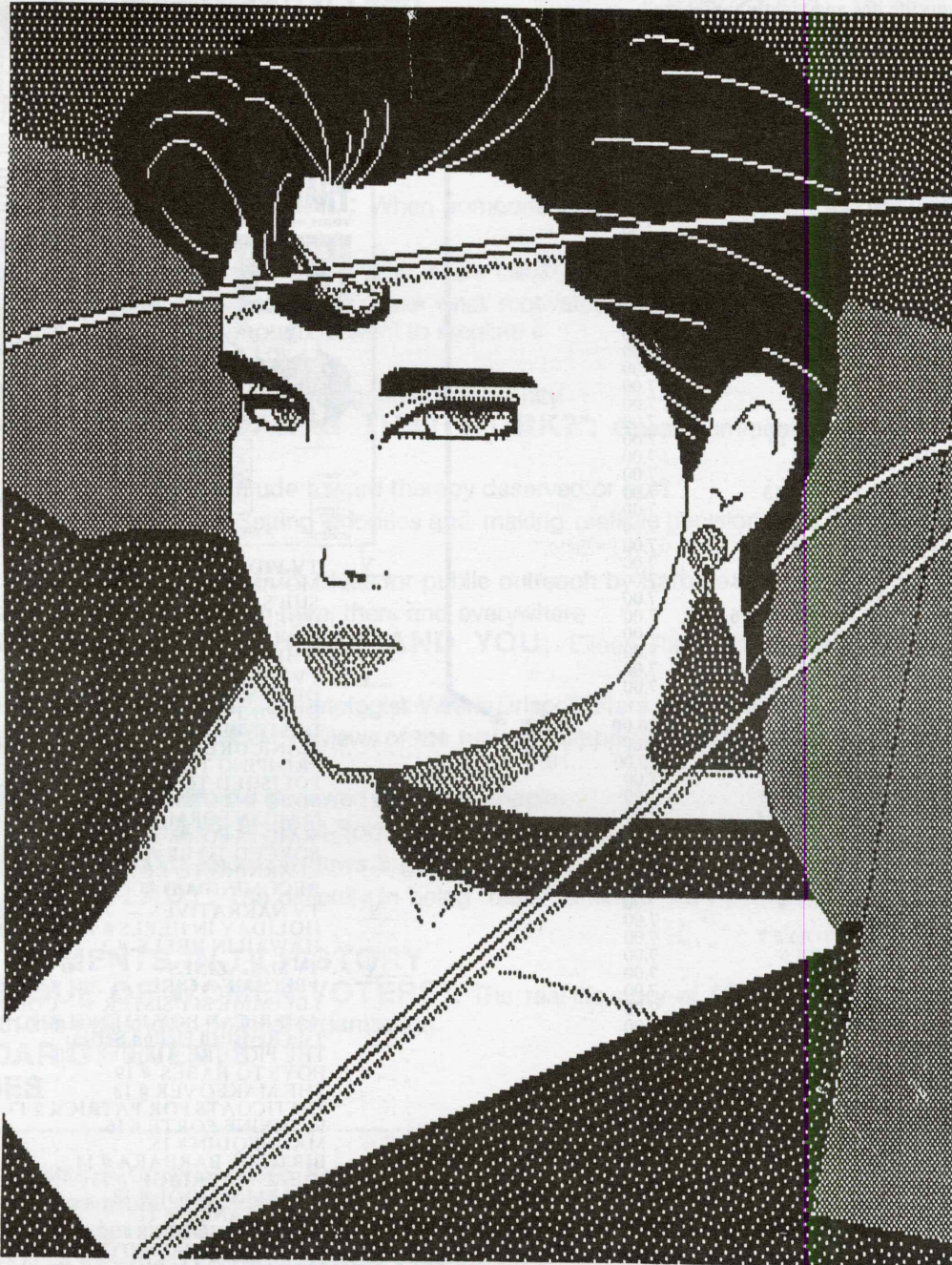


# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

**#63**

\$7.00



**JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT DOESN'T MEAN I'M WRONG**

**DO THERAPISTS GET A BAD RAP?**

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AS A SIDE EFFECT**

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# FROM SANDY THOMAS

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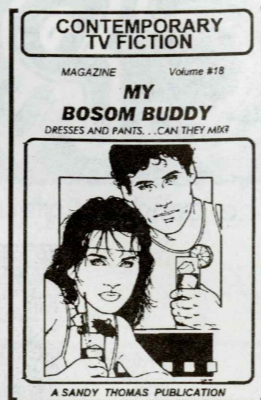
CONTEMPORARY TV FICTION # 18 is "MY BOSOM BUDDY." This is a touching story of two best friends and the conflict caused when one gets a job modeling women's clothes!

CONTEMPORARY TV FICTION # 19 is "HEAD OVER HEELS." This double issue is about a mother who knew everything about raising girls from bows to the perfect hairdo. But she only had a son... what a waste of talent, right? MAYBE NOT!

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# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

JANUARY 1995  
 (ISSUE #63)



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MYOPIA ... or WHO DIED AND MADE YOU GOD?



by Kimberleigh Richards  
Publisher & Managing Editor

I have been involved in a few arguments in cyberspace over the past several weeks. That, in and of itself, is not surprising: There are a lot of discussions taking place on the Internet at any given time, and since there are at least five areas that deal in transgender issues, odds are that there is usually going to be at least one heated argument

I have lately been in arguments with both a post-op FTM transsexual who claims that MTFs are deluding themselves (because they don't fit his idea of women) and that therefore there is no such thing as a MTF transsexual ... and a MTF transgenderist who denounces SRS because "you'll never achieve orgasm so you might as well keep the sex organs you already have".

**"There is a big difference between suggesting that you reexamine your position and telling you outright that you are dead wrong."**

Like our poor little beauty queen from 1991, these two individuals are operating from the flawed perspective that every human condition must fit their conception of the "norm" or it cannot be allowed to exist. That's why one of the titles at the top of the page is "Myopia": their perspective is so

in progress somewhere in the electronic gender community. Lately, though, I have noticed a rather annoying trend toward an attitude that I've seen in our "real world" community before ... an attitude that irritates me no end.

nearsighted that they can't see the proverbial forest for the trees. And they aren't by any means the only ones with this gender community version of "tunnel vision". Sooner or later, everyone meets a transsexual who disdains crossdressers because they're "just playing, while I'm real" or CDs who think TSs are "way too serious and need to lighten up and have a good time like I do".

The first time I recall encountering this attitude was almost exactly four years ago, in an incident that I editorialized about in *Cross-Talk* #24 ("More Than Just Looking Pretty"). The handful of you who were subscribers back then may recall that I got into an argument with a very young TS who had lived full-time in a feminine gender role since age 16 -- and she was only 21 at the time of the incident -- who complained that she had been "read" as a male in drag and thus tormented by society countless times over the preceding five years.

There may even be some who, reading this, are thinking of me as something of a hypocrite, because I frequently espouse opinions that seem very similar in attitude. So have a number of our regular columnists, past and present (Virginia Prince and Anne Blackwood, predominantly): All three of us have often suggested that people in our community misappropriate labels for themselves and then attempt to force themselves into whatever definition fits the label they have chosen.

Although several people tried to convince her that her over-exaggerated body language was undoubtedly to blame, as was the fact that she had only recently moved to Los Angeles from the deep South (where people seem to be much more sensitive to "non-straight" individuals). Her disagreement was based on the analogy of "I'm so beautiful, none of that should matter".

But there is a big difference between **suggesting** that you reexamine your position and telling you outright that you are **dead wrong** (and therefore worthless as a consequence).

To my opinion that passing and public acceptance is more than just physical appearance, I was told: "You don't know s--- about this."

I have, for some reason, found that the latter attitude is more prevalent among post-operative transsexuals who appear to believe that since **they** had the surgery and it was the right move for **them**, then **everyone** should have the surgery, or lese they're **obviously** nuts. I am not trying to imply that every transsexual has this attitude, but I certainly believe that there are enough of them around to both wreak havoc **and** give the rest of the TS community a bad name. (And I've run across some erotically inclined crossdressers who think people who *(continued, page 8)*

Well, the circumstances change, but the attitude doesn't. There are self-proclaimed "experts" running loose in cyberspace proclaiming that their "take" on being transgendered -- whatever it might be -- is the **only** correct answer to everyone's situation.



The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

As I was saying...

Yes, gentle readers, Ms. Sinclair is back with the same sort of trashy, odd, but **true** news on which you thrive, especially if you are too cheap to subscribe to *People* magazine and the *Weekly World News*.

So much has (and hasn't) happened during the past six months since she last graced these pages: Audiences were shocked, charmed, or bored by the adventures of three drag queens in the Australian outback; Johnny Depp is still talking about how **interesting** it was to wear women's clothes for the film *Ed Wood*; transsexuals were admitted to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival; RuPaul trod the runway of a New York fashion show as ... a **man**; and transsexual *F.M.I.* cover girl Sarah Luiz wishes she never had a sex change.

Is it really true that the more things change, the more they stay the same? Let's see, shall we?

Faithful readers will recall the sad saga of Sarah Luiz of New Hampshire. She had begun hormone therapy with the blessing of her health insurance company. But apparently there was a misunderstanding, for when the company realized that those hormone prescriptions weren't for easing the symptoms of menopause, they withdrew their approval, leaving Ms. Luiz in gender limbo.

Almost instantly she became a *cause celebre* -- an example of the corporate America's insensitivity to transgendered people, a woman trapped in a man's body because of red tape, etc. She even had a devoted and understanding mother to help tug the heartstrings. Finally, Jeffrey scrapped together the necessary \$15,000 and flew to Colorado for the operation she longed for.

But now, at 27, Sarah realizes that she messed up her life terribly.

"I was really screwed up to want to cut off my manhood," she said. "I've mutilated myself!"

Her disappointment apparently began when she failed to reach orgasm with male lovers, and she realized that she did not really want to be a woman.

"All along, I've been a homosexual man and I just refused to accept the fact. Now I'm stuck with this vagina I don't want."

Nowadays, Sarah tries to conceal her 38-26-38 figure with jeans and T-shirts while she contemplates more surgery that will give her only the semblance of a man's body. Her

breasts can be removed, but the best she can expect between her legs is a artificial penis that has absolutely no function of its own.

Ms. Sinclair realizes that some of her not so gentle readers will take her to task for reporting this tragic story. But she is willing to take that chance in the hopes that even **one** person takes Sarah's cautionary tale to heart.

Ms. Sinclair also realizes that some readers, noting that Sarah's doubts began when she tried sex with a man, will suggest that she may find satisfaction as a transsexual lesbian. Well, that ain't no bed of roses either. True, transsexual women found some acceptance last summer at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. But there is still more than enough discrimination to go around.

Recently, lesbian separatists in Australia convinced the founders of Sydney's proposed lesbian community center to ban transsexual lesbians. By a vote of 27 to 15 the center's "caretaker committee" ruled that only "lesbian-identified women who are born female" can join.

This prompted an immediate outcry from other lesbian and gay groups in Sydney. "If someone knows they are a woman, they are a woman," one leader said.

Well, not exactly...

Transsexual author Martine Aliana Rothblatt, writing in the October issue of *Harper's* magazine disputes "the division of humanity into two sexes" and argues that "to identify the meaningful elements of sexual identity, it is necessary to abandon entirely the male/female, masculine/feminine lexicon." Instead, Rothblatt proposes a "chromatic" lexicon instead, something of a rainbow theory of gender.

"Anatomically, we may have penises or vaginas, testicles or ovaries. Sexually, we are a rainbow of color, a spectrum of gender."

Ms. Sinclair believes she first heard this notion proposed by transsexual Kate Bornstein, who wrote (if Ms. Sinclair remembers correctly), that she is not a woman in the traditional sense, but a person on the frontier of gender. Hence her *sobriquet*, the "gender outlaw."

For years she wrestled with the question of her place in a binary gender system, and produced some insightful writing along the way. Now she has a problem of a different sort, and her new solo show, *Virtually Yours, Version 1.5*, is a byproduct.

As one of the many characters she portrays in the work, Bornstein addresses the central question of whether she should stay with her lesbian lover of four years -- who is now becoming a man.

"Deep inside that man," she frets at one point, "is the woman I fell in love with."



While Ms. Sinclair hasn't seen any recent figures about the prevalence of female-to-male transsexuals, she has seen several news stories and articles on the subject, perhaps prompted by an exhaustive article in last year's July 18 issue of *The New Yorker*. The most recent article was in the November issue of *Details* magazine. Writer Emily Yoffee uses individual biography to anchor a wide-ranging examination of female-to-male transsexuals.



An F-to-M examination of quite another kind is being conducted by journalists in Lincoln, Neb. According to JoAnn Brandon, reporters have picked through the trash outside her home searching for tidbits about her daughter Teena. A female-to-male transsexual, she used the name Brandon Teena until her murder just over a year ago.

One of the hardest things about her daughter's death, she said, is the constant media attention. "Just when you think you're starting to get over it, somebody else comes and reminds you that it happens and it starts all over again." *Playboy* is planning a story on Teena's life as a man in the coming months, and just about every television talk show has asked the Brandons to appear. Then, there are the trash pickers.

Mrs. Brandon claims that the Richardson County sheriff's office is partly to blame for the murder. She says that if authorities had taken seriously her daughter's report that a week before she was killed she was kidnapped and raped by two men who were later charged with her slaying, her daughter would be alive today. As it is, Teena rests in an unmarked grave because Mrs. Brandon's medical expenses keep her from buying a headstone.



The woman whose testimony sent a Ku Klux Klansman to prison for the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham, Ala. church that killed four African-American girls has come back from the dead in a manner of speaking.

After she testified at the 1977 trial, Elizabeth Cobbs, a minister's wife and a mother, vanished -- not an

uncommon event, considering the enemies she made with her testimony. She has recently resurfaced, but as a man named Pete Smith.

In her book, *Long Time Coming*, Smith recounts how testifying about the church bombing began a winding personal journey filled with fear of Klan retribution and sexual uncertainty. "Suddenly, honesty was the most important thing on the face of the earth. And the one thing I started having to be honest about was myself."

In 1979, she was accepted into a sex-change program in Texas.



Apparently, Elizabeth Cobbs was successful in avoiding trouble by changing genders. But others are not so lucky.

Consider the case of the pre-op transsexual who was arrested for indecent exposure in Seattle last October. The TS, who was not identified in the news report sent to Ms. Sinclair, strolled around town for three days clad only in bikini panties. She had several bare-breasted encounters in a drug store, on Metro buses, and strolling along Fifth Avenue before police finally apprehended her.

While it is not a crime for a man to appear in Seattle without a shirt (and the TS still retained enough of her original equipment to be considered male), she was cited because some of those who witnessed her passage were "shocked and personally affronted," according to police because she appeared to be a very attractive, topless woman.



Police in Bergen County, N.J. were similarly embarrassed when they strip searched the girlfriend of a bank robber and found that she was actually a man.

