

CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

#69

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NEWS ... INFORMATION ... COMMENTARY ... HUMOR



FROM SANDY THOMAS

I'm still recovering from the birth of my baby in December. Hope to get back on schedule now with new books every month.

CONTEMPORARY TV FICTION # 21 is "RED TOES!" Two couples make a bet. Which wife can feminize her husband to look the most like a woman. Great!

A few years ago, I published a 600 page book called the APARTMENT. Thought by some to be the best TV book ever written. THE APARTMENT OF FEMININITY is four, jam-packed issues that take you through the main characters lives as they move in with a landlady that makes them dress up for dinner and more!

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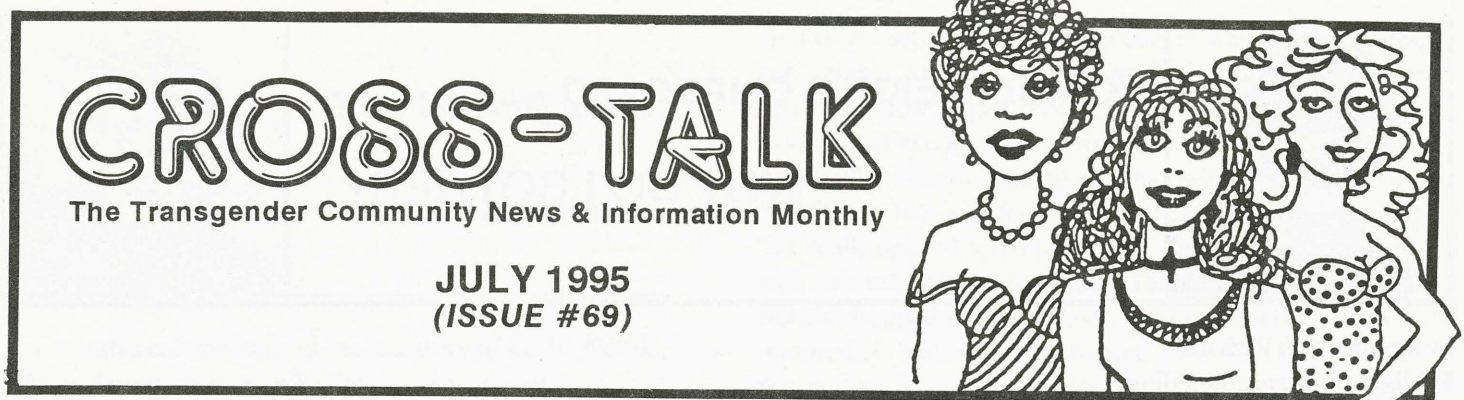
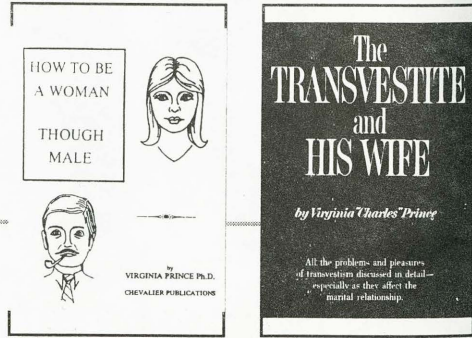
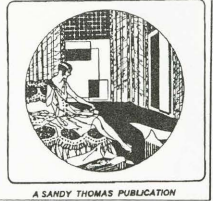
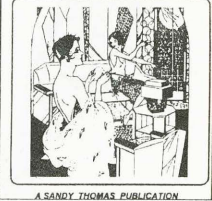
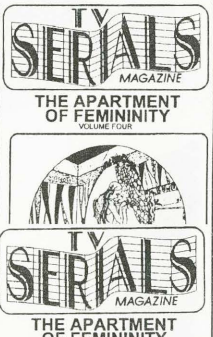
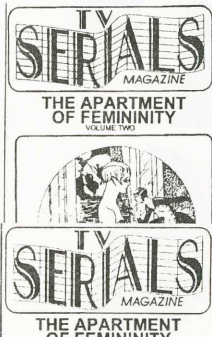
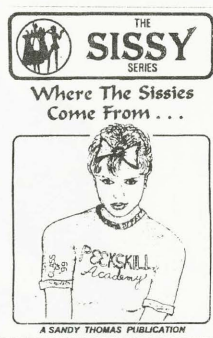
Also you'll find two new non-fiction books. I have bought the rights to two books that changed my life. One, THE TRANVESTITE AND HIS WIFE. 140 pages of support in telling a loved one about the desire to cross-dress. Two, HOW TO BE A WOMAN, THOUGH MALE. Written by Virginia Prince who has lived as a woman for over twenty years. An "everything you need to know" guide about living as a woman. Legal, social, fashion, job change, everything! 190 pages.

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

WHY DO I BOTHER?

by Kimberleigh Richards
Publisher & Managing Editor

Every so often, someone asks me why I put myself through so much for the sake of the publication you're reading. They allude to the difficulty of putting out a forty page magazine approximately every thirty days; of "riding herd" on our regular contributors to meet deadlines ... of doing the editing, layout, and paste-up not only of our master

place in the mainstream retail world, and how we will survive as we expand further in that direction.

In short, any reasonable person looking at the way this operation functions has to ask why I bother. Why do I continue to fight the uphill battle to make **Cross-Talk** count, to attempt to beat odds that are apparently not in

my favor, playing with a deck that is likely to have been stacked against me?

Because I care, damn it.

I'm sure it would be a lot easier to be one of the passive members of the transgender community, to just be a "weekend crossdresser", to make a decent living at a

"real" job and spend my disposable income on cute clothes and parties, and let someone else watch out for my best interests. But being on the sidelines has never been my style; perhaps I inherited my mother's activist nature (she was an officer of the state employees' union here in California for most of the two decades that she was a civil servant) along with her facial structure.

Whatever it is that drives me, though, pushes me to continue despite every adversity that I encounter in my life. Car totalled in an accident? Ride the bus. Earthquake? Make arrangements with the printer to carry a balance, relocate, and keep publishing. Computer failure? Borrow time on friends' systems while other friends work to bring main systems back online. Cash flow erratic from subscribers' delaying their renewals, advertisers skipping a month to pay two next time, retailers' cash flow forcing them to delay paying for magazines they've already received and sold? Beg with the printer to keep us on the press and shift as much of the incoming revenue in their direction as will keep them reasonably happy without creating the threat of eviction or the electricity being shut off. Simply put, **survive**.

That is the true point of this exercise. Survival is the mandate of our lives. Those who concentrate on the "fun" aspects of being transgendered, who play with the sexual undercurrent of what we do, only deceive themselves ... ignoring the reality of their lives. While I don't deny people their fun and games, I get very annoyed when they can see nothing beyond their recreation.

Do I care **too** much, perhaps?



The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Last month's column carried the sad story of Leslie Nelson, a New Jersey woman who killed two law enforcement officers when they came to her parents' home to question her about a neighbor's allegations of child molestation. The media quickly seized on the fact that Nelson is transsexual. News stories after the tragic event often quoted neighbors and acquaintances as saying how odd Nelson was. More grist for the stereotypical mill, right? Well, it turns out not every reporter was content with the same old "killer transsexual" story. Robin Uris of the Camden, N.J. *Courier-Post* spent some time researching Nelson's past, and what emerges is the portrait of a very troubled person.

This item may be a bit long, but Ms. Sinclair believes it is a story that should be repeated.

In the late 1980s, after years of being a loner in school and in his neighborhood, Glenn Nelson tried to enter the gender reassignment program at the prestigious Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. But he failed the psychological screening. As Uris wrote, "Nelson was a good candidate for therapy, but not the kind that leads to gender reassignment."

"I'd be surprised if any reputable doctor would take him on," Uris quoted Dr. Terrence Malloy of the hospital as saying. "He came here for a screening and it became obvious to us very quickly that he had very serious psychological problems. Simply, he was not a candidate for our program because he was -- and is -- a sick individual." Malloy's records show that Nelson "had a distorted idea about being a female," thinking that changing gender "would help him in life, make his problems go away."

"But his problems were not with gender, they were more complicated than that," the surgeon said.

Evidently, those psychological problems either didn't show up or didn't deter another surgeon from performing the operation. A source told the *Courier-Post* that Nelson's surgeon lived in Colorado.

"There's a place in Trinidad, Colo., where they give you a menu of operations and how much they cost," Malloy said. "You can have it done piecemeal and all you have to do is sign a consent form. If you wanted, you could get the operation in one day, without so much as a word with a psychiatrist." After being turned down by Malloy, Uris reported, Nelson started taking hormones, called himself "Leslie," and began to frequent strip joints. "He came in her all the time, wearing headphones so nobody could start

up a conversation," said a go-go dancer who refused to give her name. "And he was always jotting down in a little notebook, how a girl moved, what kind of costume she wore. It was like he was studying."

Eventually, Nelson entered the bar with breast implants, "and it was like a different person," the bar manager said. "He really opened up to people. He showed us his implants and, seriously, girls were jealous. They were that good."

Nelson dropped out of sight for several months. When he returned, he had become a woman.

She pestered the manager for a job, and was finally given a chance to audition. "She blew us all away. She was great! Every guy in the place was looking at her. She was sexy and very graceful." She was hired on the spot, and worked the bar Saturday nights. That gig was followed by jobs in New York and at a lesbian bar in Philadelphia.

Soon, problems followed her. Some patrons at the first bar began complaining, saying they didn't come to a go-go bar to watch a man. While some guys loved her, others called her a "faggot" and wouldn't watch her dance.

Now, Nelson is the first transsexual inmate of the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Trenton where she is receiving constant psychiatric care as well as her daily dosage of hormones.

Uris ended her story with this sympathetic line: "If Nelson had problems, she had them before she ever went under the knife."



No date has been set for Nelson's trial. But the trial of another murderer was completed May 25. John Lotter, 23, was found guilty of the New Year's Eve murder of Brandon Teena, a 21-year-old female-to-male transsexual. Police arrested Lotter and Marvin Nissen on charges that they had raped Teena after the duo discovered that the young man who had just moved to that part of southeast Nebraska was really a woman named Teena Brandon. Prosecutors claimed that Lotter and Nissen later killed Teena to keep her from going to police. Along with Teena, the pair murdered Lisa Lambert and Philip DeVine because they witnessed Teena's murder, prosecutors said. Nissen testified against Lotter under terms of a plea bargain agreement.

Lotter will be sentenced the week of July 24. He could face either life in prison or death in the electric chair.

"I do want him to die," said Teena's mother, JoAnn. "He took the lives of three innocent, loving people." During the trial, she testified about her daughter's gender identity crisis.



There's one last item on this month's police blotter ... It seems that cops in Los Angeles arrest so many men dressed as women that the L.A. County Jail has a special procedure for handling the femme costumes. After the men have exchanged their feminine clothes for prison drag, the

dresses, skirts, high heels, wigs, and even an occasional feather boa are cleaned and kept in a room apart from the gender-appropriate clothing other inmates -- both male and female -- were wearing when they were arrested.

Why the segregation? Prison officials couldn't say.

Federal law enforcement officials were equally closed-mouthed about a sex scandal involving Rockland County, N.Y. prosecutor Kenneth Gribetz, who had resigned after pleading guilty to one count of income tax evasion and one count of misusing county property. According to news reports, Gribetz had county employees drive his mistress to their assignments. U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White declined to comment on that charge.

But here is the juicy stuff: Federal authorities raided the home of Gribetz's mistress (and we do mean **mistress**) and confiscated sex toys, whips, a gold lame miniskirt, black high heels, pantyhose, and a brunette wig. In addition, they found answering machine tapes where Gribetz (who resembles a younger George Bush) refers to himself as a "bad girl."

Gribetz had served in the elected district attorney's post for nearly thirty years.

If that doesn't prove that politics makes strange bedfellows, how about this news item from Palm Springs ...?

Cole Bang, a drag queen who stands seven feet tall, has kicked off her campaign to become mayor of the desert city, following in the footsteps of former Mayor Sonny Bono.

"I'm just trying to make Palm Springs what it used to be when the movie stars invented it," the 26-year-old candidate said. "Palm Springs used to be so glamorous, and now all anybody does is fight."

Bang, who goes by the name Kitty Cole when in drag, writes a column for a local Palm Springs gay and lesbian magazine.

We wonder how Miss Cole could speak so well with her tongue in her cheek. Anyway, we wish her well. Another transgendered person lost her more serious bid for elective office in the May primary elections in a rural Pennsylvania county. Kristine Holt (who used to be Richard Holt before her 1994 sex change) was defeated in a six-way race for one of two Democratic nomination for Venango County commissioner.

Campaigning under the slogan of "Committed to Change," the 38-year-old former employment counselor and father of two, placed fourth with 377 votes. The top vote-getter got a tally of more than 1,400.

Even though she lost, she won the respect of many, including the vice chairwoman of the county Democratic Party. Barb Criste said Holt was a serious candidate. "The people who can't handle it are the people who have trouble

with their own sexuality," she said.

Six weeks after Holt began living as a woman in preparation for her surgery, she was fired. Sadly, that is not an uncommon occurrence. But a transsexual who was hired by an Office Depot in Tallahassee, Fla., as a woman was forced to resign from her job after her bosses learned she had a sex change.

Alisa Edenfield claims that for the first two months, her supervisors found no fault with her work. She was even promoted and promised a raise. But when she requested time off to have her surgery, things changed. One boss told her that he wished she had never told him that she was transsexual because "that isn't normal." He asked her not to tell anyone else. Another supervisor told her that when she returned she would not have a job. He backed down after Edenfield complained to the Office Depot corporate headquarters.

Things got worse when she returned to work after recuperation. Her bosses openly discussed her transsexualism with other employees and asked them for personal information about her. The final incident came one morning (her last at the store) when the manager opened the front door, then abruptly closed it on her. When she complained that he hit her with the door, he replied "Anytime."

She has filed suit against the company and is seeking lost wages, punitive damages, and her job back.

Yet sometimes transgendered behavior has no impact on employment.

Robert Cosgrove's reappointment as staff anesthesiologist at Granville Medical Center in Oxford, N.C. was delayed briefly because of a sheriff's report that three YMCA employees said that a man who had entered the facility using Cosgrove's membership card and later left using his

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car, had dressed as a woman and gone into a woman's locker room. Further suspicion was raised because at the time of the incident, Cosgrove had shaved off the beard he had worn for many years.

Cosgrove denied the charge, and he was reappointed to his post.

A simple denial may not have served Dr. Cosgrove as well if he had been wearing lingerie under his scrubs; at least that's what "Dear Dotti" ("America's most outspoken advice columnist") says.

A *Weekly World News* reader from Baltimore wrote to ask advice about her boss. One night when they were working late, the boss leaned over her desk to check some work. "I could see bra straps under his shirt," the woman wrote. She was puzzled and wondered if she should tell her co-workers. Dotti responded:

"What your boss does in his spare time is nobody's business, but since he wore the brassiere to work, all bets are off. With that in mind, feel free to tell the whole office. Your reputation as an alert and loyal gossip depends on it!"

Dear Abby probably gets more real letters, but she doesn't answer them with the same verve. Recently a "Curious Female" wrote to say that she has been seeing more men on the beach who shave their legs. "They don't appear to be body builders," she notes. "Is this a new trend -- like men wearing earrings?" She admits that she hasn't had the guts to ask one of the men, yet she admits that she would prefer a man to have smooth legs when he is in bed with her. Abby responded: "Since healthy growth of body hair on a male suggests masculinity and virility, a man who shaves his legs must do it for a good reason." Then she goes on to say that the guys Curious Female has seen are probably bicycle racers or athletes who have to tape their legs.

C'mon Abby, as your sister Ann says, wake up and smell the coffee.


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Every since Ms. Sinclair first exposed the childhood crossdressing of John Tesh in April, stars have been coming out in droves as kiddie drag queens.

This month we add two names to the list: Vampire Tom Cruise and Patrick Macnee, star of *The Avengers*.

In his unauthorized biography of Cruise, author Wensley Clarkson reveals that when he was 12, Cruise, his mother, and three sisters were abandoned by Tom's father. It was about this time that Cruise went "out of control" repeatedly stealing his mother's car, crashing a stolen motorbike, and dressing as a girl.

Clarkson quotes Cruise's boyhood friend Tommy Puckett as saying that dressing up for costume parties gave Tom a chance to cut loose.

"Even when we were just together to goof around, he'd put on makeup and a dress just to shock everyone," Puckett said, adding that Cruise was all-boy.

That wasn't the life that the lover of Patrick Macnee's lesbian mother had in mind for the young lad who called her "Uncle Evelyn."

When he was a small boy "Evelyn wanted to outfit me with a dress but Mum got her to compromise and I ended up wearing kilts," Macnee said. Eventually, he was sent off to boarding school and the crossdressing ended. And perhaps just in time.

"I never forget her promise to Mum: 'Given time, we'll make a good woman out of him.'"

So far as we know, George Clooney, star of the television show *ER*, didn't crossdress as a child, but he is embarrassed about a drag experience that happened years ago. On a lark he agreed to play the uncredited role of a transvestite go-go dancer in a straight-to-video B-movie called *The Harvest*. If you can find the tape, don't blink while you are watching or you'll miss it; Clooney's appearance lasts all of fourteen seconds.

"It was fun and a joke," Clooney said. "I never thought anyone would see it."

He donned the blonde wig, gold sequined halter top, and matching miniskirt as a favor to the film's star, his cousin Miguel Ferrer.

Speaking of obscure movies with drag queens, remember *Tricia's Wedding*, the 1971 film by Mark Lester that used an all-male cast to make fun of Richard Nixon and his daughters Tricia and Julie? Well Texas senator and GOP presidential hopeful Phil Gramm probably wishes he could forget it.

