

CROSS-TALK

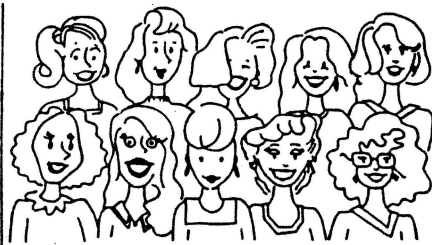
The Transgendered Community's Newsletter

JULY 1992
(ISSUE #36)



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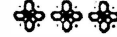
The Congress of Representatives to the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) has asserted its autonomy and successfully avoided a takeover orchestrated by IFGE executive director Merissa Sherrill Lynn.

During the scheduled meeting of the Congress during the 6th annual IFGE convention in Houston in April, Lynn read a proposal that the Congress of Representatives be made a standing committee of the IFGE board with a chair appointed by the IFGE board. Her proposal also contained a preamble that implied no one in IFGE knew what the Congress was supposed to be doing and that it had not accomplished anything since its inception.

Alison Laing and JoAnn Roberts, who originally proposed the creation of the Congress, pointed out that the IFGE proposal was directed to the IFGE board and not to the Congress itself. They also noted that the IFGE board could take any action it liked with respect to the Congress, but that any such action would be non-binding since the board had no authority over the Congress. The Congress then passed a series of motions that reestablished its autonomy; elected a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and recording secretary; and established a working group to draft a new statement of purpose. The Congress also took the unprecedented step of meeting a second time during the IFGE convention to ratify the statement of purpose.

Later, at the annual meeting of the IFGE board, Lynn proposed a definition of membership in IFGE that would have permitted non-profit organizations to become members of IFGE by becoming members of the Congress. When the board tabled her proposal, Lynn withdrew her proposal to make the Congress a committee of the board without discussion. Lynn also attempted to block Congress chairperson Laing from addressing the board by stating "I want this on the record ... the Congress of Representatives has no status with IFGE". Several board members disagreed with Lynn's outburst, and Laing was

allowed to speak, suggesting that IFGE appoint a board member to act as liaison to the Congress to ensure better communication.



Leone Neil, director of the Minorities Trust in New Zealand, has announced the need for cutbacks in her organization's operations in the future.

Neil, who was scheduled to leave her position with the Department of Labour at the end of June, says she will not have sufficient income to continue her overseas network in the future, although she intends to continue publishing the newsletter "Transcare", in scaled-down form, until at least February of next year for her paid subscribers. The reduced format will be made necessary not only by a lack of funding, but lack of access to various technical and scientific publications due to Neil's leaving the civil service.

Neil also has indicated that the Minorities Trust itself →

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CHARTING THE LEGAL JUNGLE

What are the legal risks of crossdressing? When is it advisable to obtain a court-ordered name change? Can you get veterans' benefits toward sex reassignment? What about Medicaid and Medicare? How do you go about having your Social Security card and your driver's license altered? These and scores of other puzzlers that plague the transsexual in transition are answered with brevity and lucidity in an amazingly useful little paperback by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF TRANSEXUALISM is an updated and expanded version of an earlier edition. The 1990 edition is neatly printed in pamphlet form. Within the space of its 108 pages, author Sr. Mary Elizabeth, of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, manages to tackle most of the legal questions you're likely to ask, and the answers she gives are based on thorough, documented research.

I recommend this booklet without hesitation to every person who starts out on the transsexual route, as well as to all crossdressers who go public or plan to. It is available from J2CP Information Services • P.O. Box 184 • San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184 for \$11.00, (\$10.00 + \$1.00 postage and handling).

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NEWSWIRE ... cont'd.

will have to be relocated within the next two years due to the pending demolition of its current home for motorway expansion.



The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) attended the May meeting of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in Washington DC, the first time any organization or service from the gender community had ever exhibited at an APA gathering.

More than 14,000 psychiatrists from around the world were introduced to IFGE, and thousands stopped at the IFGE booth to receive an information packet, review publications, and one-on-one conversations with IFGE staff. "It was amazing," said Merissa Sherrill Lynn, IFGE executive director. "I personally talked with psychiatrists from China, Russia, Turkey, and Iran. In four days we reached more professional people who needed our information than we could ever have hoped. In addition, most of them had gender conflicted clients, which means we reached their clients as well."

IFGE's presence at the 145th APA convention was made possible through the efforts of professionals from within the gender community who saw the tremendous importance of IFGE reaching out to mental health professionals. "This is only a beginning," said Nancy Cole, vice chairperson of the IFGE board of directors. "The total effect of our efforts will never truly be known, but we do know we belong there, and at other such gatherings of professional organizations. After years of patiently waiting to be heard, we have a forum and have found that there are those out there who are willing and ready to listen."

In addition to Lynn and Cole, IFGE was represented by director of operations Yvonne Cook-Riley, director of research Dr. Sheila Kirk, Winslow Street Endowment Fund director Laura Caldwell, Congress of Representatives chairperson Alison Laing, and board member/publisher JoAnn Roberts. The APA has already extended an

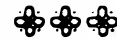
invitation for IFGE to attend next year's convention in San Francisco.



A new support and social group has been formed for crossdressers, transsexuals, and other gender community factions in the Charlotte, NC metropolitan area and the surrounding region.

In a letter sent to 19 organizations in an eight-state region, the Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance (CTA) announced its intent to "entice as many closeted CDs out into the sisterhood of acceptance of its peers as possible". CTA said it will support the coming out of any members of the community, regardless of what group they choose affiliation with. To that end, CTA has offered space in its forthcoming newsletter "All The Beautiful People" to any group in the region wishing to promote itself or publish group news and activities.

The only restriction CTA is placing on membership is a stated intent to exclude non-CD gay or bisexual males. Those interested in the group can contact J.G. at P.O. Box 25100, Suite 188, Charlotte NC 29229-5100.




The Sacramento Gender Association (SGA), one of the surviving former chapters of the now-defunct Gateway Gender Alliance, has become the first gender community organization to offer a toll-free 800 number for its hotline.

According to a report of its most recent executive committee meeting, SGA obtained the 800 number to reduce its monthly phone expense and improve response to the local gender community. Figures released show a \$6.00 per month saving over the previous answering service that maintained the old number, due partially to SGA obtaining its own equipment to handle the new service.

SGA's new number is 1-800-585-7742 (75GA).



The formation of a new interdisciplinary advisory board has been announced by the American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc. (AEGIS).

The new board, which consists of 28 prominent individuals dedicated to the study and welfare of transgendered persons, will give advice and suggestions on important and controversial issues, as well as serve as a steering committee for AEGIS. The panel will be 

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NEWSWIRE ... *cont'd.*

polled several times a year, and individual board members will be contacted as needed for input about their specialty areas.

Included on the board's membership are nine physicians, including well-known gender community physician Sheila Kirk, M.D.; seven Ph.D.s, including Virginia Prince, JoAnn Roberts, and Peggy Rudd; two R.N.s, one Jd.S., and two M.A.s. A variety of prominent organizations are represented by its members, including the American Psychiatric Association, the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Renaissance Education Association, the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), and the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess). More than half of the board members have written books and many have published papers about gender dysphoria in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

In addition to the variety of medically-related disciplines relevant to the gender community, several of the board members bring expertise in many unconventional but important areas, such as political activism, paraprofessional counseling, and prostitution. Many of the board members are themselves transgendered, and one member, Gianna Eveling Israel, will serve as a facilitator to ensure that transgendered persons with important issues will be heard by the AEGIS board of directors.



A blood drive is being coordinated for Ken Allen, husband of well-known gender community photographer Mariette Pathy Allen.

Allen, who is in need of frequent blood transfusions as a result of his recent illness, is being treated by St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City. Eve Burchert of the Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess is coordinating the blood drive, which only requires that individuals donate blood at their nearest bloodcenter and have it credited to Allen at St. Luke's Roosevelt.

The hospital's address, for those bloodcenters that need it for crediting, is 428 W. 59th St., New York NY.

Those interested in donating can find their nearest bloodcenter in the yellow pages, or can telephone Lee Zwick in the Chicago area at (708) 298-9660, extension 411, for information.

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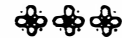
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Two new organizations have been founded to serve transgendered people in the midwest.

Barbara Bertrand, a member of the Chicago Gender Society, the Indiana Crossdressers Society (IXE), and Cross-Port, has announced the formation of the Louisville Gender Society, serving southern Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. They have already begun holding meetings and publishing a newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Quad Cities Society for Sexual Education has announced its first meeting, and has scheduled future monthly meetings in the Davenport area. Both organizations are welcoming transsexuals, crossdressers, and significant others, without regard to sexual orientation or gender.

The Louisville group can be reached at P.O. Box 5458, Louisville KY 40255; the Davenport group at 1236 W. 8th St., Davenport IA 52802.



An expansion of services by the Montgomery Medical and Psychological Institute has resulted in the creation of a support group and professional service in Gainesville, Florida.

The new Florida service will be operated by an expert on transsexualism from the medical community, an attorney active in transsexual issues, and a licensed psychologist experienced in gender therapy. It joins the Institute's main facility in Decatur, Georgia and an information service based in Augusta to provide a full-service gender program in the region.

The new Gainesville group will begin meeting in August, after screening interviews are held for potential participants. Relationships have already been established with other local professionals (*cont'd on page 28*) →

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

— *KyMBERleigh Richards*

Last month, when I discussed the "rose glasses syndrome" that has become prevalent in our community, I deliberately avoided a second complaint that I received in recent months, even though it brings up a related malady.

Those readers who live in the Los Angeles area (or at least have read about the continuing flux in this region) know that I have been personally involved in much of the politics of our local community. In the past few years, I have been president of both a now-defunct and a current Tri-Ess chapter; the Tri-Ess national board member who brought two feuding Tri-Ess chapters together into one group; and the coordinator for a now-dissolved local group ("The Valley Girls", from which this newsletter emerged originally).

About the same time that the two feuding Tri-Ess chapters were merging, with me as acting president (I was subsequently reelected), "The Valley Girls" was falling apart. To be honest, it wasn't REALLY that much of a group ... mostly it was a bunch of crossdressers who met for breakfast after the Queen Mary closed every Saturday night (we never charged dues or even maintained a membership list). Well, several individuals blamed me for the breakup of "The Valley Girls", and at least one Tri-Ess member accused me of orchestrating the feud between chapters so that I could execute a "power play" and be "queen of the hill" after bringing the warring factions together.

I won't specifically answer those charges in this column; the accusations were made some months ago, and I defended myself to my accusers individually. But what worries me is that I am seeing a disturbing trend of oneupmanship (oneupWOMANship?) in our community where everyone jockeys for position to see how important they can make themselves.

