

## Estrogen is blamed

# Transsexuals found to be at high risk for breast cancer

A researcher at the Harvard Medical School says that male-to-female transsexuals taking estrogen should have regular examinations for breast cancer because they are at greater risk for developing the tumors.

Dr. Janet Baum, who is also affiliated with Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, told her colleagues at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America in early December that of the 31 transsexuals she examined, two had precancerous growth in their breasts. She said this was a higher incidence than would have been found in a comparable group of women. The patients she examined ranged in age from 26 to 70, with the average age being in the late 30s.

She said that under X rays, the breasts of the transsexuals look just like those of young women except for the presence of "a lot more pectoral muscle than would have been expected."

Last April, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) linked breast cancer to estrogen prescribed for menopausal women. In some cases, the CDC said, taking the hormone more than doubled their risk of getting the disease. Baum said the doses of estrogen taken by male-to-female transsexuals are five to 10 times as large as the doses given older women to treat the effects of menopause. Breast cancer also can occur in men, but it is very rare — accounting for less than one percent

of all cases.

Baum recommended that individuals taking estrogen be carefully monitored with monthly breast self-exams and regular mammograms and physical exams by doctors. The medical literature reports three cases of transsexuals who died from late detection of breast cancer.

Baum said that many of her colleagues kidded her about her study. But she defended her research by

saying this was a health problem that affects up to 100,000 people in North America and Europe. She also said the study provided insights into understanding the effects of estrogen.

⇒ *Due to the importance of this study, other publications in the gender community may reprint this article without requesting permission.*

— PJS

## Flip your wig to help others

Renaissance members have the opportunity to help cancer patients who have lost their hair through chemotherapy. Cheryl Noblit, a hairdresser in Conshohocken, will wash and style donated wigs and give them to cancer patients who cannot afford to purchase wigs.

"I have a very close friend who is battling cancer," Noblit says. "I have taken her for her chemotherapy treatments and have observed while she, and others, too, have lost their hair as a result.

"As I listened to various cancer

**Board approves  
new national  
policy on age.  
See page 15.**

patients talk, I heard the same message repeated: that the loss of hair was often more devastating than the chemotherapy itself.

Of course, the natural remedy for hair loss is a wig, "but insurance companies are often refusing to cover the cost of a wig. Some of these patients are over a financial barrel. It's just one more problem, one more expense in their lives."

Noblit began to refurbish and custom fit donated wigs to cancer patients in November. As word of her volunteer service spread, demand has outstripped supply.

"We can use wigs of any color, and fiber," she said, adding that black wigs are especially needed.

"When I read of Cheryl's project in my local newspaper, I thought of

*(continued on page 4)*



## Announcements...

### Background Papers...

are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-*Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing*, 2-*Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing*, 3-*PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others*, 4-*The Matter of Children*, 5-*An Annotated Bibliography*, 6-*Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View*, 7-*What Is Renaissance?*, and 8-*AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics*.

### Pen Pal Project

If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland, or write to the main office, c/o Dept. PP.

### Prisoner Project

A gift of only \$6 gives a trans-gendered inmate 12 issues of the *Renaissance News*. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

### *The Transsexual Phenomenon*

A few copies of the deluxe edition of this book by Dr. Harry Benjamin are still available at \$39.95 postpaid.

## Our chapters...

### Greater Philadelphia

Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Fall/winter meetings start at 8:00 p.m. For information, call (215) 946-8887. Michelle Lynn, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020-0530.

### Lower Susquehanna Valley

Meets the first Saturday of the month at Cameron Cut Rate, Cameron and Market Streets, Harrisburg. Call (717) 780-1578 for latest information. Brenda Davidson, chapter leader. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

### South Jersey

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc., 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782. Kara Foreward, chapter leader. Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.

## Our affiliates...

Groups wishing to become a Renaissance affiliate must pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Our affiliated organizations are:

- **Monmouth/Ocean Group**, P.O. Box 1326, Brick, NJ 08723
- **AEGIS**, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 939-0240

## Events to note...

### February

**1st South Jersey Chapter meeting: Makeup demo by Jafra Cosmetics**

**1st Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting: Tag sale**

**15th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting: Ari Kane of the Outreach Institute**

### March

**7th South Jersey Chapter meeting: Dr. Reynolds on child abuse**

**7th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting: Makeup demo by Mary Kay**

**21st Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting: Shelia Kirk, M.D., on hormones**

### April

**4th South Jersey Chapter meeting**

**4th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting**

**18th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting**

### May

**9th Renaissance 5th anniversary gala!**

## Renaissance News

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# FDA asks voluntary ban on silicone gel breast implants

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last month asked surgeons to stop using silicone gel breast implants for a period of six weeks while it investigates new information about the long-term safety of the devices.

The voluntary ban was requested by FDA Commissioner Dr. David Kessler and was made after an agency advisory panel recommended that implants be allowed to remain on the market while additional research was conducted. Kessler said he will reconvene the advisory panel by the end of this month.

This past fall, hundreds of women testified before an FDA

committee of experts. Most told how breast implants had changed their lives for the better. Others told horror stories about breasts hardened with scar tissue, immune system disorders thought to be caused by leaking silicone, and breast cancer undiagnosed because of the implants' interference with mammography.

While surgeons are not required to comply with the FDA recommendation, it is unlikely that surgeons will continue to use gel implants even though most believe the implants are safe.