Gramm's former brother-in-law told reporters that in 1974, Gramm gave him \$7,500 to invest in another Mark Lester production, this one was to be an R-rated spoof on beauty

contests. No word from the brother-in-law if the cast was to include female impersonators. Lester accepted Gramm's investment, but turned out another cinematic attack on Nixon, *White House Madness*. Gramm claims to have received no return on his investment.



On to more mainstream movies ...

... but first a memo to Angela Gardner: "Who is Nathan Lane?" you asked last month.

Well, it was Nathan Lane who introduced the song *Hakuna Matata* to moviegoers everywhere in *The Lion King*. For the rest of you, Lane stars as the **fabulous** female impersonator Zaza in *Birds of a Feather*, Mike Nichols' version of the French film *La Cage aux Folles*. It is set for release this summer.

By the way, Nichols is reportedly musing about changing the title of the film to *Strange Barbecue*. Don't ask.



This time it is absolutely certain. They are positive, no more changes.

Almost.

To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar is now scheduled to open in the fall. Let's hope it was worth the wait to see John Leguizamo, Wesley Snipes, and Patrick Swayze portray three drag queens crossing the continent.

Rumors are mixed. Leguizamo, who is no slouch in drag, says that Snipes makes "a funny looking woman. Not the kind of woman that you want to bring home to your mother. He's the kind of woman you want after thousands of beers." Swayze gets higher marks from an expert, Coco Lachine, Empress VII of New York City. Coco was one of Swayze's drag coaches for the film. "I must say I was very impressed with him," she said. She helped him learn how to move, talk, and feel like a drag queen. "Patrick brings realism to the role," she said.

But perhaps the best endorsement comes from Julie Newmar herself. The movie points out something only hinted at previously, that Newmar's Catwoman character (from the *Batman* television show) is an icon in the drag community.

"I can't explain it," she recently told a reporter. Then, stretching to her full height of six feet in her stocking feet, she added, "Of course I **am** larger than life." Newmar also has a small cameo in the film.



Unless you live where there is a lesbian and gay film festival or an art theater that plays really off-beat film fare, you probably won't get to see the hottest drag film of the year, *Wigstock: The Movie*.

As one reviewer said, the film "serves as a 90-minute proclamation that crossdressing has arrived -- and she ain't leaving." The documentary features more feathers and sequins than the Follies Bergere, more pastel colored wigs

that an old age home for retired actresses, more eye makeup than a Tammy Faye Bakker look-alike. contest, and more artificial cleavage than an episode of *Baywatch*.



Crossdressing may have arrived in the mainstream, but as a symbol of the avant-garde drag is passe. So proclaims Amy Spindler of *The New York Times* after witnessing Susanne Bartsch's latest runway spectacular. Bartsch is a New York celebrity because, well, because she is a celebrity. Her profession is promoting parties and media events aimed at shocking, surprising, and showcasing the outrageous. In the late '80s she made drag *de rigueur* for all cutting edge events, from fashion shows to benefit balls. But now the flash has faded.

"What became apparent as the touchstone of the avant-garde -- piercing, drag, sadomasochistic trappings -- took to the runway was that each one had been co-opted and commercialized by the mainstream," Spindler wrote. "The most towering symbol of that was Ru Paul ... how cool, how cutting edge, can a spokesman for M.A.C., a major cosmetics line distributed by Estee Lauder, be?"

"Drag was once the level of avant-garde fashion expressionism, but now Ru Paul has a show in Las Vegas," said Simon Doonan, creative director of Barney's New York. "We've reached a point where avant-garde doesn't resonate the way that it did," he continued. "When Andrew

Logan did his Alternative Miss World Contests in the '70s and Susanne did her Love Balls and Vogueing balls in the '80s, those things had a resonance and a meaning."

But Bartsch wasn't giving up on drag quite so easily. The finale of her "Inspiration '95" show featured a wedding -- her own -- to gym entrepreneur David Barton. Bartsch was escorted by a score of bridesmaids, one for each year of her age. One was drag performer Lypsinka.



To roundup the list of new and upcoming movies, don't be fooled by *Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde*. The gender transformation is as about as simple as Hollywood can get: Tim Daly plays Dr. Jekyll and Sean Young is Ms. Hyde.



The next item is **not** about a cheap remake of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* ...

It seems that there is finally a transsexual in Transylvania. Following an April court ruling, 19-year-old Sorin Ratiu became Romania's first transsexual. The court said that unless Ratiu received the surgery, he would probably kill or mutilate himself.

Eight days after the ruling, Sorin went into the operating room in Bucharest and emerged as Sorina. The only thing different was that the operation was televised on state TV. Viewers were treated to close-ups of the severed genitalia and other gory details of the eight-hour operation.



Speaking of entertainment, men dressing as women reached its peak in Elizabethan theatre because it was thought to be unseemly for women to appear on the stage. Some say that the term "drag" originated with Shakespeare, who supposedly annotated his scripts with the single word abbreviation which stood for "Dressed As a Girl." A San Francisco playhouse has revived the crossdressing tradition with a play entitled *Playing Desdemona*.

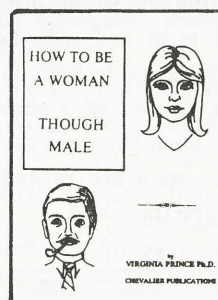
The plot is elegant: A great Shakespearean actor, who had originated many of the Bard's great female roles before women were allowed on the stage, attempts to teach the finer points of portraying female characters to ... a woman. A reviewer notes that "the play is ripe with interesting takes on gender roles." And indeed it must be, given that it is about a female impersonator teaching a woman how to be a great actress.



Desdemona is one of the great female roles. Another is Salome. But while there is a tradition of having Shakespeare's tragic heroine portrayed by a man, there is little precedent for a male Salome. That is what made a benefit performance for the American Ballet Theater in New York City so intriguing.

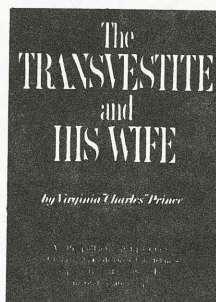
Patrick Dupond, former director of the Paris Opera's ballet company, danced the role of Herrod's daughter in a piece created for him.

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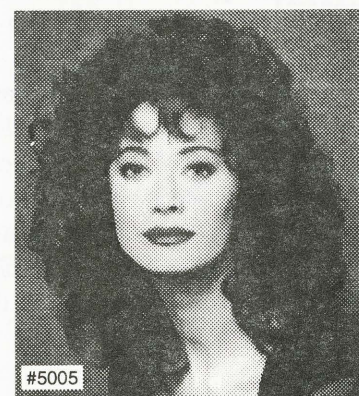
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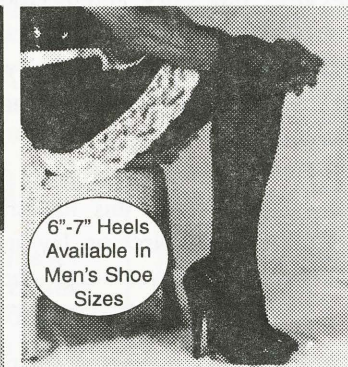
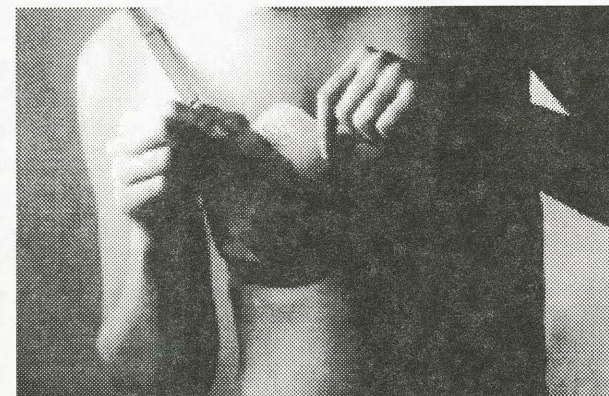
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"It is inspired by Kabuki and by Oscar Wilde," Dupond said of the work. "I have to act as much as I dance. I'm not a boy or a girl, but in between. It's very strange and very tricky."



But by far the strangest play to hit the stage recently has got to be *G-Man! A Day in the Life of J. Edgar Hoover*. It opened in April at Chicago's Blue Rider Theater.

Playwrights Tim Fiori and Michael Vitale have compressed dozens of significant political events into a single day in Hoover's inner office at FBI headquarters. During the play, Hoover hassles Dr. Martin Luther King, orders the illegal wire tapping of Groucho Marx and Sen. Strom Thurmond, tangles with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, places illegal horse-racing bets, wrangles with his lover Clyde Tolson, and yes, does a little drag. (Sleezebag lawyer Roy Cohen drops in to bribe Hoover with a shiny box filled with Edgar's favorite recreational clothing.)

The drag incident isn't included just for laughs. "We want to show that it's only in Hoover's drag life that he's healthy since it offered him his sole relief from the tension of his political pretenses," Fiori explains. "If Hoover had been able to escape his time and place and accept his sexuality, perhaps he wouldn't have had to destroy other people's lives."



(Memo to Chicago theatergoers: If you missed *G-Man*, don't worry; you still have plenty of time to see Julie Andrews in the new musical version of *Victor/Victoria*. The run has been extended four weeks until September 3.)



Ms. Sinclair thought that only gay playwrights would be keeping alive the story about Hoover's crossdressing, a story now two years old. But it seems that straight folks remain fascinated too. How else would you explain the story in the *Weekly World News* reporting that Hoover was buried in drag?

According to four witnesses (one of whom designed the dress he wore to meet his maker and another did his makeup), after the Director lay in state in the Capital Rotunda twenty-three years ago, the body was taken to a



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secret location and the conservative business suit was exchanged for a black dress trimmed in red and white, full length gloves, black heels, a pearl necklace, and a black-and-white pillbox hat. "Hoover may have hated John Kennedy, but he loved Jackie's style," one of the witnesses said.

"Quite frankly, I wasn't surprised that Ed decided to go out as a woman," the witness was quoted as saying. "Because he rose to a position of such prominence and importance in public life, he was never able to live the way he wanted."

"He was wearing the clothes he always wanted, so he finally looked like he was at peace with himself," another witness was quoted as saying.



Sadly, death has come to two people who **did** lead the lives -- and wore the clothes -- they wanted: Female impersonator Randy Allen and the 1995 Miss Gay America, Ramona LeGer.

LeGer, whose real name was Louis Marcello, died of spinal meningitis early in her reign as Miss Gay America. She was taken ill while in route to an appearance at the Miss Gay Virginia competition in May and died while returning to her home in Louisiana.



Allen died in Philadelphia from AIDS. He was 38. Although trained as an actor and director, he was best known his female illusions. Perhaps the most outstanding of them was film great Bette Davis. But Allen didn't impersonate Davis at the height of her career; rather he wrote and starred in a play -- *P.S. Bette Davis* -- that put Davis on stage in a one-woman performance after her stroke. In other words, "post-stroke," hence the title of the play. Ms. Sinclair had the good fortune to see Allen as Davis and his performance was superb. We have lost a great drag talent. Sadly, his obituaries called him a "performance artist."

As a sidelight, Allen had been cast to reprise the Davis role in a Greenwich Village play entitled *Me and Jezebel*. But his illness forced him out of the role. He was replaced by Louise DuArt, who impersonates male stars like Woody Allen and George Burns. The casting change prompted *The New York Times* to note ironically that a Village play about Bette Davis "has been forced to cast a **woman** in the role."



Finally, we present news on the medical front ... The makers of the nation's most prescribed drug wants to stop the government from approving a cheaper, generic version. The drug is Premarin. According to Wythe-Ayerst Laboratories, Premarin is a complex formulation of estrogens culled from the urine of pregnant horses and a generic version may not work as well. The claim has some validity since, despite fifty years

of use, how Premarin works isn't completely understood. While the issue is important from a pharmacological standpoint, it doesn't have much economic impact for consumers. The average daily dose of Premarin for women is 40 cents a day. A generic would cost a nickel.



Two medical researchers claim that the primary cause of breast cancer in women is not genetics, not diet, not the cell, but the bra. Sydney Ross Singer and Soma Grismaijer claim that because the bra presses directly on part of the lymphatic system, wastes accumulate in breast tissue, creating an environment ripe for a variety of problems, including cancer.

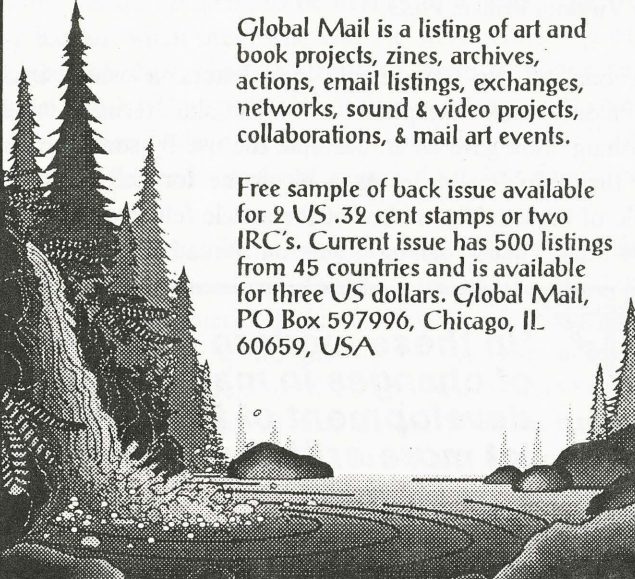
The two tested their theory by interviewing nearly 5,000 women across the nation. Women who wore their bras twenty-four hours a day have more than a hundredfold greater risk of breast cancer than women who wear bras for only twelve hours a day. Women who do not wear bras have a twenty-one-fold **reduction** in breast cancer incidence when compared to the general population.



The length of this month's column has so exhausted Ms. Sinclair she has only enough energy to briefly thank Charlene Day, Miranda Stevens, and Sharon Ann Stuart for sending in clips. After concentrating real hard, she has just energy to offer a special thanks to Max and Jake for

writing and confirming the details of their relationship, first as "so-called 'lesbians'", then as a heterosexual married couple, and now as a pair of gay men. Perhaps to make things simple, they refer to themselves as bisexual.

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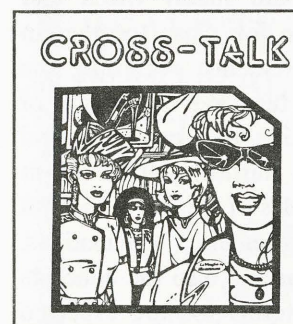
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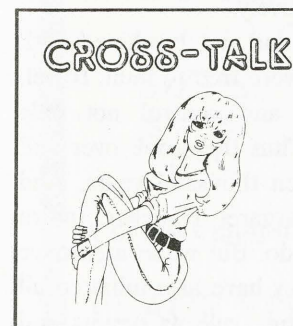
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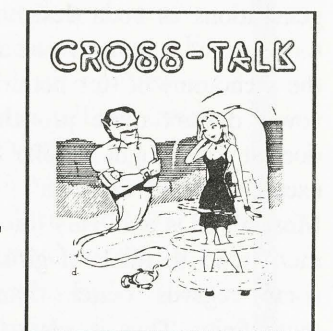
#64 (February): Personal growth and moving ahead; The four "whys" of crossdressing; When personal politics affect community politics; Part one of roundtable discussion of transsexualism by lesbians; Exploring sexuality in the context of shifting gender roles; Avoiding second-guessing your decisions; Review of *StarGate*.



#65 (March): Calling the transgender community by its logical name; Finding your true path amidst peer pressure; Suppressing behavior patterns that prevent your passing; Choosing methods of gender expression; Encountering the public's fear of transgenderism; Part two of lesbian TS roundtable; Review of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

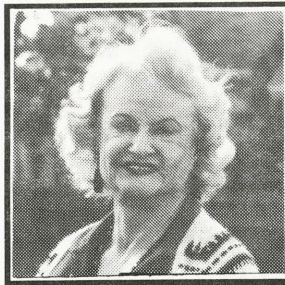
#66 (April): Contrasting diplomacy and radicalism as means for change; Sexism in the TG community; Avoiding the "man in a dress" mentality; Successfully transitioning on the job; A 12-step program for pride; The side effects of transgender rights; Staying true to yourself. Issue **#63 (January)** is also available.

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VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

MALE BASHING

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

In one of our community newsletters a while back, someone took exception to what she termed "male bashing". She gave as an example the use by someone else of the term "evil twin" as a nickname for the masculine side of herself. The author of the article felt that there was too much "male bashing" going on. I read the article with

"In these modern times we need a lot of changes in male values and greater development of feminine values ... a lot more criticism of male values."

interest and then began to apply my sex/gender yardstick to the point. I came to realize that there were three aspects to the matter: (1) Males as a sex, (2) Men as a gender or life style, and (3) Masculinity as the social manifestation of both.

Now regarding the "evil twin" term which began the debate, I would point out that the bipolar division of moral judgement into Good and Evil has a long history. If one moves toward some object or situation which is seen as an improvement, i.e., "better" than what one has or the situation one is in, the movement is seen as moving toward "good" and away from its opposite which for generations as been designated as "evil". Evil is probably too extreme a term if one is going to take it literally but the dichotomy of "for better or worse" (as in the marriage vows) doesn't quite provide an alternative term. It just doesn't sound right to refer to the "worse twin". So I would excuse the term "evil twin".

Most all CDs and TGs (or for that matter, most ordinary men) tend to think of girls, women and femininity as in some regards better than or superior to men and masculinity. Thus it seems reasonable for a CD or TG when in the femme role to use the term "evil twin" when referring to his masculine side. After all he wouldn't move toward the feminine if he didn't feel it was better, i.e., "gooder" than his masculine side. So since we tend to dichotomize things, what is left to describe the masculine but "less good", "bad", "worse" or "evil"?