Police said the accomplice, who gave her name as Ava Johnson, was listed in FBI records as Fernando Gutierrez, 27, because she had been arrested a month earlier in Chicago on prostitution charges. Investigators said that Gutierrez was born in California of Colombian parents. Her parents returned to Columbia when Fernando was just a boy, and he began taking female hormones soon afterward, at the age of 12.

Gutierrez, or Johnson, was arrested with her boyfriend, Franklin Russo, at the conclusion of a police chase following an armed bank robbery. She reportedly stood outside the bank while Russo collected \$31,000.



A man in Amarillo, Tex. faces indecent exposure charge because he was **not** mistaken for a woman.

The 41-year-old man went into a store and asked the owner if she carried ladies' underwear in size 42 or 44. When she replied that she did, the man asked if he could try on some things. The woman consented, but called police because she felt "uneasy." Before police arrived, the man asked for assistance in the dressing room where he

allegedly exposed himself to the woman.

The store owner told reporters that the man was a delegate attending a state Baptist convention in Amarillo.

This reminds Ms. Sinclair of the time when she asked to try on a dress in a small boutique and was refused by the clerk with the rebuke "We don't want your kind in here." Not wishing to stay where she is not wanted, Ms. Sinclair left the store and immediately went to City Hall where she filed a complaint with the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities. The store owner replied to the complaint by alleging that Ms. Sinclair was drunk when she was in the store and so the clerk's comments were justified. Conveniently, Ms. Sinclair had spent more than an hour just previous to her visit to the store in the company of police officers -- her car had been broken into. Their report made no mention of intoxication. Needless to say, the store no longer discriminates against transgendered patrons.



Another New Jersey transsexual ran afoul of the law and has been incarcerated in Kentucky, where, she claims, she was subjected to all sorts of discriminatory behavior -- everything from sexual assault by a guard to being deprived of special hair- and skin-care products. A federal judge has dismissed all but one of her claims.

Michelle Murray, 34, is a pre-op transsexual who has had breast implants and has been castrated. She claimed, among other things, that prison officials at the Federal Correctional Institution in Ashland violated her constitutional rights by making her wear a bra, not allowing her to wear a tank top, and closely supervising her contact with other prisoners. "Given that the plaintiff, by his own choice, has breasts, as well as other feminine characteristics, the court finds no evidence suggesting that the challenged actions constitute an exaggerated response to the situation," Judge-Magistrate James Todd ruled.

As far as denying Murray special hair- and skin-care products, Todd wrote, "routine discomfort is part of the penalty that criminal offenders pay for their offense against society."

But Todd did accept the charge that a guard sexually assaulted Murray on two occasions, and sent that matter to a trial court.



Speaking of correctional officers, a transsexual corrections officer in Jacksonville, Fla. who successfully sued the sheriff's Office to keep her position after her sex change has died.

Belinda Smith drowned while deep sea fishing by herself. No foul play was suspected.



Now, back to the judicial system. A county judge in Tacoma, Wash. has been accused of violating the cannons

of judicial ethics by his treatment of two transsexuals who appeared before him last year seeking to adopt women's names.

Judge Alan Hutchinson refused petitions from Dominic Scellato and David Pryor to change their names to Gina D'Shirico and Catherine Matthews even though both transsexuals presented letters from their therapists stating that they were candidates for sex change surgery and were beginning their real-life test.

"This court is not going to allow any male person with a penis and operating testicles to change their Washington state driver's license indicating they are female," Hutchinson said from the bench. "This court will refuse to allow these people to live like women when it means entering public lavatories of women." He did say he would allow the petitioners to change their names after they had their surgery "although I personally feel this whole procedure is immoral. It evidences a mentally ill and diseased mind."

After the two had their sex changes in Belgium and their names changed from Hutchinson, they appealed the judge's treatment of their request to the Pierce County Superior Court, which did not intervene. They then complained to the state Commission on Judicial Conduct which investigated and proposed that Hutchinson accept a reprimand and 24 hours of sexual sensitivity training. The judge refused, saying he would fight the charges. No word

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yet on the outcome of the case. Transsexuals in Washington will be happy to know that not all officials are not as antediluvian as Judge



Hutchinson. For example, a spokesman for the state Department of Licensing said the department assigns a sex designation "based on people's intentions, not their genitals." He added, "we're sensitive to what people contemplating a sex change are going through. We try not to make it any more difficult than it need be."



Judges in New Zealand are wrestling with another weighty issue regarding transsexuals -- whether they can be legally married to a person of the opposite gender.

Like most nations, New Zealand law limits marriages to male/female couples. And following the British tradition, New Zealand does not allow transsexuals to legally change their sex. Therefore, they cannot marry. The case being heard in Christ Church concerns a transsexual who **did** get married and who is now seeking a divorce. If the High Court rules that the transsexuals is still legally male, then the marriage is declared void without divorce proceedings. But if it rules that a divorce is necessary, it would mean that the couple were legally married and that the transsexual is now legally a woman.

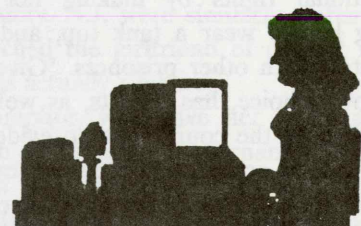


You can show your happiness at Ms. Sinclair's return by sending her clippings relating to crossdressing in care of Cross-Talk. And if you're not happy, send the clippings anyway. In either case, be sure to note the date and name of publication. Ms. Sinclair is pictured at left toasting the New Year on behalf of the many readers who fall into the former category.

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## VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

### WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT WOMEN AND WHY DO YOU DRESS LIKE THEM?

by Virginia Prince

That question of "why" has been around since the beginning but I would like to ask it not in an etiological sense but rather in conjunction with the first question -- about women. What's so great can be asked in a broad sociological sense and also in a narrow personal sense as "what do women mean to me? Actually I think I am asking it in a much broader sense (no pun intended). Why does

**"If one can pass, she has entered the world of women ... and can satisfy her drive to escape masculinity."**

society put a special and greater value on women than on men? The phrase "women and children first" states the case quite bluntly. Women are more valued because they are females! Females can bring forth babies and raise them to adulthood. Babies, infants and children comprise the next generation and satisfy the adults longing for immortality. We can't achieve it on our own but we can achieve it in some sense through our children.

Normally, it takes a male's sperm to start the process but it is possible to initiate the process through parthenogenesis which means, in effect, virgin birth. The process of cell division is started by the prick of a needle or some other means of stimulating the egg to divide. That cannot be done with a sperm. For one thing, eggs have a lot of nutrients built into them which enable the fertilized egg to divide and which feeds the resulting new cells. Sperms have no such food supply. They are essentially just little packets of chromosomes which must be inserted into the egg to provide the necessary hereditary material. So the female of our own and of every other species is essentially more important than the male. This fact doesn't mean much in lower animals but in humans, who have developed the ability to think and be self-aware. This is significant. It is hard on the male ego of a thinking-man to realize and accept that he is unable to do what females can do and that his only actual purpose in the scheme of things is to introduce variety into the reproductive process and thus make evolution possible.

As a compensation, males have always tried to show that they really are important by using their two principal

assets -- the fact that they are generally both bigger and stronger than females. Thus they quarrel, fight, and, among young humans, do anything that will bring them attention. My famous assertion that "women just are, men are always trying to become" expresses this concisely. Thus, men are always doing something to attract attention to themselves which is a way of saying, "Hey, look at me. I may not be able to make a baby but I **am** an important person. There are three ways that men can handle this situation *vis a vis* women.

First, they can resort to machismo as mentioned above, attempting to "prove" their importance and superiority to "lowly" women who are not as big, are not as strong and, until recently, were not as smart because they didn't have access to the education, opportunity and experience that men had.

Second, they can just resign themselves to the situation, not recognize the need to do anything about it and thus just stew in their own juice.

Or third, they can be envious of women and desire to share in some of their social advantages (if not their biological advantages). This third solution is what leads to crossdressing.

When a male crossdresses two possibilities exist. One, he only looks in the mirror and sees a reflection of his dressed self which is really his *anima* being portrayed in real time and space. Two, he goes out into some sort of public situation such as a mall, a restaurant or even to a meeting of one of the CD groups. The important thing is that "she" is now seen by others. And being seen as a woman because of her dress and appearance, "she" becomes a woman (not a female) for social interaction with others. The success of this adventure naturally depends on how realistic "she" looks and acts. "Passing" is simply presenting oneself to others realistically enough for them to accept you as just another woman.

So if one can pass she has entered the world of women for a time and can, to some degree, satisfy her drive to escape the constraints of masculinity and acquire and share in some of the perceived advantages of femininity. This partially levels the playing field between men and women and is therefore a pleasing and satisfying experience which in turn leads to future attempts to do the same thing and enjoy the same results.

The fact that this process may begin in childhood does not invalidate the argument in any way. Boys and girls perceive and learn that there are differences between boys and girls at a very young age. If they are bathed together they observe the physical distinctions between male and female. They also learn early that there is a difference in the way boys and girls are treated by parents, teachers, siblings, and playmates. While they may not attach the same degree of importance to the differences they nevertheless are aware of them and to the extent that the opposite gender seems to enjoy certain advantages they can become envious.

Of course imitation becomes a factor with young children too. It is quite common for young children (both boys and girls) to put their feet into either Mommy's or Daddy's shoes and clump around in them, thus becoming like the parent whose shoes they are wearing. This is by no means an introductory experiment in crossdressing: Many a man who has never had any CD experience at all and who has no inclination in that direction will have as a very young child put his feet into Mommy's high heels and tried to walk around in them.

So, in summary, our dressing like women is not just to enjoy the softness, texture, color and difference between man's and woman's clothes but to acquire symbolically some of the qualities and privileges enjoyed by women but denied to men. In other words, the clothing and the dressing are means to an end not ends in themselves.

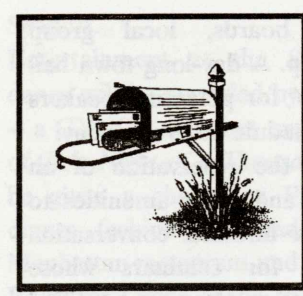
**KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ... continued from page 2**  
 crossdress for non-sexual reasons are equally crazy.)  
 Unfortunately, those who promote their own agenda to the exclusion of all other points of view -- and there are obviously many, many more than the three individuals I have mentioned -- can only accept one answer from their adversary in an argument, and that answer is a concession to their "superior" position.

What worries me is that there are people who mistake the false authority of strongly defending your position for wisdom or leadership, and so there are undoubtedly many such people who are winding up more confused than they need to.

Unfortunately, since you can't win arguments with these "gender gurus" and you can't stifle their freedom to express their own opinions, all one can hope for is that those who might be swayed by one side of the argument might be equally swayed by the counter argument and be left in the position of making up their own minds.

Which, not so incidentally, is the best thing for all concerned ...

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**Vox Populi**

Letters to the Editor

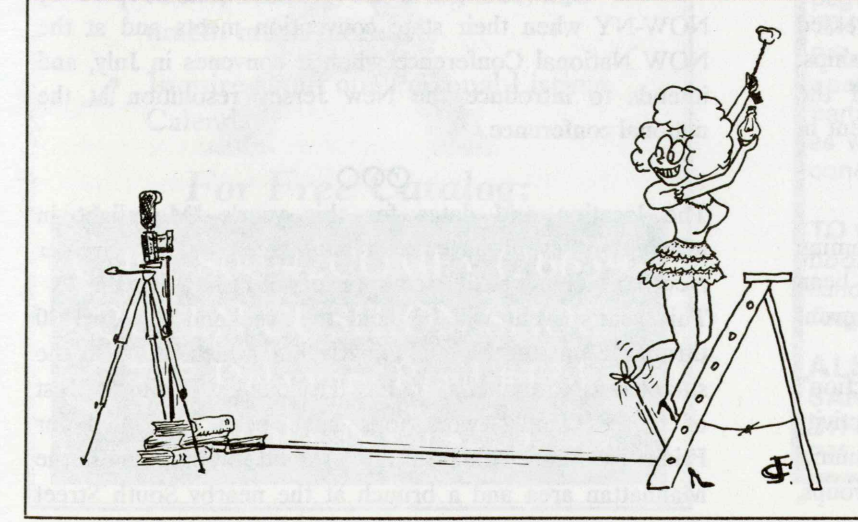
**Re: Diva Of Dish (#61):** I was astonished to note that the twits who made up Terence Stamp's boobs for the *Priscilla* film have actually admitted who they are!

The pre-publicity in the U.K. for this film has been little short of ridiculous. We've had Terence Stamp in terrible indecision, acute embarrassment and modest self-indulgence.

We've had photos of him almost *ad nauseum*, and many mentions of the terrible difficulties experienced fitting him with a pair of boobs.

Two things I can't reconcile with all this agonizing: Isn't it odd that actors can play serial killer, Nazi camp commandants, gangsters, psychopaths, Genghis Khan -- you name it -- without protesting: "I'm not really like that, you know! I'm really quite a nice guy and wouldn't dream of killing, maiming, raping, or descending with fire and sword and pillage on anyone! HONESTLY!" But give them a role which involves them appearing in a frock, and they're immediately screaming: "I'M NOT GAY! I'M NOT A TRANSVESTITE! I'M AS MACHO, IF NOT MORE MACHO, THAN ANY OTHER FELLER!" Methinks, sometimes, they do protest too much! The job of an actor is to portray a character -- so why do they scream so loud? The usual, normal, male insecurity, perhaps?

The other point is all the codswallop which was written about the making of Terry's boobs from water-filled balloons. Well, really! Here we have the film industry, which by now has years (generations, even) of experience in padding out the bustlines of starlets and stars -- are we seriously expected to believe this garbage about the difficulty they had in filling his bra? Haven't they heard of



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prostheses? Pull the other leg, it's got bells on!  
 Of course, it's all just for publicity, and they certainly succeeded in getting plenty over here. But if Lizzy Gardiner (costume designer) and Cassie Hanion (makeup artist) are serious about their balloons, that film company could do with somewhere-knowledgeable people in their studios!

While griping, I must take issue with Angela about her number of TVs to change a light bulb. "Five. One to change the bulb and four to take the pictures." How ridiculous!

Complete rubbish, Angela! As a TV I know that in fact it only takes ONE.

The pictures are taken by means of a long piece of string leading from the TV's left big toe, through the rungs of the ladder, across the room, round the leg of the tripod and up to the camera's shutter release. (See accompanying illustration.)

*Christine-Jane Wilson  
 Wembley, Middlesex, U.K.*

Vox Populi is the gender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, please feel free to contribute. We suggest keeping letters to 400 words (one page typewritten or 2000 characters ASCII). **Cross-Talk** reserves the right to publish only those portions of a letter specifically addressing the issue. Personal attacks will not be published.

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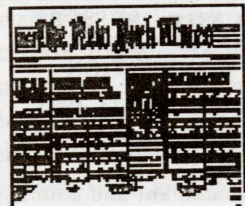
by Dallas Denny

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## "Cross-Talk" NewsWire

News of the worldwide  
gender community

Renaissance Education Association has elected a genetic female as its national managing director.

