

**Abstracts  
of a  
Symposium  
on  
Gender Issues  
for the 90s**

Part I  
of an All-Day Institute  
given by the  
2nd International  
Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation Conference  
July 20, 1988



*sponsored by the  
Human Outreach and Achievement Institute  
Boston, Mass.*

## A New Glossary for Better Understanding

We have long held the view that terms, categories and definitions which do not clearly describe a particular behavior should be avoided. However, we also recognize the need to bridge the gap between outmoded and mis-used terminology which has been used by professional people and the general public. Therefore, in the interest of improved clarity and better communications and understanding, the following glossary of operational terms is presented.

- Androgyne** A person who can comfortably express either alternative gender role in a variety of socially acceptable environments. (Includes bigenderist.)
- CD/TS/AN Community** People whose general behavior pattern includes gender-related issues, androgyne and crossdressing.
- Crossdresser** A person who wears articles of clothing of the opposite gender. (Includes TV, Female/Male Impersonator, etc.)
- New Women/Men** A person who now lives in the preferred alternative gender role and who has completed the surgery needed to achieve anatomical congruence. (Includes people who have had reassignment surgery.)
- Transgenderist** A person who has decided to transit from one gender role to a preferred alternative gender role permanently. (Includes pre-op transsexual.)
- Transsexual** A person who desires anatomical congruence with the preferred, alternative gender role preference. (Includes persons wanting sex reassignment surgery.)



## Introduction

### Gender Issues for the 90s *All-Day Institute*

For the past two decades we have been engaged in unraveling the mystery surrounding the concept of gender, as a social and cultural phenomenon, rather than just a "psychosexual disorder." We have learnt much about some of the social dynamics of gender shift, some of its determining factors, and some effective coping strategies in dealing with gender conflicted people.

This program will consist of two distinct parts:

A. Symposium - A panel of presenters on relevant gender issues for the 90s with other approaches toward understanding the complexities of gender (9:00 a.m. - Noon). This segment is open to all registered conference attendees.

B. Workshop - New and diverse strategies for counseling and doing therapy with gender conflicted clients. Several tested and useful "tools" will be presented. These can be used in connection with various coping strategies available to sex educators, counselors and therapists (1:30-4:00 p.m.). This segment is open to registered counselors, therapists and other helping professionals only. A limit of 20-to-25 people has been set.

The All-Day Institute on Gender Issues for the 90s is sponsored by the National Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF) and the Human Outreach & Achievement Institute (HOAI).



## The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute

The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute is a "not for profit" corporation whose purposes and objectives are educational and personal growth oriented. In continuous operation for more than a decade, we have developed several clinical programs and workshops for helping professionals throughout the United States. These are presented to provide clinical tools and broaden the perspective of the health care professional working in the general area of human sexuality, and are specifically focussing on issues of gender role/identity.

The Institute reaches out to the general public through invited speaking engagements to lay groups and selected video appearances on local and national talk shows (e.g., The Donahue Show). To the professional and academic community we have given many lectures, seminars and panel discussions at local and regional clinics, and university graduate programs in psychology and sociology. These have been presented at major academic and urban settings in the United States, including Boston, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Miami, Phoenix, San Diego, Los Angeles and the Bay Area of San Francisco. Helping Professionals from the fields of education, medicine, guidance and counseling, sex therapy, law and law enforcement, nursing and human services have attended one or more of our programs and workshops.



## Presenters

The Anthropology of Cross-Gender Roles  
*by Anne Bolin, Ph.D.*

The Social Dynamics of Gender Shift  
*by Ari Kane, M. Ed.*

Past Life Imprinting  
*by Nancy Ledins, Ph.D.*

Social Contact Groups for Crossdressers  
*by Naomi Owen, J.D.*

Cycling in the Gender Conflicted and the Crossdresser  
*by Tomye Kelley, M.A.*

Theological Reflections on Gender Issues  
*by Clinton R. Jones, M.Div.*



## The Anthropology of Cross-Gender Roles: Berdaches, Amazons, Transsexuals and Manly Hearted Women

by Anne Bolin, Ph.D.