I have recognized for a long while that the world is going to hell in a lot of different ways and you probably have too. But the next step after recognizing what is, and has been,

going on, is to inquire into causes. I will make the bald statement that most of the world's problems are not caused by males or by men, but by masculinity. Maleness is simply a biological condition. Man is a social and gender term of convenience to distinguish males from females when one is not talking about anatomy. The real harm doesn't come

from either the biological or the sociological aspects but from the psychological side, namely masculinity and its most virulent form ... machismo. The penis of any male animal is an instrument of attack, penetration, force, domination and control. When true humans came on the scene with their ability to think, understand and be perceptive of the results of their activities these animal ways of behaving became transformed in one way or another to fit the new circumstances.

But while sexual anatomy remained the same, gender got invented as a result of the invention of agriculture because now human began to live in groups near where the crops were growing ... which as they got larger became first villages, then towns and cities, and finally tribes and nations. When a number of people live close together in the same area not only for convenience regarding the crops but for protection. This in turn led to division of labor; that is, men did the hunting and exploring and women did the child bearing and nurturing. This meant the gradual development of two styles of living, two sets of regulations, expectations, requirements, occupations, clothing, etc. Thus was gender born and also the concepts of masculinity and femininity as terms for the expected lifestyles of men and women respectively.

But males were bigger, stronger, and not burdened with child bearing and rearing, so they were free to hunt, travel, fight, invent, discover, dominate and control not only women but other, lesser groups. Thus they took over and have run the world for the last ten thousand years. And with occasional exceptions like Margaret Thatcher, Indira Ghandi and Golda Meir they still do. But while men have done great things for the world they have also initiated all the wars, commit most of the crime, rule as tyrants and dictators etc. This is not to say that women are all lily white and never did a bad thing in their lives, but it does mean that there are a lot more black marks against men

and masculinity than there are against women and femininity.

So I think that in these modern times we need a lot of changes in male values and greater development of feminine values. Accomplishing this is going to require a lot more male "bashing", though I don't think that is a very good word. What I mean is a lot more criticism of male values and their application until they can be made to see that their penises are simply tools to plant seeds and that the planting process is enjoyable and **that is all**. The time for competition, domination, imposition and control has passed. The time for cooperation, unselfishness, compassion, assistance, nurturing and human values is here. The former are masculine values and have brought the world to its present perilous state and the latter are feminine values and the only values that will save the planet and with it the human race.

As an example, take the current Republican-dominated Congress. Their general philosophy is to cure our financial problems by cutting out all the programs to help the environment (Endangered Species Act, etc.), struggling new democracies (foreign aid), public health measures (clean air, clean water, etc.), child care (HeadStart, school lunch programs, etc.) and many more. These are all feminine-type helping programs. The slash and burn solution of wiping them all out while backing other programs to help those whose masculine-type competitive

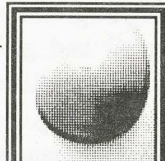
activities have made them extremely rich and who need no help (reduction of capital gains taxes are all masculine solutions).

I didn't start out to make this a political diatribe but we all live in the same political/economic furnace fueled by the individualistic, competitive, and selfish drives which are masculine not only in conception and operation but in philosophy. And if something doesn't happen to turn down the fire we are all going to be burned to a crisp. That will only happen when men, who run the world economy, can be made to slow down or stop their drive to power and control and let George Bush's "softer, gentler world" come to life. This will take a lot of pain, persuasion and probably violence in the end. "Bashing" is one of the less dangerous ways.

We in the crossdressing community have already met our feminine alter egos and found them good. We are therefore the vanguard of this conversion of values. We can show the way if we live up to our own adopted feminine attitudes even when not dressed en femme. So let the "bashing" begin. All men are not "bad" but much of their conceptions of life, i.e., masculinity and especially machismo are. It must be changed and we must do our part, little and unnoticed as it may be.

[Virginia Prince is a co-founder of The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) and the former publisher of Transvestia magazine.]

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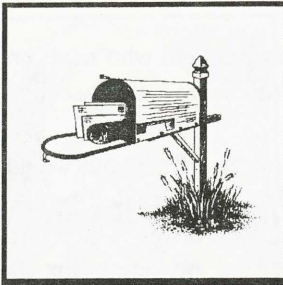
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Letters to the Editor

Re: "A Woman's View of Passing" (Woman To Woman, #66): Linda Peacock really misses the mark with her explanation of "why crossdressers want to pass". There may be a few out there who live in a fantasy world who actually think they become women when they crossdress. But those people need help. There are very few of them and they are not "typical" crossdressers.

Even those who are considered transgenderists, who live full-time as women, will **never** be real women, and down inside they realize this.

Those who know Robin K., who Linda gives as an example, knows that she is not a "typical" crossdresser. Even Linda knows this ... so why give her as an example? Robin could care less about passing as a woman. She could care less about being feminine. She could care less if the rest of us are trying to be "ladies" in public. More than once she's turned to straight people and said "Don't worry, we're harmless. We're just a bunch of crossdressers!" (It scares a lot of straights **and** crossdressers when she says that.)

Crossdressers aren't trying to pass because it's a "fantasy". We're trying to pass for one reason and one reason only: **To avoid conflict.** It is many crossdressers' dream to be able to dress as a woman and go anywhere we want to go without fear of conflict. And that's also why so many want electrolysis, hormones, etc., and go full-time: "If I do all this, I'll be able to go anywhere I want because then I'll look like a woman and nobody will know ... nobody will bother me."

Unfortunately, that's where the fantasy comes into play. Very few crossdressers have the face, build, voice, mannerisms, hair, clothing, walk, etc., so perfect that they pass completely. Nearly **all** of them will be "read" every time they go out. They should expect it.

Being "read" is what causes fear. Fear that the wrong person will read them and either cause them great embarrassment or physical harm. If a crossdresser can "pass" she won't be hurt or embarrassed, so she tries hard to "pass" ... but invariably fails. But she keeps trying, and that's the fun of it.

I do agree with Linda's statement that "femininity comes from within." So many crossdressers (and transsexuals and transgenderists too) may have the look down pat, but when it comes to being feminine they fail miserably. In fact, I don't know any transgendered person who have a feminine aura around them.

Some say we are born crossdressers. That might be true,

but none of us were born feminine. It's fun wearing the clothes and looking good, but all that makeup and padding and taping and bras and girdles and lipstick is so much trouble! But I have discovered that even if you are "read", if you **act** feminine as well as **look** feminine most people won't cause you trouble. They see a man dressed as a woman, but when the person they see looks, walks, acts, and sounds like a woman, they somehow feel it's okay. ("It's a man, but not masculine.") So Linda's statement "internal femininity is elusive to many because of their intensive drive for external femininity" is very true.

*Danielle Storm
Jonesboro, AR*

Re: "Human Rights? Equal Rights? Special Rights?" (#66): If Linda Buten's issue is with the way the government enforces laws, and specifically how they enforce discrimination laws, then maybe I can understand. But -- maybe it's my own sensitivity -- it sounds a lot like the stereotypical rhetoric used by "right-wing" types for so very many years, to defend prejudice and discrimination.

In a way, I agree that laws against discrimination should be unnecessary. And legislation about affirmative action should be unnecessary too. And, for that matter, laws against murder and mayhem. Good, decent education should have made such things redundant. And, I suppose, in someone's idea of a "perfect society," that's exactly the case. Seems to me the League of Nations and the UN were developed, in part, to make warfare a thing of the past. Parliamentary procedure, "internal development," nation building, foreign aid, education, UNICEF, WHO and the World Court just can't get this "war" thing out of our system. Or poverty, disease and starvation either. But at least people are starting to get the idea that wars and such are maybe not the good and glorious events they once were thought to be, and maybe these things can sometimes be prevented. Maybe someday, wars and discrimination will be mere memories. But meanwhile, it seems to me we have to do **something**. A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow. Education and legislation need to go hand-in-hand, and we need to get "out" and demand that government enforce laws with equity, intelligence and compassion.

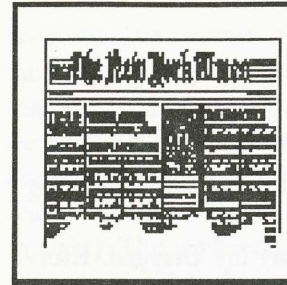
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transgender community

The annual Texas "T" Party weekend has announced a change of venue for the 1996 event.

Next year's "T" will be held at the Radisson Park Central hotel in Dallas, according to a letter from organizers Cynthia and Linda Phillips that appeared in *The Texas Rose*, the newsletter of the Metroplex CD Club in that city. The letter cites the high number of participants from the Dallas-Fort Worth area as the reason for the location change; the event has been held in the San Antonio area since its inception in 1989.

The Phillipses are presently seeking local resources for the event such as photographers, nail technicians, makeup consultants and local membership to act as event staff.

A date for the 1996 weekend was not announced.

OOO

The American Educational Gender Information Service has released a medical advisory for post-operative male-to-female transsexuals regarding hair in the neovagina.

According to the AEGIS release, the use of penile and penoscrotal inversion methods in vaginoplasty can result in a neovagina which is lined with hair-bearing skin, which can choke the vagina as time passes. The report attacks remarks made by one prominent surgeon during a presentation at the October, 1993 meeting of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association that although his procedure "sometimes results in hair-bearing vagina, [his] patients do not seem to mind."

AEGIS is calling on surgeons doing MTF sex reassignment surgery to provide their patients with materials educating them about the problem and indicating the use of electrolysis to avoid the difficulty. They are also recommending that persons seeking male-to-female SRS who have excessive hair in the pelvic region consult with

the surgeon they have selected in order to determine which skin will eventually be inside the vagina so that they can decide whether electrolysis is desirable and so they can schedule electrolysis and surgery accordingly.

The complete report may be requested from AEGIS at P.O. Box 33724, Decatur GA 30033-0724, by e-mail to aegis@mindspring.com or by telephoning (404) 939-0244.

OOO

ERRATA: Due to an error in the composition process, the final sentence of Jo Anne Roberts' article "Our Own Worst Enemies?" was truncated. The complete sentence should read: "Our future and growth may just very well depend on it." Also inadvertently deleted was the identification of Ms. Roberts as president of Gulf Coast Transgender Community in Houston, whose newsletter originally published her commentary.

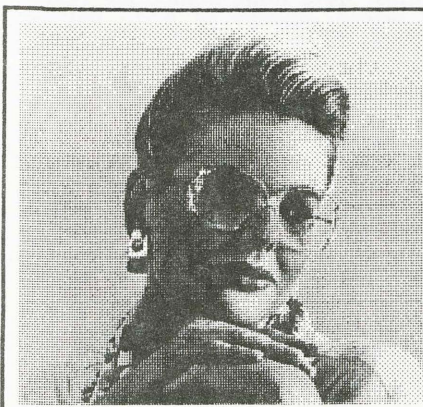
VOX POPULI ... *continued from previous page*

I'm not sure that maintaining a low profile and staying "closeted" is the way to go right now (or ever), even though this may seem to be the pragmatic solution. Niemoeller's words about being too late in resisting oppression ring in my ears.

*Lynn E. Walker
New York, NY
via Internet*

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YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE

by Gina Ann Glass

There is a matter that continues to surface and that I would like to put to rest. (After all, isn't it the natural progression ... man, woman, then God?) Okay, so I don't have the power to put it to rest; well then, it won't be the last time you'll hear or read my comments on this matter, because I feel very strongly about this.

I am tired of hearing that the wives, spouses, or partners must be sheltered from the transsexual and transsexual issues. Transsexualism is not a contagious disease and transsexuals are not witches on a hunt for recruits. So, what is the real problem? Why do the wives, spouses, partners have to be protected from the transsexual and from hearing about transsexual issues? Who are we trying to protect, the wife or the husband? I am directing this article to the wives, spouses, or partners.

Yes, I am a transsexual, the significant other's worst nightmare. I'm the one who is going to convince your husband that the transsexual life is the greatest, that he should be on hormones, to quit his macho male job, that he should definitely go for the breast implants, that he should dump the wife for a man so he can be the woman he was meant to be and he should join my sorority and just be one of the girls. I'm the one you can blame for everything he does. If you think about it, transsexuals are probably the reason for most all the ills of the world. Wake Up, America! If I could have that much power over any person, there is something seriously wrong here. I know several transsexuals and have never seen or heard of any of them recruiting anyone to have "the change". Real transsexuals all know the price they will pay for making the change is most extreme; life will actually be more difficult in every respect, except that they will feel in tune with who they are on the inside.

Let me explain what I mean.

I was married to my ex-wife for 21 years. I didn't tell her I was dealing with gender issues before we tied the knot: At the time, I really wasn't sure what I was dealing with (or was I in denial then too?). Besides, it surely would go away once I got married. I knew so little about life in my twenties, but I was ready to take on the world. Within a month it was no longer my secret but our secret; that's how good I was in making it go away. I will never forget the day when it finally sank in that our marriage was over. It was a very lonely, empty, uncertain feeling, one you would expect to feel when you lose your only friend in the world. When I look back on the relationship, I can see that she had a better perspective on who I really was than I did. I fought the hopeless battle against the nature of myself in fear of being cast out of society. It's very hard to live life

out of balance with yourself and extremely difficult being different from most.

Once I went public, everything in my life changed. Every relationship with every person who knew me as a male changed. My financial state went to bankruptcy. My job and income became very uncertain. I lost my house and

Significant others often feel transsexuals are a threat to their relationships. Are they right?

tens of thousands of dollars. My parents can't deal with my situation and have told me "do not ever come around as a female." My sister is grieving over the loss of her brother and is not ready to deal with a new sister. My brother has said if I come over to his house dressed he'll beat me up. I have lost all of my old close friends.

My ex-wife's life has had major changes too. She has had to find a new partner in life and start over financially and mentally. Even though it doesn't make her life any easier, don't think for a moment that I don't live every day of my life feeling responsible. Don't get me started on the expenses involved in therapy, doctors, electrolysis, hormones, plastic surgery, voice training, genital surgery and more. How many of you know that a the majority of transsexuals live an asexual sex life? Then there are the problems with the genital surgery. For the transsexuals who can pass well enough not to be questioned, they disappear into society as far away from their past as possible and they never stop looking over their shoulder wondering is their part sneaking up on them. I want you to know that the transsexual goes through a living hell while here on earth. I must have done something really bad in a past life. This is serious business, not some fantasy, and you pay a huge price with no guarantees.

The more you know about the transsexual the more you'll understand you don't need to be protected from them.

During the time I was in denial, I tried to convince my spouse that I had no desire to become a transsexual, which caused great confusion and contradiction in our relationship. There were those times when I would crossdress and feel her shut a door on me and the room get cold and not a word would be spoken even though the thermostat read 72 degrees and I could see through the

doorway. The warmth of the relationship was distant and the communication strained. All relationships have sensitive subjects that seem too difficult to talk about, so we don't talk about them until the pressure builds to the breaking point. The problem here was that I was in major denial. So when we did talk, I talked a good story (I thought). The confusion stemmed from how I acted versus what I said. (How does your husband act compared to what he says?) I believed what I was saying, but she didn't, even though she wanted to.

So, how do you know if your husband is a transsexual? Let me start by saying that if your husband is a transsexual and he chooses to act on it, there is nothing you or I can do to stop him, short of his demise. I know it's a scary subject. Let me give you my definition of "fear" ... a very negative assumption with no foreseen solution. What we always seem to do in the face of fear is come up with the worst scenario and then, of course, do what anyone would expect: Panic. What we should do is learn more about that which we fear, to enable us to make an intelligent conclusion in lieu of that terrifying assumption we made.

It is my strong belief that transsexuals are born transsexual. Period! (That's an article in itself.) But for the purpose of this article it's not real important "why". Each transsexual must come to their own realization. I can remember some six years ago at a support group meeting two transsexuals came up to me and said they could tell I was a transsexual. I got very angry. I was not going to have someone tell me what I was. Even though I have to eat crow now, I had to come to my own conclusion. Once I put the pieces of the puzzle together and it fit for me, it became my choice to act on my discovery. It wasn't a difficult decision, because I understand how important it is to be one with yourself for mental and physical wellness.

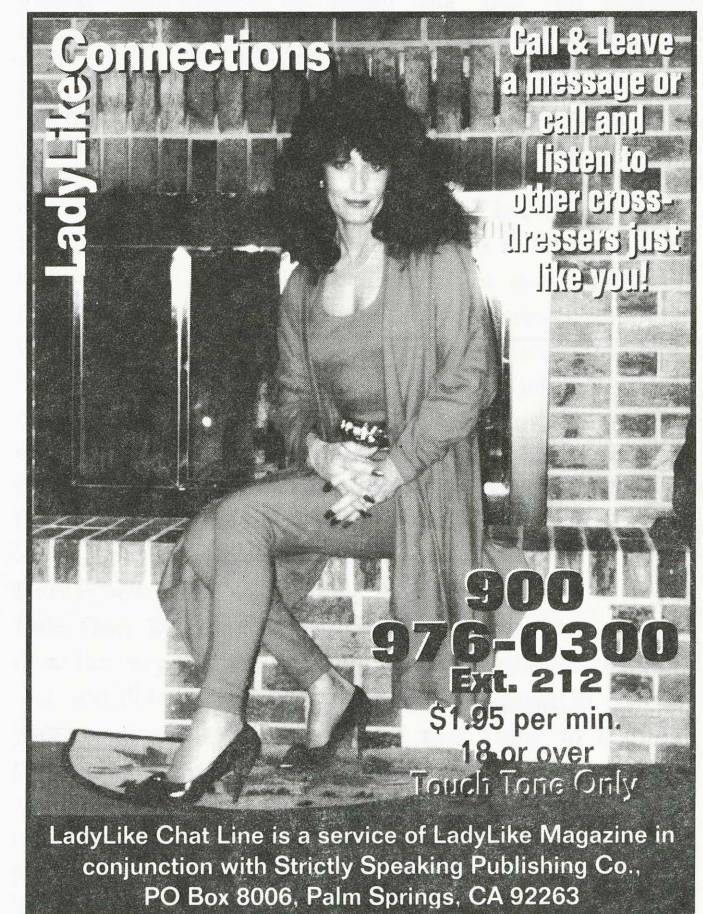
At the same time I loved my ex-wife and I had a commitment to the marriage. Even though it was the saddest day of my life, I give her credit for making the tough decision to make a change in her life for her. Her decision to end the marriage actually freed me to work on becoming one with myself. Not all transsexuals decide to make the change ... for many reasons: Too much to sacrifice, too late in life, no money, bad health or not enough drive to change. Those who do not act on it understand they will continue to be unhappy with how they have to live their life in exchange for some other benefit or to avoid some fear. If that is your decision there is nothing wrong with that. If you do decide to make the change, your drive better be stronger than the title character had in *Terminator*, because if you fail, you may certainly feel the only thing left is to self destruct (suicide).

