

CROSS-TALK

THE TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1991

(ISSUE #30)



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL EXPANDS MANDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(London, England, U.K.) -- The Nobel Prize winning human rights organization Amnesty International has expanded its mandate to include human rights for lesbians and gays, including language that will also protect transgendered people who are perceived to be homosexual.

At its September meeting in Japan, the organization named as "prisoners of conscience" people who have been arrested for lesbian and gay rights advocacy, those arrested simply because they are homosexual following raids on bars or other gathering places even though they have committed no other crime, and people perceived to be homosexual because of the way they dress.

Observers note that while the expanded mandate does not specifically include transgendered people, transsexuals and transvestites will enjoy "spill over" protection. They cite incidents in such places as Singapore, where police sweeps against homosexuals have also caught up transsexuals and transvestites. While including transgendered people in the mandate would have been preferable, they note, it would have been all but impossible to win consensus approval from all of the 44 national Amnesty sections which decide policy for the international organization.

Protection for jailed sexual minorities was first proposed in 1974, and has been regularly put forward by various European and North American sections since then, but strong opposition from Asian, African and South American sections had always resulted in the proposal's defeat. The compromise proposal approved in September contained "escape clause" language recognizing that some of the national sections have cultural backgrounds resulting in different views of homosexuality around the world, permitting nations to adhere to their own cultural backgrounds. However, Derrick McQuinness, spokesman at Amnesty headquarters, said "Clearly we now recognize sexual orientation as a fundamental human right to which (we) must respond."

Amnesty is an international human rights watchdog group which encourages governments around the world to respect certain fundamental human rights and to free "prisoners of conscience" arrested for exercising those rights. The 44 national sections represent more than 8,000 local Amnesty chapters working in over 70 nations. ["Renaissance News"]

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17

SEX-IDENTITY THEORIST DR. ROBERT STOLLER DIES

(Los Angeles, CA) -- Dr. Robert J. Stoller, a leading psychoanalytic theorist on sex-identity problems and perversions, died September 6 in a traffic accident outside his home. He was 66.

Dr. Stoller was killed as he pulled out of his driveway and his car was struck by another car in Pacific Palisades. He died instantly from injuries in the crash.

Best known for his writings on perversions, sexual excitement and sex-identity problems such as transsexuality, Dr. Stoller's theories "shook some fundamental beliefs of the psychoanalytic establishment," said Dr. Ethel Person, a psychiatrist at Columbia University medical school.

Dr. Stoller set forth his theories in a series of influential books, including "Sex and Gender: On the Development of Masculinity and Femininity", published in 1968, and "Presentations of Gender", published in 1985.

Dr. Stoller was educated at Columbia University, received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and his medical degree in 1948 from the University of California at San Francisco. He joined the psychiatry department at U.C.L.A. in 1954.

He is survived by his wife, Sybil, who was in the car with him at the time of the accident but suffered only minor injuries, and by four sons. [New York "Times"]

LA REY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS PRODUCER OF LONG-RUNNING "UNIVERSAL BALL"

(West Hollywood, CA) -- Express LaRey, who for many years produced the annual "Universal Ball" female impersonator beauty pageant, has announced that she will be stepping down as producer after this year's event.

In an interview with "Cross-Talk", LaRey cited increased business responsibilities in other areas as the major reason for her decision. She says she will also step down as producer for the spring "Goddess" and "Miss Gay L.A." pageants after next year's events, although she will remain connected with the events as emcee for the foreseeable future.

The 1991 edition of the "Universal Ball", which was created by LaRey in 1969, will be held November 8 in its long-time home, the Mayflower Ballroom in the LAX area.

[Kymerleigh Richards]

REGIS ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF ADVISORY BOARD

(Atlanta, GA) -- The Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) has announced the formation of an advisory board and a gender support group.

The advisory board will consist of researchers, service providers and transgendered persons, many of whom are nationally known. AEGIS has issued an open invitation to anyone interested in serving on the board.

The support group, open to all transgendered persons, meets monthly in the offices of a counselling professional in the Atlanta area. Issues of self-discovery, role exploration, and practical concerns will be addressed in the group, which will also feature guest speakers.

AEGIS has also initiated a series of public service advertisements addressing gender community consumer issues, including the dangers of extremely high dosages of hormones and the injection of liquid silicone into the human body. The advertisements are being distributed to service providers and gender organizations internationally.

[AEGIS press release]

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMS SET FOR 1992 IFGE CONVENTION

(Houston, TX) -- A preliminary listing of programs has been announced for the 1992 International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) "Coming Together-Working Together" convention.

Seminars have been tentatively planned in the areas of leadership, education, business, as well as eight seminars oriented specifically toward newcomers to the gender community. A three-day program dealing entirely with transsexual issues has been scheduled, as well as a two-day program on female partners' issues and a two-day program run by mental and medical health professionals for other professionals. Specific details will be announced by IFGE as the convention date draws nearer.

The convention, co-hosted by Texas gender community organizations Gulf Coast Transgender Community, the Tau Chi and Delta Omega chapters of Tri-Ess, Boulton & Park Society, Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, and Women Associated with Crossdressers, will be held April 6 through 12.

[Kymberleigh Richards]

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TRANSEXUAL ATTORNEY FUNDS WRITING COMPETITION ON LAW REGARDING SEXUAL IDENTITY

(Houston, TX) -- In order to encourage legal research as it relates to the issues of sexual identity, including the gender community, an annual writing competition has been announced at the University of Houston Law Center.

The student writing the best paper on topics relating to any area of the law dealing with sexual identity will receive a \$500 award from an endowment funded by transgendered attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye. Preference will be given in the final judging to papers dealing with transgender issues.

The law to be analyzed in the competition papers will include employment (hiring discrimination, on the job transition, wrongful discharge); family (change of name, pre-operative change of gender, amendment of birth certificate, passports, validity of marriage before and after surgery, child custody and visitation); housing (refusal to rent, wrongful eviction); insurance (naming beneficiaries, electrolysis, hormones, psychological analysis, surgery and hospitalization, refusal to insure life); military (security risk, forced discharge, benefits); criminal (mistreatment during arrest, segregation while in jail or prison, withholding of hormones); probate (validity of being named heir after transition begins, validity of bequest to legal spouse before surgery if death is after surgery) and health (ethics of greed in overtreatment, ethics of bias in undertreatment, malpractice, defining sex, gender, role and appearance).

Frye hopes to set a precedent with the competition for law school in other cities. "Until (these) issues are thoroughly explored in the legal arenas, the progress of the gender community will be at a snail's pace," she said.

[The New Voice]

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F.D.A. QUESTIONS SAFETY DATA ON BREAST IMPLANTS

(Washington, DC) -- Although more than two million women in the United States have silicone breast implants, manufacturers have not produced data that prove their safety, Food and Drug Administration officials say.

The agency has told the four American manufacturers of the implants, in letters sent over the weekend of September 13, that unless further data is submitted regarding the implants' safety, the products might have to come off the market.

Officials reviewing data received in response to an F.D.A. request earlier this year involved two few women and too few side effects, and had been collected in too short a time. The agency gave the companies a January 6 deadline to either submit new results or convince the agency that the data submitted were sufficient.

The implants, virtually all of which contain silicone, were among the many medical devices permitted to remain on the market without proof of safety and effectiveness when new regulation on medical devices began in 1976. Manufacturers were not required to submit safety data on the implants until this year.

Doctors who study the use of implants have suggested that they can cause allergic reactions, painful muscle contractions, connective-tissue diseases or infections. While manufacturers concede that there may be side effects, they insist that an overwhelming majority of women who have them are happy with them. 150,000 women receive the implants annually in the United States, about 20 percent following breast surgery, and the remaining 80 percent because they are dissatisfied with the shape of their breasts.

Robert Rylee, chairman of the health care businesses section of Dow Corning, the nation's largest manufacturer of breast implants, thought the F.D.A.'s letter was unwarranted. However, Michael R. Mitchell, marketing manager for McGahn Medical Company, another implant manufacturer,

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

TRANSSEXUAL TIED TO CRIME SCENE IN MEXICO MURDER CASE

(Phoenix, AZ) -- An assistant Arizona attorney general says "physical evidence" has been obtained placing a transsexual suspect at the scene of the murder of a Gilbert, Arizona woman February 23.

Mitchell said that Yesenia Gonzalez Patino, 35, who was known as Alfredo Patino before he underwent a sex-change operation in Colorado 10 years ago, had a "strong romantic relationship" with Dan Willoughby, the victim's husband. Willoughby has been questioned but not charged with any crime.

Patricia Willoughby, 42, was unconscious when she was found by her husband at their rented condominium in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Sonora, according to law-enforcement authorities there. The victim, who had been stabbed several times in the face and neck, died later at a local hospital.

While refusing to elaborate on the evidence, Mitchell said that located Patino is a key to the case. She is believed to be in Arizona or Mexico and to have retained her female identity. "If we find Yesenia, it will be the end of a successful investigation and the beginning, we think, of a successful prosecution," Mitchell said. He said his office is involved because it appears there may have been a murder conspiracy that began in Arizona.

