

CROSS-TALK

THE TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY'S NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1991

(ISSUE #29)



UPHEAVAL IN GENDER COMMUNITY - THREE GROUPS CEASE OPERATION

(Woodland Hills, CA) -- The announced dissolution of a local support organization has become the latest apparent casualty in what some are calling a "shakedown process" within the gender community.

The Valley Girls, which had operated as a loosely organized social group for the past two years, has decided not to formally schedule events in light of its membership splitting into smaller groups of people with common interests. The group, formed out of the more public members of the former Delta Chi chapter of the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess), had become well known locally for its late Saturday night breakfasts at a local coffee shop. Attendance at those breakfast meetings had been steadily declining over the past several months, and participation in scheduled mainstream events had also been on the wane.

The announcement comes amidst a stronger presence for the Alpha chapter of Tri-Ess following the merging of the Sigma Chi chapter's membership three months ago ("Cross-Talk", August '91). Kimberleigh Richards, current Alpha president, was also coordinator for the Valley Girls.

In announcing the dissolution of the latter, Richards said she "always felt there was a slight conflict of interest in running both groups" and that Alpha was where her talents were needed more. She cited poor turnout by the group at a recent movie showing ("Switch") as well as a female impersonator show, coupled with the lower attendance at the breakfast meetings as the reasons for calling it quits.

It was also recently announced that "Twenty Minutes", the newsletter of Hartford, CT support group The XX Club, would cease publication with the October issue. "Twenty Minutes" publisher Becky Ann cited a lack of both subscription and editorial support for its demise. The newsletter was considered by most in the community to be one of the best information sources for transsexuals. No word has been received regarding the parent organization's health; their representative on the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) Congress of Organizations resigned suddenly earlier in the year, and no replacement has yet been appointed.

Some in the community are also confused by the apparent disappearance of the Alaska Alliance for Gender Education (AAGE) and its founder Kyndel Fay Mercedes. Shortly after changing its name from the Berdache Society ("Cross-Talk", July '91), its post office box in Anchorage was suddenly closed, with mail being returned to sender. A telephone call to the number listed for Mercedes in the IFGE Congress' telephone list revealed the number to be incorrect.

IFGE's Yvonne Cook, when asked to comment on the confusion regarding XX Club and AAGE, said she believed the situation

to be merely more of the constant coming and going of people and organizations in the gender community, and did not seem concerned by recent events.

Richards, when asked to comment, indicated agreement with Cook's remarks, but added that as the community matures, a "shakedown" process of weaker groups ceasing operation or merging with other nearby organizations appears to be in effect as well. [Shawn McDermott]

NEW COMPUTER BBS FOR GENDER COMMUNITY BEGINS OPERATION

(Glendale, CA) -- After many months of development, a new computer bulletin board primarily aimed toward serving the national gender community has gone on-line.

"Cross-Connection", created by local crossdresser Trish Anderson, took to the "air" in late August with several SIGs already in place to provide the community with a number of resources not previously available by BBS. Among the SIGs already in operation is a central repository and resource library for the newsletters of the local community support organizations, made available free of charge on a mutual exchange basis to all organizations in the gender community.

Anderson has also arranged with "Cross-Talk" publisher Kimberleigh Richards to provide news coverage, resource listings of national hotlines and events, and articles from past issues on the "XTALK" SIG. Richards is also acting as librarian of the newsletter exchange SIG, which will also contain a downloadable version of current "Cross-Talk" editions.

Other SIGs include a "Gender Forum" for expression and exchange of thoughts, feelings and ideas. Anderson, who also acts as host for that SIG, hopes that it will provide a "fun way to meet new friends". A "Fantasy Corner", adult personal ads, classified ads and private electronic mail are either presently on-line or will be within the next few weeks. Planned future on-line services include a mail order shopping mall, a national community resources database and national network link-ups.

"The service hopes to provide a vital link in the gender community, both between organizations and the community at large", Anderson said. "It's another way to help bring us together. The board really belongs to the community and the users will define the form and function as we go along."

Basic services are free to the community. The board supports 300/1200/2400 baud rates with protocol M-8-1. Two lines are presently available, with additional access to be provided as demand increases. To access "Cross-Connection" for further information, users are invited to dial in at (818) 549-0529 with the User ID "VALLYGIRL" and password "VISITOR" (no quote marks). Additional instructions will appear once on the system. [Shawn McDermott]

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17

IFGE BENEFIT CONCERT CALLED "MULTIPLE SUCCESS"

(Houston, TX) -- A benefit concert held August 3 to raise money for the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) 1992 convention is being called a multiple success by local community members.

The concert, which raised over \$2,000 after expenses, was the first event co-sponsored by the Tau Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess and the Gulf Coast Transgender Community (G.C.T.C.) since the former removed itself from the 1990 "Fantastic Adventure" weekend ("Cross-Talk", January '90).

Performers at the concert included professional musician Da'nelle Martin, Tau Chi members Jeanette and Karen, TS comedian Cynthia, Wendy Parker of "Mister Sister", Chris/Lynn from Denver, and Dallas rocker Bryn T.

Members of the gender community from six organizations, representing eight states, attended the two-day event which included a buffet and social the evening before, plus unscheduled shopping tours the afternoon of the concert.
["Femme Forum", Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess]

CORNURY SOCIETY FOUNDER MRS. SHUFFLEWICK DIES

(Vancouver, BC, Canada) -- Dorothy Finch, legendary in the gender community for her portrayal of her humorous alter ego "Mrs. Shufflewick", passed away August 14 after a long illness.

Finch, a founder of the Cornbury Society and member of the IFGE Board of Directors, was also active in Northwest Gender Alliance (NWGA) and the Emerald City. She had been in attendance at most major gender community events in the past few years. Ellen Summers of NWGA, who had also been a close friend, said she would remember Finch "for her kindness and thoughtfulness to each and every person with whom she came in contact". The Emerald City, in their September "News", said that "crossdressers worldwide have truly lost a good friend".

NWGA has begun a memorial fund in Finch's name.
[Kymberleigh Richards]

'DIGNITY CRUISE 2' PLANNED FOR EARLY SUMMER 1992

(Katy, TX) -- Declaring the July "Dignity Cruise" a success, organizer Peggy Rudd has planned a second cruise for the summer of 1992.

The "Dignity Cruise 2", set for May 31 through June 7, will have on its itinerary a cruise to Alaska from Vancouver, British Columbia, including the Inside Passage and stops at Juneau and Ketchikan. Royal Caribbean, which handled arrangements for the first cruise, has been retained for the Alaskan trip.

Rudd, who is urging booking before the end of 1991 to avoid projected rate increases already announced by Royal Caribbean, may be contacted at P.O. Box 5304 (zip 77491) for information.
[PM Publishers press release]


N.Y. STATE GENDER COALITION ANNOUNCES IN-DEPTH PROGRAM

(Albany, NY) -- An in-depth program to foster community awareness and legislative involvement geared toward improving life for and service to New York state's gender dysphoric was announced by the state's Gender Coalition at its August 3 meeting.

Long time gender community activist Jennifer Wells has been named coordinator for the Albany Gender Project, which will, in Wells' words, "undertake a multifaceted approach is resolving (the) dilemma (of gender dysphoria, involving) research and information gathering; increasing public awareness; understanding and support; and lobbying state and local legislatures to enact programs designed to service this population".

Wells indicated that the project's definition of gender dysphoria will include both transvestism and transsexualism. She says an estimate by leading authorities on the subject indicate that nearly 500,000 such people reside in New York state. She hopes to establish a full service, full time gender identity center providing professional, social and community services.

The New York State Gender Coalition was formed in the spring of last year by nine gender community organizations in New York and New Jersey.
["TGIC News"]



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FRENCH SUPREME COURT REJECTS SEX CHANGES ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES

(Paris, France) -- In a decision made in May of last year but not announced until this June, the First Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court has passed four judgments rejecting please to allow sex changes to be acknowledged on birth certificates.

The Court, which in its ruling said transsexualism cannot be recongized as a veritable sex change, rejected arguments by the medical community that surgery corrected errors of nature. The Court maintained that "surgical or hormonal modifications are not enough to give the transsexual the characteristics belonging to the opposite sex" and said that it could only consider physical traits "regardless of (the transsexual's) psychological convictions".

Addressing the question of a violation of the European Human Rights Convention, the Court said that the Convention "does not impose upon a transsexual a gender which in reality is not his own". [Le Figaro]

HARASSED TRANSSEXUAL FIGHTS BACK AGAINST NEIGHBORS

(Cincinnati, OH) -- A former Postal Service dispatcher who is in the midst of a sex change has become the subject of abuse by neighbors in the suburb of Oak Park where she has lived for 21 years.

William T. Davis -- who had her name legally changed to Bonnie Tina Davis in April -- has been taking hormones for six months and began dressing in women's clothes regularly in February. Since then, Davis says, people have thrown eggs at her garage, pelted her with rocks, sworn at her over the telephone, pounded on her door at all hours of the night, kicked in the doors of her truck and, at least four times, have threatened her life. She said others had vowed to "run us out of town".

Deer Park Police Chief Donald Lally, while admitting he is doing what he can to stop the harassment to Davis, says she has "aggravated the problem by being vocal and visible, including wearing a bikini in (her) back yard".

Davis, who lives with son Jeff and granddaughter Jenny, has filed several criminal complaints, including assault, aggravated menacing, and disorderly conduct. Cincinnati Bell has traced harassing phone calls made to Davis' home and is considering filing charges as well.

