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The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

#48
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The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

OCTOBER 1993
(ISSUE #48)



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The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has granted tax-exempt status to the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS).

In a letter dated July 13, the IRS granted AEGIS' application to function as a 501(c)(3) organization, making donations fully tax-deductible. AEGIS executive director Dallas Denny indicated that the IRS action comes just as the organization is making plans to begin long-range projects that would not be possible without contributions and grants.

"We have survived the three-year period when so many organizations fail," Denny said, "and we did it without soliciting funds. With the exception of several unsolicited donations, all of our operating funds have come from sales of *Chrysalis Quarterly* and other AEGIS publications."

Denny announced that AEGIS is about to begin a comprehensive repository project aimed at cataloging and index books, periodicals, and articles regarding gender dysphoria, and providing access by researchers to those materials. Denny says she is certain AEGIS' new tax-exempt status will result in contributions and grants to fund this and other projects.

AEGIS is the third national gender community organization to be granted IRS 501(c)(3) status, joining the International Foundation for Gender Education and Renaissance Education Association. The Society for the Second Self, better known as Tri-Ess, is in the process of applying for tax-exempt status as well. Several local organizations, such as the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, also hold 501(c)(3) status.



"Lost in the Fifties" has been chosen as the theme for the sixth annual Texas "T" Party, sponsored by the Boulton and Park Society (B&P).

The theme is meant to capitalize on B&P's claim of having the lowest costs of any national gender community event. The promotional brochure for the 1994 "T" Party indicates that hotel rooms for event participants will be rented at \$50.00 per night, and early registrations for single participants are priced at \$95.00.

Although an increased emphasis is being placed on couples-oriented and wife/partner-oriented programs in response to an overwhelming number

of couples in attendance at this year's event, B&P has promised to provide programs for all segments of the community, including seminars on living as a transgenderist, hormones, F2M concerns, and dealing with friends and neighbors. The popular "Renewal of Vows" event will also be reprised from the 1993 "T" Party.

The Texas "T" Party is scheduled for the weekend of February 25 through 27, 1994. Information may be obtained from B&P at (210) 980-7788.



The Gulf Area Gender Alliance (GAGA) is "giving serious consideration" to hosting a conference for gender community leaders next spring.

In a letter sent to gender community organizations and publications nationwide, GAGA president Ashley Stevens indicated that if there is "sufficient interest in the community", the organization proposes to host a working conference for all persons interested in leadership within the gender community. Stevens envisions two days of meetings for five or six hours each day, with some outside activities.

The proposed conference would take place in a "town meeting" format, according to Stevens, with brief presentations by a panel of speakers followed by open forum discussions. No specific date or location has been mentioned, although Stevens' initial letter made reference to New Orleans-area attractions as possible outside activities.

GAGA is the former Tri-Delta-Chi chapter of Tri-Ess.



A Kansas City, Mo., public radio station's weekly gay and lesbian radio magazine has expanded its focus to include gender community issues once a month.

The Tenth Voice, heard Saturday evenings on non-commercial station KKFI (90.1 FM), has added a feature entitled "Transing America" on the second Saturday of the month. Local gender community member Angelica Dawn has been named hostess of the new segment.

The program is seeking contributions of news items and funding to continue. They may be contacted at P.O. Box 10102, Kansas City 64111.



The president of the Feminine Image support group, based in the Riverside/San Bernardino (Calif.) area, has resigned as a consequence of recently announced military base closures.

Gail Ann Windsor, who reorganized the group after the death last December of its founder Alicia Lichy, has been employed as an air traffic controller at nearby Norton Air Force Base, which has been targeted for closure by the Clinton Administration. Windsor has been transferred to Eglin Air Force Base at Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

In a letter sent to Feminine Image membership and local gender community leaders, Windsor says she regrets the necessity of resigning, but that providing for her family was the primary consideration in accepting the new post.

No successor has been elected at Feminine Image; Windsor says she intends to start a similar organization in Florida "within the next six months".



A new support group and social club serving the Inland Empire region of southern California is in the process of being formed, according to a report in the Powder Puffs Of California newsletter *Girl Talk*.

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See page 40 for details.

Born Free's stated goal is to "provide the opportunity for self-expression, acceptance, and friendship in a supportive environment." It has offered membership to crossdressers, transgenderists, and transsexuals, as well as spouses and friends.

The new organization plans monthly dinner meetings with a guest speaker and social period. Meeting fees are still being determined by organizers, although annual membership dues have been proposed at \$40.00 for a single member and \$65.00 for married couples.

Born Free may be contacted at P.O. Box 1897, Corona 91720.



Dr. Peggy Rudd, author of *My Husband Wears My Clothes* and *Crossdressing With Dignity*, has added a third title to the series, entitled *Love Calendar: The Secrets Of Love*.

Rudd says the new book is designed to create "a fresh set of secrets" to supersede the traditional secrets associated with crossdressing. She wrote the book specifically for wives and partners who "are not yet emotionally prepared to read traditional gender literature", but says any couple seeking a lasting, happy relationship, singles still searching for love, and helping professionals will also find the book useful.

The new book is currently shipping to gender community retailers, and is also available from Rudd's PM Publishers at P.O. Box 5304, Katy TX 77491.



Cross-Talk (ISSN 1070-6852) is published monthly as an information and entertainment resource for the gender community. For subscription information, please see page 40. For information on advertising, please call (818) 776-8503.

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

-- Kimberleigh Richards

A few months back, I wrote an article (*Life As a Transgenderist*) in which I made an off-handed reference to the "drag queen mentality" that inhabits gender community events like "California Dreamin". In re-reading that article, I realized that I didn't properly explain what I meant, and I need to do that before I get to my main subject this month. (Trust me, the explanation is necessary.)

My friend Lois Commondenominator, publisher of *Dragazine*, is unashamedly a drag queen. What she and I agree that means is that by doing drag, she is having fun with bending society's concepts of gender. This is why you often see pop icons like Marilyn Monroe at drag Halloween parties.

In the "main" gender community -- the people who attend national community events or attend local group meetings at whatever hotel is playing host -- "drag" appears to mean creating an overexaggerated image of femininity. At least, that's the only way I can describe it. Hair out at least six inches in every direction, sequins, feather boas, the slinkiest evening gown you can find or the sluttiest "stop just short of being a hooker" minidress that will (hopefully) cover your rear end.

Obviously, those who take crossdressing to these extremes are more interested in outdoing everyone else than they are in expressing their femininity. At least, that's the way it seems to someone like myself who lives full time in a *femme* gender role and who doesn't have the need to create an overblown presentation.

My point is, the more outrageous you get, the more likely it becomes that you're going to get "read". This is not a problem for the drag queen, who honestly could care less if the public reads her. (In fact, she probably loves the attention!) But in our community, where we are constantly striving for acceptance by the unwashed masses, being that outrageous (or being that "slutty") can be a problem.

To wit: Following the July meeting of the Chi chapter of Tri-Ess in Chicago, one of the owners informed Naomi Owen that, due to numerous complaints about the conduct of those in attendance, they would no longer have access to the hotel's facilities.

The complaints documented in Naomi's commentary on the matter in the *Chi Tribune* ranged from members using both the ladies' and men's restrooms adjacent to the bar and restaurant

(when they were told at the meeting that those restrooms were off limits), members parading around the hotel lobby in outfits considered to be provocatively short or revealing, and some members "crashing" a high school reunion taking place elsewhere in the hotel!

I would not be in the least bit surprised if most of these incidents had as their basis one of two philosophies:

1. I look so good, I can "pass" anywhere; and/or,
2. The only way society is ever going to accept us is if I put the situation right in their faces and dare them to do something about it.

I think that somewhere along the way to transgendered behavior becoming somewhat more acceptable, a Pandora's box of sorts got opened, and a large number of crossdressers, stifled from openly expressing themselves all these years, started trying to make up for all those years of being stuck in the closet by trying to force the closet door off of its hinges. These people are so desperate to keep from going back into the closet that they resort to an "in your face", confrontational form of outreach.

What they don't realize is that this type of "outreach" nearly always backfires. **You cannot make someone accept you if they're not inclined to do so ... and they are not going to be inclined to do so if you box them into a philosophical corner.**

Let me give you a personal example. Since I live full-time as Kym, and since none of us passes 100% of the time, there are going to be instances where I am going to be "read". It's inevitable, since I use public transit and that puts me in contact with hundreds of people on a typical day. But you don't see people complaining to the management of the transit system because of my presence, because I neither present a flamboyant presence that would deliberately draw attention to me, nor do I flaunt my lifestyle at someone, unless they politely ask me about it. (No, it doesn't happen often, but it happens.)

Naomi calls what happened at their meeting location an embarrassment, not only to her but to the person who made the arrangements with the hotel. She says -- rightfully -- that the persons who created the situations that drew the complaints from other hotel guests owes the chapter an apology.

Personally, I think they owe the whole gender community an apology.

COGITO ERGO FEM

-- Anne Blackwood

I wrote a friend of mine named Jane telling her that I am a transgendered crossdresser, and if you've been reading my column you know what I'm talking about. I wrote her because, while we work together (she is my department head) we don't see much of each other, and she lives out of state. (Don't ask, it's too long a story.)

The other day she picked me up at the airport, and at the gate she told me she'd received my letter. We didn't talk about it again until we were in her car and on the road (again). In my letter I mentioned that I didn't think the revelation would come as a surprise, and she said it hadn't; although, she did say that the letter itself was a surprise. Then she said that about halfway through the letter she wondered why I'd sent it and that she didn't have any trouble with my being transgendered. Then she said it dawned on her that I was the one that had found it difficult to tell her rather than she having difficulty accepting it.

Now, I'm sure that not everyone is as lucky as I have been in the response I've gotten to the information I've been sending out recently, whether by USPS or AT&T, but I did find it interesting, this observation of Jane's. No matter how sure I am that some friend or other will not have trouble accepting my unusual nature, I am loathe to lose a friend. By the same token, are they my friends if they cannot accept who I am? I don't think so. Now, there seems to be this law of human behavior which says those that truly are your friends, and those you can truly count on are the most difficult to tell such things to. Why? Because the more you care about someone the less likely you are to want to be rejected by them. So by that reckoning I should be able to blurt it out to just about everyone now.

You remember that old saw about the person who is hitting himself over the head with a hammer, and when a passerby asks why they are doing it they respond, "Because it feels so good when I stop." Some people are going to want to make this analogy to rationalize not telling friends about their crossdressing. Why put yourself through that just to feel better because you don't have to do it any more? The analogy is totally inappropriate because you don't feel good because you don't have to go through the experience of anticipating rejection and ridicule, you feel good because you don't have to fabricate half truths and keep them straight, you don't have to watch every word you utter, you feel good because you discover that

people really do accept you for who and what you are.

You feel good because you can be yourself.

In the several months since Jane and I had our talk in her car on the home from the airport, we have chatted many times and I had her over for dinner on a Sunday evening. We gossiped and gabbed and giggled, she told me about her kids and her husband and the dynamics of her marriage and I told her about things and back and forth. She is very comfortable accepting me and relating to me as a woman. Our conversations now are those that you could only hear between two women. The best thing is that we have become much closer.

All of the women that I've told have been very supportive, understanding, and accepting. Unlike Jane, however, most have had to readjust to the "new" me. I'm no different to me, but suddenly I'm this "new" girlfriend to them, hence they need some time to get used to and evaluate Anne.

I have found that the new intimacy that these women have shown me was well worth the price of admission. I wouldn't say all the fear and apprehension were for naught, but in hindsight I had blown things out of proportion. Interestingly, the TSs that I've talked to that have gone through the same experience reported the same warmth and understanding from the women they told. "Welcome to the club!" they say.

I suppose it would be nice to say the same would hold true for crossdressers, and to some degree I imagine it is, though I dare say that much depends on the people you choose as friends. Still, it is one thing to find out that a friend is a crossdresser or transsexual and quite another to find out that your boyfriend is one. The only way around that one is to be upfront from the moment things get serious.

Every one of the women I told had questions; many were the same, but I did notice that each had a different **question**. Each had a different specific concern, and so each conversation was different, and you have no idea what a blessing that is until you've had to explain yourself to a dozen people. At this point about a third of my friends know about or have met Anne. I'm speaking of mainstream friends. So far so good. My mom and one of my sisters know, but the rest of my family will have to wait. I'm not ready for that one yet.

I'm not like the guy hitting himself on the head

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Details, page 7.

with a hammer. I didn't set out to inflict pain on myself so it would feel good when I stopped. I started this whole revelation process because I knew that I needed a normal social life, that Anne needed a normal social life. This revelation process wasn't a matter of choice for me, rather it is a matter of survival. It was a question of when, not if. I have been rewarded with warmer, closer, more intimate friendships with people I cared about and loved before I revealed Anne to them. I have been rewarded with peace of mind. I have been blessed.



VOX POPULI ... Reader profiles

[*Editor's Note:*] This month, I am forced to break a long-standing policy of this magazine by refusing to publish a letter to the editor.

The letter in question is a response to my August editorial on the Benjamin Standards of Care versus the "surgery on demand" contingent within the TS community, and was written by the former subscriber I referenced in the editorial.

Unfortunately (and predictably), the writer showed a total lack of objectivity and instead chose to mount a personal attack against myself, using language inappropriate for publication.

Any non-easily offended reader wishing to read the letter may obtain a copy from me by sending a #10 SASE. -- KMR

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" (Aug. '93): You state your belief that the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. should be withheld from consumers (i.e., transgendered persons). I absolutely and totally disagree.