Linda Chenowith, a former leader of Renaissance's Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter, was elected unanimously at the November meeting of the Renaissance board of directors. Chenowith thus becomes the first woman to lead a national gender community organization, filling the position vacated by Beth Marshall.

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The first step toward converting IFGE into a membership-based organization has been taken by its board of directors.

A proposal for a membership structure was accepted in principle by the board at its November meeting. If implemented, it would create basic, supporting, benefactor, and lifetime member classifications and separate subscribers to the IFGE magazine *Tapestry* from voting classes.

Basic members, under the proposal, would receive a newsletter (to be published under the guidance of IFGE founding director Merissa Sherrill Lynn); the privilege of voting for the board of directors and the annual Trinity and Virginia Prince awards; and a 10% discount on IFGE books and videos. Supporting members would receive a 15% discount plus a 10% discount on the annual convention registration fee; benefactors would receive the 15% discount for both books/videos and the convention; and life members would receive a permanent "supporting" membership once their cumulative contributions exceeded \$2,500.

Subscriptions to *Tapestry* would be excluded from all membership classifications, although Lynn has expressed her desire that it be included in all but basic memberships. A recent marketing survey indicated that 40% of the magazine's readership had no desire for an involvement in the organization's affairs.

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The list of workshops for IFGE's "Coming Together-Working Together" convention has been released, confirming previous statements that the event would be focused on gender community leadership.

The week-long conference, nicknamed "Atlanta Action", will include seminars on educational outreach, proactivity in legislation, starting support groups, hotline training, peer advocacy, leadership for wives/partners groups,

newsletters, computer bulletin boards, local group programming, and visible leadership. A day-long town hall meeting and an all-day "boot camp" for potential speakers and presenters will dominate the schedule on Wednesday.

Other major innovations include the reservation of an empty meeting room with seating and other amenities to be used on an as-needed basis for informal conversation between community leaders or for seminars whose participants desire continued discussion after the specified time period, and an exhibition hall offering space for professional organizations such as AASECT, Quad-S, NASW, and GLAAD. The annual meeting of the Congress of Transgender Organizations will also take place on Saturday morning.

Information on "Atlanta Action" can be obtained from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778 -- telephone number (617) 899-2212 -- or from any member group in the Southern Comfort Conference or Magnolia Transgender Alliance. The two coalitions are acting as a host committee for the convention.

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The New Jersey Chapter of the National Organization for Women has become the first known state chapter of the organization to adopt a policy that supports "the lives and identities of Transgendered and Transsexual people".

A resolution that linked gender discrimination faced by the transgender community with the same system that oppresses all women was introduced, discussed and overwhelmingly adopted by NOW-NJ delegates at their recent state conference. Input from the transgendered community was led by Riki Anne Wilchins, co-founder of New York's Transsexual Menace, who initiated the resolution as part of an effort to gain NOW support for TG and TS health care and civil rights. Wilchins was joined by Terry McCorkell, co-founder of the Monmouth Ocean TransGender organization, Gina Reiss of the NOW-NJ Lesbian Rights Task Force, and Wendy Berger, Chair of the NOW-NJ Lesbian Rights Task Force, who authored and introduced the resolution.

Wilchins hopes to have a similar resolution adopted by NOW-NY when their state convention meets and at the NOW National Conference when it convenes in July, and intends to introduce the New Jersey resolution at the national conference.

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The location and dates for this year's "Moonlight in Manhattan" event have been announced by the Greater New York Gender Alliance, sponsors of the April event.

This year's event will be held the weekend of April 20 through 23 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, which was also the site of last November's Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme". Most of the weekend's workshops have been scheduled for Friday this year, with Saturday reserved for shopping in the Manhattan area and a brunch at the nearby South Street

Seaport.

Entertainment at the Saturday evening formal dinner dance will be provided by the Imperial Court of New York -- a GYNGA member organization -- performing a version of their *Night of a Thousand Gowns* show. Participants will be given a choice on Friday night of either an on-site dinner, fashion show and bus tour or dinner at a famous Manhattan restaurant and Broadway show.

Registrar Lynda Frank can be contacted at 330 W. 45th St. #3H, New York 10036, or by telephone at (212) 765-3561.






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A new nonprofit organization has been formed to provide on-site training, assistance and advice to lesbians, gay men, and bisexual and transgendered persons seeking to organize (or renew) and maintain community groups, projects, and political action.

The Heartland Project has already filed for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS, according to founding director Mark Hertzog, Ph.D., who said that field work for the project was to have begun January 1. Hertzog hopes to help link up groups in suburban, small-town and rural areas of the U.S. with national movement organizations.

Bernard Mayes, founding chairman of the board of National Public Radio, has agreed to serve on a five-member board of directors. Hertzog said an advisory board of interested and supportive persons is also being

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formed, and an eight-page prospectus has been prepared for those who are interested in making use of the project's services in your community, or serving on either the board of directors or the advisory board.

Because foundation grant funding will not be forthcoming for several months, the project is very much in need of individual contributions in the interim, according to Hertzog, to begin operations.

The Heartland Project can be reached at P.O. Box 2191, Charlottesville VA 22902, by telephone at (804) 293-8736, or by Internet at [mwh8h@virginia.edu](mailto:mwh8h@virginia.edu).

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The directors of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy have announced the agreement by organizers of the biannual Lavender Law conference to include transgender issues at their 1996 edition.

According to ICTLEP executive director Phyllis Randolph Frye, the National Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association -- sponsors of Lavender Law -- endorsed an all day workshop on transgender issues for the 1996 conference, placed a transgendered law student JoAnna McNamara as co-chair of the NLGLA Law Student Division, named Frye the female alternate to her region's board of representatives, and authorized a study to determine if NLGLA should lobby Congress to include the transgendered in the

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"lesbian, gay and bisexual" listing of persons seeking federal protection under the pending Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Frye said the NLGLA board's decision, affirmed at the closing plenary of the 1994 conference in Oregon, came after ICTLEP activists Sharon Ann Stuart, Melinda Marie Whiteway, Laura Skaer, McNamara and Frye spread themselves among the conference's Saturday workshops to ensure that transgender issues were included. Frye said that the activists' presence was received warmly and encouragingly, and called the process "unexpectedly easy". ICTLEP also presented three hours of workshops focusing on transgender law at the invitation of NLGLA regional representative Robert Rosenberg.

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Writers and researchers whose work concerns body sites and transgression are being sought for an edited collection of work concerning gay, lesbian and transgendered culture, particularly in relation to the specific notion of the sexual body.

The project, to be published this year in the United Kingdom, is being headed by FTM transsexual Stephen Whittle, a lecturer at the Manchester Metropolitan University School of Law. Whittle was the editor of *The Margins of the City: Gay Men's Urban Lives*, to which he also contributed, and jointly authored *The Transvestite, the Transsexual and the Law*. Both were published in 1994.

Writers from any discipline whose research is in the topic area who would like to have a contribution considered for inclusion are asked to send an abstract of approximately 200 words or so to Whittle at Manchester Metropolitan University, Hathersage Rd., Manchester M13 0JA, U.K. Whittle may also be reached via Internet at [s.t.whittle@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.t.whittle@mmu.ac.uk).

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A drive to create new chapters of the Society for the Second Self in areas where there are high concentrations of Tri-Ess members has been started by executive director Carol Beecroft and national chapter development director Marlene L.

The two national officers have identified approximately 50 areas across North America where chapters could be formed, based on member concentrations. Beecroft, in a letter mailed to all Tri-Ess members with the most recent edition of the organization's *Femme Mirror* magazine, defined those areas as regions where a significant number of members live within a 100 mile radius. The letter requested that those interested in participating in the organization of a new chapter in their area contact them at Tri-Ess national headquarters in Tulare, Calif.

Beecroft said her motivation was to make Tri-Ess "more available to all [its] members" by bringing nearby members in better contact with each other.

## CAN WE HAVE "STANDARDS" THAT WORK?

by Anne Blackwood

I hate to burst anyone's bubble, but the Benjamin Standards Of Care do not work -- mostly, I suppose, because they are not very standard, certainly not in their interpretation. In a therapeutic relationship, the therapist **must** be an impartial observer; however, in cases where the therapist's approval is needed to obtain hormones (much less SRS) that need undermines the patient/therapist relationship. When the therapist (or therapy group) holds the power to bestow or deny hormone treatment, whether they like it or not, they ... well, the key word here is **power**.

The therapist's job, normally, is to listen to her patient and guide them to explore areas they may have overlooked or suppressed, and help the patient figure out how things connect. The therapist isn't there to judge the patient except in the case of certain issues which have specific goals (such as gender transition). Since this is **Cross-Talk** I will limit my comments to gender issues. When it comes time to decide whether or not a patient should begin hormone treatment, the therapist must decide whether or not **they** are comfortable recommending that step. The therapist may go beyond the realm of assessing the patient's situation, to judging what is in their best interests, and that is where things break down.

Let us say that I want hormones and my therapist is not prepared to recommend them, but cannot clearly articulate the reasons. I start editing what I tell her so that she will write that letter and send it to the endocrinologist and get me on my way. The more she resists, the more I edit. The more I edit, the less therapy takes place. In fact, the minute I start to edit in order to appease the therapist, therapy stops. What to do?

I am not suggesting that hormones or SRS on demand are an acceptable alternative, because I don't believe that they are. What I am trying to find the answer to is the question: How can the therapist/patient relationship be protected, and at the same time not just arbitrarily give everyone who walks through the door hormones? I haven't yet figured that out. It did occur to me that perhaps having a fixed maximum time in therapy before hormone treatment is initiated would remove that problem, but I also think that the treatment should be for a limited time before being reassessed.

In my own case, I had wanted to start hormone therapy before making any announcements to the world -- or my family -- that I was transsexual. I wanted to be sure that I wouldn't have any problems that would prevent me from taking them and allow me to consider what alternatives I would have if that were the case. That is not the way things

played out.

A few months ago (after starting this particular column) I was up in the San Francisco Bay area and was visiting Luanna Rodgers. I related the situation (the full details of which I am omitting) I had been through, and she told me that in the Bay Area hormones were used diagnostically and that therapists there were more open to

## Can the Standards Of Care be fixed so that they actually have relevance to transsexualism?

recommending hormones for, among other reasons, the purpose of seeing how they do effect both physiologically and psychologically their patient. Prior to that visit, it occurred to me that before someone makes the commitment to the full time change of role there really ought to be a trial period to see how each individual reacts to hormones. If it turns out that an individual cannot, for whatever reasons, continue taking the substances, then that individual has to rethink what the options are.

A few years ago I met a F2M TG who had started on hormones, but had to stop because they were attacking her liver, and would have been fatal had they been continued. I think before anyone is asked to announce to friends and family that the pronoun they've been using should be changed, that individual should be able to do so with the certainty that they know that the hormone treatment will continue, or that they are comfortable with making the transition *sans* hormones. For a therapist to effectively say "you must make a commitment to the new role **before** I recommend hormones" not only is unfair to the patient, it is also bad medicine.

My feeling is that everyone who wants to go onto hormones ought to be given a mandatory three month trial, just to see if the person can tolerate the hormones. If not, their plans for the future must be rethought and perhaps radically altered, and they won't have to go back to friends and family a second time and say "about what I said about changing sex ... never mind."

The treatment of transsexualism needs to be more standardized so that I can go to a therapist in San Francisco or Topeka and get the same quality treatment. Perhaps the standards are too vague, and so tend to be interpreted too conservatively. The idea is to supervise the



transition, not control it. And if a person is going to have problems with hormones you'll know with in a few months, before all those other changes become irreversible.

The standard of care, and the Standards Of Care both need to be changed. The standard of care should reflect a supportive atmosphere for the person in transition, and the Standards Of Care should spell out a clearer time frame so that the transitionee knows what to expect. I think it is fair to say that a therapist should be able to say within six months either "I will never recommend hormone therapy for you" or "although I am not entirely comfortable starting you on hormones, I think it is the right course for you, so lets try it and see how it goes." To hang someone up indefinitely undermines the therapy and makes the sessions virtually useless. To force someone prematurely to make a commitment they may not be able to keep for

reasons that will never come out in therapy is a bad practice.

One last point before closing: Hormones, whether estrogen or testosterone, are consciousness-altering substances, and for anyone to say that they can predict exactly how that substance will alter a particular individuals processes is arrogance in the first degree. 99.9% does not equal 100%. Just because in a thousand cases a doctor hasn't seen a particular reaction doesn't mean that reaction cannot occur; it only means that he hasn't seen it.

Is it time for a revolution? Yes, but that's what America is all about.

[Anne Blackwood is a former Cross-Talk columnist ("Cogito Ergo Fem") and may be contacted at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills CA 90213 or at anne@xconn.com via Internet.]

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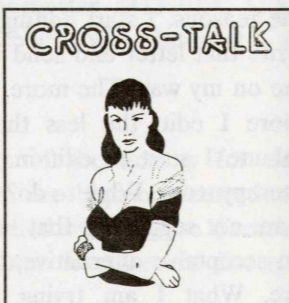
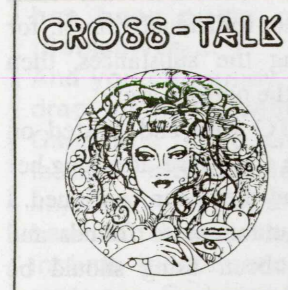
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While supplies last, issues #40 through #43 and #45 through #50 are priced at \$5.00 each, and issues #51 through #58 are priced at \$6.00 each. Buy any two or more, and subtract \$1.00 from the price of each magazine ... buy five or more and subtract \$2.00 from the price!

And while we're at it, we might as well mention the two most recent back issues of **Cross-Talk**, available at \$7.00 each:

**#59 (September 1994):** Debating the question of either going public with our lives or forging a more private identity for ourselves; Being responsible for one's own actions when seeking instant gratification; the history of alternative gender presentations; Would we still crossdress if skirts were normal male attire?; Contrasting the Third World and the West; Review of the movie *Just Like A Woman*.

**#60 (October 1994):** Editorial about publishers who steal copyrighted material; Bugs Bunny's history of drag; Commentary on the *DSM-IV*; Overview of computer BBS systems serving the gender community; Finding happiness in a marriage to a crossdresser; Review of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.



Postage charges: \$1.00 per magazine, up to a maximum of \$5.00 (outside the U.S., \$1.50 per issue, no maximum).

Complete sets of 1993 back issues, including issues #39 and #44, are \$50.00. Postage included in the U.S., \$5.00 postage elsewhere. Limited supply.

We are also pleased to offer our own **COMIC BOOK** reprints:

*The Toni Compendium*: Cartoon adventures of a transgendered high school student as presented in **Cross-Talk** from 1989 to 1991, plus four single panel cartoons never published in the magazine.

*At Worst, We'll Wind Up in Therapy*: The first five years of The Adventures of Karen comic strip, plus five strips never published and a two page story never finished for publication before now.