Lally says most of the harassment is coming from juveniles, and that Davis has been charged with assault and aggravated menacing against youths she claimed were among those harassing her. Many of Davis' neighbors have indicated an unwillingness to get involved in the controversy, and several have offered their support.

Davis, who is scheduled for surgery early next year, has put her house up for sale, saying "I'd like to stay here, but I don't think it would be worth it".

[Cincinnati "Enquirer"]

'PARTRIDGE FAMILY' STAR PLEADS GUILTY TO BEATING CROSSDRESSED PROSTITUTE

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Former child television star and radio disc jockey Danny Bonaduce has pleaded guilty to reduced charges stemming from his assault last March on a crossdressed prostitute.

Bonaduce, who played Danny Partridge on TV's "Partridge Family" from 1970 to 1974, was arrested after an incident in which Darius Barney claims Bonaduce paid him \$20 for oral sex but began beating him when he refused Bonaduce's request for more ("Cross-Talk", July '91).

Publicity over the arrest cost Bonaduce his job as a disc jockey with local radio station KKFR-FM. He now faces a maximum jail term of 22 months and fines of \$150,000 when he is sentenced. ["People"]

HOLLYWOOD STARLET REVEALED AS CON MAN IN DRAG

(Mobile, AL) -- A Hollywood starlet who traveled through Alabama in style, renting cars, hiring a valet and ordering flowers for her hotel room has been revealed as a man by police investigating unpaid bills for those services totaling more than \$1,700.

Angela Renne Hendley, identified by police as Mark Hendley, was arrested on theft of service charges. The 35-year-old, believed to be from Detroit, appeared in court for his arraignment with his hair in a ponytail and wearing makeup. He has been jailed since his June 6 arrest, unable to post \$4,500 bond. If convicted of all charges, he could face 10 or more years in prison.

Hendley also faces similar charges in Selma, and a private investigator hired by Warner Brothers has inquired about the case. The investigator, Bill Patterson, declined to discuss the studio's interest.

Police said Hendley, posing as a woman, told those he met that he was a movie star stranded in Alabama. He was finally identified by the FBI through fingerprints.

[Associated Press]

IF YOU SEE AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER OR
MAGAZINE ABOUT TRANSGENDERED BEHAVIOR OR
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POST-OP TS SECRETARY WINS DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT

(Sydney, Australia) -- A former female secretary who was fired for becoming a man has won a \$150,000 lawsuit against the company.

Tommy Sanderson, who had a sex-change operation during a three-week vacation, said he had "always gotten superior performance ratings" during his ten years of employment as Tammy. But when he showed up for work after his operation, he was told his services were no longer needed, and that he "didn't fit in anymore".

A Sydney court agreed with Sanderson's allegations that he had been fired because he changed sexes, and awarded him the punitive damages.

His former employer, Hill Insurance Company, later reversed their decision and offered Sanderson his old job back, but he refused, saying "I never want to work for such narrow-minded people." ["Sun"]

MAN IMPERSONATING WOMAN SOUGHT ON FORGERY CHARGES

(Gloversville, NY) -- A man who tried to fool officials into thinking he was a woman is facing felony charges for forgery and making a false official statement, and a misdemeanor charge of impersonation.

Using a stolen driver's license bearing the name Karen Bishop and wearing a "stunning daytime ensemble", Todd Miller, 21, went into the local office of the Social Security Administration and applied for food stamps. Two days later, he showed up at the office of Domestic Violence, a social services organization for battered women, using the name Ashley Cerruci, and claiming to be a battered woman running from her abusive husband and seeking shelter for the night.

Miller, who described himself as a pre-operative transsexual, was arraigned on the charges but skipped bail. ["Renaissance News"]

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CROSSDRESSER FOUND DUMPED NEAR INTERSTATE HIGHWAY

(St. Louis, MO) -- A man in women's clothing was found fatally stabbed after he apparently was dumped on an off-ramp of Interstate 55-70.

The man, identified by the coroner as Patrick Calvert, 30, of East St. Louis, was pronounced dead shortly after 11 p.m. August 7 at the emergency room of St. Mary's Hospital. He had been stabbed once in the chest.

He was found shortly after 10 p.m. by National City police, who called Illinois State Police. They discovered that Calvert had been walking along State Route 3 in an area frequented by prostitutes in National City. Police said he was last seen getting into a gray or blue car with a dark-colored stripe along the sides. A motorist later told National City Police that he had seen a body pushed from a car on the ramp where Calvert's body was found.

[St. Louis "Post-Dispatch"]

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NEWS BRIEFS

Heavy metal musicians, long famous for stripping off their shirts on stage, have taken to showing off their legs in that most macho of miniskirts, the Scottish kilt. The L.A. clothing store "Aardvark's Odd Ark" says that demand is so great, sometimes male customers have to settle for a woman's plaid skirt. At the recent MTV Video Music Awards, "Guns 'n' Roses" Axl Rose was seen performing in one, prompting one 18-year-old musician to suggest he "wears one because he wants to be Madonna".

A movie currently in production will contain a crossdressing character in an important and perhaps positive role. "Storyville's" transvestite character holds a vital piece of information and is not unhelpful in aiding those trying to solve a mystery.

Apparently we've been wrong all these years: 16-year-old fashion model Niki Taylor, quoted in People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" issue says fellow models advised her that to look good on the runway, she should "walk like a guy".

An exhibit at London's Royal College of Art this past summer featured three walls of photographs and prints depicting heterosexual fetishistic transvestites and four men in dresses. The models were friends of College graduate Angela Mackay, who said an ex-boyfriend who she described as a "sado-masochistic transvestite" gave her the idea not only for the show, but for a thesis on fetishistic transvestites who are heterosexual. Mackay says she has applied to do her Ph.D. thesis on women's perversions.

and create something constructive out of it. (I have read some Ayn Rand.)

Now, my thoughts were that there be three competitions in one event. Some of us do make our own clothes. Some of us even design our own clothes. Some of us have significant others who make and/or design our clothes. This would be an opportunity to show off what we can do on that score, and to encourage others to try their hand. Those of us who are of, shall we say, less than dainty proportions know how hard finding clothing can be and how frumpy those clothes often are.

The talent portion could be open to individuals and groups and this allows people who have some artistic bent to participate and judging would be solely on talent rather than appearance. Appearance would be reserved for the beauty competition and there would be some group of criteria to determine the winner including appearance, poise, and ...?

But, the real purpose is to help us present ourselves in a positive light to the general public through fund raising for worthy causes. How critical can people be of us if we go through all this trouble to raise money for The Heart Association, the Epilepsy Foundation, ACS, MOA, Angels Flight? Those with open minds will see us in a different light, or perhaps I should say simply light. Those blowhards who would denounce us as vile creatures will have a great deal of wind taken from their sails. This is a win/win proposition.

The question is, is there a commitment in the community to change our lot? Is there a commitment in the community to see this through? You tell me. Let us not forget, God helps those that help themselves.

(P.S. Sr. Mary Elizabeth tells me that a couple thousand dollars were raised in Denver with a 'Rocky Horror' party.)
[Anne Blackwood]

UP ON MY SOAPBOX: LEGALLY-SANCTIONED CHILD ABUSE

(from "Crystal Chronicle", Crystal Club)

Caryn Kristen Roberts, Executive Director of the Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle, WA, writes: I don't see them much now, they moved back to Tennessee after my SRS and live with their other parent. But we do talk. And write. And I send them money and presents and lotsa love. They call me Caryn, and sometimes even "Mom" when their other parent is not around. My 13 year old son (he was 11 at the time) said, "Can I come live with you?"

"Kevin," I said, "I am sorry, but you know the court and your mother won't let you. Why do you want to?"

"To see what it is like."

"But son, you know what it is like to live with me. You have lived with me all your life."

"Yeah, I know. But I want to see what it like to live with you now that you are happy."

Outa the mouths of babes, huh?

Maybe someday he will. Maybe not. But he knows I love him. And they all know I am happy and at peace.

What was that again?

"I am sorry, but you know the court and your mother won't let you."

How many times have you heard this? A married couple, with children, breaks up, and the father is TV or TS. The court takes steps to ensure that the mother gets custody, and more often than not the father loses all contact with the child. There is some kind of presumption on the part of the court that exposure to gender issues would be harmful to the child.

I've met a lot of people over the past few years with gender issues. Many of them are divorced. In a society where it is very rare for a "normal male" to have custody of his children, I am amazed to find a large percentage of the divorced crossdressers I know that have custody of their children.

But on second thought, why should this be so amazing? After all, why is it that most often custody goes to the mother? Why do so many men refuse to have anything to do with their children? Why do so many older judges make comments like Judge Stillwell of Logan County, Ohio: "I can't see why any man would want visitation with his young child, anyway."

I think it's because so many men are "macho". They see child-rearing as "woman's work" and refuse to "lower" themselves to that level. After all, they earn the money, they rule the roost, and they would rather sit on the couch, get drunk, and watch football, and let their wife take care of messy little details like changing diapers. Getting married in the first place may not have been their idea, and if they can get out with their wallet intact they may be able to chase anything in a skirt again and hope to avoid the consequences.

Can you imagine such a man with custody of his child? Most such men will not even consider custody, and will seek to avoid child support. Must be testosterone poisoning.

Of course, not all men are like this. Many modern men have been involved with their children since they assisted in the delivery room. Got up at night for that 3 AM feeding. Changed messy diapers. Many of these men would make perfectly good single parents, and many of them want custody when divorce ensues.

You can guess which group TVs and TSs fit into.