I have seen this happen before. Longtime subscribers may recall past editorials on the subject. But this time I perceive a definite polarization in the community -- "If you're supporting me, then you can't support her". It has even had an effect on "Cross-Talk": I have noticed that a lot of the regulars at the Queen Mary let their subscriptions lapse without renewal since I stopped hanging out there, leading me to suspect that their main reason for subscribing was to attach themselves to my "faction". Since I'm no longer there, the attachment is no longer necessary.

I have long understood that there will always be politics in our community, and that dismays me as much as it does those who wish the politics would go away so they could just dress up and have a good time. (Most of the dismayed are also the ones rejoicing because I stopped printing "bad news".) And while there are some political differences that will NEVER go away -- such as the

disparate agendas of the CD/TV community and the TS community -- I truly believe most of the politics revolve around petty conflicts and ego trips.

I, for one, wish I could open my mouth and say whatever I want without it mortally wounding someone, but the reality is that many members of our community take every difference of opinion personally and resent anyone who has more "power" than they do. We have tried to correct some of that with our "Vox Populi" column, where any reader can express dissenting opinions on anything we have printed in the past. But few care to do so, preferring to grumble loudly to anyone within earshot, in the hopes that disagreeing publicly might somehow make the disagreeing party more important.

I feel very strongly that we have the potential to function as a unified community, but that these petty disagreements and power trips keep us from being unified. We must somehow learn to respect each other's opinions and to let those who have been chosen by us as our leaders to do whatever they think will be best for the common good, without second-guessing their motives and presuming that they have only their own best interests at heart.

Can we PLEASE try to work together?

COGITO ERGO FEM

— *Anne Blackwood*

This past April saw many things in Los Angeles. The sacking and pillaging of the inner city. The burning and looting. The crossdressing and socializing at "California Dreamin'". I was there on Friday to co-moderate an open forum which was intended to air community concerns and propose goals and ways of realizing them. Saturday I sat in on Cynthia and Linda Phillips' couples workshop, which, even though I am not in a relationship now, I found very informative. Everyone who has the opportunity should participate in it.

In the past I have said (and in the future I will continue to say) that we are not one united community. We are instead several communities which have crossdressing in common. Members of those communities have different goals along with some shared ones. The primary shared goal is to achieve social acceptance for who and what we are. But we are different things and this can lead to confusion on the part of the general public. We need to be clear on the differences. We also need to be accepting of each other. →

"CROSS-TALK" now accepts articles on computer disk in both DOS (ASCII preferred, but WordPerfect, WordStar, Microsoft Word or XyWrite acceptable) and Macintosh (ASCII only). When submitting articles on disk, please label disk if Mac or non-ASCII.

EDITORIAL PAGES ... cont'd.

I have a gender/sex or mind/body disunity. (I think perhaps "gender/sex disunity" is better because I now believe that gender is determined by brain structure.) Or in common vernacular, I'm a transsexual. (Isn't my term more descriptive? ... All right, all right, no more "Terms" content.) Now, having watched my share of Geraldo and all that ilk, I am aware that some people don't understand the phenomenon (including those intimately involved), some people reject the existence of the phenomenon (including members of the communities), and some people are simply bewildered by the phenomenon (especially members of the communities). I know who I am; what I am. But, the abovementioned people may not believe me because I have no scientific, objective data, no third party explanation. It's my word against ... whose? God's? Sure, to some people. (Blackwood vs. Zeus?) This doesn't just apply to me, it applies to every member of the crossdressing communities. So, what do we do about it?

What do we do about it? As I said during the open forum, we raise funding for research. "Wait a minute," you say, "I thought you said we should raise money for charity!" Indeed I did. The purpose of that is to show the world we are good neighbors and thus should not be scorned. However, it is not enough. While raising money for charity and women's causes helps us gain tolerance and perhaps acceptance, it is not enough. When someone asks you why you crossdress, the answer, "Because it feels good," isn't much help and only promotes the notion that we are all a bunch of sexual deviates. And while for some of us that answer is true in and of itself, it isn't for all of us. We need to be able to say, "According to research done by Dr. Doofus at Bohunk University in 1992, the DNA sequence which controls the replication of certain plasmids leads to a whoozihazzit which gives rise to the condition that causes me to wear my wife's clothes." But where did Dr. Doofus get the funding for the research? The government? Maybe, but more likely it came from charitable organizations such as MDA, AEF, ACS. Sometimes government grants are on a matching basis, so you still need to raise money from these types of charitable organizations. Or, to put it more accurately, we need to form this type of charitable organization to raise money for research.

It is all well and good for me to say that the desire to and act of crossdressing is the brain's way of creating a symbolic unity with the body, that is the brain symbolically unifies gender and sex in the TV, TG or TS by putting on a feminine shell, i.e. crossdressing. But it is just my opinion. By doing the research and failing to disprove the theory it becomes a valid theory and thus a useful tool in understanding and explaining the phenomenon. Science doesn't prove theories, it either disproves them or it doesn't. Those theories which survive multiple and ongoing assaults are generally accepted as "most probable" explanations. Armed with such a theory we can go out into the world and say, "This

is why I am what I am!" and the world has a difficult time saying, "Bull", because Dr. Doofus, and Marcus Swellhead, MD. have tested the theorem in X number of ways and it remains the best (i.e., simplest) explanation of the phenomenon. It is no longer just my opinion, but a tested theory. And the testers were outsiders with no vested interest in the outcome of the research. When the world can no longer say, "Bull", then we are on the way to acceptance.

Any volunteers?

VOX POPULI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" (March '92):

The acid test of a title choice for transience of gender must be "does the namer dub themselves by their own choice and then live it?". I am the first Gender Transient; I always was and fully intend to continue being a GT for as long as I am in the business of transforming, exploring and travelling through our world. Frankly, I don't care what anyone else dubs our gender, I shall remain GT even if I have to be the only one in the world. I might even prefer it that way ... I wasn't looking for converts.

Throughout continental Europe and Latin America, all persons of our gender are called "travesty", whether they like it or not, and in rare moments when the bullets are not flying, the clubs and lashes not falling, or the urgency to make enough money to live at all does not exist, they MIGHT ponder what it means.

When one lives inside a war akin to our nation within nations' own Vietnam, I am tempted to be intolerant of what seems to me to be luxury debates and instructions.

The terms fall into three categories at present: (1) Apologetic, i.e. adaptations of the names given by the big outside, accepting that there is confusion and illness involved, that we are changing our minds halfway through life, and thus halving our experience; (2) Halfway good tries, i.e. accepting that we are a third gender, that we embrace the totality of human experience, and enjoy →

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EDITORIAL PAGES ... cont'd.

two or more choices in all concepts and actions (but these tries are still faulted, marred by nervous subconscious guilt); (3) Berserk/angry, i.e. "OK, so you call me travesty / she-male / fagella / nancyboy / powderpuff / etc., then I'll name myself just that and defiantly make a virtue of it" ... running onto the blade of the enemy will certainly give us the element of surprise, but what then? Like the Latin American Indians who, when speared, pulled themselves up the spear and cut off the Conquistador's head, we can only total one foe before being totalled. The next generation of foes will spring up armed with their own derogatory label for us, and will be able to add more to it for their own ends.

I would warrant that the sisters down in that deepest end of our world plight will willingly embrace "Gender Transient" as a self-description over all others. I am a Gender Transient Androgyne. It comes from within me, a sister/brother to the nation within nations of the same, and the GT has formed his/her own character, personality, attitude, way of life, and way to be. I go anywhere, anytime, anyhow I please, regardless of and equal to any other human being. So, dear sisters, debate all you wish and decide. Let me know and I'll call you whatever you like, but I am still Gender Transient myself, forever.

-- Phaedra Kelly, Freshwater, I.O.W., England

There have been numerous articles published, in Lord knows how many newsletters, concerning what we should call ourselves. The terms "transvestite" (TV), "crossdresser" (CD) and "transsexual" (TS) have been around for eons, and -- for the sake of argument -- are the ones most used and recognized by those of us in the community and John Q. Public. Not necessarily understood, mind you, but at least recognized.

Some years back, another term, "transgenderist" (TG), was coined to distinguish a person living full time as a woman from the occasional CD; this term is now commonly used to define the TV/TS community as a whole, regardless of the other terms. A couple of months ago, the now infamous "bigenderist" (BG) appeared. This newly-minted term is being used in the hopes that their usage over time will legitimize its coinage.

You suggest a "national vote" to decide this "important issue" ... that a ballot be included in national gender publications and also be distributed by organizations belonging to the IFGE Congress of Representatives. The vote would then be collected and tallied by IFGE, and thereafter, all persons and groups in the gender community would be "bound" by the results of that vote. Suppose all the politics with IFGE and the Congress of Representatives (Editor's Note: See this month's *NewsWire*) are resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Where does all the money for this national vote come from? Is IFGE going to assess everyone on their list of organizations for funds to handle the formulation of the ballot, the mailing, and the handling costs? Is

"Cross-Talk"? I doubt it. I also doubt if any organization will contribute one penny from their general funds to finance such a nonsensical undertaking.

I, for one, strenuously object to being "bound" by an "official list of terms" being issued "ex cathedra" from any organization, be it IFGE, Tri-Ess, or whatever. This name game issue shouldn't rank very high in importance on the list of real issues on our national agenda.

Let's stick to calling ourselves the "CD/TS" community and do away with the stupid term "transgenderist" I don't know why a crossdresser that has elected to live full-time needs a special designation. She's is a full-time crossdresser as opposed to a part-time one, that's all. In my book she's no different other than she's thrown all of her male attire in the trash heap ... and that's where these new terms and calls for a "national" election belong.

--Jean Goodnight, Anaheim CA

(Editor's Note: Ms. Goodnight's comments are edited from an editorial which appeared in the May/June issue of "Girl Talk", the newsletter of Powder Puffs of Orange County.)

Re: "Terminology for the Crossdressing Community" (January '92):

We find ourselves again embroiled in the ceaseless circular search for labels. While I concur with Dr. Prince that "labels" (I prefer "descriptive words") are needed as a point of reference, I do not agree with either the choice of words suggested or the basic rationale behind this choice.

The term "bigender" (big-ender??? as in large posterior) is neither appropriate as an overall descriptive term for our community, nor is it easily understood by inference for the rest of the population. I would like to provide the following counterpoints:

1. "Bigender" would imply that everyone in the community has a dual gender disposition. I'm sure that the fetishistic crossdresser who has a strictly male gender identity would protest to random assignation of dual genderism (these individuals also protest the use of →

NOTE:

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EDITORIAL PAGES ... *cont'd.*

the term "transgender"). I'm also sure that many transsexuals would protest the assignation of gender duality because most have established having a gender identity akin to the opposite genetic sex and are thus not bigenderal.

2. "Bigenderal" would also be confused with "bisexual" by the general public. Dr. Prince freely admits that the general public does not comprehend the difference between "sex" and "gender" (for most, the terms are virtually synonymous). It therefore follows that the general public, when hearing the term "bigenderal", will without a doubt be confused with "bisexual", which we in the community obviously do not need.