The victim's mother told reporters she has added \$5,000 to a \$1,000 reward fund that already has been offered through the Silent Witness program of the Phoenix Police Department for information leading to Patino's arrest.

[Arizona "Republic"]

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MAN HELD IN ALLEGED ATTACK ON CROSSDRESSED PROSTITUTES

(West Hollywood, CA) -- A Santa Ana man who allegedly fired several shots at two crossdressed prostitutes in the early hours of September 29 was being held without bail on suspicion of attempted murder and civil rights charges, authorities said.

The attack took place about 3:40 a.m. on Santa Monica Boulevard, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Irma Becerra. Ruben Velasquez, 29, approached the men -- one of whom was wearing an orange dress, a denim jacket and high heels -- and allegedly uttered the threatening epithet "I'm going to kill you queens," just before firing three or four times at them, Becerra said.

A deputy from the sheriff's canine unit who was patrolling nearby heard the shots, saw a muzzle flash and spotted Velasquez running to a station wagon, Becerra said. The deputy pursued Velasquez and found a .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol inside his car after pulling him over.

Velasquez was booked on suspicion of attempted murder and interfering with a person's civil rights. Anti-gay statements Velasquez allegedly made to arresting deputies led to his being booked on the civil rights charge.

Sheriff's Sgt. Tony Hollins said both victims attack are known gay hustlers. "They are actual male prostitutes, dressed in female attire," he said. However, he said neither has been arrested by the West Hollywood station's Special Problems Unit, which makes arrests for prostitution in the city.

The men, both Los Angeles residents, ran west along Santa Monica and either "fell or dove for cover" as the shots rang out, Becerra said. Their only injuries were cuts on their knees. [Los Angeles "Times"]

AUTHORITIES UNABLE TO PROVE TRUE SEX OF CON ARTIST

(Denver, CO) -- Police who arrested a person they say is a con artist who preys on elderly and gullible people have thus far been unable to substantiate their suspect's claim of having had a sex change operation.

Baroness Maria Thyssen VonHexun, also known as John James Gonzales, was arrested on charges of bilking at least two people out of \$2,300. VonHexun/Gonzales claims to have married a German nobleman, but authorities continue to have difficulty in determining her/his gender.

Police have had no trouble reconstructing VonHexun/Gonzales' past legal difficulties, however. They say she/he was originally arrested on prostitution charges in 1974; in 1985, she/he claimed to be Maria Lexie Girtin VonHexun Onassis, relative of Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. She was ruled incompetent to stand trial on charges relating to that swindle. ["Renaissance News"]

NEWS BRIEFS

Things are apparently toughening up in the glamorous world of teenage beauty pageants. On the first page of the standard contestant's contract for the Miss American Teen competition, along with the usual statements about residence and age, the contestant is asked to swear to the statement "I have always been a female". [New York "Daily News"]

You won't find "tits in a can" at your local supermarket, but you will find bra inserts packaged that way at selected fashion boutiques, thanks to Damin Industries, Inc. of Los Angeles. The "Stay-Put Backless, Strapless Push-Up Bra" features 100 percent hypoallergenic polyurethane inserts that are, according to fashion designer Alaia, "virtually undetectable" underneath his body-hugging, stretch knit dresses. The inserts come with adhesive wings and include detailed pictorial instructions mapping out effective bra angles for low-cut necklines. ["Vogue"]

Protesters who drowned out Governor Pete Wilson's speech at Stanford University October 2 have vowed to keep fighting what they say are the religious forces behind the governor's veto of a gay rights bill. Activist Ken Bunch, who is a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence -- a group of drag queens in nun's habits -- said activists planned to disrupt church services around San Francisco as part of their dispute against fundamentalist Christians who Bunch said "just sat on their hands". [San Diego "Tribune"]

A crossdressed prostitute has been acquitted of stabbing a john whom she said became angry when he discovered she wasn't really a woman. Angel Groll (Normanick M. Sulin), 24, admitted that she stabbed Robert Smith, 32, when he became violent following a revealing romantic interlude. Smith, who said he didn't find out Groll's actual gender until police told him as he was being treated for his wound, said Groll had robbed him. ["Renaissance News"]

Judges are beginning to question whether or not female bodybuilders have gone too far in their quest for a "perfect" body. While they admit that most women want merely to tone and shape their muscles, they also say that sometimes they ask themselves if they're judging a woman or a man during competitions. Mike Ashley of Phoenix, who was Mr. Universe 1985, says "for some of the women you see up there, if you cut their hair, you couldn't tell them apart from a man". [Arizona "Republic"]

Two well-known drag queens have announced their campaigns for political office: Joan Jett Blakk of Chicago, hoping to unseat George Bush, has been commenting on several important political issues, including hate crimes legislation, reproductive rights, and affirmative action. On the frivolous side, she says Diana Ross should have been nominated to the Supreme Court instead of Judge Clarence Thomas because "she's been a Supreme since 1964 and looks fabulous in a long black dress." Meanwhile, Sister Sadie Sadie the Rabbi Lady, director of the Ministry of Perpetual Indulgence (see above), is running for a seat on the Concord, CA city council under her real name. Sister Sadie said she's running a legitimate campaign to break ground in a notoriously fundamentalist stronghold. ["Renaissance News"]

F.D.A. QUESTIONS IMPLANTS ...

said the company was not surprised and indicated a willingness to work with the agency to correct deficiencies in its safety data. Two other manufacturers, Bioplasty Inc. and the Mentor Corporation, did not make public comments. A fifth, Surgitek, was not among the companies permitted to make an initial application earlier this year, due to criticism over its polyurethane coated implant, which is suspected of causing cancer. [New York "Times"]

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THE EDITORIAL PAGES

KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD: THE LESBIAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

As many of our readers know (or have surmised), since my decision over a year ago to live full-time as Kym I have been becoming increasingly active in the lesbian community. Since I find it impossible to interact with these women who love other womyn without exploring their politics, I have made some interesting discoveries.

First, despite what the uninitiated may have believed ever since Christopher Street (including myself), the gay liberation movement did absolutely nothing for the lesbian community. As much as men loving other men openly has become more acceptable, the converse is still a stigma, and still by necessity kept in the closet, for large part.

Second, I don't believe that these womyn will continue to tolerate this situation for much longer. Lesbianism and feminism have always been tied to each other, and with the increasing demand for women's rights in the workplace and the growing trend for anti-discrimination based on sex, it's now simply a matter of time before the lesbian community has its own Christopher Street.

Third (and most important to the readers of this column), when the lesbian community rises and demands the same rights and acceptance that their male counterparts now enjoy, we, the gender community, must rise in support of their cause -- because their success will be critical to our cause when it becomes our turn.

Think about what I just said. Go back and read the second paragraph again. Women loving womyn is still, by and large, a social stigma. Well, men emulating women is also still a social stigma. Even men becoming women through SRS is regarded by the vast majority as a condition best left to exploitation through the tabloid publications and television programs. Lesbians are not accepted by society; neither are transvestites and transsexuals.

There is an even more important parallel between the lesbian community and the gender community besides the social stigma that keeps both in their respective closets. There is the freedom of expression that both lifestyles demand. If you have ever visited a lesbian nightclub or bar, you have no doubt noticed that most of those in attendance are joyfully letting down their guard, removing the barriers that they are usually forced to keep in place to keep an intolerant society at bay. They are being themselves, just as we are being ourselves whenever we get together at a TV-oriented nightclub or at a support group meeting.

One of our subscribers, who also happens to be TG, wrote me recently that she had been attending women's support groups lately, and although she is a social scientist she was amazed at how similar the issues being discussed were to those we discuss when we get together.

While I realize that it is only a small minority of our community who are both interested in politics and willing to lend public support for a cause, I believe that when the

time comes for our lesbian sisters to end their quiet dissatisfaction and speak out publicly, we, the males who feel a common bond with them, must stand by their sides and be just as vocal in our support.

For if society can be convinced to at least tolerate male homosexuality, it should be capable of being convinced to tolerate the female counterpart. If society can accept that concept, then it might even accept that some men are women inside, and -- most importantly -- that maybe it's OK to be who you want to be and love who you want to love.

This might be the only time that society's confusing sex and gender could work to our advantage, but only if we have the presence of mind and the unification of our community to support our sisters.

Now is the time to begin thinking about it.

[Kymberleigh Richards]

TAG, YOU'RE IT: ARE WE SAFE ANYWHERE?

Elsewhere in these pages, you will find a news report from the Los Angeles "Times" about a man who allegedly fired several shots at two crossdressed prostitutes in West Hollywood.

Reading that article when it originally appeared raised my ire. The more I think about it the angrier I get. Now, I have made it clear in the past that I am no fan of the "boys who would be girls" who work the corner near where I live. I am even less a fan of a--h---s who drive forty miles to take shots at those working boys. This is, however, a much more complex incident than it first seems.

This isn't just another gay-bashing incident; if it were I wouldn't be writing about it. It's more than a would-be gay-killing incident. Make no mistake, Ruben Velasquez would have killed those two had he been a better shot. And I take this personally. This "incident" occurred two blocks from my apartment, and that alone is enough to piss me off. It isn't me alone who should be angry, though. The entire transgendered community should be outraged.

