

# Gender-fuck Is the Name Of the Game

by Jim Green

The age of the liberated drag queen is upon us, and a manifestation of the new radical transvestite movement in the East Bay is "Manicure".

The organization has been founded by Berkeley gay men who are into drag, primarily as a consciousness raising group for its own members. Politics and anti-sexism are incorporated into Manicure's outlook on the drag scene.

Manicure member Glitters Galore, told BARB about his experiences in drag.

"Many mistake me for a woman," Glitters explained, "and they'll do the same pick-up trip on me as they would other women. One night, hitching home from San Francisco, a man picked me up and wanted some action. I told him I just wanted to go home. He got persistent and I told him I'm a man. He thought I was putting him on, so I finally said, 'Okay then, if you don't believe me, feel!' He did, and said, 'My God, you ARE a guy!'"

Glitters explained that although some incidents may have their humorous side, there have been occasions of real fear. Hitching on Telegraph late one night, a man picked him up and asked him to fasten the seat belt, so Glitters reluctantly complied.

"The next thing I knew," Glitters said, "we were pulled to the side near Parker and Telly and he flipped an automatic switch that had me flat on my back strapped into my seat and he was on top of me. I kicked and screamed so much he let me go - and I was in my 'normal' clothes that night!"

Mr. Galore, applying liberal amounts of glitter to make sparkling

decorations on his face told of the subtle distinctions of going in drag.

"I, for instance, am a glitter queen of the gender-fuck variety. Gender-fuck is confusing genders. You can do that either by dressing so that people are not sure what you are, in neither distinctly male nor female attire, or you can clearly show what you are, say, by wearing a beard, but totally fucking over the sex-role conditioned straight mind by wearing a dress with the beard.

"You should see my friend, Lady Greyhound, when she drives thru the toll gates in gender-fuck on the bridge," continued Glitters. "Lady Greyhound has a large red beard and wears beautiful rings and make up while wearing a dress. The straight men at the toll booths are utterly mind-blown when he swishes through! It's such an assault on their established roles for how men and women should dress and act.

"Gender-fuck is much harder for people to take than high class drag. High class drag is trying to pass as a woman. When I was in Chicago a few years ago there was no gender-fuck. People were into \$30 dresses and \$50 wigs - all very bourgeois. At the time that's what I was doing, but now I almost always go in gender-fuck.

"It's more real and more expressive of myself. I don't want to identify as a woman now. I'm me and the clothes I wear express me. Gender-fuck is freedom from sex role playing and very liberating also in a political sense. I don't feel the need to contribute to a corrupt economic system to go in in \$30 dresses. I find much more



**CHRISTOPHER N GLITTERS**

beautiful things at People's Park. The high class drag scene can really get into a status and money thing. It's so counter-revolutionary."

Manicure members said they felt very comfortable going out in drag with each other. Alone, however, they feel differently. Christopher often goes about his daily business in drag and feels rather comfortable doing it. "I wear feminine clothing but always make it clear that I'm a man," he pointed out. One way is by making sure his chest hair is visible.

Christopher added that he was more comfortable in San Francisco going about in drag than in Berkeley because one gets more positive support there. Tourists at Chirardelli Square will even ask to have their pictures taken with him.

"But the revolution isn't happening in San Francisco. Berkeley is where people who are into changing society live, and there's a chance for a real revolution of attitudes here. The intellectual atmosphere leads to more communication. That's why I live here. What particularly annoys me is the negative reaction to my drag by sexually straight and culturally freak men, revolutionaries even. Many are still very macho and are tolerant of but do not wholly accept anti-sexism movements such as women's liberation and gay liberation.

Members pointed out that Manicure is only ideological to the degree of how strong individual EMBERS HOLD IDEOLOGIES. It does not specifically align themselves with Marxism or Effeminitism in order to maintain complete freedom in exploring their experience. In the Gay Liberation movement the drag question has been a difficulty, especially with feminist lesbians. In the future other movements may have to deal with the transvestite question as well.