"I don't think any surgeon would feel comfortable putting silicone implants in with this recommenda-

tion from the FDA," said Dr. Don LaRossa, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. "I think it's unfortunate." Dr. Gordon Schwartz, a surgeon at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, said the FDA was "pandering to politics" when it made its recommendation.

Between 1 and 2 million persons have received silicone gel breast implants in the past 30 years. An estimated 65 percent of those were for breast augmentation.

While silicone gel implants are not now available, implants filled with a saline solution are, even though they are less popular with surgeons.

## Federal judge to hear transsexual inmate's sex abuse case next month

A transsexual inmate in a Michigan prison may be vindicated next month when a federal judge hears her sexual harassment suit charging that a guard forced her into performing oral sex.

Tracy Lynn Johnson, 44, is serving a life term at the Riverside Correctional Facility in Ionia, Mich. for the 1989 kidnapping of a Canadian family and holding them at gunpoint for eight hours. She was sent to the state prison at Jackson, where, she alleges, a guard coerced her into performing oral sex. She has since been transferred to the prison at Ionia. Both facilities are for male inmates.

In addition to pursuing the civil rights suit in U.S. District Court in Detroit, Johnson is trying to get sexual reassignment surgery — or at least be castrated — at her own expense so she can be housed in a women's prison. She says that she has described beatings and sexual

assaults she received at other prisons because of her feminine appearance. She has been taking female hormones on and off since the age of 16.

Prison authorities so far have refused to provide surgery, but they do allow Johnson to take hormones. They defend their position by saying the prison system is required only to provide "appropriate, necessary care." They added that in 1988 a court refused to order a sex-change for another Michigan inmate. Dr. Craig Hutchinson, medical director at the Ionia prison, said that hormone therapy is "generally accepted" as appropriate for transsexual inmates.

Johnson said that as a teenager

she ran away from home to escape a sexually abusive father and an alcoholic mother. After a year, she was laced on hormone therapy by a doctor in California in preparation for a sex change. But crime got in the way of surgery. Over the next several years, she was convicted of burglary, armed robbery, shooting with intent to kill, prison escape, car theft, and the kidnapping charge. In some states, she was incarcerated as a woman.

"I'm not saying, 'Feel sorry for poor little Tracy,'" she said in an interview. But, she said, she is trapped between the sexes, and "I have no one I can relate to" in a men's prison.

**The Renaissance 5th Anniversary party has been set for May 9. Watch for more details.**







# 'Dragphobia' emerges as an issue in lesbian and gay community

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

A transsexual is expelled from a Michigan music festival for lesbians. Gay activists in Los Angeles protest the "dragphobic" policies of two gay bars that exclude men dressed like women. Drag queens in Washington, D.C. form a group to address homophobia in the lesbian and gay community. What's going on? Why does it seem the lesbian and gay community — which is the target of so much hatred from the rest of society — is directing the same sort of hate and discrimination toward transgendered people?

This past summer, Nancy Jean Burkholder of Weare, N.H., a post-op transsexual, was expelled from the grounds of the annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival because the event is only for "women born women" (*RN*, Nov., '91). Burkholder's expulsion was a dramatic example of the anger that many lesbians feel toward what they term "surgically constructed women," an anger that many transsexuals have experienced.

While the producers of the festival, Lisa Vogel and Barbara Price, have yet to make a public statement regarding admission policies for transsexuals, other have not been mute. Reacting to the incident in Michigan, transsexual activist Dee Farmer notes, "When discrimination is implemented against one group of minorities, it only serves as a precedent against others." Reacting to Burkholder's recent statement that the "assault on my womanhood nudged me out of the closet and now I feel compelled to take a more public and active role in confronting genderphobia," Farmer retorts, "Where have you been?"

A few months later, overt discrimination against men in drag received a more direct response. This past November, Queer Nation activists in Los Angeles held two nights

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## But drag's popularity continues

Despite the opposition to drag from some in the lesbian and gay community, drag queens still have their fans, and now those fans in New York City can turn to two new media outlets.

*Drag Nett* is the comic book creation of Steven Polito, who used the drag name of Hedda Lettuce. Lettuce is also one half of the "dynamic duo" whose adventures fill the pages of *Drag Nett*. The other superhero drag queen is Miss Understood, in real life Alex Heinberg, Polito's collaborator.

Polito drew his inspiration from his thousands of *X-Men* and *Avengers* comics. It is subtitled "The Feminist Militant Drag Queen Superhero Comic With a Mission."

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of protest against a gay bar they accused of "dragphobia" — discomfort with crossdressed patrons. The second night of protest spilled over to another bar.

The brouhaha started when a man dressed as Shirley McLain was denied admittance to a Halloween party at the Probe even though he held an advance sale ticket. At the time, the manager said "a lot of Marilyn Monroes" would not fit the "Sodom and Gomorrah" party theme.

Queer Nation responded to the ban by first handing out leaflets in the bar. But on the second night, the demonstration turned into a melee. Queer Nationals were not satisfied when a bar spokesman — in drag — apologized for the "unfortunate" Halloween incident. Nearly 40 activists forced their way inside the bar, reportedly knocking down patrons in the process, and ripping AIDS posters and light fixtures from

"Comic books are so misogynistic," he said. "I thought, 'I would like to do a comic with no sexism, no homophobia, and no machismo.' I thought about who gets put down the most. Drag queens are put down by straights and gays. So I decided to bring them up and make them heroes saving others."