We should be outraged because this sort of thing threatens the small inroads we have made toward being able to feel open about our status. How can you feel free if you know that someone has taken a shot at a drag queen, and that same sort of a--h--- can't differentiate between a DQ and a CD? Nor would they care. If a voice in your head says, "You can't go out dressed up, someone may take a shot at you," you aren't free.

This could be viewed as an act of terrorism. Terrorists know well that their acts imprison people with their own fear. But, terrorism requires organization, either on the part of a group or an individual. This "man" was not organized. Had he been he would not have missed; two corpses have more impact than two screaming queens. He would also not have been caught so easily.

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What this is, is a threat to the Constitution of the United States. We have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and this man is guilty of treason. By taking those "three or four" shots, Ruben Velasquez has seriously violated not just the rights of those two drag queens, but those of every member of a stigmatized minority. He may not have taken a life, but he sure as hell took away not only their right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but he took those away from every one who hears about his act.

I may be overreacting. I don't think so. I remember the day I stopped saying the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the beginning of class. Even as a young child I knew that it wasn't true. I promised myself not to say it until it was true. I hope that before I must shuffle off this mortal coil I can say it and still keep that promise to myself. But so long as there are ... individuals (I wouldn't think of calling the likes of him "people") like Ruben Velasquez I fear that it may not come to pass. Few people act overtly as Ruben did, but that doesn't mean they don't feel the same way.

I am by nature an optimist. Incidents like this make it difficult to remain one. Still, I feel that the likes of Ruben are in a tiny minority. That doesn't make it any safer on the streets. The real problem, however, is: What can we do about these people? Very little, unfortunately. But, there are many who can be reached. We reach them through outreach programs which are sponsored on the local level through out this country. We teach them. In other words, we educate them.

Part of me wants to put my fist through Ruben Velasquez's face. Part of me rages at his act. But, part of me shakes its head at his ignorance and intolerance. I hope he's sent to prison where he'll learn first hand about homosexuality. But what will happen when he's let out? Will he be a better shot next time, or will he take one of the "boys who would be girls" out and show her a good time? Aye, there's the rub.

Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord. But, "man" was made in His image. Thank God and Thomas Jefferson for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They are my rock and my foundation, and they must ultimately protect the likes of us. They have weathered worse than Ruben Velasquez and Justice Reinstein, and still they stand. Perhaps I should put more faith in them. (Anne Blackwood)

UP ON MY SOAPBOX: KEEPING EACH OTHER'S "SECRET"

Some years ago, when I was new to the TG Community, one of my newly-found friends was commenting on a perceived "flakiness" among its membership. Cited as evidence of this phenomenon were the turnover statistics of the better known groups, and the tendency of sisters to drop out for a year, or a few, and then reappear.

For some time, I accepted that view as the wisdom of someone who was more experienced than I was. However, as I accumulated friendships in our Community, I had to change my view of the matter. I discovered that each of us has a unique set of circumstances. Among others, they involve security, family involvement, and employment opportunities. As I got more deeply involved with others, I came to appreciate the pressures that could cause one of us to restructure or withdraw from associations with her TG friends.

One sister I corresponded with found herself on the verge of being divorced by her spouse. She withdrew from contact with her sisters so that she could put all her effort into salvaging the marriage.

Another sister -- call her Samantha -- was an NCO stationed on a floating airfield. When the fleet was out to sea, she had to cut off communication with all but the few who could be trusted to correspond discretely. You might not think that was a problem, but one thoughtless associate actually addressed a letter to her using her femme name over her FPO address. Luckily, her adopted name was a feminine form of her given name, so the fleet postal folks apparently just took it as a girlfriend's joke. Had matters been otherwise, this could have led to the ruination of her

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At the risk of "preaching to the choir", I'd like to offer a few pointers about writing to someone who needs to be "invisible":

- (a) If an associate indicates that her security needs have increased, BELIEVE HER. Nearly everyone in our Community, who engages in regular correspondence, is hungry for contact. None would forgo it for a less-than-critical requirement. If her needs can be met by discretion in your correspondence:
- (b) Never mention anything about her need for secrecy -- even a hint of a hidden meaning, or that there is something to protect, will attract unwelcome attention.
- (c) Never mention anything identifiable as a TG community entity -- acronyms like IFGE are easily traceable, as are major personalities such as Virginia Prince, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, and Jane Ellen Fairfax. Even non-transgendered individuals such as Mariette Pathy Allen and Richard Doctor are too easily identified with our Community to be mentioned by name.
- (d) If you are going to write about your feminine activities, the best overall image to project is that of a female sibling or family friend. In such a case, that image must be consistently maintained with each letter you write. If you aren't certain you can carry this off, don't even make the attempt -- stick to neutral topics.
- (e) If you know someone else who has been corresponding with this friend, BE A FRIEND and share the word. If a person has had a wide circle of correspondents it will be difficult for her to contact all of them in a timely manner.

From the other side of the communications channel, if you are making such a strategic withdrawal, don't just drop people. Let your associates know of your needs, and how soon you think you'll be available again. It is much easier for others to respect your needs if they have some knowledge to guide them.

If we really intend our Community to be a sisterhood, the hallmark of it will be our sensitivity for each other's circumstances. [Eileen McCleary]

We received no letters to the editor for publication this month. "Vox Populi" is an open forum for all members of the gender community to express their opinions and views on matters of interest to the community, or to comment on any article or editorial that has appeared in "Cross-Talk".

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Kymberleigh Richards

CONTRIBUTING REGULAR COLUMNISTS:

Anne Blackwood, Valerie Driscoll, Lola Fatale, Ricky Hunt, Roger Peo Ph.D., Cynthia Phillips.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS THIS ISSUE:

Eileen McCleary.

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONISTS:

Sherril Belmar, Karen Ann Michaels, Lyn T.

CONTRIBUTING GROUP NEWSLETTERS THIS ISSUE:

Chi Chapter, Tri-Ess
Crystal Club
Educational TV Channel (ETVC)
Kappa Beta Chapter, Tri-Ess
Northwest Gender Alliance (NWGA)
Renaissance Education Association
St. Louis Gender Foundation

OTHER CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service
J2CP Information Services

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

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career.

At the risk of "preaching to the choir", I'd like to offer a few pointers about writing to someone who needs to be "invisible":

- (a) If an associate indicates that her security needs have increased, BELIEVE HER. Nearly everyone in our Community, who engages in regular correspondence, is hungry for contact. None would forgo it for a less-than-critical requirement. If her needs can be met by discretion in your correspondence:
- (b) Never mention anything about her need for secrecy -- even a hint of a hidden meaning, or that there is something to protect, will attract unwelcome attention.
- (c) Never mention anything identifiable as a TG community entity -- acronyms like IFGE are easily traceable, as are major personalities such as Virginia Prince, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, and Jane Ellen Fairfax. Even non-transgendered individuals such as Mariette Pathy Allen and Richard Doctor are too easily identified with our Community to be mentioned by name.
- (d) If you are going to write about your feminine activities, the best overall image to project is that of a female sibling or family friend. In such a case, that image must be consistently maintained with each letter you write. If you aren't certain you can carry this off, don't even make the attempt -- stick to neutral topics.
- (e) If you know someone else who has been corresponding with this friend, BE A FRIEND and share the word. If a person has had a wide circle of correspondents it will be difficult for her to contact all of them in a timely manner.

From the other side of the communications channel, if you are making such a strategic withdrawal, don't just drop people. Let your associates know of your needs, and how soon you think you'll be available again. It is much easier for others to respect your needs if they have some knowledge to guide them.

If we really intend our Community to be a sisterhood, the hallmark of it will be our sensitivity for each other's circumstances. [Eileen McCleary]

We received no letters to the editor for publication this month. "Vox Populi" is an open forum for all members of the gender community to express their opinions and views on matters of interest to the community, or to comment on any article or editorial that has appeared in "Cross-Talk".

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TRANSEXUALISM AND THE CHURCH: UNJUSTIFIED MUTILATION?

PART 4: CAN THE CHURCH CHANGE?

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

Recently a friend showed me a portion of an interview with Sy Rogers, about his "transsexual" experience, that took place on the 700 Club. While I did not see the entire interview, what I did see prompts me to respond.

Mr. Rogers is very much on point when he speaks of God's desire for us -- i.e., "God wants our lives to revolve around Him. He wants to be number one in our hearts, over our own wants and desires" (Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37).

We accept the love God offers by making an act of faith and flinging ourselves on His mercy, for it is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ that shall save us, not deeds of the law (Galatians 2:16). The real son of Abraham is not a man racially descended from Him but one who, no matter his race, makes the same surrender of faith to God.

The catch-22, and I believe Mr. Rogers addressed it very well, are the demands placed on us following our surrender to God; a new standard of moral purity, a new kindness, a new service, a new forgiveness, as He invites us into knowledge and receives us into mystery. Our response requires much courage, trust, and commitment to accept newly perceived truths no matter what the cost.