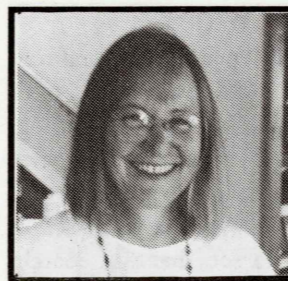
*Khen-Draa, Transgendered Warrior*: The origin saga of the female alien warrior who shares the body of an earth male (presented in **Cross-Talk** in 1992 and 1993).

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Send all orders to **Cross-Talk Reprints, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.**

Look elsewhere in this issue for details on ordering Ricky Hunt's book, now back in print: *Hey Dad ... Do I Have To Watch The TV?* on explaining crossdressing to teenagers.



## T NOTES

## THE THERAPIST

by Anne Vitale, Ph.D.

The role of the therapist has been vilified and praised in the gender community. We have been accused among other things of being autocratic, inept and exploiters. On the other hand we have been praised for making the whole process of gender resolution possible. In this column, I will try to put the matter into perspective.

I would be the first to admit that much of the vilification is warranted. In fact I used much of my Doctoral dissertation

**"Part of the problem is that very few therapists have experienced similar situations in their lives."**

to do just that. Most of the abuse gender clients have experienced has been by "healthier than thou" therapists. In addition there's a history of professional inaptitude regarding ego-dystonic crossdressing or the more serious problem of Gender Identity Disorder.

Part of the problem is that very few therapists have experienced similar situations in their lives. Unlike dealing with grief or depression or even a drinking problem, they have no first hand working through experience to draw on. A second problem is countertransference. For you non-therapist types, countertransference relates to the therapist's emotional feelings toward the client. For example, a male therapist may have a gut disgust for feminine men and -- God forbid -- having one's penis and testicles cut off. A female therapist might not be bothered by either issue but might be bothered by feelings that the individual is trying to avoid his male obligations ... especially if both the therapist and the client are married and have young children. Negative thoughts of the prospect of the psychotherapist's father, husband or son's crossdressing or changing their sex can and often do get in the way of good psychotherapy. In both cases the therapist, like most people confronted by an uncomfortable issue, is likely to avoid talking about that issue. They will instead, try to "cure" the client by looking for and then "fixing" something easier for the therapist to deal with. The APA ethics code is quite clear; psychotherapists are required to refer clients who present with problems they're not qualified to work with.

Unfortunately it's far easier and much more profitable to consider gender dysphoria as a symptom of benign mid-life crisis. In this case the client would be treated with care and sympathy, but most certainly, would be diverted from looking closely at their feelings of gender expression.

Another common alternate diagnosis, especially among psychiatrists, is Borderline Personality Disorder.

Unfortunately there is some overlap in diagnostic consideration to justify this thinking. For example,

Borderlines -- as they are commonly referred to -- often make recurrent suicide threats or gestures of self-mutilation and have significant and persistent identity disturbances. In addition, both disturbances seem to peak when the client is in their 30's or 40's. This resemblance is especially problematic for the gender

conflicted because Borderlines are notoriously thought of as being unreliable, manipulating and demanding. They are routinely referred to as being among the most difficult clients to work with. This is probably the origin of the "gender clients are manipulating" myth that is still plaguing the proper treatment of gender identity disorder.

Another potential and far more insidious problem occurs when the gender conflicted person applies for treatment at a "Gender Clinic". As one might naturally expect, most clients apply and enter the care of gender clinics trusting that the people in the clinic are first, sympathetic and secondly the clinicians know what they are doing. The more contact I have with such organizations the more doubt I have about them. For example, they are primarily attached to medical schools whose intent is to train new clinicians. Both the senior personnel and the students are in constant turnover so very little personal judgement regarding the client is allowed. Instead every applicant is subjected to standardized interviews and a standard battery of expensive psychometric examinations. If you fit the profile they are looking for, the individual is assigned a timetable and a series of hoops to jump through. If you don't fit the profile, you are told out right that you are not gender dysphoric and dismissed from the program. In the latter case, the individual is out hundreds, perhaps thousands, of dollars, more confused than ever and completely depersonalized.

Fortunately there are many highly qualified therapists who feel comfortable -- even enjoy -- working with people who

have gender identity issues. Unfortunately they are hard to find. The best bet, of course, is to choose a therapist who has been recommended to you by someone who has had first hand experience with the therapist. Keep in mind that just because the therapist advertises as being a gender specialist doesn't necessarily mean you and the therapist will have a good therapeutic relationship. For example, I'm a member of the Bay Area Gender Associates (BAGA), a group of experienced gender specialists working in the San Francisco Bay Area. Even though we are all empathic, share a sincere interest in helping gender conflicted individuals and have an impressive record of successful cases, I disagree with the approach several of my colleagues use in providing that help. In my opinion, one is too mothering, more than one is too expensive, and one is too symbolic. In contrast, having been through the reality of transition, I am a strong advocate of empowering the individual by using a supportive, fiduciary responsible, down to earth Existential approach.

Another hopeful and relatively new element is that more and more transgendered people are getting involved in the treatment of those yet to resolve their dilemma. For example there is another post-op, Ph.D. level psychotherapist in BAGA. As you might expect, her psychotherapeutic approach to working with her clients is very similar to mine. I find that having her to consult with on difficult cases an invaluable asset.

I was also pleasantly surprised to see a significantly high percentage of transgendered mental health professionals at the 1993 HBIQDA meeting in New York City. A similarly high percentage of transgendered professionals is expected at the first International Congress on Gender, Crossdressing and Sex Issues meeting to be held in Van Nuys, California next month. This latter meeting, sponsored by California State University at Northridge, is billed as "A Dialogue Between Professionals and Those In the Community". What I think they will find is that there is a lessening distinction between the two.

So what should you look for in a gender specialist? Look for a licensed professional who accepts crossdressing and

gender conflict as a psychologically unalterable natural phenomena. As long as the client is not showing signs of a thought disorder such as schizophrenia or a very confusing Multiple Personality Disorder, the therapist should have nothing invested in what direction you search to find your true self. You have the right to be whatever sex you wish to be. The therapist's primary duty is to see that you search diligently and thoroughly and that you have accepted full responsibility for your actions. With the exception of the minimum 12-week joint evaluation for hormone therapy, the therapist should give you all the time necessary to come to your own resolution. That resolution might run anywhere from coming to feel good about your crossdressing to mild-to-extreme feminization with or without sex reassignment surgery.

In addition, a good gender specialist should be independent of organizational oversight, leaving her free to individualize your care. The better therapists I know take a case management approach. As needs arise, a good therapist should not only be able to ease inherent anxiety but must also be able to educate, support, and provide a wide spectrum of professional referrals. A good gender therapist personally knows other good gender therapists to back up her work. She should also be familiar with the professional record, medical orientation and demeanor of several endocrinologist, psychiatrists and, surgeons. A good gender therapist can help you express yourself socially as well. This can range from providing passing letters, consultations with relatives and employers and legal referrals. The list of details goes on and on, but I think you get my point.

It is your life. Don't accept anything less than the best.

*[Copyright 1995 by Anne Vitale Ph.D. Dr. Vitale is a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues. She is an associate of the D Street Counseling Group, 610 D Street, San Rafael CA 94901, telephone (415) 456-4452. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Vitale's name and address appears with it. Other publications must obtain written permission from Dr. Vitale. A copy of any reprints must be sent to Dr. Vitale.]*

## WOMAN TO WOMAN

### COMMITMENT: SETTING PRIORITIES AND MAKING DECISIONS



by Linda Peacock

In today's gender community, we have varying ideas of what our roles should or will be. For those of us heavily involved in leadership roles, we can allow our priorities to become confused, or our sense of "importance" to become egotistical -- we can become certain in our minds that our involvement is of paramount importance and without us, the community will fall apart. We can become self-centered, self-illuminating, pompous.

This is really the norm in many segments of society. You

**"We seem to lose our perspective and our priorities become confused."**

see the very wealthy or prominent glorifying their "fun" or so-called "good works" in your newspaper's society pages each week. The daughters and sons of the wealthy and prominent get full-page articles on their weddings, whereby your middle-class daughters and sons get a three-inch blurb, stuck amongst all the other middle-class daughters and sons.

Elected officials and political appointees seem to grow big heads, getting so involved in their self-importance, that they believe themselves beyond the law, seeking perks offered by those wanting special consideration.

Sports and the entertainment worlds glorify their members, paying them obscene amounts of money, and we pander to this obscenity by spending ridiculous amounts of money for tickets to movies or concerts or sports events. We buy publications and read about spoiled actors and their disregard for property, propriety and fundamental good taste. We become fascinated by their lives, all the while not realizing that we can't live in someone else's life, but that we have to live in our own and make it the best we can.

This, too, happens in our community when we exceed the boundaries of self-importance and self-gratification.

In this community, where the fragility of people's emotions should be paramount, we seem to lose our perspective at times, and as I said before, our priorities become confused. I was recently faced with having to make a decision, and I agonized over it for days. I was due to fly to New York for

the Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme, and as part of the weekend, be a guest of the Long Island Femme Expression's "Foundress Day." I was greatly honored by their invitation, and also felt that it was important that I attend the Holiday and the Tri-Ess board meeting. The Monday before I was to leave, we experienced some severe financial set-backs with our home in Florida, which was being rented by a daughter of ours. We are out a substantial amount of money, and also must pick up all the expense of that house, even though we are now living in Arkansas, and will have to absorb the cost of the house until it sells.

My dilemma was whether the trip to New York was a priority that I had to honor or was it going to mean that if I went, I would not be able to honor my financial commitments to our creditors and the family. I truly agonized for the next 4 days, lying awake at night. Finally, the day before I was scheduled to fly out, I made the decision not to go. I had evaluated the importance of priorities and had come to the conclusion that I was not so important that the Tri-Ess board couldn't have a meeting without me. The hardest dilemma, though, was letting down the Long Island Femme Expression and their intent to honor me. They had really gone out of their way to ensure my comfort and treat me as an honored guest. To have to cancel at the last moment was very painful to me and I am sure upsetting to them, but in all good conscience, I simply could not spend the \$400 I would have spent for ground transportation, food and lodging had I flown to New York. I also need to cancel my ticket and reuse it for a flight to Florida.

In making my decision, I declared that my family and my obligations to my creditors were my first priority. My commitment to the gender community must be a second priority. And this is where I believe that many of us in the community make a serious mistake. We may actually place our family, our relationships second to our commitment to the community. We may run rough-shod over people who need us to care in our attempt to climb to the top of the community's ladder.

This is a terrible thing to happen, when we can only see ourselves and not others. We have to meet our obligations in our personal life before we meet our obligations in our gender community life. If we allow our self-importance to

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become the first priority, then we begin to allow destruction of our personal priorities.

Do I regret making the decision not to go, and to not be able to meet with the fine people in the Long Island Femme Expression? Most definitely, but my regret at letting them down is somewhat tempered by the fact that I sorted out my priorities, and placed my personal obligations and family first. I think I did the right thing.

There's a haunting song out in which Collin Raye sings "I'm a man of my word ..." and goes on to lament that he made a commitment when he told his lady he loved her. Even though they are no longer together, he cannot let go of that promise to love her always, and although society tells him he is free to love again, he feels bound by that promise. It is a sad, sad song, and one which emphasizes how we are all unable to let go, at times.

In a leadership role in this community, we have to make sacrifices, and we have to make decisions. We may spend hours on the phone talking with a distraught wife, as I do frequently. Those hours take me away from time with my husband. We may attend assorted gender conventions and conferences, as I do, and as I usually go alone, that, too, takes me away from my husband, as well as costing me a very large amount personally. Most of us are not reimbursed for the travel costs involved in attending these events.

I think there is a fine line in prioritizing your life, and learning to say no when it is necessary.

I have to think that the time I spend peer counselling on the phone and through letters is very important, for I am dealing with people's lives. When I spend a lot of time doing this, I try to make the time I do spend with my husband to be quality time, especially set aside just for him. If I am just sitting there watching a football game with him, that is of no importance to either of us, I don't feel guilty taking time away from that to talk on the phone or write a letter. However, if we have special time planned, such as going to dinner or taking a walk or a drive, I make that time my priority.

If we become so involved in the community that we ignore the primary priorities in our life, then we make a grave mistake and one that will be costly. If we are so filled with self-importance that we can't say "no" when we need to, because we are afraid we'll miss something, or that we are

indispensable, then we have gone too far. We have to re-examine our motives for working in this community, and in doing so, need to evaluate just how much we are helping people.


Our commitments are important, and we should be "men and women of our word," but if we ignore the important priorities to seek personal exaltation, then I personally believe we are giving nothing to anyone, but ourselves.

*[Linda Peacock is the Tri-Ess director of wives' and partners' concerns, an IFGE board member, and chair of the SPICE board of directors. She also publishes the quarterly newsletter for spouses and partners The Sweetheart Connection, and may be reached by mail at P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221 or by phone at (501) 227-8798.]*

**NOW BACK IN PRINT!**

**HEY DAD ...  
DO I HAVE TO  
WATCH THE  
TV?**

by Ricky Hunt



**Cross-Talk's "Bearded Lady" offers a humorous, yet factual, discussion of crossdressing from the perspective of a teenager's father. Presented in a question and answer format for easy understanding of the issues involved.**

Out of print for more than three years, it has been completely re-typeset and spiral bound for this reprint. **Cross-Talk** will donate \$1.00 to S.P.I.C.E., the Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education, for each copy sold.

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## EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

by Barbara Jean Jasen

Over the years there have been many myths created about crossdressers. It is because of these myths that so many of you have felt it necessary to remain in the closet. It is only by educating people -- by presenting the facts -- that those myths can be eliminated. Through education, society's views can be changed. If our sisters are to come out, if we are to give the public a positive image of crossdressers, then it is necessary for us to destroy these myths.

One of the major goals for those of us who are out in the open and consider ourselves to be activist in the gender community is to educate the public about crossdressing and the crossdresser. But how do we educate the public, and how successful have our methods of the past been?

In the past there have been three major methods that we have employed. Each method will reach a certain audience, but all three have some serious flaws.

First of course are the television talk shows. While they may seem to be a good means of reaching the public to educate them we must first consider their time slots. Daytime is when most people are working so the majority of the public do not watch these shows. We must also consider that these shows are a part of commercial television, and thus ratings are of prime importance to them. As a result, some that they have passed off to the general public as crossdressers are not exactly the best of role models for us. We must remember that sensationalism sells, and if the people in charge of the show can add sensationalism to the show, they will, in an effort to maintain or boost the ratings.

We also educate the public through local colleges, but here we address a class of perhaps 30 or 40 people. This is like talking to one seed in a wheat field; however, I do feel that this is a very good avenue for education since these students will be tomorrow's sociologists and psychologists. They may be the ones called upon to help our sisters in the future. But still, 30 or 40 is a far cry from the general public.

The third method that we have (inadvertently) used is coming out from the closet and going out amongst the public. But here we have a paradox. Our goal as crossdressers is to emulate the woman to every extent possible, and we will do all that we can to pass to have the public actually see us as females. But if we succeed, then how are they to know that we are actually crossdressers?