In the book, Lettuce and Understood tackle current issues from the lesbian and gay community in a humorous fashion. These range from door policies at gay bars to fag bashing. The other characters are also based on real people.

"There's no shame in drag...it's a beautiful thing," he added. "We have to accept our differences, they are

(continued on page 14)

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walls. After 20 minutes, the activists left the Probe and demonstrated at the Apache bar because of a "dragphobic doorman." Again, there were charges that the activists were rough toward patrons and damaged property.

Queer Nation admitted that they were angry, but denied that they were violent.

"Drag makes people uncomfortable," said a Queer Nation spokesman in explaining the demonstrations. "But what we all must realize is that uncomfotability is homophobic and sexist and denies the drag their personal expression. I really long for a community that celebrates our difference.... I hope we could focus on those issues instead of our discomfort at being confronted by them."

What is the cause of this anger in the lesbian and gay community toward transgendered people? Rob

(continued on page 14)



THE **NEWSQUEEN**™  
*Paula Jordan Sinclair*

With 1992 well underway, it's time to clear the decks of unsettled — and unsettling — stories from 1991.

You'll recall the tale of 10-year-old Jackie of Los Angeles who wanted to have a sex-change? When faced with this dilemma, his mom and dad did what any parents in a similar situation would do; they sought expert advice — from the readers of the *Weekly World News*. According to the supermarket tabloid, more than 200,000 letters poured into the newspaper.

Not surprisingly, most letters were opposed to changing Jackie into the girl he wants to be. They will wait until he is an adult and let him make up his own mind.

"News readers gave us a fresh, new perspective," said Sandra Mears, Jackie's mother.



Forget the rumor reported in these pages that comedian Flip Wilson is planning a comeback. Wilson, 58 — who won fame as the sassy "Geraldine" and other characters on his own television show in the early '70s — is content to perfect his golf game. He makes a few personal appearances, but says he doesn't need the money and doesn't miss the limelight.



Last year we reported that Sadie, Sadie, the Rabbi Lady, a member of San Francisco's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, was running for city council for Concord, Calif. Not only did she lose the election, she also has been arraigned on misdemeanor charges that she lied about her legal residence so she could run for the office.

Sadie, who registered under her legal name of Gil Block, pleaded no contest to charges that she violated the state election code by stating that she was a resident of Concord when she actually resided in San Francisco. She was sentenced to a \$1,000 fine, 120 hours of commu-

nity service, and 18 months probation.

Sister Sadie received 1,200 votes in last year's general election. She campaigned against a measure that would strip lesbians and gays of the civil rights protection afforded them by the Concord human rights ordinance.

Two years ago, a fundamentalist minister's election to the city council was voided when it was revealed that he did not live in Concord. Yet no criminal charges were brought against the Rev. Lloyd Mashore, and he remains on city council.



Running of a different sort got transsexual April Capwill, of Erie, Pa., in trouble last year, but the problem has been resolved.

After placing fifth in the women's division of the Great Race in Pittsburgh, she faced banishment from amateur track and field events because she had been a man up until 15 years ago and other runners complained that her male heart structure and oxygen-carrying capacity, narrow hips, and XY chromosomes gave her unfair advantages.

The Three Rivers Athletic Congress late last year ruled that unless national or international governing bodies rule otherwise, Capwill can compete in sanctioned events.



It appears the question of transsexual athletes competing against other women will be an issue in 1992 as well. Australian runner and Olympic hopeful Ricki Carne is facing protests even though Olympic officials have reportedly said that she has passed the required chromosome test and will be allowed to compete in this year's Summer Games.

Carne, who had sexual reassignment surgery a decade ago, has been burning up the track in middle-distance events, and picking up pro-

tests from other women runners along the way.

"I may be stronger and faster than the rest of the women," Carne said, "but I'm a real female through and through."



Not all transsexuals have as much to look forward to as Ricki Carne. Take Percy Segers, for example. During a brawl in a bar in Alcante, Spain, several blows to the British tourist's chest ruptured her breast implants. Correcting the damage, she said, will further delay the sexual reassignment surgery she had been saving for.

The fight broke out between several jealous transvestites, and before long, Segers was involuntarily involved in the meleé. Five of the transvestites were convicted of assault and fined \$100 each. Segers plans on suing the one who injured her, Luis Bauza, for \$1.2 million.

If Bauza has a good attorney, the case can be made that the fight actually did Segers a favor by rid- ding her of possibly dangerous silicone implants.



Breasts pose another problem for transsexual Jeri Snyder, 48, of Warner Robbins, Georgia. After taking hormones for nearly 20 years in hopes of an eventual sex-change, she has 46 D breasts. But the operation is now a dim possibility, and the "realization that I would never be a real man or a real woman drove me to mental collapse"—plus alcohol and drug abuse.

Jeri has decided that she wants to return to living as a man, but is hampered by the measurements that once kept her employed as a stripper. She doesn't have the money to have a double mastectomy. "I'm terrified at the thought that my life will end this way — in this joke of a body," she said. "I'm trapped in a living hell."



Two other transsexuals are also



## THE **N** *Paula Jordan Sinclair* **NEWSQUEEN**™

trapped in "a living hell"; it's called Cincinnati, Ohio.