Hannah Hurnard perhaps says it best. "As we surrender ourselves to Him, we -- as Christians -- learn, in theory at least, that there are no second causes, that even the most unjust and cruel things, as well as all seemingly pointless and undeserved sufferings, have been permitted by God as a glorious opportunity for us to react to them in such a way that our Lord and Savior is able to produce in us, little by little, His own lovely character. To learn this requires us to accept, day by day, the actual conditions and tests permitted by Him, by a continually repeated laying down of our own will and acceptance of His will."

"Every acceptance of His will becomes an altar of sacrifice, and every such surrender and abandonment of ourselves to His will is a means of furthering us to the High Places to which He desires to bring every one of us." He has made us for Himself, so that He can exist through us. His gift to us was life. Our gift to Him is making the most of that life, of His gift.

On the other hand, I believe Mr. Rogers may have erred in part when he attempted to address the biological and psychosocial issues related to transsexualism and to describe the transsexual as a "man made woman," for we are, in fact, all "man made men, or man made women," insofar as our assigned birth sex is the result of nothing more than a physician's brief glance at our genitals at birth.

Zoological, as well as cross-cultural studies have shown that gender identification goes far beyond the reproductive function. In fact, our identity as male or female is the end product of the interaction between many moral, biological and social variables.

Robert Oliver, M.D. pointed out in 1972 that "moral sanctioning by the medieval church exalted celibacy and

virginity, and meted out cruel penalties to enforce its taboos. Rules of procreativity evolved during this time period about the nature of man and woman, as well as the basic principle that gonadal sex only can serve as a valid criterion in determining gender identity."

Moral aspects of gender identity came into play because of the radical remedies suggested for treating transsexuals -- i.e. hormonal and surgical sex reassignment. The threat to us comes, as Sister Joanne Madigan, SJ, points out when "... sex, sexuality, and the idea of maleness and femaleness become unintelligible, once they are divorced from the idea of reproduction."

The problem for society comes in defining proper or true sex. Father Curren addressed this problem in an early letter to a transsexual -- i.e., "The basic problem from the moral and ethical viewpoint is the question of determining the proper sex of the individual."

Our confusion in differentiating proper or true sex is based on several factors. First, sex can be defined by several biological -- i.e., chromosomes, gonads, external genitalia, internal reproductive organs other than gonads, hormones, and secondary sex characteristics -- and sociological -- i.e., sex of rearing and assumed sex -- criteria.

Gender assignment based on all sex determining criteria being in accord would be ludicrous. As Oliver points out, "[a] hermaphrodite's identity would be ambiguous and Joan of Arc would be classified as a transvestite. Likewise, a simple majority of agreeing factors would be grossly inaccurate, since this would require each factor to have equal significance -- e.g., the chromosome test would place the person raised, characterized, and genitalized as a male in a classification of a female (pseudo-hermaphrodite)."

Second, sex and gender have come to mean the same thing. Virginia Prince has argued, however, that sex and gender are not the same thing. She points out that "[w]e are born into a society that is highly stereo typed, not only into male and female, but into man and woman. Man and male, female and woman are considered synonymous pairs of words for the same thing. They are inseparable. But it is not so. Sex and gender are not the same thing." Money and Hampson have shown this in their studies of pseudohermaphrodites, in that these children tend to grow up in their assigned sex rather than their genetic sex.

Third, is the controversy that surrounds the term transsexual. Meyer has pointed out that the issues become "even more confused because the term transsexualism has come to encompass a variety of conditions that under other circumstances might be labelled extremely effeminate homosexuality, transvestism (particularly conscience-ridden transvestism), schizoid or borderline personality disorder,

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CROSSDRESSING FREQUENCY

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Standards are everywhere. In today's world, everything is compared to everything else. Just look at advertising. We want things to be better than something else. On a personal basis, we are always compared to other people. In school there are grades and class rankings -- all destined to measure us against other peoples' accomplishments. In the workplace there are various rating systems that are supposed to determine who is better and/or how much so-and-so should be paid or what privileges they are entitled to.

Perhaps in common work or school situations or for some social circumstances there are ways to establish useful standards and measure people against them. For personal feelings it does not seem either possible or useful to have such guidelines. Further, when the term "normal" is used it carries with it an insinuation that being outside this measure is "bad" or "wrong" or "sick".

In the transgender culture people suspect that there are standards of behavior and feeling. A client will often ask how their feelings or behaviors compare to others. One concern is how often they feel like crossdressing. They want to know what is "normal".

For example, suppose I told a client, "The normal frequency of crossdressing is once a month." Further suppose that this client crossdresses on a daily basis. Now how do you think this client would feel? My guess is that he would feel even more concerned about his crossdressing and perhaps even try to limit it to the "normal" frequency of once per month. Reverse the numbers -- "normal" is every day and the client only wants to crossdress once a month. Is he now supposed to crossdress more frequently?

It appears that how often someone wants to crossdress is governed by many factors -- erotic/sensual feelings, stress and opportunity are a few of them. Further, such factors are inter-related. For example, stress can reduce your energy and desire to crossdress. Stress can also increase the desire to crossdress as a means of temporarily escaping from the stressful condition. What is usual for one person may not work for someone else. Further, what is normal for one person in one set of circumstances may change when the situation changes.

However often you crossdress, the prime concern is its effect on your lifestyle and feelings. If you feel it is OK then it IS OK. If there are problems -- if it DOESN'T feel OK -- then it is time to figure out what is happening and perhaps try changing something. Crossdressing, alone, is neither bad nor good. Its effects on your feelings and the feelings of those around you are the gauge as to what is right for you. Comparing yourself to others can make you uncomfortable without helping you understand yourself.

[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.]

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WHEN SHARING ISN'T SHARING

by Cynthia Phillips
with Ted (Buffy) and Ann

Dear Cynthia: I am what I consider a reasonably "accepting" wife of a CD. Our only real problem seems to be what I consider an inordinate amount of selfishness, and self-centered behavior on the part of my husband, bordering on hostility, especially when he is in his other (ferme) role. He is never interested in how I look or whether I have some nice clothes. In fact, since we both wear the same size, you can bet he'll manage to wear anything I buy BEFORE I do. He uses all my makeup and never replaces it. He buys absolutely the best of everything for himself and never considers my needs. It has gotten to the point of my having to get into HIS things if I want or need anything myself. What can I do to change this situation? It is becoming very hard to live with this type of behavior. --H.C.

Ann: This was a little bit of a problem before I knew about Ted's crossdressing. Mainly because he was sneaking my makeup and some of my other things out for himself. (Fortunately, we DON'T wear the same size!) We set guidelines for sharing some of the things we share, which are few. I have never liked sharing my cosmetics with anyone -- or my clothes, for that matter. So perhaps I could be regarded as selfish in these regards myself.

However, I don't really see any problem with sharing a wardrobe with your husband if you DO wear the same size. It would certainly save on the amount of money spent on clothes. Of course, it's easy for me to say this when I don't do it, but in a way I wish we could wear the same clothes. I think it might make for a more fun wardrobe! I have not seen any selfishness in Ted this way, but I do know it is one of the major complaints in our wives' group. I don't feel it is intentional by the CDs, but they seem to want to "claim" all the feminine articles they can. Maybe that is common when they first "come out". They have repressed these feelings for so long that they do seem to get carried away at times.

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TSism & THE CHURCH ...

polymorphous perverse psychopathy, as well as individuals who apparently have manifested lifelong cross gender drives. The point is that the label 'transsexual' has come to cover such a 'multitude of sins' that all one knows when the term appears in the literature is that the patient has presented requesting sex reassignment surgery and labelled himself as transsexual, and the physician has accepted that self diagnosis.

If we can't separate, as well as define, sex and gender, how can we differentiate transsexualism from the multitude of psychopathologies that exist in our complex society? And, if trained and highly educated medical and scientific personnel cannot agree on how to define sex and gender, how can we expect laypersons such as Mr. Rogers or the show's host to define them?

I have spent the past 14 years working with pseudo-transsexuals and transsexuals. I have met very few transsexuals. I have met thousands of very confused, emotionally disabled pseudo-transsexuals, each seeking to alleviate their pain and suffering through self-diagnosis and the fantasy that they are a woman trapped in a man's body. These individuals reject psychotherapy, seeing their problem as physical and the solution as surgical, not psychiatric.

These same individuals often shop for a therapist who will tell them what they want to hear. They seek out self-help groups where untrained, often self-diagnosed pseudo-transsexuals, will make them queen for a day, confirming their self-diagnosis and overlooking the severe psychopathology that often accompanies the self-diagnosed individual.

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"INTERNATIONAL TRAN-SCRIPT" PREMIERES: After several months of intense preparation, JoAnn Roberts' Creative Design Services has created a new companion publication to the already successful "Ladylike".

ITS' first issue features articles by transgenderist Maggie Morgan about the real-life difficulties in living full-time as a woman; a feature piece on the TG lifestyle in Germany; interviews with South Africa gender activist Diane Marlene Knoetze and with U.K. activist Stacy Novak; a photo feature on the making of Jim Bridges' "Bridges to Beauty" video; plus columns on shopping, makeup, books, a feature piece on the dual problem of being alcoholic and transgendered, and a humorous piece on being "trapped" in a too-small dress.

Even though I'm admittedly biased toward ITS (the news section comes from "Cross-Talk"), I'm very impressed with this premiere issue ... and so is everyone else I've talked with who's seen it. Grade: A.


