

Script

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ARTICLES:

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Low Life in High Heels

Rebuttal to "Death
of Gender"

Svetlana:
a Russian transsexual

PERSONAL TRANSCRIPT:
Caroline Cossey
Tula: I Am a Woman



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On the Cover: The Sluts a-Go-Go PR photo for "Happy Hour Celebrity Back Yard Bar-B-Cue and Pool Party." Photo courtesy of Bob Davis. Inset: Margaux Schaffer (l.) and Tula (r.), courtesy of AEGIS.

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Editorial

I Don't Get No Respect

Poor Rodney Dangerfield. He always got a laugh with that line. Sadly, he was a bit before his time because, today, disrespect abounds.

A lot of the violence we see on the news and read in the print media is directly attributable, in a large degree, to disrespect for one another. If I have no respect for Black culture, then they're just niggers. Once I devalue them as people, it is easy to justify violence against them. I'm not hurting people; they're just things. The same process applies to any minority: gays, Hispanics, crossdressers, transsexuals, Republicans, Pro-Choice, etc., etc.

Violence Against Women

Lately we've seen what appears to be an increase of violence against women. I say "appears" only because the media now admits that violence against women is rampant. But it's been that way for a long time.

Our culture does not value females as major contributors to the wealth of the nation. Females, for the most part, are devalued persons and, as such, are "used" by males. One has only to recall the William Kennedy Smith circus. One woman said, "If [the victim] took off her pantyhose, she knew what she was doing." Is that any excuse for the violence committed? Does agreeing to have sex mean that the male can do anything he wants to the female?

Look at the after-effects of the Mike Tyson rape trial. Tyson was convicted of rape, but Donald Trump and several Black ministers tried to make a deal with the D.A. to "buy-off" his sentence by donating the proceeds from future fights to the rape victim and a charity for rape victims. What does this say about how these males value women?

TV/TS/TG Spill Over

Some of the discrimination and violence we experience is due to our emulation of females. (I apologize to my F-t-M brothers for their exclusion.) If women are devalued in society at large and we try to look and act like women, well then, we're devalued too.

I've always found it most curious that a large number of people, mostly males, equate crossdressing with looking for sex. The answer finally dawned on me. How often had it been said in the past of a woman, "If she didn't dress like she was asking for it, she'd never been raped!" Is that really true? No. It isn't crossdressing that's linked to sex: no one seems to accuse F-t-M crossdressers or transsexuals of trolling for sex. It's looking like a woman that's linked to sex. The more convincing you are as a woman, the stronger the conviction that it must be sexually motivated.

Changes In The Wind

There is a bill in Congress called the Violence Against Women Act. In essence, it's a hate crimes bill for women. Or, rather, to be more precise, a bill to provide additional punishment for hate crimes due to gender. Got that: gender! While the bill's title says women, the text of the legislation uses "gender."

Now, I'm sure the bill's sponsors have no idea what the use of that term means in the long run. They're probably trying to be politically correct. But, the implication of the term gender means that we, transvestites, M-t-F transsexuals, F-t-M transsexuals, transgenderists, drag queens, or whatever, may find a greater measure of protection in the future. Why not write your congressman and senators today and find out where they stand on violence against women. ☛

Contributors



Wendi Seabreeze is best known for her fiction in ^{EN}Femme and other publications. In this issue she questions who should speak out for our gender rights.

Stacy Novak is the co-ordinator for TransEssex in England and a genetic female. She is also the editor of Narcissus, the group's newsletter.



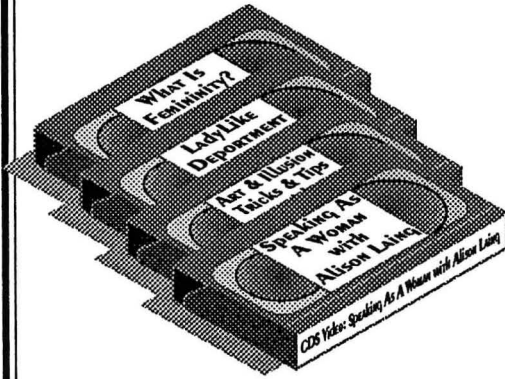
Margaux Schaffer is Deputy Director of the American Educational Gender Information Service near Atlanta, GA. She interviews Caroline Cossey in this issue.

Rachel Jean Tracy is a new writer on the scene. A qualified counselor and therapist, she disagrees with most of Virginia Prince's ideas, calling them out-dated.



JoAnn Roberts is our Editor-in-Chief and the Shopping Maven. She was recently elected to the board of the International Foundation for Gender Education.

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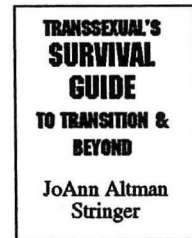
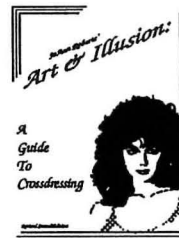
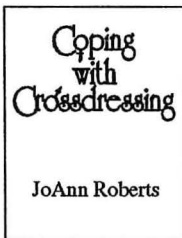
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Loves the High Standards

Yes, you are correct, I do not wish to miss a single issue of ITS. This is one of the best publications available today. I can only imagine how difficult it is to publish quality magazines as you do for such diverse audiences. Please keep those high standards in the years ahead. Quality always tells.

W.H.O'R., FL

TranScript A Winner

Must tell you, you have a winner with Transcript. I reserved judgement after reading issue #1, seeing the usual glitches and bobbles which plague all first efforts. I can now say I believe it to be a publication we in the community can point to with pride.

Linda Phillips, TX.

Guest Editorial Hit Mark

It was smart of you to treat Barbara B.'s letter (V.2, N.1) as a guest editorial. We heterosexual TVs need to know why — as contrasted to knowing that — our predilection is anathema to the heterosexual woman, e.g., "It seems that many TVs, including my husband, believe that putting on a dress instantaneously makes life easier and relieves one of all burdensome responsibilities." The remainder of Mrs. B.'s letter dealt with the economic discrimination between men and women in the job market, and we cannot know, nor should we want to know, what responsibilities her husband evades by crossdressing. That is wholly personal to Mrs. B. It would be good, however, to hear from unmarried women if and why the courtship of a confessed crossdresser is acceptable or unacceptable.

We do know that the pejorative word "travesty" derives from the neutral word "transvestism." We need to know if the female of the species sub-

scribes to that semantic trans-mogrification, and why.

Tell us ladies! In the process, it might be as well to define the distinction between the words "husband" and "spouse" as applied to the heterosexual crossdresser. Please!

Susan S., PA

Opinion on Universal Health Care

As America considers tax-financed schemes for "universal delivery" of medical care, the Archonists Club considers potential problems for various groups of affected persons. In some schemes, there is potential difficulty for as-yet-unfeminized transsexuals. Such difficulties may be intensified through misconceived alliances of transsexuals with other elements that aggravate the costs of such plans.

For illustration, a plan advocated by elements of the American Medical Assoc. proposes a tax-financed scheme "guaranteeing all legitimate health-care needs," with elimination of "services of uncertain or inadequately demonstrated benefits." The concept proposes "necessary-care guidelines" defining benefit in terms of "longevity plus quality of life." If desired services did not conform to the interpretation of guidelines, "desired services would not be considered needs." (Ref: Hadorn & Brook, JAMA, 12/18/91)

In specific regard to gender reassignment, although some experts favor transsexual surgery, administrators of Medicaid and some private plans dispute the merits of this procedure. Further, many persons, including this writer, have Blue Cross-Blue Shield policies that specifically exclude procedures related to transsexualism. Such evidence strongly suggests that the guidelines of the Hadorn-Brook Plan

would deny these benefits for transsexuals.

In our analysis, pressures against transsexuals will be intensified by the costs imposed upon taxpayers by other elements. Unless constraints can be imposed upon irresponsible behaviors, that taxpayers must assume ever increasing costs from (1) promiscuity-induced AIDS and from (2) the procreation of non-paying persons. As costs increase, taxpayers will increasingly, and legitimately, resent (a) "brood sows" who reproduce on welfare and at public expense and (b) promiscuous "gays," among whom AIDS is particularly prevalent. With some justification, taxpayers will feel they are being unfairly burdened for subsidizing sleaze. Although transsexuals may not be guilty, the resentment may extend to them. If, as has often been the case, transsexuals regard "gays" as "natural allies," that will increase the public opposition to transsexuals.

Archonists advocate constraints on irresponsible behavior which can aggravate costs for taxpayers. Legitimate requirements for "longevity and quality of life" do not include careless promiscuity or irresponsible procreation.

Of course, some will raise questions about "rights" and about "freedom." When people pay their own costs, and when their actions don't cause injury to persons or damage personal property, we can agree that personal behavior generally belongs under personal control. But when costs of irresponsible behavior devolve upon the public, the, we, as taxpayers, must assert appropriate rights of constraint.

Bill Knaus
Archonist Regent

It's Our Time

Gender Bending and Crossdressing hits the mainstream media.

I should start this column with a word of warning—I'm going to be getting up on my soapbox again before I'm finished. But first, a pop-quiz:

How many of you saw the September '91 issue of *Playboy*? Did you see the feature on Caroline Cossey (a.k.a. Tula)? If you didn't, you only missed one of the most significant events to hit the transgendered community in a lifetime. [See Tula's interview in this issue—Ed.]

Tula (her professional name) first came to prominence when she was picked for a small part in the James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*, before being revealed to be a transsexual. She's fought a dual battle for the last decade. One battle has been with the notorious London tabloids that consistently treat her with the respect normally accorded a circus freak. The other has been with the British government, which has refused to change her official papers from "male" to "female," more than 15 years after her surgery, leaving her in

an impossible legal muddle.

Tula is gorgeous, incredibly brave, and deserves our unqualified admiration. But it isn't her story that leads me to write this piece. It's the fact that her story and photos appeared in *Playboy*. This isn't the *Enquirer*, or the *Globe*, or even *People*. This is *Playboy*, the greatest bastion of orthodox all-American hetero male sexuality, presenting a wholly sympathetic and positive piece on a transsexual, with three pages of nude and semi-nude photos, yet. You have to go all the way back to the emergence of Christine Jorgensen to find anything comparable.

A tran in *Playboy*! Do you realize that an entire generation of American women whether openly or tacitly, has compared itself to the gatefolds of *Playboy*? Never mind the rhetoric of radical feminism; there isn't a woman in this country who has not, at some time or another, sneaked a peak and sized herself up against Miss July. Now, here comes a woman who can hold her own against anyone else appearing in the magazine, and she just happens to have been born a male.

What do you think that's going to do to old Joe Sixpack when he becomes conscious of the fact that the stirring between his thighs is being brought on by a tran?

For the last year or so, I have been shouting to anyone who would listen that the decade of the 90's belongs to we who cross the gender line. Just as the 80's was the decade in which needs and concerns of the homo-

sexual community became issues of public concern (which I believe would have happened without the chilling effect of the AIDS epidemic), so is this decade the time for the emergence of the essential issues regarding gender. Tula's appearance in *Playboy* is graphic evidence that mainstream America is beginning to pay attention to us.

Need more proof? The December '91 issue of *Vogue* features an intelligent, right-on view of the new status of drag as performance art, from the delectably eccentric cavorting of Lypinska (a.k.a. John Epperson), who deftly skewers the styles of a generation of mini-stars who sprang up during the first television decade, to the free-form celebration of Wigstock, New York's annual Labor Day festival of crossdressing and gender-bending, whose move in 1991 to Union Square Park heralded a semi-official recognition of respectability (horrors!). Also in the December '91, *Mirabella*, B. Ruby Rich has written an important article on the sociology of gender transference. Citing the usual historical examples, but more significantly focusing on transgendered life in the modern world, she makes the compelling argument that those who crossdress or assume the identity of the opposite gender are delivering a potent message to the rest of the world, forcing a re-evaluation of the stereotypical, one-or-the-other view of gender that has prevailed in the past.

These articles are life-affirming statements for every one of us, for

two important reasons. First, of course, are the venues in which they appear. Neither *Vogue* nor *Mirabella* could remotely be considered "fringe" publications. Each is in the very forefront of mainstream women's issues, not merely in matters of fashion and style, but in the very social attitude that is central to the life of women in modern America. The appearance of supportive, informed articles on the transgendered lifestyle in these magazines is as significant as Tula's appearance in *Playboy* is for men.

Second, and most important in the long run, is that the appearance of these articles at this time legitimizes us in a way that we have never been in this country. The freedom that we hold most dear, that of exploring and embracing the world of the feminine gender, is upheld in these articles as not only something honest and real, but further an evaluation of self with far-reaching implications for the social (and by inference, political) attitudes of all Americans.

An aside: I realize that there are many among us who would question the need to be "legitimized" at all. The argument goes, "We're living our lives. We're not bothering anybody. Why should we be forced to live in a fishbowl and viewed like biological curiosities? We don't need for the outside world to 'understand' us." Well, my darlings, we do.

The cruel fact is that our way of life is under constant threat, principally from supposedly well-meaning moralists (many in high elected office) who would place severe restrictions on the freedom of expression that we depend on to make the cross-gendered life possible. Whether you only dress occasionally or live in the opposite gender as I do, you are under attack from the theologians and politicians who say we have no right to be here—just as they tried to do with gays about a decade ago.

Even if you don't agree with every word and paragraph in these articles, or feel that Tula sold herself cheap by baring herself for *Playboy*, understand that by their very existence, these are powerful, positive reinforcement for our right to exist. If anyone reads about crossdressers or transsexuals in mainstream publications, there's a very good chance that he or she will come away with the thought, "Gee, maybe these people aren't the perverts I thought they were. They seem happy and content with themselves. They're not so bad after all." And there's another soldier in the fight to protect our freedom.

I know that some of you will suggest that I'm making an awful lot out of a few magazine articles. It might seem quite a jump to call them heralds of our acceptance into society, or weapons on the fight for our rights. But as someone who lived in the shadows of transgendered life for over fifteen years before coming into the light as a full-time woman, I am ecstatic to see our lifestyles and values being discussed in an open forum.

I have long resented the notion that we must expect to

live our lives undercover, that only by maintaining an unearthly air of secrecy can we survive in a world that inherently hates and fears us. We who cross the gender line have as much right to live in the sunshine and conduct our lives openly as anyone else. I believe with all my heart that in this decade, we will be permitted that right, freely and without condition. These articles are the clarion call for America to take us seriously. But it will be up to each of us to advance that cause.

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Thomas Hansen

Glasnost*

*Openness

This article is an interview with Svetlana, a Russian transsexual. Be thankful if where you live, society and the medical/psychological professions are more open-minded.

"Hello Elga,

I wrote you a letter once, or better to say, attempted. I never mailed it, however. I thought to myself, "No one is interested in me. Nobody needs me." Why should I send a letter? To arouse compassion, or, as I well know from experience, ridicule?

My belief in justice has faded. My soul has been shattered and only little by little tries to revive itself.

There are no laws [in Russia] to protect transsexuals. Since I first visited a doctor in 1981, I have been a constant object for ridicule. I was diagnosed as "schizophrenia paranoia." They pricked and hammered me until total black-out.

However, they did not break me. In autumn last year, I was acknowledged to be completely sound in body and mind. The doctors of the 4th Moscow Psychiatric Hospital recommended me for [re-assignment surgery]. This operation can only be performed in one of Moscow's hospitals. The promises of the doctors make me so happy. The operation will take place in the next few days. My documents are already filled out anew, in a woman's name.

Perhaps you could find time to visit me in the hospital. I'd like to tell you my story. Perhaps it would ease the way of others like me. I have documents and photographs, but I didn't send them to you. It might be possible you also disdain people like me.

Svetlana S."

I visited Sergei-Svetlana a week after the operation. It turned out he hadn't eaten for many days, only secretly smoked. There was no one else in the ward. The operation had been a difficult one and lasted for many hours. I saw him returning from the toilet; it was difficult for him to get into bed.

It was obvious he suffered. The expression of pain and suffering made me hold back my questions. I remember the incompatibility of what I saw: a man's face, stubs of beard, and an overbleached tow of hair edging out from the kerchief. There was a real feminine commotion of feelings: "Oh, I look so awful, I know..."

A week later when I visited her (now "her"), she was in quite a different mood. Sergei-Svetlana was smiling. Her face was made up and her eyes lined. "Please call me Svetlana," she asked.