3. Dr. Prince asserts that the prefix "trans-" means to permanently cross or move beyond something. I beg to differ on this point; "trans-" can indeed mean temporary or transitory. After all, the term "transvestite" does not mean that the person permanently dresses in clothing styles assigned to the opposite sex. Ergo, the term "transgender" does not dictate a permanent crossing of genderal lines (it doesn't preclude a permanent crossing either).

I propose usage of the term "transgender" as an overall and inclusive term for our community. All Dr. Prince's arguments for "bigender" in regard to simplicity and understandability also apply to the term "transgender" (but I won't take a trip through the dictionary). The prefix is also used in other descriptive terms within the community and the public, so there can be little confusion (both "transvestite" and "transsexual" are already in the dictionary). For the fetishistic crossdresser with strictly a male gender identity, "transgender" is still descriptive of their crossing of gender lines (in clothing only), and at the other end of the spectrum "transgender" can refer to the transsexual who has permanently adopted a single gender identity akin to the opposite genetic sex (SRS merely being a medical procedure to align anatomical genital appearance to that of the opposite genetic sex). So it can be easily argued that the term "transgender" is

highly appropriate and highly descriptive in reference to our community as a whole. Finally, the overwhelming common usage of the term "transgender" in our community today is the usage I have proposed. I ask: Why bother to change terms when we already have one which is proper, clear, and already in common use?

In acknowledgment to Dr. Prince, I recognize that she coined the term "transgenderist" to refer to someone who has permanently adopted the gender role typically assigned to the opposite genetic sex. However, I would suggest in the interest of standardization of terminology that the term "transgenderist" as defined by Dr. Prince be abandoned and another term used in reference to one who cross-lives full-time in the opposite genetic sex gender role (maybe something like "transrole/transroler/transroled/transrolist" to remain consistent and simple).

--Tara Fredericksen, San Antonio TX

(Editor's Note: This rebuttal originally appeared in "Gender Euphoria", the newsletter of the Boulton & Park Society, and was subsequently distributed to other gender community publications.)

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17

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THE MAKEUP MIRROR

FIXING THE WRONG LIPSTICK COLOR

Dear Val: It seems that whenever I buy lipstick I choose a color that looks way too dark once I get it on my lips. Since I can't exactly try it on in the store before I buy, I wondered if there was some way to make a too-deep red color lighten up a little

-- Sherry, California

Dear Sherry: Fear not! Actually, with practice, you'll be able to choose the best lipstick colors for yourself. Until then, look at your collection. If you have colors that are too dark, you may also have chosen some colors that are too light. Using a stiff lipstick brush, lightly apply some of the darker lipstick first, especially around the lip line. Then apply your lighter color and voila! You've just created your own personal lip color!

Also, don't forget to use a lip liner pencil underneath, so your lips will look luscious for hours.

[Valerie Driscoll is a licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of "Hair To Wear Klugs". You may contact her for personalized makeup advice at 1716 Andrea Ave., Torrance CA 90501, or telephone (310) 320-5015.]

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by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Last month I reviewed "Iron John" by Robert Bly. What does a book about men have to say to the transgendered community? It is a truism that among other things, our society is divided into "men" and "women". Neither our language nor our social patterns allow for any behavior in-between. You are either a man or a woman -- there are no other choices. In some ways the story of Iron John perpetuates these divisions. Bly looks at the traditional, age-old process by which a boy becomes a man. He speculates that our society has changed radically in the last 100 years. With that change has come a significant change in the rearing of young boys -- more specifically, they no longer have the guidance of men in this process. The result is a loss in understanding what being male is all about. It has been replaced with an empty macho posturing.

Let me base my following remarks on the premise that there are significant differences between men and women. Some of these are biological and some are sociological. Which is which is immaterial. One of Bly's theses is that the boy who grows without connection to the masculine image grows up incomplete. The "hole" is "filled with demons who tell him that his father's work is evil and that the father is evil." (Page 21) It seems to me that such perceptions can be extended to all men and masculinity. If one hates the masculine and one is male, then one course is to reject masculinity and embrace femininity. Couple this with the fact that most boys are raised by their mothers. Again quoting Bly: "If the son learns feeling primarily from the mother, then he will probably see his own masculinity from the feminine point of view as well. He may be fascinated with it, but he will be afraid of it. ... He may admire it but he will never feel at home with it." (Page 25.) Is this a subconscious perception of crossdressers?

Sociologists observe that many boys are brought up in a predominantly feminine environment. Their fathers may be distant, uninvolved or workaholics. Teachers in grammar schools are predominantly women. Male role

models are unreal images in television and movies. I do not mean to lay these situations at the feet of mothers, for they do an admirable job. The fathers are simply not providing the examples that are needed.

As a therapist, one of the things I observe is the dislike of the masculine role by the male-to-female crossdresser. There is little that is good about it, just responsibility and restrictions. (As an aside, most women don't picture the masculine role that way.) I wonder if crossdressers are caught in a never-never land. If they do not know, understand or accept their innate masculinity and see femininity from a flawed masculine perspective then they have little to anchor them. Most learn to "play the game" to survive but there is little joy in that.

Am I suggesting that learning about masculinity will somehow rid one of the desire to crossdress? Far from it; however, if a person hates that which is his core then everything else loses something, including crossdressing. I believe that exploring femininity can not truly occur unless the masculine side is also evaluated, explored and understood.

[You may contact me at P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if my name and address appear in the reprinted version. A copy of such reprints is requested. All other publishers must obtain written approval from me.]

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TRANSVISION PRODUCTIONS

P.O. Box 28023, Baltimore MD 21239

by Cynthia Phillips

Dear Cynthia: I wanted to tell everyone how happy I have been since my husband and I have dealt in a positive way with his crossdressing. We have been married for 5 years. We are both 27 years old and met at a local college. We went together for 3 years before we were married. I have always loved my husband for his feelings about the things I feel strongly about. We both enjoy doing the same things together; we love animals, we both love children (we don't have any yet but we are trying!). After we were married about 3 years, my husband commented to me after a long discussion on the pros and cons of traditional male versus traditional female thinking that he wondered what it would be like to BE a woman. I told him I felt it was possible for male and female alike to experience the same emotions and feelings about anything they cared to. He said that for me to feel these emotions was an easy thing, but for him to do this went against everything he had been taught as a male growing up. I had never thought about this fact, although growing up in a family of 3 boys besides myself should have shown me this. My husband also stated he had always wanted to dress as a woman! This confession surprised me; I had never attached any importance to clothes as male or female. My usual attire, when I'm not at work, are clothes I steal out of his closet. I have always worn my brother's blue jeans, tee shirts, etc. I love the new "big styles" for women, since this is the way I have always dressed when I want to be comfortable. Since we have always been honest with each other, I told him I really didn't know if I would like him to wear female clothes. He

asked me why it was all right for me to raid his closet but he couldn't raid mine! I told him it had just never occurred to me that anyone would WANT to wear pantyhose, dresses, and makeup if they didn't HAVE to! After we talked some more about it I began to see that this was a desire of his that was pretty important. After I helped him try some of my things on, I got a confession that he had dressed in female clothes before, although in a very limited way. We decided to find out what we could about males dressing in female clothes, since we knew it was not an accepted mode of behavior. I am happy to say we discovered a community we were not aware of and people that we are thrilled to know. My husband is active in a local chapter of Tri-Ess and I want you to send me information on how to start a wives' group. I know now that my husband needed help with his gender problem, but was unable to tell anyone; it took him years to tell me how he really felt. I know we have an interesting and unusual life ahead of us and frankly, I doubt that I would trade it for a "normal" lifestyle.

-- Martha

I love letters like this ... unfortunately, they are few and far between. What do you see in this letter and in last month's that you can apply to your situation? The differences are evident: lack of understanding on the part of both parties in the first letter is obvious. If you are having trouble with your relationship, do you care enough to give a lot? Will your mate allow you to give? Someone once said about crossdressing that "after all, it just involves a change of clothes and a change of personalities". Of course, we all know there is more to it than just that, but that's a pretty good way to look at it so no one gets confused to start with!

[Cynthia Phillips is co-director for wives' and partners' concerns on the Tri-Ess board of directors. You may write her at P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163]

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THE BEARDED LADY

CAREFULLY EMERGING FROM THE CLOSET

by Ricky Hunt

Can you stand to read one more personal story about a sister coming out of the closet? I know that every CD newsletter uses these stories as fill when there isn't enough other stuff to put on the page, and that you have read a million of them, but this time I'm the one telling the story. For that matter, I don't care if you read it or not, I'm gonna tell it anyway ...

Those of you who have followed my meanderings will know that "The Bearded Lady" is not only a pseudonym but reality. Except for short periods when I had to wear a breathing mask I have been bearded since my body provided enough hair to cover my chin. I can remember painful and anxious days in my youth wanting desperately to grow a beard, or at least some fuzz on my upper lip, so I could be a hippie. At that time my crossdressing was in remission, I had no desire to dress at all. When the desire did come back, I dressed alone and didn't care about the beard because no one could see me anyway. I lived in a very rural area and had no hope of attending a meeting, and my size will not allow me to pass. Why bother with the hassle of shaving if I couldn't go out anyway?

So about two years ago I changed jobs and am now in a small city. There is a CD group here, but with all the changes in my life I was reluctant to get involved. As anyone fool enough to write me letters knows I take forever to answer because I keep getting involved with this or that and never have any time for anything. And frankly, I was afraid that I might lose control of my dressing, and while I have a marvelously supportive family I am always careful to take them into consideration. I did not want to take a chance in offending them or allowing my compulsions to rule me.

So why did I get involved? My wife gave me the push, much to my surprise. She has gone back to school and her course in human sexuality required a research project, and what would be more natural than research on crossdressing. So she contacted the local group and they were very receptive to both the survey and to my beard. (Of course I went as my male self, I'm not that dumb!) We enjoyed the group and I decided it was time to shave.


From the times I have had to shave before I knew that it bloody well hurts to scrape that tender skin, so just after New Year's I shaved to give my face time to prepare for the meeting at the end of the month. I have acne again from the irritation, have a one o'clock shadow and people tell me I look 10 years younger, which is not bad in my forties but was a real problem in my twenties. Back then no one took me seriously until I had a mustache.

So I recently spent two weeks out of town and practiced makeup in my motel room, endured the agony of the alcohol in makeup on my irritated skin, drove into New York City to visit Lee's Mardi Gras where I bought a wig

and wished I had several thousand extra dollars to buy the place out. If you're ever there, they are nice people and very friendly and helpful.

I did find out that my wig hair sticks to the makeup on my face and is highly annoying. There must be a solution, but my wife wasn't available to help on my first night out and I was too chicken to ask my daughter. I have this funny feeling with makeup because my ideas of femininity are based on the natural look. The women I admire don't use makeup, or at least use very little of it. A heavily made up woman seems unnatural to me, so smearing enough goo on my face to cover the beard provokes ambivalent feelings at best.