I certainly do agree with you that there is a problem in this country with what has been called secondary transsexualism, and that many who seek and sometimes obtain sex reassignment surgery make tragic mistakes with their lives. I agree with you that many times born males approach sex reassignment like an obstacle course; they negotiate the Benjamin Standards of Care in a very male, goal-oriented, testosterone-driven fashion, with little emphasis put on the process of "becoming" which characterizes successful sex reassignment. I agree that many of these people tell professionals what they want to hear, using the Standards as their *Cliff's Notes*. But I disagree that the Standards should be withheld from consumers.

Sex reassignment is a complex process which

requires the best efforts of both transsexual persons and caregivers. The right of the individual to freedom of his or her own body must be balanced against the sworn duty of the caregiver to do no harm. Unfortunately, in the past this has brought consumers and professionals into conflict, as so well documented by Anne Bolin in *In Search of Eve*. The conflict long predates the Standards of Care, however; Sandy Stone points out in her essay *The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto*, that Harry Benjamin's book *The Transsexual Phenomenon* was used by transsexual persons to learn what to say to caregivers when it was published in 1966, thirteen years before the appearance of the Standards of Care.

The problem is not in access to the Standards, but in the imbalance of power between consumer and caregiver. The solution, I am convinced, will come from negotiation and cooperation between the two parties, and not from keeping one-half of the parties ignorant of the rules of the game.

Transsexual persons have a right to be informed consumers, and they cannot be so long as they are dependent upon the benevolent paternalism of the medical establishment. One need only look at the Tuskegee experiment, in which the syphilis of black men went untreated for decades by caregivers who knew they were diseased in order to see just how dangerous it can be to naively and hopefully rely on the benevolence of caregivers.

The real-life test of the Standards of Care is designed to minimize the frequency of "transsexual regrets," and I believe that it has done just that. Anyone who can successfully negotiate a minimum one-year period in which they are functioning as a member of the other gender is a much, much better candidate for surgery than someone who has not. Those who do not engage in the spirit of the real-life test -- those who do not immerse themselves totally in the new role, those who put on their old clothes to go to work, those who are afraid to go out in public -- are cheating only themselves.

Withholding the Standards from transgendered persons will result only in increased traffic in illegal hormones and more bad surgeries in Tijuana. The solution to the problem is not to do away with the Standards, as some people have suggested, or to conceal them, as you are suggesting, but to improve the client/caregiver interaction. This is happening all over the country, as knowledgeable, sympathetic caregivers work cooperatively with their clients, helping them to realize the consequences of their

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actions and working through their difficult periods. The days of totalitarianism in gender dysphoria are gone. Transgendered persons have a right to informed consent, and that requires knowledge of the Benjamin Standards of Care.

Incidentally, the HBGDA Standards of Care are in the public domain, as they have not been copyrighted.

-- Dallas Denny, M.A.
Executive Director
American Educational Gender Information Service
Decatur, GA

[Ms. Denny also included one of her recent articles on the Standards of Care, which will appear in next month's Cross-Talk.]

Vox Populi is the gender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, please feel free to contribute. Virtually all letters received will be published, subject to editing only for clarity, spelling/punctuation, and brevity. You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to "Kymmer" at the Cross Connection BBS, (818) 766-8887. You may also send InterNet NetMail to "kymmer@xconn.com", accessible from CompuServe, America OnLine, or any InterNet-accessible BBS.

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kind of guy who likes guys and not would-be girls.

Whoever paired Ru and Berle together for the MTV awards must have expected that shade would fly, and they weren't disappointed. After Uncle Miltie announced that he used to crossdress when he was a television star, Ru responded "You *used* to wear gowns. Now you wear diapers."

Ru revealed a kinder and gentler side during a personal appearance in an Atlanta record store. Fans ran the gamut of age and gender, and many young parents brought their children. When one small girl of four or five asked for an autograph, Ru said, "You sure are gorgeous. Are you a supermodel?" Without a second's hesitation, the girl responded "Yes," as if she were asked that question every day.

In an open-ended interview on her new disc *Everything You Wanted to Know About RuPaul (But Were Afraid to Ask)*, she continues her concern for young people:

"My advice to little, bitty drag queens out there is learn how to do your makeup early, honey. 'Cause the sooner you learn, the better your chances of being Supermodel of the World. And I would like to say to all the little aspiring drag queens out there, learn your skill, baby. You know, learn how to take a picture or tease a wig or learn how to bring something to a party so that when you're there, you have something to share with the other children."

On prancing: "Well, prancing is like sashaying, and sashay is where you walk down the runway with *beaucoup* attitude, honey."

And on tucking: "You mean, how do I tuck my business? Well, I always need two interns with me to help. It's quite an endeavor."

Ms. Sinclair also hears that it is quite an endeavor to produce Ru's cleavage -- all special effects, no chemicals.



This may be news to those whose only exposure to the movie *Orlando* was reading the "review" published in these pages recently, but the role of Elizabeth I was played by Quentin Crisp, an expatriate Englishman whose wit has graced our shores for the past 20 years.

The film has catapulted him into yet another 15 minutes of fame, and has given us the opportunity to read more of his pithy observations, e.g. ...

"When I was young, there were drag artists (on the stage). Nobody laughed. They wished to be beautiful and they wished to be courtly. Audiences saw them in perfectly ordinary musicals: one week it would be Gracie Fields, the week after that it would be drag artists. They were *artistes* and the

audience came away saying, 'Wasn't she wonderful? You'd never know! Such graceful movements.'

"Then something went wrong and sex reared its ugly head and then the drag artists realized they didn't look wonderful and the only thing to do was to make fun of themselves. So they started to buy their clothes at jumble sales and to look as awful as they possibly could. Bitchiness crept into the act and they savaged one another and the audience."



An example of the innocence formerly associated with drag can be found in a new Sony CD which contains love songs from the 1920's and 30's. The unique thing about this latest edition in the "Art Deco" series of vintage recordings is that the singers are men, singing love songs to other men. And some of the songs have a decidedly transgender tone.

In *My Little Hope Chest*, Rodman Lewis warbles "I've the sweetest bridal gown all tucked away/ Feathered slippers and the daintiest of lingerie." One other song on the album is entitled *Masculine Women, Feminine Men*.



Another legendary figure has passed from the scene. Dorian Corey, the mature drag queen who starred in the award-winning film *Paris Is Burning*, died in August in New York from AIDS. He was 56.

Corey was a survivor from that different era of female impersonation. He toured the country in the 1960's in the Pearl Box Revue, a cabaret drag act, and later performed regularly in New York at Sally's Hideaway and at Sally's II.

Of the movie that established him as a wry observer of the current drag scene, he said: "I didn't do it for the money. I did it for fun. You see I was in show business for years, so when my 15 minutes finally came, it was gravy."



Movies aren't the only entertainment medium infected by the scourge of gender inversion. This horrid trend has also reached into the theatre. New York -- and specifically Performance Space 122 in the Village -- seems to be particularly hospitable to this "art."

Kate Bornstein, a San Francisco transsexual lesbian who was also among the founders of Renaissance, presented her second play in the Big Apple this summer. Like her earlier work *Hidden: A Gender, The opposite Sex Is Neither* explores the notion of gender in the context of society. She takes on a host of characters: a male impersonator,

a "she-male drag queen," and five others who have crossed the gender line from one side or the other. All seven characters show the importance of finding peace within one's own skin.



Within a few weeks of Ms. Bornstein's treading the boards, Mark Dendy took to the stage in *Buss Ride to Heaven*. Dendy played three characters who are filling out the necessary forms before being admitted through the Pearly Gates. One of the characters is a transvestite prostitute.



Ms. Bornstein's space -- but not her reputation -- in San Francisco was briefly occupied by two productions staged by a performance ensemble called Gender Front, whose stated intention is "to provide an alternative to the conception of transsexuality as a roadside attraction." Yet one wonders about if this motive is appreciated by the audience when a critic felt obliged to note that the solo performer in one piece, Jill St. Jacques, "has male genitalia, female breasts, and a mannish voice."



Academia, too, has fallen prey to crossdressing. The New School for Social Research in New York (where else?) recently offered a class titled "Crossdressing as Performance Art." Instructor Diane Torr says that "gender is an act, whether or not the costume matches the anatomy." So for the one-day workshop, women donned business suits and guys put on dresses. Torr, who styles herself "a drag king" also offered deportment lessons appropriate to the new gender role. And for an addition fee, a makeup artist completed the transformation. Afterwards, participants went out in public. The importance, Torr noted, was not in passing, but in "questioning the notion of a stable identity and the idea of male and female stereotypes."



Over the summer, Baltimore exploded in a frenzy of blinding pink high heels, red lips, blond curls, sparkling jewels, and exquisite couture clothes. No, it wasn't a convention of female impersonators, it was the 13th annual Barbie national collector's convention. But the force of drag was felt in the midst of this Middle American pastime.

Michael Alexander, 31, a free-lance artist from Ohio, had the effrontery to display a customized Ken doll called "Merman." Barbie's boyfriend had been turned into a drag queen with long blond hair, a crown, and a scale-covered vest and fish tail.



Ms. Sinclair is mightily concerned about the impact of one of Alexander's dolls falling into the hands of young children despite the reassurances of the director of the Institute for Research on Social Problems.

According to an article in *Parenting* magazine, crossdressing among preschoolers is a game that generally wanes by the age 5 when children understand that gender is constant (the teachings of Ms. Torr notwithstanding). Still, parents may want to establish some ground rules for their tykes' drag, the institute advises, such as "dressing up is fine for having fun at home, but not for going out to dinner" or "ask your sister first before you borrow her purse." To these, Ms. Sinclair adds "I don't care what the other boys are doing, you are too young for hormones."



Firm parental guidance might have prevented a nasty problem in a state park in suburban Philadelphia where a woman complained to rangers that she was harassed by a transvestite.

The woman said that as she was bicycling along a path in Tyler State Park, an man approximately 30 years old and of average build wearing a pink dress, blond wig and sunglasses chased her for some distance even though she pedaled faster in hope of outdistancing him. He evidently wasn't wearing heels. The transvestite never spoke to her during the chase, she said. When the path became to rough for her mountain bike, she ran through the woods to the canoe concession where staff summoned the rangers. A few days later, another visitor to the park reported seeing a man matching the description and wearing the same ensemble.

Ranger Jim Schirmer said that how the man chose to dress in the park "was his business," but that the next time he is spotted, all rangers will be on alert to apprehend him.



Historically, residents of the South Pacific island of Tonga have been tolerant towards people they call *fakafekine* or "half men." But island leaders, perhaps trying to wean their people away from the teachings of the Institute for Research on Social Problems, have recently said that the Tongan schools are turning out too many boys with tendencies toward transvestism.

The issue apparently became one of official concern due to a fundamentalist religious outcry about AIDS and what was seen as increasingly overt behavior by younger *fakafekine*.

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●●●
The Dutch seem to have the right idea about all of this. Radio stations in The Netherlands are refusing to play a song about a transsexual prostitute even though the record sold 6,000 copies during the two weeks following its release. The refrain contains the line: "He works from nine-to-five, he's a rebuilt babe."

The ban was prompted not from a desire to maintain traditional gender roles, but because it stigmatizes transsexuals.

●●●
The stigmatization of transsexual Billie Jean Reid didn't come from a Dutch rock group, but from the National Council of State Child Support Enforcement. The group, which compiled a list of fathers who are behind in child support recently put Reid on its list of deadbeat dads.

Reid, 43, a registered nurse, was last seen in Port Hueneme, Calif., and owes \$53,000 in child support payments, according to Tennessee Child Support Enforcement Authorities. She fathered two children before her 1985 sex change operation.

●●●
Finally, to finish up some old business, you recall that several months ago Prince announced that from then on he was to be known as a combination of the symbol for male and female. The only hitch was that he didn't say how the new "name" was to be pronounced. Last month he said he now wants to be called "Victor."

We hope his fans don't confuse him with Julie Andrews.

●●●
Ms. Sinclair welcomes the contribution of a San Francisco reader to this column (no, not Ms. Bornstein nor Ms. St. Jacques). Others who may wish to avoid being included in a future listing of "deadbeat readers" should send clippings about crossdressing to her in care of Cross-Talk. Be sure to note the name and date of publication.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHT TOOLS

by Valerie Driscoll

Now that you have your foundation, eyeshadows, lipsticks, etc., how are you going to apply them? Let's take a look at the tools and implements that will make the most of your application.

Your feminine face starts with foundation. Dot it equally over the entire face and neck. Then use the thick end of a latex sponge (available at drugstores) and blend with circular movements. Begin at the forehead, working down. Be sure to blend into the hairline and the jawline!

Cream rouge can then be dotted over the cheekbone area and up into the hairline above the ears. Use the sponge to blend, the same way as foundation. The thin end can be used to blend highlighting color under the eyes.

Next you will need a powder puff, thin sponge or cotton ball to set your makeup with powder. A flat fiber powder puff works best. Dip it into a small amount of loose powder and roll it onto the face, pressing in small areas at a time. Don't think of the old movie scene when they used to shout "makeup!" and with one blow covered the entire face with white. Remember the purpose of powder is to cut down on shine and perspiration; you should never be able to see it.

If you use powder blush, now is the time to apply it, using a medium size sable brush. Dab blush with the end of the brush and make circular motions beginning at the hairline above the ear and working halfway down the cheek. Be sure this color blends. You want a soft blush, not bright pink cheeks.

If you use cream eyeshadow, you need a stiff sable brush. For powder shadow, sponge applicators work best. Eyebrows that are thick can be brushed up and secured by using hairspray on the eyebrow brush.

Thin or light eyebrows can be drawn on using a tiny, stiff sable brush with a pointed tip. Dip the brush into heavy cream shadow or liner and paint tiny strokes upward in the direction of hair growth. The same brush is used to apply eyeliner.

Before applying mascara, use an eyelash curler to help your lashes look thicker. Squeeze at the lash base for a few seconds.