Elga: How do you feel?

Svetlana: I feel like a new-born. The docs say my figure will change soon. They promise to grow my breasts. If I marry, they say, my husband won't even notice that an operation was done. The gynecologist, they say, won't be able to tell, though I know I can't have children. I'd like to be able to adopt one. How much I'd like to have a family. I mean a family with a husband and a child. I couldn't have dreamt about such happiness a few years ago.

Elga: What was your childhood like?

Svetlana: Mother abandoned me when I was two years old. My older brother was adopted by a well-to-do family. I was left alone in a locked-up room. Thanks to the neighbors, I was rescued. They had heard me crying, broke open the door and found that worms were crawling under my body. I

was adopted by a man I think was my real father.

Elga: I can imagine how shocked your foster parents were when they discovered a queerness in the behavior of the little boy Seryosha.

Svetlana: Yes, it might seem queer to everybody in society at that time. Whenever I was left home alone, I began to try on dresses. I played only with girls. The grown-ups looked on it as a childishness that I would out-grow. They did not know that I was born with a feminine soul and psychology. The doctors said it might happen when a pregnant woman takes female hormones and she bears a boy. Am I the one who can be blamed?

At the time, I was unaware of it. Nevertheless, I was ashamed of my inclination. I entered a technical school and lived in a hostel for men. A few years later, I tried suicide but was rescued in time. The director of the firm where I worked wrote a letter to my parents and informed them I was a transsexual (he was rather a wise man) and that I had a hard life. Only the support of my family might help.

Elga: Did your family help?

Svetlana: No. My step-brother had a heart attack because of me. For a long time, he could not understand my problem or believe it. His wife stopped talking to me. Father sent me a letter that he did not want to know me anymore. My problem, according to him, was plain stupidity. I could not depend on his support anymore.

Only later, when in our papers appeared articles about transsexuals, did my brother and his wife change their ill-disposed attitudes towards me. My father did not live long enough to see it.

continued page 44

Daniel Graham

A LOW LIFE *in* HIGH HEELS

Daniel caught up with former Warhol Superstar, Holly Woodlawn, in New York plugging her new book.

When most people think of Holly Woodlawn they think of her in the film *Trash*, as the loud, drunken, horny, trash-picking, social outcast that delights in getting stoned on other people's drugs. That role may have fit her in the 70's, but today she is a refined lady with taste and elegance.

The reason for her trip to New York City is that she's "plugging" her autobiography *A Low Life In High Heels*, published by St. Martin's Press. Ms. Woodlawn was running a little late as she was doing photos for a magazine layout and so I waited. Ms. Woodlawn enters the room with a burst of energy, like a grand lady who knows that she is indeed special and worthy of the attention that is to be lavished on her. After she settled into a chair, she produced a cigarette from her purse and waited a moment to see if a man would light it. Being the only man in the room, it was my duty to attend to this little task before asking questions.

Holly has pretty much put her

acting career behind her and is now designing clothing. She refers to her clothing as "goddess wear" and it all has miles of lace, taffeta and silks. She is not creating fetish clothing, but attire that is showy. "People should look glamorous at all times and that is what I intend to achieve with my clothing."

When I mentioned the name Arnold Ajzenberg, she rolled back her eyes and said that the last person to call her that was her mother. "With the name like Arnold, is it any wonder that I became a female? With that name you would either be a pig or a farmer. Don't get me wrong, it's a nice name, but when was the last time you met a female named Arnold?"

Her childhood was an idealistic one, an attractive mother, large caring family, but she wanted glamour and fame, something that a skinny boy named Arnold could never achieve. So, at the age of 15, Arnold left Miami Beach by bus and hitchhiked most of the way to New York City. Like most of the kids in the city, he know no one and had no money, so he hustled to eat. "Standing on the street corner was not my idea of being refined. In fact, it was the most horrible time of my life. I did not know what to charge for sex, and sometimes I forgot to get the money up front and afterwards I was too embarrassed to ask for it."

Later she stopped hustling as a male and went out little by little as a female. In an interview with a magazine, she claimed that she was a Warhol film star. This was totally

false as she had yet to even meet Warhol and had never been in front of his camera. This little white lie to an underground magazine launched her career. "I had a phone call asking if I was available to be in this film. In New York City you run into so many people that say they are making a film, but never do, so I asked if there was pay and they said yes. Well, I'm not one to turn down money for exchange of services. I spent what seemed like forever in front of the mirror trying to capture that certain look. Now, I look back at that make-up and can't figure out why I had such horrid eyebrows painted on, they look like the Golden Arches at MacDonalds."

Of course *Trash* was a smash hit and Holly was in demand. Every theatre group wanted her (actually, they wanted to use her name and not pay her). She worked on a number of shows that ran off-off Broadway and settled into a routine of rehearsals, parties, and living the life of a celebrity. As Holly had no real training in acting, she was forced to work harder than most people in the cast. "It is difficult to be a star when you have not had the proper training that your fellow actors have had. I had to really work at remembering everything the director told me and when I had it down, he would turn around and change it."

Her most famous stage role was in the play *Neon Women*, a play that also boasted Divine as the leading lady. "Divine was a very nice person,

continued on page 46

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Wendy K. Smith

THE Library Lady

Wendy takes a look at the crop of "How To" books for crossdressers and wanna-be women.

When I was a young would-be girl, I looked all over for books on how to do female impersonations. After all, I couldn't ask my mother. And one day, to my surprise, I found one. Since then, dragit yourself books have proliferated, and I think the time has come to review some of them.

The first one that I ever got was Michael Salem's *How To Impersonate A Woman*. Of course, I got my copy in 1974 when it cost \$5 and was worth it. I gather that Salem's Exotica Boutique still sells it, but the price is up to near \$50 and it's not worth it.

Salem did not take himself too seriously and the book has a readable, rather humorous style, marred only by Salem's attempt to push his own line of custom cosmetics. It is a good basic makeup text and that's all it is, with nothing on deportment, and next to nothing on fashion.

The next one out was Virginia Prince's *How To Be a Woman Though Male*, which was almost the opposite. It had excellent chapters on feminine

deportment, hormones and making the transition to full time, but the sections on makeup and clothing simply defined the basic terms with no instruction on how to do it. Virginia herself had been living full time for three years when she wrote it, but she does have a tendency to shoot for the matronly stereotype.

There was also the *Female Impersonator's Handbook* by Pudgy Roberts, a profession impersonator. Pudgy's book is definitely oriented towards the theatrical impersonator, rather than the girl on the street. On the other hand, if you happen to be getting ready for the next Miss Bar Pageant, this may be exactly what you're looking for. It also has explicit directions for taping your genitals to simulate a female vulva, but unless you're planning an intimate nude evening with that special man or butch, why bother?

That brings us up to *Art & Illusion* by JoAnn Roberts. Like Salem's book, this is primarily a make-up text but also includes illustrated directions for taping cleavage and home-made falsies, plus a visual dictionary of fashion. The make-up instructions are clear, easy to follow and have copious illustrations. The fashion section however, suffers from trying to cover a very ramified subject in less than 20 pages.

There is also an *Art & Illusion Companion*, published "instead of a third edition of A&I." In the introduction JoAnn admits this one isn't much use without a copy of the original A&I. It does have additional information on wigs, breast prosthe-

sis and photos of JoAnn applying her make-up cleavage, but I'm not sure there is enough new information to really justify it.

From Masculine To Feminine by Jennifer Ann Stevens is more in the mold of *How To Be A Woman Though Male*. There are sections on hormones, living full time and surgery, plus a really valuable chapter on handling coming out to relatives and significant others. There is a chapter on deportment. I don't think it's as good as Virginia Prince's, but it's not bad and has good advice on handling being read. The fashion chapter has a lot of practical advice on how to shop and some good advice on styles. The make-up chapter is limited and there are no illustrations.

Several girls in our local Tri-Ess chapter have bought this *From Masculine...* and really love it. On balance, I have to say the combination of *From Masculine...* and *Art & Illusion* is probably your best buy since their strengths tend to balance each other's weaknesses.

However, you will still need to add a good woman's "how to dress" book. I'll go on a limb and suggest *Flatter Your Figure* by Jan Larkin. It covers how to camouflage every figure flaw I can think of, is clear and understandable, has literally everything illustrated and at least one of my born-women friends swears by it.

Speaking As A Woman by Alison Laing is a specialty item. It covers only feminine voice and speech. There are also chapters on this in

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Jim Bridges

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Jim Bridges

THE Art of Makeup

Jim deals with circles, shadows and creating the illusion of an oval face using foundations.

Now that you have created those spectacular eyes (from the last issue) we'll go on to the next step, to ensure that you have a nice clean surface under the eyes. Make sure that you have used your baby wipes to take away any remaining eye shadow that might have drifted down off your applicator and onto the cheek area. It is very important to make sure this is very clean before you put your foundation on so that you don't get shadows.

Those annoying dark shadows, circles, and bags under the eyes are a problem for a lot of people. One of the best ways to get rid of this to camouflage or to hide it. You will want to use a good product that is fairly soft, not something that is hard, because you will have to apply it under the eye. If you drag something heavy under the eye, you are stretching the skin, and it is going to cause wrinkles. We always want to be very delicate while working under the eye because this is a delicate area.

I recommend something we have at the Jim Bridges Boutique that is called Under-eye Concealer. It has a wonderful texture, not too soft and not too hard. If you use a pan stick, which is what a lot of people use, it ends up being a very greasy effect and isn't attractive at all. The product ends up getting caught in the fine creases near the eye. We want to eliminate that effect, so don't use something that is greasy.

Use enough of the concealer that will give you the effect that it's created to do. So many people, when they come in for a make-over, are amazed at how much of the under-eye concealer I use. I tell them to apply it to their finger, pat it on softly, and, most of all, make sure you use enough so that you won't look like a raccoon in reverse.

Once you have the concealer under both eyes, take a sponge and, very gently, dab at the product. This is called stippling and will blend the product without actually removing it or causing the skin to be stretched. Again, just dab at the product gently, but remember it doesn't have to be blended out of visibility. You just want to soften the edges.

Now you will put on your beard cover. Use this product very generously. Some of the gals use a minimal amount of this and there is always a shadow coming through. We have a product called Beard Camouflage that was created to hide scar tissue and birthmarks. I incorporated this product into my product line to make it the best we possibly could. It will cover a beard or tattoo like nothing else I have ever found. I work with some plastic surgeons and I use this product to teach burn victims how to

cover their scars.

You will want to use your finger to dab this on. You warm it up with your finger a little bit by rubbing in a circular motion over the top. It softens a bit and makes it easier to apply. You dot this on over the upper lip area and the chin area. Again, be very generous with this. Just come to the chin. You don't need to come all the way up the sides of the face. A lot of people do that and then when they have photographs taken, this white look comes over the face because of the beard cover they are using. So don't bring it up that high. Unless you have an extremely heavy beard and a very, very dark one then I might bring it up to the outside of the face just below the sideburn area.

It is not necessary to bring this product under the chin, just to the chin line. Because whatever is left on your sponge when you blend, you can then use under the chin and on the neck area. This gives you a tiny bit of the beard cover in this area. It will cover up the redness and any irritation left there from shaving. One reason you don't want to use this product in the neck area is it can create tremendous cleaning bills. It makes a ring around whatever you're wearing and looks very dirty.

You cannot use too much of this product because this is such an important step. You want to make sure that you block out all of that beard and any shadow. When you're using a sponge to blend, whether its a foundation or beard cover or eye concealer, your sponge will absorb any of the product that you don't really need. So don't worry about put-

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Political Writes

Wendi tries her hand at political commentary. So, what do you think? Who should lead the fight for our rights?

Gender Activism - The Pros and Cons

Those of you that have read my many stories and articles in other publications, may notice that I might be out of character in writing about this topic. For I am certainly not a gender activist, neither am I a critic of those who are. However, I am quite vigilant of the world around me and what occurs in our transgender community. This skill grants me the adroitness of observation. I strive to interpret the motives and objectives of certain individuals, publications and organizations, and to underscore the significance of their conduct. Then I pass this information along to my sorority sisters, and those of you that read my words. Yes, I am the Head-Mistress of S.I.S., yet I don't claim to be a mover-and-a-shaker, or an important transgender leader who is recognized by name and accomplishments. You know, the national "stars," so to speak. I am the equivalent of a modest director, one who operates behind the scenes. I'm explaining this to you so you can understand my viewpoint on gender activism. Also, please know that while

writing this article, I'm not consciously out to step on anyone's toes.

To begin with, in our monthly S.I.S. newsletter, our Empress, Ronnie, conducted a poll of our members across the U.S. In this poll, Ronnie advanced the gender activism issue to the furthest extreme. She asked our sorority sisters what they thought about the gay-activist group called ACT-UP, and if TVs, TGs and TSs should emulate their methods like parading around in malls and in the streets is a seemingly haphazard protest to demand equal rights. Two months later the results were in; it was a unanimous No! Of course, this was the obvious answer, for who of us would even risk getting thrown in jail for civil disobedience? Even if it was a legal organized march, only five out of eight sorority sisters would be willing to participate.

In my correspondence with others, I had asked the same sort of question concerning ACT-UP, and received the same results. I am speculating that it's much easier to create and write a gender proclamation, than it is to actually establish a gender movement that will exert a positive effort to get results through media attention. Unlike the gay community who takes action to obtain their rights, our transgender activists or "genderists" are still in the closet, or so it seems. Again, this is understandable because many of these girls are TVs who are married and live as a man. Being an advocate with or without media attention could destroy their livelihood and occupation.

Also, probably very few (myself included) have ever experienced a woe-ful event of discrimination. We know that it's out there, like individuals be-

ing asked to leave public places such as restaurants while crossdressed. Even under the guise of the statute of disturbing the peace, I believe this is unconstitutional. As JoAnn Roberts has written in her *Bill of Gender Rights*, and I quote, "...has the right to freely express that gender role in a manner that does not infringe on the freedom of another individual." I fully accede with this well written statement. So, when any transgendered person is kicked out of a public place it is surely discrimination. However, concerning the TV who had been rejected from the restaurant, there may have been other factors to this incident, or parallel ones. Maybe this TV wasn't passable, and decided to use the ladies room. Here's a topic I'm absolutely against, because I do perceive life from the women's viewpoint (part of being a TG). I don't believe any man, no matter how he's dressed has the right to use the ladies restroom. Even though we may get away with doing so, I don't believe it's really a legal right! I realize that there are many of *you* who disagree with my opinion. But hey, the ladies room is a private, personal place for a woman. A man in a dress doesn't have the right to invade that domain! A right to fight for (like the handicapped did) would be a unisex restroom in public places. Then again, we have yet to have the numbers to make this a feasible issue.

The pro- of gender activism is that some have "our" best interest in mind. On paper? There are a few constructive changes that could be made through government legislation. But come on get real! Sending a proclamation to

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Virginia Prince

Fantasy vs. Reality

What is real? With animals, everything starts from the stimulation of some sense organ; sight, smell, taste, feel, etc. After the stimulation, the animal reacts in some way to its perception of the real world.

But with humans it is much more complex. We still react in the same animal way, but with a "thinking" brain and the phenomenon of self-awareness, we are able to deal with the world in a whole new dimension. We can construct ideas in our head. It is variously referred to as imagination or fantasy. Such ideas may or may not be compatible with what we know of the real world "out there." We can either react to these ideas in an attempt to relate them to reality, or we can kick them around in our head for the fun of it with no intention of trying to tie them to reality.

Fantasy, imagination, creativity and dreaming are all part of this new, exclusively human, function and it manifests itself in all kinds of ways. We are concerned in this article with fantasies about sex and gender. It is easy to get carried away with fantasies of sex and gender because when you mix dissatisfaction and resentment with envy, admiration, desire and imagination, you have a wonderful brew. We all do it; to varying degrees, we are dissatisfied with the masculine role and resent, in some ways, the expectations that society has for us. At the same time, we are envious of girls in our youth, which in our teens turns to admiration and desire (both sexual and non-sexual) for females and how they live (gender). We begin to wonder what it must be like to be a girl/woman, at least for awhile, and we

gradually become crossdressers.

