



News & views

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Renaissance

Rutgers Includes Transgendered

ITNS Press Release

[East Brunswick, NJ February 26, 1998.]

After almost two years of difficult struggle over transgender and gender-variant inclusion in the Non-Discrimination Policy at Rutgers University, Executive Vice President Joe Seneca released a memo which expanded discrimination protections at Rutgers University to include "people who have changed or are in the process of changing their sex." The change effectively expands the policy to cover transsexuality.

The change marks the end of a long and difficult struggle, led by Rutgers Graduate student Ben Singer, to advocate on behalf of all transsexual and gender-variant persons at Rutgers. A primary difficulty in the negotiations was the apparent confusion on the part of the Rutgers attorneys regarding the meaning of "transgen-

der," which was resolved by reinterpreting the category of Sex, already covered by the University's policy, as "people who have changed or are in the process of changing their sex." While the final phrase ostensibly limits protections to those persons who are transitioning from one sex to another, it is believed that the phrase may be useful in protecting many gender-variant non-transsexuals. Said Singer, "The difficulties presented to us over the meaning of 'transgender' represent an apparent attempt on the part of the conservative, and sometimes even reactionary, administration to maintain the sex/gender status quo. The need to frame the protections in a framework of a medicalization of transsexuality is evidence of

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Death of Transgender Pioneer

The Washington Baltimore Alliance (WBA) Press Release

Betty Ann Lind, transgender pioneer, organizer, author and editor, died of complications from a stroke on Wednesday, March 4, 1998 at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC. She had been in failing health for several years and was recovering from recent surgery since her fall last year. She was 67.

Betty Ann Lind was the founder of the Delta Chi Tri-ESS Chapter of Washington, DC in the early seventies. The Delta Chi Educational Association (DCEA) came into existence from that group and grew out of a need for a transgender group open to all trans people and their spouses. DCEA was the immediate forerunner of the current TransGender Educational Association of Greater Washington (TGEA) which today has nearly ninety members. More than a few current members of TGEA and the Washington-Baltimore Alliance (WBA) still remember where they first met—in Betty Ann's cramped apartment. It is a fitting tribute that TGEA has grown from such a small seed.

Betty Ann Lind also was a nationally known transgender leader and author. She was a founder of the Fantasia Fair in Provincetown, Massachusetts. In 1985 she became the Chair of the Fair. She won numerous awards in the Community, including the Virginia Prince Award. She was also the primary force behind the Reluctant Press and the editor of My Sorority, an early transgender newsletter.

Betty Ann was famous for helping beginners reach heights they thought unattainable. "I was one of those girls" stated Helen Garfinkle, current President of the Washington Baltimore Alliance. "When I started, I was full of fear and worry, but she took me under her wing and guided me into the person I am today. I never thought I would become a leader of a group or serve on the board of national transgender conventions. But Betty Ann had faith in me and inspired me to serve the community and to give back what I had received by following her example. She was a true role model of community service and a great friend to me and to many others in the community."



Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808. Phone: 302-376-1990 or email to: sadeCD@aol.com.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open at 8 pm all year 'round, Call 610-975-9119 for information.

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Renaissance Lehigh Valley, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955, or email to <RenLV@ren.org>.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (780-1578) or send email to: <lsv@ezonline.com>.

Affiliates

California

Orange County: Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven: connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 770-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 770-939-2128.

Illinois

Chicago: The Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, 708-863-7714.

Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836, 504-833-3046.

New Jersey

N. Central Jersey: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Call 908-219-9094. Email: vikkimotg@aol.com

Western Central New Jersey: New Jersey Support, call Susan at 973-334-0416 or Dorothy at 215-744-4746 (weekends only). Write PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045 for information. Email: Susanw@aol.com. Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing.

New York

Manhattan: Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332.

Long Island: Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 1311, Water Mill, NY 11976-1311. Phone 516-283-1333. email to joed2viola@aol.com

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Vanessa Kaye, Oklahoma City: COTA, 6957 N.W. Expressway, #121 Oklahoma City, OK 73132, email to <mkull@ibm.net>.

Renaissance News & Views

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Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to the National Office marked Attention: Editor. Or use email to <hmdm@voicenet.com>. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, make your check or M.O., payable to Renaissance and send it to our National office. Your contributions will help us continue our efforts to provide education about transgender issues. Donations can also be made through your local United Way agency.

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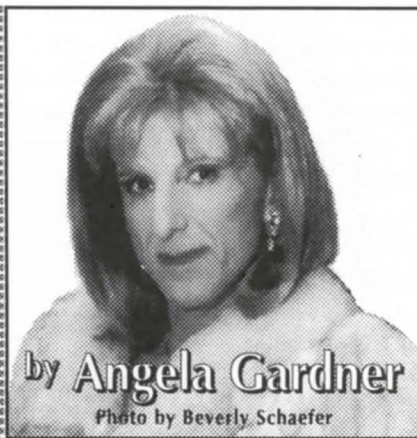
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Local Calendar

April

- 1 Ren. Library Discussion Group - Wayne, Pa.
- 4 Ren. LSV - Harrisburg
- 4 NJ Support - Trenton
- 11 Ren. Lehigh Valley
- 11 Ren. Delaware - Wilmington
- 18 Ren. GPC - Wayne, Pa.
- 25 MOTG - Red Bank, NJ

News Beat & Reminder



It's a drag world after all, it's a drag world after all, it's a drag, drag world. That's right, kittens, and it's highly probable that there's a famous mouse who wears lady's undies. At least it seems that way with the things Disney has been up to lately.

Last year I told you about a film in production, called *Mr. Headmistress*. It aired in March on *The Wonderful World of Men in Dresses...* I mean *The Wonderful World of Disney*, and, my oh my, was the headmistress cute—well, in a sensibly attired Julia Child, but not as hefty, way. (Katey Sagal wore power suits but they were all dark colored, so no fashion pizzazz there either.) Harland Williams dons drag to escape from some bad guys, and in the process finds himself taking the place of a woman education expert brought in to fix up an all girls school with problems. It's ruffled necklines and blazers for this headmistress as she digs into the job and brings up grades, solves personal problems for the students, and turns the field hockey team into a fighting machine. (Yeah, it's the old he's-a-better-man-in-a-dress plot device.) Ya see, if the grades go up and the hockey team wins, a benefactor will donate \$500,000 to the school... in a check conveniently made out to the headmistress. Guess that kind of cash could make shaving your legs worth while, huh?

It's all done in a Disney way. For example, the bad guys tie up the ersatz headmistress' accomplice and torture him to tell where Harland is

hiding. The torture? A feather to the naked foot. They tickle it out of him. And, all the men are enamored of the headmistress, of course. For some reason they all long to kiss her hand and get close. Who writes this stuff? I suspect it's someone who spent years cranking out transvestite fiction. The plot is a pretty standard version of one of those books. Only difference is, after the headmistress has helped everybody, won the big hockey game, and gotten the 500 grand, she learns her lesson, gives back the money and comes out to everyone as the male con man she really is. In the TV books she'd just give into the joy of women's clothes, start taking hormones, and stay on and run the school. Well, that happens too, the running the school part, but it's because everyone forgives and defends him and he takes the job as a guy.

One other thing makes me suspect the writers. The character's name is Tucker. Dressing like a woman... name is Tucker... coincidence? I don't think so.

The Reminder Part of News Beat &...

I've about given up on the professional telemarketers in our midst. A few months ago I said we needed help to market the *Renaissance Transgender Resource Guide* and nobody, that's right, nobody has come forward to assist. So, here's the deal. We're still going to produce this book and give it to every Renaissance member as part of your member benefits. It will list scads of businesses

that cater to us, therapists that are aware of gender issues and, possibly, support groups around the country. In my capacity as Executive Director I will send a letter to every therapist and business asking them if they would like to be included. (Groups will get free listings.) Then, I will be working with chapter leaders to find some folks who can do the follow up calls it sometimes takes to get a response. It's not actually heavy duty marketing, just a case of reminding them, and reiterating the deal. So, the heat's off for the time being, but if you are interested, please contact me at the National office.

We've got a new staff person! Gloria Vogel, who is already involved with the leadership of our affiliate group, New Jersey Support, has been helping me get people's receipts and membership cards sent out. Now she has taken on a greater role on the National Staff as she becomes our first ever Outreach Coordinator. (See article in this issue.) Gloria will be responsible for college and university talks, developing community relations and will work on increasing the availability of our Phone Watch Program. If you'd like to help her in any of those areas leave a message at the National Office, or see her at a meeting. In the next couple of months we will be scheduling another Speakers Bureau training session in order to cover all the new places that will want speakers.

In July the Speakers Bureau has already been scheduled to speak at the William Way Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Transgender Community Center in Philadelphia. Boy is that a mouthful. We are going down to educate their Peer Counseling Program counselors on transgender issues. As a side effect of that appearance the Center has expressed an interest in having some transgendered counselors. So far two National Board members, Diane Dale and Joanne White, have volunteered to try it out. If you are interested call the office and let me know. There is a time commitment for counselor train-

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ing and you must be able to go to the Center once a week. Like many gay/lesbian/bi/tg community centers, they have added us to the name, but don't have too many of us involved. This is a way to take advantage of being included and most likely meet some nice folks while helping some other TG people.

The Significant Other Support Group being run by Dr. Carol Cobb-Nettleton is still accepting SOs who want help dealing with their cross-dressing spouse or partner. Interested significant others should contact Dr. Cobb-Nettleton's office directly at 610-971-9771. There will be ten ninety minute sessions for which participants will be asked to pay \$10 (each session). The group meets at the Greater Philadelphia chapter meeting site every other Tuesday night.

At its last meeting the National Board decided that the whole membership should participate in the Renni Awards. Up till now the Renni has been a strictly Greater Philadelphia Chapter thing. The brainchild of Dina Amberle, the Renni Award has gotten some press in local media just about every year. Now, if it gets a line in the National budget we may start holding a Renni Award banquet and inviting the winners to pick up a statue of Mona. If they don't show up, that'll be OK, it still gives us an excuse to party.

And now, more award winning entertainment stuff!

Saturday Night's All Right For...