Lipstick brushes of medium stiffness can help to achieve a finer lipline. Use them as you would a lipliner pencil to define the outer boundaries, then

use broader strokes to fill in the lip area.

A quick review of the tools you need:

1. Latex sponge for foundation.
2. Flat fiber puff for powder.
3. Medium size sable brush for powder blush.
4. Stiff sable brush for creme eyeshadow, or sponge applicator for powder eyeshadow.
5. Eyebrow brush if you have thick eyebrows.
6. Tiny stiff sable brush for eyeliner and/or drawing in eyebrows.
7. Eyelash curler.
8. Medium soft lipstick brush.

Remember, using the right tools make the overall effect when you're finished more perfect!

How long do you stretch the life of your cosmetics? One, maybe two years? Well, you may not be doing yourself such a big favor!

Old makeup can be a great breeding ground for bacteria. Take foundation, for instance. Think about the number of times your sticky little fingers dip into it for just one application. Then multiply by the number of times you apply it in six months to a year. And in-between times, all the perspiration and miniscule germs on your fingertips mix with oxygen and moisture to create an abundant family of bacteria. Now: Do you want to spread that on your clean, beautiful face?

How about mascara? Certainly your eyes are important to you? Then you definitely don't want to keep old mascara around for more than three months. Yes, bacteria breed quite well in a mascara tube, and the moisture in and around your eyes make it easy for that bacteria to infect and irritate your eyes.

And then there's lipstick. So you spent \$15.00 for the best -- why not dig the last bit out of the tube? I suppose you could, but -- what about that nasty cold you had a couple of weeks ago? Which lipstick did you use then? Did you wipe it off afterwards? Remember, many germs spread from the mouth (it should go without saying, don't share your lipstick).

There are some cosmetics that will keep indefinitely, though. Eyebrow pencils and most powdered eyeshadows are good until they start going on streaky -- then it's time to toss the offender.

(continued, next page)

CROSSDRESSERS' CLOSET

FALL'S DIVERSE EXPRESSIONS

by Bev Anderson

Freedom of expression runs rampant in the fashion collection for Fall. Heidi, Napoleon, and 19th Century Russia were obviously the inspiration. Definitely 'tis the season of "Everything goes!" Tailored clothes partner with soft ones. Sheer fabrics with opaque, matte with shiny. Inventive combinations of texture and color is the basic rule. Bulky sweaters and sheer summer dresses, coupled with leggings, socks, and hiking boots create a seasonless ensemble. The desired result of the endless combinations is a softened silhouette of long lean proportions.

Man-tailored suits in flowing fabrics give a new edge to the "classic cut." Tweeds are softened with lace blouses. Riding and Tuxedo jackets have tapered waists and contrasting lapels ... a must have item! Military greatcoats are the outer wear

of the year. Boots, low heels, and flats for daytime foot attire. Styles and colors are endless. The "pump" has a low platform, spike heel, and wide ankle strap ... quite sexy. Evening glamour is chic, seductive, but demure. Sophisticated and sleek, more Marlene than Madonna.

It takes confidence to display one's own style and courage to improvise a "why not try this" attitude. Experiment. This is the year to try any and all combinations. Pay close attention to balance when mixing texture and color, each piece must stand on it's own, not overwhelm each other. Mixed prints should be of exact colors and opposite sizes. Extremely different textures should be of one color and then accessorized. Spend time going through fashion magazines. Go to the mall, check out what's being displayed. Observe the women you see.

Have fun with fall fashion!

[Bev Anderson is the proprietor of Femme Development Services in Studio City, Calif. You may send her questions about fashion c/o Cross-Talk or by e-mail to "Bev" on the Cross Connection BBS. If you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area, you may call her at (818) 769-0983 to make an appointment for a personal consultation.]

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MAKEUP MIRROR ... continued

By the way, keeping eyebrow and lipliner pencils in the refrigerator will help them last, and will also sharpen easier if kept cold. You should always sharpen a pencil before an application.

A final tip to keep bacteria out of your makeup: Soak your brushes in 70% alcohol for ten minutes every week to ensure effective cleaning.

[Valerie Driscoll is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, Calif. You may write her with questions about makeup at 1716 Andreo Ave., Torrance 90501; or if you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area, you may call her at (310) 320-5015. Questions of general interest will be answered in this column.]

MS. BINTHAR DUNDAT: TIPS ON PASSING

AVOIDING HANG-UPS

compiled by Lynette Tavener

Fear, guilt, shame, pity, self-denial, anger, self-alienation, depression, conformity to rules.

With all these hang-ups comes the loss of individuality. If we possess one or more of these hang-ups and allow them to adversely affect our lives we are basically allowing this hang-up to control one of our personal freedoms.

These personal freedoms can be listed as The Freedom ...

... to be allowed to be ourselves (to be a complete person).

... to perceive any situation as an individual (to have freedom of thought).

... to think and interpret (to be able to have and express personal opinions).

... to feel (to be happy and emotionally settled).

... to want and to be able to choose (freedom of action to dress or act as we please as long as we are not injuring others).

... to imagine, plan and dream (to have a reason for looking forward to the future).

People (society) impose rules upon us as individuals to, in the main, protect themselves and to make them feel more secure in any given situation. Generally, somebody different poses a threat not by being different, but by upsetting the "normality" of a given situation. As soon as rules are imposed our normality is destroyed. If we, because of these rules, repress the particular hang-up it will only produce more problems, for many of our hang-ups are unrecognizable to us.

My tip this month involves a method which is often recommended in our community's magazines, but often not developed to its fullest potential.

TIP 1. Go out into society and sit in a crowded shopping center and observe people. Look at the beautiful, the ugly, the poor, the rich, the disabled, the young and the old and think about your hang-ups. Look for people who may pity themselves, for others who are angry, for those who are disfigured and see what responses they are drawing from the people around them. If you have the luck to be able to observe a TV/TS out and about forget about looking at them. Look at those around her and note their responses. By being honest with yourself you will slowly begin to recognize your own hang-ups in others. You will see how people react to observed hang-ups. Hopefully you will begin to feel good within yourself because you will see how easily that others with hang-ups can happily move about in society. My only warning here comes from experience. On one such occasion I was watching a dwarf going about his daily business and in particular observing people's reaction to him when he turned to me and said, "What do you think you're looking at?!" I instantly recognized his big hang-up. He simply didn't want to be different.

Unfortunately, he was and so are we.

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NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM ISSUES

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

National health care reform has been in the news recently. Many approaches have been proposed. Our present funding of health coverage gets worse every year. The crisis faces not only persons with medical issues but those who want psychotherapeutic support.

For example, the State of Oregon would like to make basic health care available to all their citizens. To control the cost of such care it was necessary to determine what could be covered with the funds available. Their approach was to rank procedures according to cost and effectiveness. At some point the funds would be exhausted. Procedures below that "line" would not be covered by public funding.

Approximately 750 procedures were included in this evaluation. Using current funding projections it appeared that the cut-off point would be at about 568. I have only seen an abbreviated listing in the *Mental Health Weekly* for March 29, 1993. In that list, no psychological condition is lower than 141 and many are above the cut point. It appears that most serious psychological disorders are covered. Clearly identified gender issues all fall below the cut point. That is, persons seeking coverage for things such as gender identity disorders and transsexualism would not be covered by this plan. In fact, it appears that most issues dealing with sexuality and gender are not covered.

Persons seeking coverage for things such as gender identity disorders and transsexualism would not be covered by this plan.

Will such a mechanism come into being? I suspect that it will. The specific procedures covered will probably vary from state to state. What is reasonably certain is that professional coverage will be limited or non-existent for most sexual issues.

I am enough of a realist to know that it will never be possible to have insurance coverage for every situation. Oregon's approach started me thinking about professional support for transgendered persons. Today most insurance plans do not cover most transgendered conditions. The reasons are many and varied but seem to come down to the

belief that such approaches are either not effective or are "experimental".

Is such a situation fair? It depends. If the fundamental purpose is to make sure that everyone has basic health care then such a policy can be considered equitable since most situations that benefit from treatment will be covered for everyone. If, however, your premise is that there is the potential for giving someone a better life through a known

technique then lack of coverage is unfair.

There are many ethical and moral aspects of this approach that are not addressed. Perhaps in the end it can only be an economic decision. Just as in our personal budgets we can not afford everything we would like, so it is with governments. Taxpayers can not afford to provide universal coverage for all the ills that humans are heir to, so some people will be left without public support. This does not mean that they can not get help but simply that they have to pay for it -- not unlike the situation of today.

[You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential. Copyright 1993 by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear with it. Other publications must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of any reprint must be sent to Dr. Peo.]



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LEARNING TO COPE (A WIFE'S VIEW)

by Linda Peacock

My husband and I have been married for more than 11 years now, and I have been aware of his "gender gifts" since the second week after we began to date. When Jacque told me about herself, I was naive enough to have to ask what she was talking about. I had no idea at all what a crossdresser was and had to ask what it meant. Jacque explained as best she could, and finally showed me what she meant. In the flush of first love, I was also naive enough to think that it would be a minor part of our relationship and have little or no impact on my life, or our life together. As I sit here all these years later, I have to laugh at myself and how unknowing I really was.

The first fact I faced was that my soon-to-be husband looked really terrible in the *femme* attire he had purchased, and the makeup and wig were equally terrible. My thoughts were that if he wanted to do this strange thing, then let him do it right!

I suggested that the following weekend, he bring over all of the *femme* clothes he had and we would spend the weekend going over the wardrobe and working on the makeup and hairstyles.

He was ecstatic that finally someone finally cared enough to help him out. He also mistook my suggestion as being a statement of total acceptance and liking of the situation. In any event, we worked hard on making Jacque more of a lady, and even now, all these years later, we still work hard at making Jacque as natural looking as possible, dressed with good taste and made up properly. As the crossdresser ages, as does a real woman, the appropriate and flattering styles change, and I think it is very important that someone in their 40's or 50's doesn't dress as though they are 21. It is an ongoing process, and for the wife, it can be an interesting one, as well as frustrating at times. Experience has taught me that CDs, when they look in the mirror, do not see themselves as we see them. They see, instead, what they want to see. Many CDs have told me essentially the same thing, as have other wives. Thus it seems to me, as an accepting wife, that I need to help my husband so that his/her appearance is the best it can be, just

as I do myself.

In the earlier paragraph, I mentioned that my husband took my suggestion that we work on his appearance as a statement that I was totally supportive of this strange habit of his. At that time, this was certainly not true. It has taken years and years for me to come to the point where I truly do not mind if my husband is in a male mode or *femme* mode. There are times when I want his as a man, all man, but mostly, I simply want him to be happy, and if being *femme* gives him this happiness, so be it. I don't really see him as anything other than my husband, no matter what he wears. Other wives that I work with in support groups get very upset with me when I tell them that

It has taken years and years for me to come to the point where I do not mind if my husband is in a *femme* mode.

I truly don't see their husbands as men in dresses or men in pants -- instead, I simply see them as persons. It is what is inside that is important, and the outer trappings are unimportant to me.

During the years it has taken me to reach my peace with this behavior, I have learned much about marriage, about my husband, and about myself. I've learned the tools needed to make a marriage successful, and especially a marriage with a gender gifted partner. In learning to deal with this, I first had to learn about myself, which is always difficult to do, because I know I want to refuse to admit to or look at those things about me that aren't so nice. However, I firmly believe that everyone, male and female, **must** do constant soul-searching and deal with those things before they fester. A person who refuses to deal with him/herself can never deal fairly or openly with another person. Self-honesty is so important, and it is the first step to communication with self and with partner.

Once I felt that I had faced up to myself, I began to then look at what it was that I liked about my husband and what I didn't. My self-honesty allowed me to face the fact that the man I married was not as perfect as I had thought (*continued, next page*)



COMICS SECTION



THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



WOMAN TO WOMAN ... continued

when I was first in love with him. In fact, I found there were lots of things I didn't like too well. However, I also knew there were lots of things about me that he probably wasn't so fond of either. You can't live in a fantasy world of passion and blind love forever. Real life is a bleary face and bad breath in the morning, bad moods or temper, dust so thick you can write your name in it, or a checkbook that never balances. The passion dims a bit, and you find that you are sick of watching football or the soaps. What happened to that spell-binding, blinding light of those first few weeks and months? Will they ever come back? I don't think they will, for they have been replaced by a much stronger, resilient bond between my husband and myself, which is what we both need and which is the reality of being married. The love is there, deeper and stronger, the passion and desire is there still, but it is a more intimate expression, offered more in love than in lust. There is the acceptance of each other as individuals and pride in each other's accomplishments. And yes, there is still the things we're not too fond about in each other, but we learn to live with them, for they are far outweighed by all the wonderful things about each of us.

Getting to this point, I found it much easier to realize that the strange habit my husband had was not going to go away, and if I was to remain married to him, I needed to accept that fact and find a way to accept that part of him totally. I had to learn compromise, and understanding of his feelings; in return, he had to learn the same. One area which badly needed assistance was the feeling of total isolation we both felt, for we had no friends nor were we aware of a gender community. Finding this was the step I needed to reach my

acceptance, for it was through the support group, and subsequently, meeting people from all types of gender organizations from all over the US, that I realized that I was married to an extraordinary man amongst many extraordinary people. I began to instead see his habit as a gift, another part of a complex and unique human being. And I met similar people from all walks of life, making friends of these people everywhere I went. My husband, and these people had shared a very special secret with me, and opened up the pain and heartache they had suffered over the years. I was honored to have their confidence, and I feel honored to share my life with such a person. It doesn't mean that I don't see things I don't like; instead, it means that I can love him, accept him, as he accepts me.