I know many transsexuals, and being one myself I can tell you each one of us are different. We solved our individual puzzles to self-awareness differently, and choose to experience different combinations of life along the way. One transsexual I know never crossdressed before getting

into the transsexual program. So, if there is no set pattern, are there any warning signs that may help one recognize a potential transsexual? The only "for-sure" sign is if he goes off one day and comes back having had sex reassignment surgery.

Just remember that not all transsexuals choose to live full-time or have the surgery. I will give you my list of potential warning signs, but not any one sign is enough to identify a transsexual. If the individual fits most of them, then you just **might** be looking at a transsexual. The warning signs are: 1. Makes statements that he is a female; 2. Does not like the image of his male self in the mirror; 3. Feminizes his body (electrolysis, nose job, breast implants, removal of the testicles, facial bone reconstruction, takes hormones); 4. Is upset with his genetic secondary sex characteristics; 5. Does not like male activities; 6. Does not like his genitals (wants them removed for a vagina) -- these last three are "key" signs -- 7. Engages in very little intercourse, but when he does he does not like to be the penetrator (wants to be penetrated); 8. His feminine side interferes with his male responsibilities. It is important that the above signs be true of the subject for the last two years.

If most of these are true about your husband, then you can build a good case that he has a high likelihood to someday also conclude he is a transsexual. Remember, he must still choose to act on it. But above all, you must decide what is acceptable for you in your relationship, no matter when --



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or what -- he discovers about himself. Remember, because you are learning something new about yourself everyday and are learning about subjects that you really didn't know much about, this list should not be set in stone. You will need to reevaluate it periodically. More important, this list cannot be used as a threat to force him to conform to your ideal. It is only a gauge to know when you need to make changes concerning your life.

Whether it is crossdressing, religion, alcoholism, verbal or physical abuse, music, gambling, child abuse, money, job, or any other part of life, the more you know about it the easier it is to take that stand to be okay with it or reject it. Whatever you decide must be your own decision and not influenced by anyone else. Being protected from knowing the truth about a subject is being treated as a overprotected child.

It's time to treat ourselves as grownups and demand that others treat us likewise.


I hope this dispels the myth that anyone need stay away from transsexuals or their issues. The truth is that you can learn a lot from us that will help you past your assumptions. The good news is that there are very few real transsexuals (but there are a lot of misinformed wannabes). No one should want to be a transsexual ... it's not a career choice. Fear never makes anything better, but it's a great warning device. I hope you won't be afraid to learn more from the transsexuals in your community. They have had to deal with issues that most of you can avoid. You might find some of them are actually very nice people just trying to be themselves as part of learning the lessons we are put here on earth to learn, just like you.

[Gina Ann Glass is one of the founding members of Born Free, Riverside, Calif. This commentary originally appeared in that organization's newsletter.]

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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 blishes all the way: some pages glow with the positive pride a cross-dresser may feel when found out unexpectedly.
"Transvestites will identify with the author and find the book reassuring as well as amusing. Everyone will be touched by the sensitivity and delicacy with which Christine-Jane treats the difficulties of being a TV".

HELL — IT'S HEAVEN!
More cartoons by Christine-Jane

Not transvestites this time, (well — one sneaked in!) but an unguided tour of her vision of the afterlife — populated by sexy demons and wickedly innocent angels! You'll meet such characters as The Avenging Angel, Mephistopheles, and Saints Peter, Michael, Joan (a insufferable) and Francis (and his 'little friends'). Now and again the Managers of both Establishments rumble disapprovingly from the sidelines, but are resigned that, as soon as the echoes have died, mischief and dirty tricks will re-commence!

FUTURES EXCHANGE
A FANTASY OF CROSS-GENDER by Sarah Wood

Charles Merchant, a life-long transvestite, awakes in strange circumstances — in the body of his attractive personal assistant, Jenny Page . . . and from there, Sarah weaves an intriguing and well-written story, beautifully illustrated with drawings by the talented Emma.

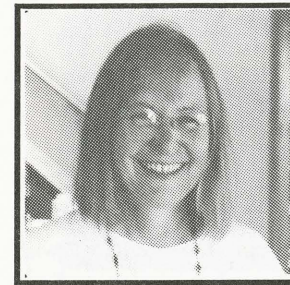
MANDY'S ROBERT to MANDY ROBERTS
CROSS-DRESSED — PERMANENTLY? . . . by Sarah Wood

Involving in investigative journalism, Robert — masquerading as Mandy — finds that circumstances make it impossible for him to revert to his male self. With mixed feelings, he faces the dilemma of having to live the rest of his life in the female role. Another absorbing story by Sarah Wood, illustrated by Emma.

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T NOTES

TRANSITION IS JOB ONE

by Anne Vitale, Ph.D.

Excuse my flagrant rip-off of Ford Motor Company's well known advertising slogan, but it seems apropos for a lead in to this month's theme: Transition and the need to continue earning a living.

Everyone facing the prospect of transitioning speaks of two overwhelming concerns; What will transition do to my

"As you may have already guessed, there is a right way and a wrong way to transition on the job."

family? And will I ever be able to earn a good living again? Last month's column pretty well spoke to the family matter. This month I will concentrate on the career aspects of transitioning. Although it can be a difficult procedure for some -- it depends on the job -- by and large, most people do it very successfully.

Basically you have two choices. You can either quit your old job and start over again -- stealth like -- in a new job or bite the bullet and announce your change of sex in the current position. Both choices are very scary. If you try to move to a new position in a new sex, you are faced with having to provide a significant work history and several all important personal references. There are other concerns as well. Will anyone grant you an interview or want you on the staff given the incompleteness of your transition? Can you work hard and still be convincing even though you have a hard enough time just going to the grocery store? Even if you are fully accepted as a member of your new presenting sex, will you have to deal with sexism or being considered irrelevant? Will you have to take a cut in pay? These, and other concerns, are very real.

After a list of concerns like that you might find it easier to consider changing on the job. After all, the scary part is confined to the announcement and the first couple of days on the job in your new gender role. If your employer allows the transition, your income will probably remain the same and you won't need a foolproof presentation. Being the company's resident transsexual certainly has its downside but at least you don't have to worry about being "discovered". In some parts of the country such as the city of San Francisco, anti-discrimination laws may even protect

you from losing your job. Besides, even if your employer should decide to let you go, you still have the choice of trying to get a position elsewhere.

Given this long list of hard facts and short list of choices, I routinely suggest to my clients that they transition on the job. I also suggest that unless they are counting on their

insurance (good luck!) to pay for their surgery, they continue working at that location for six to nine months in order to gain confidence and presentation skills (which because co-workers will make special allowances and have limited gender role expectations, will come away from the work setting) prior to

moving to a new job where nobody knows of their history. As you may have already guessed, there is a right way and a wrong way to transition on the job. A lot of how you break the news depends on the job. Civil Service jobs are among the easiest to retain but they do require comprehensive documentation from the therapist and all physicians involved. Jobs with a security clearance have become surprisingly easy to retain but they will most certainly require a written release from you allowing a Security Clearance Officer to interview your therapist to confirm your psychological stability. This is usually a short interview and should present little or no difficulty if your transition has been well paced and all is in order. Other than psychological stability, the primary concern is your vulnerability to being blackmailed. Fortunately, the fact that you have changed openly on the job effectively neutralizes that concern. General workforce jobs are less secure to retain but that is improving as the number of people transitioning on the job have helped Human Resource Departments learn how to handle the nitty gritty logistics of the process.

Here is how I have seen it done successfully:
Rule One: Do your homework. Management must know from the very beginning that you are serious about this and that you didn't decide yesterday that you want to change your sex because it might be a neat thing to try. Be prepared to present a well written and thorough report stating exactly what your intentions are and a detailed time table for implementation. Along with specific dates, your report should include an introduction containing a brief history of how the problem has confounded your life


and your intentions for resolving it. Try to be as specific as possible about what physical changes they might expect to see and reassure them that you are handling all the legal constraints such as name change on bank accounts and Social Security registration. A good report will include a list of the professionals you are working with along with contact and confidentiality release information, a bibliography of current literature. (You might even include an actual copy of the *Employer's Guide to Gender Transition* by Dana Cole, available through IFGE, for their immediate review.) Include photocopies of official documentation such as your new driver's license, Department of Motor Vehicle Change of Gender Form (if your state has one), passing letters and perhaps even a copy of the HBIGDA Standards of Care. Some people

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include photocopies of hormone prescriptions and therapist's receipts. To give your employer some idea of what to expect visually, it is also a good idea to include a conservative photograph of yourself crossdressed in a businesslike social situation.

Rule Two: Start your disclosure with your Human Relations Manager. If you don't have an HR Department, go directly to upper level management. Do not start with your supervisor or co-workers. Most large corporations have at least some experience at handling this situation by now and it is best if you keep those who have the most say over your continued employment in charge of telling the others. This method ensures that the information management hears is accurate and loaded toward your side of the issue. Besides, managers don't like getting significant information about their employees through rumor and innuendo.

Rule Three: Don't be dogmatic. Be ready to give in a little here and there at the beginning. Which bathroom you will be using is a common first order of concern. If you are asked to use a neutral bathroom on the next floor as a prerequisite to acceptance, do so. Eventually as everyone gets used to seeing and working with you, you can slowly begin to take normal privileges. The point here is to be low key.

Rule Four: Follow through. If you said that you would be going full time on a specific date, do it on that day. If you have a job where the women wear skirts or dresses regularly and you wish to do the same, then wear a skirt or a dress on the first day. You might as well take advantage of everyone's expectations and curiosity in one fell swoop. It may be hard at first but get down to work and try to appear productive as soon as possible. Correct people politely when they use your old name and the wrong pronouns. If you have trouble with an individual co-worker, try to handle it privately by quietly confronting the individual over a cup of coffee. If that doesn't work, then make a report to management stating the nature of the complaint and your attempts to resolve the issue.

Resolving one's sex/gender incongruity in a permanent and public manner is fast becoming a common event in the workplace. As more and more of us quietly insist on our rights and hold our own with our heads held high, we are slowly turning transition -- at least in the work place -- into a non-issue. For all of you who will be facing this event in your life, I wish you all good luck and a quick acceptance.

[Copyright 1995 by Anne Vitale, Ph.D. Dr. Vitale is a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues, and associate of the D Street Counseling Group, 610 D Street, San Rafael CA 94901. She may be contacted at the above address, by telephone at (415) 456-4452, or by e-mail to annev@eworld.com. 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.]

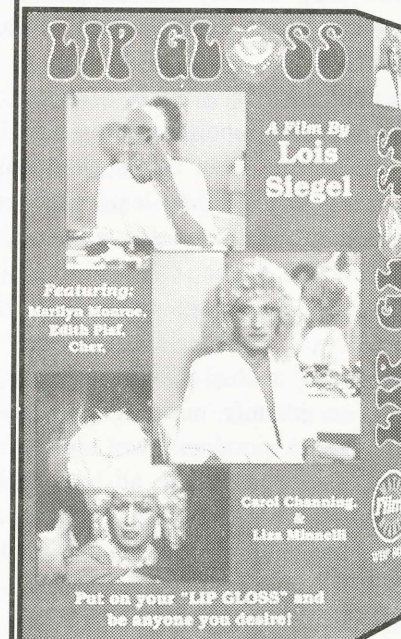
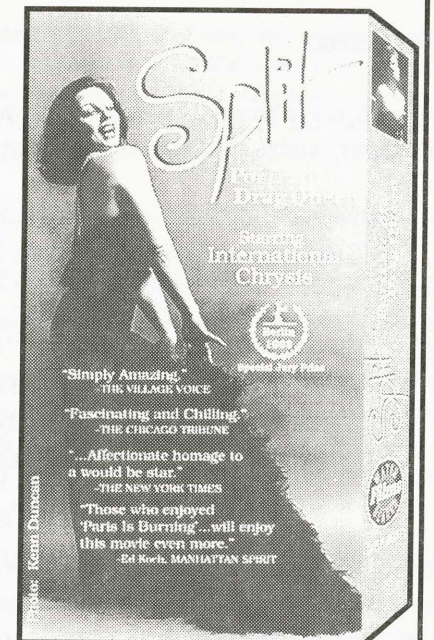
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WOMAN TO WOMAN

LOSING OURSELVES ... AND EACH OTHER

by Linda Peacock

Anyone who reads things that I write knows my penchant for sad country songs, and how they influence what I think and write.

There's a powerful new song out entitled *You Don't Even Know Who I Am* in which the wife leaves the house, with the laundry on the floor, and her ring on the pillow, and

laments to her absent husband: *You don't even know who I am, you left me a long time ago; so what do you care if I go?*

The husband gets home, finds the laundry on the floor, the ring on the pillow, the kids are at grandma's, and he calls up the wife, planning to apologize. However, he can't think of anything he has done wrong. He tells her that: *I go to work in the morning and come home to you at night. I've been doing some thinking, and you are probably right; because you don't even know who I am, you left me a long time ago; so what do I care if you go ...*

Wow, this is a sad one. Actually, if you transfer the words of this song to real life, it is a tragic song, for unfortunately, in many relationships, the couple has lost each other, even though they continue to live together.

In our transgendered world, I think we often see people who start out in a relationship without knowing who each other are. Despite entreaties by therapists and therapeutic books, we have a tendency to hide a part of us from our partner. We fear rejection, loss of self, loss of the relationship.

The obvious example of this is the transgendered man, who is so frightened of revealing his femme self. He has closeted himself for years, feeling different from others, feeling guilty for being different, frightened of exposure, and thus, censure, from family, friends, associates. When he finally meets the woman he chooses as his partner, he may find the fear even more obsessive, so he strives to be what she wants in a man, and he hides the real person deep inside of him.

We women, too, hide our real selves inside. For too long, women have been raised to be what a man wants and

expects them to be. Our nurturing attributes -- which do seem to be inbred, or perhaps emphasized so intensely by parents and society -- are a symbol of what history has made a woman. We are expected to be caregivers, subservient to the men in our lives, who are considered stronger, and (unfortunately and untruthfully) smarter than women. We are the ones who "create" the home atmosphere, we bear the children and we care for them. Our "weaknesses" are thought to be attractive by virile men, and we hide our strengths, sometimes unconsciously, sometimes on purpose. Society has said that women need to be dependent on men, and it's

hard to break old molds.

So far too often in our community two people come together and don't even know who they are. If they can't admit to themselves who they actually are as persons, facing the inner self who lives inside, how can they reveal this person to their partner?

Which brings me to the point I strive so hard to make to anyone who will listen: It is vitally important that we each face ourselves, honestly explore the inner self, set the fear aside and accept who we are. We need to learn that we can like ourselves, that maybe we are okay, after all. And if there are parts of us we don't like, perhaps the selfish part, for example, we need to be strong enough to change that part for the better.

We need to give ourselves a major dose of self-esteem and self-acceptance. We need to identify our strengths and weaknesses, nurture the innate goodness we are born with. I can't cotton to the idea that we are all born with original sin, somehow unclean. If you've ever held a newborn child, you are holding perfection in your arms. If there is evil in that child's life, I think it comes from outside influences, which destroy the perfect inner being and infiltrate its soul.

If we learn to love and accept ourselves, how much easier it would be to love and accept one another. If we don't know ourselves, hide part of who we are away, we are not being truthful with our partner, nor are we being fair to him or her. And we are unfair to ourselves.

Perhaps, in the beginning, we are more in lust than love. The other person seems so perfect to us -- everything we've ever wanted in a partner. We strive to be the person that

he or she would love, and we are so grateful when they express that love for us. We live in a dream world of unreality, but a world filled with powerful emotions. Reality sets in when the intense passion begins to die down to a more manageable state. We begin to notice little things about our partner that we didn't see before through the haze of new love. They may irritate us. We see that they aren't perfect anymore. Just as the perfection of a newborn child is changed, so is our vision of the perfection of our new partner. We see things in them that we didn't see before, perhaps something we don't like. I can well recall the realization, after about six months of marriage to Jacque, that I was sick and tired of "Jacque" and I wanted my male husband back. I was tired of the endless primping, the isolation of having to shut out the world when Jacque was there, and foremost, I was tired of Jacque coming to bed. I wanted a man -- the man I had fallen in love with. I didn't really care if Jacque was there, as long as "she" didn't dominate our lives, which, for the first year or so, she seemed to do. I look back now and see that my allowing his femme self to be freely expressed created the false impression that she would dominate our lives and always free to be expressed. Neither of us had a concept of give and take, of setting boundaries or negotiating. We floundered through his desire to go overboard, and my desire to have a man around the house and in my bed. I have to say, that for us both, some of the fairy dust of early love disappeared.