I had last week off in compensation for working over Christmas and began to sew furiously, as I wanted something to cover my hairy arms. (I had to stop shaving somewhere!) My face still hurt and makeup is not my forte, but I screwed up my courage, dressed up and went out. In my excitement I got the wrong day for the meeting, and showed up last night to a dark and empty house in the middle of a blizzard, freezing my legs off in a skirt and hoping my wig wouldn't go sailing down the street. Not only that, but having killed the other car just before Christmas I took my wife to work so our son could have the car and had to kill time until midnight when she got done. How do I get myself into these things, anyway? I know, I know, if I had bothered to read the newsletter to be sure it wouldn't have happened.

Call it a dry run, or practice or a jolly good try. (My wife suggests stupidity.) The next night there were too many people around to prepare before the meeting and bundled my clothes and makeup into suitcases and off I went. It took far too long in the bathroom to get ready, but at last Ricky made her public debut and ... And nothing. I don't know what I was expecting, a trumpet fanfare, masses of people lining the streets and cheering, or all three networks covering this momentous event, but I was simply accepted as one of the girls, invited to join the Euchre game and that was that. Come to think 

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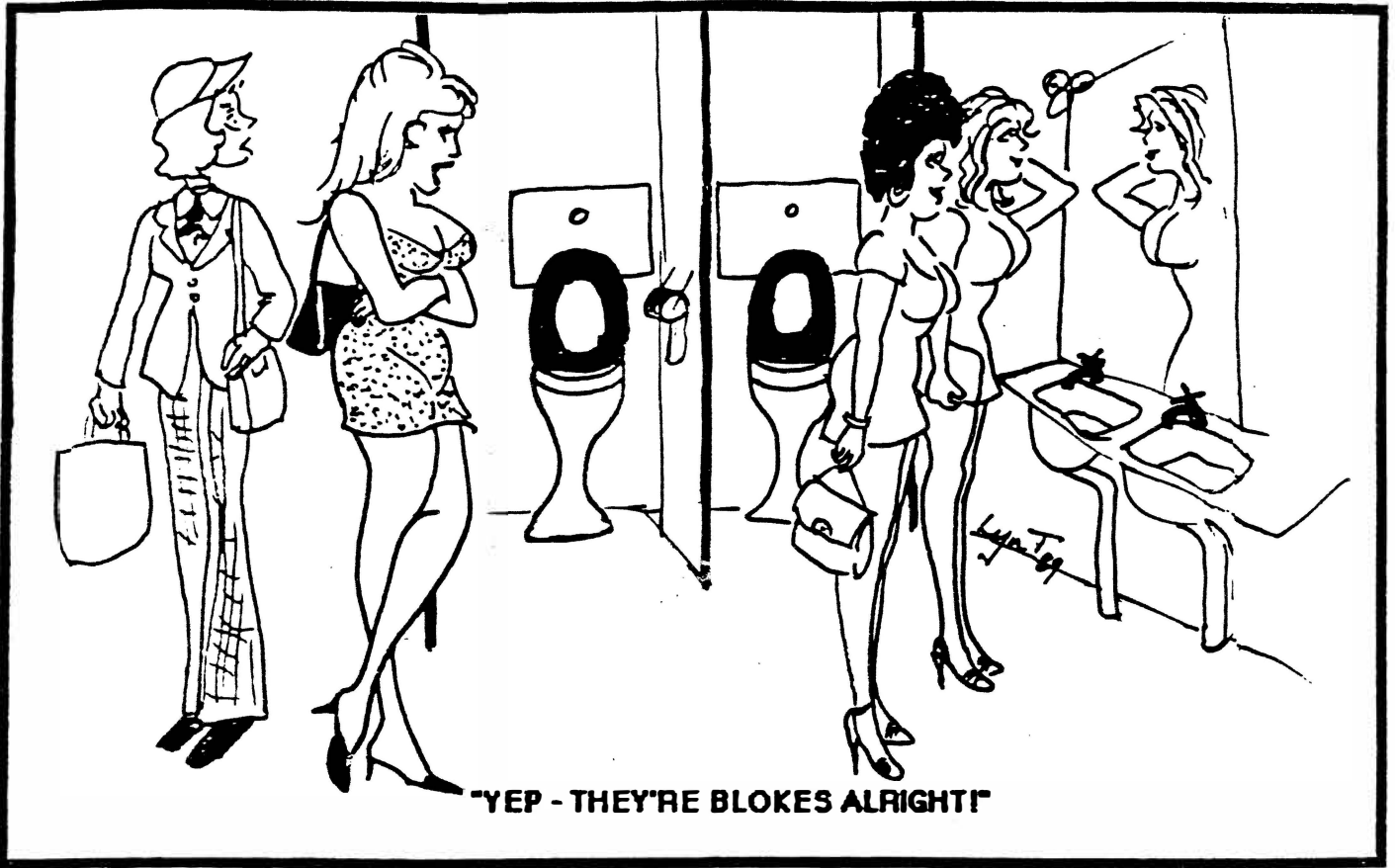


THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



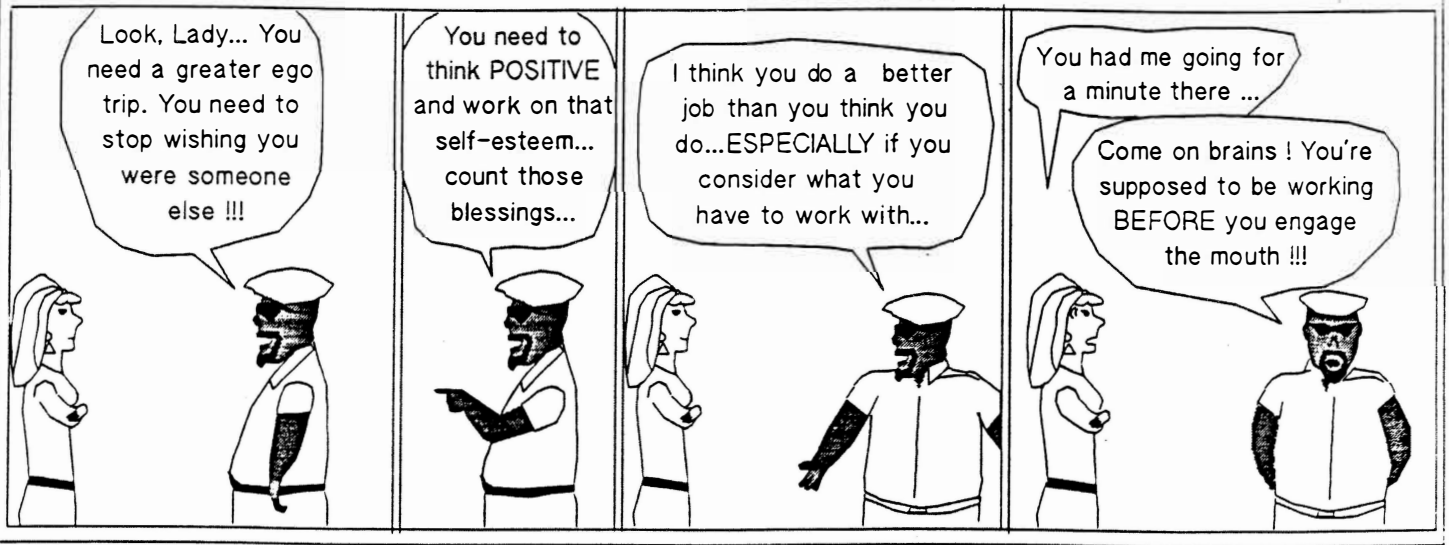
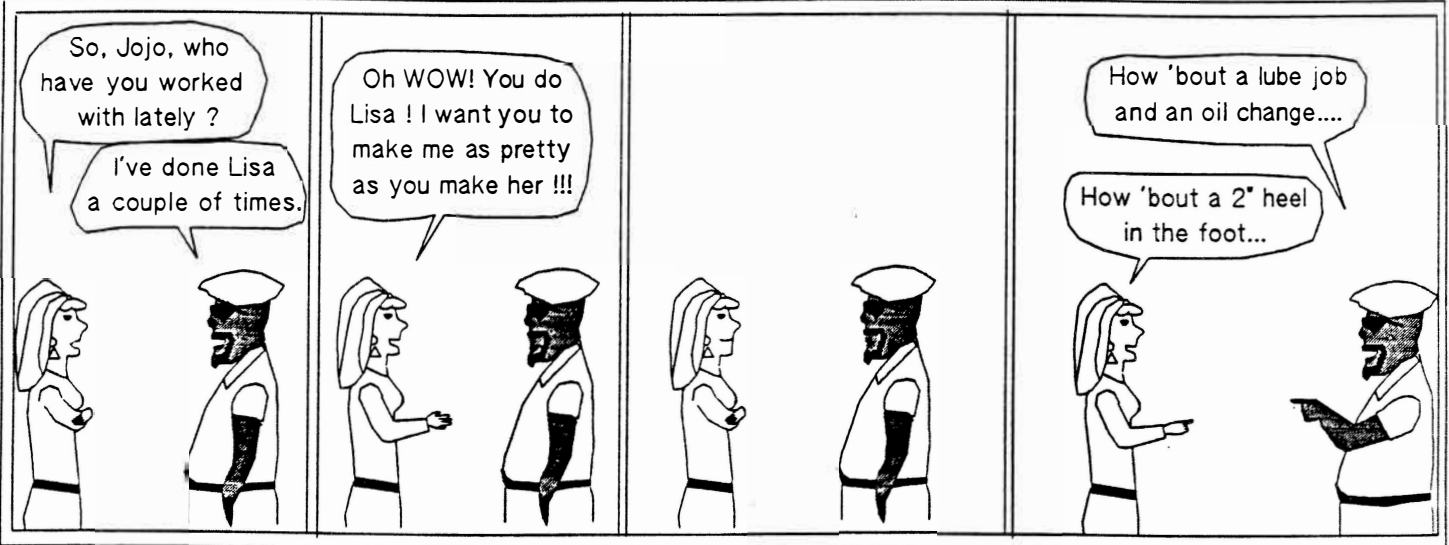
THE SEX-CHANGERS BY LYN T.



BEARDED LADY ... (cont'd)

of it, isn't that all us girls say we want, to be accepted without a lot of fuss? That's what I got, a friendly, low key reception but my mind was ready for victory parades down the streets of Paris or a ten minute introduction as the honored guest of the evening. So that's it, I had a good time at a small party with some

friends, learned how to eat pizza without eating my wig along with it or dropping it on my bosom, how not to scratch my face when it itches and muss my makeup. I was simply able to relax as Ricky in front of people. Not what my unconscious mind was expecting but, thanks girls, it was just what I needed.