Garth Brooks must be trying to shed his down home country boy image. Did ya catch him on *Saturday Night Live* back in February? He started the show by dressing as a hippy and doing a psychedelic song. Then he appeared in the "Mango" sketch. Mango is an exotic male dancer who captivates Garth (who plays himself) when Garth and some pals stop in at a club someone recom-

mended, little suspecting it features male exotic dancers. There were M. Butterfly overtones to Garth's backstage visit to Mango's dressing room. He arrives with flowers and is spurned by Mango (who isn't all that hot and sexy... actually not hot and sexy at all). He ends up slumped over in an alley drinking and moaning for Mango.

As if all this weren't enough to make his cow feces punting fans begin to wonder, he tops it by appearing in a quiz show sketch called "Old French Whore." You guessed it. Garth appeared before the world as "Coco, the 67 year old French whore." Actually, he looked a lot younger than 67 and seemed pretty comfortable in a shimmy dress and feather boa. He's got a good face for drag.

Well, all I can say, mind ya, is: "That there danged old country music has changed a lot since the old days." You would never see Merle Haggard in no damn shimmy dress. Conway Twitty would never have been caught on the television in a simple A-line skirt and pumps. Do you suppose country music has changed that much? I guess we'll have to see how many nominations *Our Miss Brooks* gets at the next Country Music Awards. (Maybe we should give him a Renni.) In the meantime keep your eyes open for a new country chart topper from Boy George. Nah, just kidding.

If You Can't Get Lesbians...

Guys in dresses will do. At least that's how it seems in the television world. When I started writing for the transgender press, I'd mention a few appearances of men in dresses on TV now and then. Now days it seems like there's a guy in drag in every show. Why is this? Maybe we should *Ask Harriet*. (Gone but not forgotten.) Anyhow, there are so many guys in dresses that it's become impossible to mention them all. I'll try though.

The Drew Carey Show has brought back the crossdressing brother. The brother is in a phase that some of us go through, wherein we feel we need to tell everybody about ourselves. We

just feel so darn good we need to share. Some of us do this "coming out" in ways that feature more enthusiasm than forethought. Of course, on television that's where the comedy comes from, so Drew's brother ends up popping out of a cake at Drew's bachelor party in an outfit that looks a bit like Wonder Woman's. The boy's dad is seated right in front of the cake and, even though he's pretty shocked, he's over it by the end of the show. Wrap all the issues up in a half hour and move on to the next show. Could that be why this planet is so wacky?

Veronica's Closet with Kirstie Alley is fairly wacky and it's had its share of crossdressing. In one episode, a male employee who wanted to design lady's undies was ordered to wear them so he'd know if they're comfortable or not. In January a subplot featured a model named Tiffany who had a funny looking shadow on the results of her photo shoot. They speculate for the whole show, and at the end one of the guys kisses her, walks away, and proclaims to the others, "It's a guy."

Veronica's latest foray into gender-bending featured a real life female impersonator and has stirred up a little controversy. Ooo, what's the dish? Well girls, I never was actually alone with the president... oops. Wrong dish. I'm not scheduled to testify till next week. Back to *Veronica's Closet*.

In a recent episode *Veronica* is appalled to discover a drag queen is doing a cable show called *Moronica's Closet*. In an effort to get the queen to stop, she goes to the cable studio and confronts her. The impersonator tells *Veronica* she's always been an inspiration and promises to stop making fun of her after *Veronica* tells her a deep dark secret about how all the kids used to tease her. The very next show includes a sketch that reveals the secret to the world and makes fun of *Veronica's* sidekick, to boot. *Veronica* vows to "get that freak," and attorneys are summoned.

The end of the show is supposed to be a fashion show, and *Veronica* is set

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to be lowered onto the stage in a giant bra (designed by the guy who had to wear lady's scanties). After she is injured in a fight with a kleptomaniac model (I just report this stuff), the finale is almost ruined, 'cause she can hardly stand up, let alone get into the bra. What to do? It's drag queen to the rescue. The impersonator climbs into the giant bra and takes Veronica's place for the finale. Again, all problems solved in half an hour, actually less with the commercials.

The controversy? I knew you couldn't wait. The drag queen is played by **Karen Dior**. Karen's boy name is Geoffrey Gann, and he's the son of a former Republican Representative from Montana, and his mom's a Republican, too. I wonder how that goes over at the country club? Oh girls, did you see my drag queen son on *Veronica's Closet*? To further complicate things, Karen is HIV+ and is successfully living with it.

I believe Miss Dior was the girl like us who appeared in Xena, and she's also been in Bud Light spots. Anyhow, unlike myself (Grrrr... down girl, down!), she has been doing great working in film and TV in a dress. (She's dated Eddie Murphy, too and he's dropped his lawsuit against her.) Oh, right, I haven't got to the controversy yet. Sorry, I just get so wrapped up in telling a story.

It seems that while on the set

everything was just hunky dory. The Veronicas, faux and real, posed for pics and kidded around. After the shoot, though, it seems that Ms. Alley's people would not release any of the photos of Kirstie and Karen. Why? It seems Kirstie's people told Karen's people, "Kirsty didn't want to appear in any of THOSE magazines." Oh come on Kirstie, I think I can get you a spread in *LadyLike* if you're willing to let us put a shadow in a strategic spot. Have your people talk to my people. But seriously, kind of homophobic (I'm sure she isn't aware enough to be transphobic) for a Scientologist, don't ya think. Get out that e-meter and work on those engrams Kirstie. Having your picture in a few gay-oriented magazines might help the show's ratings. Dropping a pound or two might help, too. Did I say that? Meow!

One Night on P.I.

Who caught Sally Jess Raphael on late night chat show Politically Incorrect last month? I tuned in cause I heard a promo in which one of the panelists, a gay comedian named Bob (sorry Bob I forget your last name), said, "Sounds like a lazy transsexual to me." I tuned in to get the context and found out that the panel included Bob and Sally on one side and a female minister/columnist and a male singer, both African American, on the other. The "lazy transsexual" was a genetic female at Harvard who has declared herself to be male. Bob felt she was lazy because she wasn't going to take

any hormones or have any surgery. Oops, sorry... he wasn't going to have any surgery. Well, in context it was worth a chuckle. And, Sally Jesse held her own on the panel by declaring that a person should have the right to be treated as the gender they declare themselves to be. She did put her foot in her mouth at one point by babbling about "pre-transsexuals." What she meant, and she almost recovered from the mistake, was "preoperative." They way it came out it sounded like cross-dressers or transvestites were a stage you go through before you become transsexual. Hey, a common mistake unless you've read the Renaissance Background Papers. (Available online at our website <<http://www.ren.org>> or from the National office for a small fee.

Anyhow, The panel was pretty evenly divided on the subject... Bob and Sally were on for people being who they have to be, and the minister and singer going on with condemnations of deviate behavior and how those kind of people could be saved by Jesus. It's all too much to go into now but I found it quite ironic that the two members of a race that has been oppressed and denigrated for hundreds of years should be so closed minded about sex and gender oppression. Oh well, some folks just don't get it.

That's all she wrote for this month, girls. If you have anything you think the members would find of interest send it along to me at the office or email it to <angela@ren.org>. Ta ta my little penne pastas!



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Rutgers...

the conservative nature of the administration's stance."

The questions asked by the university administrators indicate that the chief objections were fixated upon "men in dresses" showing up in classrooms. This perspective resulted in resolving the negotiations by taking a minimalist approach: that of allowing people to change from one sex to the other.

"A more progressive solution would have been to recognize the inherent fluidity of gender," said

Singer. "So, while the policy may cover those people who choose not to use medical technologies to change their bodies, it clearly does not cover the 'horrific' specter of 'men in dresses.' Also likely not to be covered are men who simply look feminine, or women who look masculine." In addition, he noted, the policy change includes a necessity of intentionality—and specifically the intent to change sex—which means that people who are being discriminated against for violating the gender stereotypes have no recourse without self-identifying as transsexual. "The implication is that

one must have access to self-definitional language before they can be protected, a luxury many gender-variant people don't have," he said.

It is believed that this is the first anti-discrimination change resulting in transgender protections in the academic community.

Ben Singer is a co-founder of the Transgender Health Action Coalition (THAC), an It's Time, America! (ITA) affiliate based in Philadelphia, PA. In addition, he is a transman and activist in the gender community.



Black Lesbians and Gay Men

Knight-Ridder Newspapers is currently distributing an excellent article exploring identities and challenges for African-American lesbians and gay men. It begins, "It would not be inaccurate to describe Michael Hinson, Jr. as a gay, African-American male. But that does not mean he'd like it. 'Sexual minorities of color will generally define themselves by their race first,' says Hinson, Executive Director of Colours, a support and educational agency for black, Hispanic and Asian homosexuals."

The article discusses the struggle to find acceptance and understanding from both other African-Americans and white gay people. "After a history of being closeted by the violence-ridden homophobia of the majority and shunted into denial by what some black homosexuals describe as a 'don't

ask, don't tell' ethos in their own community, African-American lesbians and gays, prodded, in part, by the AIDS epidemic, are now charting an increasingly public course," the article says. "Despite similarities between the glimmerings of acceptance claimed by both African-Americans and white homosexuals, there are differences in the experiences of gays and lesbians of different races."

The article also discusses the particular relationship between historically black churches and lesbian and gay congregates, and the "strong conviction that one of the best ways to attack the spread of [HIV/AIDS] is by promoting and supporting stable, monogamous homosexual relationships." It points to a gay male couple of 18 years and the relationship of

black lesbian filmmaker Cheryl Dunne and her partner, Alexandra Juasz, who are "expecting a child." [Dunne actually just recently gave birth.]

Too often the media pits lesbians and gay men against communities of color, making the two seem mutually exclusive. This story not only looks into some of the issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of color, it also highlights several leaders of the lesbian and gay community who are also African-American talking about their experiences in their own words.

For more information contact: Kathleen Carroll, News Editor, Knight-Ridder Newspapers, 529 14th St. NW, #700, Washington, DC 20045-1707, fax: 202.383.6075.



Protect Your Rights in Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia Lesbian & Gay Task Force has asked the members of Renaissance to provide information to be used in its push to get a bill protecting the rights of gays, lesbians & transgendered people passed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Task Force seeks our help in obtaining:

1. A summary of key points as to why civil rights are imperative for transgendered people.
2. Anecdotal stories and statistics to support the answer to the first question.