And, I think, that is good. It allowed us to recognize that each of us needs personal space. You cannot live your life attached to the hip of your partner. You have to grow personally, internally, express who you are to yourself first, then the world.

Over the last twenty-odd years, the women's movement has given us women a sense of self, of individualism, the chance to break out of society's false mode, and learn who we are, as women and as persons. So too must the transgendered man break out and express who he is. He can't help what he feels ... feelings are real and true. How can I say to you that what you may feel is wrong?

To you, it is very real! And the feelings of our transgendered partners are real. We women need to come to an understanding about this, and realize there has to be give and take. We each have individual limitations, the boundaries you hear about, but we have to be fair to our partners, too.

If we feel free to express who we are as women and persons, if we learn to know ourselves, and reach this point in our lives, then I believe we have an obligation to our partner to let him be who he really is inside. His "natural" state, his being, is transgendered, and he cannot change who he is, or how he was born. Think of him as that perfect, newborn child ... and that he was created that way. You cannot ask him to deny who he really is, for you force him to deny his inner self, thrusting him back into a

closet of pain, darkness, fear and guilt. Ask yourself if you would want that done to you.

If you can't know all of him, you don't know him at all. And by denying that part of him, you close a door to you, setting up a wall around your heart, and closeting yourself, as well as him. You create a barrier to the true intimacy of knowing who each of you are, of creating a special and lasting partnership.

[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, by e-mail to kmhj27a@prodigy.com or by phone at (501) 227-8798.]



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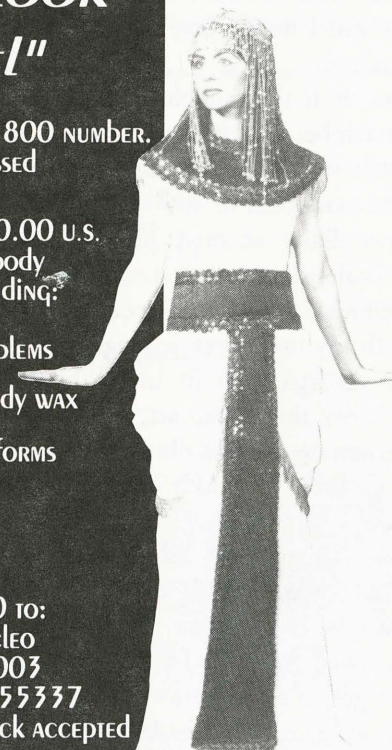
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WHY?

by Linda Jill

A gorgeous 22-year-old woman at beauty school recently asked me: "Why would a guy want to dress up like a woman?" I said something like: "Because while a guy grows up, he gets ridiculed and beaten up for exhibiting what society has defined as feminine traits, emotional sensitivity, caring about other peoples feelings, crying, liking colors other than blue, brown, gray and army green, etc. A boy is forced to filter all of his expressions and attitudes before they reach the surface, and to repress what society has indicated will not be accepted.

"Not only is his natural self largely rejected with this, some more than others but the repressed parts will eventually re-emerge on their own, in distorted non-coherent ways, possibly outside of his ability to control, and will step on his feelings about his self-image and bring on feedback that will step on his self-esteem. As his confidence diminishes, he reminds people around him, on a subconscious level, of their own insecurities with themselves. So it may well be that he is trying to heal himself from a life of emotional turmoil, in the hopes that he will become spiritually healthy again, enough to function well, and live well enough for life to be worth it." The 22-year-old had a look of amazement on her face as she said, "That makes sense! How do you know that?" I said, "I am one."

Ooops! I meant only to say I'm a guy, not a Transgender Explorer.

But, is it that simple? Maybe not. As far back as I can remember, I felt that I should have been born a girl. I guess we can't always help how we feel. I was too sensitive and emotional to appreciate being a guy. Everything about masculinity seemed abusive, cold, narrow-minded and ridiculously egotistical, and was a total turnoff for me. Femininity was deeply enchanting to me, being coherent with my innermost feelings on a continuous basis. I grew up struggling to fit in to the male world, struggling to contrive the macho act, to minimize how often I would get beaten up emotionally and/or physically.

I escaped the macho scene to large degree with solitary hobbies such as electronic engineering, photography and music. I grew up a total "nerd nobody" until tenth grade when people saw me play Eric Clapton-style soulful melodic blues guitar. Then suddenly I was this "ever-cool" guy who got invited to all kinds of fancy parties, got hit on by gorgeous girls, and so on. With all the pain I'd felt growing up with gender dysphoria, why wasn't I surprised that I was good at playing the blues? (Although, with my relatively feminine features, long straight thin blond hair and big blue eyes, I did not exactly look the part or have

the sultry voice of the classic bluesman ... I felt more like the bluesman's girlfriend or backsinger.)

I looked to the other popular guys on how to interact with the girls that were coming on to me. I got to experience sex quite a bit, when we all got stoned and drunk. I sexually abused the girls in a contrived confident and

Adapting Carl Jung's philosophies of the *anima* and the *animus* to our transgendered nature.

macho way, but not too rough. I guess a lot of women feel that sex is one of their only tools for getting what they want in life. So it's been a commodity for them, instead of a spiritual sharing and bonding experience.

Back there in high school, when women would get to know me as the person I was inside, without the drugs, their passion for me would usually deflate in a matter of seconds. I never understood that; although I was rather insecure, I was very sensitive and caring of their feelings. I heard them saying that they wanted that in a guy, but I never felt appreciated for long when I displayed that feeling. Now that I have 38 years worth of wisdom, I feel that the reason they reacted to the way I was, is a combination of the following: 1. They were uncomfortable being subconsciously reminded of their own insecurities and feelings of vulnerability, by seeing it in me. 2. The way peer pressure was, they needed to be able to brag about me to their insecure invalidating girl friends, and 3. Carl Jung's concept of the *anima* and the *animus*. I just read Jung for the first time, and it makes a lot of sense to me. It appears to suggest that women are trying to find a man that will fill in their missing or repressed male part, and a man is trying to find a female that will fill in his missing or repressed female part. It's as if a certain amount of gender dysphoria is intended, by nature, to encourage mating and thereby survival of our species. Could this mean I'm actually fairly normal?

I found an old copy of the Outreach Institute *Journal of Gender Studies* on the floor of an abandoned apartment. It doesn't even have a table of contents, but it appears to be some of the best writings on gender I've ever seen. I haven't read it all yet, but the article in the front by Jayne Thomas, Ph.D., explored this, among other things, and really rang the bell for me.

Apparently Carl Jung had suggested that we might have been born bisexual or androgynous in the sense that we had the ability to develop completely a male personality and/or a female personality. But it didn't happen "because of those damn blue and pink blankets." You got a message very early on that if you are a little boy, then it's not cool to exhibit that "sissy" or feminine behavior, so you stifled it. Baby girls, on the other hand, were shown extreme appreciation and bonding love when they would display what society has defined as feminine.

Jung goes on to say that later in life, in order to become a "complete" person, you have to go back and reclaim and reown all those parts of your personality that you were taught to dissipate through forced repression. I believe that this forced repression comes out later, on its own, as incoherent dysfunction, especially in the spontaneity of your personality. Jung titles this female part of the genetic male personality the *anima*, and the male part of the genetic female personality the *animus*.

He states that most people are able to get back in touch with their *anima* -- or in the case of a genetic female, her *animus* -- and reclaim it and integrate it back into their personality through traditional ways, such as in your job, hobbies or in a relationship. The person you fall in love with may reflect back to you the projection of the other part of your personality ... your *anima* or *animus*. They fill in the missing part of your personality. Ding!

Jung further suggests that because of social conditioning, it can be so difficult and necessary for the transvestite to be able to access that other part of their personality that they will put on a "costume" that says "Now I can be that way." They have to do something different to be able to reach that part of themselves that they have as a total (whole) human being. Others may have to live as a TV or TS, so that society treats them in a way that is more congruent with the way in which they process information.

Dr. Thomas, extending on this theory, suggests that "the way in which you get in touch with your *animus* is to become your *anima*." If I understand this properly, she is saying that for a genetic male to get in touch with his male self, and learn on a feeling level to appreciate it, he might need in some cases to get a sex change, and become his female self.

She goes on to suggest that a TS will probably need to go through what will amount to an adolescence, since that is where people define themselves. When I was living as Jill around my genetic lady friend Gayle, she said I reminded her of an annoying time in her life when she was young and hated all the immature, invalidating, self-absorbed girls she had to deal with.

When I'm dressed as a woman, in my woman mode, people have told me I'm a totally different person. I tell them I must be because I'm not afraid of being my whole and spontaneous self when dressed this way in the right place with the right friends ... a self that I love. One that

feels so natural I forget what gender I am. It works for me. Also, I have a lifetime of repression come flying out, when I let it, as my spiritual self goes after equilibrium. Most of my friends and acquaintances have told me that they like me better as a woman than as a man. It's got to be because I'm so much happier and whole in my woman self ... spiritually healthier. I've got more energy. I've gotten outside of my incoherent, invalidating and intimidating male self, and am actualizing my female self by spontaneously living it, and channelling the perspective into my dysfunctional male personality. Although I am new at this, I believe it to be helping. The more I live as a woman, the more I love it, life in general, and myself. The more good that comes out in me. The more my spiritual self soars. At the same time, it seems to become less important which physical sex I am.

When I love who I am, I love life, I become a woman in a Maxfield Parish painting. I become a person I dream about having as a friend. But then if Carl Jung's theory is right, my *anima* (female) self should be a dream to me, shouldn't it?


Maybe I should have titled this article "The Importance of Finding the Right Woman/Lover/Mate/Companion/Friend." I wonder what actually happened when Narcissus, the apparently beautiful male youth in Greek mythology, fell in love with his own reflection and got turned into a flower. Maybe we all get reincarnated as something non-human when we die, and return to this planet as that, based on our chosen values and such.

The ultimate Karma ...

[Linda Jill is a member of Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland OR, whose newsletter originally published this article.]

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HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

"A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, co-operate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, and die gallantly. Specialization is for insects."

-- Robert Heinlein as Lazarus Long



In one frozen moment of time, we were shown the depths and extremes of human actions ... Oklahoma City. I've developed a close friendship with Vanessa Kaye of COTA and the instant I heard of the explosion, I thought of her and her family. Were they okay? I tried to call, but no calls were getting through. I posted e-mail to the net and waited. Finally, a day later, she replied. She and her family were alright, but close friends did not fare as well. She was devastated. She said the entire city was in shock. A few days later, the anger set in. Vanessa's natural sense of humor had vanished as the bodies were being pulled from the rubble of the building. We talked of many things that week. Slowly, she seemed to return to her former self, but she and I both know she'll never be the same. I'm glad I was able to be there for her, to give Vanessa a place to unload.



So, let's get on to something that's lighter. I reported late last year on the MC Film Festival Catalog with an impressive assortment of videos, many which feature transgender or crossdressing themes. Mark & Carrie (the "M" and "C" in "MC") have announced the grand opening of a retail location at 117 So. Hyde Park Ave., in Tampa, Florida. But, you can still get their main catalog with over 1200 titles for just \$5.00 (which is credited toward your first order). Call 1-800-445-7134 and get the catalog. Tell 'em the CyberQueen of Prussia sent you. Oh, by the way, *Priscilla* is now available on video.



My WWW site is going like gangbusters. According to my service provider, within two days of "opening", the www.cdspub.com site was generating the most traffic on their system. If you haven't visited yet, come on over. I've got new links to lots of really great stuff. For example, I found the Clinique Home Page at www.univbkstr.com/clinique, and a supermodel page at www.supermodel.com. One source says the Web is growing at 10% a month.



The fashion industry has fallen on hard times. Clothing sales that normally zoom up around the Easter holidays were stagnant. Retailers are crying the blues. It's no wonder since the fashion scene is nothing if not chaotic. Hemlines are up, then down, then at the knee, then above the knee, then mid-calf. Here's an example. The May issue of *Harper's Bazaar* had a photo of a woman in a '40s retro suit next to a photo of a woman in a man-tailored suit. What is a woman to do? Women have responded by doing literally nothing, i.e., they're not buying. That will mean lots of bargains later in the season as retailers try to clear out unsold stock.



Summer officially arrives this month and all you beach-babes will want a nice tan, but we now all know the dangers of too much sun. So, every cosmetic company has a "sunless" tanning lotion or spray. Try Neutrogena's Deep Glow.



If you'd like to be a beach-bunny but wonder if you've got the figure to pull it off, try a Miraclesuit bathing suit. These "supersuits" have additional Lycra or Spandex to hold you in the right places. The Miraclesuit claims to make you look ten pounds lighter in ten seconds.



Metallic cosmetics are making a comeback. (Hey, do this long enough and everything comes back, eventually!) Maybelline has its new Expert Eyes collection of metallic shadows, while Estee Lauder is touting their Soft Metals line of sheer summery lipsticks.



If you were a professional makeup artist working one of the Fall shows, chances are you received a twenty pound box of cosmetics, courtesy of Estee Lauder. Cool!



The return to retro-femininity is a boon for crossdressers, but it sure pisses off the neo-feminists. Hobble skirts and stilettos are repressive they say. Most CDs would reply, "Hell ... that ain't repressive. That's sexy!" Different strokes for different folks, I say. If a CD wants to dress repressively, let 'em. Help! I've fallen and I can't get up. Tough! On the other hand, it can't be just crossdressers buying the Miracle Bra, so some women do buy into the new femininity.



Go figure: according to a recent survey of women ages 12 to 65, the majority wear makeup to alter or hide their natural appearance in order to look natural. And they say transvestites are mixed up!



Despite all claims that the "waif" look is over, fashion models are still painfully thin. Even RuPaul is "thin" compared to most drag queens. When are we ever going to see real people in ads?



Factoids -- Women apply lipstick an average of 16 times a week (I know some TVs who do that in one night). Percentage of women who: Use blush: 40 ... Wear false eyelashes: 3 ... Apply lipstick at the table: 17 ... Shave daily in the summer: 29 ... Read in the bathroom: 67.



Be careful out there girls. I literally just got off the phone with a crossdresser who was recently beaten in what seemed to be a case of fag-bashing. Where? Believe it or not, Southern California. Reports of TVs getting beat up are rare, but it does happen.



Makeovers by mail have been around for a while, but two fancy New York salons have joined the market recently. It works like this: you call a toll-free number and they send you a questionnaire. You fill that out and return it with a recent photo and your credit card number. A few days later, you get a makeup application chart and other goodies depending on the company. Trish McEvoy (1-800-431-4306) charges \$200 but you get a complete set of makeup products and brushes along with your personal

chart. Laura Geller (1-800-MAKEUP-4-U), charges \$35 and sends you color swatches that you can take shopping with you to local cosmetic counters.



Let's take an informal poll here. There is a new Bud Light beer commercial with those macho guys trying to horn in on a ladies volleyball tournament. The guys look really silly in women's bathing suits and bikinis. At the end of the commercial, one guy gets hit in the lower abdomen with the volleyball and collapses to the sand. The closing shot shows the opposing women standing over the fallen v-baller wondering, "What's wrong with her?" I happen to think it's funny. Some TG activists don't. What do you think? Let us know here at **Cross-Talk**.



Guerilla Girl Pop Quiz: If February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month, what happens the rest of the year? A: Discrimination.

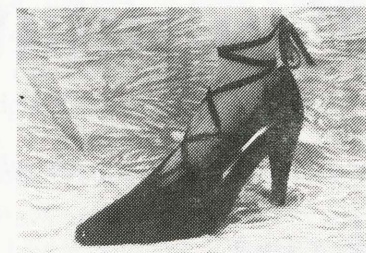
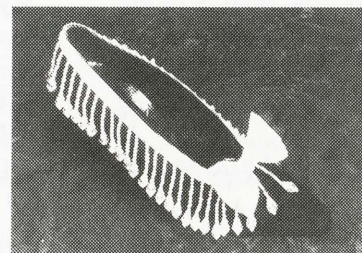







Wondering what to wear for the summer season? Just like a blue blazer and grey slacks for the rest of the year, anything that's navy blue and white is cool for summer. Polka dots are way cool, too.

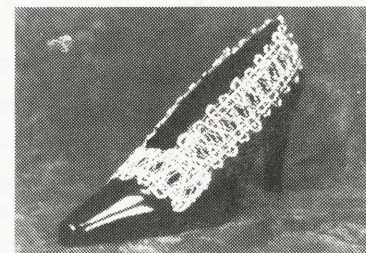


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I talked about nail color layering before. Here's a primer on what your basic nail color kit should look like: A rich gold or silver to give dark colors translucence ... a sheer beige or ivory to soften dark colors and make a French manicure more subtle ... a bold red as the basis for almost



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any layering job ... a bluish pink if you have olive or yellow-toned skin.



I've often said that *Allure* is my fave magazine, but coming up fast is *marie claire*, a magazine transplanted from Europe to the U.S. It's just a tad more hip than *Allure*. Look for it on the stands.



The color for the Fall season is scarlet, not just red but red red. Go head to toe or wear red with black, a classic mix.



Don't forget ... the emphasis next season is on the waist; smaller waists, that is. I expect to see a jump in corset and waist cincher sales accordingly.



Need a new coat? You can't go wrong with a classic trench coat. The latest versions are spiffed up with interesting fabrics and patterns. You'll find everything from glen plaid in worsted wool to snakeskin vinyl.



Heavy eyeliner is making a comeback too. For round eyes: Elongate the eye by lining only the outer three-quarters of the top lid only. Keep line thickness even all the way across ... For almond eyes: Do the same as for Round eyes, but start the line thin at the inside and thicken as you get to the outer corner ... For heavy lidded eyes: Apply liner on both top and bottom lids and make the line thick.