Transsexual Bonnie Davis has begun transition in her home in Deer Park, a suburb of Cincinnati. Some neighbors aren't too pleased. They have threatened her life, made harassing phone calls, and pelted her house with rocks and garbage. She called police, but they were less than helpful. Deer Park Police Chief Donald Lally was quoted as saying he was doing what he can, but that Davis has brought much of the trouble on herself by being vocal and by wearing a bikini in her backyard. "He's (sic) causing a lot of controversy," Lally told a newspaper reporter. "He has become an attraction, which I think in a way is what he wants."

Meanwhile, another transsexual who had been receiving harassing phone calls was told by a Cincinnati police officer, "You look like you are big enough to take care of yourself."

♣ ♣ ♣

This must be a small town thing, for Al White, a gay rights activist who wears dresses in Boone, Iowa, was recently arrested for disorderly conduct in a supermarket.

Details are sketchy, but White allegedly "wiggled" at a female shopper who called the cops. He was held in jail overnight and released.

♣ ♣ ♣

Two Dallas drag queens were treated better by the police in that Texas city recently.

Donna Day had a few too many to drink at a local watering hole and decided to drive home. She did fine until she made a sharp left turn off Lemmon Avenue into a Blockbuster video store.

Police arrived on the scene, noted Day's inebriated condition, and took her directly to jail — the jail for women. As she was getting out of the squad car, her wig got snagged off her head. Police put her back in the car and took her to the men's facility.

Brandi Alexander was driving home a few days later when a police officer spotted her. It apparently wasn't her driving that caught the cop's attention, but her "dangerous curves." She reports that he has since called her for a date.

♣ ♣ ♣

Demand for men who dress like women came from another unexpected source recently. According to a casting call in the *Hollywood Reporter*, transvestites were needed for a new video featuring Guns 'N' Roses. But we suspect that lucky crossdressers may not be treated with all due respect by the chauvinistic band, for the call also went out for "porno queens, prostitutes, freaks, and S&M types."

♣ ♣ ♣

Not all female impersonators attract fans as easily. Take Jim Bailey for instance. Years ago, Bailey had a then-unknown comedian named Arsinio Hall open for him in Las Vegas. Hall later struck it big, but has since turned his back on Bailey by not inviting him to appear on his late-night talk show.

"Maybe it's because I wear a dress," Bailey is quoted as saying. "Well, if that's a problem for him now, it certainly wasn't when he was staring out. He's had Madonna on his show. Why doesn't he have me on as Madonna?"

Maybe Hall is afraid that Bailey will do his newest impersonation, that of Phyllis Diller. Critics have been less than kind with Bailey's latest addition to his act. While Bailey looks like Diller, and uses material that Diller could have used — or perhaps did use — one critic noted that "maybe a second-hand Diller just isn't as funny as a first-hand Diller once was."

♣ ♣ ♣

A female impersonator of another kind was getting rave reviews — until he was fired.

Darryl Malone, a 28-year-old ex-Marine, worked for eight months at

Northwest Nevada Telco, a phone sex service where he identified himself as "Raven," a silky-voiced woman who enticed male callers to talk to her for several dollars a minute. But Malone was fired because of his repeated requests to be made a supervisor. He had filed a discrimination complaint against the business because, he said, he was told he would never be promoted because he is a man.

Perhaps his failures to earn a promotion caused domestic problems as well. His wife, Donna, is a supervisor at Telco, and she suggested he start working there as Raven because of his talent for imitating sexy women's voices and because "I thought, who better for the job than a man, since a man knows what another man wants," Donna said.

♣ ♣ ♣

The surprise that the husky-voiced female you poured out your fantasies to may really be a guy is nothing compared to the reaction among Book-of-the-Month Club members when they received the March issue of *Book News* magazine. For there on the cover was a male model made up to look like a half-man, half-woman. The photo promoted two detective novels, one with a male hero, the other with a female.

The right side of the composite photo is of a male face, complete with a scruffy beard, while the left side is the same individual, now clean shaven and wearing lipstick, eyeliner, and a large hoop earring.

Readers in the Camp Hill, Pa. area, home to BOMC, are asked to be on the lookout for the model and invite him to a Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter meeting. He needs makeup first aid in the worst way!

Miss Sinclair thanks the readers who sent her clipping this month, and she apologizes for misplacing their names. She fears this is getting to be a habit. Won't you make it a habit to send her clippings regarding crossdressing in care of the Renaissance office? Don't forget to note the name and date of the publication.



The **FORUM** For Ideas

# Is it real or is it a CD?

## Change your face with a 'video mask'

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

A student in the Industrial Design department of Philadelphia's University of the Arts has come up with an idea that may change the face of crossdressing forever. At the same time, his device prompts some intriguing questions about society's response to crossdressing.

Applying present technologies in new — and perhaps impossible — ways, the student has proposed that someday people may wear masks made of super-thin video screens molded to conform to the contours of their faces. Data fed to the screen by a portable compact disk player will make it possible to look like anyone — of either gender.

"As you walk around, you can change your face into whoever or whatever you want to be," said UA student John F. Kennedy. "It is a filter, a face filter. You are empowered by it."

Kennedy, a senior at UA, developed the idea as part of a class project last fall.