Simply because I cope and tolerate and accept and encourage does not mean that you will be able to do the same. However, in each relationship, including marriage, there is the concept of give and take. This is where the compromising comes in. There will be things about your husband that you really love; perhaps if you were to concentrate on those things, and try to see your husband's dressing as an extended part of his personhood, you might be able to find a level of toleration or acceptance that you might not have previously been able to do. Don't be afraid to ask for something in return -- compromising by both partners will make things much better.

Give 100% and expect 100% back -- talk, be open, show your love and express your concerns. Communicate!

[Linda Peacock is the director for wives' and partners' concerns on the Tri-Ess board of directors and publishes the Sweetheart Connection newsletter. She may be reached at P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee FL 32314.]

THE BEARDED LADY

TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO (?) HAS GONE BEFORE

by Ricky Hunt

Illustration by Rita

Space ... the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise ...

If you are a Trekkie I don't have to continue any farther, you can hear Captain Kirk's voice reciting those famous lines until, without a shred of political correctness, he proclaims: "To go where no man has gone before!"

I have just received a report from a Star Trek convention held in Buffalo, NY that someone, perhaps one of our sisters, brought a whole new meaning to those noble lines.

For those of you who don't go to Star Trek conventions, you will find many of the participants attired in full, Official StarFleet Uniform. You will also find some member of the original Star Trek cast making an appearance, and in this case it was Scotty. Or actor James Doohan when out of uniform. Scotty was happily posing for pictures with those in attendance (for a fee of course, he's no dummy and at almost over 70 has to think of his retirement). So there he is, kissing the girls for the camera when he was presented with a dilemma.

A gentleman attired in Official StarFleet Female Uniform joined the line. Remember the female uniform was designed in the 60's, and consists of a rather low neckline, miniskirted tunic and pantyhose. Patterns and fleet specs are available in the Official StarFleet Technical Manual (Ballantine Books), by the way. My reporter did not indicate if the person in question was wearing an Official StarFleet Brasserie, but there was an instant wave of speculation as to what would happen when this Trekkie TV reached the end of the line.

As I heard this story the plot for *Star Trek XXXVII -- Where No Man Has Gone Before* popped full-blown into my head, and you, lucky readers, will be the first to hear it.

We open with the standard shot of the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, but every living soul on board is garbed in the Official Female Uniform.

KIRK: Mr. Spock! (Pauses while Spock turns and does doubletake) Green blush, Mr. Spock?

SPOCK: I am not a human, captain. My blood is green.

KIRK: (Recovering) Mr. Spock, I need answers. Why has the laundry computer started producing only female uniforms?

SPOCK: Captain, I have thus far been unable to obtain an answer to your query. I am attempting to run a diagnostic and will report further when it is complete.



KIRK: Very good, Mr. Spock. (Pause) Oh, and Spock ...

SPOCK: Yes, Captain?

KIRK: I want to know who programmed the replicators to produce enough falsies for the entire crew of this ship on such short notice.

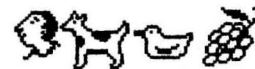
UHURA: Captain, I have a report of a Klingon on Deck B.

KIRK: Don't worry, that's just Sulu. He always had a fondness for leather and spikes. (Communicator beeps.)

McCOY: Jim, I have a problem here. I have a rash of men coming into sick bay with "female complaints". Can't you get that pointy-eared freak to do something with the (continued, next page)



COMICS SECTION II



CD

By Sherri Belman

FASHION TIP

HOW TO PROPERLY
ACCESSORIZE
THOSE 5" PLUS
HIGH HEELS

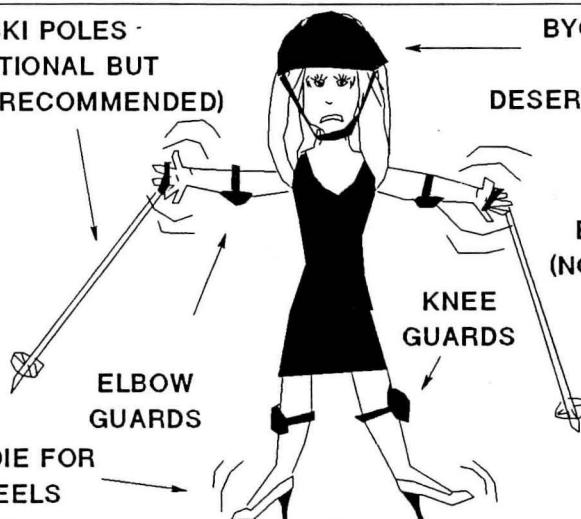
SKI POLES -
(OPTIONAL BUT
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

BYCYCLE HELMET
OR
DESERT STORM SURPLUS

ELBOW
GUARDS
TO DIE FOR
HEELS

BUTT PAD
(NOT SHOWN)

KNEE
GUARDS



THE BEARDED LADY ... *contin ued*

blasted computers?

KIRK: We're working on it, Bones. Just be patient.

McCOY: Patient!?! I have too many patients. I already have six candidates for reassignment surgery so far this morning. Jim, I'm a doctor, but I'm not *that* kind of doctor!

SPOCK: Captain, I have determined the source of the programming came from outside this vessel.

KIRK: Curious. Keep working on it.

(Hits communicator button.)

KIRK: Scotty! I need more power up here!

SCOTTY: Power, Captain? We're docked in a space station for repairs. We aren't going anywhere!

KIRK: Not for the ship, Scotty ... for myself. The force field on this damn corset is about to let go. If I don't get more power the explosion will ruin my image forever!

SPOCK: Captain, I have the answer. I have traced the source of the problem to the master computers of a giant entertainment company on planet Earth.

It seems the crew of *Star Trek -- The Next Generation* is tired of waiting for their chance to cash in on movies and have devised a remarkable plan.

Since most of the plots revolve around you making loud, macho noises and then seducing the female lead, they decided that changing your image would do us in. They programmed the laundry computer hoping to destroy your macho image and replace it with a more feminine one. If that didn't work -- after all, there are some females who might find

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here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



our current mode of dress appealing -- they planned to send the footage of this movie to the Federation Armed Services Committee and cash in on the current debate on gays in the military.

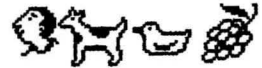
KIRK: Fiendish, Mr. Spock, but to no avail. If they succeed in canceling us we'll just start an afternoon talk show and we'll clean up!

THE END

By the way, Scotty did not pucker up.



COMICS SECTION III



Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard

THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner



"Now, you BOYS have fun trick or treating ..."



From the short-lived 50's sitcom
"FATHER WEARS DRESS"

**HAVE YOU ASKED A FRIEND
TO SUBSCRIBE TO
CROSS-TALK?**

Jim Bridges

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ON THE ROAD**

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If you see a news article relating to the gender community, please send it to us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365!

TESTOSTERONE AND YOU

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

I am sure this title strikes you as odd but it is the most dramatic way of introducing what I want to talk about. Obviously the subjects are males, and TV or TS males in particular. But the article may be of interest to women too, because while they are not males they have to deal with males all their lives and there may be some insights buried in the following paragraphs that might prove of interest to them as well.

All of you probably recognize the fact that testosterone is the principal male hormone. Its manufacture by the fetal testes, with the assistance of another hormone referred to as the defeminizing hormone, are responsible for diverting the early fetus from the basic development of female into male. If it is not present in sufficient quantity at the critical time in fetal development the fetus will be born with female organs and organization. Femaleness is the basic state -- or, in computer language, the "default" condition -- and the baby will be born a female regardless of being an XY genetic individual.

But testosterone is not only the primary determiner of maleness, anatomically speaking; it also largely determines some of the typical male behaviors. This is to be expected since, if the individual is born as a male and grows to be an adult, he must know what to do and how to do it in the reproductive act. In fishes, the female spreads her eggs on the stream or ocean bottom or, in some species, she just exudes the eggs into the water and the male comes right along beside or behind her and ejects his sperm into the water or over the eggs if they are on the bottom. But in all mammalian species and some reptiles the male is the active one. That is, he must outperform other males in order to be chosen as a mate by the female; he must court her in some appropriate way and eventually must insert his penis into her body where the sperm will find the egg and fertilize it within her body. The female is relatively passive during this process. She must be passive enough to allow the male to "do his thing".

The need to call attention to oneself is certainly built into human males, and the mechanisms are various.

But the male is active both in the precopulative behavior and also during the act itself. It is the male hormone testosterone that mediates his sexual behavior.

Because of the different roles in reproduction, the active/passive dichotomy exists in many areas of outside of copulation itself and it is mediated by an adequate supply of testosterone. Let's look at human males and females and their general over all behavior. Two things stand out: (1) that males are more active than females in most all aspects of life from babyhood on, and (2) that males do all

manner of things and behave in many different ways all of which are calculated to call attention to themselves. This is a leftover from the pattern of female choice in animals. Females select the best males to mate with, "best" in this case meaning the largest, strongest, cleverest or prettiest of the lot. Some species carry on jousting tournaments like mountain goats, others fight and struggle

like sea lions, others fight over breeding grounds like various members of the antelope family. Male bower birds compete to see which can build the largest, best decorated or in other ways appealing bowers. Peacocks compete to show off their plumage -- what humans might describe as showing off which is prettiest.

This need to call attention to oneself is certainly built into human males and again the mechanisms are various. There are star athletic performers, intellectual performers like captains of the debating team, social lions always showing off to the girls, financial wizards that accumulate a lot of wealth which can be demonstrated by expensive cars, yachts, special clothing, homes, influence, etc. These last certainly activate the age-old appeal to the female to choose a man who is a "success" as measured in these and other ways.

Now why do men put themselves at risk, socially or even physically to get this attention? The answer lies in the title of this piece. It is testosterone (together with some other hormones and other

chemicals such as serotonin). Those males with an ample supply of such substances are the biggest, the "fightingest", the leaders of the pack, and the most admired -- whether we are talking about animals or humans.

Reproduction is, from Nature's point of view, the most important fact of life and therefore most everything else is subject to its requirements. The first of these is that males must be drawn to females in order to carry out this directive; i.e., males are driven towards females, by testosterone, among other factors. Humans invent gender and thus what we perceive as "feminine", meaning of or pertaining to females, becomes different from what we perceive as "masculine". Thus, not only are males attracted to females, but, using gender terms, men are attracted to things feminine because they pertain to females and are a kind of extension of appearance and appeal of the physical aspects of femaleness. And why are men attracted to women? You guessed it -- testosterone!

Now just as the testosterone drive in reproduction leads to male-female appeal, the testosterone drive in the psychosocial field leads men to be interested in everything feminine. While a given male might like to take a given female to bed but cannot because one or both of them are married or other circumstances prevent it, he will still be urged to be near her, to talk with her, dance with her or interact in numerous other non-sexual ways. And it is testosterone that mediates this.

Now consider the crossdresser and his behavior. Not only does he wear the clothing generally attributed to women, but he will adopt feminine hairstyles, makeup, jewelry and even behaviors and mannerisms of walking, talking, sitting, etc which are, in his society indicative of womanhood. Moreover he doesn't just do these things in a slapdash way. He does them as well as he possibly can. So underneath the beautiful cocktail and formal dresses, the artful hairdos, jewelry and makeup at one of our Saturday night functions there lurks a very masculine competitive drive to look as ravishingly feminine as circumstances will permit. The drive to "do it up brown" or "dress to the nines" is a typical masculine drive even though the activity in question is classified as feminine. He wants to not merely pass but to excel at what he is doing. As a matter of fact he would like to be able to "outgirl" the girls themselves. And what is behind

it? Our friend testosterone again.

My point is that crossdressers, being males, naturally operate within the limitations of the masculine biological determinants and the cultural expectations and requirement of masculinity.

Now let us consider that portion of the crossdressing world who consider themselves to be "women locked in a male body" and they strive for SRS. You see them at one of our parties and they are dressed to the teeth to show everyone how feminine they really are and thus justify and reinforce their contention that they really are women and all they need is the surgery to make it a fact.

Now I ask the reader to think of the operated TSs they have met and who are six to eight months or more post-surgery. How do they dress for more or less ordinary occasions or dressy occasions? Do they still dress in the pretty and often expensive dresses they used to wear? Is their hair or wig done up in the latest style? Are they still wearing the 4" heels and the miniskirts they used to sport?

Crossdressers, being males, naturally operate within the limitations of the masculine biological determinants and cultural expectations of society.

Now some of you may answer "yes" to these question, and there are probably exceptions as there are to all generalizations, but my answer would, in general, be "no". And it was my observations of post-op TSs that generated the question "How come that these women who were so interested in pretty clothes, shoes, jewelry, makeup and all things feminine before their surgery seem to have forgotten a good deal of that after having had SRS?" They now come around (even on occasions where the TVs are nicely dressed) wearing jeans, t-shirts or sweatshirts, sweatsocks and athletic shoes or other very casual clothes and often with little or no makeup or jewelry.

I know their "copout" answer. I've heard it lots of times. "Well, I'm 'real' now and I don't have to dress up anymore". How come? Born females get dressed up on proper occasions and they are about as "real" as you can get. I don't think they really know the answer and that "realness" is truly a copout. I will give you my answer and you can accept it or reject it but I, for one, think it is true.

You will remember when I was talking about crossdressers above and pointed out that they were

really competitive and trying to be as feminine as circumstances permitted and that this aggressive competitiveness was a masculine trait mediated by testosterone? Well, at that pre-op stage the eventual TS was just like the other crossdressers, and she probably remained so during her one or two year "trial" period of full-time living as recommended by the Standards of Care (if she bothered to observe them).

But so much attention and emphasis is paid to the removal of the penis and converting it to a vagina during the surgery that nobody seems to notice that the testicles go too. They are the source of testosterone, so after the surgery -- no more testosterone, that magic hormone that not only made a man out of you physically but also mediated all those drives, and behavioral characteristic of males. So the drives are mostly gone too.