3. Key responses to inflammatory rhetoric about men in skirts in schools and about rape in women's restrooms.

This information may be emailed: <plgtf@op.net>, faxed: (215)772-2004, mailed: Task Force, 1616 Walnut Street, Suite 1005, Phila. PA 19103-5310, or telephoned during business hours: (215)772-2000.

Real names will be kept confidential. If you can offer any help along the lines described above, please contact the Task Force directly. It is very

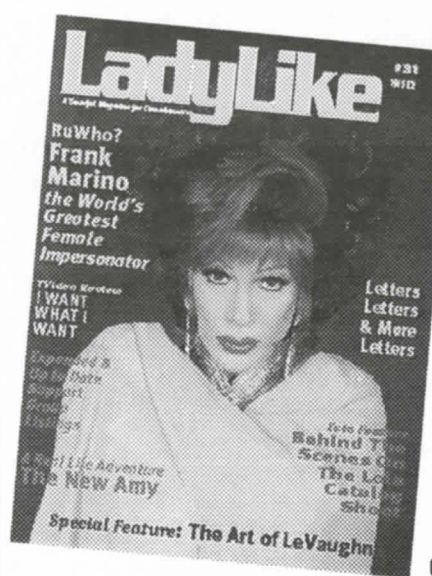
close to a major lobbying effort in the state government and needs the information soon.

Participation in this lobbying effort represents a chance for each and every one of us to have a positive impact on our own lives, an impact that can be felt by our legislators who in turn can help to make our lives easier as transgendered people. Best of all, this impact can be made anonymously and safely. Contact the Task Force now.



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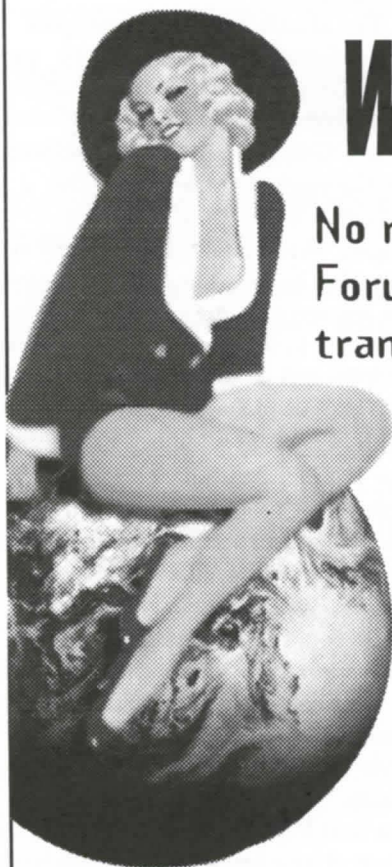
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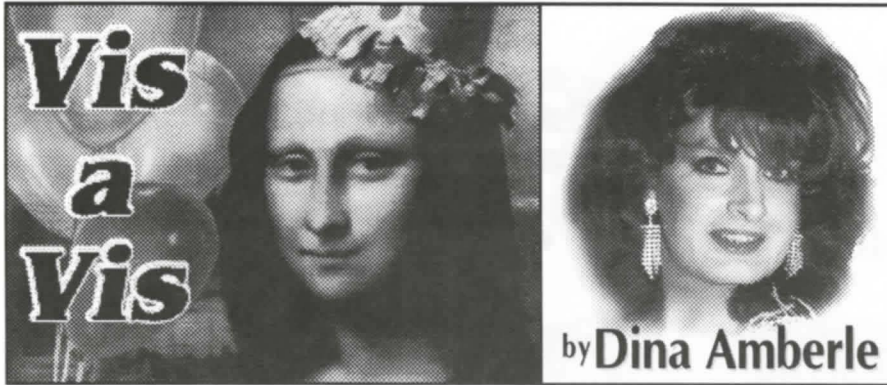
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In certain circumstances, women have opportunities that men - and certainly transgendered persons - never have thrown at them. When they become notorious for some scandal, they can cash in and pose nude for men's magazines.

The most recent case is the woman of the moment, Monica Lewinsky, who supposedly had a million dollar offer to pose for Penthouse, with or without her famous beret.

The Washington sex scandal has been a goldmine for about a half dozen women, going all the way back to Fanne Foxx, Elizabeth Ray, and Rita Jenrette in the mid 70's to Jennifer Flowers and Paula Jones in the 90's. But the list goes on well beyond the Beltway and includes such staples of pop culture as Jessica Hahn; Divine Brown, who was caught inflagrante with Hugh Grant (and was said to have earned \$250 grand for her fifteen minutes of fame); the cute little juror whose name escapes me now from the O.J. trial; and Suzen Johnson, the busty stewardess who bagged Frank Gifford.

Somehow it doesn't seem fair. Think of all the men who've suffered from their own scandals - and not one of them got into Playgirl.

But there is also a discrimination against the transgendered in this arena. Remember the transvestite hooker who beat up Danny Bonaduce a few years ago? Or the transvestite hooker (is there a pattern here?) who got Eddie Murphy in trouble recently? No spread in Playboy or Penthouse came over the transom for either...not even a cover photo on She-Male Confidential. Where is the

equity for transvestites - be they hookers or not - if we are caught in a juicy sex scandal. Forget the Transgender Bill of Rights, let's get some political action on this issue. There could be a million bucks at stake.

THE HETEROSEXUAL MENACE

In a recent court ruling in New Jersey, the Boy Scouts of America were found liable for wrongly removing a scoutmaster who they had learned was homosexual. The BSA defended their action on the grounds that they were a private organization and that homosexuality ran counter to their group's beliefs. The court found that the scouts were a "public accommodation" and hence could not bar participation on the grounds of sexual orientation.

As in the similar cases involving the military, the tacit belief behind the ban on gay members is that they will upset the balance of the heterosexual majority. The implication in these actions is that homosexual members will either "recruit" or engage in sexual activity with otherwise straight members. Certainly in the case of the scouts there is the fear of having homosexuals in close proximity with young boys.

Meanwhile, we can read almost daily accounts of heterosexual predators in the military, our schools, and the workplace. The military has suffered through some outrageous sexual predation wrought by heterosexual members, including high ranking officers. Cases of sexual misconduct by heterosexual teachers and coaches is not at all uncommon. The men who are discovered to be molesters of young boys are almost always out-

wardly heterosexual with no cause for alarm until after the damage has been done. Still, a majority of society seems to be fearful of any openly homosexual presence in similar positions of trust.

It is clear that many homosexuals have been members of the military and the scouts and have held teaching and coaching positions without abusing the trust placed in them. It is the worst form of hypocrisy to harbor feelings that gay citizens are any more wanton or dangerous than their heterosexual counterparts in these types of positions.

In our case, as crossdressers, we know for a fact that many of us have served in the armed forces, or are teachers and coaches, former scouts and scoutmasters. Would there be any sympathy for us, if it were found that a crossdresser was a teacher, coach or scoutmaster? How well would the theory of "heterosexual crossdressing" defend us against the same fear and speculation?

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

The March 5, 1998 Philadelphia Daily News carried an article by Ellen Gray about fad hairdo's inspired by female television characters.

Ms. Gray opened her column with, "In the beginning there was 'The Farrah'." The 1970's "Charlie's Angels" dreamboat inspired many a new 'do. In fact, she says that there are women in many small towns who still cling to the flowing, layered look of America's favorite "Angel".

The next great fad hairstyle was "The Rachel" as worn by "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston. This is recent enough for us all to recall the hype about that hairdo. The faster pace of today's pop culture has already thrown "The Rachel" onto the clipping room floor, although some stylists report they still get requests for it.

So Ellen went in search of the next great hair fad. She suspects that the style worn by Kirstie Alley in her series, "Veronica's Closet," could be the next big thing in hair mania. It's a mass of long brunette hair, with long,

drooping wings and streaks of lighter shaded hair throughout. Local stylist Julius Scissor (a great name, by the way) agrees. "I'm not saying it's beautiful [but] it's the kind of look that could catch on."

Hair is, of course, a big concern of crossdressers. It is one of the most visible ways to differentiate the genders, and offers the opportunity to make a statement of personal style. By merely changing wigs, we can catch the wave of whatever hairstyle is in vogue at the minute. Yet many crossdressers, myself included, cling to a favorite style for years and years, even though a new 'do is as easily affected as changing hats.

Perhaps our reluctance to change is because we are rooted in our own pasts. Forget the Rachel, even the Farrah. I see hairstyles on many crossdressers that are more reminiscent of June Cleaver, or the late Totie Fields, than anything more current. Chances are that if you want to see Rachel's or Veronica's hair on the heads of crossdressers, you'll have to push your walker up to a Renaissance meeting in, oh, maybe, 2028.

ELLEN'S TROUBLES

After all the hoopla surrounding her "coming out" on national television, it appears that Ellen DeGeneres' show may be canceled by ABC because of faltering ratings. The numbers dropped off precipitously once the big "secret" was unveiled.

Some media critics said that the show was now too focused on Ellen's gay lifestyle and was perhaps trying too hard to make that a central focus for the show's comedy. I was never a regular watcher of the show but did watch and enjoy the hour-long coming out episode. But when I heard that the very next week she was going to come out to her parents, it seemed they were already mining the same pit for the same type of laughs.

Had the show retained its huge audience after the coming out episode, one wonders if other stars might not have left their closets for a shot at sitcom stardom. As Fred Allen remarked way back in the infancy of

the medium, "Imitation is the sincerest form of television," and you can be sure that there would be copycat productions already in the works if the networks saw ratings to be had.

The critical perception of the show is that having a gay character would be acceptable to the public but that constant repetition of the theme comes across as preaching. And Americans, to our credit, generally don't care for preaching, even if the subject is something with which we agree.

DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS

There have been several critical reactions in the TG community to recent depictions of transgender folk on national television shows. The Fox network's *Ally McBeal* show had an episode about a young transvestite prostitute; the same network has a new sitcom, *Ask Harriet*, about a man dressing in drag for a newspaper job; ABC's *Drew Carey Show* had an episode about Drew's brother confessing his crossdressing interests; and Brooke Shields' sitcom, *Suddenly Susan*, featured an episode with Tony Curtis as a middle-aged crossdresser.

