking, being Bonnie. Been out in public three times dressed and love it. Mother dressed me as a girl when I was a young boy (she always wanted a girl). Will write to all. #1248 Bonnie W., P.O. Box 801416, Santa Clarita CA 91380-1416

South Pasadena, CA: Christy, an educator and professionally involved with human diversity issues, especially the Berdache tradition. I'm going through my transformation, electrolysis, counseling and such, and am very interested in developing friendships with women, caring professionals and persons like myself for companionship and support. #1122 Christy Barron, P.O. Box 3402, South Pasadena, CA 91031-6402

Van Nuys, CA: Melissa, 44, electronic tech (repair VCRs, stereos, etc.). My passions are music, dressing, shopping, good talkradio. Guitar player for the past 25 years. I love a good 12-step program, the whole gender community, the hell I plan to raise over the next 20 years. I love kids and dogs and I send money home. #1469

West Hollywood, CA: Michelle, 37, SWM, Bi, 5'11"/150 lbs. TV since 11 years old, attending CD clubs last two years. Writer. Other interests photography, film and cinema. Would enjoy meeting other 30-something TVs, possibly for social outings *en femme*. #1355

Yucca Valley, CA: Elizabeth, 54, currently residing in Southern California. Work as a Supply Specialist. Interests include painting and bicycling. I've been away from our lifestyle for a number of years, so my experience level is re-learning it all. Would love to attend some of the national events in the future. Relationships none, divorced. #1506

Avon, CT: Michelle Kay, MWM, hetero, 5'10", 170 lbs., blue eyes, dark brown hair, '50s, very passable. Member Tiffany Club, co-founder of Connecticut Outreach Society (COS), participant P-Town outings, program chairlady of COS, director/founder of COS Couples Club. Wife is accepting and started COS wives support group. Interested in corresponding with and meeting other honest, caring, passable CDs or couples. Interests include theater, music (jazz, classical and oldies), travel, cross-country skiing, swimming, boating and water sports. #1457 Michelle Kay, P.O. Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

Heyburn, ID: Patience Moiche, 41. I have been attending some of the monthly meetings of the Salt Lake City group and really enjoyed them. I have been a small business owner working with industry, but I have a dream of going back to school and getting into counselling. I am single, enjoy life, and love and appreciate the feminine person I really am. #1305

Aurora, MN: Lynda, SWM, mid-30s, craftsman in design and building equipment, 20 years of all types of mechanical maintenance. Loves photography, martial arts, reading and writing science fiction. Degree in Art. Spend about 50% of my time *en femme*. Would love to correspond with anyone wishing to receive mail from a caring person. #1329

Kansas City, MO: Barrie, married, age 46. Hobbies include photography, writing, playing several sports, collecting antiques. Go to movies, dinner, dancing, shopping as Barrie. Member of Tri-Ess, RCGA (Omaha), and Sigma Nu Rho. Travel in midwest. Love to hear from sisters. Let's exchange photos. I answer all correspondence. #1203 Barrie James, P.O. Box 412948, Kansas City MO 64141

Roslyn Heights, NY: Jane, 34, married, Northern Italian. 5'7"/135 lbs. LIFE and Tri-Ess memberships (2 years). Also subscribe to *Renaissance News*. Interests: Travel, photography, sportscars, nature, skiing, gardening, music, dance, theater, swimming, art and earth sciences. Go out dressed day and night; dress flamboyantly as a guy when not working (Danskins, stirrups, parachute pants, jumpsuits, accessories). Travel throughout the US regularly. Lived in and love California, which I visit as often as possible. I am anxious to correspond with other TV sisters who would be interested in doing the same. #1348 J. Engel, P.O. Box 484, Roslyn Heights NY 11577-0484

Trotwood, OH: Fran, senior citizen living in SW Ohio, retired. Interested in most outdoor sports, writing and photography. Out of the closet once, years ago, but now in a small community and spouse not supportive. #1489

Amelia, VA: Laura, pre-op TS accountant wishes to correspond and/or meet with other TVs/TSs. I am 52, 5'7", 115 lbs., and wear size 6 clothing. I am interested in photography, collecting '50s rock & roll records, and dressing as my feminine self whenever possible. #1523

Merry Point, VA: Samantha Louise, 76 (going on 50), MWM, retired engineer. Interests: Amateur radio, Rotary, sailing, woodcarving. Attended "Holiday En Femme" in Chicago, "Coming Together" in Houston, "Southern Comfort", "Fall Harvest". Member of Virginia's Secret, DCEA, IFGE, Tri-Ess. Editor of "Secrets", newsletter for Virginia's Secret. Out of the closet since June 1991 and making up for lost time. #1416 T.W. Winternitz, P.O. Box 73, Merry Point VA 22513

Seattle, WA: Rose C'est La Vie, neophyte CD, seeking friendship, guidance and amusement. Divorced, 40, and just now learning the art of dressing. Interests include art (read art history, collect Northwest art), baseball, literature and music. I am a lawyer, taking a landscaping class, and write short stories. #1521 J. Hamilton, P.O. Box 2346, Seattle WA 98101



HOTLINES

These hotlines are run by non-profit organizations, and may not be answered "live" at all times as a result. Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups. While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice. If you find an incorrect listing, please let us know!

NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 371-6292
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 538-5304
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (201) 794-1665 ext 332
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858
Pink Flamingoes, Boston: (617) 536-5639
Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782
Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325
Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257
Transsupport, Portland: (207) 676-5870
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
Atlanta Gender Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678 @
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 685-9254
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @
Chicago Gender Society: (312) 434-5445
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minn'pls: (612) 229-3613
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648
Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #

Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAINREGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 545-3668
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-3553
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin: (210) 438-7604
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926
ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #
Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077
West Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 774-8463
Rose City Gender Center, Portland: (503) 230-1036
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
Sacramento Gender Association: (800) 585-7742
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

CANADA:

Canadian Crossdressers Club, Toronto: (416) 921-6112
Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

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