Charles Burnette, chairman of the University of the Arts Industrial Design department, called Kennedy's project "electronic cosmetics."

While Kennedy's idea may sound

fantastic, it is based on present technology. Television screens have been made thin enough to hang on a wall like a picture; single ROM (read only memory) compact disks are now available that contain huge amounts of information; and video signals have been converted into data and vice versa. The only practical roadblocks are in refining these technologies to a point necessary to execute Kennedy's concept.

But, as one social critic has pointed out, rather than merely being used for cosmetic purposes, the device constitutes a mask with which individuals can hide from society.

"While humans have used masks since time immemorial, people have never been willing to tolerate their use in everyday life," notes Thomas Hines of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. "Human evolution has produced highly individualized faces, and much of the fear and magic of masks is that they deprive us of (visual) information that has been important for our species' survival."

That's something to think about. While many transgendered people may be happy presenting a face that is the spitting image of Madonna, Dianna Ross, or Cindy Crawford,

how comfortable would they be if everyone was likewise so totally disguised?

And something else to think about — is the prejudice against crossdressing not so much based on the notion of "appropriate" gender roles, but on society's fear of disguises and masks that conceal the individual behind the makeup? It seems that only humans identify each other by facial features; change the face and you effectively change the person. For other humans, this can have disconcerting results.

I recently got a cat. Zeke has seen me crossdressed on several occasions, yet he doesn't treat me any differently. To him, I am still the thing that provides food and petting. He fails to take significant note of my change in appearance because he identifies me by other clues, perhaps sound, perhaps scent, perhaps something else.

But people often react differently when they notice that I am a man "disguised" as a woman. These reactions are perhaps based on their inability to discern my "true" identity, to put me into some context that makes sense to them.

Maybe this isn't a "gender thing" after all. Maybe it's a "human thing."

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The *For Ideas*  
**FORUM**

# Proposing a new terminology for the crossdressing community

by Virginia Prince

The matter of labels in our community has come up many times and seems to be divided between those who want some sort of definition and those who say, "we don't need labels, we are just people." I submit to the latter group that categorization is the way the human mind works and, as such, descriptive terms are necessary. It would be ridiculous not to distinguish between a banana and an orange just because they are both "fruit." Likewise, it is necessary to distinguish between races, nations, kinds of people, or occupations. But the battle has largely been over what designation should be applied to

our group.

The term "transvestite" came into disfavor because it has a "medical" and thus "abnormal" pejorative flavor to it. The terms "crossdresser" or "CD" (which is simply substituting English for Latin) have come into common use. However, these are terms that say what we **do** not who we **are**. I came up with the term "Femmiphile" for the individual and "Femmiphilia" for the phenomenon, meaning literally "a lover of the feminine." These never caught on because they sound too technical even though accurate. Now I think it is time for and necessary to define a new and acceptable term for us.

I say "necessary" because there

is an aspect of this terminology problem that has not been given much consideration but that is vitally important: public perception. Like it or not, the public needs to have a descriptive term that they can easily understand and use and which is also acceptable to members of our community. We are not like alcoholics, drug abusers, criminals, voyeurs, pederasts, schizophrenics, epileptics, or a million other types of people. Therefore, we need a "handle" that other people can comfortably use to distinguish us from all other types of people and that is positive, not condemnatory.

We all seek greater public under-

*(continued on page 12)*

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The **F**ORUM *For Ideas*

# The seductive power of women's clothes *Three writers tell why men's clothes don't hack it*

Two newspaper advice columnists — nationally syndicated Ann Landers and Diane Crowley, writing for the *Chicago Sun-Times* — seem to have stumbled onto two causes of transvestism, thanks to letters from their readers.

The letter to Ann Landers was from a man complaining about the "regulation uniform" for men who work in offices: "the suit jacket and tie, a combo that has been around for only the last century or so."

"I've found that while at work, my thoughts rarely wander far from my own neck because, like a masochist, I wrapped a ropelike piece of

cloth around it before I left the house. I do so because my boss says I must.

"Often when I'm entertaining a client, the entire region beneath my jacket becomes a marsh. Every inch of my white shirt is wet..."

"Women claim that men have it easy when it comes to apparel. Men need buy only a couple of suits, and they're set. Could be. Still, when the temperature is 102, I'd love to be able to wear a flimsy cotton something-or-other. For that particular freedom, I'd trade places with a woman in a minute."

"Dear Diane," the second letter begins, "My wife bought me garter

belts and stockings, high heels, skirts, and other female clothes. I was reluctant at first, but now actually enjoy this innocent act.

"My wife also puts makeup, wig, and full female dress on me, and we go out for drives and even to restaurants.

"We both agree that dressing this way has brought us closer than ever in our 10 years of marriage..."

"I am not demented, but a healthy and law-abiding person who dresses in the clothes he wants to dress in."

Neither columnist responded to the writers' needs for acceptance of their crossdressing urges.

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# For Ideas FORUM

## Landscapes

Each day, trapped in hard core steel and  
 glass,  
 Wingtips and boxer shorts.  
 Short of nail, of hair, of heel.  
 He broods like a lunatic sitting near the  
 moon.  
 He studies the pretty ones  
 Dressed in silk and nuances.  
 They catch his glance,  
 But not his meaning.