If life presents us with problems, we may become ever more deeply involved in crossdressing because it represents a state of human existence which seems not to have the problems and responsibilities that plague us in our everyday masculine life. We spend more and more time in "Femmland" and begin to think about bodily changes that would bring us closer to our fantasy of being a woman.

So, we begin electrolysis on our beards and perhaps take hormones to start breast development. There comes a time when we decide that: (a) since we no longer have a beard to give us away, and (b) the hormones have begun to produce respectable breasts and we are able to "pass" under most circumstances, it would be "nice" to live longer and longer times in Femmland. In due course, if economics, family and other considerations permit, we decide to try dressing and living full-time as a woman. If we do this, we have entered the classification of "transgenderist," one who lives and dresses full-time as a member of the gender opposite to his or her physical sex.

For some the fantasy extends deeper. The differences between anatomical sex and sociological appearance/behavior (i.e., gender), become overlooked as separate aspects of human living and the fantasy now involves not only the acquisition of the social rights and privileges of women, but the acquisition of the anatomical characteristics as well. To do so requires getting rid of the male sexual equipment, just as passing over from a masculine to feminine lifestyle meant discarding suits, ties and all manner of masculine clothing.

When the fantasy reaches this point, the individual considers himself a transsexual and begins to look forward to the surgical removal of the male appendage and surgical construction of the semblance of female genitals.

Here is where the buck stops, to paraphrase Harry Truman. I mean the fantasy stops here because there is no further to go, so it bumps smack dab into reality. By definition, a female has ovaries, fallopian tubes, a uterus, cervix, vagina, clitoris and breasts. She is able, if all is normal and circumstances are right, to be inseminated, bring forth a child and suckle it at the breast.

The fantasy constructed by transvestites, transgenderists and transsexuals involves, to one degree or another, the taking over of the feminine/female body, persona, and role. Now, parts of this fantasy are achievable. Males can live in and present themselves, more or less successfully, to society in such a way that other people assume the individual is not only a woman (gender) but that underneath all the clothing has the typical female organs (sex). With improved surgical techniques, it is now possible to remove the male genital organs and construct a vagina and clitoris that may even fool other doctors during a superficial genital examination. After surgery, the individual can, if all goes well, not only in surgery, but during subsequent healing, be able to receive a male vaginally. The male may not even realize that the anatomy he is enjoying is "man made," and in more ways than one.

These changes constitute the whole of the original fantasy, but at this point

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Tula: I Am a Woman

An ITS exclusive
interview with world
famous, politically
active, and controversial
Caroline Cossey.

Interview With Caroline Cossey
by Margaux Schaffer and
Dallas Denny of
AEGIS

International model Caroline Cossey, also known as Tula, has been in the news a bit lately. Actually, she's been in the news a lot, ever since a British tabloid exposed her transsexual status. Before this "outing," she was a very popular model, and had even appeared with Roger Moore in the James Bond film, *For Your Eyes Only*. It was only a small part, but it and her status as a "Page Three Girl" in the weeklies made her a likely target, and the inevitable happened—she was revealed as the former Barry Cossey.

Caroline dealt with the publicity by writing a book, *Tula: I Am a Woman*, in which she told her side of the story.

Now Caroline is back with a vengeance. Her appearance in the September issue of *Playboy* magazine generated more mail than any feature

they had ever done. She has appeared on a variety of television shows, including *Donahue*, the *Joan Rivers Show*, and the *Montel Williams Show*. Her mother, Doreen, who accompanied her on her latest trip stateside, was with her on the sets of several shows, including that of the *Howard Stern Show*. Mr. Stern, to the shock of both the Cosseys, showed up in camp drag as "Helen" Stern, graphically depicting his "sex change" with a knife and a sausage. Unruffled, Caroline told him, "Darling, you're not transsexual. You're a crossdresser."

Caroline has recently written a second book, *My Story*, and it is quite good. In it, she tells the story of her unhappy childhood in the small village of Brooke, in the Norfolk countryside; of her teen days as a gender pioneer, a boy who wore makeup; of her career as a showgirl and dancer; of her entry into the world of modeling; of her public exposure; of her love affair with Italian Count Glauco Lasinio; and of her brief but tragic marriage to Jewish magnate Elias Fattal, a man who abandoned her because of an immature need to please his mother. *My Story* ends with Ms. Cossey's account of her legal trials and tribulations, in which she first won in court in her attempt to have herself declared legally a woman, and then lost when the British government appealed.

Caroline has vowed to fight for the rights of the more than 10,000 British transsexual men and women who have the wrong sex on their

birth certificate. To this end, she has been spending a great deal of time in America lately. She was in Atlanta in October, looking at a condo and searching for a spot for a night club she plans to open. She took time out of her busy schedule to meet with us.

She showed up on time, after a late lunch, casually dressed, and wearing almost no makeup (she still looked great). We sat in the lobby of the luxurious Wyndham Hotel, where she unsuccessfully tried to get a cup of decent tea from Babul, our African waiter, who kept offering her strange brews made with herbs and spices. She unselfconsciously flirted with Babul. Flirting comes naturally to Caroline; she told us it's part of her job.

Dallas: You were rather brutally "outed" by the British tabloid, *News of the World*.

Tula: We don't call it outed. I thought that outed was a term used for homosexuals.

Dallas: It is. I think that in this country if you're outed, it means you're publicly exposed.

Tula: I had a career. What happened was, it goes back to when I was dancing at seventeen. I shared a dressing room with another showgirl, Diana, that I confided in—obviously, with two years with her, I would tell her. Her boyfriend at the time was a photographer who suggested doing some pictures of me for the magazines, and then weeks later, telling them how we had fooled them. That didn't appeal to me at all. I finished that job, and then I went on tour,



Caroline receives a Certificate of Appreciation from AEGIS for her efforts on behalf of transgendered people. From left to right: Margaux Shaffer (AEGIS Deputy Dir.), Caroline Cossey, Dallas Denny (AEGIS Exec. Dir.), and Doreen Cossey (Caroline's mother). Photo courtesy of AEGIS.

and I didn't see Diana for many years. And this one particular photographer turned up when I was on a game show as a hostess. He was going out with one of the girls. She said to me, "Why is it that you've never been booked by Brian for a shoot," and it freaked me out, for I knew that it was the same photographer.

At that time, I was Tula, and she asked me if I was Caroline. So I just knew he knew, and I got out of the contract, and I got off to Australia, thinking "I can be away, and it'll drop." Two papers let it drop. *News of the World* persisted. And the lengths they went to — paying people to say things about me and bothering my family in Norfolk. They had pictures of me doctored up with my hair cropped off, 'cause I was a page three girl, which is a bit glamorous, and they had pictures of me that they showed my dad, saying, "Is this your son?" And they showed them to people in school and said, "What was he like in school?" It was just unbelievable. And then I heard they paid to get access to

the medical file at Charing Cross, where I had my surgery.

There was so much distortion when it all blew out. There were so many things written, and twisted, and distorted. In one of the magazines someone sent me, were glamour shots of me, and then this school shot from a term ten years before mine. And they had this poor local boy pointing his finger at the photograph, saying it was me. It wasn't.

Dallas: You dealt with it publicly by writing a book. How did you deal with it privately?

Tula: It was a pretty tough time for me. I felt suicidal. I felt ashamed. I felt all the things we shouldn't feel, being transsexual. God made us this way. We have no choice, really.

So I dealt with it in the best way I could. My agent said, "Well, you've got more control if you do a book than if you sell a retaliation story to a newspaper." So I did the book, which was paperback at the time. A lot of people I knew fled to the hills, and I figured they were shallow and

they weren't my friends to begin with. But my clients, that I felt I owed an explanation to, I told. I lost some of my bread-and-butter stuff, which was the corsetry and swimwear and catalog work that keeps models going between shows.

Margaux: You're doing a lot of promo work for your new book.

Tula: At the time I did the first book, there was a pressure, and things were twisted and distorted. Then what happened with the British government and my situation last year and the year before with my husband and all that just fueled the fire in me. I feel more people understand more and there is more acceptance and recognition that people like us get. And that's why I've become more public about it. There's a lot [of people] that write to me and say, "I think you're doing incredible things, but I'm paranoid, I've got this job," or "I'm in this relationship and I hate to be public with it." That's why I've agreed to do as much as I can, for as long as I can cope with it, and then I'll say, you know, well, enough is enough. I've explained to you that I want to open up a club as a way of showing people that you can be transsexual.

Margaux: It's a form of vindication, like being in *Playboy*.

Tula: Well, yes, that was. At the time, I had not worked for four years, 'cause I was married to a very wealthy man that didn't want me to work, and when he dumped me, my agent called me and said, "I think the best therapy for you is to get back to work." She knew that my case was coming up in the courts, and she said, "What better platform than something like *Playboy*?" That had such appeal, but I said, "At my age, you know, people don't want to know," and she said, "No, not a center spread. A celebrity spread." And it all started me doing the celebrity spread after I went down and met Mr. Hefner and explained what it

continued next page

Caroline Cossey...

was all about. They were going to run it, but unfortunately, they had all this problem with this one big advertiser that was doing ten million dollars worth of ads, and he threatened to pull all that if they ran me. What they did was, they shelved it. All the foreign editions have been coming out for the past year, and finally this advertiser pulled anyway, for some other reason, and they decided to go with it, but instead of offending other advertisers, they thought they would just put me in as a feature—run me in as a feature and wait to see what the response was. Now I've got an agent and I'm doing much more serious work—Vogue, and stuff. I don't want to be seen nude again.

Dallas: Have you spoken with *Playboy* about the response?

Tula: Yes. They've had more response from this than they've had on any other articles that they've run, which is great. Unbelievable.

Dallas: Most of it was positive?

Tula: Yes. I'm going down to L.A. next Monday, and I'm hoping to pop in and say hello to Mr. Hefner and thank him. I'm pleased, because *Playboy*, that's great. I wasn't going to do Penthouse, although they were trying to negotiate.

Margaux: *Playboy* is a part of Americana and the mainstream, and I think it's far more effective than a couple of closed journals or a couple of talk shows. You find an audience that is synonymous with the person on the street.

Tula: I'm the first transsexual that's ever been featured knowingly. I said to Gary Cole at *Playboy*, I said, well, I'm pleased that it's gone like this, because maybe you'll have a playmate that's transsexual. You know, every month, they have these girls in the center of the magazine.

Margaux: I want to see a transsexual Miss America, and I've heard that they were questioning [contestants] on that.

Tula: Miss World, there was a

Miss World, and I knew a Miss Hong Kong contestant that was transsexual, but she was booted out. But that's gotta change, because, you know, in those competitions you're dealing with beauty. I've always said as a model, if someone wanted to book me for face value, surely it's totally irrelevant what my chromosomes are or what I had between my legs when I was a child. They're booking me for what I look like now. I'm like a coat hanger for clothes.

Margaux: People are being excluded for other things that are totally irrelevant to their performance.

“...if someone wanted to book me for face value, surely it's totally irrelevant what my chromosomes are or what I had between my legs when I was a child.”

Tula: L.A., what's that program you have here? L.A.—

Margaux: Law. I thought of you when I saw that episode.

Tula: Someone phoned me and said, “I think there's something that might have been based on you,” and all that. I was amazed when someone sent me the tape. Little things like that. You know, times are changing.

Dallas: Let's do the crossdresser question (we had previously discussed with Caroline the fact that a number of crossdressers had been offended by a remark she had made about men with hairy chests). What do you think about crossdressers?

Tula: Well, I don't know much about them. You're talking about transvestites. I mean, there's an awful lot of men that wear women's clothes, and they get turned on.

That's great, you know. Whatever turns you on. Does it bother me? No. Live and let live is my motto. I get tripped up sometimes, like I told you earlier, when I say things like, I've done *Playboy*, or I'm speaking up for transsexuals. I like to show that we can look sexy and attractive, and we don't have hairy chests. We don't look like men in drag. And then an awful lot of transsexuals write and say, “Well, you're one of the lucky ones. Women come in all shapes and sizes, and so do transsexuals!” Joan Rivers said to me, “How did you deal with hair and things?” There's a lot of guys that are very hairy. There are a lot of women that are very hairy, as well. I've seen some real buggers on the beach, especially in India.

Dallas: You've mentioned on television that you have an XXXY chromosomal pattern.

Tula: My mum took me to various hospitals when I was ten, or eleven or twelve, for I was having blackouts. It was all hormonal. But no one knew what they were dealing with; it was out in the country. It wasn't until years later that a girlfriend went to the specialist who did all these tests and after that I thought, well, I'll never go, but then I did, and it was discovered that I was three X's and a Y. I think the term is mosaicism. The doctor said to me, “A few of your cells will be XY, a few will be XXY, and the rest will be XXXY.”

Dallas: Now that Margaux is finished with your new book, I get to read it. Tell us about it.

Tula: Any day now I'll be given a publishing date. Three publishers are negotiating for it. So long as they don't twist it or alter it.

Margaux: Will the U.S. edition of the book be very different from the U.K. version?

Tula: I don't want it to be, no. I'm going to add two chapters which will all be about Atlanta, and *Playboy*, and all that, which will be great.

Up until now, I've got some great offers. Two that I spoke to want me

to open up in the area of my life as a model and “kiss and tell.” I’ve been fortunate enough to deal with nice people in modeling. It might make me a few more bucks on the book, but I want to feel proud, and I’ve had the feeling of having my life threatened, and I don’t particularly like the idea of being uncomfortable because I’ve said I slept with so-and-so, and he was great—had ten inches or whatever (laughs). That wouldn’t make me feel proud about myself.

Margaux: Your book is being published by Faber and Faber.

Dallas: But only in Britain, so far. How can someone in the United States get a copy?

Tula: Faber and Faber have Faber, Inc. in Boston. It’s like a sister to Faber in England. They were talking to me about distributing the book, but I want to sell the rights to a separate publisher. We’ve just had the Frankfurt Book Fair, which was last month, and I have these three people I’ve been talking to—Stuart Lyle, Harper Collins, and William Morris, who has a division of publishing. So it’s one of those that hopefully will publish it, or maybe my agent might publish it or come up with a new prospect. As long as it’s treated in the same manner as Faber did. When they approached me, I had Sedgewick and Jackson, which was on the same situation, which was “You’re gonna make a fortune with this, but you’ve gotta name drop,” and I thought, “My God.” And then when I met Faber, they wanted to get into the real thing about being transsexual and my feelings, and the legal situation, and the hospital, and to get people aware, and to realize that we have a bad time. I think it was handled in that way with respect. I won’t sell as many copies, but I figure I’m not doing it to sell as many as possible. I’m doing it for people. I get letters that say, “I never knew that people like this existed. I just assumed that you were transvestites—men who like to dress up, or whatever.”



From left to right: Margaux Shaffer, Caroline Cossey. Photo courtesy of AEGIS.

Margaux: What you see in the tabloids is, very unfortunately, what most people think.

Dallas: And sometimes on the talk shows. Even Geraldo, after ten years, doesn’t know the difference between a transsexual person, a crossdresser and a drag queen.

Tula: Donahue was very nice. I mean, we were having a little chat. When I first was deciding to do a show over here, I was talking to Sally, Oprah, and Donahue. Now, Donahue has had more awards for handling the subject of transsexualism and homosexual and any unusual situation — more awards on the program, which is why I agreed to do his show.

Margaux: He does it with more compassion, I think, than anyone else.

Tula: Geraldo has a new show, “Now It Can Be Told.” I’ll be doing

him with my Canadian boyfriend, if I can fit him in on my next trip. I didn’t want to do his chat show, which is a bit — he likes to get people ruffled, I think.

Margaux: I refer to it as thuggery, because the audience tends to be pretty much in consensus with what he believes. So if you have a belief that is outside the mainstream, you tend to get beaten up.

Tula: I’m doing Montel Williams on Monday. That’s from L.A. They might have other—not transsexuals, but I think like a transvestite, and someone they mentioned, another type of person I’m not familiar with. Women into, like, bondage, I suppose. They’re into leather stuff.

Margaux: Some time ago, when you married a Jewish gentleman, he

continued next page

Caroline Cossey...

"I still had hoped that my husband would wake up... because we had covered every aspect of the ins and outs of telling his family, and the possibility of what would happen. ...He told them that he didn't know, that it was, like, I duped him."

went back home to see his mother about your situation and didn't come back. What would you say to him if you could?