I've seen some reviews of these shows in other group newsletters over the past few months, and they have all nit-picked the various depictions of the transgendered characters. Even in the generally favorable reviews for the Drew Carey and Brooke Shields episodes, there was always some element of the depictions that bothered the reviewers. The *Ally McBeal* show ran afoul of most reviewers because the young TV prostitute was murdered on the street where she plied her trade. And *Ask Harriet* is generally panned for everything from the character's wardrobe to the show's insensitivity to our cherished principles of serious crossdressing.

Reading the too-critical reviews of these shows made me realize that we take television far too seriously and are too wrapped up in our own theories about crossdressing. If we take a step back and ignore some of the details of these shows, we would see that the characters were generally depicted in either a positive light or

used the conventions of crossdressing as a source of humor. The main point about these shows is that the characters have not been held up to ridicule or shown to be sociopaths. No, there haven't been any episodes where a transvestite discovered the cure for cancer and won the Nobel prize in medicine. Let's be happy with the baby steps we're taking in the public consciousness. Maybe next season we'll see "Harriet" win the Pulitzer.

THE CHANGING SHAPE OF FEMININITY

I was in a vintage clothing store recently and noticed that one of the salesgirls was wearing a pair of hip-hugger jeans that haven't been seen for many years. After suffering through the past ten years without seeing a young woman in skintight jeans, it was a pleasant nostalgic rush to ogle a well-formed behind in tight denim. So moved was I by this sight that I did some thinking on the subject as I followed the young lady around the store.

Over the course of decades, the female shape has changed - or rather females have changed their shapes to fit the trends of the day. Looking at women of a few generations ago, we can see that they are built differently than the women we see today. Certainly in the area of the derriere, we can see that the lush bottoms of days gone by are almost never seen on our current icons of femininity. What would once have been the perfect shape of womanly cheekiness is, in this age of Butt-Masters and Buns of Steel, deemed to be a little too close to cellulite city.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

I mentioned the 'Renni' Awards nominees in my February column. The members of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter voted on the 'Renni's' at the January 17 meeting and the winners were: Kim Basinger in the Film category, with Sarah Michelle Gellar taking the Television prize, and Princess Diana the Newsmakers award.

continued on page 14



Gender Reflections

by **Barbara F. Anderson**
M.S.W., Ph.D.

The Dilemma That Won't Go Away

Last month's column reviewed the new book, *TransgenderCare: Recommended Guidelines, Practical Information & Personal Accounts*. As I mentioned, this month I would write on the subject of the essay I contributed to that volume. The full title is "Ethical Implications for Psychotherapy with Individuals Seeking Gender Reassignment." However, to me it is the dilemma that won't go away.

The basic issue of concern for me is that the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) requires in its

Standards of Care that clients seeking gender reassignment have an endorsement from a psychotherapist who has counseled the client for prescribed periods of time prior to having hormonal or surgical treatment by physicians belonging to that Association. As a psychotherapist and a Gender Specialist I am often approached by clients seeking treatment in order to fulfill these requirements.

My dilemma is how to both offer psychotherapy and play the role of a gatekeeper to desired services. The counselor is supposed to be accepting, nonjudgmental and supportive while

the gatekeeper is evaluative and critical. The client also has a dilemma—how to get help in understanding oneself better and making a wise decision without losing the option to decide on one's treatment and becoming totally disempowered.

My suggested solution is to remove the gatekeeping role from the therapist, free her to be the best kind of counselor she can, and have the decision be made by another therapist who will meet briefly with the client and have access to treatment records. This second therapist, with whom the client will not need to develop any sort of a therapeutic alliance, can bring her assessment skills to the situation and either give or withhold an endorsement of gender reassignment treatment.

I have directed this suggestion to HBIGDA's committee currently engaged in updating the Standards of Care. I received a polite acknowledgement and look forward to the committee's final report.



Renaissance Leadership Conference

A Special Report
by **Lee Etscovitz**

On Saturday, February 21, 1998, Renaissance held its first leadership conference, as previously announced, for the officers of its several chapters and affiliates. Under the leadership of Diane Dale, two major themes emerged from the day-long meeting. The morning was spent in an examination of the membership needs of our organization, while the afternoon session involved a clarification of the newly adopted strategic plan underlying our overall efforts as an organization as we begin our second decade.

A major point brought out in the discussion of membership needs was the fact that there is a range of needs. That is, within the membership as a whole, each person is, in varying

degrees, at a different place in the so-called "gender journey." Some persons are just coming out of the closet, others are veterans, so to speak. Some people are confused about their transgender feelings, while others have a firmer sense of who and what they are. And the variations go on. The point is that it is incumbent upon Renaissance to address these various needs and levels of personal growth within the activities and offerings of the organization. More specifically, each chapter and affiliate, with the help of the national board, must speak to these needs in terms of its programs and support efforts.

After a lunch break, Angela Gardner, in her ongoing effort as Executive Director of Renaissance to streamline the membership enroll-

ment procedures, made suggestions, listened to ideas, and moved in the direction of some decisions which will be seen by the membership as the year unfolds. The concern behind this discussion was to help the national board and the chapters and affiliates to coordinate their membership efforts involving dues and time frames.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in a clarification of the strategic plan in terms of its impact on the chapters and affiliates and on the organization as a whole. Revenue sources were examined, outreach was discussed, and further conferences were planned. All of this effort is part of the aim of moving Renaissance positively and viably into another decade of growth as needs constantly change.



Nota Bene:

If you have ideas or suggestions that can help make Renaissance a stronger and better organization, please do not hesitate to make your voice heard! Write or email us at the addresses on page two!



BOOK NOOK

My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein (New York: Routledge Books, 1998), 292 pages, \$17.95. Reviewed by Debbie Fraker. Reprinted with permission from **Southern Voice** (January 29, 1998)

Genderama: Boy, girl, man, woman? Fairy, dyke, drag queen or king? Once you stop thinking in terms of either/or, author Kate Bornstein explains how a whole world of options can open up your life.

A note about pronouns: In *My Gender Workbook*, Bornstein uses the non-gendered pronouns *ze* (for he or she) and *hir* (for his or her) in most cases, but she also uses traditional gendered pronouns when she knows the person identifies as a particular gender. This article will use traditional pronouns, but with this reminder to interpret them loosely.

In her first book, *Gender Outlaw*, Kate Bornstein talked about her experiences in transition, physically and emotionally, from male to female. Her life has led her to question gender itself as a binary construct. In the end, she began to say that she was neither a woman nor a man.

In *My Gender Workbook*, Bornstein addresses in depth the concept of living without gender, guiding the reader gently through the process. The book will be valuable to anyone questioning the rules of gender that attempt to keep us all wrapped in neat little boxes, defining everything

from the clothes we are supposed to wear to the people we are supposed to have sex with.

"I don't like scaring people," says Bornstein. "That's not a fun position for me to be in. This is one of the reasons she chose to present her ideas in a workbook format. The workbook asks more questions than it answers, allowing readers to provide their own answers. She also has a fabulous sense of humor about the whole thing, so she is unlikely to frighten anybody.

"The purpose of the workbook is to empower the reader to go against the cultural definition of identity and form their own identity so they don't have to look at their bodies through the cultural lens that says they're ugly," she says. Toward that end, the book is peppered with multiple choice quizzes and other exercises designed to help readers explore questions of gender on their own. The questions help put gender in proportion to one's life rather than allowing it to be an unspoken, unexamined influence. "The real way to find out how much gender influences your life is to ask yourself," she says.

Bornstein posits a gender pyramid (based on the USFDA's Basic Food Group Pyramid) as a model for understanding power levels associated with gender. At the very top is a "Perfect Gender," a white, middle-aged, middle-class, heterosexual male WASP (among other things) who happens to also be the most powerful gender type in our society.

So how does this apply to gay men and lesbians? "What it means to be gay or lesbian is freeing up our desire, not bottling ourselves in," she explains. "The gay and lesbian movement achieved a lot more than it has acknowledged itself for." She refers to the fact that there are both lesbians and gay men on television and in other mainstream media. "What we don't have is the real dangerous mix of who cares what the gender is." "If it turns me on I'm playing with it," she adds.

Bornstein celebrates the fact that the rising generation is less concerned about gender and is breaking the bounds of heterosexual versus homosexual. "There is an extremely high incidence within the gay and lesbian community of lesbians attracted to drag queens and boys in drag, and of gay men attracted to butch dykes. What's that about?" she asks with a grin. "The 18 to 25 year-olds are fabulous. I can't wait to see the world they build," she adds.

Oppression of any kind, Bornstein believes, will never be successfully overcome until we are willing to base our struggles on values rather than identities. "Separatist movements die," she asserts. "Can you have a movement that's going to be in any way restrictive or exclusive? No!" On her speaking tours of college campuses, she sees the younger generation of queers moving more in the direction of politics and values and away from creating categories of identities. "These gay and lesbian students are much more coalition based," she says.

Gender is only one aspect of our identities by which we are pigeonholed, but it is a very powerful one. Breaking free of it may be frightening, but it creates all new possibilities. "I'm not genderless in my presentation to the world, Bornstein insists. "The very fact of having no gender frees me to have any gender I want."

When she gives talks, she often presents a challenge to the audience. She asks that people come prepared to give her any gender identity, and she will take it on. "Also, try and come up with an insult," she adds. In the past, she has felt insulted by being mistaken for a drag queen. Now she simply sees "drag queen" as another gender presentation to have fun with. "Are you attracted to drag queens? I can be a drag queen," she purrs.

Editor's Note: In February, Kate visited Philadelphia to promote her new book. You can read about Kate's visit on page 16.

Hot • Buzz

Jo Ann Roberts • CyberQueen



"Everything begins in mysticism and ends in politics."

— Charles Peguy

When it rains, it pours. The **International Foundation for Gender Education** (IFGE) continues to have more than its share of problems. According to a report by one of IFGE's board members, the **Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training** has placed a lien against the beleaguered organization for \$37,000 in unpaid payroll taxes and fines. IFGE has hired a lawyer and believes the sum can be knocked down to maybe \$12,000. Even so, that ain't chicken feed. Meanwhile, on the heels of **Jean Marie Stine's** resignation as editor of *TransgenderTapestry*, another staffer has given notice.