On the way home from work,  
 He can stop in to the ladies' shop.  
 Looking but not sampling  
 And it's sweet but it is sorrow.  
 Some of them notice that he lingers  
 Too long, too knowledgeable, like them.  
 But only more so.

One night soon though,  
 He burns through the forest where he is  
 hidden  
 With a raging lust. He strips the body hair  
 To a smooth and important silky sheen.  
 Down to the painted toes, and naked  
 belly  
 Sitting on top of some private panties,  
 He begins the search party  
 To bring her back alive as ever. Soon

She is coy  
 Encased in lips as full as,  
 Legs as poised as,  
 Dressed as all as,  
 Losing words, but making all of it up  
 As she goes along.

— Sheila Mills

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The *For Ideas*  
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# Proposing a new terminology

(continued from page 9)

standing and acceptance, but it hasn't seemed to occur to many that we can't achieve either until (1) we have a convenient term for all to use and, (2) that term is easily understood by all who use it. That is, a term that doesn't sound too medical or technical. If we are to talk to people (as on talk shows and lectures, not one-on-one conversations) they need a term they can relate to practically the first time they hear it.

There have been a lot of "cutesy" names invented for us like "femmenmen," "girl-guys," "he-shes," "femmemales" and "she-males." (This last term has been preempted by a special class of people having both breasts and penis, and who like to be photographed in all manner of sexual poses. Unfortunately, many of the pornographic magazines that show these people use the terms "TV" and "Transvestite" in their titles, making the terms even more confusing and untenable for us.) But, these cutesy names are no good for public use.

Therefore, I would like to propose new terms, namely, *Bigenderist*, and *Bigenderal* for the community at large. The terms means that we are able to express two genders, the masculine and the feminine. Therefore, they describe not what we do, but what we are. They are short and convenient. Best of all, similar terms are already widely used and understood in society. The term "Bisexual" is known to most everyone to mean someone who can and does perform sexually with members of both the same and opposite sex. Since it is important for us to have the public understand us, it is important to both us and the general public to make a distinction between **sex** and **gender**. The public already knows that

"bisexual" refers to people who can operate in both sex roles, so "bigenderal" refers to people who can operate in both gender roles. The term "bigenderal" is valuable because it aids the distinction between sex and gender.

In addition to bisexual, everybody is well acquainted with the use of the prefix "bi-" in the following:  
*Bilateral* — two or both sides of  
*Bicameral* — two legislative chambers

*Bipartite* — two parts

*Bilingual* — two languages

*Bicentennial* — 200th anniversary

*Biennial* — every two years

*Bimetallic* — two metals

*Bifurcate* — division into two parts

*Bipedal* — two feet (as opposed to a quadruped)

*Bivalve* — two valves (as in clams and muscles)

*Bipolar* — two poles (as in magnets)

My point is not to show the whole dictionary but to point out that the prefix "bi-" is well used in the English language and, therefore, well understood. So, to refer to us as bigenderal, i.e., having or expressing two genders, not only defines us but promotes the awareness of the separation of sex and gender. This is an important point since the confusion of sex and gender is the basis of our difficulties with society.

It should be pointed out that while "bi-" means two, "trans" means across or beyond. Thus, the terms

"transgenderist" and "transsexual" remain valid and appropriate since the former indicates the individual has crossed the *gender* border and taken up residence, permanently, on the other side in the opposite gender, and the latter refers to people who have crossed the *sexual* border for permanent living as a member of the opposite sex. The fact that transsexuals have also crossed the gender border is secondary and incidental.

The commonly used term "transgendered" to describe the community is not correct because most of the members of the community have not "trans-ed" anything, except on a very temporary basis. The consistent and, therefore, proper word to describe the community as a whole should be "bigendered," which it is.

I hope the word "bigenderal" will be adopted and promoted in books, newsletters, lectures, etc., until we have **one** generally accepted word within our community — one we can gradually teach to society in general and the professional community in particular. Your help in achieving this goal will be appreciated by all.

⇒ *We believe that any group of people has the right to call themselves what they wish. Ms. Prince has made a strong case. Do you think of yourself as a "bigenderist"? Write with your opinion.*

— PJS

## Quote/unquote...

**"I am convinced that salvation is found in being faithful to the struggle."**

— *Seattle Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen on the occasion of his retirement. Hunthausen's struggle was with the Vatican because of his support for the rights of sexual minorities.*



The **F**ORUM *For Ideas*

Book review

# 'Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Cross-Dress' by Magnus Hirschfeld

*Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Cross-dress* by Magnus Hirschfeld, M.D.; translated by Michael A. Lombardi-Nash, Ph.D.; Prometheus Books.

Reviewed by Marie Kuda

It is singularly appropriate that Hirschfeld's book should appear in its first English translation just as the exhibition "Degenerate Art: The fate of the Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany" makes its way cross country. This exhibition features a literature gallery which contained books on the Nazi's list of banned titles, copies of which were consigned to the flames in the infamous book-burnings of 1933.

As a writer, reader, and a lesbian concerned with censorship issues, I found Erwin Leiser's dramatic film footage of the book bonfire heart-wrenching in the extreme. Along with books by Thomas Mann, Anna Segher, Dos Passos, Hemingway, and Vicki Baum, works by Hirsch-

feld fed those flames.

Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935) was a pioneer in what has become known as sex research. He was the first to utilize large numbers of sexual surveys at his Institute for Sexual Science in Berlin. Much of his early research was underutilized by other researchers who felt it was biased by his own declared homosexuality. When the Nazis carted away the archives of his institute, the death knell sounded for the German homosexual emancipation movement which had begun in the late 1890s.

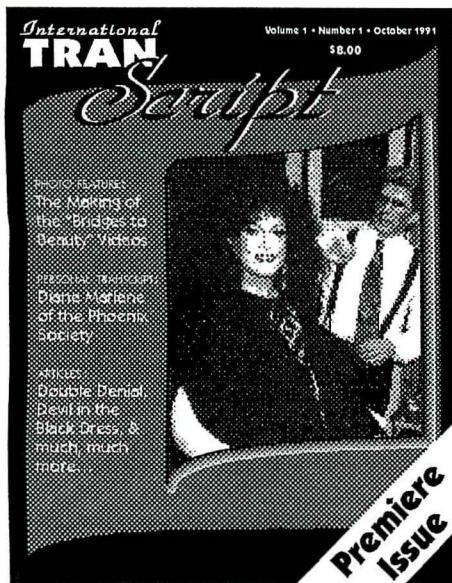
"Transvestite" was a term coined by Hirschfeld (the "third sex" for homosexuals was one of his, too), and he was the first to separate the phenomenon as distinct from female (or male) impersonation and homosexuality. This translation makes available the 17 original case histories (16 male, one female) from which

he drew his conclusions on transvestism. But the volume also includes a third section on "Ethnology and History," containing 14 essays on subjects as varied as "Transvestites on Thrones" to "Suicide in the Clothing of the Other Sex."

Women should not feel neglected: monks, soldiers, even headwaiters, and Dr. James Barry (one of but many military doctors)—all women—grace these pages. And Hirschfeld reminds us, Jeanne d' Arc was burned at the stake for the heresy of wearing men's clothes.

Lombardi-Nash, a graduate from the ONE Institute Graduate School of Homophile Studies in Los Angeles, has done an admirable job with the translations. However, as sexologist Vern Bullough's introduction notes, Hirschfeld was weak as a writer, "misidentifying sources or giving incomplete citations." But for

*(continued on page 15)*



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# 'Dragphobia' emerges as an issue in lesbian and gay community

(continued from page 5)

Roberts, a Queer Nation member, says it is sexism and misogyny.

"It is the hatred against women and the misguided belief in our society that woman are somehow inferior," he said. "this belief is all too prominent and typical in our community."

He says that society degrades the feminine and extols the masculine. "Growing up a gay male, and being shamed for being one, means that I was ridiculed for being woman-like. I was often called a

'sissy' or 'pansy' or a 'girl.' In fact, being called a 'girl' was perceived as being the ultimate insult by the boys who called me that." Many gay men, he asserts, had similar experiences, and therefore make extraordinary efforts to separate themselves from men who choose to — or need to — act like women.

"If gay men reject femininity, which means keeping crossdressers away from the party, then they embrace sexism," he said.

So who has the responsibility to solve the problem? Should transgen-

dered people abandon gay bars and lesbian music festivals? If they don't want us, then we don't need them, right? But it's not all that clear that the lesbian and gay community doesn't want us. Their leaders often speak about the value of diversity within the community, and in many cities, lesbian and gay organizations actively support transgendered groups, realizing that sexual minorities must band together for greater strength. If lesbian and gay leaders are serious about the value of diversity, isn't it up to them to accept us? That is the solution Roberts and others propose.

"The answer," says Roberts, "is not in embracing the male dominated, straight-world model but in creating our own where man equals woman and woman equals man, and everything in between is fabulous."

## Drag's popularity continues

(continued from page 5)

what make us beautiful."

Polito studied art at the fashion Institute of Technology in New York. His senior project included a series of self-portraits in drag. The head of the department selected one of these for the end-of-year show, but rejected it when she learned what it actually represented. Polito sneaked the piece back into the exhibit, and appeared at the opening in drag.

So far, he has produced two issues of *Drag Nett*.

Drag Queens Brandywine and Brenda A Go Go have put drag on television. The two host "Drag TV" on Manhattan Cable's Channel 16 every Friday night at 9:30 p.m. Critics call the show a "warped, gen-

der-f-k version of 'Saturday Night Live,' with skits and vignettes featuring a raunchy repertoire of be-wigged regulars."

## Sex-change Tula to have a baby

That was the headline last month in the supermarket tabloid *The Sun*. But the story wasn't quite as sensational as the headline implied. This was not a medical miracle in the offing. Instead, it was a story of surrogate parenting, something that is relatively common nowadays.

It seems that Carolyn Cossey's sister, Pam, has agreed to be artificially inseminated and carry the baby for Tula. According to the re-

port, the sperm will come from Tula's 27-year-old fiancée. David Finch, reportedly a Canadian.

The report quoted Tula as saying that she didn't care if the baby was a boy or a girl, "just as long as it isn't a transsexual. I had such an unhappy, mixed-up childhood growing up and feeling like I was trapped inside a male body. I would hate to see a child of mine facing the same trauma."

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## Underage policy enacted

# 'Do your parents know you're here?'

At its first meeting of 1992, the Renaissance national board adopted the following policy:

"The bylaws of this organization specify that a person must be 18 year old or older to be a dues-paying member of Renaissance. The bylaws, however, do not specify any age criteria for attending a Renaissance meeting. The need for such a

policy arose from a request by a minor to attend a local chapter meeting. Considering that transvestism and transsexualism are extremely sensitive subjects for the general public, the national board of directors adopted the following policy by unanimous vote. All chapters must uphold this policy and operate accordingly.