Yet when we go to court, we find that if the judge knows about our crossdressing background, we are at an even bigger disadvantage than typical men. Not only are we representatives of that macho group that only wants to leave town and abandon their wife and children, but we are weird, too. Two strikes against us from the start. Caryn no doubt ran into this same thing -- I'm sure many of us did.

But what about that 5% of the male population that actually manages to get custody of their children? What is so special about them that they can beat out a "normal woman"?

The typical custodial father is very involved with his children. He takes loads of time to spend with them. Nurtures them. Changes dirty diapers and kisses boo-boos to make them better. Stays home with them when they get sick. Tells them he loves them several times a day, and hugs them when they need a hug, or when he needs one. Grips to his friends about all the trouble they get in, but is always there getting them out of trouble. In short, this man is a good mother. He has all the feminine nurturing qualities that are important in a parent.

Being a crossdresser isn't something we turn on and off

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with a change of clothing. Whether TV or TS, we are essentially the same person in both masculine and feminine roles. If we have feminine qualities as a woman, we have those as a man. It should be no surprise that a crossdresser is actually a very good candidate to be the best parent for a child. Those nurturing qualities will show through in their male parenting role. No wonder so many crossdressers are winning custody. I'll bet some of those macho types might even call you a sissy if you have custody.

So why is crossdressing such a handicap in the courtroom? Why does the law list transvestism and transsexualism as grounds for divorce? Why can't we wear our dresses proudly into the courtroom and announce to the judge that we are good mothers too?

If you think about it, the logic of the court is nonsensical!

Women are better parents than men because they are more nurturing and less macho.

Transsexuals are not real men, they are different and weird, more like women.

Therefore, transsexuals are unfit parents because they are too much like women.

Pretty warped logic, but it's going on in front of us all the time. Not only are TS's afraid to ask for custody, but they are being totally cut off from their children by the embittered mothers who could not handle their husband's gender dysphoria, and by conservative judges who do not understand them and want to get home to be served dinner by their faithful wife who has stayed home all day cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the children.

Things are changing, but they are changing slowly. Younger judges are being elected to the bench who are not so wedded to the concept of a male breadwinner and female homemaker. Female judges are becoming more common and are less likely to believe in stereotypes. Laws have been rewritten to be less sexist. The "tender years doctrine" stating that very young children should always be in the care of their mother has been repealed. There is progress on all of these fronts except one.

The typical court has no idea that TVs and TSs are anything other than freaks. They do not realize that we are probably better parents than the average male. They need to be educated. Folks, that education isn't going to happen unless we make it happen. People in academia need to conduct studies to show that TVs and TSs are good parents, that their gender issues do not impact on parenting ability, and that they are probably better parents than typical men. They need to show that a higher percentage of divorced crossdressers have custody of their children than of the general divorced male population. Does some graduate student need a thesis topic?

Those of us going into a divorce should not blindly concede custody to the ex-wife. If you want it, (and what card-carrying woman wouldn't want her children?) you have to fight for it. Get a psychologist to testify on your behalf. Fight for lots of visitation. The current thinking is that children benefit from lots of contact with both parents, and joint custody is becoming more and more common. Don't let them use your gender dysphoria as an excuse to separate you from your children. Your children need you: fight for them and be there for them!

I hope to soon see the day when being a crossdresser will be seen for what it is: an asset, not a perversion.

[Mary Ann Harris]

[Editor's Note: Eileen McCleary has discontinued writing her regular commentaries for "Cross-Talk". We will present our guest commentaries from other newsletters under the "Up On My Soapbox" title instead. We hope to include an occasional future commentary by Ms. McCleary when she is able.]

VOX POPULI: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Pulling No Punchlines", June '91:

I think you are missing the point. In my opinion, the editor has a responsibility not only to the reader but to the writer.

"Cross-Talk" is published monthly as an information and entertainment resource for the gender community. For subscription information, please see page 17.

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Renaissance Education Association

Tau Chi Chapter, Tri-Ess

Transgenderists' Independence Club (TGIC)

OTHER CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS:

J2CP Information Services

... and of course, the individual readers who sent in news articles from their local papers!

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At the very minimum, you should have stated that the article had been condensed or edited for content. The fact that you thought it was in bad taste does not make it your right to change an article that we didn't submit to you for publication.

These "edits" also changed the article in such a manner that at least two people were confused and took it for a serious piece. The fact that it was in your regular humor and satire column is no excuse.

[Shannon Michael, editor, IXE newsletter]

(In response, I must point out -- once again -- that it is standard practice within the gender community to reprint articles from other newsletters, and that they are frequently edited and condensed without notice. This has even happened to articles reprinted from "Cross-Talk", yet I have never in the three years I have published this newsletter complained, much less made such a major issue out of an extremely minor one such as IXE has over this one. I suspect your overreaction to this is motivated by your still-bruised ego after I took Elaine Edwards to task for her fictitious news articles of last year. Since you have admitted knowledge of that fiction -- and even, at one point asked one newsletter editor not to reveal the truth when she discovered it -- I don't believe you still have the objectivity to be a newsletter editor. I suggest you resign your post. -- Kimberleigh Richards)

[Your letters are welcome, but we request that they be brief and stick to a single point of view. Letters considered to be too lengthy or unclear in viewpoint will be subject to editing. You may mail your letters to "Cross-Talk" Letters, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax them to us at (818) 347-1490, or send them to us via E-mail on the "Cross-Connection" BBS (see the "Submission Guidelines" section elsewhere in this issue).]

MAKING UP FOR NIGHTTIME LIGHTS

by Valerie Driscoll

Dear Val: Most of the time, I go out to nightclubs with lots of neon and strobe lights. Since those are the only times I get out en femme, I want to look fabulous and glamorous, but my makeup seems to look too garish in the club lights. How can I figure out how to do my makeup so it looks best in that environment? And how much frost and glitter works in that light?
--Robyn, California

Dear Robyn: Party girls everywhere know how bad those black lights make us look. The further away you get from them, the better. But when it gets crowded, that's easier said than done. It will most likely be hot also, and water-based foundation running down your face really shows up. Hint #1: Use oil-based foundation.

Most clubs are very dark, so you can get by with using a bit more color than usual. And try false eyelashes! They're in style now and give your eyes an extra boost of glamour. Glitter can be used as an eyeliner or shadow as long as it's not overdone. Avoid shiny face powder -- you'll look too artificial.

Attract attention to your lips -- use bright colors with gloss to top it off. Lastly, after you arrive, forget about your makeup. Smile a lot and have a terrific time!

[If you have questions about makeup, please write to Valerie Driscoll at the address below. Questions of general interest will be answered in this column.]

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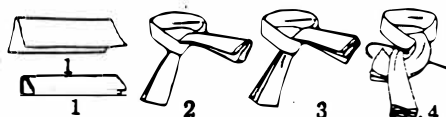
MORE TIPS ABOUT SCARVES

by Kimberleigh Richards

My friend and subscriber Divinity sent me a pamphlet she had picked up on different ways to tie scarves, pointing out that there were some styles pictured that were not part of Rebecca Redsing's excellent article on this fashion accessory (available in the "Best of Cross-Talk" reprint if you missed it originally). So, in the interest of providing the widest possible range of "looks" for those who might want to try scarves, here are more ways to tie them, beginning with three styles for the popular square scarf:

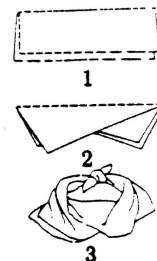
THE ASCOT

1. Fold the scarf into an oblong.
2. Put around the neck and place one end over the other.
3. For a pleated ascot, fold the scarf like an accordion and tie around the neck. Place one end over the other. Fan out the pleats.
4. For a bow, continue into a square knot.



SIDE TRIANGLE

1. Form a triangle with the scarf.
2. At the point of one end, tie a single knot to create a loop.
3. Bring the same corner around and through the knot to tighten the loop.
4. Pull the opposite point around the neck and through the loop. Adjust the loop to the desired tightness and wear to one side.



THE SMALL COWL

1. Fold scarf in half horizontally.
2. Take the opposite corners, and ...
3. Knot corners in the back so the scarf lays softly.

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)



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TRANSEXUALISM AND THE CHURCH: UNJUSTIFIED MUTILATION?

PART 3: A PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE
(Courtesy J2CP Information Services)

In the first two segments of this series we explored what might be construed by some as a narrow use of Holy Scripture to support the contemporary view that sex reassignment surgery is unjustified mutilation and an abomination in the eyes of God. In this segment we will explore the theologian's final argument -- i.e., gender dysphoria is a psychological phenomenon, which by its very nature is based on subjective experience -- which is, by far, the most difficult to challenge.

The cause(s) of transsexualism continue to be disputed among professionals; most of the controversy, as discussed in segment one of this series, focusing on whether the etiology is psychogenic or organic. Money and Ehrhart have suggested a fetal metabolic or hormonal component may predispose a person towards gender-confusion. Block and Tessler have proposed an endocrine theory which assumes that chromosomal and endocrine sex do not always correspond. Another organic theory (Hoenig) suggests malfunction in the temporal region. Virtually countless theories abound, with

research failing to wholly support any one position.

A plausible explanation for this lack of consensus is the fact that no measurable evidence of hormonal or chromosomal abnormalities have been found, and psychological tests, which can successfully differentiate the transsexual from the so-called normal population, are non-existent. The result is that most professionals accept the theory that best corresponds with their own personal background, education, and clinical experience.