WE SINCERELY REGRET THAT THIS MONTH'S INSTALLMENT OF THE COMIC-BOOK SERIAL "KHEN-DRAA, TRANSGENDERED WARRIOR" DID NOT ARRIVE IN TIME FOR US TO INCLUDE IT IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE.

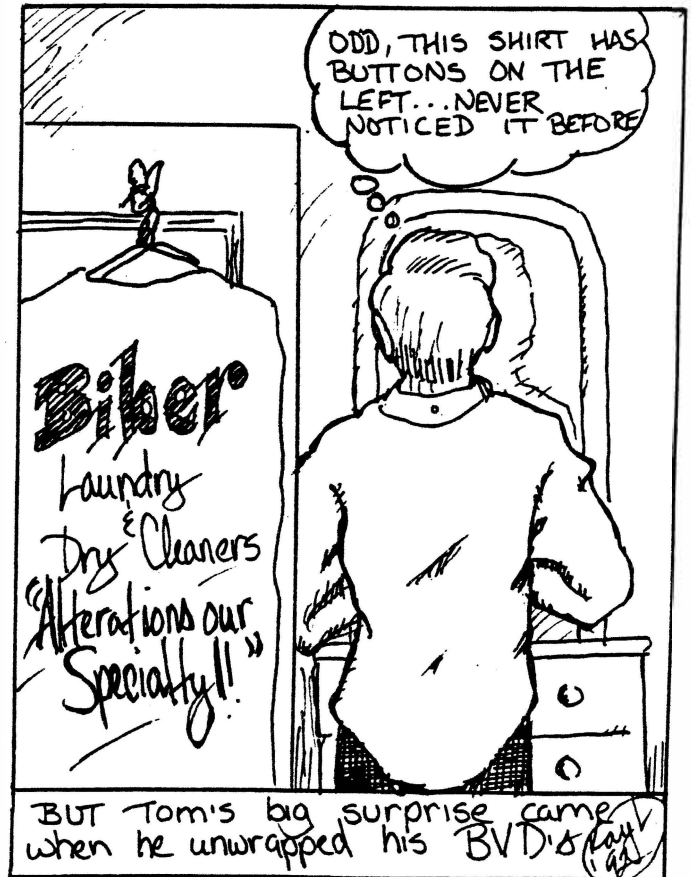
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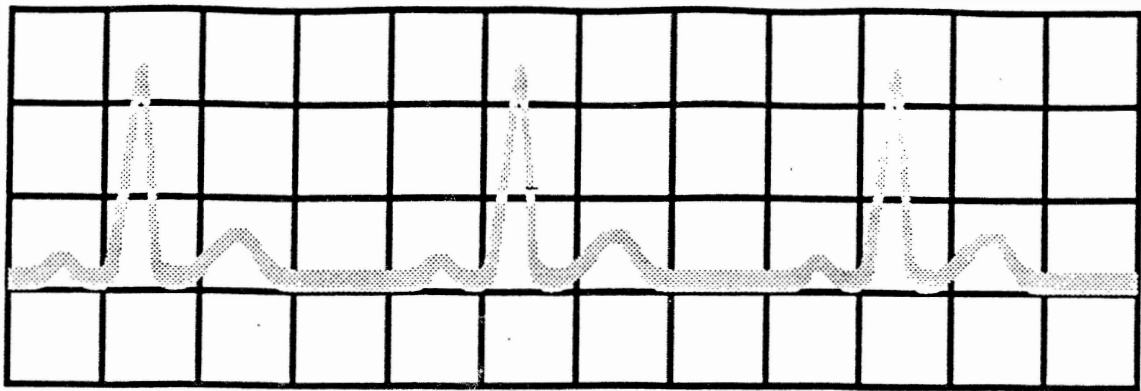
WE ARE PLEASED, HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE A SNEAK PREVIEW OF A NEW CARTOON, "THE PASSING SCENE" BY KAY LIGHTNER, WHICH WILL OFFICIALLY PREMIERE IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE.

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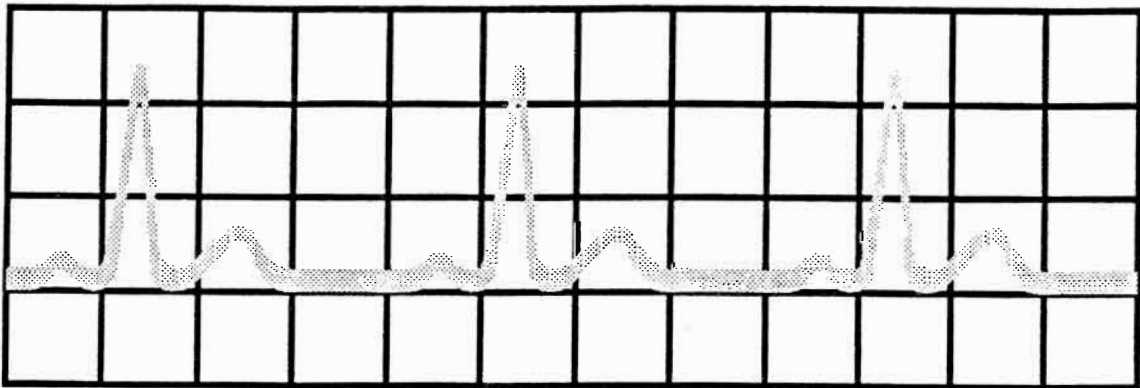
If you are aware of a community resource in the Los Angeles area that was not included in the 1992 edition, please send us information by September 30 so that we can verify the source before going to press in late December.

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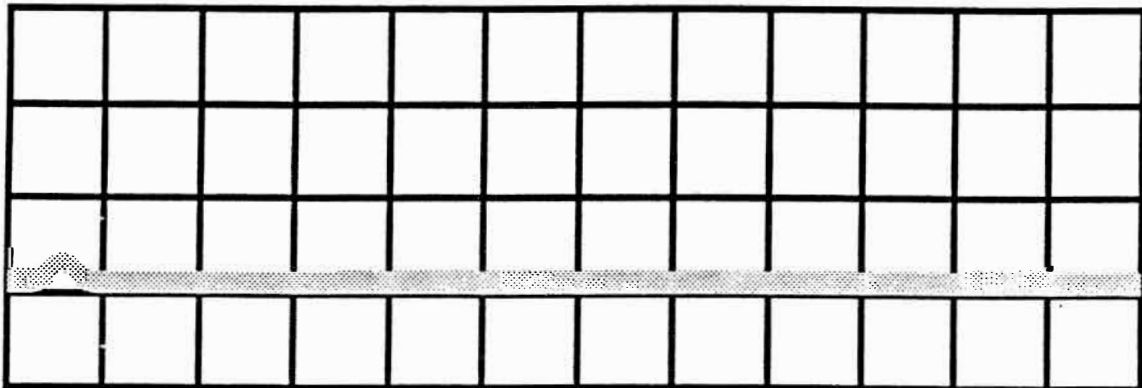




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TRANSSEXUAL THEATRE

by Sarah Seton, M.D.
(Courtesy JZCP Information Services)

PART 5 - THE ARGUMENT, CONCLUDED

The No-Talk-Rule is enforced by another Taboo: the Myth of the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy. The simple act of complaining elicits persecutory behaviors in others which cause the identified victim to act as if he were a victim, by becoming defensive, and thereby seeming to have brought the situation on himself. The ones who break the No-Talk-Rule are sacrificed by Self-Fulfilling-Prophecy so that society can remain in its dogmatic slumber. The dynamic of singling one group out by defining them a certain way, not permitting them to speak out and making them victims of a self-fulfilling prophecy if they do speak out is called "stigma." It explains how a person defined by society can become that person to avoid stigma; even though the defined person is self-loathed, this is still preferable to becoming a martyr but in untold cases transsexuals have opted for suicide. The No-Talk-Rule took Hitler and other tyrants in history to the pinnacle of their powers by exterminating those who broke the Rule. The transsexual's uninvited dilemma resolves down to whether each can break the No-Talk-Rule about their being defined as the opposite sex. Most transsexuals have done this by objectifying the struggle. They quietly change their dress, behavior, identification papers, and their bodies in a kind of guerilla warfare with social taboos. They are caught up in the momentum of placing themselves at odds with the definers without breaking the No-Talk-Rule outright. By not speaking out, they unawares collude and align themselves with their internal self-loathing and shame. Within the gender community, transsexuals usually deny their insecurity and project it onto other transsexuals by identifying with the oppressor, becoming like them, and shunning one another. By the oppressor, I suggest a culture based upon the patriarchal supremacy of a male-dominant ideology which through agents such as Madison Avenue or Hollywood defines what a man or a woman is supposed to be. Woman's image in the media for example is male-defined not woman-defined. Michelle

Pfeiffer or Kim Basinger are not typical women, as they represent perhaps a tenth of a percent of the women in this country; their prominence is attributable to their being male-images projected for the sexual-fantasies of other males. The common man has been flooded with these images and has come to expect women to look and act like these fantasies. So do SRS surgeons expect this of the M2F transsexual; the "pretty boys" that were operated on using body habitus criteria later committed suicide when their male homosexual lovers rejected them as women. Fat women, ugly women, lesbian women are ridiculed in comparison and so is the burly transsexual who can't "pass". The medium is the message: the anorexic starving to achieve the ultimate feminine body. By being dealt with cruelly whenever they have come to trust someone, they distrust everyone's intentions and motives including their peers and providers of care. Transsexuals by nature are extremely competitive with their peers at being men or women and, when given the chance for self-actualization, are the most earnestly motivated. Understandably, transsexuals have been deprived all their lives of what everyone takes for granted, and when they are finally set free, they want it all -- right now. Every transsexual wants to be recognized as an individual; some deal with this by drawing attention to themselves in public and in the case of some narcissists this is taken to an extreme thereby putting transsexuals, in general, in an unfortunate light. In this way, transsexuals persecute themselves. "We have met the enemy," as Pogo once said, "and he is us." Rather than the personal becoming political, the political is turned inside out and becomes interpersonal. Usually, transsexuals hate other transsexuals who are more beautiful than they are, who "pass" in society with less trouble, who are more masculine or feminine. The accidents of birth endowing one with a body habitus more in common with the prevailing sex-stereotypes do indeed translate into a better survival advantage than those who are less fortunate. The ones gifted enough to pass →



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TRANSSEXUAL THEATRE ... cont'd.

without problems disappear "into the woodwork" -- become covert -- and seldom participate in medical or psychosocial follow-up contributing to research which would aid other transsexuals left behind. They are the "successful" transsexuals -- yet are they really?