Big changes at IFGE: Vivian Allen, editor of *TV-TS Tapestry*, IFGE's "flagship" periodical, resigned in late April. IFGE staff are conducting a search for a new editor as I write this. They better hurry. There's an issue due out this month. There was talk in February at the L.A. Congress about another resignation from IFGE's staff, but maybe the gossip mongers were just confused. Not a rumor, but definitely in the well-kept secret category, is a plan by some IFGE board members to get out of the white elephant building it's in now. That just might save IFGE from ruin. Of course, there are those opposed to any move.



Some insiders at IFGE didn't like my quip about their financial problems not being over by a long shot. Since I didn't mention any names, only I know about whom I was speaking. But, if the shoe fits ... Perhaps there are some guilt feelings welling up there. Guilt is good.



So, those are my opinions. But, hey, what do I know? I could be filing for bankruptcy next month. Comments? E-mail them to cyberqueen@cdspub.com. Copyright 1995 by Creative Design Services. All rights reserved.

PASSING THE TEST

by Donna Baker

This is the second part of an article addressed to those who consider themselves TVs, and who want to pass in public as women.

For the basic premise, consult last month's issue. Each test's title may be read, "A woman has ____" or, "A woman has ____ than a man."

III. BODY: Up close, the face carries the primary clues, but from a distance, it's the body. And everyone sees you from a distance before they see you up close. You don't want to tip them off before you have to.

A. Wider hips: I personally feel that the single biggest giveaway after a beard and an ill-fitting wig is the fact that women's hips are proportionately much larger than men's. For two people with roughly the same height and weight, the woman's hips and buttocks are essentially always bigger around than the man's. It is very common for a TV to wear a size 18 blouse and size 12 or 14 jeans. Women just aren't built that way, ladies! And watch the dress hemlines. A TV's skirt frequently hangs lower at the back than at the front, because she lacks the bum to hold it up.

You absolutely must make or buy hip pads if you want to pass. For smaller gals, there are hip pads available from TV shops and Frederick's. I haven't seen any that really do the job for larger girls, though I haven't been in the market for a while. I made my own from two or three layers (to suit the occasion) of one-inch thick foam. I even made a sort of a pillowcase from nylon tricot to hold them. Talk to the girls who have padded their hips and make the right choice for yourself.

Now, I am the first to agree that the silky slither of a slip over my tush is one of the "primo" sensations that we experience. And the eroticism of that miniskirt stretched tightly over my bum is superbly arousing. But we're talking about passing, not about sex. Pad them hips, or get "read" a mile away.

B. Narrower shoulders: This was a much bigger pain twenty years ago, when shoulders were natural. Nowadays, you can't buy a woman's dress or top without shoulder pads. Replace the original pads with thinner ones. You can get them at any fabric or department store. I can't make any sweeping statements as to whether puffy sleeves and shoulder accents emphasize or hide your wide shoulders. I think it depends on the outfit and the wearer, and you must examine each one to see whether it makes you look like a linebacker or not.

C. Bigger breasts: At last, one of our favorite subjects! Silicone breast forms work best, but are expensive. Water balloons look fishy and are apt to burst. I used to use a

double baggie full of water, but suffered an occasional accident. A double baggie full of rice or birdseed looks great, has a nice heft, and is safe.

This is going to hurt, but it must be said ... **make them smaller.** I know that big boobs are a turn-on, but we're trying to pass, not stimulate. Your chest is already

The second half of a test to evaluate your "real world" passability.

disproportionately big around compared to a woman with the same height. Big "gazongas" just make it worse. Never go above a C cup, and a B cup is better.

There is another trick that is worth noting. If I'm wearing a top that does not fit closely to my neck, I run three or four strips of surgical tape (plastic adhesive tape) across my chest after shaving it, stretching it from armpit to armpit. With my corset laced up and my breast forms in place, it pulls my "titties" together to make a nice little cleavage. It's short and not very deep, but it makes a big difference. A perfectly flat chest showing between your lapels just doesn't look right above those pretty breasts.

Another important tip: If you have plastic or silicone directly against your chest, you will get a big wet spot under each breast from the perspiration. (Oops! Horses sweat. Men perspire. Ladies glisten.) Cut an eyeglass shaped pad or a couple of circles from an old tee shirt. Put them behind the plastic bag or uncovered breast form to prevent this problem.

D. Less body hair: I guess I'm lucky, in a way. I have so few chest hairs I name each one, and miss them when they fall away. For other TVs, chest hair is a real problem. It not only can peek between your lapels, the color and texture of the hair shows through almost any woman's blouse. Nothing to do, here, but shave it or wear something heavy enough to hide it.

Another problem is arm hair. You can find bleaching solutions at the drugstore aimed at lightening the body hair of women in the same situation. They are a help, but some of us have so much hair that it still looks bad. I generally shave the backs of my fingers and hands up over my wrists, and wear opaque long-sleeved blouses. Were my arm hair darker, I would have to bleach it, because it would show through most blouses.

There are many ways to remove the hair from your legs and feet. Nair works for some people, though it smells awful. You can get electrolysis if you are both rich and numb from the waist down. Some people like those hair plucker machines, either the rubber rope type or the steel spring type, but others say they hurt too much. You can go to a salon and get hot waxed. (Ouch!) Shaving is what the vast majority of American women do.

If shaving your legs is not possible in your personal situation, you might try shaving just from the ankle down, and wearing pants. The other alternative is to pick up some shimmery nude opaque tights at the department or hosiery store (I get mine at Parklane), and wear your stockings over the tights. That works pretty well for nighttime use, and if your leg hair isn't too vigorous, it's adequate in the daylight.

I will caution you on one thing I learned the hard way. Men's thighs tend to be slightly closer together than women's, especially if you're overweight. If your thighs brush each other when you walk -- especially if you like to wear stockings and a garter belt --, then you'll have hell to pay a few days after shaving the area where they rub. Unless you're wearing some awfully short skirts and have time to cut the stubble every couple of days, you might leave that spot unshaven.

The rest of your body hair is none of my business.

E. More slender neck: We're all familiar with the image of football players whose heads seem to grow directly from their shoulders. Men's necks are proportionately thicker, and are almost the same width as the head where they meet the skull.

You can distract attention from your neck by wearing blouses that show some cleavage (see "C. Bigger breasts", above). A jacket with a deep V over a blouse really does wonders. It's always been my dream to wear a high lace collar and choker like Audrey Hepburn. I have yet to see the TV who can get away with that style, and I've seen a lot of them.

F. A smaller frame: If you're big, you're big, and that's all there is to it. There are big women; they're just not as common as little ones. If you're big, you're bound to get a little extra attention, and so must be even more careful on all the other tests. Gals shaped like basketball players have a tough time finding clothes in tall sizes. Gals shaped like basketballs actually can pass well. I mention "A. Wider hips" again, here. Chubby gals frequently have monumental derrieres. Too much is more passable than too little if you're big.

G. More slender hands: This is one that women often notice. Long nails are your best bet to lengthen those fingers. Assuming you don't want one-inch claws in your male guise, you'll want press-ons or glue-ons.

Personally, I find Lee press-on very satisfactory, but only when used with two stickers each. Lee nails are large enough for my fingers. Many TVs swear nails fastened

with super glue. Others (like me) have a problem with them popping off and quite literally flying across the room. Try the tabs first, as they are easy to reposition if you goof. Then, if the glue-ons work for you, use them. They are much more secure for many gals.

H. Better defined waist: Women, even really chubby ones, generally have very well defined waists. They have a narrow ring where their pants ride. Your best bet is to get a strong boned lace-up corset. Failing that, get the strongest waist cincher you can find. Alternatively, buy a dress with a loose or covered waist, which is what women with too-large waists buy.

The key is to **not** wear something that is supposed to show off your waist. A simple skirt and blouse, with an unreduced waist and unpadded hips, looks frightfully masculine on a man! A woman's skirt, even one in large women's sizes (like 18W), is built to fit a body whose waist is 15%-25% smaller than the hips. Your eyes have come to expect those proportions on a woman. Don't disappoint them. Wear a jacket, wear a dress with a shape that hides the waist, or wear an oversized top that covers your fanny and waist, both. Or, get a corset. And pad your hips, in any event.

I. Shaplier legs: Most men have a knot of muscles in the back of the calf that makes a sharp corner right where women have a soft curve. There are a couple of things you can do about this. Most obviously, you can wear pants. I know, I know, that's no fun. But look around you, girls. Most women wear pants, not skirts, nowadays.

Now, if you don't have a problem with your height in heels,

and heels are appropriate for the occasion, high heels do improve the shape of a man's legs, as well as a woman's. Don't forget the value of a long skirt, either. They can be very attractive.

J. Less odor: Again with the giggles! Cut that out! I mention this, though, because men **do** smell different than women. I believe it's mostly because men perspire more than women, especially their feet. TVs are also usually wearing more foundation garments than their genetic prototypes. So, take a nice bath just before dressing, use plenty of antiperspirant (not just deodorant), and use some foot powder, as well. A touch of perfume or *eau de cologne* is both fun and functional.

IV. CARRIAGE: There are so many differences between the way woman and men move! Here are a few of the most important.

A. A different walk: This is another subject for a whole book. In short, a man's power is in his shoulders, and a woman's power is in her hips. Stop using your shoulders to counteract the torque of your steps. Lead with your hips, not your shoulders. Let your upper body follow your lower body around the room. And when wearing heels, put your heel down before the toe.

There is no substitute for watching yourself walk and correcting your own mistakes, even if you get coaching from someone else. A full-length mirror that you can walk towards for the length of a room helps a lot. Mirrors you can walk beside are great, too. And a video camera is wonderful! You'll learn much more from seeing yourself

than from reading my words, and even more if you get some coaching.

B. Practice on high heels: High heels are really a turn-on, but there are limits! I have a pair of five-inch heels that are to die for, but I would never wear them when I'm trying to pass. We've all seen women -- usually either teenagers or whores -- wearing heels that were too tall for them to walk in gracefully. Given our built-in disadvantages, we don't want to make things worse. Look in the mirror and the video monitor, and pick the heels that **walk** the best, not the heels that **look** the best.

C. More graceful actions: I've seen a really good TV, one who looks, walks, and even talks remarkably well, spoil the magic just by reaching for a napkin. You really need to work practice your actions, not just your walking, in front of a mirror or video camera. Especially work on things you're going to be doing in public. Try getting your wallet from your purse, getting your money from your wallet, cutting your meat, drinking your wine, sitting down, standing up, and so on. Observe, correct, and practice!

It's the little things that trip you up. You bump your breasts against the car door when opening it. Your nails make it hard to unclasp your pocketbook. You have to pour the change into your hand, because you can't reach in an pick out pennies with those nails on. Your nails get caught in the steering wheel when you turn a corner. You have to watch for floor grates that will catch your heels. You leave the keys in the ignition because you're not used to putting them into a purse. And on and on and on. Observe, correct, and practice!

V. VOICE: For many of us, the voice is the most difficult single trait to alter. You can't pad it, and if you use it, you can't hide it. It's hard even to pretend to have a cold, because a fake sneeze isn't any easier to do than a woman's voice. The simplest solution, and the one I've most often used, is to speak absolutely as little as possible. Every time I've been "read" in public, it's because I had to speak too much. I've learned a lot, and do much better now, but I still worry.


The biggest key to training your voice is to use a tape recorder. My hobby is singing, and I've learned quite a bit about the voice. The fact is, your voice doesn't sound at all like you think it does. You are hearing your voice primarily as it is transmitted through the bones of your head, rather than hearing it as it is carried through the air to your ears. Your voice sounds very, very different to you than it does to everyone else. Using a tape recorder allows you to hear what your voice sounds like to others.

I've heard people say, "Tape recorders are useless and misleading. I don't sound anything like that when I speak!" That's my point exactly! Record someone else's voice and play it back. You can tell it's a tape recorder, and not live, but it's very easy to recognize who is speaking, and it sounds pretty much just like them, doesn't it? The same is true of you, especially when you're trying out parts of your

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voice that you don't normally use.

A. Higher pitched voice: This is the fundamental difference. Women's voice boxes are physically smaller than men's, and make a higher-pitched sound. You must raise the pitch of your voice without squeaking and without using an obvious falsetto. (That's the voice the Monty Pythons use.) It is very hard for most of us to get a high enough pitch without sounding like Mickey Mouse. Experiment a while with the tape recorder, and get some coaching if you just can't find that magic spot.

B. More sing-song: Women vary the pitch of their words more, and vary the emphasis (loudness) less, than men. After you get the pitch working, listen to yourself talking in the tape recorder. Record women from the TV or radio, and play them back, too. Listen for the differences in pitch in their voices.

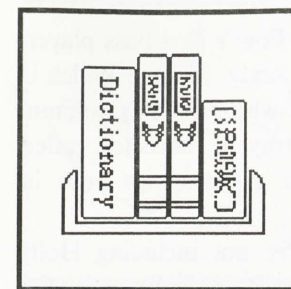
C. Fewer interruptions: Men have to dominate and direct the course of any conversation with a woman. They fight for control of a conversation with another man. Women listen better and give the other person a chance to lead, as well. If you want to learn about this and a lot more differences between men and women, read the book *That's Not What I Meant* by Deborah Tannen. It's an eye-opener.

D. More rising inflections: Women are more likely to end a sentence with a rise in pitch. When a woman makes the simple sentence "I went to the mall today," it comes out, "I went to the mall today. Do you have any comments about

that, or about your day?" When a man says it, it comes out, "I went to the mall, today. I've got more to say about that, so ask me about it right now." Men tell you things. Women invite you to share your thoughts. Men say, "Lets eat lunch, I'm hungry." Women say, "Are you getting hungry yet?" Get the picture? Read Tannen's book.

VI. ATTITUDE: Finally, a word about confidence. Even the best TVs get an occasional questioning glance or giggle. If you shrink away and think, "Oh, God! She's read me! I'm gonna die! Don't call the cops!" you're done for. If you walk through the mall thinking, "Oh, God! Don't look! Is my skirt straight? Am I walking O.K.? He's looking at me! He's **looking** at me!" you'll attract a crowd. If you're not worried about whether you pass, no one else will be, either. Frankly, no one really cares. Even if they do suspect you, they're not likely to say or do anything. Most shop clerks (especially in stores that sell larger sizes) are specifically trained to be nice to TVs. There's no law against crossdressing in California. If you don't shoplift, no one is going to hassle you. Brazen it out, and you'll be fine. Relax! This is supposed to be fun!

[Donna Baker is a member of the San Francisco area organizations ETVC, Diablo Valley Girls, and Rainbow Gender Association. This article originally appeared in the RGA newsletter Rainbow.]



Alternative Presses

by Kimberleigh Richards

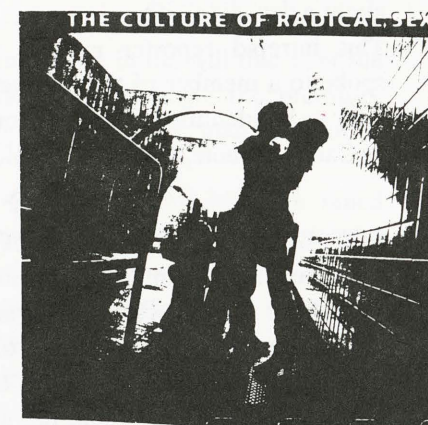
Although many people think I deny a sexual/erotic component to transgendered behavior, the converse is actually true. Indeed, crossdressing in various forms is often used in a sexual relationship. As proof of this, I offer the book *Public Sex* by Pat Califia (Cleis Press, 1994) which devotes an entire chapter to the subject of "Genderbending: Playing with Roles and Reversals" in its section on the future of radical sex.

Califia appears to have a decent grasp of the subject, having consulted with a number of people in the San Francisco area involved with the transgender community, including Tala Brandeis, Bill Henkin, and Sky Renfro. Although her dissertation initially centers around a 1983 experience with the butch lesbian tradition of "packing", she moves beyond it fairly quickly to make a bold statement that questions society's polarization of gender along the lines of physical sex: *Yeah, and the world is flat, and the sun moves around it.*

She admits that her roots were as a lesbian separatist who "wanted to kick the transsexuals out of the movement" but who tried to educate herself on gender dysphoria when it became obvious that the separatist attitude wouldn't hold in a changing world. She calls researchers on the subject "conservative to the point of fascism" and faults them for attempting to force gender into the same boxes (male=man, female=woman) that society has already been condemned for by our community.

Her conclusion is that sex=gender in the eyes of society because it is eroticized. (Which may explain why those "she-male" magazines I dislike so intensely sell so well in adult bookstores and corner liquor stores.) I don't want to reprint the entire essence of what Califia writes beyond that, except to say that I tend to agree with her assessment that the mechanics of transsexualism are kept somewhat "underground" by the medical establishment to avoid having to deal with every person who has a discomfort with

PUBLIC SEX



Pat Califia

their gender identity. The book as a whole deals with what society calls "the sexual revolution" and although I have only mentioned the transgendered portion here, the whole book is well worth a good read.



More proof that transgenderism and sexuality are intertwined is *EDDIE the magazine* from Down Under. The publisher of this Aussie 'zine sent us a copy of issue #10 (in which he also wrote a favorable review of *Cross-Talk* ... thank you!), including an interview with one of the co-founders of a 'zine called *Wicked Women* in which we discover that the other co-founder is an "ex-girlfriend Francene, now a transgendered ex-boyfriend Jasper."