This month **Dallas Denny** steps down as Executive Director of the **American Educational Gender Information Service** (AEGIS). Ms. Denny is succeeded by no one because no one wanted the job. I had the pleasure of working with Dallas for several years when I was chair of the AEGIS board. She is one of the most intelligent, energetic and resourceful people in the transgender community. Unfortunately, there is only one Dallas Denny, and she is burned out. It is a shame that a successor could not be found for Dallas, but in all hon-

esty, there is little to recommend anyone to the job — long hours, lots of work, and no pay. It's a wonder Dallas lasted this long. There are rumors about AEGIS merging with **It's Time America!**. I don't think it will happen, but one never knows.

Last month saw the passing of a major figure in the transgender community. **Betty Ann Lind** died after a prolonged illness. She'd been in poor health for several years and had not been active in the community. Lind was "godmother" to nearly as many East coast transgendered people as **Virginia Prince** is to West coast folks, having been involved in most every major TG organization and many smaller ones. Betty Ann was a long-time member of the **Outreach Institute** board, and for a time she was the coordinator of **Fantasia Fair**. She was an original appointed board member of IFGE and served through the early 1990's. She was the Executive Secretary of the **Delta Chi Chapter** in Alexandria, Va., which has since evolved into the **TransGender Education Association**. She was also founder of the **Phi Chapter** of the **Gateway Gender Alliance**. The Phi Chapter eventually became the **South Jersey Chapter of Renaissance**. Lind was also editor of a small magazine, **Our Sorority**, and author of many fantasy stories published through **Reluctant Press**.

Speaking of FanFair, I heard from several sources that the **Crown & Anchor** in **Provincetown, Mass.**, burned down. Both the C&A, Whaler's Wharf, and two other buildings burned to the ground. The C&A played a key role in **Fantasia Fair** for many years as the site of the Talent Show and the Costume Fantasy Ball. It was also one of the leading landmarks in Provincetown. I will forever have one of my fondest memories as MC of the FanFair Follies at the C&A.

Call for papers for the Third International Congress on Sex &

Gender, an interdisciplinary conference with a **transgender agenda** for the end of the millennium, at **Exeter College, Oxford University**, 18th - 20th, September 1998. Keynote Speaker: Prof. Louis Gooren, Endocrinologist and head of the Gender Clinic at the Vrije University Hospital, Amsterdam. Call for Papers: Medicine, The Arts, Law, Social Sciences, Health Care, History, Cultural Studies, Education, Psychology. Papers on any aspect of the study of transgender, transsexuality and related aspects of sex and gender are welcomed. Titles and an abstract of maximum 200 words should be sent by the 15th of May 1998 to: **Dr Stephen Whittle**, PFC, BM Network, London WC1N 3XX, Tel: +44 (0) 161 247 6444 Fax: +44 (0) 161 432 8454, or email: <Cong.papers@pfc.org.uk>.

I heard that **GenderPAC** is staging another lobby day in **Washington, D.C.** this month. The feedback I'm getting from people is, shall we say, unflattering toward the organization and its founder **Riki Wilchins**. This year's activity was billed by the Rikster as lobbying for gay, lesbian, bi, trans, intersexed, etc. Many trans-identified people do not care to have been pushed so far down the list, especially since it was trans-people who backed Riki and the initial creation of GPAC. GPAC never really caught on with the community and stumbles along with little support because it's focus is so diffuse. It is hard to understand exactly what they're lobbying for. Last year drew 40% fewer people than the previous year. We'll see how they do this year.

Did anyone else notice there were two different covers for **Allure** magazine last month? The version that subscribers received in the mail showed **Jennifer Aniston** standing. The cover on the supermarket edition showed Aniston in a bust shot. Does anyone know if this happens very often? I've seen multiple

covers on the same issue of *TV Guide* before but never on a fashion magazine.

I found this fabulous store on the Internet, called **The Ultimate Diva**. It has a magnificent selection of glamorous women's apparel, including hundreds of beaded gowns, wigs, shoes, gloves, feathers, boa's and more. If you're looking for a glamorous evening gown, especially if you are a large girl, go to <www.ultimatediva.com> and check out the selections. Most of the dresses are available up to size 20, and some larger with very reasonable prices. If you can visit their web site, please tell them that I sent you and leave a message for Mercedes, TheDiva@ultimatediva.com. If you're not on the net, contact them at The Ultimate Diva, 891 Post St. Ste 104 San Francisco CA 94109. Call 1-888-556-3482.

I mentioned Revlon **ColorStay** and its special remover a while back. Then I received this email from reader Jane, "I've been using Revlon ColorStay foundation exclusively for more than a year. The goop I remove it with was suggested by a cosmetic manager where I shop, and it works well. It is **Unscented Albolene Liquefying Cleanser**. After rubbing it on the skin and towelling off the makeup, I use **Sea Breeze** on a washcloth to cut the remnants of the Albolene." Thanks, Jane, for sharing that info. If you have a tip you want to share, send it along.

I'm passing along this little warning from another of our readers: "You may want to warn the girls about the **Vault** in N.Y.C. Four of us went there last week, and after paying an \$80 cover charge we were searched. The search included all private parts! And then, as soon as we got inside, the low-lives in the place demanded that we show them our assets. All security said was, what do you expect the way that you guys are dressed, and then apologized to the low-lives for our behavior! This has to be the dirtiest, nastiest club in N.Y.C." Gee, things sure have changed. When I visited the Vault in the early 90's we got in for free. I'll be in San Francisco at the end of this month for the **Cal Dreamin'** conven-

tion, and I'm hoping to have time to track down the drag-oriented pin ball machine, called **Go Girl**. In order to play Go Girl, you have to step into a pair of 6-inch red spiked heels, while a crossdressed **Ken** doll spins as the ball comes into play. Some of the knock-down targets are notorious homophobes, like **Jesse Helms**, **Lou Sheldon** and **Fred Phelps**. As you play, the game encourages you with words of encouragement like, "She is on fire" or, "Oh Honey, your lipstick is smudged" from celebrity drag queens. It also includes some deliberate changes from standard pinball vernacular, like "Same Queen Again" instead of Free Game or Replay. So far as we know, there is only one Go Girl in existence. For info, visit <www.exo.net/michaelb/gogirl/gogirl.html>.

Several people have asked me about heels for the Spring and Summer seasons. The word on the street is **Sabrina**. The name comes from the eponymous movie and the style of shoe worn in the 1954 flick by **Audrey Hepburn**. The heel is lower and wider at the base. A few seasons ago it was the same style but called the **Louis** after Louis XIV. If, however, you insist on wearing those stilettos of last season, take these hints to heart... wear them for only a **few hours** a day... take your **shoes off** while seated...**don't dance** in spikes... **stretch** your leg muscles with lunges... try **writing the alphabet** with your foot (rotates the ankle through a full range of motion).

She's gorgeous. She only wears couture. She's only 2 years old. She's **Gene Marshall**, the most sophisticated doll to hit the scene since **Barbie**. Gene is taller than Barbie at 15 1/2 inches and much better dressed. She retails for about **\$80**, and each of her outfits sell for about \$35, making her eminently collectible. Each outfit, sold separately, follows Gene's fictional career as a movie star from her discovery as an usherette to her latest film role. Gene was created by **Mel Odom**, a well-known commercial artist in the 70's and 80's. While her sales aren't anywhere near those of Barbie, she is extremely popular and drew a crowd of 300 fans at a recent Gene convention in Newark,

New Jersey. An auction of one-of-a-kind Gene dolls collected close to \$30,000 for charity. So, she's hot right now. Gene is distributed by the **Ashton Drake Gallery** in Niles, Ill. Check out <www.ashtondrake.com/geneindex.html>. for Gene online.

There are a number of new nail ideas floating around. One of the hottest is sheer lacquer—a transparent wash of color. It looks really cool over a contrasting opaque color. Try **Maybelline Express Finish Waterpaints**. Revlon has added a number of new colors to their **Top Speed** line of 90 second fast dry polish. Unfortunately, there's still no color that's a real red-red.

Do you know that wearing the right clothes can make you look **10 pounds** thinner? It's a trick to master if you struggle with your weight like I do. I've gained nearly a pound for every month I've been off the nicotine sticks. Use these tricks for problem areas...**thick waist**—draw attention away from the waist, wear a straight silhouette...**short legs**—"lengthen" them with slim fitting cigarette pants or a hemline that's right to the knee...**wide hips**—direct attention to the upper torso with slim sweaters, long jackets and knee-length skirts.

One of the hottest trends for the Summer is the **monochromatic** eyelid. It's not what you might think. The idea is to have your **eyeshadow** color match the dominant color in your outfit. (For me, that'd be black or red. Ohmigawd!). The colors that work best are the bright jewel colors, like blue, green and yellow. Here's some user guidelines... With really **dark shadows**, skip eyeliner. With **softer shades**, keep the line black and very thin...Stick to a **single color** unless you really, really know how to do contouring with several shades of the same color...keep your face **balanced**. If you have a dramatic color on your lids, you need color on your cheeks and lips as well.


So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? Comments? Write me care of this publication or send email to the <CyberQueen@cdspub.com>.

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Vis A Vis...

I want to thank Mr. William Speers of the Philadelphia Inquirer for mentioning our awards in his daily celebrity news column for the sixth straight year. When I started this annual award, I thought it could be a nice public relations item for our group and hoped that the news outlets to

whom I sent our press releases could have some fun with the idea of cross-dressers selecting celebrity women as our 'most inspiring feminine images.' The nice thing about Mr. Speers running our releases is that some of the local radio stations nick his celebrity news as morning drive time fodder, so we probably also got some airplay with the awards as well as being seen in Philadelphia's largest daily newspaper.

One interesting note about this year's voting was that one of the nominees in the Newsmakers category was the mother of septuplets, Bobbi McCaughey. Mrs. McCaughey received not a single vote from our aspiring women. Apparently, expressing our feminine selves did not extend to the act of childbirth to the seventh power. Maybe we're just lactation intolerant. 

Renaissance Happenings

GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Do you hate being "read?" The GPC main program on April 18 will be a workshop on "Acting Female" conducted by a professional actress. Here is your chance to discuss feminine behavior and to participate safely in games and role play designed to help you portray your most feminine self. Don't miss this fun and practical presentation.