They brag that they have "arrived", that they are "real" and that now, no longer being second-class

prescribed for females who have little "get up and go" particularly in the matter of sex drive. But post-op TSs never had ovaries and now no longer have testicles so they don't have either source of testosterone. Hormonally speaking they are sort of marooned on a desert island.

Life as a woman somehow fails to be everything they formerly imagined it to be. It's no bed of roses for females either as most of them will tell you. But at least they had the advantage of being somewhat prepared for it both anatomically, physiologically and psychologically. Moreover, their socialization usually prepares them for the role in life that they are going to have to lead. TSs have none of those preparations and so stand little chance of being the Queen of the May that they imagined in their pre-surgical dreams. I am persuaded that whatever pleasures and satisfactions they may experience in their new life are largely due to the fact that they can no live openly and self acceptingly as **women** not because of the change in their genital anatomy.

Being a woman is in one's mind and in the perceptions that others have of you.

Too bad that if it was being a woman they sought that they could not learn that being a woman is a psychosocial thing. It's in

women they don't have to "try harder" as regular crossdressers do. What they should admit to themselves but don't is the simple fact that having spent a good part of their recent lives trying to achieve their fantasy of being a "woman" they paid little attention to what they would have to give up to achieve it and that having done so they had made no plans and no longer had any goals to strive toward. Motivations too are mediated by testosterone. Did you know that women too have testosterone (in much smaller amounts of course) and that it provides drive toward their goals too? It is derived from modification of the estrogenic substances produced by the ovaries and the adrenals. Matter of fact testosterone is sometimes

one's own mind and in the perceptions that others have of you and not in what is or isn't between your legs. Transgenderism is a much more fulfilling life style than transsexualism because you have the best of both worlds. The world sees you as a woman (and supposes you are a female, if you make a proper presentation of yourself) and you still have your original masculine talents and abilities to fall back on when and if they would be useful. You haven't given up anything significant in changing appearances, you have just acquired a whole new set of possibilities for growth, experience and insight. And you are probably considerably richer for not having had to share your financial estate with a bunch of doctors who don't really understand what they are doing to their patients. Naturally they know what they are doing with their surgical techniques, at which they have become pretty expert. I am referring to the psychosocial problems that will face their patients for the rest of their lives. It would be very interesting to learn the statistics on longevity and life expectancy of post-op TSs.

So my final word is, know what your testosterone has done for you, just learn to use it wisely, humanely and with consideration for others.

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WHY?

by Kymberleigh Richards

A few months back, my friends at Connecticut Outreach Society (COS) published a letter they received asking a number of "why?" questions of their newsletter's editor. As most of these questions have been asked of myself and of the editors of our community's publications on numerous occasions, I would like to attempt a few answers of my own.

1. Why do all these publications ask for articles and then never publish them? Most group's newsletters -- as well as magazines like *Cross-Talk* -- have a policy of publishing most articles received, so long as they fit that publication's focus. In the case of *Cross-Talk*, that means no explicit sexual references, no "passing" stories, no personal agenda (promoting your business or attacking an individual), no thinly veiled rewrite of an article that has already appeared in print.

The other reason is some authors' reluctance to allow editors to do their job -- edit. I routinely clean up articles before publication by correcting spelling, grammar, and punctuation, and I have never felt it necessary to consult with the author before doing so (in fact, our style book makes it clear that such changes will be made without consultation). On those rare occasions when I have found it necessary to do a substantial rewrite, I have never published the rewritten article without first sending a copy to the author for approval. Yet many people submit articles with the bold admonition at the top of the first page **DO NOT EDIT**. It is very frustrating for an editor to want to publish an article but have the writer (who seems to think she knows more about publishing than the editor) dictate that the article run as received without revision. Invariably, such articles find their way to my trash can, since the author also did not have the courtesy to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their manuscript's return in the event of non-publication.

For more on this, see Dallas Denny's article *A Word To Writers And Editors*, which appeared in *Cross-Talk* #36.

The bottom line is that every publication has standards, and if you think you're going to change those standards by submitting material outside of them and insist on unedited publication, you are sadly mistaken.

2. Why do you see the same articles over and over again? I presume the questioner refers to the

practice of reprinting articles from other gender community publications, and the appearance of the same article in several publications over the course of time. The simple answer is that if an article has something valuable to say to the community, it is likely to be realized as such by several editors at about the same time. I know I have reprinted articles in *Cross-Talk* only to find that they appeared in several group newsletters between the time I noticed the original and the time I got it into print. I have even had the editors of *Tapestry* decide to include an article from someone's newsletter at the same time as I did!

There is nothing wrong with this policy, and I have seen many groups' newsletters survive for several issues on reprints until their own membership decided to start submitting original material. Obviously, having as many first-run articles per issue as possible is desirable, but even here, where

Oftentimes a reprint contains a point of view we don't get from our own contributors.

we have better than 90% original material, we still maintain our "Best Of" and "Other Points Of View" reprint columns, and also reprint some articles from group newsletters, because oftentimes the reprint contains a point of view or information we don't get from our own contributors.

3. Why do you publish the same people's articles? COS said it best in their original reply: Not many people like to write regularly or even attempt to write once, so we are forced to use whatever is available, even if that means having the same bylines appear several times over a series of issues.

I am going to presume that the questioner does not refer to regular columnists, but to the authors of stand-alone articles. I find that those who are interested in contributing to *Cross-Talk* frequently send more than one article at a time, and while I attempt to spread them evenly over several issues, it still creates an impression to regular readers that the "same people" are writing everything. (For example, I have so many articles backlogged from Barbara Jean Jasen -- and she keeps coming up with more of them! -- that I probably will never be able to use all of them and still space her

appearances out.)

4. Why does everybody only publish positive articles? While this question doesn't always apply to **Cross-Talk** (I have, for example, been often criticized for being too negative in my editorials), COS takes the appropriate view that positive articles tend to create confidence.

In a group newsletter, more so than in a national magazine, it is important to build confidence and self-esteem amongst the members who receive the newsletter. For many, the group is a first step into the gender community, and a newsletter editor may (rightfully) be hesitant to publish negative articles for fear of scaring off novice members.

To paraphrase COS again, to increase guilt, instill fear, and cause a member to withdraw is unnecessarily counterproductive. Most groups are designed to promote a more positive and healthy self-image for the crossdresser or transsexual, and a negative influence at this level is, I feel, wholly inappropriate.

Here at **Cross-Talk**, we have to take the bad along with the good, but we have a responsibility to more fully inform the community than does a group newsletter.

5. Why do many organizations seem like one-person organizations? Well, sometimes they are! When **Cross-Talk** was still a newsletter serving a Tri-Ess chapter just north of Los Angeles, I wrote about 60% of it myself and the other 40% consisted of reprints from other newsletters. As we grew into an independent regional newsletter and now, a national magazine, we have been fortunate in attracting talented writers and journalists so that I now normally only write the lead editorial, the

"National Publication Review" column, edit and rewrite "Newswire", and generally oversee the editing process for the whole magazine. (Regular readers will notice that it has been only recently that I have begun writing additional stand-alone articles.)

The sad reality is that in any organization -- either inside or outside the gender community -- there are only going to be a limited number of members who will take an active role in running the organization. Sometimes those who are taking an active role for political or "power grabbing" reasons stifle participation by others for fear that it will dilute their own importance, but these cases are thankfully in the large minority, and those who promote their own interests at the expense of their organization tend to be removed from power eventually by the members they trod upon along the way.

6. Why isn't there togetherness? We have devoted a lot of space to this question here in **Cross-Talk**, and there still isn't a definitive answer.

The most prevalent point of view is that each of the many smaller communities within the gender community have their own agendas, policies, and ... fears. There are some groups that seem homophobic, some that seem hell-bent on chastising members who are not as advanced in their development as their so-called "experienced leadership", and some that exclude members who don't fit the leadership's viewpoints. TS-oriented groups frequently disdain crossdressers; "open" groups often have trouble setting policies and programs that serve all the interests within their organization; and some groups are so security conscious (borderline paranoia?) that it seems like a test of a CIA field agent to even get a membership interview!

COS, again, says it best: Togetherness is extremely difficult to achieve in the face of phobias and bias.

7. Why won't I sign this? The original letter to COS contained a few other questions that I have decided not to attempt an answer to, but I have to sadly agree with their answer to this last question.

Why didn't you sign your name? Dialogue is so much more difficult with an anonymous person.

Maybe someday our anonymous questioner will not only have the courage to sign his or her name, but also the courage to write articles for the local group newsletter, take a leadership role in the organization ... maybe even write something for national publication.

I live in anticipation of the day when all anonymous questioners do just that.



THE ART OF EXPLORING YOUR FEMININE IMAGE

A Universal Spirit Guide
For Men & Women

by *Sophia & J. Urania*

A uniquely special guide written for those seeking to enhance their feminine energy -- women and crossdressers, transvestites and transsexuals -- novices or experienced. Excite your spirit by recognizing the playful energy of being feminine. Find inner peace through feminine meditation exercises designed for your Universal Spirit. Activate a balance between your male and female energy to create harmony within your soul, your home-life, and your professional career. Learn how to enhance your feminine sensuality and sexuality.

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HALLOWEEN

by Paul K.

It's the high holy day for crossdressers. --
JoAnn Roberts

Halloween is the one time of the year that people are allowed to wear anything they want in public, and for that reason it is a time that many crossdressers look forward to every year. Whether for the chance to attend a Halloween party, go out dressed, or to shop for feminine articles with a degree of honesty, Halloween is a great time of the year.

Choosing a Halloween costume is fun, but can be confusing, as there are so many choices. The first choice has to do with where you will wear the costume. If you are going to the office or a small party, you may choose a subtle costume that will take a bit of explaining or acting to explain. For example, in a suit you could be a tele-evangelist, an insurance salesman or Dan Quayle, depending on how you act. If you are going to a bar or large party, then you might want a costume with immediate visual impact, one that people can recognize from across the room.

There are four major kinds of costume:

Types. This is the most typical kind of costume. Nuns, French maids, gangsters, whores, space aliens, cave people, toga people, etc., are easy to do. For many of us, a pregnant woman or housewife can be easy to do and acceptable. The only trick in a type costume is making sure that it is very stereotypical.

Characters. These are costumes that are meant to represent specific people. These people may be stars, like Roseanne or the Landers twins, fictional characters like Scarlett O'Hara or Wonder Woman, personalities like Barbara Bush, or people you know, like a wife or a co-worker. Because you can get a likeness of these people, in photo or description, these are easy to do, but tough to do well. Unless you have a real physical likeness to the person, in a large party you will need some serious clues. This may be a rubber mask, or an icon, like a big turning letter for Vanna White. It is always easiest to use a character, fictional or real, who is already close to a type. For example, Cher is easier than Marilyn Quayle, Scarlett O'Hara is easier than Erica Jong's Isadora Wing.

Things or Animals. This covers a wide range of costumes that can be very simple, like a trash bag full of balloons as jellybeans, or cone hats and labels for crayons. Thing costumes can also be very

complex, like fortune telling booths, or executioners with a live head in a basket. The vast majority of thing costumes are uncomfortable and difficult to party in, but can be spectacular, and are often winners of big prizes at bar parties. The best part about thing costumes is that you often get to wear tights underneath them.

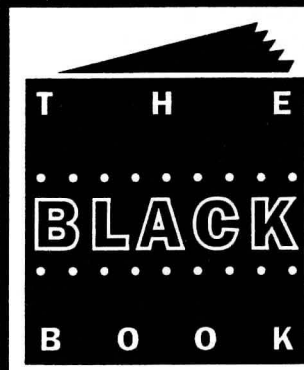
Fantasy Costumes. Like Mardi Gras or Carnivale costumes, these don't represent anything, though they often have a theme. These range from spangled feathered affairs to serious lycra to eclectic combinations. They are fun, and if complex enough can be winners.

The most fun is to put together two costumes to get a humorous spin on the costume. A pregnant Barbara Bush, Cher trying out for the part of Scarlett O'Hara, or a Saddam Hussein disguised as a dancing girl are all examples of how you can put a twist on a costume.

You need to decide your goals for Halloween. If you want to win a prize, then go as big and visually stunning as possible. If you want an excuse to look realistic, you can try going as Hillary Clinton or Liz Bishop. If you want to dress up, find a reason. All you need is a one-sentence description of who you are trying to be, and Halloween is open to you. Even if you don't want to dress completely, you can always find a reason to wear tights, makeup, or a wig.

If you look well, you can often find a number of Halloween parties. Because Halloween is on a Sunday this year, you should have no problem finding parties on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps even on the weekend before and after Halloween. Get out of the closet for a day or two, and enjoy Halloween!

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WHAT TITLE DO WE GIVE A MALE TOMBOY?

by Phaedra Kelly

The following (much of which was originally published in *Feminine* circa 1988-89) is intended as a message to the many avid opinionators who waste time on "new" terms for the transgendered ...

Peter Ackroyd wrote what to him was a "slim book", *Dressing Up: The History of an Obsession*. A "slim book" has been a disparaging term in literature since the like of Byron and his ilk, and later the Bloomsbury Set was advised to commence a career with a "slender volume of verse". Since then, it has become a "coffee table book" glance at transgendered behavior, which has replaced verse as a launching pad, most of it poorly researched,

Our words and their semantics not only shape our present and influence our future, but are a museum of our past.

pre-supposed drivel. But of all such volumes, Ackroyd's is the least deserving of that trite label, and has become a valuable textbook for those in the gender community who study themselves and others.

Perhaps because Ackroyd demotes his work so self-depreciatingly, and because of his feline nature (accounted for in a biographical interview by his friend Bryan Appleyard of *Telegraph* magazine) seems closest to the most extreme transgenderist of his own descriptions, I tend to trust and admire his viewpoint on timespace and language. I quote: "We can only live in the present, but the past is absorbed within that present so that all previous moments exist concurrently in every present moment. Language made our world and our language now contains its own complete history, previous words, previous styles lie embedded in the way we speak now. There are layers of language, like fossil strata, beneath the surface."