Tula: I gave him almost two years to come back. Then I met David, and I managed to finally have feelings again. I'm having an active sex life, but for all of two years I didn't. I mean, in my job, I flirt and laugh and all the rest. But I mean, that's my job. I still had hoped that my husband would wake up, or trip over, knock his head, and realize because we had covered every aspect of the ins and outs of telling his family, and the possibility of what would happen. But unfortunately, his brother got to him before he could tell his mother, and he came up with the ploy of not telling his family that he knew. He told them that he didn't know, that it was, like, I duped him.

So I don't know what I would say. I don't know if I would be able to contain myself. I don't know. I mean, I feel desperately sorry for him. I mean, he has to look at himself in

the mirror on a daily basis, so if he can live with that, good luck to him. I don't think he can, 'cause I know the man that I married.

Did I tell you my club concept?

Dallas: It's going to be a European-style show bar.

Tula: Well, it's going to be Parisian. I'm going to have girls coming in, all transsexual. Twelve maximum, I think. I want to get really top girls. I've got a ventriloquist. She looks like your mum. She's got this little voice. And then there's this fire eater, and a girl that does a strip. She looks like Sophia Loren. She's incredible. Very talented. And then there's one that's gonna do a ... I don't know if you'd understand the accent. It's very funny. She's very beautiful. She sits in a rocking chair and does poetry with this really comical accent.

There's a man in L.A. who is a comedian. He was in the film "Morning After" with Jane Fonda. He's a transvestite. A funny transvestite. He looks to me like your grandad, and doesn't try too hard, but he's so funny. He picks on the audience, and he goes off and then there's all these drag artists coming on. I'd love for him to work for me as a master of ceremonies bringing on each girl, who will have ten minutes.

Margaux: In September, when you visited Atlanta, you were given an honorary citizenship by the mayor's office, Maynard Jackson. Jackson later went on record, saying that he didn't think that anyone whose "primary claim to fame was having had a sex change operation" deserved the award. Will you invite him to your club?

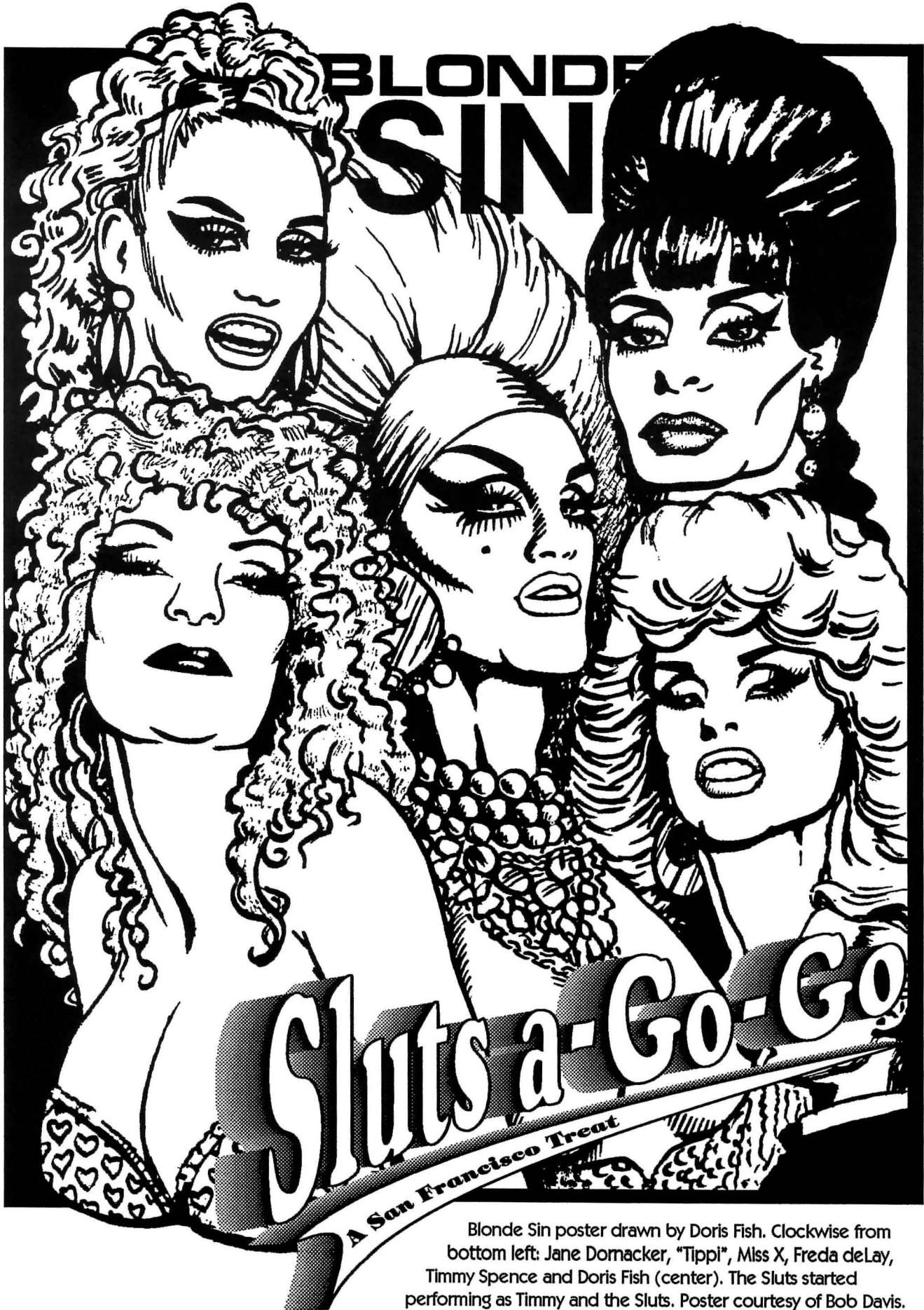
Tula: Well, the next time I'm over, we're gonna have a little drag party, and I hope we'll have him an invite.

Margaux: I think we'll definitely need to. You can ask him to show up for the club's opening.

Tula: He can be there on opening night, but he's gotta come in drag. ♣



Margaux Shaffer (l.) and Caroline Cossey (r.). Photo courtesy of AEGIS.



Blonde Sin poster drawn by Doris Fish. Clockwise from bottom left: Jane Domacker, "Tippi", Miss X, Freda deLay, Timmy Spence and Doris Fish (center). The Sluts started performing as Timmy and the Sluts. Poster courtesy of Bob Davis.

Sluts a-Go-Go



A bereaved Mrs. Dagle (Sandelle Kinkade) and neighbor, Monica Breedlove (Doris Fish), try to get information from a reluctant Rhoda Penmark ("Tippi"), while her mother, Christine Penmark (Miss X), looks away. From the Acme Famous Players production of *The Bad Seed*, 1987.

The Sluts used the name "Acme Famous Players" for *The Bad Seed* because it was legitimate theatre and not cabaret.

Sluts a-Go-Go

A Gender Bending History Lesson

While gender-bending and crossdressing may be getting "good press" in mainstream publications like *Vogue* and *Mirabella*, San Francisco has always treated its own "drag" celebrities well. Before Lypsinka, before *Lesbian Vampires of Sodom*, before the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, there were the Sluts a-Go-Go.

The Sluts were a loose collection of performers that added and lost members over their 10 year history, but the core of the troupe consisted of Doris Fish, Miss X, "Tippi", and later Sandelle Kinkade (GG), and Phillip R. Ford. Sadly, two key members, Doris and "Tippi", died last year.

Doris hailed from Sydney, Australia (drag capital of the world, some say), where in 1972 he joined a group called Sylvia and the Synthetics. Like the Cockettes of San Francisco fame, both groups looked upon drag as "political theatre"—muscles and high heels, lipstick and hairy backs. Over the years Doris's drag toned down, but he was never quite credible as a female, always something gave it away, which for him was also a political stance.

Doris ran into "Tippi" shortly after arriving in San Francisco from Australia in 1976 at an audition for the rock band the Tubes. They hit it off immediately and became roommates. "Tippi", originally went under the name of "Miss Leading."

Doris met Miss X at a come-as-your-favorite-Fellini-character party in 1979. At the time, Miss X wasn't all that serious about doing drag, but by the end of the year the

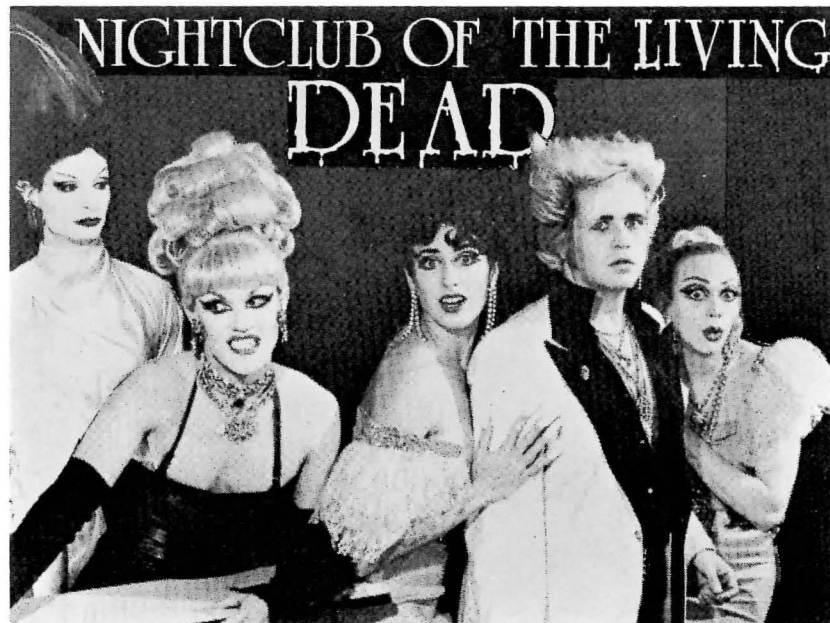
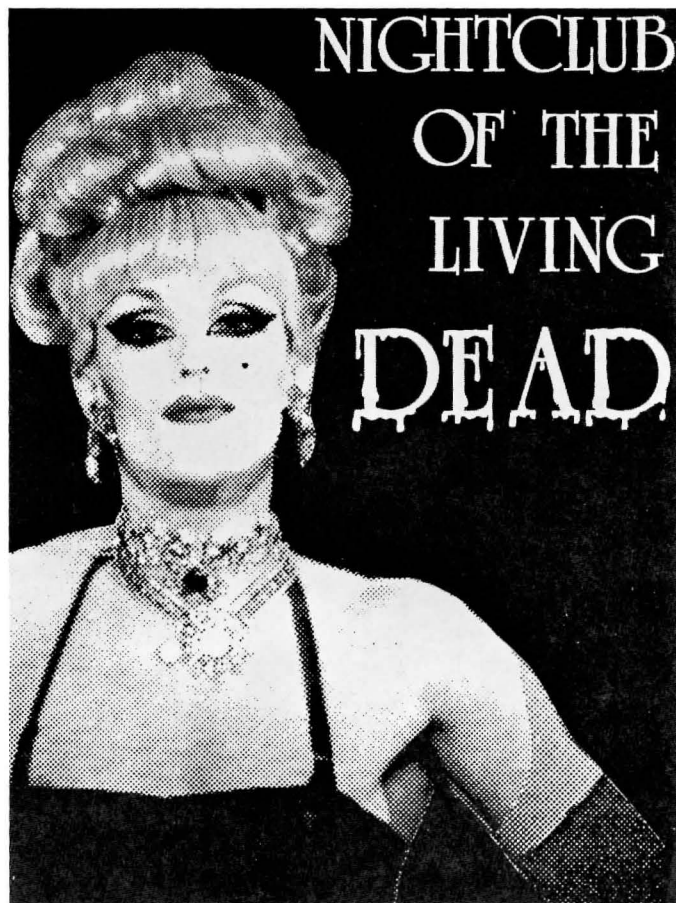
three were staging Sluts a-Go-Go here and there.

The Sluts gig evolved into the now famous *Blonde Sin*. Doris played Doris Poisson, a cheap French showgirl, and mother to "Tippi"'s character, Lois Standard. Miss X was the eponymic Miss X, heiress to the Brand X fortune.

In 1983, director Marc Huestis invited the Sluts to join a group of actors he'd assembled for a campy beat-era soap opera titled *Naked Brunch*. The show became a hit and was the subject of enthusiastic notices in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *California Magazine*.

It was during the run of *Naked Brunch* that Miss X met Sandelle Kinkade. Everyone had assumed X was gay, but he moved in with Kinkade and they became an "item." Friends began referring to the pair (behind their backs) as Miss X and Madame X. Obviously, since Sandelle was a genetic female, it was hard to imagine her as a "drag queen," yet she did do drag in the sense of combining camp with glamour and anachronism.

In the 70's gay political activism shifted its emphasis toward "masculinity" in order to win more "straight" support. In 1977, gay political leaders put out the word: No drag on Gay Freedom Day. The queens were outraged and turned out in force for the parade and the Sluts were there too. That negative feeling about drag dies hard. In 1986, "Tippi" and Doris were doing a weekly cable news show about the gay community. An angry viewer wrote, "Having Doris Fish... reporting the news of the gay community is akin to having Aunt Jemima anchor the news for the black community." Doris retorted, "I am not interested in acceptance from the straight community if it means I have to pretend to be something I am not. Freedom and equality are not just for those who



Top: Nightclub of the Living Dead postcard with Doris Fish.

Bottom: NLD postcard with (l. to r.), Miss X, Doris Fish, Sandelle Kinkade, Phillip R. Ford, and "Tippi".

continued next page



Above: The seance scene from *Naked Brunch*, 1982, (l. to r.), Joe Capetta, Sandelle Kinkade, Miss X, Silvana Nova, Doris Fish, Ginger Quest. Photo by Daniel Nicoletta.

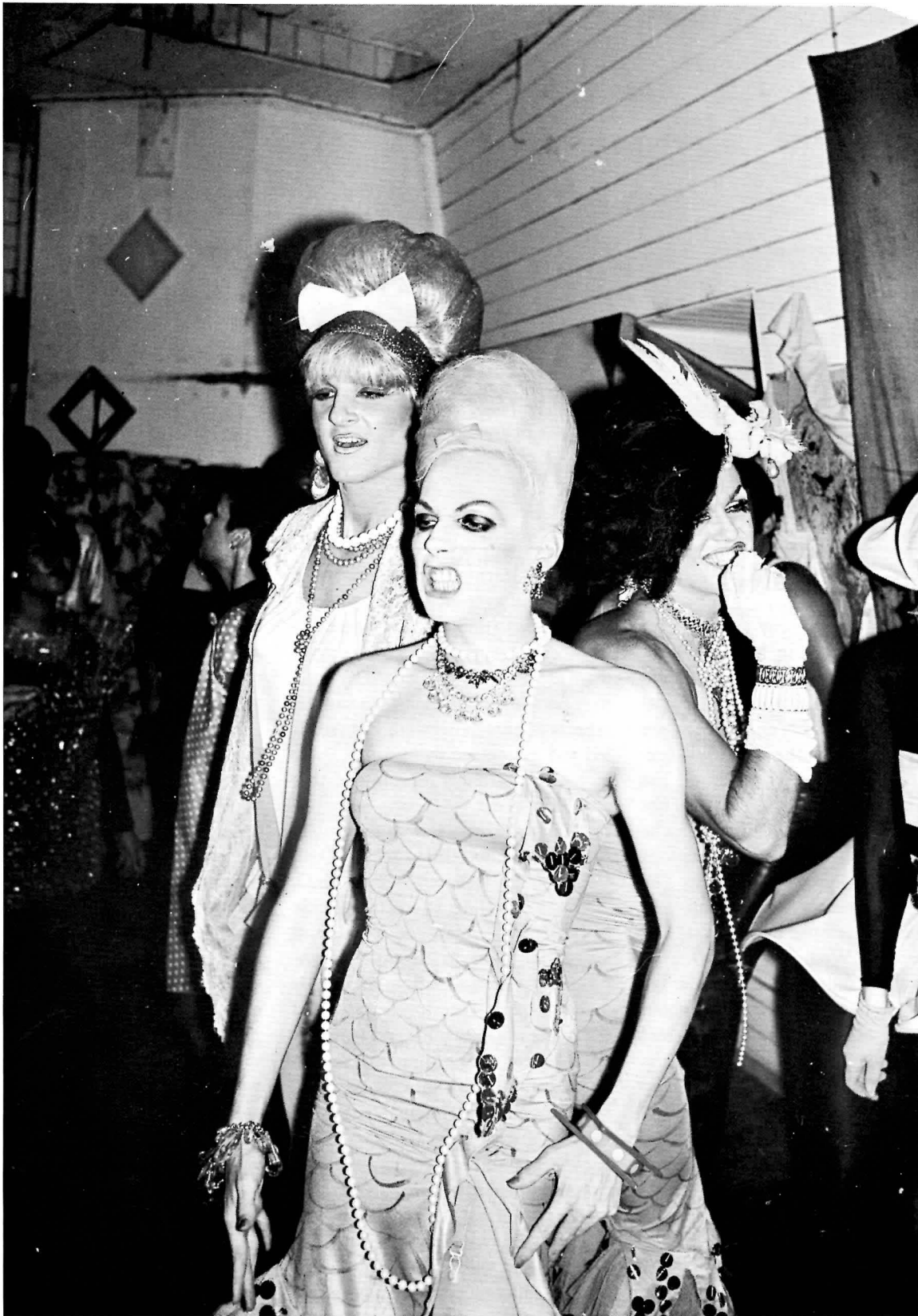
present a positive image. They are for all."