Diagnosis at present centers on the ruling out of other conditions, and is made on the basis of psychological and psychiatric criteria rather than physical criteria. Diagnostic information is obtained through physician/patient interviews, with the patient oftentimes relying on subterfuge in order to realize his or her goal. Diagnosis, therefore, is often questionable and the term transsexual, suspect.

The term transsexual has come to cover such a multitude of psychological conditions that all one knows when the term appears in the literature is that a patient, labeling himself transsexual, requested sex reassignment surgery, and the physician accepted that self-diagnosis. For example, a search of the literature, including TV/TS publications, discloses a variety of terms -- i.e., true transsexual, bona-fide transsexual, primary transsexual, pseudo-transsexual, secondary transsexual, non-surgical transsexual, etc. What do these terms mean? The definitions found in the literature appear more subjective than objective. Small wonder, then, that Meyer was compelled to write "I have the terms 'transsexualism' and 'transsexual' both written in my notes in quotation marks. I find that I really cannot use them without quotation marks any longer, because I am no longer confident of their meaning."

An effective challenge to their argument seems hopeless in view of the preceding facts. The fact that we cannot provide a comprehensive definition, nor fully explain the origins of transsexualism, does not mean that answers are beyond our reach, however. In bits and pieces, that are often the subject of lively debate, God's continuing revelations are allowing physicians to unscramble the body-mind puzzle.

While medical science continues to seek answers to the problems at hand, what do we -- the church and society -- do? Will we game play? Or will we, in faith, struggle together in the reality of the present world depending on a gracious and loving God to minister to and through all persons seeking grace and fulfillment.

The transsexual, torn by the conflict between his physique and psyche, often miserably able to function even on a minimal level, frequently exhibits such extreme unhappiness that suicide or self-mutilation becomes a real risk. Their suffering is beyond belief. To deny access to treatment would be unconscionable.

Some, however, would do just that. Sincerely believing

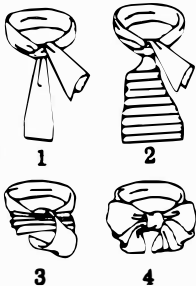
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FASHION NOTEBOOK ...

The pamphlet also shows two styles for oblong scarves:

PLEATED BOW

1. Wrap the scarf around your neck, leaving one end much longer than the other. Flip one end over the other.
2. With your fingers, tie the longer end accordion-style up to the knot.
3. Wrap the shorter end around the pleated one and tighten the short end just behind the loop.
4. Fan the pleats.



SIDE HALF BOW

1. Wrap the scarf around the neck with the left side much shorter than the right.
2. Tie a loose knot at one end, leaving about 3 1/4 inches.
3. Pleat the right side up until it is even with the left side.
4. Pinch the pleats together in the center and push through the loose knot on the other side.
5. Secure the knot.
6. Adjust and flair at the neck.

By the way, different types of scarves require different methods of washing if they are to stay beautiful. While polyester scarves can be hand- or machine-washed in cool water, acrylic scarves should only be hand-washed. Silk scarves should be dry cleaned, but they can be hand-washed in cool water with salt; then drip-dry and iron on a low setting. Wool scarves should also be dry cleaned, but you can hand-wash them, then roll them in a towel (to remove moisture) and lay flat to dry.

[Next month, Lola Fatale rejoins the "Cross-Talk" staff as the writer of this column.]



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RESPONSES TO OTHERS' VIEWS

I CAN'T USE "HER" NAME

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

by Cynthia Phillips
with Ted (Buffy) and Ann

In any of my 60 previous columns I have spoken on behalf of people who seem to have little voice in the community. Sometimes these viewpoints have made some readers uncomfortable because they have a different perspective on the subject. In the past six months two readers have strongly disagreed with what I have written. This column is a reply to them, in the spirit of continuing dialog rather than choosing "sides".

The first writer was Phaedra Kelly in her column in July 1991's "Cross-Talk". She took exception to my description and comments about one man's (fictional) compulsion on gaining entry to a women-only tea room (Notebook #54). My position was that people have the right to reserve places in which not everyone is welcome. I wrote that such exclusion is often necessary for personal growth. Only when such limitations deny others access to socially or economically essential elements is it properly challenged.

Ms. Kelly, I believe, missed my point. She quotes historical events in which women invaded male bastions to gain various rights including voting. I believe that these incidents were appropriate, based on the fact that women were denied social and economic power. She then goes on to point out that female sexuality can be as intense as male sexuality. Somehow this justifies Ms. Kelly's conclusion that it is permissible for either gender to invade the other gender's private spaces so long as the invader is up front about the "sexual and adrenaline high" that results.

Ms. Kelly describes me as old fashioned because my professional experience has led me to the conclusion that women want or need this security more than men. Regardless, let me expand the discussion by talking about the gender community instead of women's social groups. From my observations, many of the organizations in the gender community go to great lengths to assure privacy and security for their meetings. Elaborate screening of potential members and limited knowledge of meeting places is common. I suspect that people in the average organization would be infuriated if they were "invaded" by persons who were either simply curious or got "a sexual high" from breaking into their meeting. There would be more than anger if such an intrusion were directed toward physical attacks on the members. In sum, we all need private and secure places. Invasion of these places "on a lark" is inexcusable.

The other writer who took exception to my writing was Linda Phillips, in the September 1991 "Cross-Talk". In #57 I had written about my experience on a television show that

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

TSism & THE CHURCH ...

they object to sex reassignment on moral grounds, frequently conceding that the highest morality lies in providing relief from suffering, they deny the right to this relief to the transsexual. These same individuals may hold that suicide is a mortal sin, while refusing to recognize that the transsexual who does not obtain medical help may very well, in his desperation, choose death as the only alternative to his radical alienation from life.

God has shown by His actions and nature that His love and concern extend to every area of human life. The dominant theme of the Gospels is a Divine Person actively engaged in healing physical and emotional anguish ... bringing wholeness. How then does one justify denying therapies and surgical procedures capable of bringing completeness, wholeness and oneness to one so desperately in need?

Our Baptismal covenants, not to mention the Gospels, enjoin us to be compassionate, "to strive for justice ... to respect the dignity of every human being." Are we not, therefore, compelled to stand between the dehumanizing forces within society and people, to strive for compassion born of understanding, coupled with the knowledge of what, with God's infinite love, we can accomplish?

Dear Cynthia: I have adjusted better than I thought I would to my husband's crossdressing activities. However, there are a few things that really do bother me. I thought that after 15 years I really knew my husband, and when he finally told me two years ago, I took it hard. I do know he loves me and I certainly care about him. I am not so sure about "love" at this point, but I do care for him. I have gone through the shock of seeing him dressed as a female and don't know just how well I will ever accept it. He dresses quite a bit during the week, but only after the kids are in bed. (We have two boys, one age 10, the other 8.) I suppose I will eventually come to grips with all this, but we have one problem that may seem small to anyone else but to me is very big. When my husband is "dressed" his biggest desire is that I refer to him in the feminine gender. It seems to me that to use a female name for him is letting go of his masculinity. This to me would be the final straw in admitting that I am really living with another woman and not the man I married. I know other women do this (a fact he reminds me of all the time), but I seem unable to do it. Can you be of any help to me in this? If there is a better way for both of us, I would like to know. --M.S.

Ann: We keep getting letters to answer that sound as though I wrote them myself! Are you sure you haven't been reading my diary? Seriously, this has been and is a problem for me, although I can tell you few things will make your husband any happier than calling him by his "femme name" when he is "dressed". This seems to really reinforce the role he is trying to fill, which of course is why we don't want to do it! I'll tell you how I handle this: I use pet names for Ted, like "Baby", "Sweetie", and "Precious". These are names that could be construed as feminine, but they really don't bother me. It does bother me somewhat to use his "femme name", even though he loves it when I do. I save this for "special occasions" or when I really want his attention. But I really think I'm the wrong one to ask about this, as I too have a problem with it at times.

Ted: The happiest CDs I know have wives that recognize their "femme" side. We pick female names so we can actually put on a personality along with the clothes, and this makes it so much easier. We are still the same people, it's just that the "girl in the mirror" really needs a name. I personally don't care if Ann uses my "femme name" or not, but when I dress it does make me feel that I have done a good job and look convincing -- which I suppose is why she doesn't like to use it. Maybe she thinks all this is too much, and crowning it off with my female name DOES make her feel I am

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

Helping my big sisters' metamorphosis over the past nine years, I understand the joy, the triumph and the frustration you experience along the way.

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NEW ADULT TV MAGAZINE DEBUTS: The first two issues of the new "TV Connection" magazine is bringing a wider scope to the typical "contact ad" publication.

Featured in these introductory offerings were articles on matching colors and accessories to your hair color, humorous news notes, a commentary on "self-validation", the first two installments of a fiction story about forced feminization, and listings of support groups in the U.S. and Canada.

The only drawback I see is that because of the content of its personal ads, a lot of people will be reluctant to keep "TV Connection" around the house as long as other publications, and its primary distribution through adult bookstores will make it difficult for some to overcome their fear of such stores to buy it. But this does appear to be the best attempt (to date) to broaden the scope of the "contact ad" magazine.

GET OUT THE OLD BOX OF CRAYOLAS: An adult coloring book has come to our attention which should appeal to the child in every crossdresser.

"Dress-Up Dan" is a male cut-out dress-up doll who comes with an evening gown (including fur stole), showgirl outfit, sleeveless mini-dress, and other interesting outfits, all of which you can color however you like before cutting everything out of the book and playing "dress-up" with Dan.