Ackroyd would, as his friend supposes, deny his own quote within the same day -- fickle -- yet that does not deny the sentiment; time and space are a compatible duality engaged in a rhythmical continuum, like an ideal true androgyne, and language leads the dictionary ... it does not follow it. Therefore our words and their semantics (meanings and inflections) not only shape our present and influence our future, but are a museum of our past.

The gender transient movement has been responsible for embedding its own texts within new words, to suit moods and attitudes, and thus creating new terms such as "femachismo" to describe the female and new feminist counter to the old male machismo. From the trite to the socio-political, our liberation in the gender community will demand its own new terms.

When first the term "gender transient" was advocated by myself as a valid term to describe one who has consciously chosen to put their gender identity into free motion for the purpose of self-study, the comment was raised: "Isn't that rather like a drug addict deluding himself by calling himself a 'habituant'?"

I had pondered that already, and so answered: No, it is not, for I am not an addict or habituant. I begin with a conscious decision. I was born male, and don't doubt that. I have polarity of gender, like everyone else on this planet, and don't doubt that either. I grew up being an average boy; enjoying adventures, fights, rough and tumbles, and went through all the expected phases and stages, including ...

What's the word for it?

That clothing-fetish sublimation around the time of puberty which every boy experiences, regardless of whether or not he becomes a transvestite or whatever. That period between hating girls and loving girls, before puberty, when a mysterious, nebulous daze comes over one, and the gentler aspects of life become more apparent -- a warm glow of asexual fascination just before the turbulence of puberty, likened to the ominous calm a river has just before you round the bend into white water rapids.

So what do males call that themselves?

It all came back to me when I read a letter from a young girl to Dr. Miriam Stoppard in her advice column. The girl wanted to know if it was "normal" to be a "tomboy" into her late teens, and Dr. Stoppard's reply read:

"Yes, it is, and very nice too. All parents agree that teenagers seem to want to grow up too quickly, and it must be lovely for yours to have such an enthusiastic, bouncy daughter around. I know I'd love it, and I'd ignore the teasing if I were you. It's salutatory to remember that our individuality is one of the most precious things we possess and we

should aim to preserve it. Your taste in clothes sounds very practical to me and makeup isn't compulsory -- it's only for those who feel they want to use it. It strikes me you'll turn out a very interesting person if you stick to your guns, and a valuable adult in whatever field you enter."

That's exactly what I thought about it all for myself when, as a teenager, I was interested in the lighter clothes of women and the more beautiful image of cosmetics, although like the tomboy who doesn't want to really become a boy I was happy to be an attractively ambiguous male. I suppose then, in the early 70's, despite that I did not then join the Bowie cult, I was an early gender bender (or, as they have become, gender blender). But those two terms describe a fashion and a philosophy respectively, and that, only of adults. Besides which, the reference to "gender" in the term tomboy is subdued and has a non-sexual, even non-gendered inference. It's a term of cooling and demotion to sexual thoughts, i.e., "Is she a lesbian, mother?" "Oh, no, dad, she's just a tomboy."

And yet so unlike "Is he a gender blender, mother?" "He's some kind of bender, all right, a right little softy-sissy." Yes, we do all know what the male counterterms are, and try as we might we do not trace one single wholesome, sensible, polite, clean-minded, or even accurate term for that stage in males' early development.

Of course, I felt the need (being an active gender transient) to test Dr. Stoppard's limits, by writing a comparable letter from the male perspective to see whether she would answer the same; that a male in the complementary stage was likely to become "a really interesting person" and "a valuable adult". What stopped me before I even began? Only the lack of the word.

(At the time this appeared in *Feminine*, I sent

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copies to Dr. Stoddard, who did not reply. But only last year, when a boy's letter was published telling of his interest in and preference for softer fashions and makeup, she did give him the same advice as she had the tomboy.)

I considered a term inspired by the letters of two swingers that appeared in the *Janus* magazine of the '70's -- because hubby was under the *nom d'plume* of "tomcat", his wife used "alleycat" for herself -- thus, tomboy/alleygirl? And yet not even that was satisfactory, for, as feminists might rightly point out, a tomcat's morals are expected of him but a girl doing the same thing is frowned upon. And, as masculinists might as justly counter, this is only because girls are expected to be good and clean but no matter the cleanliness of the man he is suspected. Without the Oxford English Dictionary to trace the origins of the "tom" part of a man, I was lost for an inspiration for a complementary term. Is it from the cat? Or from a person? Or a combination of both ... or neither?

Such a complementary term is vitally needed. If making light of it will do that, then so be it, for the end result will surely be the saving grace for some few future boys who, while they well might later consciously decide to put their gender identity in motion, will in the least not suffer the harrowing experience of fledgling transvestism with its isolations and fears. With the acquisition of just this one new word, future trans -- if there be any -- would be happier, safer, freer, even better trans than some which inhabit our present. So to those I identified at the outset: Turn your attentions to a viable, sane, and sensible term to be used complementary to "tomboy", then apply it everywhere.

Adapt, adopt, apply.

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AVOIDING "TURNING-OFF" YOUR WIFE

by Barbara Jean Jasen

Scenario: Your wife just found out about your being a crossdresser, but surprise! She did not run to the divorce lawyer; rather, she accepted it with open arms (well, maybe not quite so open). She helps you with makeup, you go shopping *en femme* with her, she helps you pick out clothes. She's a dream come true. Then suddenly things don't quite seem to go so well, and one day you come home and find that she gave all your feminine clothes to the good old Salvation Army. She tells you that if you ever do it again she will leave. That seemingly wonderful "A+" wife has become a pure B---, and a flat "F." Why? What happened?

We must remember that there are a number of things that a wife fears when she finds out about our crossdressing. The three most predominant are that (1) we are gay or planning to have a sex change, (2) that the kids will also be crossdressers, and (3) her social standing with friends, family and

We must remember that there are a number of things that a wife fears about crossdressing.

neighbors will be affected.

Cynthia Phillips once made mention of the fact that the one most important thing in our relationship with our wife or girlfriend is **communications**. But there is a very serious problem with communicating with our wives. Like it or not, we are men, and men do communicate differently than women. This can make communications difficult with our wives. And yet a full fifty percent of communications involves **listening**. It is very difficult for us to become mindreaders, and yet we must seemingly be just that. We must not only listen to what our wives say to us, but we must also try and read her facial expressions. If we see that something bothers her we must get her to talk about it. Oftentimes little things we do will really turn her off to our crossdressing.

Let's get some ideas of the things that are a turn-off for her.

Do you come home from work and immediately change into your feminine wardrobe? Being able to dress at home is great; we have more time to be who we want to be, and it is so wonderful to be able

to sleep in those beautiful gowns rather than the ugly cotton or flannel pajamas ... but think of the signal you are giving your wife. Your wife is a heterosexual woman. She wants a man! While she may enjoy the company of a sister or girlfriend at times, she also wants to be in the company of a man. A **balance** is necessary. If we spend too much of our time *en femme*, she will be quickly turned off to us. Try to limit your dressing to an amount of time that is comfortable for both of you.

Talk to her and get her to talk to you. Find out what is truly comfortable for her.

Here's another potential problem. What if someone comes to the door? Have you and your wife handled that problem? If you have children at home, what is the effect on them? OK, so they understand and accept, but when can they have friends over? Children can be very cruel to one another, and aren't you being cruel to your children if they can't have friends over to the house when

you are at home? Setting aside one or two days a week for dressing at home still gives them times when they can have their friends over. I know from past experience that if a friend of your kids knows about your crossdressing and their parents find out it can be devastating to your child's friendship.

Communicate with both your wife and your children on this matter.

Another situation that sometimes occurs: You are at a lounge *en femme* and a man asks you to dance. You have (you think) convinced your wife that you are not gay, and it is really nice when a man asks you to dance, especially when the place is a straight place rather than a gay place. And there is really no harm in a little dance, but what signal do you give to your wife? Also, what do you think it does to her feelings when the man asked you to dance with him rather than her? Once again, **communication** is important.

Think about this: What does your wardrobe look like, compared to her wardrobe? When you buy yourself a new dress, do you think of her and buy her a new dress also? She has helped you to look as feminine as you can, but do you do the same for her?

All too often I have heard my wife say that I was prettier than she was, and all too often I failed to recognize that it was a cry from her -- a cry for me to remind her that she was pretty to me. And all too often I know I had gone out and bought myself

a new dress or a new pair of shoes, with nothing for her. She is still hurting that I had forgotten all about her birthday this year. It is the little things like these that will turn her off to us. Don't try and compete with her.

Looking pretty is very important to your wife also. It is bad enough that she must compete with other women, but now she must compete with you. Help her as she helps you.

Shopping *en femme* is also another problem. **Where** do you go shopping? Do you go shopping right in the town where you live? If you live in a small town, this is especially bad. Many of us have gotten to the point where we do not care what people think or say, and many of us do pass, but I don't think any of us really pass 100%. Sometimes we are recognized. Remember, she is concerned about **her** social standing with her friends, family, and neighbors. She does not want people ridiculing her, or asking her questions. Be thoughtful of her.

Maybe you have been reading up on hormones. Yes, it would be so wonderful to have **your own** breasts, to have a more feminine body, but what is the message that you are giving her? Uh Huh! Better can that idea! What do you want more ... her or that body?

Just as gender dysphoria can be bad for us mentally, so too can gender euphoria. Feeling good about ourselves is one thing, but when we put too much emphasis on the feminine and so little on the masculine it does turn our wife off.

Girls, remember if you have that A+ wife and you want to **keep** her an A+ wife, **listen** to her, and be not only as considerate of her as you are of yourself, but more considerate of her than you are of yourself.

Being considerate of others is one of the most feminine qualities that we can obtain.

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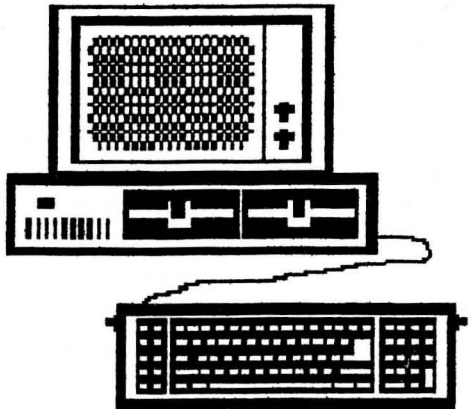
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THE SHOPPING MAVEN

by JoAnn Roberts

Product: Custom-made clothing and corsets
Source: LD Fashions, P.O. Box 50873, Chicago IL 60650
Cost: Varies (Spandex Mini-Dress \$110, Corset \$165)
Rating: A

I struggle constantly with my weight so that I will stay in a size 14. That may sound large to some, but 14 is small if you have a 48-inch chest and a 36-inch waist. What's a girl to do? The answer seems simple: Have clothes custom-made. Reality is never simple. Where do you find a dressmaker who understands the differences between male and female bodies? Where do you find a dressmaker that has a real sense of style? And, where do you find a dressmaker who won't charge you a month's salary for a custom-fitted garment? Look no farther than your own backyard if you live in the Chicago area. LD Fashions fits the bill and they'll fit you and your wallet.

I had the opportunity to examine several garments made by LD Fashions while attending the 1993 "Be All" weekend in Chicago this past June. The dresses were all very well made; straight, unpuckered seams. The fabrics seemed of high quality. I examined a maid's outfit (one of LD's specialties) and was impressed by the overall quality, including the lace used in the apron and on the cuffs. Not only was the outfit made well, it looked great too. A "typical" English maid's outfit will cost a little over \$100. The "Deluxe" maid set includes a full-skirted uniform, petticoat, apron with permanent bow, cap, ruffled panties and a lace collar all for \$235 available in black, white red or pink.

LD also makes corsets to measure. The only other custom corset maker that I am aware of in the U.S. is BR Creations. The LD corsets were every bit as good (and maybe better) as any BR or imported English corset I've seen. The LD corsets are

double-boned at each of twelve seams as well as front and back. Spring steel is used for boning rather than the milder (and bendable) spiral boning found in many commercial garments. The LD corsets are available in two lengths and two styles: short (below the bust) and long; and pull-on or front-clasp. Mix and match! The basic material is heavy satin lined with cotton muslin, but I saw one corset that looked like leather. On closer inspection I saw that it was the imitation leather, but it sure looked good. A short length corset with front clasp is \$165 and that's a pretty good price!

Also listed in the LD catalog are spandex mini-dresses for about \$90 and little girl's dresses ranging from \$100 to \$140. Not listed in the catalog, but drawing a lot of attention at the weekend were *faux* fur coats and jackets. I'd always thought of *faux* fur as being in the same league as cheap wigs -- tacky, until I saw these coats. It was very difficult to tell these were not real fur. I fell in love with a *faux* ermine long coat, but unfortunately I couldn't justify another long winter coat. These fabulous fakes were priced from \$350 to \$450 depending on length and variety of fur selected. Again, the workmanship is top notch.

Finally, Laura Walton (the L in LD) told me they'll make almost any garment you want if you can show them a photo or a sketch. Part of the ease in dealing with LD Fashions is that its owners are part of the community and thus understand our needs. So, if you're hard to fit and can never find anything that looks right *prete a porte* (that's French for "off-the-rack"), try LD Fashions for a custom-made garment. Send \$2 for their catalog.

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NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW

by Kimberleigh Richards

The first half of this month's column was originally written concurrent with my editorial in issue #44 on so-called "contact" publications, and was intended for publication in issue #45. However, after my editorial was published, the publisher of the offending magazine contacted me and indicated his desire to "work with me" to improve those areas of his publication that I had taken offense to. I decided not to publish this review as a result.