"OUR SORORITY" ANNUAL A DISAPPOINTMENT: The annual "Groups and Events" issue (#26) arrived with a front page apology for technical problems that caused editor Betty Ann Lind to rush the issue to the printer without re-editing. Well, even though I have a lot of respect for this year's IFGE Prince award, I'm afraid I need more of an explanation for this atrocity.

First, the section that is supposed to be the major focus of this annual issue, the listing of local support groups, while "about as current as our data allows", is hopelessly outdated and inaccurate. Many of the addresses are no longer valid, as anyone who reads the group listings in "Tapestry" can tell you, and some of the groups listed have not been in operation for several years! Plus, for some unexplained reason, some of our community's vendors -- such as Lydia's here in the San Fernando Valley -- were included in these group listings! If you're looking for accurate information about groups, you're better off checking "Tapestry" or our own national hotlines section than you would be depending on this disaster.

Second, I have to wonder how many installments it's going to take before Betty Ann finishes her autobiography "Many Little Kindnesses", which has been running in serialized form for about three or four years now. Chapter 12, which appears in this issue, still has Betty somewhere around age six. At this rate, we might read the concluding chapter in the year 2021! I beg you, Ms. Lind, finish the story -- publish it as a separate book if necessary -- but PLEASE don't drag this out (pun intended) any longer!

There are some bright spots in this publication, though, including an approximation of Betty Ann's speech at last

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PRECISION HAIR WORKS

TSism & THE CHURCH ...

Who is to blame? I believe we are to blame, for we leave the gender-conflicted individual few, if any, options. We condemn and reject them, making them uncomfortable and unwelcome in God's house. We condemn and reject the professionals attempting to treat them. A 1984 letter of Mr. Rogers, for example, reaches out in love, then condemns and rejects -- i.e., "Please don't feel you need to write back a lengthy rebuttal and justification." Dialogue is necessary if we are to help them resolve their conflict and win them to Jesus. Silence and the absence of any open discussion only allows prejudice and unfounded fears to flourish, often leading to serious persecution and injustices, rather than healing.

I believe that a great duty falls upon us all. We are called to be bearers of God's forgiveness, to be the instrument of His love, to be active in compassion. God moves in His own mysterious ways, but a great deal of the time He moves through us. And it is because we are not there that so many do not believe in God's love.

It is time we -- the Church -- individually and corporately, publicly and privately, sit down with these people, and the professionals attempting to treat them, and talk in an atmosphere characterized by enlightenment and compassion, not ignorance and invective.

It is time we all experience the great characteristic of God ... His love for saint and sinner alike. It is time we all learn to forgive as God forgives, to love as God loves, and to serve as our Lord Jesus served.

S.O. THERE! ...

Ted: My desires have always been for my wife and I to share our femininity. But I do know a lot of the "girls" only think of themselves when it comes to clothes and other things for their femme personas. I really believe it's because as kids we were denied anything feminine. When you have never been able to indulge any of your desires or feelings, you tend to go overboard when you see the chance to do these things. I do know there is a tendency to get only the best for your femme self, and the heck with anyone else. I also think this eventually goes away if you can sit down and talk to your wife about it. My advice would be to work out a budget for clothes and other things and when something is bought, especially for the wife, the CD should NEVER wear it unless she gives him permission, and even then always let your wife wear it first. After all, these things are essentially hers. She needs them, and has them for a definite reason. It is sometimes best to defer to the wife, which is something a lot of CDs get confused about. Believe me, if you put your wife first, you will never regret it. You will be repaid many times over.

(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.)

THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING!

by Ricky Hunt

Tanstaaf1. Sounds like a sneeze or something vaguely Russian. The meaning of the word is best shown in a story retold freely from the writing of Robert A. Heinlein, the inventor of the water bed and the coiner of the word. Seems a young man, newly hired as a traveling salesman, was passing thru a new town about lunchtime. Stopping at a likely looking taproom, he enters to find a large sign stating: "FREE LUNCH WITH YOUR DRINK!" This seems an inordinately good deal to the young man who immediately orders a beer and proceeds to the sideboard to stock his plate with a fine selection of food. He strikes up a conversation with one of the local patrons, orders a couple more beers and generally passes a genial hour at lunch. When he calls for the bill he is shocked to find his 3 beers have cost him \$15.00. As he begins to express his outrage the local, who has seen it all before, patiently explains that someone has to pay for the food at the sideboard, and it sure isn't going to be the bar owner.

TANSTA AFL. There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch.

True in the bar in the story, true when "You May Have Already Won One Million Dollars", and true in life and society in general. Every receiver has a giver, every pro has a con, and every right has a duty. You only get what you pay for, and payment is not exclusively in cash; it can come in time, effort, dedication, love or liberty. And turning it about, you pay for what you get, or what you do.

These thoughts were uppermost in my mind as I read about Tammy White, a pre-op transsexual in jail for a robbery she committed to get the money to finance her sex change. Tanstaaf1. It applies here, as everywhere else in life. By her own admission, Ms. White was "living and working as a female." Working as a female. Perhaps her income was not sufficient to make her dream come true, or perhaps it was too long to wait to save up enough. I don't know what drove her to break the rules and try to make someone else pay for her wants, but she broke them and paid the price. A little forethought would have revealed that failure would result in a long time in an "all-male, all macho prison", but she did

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MORE OF PAM'S PUN-CHLINES

by Pamela Barnett
(from "The Pink Slip", Kappa Beta Chapter, Tri-Ess)

Crossdressing is a very stressful lifestyle. Most people attempt to get things off their chests, whereas crossdressers attempt to get things to stay put on their chests.

I always wanted a living bra, but didn't know what to feed it. Wonder if it would eat brazier food from the Dairy Queen?

A current advantage of crossdressing is our lowered dependency on oil from the Middle East. We import our oil from Olay.

Would a crossdresser consider it a miracle if she is "busted"?

Crossdressers that are not easily read generally display a passive nature.

Does a crossdresser keep a list of establishments where she has never been read in her passbook?

When a crossdresser moves to a new town, does it open up a whole new world of passabilities to her?

If a crossdresser plans a sea voyage, and wishes not to be read, should she book advance passage?

The favorite passtime for crossdressers is from dusk to dawn.

I wonder how many crossdressers live in Reading, PA?

Before a Jewish crossdresser goes out, does she observe Passover?

Would a crossdressing electrician be classified as a transformer?

Is a crossdresser more easily read from the back by a person who is dyslexic?

Would you refer to a post-op TS as "transfixed"?

Would you refer to identical twins that crossdress as a "double-cross"?

Why do people often refer to a man's 3 piece suit as his "dress suit"?

Would you say that crossdressers strive to develop a "passive" personality?

If a crowd in a straight bar reacts negatively to a crossdresser, would you say she has met "passive resistance"?

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NAT'L PUB REVIEW ...

spring's IFGE convention on the occasion of her being presented with the Virginia Prince award, an article on beard cover, a quasi-satirical look at fashion "looks", and an excellent piece on why it's not such a good idea to use "Boxholder", "Occupant" (my two pet peeves) or an AKA to receive mail.

Overall, this issue is a C-, but since it's also the one issue each year that non-subscribers can receive, I'll raise the grade to C+. Too bad it's not the definitive resource it could be.

"TV GIRL TALK" FINDS ITS NICHE: Ever since last year's split between "TV Gender" and "TV Girl Talk", the latter seems to have been searching for its own identity. If the most recent issue is any indication, it finally has.

While essentially a "house organ" for Alicia's Fashions in the Inland Empire area, this tabloid-size newspaper manages to include a substantial amount of editorial material along with its advertisements. The issue I saw had articles on why you need to fix in your mind who you are before you "tell someone" about your lifestyle, why "crossdresser" is a better term than "transvestite" to explain our behavior (mostly because of the negative connotations "TV" has these days), a commentary about one of the local nightclub's change of policy regarding femme IDs, and a decent-sized and tasteful personals section.

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

STRIP SEARCH REVEALS GROOM TO BE A GAL: A police strip search of a Brazilian man suspected of drug trafficking revealed that "he" was a "she" ... yet "his" wife says she has no plans to dissolve their marriage, saying she had known since their wedding night that her new husband was actually a female.

"Roberto" Torres, who after the revelation admitted to being disco proprietor Misma Torres, was strip searched after police raided her disco looking for drugs. Roberto was transported to the police station where cops ordered him to undress, thinking he was hiding drugs. Sergeant Francisco Cardoso said Misma had taped down her breasts in order to hide her true sex, which "had us fooled until we yanked off the jeans".

Misma's wife Maria Dos Santos, who met "Roberto" three years ago at the disco, said she had considered running out on her after she discovered the truth after the wedding, but then decided to stay after considering "what a great human being my Roberto is". Despite town gossip since the strip search, Maria vows to stand by her "man". ["Sun"]

HE WANTS TO LOOK "CHEST" LIKE MADONNA: Madonna impersonator Kelly Michaels was so determined to look exactly like his idol that he shelled out \$3,500 for breast implants!