Unfortunately, after re-reading the interview I still can't figure out if Francene/Jasper is a crossdresser, FTM transsexual, or something in between. And -- as usual -- I don't "get" all the sexual jokes and innuendo, but hey, it's nicely done, it's not terribly offensive (just enough to count as 'zine culture), and they liked us even though we're much straighter. Besides, there was a statement that the topic of this issue was "sleaze" so I presume the next issue will focus on something else.

Give it a try, then: It's inexpensive enough at \$20 (that's Aussie \$) for one year (three 100 page issues) to P.O. Box 199, Newtown 2042 NSW, Australia. Or e-mail them at walker@ripper.enet.dec.com.au for information. They will let you start a subscription with issue #10 if you want the one I got.



Before someone accuses me of making this month's column the "all sex, all the time" review, I want to mention the receipt of Nancy Nangeroni's fourth issue of *SCHE Mail* shortly after I saw the proof pages at the Northridge Congress in February.

SCHE ostensibly stands for "Society of Crossdressing Hardware Engineers" but that's really Nancy's sense of humor coming into play. Read the acronym as if it were a word and the title becomes a joke itself, so having a meaning for the acronym is merely a way to hide the joke until it either hits you in the face or someone like me spoils it for you. In fact, Nancy writes of the articles in this issue under pseudonyms worthy of *Dragazine's* "Name Game" and the entire magazine is a balance between wit and politics. You'll probably have to re-read parts of it several times to decide whether or not they're kidding.

SCHE Mail is the kind of magazine *Cross-Talk* would be if my sense of humor was allowed to dominate and I had enough sense to come out ten times less often during the year. You can get a copy of issue #4 by sending \$5.00 (or get the next four issues over the next two years for \$16.00) to Ninja Design, 276 Pearl St. Unit L, Cambridge MA 02139-4716.

CROSS CONNECTIONS

WHY PAY HOURLY FEES JUST TO CONNECT WITH THE ON-LINE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY?

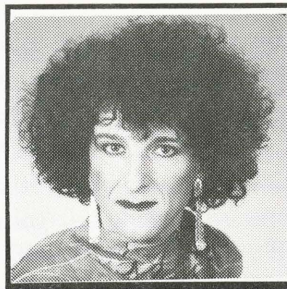
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Tri-Ess & Renaissance FORUMS



The Diva Of Dish

by Angela Gardner

STOP THE PRESSES, IT'S A MAN IN A DRESS!: We really are popping up everywhere and not just in newsletters and zines. *Esquire* did a twelve page story in their April issue on the transgender trend. It's a pretty comprehensive job, covering such diverse people in the transgender community as Las Vegas Barbie Jahna Steele and legal eagle Phyllis Randolph Frye.

Jahna was featured in a sidebar to the main story, with enough photos included to keep any red blooded femmiphile happy. Boy, does that woman look good! I'd take her home to mom. She told of how she had never felt like a man and had remained a virgin until after her surgery. She also stated that in order to maintain her beauty she has to take estrogen every day. (She has lived as a woman since the age of 17. You can't start late and look that good.)

In the main story a TS named Martine Rothblatt said that since she had surgery she doesn't have to take hormones. Now, who is right? When in doubt, go with the showgirl. Jahna is correct in saying she must take hormones. Martine was either misquoted or doesn't understand that with the testes removed you're not getting big splashes of testosterone but you have no ovaries producing estrogen. A hormone supplement is necessary to maintain the blush of youth and femininity.

Of course the two women have completely different backgrounds: Jahna always felt like a woman and never felt like a male. Martine spent half her life as a male and claimed to have been a "regular guy." She made a decision to spend the second half of her life as a female when she found herself spending more and more time crossdressed. Could she be a transgenderist, not a transsexual? Read the article and you decide.

It's a well-rounded treatment of the transgender phenomenon and worth reading. I found it in my local library.



THE WILD SIDE, AGAIN!: Production is underway in New York on a film called *I Shot Andy Warhol*. It's based on the incident from 1968 when Andy was wounded by playwright, feminist essayist, Valerie Solanas. According to a report in *The Hollywood Reporter* TV actress Candy Darling (and I don't mean she did a lot of sitcoms in the '60s) will be portrayed by Stephen Dorff, best known for his appearance in the movie about The Beatles' early days,

Backbeat, where he played the Fab Four's first bass player, Stuart Sutcliffe. Jared Harris plays Andy, Tahnee Welch is Viva and a person known to those who read this column, Donovan Leitch, is slated to portray a character called Gerard. Let's hope Donovan gets a chance to pose in pumps.

The bad news: It looks like they're not including Holly Woodlawn in the story. At least no one is listed in the credits as portraying her. No word about the movie based on Holly's autobiography, either.

In a July 1994 interview with *Cosmopolitan*, Dorff said he was a just "a teddy bear who needed to be cuddled." If he does a good job as Candy and looks good in a teddy, there'll no doubt be many people who want to cuddle him. (I've met a few at New York City's TG nightclub, Edelweiss.) Maybe even his girl friend -- Robert Wagner's daughter -- may think it's kinky fun. In any event, playing Candy Darling will certainly be a far cry from his work in the quickly defunct 1990 sitcom, *What A Dummy*. Lasted about a day, didn't it?

This intrepid reporter actually spent some money and spoke to a member of the production company, who didn't wish to be identified. He said Dorff does a damn good job as Candy. I quote, "He looks fabulous."



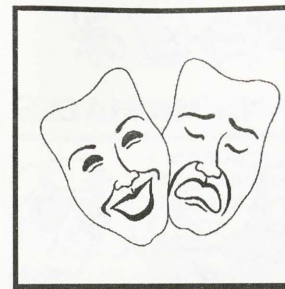
BOY, GEORGE, WHAT A PARTY: Whilst cruising on the Net, late one night, my eyes beheld a scary sight ...

Actually, I just felt like paraphrasing an old novelty song. It really wasn't scary, it was a bit of information from a bird in jolly old England about the release party for Boy George's book. That's right, the man who made androgyny hip in the eighties, the man who appeared in a guest spot on *The A-Team*, has written a book called *Take It Like A Man*. According to the young lady who filed the report (her name is Rachel) the party was held at a school and all the guests had to wear school uniforms. The assembly hall was very "atmospheric" with choral music playing. Wonder if there was any caning? Those British public school boys love their caning. There were masters ("teachers" to us Yanks) all decked out in mortar boards and gowns and of course sweet little school girls (including Rachel). According to Rachel, Boy George never turned up in his well-known media persona. The Boy took advantage of the special ability he shares with RuPaul (or Dolly Parton) to "disappear" when not dressed like their usual image. It seemed he was there all along, in disguise as a bearded, gray-suited teacher.

Please Mister Boy George, come over here and have a fab party. I long to be a saucy little schoolgirl. I've got a kilt. I won't wear Mary Janes though. I hear that patent leather reflects up.



And now, so long till next time, cuties!



The Bearded Lady

by Ricky Hunt
Illustration by Rita

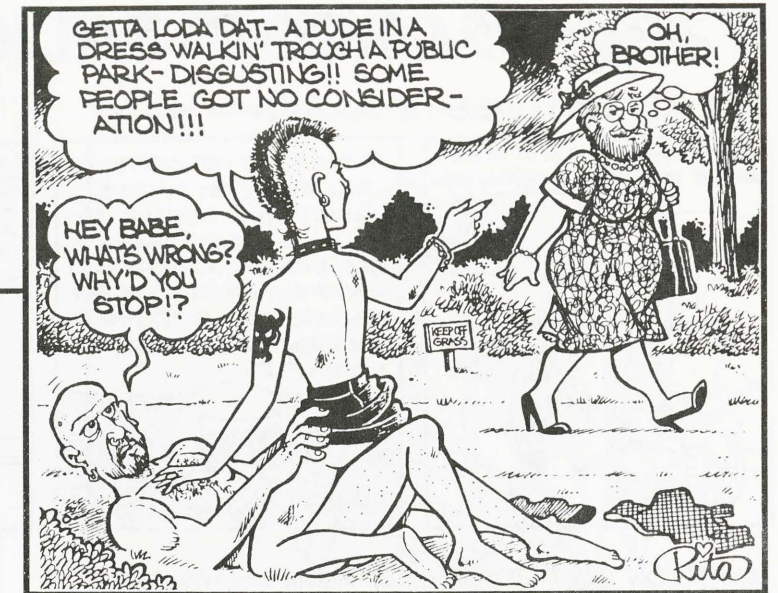
I'm confused, so this will be a very confused column. It's sort of like one of those dreams where several seemingly unrelated threads of thought combine in really odd ways and you wake up thinking "I'm not sure I want to know anyone who could dream up something like that!"

The first thread is the art show in Toronto I saw with my daughter. This was a highly uncharacteristic act on my part, as music is my love, not viewing great art. But she loves impressionists and the Barnes Gallery (very famous among those who love that sort of thing) was showing some of its finest exhibits in an attempt to raise money to fix their roof. This was very exciting because it took several court orders to overturn the clause in the will that kept the museum from allowing the works to leave the premises. Trust me, it was exciting for art lovers, and the crowds were huge.

To my surprise, I truly enjoyed the exhibit. The taped commentary was as interesting as the art, and I left with an understanding of another culture and its values. Not surprisingly, I was fascinated by its approach to femininity. A number of the paintings were of nude women ... some erotic, some not; some rather off the wall, some very realistic. But most of these women were real, flawed, mature people, the kind you would meet and know as neighbors, co-workers and people on the street. I left thinking what a vastly more sensible approach to femininity this was than the way our society portrays women.

I also realized that the contemporary portrayal of women comes not from Great Art but from The Great Sales Pitch. I won't get much argument when I say you can pick up any major magazine and see that the ideal woman is a skinny, bright eyed, young, well-dressed, impeccably made up, young, professional, big-breasted, flawless, young model type trying to sell you something you just absolutely have to run right out and get now. In more specialized magazines -- the ones behind the counter at the store -- the image being sold is the same, except for the well-dressed part. You can rail about the unreality of this popular image, but it has to be tapping into some real phenomenon or it wouldn't work. Face it, you can sell more power tools when the poster has a broad in a bikini holding a humongous drill (Yes, Dr. Freud, I understand what it really means!) than you can publishing a spec sheet.

It's not confined to consumers of the male variety either. A comely woman with a mop will sell more floor cleaner or



dish soap, and despite the best efforts of equal opportunity and feminism, those products are not aimed at males. It gets even more confused because in advertising, sex sells ... and sex almost always implies a female image figuratively offering herself to a male consumer. There is a small market for the male hunk pitching to the liberated female, but men make significantly more money in this society and you sell to whoever has the money. Never mind what it's like in the real world of men and women; this advertising strategy works and will not be abandoned until our society adopts values and perceptions that no longer make it a viable way to make money.

With all this on my mind, the next thread started in the mailbox, with an unsolicited "crossdresser's magazine". Its images of femininity were quite different from either of those above. This wasn't the first time I had gotten such a magazine (I even wrote a scathing criticism of the first one I received that Kym wisely didn't print). I have never gotten off on pictures of men in bras with dangling participles, and my first reaction was disgust and anger ... this was something that would set back all the good efforts of the transgender community. Then a loud bonging in my head alerted me that my hypocrisy alarm was going off.

I have to be honest here. I read (and write) erotic fiction when the mood strikes me. To me "pornography" and "hypocrisy" are synonymous. Sex is a normal human activity and nothing to be ashamed about, including what have come to be code-worded as "graphic depictions" of it. My image of femininity includes strong women who enjoy sex. The few unbiased studies (although hard to come by) have shown erotic material, by itself, is somewhere between "neutral" and "beneficial". (It has also been shown that combining violence and eroticism is a potent negative force, which is something to be truly worried about.)

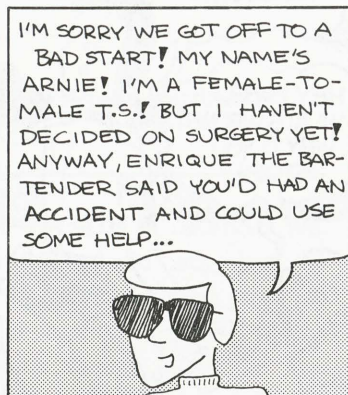
So why did I react so strongly to this "crossdressers magazine" when I am hopelessly liberal and a consumer of eroticism myself? The answer seems to be found in good

(continued on page 39)

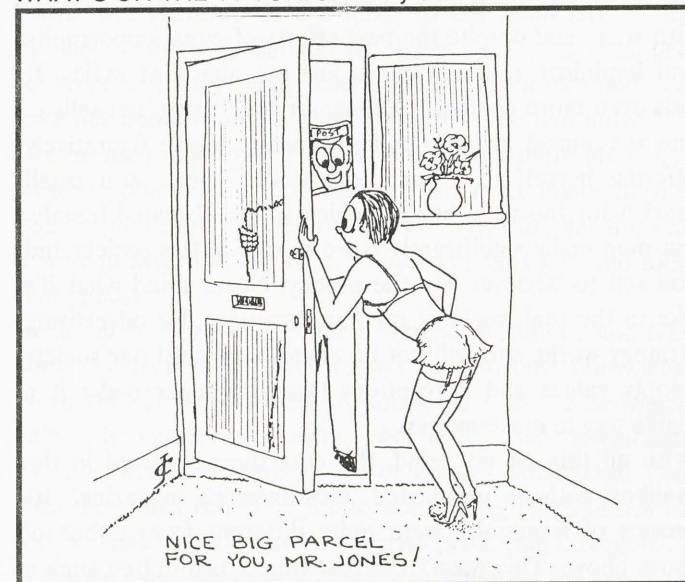


THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



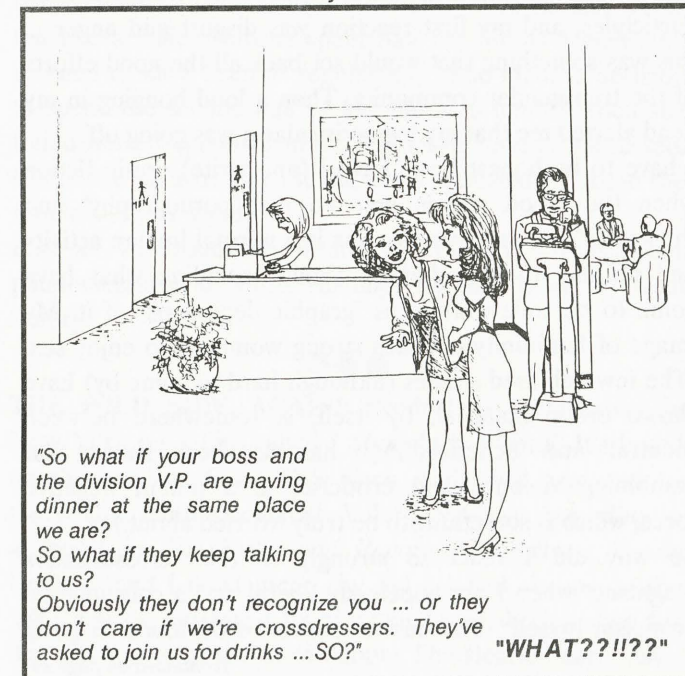
WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT? by Christine-Jane Wilson



THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner



Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard



A Few Seconds with: T.S. & C.D. by Calie

THIS MONTH: "Truth & Consequences"

... IF ONE DAY I AM SUDDENLY WORTHLESS THEN YOU WERE NEVER MY FRIEND. MY LOVE WASTED...

THIS IS TS. SHE DECIDED TO HIDE HER TRANSEXUALISM FROM HER FAMILY UNTIL LATER. SHE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MODEL CITIZEN AND IS ADORED UNIVERSALLY. TS LIVES EACH DAY IN FEAR THAT SHE'LL BE FOUND OUT.

The longer I wait the harder it gets. I can't be two persons ANY MORE

THIS IS CD. SHE CHOSE TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST AND OPEN ABOUT HER CROSS DRESSING. SHE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A DISGRACE BY MOST OF HER FRIENDS AND HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY NEARLY EVERYONE SHE LOVES. CD HAS NEVER BEEN HAPPIER IN HER LIFE.

I've made new Friends. TRUE Friends.



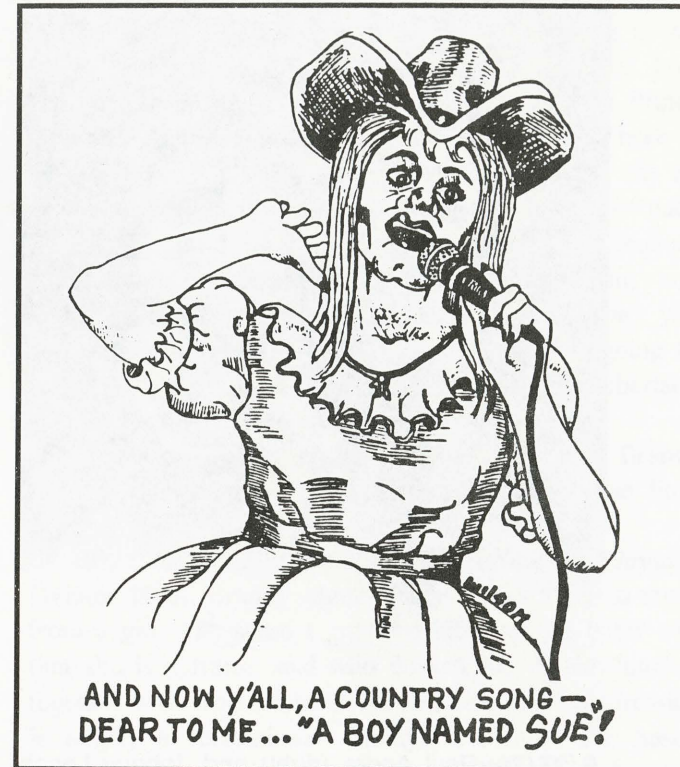
CDTV by Karen Rusnak

here in the unreal world by Nancy Wilson

Star Trek: The Next Generation

Closet space, the final frontier... These are the voyages of the Starship Innersex... Her on-going mission: to seek out new lifestyles... Be more accepting of others...find new places to shop... To boldly go where no Transgendered has gone before!