Three months later, not only has he chosen **not** to take my advice, he has ceased doing business with us both as an advertiser and as a distributor of **Cross-Talk** to his mail-order customers. Thus, I feel no further reason exists to continue withholding my review.

□□□

Last month, in my regular editorial column "Kymberleigh's Clipboard", I made reference to a contact-type magazine which, while stating an intent to "legitimize" crossdressing in a favorable light, is not tailoring its content toward that goal. That magazine is *Transformation*.

I think most people know by now that I am not exactly enamored of this type of publication, although I must acknowledge that they do serve a need within our community. But I will **always** be offended by those who opt for the down-and-dirty, quick-and-cheap, lowest-common-denominator approach to the subject ... publishers who believe that exposed male genitalia sells magazines.

Transformation's first two issues, while published in a slick, glossy, full color format, are unfortunately filled with a lot of potentially offensive material. Issue #2 contained artwork showing women with both breasts **and** penises, used a video review rating system where the size of the erection in the artwork showed the rating, and crossed over into B & D themes with artwork showing restrained male genitals!

Granted, there was also a great deal of interesting material as well, including a photo feature on platform shoes, a three page article -- with color photos -- of the Imperial Court coronation ball, an interview with TS author Phoebe Smith, samples of a new crossdressing paper doll book, and numerous reader letters (of which only about half got sexually explicit).

What really irritates me about *Transformation* is

that it has the real potential to present crossdressing as an acceptable lifestyle in an attractive format ... only its publisher, Jeri Lee, keeps crossing over the line to include subject matter that will only perpetuate the myth that crossdressers, transgenderists, and transsexuals are all sexual deviates.

If you agree with me that inclusion of this type of material hurts us more than helps us, please write directly to them at P.O. Box 459, Orange CA 92666. This review may wind up costing me money if Jeri Lee pulls his (her) mail order advertising in **Cross-Talk** or stops marketing us through his mail order business, but here it is anyway.

□□□

On to happier thoughts. Ariadne Kane at the Outreach Institute sent me a copy of a neat little video they're using to promote their annual Fantasia Fair.

The half-hour VHS tape, entitled *Fantasia Fair: An Experience to Remember*, is produced in the style of a chamber of commerce-type tourism promotional film, showing not only what happens at the event, but how Provincetown accepts and welcomes the participants. Included in the many excerpts and highlights are **Cross-Talk** associate editors JoAnn Roberts and Virginia Prince, as well as such "name" personalities as Mariette Pathy-Allen, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Dallas Denny, and Richard Docter.

This tape is very well produced, and would not be out of place on something like the Travel Channel on cable. But until Outreach gets enough money to buy a half-hour on the satellite to air this masterpiece nationwide, you'll have to settle for borrowing the copy Ari says she sent to your local support group. (My copy is currently making the rounds of Alpha chapter's membership.)

If you live so far out in the boonies that you don't have a group to borrow it from, write Ari and maybe she'll loan you a copy directly ...

[Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave. #345, South Portland ME 04106. No price given.]

EDITORIAL COMMENTS? Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to "Kymmer" via the Cross Connection BBS at (818) 766-TVTS. Our InterNet address for NetMail is "kymmer@xconn.com".



INSIDE OUT

by Chrystine Julian

Some years ago I realized that other people perceived my appearance somewhat differently from what I really am. For instance, most people guess my height to be about 5'10". In reality, I am barely 5'6", with shoes on. People also tend to guess my weight to be fifteen to twenty pounds lighter. This led me to understand that other people's perceptions are based in a large part on the image we project, how we see ourselves in our minds. This projection is due partially to how we dress, walk, and talk. But there is more to it than appearance. Attitude is a major key. If, when you dress, your perception of yourself is that of a man wearing a dress, most people will see you as a man in a dress. However, if your attire matches the expression of

Other people's perceptions are based in large part on the image we project.

an inner feminine self, you are projecting total femininity. Perhaps you have created a biography for your feminine self, a name, history, likes and dislikes. But have you tried beginning on the inside and working your way out, simply spent time getting to know the inner woman? If you haven't, you have some amazing discoveries ahead of you.

Having spent a lot of time over the last twenty-plus years studying relaxation, meditation, Shamanism, and hypnotherapy techniques, I would like to pass along a few tips for getting in touch with the woman

inside through relaxation and visualization. You might want to pick up any one of a number of books or cassette tapes on the market about relaxation techniques. However, I'll give you a brief overview of the process.

Set aside about twenty minutes for yourself in a place where you feel comfortable and can avoid distractions and interruptions. Find a comfortable place to sit or lay down. Pick a spot on the wall or ceiling to focus your eyes on. It should be slightly above your normal line of sight. Deep relaxation begins with deep breathing. Gently and slowly take deep breaths, in through your nose, hold for a count of ten, and breathe out through your mouth. After about ten of these you will begin to feel more

relaxed. When you do, close your eyes, and continue to breathe slowly and gently. Imagine yourself on a beach with the warmth of the sun penetrating your entire body. Start with your toes and let the warmth spread up your legs to your torso, down your arms to your fingers, back up to your neck, face, and scalp. This may be as far as you want to go for the first couple of sessions. While relaxation is not hard work, it does take some practice. When you have finished, simply open your eyes and continue to breathe deeply for a few moments. You will find yourself feeling refreshed and ready to take on other activities.

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

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

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[Originally published in Cross-Talk #29, October 1991.]

The true worth of a person is to be measured by the objects she pursues.



The August issue of *Allure* magazine mentioned a "different method" of applying mascara. Hold the wand vertically and dab back and forth along the lash line. But we knew that already, didn't we? At least anyone who's read *Art & Illusion* knew that. Next they'll be telling us to do a root-tease with a toothbrush. Oh my, they did that too!



An early report from the International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy -- the conference adopted an International Bill of Gender Rights. The original Bill of Gender Rights, presented to the community in March of 1990 specified four gender rights: The Right To Assume A Gender Role; The Right To Freely Express A Gender Role; The Right To Alter One's Body; and The Right To Freedom of Sexual Expression. The new bill expands those four to seven, adding: The Right To Competent Medical & Professional Care; The Right To Freedom From Psychiatric Diagnosis Solely Based On Transgender Status; and The Right To Parent Children. Watch your newsletters for more detailed information. Also from the conference comes a recommendation out of the Health Law Committee that Sex-Reassignment Surgery should be classified as cosmetic surgery and performed on-demand. Now that ought to generate some comments.



What price fame and beauty? For all you Hillary-wannabees, I told you about the Hillary wig from Jacquelyn wigs. Well, their newest Hillary reflects the First Lady's shorter do, but you're going to look silly minus the arm and leg it will cost to buy one of these wigs. The price is \$155 and that's for the synthetic hair version!



Cosmetic companies must be flush for Fall because they're giving away lotsa free goodies. BeautiControl Cosmetics has a lipstick "kiss" sample, good for one application. Estee Lauder is offering a week's supply of moisturizer. Lancome has a free offer of either makeup remover or hydrating gel. Even pricey Chanel is offering a mini-compact of makeup.



FACTOID: According to a poll taken of 500 women, 63 percent who said they were feminists, also said they wear makeup every day. Please, no butch/femme jokes. I just report this stuff, I don't make it up.



The good, the bad and the trendy -- real-life fashion advice from the "road-testers" at *Glamour* magazine ... Ruffled sleeve blouses and very pretty but not practical. The cuffs get into everything and the only thing you get is a cleaning bill ... Tunic tops versus jackets and the tunic wins. Tunics are universally flattering if you watch the proportions. Wear a tunic over slim bottoms, like a narrow skirt (that'd be this Queen's choice) or slender trousers ... Flared pants worn with heeled boots will make any leg look good. But form-fitting as they tend to be, you have to watch out for bulges and bumps. In other words, if you don't know how to tuck, don't wear 'em ... Granny boots are back (Ugh!) but if you wear them with a short skirt they can make your legs look like stumps. Some folks think these booties look downright geriatric ... A cardigan dress can be very comfortable but you better have the figure for it. They tend to cling in all the wrong places.



Stirrup pants have joined the ranks of classic pant styles like jeans and pleated trousers. Ankle boots, a fave for this Fall, look great with stirrups because of the long lean line from waist to toe. Do not wear stirrups with sandals (too strappy) or heels (too formal). Any low heeled, closed toe shoe works here.



Another trend uncovered. Both Max Factor (my main-makeup-man even though he's been down-under a long time) and Cover Girl are offering eye shadow compacts with a special "color locking" base. The base, applied to lids first, keeps colors fresh and vibrant for hours.



Ever wonder what to wear under a suit, especially if it's warm out? Well, one solution might be the Cami-bra by Lovable. The cups on this bra are attached across the bustline with pretty lace so the bra looks like a camisole under a jacket. About \$20

most department stores.



Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but the hottest Fall look is Military. Jackets and suits abound with military details like braid and shoulderboards. Jackets tend to be cropped so you better be in shape. The styles are lean and angular. All this military stuff reminds me of the last night at the Be All in Chicago last June. A bunch of us found the "entertainment" boring, so we skipped for the bar. We no sooner had parked our cute little butts when the bar started to fill with military personnel from every service branch. This, I thought, could get interesting! Anyway, as a lone sailor entered the bar, one of our ladies remarked, "Oh look! Seafood." Everybody, military folks included, had a good time and some got an education.



Rosy cheeks are usually associated with the innocence of childhood, but there's nothing innocent about this Fall's cheek colors. First, you start with a good foundation so there's a smooth surface for the blush. Next apply a layer (thin, please) of cream blush just under the eye to cheekbone and out toward the edge of the face. Blend, blend, blend with a sponge and set with translucent powder. Finish by going back with a deeper shade of blush in the center of the cheeks, just below the cheekbone. Now, the colors you use depend on your skin tone. Pale skin should use a light pink cream and a dark wine or berry powder. Medium tone skin can use a rose cream and a red-coral powder. Dark skin needs something like a honey-russet cream and a darker rust powder.



The boot is really, really the IN item for Fall, but is a "name" worth \$800? That's what you'd pay for Donna Karan, the Lycra-maven, stretch suede, over the knee boots. Geez, Louise, you can buy KMD&FM boots (spike heels and thigh high) from Classic Shoe Co. for only \$300. Interested? Contact them at 416-769-0970 or write Classic Shoe Co., 2938 Dundas St. W., Box 70561, Toronto, Canada M6P-4E7.



Congratulations to Renaissance's Michelle Lynn. She not only has an article published in issue #65 of the TV/TS Tapestry, she is also the cover girl. But who is the devilishly handsome guy she's clinging to?



You too can look like a million bucks (yeah, all green and wrinkled). Seriously, Leah Feldon (yes, Barbara's sister) has written a gem called *Dress*

Like A Million. The book covers what's worth buying and what isn't in discount malls and stores; how to get instant markdowns; and how to tell a knock-off from a rip-off. Get 20 percent of the cover price by ordering direct from the publisher Conde Nast. Send \$16, plus \$2.50 s&h, to Conde Nast Collection, P.O. Box 10214, Dept. 98049, Des Moines, IA 50326, or call 800-426-9922 and use a credit card.



MAC is a tony makeup salon in the Big Apple that gives one-on-one makeup lessons for \$90 & 90 minutes. Many students at MAC's Christopher Street salon are budding female impersonators, so they shouldn't be put off if you call 212-243-4150 for an appointment. For those who can't make it to NYC, they also do workshops around the country. Call 800-387-0707 to see if a MAC workshop is coming to your locale.



Speaking of female impersonators, I've had the opportunity to see some absolutely fabulous photos of the FI's from Bally's LaCage dinner show. Susan Meyer, a professional photographer who was befriended by my bud Kelly Sheridan, has been shooting the stage queens for a book project called *In The Eye Of The Beholder*. If you'd like a preview of the book and some of the photos, watch for *LadyLike* #18 due out in December. (Oh you shameless hussy, pushing your own magazine here.) Well, I'm gonna do some more horn tooting too. After all, no one else is. Anyway, what's important here is a new book called *The Cross & The Crossdresser* by Vanessa S. from out in the heartland of the good ol' USA. Vanessa struggled with reconciling her spirituality and her crossdressing. She spent quite some time looking for answers and she's written down the results of her research in the hope of helping other crossdressers engaged in that same struggle. *The Cross & The Crossdresser* is available through IFGE, the Renaissance bookstore, or direct from CDS (who else?).



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MOVING? Please send your new address six to eight weeks in advance to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Include your four-digit subscriber number.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph Judd



5/12/76: Milton Berle and Sid Caesar guest on Tony Orlando and Dawn, CBS.



3/10 & 3/17/79: A stripper named Juanita (Robert Hegyes, right) entertains at Horshack (Ron Palillo)'s bachelor party on a two-part episode of Welcome Back, Kotter, ABC.



5/2/92: Baroness Daphne Weston (Richard Mulligan, right) is shackled to next-door neighbor Charley (David Leisure) on Empty Nest, NBC.



10/14/63: Vivian Vance and Lucille Ball masquerade as baseball players on I Love Lucy, CBS.



HOTLINES

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!

NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 371-6292
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 538-5304
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858
Pink Flamingoes, Boston: (617) 536-5639
Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782
Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325
Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257
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 Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 259-9428
Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 685-9254
TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @
Chicago Gender Society: (708) 749-1202
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minn'pls: (612) 229-3613
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 224-1165
Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #
Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAINREGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 545-3668
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin: (210) 438-7604
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926
ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #
Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077
West Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

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

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
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
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 #
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

The TV/TS

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READER PROFILES

To respond to an ad without an address: Seal your correspondence in a stamped envelope and write the subscriber number IN PENCIL on the front. Then place the envelope(s) in a larger envelope and mail to **Cross-Talk**, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. If you are a subscriber, please write your subscriber number with your address on the larger envelope and your forwarding will be free. Non-subscribers, please include \$1.00 per letter to be forwarded.