This paper focuses generally on anthropological contributions to the study of cross-gender behavior and roles. Two lines of evidence are presented. First, the cross-cultural literature is reviewed and re-analyzed vis-a-vis the concept of gender identity, role, supernumerary genders and sex. The distinction between cross-gender identities and cross-gender roles is explored. Second, original research on the transgender journey of 16 male-to-female transsexuals is described in light of a socio-cultural model of rights and passage. The transformation of transsexual identities is regarded as having ritual and symbolic parameters marking stages of their psycho-social development. Finally, the role of anthropology in enhancing the understanding of cross-gender phenomena in contemporary Western society concludes the presentation.

*Anne Bolin is adjunct assistant professor of anthropology and sociology at the University of Colorado in Denver. She is the author of **In Search of Eve, Transsexual Rites of Passage**. This important book focuses on transsexuals' transformation from an anthropological perspective. Currently, she is doing an ethnographic study of women body builders (*Elegant Ironworkers; the Meaning of Muscle*).*



## The Social Dynamics of Gender Shift

by Ari Kane, M. Ed.

Gender shift is defined as a strong desire of a person to adopt an alternative gender life pattern to that in which she or he has been living for most of her/his life. We will examine the underlying bases for gender shift (G-S) and discuss several important determinants that influence an individual's decision to choose an alternative life pattern. An overview of the gender concept will also be presented.

*Ari Kane is executive director of the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute and currently has a private counseling practice, specializing in gender issues in Brookline, Mass. He is a nationally recognized speaker on gender issues and counseling education and has appeared on several major radio and television talk shows. In addition, he gives seminars and workshops at many universities and mental health centers throughout the United States. Currently, he is pursuing a graduate program in Humanistic Sciences at the Saybrook Institute in San Francisco, Calif.*

## Jenny Stevens, Emcee

Transition is a way of life for Jenny Stevens. Formerly a highly successful all-American athlete, she has lived as a man for most of her life. She has been married, had children and created a multi-million dollar business. During the process of transition, her pathway has led her to a life-long study on the subject of gender (both identity and role), including the effects of gender stereotyping in social organizations. Her use of humor in these presentations is renowned. She will introduce each presenter of the Symposium. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from an American university and honorary degrees from several business institutions.



## Past Life Imprinting: A Case for Dysphoric Gender Resolution

by Nancy S. Ledins, Ph.D.

A past-life regression research project (1979-82) gave preliminary indications that past lives can have some bearing on dysphoric feelings. Indications leaned toward resolution by way of alleviation, through an application of a past life therapy approach. Specifically, the preliminary research gave some credence to the harsh differences in the past life recountings of 147 cases of transsexuals against a control group of 39 generally euphoric persons. Using Netherton's premise that "underlying past life imprints can play an important role in resolving and alleviating dysphorias" including gendered ones, this study was attempted to see if soul memory imprints needed resolution before a gender euphoria could be achieved. Data will be presented and interpreted by Dr. Ledins.

*Nancy Ledins is director of education for a national technical school system in California. She holds degrees in psychology, philosophy and theology. Her professional career path includes important work in chemical dependencies and recovery programs, suicide programs, counseling and therapy for the gender conflicted, electrology education and "out-of-body" research. She is the author of **Tippet and His Friends**, a book for teens and adults who have not lost the magic of their childhood.*



## Social Contact Groups for Crossdressers in USA: Present and Future

by Naomi Owen, J.D

The forerunners of today's CD social contact groups and clubs first came into existence about 25 years ago. The founding members of these clubs, fearing ridicule and rejection, operated them in total, almost paranoid secrecy. Several individual members of the CD community went "public" in the late 60s and 70s to call attention to the existence of these groups. Today social contact groups and clubs can be found in every major population center (city) in the United States.

Generally, the helping professionals (counselors, therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and medical personnel) have little understanding of this extremely complex behavior. There are a few reliable sources of information. Those professionals who have worked with clients see only the tip of the iceberg when they work with clients in a crisis or those who seek counseling.

Over the past decade there has been growing acceptance by some helping professionals that CD social contact clubs can and do generate a positive impact on their members and their significant others. Heightened self esteem, respect and pride can be achieved when a CD elects to affiliate with a social contact group having a program of growth. Fear, guilt and self-doubt can be greatly reduced. The CD clubs have made great strides to eliminate some misinformation and myth surrounding crossdressing.