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STAN MACK'S REAL LIFE FUNNIES

GUARANTEE: ALL DIALOGUE IN PEOPLE'S OWN WORDS

LINE OF DUTY (Courtesy Stan Mack & The Village Voice.)

I LIVE ON 14TH STREET NEAR 8TH AVE. DEALERS, PIMPS, TRANSVESTITES, FLASHERS, KIDS WHO ROB PARKERS... ARE ALL HERE.

THERE'S A YELLOW LINE DOWN THE MIDDLE OF 14TH STREET AND IT SEPARATES TWO PRECINCTS AND COMMUNITY BOARDS.

THE POLICE WON'T CROSS THE LINE TO STOP TROUBLE, BUT THEY'LL PUSH IT TO THE OTHER SIDE TO AVOID THE PAPERWORK.

COMMUNITY BOARD 4 DOESN'T THINK 14TH STREET IS PART OF THEIR DOMAIN. THEY WON'T COME DOWN HERE.

THE PRECINCTS WON'T WORK TOGETHER SO THE DEALERS AND CRAZIES GET AWAY FROM THE COPS BY WALKING OVER THE LINE.

WHEN I COMPLAINED TO A COP HE SAID, "IF YOU WANT TO BE SAFE, MOVE TO STATEN ISLAND LIKE ME AND MY GIRLFRIEND."

OH, THE COPS'LL ARREST HOOKERS BECAUSE THEY LOVE THE OVERTIME. BUT THEY WON'T ARREST THE TRANSEXISTES...

... BECAUSE THEY'RE BIG, AND KICK AND SCREAM. THE POLICE BELIEVE THIS IS JUST A POOR, GAY STREET. (ONLY THE GAY COPS CARE.)

14TH STREET NEEDS MORE GAY COPS AND HETEROSEXUAL YUPPIES IF WE'RE GONNA IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE!

THOUGH THE BEST LOOKING WOMEN AROUND ARE THE TRANSEXISTES. AND THEY DON'T DRESS CHEAP OR SLUTTY.

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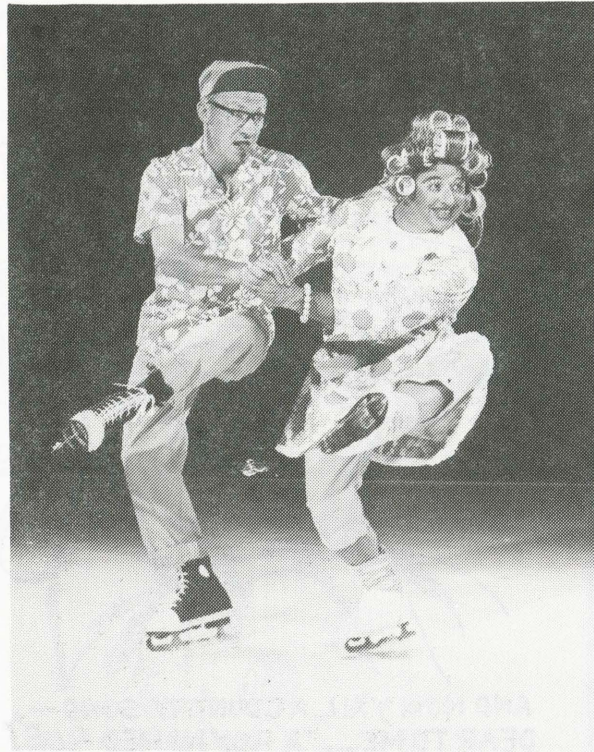
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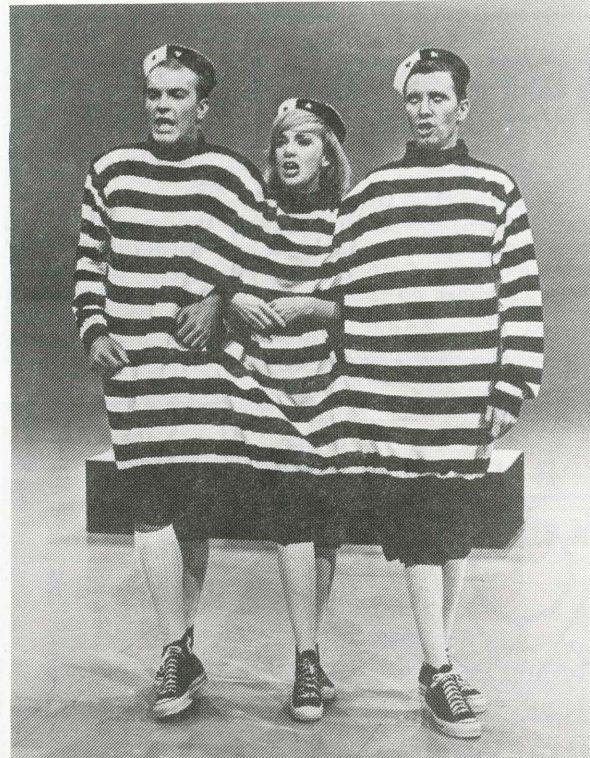
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GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



9/27/70: Paul Andre (right) and Johnny Leach provide some of the comedy moments in a special "Holiday On Ice" edition of *The Ed Sullivan Show*, CBS.



12/19/63: Edie Adams is joined to regulars Don Chastain and Peter Henley for a musical number entitled "Triplets" on *The Edie Adams Show*, ABC.



1/7/71: Ronnie Schell (far left) and Frank Sutton (far right) play the two ugly stepsisters of Cinderella (Barbara McNair) as Prince Charming (Jim Nabors) comes looking for the owner of the slipper left behind at the ball on *The Jim Nabors Hour*, CBS.

PAT FOR PREZ!

by Cyndi Silk

Last weekend, I was sitting at the back bar at The Queen Mary, just smoking on my cigarette and sipping a Bloody Mary, when in walks my friend, Brandy Thigh-highs. "So, what's new?" I asked Brandy.

"Congratulate me," she bubbled, "I've just joined the Friends of Pat Robertson Committee."

"What!" I exclaimed, barely keeping myself from falling off the bar stool. "Have too many of those little purple footballs you've been taking gone to your head?"

"Why, no," she retorted with some surprise at my reaction.

"It really makes perfect sense, you know. Good old Pat and his cronies, the Radical Religious Right, are just what the doctored prescribed for our community. With Pat sitting in the White House, Gingrich Kahn in the Speaker's chair, and the warm-and-cuddly Bob Dole in the Senate our community could make great strides."

Realizing that perhaps her wig was on a bit too tight, I decided to humor her, lest she become violent and force me to defend myself and risk ruining my new acrylic nails.

"So how did you come to this, er, uh, startling revelation."

"Well, it's just like when the battery in my car died last week," she continued.

"Another Bloody Mary, please," I interrupted. Oh yeah, I thought, this is really going to add up. "On second thought, make it a double." But, against my better judgement, I decided to press her further. "So just what does Pat Robertson and the Religious Right have to do with your newly deceased Diehard?" I inquired.

"Oh, quite a bit, you see. It all came together when I had to call my brother-in-law."

"Oh, your brother-in-law, the one who hasn't held a job in five years and thinks it's people like you that are ruining this country, knows Pat personally?"

"No, you silly goose. You see, when my car battery died, I had to bother my brother-in-law for a jump start. And that's the connection."

"The connection with what? You and looney tunes?" I asked.

"No, between our community and Pat Robertson. You see, we, the transgendered community have had it too good lately. It's just like me and my car battery. It used to be that a car battery would last only two to three years -- if that. And you'd never know when it was going to die on you. Nowadays, they last up to six years and are really dependable so that you hardly ever need call your brother-in-law. But when they do finally fail, we complain to high heaven about our miserable fate and start looking for someone to blame all the while forgetting about the times we had to regularly call our brother-in-law for a jump start. Don't you see?"

Not really. But the puzzled look on my face encouraged her

to continue. "These days with so many conventions to go, places to shop, and things to do, we forget about how difficult it was just a few years ago when Virginia Prince had to ask people to bring a pair of high heels and hose in a brown bag to a meeting just in case someone was an FBI agent. We really had to stick together and trust each other then. And what has all this new-found freedom gotten us? Nothing but a bunch of bickering and bad-mouthing among our community leaders. Don't you see, before things can get any better, they are going to have to get worse, a whole lot worse ... and Pat Robertson is just the man to make that happen."

Wait a minute, something was definitely wrong. Brandy was actually starting to make sense. Maybe those little purple footballs were improving her thinking.

"It all came to me after I read an article in *Chrysalis* (Winter 1995), Brandy added. There was a letter in there from a girl. The sense I got from reading the letter was that she is a transsexual who doesn't like being 'lumped together with crossdressers'. As she puts it, 'Crossdressing is largely a recreational activity'. Evidently, she hasn't heard that the psychologists are generally agreed that it is a compulsion, or that many crossdressers experience strained marital and family relations, fall into alcoholism, or exhibit loss of self-esteem and self-worth. Gee, kinda takes the fun out the recreational activity, doesn't it. In my opinion, all she wanted to do was focus on the differences in our community and separate herself from someone else. You see, our community is just like the driver and her new battery. We've both had it so good lately that we've come to take too many things for granted and fail to appreciate what we have. With no one else to fight, we now have the luxury of fighting each other. But if this community is ever going to come together, things need to get a whole lot worse before they can get any better. Therefore, 'Robertson, now more than ever!' I coined that one myself," she chuckled proudly. "Oh, I'm late!" she shouted.

Brandy quickly finished her drink and hurried out to volunteer some of her time at the "Robertson for President" campaign headquarters. I took a few minutes to think about what Brandy had just laid out, then thought about how we do go out of our way to divide ourselves between transsexuals and transvestites, heterosexual crossdressers and gay crossdressers. We have even created a couple of new categories into which we can begin to divide ourselves: "Recreational" crossdressers and "serious" crossdressers. We are Balkanizing our own community! At that point I've decided I've had enough and slammed down my drink. I jumped off my bar stool and ran out the back door after Brandy screaming, "And Rush Limbaugh for Vice-President!"



HOTLINES

NEW ENGLAND/NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS:

Buffalo Transition Support: (716) 629-5421 #
 CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
 Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 439-9618 @
 Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 657-4344
 Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389
 Cross Expressions, Binghamton: (607) 862-3203
 Enterprise, Boston: (617) 983-3264 #
 Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 388-7022 #
 Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
 F2M Fraternity, NYC: (908) 298-8797 #
 Gender Identity Support Services, MA: (617) 720-3413 #
 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
 Northern New Jersey Group: (201) 663-0772
 Philadelphia TS Support Group: (215) 567-7879 #
 Renaissance Delaware Chapter: (302) 995-1396
 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: 1-800-480-3152 @
 Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417
 Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325
 TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822
 Transgender Support Group of Baltimore: (410) 837-5445
 TransGenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
 Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181
 Tri-State Transgendered Club, Cumberland: (301) 453-3538
 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
 Eclipse, Tampa: (813) 546-3089 #
 Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (305) 784-9316 #
 Enchante, St. Petersburg: (813) 972-2617 #
 Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
 GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
 Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
 Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335
 Kappa Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Charlotte: (704) 358-3838 @
 Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570
 Metro Area Gender Alliance, Arlington: (301) 949-3822 #
 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) 523-2466 @
 Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
 Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 253-9882
 Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
 Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @
 Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 633-9653
 Tennessee Vals, Nashville: (615) 664-6883
 Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 222-6796

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Alpha Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Cleveland: (216) 556-0067 @
 Beta Gamma Chapter Tri-Ess, Minneapolis: (612) 870-8536 @
 Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
 Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @

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!

Chicago Gender Society: (708) 863-7714
 City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 229-3613
 Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
 Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3847
 Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
 Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 265-7488
 Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee: (414) 297-9328
 Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 241-1411 #
 Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (812) 876-5635
 Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (309) 755-2310
 Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072
 N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258
 Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292
 Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
 St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 997-9897
 Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Agape, Dallas: (214) 424-1234 #
 Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
 Alpha Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Salt Lake City: (801) 553-8141 @
 Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788
 Central Wyoming TG Support Group: (307) 473-2429
 CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
 Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver: (303) 595-5874 @
 Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 202-6466
 Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282
 Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632
 Metroplex CD Club, Dallas: (214) 264-7103 @
 Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460
 Sorority, AZ: (602) 293-3456
 TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
 TS Support Group, Las Vegas: (702) 594-7884 #
 Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @
 Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

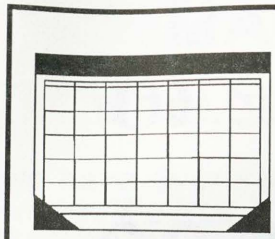
Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071
 Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651
 Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802
 Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
 Trans-Port, Portland: (503) 774-8463
 Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

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
 Androgyny-East, Riverside: (909) 360-5584
 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 #
 Gender Expressions, Los Angeles: (310) 869-4241
 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: (819) 770-1945
 Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
 TransEqual: (905) 688-0276



EVENTS CALENDAR

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

September 14-17, 1995: "Paradise in the Poconos", produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information via Internet: poco@cdspub.com or by phone: (610) 640-9449.

September 27-October 1, 1995: "Southern Comfort", Atlanta GA. Details from P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta 30357.

September 28-October 1, 1995: "Mardi Gras '95", Port Sydney ON, Canada, presented by the Monarch Social Club. Details from P.O. Box 386 Mississauga A, Mississauga ON L5A 3A1, or by phone or fax to (905) 279-7723.

THE BEARDED LADY ... continued from page 33

taste and civility. The "in your face" approach, the philosophy of individualism that ignores the comfort and sensibility of anyone who does not share your interests, is causing a deterioration of society in general.

This is a difficult distinction to draw, let alone defend. I start with the idea that anything done in private between consenting adults is no business of anyone else, unless and until those actions harm another party. If you define "harm" as "murder, rape and mayhem" the answers are still pretty clear. What happens if you define "harm" as an affront to your sensibilities? Can "harm" be defined as feeling uncomfortable around someone else?

The confusion and difficulty come from balancing the conflicting sensibilities of people with different values. As long as I wear my dresses in my home no one should care about it. It's when I choose to walk out the front door I have to consider others who will be uncomfortable with my chosen attire. I don't see how the clothing on my body can cause harm to another person, military uniforms with weapons excepted. But if I am going to advocate my right to wear a frock in public despite what anyone else thinks about it do I have a right to be upset by the attire of the people in the magazine I disliked so?

Make it a step harder, do people who feel uncomfortable around homosexuals have the right to live without them? How about someone with a dark skin or a foreign accent? The simple principle gets lost in a thicket of complications. My personal solution is to not force my peculiarities on others without good and compelling reason. In return I try to accept the peculiarities of others without undue discomfort.

So if you get your jollies reading a magazine that caters to atrocious bad taste, go ahead and do so. I'll try not to sniff in superiority because of my superior taste and breeding

October 5-9, 1995: "Fall Fling", Cape Cod MA, sponsored by the Tiffany Club of New England. Information from TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA, or by phoning (617) 891-9325.

October 15-22, 1995: 21st Annual "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA, sponsored by the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies. Registration information from Fan Fair, P.O. Box 941, Southeastern PA 19399-0941.

October 26-29, 1995: 6th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and hosted by St. Louis Gender Foundation. Information from StLGF, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis MO 63117, telephone (314) 358-0410.

February 10, 1996: 7th Annual "Gala Ball", Cedar Rapids IA, hosted by Iowa Artistry. Write P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids 52406-0075 for details or telephone (309) 755-2310.

(Please send information on national transgender 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.)

while you do so.

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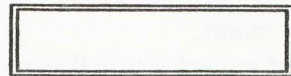
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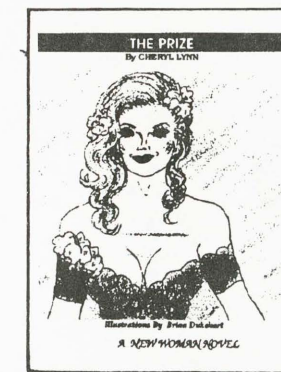
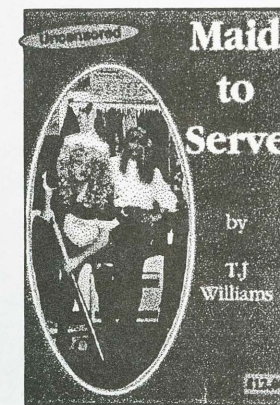
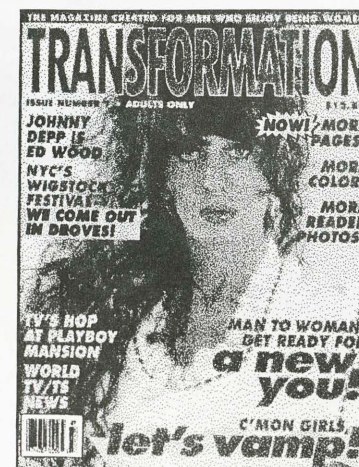
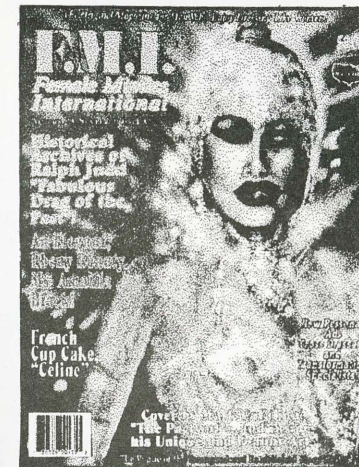
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