I have had heard some criticize those of us who do not pass for going out in public, and I have seen others who do not want to be seen in public amongst a sister who does not pass. Yet who is better able to educate the public about

crossdressing than the sister who is out of the closet, out in public and yet ... does not pass?

Have you ever had someone stop and ask you why you like to dress as a woman? I have and when this happens I enjoy taking the time to stop and talk with the person, to give them my reasons, and to help educate them. I developed a little booklet that all the members of our group carry with us that not only answers just about any question that a person may have about crossdressers in

**There are many ways to do  
educational outreach.  
Some only have outreach  
as a side benefit.**

general, but also puts us in a very positive light with them. (This would be an excellent project for your group ... to create a similar pamphlet to carry while out in public. You can write me if you'd like a copy of ours.)

My friend Carol Ann of New Jersey has come up with two very fine ideas also. These ideas work well for those who pass as well as for those who do not.

She suggests that we produce our own discussion forum for broadcast over the public access channels of our local cable companies. (You may even find that the show can air more than one time.) In such a show we would take control of guests and topics, and cost would be minimal (affordable for most groups).

She also thought we could work with local PBS stations to produce a documentary about crossdressers and crossdressing. Here the cost would be much higher for a more professional production, but a major advantage to this thou is that PBS stations do share programs with one another, and thus your program may be shown in many different cities. But this would probably be best undertaken by national organizations or regional coalitions of groups.

But Carol's other idea is one that I am particularly pleased with: helping at a charity event. Not only is this an opportunity to tell the public about your group and about crossdressing and crossdressers, but it is also a way of showing that crossdressers are concerned about their community and providing much needed help for the charity. All that would be needed here perhaps is a T-shirt with your group name (and perhaps logo) on it. Not only might contributors ask about your group, (continued, page 22)

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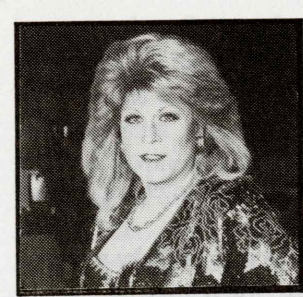


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## HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say 'Thank you.' In between, the leader is a servant."

— Max DePree, in *Working Communicator*



The **Hottest Buzz** is the war of words between Davina Anne Gabriel, editor/publisher of *TransSisters: the Journal of Transsexual Feminism*, Riki Anne Wilchins of *Transsexual Menace* and Dallas Denny of AEGIS. Wilchins and Menace co-founder Lynn Walker want to do a publication called *In Your Face* to chronicle "subversive trans actions around the country, with instructions on how to roll your own." An ad for *IYF* was rejected by Gabriel on what I consider specious grounds. Denny and AEGIS, supporting the First Amendment and free speech, accepted the ad. Now Gabriel is PO'd at both Denny and Wilchins. Bear in mind *IYF* has not yet been published and all of this is over ad copy. Wait 'til the first issue.



A friend of mine faxed me a file downloaded from a BBS concerning sources of natural plant estrogens, specifically Black Cohosh. Here's what the file says: "... synthetic estrogen has all kinds of harmful side effects that can only be avoided if one is under a doctor's care and being carefully monitored." This is absolutely true and good advice. However, the piece goes on to say: "... Black Cohosh is a **natural** (*sic*) source of estrogen and does not do violence to your physical being in the way synthetic estrogens would do." (Emphasis mine.) **This is false.** First, if there were enough estrogenic compounds in Black Cohosh to actually cause a noticeable effect, it would be classified as a drug, not an herb. Second, it does not matter if a hormone is "natural" (such as Premarin) or synthetic. If it can attach itself to estrogen receptors in the body, either will have the same desired effects and the same serious side effects. In fact, overdosing on herbs can cause additional side effects you wouldn't get from estrogen alone. Why play chemical Russian roulette with your body? If you're going to take hormones, do it right and do it under a doctor's supervision.



With all the press heaped on the film *Ed Wood*, how many of you have actually seen Wood's *Glen or Glenda*? Or, have you ever heard of a film titled *A Man Called Eva*? Or, how about *I Wanna Be A Beauty Queen* with Divine? Well, all these titles and many more can be yours. All you have to

do is call the MC Film Festival at (813) 972-7995 (Florida) and request a catalog. They've got scads of movies and lots with transgender themes. Want your own copy of *The Crying Game*? They've got it. Tell Mark or Carrie that JoAnn Roberts sent you.



Speaking of *The Crying Game*, Jaye Davidson (Dil) is back in the news and the movies with *Stargate*. This sci-fi thriller has been described as part *Star Wars*, part *Close Encounters* and part *Indiana Jones*. Davidson plays Ra, the film's antagonist. Interestingly, Davidson doesn't get to speak in his own voice and doesn't speak any English in the film at all. Sources involved with the filming of *Stargate* said Davidson was extremely difficult on the set and threw hissy fits frequently. Such a Queen! But the reviews and box office receipts have been excellent. Look for at least one and possibly two sequels. The scripts were ready before the first movie hit the streets.



It looks as though we've finally crossed some kind of barrier. I've mentioned that last year *Playboy* featured tidbits about RuPaul in several issues. Next month *Playboy* takes on the issue of Brandon Teena's murder. Yeah, I know they were interested because Teena was living as a male, but every little bit helps.



The board of directors of AEGIS approved a motion to change AEGIS from a service organization to a membership-based organization. A formal announcement will be made in the transgender press. Subscribers to *Chrysalis Quarterly*, AEGIS' premiere publication, will be grandmothered into membership.



Hey, how about some "serious" news! Okay. Warners has entered the cleavage wars with their BodySational bra, which they claim will create cleavage without the use of pads. It's the angle of the cups, a unique underwire, and the position of the straps that gives the bust boost.



Have you ever wanted to be a green-eyed, red-haired siren? I have. Getting the red hair was no problem, it was the green eyes. Tinted or colored contacts with my myopic prescription were too expensive. So, now there's Fresh Look daily disposable contact lenses from Wesley-Jessen. The contacts come in four colors: violet, blue, green and hazel. A set for one month is \$20, a six month supply of all four colors is \$80. Check with your local optometrist or ophthalmologist.



I've been mentioning various vendors in this column and I want to make note of a long-time supporter of the community, Lydia's TV Fashions in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Lydia has been around quite sometime and has a great selection of breast forms, false nails, wigs, cosmetics, and more. Give her a call at (818) 995-7195, or write her at 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423.



Six Fashion Truths: (1) Contrast creates style. Mix old with new, black with white, expensive with cheap. (2) Monochromatic is slimming. A single color makes you look pounds lighter. (3) The fastest way to get ready is put on a dress. Slip it on and go! (4) Black looks expensive. Why ask why? It just does. (5) A good jacket is worth any price. It's a real investment. (6) Personal style is the freedom to choose. If you like it, wear it.



Kevin Aucoin, makeup artist and makeup consultant for *Allure*, has a new book out called *The Art of Makeup* (HarperCollins). Here are his list of makeup mistakes: Not Blending: Makeup is all about blending. Without it you have a face full of blobs of color. Misusing Bright Colors: Bright colors are difficult to blend and can make you look washed out. Wrong Foundation: Mismatched foundation makes you look like you're wearing a mask. Clumpy Mascara: Wipe the mascara wand before using. Most women don't. Color on Bare Skin: Shadows and blush need something to which they can adhere, like foundation or powder.



*Wired* magazine went into the black on its third issue. Most magazines don't get out of the red for three years! If you have a SLIP or PPP connection (don't worry, if you don't know what those mean, you don't got one) and have a graphical Web browser try this URL address: <http://www.wired.com>.



The World Wide Web, or WWW as it is called, is the paradigm for the Information Superhighway. The Web permits users to connect worldwide and see integrated text, graphics, as well as play sounds and video clips. To get started on the Web you need a SLIP or PPP connection to the Internet via a service provider, your computer must have TCP/IP, a fast (14.4 or better) modem, and a Web browser like Mosaic. Mosaic works on Macs, PCs, and UNIX machines.



I lifted this note from the net about a new counseling service: Transgender Counseling and Research Center, 4545 Park Boulevard Suite 207, San Diego CA 92166. Jan Eder, Psy.D., Psychologist, Educator and Research Director, (619) 542-0088, extension 1. Anyone with additional info, drop me a line.



This was also picked off the net: "I am in the preparation

committee together with several others. Unfortunately Eurofantasia will not be held [in 1995]. Jenny [Sand], the main organizer from Norway will not be able to do the main part of the work to organize this event. So we have decided to pause for a year. But ideas for the program are welcome. Feel free to send your ideas. The address is: Eurofantasia, Box 442, N-4301 Sandnes, Norway. - Claudia."



And this: There was an excellent article about intersexuality in *The Sciences*, a journal published by the New York Academy of Sciences, March/April, 1993. The article is "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough". The author, Anne Fausto-Sterling, states that John Money estimates that as many as four percent of people may be born intersexed to some degree, and most of these are "corrected" surgically and/or by hormone therapy. Not all of these people would have abnormal chromosomes. The Fausto-Sterling article is definitely worth reading. She writes: "But if the state and legal system have an interest in maintaining a two-party sexual system, they are in defiance of nature. For biologically speaking, there are many gradations running from female to male; and depending on how one calls the shots, one can argue that along that spectrum lie at least 5 sexes -- and perhaps even more. I would argue further that sex is a vast, infinitely malleable continuum that defies the constraints of even 5 categories."



What's the **HotBuzz** for eye makeup? here's the drill: Heighten the browline into a noticeable arch. Darken the crease on the upper lid. Put pale highlighter up near the



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arch. Line top and bottom lids. Use lots of mascara. Wing eyeshadow out and up from outer corner. Of course, this scheme is not for running to the 7-Eleven for a carton of milk.



The word is in ... October was a good month for the transgender community. Outreach Institute's Fantasia Fair was a howling success by any measure of performance. And, at the National Association of Social Workers conference, Renaissance, AEGIS, Tri-Ess, Outreach Institute and IFGE worked cooperatively for the first time. Next year's NASW conference is in Philadelphia. It would be a great idea to have something about transgendered people on the program as well as in the exhibit hall. I've spoken with a local social worker about getting into the 1995 program and she thinks it's feasible. We'll let you know what develops.



With the five groups mentioned above finally working together on a single project, there is hope for this community. Over the last few months, there has been quiet discussion among some of the board chairs about more cooperative efforts like the NASW conference. The solution that kept popping up was an alliance of the national organizations, with each group providing skills within its area of expertise to help define and develop national policies and needed programs on transgender issues. I commend Renaissance for taking steps toward making the Transgender Alliance for Community a reality. The alliance will bring diverse interests together at one table with the goal of working on broad issues in unity. At the heart of the Alliance is a deep respect for the diversity of the people making up the community. Both the Outreach Institute and AEGIS are considering endorsement of the Alliance this month, and a Tri-Ess national officer has expressed positive support for the idea.



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#### EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ... continued from page 19

seeing the shirts, but the other volunteers may well stop to ask as well.

But, whatever you do to educate the public, remember that we must first educate ourselves about ourselves; we must understand ourselves in order that we can help others to understand us. We must be truthful with the public to challenge and eliminate the myths.

[Barbara Jean Jasen is a former columnist for Cross-Talk and TV Girl Talk. She may be contacted at 1436 Brett Dr., Memphis TN 38127-9136.]

## WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT?

Cartoons by Christine-Jane Wilson

A book of nearly 100 cartoons drawn by Christine-Jane Wilson. In the magazine 'Forum', editor Isabel Koprowski wrote: " - the answer is not East-Enders, you'll be glad to hear, but delicious feminine clothing such as lacy bras, six inch stilettos and the sheerest of stockings.

"What's on the TV Tonight?" is a charming cartoon book depicting transvestites in a variety of amusing situations. Because it is the creation of a TV, none other than Christine-Jane Wilson, the editor of *The Glad Rag*, the book always laughs with, not at, transvestites. The author draws on her own experience, as well as her imagination, to produce cartoons showing the dreadfully embarrassing things that can happen to TVs, whether in social or family context. But it's not blushes all the way: some pages glow with the positive pride a cross-dresser may feel when found out unexpectedly.

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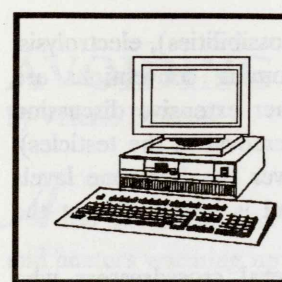
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## THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY AND YOU

### FIDONET: THE ORIGINAL NET

by Eileen Richards

My last article (in *Cross-Talk* #59) covered the forums or discussion groups you might find on your local BBS. If you want to discuss your thoughts to a worldwide audience, and you aren't active on the Internet yet, don't fret; Fidonet has been around for years, and carries many forums of interest to the gender community.

In the early days, before there was an "information superhighway", there still were the backroads and scenic routes for information interchange ... and yes, your local BBS (back then) was probably connected. I'm not talking about the Internet now, I'm talking about the earlier network called Fidonet.

Local BBS callers would write messages in many of the various message areas, that other local callers would be able to read and to reply. In this sense, local callers are the callers that called that BBS -- even if they called hundreds of miles to reach that BBS. Fidonet changed that forever. Systems could share messages and callers on several BBS could post messages that would appear on each system in the network.

How did these systems do it? They simply called each other in the middle of the night, exchanged e-mail and public (forum) messages, and then hung up. By staggering the times that the boards would call, a message could easily get all the way up or down the coast in one night.

Over the years, Fidonet has grown so much, and the amount of communication that it carries has grown so much, that some sysops have staggering phone bills. In an effort to contain costs, some organization was implemented. Fidonet now distributes echoes through a "backbone", hopping them from BBS to BBS across the country, and they only distribute echoes that are "nationally listed" -- that is, echoes that are requested by many BBS operators.

There are also privately distributed echoes, and even networks of specially distributed echoes -- like TGnet, a network of many T\* related discussion groups -- distributed through a smaller network of BBSs that all agree to carry and distribute these "lesser known" discussion groups. For instance, the Honey Board BBS in Wheaton, Maryland, calls Femenet BBS out near San Jose, California to pick up the TGNet discussion groups. Femenet carries the TGnet discussion groups -- in fact, it is the origin system of TGNet -- but if, for example, Femenet

does not also carry all of the Pridenet, Throbnet, and GayCommunityLink discussion groups that are carried on the Honey Board, several calls may have to be placed in order to get them all. Conversely, another sysop could pick up all of the echoes on the Honey Board with one call to Wheaton, but any topic from any of the nets not carried there would need to be found on another board anyway ...

Privately distributed networks usually cost the sysop money for the long distance phone calls. Imagine the expense to call from Washington, D.C. to California every night at 4 AM! So a sysop will always try to find a closer BBS to relay TGNet at a lower cost. There are probably a few hundred BBS systems already linked to the DRESS\*UP echo in TGNet, for instance, and there are other CD related conferences in other nets.