By identification with their oppressors, they have lost their constituency and solidarity; they have lost the ability to defend themselves politically: "...And then they came for me, and by that time, there was no-one left to speak up" (The Rev. Martin Niemoller). The covert transsexuals, in fact, live in constant fear of being discovered, and some are alone with no-one to share their most intimate accomplishments; no one is there to accept and understand with the exception of other transsexuals. This is the dubious goal of anonymity for which all transsexuals strive.

Why is this? There is a No-Talk-Rule amongst transsexuals against telling anyone who they really are -- suffering, courageous, and talented people. When they break the No-Talk-Rule, they lose their jobs, careers, friends, social status -- everything -- and downwardly drift into the transsexual ghetto, or worse, the sociological sewer where prostitutes of San Francisco's Tenderloin District or the "entertainers" of Hollywood's demi-monde dwell. Those that are "successful" learn to keep silent and mind their own business.

Hence, transsexuals, in striving to deny problems, project security, and identify with the oppressor, are not being real -- they are being caricatures of people --

something pointed out by early gender researchers when transsexuals appeared to them as "caricatures" of men and women. Instead today, it could be said that they are good at being men and women, but not people. This is Transsexual Theatre.

[In Part 6: Conclusions.]

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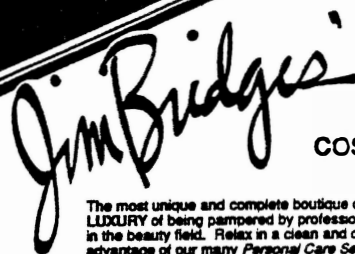
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TRIPPING: THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

by Nicole Phillips

Have you ever taken a trip out of town as a female? Or have you dreamed about it? Since my own experience is limited to a half dozen or so journeys I do not claim to be a travel expert, but I have been around enough to share some reflections with you.

Only in the last couple of years have I been able to crossdress with any frequency. When I was married, my crossdressing was essentially limited to evenings when I was out of town on business, and I would become Nicole in the hotel room and occasionally venture out for a petrified stroll around town. I always fantasized, however, about actually taking a trip as a woman. The fascinating difference is that when dressing around home or going out in your own town you can always quickly scamper home if you are frightened; once you commit to an out of town journey, though, you cannot escape your female persona until you return. It is sort of like a survival course as a woman, since by necessity you must depend upon your skills as a female to get by.

This is not a discussion on appearance per se, but unless you are prepared for gawking and possible harassment, I think it is most important that you get your skills down so that you can pass as a woman without notice. Everyone has their own opinions on this, of course, but I urge you to look at women whom you find attractive and observe how they dress, wear their hair and deport themselves. Invest in at least one first class wig you can blend into your own hair, and learn to style and soften it. Don't be afraid to comb it back off your face; real girls don't hide under a helmet of fake hair. Wear the simple and elegant clothes that real women wear, and skip the frilly stuff and high collars or you'll look like Tootsie. Minimalist makeup will, surprisingly, make you more real and attractive. Practice speaking until you find a feminine voice that you are comfortable with, and then use it. The details are essential, too: simple jewelry, a functional watch, a barrette for the hair, properly located and sized breasts, and maybe a hint of cleavage at the neckline. Most of all, know and revel in the feeling of femininity, so that you walk with a sexy spring in your step, smile when people speak to you, and maybe even casually toss your hair and pretend that you don't see that handsome

businessman admiring you. Hold your shoulders back and your chin up, and be the woman you are.

My most extensive trip was a five day vacation to Boston last fall. The very process of making your reservations is exciting, because you realize that it is for your female side and that if your male counterpart showed up he would be out of character! And Nicole will soon have enough frequent flyer credits to take a free trip herself... Packing your things is a bit of a thrill in itself. When traveling as Nicole, I go strictly female and do not take any male clothing or accoutrements. I recommend buying or borrowing an appropriate set of ladies luggage, and marking the identification tags with your female name. All you really need is a hanging bag and one suitcase, and you will draw less attention when your bags are appropriate to your gender. To carry makeup and other personal care items that may be breakable, try a small padded makeup bag to protect them. You would hate to arrive and find that a loose bottle of beige foundation has ruined everything in your suitcase. Be sure to take the basics for a touch-up, such as a hairbrush, lipstick and powder, in your purse because, believe me, you will need them after three hours on an airplane. Lugging along several pairs of shoes creates unnecessary bulk and weight. I like to take one pair of flats or other good walking shoes, and wear black pumps because they are so versatile. Remember to take some socks if you plan to do any sightseeing, because you don't want to walk around all day in pantyhose and pumps. I will usually wear a nice business-type dress or suit (think of how you are going to present yourself at the hotel) and carry one other outfit suitable for going out in the evening, a pair of neutral pants and a blouse in the hanging bag, and an extra shirt and sweater in the suitcase. This gives you plenty of versatility. Don't forget to throw in something to sleep in, too; I usually just toss in an oversized teeshirt. If you are taking any sex toys, I recommend putting them in your suitcase so that you don't have to face the prospect of hauling your dildo out of your tote bag at the security checkpoint!

I think it is best to take only one purse, so you want →

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TRIPPING ... cont'd.

to select something that has enough room to be useful but will not make you look like a bag lady when you go to dinner. You are allowed another piece of carry-on luggage, and a canvas tote is ideal for this. You will really kick yourself if you fail to bring along "Cosmo" or a paperback for the plane ride, as in-flight magazines get pretty boring.


One other pre-flight recommendation if you can get away with it: have your nails done professionally, preferably with something versatile like a french manicure, and in a short to medium functional length. You will be so glad you don't have to fret about a press-on nail popping off as you haul your bags off the luggage carousel. And there are few things that really add the feminine touch better than a beautiful set of nails. You will really feel like the lady you are and be ready to travel. A pair of masculine paws signing the hotel register or accepting change from a store clerk is a dead giveaway.

Today the travel world runs on credit cards, so be prepared with your own. Have them issued with only your initials rather than your first name, or get them in your female name. You will not be able to charge airline tickets, check into a hotel, or rent a car without one. This last business of car rental is especially tricky, since you will be required to produce a valid driver's license. The only ways I know of to deal with this are: (1) invest in a first-class fake, but be sure all the information is correct with the exception of the substitution of your female name and sex; (2) find a good female friend who looks sort of like you and will let you borrow hers; or (3) just tell the reservation clerk that you are in the process of transitioning and produce your male counterpart's license. The third option may cause a little embarrassment but it is the safest, and, hey, what do you care what they think anyway? (Personally, I do not like to even have my male driver's license with me.)

Be sure to make all reservations you need in advance, and that they are in your female name. If you want to see a play or concert, try to order your tickets in advance by mail. I personally like window seating on the airplane

when I am traveling as a woman, because you do not have to constantly get up to let people in and out of their seats. Naturally, before you leave, you need to tell someone you trust where you are going and where you will be staying. Now you are ready for your exhilarating adventure. The best thing to do, of course, is to have your bags packed and your traveling clothes laid out so that you are not rushing around at the last second. For heavens sake, do go to the bathroom before you get on the plane so that you don't have to fight that battle. Then imagine your feelings as you slip into your dress and shoes, admire your beautifully manicured hands, fix your hair, and head to the airport for a few glorious days totally immersed in femininity. And once you get on that plane, you know you are committed to being a woman for the duration of your journey.

One of the nice things about traveling as a woman is the courtesy that is shown to you. A skycap will scoot over and ask to take your bags, a gentlemen will hold the door for you, and the ticket agent will smile and say, "You're at gate 18, ma'am." And a nice looking woman traveling on her own will always attract the attention of the male of the species. Of course, being the slut that I am, I enjoy being checked out and flirted with. It's so provocative to sit on the airplane, let your skirt slide up to mid-thigh and watch the guy in the next seat start adjusting himself as you politely chat and ignore his arousal like a lady should. Needless to say, of course, you must keep your safety in mind and be careful not to put yourself in a position of true danger. Make sure that you are not being followed into remote areas, and if you think someone is about to bother you do not hesitate to simply ask the nearest gentleman or security officer for an escort. Your best defense is probably just to let your feminine confidence shine through and stay out of bad places, but you must be alert to the hazards that unfortunately go along with being a woman.

Once you reach the airport in your destination city, you should be prepared for ground transportation. I always carry a good supply of one and five dollar bills in the side compartment of my purse when traveling to handle tips, cab fares, etc. Don't overlook a quick visit to the ladies room on arrival to freshen up, especially if it has 

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THE MAGIC OF CROSSDRESSING

by Wendi Seabreeze

What is it about our affinity for the feminine essence of life that attracts so? The sweet aromas stimulate our minds and hearts so that we become enthralled. The soft textures and colors of a pretty dress, the hot look of a sexy dress, or the scent of a lovely perfume, stimulates our natural senses with which we become mesmerized. The stirring sights and or experience of wearing glittering gems and metals, awakens our souls, whereby we become unconsciously enraptured and enlightened!

Have you ever noticed how some of our loving sisters are always wearing pearls, or some of them most often wear sapphires or amethyst? Some of your sisters prefer gold, while others love silver or copper. Why are we partial to a certain gem or metal? Good question, right? Well, in simple terms, some jewelry just feels better on us than other pieces do. I guess the keyword here is "feel" if I were to try and explain that sensation. "Feel" isn't just the sense of touch or sight. Feel encompasses the finer forces of nature that are invisible to the eye. "Feel" can be described by the science of physics.

However, if I began to explain how a particle or wave affects our inner-being, you might get bored and not finish reading his article. So, I'll simply state that everything ever created by nature or man, sends out vibrations (vibes) that are perceived by our astral-like senses. When your own body wears a piece of jewelry that it can harmonize with, then those vibes will make you "feel" better. If you wear a piece of jewelry that your etheric body cannot harmonize with, then you may "feel" uneasy, or anxious about anything, or you might even "feel" upset, angered, or like a wandering puppy. Think about it! Isn't it funny how some costume jewelry just seems to be there. But if you wear a genuine gem like a diamond or emeralds or even jade, or if you wear real gold, you can actually "feel" extra special. If you've never felt this way before, then you're missing out on a real feminine treat.

Within this article I'll share some information concerning which gems and metals may be right for you. This won't be based on any astrological forecast, but I must use ➡

TRIPPING ... cont'd.

been windy or if you have eaten on the airplane. Know where you are going and how to get there, because cab drivers will sometimes take advantage of what they believe to be a naive woman. In New York, for example, tell the cabby, "The Waldorf via the Triborough Bridge," or in Boston, know that you can take the water ferry to the Marriott. It is most helpful to study the place you are going to visit beforehand, and talk with people who have lived or traveled there.


It has been my experience that by the time you have reached your destination, you will be so comfortable in your female role that it will be second nature to you. Perhaps it has to do with being in a distant geographical location, or the sense that you have, at least for a while, cut the ties that bind you to your maleness and left all vestiges of that behind you. As for me, at least, I truly become Nicole. I find myself as a woman in a new and challenging environment. I am ready to experience the wonder and the sensations of female life, though we must not be so naive as to ignore the hassles of that life as well.