This is a really cute idea which, while having some gay male overtones, should appeal nevertheless to every CD, regardless of sexual orientation. [\$4, postage paid, from Marginal Arts, PO Box 2494, Virginia Beach VA 23450-2494.]

SANDY THOMAS CONCLUDES "VOVS" SERIES: The fourth (and final) volume in the Contemporary TV Fiction series dealing with the total transformation of Randy into Randi is entitled "Vow of Femininity".

In this concluding chapter, Randi falls in love with a football star she had idolized as a man, and has to reevaluate her entire life as a result. Suffice it to say that Randy's wife Mindy isn't heard from very much in this story, but the ending might surprise you.

Sandy's other new title, "Paul: Girl Model", from the TV Fiction Classics series, will appeal to any crossdresser who has ever fantasized about being a glamorous model. Very well written and true to the facts about the modeling business.

NOT A BOOK, BUT WORTH MENTIONING: The fourth edition of "Vernon's Specialties" catalog is off the presses, and while

it's obviously the showcase for the wide variety of products for the gender community Vernon's carries, there is also an excellent information article at the front of the catalog on what cosmetics you should pack when travelling. If you travel a lot as your femme self (or at least bringing her along), you should read this article. You'll learn a lot (and the rest of the catalog is worth the price of admission, too).

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK ...

primarily presented only one side -- the nearly unconditional acceptance of crossdressing by the wife. I wrote about the potential effect on women who could not be as accepting as Ms. Phillips wife is of her husband's crossdressing.

I have probably talked to as many wives as has Ms. Phillips but under totally different circumstances. The women she sees have most likely already made some accommodation to their partner's crossdressing. The women I see are still struggling with the issues and their relationship. The one valid point that Ms. Phillips makes is those many of the husbands (of my clients) are not honest with their wives and also have a lot of guilt and shame over their crossdressing. This guilt and shame does strongly influence how they relate to their wives. It is the women in these relationships that I work with. From these experiences I have come to believe that there are a significant number of women who do not wholeheartedly accept their husband's crossdressing and perhaps never will.

The thing that outraged me about Ms. Phillips rejoinder was that she accused me (and other professionals) of labelling people as sick so that we can make money from curing them. I am also outraged by Ms. Phillips implication that I am trying to preserve the social status quo so that I can "make more money". If she bothered to become aware of my actions within the gender community, the professional community and in society at large, she would know that I have worked to change perceptions about gender issues. To the extent I and others in the community are successful in achieving a more positive social attitude toward gender to that extent will there be fewer clients for me to work with. If she ever asked other professionals, she would discover that serving the gender community is far from a money making proposition. Most professionals that I know could not earn a living if they had only clients with gender concerns. In my particular case, less than 5% of my income comes from working with such clients.

I find it sad that so many people in the gender community believe professionals are self-serving individuals whose sole purpose is to make money from persons who struggle with gender issues. Yes, there are uninformed professionals who do more harm than good, but that is also true for any other profession. Not everyone is completely altruistic nor are any omniscient. The majority of professionals who serve your community are there because they care, not because they want to take advantage of you.

[If you have something you would like Dr. Peo to write about or have a rebuttal send it to P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call (914) 452-8405. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter so long as Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval.]

S.J. THERE! ...

a woman. Of course, I appreciate any effort she makes to help me integrate both sides of my personality, so if she calls me by the pet names she uses, it's fine with me. What's in a name anyway?

Ann: I'd like to add that I do have a problem with the "girl in the mirror", which is what some CDs call their other self. Sometimes I'm afraid "she" will actually steal my husband from me! Almost all the women I have talked to have a problem with this. I know that before we were married this was Ted's prime source of sex. It seems as though I am always competing with "her", and I also feel that if sex is ever a problem with us, he always has "her" to turn to.

Ted: I disagree with this. In the last few years we've been married I have learned to put you before my femme mirror image. I will admit sex with someone else is "different", but I am discovering that it can be more fulfilling.

[Cynthia Phillips is married to a crossdresser and is involved with two gender support groups in Texas, as well as being the current wives and partners liaison to the Tri-Ess board of directors. You may write her with comments or suggestions for future columns at P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163. Ted (Buffy) and his wife Ann are a young couple in their mid-thirties, married over five years.]

GET A FRIEND TO SUBSCRIBE,
ADD A FREE MONTH TO YOUR
OWN SUBSCRIPTION!
DETAILS ON PAGE 17

FORMING A MORE PERFECT UNION

by Ricky Hunt

Transvestites of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your pants! Throw off the chains of convention and proudly wear your chains of gold and silver! Strike while your irons are hot! Join with your Sisters today in forming the International Ladies Garment Wearers Union!

Yes my Sisters, you must suffer no more in silence in your motel rooms and closets. Demand entrance to the sweater shop run by the ILGWU. Do not skirt the issue but join the thousands of your sisters who will never know the pains of labor in the birth of this noble cause. As with the unions of tradesmen before us we shall join together and triumph!

In the bad old days of yore powerful men and corporations forced weak and unorganized workers to toil at slave wages in dark factories. These poor, unorganized workers had little choice but to bear the brunt of this mistreatment. It was not until energetic and enlightened leaders started the Union Movement that these condions were changed for the better. The American Federation of Labor, United Mineworkers, and yes, our namesake the International Ladies Garment Workers Union brought these oppressed men to the attention of a heretofor uncaring society and brought about Great Change.

In much the same way other minorities in our society, the Blacks, Hispanics, Women and Gays, have found that organization, solidarity, and publicity are the key to reform. Now the time has come for all transvestites to break out of their closets, get a good close shave, and join the Union!

Membership requirements are easily fulfilled and benefits substantial. Simply forward the price of your next dress to the ILGWU and it will be placed in our Union Strike Fund. It will remain there, to the great interest of your leaders, until our first demonstration. This demonstration will be a march on Washington to demand our rights as part time women. The Union Strike Fund will supply each sister with a pair of high heels suitable for marching and a tastefully decorated picket sign. Since we will have prepared the way with lobbying by our own PAC, the Federated Associated League Supporting Imitation Effeminate Sisters (FALSIES), we expect a rousing greeting as we strut through the hallowed halls of Congress in our finest. There are tentative plans for a sit down strike so please no Mini-Skirts.

So strike up the band, sing the praises of pantyhose and join the IGLWU today! You have nothing to lose but your sanity!

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OR FAX US THE ARTICLE AT
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THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH QUIZ

by Linda Buten

(from "InnerView", Cross-Port)

Every so often I run into someone who tells me that they like to dress like a woman, but they don't know if they are a TV or a TS. Well, now through years of research I have come up with a sure-fire test which, when taken, will give you that answer. So get your pencil and paper and let's begin.

1. You're driving down the expressway, and in your rear view mirror you see an eighteen-wheeler coming up the rear. You: (a) pull to the right and let him pass; (b) pull your skirt down and look straight ahead; (c) pull to the far left lane and show a little leg.
2. The wind blows a young woman's skirt up and you can see her panties. You: (a) act like you saw nothing; (b) wonder if they come in your size; (c) have to adjust your girdle because it suddenly feels very tight.
3. You want to go out for an evening stroll in a deserted part of town at 1:00am. You: (a) don't because it's a stupid idea; (b) put on a sweatsuit and gym shoes; (c) get out that mini and those 5" spikes.
4. You're in a lingerie store to buy panties. You: (a) check the quality; (b) compare the prices; (c) feel for silkiness and measure the amount of lace.
5. You've entered a women's clothing store and the clerk asks if you need help. You say: (a) "Just looking"; (b) "No, thank you"; (c) "I'm looking to buy my wife a present who just happens to be my size, and I don't know what size I am".
6. While out to eat, you order a small portion. The reason is: (a) you're on a diet; (b) you're not very hungry; (c) your corset is on so tight you can barely breathe, much less eat.
7. You suddenly realize you are the only one left in the house for the next few hours. You: (a) clean house; (b) watch TV; (c) dash to your stash and put on some trash.
8. Before you go out for your evening drive, you: (a) slip on some old clothes; (b) take off your clothes and drive around naked; (c) spend two hours getting your makeup just right.
9. You're self conscious about your butt, so you: (a) wear a girdle; (b) wear loose fitting clothes; (c) buy a Frederick's of Hollywood fake butt and hip maker.
10. You have been stopped by the police, and they want to see your license. You: (a) start to cry; (b) show it to him; (c) think up a convincing story why you don't look like your picture.

Let's see how you scored. If all your answers were (c), then you are no doubt a transvestite. If you answered all (c) except for choosing (b) in #8, you are a sick, demented transvestite and are no longer allowed to come to meetings. If all or most of your answers were (a), then you are probably a transsexual. If most were (a), but you chose (b) in #8, then you are a sick, demented transsexuals, but still allowed to attend meetings. If you are a genetic female and took this test by mistake, and you chose (b) in #8, I suggest some counselling.

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THEY WANT THEIR MANHOOD BACK: Almost 100,000 Indian eunuchs, most of whom were castrated as children, are demanding that their government pay for sex restoration transplants.

Shama Revi, leader of the Eunuch Union in Delhi, India, says his group "has a right to function as normal men" and that the half-million eunuchs in his country are treated as second-class citizens who cannot vote or hold regular jobs. Many wear makeup and dress as young women, luring male prostitution customers to lonely areas for mugging and sometimes murder.

Revi, who was kidnapped and castrated at the age of 12, holds the government responsible because it has done nothing about the problem. He says the members of his union are demanding testicular transplants, but did not say where he expects doctors to find donors. ["Sun"]

GIRLS BECOME BOYS INSTEAD OF WOMEN: A bizarre hereditary condition has turned more than 100 Arab girls into men, according to stunned genetic experts.