What are the dynamics of a good CD social contact club? How can the helping professional tap the resources that such clubs provide? What kinds of programs can a CD club provide for its members? What kinds of outreach is possible through these clubs? How can these groups help in working with significant others? How can and do some CD social contact clubs present a positive public image without compromising individual self image and self respect? These are some of the main areas that will be covered in this presentation.

*Naomi Owen is a prominent attorney from the Midwest. He has served as an officer and director of many legal, charitable and community organizations. As an active CD, he has appeared on many radio and television talk shows all over the United States. In addition to serving as the president of a large and very successful CD social contact group in the Midwest, he is also a member of the Outreach Institute board of directors, and the IFGE board of directors. "She" has earned a reputation of being an articulate, knowledgeable and entertaining speaker on this subject.*

## Cycling in the Gender Conflicted and the Crossdresser

by *Tomye Kelley, M.A.*

This study examines an observed pattern of cyclical changes in the intensity of feelings toward crossdressing and/or the sense of being or need to be woman, both in the crossdresser and in the gender conflicted. Of 312 individuals who presented to the Gender Study Program during a seven-year period, 93 percent self identified similar patterns of cyclic changes. Observations from individual charting indicate that the compulsion to dress and/or to be woman are not constants, but rather drives that peak at relatively predictable points in the participants' lives. Implications from this data are that on-going client management programs should be mandatory. Client management programs need to consist of on-going treatment and training for the client, as well as the spouse, throughout pre-transition and transition periods. The study indicates that present preparation guidelines, especially relative to time, may be inadequate.

*Tomye Kelley is the director of the Gender Study Program in Arvada, Col. She is a therapist with a practice that focuses on the gender conflicted, and the coping strategies for crossdressers and cross gender people in the Greater Denver area.*



## Theological Reflections on Gender Issues

by *Clinton R. Jones, M. Div.*

Scientific efforts, both in the physical as well as the psychological realms, have not produced any conclusive or non-controversial positions regarding the etiology of gender conflict and crossgender behaviors. The same can be stated with regard to variations in human sexual orientation. Therefore, it may be reasonable to consider some input from a theological perspective.

Belief in the reality of a creator and the emanating creative process can lead one to conclude that the universe is not only well ordered but also allows room for variance as well. It is this variance that, I believe, may have direct relation to the creative process. Variance has long been recognized in the inanimate and lower animate (plant and animal) worlds. Is it not logical to recognize the fact that such may also be true of human beings?

Is it possible that variations in the human species, such as those associated with gender dysphoria, have always existed? Evidence exists to substantiate this fact. Only in recent years has the medico/psychiatric disciplines recognized and expressed interest and concern about gender issues and conflict. Recognition that truth is often revealed slowly and progressively, can lead one to the conclusion that human species variations, with regard to both gender and sexual orientation, are pieces of this creative process. Man has been given this insight to help unveil truth and learn how to deal with these issues with integrity and justice.

*Clinton Jones is Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral of Hartford, Conn. During the years, he has served on numerous advisory boards in founding the New England Gender Clinic as well as a social contact group for crossdressers and transsexuals. He is the author of several books, among them *Homosexuality and Counseling and Understanding Gay Relatives and Friends.**



# OPERN

There has long been a need for sensitive and responsive INTAKE, EVALUATION and COUNSELING SERVICE, nationwide, for people of all ages needing help in resolving personal gender problems. These would include crossdressers, gender dysphorics, transsexuals and androgynes. In answer to the need, the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute has organized the first network of its kind, Professional Evaluation and Referral Network (OPERN).

OPERN offers

*Intake Services for Transsexuals*  
*Referral Services in your Local Area*  
*Evaluation and Referral for Gender Dysphorics*  
*Counseling for Spouses and Friends of Crossdressers*  
*Discussion Groups for Adolescents with Gender Issues*  
*Book and Reprint Services*  
*(with a 10 percent discount on any book of your choice)*  
*Quarterly newsletter given with annual membership fees*  
*Workshops and seminars for helping professionals*



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