So, before the Bill of Gender Rights, before the Gender Activists League, before any of us in the organized TV/TS/TG community had enough balls to stand up for who we really are, the Sluts and other drag artists like them were out there making waves, making statements, and making it better for everyone. *ca*

Thanks to Bob Davis for all the photos of the Sluts. Some of the material for this article was taken from a 1986 piece in the San Francisco Chronicle Sunday magazine Image by Craig Seligman .

Below: "Tippi", winner of the 1977 Anita Bryant Look-Alike contest during the Gay Pride parade in San Francisco. This was her big break. At the time she'd introduce herself by putting out her hand to shake and say, "Hello, I'm Miss Leading."





The Sydney, Australia going away party in 1980, (l. to r.) Tula Vaugn, "Tippi" (with teeth), and Doris Fish.



Sluts a-Go-Go

An early Sluts photo:
Top back — Doris Fish,
Bottom (l. to r.) —
Miss X, "Tippi" and
Freda deLay.

Fantasy vs. Reality . . .

reality sets in. Not only are the other female organs lacking, but the natural female instincts possessed by females of all species are not present. Social skills natural to girls and women are also lacking since the individual (except in a very few special cases) has been brought up as a boy. He may not have been a very successful boy, but he was not a girl, with a girl's expectations of becoming a woman someday. The thought processes largely remain as they were developed in childhood and adolescence. Women and men don't so much think differently as popular belief would have it, as they think about different things and with a different sense of significance or importance.

The simple fact of being brought up as a girl endows a female with a set of expectations and requirements that a boy never experiences. At the time of her first menstruation she acquires a physical awareness of the fact of her femaleness. This means that her relations with men and boys will always be tempered with the knowledge not only of sexual differences, but of the behavioral and attitudinal differences that come with the territory. No amount of

coaching, learning or passing as a woman will ever give a natural born male access to these factors. These differences are very subtle and many of them are not even recognized by ordinary people, but specialists in various aspects of human behavior have studied and recognized them.

I would strongly recommend that any Bigenderist (BG), who plans on having much contact with the public get and read a book titled *You Just Don't Understand* by Deborah Tannen, Ph.D. Dr. Tannen is a linguist and the subtitle of the book is: Men and Woman in Communication. In her study of language and communication, she uncovered a number of previously unstudied differences in masculine and feminine speaking styles. She found that men in conversation speak in a "reportorial" style. They tell (i.e., report) some information to their listener. Women, on the other hand, seek rapport or a relation with their audience.

This book has absolutely no connection with crossdressing, but it has much to do with understanding the built-in differences in attitude, point-of-view, and reactions to simple conversational situations between men and women. These differences are inher-

ently a part of the masculine and feminine way of life. The book is very revealing and points to considerable areas where BGs and transsexuals, in particular, can be tripped up and revealed as less than "true" women.

These communication differences put still another limit on fantasy because while the differences are unconscious, other women will likely be quick to detect a transsexual's deviation from the rapport-building style. So, we may be able to portray the gender visibly with proper clothing, hairstyle, makeup and overt behavior, but we cannot live it. To be a bit facetious, we can't totally escape from the blue blanket syndrome, or, alternately, we cannot acquire the pink blanket indoctrination.

So get as far into the fantasy as you wish but be aware that the most you will ever get is a visa to visit Femmland. You will always be a resident alien if you try to emigrate there. This last little bit of wisdom comes from someone with nearly 25 years as a resident-alien of Femmland who has never attained citizenship. Apply for your "green card," if you will, but don't expect a passport. You'll never get it because you don't know the language. True women just think/speak in a different dialect. ♣

Marlayna Lacie

The Left Coast

First a visit to the Emerald City and then two important events in the L.A. area.

Recently I was talking to a Pen-Gal friend of mine in Seattle, Randi Leigh. I had visited the Emerald City, as it is often called, about six years ago. I was not dressing then, so I was curious about the community and activities for crossdressers in her area. Was I in for a surprise. Not only is the community well-established in this town, they're experiencing a period of major growth and development with new members, new vendors and a variety of social options as part of their community calendar.

Topping the list is the annual Esprit event. Last year's Esprit was held in Port Angeles and was a big success with over 100 attendees. Community luminaries such as Virginia Prince and Jim Bridges were in attendance. For information about the 92 Esprit event, contact Michelle Lee, c/o Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103.

Emerald City is the local group that co-sponsors Esprit with the

NorthWest Gender Alliance and the Cornbury Society. But EC also sponsor a number of local activities for its members as well. Randi sent me a copy of the Emerald City News, the group's newsletter and I was impressed. The publication features local articles plus listings of local, regional and national events.

One of the most popular clubs in town is the Golden Crown located near 1516 2nd Ave. in downtown Seattle. The club features some of the best female impersonators that Seattle has to offer. Showtime is at 10:00 PM and admission is \$6, unless you wish to make it a night of dinner and dancing. For reservations call 206•822•6953.

Another club of interest is Canterburys, 534 15th St. on Capital Hill. This is not the nicest section of town, so take a friend along. The food at Canterburys gets high marks, however.

Looking for an excellent wig stylist and consultant? I'm told that Margie King of King Imports is the person to see at 3627 Wheaton Way in Bremerton (206•377•7721). She has a reputation for working with people to help them find the right look and right style for a comfortable personal image.

Another favorite shop of EC members is Audrey's Intimate Apparel, 709 South 3rd in Renton. Audrey's features a wide selection of clothing and accessories. It's considered a "must visit" by the locals.

There are two adult bookstores in the area that might be of interest. The first is Beyond The Closet (I love that name) located at 1501 Belmont in Seattle. Call and ask for Ron at

206•322•4609. The other store is Red & Black Books at 430 15th Ave. East, 206•322•7323.

Heading back south, there were major milestones achieved for alternative communities in SoCal this year. Two amusement parks instituted what are called "Designated Time & Place" policies. First, Knott's Berry Farm opened up to the gay/lesbian community (us too) in early October for the annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Nite. About 50 of our "ladies" attended. Hot on the high-heels of that success, Disneyland opened its gates with a "designated time & place" and made a special invitation to the transgendered community to attend a benefit for the AIDS L.A. Foundation. For 35 years the policy at Disneyland excluded events for gays, lesbian and the transgendered community. Now we are receiving assurances of security and a policy that will respect us as individuals, and, as a group, we are now welcome. For many of us in Southern California, we can truly say, "You've come a long way baby!" ❄



THE Shopping Maven

Great places to shop in Los Angeles, an IFGE video, and the Cross-dresser's International Shopping Guide

This is the last installment of the Best Kept Secrets of the Big Cities. This time we'll roam through the City of Angels, Los Angeles.

Rexall Square Drug
8490 Beverly Blvd.
213•653•0880

It's L. A. so what else would you expect from a Rexall here? This is likely the fanciest drugstore in the U.S. The \$3 lipsticks share the sales space with the \$15 Borghese (my fave) and Chanel No. 5. You'll find generic cotton swabs and Revlon's Ultima II - The Naked. It's all here.

Friends Beauty Supply
5270 Lurel Canyon Blvd.
213•877•4828

This was once a beauty warehouse for professionals only, but now it's open to the plebs like you and me. Standard stock includes theatrical lines like Wm. Tuttle, Joe Blasco, and Ben Nye. Friend also sells their own line of private label lipsticks. One of their shades is an almost exact copy of Paloma Picasso's Mon Rouge, but the price is

only about \$4. They also carry synthetic and human hair wigs.

Columbia Stage & Screen
Cosmetics
1440 N. Gower St.
213•464•7555

So what can you expect with a name that include "stage & screen?" After plowing through the Werewolf and Bart Simpson masks, you'll find every possible cosmetic you can think of and then some. But Columbia is best known for its face-lift appliances. Can you say wrinkles? With its huge selection (like 50+ varieties of eyelashes), I wonder why the city's plastic surgeons don't try to shut it down.

Product: *Husbands & Wives, Best Friends & Lovers*, video

Source: International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 367 Waltham, MA 01778

Cost: \$25.00 plus \$2.50 p&rh

Time: 1hr. 23 min.

Rating: "B"

Looking for a frank discussion about crossdressers and their partners? IFGE may have just what you're looking for and then again, they may not. *Husbands & Wives, Best Friends & Lovers* is a series of video vignettes spliced together from several interviews with crossdressers and their partners.

First up is the current "spokes-couple" of the community, Linda and Cynthia Phillips. (For those of you who don't know them, Cynthia is the genetic female.) They discuss some straight forward issues like there is no "cure" and the major share of the load is put on her [partner's] shoulders.

Next up is Melanie and Peggy Rudd. Peggy is the author of *My Husband Wears My Clothes* and *Crossdressing with Dignity*. Melanie is the crossdresser,

but Peggy does most of the talking here about issues around fear and family.

Back to Linda and Cynthia with some good advice for the CD who is thinking seriously about marriage: "Tell her before the marriage... She'll feel lied to [if she finds out later]... Tell her before so she has a chance to decide."

Next we have Jane Ellen and Frances Fairfax. Jane Ellen is chair of the national board of Tri-Ess. They also proffer some good advice: "The better you feel about it, the better she'll feel about it... Most wives won't walk away from a relationship."

Oops! I missed Carol and Dollie. Dollie has a really great attitude about her husband's crossdressing. She wanted a soft, caring man who wasn't afraid to love or touch and the crossdressing seems to compliment that. She and Carol are best friends.

The tape continues to cut back and forth between these four couples giving an overall message that crossdressing can be successfully integrated into a committed relationship.

So, what's wrong with this picture? Let's start with no introduction of the speakers. Who are these people? Are they married or do they just hang-out together? It would help to establish their relationships first.

While there's some really good advice on this tape, there's also some really bad advice on this tape. For example:

- One TV's attitude is much too casual. The actual discussion belies her assurances that it's "No big deal."

- There's not enough discussion of real issues like the stigma of crossdressing, dealing with society or dealing with family.

- There's not enough emphasis on negotiating. Several times the viewer is

told, "The wife has to understand." (emphasis mine) Who says the burden should be all on her shoulders?

• The viewer is told that counseling won't help and that TVs are well-adjusted as long as they get to do what they "need" to do. Well, my four year-old nephew is just fine as long as he gets to do what he wants too. This is a very juvenile attitude for the crossdresser and is likely to lead to more problems. Also, in my experience, counseling helps immensely.

• Two segments, in particular, disturbed me. One segment had a spouse comparing her TV husband to a teenage girl. This should have been edited out of the tape since it may serve only to confuse a wife even more. The other segment discussed electrolysis and hormones. What a nice way to send a partner into hysteria. This discussion also should have been edited out.

Technically, the tape is not all that great. There are clumsy edits and awkward shots, but one must realize this is a semi-professional video shot and edited on industrial grade equipment. From that standpoint, the quality of the picture and sound is excellent.

Overall, the tape is well worth the price and there are many fine segments that would be of real help to a partner trying to grasp her husband's "unusual" behavior. Perhaps a future release could be re-edited to remove some of the material of questionable value.

Product: 1992 Crossdresser's International Shopping Guide

Source: JMPG, PO Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510-7217

Cost: Not Marked (1991 Edition was \$8 plus \$2 p&rh)

Rating: "C"

This is the fourth edition of the *Crossdresser's International Shopping Guide* from JMPG and it is their largest edition to date. The front matter of the guide has an introduction by editor/publisher Danielle Alexis, several ads and many sizing charts to help convert your male body measurements to feminine clothing sizes.

The listing start on page 14 and run for 28 pages. Listings are in alphabetical order by the first character in the first name. Following the listings are seven pages of cross-indexes by product and by geographical location.

The listings give name and address, plus phone number, if available. Following each listing is a series of codes to indicate mail order (M), factory outlet (FO), retail (R), assistance to crossdressers (A), and businesses that accept crossdressers "en femme" (EF, but the reader is cautioned to check with the business first).

Listing everything by alphabetical order is okay, but sometimes it makes it difficult to find a listing if you can only remember a last name. For example, Valenci shoes is under "A" because the initials are "A. J."

The large majority of listings are mail order businesses like Fredericks, Avon, Victoria's Secret and the like. No great revelation there. Sign up for one catalog and you usually end up on the

mailing list for the others as well.

Most all support groups are listed, but some are missing, some are misinterpreted, and many have incorrect addresses. For example, *A Rose* is listed for Arizona as a transsexual support group (that will be a surprise to the TV members), but *Alpha Zeta*, the Tri-Ess group in the same area, is missing. *Central Florida Sisters* is now *Phi Epsilon Mu* and has a different address, while *J.L. White, Renaissance*, and the *Outreach Institute* haven't been at the addresses listed for years.

The real forté of this compilation is the foreign sources of exotic shoes, clothing, lingerie and toys. Anyone who has seen Danielle's photos over the years knows that she has a personal interest in exotic clothing, so it's not surprising to find an extensive foreign listing. One wonders, though, if these foreign listings are plagued by the same lack of attention as the domestic.

JMPG has taken the price off the cover. Unscrupulous vendors can charge anything they like for the book. I can just imagine Michael Salem hawking it for \$100. I understand that they've taken the same approach with their magazine *Crossdresser's Quarterly*. I hate having to write just to find out what something costs, don't you?

In any case, if you're looking for foreign sources of exotic clothing, shoes and accessories, this is the resource guide to have. If you're more interested in domestic resources or information on support groups, skip it; with the errors and bad addresses it's not worth it. ❁

SEXY SHOES

P.O. Box 48
Rogers City, MI 49779
517-734-4030



Medium and wide width, sizes 4-14, 3½" - 5½" heels, variety of styles and colors. NO BACK ORDERS! 24 hour shipment. AVERAGE PRICE \$44.88. Confidential service by request. Send \$3.00 for catalog.

Crossdressers You Are Not Alone!

The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess)

- Education & social support for heterosexual crossdressers, spouses & families.
- Quarterly Magazine • Local Chapters
- Mail-forwarding • Newsletter for wives
- Big Sister Program for individual support

Send SASE to

Sue, Box 9573, Long Beach CA 90810

OverThere

Out of the many TVs who phone me, it is surprising just how many truly believe their just isn't another man on earth wanting to dress in female clothes. Even after much reassurance of how many people attend the monthly meeting it is sometimes years before they actually attend, if ever.

Many claim to have started with mom's knickers between the age of eight and nine. Some say that about age 14, with the discovery of sexual feelings, an interest in female garments also happened.

"Why do I do it?" many ask. Who can really answer this? It has been proven in many cases that a TV is no less a man because he likes ladies' clothes. I do find most TVs have a definite softer side to their nature often with a greater understanding of people's feelings, though I also find many, when dressed, get a touch of the bitch. My man is a TV and out of a skirt he has not the slightest hint of femininity about him. He's totally male, but he's sweet, kind, very loving, crazy about animals and spends his spare time (with me of course) raising money for conservation and animal charities. He likes football, and though he doesn't care much for alcohol, he's like any other male.