MOTG

On Saturday evening, February 28, Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Renaissance National Librarian and Managing Editor of New & Views, spoke on "Transgender Tasks" at the monthly meeting of MOTG in Redbank, New Jersey.

Dr. Etscovitz began the evening by singing an original song about her own transgender experience, called "My Gender Story," and by encouraging everyone else to join in on the chorus. The song served to relax everyone and to express some of the issues which transgendered persons

face, such as living with a secret, self-acceptance, finding help, and so on. The song's humor mixed with the seriousness of it all helped to bring about group participation and discussion.

When asked what she felt about her presentation and her overall experience at MOTG, Dr. Etscovitz replied that it was a most rewarding experience. The response, she said, was gratifying, especially since "some serious issues and concerns were raised for discussion."

Dr. Etscovitz also added: "MOTG can really be proud of itself. It is an active organization with a good turnout at its meetings. The atmosphere was supportive and friendly. It was an honor to be part of all that."

NEW JERSEY SUPPORT

by Susan Wright, Chairperson of New Jersey Support

Only a short drive from New Hope, Pennsylvania on the New Jersey side of Washington Crossing, lies the sleepy rural town of Titusville.

Did I say "sleepy?" Not on the first Saturday of every month! We are New Jersey Support (affiliate of Renaissance), a rapidly growing open support group which continues to capture the interest of the transgender community for miles around.

We are a nonprofit organization committed to serving all transgendered persons, their spouses, significant others, and friends. Our mission is to strengthen the common bond that gender-gifted people share and to further the ongoing success of the transgender community in achieving greater acceptance by society in general. To carry out this mission, our immediate objective is to provide a relaxed and discreet, noncompetitive, informal, and safe atmosphere for any and all members of the transgender community (M2F, F2M, TS, TV, CD, DQ, regardless of age, race, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation) to socialize, exchange ideas and information, and to receive emotional support. We encourage the attendance of

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professionals in all fields as well as any person who might want to learn more about the transgendered individual and his or her community, lifestyle, challenges, and goals.

New Jersey Support was founded almost two years ago by Terri Risley and Dorothy Mae Thompson, both from the former South Jersey chapter of Renaissance. Dorothy Mae, who serves as our treasurer, also continues to play a major role in setting up and running our group meetings. We have hosted beauty, health care, and other professionals, as well as renowned leaders of our community, thanks to Gloria Vogel (our program director and secretary).

JoAnn Roberts has helped many people to come out safely to their spouse or significant other with her seminar/workshop. Jessica Brandon has given us valuable advice on selecting and purchasing clothing in Shopping 101. Annette Michaels, an expert in methods of hair removal which employ light technology, gave a presentation. She is also a makeup

artist and, at our last meeting, demonstrated her skills on a volunteer. We pulled off a white sale which would have made George Washington flip his wig. He would have found a better wig from our wide selection (Martha would have been supportive). Ladies' Night Out at the Cartwheel drew an excellent turnout.

An official from the American Civil Liberties Union will lead a discussion at our May 2 meeting. Also scheduled are presentations by beauty and fashion professionals. Local community leaders plan to give lectures or workshops on issues affecting transgendered individuals. Our proximity to New Hope makes outings to clothing and beauty shops, as well as restaurants, easier to attend. On the drawing board are parties, cultural events, and joint activities with sister chapters.

Our group meets at 8pm on the first Saturday of each month (all year long), at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing on Washington Crossing-Pennington Road (Rt. 546) in Titusville, NJ. You

may attend in whatever attire you choose. Although most attend cross-dressed, it is not a requirement. For those who need it, we provide a place to change. At the meeting, we serve a wide range of refreshments. Donations of food and nonalcoholic beverages are always appreciated. Also, we will gladly accommodate special dietary needs. After the meeting, a smaller group usually goes out to a local club or restaurant. The establishments which we frequent are gender-friendly, safe, upscale (but not expensive), and in good taste.

Recently, we have begun taking applications for annual memberships. Currently, we are working towards becoming a chapter of Renaissance. Diane Dale, who serves on the board of the Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., continues to be an extremely supportive mentor who is helping us to achieve this goal. Kristina Kaye has volunteered to help us lay the ground work and serve as

continued on page 22

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Ms. Lynda

Kate Bornstein at Giovanni's

By Michelle Lynn,

Special Reporter for *News and Views*

The evening of February 19, 1998 saw the return to Philadelphia of one of Renaissance's earliest and most prominent members, Kate Bornstein. Kate was previously in our area on June 20 last year serving as the lively after dinner speaker during the 2nd International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues held at the Park Ridge Hotel in King of Prussia, PA. The more recent visit involved a presentation at Giovanni's Room (a gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender bookstore located in Philadelphia at 345 South 12th Street) as part of a promotion for the author's new book, *The Gender Workshop: How To Become a Real Man, a Real Woman, the Real You...Or Something Else Entirely* (Routledge).

The author offered an engaging discussion of the book to a packed house and signed copies for fans afterwards. Kate Bornstein is an author, actor, and self proclaimed "Gender Outlaw" (appropriately the title of Kate's first book). Formerly Al Bornstein, the then "Al" made a series of dramatic life decisions to move from man to woman and eventually to neither or to whatever one chooses at the moment. Kate maintains that life is greater than constantly trying to classify or pigeonhole oneself into categories of male or female, gay or straight, and that there are, in fact, countless genders operating within

the traditional two-gender system. "I look for where gender is, then I go someplace else." Kate has often been quoted as saying,

Using a workbook format, *The Gender Workbook* examines the premise of what constitutes being a man or a woman and is aimed at offering a thorough and entertaining guide to anyone living with or without gender. Bornstein warns that this effort may not be an easy journey, since you may need to go against some painful truths about your own life. Nevertheless, the author offers anyone a unique perspective for expressing oneself in terms of a gender...but any gender at all.

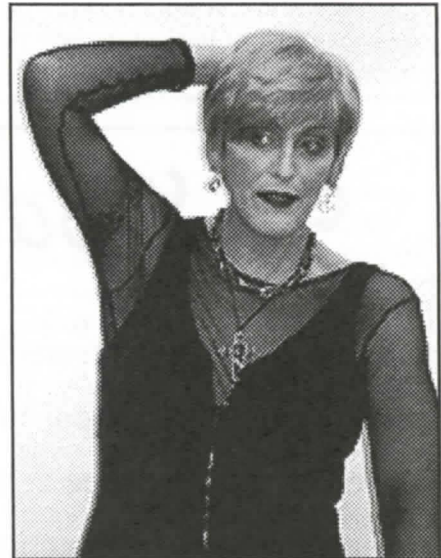
Despite its seemingly serious tone, this is often a light-hearted book. Ever the performer, the author is full of trademark candor and humor and employs such diverse examples as Barbie dolls, illustrations by Diane Dimassa, and the USFDA food-group triangle as tools to explain gender.

In addition to these books, Kate Bornstein, along with Caitlan Sullivan, also co-authored the on-line novel *Nearly Roadkill*. However, despite these writings, Kate is first and foremost a performance artist and is nationally known as a playwright. This active author has written, produced, and toured North America and Europe with three solo shows: "Virtually Yours: A Game For Solo-Performer with Audience," "The Opposite Sex...Is Neither!," and

"Cut'n'Paste."

Bornstein has as diverse of a resume as you are likely to find: former minister for the Church of Scientology, one time salesperson for IBM, professional dominatrix, phone sex operator, and current "dean of hearts" at Miss Vera's School For Boys Who Want to Be Girls (a transformation service in New York City). Kate has appeared on Donahue, Geraldo, and been the subject of featured articles in *The New York Times* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine*. Kate Bornstein currently lives in New York City and is at work on a new play that is due to premiere in the spring of 1998.

Copies of *The Gender Workbook* are now available at Giovanni's Room and will soon be available through the Renaissance Bookstore and Renaissance Library.



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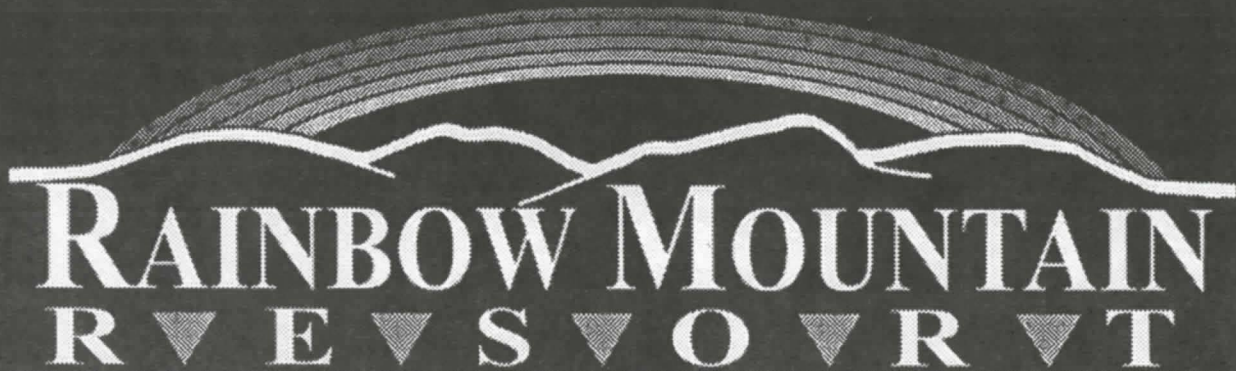
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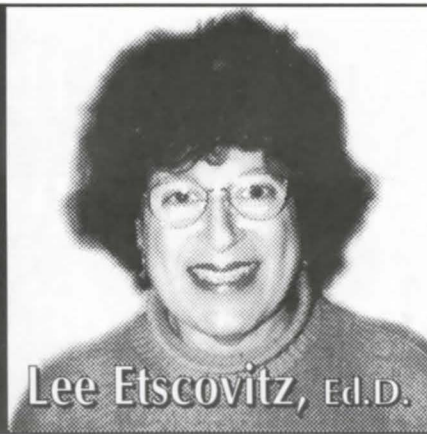
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Making Sense of It All



Keys and Watches

Gender change, whether part-time or full-time, is understandably a difficult matter. The overall challenge facing the transgendered person is that of building and maintaining a lifestyle which incorporates such basic matters as bodily, emotional, and social satisfaction. The strain in each of these three areas can be great and usually is. Moreover, what happens in one area impacts upon the other areas. For example, changes in the body can affect the way others see you and react to you. And the way others treat you can impact upon your emotional life. The point here is that gender change involves a great deal, often bringing with it difficulty and much stress.