"I'm the only professional male Madonna with breasts," says the 20-year-old impersonator. "They're one size smaller than hers." But he says wearing a replica of Madonna's "bullet bras" make him look just like the real Material Girl.

Kelly's obsession with Madonna began six years ago, the first time he saw her. Realizing that he had the same bone structure, he got up the nerve three years later to have his girlfriend do his makeup, and they went out cruising, with

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

PULLING NO PUNCHLINES ...

Do you think Frederick's of Hollywood will ever hold a back to school sale for children that crossdress?
Would you call a bar catering to the crossdressing community as a "crossbar"?

To reduce the potential for being read, when out in public, a crossdresser should utilize passageways whenever possible. I recently bought one of those pneumatic nail guns. Your press-on nails really stay in place, but they hurt like the devil going on and coming off.

Crossdressers really give meaning to the phrase "Boy, you really have changed since the last time I saw you".

If a crossdresser accidentally puts her false eyelashes on backwards, will she suffer any permanent damage from the "backlash"?

If Norman Bates had been a crossdresser, do you think she would have gone for long walks down a "Psycho" path?

Did you ever stop to think how morbid a group of crossdressers can be? They spend so much time discussing a sister's passing ... and she isn't even dead yet!

If a Tri-Ess chapter does not have a sister named Hope, would that chapter be considered "Hopeless"?

If Uncle Buck was a crossdresser that passed well, would this be referred to as "buck passing"?

When a crossdresser goes out for the first time and is extremely nervous about being read, would you consider this to be "pass tense"?

Do you think a Japanese crossdresser has to have a yen to buy a dress?

NAT'L PUB REVIEW ...

Although there is a significant amount of editorial content devoted to the kinkier and more erotic aspects of crossdressing -- which I've never been into, but do understand the appeal of for some -- I think this is one publication that is showing real potential for the long run. Grade: B+.

SECOND "CQ" DELIVERS ON PROMISES OF THE FIRST: "Chrysalis Quarterly", the most recent addition to the list of national publications, continues to live up to the high standards it defined in its premiere issue a few months ago.

"CQ's" theme for its second issue is gender services, with consumer-orientation being the main focus. AEGIS founder and editor-in-chief Dallas Denny leads off with two in-depth articles on how to shop for service providers, including a sidebar telling you what to look for when choosing a therapist, endocrinologist, electrologist, or surgeon (for either plastic surgery or SRS). She also discusses medical insurance and the Benjamin Standards of Care.

The theme continues with articles on electrology, hormone therapy, and the transgender alternative. It also contains the entire text of JoAnn Roberts' "Bill of Gender Rights" and the Gender Alternatives League's "Gender Activist Declaration of Independence." Score it an A-

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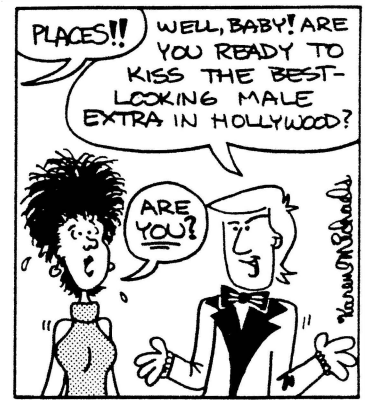
320-5015

BEARDED LADY ...

indeed decide to violate the law and ignore one of the bonds that keeps our society together, the right to keep what you have earned. Tanstaaf!

As a TV I can sympathize with Ms. White's needs, and with the pressures that drove her to commit robbery, but I am most thoroughly annoyed that she seems not to have learned anything from the experience. Granted, gender dysphoria is a mental illness, even one recognized by the APA, but in our society we are only "created equal". After that it is up to the individual to work, and pay for, achieving his or her desires to become unequal in a way that best suits them. And, most importantly, this is not to be done at the expense of those innocent others in the society. Instead of learning from her mistakes, Ms. White is demanding that the State finance the treatment, which she could not gain by herself, simply because she is in jail. I find it deplorable that Ms. White, after thumbing her nose at society, demands that they grant her desire to be a woman. Tanstaaf!. She has only herself to blame, and I do not want to pay, thru my taxes, for what she was unwilling to do for herself.

If she is mentally ill, as defined by the APA, then counseling should be made available during her incarceration just like any other inmate. But to change the entire prison system to accomodate her needs as a TS is unrealistic. The prison didn't invite her to live there, she committed a crime in full knowledge of the consequences, and now must pay for that decision. At the end of her term she can start where she left off, and use her own skills, time, determination and money to fulfill her desires. Tanstaaf!, Ms. White. After telling the world by your actions that you don't care if you hurt anyone else to fulfill your desires, please don't expect the world to do it for you.



THE SEX-CHANGERS BY LYN T. ©



6:00 TV NEWS ...

Kelly wearing a black lace miniskirt and a lace shirt with a bra underneath. He began performing professionally after his parents discovered his crossdressing.

Kelly says that while being Madonna has its advantages -- he once obtained admission to an exclusive New York City nightclub while dressed -- "there are people out there who really hate Madonna". He has been called "slut", "bitch", "whore" and "tramp", mauled, stalked, threatened, and even run off the road in Hollywood while driving with his manager. ["Globe"]

THE NIGHT I FELT MY HUSBAND TURNING INTO A WOMAN: A woman who thought her husband's crossdressing was just a harmless fetish got a colossal shock during their lovemaking one night -- he was developing breasts!

Sue Cooke said that when she asked husband Larry about the teenage girl-sized breasts, he confessed to taking hormone treatments. He now goes by his middle name, Hilary. The Kent, England couple has stopped making love because Sue finds the breasts a "turnoff". 35-year-old Hilary says she has long felt she was really a woman, and intends to have a sex change; she had been dressing since a small child, but lost the urge to dress after marrying. She began crossdressing again when her wife became pregnant.

34-year-old Sue, who accepted her husband's crossdressing but didn't want to see it, is staying with her husband for the moment, but says she's "useless as a woman" in their marriage and expects the couple to part eventually. She says she doesn't think she could ever trust anyone enough to marry again. ["National Examiner"]

PEN PAL GAL WHO'S REALLY A GUY: Thousands of loveless guys who wrote to a new pen pal with romance on their minds wound up corresponding with an Orland, Florida man named Mitchell Brown Pescara.

U.S. postal authorities say that Pescara put ads in newspapers all over the country, using a variety of feminine names, "seeking one nice gentleman for romance and dating". Those writing received a form letter asking for \$25 to cover the cost of the ad; those responding to that ad got a request for \$50 in a letter saying "many cheap men do not want to help their girlfriends ... that is not the kind of man I want to fall in love with". Authorities said he had numerous mailboxes in the Orlando area, and was receiving "hundreds of pieces of mail a day".

Pescara, who denies placing the ads, has not been arrested or charged with any violations, but was later arrested in Jacksonville for a different mail fraud scheme in which he represented himself as an attorney looking for a driver for his "handicapped mother". ["Weekly World News"]

MAN POSES AS FEMALE NANNY: A man was arrested in Cheyenne, Wyoming for kidnapping one of three boys he had been hired to care for a year earlier -- as their nanny!

Dennis L. Koopman was also charged with illegally taking

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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
 Transsupport, Portland: (207) 676-5870

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
 Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
 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) 685-3696
 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

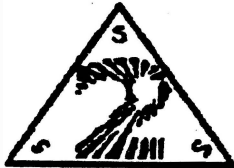
CANADA:

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

6:00 TV NEWS ...

his mother's car to drive the 9-year-old boy he had kidnapped from the boy's home in Wenatchee, Washington and with multiple counts of sexual assault on a child. Police say Koopman had been hired last year by the boy's wealthy mother to care for him and her two other boys as their live-in nanny. They said the 30-year-old claimed to have had a sex change operation, but Sgt. Ken Manke said "the problem we have with that is that he still has his male genitalia".
 ["Weekly World News"]

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REMEMBERING CHRISTINE JORGENSEN

(from "Crystal Chronicle", Crystal Club)

"I didn't intend to be a pioneer, I was made to be one."

In the era of organ transplants and artificial body parts, sex-change operations hardly seem surprising. But in 1952, when Danish surgeons turned Bronx's George Jorgensen into Christine Jorgensen, it was earth-rocking news. "I enjoy being a girl" was her theme song on the nightclub circuit, but her life was filled with sadness. Denied a marriage license in 1959 because her birth certificate listed her as male, she was dumped by her fiancé. Jorgensen died of bladder and lung cancer in May 1989 at age 62.

Today in the 1990's, people are learning to accept just about every lifestyle imaginable. But, in the 1950's words like transsexual and transvestite weren't even in the dictionary. Troubles with sexual identity were barely admitted, let alone discussed. But that changed when one courageous woman stepped into the spotlight...

The letter began, "Dear Mom and Dad, I have now become your daughter!" On June 8th, 1952 George Jorgensen wrote his family in New York City. The letter, postmarked Copenhagen, was signed simply, "Chris." George never returned home. A year later a statuesque blonde named, Christine, landed at New York's Idlewild Airport, literally a new person. "I don't have any plans at the moment and I thank you all for coming, but I think it's too much," Christine announced to the press as she stepped off the plane.