What kinds of echoes are we talking about? Well, on the Honey Board, Heather carries T\_TV and TV\_BAD\_GIRLS from ThrobNet (1:100/620), X\_DRESS from GayCommunityNet (1:129/228), PN\_TRANS from PrideNet (156:156/11.0), DRESS\*UP, PARTNERS, TRANSITION, NEW\_WOMEN, NEW\_MEN, POLIGEND, TRANSGENDER and D&S\_FORUM from TGNet (1:216/80), and GENDER and RIGHTS from the Fidonet national backbone.

There are other conferences, of course; these are just the major T\* related ones carried on the Honey Board. The italicized numbers in parentheses after each net's name is the network address numbers for the origin of those echoes, and a sysop can use that information to request to carry the echo. The first number (before the colon) is the Zone. Fidonet's zones are usually between 1 and 10, so the Pridenet zone of 156 indicates its not a Fidonet address. TGNet is Zone 88, but most systems that carry TGNet are also in Fidonet, so I've shown the Fidonet address. The second number (before the slash) shows the node or region, and the third number shows the focus or system number.

Fidonet transfers messages between continents via ham radio. Messages may be delayed, but they get thru. The network is truly global.

I haven't read them all -- in fact, I haven't even seen them all -- but I thought you might want to know what I do know about the topics that I have read, at least from time to time:

Fidonet's GENDER echo is where I started, and I read it before I ever got access to Internet. Since it's part of the Fidonet national backbone, it is available to any system carrying Fidonet from their current supplier. GENDER is not an adults only echo, and the topic is just about anything of interest that is related to the gender community, from movie reviews and how to find shoes in size 13+, to surgeons and hormones ... crossdressing and/or transsexualism in literature and politics, Real Life Test experiences ... and information about other related networks and echoes. Sexually explicit posts are inappropriate, because minors have access, and the moderator takes action quickly against those who ignore that fact!

It was in the Fidonet GENDER echo that I learned of TGNet and the other networks. TGNet expands on the GENDER echo of Fidonet by providing eight different echoes on different topics. This specialization is beneficial, as different callers have different interests, and with eight topics, you can choose which of them you wish to read (if you have access to them).

TGnet's DRESS\*UP echo covers clothing, makeup, techniques and resources. The act of dressing is covered here. Recent topics included vintage dress shops, girdles and other tight undergarments, and "how dressed is fully dressed?" Many consider this echo to be the "crossdressers echo".

TGnet's TRANSITION echo is for transsexuals who are changing their lives by living in their preferred role. Real Life Test (RLT) experiences, information about surgery

(including SSA and VA coverage possibilities), electrolysis, lunch dates, and recent or up-coming conventions are typical topics of discussion. A rather extensive discussion about orchidectomy (the surgical removal of the testicles), as a procedure before SRS to lower the hormone levels needed (since the testosterone level is lower without the testes) is currently popular.

I have found that there are several crossdressers who regularly read the TRANSITION echo (as well as NEW\_MEN and NEW\_WOMEN ... more on those in a moment), but fewer transsexuals regularly read DRESS\*UP. Since both have things in common and things not in common, it's good to have access to both forums.

TGnet's POLIGEND echo contains posts about transgender rights, law, and public policy. Some extracts from the ICTLEP conferences have been published in this echo.

The D&S\_FORUM is for discussion of Dominance and Submission, which are topics of interest to many crossdressers and transgendered folks. By having a separate echo for this topic, its messages stay out of the "mainstream" echoes.

TRANSGENDER is much like Fidonet's GENDER echo, in that anything of interest that is not covered by a specific TGNet echo goes here. It is not the same as Fidonet's Gender echo, though (although many users post to both regarding the same topics); in here I've found commentary about a patent law infringement case regarding a new electrolysis method, and the saga of a TS who sent out resumes explaining she's in transition and pondering whether a company will respond with a job offer.

I didn't have access to PARTNERS, NEW\_WOMEN or NEW\_MEN, as I had to rely on a mail packet from Kymberleigh to research TGNet, and she doesn't read those echoes. But I can tell you that these echoes are for post-op MTF transsexuals (NEW\_WOMEN), post-op FTMs (NEW\_MEN), and the significant others of CDs, TGs, TVs, and TSs (PARTNERS).

Whatever your interests, wherever you are, however you identify yourself, you can find what you want on the nets, but you may need to ask. In the meantime, have fun exploring the scenic country routes!

Portions of the above were adapted from a message posted by Heather James in the Fidonet GENDER echo on October 8 of last year. Thank you, Heather, for your unwitting assistance! Heather can be reached on the Honey Board BBS, (301) 933-8880 ([1:109/543.0] on Fidonet, which I reckon would be [Heather\\_James@f543.n109.z1.fidonet.org](mailto:Heather_James@f543.n109.z1.fidonet.org) on Internet).

[Eileen Richards can be reached at [Eileen@\[1:102/528\]](mailto:Eileen@[1:102/528]) (Fidonet) or [eileen@xconn.com](mailto:eileen@xconn.com) (Internet).

**GET Cross-Talk FREE!!**  
See page 29 for details.

## AVOIDING DRY SKIN

by Valerie Driscoll

After the stress and strain of the holidays, dry weather and heaters warming up cold nights, our skin becomes very dry. One way to combat the scaliness of dry skin is to give yourself a moisturizing, relaxing facial. Be prepared to spend at least fifteen minutes, because we'll use five of those minutes for a facial mask.

Start by removing all makeup. Eye makeup requires more attention, so a few applications of remover or cold cream, followed by a lukewarm washcloth, may be necessary.

Now apply cleansing cream by dotting it over the entire face and neck. Using the middle and ring fingertips, rotate half circles across the forehead. Do this slowly and without too much pressure. Now close your eyes and massage small circles over the eyelids (remove your contacts before doing this!). If your cleansing cream irritates your eyes, your product may contain too many artificial ingredients. In that case, try another brand.

Next, spread your fingers across your cheeks, tips at the nose, and slowly move upward toward the sides of your face. Stop at the temples and massage two circles there. Repeat this routine three times, then stroke the neck from side to side, alternating hands. Next pinch the skin lightly and quickly all over the face and neck. Use a medium hot washcloth to remove the cleansing cream and apply a facial mask, following the instructions that came with the product. Since we're talking about dry skin, we'll use a soothing mask (as opposed to a tightening one). For a great homemade soothing mask, mash some avocado and apply it the same as you would a commercial product. Leave the mask on for two to five minutes, during which time you should lay back with your feet up too allow blood flow to bring oxygen to your face. After removing the mask, rinse with cold water and splash on a mild astringent. This helps to close the pores and lock in the moisture. **Don't** use an alcohol-based astringent, though: It will cancel all the good you did.

Finally, pat in a moisturizer all over with your fingertips, especially around your eyes.

If you notice water beading up on your skin after you cleanse or apply moisturizer, your products may contain a high concentration of oil or petroleum products that water cannot penetrate. This means that the oil is holding the dryness in and keeping moisture from the atmosphere out. Heavy oils can also clog pores and create acne. It all has to do with the molecular structure and mixture of the product, and whether your skin can absorb enough emollient with just the right amount of oil to lock it in.

For example: Aloe Vera, lanolin, and some collagen products are good moisturizers, but mixed with high

concentrations of vitamin E, they cannot be absorbed. Although natural ingredients such as vitamins A, D, and E, wheat germ, and coconut or almond oils may be better than petroleum products, it still boils down to the concentration and molecular structure. Ingredients to watch out for include mineral oil, perfumes, preservatives, color additives, and alcohol. Most creams contain one or more of these, so choose one that limits the use of them. Expensive doesn't necessarily mean better.

Winter weather dries out skin, especially around the face. Here are some tips to survive the season.

Test your favorite cream to see that it doesn't leave a shiny residue that water can't rinse away. Ideally, your skin should look and feel soft, with the moisturizer absorbing within seconds (not minutes) after you apply it.

Try keeping your moisturizer in the refrigerator for freshness and a soothing treat for your face in the summer heat. For a natural facial, mash a small piece of avocado and smear it all over your face, then rinse after a minute or so. It feels quite sensual and leaves a light film of vitamin E that makes your skin very soft. I've also used egg whites for a tightening facial, and honey to unclog pores.

Always test a small area of your face first to assure a non-allergic reaction. If you have oily skin, use witch hazel (not alcohol) on a small piece of cotton to remove excess oil after you cleanse.

If you're looking for a moisturizer, I've found Physicians' Formula to be a wonderful oil-free one. If you have acne, I suggest you have your doctor prescribe Retin-A. And always use a sunscreen if there's any chance of sun exposure. It can be applied over your regular moisturizer.

If your skin without makeup is dry or cracked-looking, or you see tiny white flakes on the surface as you apply makeup, these solutions may help you. With the right precautions, your skin can survive the summer looking beautiful!

[Valerie Driscoll is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs, 1716 Andreo Ave., Torrance CA 90501. This article is a combination of two of Valerie's "Makeup Mirror" columns which originally appeared in Cross-Talk #16 (June 1990) and #23 (January 1991).]



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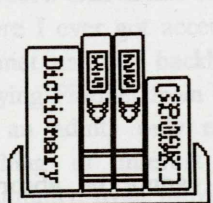


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## Alternative Presses

by Kimberleigh Richards



Shortly after last year's IFGE convention, my friend Ariadne Kane put me in touch with the Horizon Institute, producers of "institutional" videos regarding a new series they were releasing entitled *The World of Gender*. It took me until the end of June to get a set of the tapes from Horizon, and nearly another six months to sit down and watch them, but you're finally going to get my opinion of them ...

There are three one-hour videos in the series: *Crossdressing and Crossgender Behaviors*, an overview designed for practically any layperson; *The Crossdresser and the Transsexual: First Contact*, aimed at helping professionals and law enforcement officers; and *The Crossdresser & His Wife: Strategies for Coping*, which is geared (obviously) toward wives and partners. While all make a decent attempt to educate, I found them to be a bit "dry" (but perhaps that's standard for institutional videos; I don't have much experience with the genre) and lackluster. The format is pretty uniform: Interviewer Steve Keller introduces guest Ari Kane (in "male" mode) who then proceeds to answer Keller's questions.

What really became an irritation to me was the use of "breaks" which recapped information using graphics accompanied by a soundtrack for a couple of minutes before the interview continued. The breaks were awkward, with Keller leading into each recap with "we'll be right back" and returning with "we're back". It felt like the program was constantly being interrupted by a commercial break ... except **without** the commercials. The *Crossdresser & His Wife* video used these breaks to best advantage, by



Ari Kane in the "World Of Gender" video series.

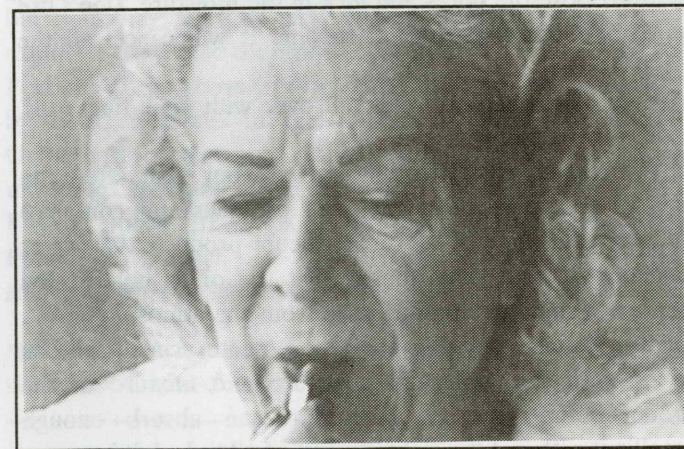
scrolling actual letters from wives while a female voice read them; but the other two merely presented the same information that had just been discussed, which I found a bit annoying.

The information Ari presented was factual and explained in fairly simple terms, although transitions from subject to subject were often abrupt, requiring a reliance on the phrase "as I said before" to transition back to a subject that probably should have been covered more thoroughly before Keller moved on. This is an important concern since the tapes are targeted at a non-gender community audience, and I would -- especially in the first two videos -- think about reediting some of the segments where this occurs.

*Crossgender Behaviors*, although having one of my least favorite terms in its title ("crossgender", which I have removed from the **Cross-Talk** style book in favor of "transgender", bowing to community usage), does do a good job of explaining the interrelationship between sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity by using an animated sequence with three moving line charts. I may steal the concept for my college lectures, in fact.

*First Contact* includes a decent amount of non-interview video showing actual crossdressers and also approaches the subject from perspectives a police officer, paramedic, or physician might have upon encountering a transgendered person for the first time. Although it has to be understandably brief in its coverage of different "flavors" of transgendered behavior. But given its audience, this is probably one case where "less is better", since overwhelming those it is designed to educate would likely result in confusing them instead. This tape would -- even with its minor flaws -- make an excellent addition to most law enforcement agencies' training film libraries or hospitals' physician resource collections.

The third video is, in my opinion, the best of the lot, and it's the one that I would recommend every support group have available for showing to skittish and non-accepting partners. *Crossdresser & His Wife* is probably one of the most reassuring presentations possible, with the aforementioned letters used for the "breaks" conveying the



"Alice", a crossdresser featured in *Crossdressing & Crossgender Behaviors*.

unmistakable message that "yes, there are wives who understand and accept this in the husbands". Approaching the subject from a perspective of crossdressing not being a curable condition, Ari offers suggestions for partners to integrate it into their relationship, rather than allowing it to be destructive.

Should you be interested in these videos? Yes, with qualifications:

*Crossgender Behaviors* if you are an educator dealing with these issues as part of a class on human sexuality, psychology, or social work; if you are a gender community organization doing a presentation on the subject; or if you are involved personally in educational outreach and wish to use the tape as a tool to educate yourself first.

*First Contact* if you are in a position to either donate a copy to local law enforcement or health care agencies or do outreach presentations to them.

*Crossdresser & His Wife* if you are trying to convince a non-understanding partner or if you are an organization (like Tri-Ess) that has a focus on partners' issues.

Speaking of Tri-Ess, Keller says he is going to be working with them to produce two more videos on crossdressing from their perspective, with taping to begin this March. He says one of the tapes will be directed toward the S.P.I.C.E. conference, and the other will be designed to answer questions about the organization.

[Three tape *World of Gender* series, \$99.95; individual tapes \$39.95 from Horizon Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 5757, Deltona FL 32728-5757. \$5.00 shipping per order. Credit card and institutional P.O. orders may be faxed to (904) 532-5969 or phoned to (904) 789-3225.]



Way back in **Cross-Talk** #39, I mentioned that one of my all-time favorite newsletters was *LIFELines*, which is published by Long Island Femme Expression in New York and which was edited up until the end of 1993 by my dear friend Vickie Stone. Well, some of the best moments from Vickie's five years as editor have been retrieved from the archives and reprinted in a 46 page compilation called (what else?) *Best of LIFELines*.

In its heyday, *LIFELines* was infamous for its cut-and-paste



Graphic from The "World Of Gender" videos.