I am reminded of the stress facing my spouse when she was a child. She was born into Nazi Germany, shortly after the rise of the Third Reich. Hitler's ascent to a position of dictatorial power was the beginning of the Jewish descent into what became known as the Holocaust. As a Jewish child in Nazi Germany, my wife, her brother, several sisters, and her parents were forced from their home into a ghetto. The children were not allowed to go to school, and they all had to wear a badge declaring their difference, that is, a Jewish star.

The persecution which my wife suffered came to a head when her parents were executed by the Gestapo. Following the dreaded knock on the door one evening a few months before the war ended, my inlaws were taken to the local police station. The next day the family was

told that my wife's father shot his wife and had then shot himself. His pocket watch and his key to the apartment were returned to the family. It is this horror story of which I am reminded as I attempt to live my own life as a transgendered person in contemporary America.

Am I making too extreme a comparison? Can we compare Nazi Germany with democratic America? Can we really compare the genocidal enormity of the Holocaust with the contemporary challenge of being transgendered? Before we try to answer these questions, or before I try to justify the comparison, let me share with you a poem I wrote out of my effort to make sense of the deaths of my wife's parents. The poem is called, "Keys and Watches."

Keys and watches
tell it all,
symbols of the search,
reminders of the call.

First the finding
in one's soul
of when to act
and for what goal.

And then the final
human test:
eternal home,
eternal rest.

But in between
our birth and death,
our space and time
demand our breath.

We hold the keys
to happiness
and pray for watches
God will bless.

Yet sometimes locks
and broken hands
destroy our days
with cruel demands.

Keys and watches
live and die
with every truth
and every lie.

If the meaning of this poem is at first somewhat elusive, perhaps it is because the poem as a whole points to the very basis of our existence as human beings. I am referring, for example, to the "cruel demands" which we sometimes face in our journey through life and which in turn "demand our breath" (demand our spirit and courage) if we are to make use of the "space and time" (the keys and watches) allotted us on this earth.

All of this applies not only to my wife's experience as a Jewish person in Nazi Germany but also to my own experience as a transgendered person in contemporary America. Am I suggesting that to be transgendered is to risk being the victim of some kind of holocaust, some kind of assault, both physical and spiritual, against my very existence as a human being? Yes, that is what I am saying. Let me explain.

As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, a transgendered person, regardless of his or her gender variation, has needs as a human being in at least three areas of life: bodily, emotional, and social. Actually, everyone, transgendered or not, seeks fulfillment in all three of these areas. We all want bodies that represent how we see ourselves. Just look at the time and effort spent by people to eat right, to have the proper weight, to dress right, to maintain a good complexion, to be physically fit, and so on. We also seek peace of mind, to be able to relax, to find meaning in life, to be emotionally stable. Again, look at the quest for spiritual fulfillment,

for answers to life's uncertainties, for good counseling, and so on. And we want social acceptance. We want to be a part of our families, to hold jobs, to have friends, and generally be able to function on a daily level in society. In all of these ways, whether we are transgendered or not, we seek dignity and fulfillment as human beings.


But as a transgendered person I find myself living a life of cautious maneuverings through social and legal roadblocks. My own deeply felt need for bodily changes through hormonal treatment and surgery are seen by the medical establishment as merely cosmetic, not as an expression of a deeply felt need, a need which is basic to my sense of being a person. Even if I were simply a male who crossdresses from time to time without making any permanent physical changes, I would still have to be careful about expressing my feminine wishes. In terms of my own body, therefore, I find myself continually struggling to embody, if you will, that which is so very basic to my one life on this earth.

The feelings which I have had in relation to all of this have included guilt, shame, loneliness, and fear. These feelings have given way to some measure of fulfillment over the years as I have grown to recognize and to accept who and what I am. But

I have never felt free to talk about my feelings, fearing ridicule and rejection. Moreover, I have not found very many counselors who really hear me, who really understand the transgender experience. It seems at times that the therapeutic establishment itself is against me, not in terms of my wanting this or that permission to begin hormones or have surgery, but in terms of simply understanding my transgender feelings.

It is the social aspect of my life as a transgendered person which illustrates most vividly the holocaust-like quality of my daily experience. Society is simply not set up to deal with me. Same-sex marriages are usually unacceptable, which in turn has an impact on taxation and on medical coverage. Employers, under a variety of excuses, fire transgendered persons, especially if the transition becomes known. Otherwise, the transgendered employee must maintain his or her "secret." Religious and educational institutions are especially resistant to keeping anyone who is transgendered, lest the person in question should somehow "harm" innocent people. Legal documentation of all kinds hounds the transgendered person every step of the way, and it really never ends. One's past is not always an easily kept secret, especially with

today's computerized record-keeping. The end result of all this is that the transgendered person—and I am a good example—lives a life of endless wariness, endless caution, endless emotional strain while trying to earn a living and be involved in life's activities. While I am being true to myself at last, and while I do not have to wear a badge declaring my difference, I nevertheless feel the silent and potential persecution of a society which looks upon the transgendered person as a freak of nature, as someone who, as common knowledge has it, has chosen a strange path in life.

I must admit that I can never forget the possibility of a knock on the door telling me my job is over or that I am not wanted in this or that organization. Yes, I do have a professional position, but I am forever fearful of what I call "watercooler discrimination," that talk behind my back which can become devastating and emotionally draining, let alone become a precursor to unemployment. My holocaust is not openly violent, though sometimes it can be, but it nevertheless exists and does violence to my soul, if not to my very existence. My faith through all of this is best expressed when I say: "We hold the keys to happiness and pray for watches God will bless." 

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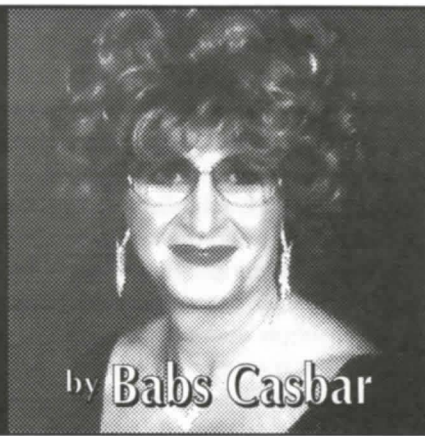
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by **Babs Casbar**

A WOMAN'S PLACE

We will never forget the first time we visited Julies, an upscale lesbian bar in midtown Manhattan. It was a Saturday night, and we had just left a banquet dressed to the 'nines.' We walked in, and it seemed all eyes were on us, smiles along with a few gapes. When Jodie and Babs walked up to the bar to order a second round, we all heard, "No, I want to buy you drinks! ...I like you.... I really don't understand you, but I like you!"

It was a very warm and comfortable environment... sofas, piano bar, and a mix of piped-in music. In subsequent visits, when, our mode of dress was a bit less flamboyant, we felt that we all blended in even better as simply another couple of women. About two years ago the sofas at Julies gave way to bar stools, the piano gave way to a D.J. station, and the mellow music was replaced by harder disco sounds and a younger clientele. We've always felt welcome at Julies. So when the owners of Julies announced their opening of a new Italian Restaurant,

Martino's, just doors away from Julies, we had to give it a try. (The same owners own the Townhouse and Townhouse Restaurant as well).

At Martino's, our party of ten was warmly received, greeted by the manager, Coleen, and the rest of the staff. The bar and dining room are tastefully appointed with a softly muted decor which provides a casual yet comfortable ambience. Among the appetizers we sampled was a carpaccio di bue crudo, thinly sliced raw sirloin with arugula lettuce and romano cheese with a light coat of olive oil. The shrimp cocktail was good, but the sauce a bit peppery. The caesar salad was overwhelmed a bit with the anchovies. The mesclun salad with goat cheese was also a bit strong. Both the fettucini campagnola (mushrooms in a light cream sauce) and the gnoc-chi bolognese were very good.

Although the charcoal-grilled shrimp with vegetables over angel hair pasta was prepared well, the portion of angel hair was large while the three shrimp were disappointingly small.

The speciality of the house, cioppino, an Italian seafood stew, was flavorful and very good. Well prepared were the chicken saltimbocca and the chicken with lemon and capers, both being tender and full of subtle flavors. The sirloin steak with peppercorns was tender and mildly spiced.

Perhaps the most unusual dish was the tonno marsala, a pan-seared tuna steak served in a mushroom and marsala wine sauce which normally goes well with veal or chicken. The two who ordered it were having second thoughts on how well the fish was complemented by the slightly sweet sauce until we mixed it all together with the crispy roast potatoes. The resulting combination was more pleasing to the palette.

Noticeably absent from the menu were any veal dishes...we wonder why. Prices were reasonable for midtown Manhattan, most pasta dishes being \$8.95 and \$9.95, chicken \$12.95, and steak \$16.95.

Since everyone seemed to be planning to get into that special outfit for the "Night of A Thousand Gowns" later in March, we didn't sample any of their desserts, nor did we try any of their special fruit "Infusion Martinis," but we will be back.

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Language Issues in Transgender Studies

Within the burgeoning field of transgender studies, a focus on language is often seen as a powerful methodological tool in working toward more complex understandings of trans lives as well as more general understandings about the relationship between gender, sexuality and language.

In keeping with this focus, the Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference will host a panel in

Washington, DC, September 11-13, 1998. The panel will present scholars from a variety of disciplines to discuss the intersections of language, gender, and sexuality in trans communities.

Some possible questions to be discussed will be: What does language use in transgender communities indicate about gendered language use more broadly? How do trans people talk of themselves in gendered terms? How does a focus on transgender lan-

guage use require the researcher to think about h/er own gendered language practices? What role does language use play in defining transgender identities and communities?