So after more than 20 years as a man known only to friends and family, Christine began life over again as a woman, known to the world.

In the spring of 1959 Howard Knox, a government statistician, asked Christine to be his wife. The marriage

license was denied, because Christine's birth certificate still listed her a male. She never married, but remained in the public eye becoming a nightclub performer. Her act always included answering questions from the audience.

"Everyone thinks that there's something very definitely risqué about Christine Jorgensen and I'm not a very risqué person. In fact, I'm quite a prude, really."

She lived the last 20 years of her life in Southern California and died in 1989 at the age of 62. The world she left behind had been permanently changed by the sexual revolution. Long before that, Christine had fired one of the first shots...

"I'm not an enigma, I'm a person. You know ... with little hopes and little dreams and I run the gambit of all the emotions like everyone else. In my life I'm searching for exactly the things that everyone else is searching for."

In her autobiography, Christine Jorgensen asked herself the question "Has it been worth it? At certain moments in my life, I might have hesitated to answer. I remember times when I faltered, but I found the oldest gift of heaven ... to be myself."

Christine Jorgensen's autobiography is a really excellent book and well worth reading. She was a remarkable little person, but as a man she was a non-event. George weighed all of 100 pounds. He did a series of menial jobs and though he trained as a photographer, he never achieved and success at this. He hardly even got a chance to produce any failures!

As a woman, she was very beautiful and very feminine. She had a reasonable success as a stage performer -- a

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

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profession that really happened by accident and one that she had not planned upon.

She had a beautifully simple and honest writing style that makes the book very easy and entertaining to read. It's worth the read to simply hear the account of someone who decided that they were a woman before any knowledge of the subject existed in this country. She had no support, no understanding and yet this frail little person who had almost no income managed to achieve what was then the impossible.

George was never a crossdresser. Although George was theoretically a GI, he was not a "real" GI and his enlistment did not last very long. In the book Christine claims to have never worn female clothes as a male and she also tells us that she used to make most of her own clothes.

Her accounts of how the press treated her might almost be funny if they were not true. They put her and everybody around her through an endless hell. She gives an account of this throughout the book in her dignified and witty manner and she shows no vindictiveness towards the people that caused her so much suffering for most of her life.

There is a lot more to the story than I have talked about

here. It's as good as any book that I have read dealing with success from despair.

[This tribute was compiled from a report by John Palmer on the television program "Total Recall", an obituary appearing in "U.S. News and World Report", and a book review by Renee O'Malley.]

A few months ago, we announced the availability of a new paper on transgendered behavior through Texas' Boulton and Park Society. Now comes word that B & P are sponsoring a full-blown research paper on the subject, with preliminary results due in late 1992 or early 1993. "Cross-Talk" has agreed to cover the cost of making copies of a ten-page questionnaire available for those of our readers who would like to participate in the study. To receive it, please send a self-addressed, stamped (29¢) #10 envelope to the "Cross-Talk" P.O. Box. Please DO NOT send requests for the questionnaire to Boulton & Park, as their funds are understandably limited.

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SHAVING

by Brenda Lingo
(from St. Louis Gender Foundation "Gazette")

One of the things we as male to female CD's must conquer is our beards. We must all find a way of successfully covering or eliminating our facial if we are to pass successfully in society and, in some instances, in the "gender community". This article is meant to pass on some tips and information I have learned over the years.

The best solution to the beard problem is electrolysis. While this solution is probably the most expensive and time-consuming, with 200 hours required to remove the average beard, it is well worth the extra effort and pain. Even a small amount of work by an electrologist should reduce the overall amount of hair growth. Another thing to remember about electrolysis is that regrowth will occur even if you are on hormones. If you can afford it and have no reasons to keep your beard, this is definitely the way to go. (After all, how many of us could go out dressed with no foundation on and still pass?)

While on the subject of hair removal, NEVER, never put Nair or similar products made for use on your body on your face!! I tried this once and had to walk around for three weeks and explain to everyone at the office that I had an allergic reaction to some aftershave! There are, however, depilatories made for use on your face.

With hair removal out of the way, I would like to offer some insight into shaving. First, it is best to soften your beard with warm water or better yet, take a shower prior to shaving. When you shave, remember to shave at least once "against the grain". This is probably the most effective shaving trick CD's have. You should also shave in several different directions over the same area. Kitty shaves all in 8 points of the compass in all areas.

The second most important thing to shaving is the choice of razors. The best choice here is a manual. I use (until I can get my electrolysis done) a Schick Slim Twin. This is a disposable double-bladed razor with a push button to clear out the gunk that accumulates from shaving. I have also heard several positive comments about the Gillette Sensor system. This is a double-bladed cartridge with the blades mounted on springs. Schick now has a similar system called Tracer which features the blades mounted in a flexible plastic. Most people have better luck with a gel or soapy type of shaving cream.

Finally, it is helpful to have an electric razor to touch up small spots and crevices with after you are done scraping off your beard.

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17

Helping my big sisters' metamorphosis over the past nine years, I understand the joy, the triumph and the frustration you experience along the way. I am the only Electrologist in L.A. using the 32 multiple needle method, which has proven especially effective and comfortable in the removal of coarse facial hair.

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THAT SPECIAL PERSON

by Dominique Davis
(from Northwest Gender Alliance newsletter)

On a daytime talk show, a crossdresser bragged that he always told the women in his life about his crossdressing on his first date, and none of them were repulsed; most even took him home to try on things they thought he might like. My immediate reaction was (would you believe), "BALONEY!" Once I decided to believe him, my reaction was extreme envy. But my current reaction is: "Oh, I'm sorry. It's too bad that the most important and interesting thing about you is that you wear dresses." My fiancée wears dresses all the time, and SHE doesn't think it's such a big deal, so she's still bemused that I feel it's something special to wear a dress.

But she accepts and supports me. And because she loves me, she'll go out with me when I'm crossdressed and even let me wear her things, just as she wears mine. How could I refuse her? She offered first!

Don't get the wrong idea. My lover has very strong traditional values and beliefs, and does not consider herself a member of the avant garde at all. So how did I get her to act in such a progressive manner? Through love and respect.

Because I love her, I felt from the beginning of our relationship that she would have to know about my crossdressing (when it was the appropriate time). In my mind, she didn't need to know this about me on our first date, or even necessarily our 21st. She needed to know when our relationship had developed to the point where we were sharing intimacies; that is, our deepest, darkest secret. Of course, all that came after we had developed a deep, caring connection. We had come to the point where my vague plans "with my buddies" were a legitimate topic of interest and concern to her.

Sad experiences had taught me the dangers of sharing this secret too soon, and other experiences taught me the danger of taking too long to share. So when is the right time? It depends. (Don't you just love that one size fits all answers?) I've told a number of women, who were intimate friends, and that's still the best answer I can give, so I asked the experts: Other women who knew my fiancée and have been through this themselves -- the wife and girlfriend of two of my friends from NWGA. Now, do you see why you want to develop real, full-bodied relationships with your sisters in the group and their spouses?

As it turned out, the timing that my consultants suggested was right on the money; my partner says she was beginning to wonder exactly what I did with my friends on those weekend evenings out, when we weren't together, especially since she

knew those fellows, and that I knew a lot about women's clothes and whatnot. She enjoys our common interest very much; but most men don't have our enthusiasm or expertise on the subject.

In fact, it was that common interest that opened the door for us. The Portland Art Museum had a travelling display of Paris Original clothing that she and I went to see, which I had already visited with a "sister" shortly beforehand. After we saw the exhibit, I asked her which gowns she particularly liked, then I eased into discussing the ones I liked, how much I liked them, and why.

I felt it was important to tell her, that the WHY was because I'd also learned the hard way that if I sounded like I was confessing something interesting and positive about

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)



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myself, then it would become a source of contention and something that I should fix. By taking the positive approach, she was immediately intrigued to learn this about me, and could see there were some things in it for herself.

Nonetheless, the next day she was devastated. Here she had been in love with this virile, masculine guy and he liked to wear dresses! How does that fit? And with everything she'd grown up with, why should she be excited about it?

Remembering what I had gone through, in coming to the understanding and acceptance of myself, I was ready for that too. When I told her about myself, I also shared with her my understanding of my crossdressing, and that I had plenty of material she could read on this subject. She's a very academic research-oriented person, so I really touched her where she lived with that one. I had also obtained permission from my women friends for my girlfriend to talk to them about how they came to grips with it.

By having her talk to the other women, she learned how my friends deal with this. Their mutual accommodations gave us a place to start in developing the best way for us to deal with my crossdressing.

My lover found that she very much appreciated those other women's caring and understanding friendship. Without having anyone to talk to about it, she probably could not have dealt with it. Not feeling able to discuss this new concern of hers with her longtime friends, she felt much more threatened, because she felt isolated as well as in pain. Women feel that kind of isolation more intensely than we men do. We're taught to handle life's problems on our own and bear up with it. Females are taught to deal with stresses much more constructively; to get help and support. Because these new women friends were there when she needed them, they became especially dear to her.