"I think the drag-transvestite question is one of the most important things that is coming down right now. It's a very personal one for me. That's why I want to put energy into it," Christopher related. "It's time we started to be conscious of sex roles and how attire and make-up can change us and how we live our lives. I'm conscious of drag being street theatre in itself. I think that one of the things that happens when you do drag in the street is dramatizing by your gender-fuck the new liberation from sex roles. It's

a rejection of those qualities and attitudes which have been valued by a male-dominated society; those roles and structures which force a human being to be a MAN.

"Really, I think it's absurd that men wear pants and women wear skirts just from looking at physiological fact." For Christopher, the difference between drag and transvestite is that when someone is in drag, there are two things happening at once. The person is gay and wearing female clothing. A transvestite could be gay or straight.

"I condemn high class drag," Christopher stated. "It takes on all the negative aspects that society has imposed on women. They take all the aspects that liberated women are rejecting. They try to behave flighty, empty-headed, and emotional to the point of presenting a picture of a creature without intellect. They use devices like crying and withholding sex as a way to get what they want.

"They play an unliberated and oppressed sex role. Liberated women are strong, sensitive and intelligent in their relationships with people. Liberated transvestites do the same, and leave oppressive sex roles behind.

"At one point I realized that I was being forced into a traditional sex role pattern. Being effeminate, it was expected of me to be attracted to butch males. I hated that. I have grown in that I now am aware and in fact rejoice in my attraction to other effeminate males."

For Glitters Galore sex-role

playing is something you learn and something you un-learn as well. "When I was into high class drag in Chicago, I related to men like the traditional woman of our culture. I wanted to play the female role all the way.

"Since I've come to the Bay Area I've been exposed to a lot. I realized what I was doing to myself playing sexist games. When you no longer psychologically identify with the woman's role, you're suddenly free to get away from trying to look like a real woman to get a man.

"That's what those queens in Chicago can't see in gender fuck. For them it's too freaky. They want to look like a sexy well-dressed woman to make an impression at the bars and to please their man. They're too stuck in sex role attitudes and ideas about what looks nice to appreciate gender fuck. So you see, gender-fuck is political, and I feel it's a force in revolutionary attitude change. My attitudes about sexual identity and role have definitely changed and it's something I'm still working on."

Besides internal consciousness raising raps, Manicure foresees speaking to gay and straight groups about radical transvestitism and the topic of drag in general.

For information on Manicure and meeting times and places, call the East Bay Gay Switchboard daily from 6pm to midnight: 841-7470. Members of Manicure hope to perform consciousness-raising guerrilla theatre on UC's Sprout Plaza and in the streets.

## NAVY BLUES

### SAILOR SACKED FOR SEX N RACE

Larry Coles has spent the last 3 years and 9 months of his life in the Navy, gaining a 3.4 (out of a possible 4) or "very good" rating.

Coles, with an E4MH3 rank, is due for discharge in three months, and he will not be honorably discharged in spite of his record.

Larry Coles is gay. Coles is an attendant at Oakland Naval Hospital. He was recently secretly accused of propositioning two patients at the hospital. Although the charges were never substantiated, Coles' homosexuality was revealed in a subsequent investigation. Coles, who admits he is gay denies making any propositions.

His commanding officers then filed a report with the Bureau of Naval Personnel stating he could not be considered for honorable discharge, and that he would receive an "administrative" discharge.

Coles case is being fought with the help of the San Francisco Gay Discharge Upgrading Project.

Not all gay men are discharged from the Navy with administrative discharges, but it is a frequent

problem according to people at the project.

Coles feels he is being discriminated against not only because he is gay, but also because he is black.



## JILL OFFS J

by Nancy Fowler

Jill Johnston, columnist for the Village Voice and author of LESBIAN NATION, addressed a diverse crowd of 500 Tuesday evening at the UC Art Museum.

Johnston expected to speak mainly about "Art and Women," but she found this subject very constricting. A former critic for Art News, Johnston said she always found that "the lives of the artists were always more interesting than their work." She mainly related her experiences as a female artist; most of these experiences

were expressed in a James Joyce-type of consciousness. Very flowing. Though every now and then she would lose herself.

She felt strongly that women artists who "made it" were forced to be exhibitionists to keep up with the male competition. Moreover, women's art tends to be exploited, as in the case of avant-garde cellist, Charlotte Mormon, who offered her blouse during a concert one night and is now described as "the topless cellist."

Johnston used the phrase "inherited feminism" to describe