For more information, or to submit papers, email the following persons:

David Valentine

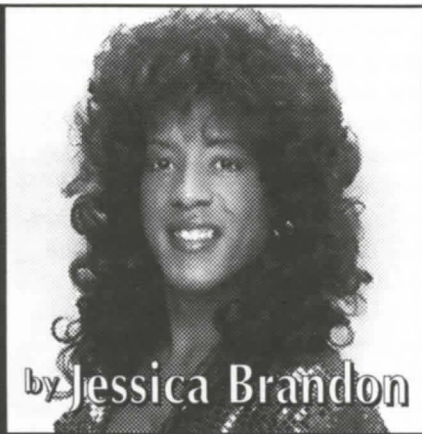
<dq6745@is.nyu.edu>

or Dawn Atkins

<datkins@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu>



Shopping With Jessica



Greetings, girlfriends! Wherever you call home on this beautiful blue ball we call Earth, I hope your winter was mild and without snow. For the all the local girls reading this month's column, I trust you picked up the February 25th edition of *Philadelphia Weekly* with the article on yours truly! If not, there will be extra copies in the Renaissance library.

This month, in the tradition of all those exciting Saturday matinee serials, like **Captain Marvel** and the **Lone Ranger**, I'm starting a multi-part series for the beginner on shopping. For rookie crossdressers, shopping is about as complicated as nuclear physics, not knowing correct sizes, what types of clothes and colors look best, never mind the mysteries of cosmetics or where to shop to build a wardrobe. Well, for the benefit of any fresh from the closet beginners out there, or even old timers, here's my primer on the shopping thing.

For starters, you have to measure yourself in order to determine your proper dress size. Using a standard cloth measuring tape, you will need to take these three measurements while in your birthday suit: the broadest area of your chest (for bust size), the narrowest area of your waist (across your belly button), and the fullest part of your hips. Once you've done that, go to any catalog and check the sizing charts for women, then pin down your dress size in the "Misses" section. Those sizes will always be in even numbered increments. When in doubt, go one size higher, otherwise, you'll

buy clothes that are too tight for you.

Next, you'll have to take your height into full consideration. The majority of clothes on the market today are designed for women no more than five feet seven inches in height, which, for some of us, can be a bit of a problem, especially for girls like myself who are over six feet tall. For the most part, for tall girls it's next to impossible to wear Misses-sized clothes because of what I call the discrepancy in regard to sleeves on blouses, sweaters, blazers, jackets and coats, and on inseams for those of you who favor wearing pants.

As I've mentioned in past columns, sleeves should reach right down to your wrist where your hand bends upwards, or no better than an inch above same. As for inseams, the standard length of 29 inches does us absolutely no good, as that will barely reach your ankles and will invariably make you look ridiculous while you're out in public. For tall girls, look for inseams on pants of at least 31 to 33 inches. If you can find unhemmed pants in your travels, so much the better, for you can have them tailored to your specifications.

Once you've made all those determinations, where to go from there? Well, if you're too scared, nervous, apprehensive or self-conscious about going into a store to shop, as most beginners usually are, the best alternative is mail order. Shopping by catalog is quick, easy and painless. You don't have to deal with pushy salespeople, or John and Jane Q. Public

giving you funny looks while you shop. You simply pick up a phone, call a number, and tell the person on the other end what you want, how to pay for it, and where you want it delivered. Nothing can be easier.

Depending upon the mindset of the person, and we're all different in that regard, it takes a goodly amount of time to build up sufficient courage, or, in some cases, apathy towards the rest of society in order to shop in public. As I mentioned in a past column, you need to take "The Three A's" (Appearance, Attitude and Assertiveness) to heart before you decide to hit the stores. For the rookie, start small with a boutique or dress shop where you won't face large crowds. Once you build up your confidence, head for the big stores.

Now we come to what to have in your basic wardrobe. According to the legendary JoAnn Roberts, a beginner's wardrobe should include the following: 1 suit, 2 basic dresses, 1 sweater, 2 basic skirts, 2 pairs of shoes, and six blouses. You can add to that list: trousers, traditional 5-pocket jeans, 1 rayon t-shirt, black leather boots, a trench coat, gold button earrings, and a good leather belt. As for colors, JoAnn suggests these basic colors: black, white, beige, navy and red. For fabrics, go with jersey, lightweight wool crepe, crepe de chine, gabardine, and fine cottons.

Well, kids, that's all for now. Next month in Part Two, I'll talk in depth about where to shop for the basic wardrobe, what to add to same along with a breakdown on shoes. As always, my electronic mailbox is open for your comments, tips and opinions at tree-top@voicenet.com, or by snail mail to the Renaissance National office (at the address listed on page two of this newsletter). Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!



Happenings...

editor of our upcoming newsletter. Jenelle DeMarco has volunteered to serve as cochairperson of our group.

Next on our agenda is an outreach effort to the surrounding communities. We will be interfacing with officials at local government agencies, counseling centers, schools, colleges, and recreation facilities. We would also like to pitch in with public projects.

For more information, directions to meetings and events, or to obtain a prospectus, please contact me at anytime, Susan Wright (Chairperson) at (973) 334-0416, NJ Support, P.O. Box 34, Montville, NJ 07045-0034, <Susanw796@aol.com>; or contact Dorothy Mae Thompson (Treasurer) at (215) 744-4746 weekends only.

RENAISSANCE LIBRARY REPORT

The March 1 meeting of the Library Discussion Group saw its best turnout yet and involved an informative and thought-provoking discussion

of some of the legal issues which transgendered persons sometimes face, such as medical benefits in what has become (at least for transsexuals) a same-sex marriage. The discussion then embraced the wider issue of dealing with transgender needs (part-time or full-time) in a variety of life situations.

The next meeting will again be on the first Wednesday of the month, which will be April 1, from 8:00 to 9:30 PM at the Woods, where Greater Philadelphia Chapter holds its monthly meeting. There is the possibility that a spouse of a Renaissance member might attend to share her experience and feelings concerning the feminization of her husband.

At the May 6 meeting, the parents of a female to male transsexual will share their experience and feelings concerning the masculinization of their daughter.

Anyone and everyone is welcome at these meetings, which are a free service of Renaissance National and of the Renaissance Library. Participants may dress however they choose.

NATIONAL OUTREACH

Gloria Vogel has been appointed the new National Outreach Coordinator for Renaissance. In a recent interview, Ms. Vogel stated that her goal is to help make Renaissance a national leader in educating the public at large about the transgender phenomenon. Colleges and universities, religious groups, and law enforcement agencies are the primary educational targets initially.

But this goal cannot be accomplished by Ms Vogel alone. What is needed, she said, are volunteers from the membership, because Renaissance and its various programs are only as good as the contributions of its members, not just of its designated leaders. She pointed out that what is needed is a team of knowledgeable and articulate speakers and discussion leaders. Training and support of volunteers will be provided by Renaissance National.

Volunteers can leave a message at (610) 975-9119, which is the Renaissance National office, or send an email to Gloria Vogel at <gloria@ren.org>.



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British Transsexual in Test Case

The *Sunday Independent*, a British newspaper, reports the story of Kristina Sheffield who used to be a husband and father with a successful career as a pilot. Then she decided she could no longer live as a he and spent a year enduring operations to turn her into a woman.

She was divorced from her wife, because transsexuals may not legally be married in the United Kingdom. A judge granted an injunction banning her from seeing her daughter on the grounds that transsexuals are not suitable company for children; and she left her job at Britannia Airlines. She has not worked as a pilot since.

Soon Kristina and another transsexual, Rosa Horsham, will go to the European Court to argue that the British Government is invading their privacy by refusing to allow them to change their birth certificates to show they are now women. If the case succeeds, British transsexuals say they all

will finally be given full legal status and civil rights.

But Kristina does not see herself as a figurehead. "I don't want to be a heroine," she says. She is going to court because, until she is allowed to change the sex on her birth certificate, she feels she will never again work as a pilot.

She says: "I returned to work in 1986 after becoming a woman. The Airport Authority said: 'Fine, no problem.' And then I was sacked. After that it was impossible to get a job. From that moment, I was a third-class citizen."

Kristina has applied to every airline in the UK, but once she shows her birth certificate to prospective employers, and her previous existence as a man is thus revealed, she usually fails to get the job. She says: "At one interview, they said: 'We have no intention of giving you a job. We just wanted to have look at you.'"

Britain is the only European

country where gender reassignment surgery is done by the state, but a transsexual's new status is not legally acknowledged on the birth certificate. A spokesman for the Office of National Statistics said that birth certificates are documents of historical record and are not to acknowledge changes in personal detail.

Liz Parratt, a campaign coordinator for Liberty, a civil rights organization, said: "Transsexuals in the UK are treated appallingly by the law. There are no obligations on people to compel them to recognise your new identity."

Kristina is optimistic about her chances for some legal success but less sanguine about the effect it will have on her life. "The damage has been done, but it (the legal case) will stop it happening again and take a lot of the fear out of being transsexual."

A spokesman for Britannia Airlines said Kristina left by "mutual consent."



Nota Bene II:

Resources

Background Papers

Background Papers are \$1.25 each:

1. Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing
2. Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing
3. PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others
4. The Matter of Children
5. Annotated Bibliography
6. Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View
7. Understanding Transsexualism

All of the Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins are available for free at the Renaissance web site <www.ren.org>

Due to a low turnout thus far, the Renaissance Spring Ball will now be a sit down dinner, sans the band, while the Education Day activities have been cancelled altogether. If you have chosen not to attend either event, please contact Renaissance National and let us know your reasons so we can better plan future events.

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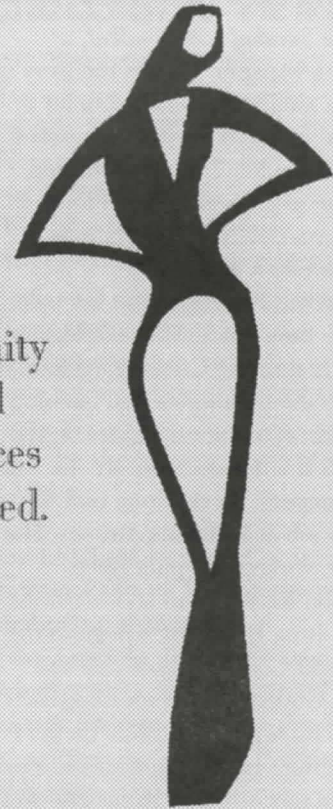
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