The strange cases of sexual confusion were discovered in 1978 in an Arab town in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. The experts theorize that intermarriage caused many people to carry a gender-bending gene that caused many young girls to grow beards and develop muscles and male sexual organs at puberty. Research found they had been males all along, but the genetic condition kept their true gender hidden until then.

In most cases, the former girls cut their hair and began dressing as men, but needed surgery to function sexually as males. ["National Enquirer"]

COUPLE GETS SEX CHANGES TO SAVE THEIR MARRIAGE: A troubled couple looking for a solution to their marriage problems decided on a bizarre solution -- both had sex change operations and reversed their roles as husband and wife.

Says Henrietta Barnham, who before the operation was Henry, "I always like to do the cooking and cleaning and things like that. (Wife turned husband) Terry always liked to do man things." The couple decided to swap sexes after reading a magazine article about a woman who became a man after SRS. "She sounded just like me," said Terry, who told Henry she wanted to become a man as well. Five days later, Henry decided to change sexes as well.

Surgeons in Sydney, Australia completed the operations without a hitch, but the Barnhams have had difficulty readjusting to the social changes. Henrietta, an elementary school teacher, had to request a transfer to a different school to ease any difficulties with her students, while Terry has temporarily given up his job with the telephone company to stay home and care for the couple's 18-month-old son.

"He still calls me mommy, even though I'm his daddy now," Terry says. "We'll explain it all to him when he gets older." ["Sun"]

THE NEWEST TREND -- SRS FOR PETS: A report in a veterinary magazine says thousands of pampered pets belonging to wealthy pet owners in Europe and the Middle East are having sex-change operations!

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

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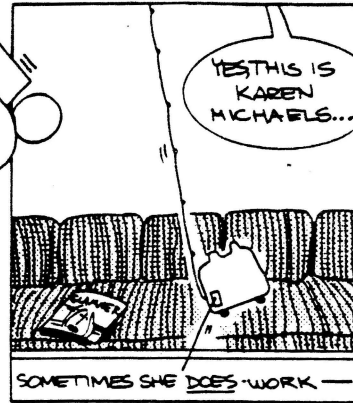
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THE SEX-CHANGERS BY LYN T. ©

6:00 TV NEWS ...

The trend, according to Dr. Augusto Deriando, a pet therapist practicing in London and Paris, follows new advances in pet psychology which show that animals can be frustrated and depressed if their sexual orientation is confused. Says Dr. Deriando, "If there's the psychological need and the money to pay for it, why not?" The surgery costs anywhere from \$3,900 to \$8,500, depending on the size of the animal and medical complications.

The animals are given hormone therapy just like human transsexuals, and by the time their surgery is over, they act just like members of the opposite sex, according to Dr. Deriando. The procedure has been performed thus far on cats, dogs, horses and parrots, and experts expect the process to be used on fish, reptiles, and other animals eventually.

["Weekly World News"]

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

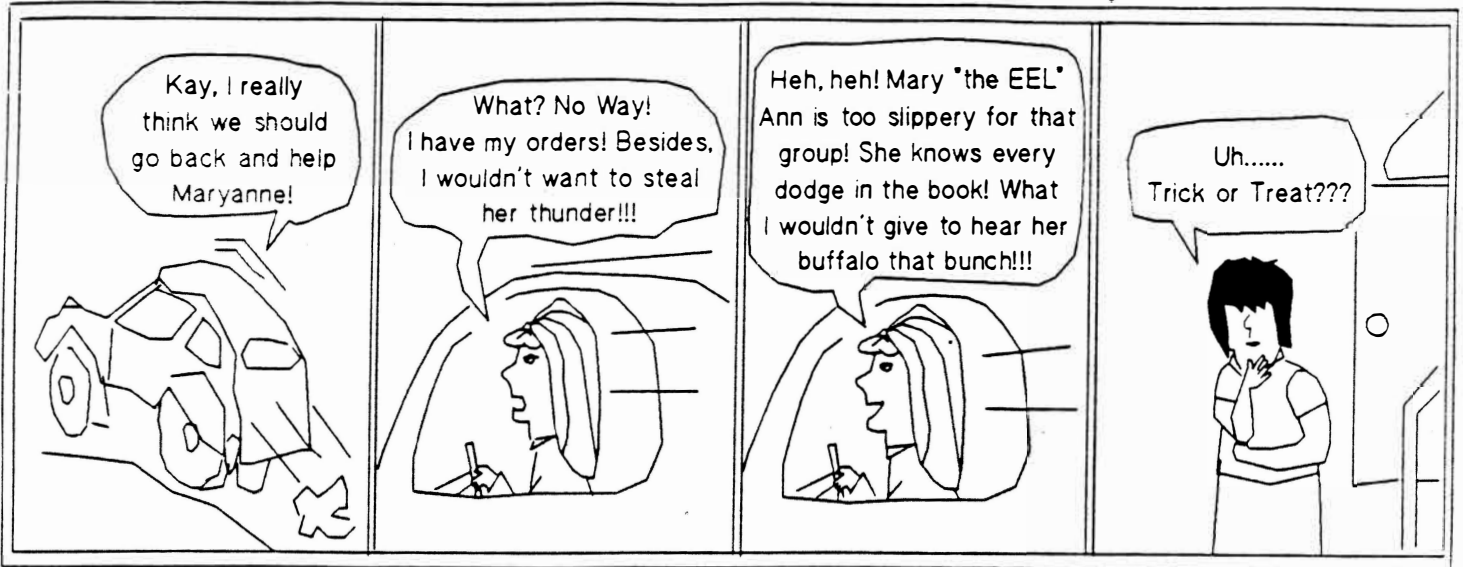


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NATIONAL HOTLINES

[This list of telephone numbers of local groups is provided by "Cross-Talk" as a service to the gender community.]

NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2312
 Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC suburbs: (201) 663-0772
 Expressing Our Nature, Rochester: (716) 251-2316
 Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
 Hierarchy, Philadelphia: (215) 425-5240
 Long Island Femme Expression: (718) 446-6753
 My Choice, Baltimore: (301) 732-4546
 Renaissance, Philadelphia: (215) 630-1437
 Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
 Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
 Tiffany Club, Boston: (508) 358-2305
 Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
 Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257

THE SOUTH:

Atlanta Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
 Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678
 Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 921-8738

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514
 Chicago Gender Society: (312) 434-5445
 City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 933-5288
 Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 299-1353
 Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 237-4321
 Crossroads, Flint: (313) 446-0782
 Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
 St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615

SOUTHWEST / MOUNTAIN REGION:

Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (512) 657-2540
 Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253
 Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378
 Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin: (512) 892-6454
 Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381
 Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 822-6953
 Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 774-8463
 Rose City Gender Center, Portland: (503) 230-1036

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141
 American Transsexual Education Center: (213) 469-4709
 Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
 Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 529-5634
 Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 695-3696
 Powder Puffs of Orange County, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
 Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
 Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 441-8379
 Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

CANADA:

Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203
 Toronto Crossdressers Club: (416) 864-0420

6:00 TV NEWS ...

NOT ONLY DOESN'T CRIME PAY, SOMETIMES IT'S A REAL DRAG: A robbery suspect was arrested when he didn't notice an undercover cop disguised as a woman had a full mustache. 52-year-old Malachi Powell, reportedly disappointed with the amount of money he found when he broke into the Petersburg, Virginia apartment of Ollie West, started calling her and demanding more money in return for not coming back to the apartment. The woman told police, who set up a sting operation and made arrangements for Powell to meet West near her home. The police officer disguised as the woman refused to shave his mustache, so they covered it with heavy makeup. Powell, who didn't notice, was arrested and charged with breaking and entering, abduction, use of a firearm in an abduction, and attempted extortion. [Sun]

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by Charlene Day

This is a documentary made over a period of 5 years about gay blacks and Harlem's drag ball scene. It is a look at a subculture within a subculture. The gay blacks have "two strikes" against them. One reason is because they are gay and are rejected by their families and other blacks. The second "strike" is because they are black they are rejected by white gays.

One thing that comes out is their need for acceptance of themselves and by others. (Sound familiar?) They want to be "someone." They don't necessarily want to be rich or famous, but known as a legend in their culture. One becomes a legend by winning prizes at the balls. The balls are similar to drag queen balls that you may have seen but they are more than that. The early balls featured extravagant and outrageous costumes with lots of beads and feathers. Over the years the balls have gone through phases and the styles have changed. Only some of the contestants dress in women's clothes. Others dress as models, executives, "realies", ninjas, soldiers, etc. There must be 30 or 40 categories and the competition is fierce. Some are very passable, some are outrageous. Their acts include dancing, strutting, and sock battles.

In many cases they start out as kids that have been orphaned, abandoned, or rejected by their families. They spend a lot of time, effort (not all of it legal) and money preparing for the ball.

There are groups called "houses" that are run by a "mother". You have to get up enough nerve to "walk the ball" to really belong to a house. A mother is an older experienced person who has walked the ball and probably is a legend. Some houses are named after legends and others go by names such as Extravaganza. These people have a special language. "Reading" is a critique of a person's costume or act. A more subtle form of reading is "shade" where the person knows you are critical of them but don't say it explicitly. It is sort of like "I am what I think you think I am."

"Mopping" is stealing for clothes, accessories, food, etc. One person dressed as a soldier said that you can tell by their demeanor whether or not a contestant got their clothes by mopping. Somehow the guilt comes out.