It is best if you have friends with whom you can visit for at least a while, or if you have someone with whom you can travel. If you are traveling with a friend, they must understand that your journey is an experiment in total involvement in your female side and that no remnant whatsoever of your male personality will be present. As you shop, sightsee and play, you will discover a gentle feminine undercurrent in the world. Moms with babies will smile at you when you wait in line; store clerks will chat like old friends; and, yes, occasionally, men

will still offer you a seat on a bus or hold the door for you. On the other hand, you will find that there are unwritten restrictions as well. It is uncomfortable to go out unescorted to some restaurants and nightclubs, and considerations of personal safety are much more significant for women than for men.

Yet to get up each morning completely female, to dress yourself and interact with the world totally as a woman, to prepare yourself in the evening and slip cozily into bed as a female this total immersion of experience allows your woman's heart to swell, your female confidence and pride to grow, and your feminine consciousness to hold sway for a time. Yes, you will be aware of some of the missing male prerogatives of life. But your knowledge and comprehension of the femaleness within you will deepen and you will return home a stronger, more perceptive and understanding human being.

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A WORD TO WRITERS AND EDITORS: SOME SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE TRANSGENDER PRESS

by Dallas Denny

I've fancied myself a writer ever since I was seven years old, when I found myself marveling at the talent it must take to make the lines come out even on the right-hand side of the page. By the time I was a junior in high school, I was writing science fiction stories, which I two-finger typed and lovingly assembled into a book which I gave to my 11th grade English teacher (and no,

everything didn't come out right-justified. I figured that sort of talent came only with experience).

I spent most of the next summer cloistered with a vintage 1930's Woodstock manual typewriter. I persuaded my mother to buy at a thrift shop (it cost eight dollars) and her old high school typing book, which featured the Woodstock as a representative model. Thanks to the 

MAGIC OF CROSSDRESSING ... cont'd.

the date of your birth to categorize your personal vibes. I'll also give you your best day of the week that you'd probably feel more comfortable in your femme attire, and if you like to travel, notice that I've also listed a city somewhere in the world where you might feel right at home in.

(Dec. 21 - Jan. 19) Realistic sisters born between these dates would probably enjoy wearing lapis lazuli set in heavy marcasite, or garnet in gold. Your fun day of the week is Saturday and if you're ever in Oxford, England or Brussels, Belgium, you may never wish to leave.

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) The determined girl of this time zone should own at least one ring, bracelet, or necklace of silver with sapphire gems or amethyst. Your best day of the week is also on Saturday. Someday you just have to visit Hamburg, Germany, or Salzburg, Austria.

(Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) You spiritual babes should own some aquamarine or turquoise set in silver. If you can ever purchase a platinum bracelet, do it! Try going out more on a Thursday night, and what fun you'd have in Alexandria, Egypt, or maybe Seville, Spain!

(Mar. 21 - Apr. 19) You ... the mistress-of-illusion know all about diamonds, for it's your gem. You like your metal around your neck to be heavy like gold and iron. Next Tuesday try being your feminine-self, it may be a pleasant surprise. Certainly, someday you must travel to Florence, Italy, or Marseilles, France.

(Apr. 20 - May 20) You earthy Hippie girls in all your jade, aren't you feeling high? But don't restrict yourself to just jade, try emeralds too with copper jewelry. And hey, you rule the Friday night air, so don't neglect it. Where are you going on your next vacation? Maybe Palermo, Spain.

(May 21 - June 20) For you, the girl on the go, wear Beryl or Alexandrine set in sterling silver. And isn't it a funny thing about Wednesday, they're perfect for you! And hey, when was the last time you visited San Francisco? You might be surprised with all the adventure you'd find there.

(June 21 - July 22) Yes!!!! We moonbabies are the cute sissies in our moonstone and pearls. If we don't wear silver, there's no way we can get out on a Monday night. If you're looking to travel this year, try Amsterdam,

Holland. Or for a real adventure visit New York City.

(July 23 - Aug. 22) I can see the fire in the eyes of these girls, adorned in all that gold and bright dazzlingruby stones. You rule Sunday nights where all attention will be on you. Someday in your life you need to visit Bombay, India or Bath, England!

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Someone told me a lot about you girls, that you are still virgins, my oh my. I couldn't believe that seeing you in all that Peridot and agate set in silver, I also know you've been invading the Wednesday night atmosphere. Your romance is waiting for you in Paris, France, or Hollywood, California.

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) You girls always seem to be cheerful and balanced wearing all your opal and zircon. You also love the feel of copper and know how to party on a Friday night. Vienna, Austria has a lot to offer, and Johannesburg, South Africa calls for your justice.

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) You are indeed a regenerated girl in your onyx and malachite stones. There's something about the touch of steel that you can't explain. But you go out to rule the Tuesday night tiptoeing scene. Everything seems to fall into place for you. New Orleans is where you gotta visit.

(Nov. 21 - Dec. 20) The girls with a goal! That's what you are as you show off your topaz. You love to wear light jewelry like items made of tin. You too may find new found pleasures on a Thursday night. And if you ever plan a vacation, try the infamous Cologne, Germany or Avignon, France.

Well, dear readers, I hope this little bit of information will be useful for you, or that you at least find it interesting. As a student of many schools of thought, I'll tell you that the marvelous joys to be found by wearing real gems, can help elevate your awareness of your world.

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WORD TO WRITERS AND EDITORS ... cont'd.

duct tape I had stuck over the keys to make it impossible to hunt-and-peck, I stuck to task, and by the end of the summer, I could touch-type.

The rest, as they might say, is something less than history. I used my typing skills to get myself through college, doing my own papers and making money by typing those of others. But occasionally my nimble fingers would show a spark of sentience and something I was not actually required to write would show up on the paper.

Stamps were cheap back then. I discovered that if I put my creations in an envelope and mailed them away, they were out of my hair for a few weeks, until they came back with a rejection letter. The rejections were good for my soul; they kept me humble and helped me to learn to accept criticism and try harder. Maybe if I just got so that I could do that right justification... And then, surprise! I started getting occasional letters of acceptance -- and sometimes, even a check.

It was that first check, I think, which turned me into a real writer. For the first time, I allowed myself to think that maybe, just maybe, I could support myself one day by doing creative work. I increased my output, writing songs, essays, short stories, even a novel. Some I managed to get published. Most, I didn't.

Editors! They were people who kept your manuscripts tied up for months at a time, and finally, if they bothered to send them back at all, returned them with letters of rejection with maddening notations penciled in the margin -- comments like, "This is great! You've got a lot of talent. Can't use it," or "This is very good. If you will just learn to make the words line up on the right margin,

we'll start buying your stuff." I was surprised when, at 40 years of age, I met my first editor, and discovered that she didn't have horns and a tail.

Now I find myself not only an editor, but a publisher. I have to deal with writers. I find myself spending hours typing manuscripts which were originated on computer, wondering why I didn't get the file on diskette. I get materials which are great, but which don't fit the theme of the issue. I find myself having to return submissions with letters of rejection to people who thought enough of the magazine to send me their creative efforts, but whose submissions I just can't use -- often at my expense, for they've failed to include return postage.

Having now sat on both ends of the teeter-totter, and having been a participant in and an observer of the transgender community's publications, I have discovered that the community press is rife with problems, and both editors and writers seem to be contributing to the problem.

I've noted that manuscripts are sometimes extensively edited without the clearance of the author, that material is reprinted without permission and sometimes without crediting the author of the original source of publication, and that most newsletters and even some magazines are filled with misspelled words, bad grammar, and stupid mistakes (my own private bugbear is to find it's when it should be its). As a writer, I find that I often don't know that my submission will be published until I see it in print, and that my clean submissions often end up full of spelling and grammatical errors that make me cringe, knowing that the reader will attribute the mistakes to me, →

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WORD TO WRITERS AND EDITORS ... cont'd.

rather than the editor. As an editor, I find that writers promise things they can't or won't deliver, making me chew my knuckles at deadline time, for I've often planned the magazine to some extent around their proposed article, and that writers hate for me to change anything, even words which they have apparently made up and not bothered to define.

Most of the things that seem to be wrong could be easily remedied. It would take only a little common sense and a bit of common courtesy.

I am prepared to propose something daring -- that we move forward and make efforts towards professionalism -- writers and editors alike. We need to follow the same general rules as the publishing industry, and we need to take extra precautions because of the sensitive nature of the subject and the privacy needs of those in the community.

Here, then, are some suggested guidelines.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITERS:

Simultaneous submissions are a no-no. Editors hate to think that they have an exclusive on something, only to get someone else's newsletter in the mail with what they have come to consider "their" article featured prominently on the front page. If you do send things out simultaneously -- and I suggest that you don't -- it is very important that you tell the editor that you are doing so. It will reduce your chances of publication, but it is only fair. Give the editor a chance. Remember that there is a good deal of lead time involved, and that the content

of the next issue or two may already be fixed. I suggest that you pick your magazine carefully, and, if your submission is accepted, wait cheerfully. Certainly, if there has been no action after three or four months, you should inquire gently about the expected publication date, but things take time. Patience, grasshopper!

Once your article has appeared in print, it's fine to send it elsewhere. You should be sure to tell the new editor that it has been previously published, and where and when, so that the original publication will be duly credited. It is perfectly fine to walk the same article around for years; it actually will provide you with more recognition than if it appears in four or five publications at the same time.

You should remember to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (called a SASE, to those in the know). I know that my organization doesn't have much of a budget to buy stamps period, much less a budget entry called "Special Fund for Submissions Received Without SASE." Be sure to include enough postage, and an envelope big enough to hold the submission. It's fine to send only a long envelope with regular postage if you instruct the editor to destroy your materials if they are rejected.

You should read the instructions to authors in the magazine or newsletter to which you are submitting materials, and send away a SASE for instructions for authors, if indicated. I strongly advise you to pick up and study an issue or two of the publication to which you plan to submit. Most publishers will be happy to sell you a single issue for a small charge. How long are the articles? What is their tone? What sort of content does the editor seem to be looking for? You'll save yourself a lot of rejection letters if you take this step.

Your manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter, introducing yourself. The manuscript itself should be legible, and sent in the format preferred by the editor (this is usually specified in magazines, and sometimes in newsletters). The first page of the manuscript should contain your name and address, a word count, and the status of the manuscript. If it is unpublished, use the words "First American Serial Rights." Pages should be numbered, and, unless the manuscript is to be blind-reviewed (that is, read and reviewed by someone who is not to know the author), your name and a running title should be on every page. You should check for errors, and you should double-check to make sure that pages are not missing. It's surprising how often that happens. Manuscripts should be legible and double-spaced; this is critical. If you are offered money for your article, be sure to give the editor your social security number, so he or she can inform the IRS, which has a nasty tendency to want to know such about every penny you make.