[Photos courtesy Horizon Institute, Inc.]

hodgepodge of articles lifted from other publications, columnists whose monthly contributions were reprinted exactly the way Vickie received them ... typewritten, laser printed, or handwritten, cartoons printed either as they originally appeared or -- more often -- doctored by Vickie to include much more **meaningful** dialogue. In fact, at one point, Renaissance gave it one of its Meaningless Oblique Nonsense Awards (ask JoAnn Roberts), which Vickie proudly announced in the masthead every month for years afterward.

Many of the highlights (?) of that wonderfully strange era are represented here. At the same time, reprints of Vickie's "Views and LIFE News" column convey some of the group's history, including some entries near the end of her tenure as editor where it becomes obvious that she was beginning to tire of the monthly task. In between, there are informative articles written by the membership, including an overview of Long Island's lingerie shops, advice on choosing a therapist, and the ten most-often-believed misconceptions about crossdressing.

But the real joy is when Vickie, never content with the "real world", doctored the material she plagiarized (and I still say that, being an attorney, she should have known better!): A column from Ann Landers with a letter on how boxer shorts are sized, to which Vickie added a "response from Ann" suggesting that the writer switch to women's panties ... cartoons where Archie tells Betty he decided to wear the sexy bra and panty set he bought for her himself, Cathy reads a personal ad from "DWM, 39 ... face of Christie Brinkley and body of Patrick Swayze", and Blondie buys a dress as Dagwood's Christmas present ... all that's missing are those silly photos where Vickie used to put male celebrity faces on female bodies (and vice versa)!

I wouldn't say that **everything** I would like to have seen is in here, but it's a good representative sample, and inexpensive entertainment.

LIFE has also reprinted a set of nine book and video reviews from the past year by the current president, Erica, entitled *Erica's Recommended Book & Movie Reviews*. (They're real obvious about titles, these LIFE girls are.) The reviews, ranging from Jennifer Anne Stevens' *From Masculine to Feminine* to John Gray's *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* are pretty lightweight, but might be useful if you're looking for quick comparisons between various books.

The one video review is of IFGE's *Gender 101* video and seems to have been lifted more from the box label than from an actual viewing.

Get *Best Of* and enjoy. Get *Reviews* only if you need a quick overview.

[\$7.00 postage paid for Best Of LIFELines, \$5.00 for Erica's Recommended Book & Movie Reviews from LIFE, P.O. Box 410, Stony Brook NY 11790-0410.]



## MOVIE REVIEW

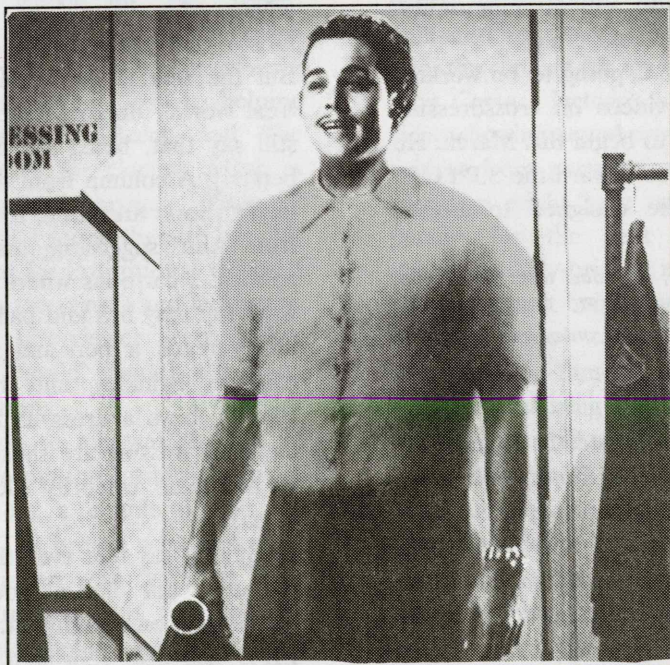
### ED WOOD

by Diane Chaplin

Edward D. Wood, Jr. must have been the Will Rogers of filmmaking: He never directed a shot he didn't like. It takes a special weird genius to be voted the Worst Director of All Time, a title that Wood has earned by acclamation. He was so in love with every frame of every scene of every film he shot that he was blind to hilarious blunders, stumbling ineptitude, and acting so bad that it achieved a kind of grandeur. But badness alone would not have been enough to make him a legend; it was his love of film, sneaking through, that pushes him over the top.

Wood's most famous films are *Plan 9 From Outer Space* (during which his star, Bela Lugosi, died and was replaced by a double with a cloak pulled over his face), and *Glen or Glenda*, in which Wood himself played the transvestite title roles. It was widely known even at the time that Wood himself was an enthusiastic transvestite, and when Tim Burton, director of the *Batman* movies, announced a project named *Ed Wood*, I assumed it would be some kind of a camp send-up, maybe a cross between *Rocky Horror* and *Sunset Boulevard*.

I assumed wrong. What Burton has made is a film which celebrates Wood more than it mocks him, and which celebrates, too, the zany spirit of 1950s exploitation films -- in which a great title, has-been star and a lurid ad campaign were enough to get bookings for some of the oddest films ever made. It was a decade when there were still lots of drive-in movie theaters, cut-price fleapits and small-town bijous that thrived on grade Z double features. The people who made many of those films may have been hucksters and con-men, but they were not devoid of a sense of humor, and often their movies had more life and energy than their betters. America's theaters hadn't been centralized and computerized, and you couldn't book 2,000 screens with a single keystroke, and Ed Wood could thrive.



Burton's career has always shown a fondness for touching outsiders, like *Betelgeuse* and *Edward Scissorhands*, *Batman* and *Jack Skellington* (the lonely star of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*). In *Ed Wood*, he gives us a hero who is not merely an outsider, but one who attracts even more desperate cases to himself. Played with warmth and enthusiasm by Johnny Depp, Wood is a guy who simply **must** make movies -- and who is so bedazzled by Hollywood legend that he mistakes poor Bela Lugosi, long past his prime and mired in drug addiction, as a star.

There are others who fall into his orbit: Bunny Breckinridge (Bill Murray), a camp queen who would have stood out like a sore thumb in anyone else's pictures, but fit right into Wood's. And the amazing Criswell (Jeffrey Jones), amazing primarily for being able to find employment for no apparent talent. And Tor Johnson (George "The Animal" Steele), physically inept but gifted in Wood's eyes. And Vampira (Lisa Marie), the midnight movie hostess whose cleavage always looked clammy. And then Lugosi (a brilliant performance by Martin Landau), as a man who was half Wood's headliner, half his patient. When Wood assembled his casts, they looked like a cartoon portrait from *Mad* magazine.

In Burton's version, Wood is a man who not only accepts reality, but celebrates it. Far from being secretive about his love of dressing in women's clothes, he treats it as the most natural thing in the world, putting on an angora sweater, skirt and high heels to help himself relax while directing a scene. "Are you a homosexual?" he's asked. "No!" he replies cheerfully, "I'm a crossdresser!"

Depp plays Wood as a man deliriously happy to be making movies. He rarely makes two takes of the same shot because the first one always looks great to him. (In one take Tor Johnson misses the door and walks into a wall,

shaking the set, but when the cameraman in amazement asks Wood if he doesn't want another shot, he replies thoughtfully, "You know, in actuality Lobo would have to struggle with that problem every day.")

Wood's partner in his uncertain career is his long-suffering fiancée Dolores Fuller (Sarah Jessica Parker), whose misfortune is to view his situation clearly ("I see the usual gang of misfits and dope addicts are here"). She bravely tries to deal with his crossdressing, however, and pitches in to act along with the usual gang (Wood's salaries were so low and infrequent that his actors bordered on volunteers).

I am uncertain how much of the movie is based on actual fact, and how much has been invented by Burton and his writers, Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski. But I relished the process by which Wood's project *Grave Robbers From Outer Space* became *Plan 9 From Outer Space* after he raised the money from a church group which objected to grave-robbing (in the title, anyway). There is a wonderful scene where Wood grows angered when the church leaders try to meddle with his vision, and stomps into Musso and Frank's legendary grill room on Hollywood Boulevard, wearing women's clothes and a wig. He spots Orson Welles (Vincent D'Onofrio) alone at a booth, turns to him for encouragement, and gets it -- along with the movie's funniest line of dialogue.

The movie's black-and-white photography convincingly recaptures the look and feel of 1950s sleaze, including some of the least convincing special effects in movie history. There are also running gags involving Wood's ability to write almost any piece of stock footage into almost any script.

At the heart of the movie is Wood's friendship with Lugosi, a man he truly adores, and who comes to depend on him. We see Lugosi alone and lonely in a flimsy little tract house, inhabiting the deepening gloom of his obscurity and addiction (his first scene in the movie shows him trying on a coffin for size), and Wood is able to lift the gloom, if only briefly, in a final series of roles which gave him double immortality: as the star of some of the best horror movies ever made, and then of some of the worst.

*Rated R (for drug use and language). Starring Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette, Jeffrey Jones, Lisa Marie and Bill Murray. Directed by Tim Burton. Written by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski. Produced by Denise Di Novi and Tim Burton. Released by Touchstone Pictures.*



Ed Wood (Johnny Depp, right) confesses his love for women's clothes to his girlfriend Dolores Fuller (Sarah Jessica Parker) on the set of *Glen Or Glenda*?

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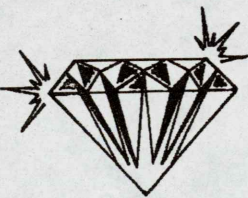
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## THE SHOPPING MAVEN

**Product:** Bust Boosting Bustier

**Source:** Spiegel Mail Order, Item #0179428062

**Cost:** \$49

**Rating:** A

by JoAnn Roberts

Look, we need all the extra help we can get trying to create a more feminine figure. Most of us don't have the hourglass body we'd like to have. So, I was very intrigued by the name of this garment -- Bust Boosting Bustier. Yes, the price was a little steep, but it would be worth it if the garment worked.

This bustier looks like a long line bra but with a difference. First, there are no bones. The body of the bra is 18% Lycra and the rest nylon. This give it a lot of power to hug your belly. Another difference is that it zips up the side rather than hooks in the back like most bustiers. The cups have pockets for push-up pads and the ones that came with the bra were pretty thin, but you can always find thicker pads elsewhere (like Frederick's of Hollywood). The straps are thin, adjustable and removable. However, to help push the chest muscles together for a little more cleavage, I recommend you leave the straps attached and tighten them.

I did this using my el-cheapo, home-made breast forms (see my *Art & Illusion*, Vol. 1) and the effect was quite nice. It's not Dolly Parton-esque, but it will do.

The combination of no boning and lots of Lycra make this a comfortable garment to wear. The bra also lacks any detailing that makes it look like a bra, so it will look nice under a jacket too. That's why it's called a bustier!

For some, the price may seem steep, but with Wonderbras hovering at the \$35+ mark, this is a fair price for a long-line bra. The quality of the construction is very good and this one looks like it will last.

This bustier is part of a larger line of undergarments called Bodyslimmers by Nancy Ganz. One wonders what drove Ms. Ganz to such designs but I for one am not complaining. Bodyslimmers(tm) are available in firm, medium and light control. For more information about Bodyslimmers, call 1-800-426-SLIP.

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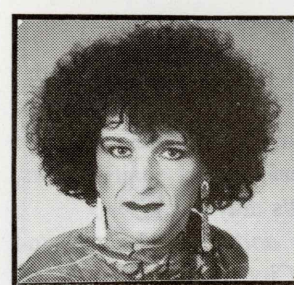
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## The Diva of Dish

by Angela Gardner

It's time for the after Xmas clearance sales to start. I hope Santa brought you something nice ... if he didn't, return those items you don't like and use the credit for some new lingerie.

And now... some tasty tidbits.



**DISH DIRECT:** That's right, it's dish, direct from the drag queen's mouth. In November I had the pleasure of working with the Baroness Fiona James of the Imperial Court of New York. There we were walking a seedy street in the Big Apple's meat packing district, hard at work. (On a movie, not what you thought.) Anyhow, more about the movie later. First the dish.

Baroness Fiona told me she worked on the the Los Angeles scenes of the Spielberg drag epic, *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar*. If you recall, a few months back I reported that Wesley Snipes seemed to be more at ease with his drag persona and Patrick Swayze was dropping out of character as quickly as he could when the director yelled, "Cut!" Well, that was when they started shooting in New York. It seems that the ladies switched attitudes when they got to L.A. and it was Snipes who now acted butch between takes. Could it be that L.A. is Wesley's hometown and he didn't want his homies to think he liked drag that much?

Baroness Fiona said that Swayze remained a perfect lady even when the camera stopped rolling. She also said the actors were all grumbling about the burden of glamour after several weeks of shooting all over the country. (Even Leguizamo. He started calling his high heels, "instruments of torture.") Watch for the film to hit the big screen in the spring ...



**STONEWALL AGAIN:** Now, a word about that movie Baroness Fiona and I were working on.

The 1969 riot that started the Gay Rights movement is coming to the silver screen. Shooting began in Philadelphia in late October on a drama set against the backdrop of that turbulent time. It's a theatrical release film that will be appearing in theaters but it is being financed by the British Broadcasting System. The title is *Stonewall* and it follows several characters, including a young Puerto Rican drag queen named LaMiranda and her friends Matty Dean, Mizz Moxy and Helen Wheels, through the weeks leading up to the riot, and climaxes with

a re-creation of that event. The film is based on the book of the same name by Martin Duberman.

After one day in Philadelphia re-creating a demonstration at Independence Hall, the crew moved to New York where Baroness Fiona and I came upon the scene. Of course they were shooting in Greenwich Village -- where it really happened -- but it happened in June and we were walking that cold, cold street in November. Have you ever felt the November breeze blow up your black leather mini? I know how the *Wong Foo* girls felt about the burden of glamour.

The film is striving to be true to the fashion of the time so we were all checked closely by the wardrobe department to make sure we looked like 1969 hookers. One of our co-workers, Miss Venus, was devastated when they made her change her white, cut-to-the-navel swimsuit and five inch platform shoes for a far more sedate, of-the-period jumpsuit with sensible shoes. We started calling her Anne Bancroft. We're so cruel.

They are letting proper wardrobe slip a little, since in NYC back in '69 you could be arrested for dressing in drag. You could avoid that charge if you could show the cops you were wearing three items of male attire. This made for many curious fashion choices I'm sure. The producers decided to let this fact bow to poetic license so you won't see the stars of the film in fishnets and penny loafers.

Who are those stars you ask? Guillermo Diaz and Fred Weller. I admit I've never heard of them but they say Guillermo was in *Party Girl*. Okay, I never heard of that either. Maybe you did though and if you did let us know how it was.

The producer is Christine Vachon, best known for the lesbian love story *Go Fish*. She said, "This is not about the Stonewall riots. It's about being gay at that particular time and how the gay rights movement developed." More info on Stonewall will appear in this column as it becomes available. As is usual in these cases, the film will probably hit the theaters next year.