In part, these balls and the supporting subculture are a backlash against society. Some of the people all but admitted they were prostitutes. Some had surgery. However, one long-time legend said he would not have surgery and he thought that it was a mistake. (How about that, Virginia!?)

All in all I found the movie interesting, absorbing, and some instances a little raw, but near the end the repetition of ball acts became a little boring.

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WOULDN'T YOU JUST LOVE TO BE REAL?

by Pat F.
(from Northwest Gender Alliance newsletter)

All too often, crossdressers who have not had the opportunity to be out in public have the notion that they would love to be a REAL female, without knowing just what they would be doing to the rest of the family. I have been told that most crossdressers have these feelings at one time or another, but after they have been out of the closet for a while, they come to realize that being in the female role is not as desirable as it looks.

The real female seldom has the opportunity for the better paying jobs. We are rarely chosen for the upcoming promotions. Most of the time, our ideas are not good enough -- but let a sale suggest the same thing and the think it is great. Being a real female has its pitfalls. The job market is not the greatest, and you have to work a minimum of one year in order to prove that you are able to be self-supporting for yourself and for your family.

We, as real women, know that being female is not all that glamorous. We spend many hours cooking, cleaning, mending, doing dishes and laundry, grocery shopping, and taking care of the children ... besides working a full eight hours a day

to bring home a paycheck, and WE ARE STILL CONSIDERED SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS.

The subject of family often arises. It seems as if the TS doesn't stop and realize that, more than likely, they will lose their spouse and often times their children. After all, how many of us want to live in a lesbian relationship? I, for one, would not.

Most of the women I have met at our support group meetings have these same feelings. It is difficult enough just knowing your mate loves to wear feminine attire, let alone knowing he wants to become a real female. This can cause severe depression and create problems in the family, and in the marriage itself.

Some of you may still think that being a female is the greatest thing in the world. Guess again. We are there, and it is a lot of hard work. Remember that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

So be careful when you decide "how wonderful it would be to be a REAL female". Once the surgery is complete, it is permanent and there is no turning back.

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THE JOYS OF THRIFT SHOPPING

by Glenda Rene Jones
(from "Fiesta!" newsletter)

Thrift shopping is exciting and fun. While some items in a thrift shop may be the worse for wear, many items are brand new and have never been worn. Thrift shopping has two major advantages over shopping in other kinds of stores. At any time, there are certain things in style and carried by most retail stores. Thrift shops, on the other hand, can offer a variety of styles going back two or more decades. As an example, woven nylon satin lingerie is apparently not in vogue right now. Most woven fabric lingerie is made of polyester or silk. The fortunate thrift shopper can sometimes find a woven nylon satin slip. Prices are unbeatable. Last week I picked up a two-piece camisole and half-slip. They were made of polyester satin and hand embroidered, imported from Spain. In a fine lingerie shop I am sure they would have cost over \$50 easily. Cost in the thrift shop: \$8.95. There are some rules, however, to being a successful thrift shopper.

First, take the time to browse all the shops in your vicinity. You will get a feel after awhile for the ones to keep coming back to. Regularity is essential to thrift shopping. The stock is always changing. Once one gets to know a shop, it can be perused very quickly.

Along that line, if you are out of town on a trip make it a point to visit shops in distant cities. Different cities sometimes have a different type of merchandise. A tip, by the way, is to be sure to visit shops in areas dominated by blacks. Black women generally have larger feet than white women, and frequently larger size shoes will be available.

If you see something you like, buy it. It probably won't be there next time you come in. I have unfortunately learned that the hard way a couple of times. I have found that items which I buy and later don't like I can almost always sell at

a meeting.

The decision of whether to shop en femme or en homme is a personal one. I prefer to shop most of the time as my male self. I have had virtually no problems at all. Thrift shop personnel are interested in moving their merchandise and collecting your money. Many stores have individual dressing stalls and you can normally try something on with no problem. Only once have I ever had a problem: One woman gave me a hard time once. I bought a pair of shoes. She said "Well, be careful. You are going to fall and break your neck with those heels." I replied, with a smile on my face, "Not to worry. I have been wearing heels now for more than 30 years." Attitude is 99% of dealing with this type of situation. My smile quickly disarmed her.

If trying something on is a problem, here is a suggestion. Keep a tape measure in your glove compartment. Know how wide a skirt's waist or blouse's bodice must be to fit your properly. Simply measure a garment before buying it. And then, if it doesn't fit, sell or trade it to someone else. The most you can lose is a few dollars, and in the end you will have tons of clothes with a very modest investment.

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AFTER A FASHION (OR: HUMAN BARBIE DOLLS ...)

by Patricia McLaughlin
(from Neutral Corner newsletter)

The only people I know anymore who are truly devoted to fashion at its girliest are little kids. Three-, four-, and five-year olds still want to look like Madonna -- or Barbie. They're fascinated by makeup, nail polish, jewelry, high heels, long gloves, and all manner of feminine froufrou. They roll their eyes and bat their eyelashes like baby Mae Wests. But it doesn't last.

At 4, Becky refused to be parted from her purple miniskirt even long enough for it to be washed; she crawled out of bed in the middle of the night to pull it on over her pajamas, and went back to sleep content. Now, at 10, she lives in sweatshirts, borrowed from her dad, that come almost down to the knees.

The silhouette -- in the form of oversized sweaters over leggings -- has been borrowed by designers and fashionable women because it's comfortable and flattering. To them, it's a look. For young girls, though -- and adolescents have been wearing it at least since the '50s, when it involved one of daddy's billowy white dress shirts over dungarees -- it seems to function also as a disguise, a way to hide.

At a stroke, an extra-large sweatshirt camouflages the actual body inside it and avoids committing itself on the issue of the body's gender.

It's easy to imagine why girls might want to do both. Even kids probably notice that grown women tend to work harder than men for less money and less respect -- and still have to do the housework when they come home. This is not a fate you'd expect any sensible ten-year-old person to embrace with enthusiasm or advertise in her dress.

But you don't have to look to the unequal status of adult women to see why girls might not want their gender -- or their bodies -- to be the first thing people notice about them.

It's natural for adolescents to be obsessive about their looks -- their hair is weird, their noses are ugly, their skin is awful, they're too tall, too short, too fat, too clumsy. But American pop culture handles boys' and girls' worries differently. It tells boys not to worry much about how they look, because it's what they do that counts. Then it turns around and tells girls they're right to worry because, for them, all that really counts is being beautiful and thin.

A few years ago, an analysis of prime-time television

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found that, for teenage girls on TV, the importance of good looks far overshadowed ability. Girl characteristics were more passive than young male characters, got less attention, and spent most of their time on screen shopping, grooming, and dating. The study didn't track weight, but how many fat-girl TV stars can you think of?

Little girls in the audience got the message. One study of nine-, ten-, and eleven-year olds found that nearly half the nine-year-olds were dieting -- although few of them were overweight. During hearings on abuse of over-the-counter diet pills last year, an obesity specialist told a House subcommittee she had seen eight-year-old patients who had used diet pills.

From age 12 on, girls are more likely than boys to suffer from depression, and studies have tied their higher depression rates to their worries about weight and appearance. One study found that the more time teenage girls spend on stereotypically feminine activities like shopping, doing their hair and putting on makeup, the more depressed they were likely to be.

Only last month the American Association of University Women released the results of a major study that found that, at age 9, a majority of girls were confident, assertive, and felt positive about themselves -- but by the time they got to high school, fewer than a third still felt that way. No wonder they hide.

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by Chrystine Julian

Some years ago I realized that other people perceived my appearance some what differently from what I really am. For instance, most people guess my height to be about 5'10". In reality, I am barely 5'6", with shoes on. People also tend to guess my weight to be 15 to 20 pounds lighter. This led me to understand that other people's perceptions are based in a large part on the image we project, how we see ourselves in our minds. This projection is do partially to how we dress, walk, and talk. But there is more to it than appearance. Attitude is a major key. If when you dress, your perception of yourself is that of a man wearing a dress, most people will see you as a man in a dress. However, if your attire matches the expression of an inner feminine self, you are projecting total femininity. Perhaps you have created a biography for your feminine self, a name, history, likes and dislikes. But have you tried beginning on the inside and working your way out, simply spent time getting to know the inner woman? If you haven't, you have some amazing discoveries ahead of you.

Having spent a lot of time over the last 20+ years studying relaxation, meditation, Shamanism, and hypnotherapy techniques, I would like to pass along a few tips for getting in touch with the woman inside through relaxation and visualization. You might want to pick up any one of a number of books or cassette tapes on the market about relaxation techniques. However, I'll give you a brief overview of the process.

Set aside about twenty minutes for yourself in a place where you feel comfortable and can avoid distractions and interruptions. Find a comfortable place to sit or lay down. Pick a spot on the wall or ceiling to focus your eyes on. It should be slightly above your normal line of sight. Deep relaxation begins with deep breathing. Gently and slowly take deep breaths, in through your nose, hold for a count of ten, and breathe out through your mouth. After about ten of these you will begin to feel more relaxed. When you do, close your eyes, and continue to breathe slowly and gently. Imagine yourself on a beach with the warmth of the sun penetrating your entire body. Start with your toes and let the warmth spread up your legs to your torso, down your arms to your fingers, back up to your neck, face, and scalp. This

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

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NAMES, NAMES, NAMES ...

by Kymerleigh Richards

Lorrilyn, Charianne, Janyce, Stefany ...