He was about nine years old when he first discovered mom's panties, and he progressed into dresses. It was only a couple of years ago when he discovered New TransEssex, that he really "came out." We weren't seeing each other then, but when he decided to come to a meeting it was a wig and make-up demo he needed

most. Of course, he has improved tremendously (my professional help was obviously a great asset). There is, once dressed, a definite change in him, though I can't put my finger on what; more quiet and shy with others and definitely very loving with me.

Perhaps if other partners could just bring themselves to have an evening with their partner dressed it would help them understand how they are, not why they do it. Sadly, many partners find the whole thing so repulsive they won't entertain seeing their man dressed.

A lot of my friends were surprised I had yet another TV boyfriend. "Aren't you scared of the same thing happening again?" they ask. There is a difference between a TV and a TS. Those who read my last column will know that my previous partner is a TS. So, am I a glutton for punishment? No, obviously running New TransEssex, my social life is based around TVs for most of the time.

It is not that I did not realize quite early in my previous relationship that my partner was heading towards re-assignment, but like most women, I guess, I was ignorant at first and hoped the problem would go away.

I don't envy any girl who finds herself with a partner of years, that has had a wonderful relationship, and often children too, to find him say, "I'm a woman." It's a shock and hurts terribly, but it does not mean that this person hasn't, or doesn't, love you very much. They are with

Stacy talks about her crossdressing partner and the path of acceptance for partners of crossdressers

you because they have tried so hard to fight inner feelings and have done what society has expected of them: played the part of a real man.

I am considered to have a very open mind, not finding anything wrong with either transvestism or transsexualism. Some women just refuse to discuss any problem with their partner, or anyone, as they are so disgusted by the subject. But I always believe "to know is to love" and "to understand is to love." For a TV to tell his partner takes a lot of love, trust and also fear of being turned away. Though we may never know why they do it, we can accept and try to understand their feelings.

I am pleased to say we are having a lot more wives and partners attending our monthly meetings which must be a good sign. But a word of warning to all TVs, if your lady accepts or even attempts to understand you, don't push her too far. Don't expect her to enjoy it like you do. Show her plenty of love and affection at all times.

Love,
Stacy Novak ♣

Jacquelyn Urania

Sophia's Universal Spirit

Sophia and I would like to greet you as Sisters of the Light. Sophia is my teacher and a Universal Spirit (She/Male). I am also a Universal Spirit, but I am a genetic female. Together we shall share, through this column, spiritual and factual information found throughout the ages and universe about the universal spiritual nature.

We hope that this column will answer your spiritual needs and enhance your feminine energy. We would like you to feel free to write us with your comments and questions. Sophia and I shall answer your letters and discretely print both the letter and response. In addition to answering your letters, we shall share special information space permitting.

In this initial column, I would like to share information about Sophia and myself. Both Sophia and I are Spiritu-
alists. We seek the higher good for humanity. As this column progresses, we might share information that is different than what you may have learned before. As with all information, do not accept it as Truth without questioning it and making it your own. We must incorporate the abstract theories into our own practices of daily life.

Sophia is a genetic male who is able to channel the highest energy of All. She is extremely masculine in her male form and extremely feminine in her she/male form. Sophia's feminine energy is beautiful to feel and sense. Her aura changes, her motions change, her voice changes.

It is through the lessons shared by Sophia of how to tap into your feminine energy as well as how to balance your masculine and feminine energy,

The universal spirit seeks harmony and can allow us to experience the beauty and vitality of being both male and female. Explore!

that I will answer your letters and questions. As a student's of Sophia's, I have been studying with her for over two years. I have learned how to recognize my male energy and to balance it with my female energy.

As a Universal Spirit, you have the beauty of the female spirit and the handsome energy of the male spirit. As a Sister, we shall teach you how to enjoy both energies as both are beautiful and a gift from the All. We will not be using the terms transvestite, cross-dresser, or transsexual because we believe these terms do not adequately describe your spiritual essence.

With each column, we shall share with you a Universal Spirit prayer or meditation for you to incorporate into your daily life.

Daily Universal Meditation #1: Sunshine Smile of Beauty

Sit in a quiet place and either cross your legs or sit on a chair. Close your eyes. Listen to your breathing. Smile. Feel the smile on your face and feel your face relax. Take a deep breath. Take that smile and focus that smile on your toes. Feel your toes wiggle. Focus the smile on your calves. Feel your



calves relax. Focus the smile on your thighs. Feel your thighs relax. Focus the smile on your stomach. Feel your stomach relax. Focus this smile on the organs throughout your body. Feel each of these organs relax. Take the time to feel the smile flow throughout your body. See your body transformed by your smile to your female self. Feel the feminine smile transform your energy. Now take this energy and store it. Remember, when you need to tap this energy focus on your heart and the love of your female side. You can tap that energy to be used anytime you need to have a positive, beautiful experience take place. Go with God's Blessing. Sophia's Blessing of Light, Love and Joy. We look forward to hearing from you, our Sisters of the Light. ♀

I am based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and teach these lessons through private consultation. If you would like to schedule a lesson, you may call 301•499•RXOM. This phone number is to schedule appointments only, no questions can or will be answered. You can write to Sophia and myself, Jacquelyn Urania, at PO Box 12011, Arlington, VA 22219. Please include in your letter where you read our column and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a return reply.

Political Writes . . .

your Congressman will get few results if any. Maybe the future holds a day when a Congressman, Senator or Governor will come out of the closet and admit he's a transvestite. Or maybe we could vote a gender activist into some sort of public office.

I believe the transsexuals should take command in political activism. For it appears that they experience more bias and more prejudice than the rest of us. Yet again, most transsexuals wish to blend silently into the women's world. Some of them, after SRS (not all), wish nothing to do with transvestites and transgenderists. That's a pity!

Those pre-op transsexuals who believe they're rejection for SRS is discrimination by a Gender Dysphoria Committee, need only to go overseas, like to Italy. If you have the finances, the ability and conviction, you really don't have to go through all the red-tape bullshit that's required to have SRS here in the states.

Another opinion I'd like to inject, or another observation I'd like to make, is that because of the stigma attached to the word, many "transvestites" would rather be known as "cross-dressers." And why? Because the mental health professionals have transvestism listed in their Diagnostic and Statistical Manual as a mental illness. I say so *what!* Transvestism has existed on this planet thousand of years before there was even an American Psychiatric Association. Who are they to

judge us? As long as some TVs, TGs and TSs go to these (sometimes) quacks, then our lifestyle will remain, in their view, a mental disability. Many transgendered individuals go to these so called professionals for therapy because they really do believe they have no where else to turn for understanding and compassion. To get TV/TG/TSs out of the DSM-III-R, we need to forget about fighting the system, and reach out to all those girls like us who go into their offices for therapy. This is what a few organizations are good at, including S.I.S. Unfortunately, it's sometimes difficult to connect with these girls that need our love and assistance before they go to a psychologist. It's also disastrous that some support groups aren't really supporting the ones who need them at all. They simply open the doors and say, "come in and sit down."

So what happens when the American Psychiatric Association includes the term crossdresser in their manuals. Will CDs find another form of identification? I don't know! I simply think it's silly because "Sticks and stones will break your bones." Anyway, I like the word transvestite. I think it's cute compared to the word crossdresser.

It may seem that I've gotten sidetracked from the gender activism topic, but really I haven't. Many of the rights (which are few) that some individuals believe we need, are really trivial!

The truth of Gender Activism, in what ever obscure form it exists, is that some leaders of our community sincerely wish to take charge in our behalf, to obtain equal rights for us all!

The cons- of Gender Activism, is that many of you would rather do what you do in public or in the privacy of your own world. *You* believe (and it's probably true) that *You* really don't need any one speaking or performing in your behalf, and uplifting your own private lifestyle into wider public view. More harm than good may be done.

For myself, well, I've dedicated my life as Wendi to helping others. I do what I do without regard to how the majority of society feels about me. I respect their rights though, but never make it an issue to rock the boat. Some members of S.I.S. and myself are ready and willing to work with any individual or group to further establish our place in the human race. And to create, not a well written proclamation, but an intelligent agenda! 🍷

To receive the booklet *Nine Secrets to Feminine Perfection*, an invitation for membership in S.I.S., your personalized 3-month biorhythm chart, and a surprise gift, send your name, address, and birthdate with a \$10.00 check or money order to: Wendi Seabreeze, Box 1423, San Jose, CA 95109

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Rachel Jean Tracy

Virginia: Your Hairnet Is On Too Tight!

Not everyone agrees with Virginia Prince. Here's another look at the "death" of gender in the '90s.

Loosen your hairnet Virginia Prince, and spare us from your self-indulgent babble on the subject of gender (*The Death of Gender*, ITS Vol.2, No.1, Jan. 1991).

The article leaves serious doubts that Prince has any real grasp left on the subject, and further shows that she has ignored the real growth and transition of women in the past 30 years. Femininity is alive, healthy and powerful, despite Prince's own narrow views and rationalizations. Her article is characterized by a style of reasoning that, in itself, is self-contradictory and sexist.

Cogent (good) thinkers learn to give up or, at least, re-examine, outdated and unsubstantiated opinions. Those who reason well, remain open to changes and don't let their own agenda influence their perception of reality. Prince takes her own viewpoint and presents it as if it were the norm. She deceives herself and her followers in ways that favor her own narrow attitudes and over-rationalized lifestyle. Her arguments are self-deceptive or wishful thinking and are without valid statistical or accurate information to substantiate her claims. Her borderline sexism, offensive to many women who attempt to understand and accept transvestites in their lives, is mired in the past. The "Grande Dame" hangs onto beliefs formed over 30 years ago, buries her head in the sands of intransigence and ignores abundant, contrary evidence.

She cites Simone De Beauvoir's *The Second Self*, published in 1952, as if it still remains the authoritative blueprint for feminism in the '90s. The statement that women have been "forced" to adopt not only more masculine clothes, but also some of men's less desirable behaviors seems to imply a standard for females. This "slippery

slope" reasoning does not take into account a woman's ability to set her own standards of self-worth and dignity. Except for an extreme polarized minority, that would seem to have natural appeal to Prince's dictum, the feminist movement has grown to stand for more than what was conceived in the '60s. To quote Toni Grant, Ph.D., "The realm of the feminine has a power and reality separate and distinct from that of the masculine... Now that modern woman has tasted masculine power and its rewards, she is once again hungry to discover her feminine potentialities. She can learn that femininity too, is powerful, magnetic, mesmerizing, artful, and, at its best, irresistible. To throw away such power is foolhardy; any man in possession of such a weapon, would use it to its fullest capabilities." (*Being A Woman*, 1988)

Instead of playing the same old tune, Prince needs to realize her premise is out of synch with society, growth and the women's world view. A rapidly growing plurality of women have come to see the feminist movement as being heavily dependent on mean-spiritedness, anti-femininity and dismissive of what really goes on in the hearts and minds of women. I suggest Prince catch up on her reading relating to women's views by such authors as Susan Brownmiller, Ellen Piel Cook, Irene Clairemont de Castillejo, Gloria Steinham, Carol Gilligan, Toni Grant, Helen Gurly Brown, Erica Jong, Françoise Sagan, and Camille Paglia, for openers.

A transvestite may be more than his feminine attire. Through crossdressing, he may try to bring a deeper awareness of what constitutes a woman's world as well as

continued next page

Hairnet Too Tight...

her femininity. Prince's cardinal sin is defining the feminine gender role by the "things" that are feminine, and ignoring the whole concept of what it is to "be" a woman. Lets examine her logic to see where the fallacies lie.

Prince wants us to believe that women have declared: Slacks and pants are IN; dresses are OUT. Shirts, sweatshirts, and T-shirts are IN; blouses are OUT. Men's boots and athletic shoes are IN; stylish women's shoes and heels are OUT. Short hair (men's styles) are IN; soft styled, long hair is OUT. No makeup, cosmetics or accessories are IN; makeup and jewelry are OUT. Men's style jockey shorts are IN; panties and lingerie are OUT. But, for well over a decade now, women's fashions have emphasized the female form, sensuality and femininity. This is illustrated practically everywhere we turn: body-hugging fabrics, tank dresses, short, shorter and shortest skirts, sarong skirts, long split skirts, dressy slip dresses, tailored, form-fitting suits, skintight stretch leggings, bustiers as outerwear, etc. There has been an unparalleled growth in the lingerie industry, both in specialty shops and departments stores. One has only to look at the spectacular rise of Victoria's Secret into a national merchandising phenomena. Attractive pumps, slingbacks and heels have returned as a compliment to long and short skirts. Hair lengths and styles change repeatedly to respond to times and fashions. And, don't forget beachwear that has been designed to accentuate a figure's best assets with minimal coverage.

Another problem with Prince's logic is that she attempts to make the word "some" sound convincingly large, as if it represented a large majority of the sample. And what about women who wear pants and trousers, paired with high heels, polished nails, soft comfortable lingerie, stylish hair, jewelry and makeup. A woman's ability to soften the effect of some masculine-inspired fashions reminds us that she is female, leaving her femininity unchallenged and giving her a sophisticated appearance that she may choose for work or play. The motivation behind a woman's appearance is often misinterpreted, especially by men, as being solely for male approval. One theory, presented by women themselves, is that how a woman looks and dresses is the chief physical weapon in female vs. female competition. Appearance serves as a demonstration of a woman's desirability and worth. Could it be that Prince's theory on the "death" of

gender (i.e. femininity) has not allowed for a woman's right to define her own gender behavior? Women are not reliant on Prince's definition of the female gender role.

In contrast, Prince then turns to the topic of males and masculinity by attempting to cite masculine behavior as being extreme and reactionary, on one hand, and docile, on the other. Once again, "things" (earrings and fabric) are used as a gender determinant. Prince's argument concedes that differences in gender exist, while at the same time she argues that the roles are blurring. Her conclusion is that "gender distinction, as we know it and enjoy it, is on the way out."

Not that women would necessarily declare a day of mourning if we transvestites stopped dressing in their clothes, but some women might take exception, even become outraged, at how Prince arrives at the end for transvestism: "I (Prince) see the number of crossdressers diminishing because there will be little left to admire, envy or imitate of the opposite sex." I believe that Prince's viewpoints have become so narrow and irreconcilable, that any objectivity she may have had with respect to male and female gender behavior has disappeared.

Prince's pronouncements and assertions have been tolerated over the years, but her lack of understanding of the masculine/feminine dichotomy has begun to wear thin. She prefers to perpetuate her out-dated philosophy rather than accurately research and investigate different points of view. By constantly regurgitating her own past accomplishments (which are noteworthy), she sets herself up as some kind of sacred cow. Her appeal to her own self-declared expert authority and her own inferred senior traditional wisdom is expected to be accepted, even when her arguments have no valid premise.

In the very last paragraph, her tunnel vision becomes glaringly apparent as she destroys her own credibility. To arrive at the conclusion that because of her view of the state of gender differences, it "...doesn't leave much room for logic or reason in the field of reassignment surgery today," is ludicrous. This person, who sets herself up as an authority on gender issues, demonstrates her inability to distinguish that sex reassignment and transsexuality hinge upon, and encompass, much larger and more important physical, biological, and psychological determinants than Virginia Prince's subjective gender-role theory about femininity's demise. ■

Got something to say? Say it in the pages of International TranScript. Send your letters and articles to ITS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263. Letters and articles submitted on 3.5" floppy disks will get preferential treatment. Use any Macintosh file format or use ASCII files for MS-DOS formatted disks.

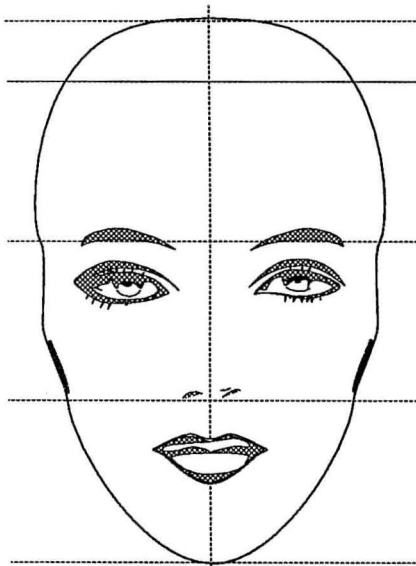
Art of Makeup...

ting on too much of the product.