**QUEENLY CRITICS:** When the stars of television shows climb into drag they do so to get laughs. Little did they know they would also be subjected to the close scrutiny of critical drag experts who would give the public the real dirt on how well they pull it off. *Entertainment Weekly* decided

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to put the "ladies" of prime time to the test by hiring a panel of professional New York drag queens to rate the stars.

Drafted for the panel were The Baroness (Not Fiona), a cable home shopping show spokesmodel (how come nobody ever tells me about these openings?), Tabboo!, not just a perfume but a drag performance artist and Varla Jean Merman, a cabaret singer/actress who says she's Ethel Merman's illegitimate daughter.

The shows the panel critiqued are *On Our Own*, *Martin* and *The Dame Edna Experience*. *On Our Own* star Ralph Harris (who won't return my calls anymore; I could have given him good fashion tips) got good marks for attention to detail, "the glasses, the pearls, the cleavage." They thought Ralph moved well in a dress and heels, utilizing the proper feminine body language but over all he lost points for being, "frumpy."

Martin Lawrence got a mixed review, too. The Baroness felt that Martin's character Sha Ne Ne could use a corset and some drama. Varla Jean said "She definitely needs some new clothes. She looks like she shops off-rack in the Debbie Gibson collection." Tabboo! thought she was frumpy but had "a little sex, a little spunk."

Since the ladies doing the reviewing are drag queens, Dame Edna fared the best. They loved her hair color ("It never occurs in nature") and the Baroness said, "This is true fantasy. True theater ... Dame Edna knows what drag's about."



**SEX, DRAGS & ROCK & ROLL:** What it's about is a lot of good fun to benefit a good cause. Back in May, twelve of the countries' hottest drag superstars came together in New York at the Squeeze Box nightclub. Among the stars appearing on the stage that night were; Lady Bunny, Jimmy James, Dueling Bankheads, Sissy Fit, the aforementioned Varla Jean Merman and Misstress Formika. What the girls did was perform their little hearts out, doing original songs and cover versions of classic tunes by the Plasmatics, Patti Smith, Led Zeppelin, Tom Petty and others. Of course, the girls brought their own special style and rewritten lyrics to the songs. (Jimmy James sang *Stairway To Heaven* in his Marilyn Monroe

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character. I've gotta hear that.)

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**THE ELTON JOHN OF MOSCOW?** Billie Jaye West has sent a bit from the *Arab Times* about a Russian lad who is trying to cash in on the outrageous type of image that wild Brit Elton John has been working for most of his career. The Russian's name is Sergei Penkin and he wears a lace skirt, enormous white wig and a tinsel hat with peacock plumes onstage. This is only one of the outfits that has earned him the nickname Mister Extravaganza in France and Britain. After he toured in Canada with The Rolling Stones people started calling him Prince Silver.

"Many think my image is strange and shocking-too bad to be true" said Penkin, "But I just want to look the way I feel. I want to live in a world of my own. It isn't like any other's."

Sergei started singing in the church choir and worked as a street cleaner and postman before his four octave voice finally got him into music school. With four octaves and a lace skirt I can't help but feel he's destined for stardom all over the world.



**BIG MATTE FINISH:** Well kittens, that's it. Have a Happy and Great New Year. Don't take any wooden panty hose and keep your mascara clean. Here's a closing quote from Louisa May Alcott that was sent in by Danille Lynn: "I am not afraid of storms for I am learning how to sail my ship." Let's all keep our ships afloat and on course in 1995. Big kiss!



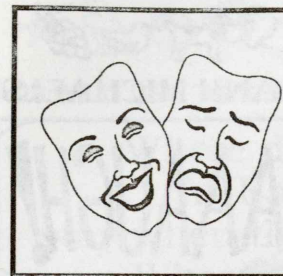
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## The Bearded Lady

by Ricky Hunt  
Illustration by Rita

I what to know who makes up the rules, and when I find her I want her to change them, now! It may come as a shock to you, but life just ain't fair. With my new job I am living in a two room apartment all by myself on weekdays. My wife is in school two hours away from my apartment, which is two hours away from our (supposedly permanent) home, and we navigate from node to node on this triangular route each weekend. I thought life was supposed to get more stable when you hit your forties!

But I digress. Being alone again means that for 15 hours of each day (less overtime) I can revel in female attire. I can sleep in a nightgown, run around in bra and panties or full formal gown, and otherwise be as feminine as possible whenever I darn well please. I can be daring and eat spaghetti in a white lace blouse. I can sit at the computer with my angel sleeves dangling on the keyboard and full length skirt winding up in the chair wheels or wake up to the comforting feel of a stuffed bra and silky nightgown clinging to my body. I can spend hours at the sewing machine, enduring its snarling and make new clothes for myself. I can cook, I can read, I can do anything I want and wear a dress too. So why is it I just cannot force myself to put on a housedress and clean the place up?

Our culture defines housecleaning as a feminine pursuit. If life were fair, putting on a dress would instantly motivate me to wash the dishes and sweep the floor. If you watch TV you know that real women have a primal urge to lay about the place with spray can and dust rag, but somehow this facet of femininity has escaped me. The ultrafeminine joy of cleaning the bathroom has all the appeal of the material I'm supposed to be cleaning ... no matter how much nylon, rayon, spandex and silicone is



distributed over my body. I have to face it, I hate cleaning no matter what I'm wearing, and there is no one else to do it for me.

Perhaps the solution is to hire a housekeeper to come in and do it for me, but then I'd have to come up with a really inventive explanation for the panties in the laundry basket and the 46B bra hanging off the doorknob. Creating a convincing extemporaneous dissertation as to what I do with the padded corset may strain even my powers of fabrication. I've toyed with the notion of turning on every faucet in the place before leaving for the weekend and allowing the resulting tidal wave to cleanse the floor, but I really want my security deposit back. And I suppose letting the gerbils out of the cage to nibble up all the trash would simply make matters worse, especially as they are pregnant.

So anyway, I want to have a long and serious talk with whoever instilled the desire to crossdress in me. Just why didn't I get the full treatment? If you know where to find her, let me know. But in the meantime, I have to take out the trash ...



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# GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



12/11/75: Officer Frank Murphy (Charles Durning, right) confesses to a fellow officer (Anthony Charnota) his embarrassment in having to dress as a woman for an undercover assignment in *The Cop and the Kid*, NBC.



Airdate unknown (1950s): David volunteers to coach the local Boys' Club football team but is thrown for a loss by a girl quarterback (Jane Moxley) on *The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet*, ABC.



5/8/94: Momma (series star Martin Lawrence, in a dual role) visits on a Mother's Day episode of *Martin*, Fox.



10/21/79: Louise (Isabel Sanford) impersonates Mae West and Florence (Marla Gibbs) impersonates Harpo Marx, on *The Jeffersons*, CBS.

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: MY EXPERIENCE

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

I joined the League of Women Voters in December 1977. One of our neighbors that was very supportive of my change was a League member and she asked me to attend a meeting. I'll always remember how very kind she was: She knew what kind of garbage I was going through (my transition began in September of the previous year, in the same neighborhood) and she reached out to introduce me to an oasis. The League was an oasis for a long time and I needed that. It was a few meetings each month with some nice people who were not going to give me any trash.

(Actually, one of the committees that I became involved with was the Natural Resources Committee back in the days when the Houston League was doing a study on local flooding. They were very happy that I was there as I was a professionally licensed civil engineer.)

Don't think that there weren't some skeptics and some folks that didn't like me, because there were. But the League people that I have met over these fourteen years are for the most part progressive, insightful and concerned people. (I say "people" rather than "women", because the League is open to men. They have retained the name as their roots go back to the days when women did not have the vote.)

I remember one annual meeting when I asked that something be done to get the League involved in getting rid of Houston's crossdressing ordinance. To this day, I firmly believe that some League members did some behind the scenes work to smooth the skids on that. I also believe that my acceptance by the League was partially responsible for my getting an audience with the decision makers and may have been part of why I was never arrested while I "stormed the bastions of city government" trying to get that cursed ordinance repealed.

I remember my first state convention. I was told by our local president that no one wanted to share a room with me. In tears I called many of the people that I knew in the League. I called the president back with a list of twenty who said they would share a room with me.

At that convention, I challenged the Texas League to lobby for repeal of the Texas homosexual conduct law. Several conventions later, I had won over a majority of the delegates and many state officers: LWV-Texas decided that it was officially for the repeal of that cursed law.

Several years later, the two women who were in charge of the host committee (Houston was the host League for the state convention that year) named me to be the floor manager of the convention. This was their way of helping me to thumb my nose at some of the state folks who were

still carrying a dislike of me as a transgendered person. I've been elected several times to be the leader of the neighborhood League unit. I've been appointed to the board of directors of the Houston League several times. A couple of years ago I was surprised by a call from the nominating committee, asking if I would allow myself to

Famed transgenderist attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye talks about her introduction to political activism.

be nominated to be one of the vice-presidents of the Houston League. When the current president heard that I'd been nominated for that position, she asked me if I'd start early and she put it through at the next Board meeting. So now I'm the Organizational Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of Houston.

I will end this -- as I end most of my stories -- with a challenge. If I can do that starting back in the dark days of 1976, surely you can break out today in 1995. Be bold and be proud of who you are.

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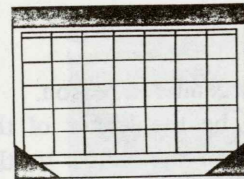
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**January 25-29, 1995:** "First Event", Natick MA, sponsored by Tiffany Club of New England. Call (617) 891-9325 for details.

**January 28, 1995:** "ETVC Cotillion", San Francisco CA. Details from (510) 549-2665.

**February 21-26, 1995:** 7th Annual "Texas T" Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Details from P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163 or by calling (210) 980-7788.

**March 13-19, 1995:** International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together Convention", Atlanta GA. Details from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

**April 20-23, 1995:** "Moonlight In Manhattan", New York NY, sponsored by the Greater New York Gender Alliance (Cross Dressers International, Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Girls Night Out, Imperial Court of New York, Long Island Femme Expression, Metropolitan Gender Network). Write P.O. Box 61, Easton PA 18044-0061 for details, or e-mail via Internet to [skristinej@aol.com](mailto:skristinej@aol.com).

**April 20-23, 1995:** "California Dreamin'", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs Of California and hosted in conjunction with the Southern California Transgender Support Network (PPOC, Born Free, Neutral Corner, CHIC, Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, and Ladies' Knight Out). Details from P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

**May 17-21, 1995:** "Esprit '95", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by Emerald City, NWGA, and Cornbury Society. Details from P.O. Box 873, Kirkland WA 98083-0873.

**May 18-21, 1995:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information by phone: (610) 640-9449; via Internet: [cdspub@omni.voicenet.com](mailto:cdspub@omni.voicenet.com).

**June 14-18, 1995:** "Transgen 95: Your Jobs, Your Insurance and Health, Your Rights, and Your Documents", Houston TX, sponsored by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy". Details from ICTLEP, 5707 Firenza, Houston 77035, or by telephone: (713) 723-8368.

**July 26-30, 1995:** "Spouse/Partner International Conference for Education (SPICE)", Memphis TN. Information from Linda Peacock, P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 74031, or by telephone: (501) 227-8798.

**September 14-17, 1995:** "Paradise in the Poconos". See May 18-21 listing.

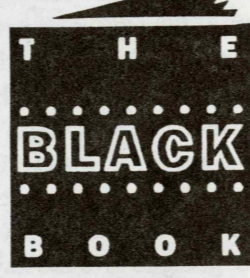
*(Please send information on national gender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Listings must be accompanied by a written authorization by an officer of the sponsoring organization or be listed in their group newsletter. Information will not be accepted via e-mail.)*

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## Hotlines

### NEW ENGLAND/NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132  
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @  
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 657-4344  
Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389  
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #  
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 388-7022 #  
Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611  
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #  
Gender Talk North, New Hampshire: (603) 924-8828  
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202  
Images, Hartford: (203) 779-9708  
Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9858  
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340  
Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter Tri-Ess, Utica: (607) 547-4118 @  
Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 283-1333 @  
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050  
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858  
Reflections, Boston: (617) 323-6082  
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (610) 630-1437  
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578  
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 435-5401  
Sigma Nu Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Trenton: (609) 586-1351 @  
Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417  
Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325  
TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822  
TransGenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513  
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181  
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475  
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

### THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244  
Atlanta Gender Exploration: (404) 875-9846 #  
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 #  
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838  
Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (305) 784-9316 #  
Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #  
GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914  
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178  
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335  
Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570  
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #  
Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 332-6638 #  
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138  
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @  
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @  
Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 259-9428  
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477  
Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @  
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 527-1012  
Tennessee Vals, Nashville: (615) 664-6883  
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 222-6796

### MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Beta Gamma Chapter Tri-Ess, Minneapolis: (612) 870-8536 @  
Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918  
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @  
Chicago Gender Society: (708) 749-1202  
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 229-3613  
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557  
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3947  
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267  
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648  
Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 753-7816 #  
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (812) 876-5635  
Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072  
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #  
Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292

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

Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641  
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 997-9897

Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024  
Wichita Transgender Alliance: (316) 682-9131

### SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @  
Alpha Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Salt Lake City: (801) 553-8141 @  
Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163  
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788  
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643  
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 264-7103 @  
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144  
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456  
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 202-6466  
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282  
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632  
Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460  
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #  
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @  
Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #  
West Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071  
Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651  
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802  
Rose City Gender Center, Portland: (503) 230-1036  
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282  
Trans-Port, Portland: (503) 774-8463  
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

### THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @  
Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #  
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317  
Born Free, Riverside: (909) 278-0958  
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @  
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 937-8432  
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665  
FTM, Oakland: (510) 287-2646 #  
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270  
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696  
Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013  
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044  
Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 482-7742  
Sigma Sigma Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Lake Tahoe: (916) 544-2460 @  
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @  
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

### CANADA:

Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874  
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #  
F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591  
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203  
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661

[For a list of organizations outside North America that maintain hotline numbers, please send a self-addressed envelope and one IRC to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365 USA.]

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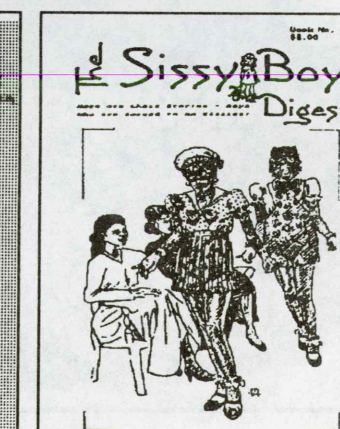
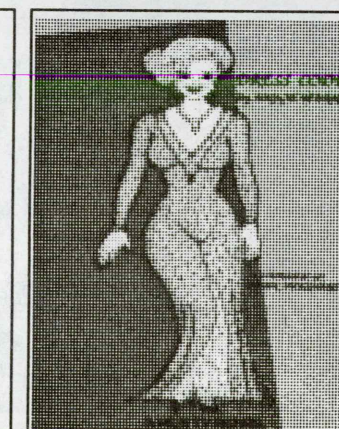
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