You should make your special needs known to the editor. How do you want to be identified? Do you want to use your real name, or a wish-fulfillment name? Do you have a problem receiving mail? Are you worried about the return address on the envelope? Is the article fixed →

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THE ISTANBUL TRAVESTY

by Phaedra Kelly

I have not long returned from the emergency rescue/research mission to Istanbul, Turkey. While there, I temporarily joined a squad in the Travesty army against the police. Yes, it is a war there, declared by both sides but unstated by any media other than our own to date. When one lives inside a war on a ten day/eleven night tour of duty, suffering three raids a night by 300 heavily armed police, a feeling of continuum goes with the territory. Seeing a 28-year-old beauty with a seven-year-old automatic pistol bullet scar, the size of a coin, in her back close to her heart, I don't judge what she has to do to live, I see only her facility to love a sister and am proud and grateful to receive that love. At the moment, Travesty has become a banner in the war, a title as accepted as was "Charlie" for Viet Cong

irregulars. But they are not a copy of anything; they are original third gender and certainly not bad. I still feel the tension and get the flashbacks, even 25 days after my return. Step out into the street at night in the third world and you will forevermore not wait to be told you are "OK". Oh, by the way, Demet Demir of GT/Travesty Turkey was released of all charges in a trial brought forward to coincide with my very high profile presence as an observer/researcher and representative of the world gender community. Having sent advance declaration to the Turkish government, Amnesty International, Britain's Foreign Office, and both the U.S. and U.K. consulates in Istanbul, said declaration was faxed to every English-speaking journalist in Turkey. Thus, having made myself a political hot potato, I went in there →

WORD TO WRITERS AND EDITORS ... *cont'd.*

in stone, or can the editor make some changes? And, if so, do you want to approve all editorial changes? Let the editor know these things.

Look at rejection letters as minor obstacles. Send the manuscript elsewhere. If you continue to get rejected, rework the manuscript and try again.

GUIDELINES FOR EDITORS

The usual rules for editors hold for the transgender press: manuscripts should be reviewed in a timely fashion and returned upon rejection, if there is an SASE. Authors should be notified upon acceptance. Major changes in the manuscript should be cleared with the writer, and credit should be given to magazines and newsletters which have previously published an article.

There are other, special rules, however, because this is the transgender press. Many transgendered individuals live compartmentalized lives. You, as the editor, must be very careful not to disclose information the author wishes kept secret. You should be very careful about using an individual's real name. If the individual is living in one gender, but using the name of another gender, it will probably be all right to publish under that name -- but you should still check. Don't automatically assume that it's okay to send correspondence under the name of publication, either, especially if it is going to a street address instead of a post office box. Check with the author.

If the author is cross-living, you should be very wary about using the new name in print, although it should be all right to use it in correspondence. If there is any question in your mind whatsoever, you should check with the author.

It has been my observation that the transgender press has been lax in a number of areas. In my three years as a participant-observer, I have seen numerous instances of

simultaneous submissions without the editor being notified, of publication of materials which the author considered to be privileged and private correspondence (and which they were surprised to see in print), of actual names being printed against the express desire of the individual, and of articles which are published without crediting the original sources. And I can't begin to say how many instances I've seen of bad editing and proofreading. The use of it's for its is almost a hallmark of the gender community.

These sort of problems are only to be expected in a newly emerging and rapidly growing field. We are, after all, newly "out," most of us, and we are for the most part new to writing, editing, and publishing. But our success mandates change. It is time that we work a little harder to professionalize our presentation to the public and our dealings with each other. Let's play pretty, using the guidelines I've just proposed. It will work for the good of the community.

And so, with a hearty "Hi, Yo, Silver," I roar off into the sunset -- to face a 30 page manuscript that was generated on the computer, and which I must type in because I wasn't sent the diskette. But tonight, when I sit down to write, I will be in heaven, for these days I do my creative writing on the computer, and the little bugger will automatically right-justify what I write. And I just know that's going to get my novels published.

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17

A QUESTION OF DIFFERENCES

How well do men and women know each other? Cris Evatt's book "He and She: 60 Different Differences Between Men and Women" (Conari Press) opens with a quiz on gender differences. Here, based on a random survey of the sexes, are the most frequently missed true/false questions by both men and women. Test yourself; answers follow this article.

1. Women's language is more direct than men's.
2. Women try to change others more than men.
3. Respect is a major issue in the female world.
4. Men need more "space" -- private time -- than women.
5. Women respond better to stress than men.
6. Women are more decisive than men.
7. Men accept words at face value more than women.
8. Women avoid verbal confrontation more than men.
9. Women want to be married more than men.
10. Women have about one-tenth as much testosterone as men.

Cris Evatt, 48, has written several books on organizing your life, but "He and She" plunges into the controversial waters of gender differentiation. It's a self-help book for a problem that, Evatt believes, remains largely universal. The book attempts to clarify the mysteries of why "he never seems to listen" or "she's always talking on the telephone".

Says Evatt, who has been happily married for five years: "I wrote this book for two reasons -- first, my own curiosity and second, to help men and women get along." She spent two years researching contemporary books and articles on gender, combing through the academic debates: Are men and women becoming more alike or less alike? Are stereotypical roles blurring or becoming more pronounced? Are men's and women's differences essentially biological or the result of socialization? Then Evatt distilled the information in a guidebook -- 60 traits, including worrying, seeking attention, jealousy, friendship, clustered into 11 chapters under specific headings ranging from "Intimacy Seekers" to "Communications Gap".

180 sources are listed, from Virginia Adams' "Getting at the Heart of Jealous Love" to Dan Zevin's "The Secret of Boys' Clubs Revealed". Although Evatt discusses 60 traits and how they differ between men and women, the book is focused on a primary theme: Women tend to be other-focused and men tend to be self-focused. While recognizing that this could be interpreted as a sexist stereotype, she nevertheless thinks the book could be used as a litmus test for most relationships. "My whole

background is to simplify things," Evatt says, "so this is gender differences simplified.

"This book doesn't urge women to become more like men, or men to become more like women. It's about retaining gender traits that serve us -- both individually and collectively -- and modifying or developing traits that do not," she adds.

Evatt says the research has changed her own behavior: "I used to be more clingy -- and I tended to play second fiddle. I had to develop some independence before I could appreciate a man who valued what I was doing."

[Edited with permission from the "Los Angeles Times". Thanks to Chrissie Iliffe-Weston for bringing the article to our attention.]

(Answers to the quiz: Questions 1, 3, and 6 are false, the rest are all true.)

ISTANBUL TRAVESTY ... cont'd.

and just did it. Demet is now bravely pursuing a private compensation suit against the police.

(Phaedra Kelly operates what is essentially a one-woman campaign for human rights for the worldwide gender community. Funding for Gender Transient Affinity comes entirely from donations. In the U.S., send your contributions to GTA c/o Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, Ring of Prussia PA 19405.)

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"there's more to the picture than meets the eye"

by Selena Anne Shephard

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some people have THIS THING for classic cars
some people have THIS THING for blackened fish
some people have THIS THING for wine
some people have THIS THING for the '50's
some people have THIS THING for soap operas
some people have THIS THING for gospel
some people have THIS THING for mystery novels
some people have THIS THING for impressionist paintings
some people have THIS THING for jogging
some people have THIS THING for Elvis (whether dead or alive)
some people have THIS THING for lifting weights
some people have THIS THING for comic books
some people have THIS THING for gossip
some people have THIS THING for fishing
some people have THIS THING for Shakespeare
some people have THIS THING for Zen
some people have THIS THING for climbing mountains
some people have THIS THING for Esperanto
some people have THIS THING for Liz Taylor
some people have THIS THING for bluegrass music
some people have THIS THING for pop art
some people have THIS THING for hang gliding
some people have THIS THING for flea markets
some people have THIS THING for lonesome highways
some people have THIS THING for skateboarding
some people have THIS THING for science fiction
some people have THIS THING for long walks in the woods
some people have THIS THING for EST
some people have THIS THING for channeling
some people have THIS THING for square dancing
some people have THIS THING for Jesus

&


I have THIS THING for women's clothes

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NEWSWIRE ... cont'd from page 4

experienced in gender issues, and the Institute expects to have a full network of doctors in place soon. Those in areas close to the new service may either write to P.O. Box 141133, Gainesville 32614, or telephone (904) 462-4826 for information.

The summer meeting of the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) board of directors has resulted in some major changes in Tri-Ess operations and policies.

The board, which has spent much of the past two years reorganizing the non-profit group, has opted to reincorporate as a Texas non-profit corporation to 

NEWSWIRE ... cont'd.

simplify operations, and operate its California headquarters as a "branch operations office".

A great deal of discussion took place over a proposal to allow the chartering of "couples only" chapters. The board decided not to charter such chapters, expressing its concern that non-partnered Tri-Ess members might be excluded from participation in such a chapter.

Other decisions made by the board included a change in the format of the annual membership directory to publish only profiles of members, thus avoiding the higher costs incurred when photographs are included. A survey of members taken two years ago had indicated that a majority did not feel the photographs were necessary in the directory as they would exchange them in the course of correspondence anyway.

The board also clarified the attendance policy at the annual Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" convention to include only Tri-Ess members or those who would be eligible for membership in the organization. The board's winter session takes place at the convention, which will be held in Atlanta this November.



FPE Norway has announced tentative plans to create a "Fantasia Fair"-like event in Europe. EuroFantasia, as FPE's Jenny Sand has dubbed it, will most likely take place near Copenhagen in a small Denmark resort town in the spring of 1993.

CROSS-TALK CONGRATULATES ...

>> Robin Kieffer of the Sigma Epsilon Chapter of Tri-Ess, who was instrumental in helping the Mu Sigma Chapter get started. Mu Sigma, which serves the Memphis area, was recently granted its charter by Tri-Ess.

>> The members of Chi Chapter Tri-Ess and Chicago Gender Society, notably Naomi Owen, Gloria Wright, Karen Anne Baumgardner, and Mary Ann Foster, for their assistance to reporter Neil Steinberg for his recent article on crossdressing in the Sunday "Sun-Times".

>> Renaissance Education Association of Philadelphia, which celebrated five years of existence recently with a gala anniversary party that was attended by guests from Delta Chi of Washington DC and LIFE of New York, Dr. Richard Docter of California State University Northridge, and more than two dozen Renaissance members.

>> Jamie Edwards, recently reelected to the post of President of the St. Louis Gender Foundation. It will be Edwards' second term at the top office of StLGF.

>> Ginny Knuth, presented with the newly renamed "Ginny Knuth Member of the Year Award" by ETVC for her tireless efforts in behalf of the organization. In accepting, Knuth expressed her joy in being a member of this community, "after all, I'm a significant other!"

>> Janet Nichols and Donna Freeman, founders of the Diablo Valley Girls in the Contra Costa County area of California. The group, which started just over a year ago with 24 members, recently added its 50th member.

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