The way I wanted us to share my crossdressing was, well, SHARE IT. I like the fact that we can talk about clothes,

look through magazines and catalogs, and go places together, but it did not happen immediately. It wouldn't have happened at all if I had made demands, or set unreasonable expectations. All I felt I could expect was her acceptance and love. If she wasn't willing to provide this, I knew that our relationship could not continue, let alone grow.

And maybe that's a key piece to the answer of when: "Is this a relationship that you see continuing and growing?" If your involvement with the lady in question is one of just casual dating, there's really no need to tell; it shouldn't really concern her. If it's going to be a long-term relationship, if it's growing, if it's going somewhere, that other person NEEDS TO KNOW.

Anything beyond acceptance, I had to concede, was gravy. I didn't feel I was being unreasonable to ask that she at least try seeing me as Dominique, and then later see what it felt like to go out with me to a safe place -- places her friends or work colleagues were unlikely to be -- when I was crossdressed. This, she eventually agreed to.

A counselor we started going to pointed out the obvious; couples do things together to please one or the other member of the pair, even when the other doesn't share the same level of enthusiasm. This was a case in point. One of the reasons we were seeing a counselor was that I had rushed the issue of her seeing me en femme. I surprised her one evening when she came over to visit me.

This was a double shock for her. In the first place, I looked convincing enough that at first glance her initial reaction was "who is this woman?". Her next reaction was one of less; she'd come over to see her fella and instead she was seeing his fantasy woman. Finally, she was outraged, quite rightly, because I had imposed that on her, rather than our doing it on as mutually agreed basis.

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

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Our relationship recovered from the shock and we learned from it. For one thing, our relationship is strong and resilient enough to survive such blows. We also learned that when we have been apart for a few days she needs to see me as a man, rather than as a man trying to be a woman, at least on our first evening back together. I later learned I needed that too.

One Friday night we agreed to go out on the town with me dressed, when we hadn't seen one another the night before. As it turned out, she needed me as a man to comfort her after a week of stress, and I wanted to be there for her. With me being in a skirt, that didn't happen to the satisfaction of either of us. We had an okay evening out, but neither of our needs were met, because we were both trying to zig when we really wanted to zag.

Since then I have found my lover will encourage me to go out as a woman with her or a friend -- or even alone if need be -- when I haven't been out for a while, because she knows that's important to me. When I bought myself a black leather miniskirt for Christmas, I told her she could wear it whenever she wanted to. Even though her hips stretched it to the point that it no longer fits me like a glove, I'm glad I

gave her permission because she loves wearing that skirt! In fact, wearing my minis has helped her femininity blossom.

It may sound odd that women have to "come out" too, but in fact, in today's professional environment that seems to be the case. The big fashion news a while back was that women were wearing more dresses to work, as opposed to just suits. In other words, women can be feminine and still be professional. Originally I thought I'd be doubling my feminine wardrobe by our marrying; now it looks like she'll be doubling hers. Talk about sharing!

Our ability to share my "hobby" is just another reason I'm looking forward to our marriage. Mostly, I'm looking forward to sharing my life with someone I can communicate with so openly and freely, and with whom I can resolve the inevitable conflicts of a closely shared life. Many of you would probably feel I found an ideal situation. I didn't -- my fiancée and I created it. Even if she wasn't so willing to go out with me and so forth, if we had come to a mutually acceptable solution that we could both feel comfortable with, I would have felt we achieved the ideal solution for us.

And that's the summary of my advice to you: Don't get hung up on anybody else's solution to this dilemma, let alone their definition of the ideal resolution. The best answer to the question of how the two of you should deal with your crossdressing is the one that is right for the unique couple the two of you are. Look for the approach that will enhance the dignity and individuality of each of you. If the two of you can work this out, you're already married to an A+ wife.

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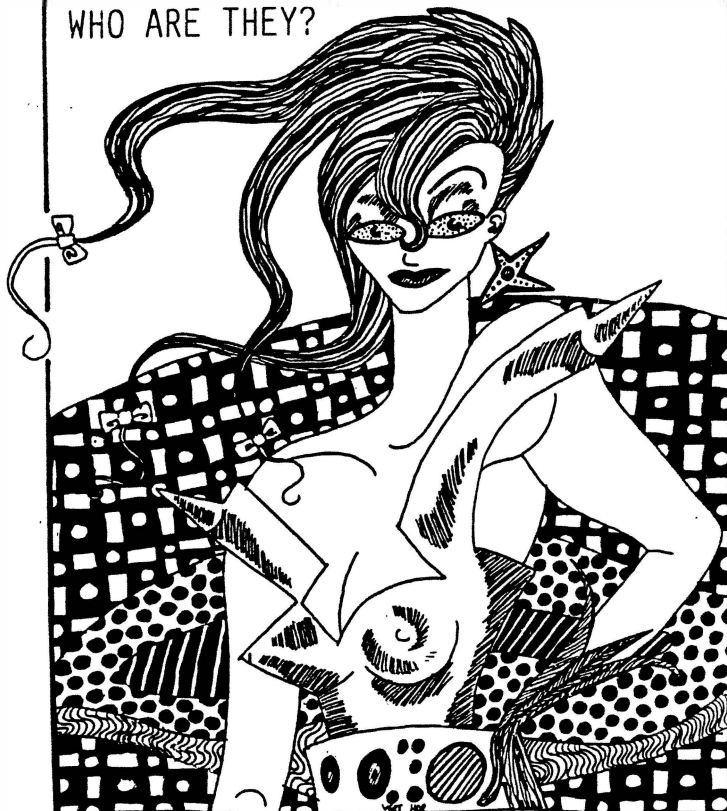
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FEMININE SPEECH AND VOCAL TECHNIQUES

by Cindy
(from ETVC newsletter)

When Yvonne Gordon, a speech and language pathologist formerly with a gender program in San Diego, spoke before our group in May, she said changing your voice is much harder than changing your appearance. Yet it is crucial to passing. Some TSs can do everything but voice, and because of that cannot convincingly make the leap of persona change. However, the change can be accomplished by almost everyone if they get a lot of instruction and are motivated. Here are the basic principles:

PITCH: Males can raise their pitch to the bottom of the female range, but if they do it wrong, it sounds squeaky and artificial, and the stress can cause nodules on the vocal cords and other serious problems. It is very important to relax the voice and to avoid strain yet still get acceptable pitch, and this takes practice.

BREATH: Women use more breath than men. Breathiness helps protect the vocal cords as well as helping to sound more female.

TONE FOCUS: The chest is used prominently for resonance by men, whereas women use the neck, face, and cheek. Bring the sound out through the face and eliminate chest resonance as much as possible.

INTONATION: Use a lilt in your voice. Boys growing up learn to limit their range, which becomes a habit which may be hard to break. Women play with their voice and are more expressive in all ways, including moving their lips and face more when they speak.

GESTURES: Men limit their gestures. Moving the body when you speak is very feminine. Women's body posture is also more relaxed.

CONTENT: Men tend to talk about things that are abstract or impersonal (urban events, sports, problem solving) whereas

women frequently talk about their emotions, their bodies and relationships to other people (sex relationships, families, health, weight, food/clothing).
RELATION TO THE OTHER: Women tend to be non-assertive and more caring. A woman asks for something; she doesn't demand it. She is apologetic at the slightest possibility someone's feelings might have been trampled on. (If a man bumps into her in the supermarket, it is she who apologizes.) She spends more time listening to what others say and asking what they think.

To work on the above requires careful observation of other women, which can be done without a therapist. The therapist serves to give a reality check, since it is often hard to get good feedback from anyone else. Developing a woman's voice takes from two months to two years, depending on the amount of support you have and how closely you work with your significant others.

... AND MORE TIPS ON VOICE

by Wendy Parker
(from "Chi Tribune", Chi Chapter Tri-Ess)

Higher is not necessarily better. Sound quality and timbre is more important.

Vocal cords (or folds) are very delicate, so minimize straining, shouting or snoring (which will actually LOWER your pitch).

You may raise your normal "median" speaking pitch three or four tones, but avoid a high "Minnie Mouse" falsetto.

Relax the neck and voice with warmup exercises.

Use rhythm (pacing) and melody (inflection) for a more sing-song approach. You may use three tones up or down from your "new" reference point.

End sentences with upward inflections and qualifiers.

Pay more attention to diction and articulation.

Soften the voice with lower volume and SOME breathiness.

Relaxed body language, expressive hand gestures and a smile ALWAYS helps. Face the listener directly and establish more eye contact, especially when speaking with women.

Content of speech is all-important! Be more empathic and a better listener. Reinforce others' feelings and be more involved with THEM rather than YOU. Don't be afraid to show sympathy and be more emotionally involved.

Try to mentally raise your "chest" voice to a "head" voice and quietly practice hearing yourself speaking gracefully and melodically, both in your mind and on tape.

Find a "vocal" role model in the media. Tape a show or rent a video with your favorite actress or personality and mimic or "track" along as you repeat dialogue with them. Record this on a cassette and listen to yourself without being overly critical or judgmental!

Vocal surgery is the LAST option and NOT preferable. It does not raise your pitch, but only cuts off the lower range. It is also sometimes permanently unsatisfactory.

Sing by yourself, be happy and have a positive outlook on life. Good self-esteem goes a long way toward completing the "vocal" picture.

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17