When this is completed then you go on to the next step which is foundation. I make things easy when I do a make-over. I use a light and a dark foundation. When you go to buy your cosmetics, most often the sales people just confuse you beyond belief by asking are you a blue base, or a green or a yellow base. The fact of the matter is, most people don't know what their base tone is. The sales people are trained to sell cosmetics, not to select colors. So, in order to eliminate that problem and not end up with a drawer full of cosmetics that you'll never use because you found they are the wrong color, I keep things simple with a light and a dark foundation.

I recommend using a water based foundation. This gives excellent coverage and it isn't greasy. Oil doesn't come to the surface so you won't look greasy.

What I do with the light and the dark foundation is a little bit of camouflage work, actually, because the ideal female face is a perfect oval. So what you do is stand in front of your mirror and hold your hands in front of your face and create an oval. The oval that you want to create is primarily under the lips, nose and eyes. This is the area we want to project, so this is where we want to create this oval. We'll use a lighter foundation on anything inside this oval because light gives the illusion of coming forward.



The Ideal Feminine Face

We use the dark foundation on anything outside of the oval because it will camouflage and recede. So you'll be taking off a square masculine jaw line on a square face. If you have a long face you can put a little dark foundation on the chin area and on the forehead and this will help to create an illusion of a smaller face.

Its best to start with your light foundation first, dotting on one side of the face under the eye, the nose area, under the top lip and the chin and just to the side of the mouth. Dot lightly with a finger, then take your sponge and very lightly blend by patting in that stippling motion. Once you have that blended, you can go onto the other side of the face and do the same thing. The reason I

do one side, then the other is when you're using a water based foundation, it will dry faster than an oil based. If you put foundation on the whole face, then once you've blended one side and go to the other, it doesn't blend as nicely. Sometimes it looks streaky and that is because it has already started to dry. So you're better off to do one side of your face at a time.

Once you have your oval completed with the lighter foundation, go back and take your dark foundation using that same dot method. Start on the outside of the oval, just at the bottom side of the ear and come down to the chin. You make it wider at the top near the ear, approximately 1½ – 2 inches wide. It will narrow down to maybe ½ inch near the chin depending on the width of the face and how much you want to take off.

Take your sponge, using the opposite side you used for the lighter foundation, start blending the dark foundation. When you have that completed go over to the other side of the face and repeat it. Once you have blended that nice and smoothly, you can go on to your next step which is translucent powder. But before that I would like to mention that if you are going to do this in the day time, be a little more sparing with the dark foundation and remember that the sunlight shows all.

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International NewsScript

Edited by Kym Richards from
the news section of Cross-Talk

•••

A man who allegedly fired several shots at two crossdressed prostitutes in the early hours of September 29 was being held without bail on suspicion of attempted murder and civil rights charges, authorities said. The attack took place about 3:40 a.m. on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood, when Ruben Velasquez, 29, approached the men — one of whom was wearing an orange dress, a denim jacket and high heels — and allegedly uttered the threatening epithet "I'm going to kill you queens," just before firing three or four times at them. A deputy from the sheriff's canine unit who was patrolling nearby heard the shots, saw a muzzle flash and spotted Velasquez running to a station wagon, then pursued Velasquez and found a .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol inside his car after pulling him over. Velasquez was booked on suspicion of attempted murder and interfering with a person's civil rights. Anti-gay statements Velasquez allegedly made to arresting deputies led to his being booked on the civil rights charge.

•••

An assistant Arizona attorney general says "physical evidence" has been obtained placing a transsexual suspect at the scene of the murder of a Gilbert, Arizona woman February 23. According to the Attorney General's office, Yesenia Gonzalez Patino, 35, who was known as Alfredo before he underwent a sex-change operation in Colorado 10 years ago, had a "strong romantic relationship" with Dan Willoughby, the victim's husband. Willoughby has been questioned but not charged. While refusing to elaborate on the evidence, they say that locating Patino is a key to the case. She is believed to be in Arizona or Mexico and to have retained her female identity.

•••

Dr. Robert J. Stoller, a leading psychoanalytic theorist on sex-identity problems and perversions, died September 6 in a traffic accident outside his home. He was 66. Dr. Stoller was killed as he pulled out of his driveway and his car was struck by another car in Pacific Palisades. He died instantly from injuries in the crash. Best known for his writing on perversions, sexual excitement and sex-identity problems such as transsexuality, Dr. Stoller's theories were set forth in a series of influential books, including *Sex and Gender: On the Development of Masculinity and Femininity*, published in 1968, and *Presentations of Gender*, published in 1985.

•••

A preliminary listing of programs has been announced for the '92 International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) "Coming Together — Working Together" convention, to be held April 6-12 of this year in Houston Texas. Seminars have been tentatively planned in the areas of leadership, education, business, as well as eight seminars oriented specifically toward newcomers to the gender community. A three-day program dealing entirely with transsexual issues has been scheduled, as well as a two-day program on female partners' issues. Specific details will be announced by IFGE as the convention date draws nearer.

•••

The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) has announced the formation of an advisory board, to consist of researchers, service providers and transgendered persons, many of whom are nationally known. AEGIS has issued an open invitation to anyone interested in serving on the board. AEGIS has also begun a monthly support group, open to all transgendered persons, in the offices of a coun-

seling professional in the Atlanta area.

•••

Empress LaRey, who for many years produced the annual "Universal Ball" female impersonator beauty pageant, has announced that she will be stepping down as producer after this year's event. LaRey cited increased business responsibilities in other areas as the major reason for her decision. She says she will also step down as producer of the *Goddess* and *Miss Gay L.A.* pageants after next year's events, although she will remain connected with the events as emcee for the foreseeable future.

•••

In order to encourage legal research as it relates to the issues of sexual identity, including the gender community, an annual writing competition has been announced at the University of Houston Law Center, with a \$500 award for the student writing the best paper on the subject coming from an endowment funded by transgendered attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye. Preference will be given in the final judging to papers dealing with transgender issues. Frye hopes to set a precedent with the competition for law schools in other cities. "Until [these] issues are thoroughly explored in the legal arenas, progress of the gender community will be at a snail's pace," she said.

•••

The Nobel Prize winning human rights organization Amnesty International has expanded its mandate to include human rights for lesbians and gays, including language that will also protect transgendered people who are perceived to be homosexual. The organization named as "prisoners of conscience" people who have been arrested for lesbian and gay rights advocacy, those arrested simply because they are homosexual following raids on bars or other gathering places even though

they have committed no other crime, and people perceived to be homosexual because of the way they dress. Observers note that while the expanded mandate does not specifically include transgendered people, transsexuals and transvestites will enjoy "spill over" protection. They cite incidents in such places as Singapore, where police sweeps against homosexuals have also caught up transsexuals and transvestites. Including transgendered people in the mandate would have been preferable, they note, but it would have been all but impossible to win consensus approval from all of the 44 national Amnesty sections which decide policy for the international organization.

~ ~ ~

Police who arrested a person they say is a con artist who preys on elderly and gullible people have thus far been unable to substantiate their suspect's claim of having had a sex change operation. Baroness Maria Thyssen VonHexun, also known as John James Gonzales, was arrested on charges of bilking at least two people out of \$2,300. VonHexun/Gonzales claims to have married a German nobleman, but authorities continue to have difficulty in determining her/his gender.

~ ~ ~

A federal advisory committee has recommended that widely used silicone gel breast implants be allowed to remain on the market while researchers continue trying to resolve serious questions about their safety. The General and Plastic Surgery Devices panel, a committee of outside experts that advises the Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.) concluded November 14, after three days of hearings, that a pressing public health need exists for the implants — particularly for breast reconstruction after cancer surgery. While recommending that breast implants remain available, the panel concluded that the manufacturers of the devices had thus far failed to provide enough scientific data to prove their safety. The F.D.A. has said that it will announce a decision on the future of the devices by January 6. The advisory

committee's recommendations are not binding, but typically wield considerable influence on the final decision.

~ ~ ~

A former Continental Airlines pilot who was fired just prior to sex reassignment surgery has the right to sue the company, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court has ruled. Jessica Sterns of Princeton, New Jersey, who as John Sterns joined Continental as a pilot after being decorated as a military pilot in Vietnam, notified the airline in 1989 of her transsexualism. One month prior to her August, 1990 surgery, she was fired from her \$49,000-a-year job. After Sterns failed to obtain satisfaction by going through company channels, she filed a discrimination suit against the airline, but because Continental had obtained bankruptcy protection, it was shielded from lawsuits during its reorganization. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Helen S. Balick approved Sterns' request to proceed with the suit, noting that her's was "an unusual situation".

~ ~ ~

A post-operative, male-to-female transsexual whose birth certificate and driver's license both show her to be a woman was expelled from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival because the annual feminist/lesbian event is only for "womyn born womyn," according to the security personnel who asked the TS to leave the festival grounds. Nancy Jean Burkholder, of Weare, New Hampshire, was approached by security personnel on the first night of the week-long festival and asked if she was a man. Although she produced her driver's license and offered to strip to prove her gender, she was expelled from the festival and told she had entered in violation of a policy prohibiting transsexuals. Burkholder, who had attended the previous year's festival without incident, described herself as "ambiguous in gender", but said she was dressed no differently than many other festival attendees (nylon running shorts, flannel shirt, and festival "baseball" cap). Her request to speak with festival producers Lisa Vogel and Barbara Price about the policy was

denied, as was her request for an apology and a public statement on the policy. Vogel and Price did pay for Burkholder's motel room for the night she was expelled, but refused to pay for her earlier-than-anticipated flight back to New Hampshire.

~ ~ ~

More than 60 people attended a private party held October 27 for internationally famous model Caroline Cossey (Tula) held under the auspices of the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS). AEGIS executive director Dallas Denny and deputy director Margaux Ayn Schaffer presented Tula with a framed certificate thanking her for her efforts on behalf of transgendered people. "We believe that Ms. Cossey will continue to be a magnet to draw together the different segments of our diverse community," Schaffer said, noting that Tula has also been named to the forming AEGIS Advisory Board. (See article in this issue of ITS.)

~ ~ ~

The board of directors of the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess), met during the organization's annual "Holiday En Femme" November 23, and announced that Tri-Ess' health has "considerably improved" in recent months. Tri-Ess chairman of the board Jane Ellen Fairfax said that the organization's "Big Sister" program, in which more experienced members are assigned to new sorority sisters in order to ease their transition into the organization and show that Tri-Ess does care about them. Fairfax said that several of the former "little sisters" have now volunteered to become another new member's "big sister." This program, along with the increased frequency of Tri-Ess' national magazine *The Femme Mirror*, has resulted in greater member satisfaction and a lessening of "drop-outs" at renewal time, according to national membership director Donna Martin. The board also decided to issue a new Tri-Ess pin with membership renewals during 1992, in honor of the

continued on page 42

Resources

o = open membership, TS = transsexuals only, f = family orientation

• National Organizations •

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, Publishes *TV/TS Tapestry*. Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. 617-899-2212.

Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, So. Portland, ME 04106. General TV/TS information for personal and professional use. Hard to find books.

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 215-630-1437, \$12 associates fee includes monthly newsletter. Background Papers on TV/TS issues for personal and professional use. Speakers Bureau. Inquire about new chapters.

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Organization for Hetero-TV's *only*. Publishes "Femme Mirror." See chapters listed below.

• Organizations by State •

City, Name, Address, Zipcode

Alabama

Huntsville, SERGA, 2021-9D Highridge Dr., 35802

Arizona

Tempe, Alpha-Zeta SSS(f), Box 24459, 85285

Tempe, A Rose(o), Box 24623, 85285-4623

California

Anaheim, PPOC(o), Box 9091, 92812

Concord, DVG, Box 272885, 94527

Duarte, CHIC(f), Box 562, 91010

L.A., Androgyny, PO Box 480740, 90048

L.A., Alpha SSS(f), Box 36091, 90036

Sacramento, Sacramento Gender

Assoc(o), Box 215456, 95821

San Diego, Neutral Corner(o), Box 12581, 92112

San Francisco, ETVC(o), Box 6486, 94101

San Jose, Rainbow Gender Assoc.(o), Box 700730, 95170

Connecticut

Farmington, Connecticut Outreach Society(o), Box 163, 06034

Hartford, The XX Club, Inc. (TS), PO Box 387, 06141-0387

Colorado

Denver, Gender Identity Center, 3715 West 32nd Ave, 80211

Northern & Southern Colo., call 303-458-5378

Florida

Hollywood, Serenity(o), Box 307, 33022

Miami, Animas (o), Box 420309, 33242

Winter Park, Phi Epsilon Mu SSS (f), Box 3261, 32790

Georgia

Atlanta, Sigma Epsilon SSS(f), Box 250481, 30325

Decatur, AEGIS (TS), Box 33724, 30033-0724

Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii TG Outreach(o), 777 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste 3114, 96813

Illinois

Chicago, Chicago Gender Society(o), Box 578005, 60657

Washington, Central Illinois Gender Assoc.(o), Box 126, 61517

Wood Dale, Chi Chapter SSS(f), Box 40, 60191

Indiana

Indianapolis, IXΣ(o), Box 20710, 46220

Iowa

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Artistry, Box 75, 52406-0075

Kansas

Overland Park, Crossdressers & Friends, Box 4092, 66204

Shawnee Mission, Gender Dysphoria Support, Box 15561, 66215

Louisiana

New Orleans, Tri Delta Chi SSS(f), Box 870213, 70187

Massachusetts

Woburn, Tiffany Club(o), Box 2283, 01888

Resource listings are free. If you'd like your group or business listed. Please let us know. This list is accurate at the time of publication. Please send an SASE when writing to these folks.

Michigan

Grand Rapids, IME W. Michigan (o), Box 1153, 49501

Royal Oak, Crossroads(o), Box 1245, 48068

Warren, Up Town Girls(o), 21823 Van Dyke, 48089

Minnesota

Minneapolis, CLCC(o), Box 16265, 55416

St. Paul, MFGE(o), Box 17945, 55117

Mississippi

Jackson, Beta Chi SSS, Box 31253, 39206

Missouri

Belton, Kappa Gamma Mu SSS(f), Box 98, 64012

St. Louis, St. Louis Gender Found'n, Box 9433, 63117

Nebraska

Bellevue, River City(o), Box 1305, 68005

Omaha, RCR(f), Box 24060, 68124

New Mexico

Albuquerque, Fiesta! SSS(f), 8200 Montgomery NE #241, 87109

New Jersey

Mays Landing, Renaissance SJ(o), Box 189, 08330

Red Bank, MOTG(o), Renaissance Affiliate, Box 8243, 07701

Teaneck, The Gathering (TS), PO Box 284, 07666

Trenton, Sigma Nu Rho SSS(f), Box 9255, 08650

New York

Albany, TGIC(o), Box 13604, 12212

Brooklyn, GNO (o), Box 369, 11235

Hempstead, LIFE (f), Box 31, 11551

Mountainville, Chi Delta Mu SSS(f), Box 93, 10953

New York City, CDI, PO Box 29, 10021

New York City, Metropolitan Gender Network, Box 45, 561 Hudson St., 10014

Rochester, CD•Network, Box 92055, 14692

Syracuse, EON(o), 523 W. Onondaga

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Resources

St., 13204

Tillson, Transgender Network(o), Box 177, 12486-0177

North Carolina

Charlotte, Kappa Beta SSS(f), PO Box 12101, 28220-2101

Ohio

Cincinnati, Cross-Port(o), Box 12701, 45212

Elyria, Alpha-Omega SSS(f), Box 954, 44036

Parma, Paradise Club(o), Box 29564, 44129

Reynoldsburg, Crystal Club, Box 287, 43068

Oregon

Portland, NW Gender Alliance(o), Box 4928, 97208.