No, I'm not reading down the list of Tri-Ess members, but I might just as well. We, as a community, tend to come up with the most creative spellings possible, and I usually can't figure out why.

Ami, Merrilyn, Daniela, Jeanet ...

I know, I know: How can someone who spells her first and middle name Kymerleigh Meghann write an editorial about strange spellings of names? Well, at least in my case, there is something resembling a logical reason. I happen to have some Celtic heritage, and the spelling of my names have a Celtic "look" to them. (A few have accused my first name of having a Welsh spelling ... but then again, the Welsh ARE Celts!)

Sonni, Laurreta, Jacquelyn, Nicki ...

But even though the names I've been sprinkling through this column did not come from a Tri-Ess roster or the "Tapestry" personals, it would not be unusual to find them there. In fact, I can, in my mind's eye, see some of our readers whose femme names are the more conventional versions of these names contemplating changing their spellings to match.

Sherilan, Georgiana, Liesa, Laurien ...

I'm not advocating that we who have more creative ways of spelling our names try to conform with more normal spellings. (I, for one, refuse to be a "Kimberly"!)

Especially since this list of names that could easily be of gender community members, is actually:

Judye, Lorilee, Sharron, Kaythryn ...

Female real estate agents in the San Fernando Valley. And by the way ... I noticed that an actress playing a bit part in an episode of Fox's "Parker Lewis Can't Lose" last season was billed as "Kymerleigh St. Peter". I wonder if her parents spelled it that way, or if she adopted the spelling herself? And if the latter, do you think she's seen my name somewhere?

Probably wishful thinking.

INSIDE OUT ...

Maybe as far as you want to go for the first couple of sessions. While relaxation is not hard work, it does take some practice. When you have finished, simply open your eyes and continue to breathe deeply for a few moments. You will find yourself feeling refreshed and ready to take on other activities.

Once you are comfortable with the relaxation process, you can begin to use it to visualize your feminine self. (This can be very effective just prior to an outing.) When you reach the state of relaxation, begin again with your toes, moving up your body, only this time visualize your feminine form. You can carry this visualization through to living out the biography you have created for yourself, or even some exotic adventure. It can also be helpful to visualize yourself in whatever activity you have planned for the day or evening. You may also find these techniques useful as an outlet if you are in a situation where you are unable to dress.

If you spend a little time developing the inner self, as well as the outer self, the end result is that you will be able to project an image of the whole woman, the whole you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF "CROSS-TALK" !!!

LAME DEER: SEEKER OF VISIONS

by Richard Erdoes with John Fire/Lame Deer
(from Gender Identity Center newsletter)

Besides the names by which we were known, we Sioux also used to have a secret, second name, which was never spoken aloud. This was our good-luck, long-life name. Sometimes the grandfather or a medicine man gave a child this secret name, but it was best to go to a winkte for it.

Winktes were men who dressed like women, looked like women, and acted like women. They did so by their own choice or in obedience to a dream. They were not like other men, but the Great Spirit made them winktes and we accepted them as such. They were supposed to have the gift of prophecy, and the secret name a winkte gave to a child was believed to be especially powerful and effective. In former days a father gave to a winkte a fine horse in return for such a name.

We think that if a woman has two little ones growing inside her, if she is going to have twins, sometimes instead of giving birth to two babies they have formed up in her womb into just one, into a half man-half woman kind of being. We call such a person a winkte. He could be a hermaphrodite with male and female parts. In the old days a winkte dressed like a woman, cooked, and did beadwork. He behaved like a squaw and did not go to war. To us a man is what nature, or his dreams, make him. We accept him for what he wants to be. That's up to him. Still, fathers did not like to see their boys hanging around a winkte's place and told them to stay away.

There are good men among the winktas and they have been given certain powers. As far as I know, no white man has ever interviewed a winkte. That's why we went to this bar where I knew I could find one. I guess you weren't even sure of whether I was talking to a man or to a woman.

Well, the first thing this winkte asked me was, "Do you have some wine?" I told him he could have all he wanted if he told me the truth about winktes. He told me that if nature puts a burden on a man by making him different, it also gives him a power. He told me that a winkte has a gift of prophecy and that he himself could predict the weather.

"In our tribe we go to a winkte to give a newborn child a

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

CHARTING THE LEGAL JUNGLE

What are the legal risks of crossdressing? When is it advisable to obtain a court-ordered name change? Can you get veterans' benefits toward sex reassignment? What about Medicaid and Medicare? How do you go about having your Social Security card and your driver's license altered? These and scores of other puzzlers that plague the transsexual in transition are answered with brevity and lucidity in an amazingly useful little paperback by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF TRANSEXUALISM is an updated and expanded version of an earlier edition. The 1990 edition is neatly printed in pamphlet form. Within the space of its 108 pages, author Sr. Mary Elizabeth, of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, manages to tackle most of the legal questions you're likely to ask, and the answers she gives are based on thorough, documented research.

I recommend this booklet without hesitation to every person who starts out on the transsexual route, as well as to all crossdressers who go public or plan to. It is available from J2CP Information Services • P.O. Box 184 • San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184 for \$11.00, (\$10.00 + \$1.00 postage and handling).

You'll be pleased to have it with you all the way to the operating table.

THE WOMAN WITHIN -- CASE STUDIES

by Eve Burchert
(from "Chi Tribune", Chi Chapter Tri-Ess)

In the almost 30 years of affiliation with Tri-Ess, I have seen tremendous progress in the comportment and appearance of the girls. Much of this can be attributed to the various classes sponsored at conventions, but also to simple observations.

I engaged in some of that at a recent meeting and would like to offer some specific criticism.

CASE STUDY #1: A beautiful girl, proportioned hairstyle, good dress and generally passable. Negatives: Very masculine mannerisms. What I noticed particularly was her assumption of much space when sitting. A woman generally confines her limbs close to the body. Our beautiful girl sat with her arms draped over the adjoining chair much like a man spreads out. Another distraction: Continuous chewing of gum.

CASE STUDY #2: It was the heavy single line eyebrows that caught my attention on another attractive girl. The rule is to pencil eyebrows, if at all, in short, upward slanted, individual lines.

CASE STUDY #3: Another no-no was the "clownlike" blush high on the cheeks of one of our sisters. No blending whatsoever. Determine by touch where your cheekbones are, then apply wedge-shaped blush from the ear forward to the highest point of your cheeks, just below the bone itself. Then -- and this is a must -- thoroughly blend the blush with a suitable brush until no clear edge of the blush can be discerned.

"CROSS-TALK" accepts articles for publication from both subscribers and non-subscribers.

Please use the following guidelines when preparing your articles:

- * If you have an IBM compatible computer, we can accept either 3 1/2" diskettes (2S/2D) or 5 1/4" disks (2S/2D or HD). We can read files formatted in Word or written with the "text" program on the Tandy Deskmate. Otherwise, please convert text files to ASCII format before saving ("text only" or "without formatting").
- * If you have a modem, we can also accept files through the "Cross-Connection" BBS, (818) 549-0529. If you are not already an authorized user on this BBS, you may upload to the "Cross-Talk" SIG by entering VALLYGIRL at the log-on and VISITOR at the password ("magic word") prompt. Using these will allow you upload capability. "Cross-Connection" supports 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1, XMODEM protocol. Upload your file attached to a personal message addressed to user "Kymmer". (If you have PKZIP, please use it to compress your file before uploading to minimize on-line time.)
- * If you are using a non-IBM computer and do not have a modem, or are using a word processor or typewriter, please submit articles already printed out, scanner-ready (using a new ribbon if possible), single-spaced, with good contrast and without handwritten cross-outs or inserts. If you have a dot-matrix printer, please use a near-letter quality (NLQ) mode when printing.
- * When creating computerized files, please only use the "Return" or "Enter" key at the end of paragraphs. Do not hit it at the end of every line.
- * Handwritten articles (legibly written or hand-printed) are acceptable but should not contain time-sensitive material as they need to be typed into the computer.

Send your contributions to:

"Cross-Talk"
P.O. Box 944
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

You may also fax news stories or letters to the editor at (818) 347-4190. Please do not fax longer articles.

Better too little than too much blush. It is simply intended to contour.

CASE STUDY #4: One of my pet peeves is the wearing of belts by those of us (including me) who simply don't have a wrap waist. The belt only adds to the girth, and it lends too much emphasis to it. Women understand how to minimize their negative features and we should too. As much as I love waisted dresses, they are not for me and I therefore buy styles that cover up the lack of a thin waist. Referring specifically to this lovely sister, she looked otherwise well-coordinated (i.e., dress, hose and shoes).

Please accept these comments with a positive intent. I am proud to be part of this good looking group of women who would hold their own at any gathering, regardless of gender.

LAME DEER ...

secret name. Most often this is done for boys, but sometimes he could give such a name to a girl. Ida, for instance, got one. A name given by a winkle is supposed to bring its bearer luck and long life. In the old days it was worth a fine horse -- at the least."

The winkle told me that these names are very sexy, even funny, very outspoken names. You don't let a stranger know them; he would kid you about it. Having a winkle name could make a man famous. Sitting Bull, Black Elk, even Crazy Horse had secret winkle names which only a few people know. The winkle in the bar does a little prophesying. He told a woman she would live to be eighty years old, and she gave him a fine pair of moccasins for that. He also does certain cures and uses herbs known to winkles.

Well, this man-woman told me that in the old days the winkles used to call each other sisters and had a special hill where they were buried. I asked him when he died, when he went south, what he would be in the spirit land, a man or a woman. He told me he would be both. It was a long interview, lasting through two bottles of wine.

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