Anaheim, CA: Stephanie Marie, 31: I am a cabinetmaker and photographer. Have not yet been to any events; I have just made my first trip out to a nightclub and I am looking to become more involved in the gender community. #1478

Bakersfield, CA: Chrys, employed in marketing, and consider myself a writer. I regularly write for trade publications and have had numerous pieces published in "Cross-Talk". I am currently working on an epic-fantasy (dragons, magic potions, etc.). I like long walks and long talks and would enjoy corresponding with those with similar interests. #1144 Chrystine Julian, P.O. Box 60089, Bakersfield, CA 93386-0089

Downey, CA: Desirey, 33, receptionist/clerk. I play a trumpet and just graduated from square dance callers' school; would like to start a square dance club for crossdressers (maybe call it "Crossdancers"?). I've been out to clubs and meetings and enjoy sports of all kinds. Engaged. #1527

LaVerne, CA: Gwendolyn Ann, 26: I am an artist and illustrator. Enjoy reading, Macintosh computers, AD&D, and a wonderful relationship with a very supportive wife. Enjoy corresponding with others in the gender community. #1445

Palm Springs, CA: Ayme, 36, M2F TS, living and working as a woman for the last two years. Tall, attractive, feminine, sexy. Confident and comfortable in any social situation. Interests in Macintosh desktop publishing, music, dining and dancing. Seeks male or female friends. Try the desert lifestyle anytime! #1186

Redondo Beach, CA: Diva, looking for musicians to form a crossdressing rock/alternative band! #1201 D.P. Moore, P.O. Box 207, Redondo Beach CA 90277

Santa Ana, CA: Susan, 45, in business part-time. Enjoy sports, reading, chess and war games. Always dressed at home. Interested in hearing from others; also would like to have a serious relationship with a woman who understands me. #1323

Santa Clarita, CA: Bonnie, 40+, love tennis, golf, shopping, cooking, being Bonnie. Been out in public three times dressed and love it. Mother dressed me as a girl when I was a young boy (she always wanted a girl). Will write to all. #1248 Bonnie W., P.O. Box 801416, Santa Clarita CA 91380-1416

South Pasadena, CA: Christy, an educator and professionally involved with human diversity issues, especially the Berdache tradition. I'm going through my transformation, electrolysis, counseling and such, and am very interested in developing friendships with women, caring professionals and persons like myself for companionship and support. #1122 Christy Barron, P.O. Box 3402, South Pasadena, CA 91031-6402

Van Nuys, CA: Melissa, 44, electronic tech (repair VCRs, stereos, etc.). My passions are music, dressing, shopping, good talkradio. Guitar player for the past 25 years. I love a good 12-step program, the whole gender community, the hell I plan to raise over the next 20 years. I love kids and dogs and I send money home. #1469

West Hollywood, CA: Michelle, 37, SWM, Bi, 5'11"/150 lbs. TV since 11 years old, attending CD clubs last two years.

Writer. Other interests photography, film and cinema. Would enjoy meeting other 30-something TVs, possibly for social outings *en femme*. #1355

Yucca Valley, CA: Elizabeth, 54, currently residing in Southern California. Work as a Supply Specialist. Interests include painting and bicycling. I've been away from our lifestyle for a number of years, so my experience level is re-learning it all. Would love to attend some of the national events in the future. Relationships none, divorced. #1506

Avon, CT: Michelle Kay, MWM, hetero, 5'10", 170 lbs., blue eyes, dark brown hair, '50s, very passable. Member Tiffany Club, co-founder of Connecticut Outreach Society (COS), participant P-Town outings, program chairlady of COS, director/founder of COS Couples Club. Wife is accepting and started COS wives support group. Interested in corresponding with and meeting other honest, caring, passable CDs or couples. Interests include theater, music (jazz, classical and oldies), travel, cross-country skiing, swimming, boating and water sports. #1457 Michelle Kay, P.O. Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

Heyburn, ID: Patience Moiche, 41. I have been attending some of the monthly meetings of the Salt Lake City group and really enjoyed them. I have been a small business owner working with industry, but I have a dream of going back to school and getting into counselling. I am single, enjoy life, and love and appreciate the feminine person I really am. #1305

Shreveport, LA: Jeri, 51, MWM. Travel throughout the South and only have an opportunity to dress when I travel. Would like to correspond and meet other CDs throughout the South. Attended Texas "T", enjoy all sports and music, and enjoy going out dressed when travelling. #1546 Jeri N., P.O. Box 38048, Shreveport LA 71133

Aurora, MN: Lynda, SWM, mid-30s, craftsman in design and building equipment, 20 years of all types of mechanical maintenance. Loves photography, martial arts, reading and writing science fiction. Degree in Art. Spend about 50% of my time *en femme*. Would love to correspond with anyone wishing to receive mail from a caring person. #1329

Kansas City, MO: Barrie, married, age 46. Hobbies include photography, writing, playing several sports, collecting antiques. Go to movies, dinner, dancing, shopping as Barrie. Member of Tri-Ess, RCGA (Omaha), and Sigma Nu Rho. Travel in Midwest. Love to hear from sisters. Let's exchange photos. I answer all correspondence. #1203 Barrie James, P.O. Box 412948, Kansas City MO 64141

Roslyn Heights, NY: Jane, 34, married, Northern Italian. 5'7"/135 lbs. LIFE and Tri-Ess memberships (2 years). Also subscribe to *Renaissance News*. Interests: Travel, photography, sportscars, nature, skiing, gardening, music, dance, theater, swimming, art and earth sciences. Go out dressed day and night; dress flamboyantly as a guy when not working (Danskins, stirrups, parachute pants, jumpsuits, accessories). Travel throughout the US regularly. Lived in and love California, which I visit as often as possible. I am anxious to correspond with other TV sisters who would be interested in doing the same. #1348 J. Engel, P.O. Box 484, Roslyn Heights NY 11577-0484

Trotwood, OH: Fran, senior citizen living in SW Ohio, retired. Interested in most outdoor sports, writing and photography. Out of the closet once, years ago, but now in a small community and spouse not supportive. #1489

Irving, TX: Bernice, Texas girl, mature, not old. Come to California often. Do gatherings frequently (Texas "T",

California Dreamin', Esprit, Be-All, Southern Comfort, Fall Harvest, Law Conference, Holiday En Femme). Enjoy all T-community members. I am approaching a TG/TS status. A slow writer, so would appreciate phone number and time if possible. #1450 B.J. Hogan, P.O. Box 140932, Irving TX 75014
Amelia, VA: Laura, pre-op TS accountant wishes to correspond and/or meet with other TVs/TSs. I am 52, 5'7", 115 lbs., and wear size 6 clothing. I am interested in photography, collecting '50s rock & roll records, and dressing as my feminine self whenever possible. #1523

Merry Point, VA: Samantha Louise, 76 (going on 50), MWM, retired engineer. Interests: Amateur radio, Rotary, sailing, woodcarving. Attended "Holiday En Femme" in Chicago, "Coming Together" in Houston, "Southern Comfort", "Fall Harvest". Member of Virginia's Secret, DCEA, IFGE, Tri-Ess. Editor of "Secrets", newsletter for Virginia's Secret. Out of the closet since June 1991 and making up for lost time. #1416 T.W. Winternitz, P.O. Box 73, Merry Point VA 22513

Seattle, WA: Rose C'est La Vie, neophyte CD, seeking friendship, guidance and amusement. Divorced, 40, and just now learning the art of dressing. Interests include art (read art history, collect Northwest art), baseball, literature and music. I am a lawyer, taking a landscaping class, and write short stories. #1521 J. Hamilton, P.O. Box 2346, Seattle WA 98101

Subscribers are entitled to a free 50-word reader profile in this section. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a profile form if you cannot locate the form you were sent previously.

If you submitted a profile with an address but it was not published: Our policy is to publish only post office box addresses. If you rent a box at a private mail receiving agency and your box address is a street address, we require confirmation of the address. Please send us a business card from the agency or a photocopy of their yellow pages ad for verification.



NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

October 14-24, 1993: 19th Annual "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA, hosted by the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute. Information from 405 Western Ave. #345, South Portland ME 04106, or by calling (207) 621-0858.

October 28-31, 1993: "Fall Harvest '93 Weekend", Kansas City MO, hosted by the five MAGGIE groups (Crossdressers And Friends, St. Louis Gender Foundation, Iowa Artistry, River City Gender Foundation, Wichita Gender Alliance). Details from Fall Harvest, P.O. Box 35061, Overland Park KS 66214-5061, or call (913) 649-8878.

November 10-14, 1993: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", Burbank CA. Event open only to Tri-Ess members or heterosexual crossdressers. Host chapters: Alpha, Omega Chi, Tri-Chi. Details from Holiday En Femme, 1757-D W. Carson St. #306, Torrance CA 90501.

February 25-27, 1994: 6th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio 78270.

March 12-20, 1994: International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together" convention, Portland OR. Information from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

May 19-22, 1994: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (215) 640-9449.

October 4-7, 1994: "Dignity Cruise V", steambotting aboard the historic Delta Queen. Details from Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449 or by calling (713) 347-6563.

September 15-18, 1994: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May 19-22 listing.

(Please send information on national gender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.)

BACK ISSUES!

CROSS-TALK



#43 (May '93) features self defense tips, arguments pro and con SRS, observations on appearing in androgynous attire in public, and the now-infamous editorial on "mega-groups".

#44 (June '93) features JoAnn Roberts' speech on gender roles and civil rights, why attitude is important when out in public, a comparison of masculine vs. feminine traits, the dangers of peer pressure, and warnings to "wannabe" TSs.

CROSS-TALK



CROSS-TALK



#45 (July '93) contains Kymberleigh Richards' insights on living three years as a TG, reasons why "open" groups are vital to the community, why there's no "cure" for crossdressing, how to handle telling a spouse.

A limited quantity of issues #39 through #42 are also still available.

TO ORDER: Send \$7.00 for each issue ordered (*California residents, add 58 cents sales tax for each issue ordered*) plus \$1.00 shipping and handling (*maximum \$3.00; non-U.S. residents, send \$1.50 per issue*) to: Cross-Talk, Dept. BI, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. Please make your check or money order payable to Kymberleigh Richards.

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HOTLINES, EVENTS CALENDAR, READER PROFILES

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Every month, "Cross-Talk" contains numerous articles of interest to the gender community and those interested in gender issues, including reprints from the many newsletters of support groups worldwide, but *without* gossip, sexually-oriented material or references, or so-called "passing" stories. We have been providing this informational and educational resource to the gender community since 1988, and now "Cross-Talk" is bigger and better than ever!

"Cross-Talk" is published by members of the gender community, with total concern for our subscribers' privacy and security. Our mailing list is kept completely confidential, and each month's issue is mailed in a plain brown envelope with only our P.O. Box return address. There is nothing -- not even our name -- on the outside of the envelope giving any clue as to the contents.

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National Talent Search
TMI Headquarters
8033 Sunset Blvd., Suite 821
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(800) R-U- MISSY

Each entry will be reviewed by a committee of television
professionals. Semifinalists will be selected to present at
the Regional Semifinals to be held Thanksgiving
weekend on the East and West Coasts, in the Midwest,
and the South. The top three contenders from each
regional semifinal will receive a special cash and prize
package and be invited to present to show producers and a
panel of celebrity judges at the finals, Christmas weekend
in Los Angeles where America's Supreme Drag Diva will
walk away with over \$10,000* in cash and prizes and Star
of her own T.V. Show!

It Could Be You!

Qualifications: Must be male and at least 18 years of age.
Photographs: Photos can be blk & wht or color, 5x7 min.
Demo Tape: Tapes must be 1/2" (VHS) format, no more
than five (5) minutes in length, and include a sixty (60)
second monologue introducing yourself and telling us why
you're America's Supreme Drag Diva, and a no-holds-
barred original performance. You Better Work!

Entry Ticket & Fee: This registration ticket and a
cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$20 made
payable to TMI-WMCNTS must accompany each entry.
Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by October 15, 1993,
any entries received after this date will be returned.

NAME: _____

ADDR: _____

C/S/Z: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGN: _____

WMC REGISTRAR ID# F94PU0021

The complete entry package becomes the property of TMI,
clips may be used in promotional materials. Actual dates
and locations of the semifinals and finals to be announced.

*cash and prize package value is estimated. Employees
and agents of TMI and members of their immediate
families are not eligible to participate. If you need
additional information contact WMC? contest office.

art & illusion: a guide to crossdressing • art & illusion companion • speaking as a woman • coping with crossdressing • transsexual's survival guide, vol. 1 • transsexual's survival guide, vol. 2 • sacred cows make the best hamburger • international who's who & resource guide to the transgendered community • the cross & the crossdresser • art & illusion tricks & tips video • ladylike department video • speaking as a woman video • basic makeup video • what is femininity video • art & illusion: a guide to crossdressing • art & illusion companion • speaking as a woman • coping with crossdressing • transsexual's survival guide, vol. 1 • transsexual's survival guide, vol. 2 • sacred cows make the best hamburger • international who's who & resource guide to the transgendered community • the cross & the crossdresser • art & illusion tricks & tips video • ladylike department video • speaking as a woman video • basic makeup video

Can you find the 'Q' in CDS?

Do you see it? It's right there in front of your eyes. Still can't see it? That's because we planned it that way. The 'Q' in CDS is the Quality we put into each and every publication and video we produce. We plan the design so it doesn't get in the way of the information presented; information that will help you make your life a little bit better. And, making your life better is what CDS products are all about. We've been helping the transgendered community since 1985. So, look for CDS publications and videos at your local vendor, or contact us direct. Find the 'Q' in CDS for yourself.

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