Pennsylvania

Harrisburg/York, Renaissance LSV(o) Box 2122, 17105

Phila., Renaissance GP (o), Box AD, Bensalem, 19020

Pittsburgh, TransPitt(o), Box 3214, 15230

Puerto Rico

Bayamon, Foundation for Advancement of Puerto Rico Sisters, Calle 2, #288, Forrest Hills, 00959

Texas

Alief, Tau Chi SSS(f), Box 1105, 77411

Arlington, Delta Omega SSS(f), Box 1021, 76004

Austin, Heart of Texas (o), Box 402, 78767

Houston, Gulf Coast TV Chapter(o), Box 90335, 77090

Riesel, TriPlex Gender Assoc., Box 381, 76682

San Angelo, Heart of Texas NW, Box 30413, 76903

San Antonio, B&P Society(o), Box 169652, 78280

Utah

Salt Lake City, Alpha Rho Provesta SSS(f), Box 26711, 84126

Virginia

Arlington, DCEA(o), Box 16036,

22215

Richmond, Virginia's Secret (o), Box 34631, 23234

West Virginia

Huntington, Trans-WV, Box 2322, WV 25724

Washington

Seattle, Emerald City(o), Box 31318, 98103

•Canadian•

Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, B.C. V6B-3Z1

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, Ont., K1L-8E4

Monarch Social Club (o), Mississauga "A", Po Box 386, Mississauga, Ont. L5A 3A1

Canadian Crossdressers' Club Inc., 429C Dundas St. E., Toronto, Ont., M5A-2A9

•Overseas•

Australia, *Seahorse Society Victoria*, GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, Victoria

Australia, *Elaine Barrie Project*, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018

England, *TransEssex* (o), Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS14-1PT

England, *Rose's Club/Repartee*, PO Box 339, Sheffield, S1-3SX

France, *Assoc. Beaumont Continentale*, 2 rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France

Germany, *Transidentitas*, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach, Germany

South Africa, *Phoenix Society*, Box 21163, 7502 De Tijger, South Africa

Sweden, *FPE-NE*, c/o Anette Hall, Box 529, 101 30 Stockholm, Sweden

New Zealand, *TransCare*, PO Box 2983, Wellington, New Zealand

•Boutiques & Businesses•

CA, *Glendale*, NS Products (Breast Forms, et al.), Box 6678-R, 91225

CA, *Laguna Niguel*, Fashion 2000 (fashion consultants), Box 6502, 92607

CA, *Mt. View*, B&R Creations (Corsetry), Box 4201-L, 94040

CA, *Sherman Oaks*, Lydia's TV Fashions, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, 91423, 818-995-7195.

CA, *Tustin*, Versatile Fashions, Box 1051, 92681

CT, *Greenwich & New Haven areas*, Jane Doyle Electrology, 203-869-2323 or 203-734-5408

MA, *Waltham*, Vernon's Specialities, 386-EF Moody St., 02254, 617-894-1744

NY, NYC, Mardi Gras Boutique, 400 W. 14th St. at 8th Ave., 212-947-7773

PA, *Jenkintown*, Laine Alexander Image Consultant, 215-635-8858

PA, *Upper Darby*, Marilyn's Wigs, 215-446-0799

VA, *Arlington*, Baroness Productions, CD Services & Fantasies, 202-686-4774

VA, *Arlington*, Jacqueline Urana, CD/TS Development, 301-499-4297

Canada, *Toronto*, Walk on the Wildside, TV Boutique, 416-864-0420

Canada, *Owen Sound*, FantasyLand, TV Boutique, 274 8th St. E., Box 682, Ontario, N4K-5R4

•Recurring Events•

Autumn Accord, put on by EON (Syracuse), in early October.

Be All You Can Be Weekend, put on by Paradise Club, Crossroads, Trans-Pitt and Chi Chapter in June.

Fantasia Fair, 10 days, once a year in October, in Provincetown, MA. Contact the Outreach Institute.

IFGE Convention, once a year in March/April, '92 in Houston, '93 in Philadelphia. Contact I.F.G.E.

On The Scene Nite, 2nd. Saturday each month at the Queen Mary, Studio City, Calif. (818) 506-5619.

Paradise in the Poconos, 4days/3nights, twice a year, May and September, in the Pa. Poconos. Contact CDS.

Tiffany Provincetown Outings, twice a year in Oct & June.

International NewsScript

sorority's 30th anniversary, and announced that the new national membership directory would be issued soon.



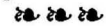
One of San Francisco's most famous and beloved drag queens, Doris Fish, died June 22 at the age of 38 after a courageous four-year struggle with AIDS. Born Philip CARGO Mills, Fish was already well-known as a notorious entertainment figure in her home town of Sydney, Australia for her drag guerrilla theatre troupe *Sylvia and the Synthetics*. She burst onto the underground theatre scene in 1976 when she won the talent contest at Bimbo's 365 Club. Since then, she had ruled as figurehead and goddess of *Sluts-A-Go-Go* (See article this issue of ITS), San Francisco's premiere drag troupe of the 1980's. Along with "Sluts" cohorts Miss X and "Tippi," Fish created, wrote and ap-

peared in many local club productions before moving to the stage in 1987's *Bad Seed*. She went on to achieve critical acclaim in the role of Madame Irma in Jean Genet's *The Balcony* in 1989.

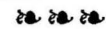


A man who wore a gray skirt, green top and blue pumps to his pre-trial divorce hearing made court proceeding difficult for the judge sitting on the case. Roy Rosenthal, who prefers the name Terri, has been dressing as a woman for two years, leading his wife of 13 years, Gloria, to seek the divorce. Her attorney, William A. Frasco told the court it became "intolerable" when Roy began wearing women's clothing to functions and to Gloria's parents' house. When Frasco told the court he had been unable to contact "Mr. Rosenthal" for a meeting, Rosenthal asked that he not be called "Mr." and

asked the judge to "call me ma'am".



A young woman who masqueraded as a man and tricked two 17-year-old girls into having sex was sentenced to six months in jail. The crossdressing woman, Jennifer Saunders, 18, had denied two charges of indecent assault involving the other females. At her trial, she wore her hair short and dressed in male clothes. Testimony was given that Saunders carried on a five-month affair with Rebecca Andrews and seduced Helen Edwards. Saunders was sent to an institution for young female offenders.



See an interesting news item relating to transvestism or transsexualism? Clip it and send it along to Kym, c/o Cross-Talk, PO Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365



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Elga: Considering that you are now 34 years old and have achieved a favorable result, you must be an individual with great will power. Yet, how do you explain your suicide attempt?

Svetlana: It is possible to struggle, if you know the cause of your misfortune and can see your goal. I, on my part, was fully incomprehensive of what was happening to me. My patience was exhausted when I was sentenced for burglary.

Elga: What? What did you steal?

Svetlana: Nothing. I was detained in the pass-office when I left the factory where I worked because the inspector found women's clothing in my bag.

Elga: Were they your clothes?

Svetlana: There is the rub! What should an inspector do on encountering a man with women's clothing in his bag? How could I prove that these things were my own? How would you react?

Elga: It would seem to me that you were trying to fool me.

Svetlana: Quite right. The militia laughed at my explanation. They added to my charges some unsolved thefts. Nobody believed me that in the morning, dressed as a man, I would change in the attic into a woman's dress and leave the house. Together, with other factory workers, I'd slide through the factory gates and in the toilet change back into man's clothing. The dress and shoes I'd put into the bag. So, these items were presumed to be stolen.

In court, I tried to explain. I received only ridicule. Thank God, during the investigation, I was not held with the hardened criminals, but with those who has symptoms of schizophrenia. In the former case, it is not difficult to imagine what I would have experienced.

Afterwards, I was put into the psychiatric ward. I took an overdose of sleeping pills. The doctors revived me.

Elga: Excuse me, Svetlana. It is rather hard for me to understand you. Even if you had the need to crossdress, wouldn't it have been easier to restrict yourself, rather than to undergo punishment and humiliation...?

Svetlana: Well, go on, go on... Can

you imagine what does it mean to sleep in a hostel for men, to listen to their bad language, and to see their rudeness? If I hadn't crossdressed now and then, I would have gone mad.

Elga: Did you only try the one suicide attempt?

Svetlana: No. When I saw the cause of my calamity, I tried to consult doctors. There were those who looked upon me with dislike. However, I had the luck to meet a good human being who did so much for me. She was Irina Golubeva. Thanks to her influence, she sent me to specialists. She approached high-standing people from Kuibyshev on whom depended my fate. She explained to them my situation. Thanks to her there was hope I could get the operation.

At that time — this was the 80's — it was rather difficult to prove that I was not schizophrenic, but a transsexual. When, after some weeks, I went to Moscow to visit her, I found that she had died in an accident. Her death canceled my plans. When I visited another doctor, he was contemptuous toward me. So, I tried suicide again, and again I was saved. I tried it twice more unsuccessfully.

Elga: Such a fate, even an enemy does not deserve.

Svetlana: Well, as a matter of fact, Irina did all the preliminary work to prepare me for surgery. I got hormones and breasts began to develop. However, in the region where I lived, I was arrested and placed in a mental hospital... in the men's ward. They amused themselves at my expense. They used to take off my blanket, tie me up and demonstrate to the others the composition of my male organs and feminine breasts. One thinks often of suicide. The doctors also injected me with male hormones declaring: "We'll make a man of you."

Elga: Svetlana, I believe that now, after your operation, you life will turn out quite right. The worst is behind you.

Svetlana: I thank you for the good wishes, but I am not confident about it. I haven't settled yet a very difficult problem. You see, I pay alimony to two children. If I marry, I'll receive writs and

my secret will be discovered.

Elga: I am at a loss! How did you have two children?

Svetlana: When I was young, I tried to remain as a man and live as men do. I was twenty and I married a girl who worked in our factory. She, too, lived in a hostel. I hoped, having married, to get a flat and we did. But, it turned out that I could not be intimate with my wife unless I was dressed as a woman. In such cases, I imagined everything a bit differently. My wife was somewhat "broad-minded," not in words but in deeds. In exchange for permitting me to wear women's dresses at home, I had to concede that she could have "dates" with men at home. So, I really don't know whose children they are. Two years later, I left her leaving the flat to her.

Elga: There is a question — who are you now — a father with a passport in a woman's name? Perhaps a mother who hasn't borne her children?

Svetlana: The situation is hopeless and foolish thereby. I approached the Kuibyshev regional court. My claim was rejected. The situation was unviable. Now that I'll be a woman, I won't earn so much working in a factory to support another woman with two children, myself and possibly an adopted child.

For people who are in my situation there are no laws. Before, say ten years ago, we did not hear about transsexuals. Even if we are not so many in Russia, we must somehow survive. ❧

Author's Note: This story is almost two years old. I got it while visiting Moscow in 1990.

Editor's Note: When ITS first received this article from Elga, Latvia was part of the U.S.S.R. That's all changed now and one hopes that we'll have greater access to our sisters in eastern Asia than before.

This article has been translated from Russian into English and we apologize for any strange phraseology. We've tried to retain the flavor of the writer's original thought construction.

Personals

407—NoVa.: TV, 66, ISO other TVs & GGs for correspondence & afternoon get-togethers. Write: Becky, 8375 Leesburg Pk., #215, Vienna, VA 22180

508—This Old House loves the click of spikes on its maple & concrete floors. Don Platt, The Schoolhouse, Singhampton, Ontario, Canada N0C-1M0

609—SoCal: Weekend TV, looking for single females, couples & TVs. Photo a must. Can travel up to 150 miles. Love to play. Marlayna Lacie, 1856 Cherrie Ave., #608, Long Beach, CA 90806

710—SWM TV ISO TVs, TSs & GGs. Loves dressing & being feminine. 5'9", 47, single, live on farm. A.P.S., 231 W. Ridge Rd., Dillsburg, PA 17019

711—TV, 39, seeks friendship with TVs and genetic women. Love to dress and be feminine. Lisa, Box 1063, Ventura, CA 93002

812—SWM seeks pretty TVs, TSs, passable, for dates, parties & friendship. NY Metro area. S.L., POB 180, Floral Park, NY 11002

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Low Life in High Heels...

but very unhappy. She would eat all the time and wanted people to like her, but she knew that the friends she had liked her because she was famous."

When the show was taken to Fire Island, Holly and Divine shared a small house that set on the water. "At time, Divine would eat to cover the pain she felt for being so overweight. It is amazing that she was

able to walk on those high heels with all that weight. She smoked pot quite a bit and would fall asleep with a joint in her mouth. Several times she almost burnt the place down. I have to say that through all the problems she was a real professional."

"I spent two years on this book, and I am very happy that this part of my life is closed. The next thing to do is sell the film rights and, of course, I will play myself. No one could carry such a demanding role."

We both smile at this bit of fun. "I would really like to see this work done as a film. I think it has possibilities, but with my luck, it will happen after they plant me in the ground, or I'll be too old to tap dance down Broadway with 100 handsome men for the opening credits." ❧

[Editor's Note: According to the latest reports, Ms. Woodlawn will be reviving her cabaret act in San Francisco sometime in 1992.]

Library Lady...

From *Masculine To Feminine* and *How To Be A Woman Though Male*. This really is better, but not so much so that you can't get along without it if you have one of the others.

There is also JoAnn Altman Stringer's *Transsexual Survival Guide* but I haven't seen a copy of it yet.

Actually, I feel that the best transvestite guidebook has yet to be writ-

ten and will probably be multi-volume. Most of the ones I have seen concentrate on make-up and/or fashion. I've yet to see a really good text on deportment, not just walking and model pivots, but how you open a coke can without breaking your nails, how much to tip the hairstylist, what to do at a baby shower, or how to handle the drunken redneck who insists on making a pass in a straight

bar. There is also room for a good volume on how to apply and style wigs, plus real hairstyling for the complete novice.

I haven't dealt with manuals for females-to-males. Mea culpa, but at the moment there is only one, which I will try to cover in a future column on F-t-M literature. ❧



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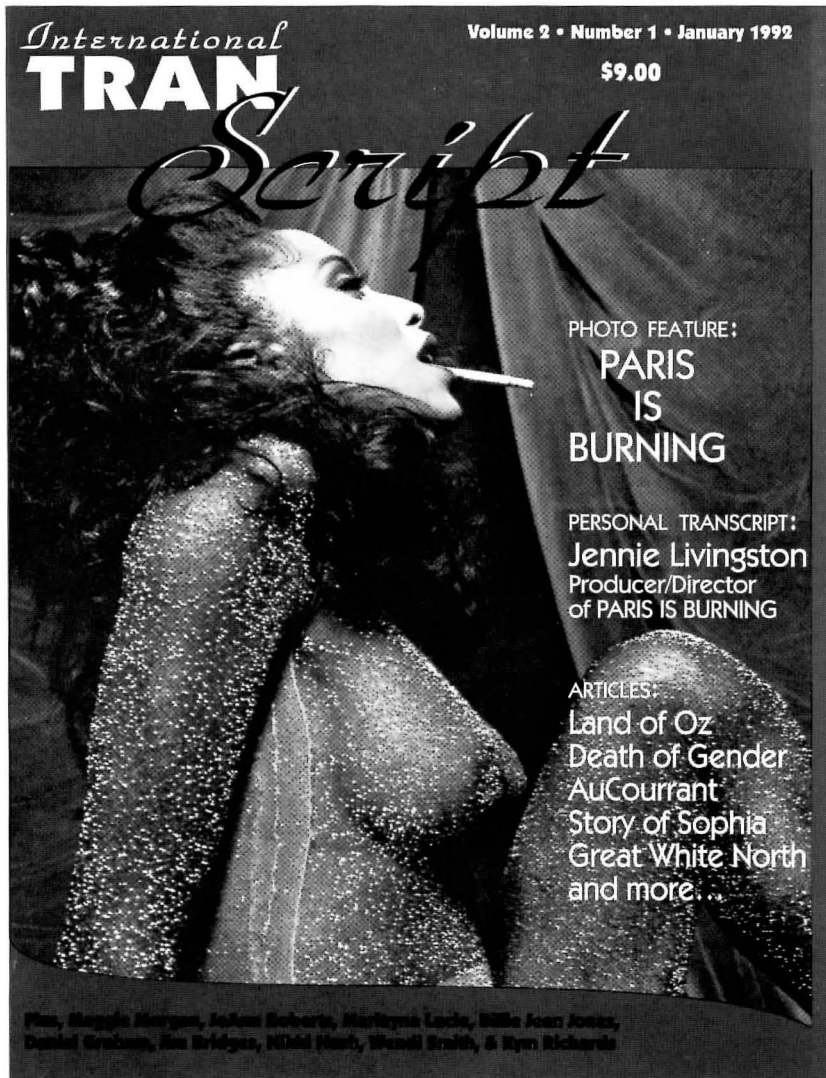
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