"No chapter will knowingly permit a minor to attend a Renaissance meeting unless the minor is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

"Failure to adhere to or uphold this policy shall be grounds for revocation of chapter status."



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If your membership is shown expiring in 1991, this is the last RN you will receive until you pay your 1992 dues (unless have renewed within the past three weeks).

For prompt resolution of problems or to speed your renewal payment, write Beth Marshall, co-director of national membership, P.O. Box 1035, Drexel Hill, PA 19026.

## 'Transvestites' by Hirschfeld

(continued from page 13)

all his sloppiness, Hirschfeld's book is still the cornerstone for later studies of transvestism and transsexualism. One would have wished, however, that the current edition could have been indexed, particularly to make accessible the wealth of historical material in the later chapters.

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WAYLAND, MASS. - One of our best resources...

I mentioned a book last month called *Vested Interests: Cross Dressing and Cultural Anxiety* by **Marjorie Garber** (Rout, publisher) of Harvard University. Well, at this writing I'm still waiting for my special-order copy to arrive at my local bookstore, but you don't have to wait four weeks like I do.

Speaking with **Yvonne Cook** at IFGE, she tells me that they have the book in stock for \$35 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. Call 617-899-2212 to order your copy. The book is also available in Philadelphia at Giovanni's Room.

IFGE also has released a second printing of **Dr. Sheila Kirk's** book *Hormones*. The first printing sold out fast, and I'm not surprised at all. See the next item.



DENVER, COLO. - Yes, Shirley, there are TVs who don't take hormones...

The December '91 issue of the *GIC Journal* (**Gender Identity Center, Inc.**) had an article by **Shirley Kay**, a woman (real) whom I much admire, concerning the rampant use of hormones by non-transsexual persons.

Spurred by the information that yet another of their "crossdressing" friends had started on hormones, Kay takes on the issue of "peer pressure" within the community. She says that some TVs: "...feel pressured by other members of the community to express only the feminine. Some have expressed feelings of inferiority because they choose not to have chemically induced curves... They feel undo pressure to attend meetings only en femme, or accept the ultimate goal of living full-time."

Way to go Shirley for having the courage to speak out. Far too many people are taking hormones who shouldn't be and some of those are deluded into believing that reas-

signment surgery is the next step.

Shirley, tell your partner not to worry, there are lots of us who don't take hormones. Maybe you guys just hang with the wrong crowd.



INDIANAPOLIS, IND. - And they got MAD at me...

Those wacky, crazy gals at the **Indiana Crossdressers Society** got upset when I called their newsletter the *MAD Magazine* of the gender community, yet they seem to have taken the idea to heart.

The January issue of the *IXE Newsletter* carried a parody of **Merissa Sherril Lynn's** editorial from *Tapestry* #58. If you recall, in that editorial Lynn justified her decision to have reassignment surgery.

The parody, *My Surgerooy*, is a justification for what seems to be hemorrhoid surgery for one Sarah Rhonda Loo, a fictitious member of IXE, who wants to be a "legal and functional freehem."

The parody is quite funny on one level, yet, on another, it mirrors the anger within the community over *Tapestry* #59. In that issue, Lynn devoted 22 pages of text directly related to her reassignment and included 20 photos of herself.

Lynn is editor-in-chief of *Tapestry*, the official publication of the **International Foundation for Gender Education** (IFGE). Critics are wondering if the foundation has become too oriented toward transsexuals. One critic, who prefers to remain anonymous, opined, "they [IFGE] only care about TVs enough to get their money so they can support these TS programs."

I don't think that has happened or will happen. I do think Lynn made a bad call putting six articles in a single issue, but she's the boss.



ISLE OF WIGHT, U.K. - Can you, will you help?...

Our intrepid world explorer, **Miss**

**Phaedra Kelly**, has been trying for about two years now to raise sufficient funds to visit various foreign countries and spread the word about the growing international transgender community. So far, she hasn't had much help.

Miss Kelly was the one to make contact with **Demet Demir**, the Turkish tran who was beaten and imprisoned. Phaedra wants to return to Turkey but needs about \$2000 in travel funds. She's asked IFGE several times to fund her work but they have declined.

If I had the cash, I'd fund her myself, but I don't. If anyone is willing to help make a difference in the greater world community, please send a contribution to me. I'll see that it gets converted to English pounds and into Phaedra's hands.

The **Renaissance** national board started the ball rolling last month by voting unanimously to send \$100 to Phaedra.



LOS ANGELES, CALIF. - In unity there is strength...

Three of the major crossdresser's support groups met in October to establish better communications and see if they could work together, according to a report in the *CHIC Diary*. The clubs, while not specifically mentioned seemed to be **CHIC**, **Powder Puffs of Orange County**, and, I assume, **Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess**. The three groups agreed to participate in the local "Toys for Tots" program by making a donation in the name of **The Crossdressing Clubs of L.A. & Orange County**. Nice idea!



TRENTON, N.J. - If you think I get cranky, you ain't seen nuthin'...

The **Sigma Nu Rho** chapter of **Tri-Ess** has been getting a bad deal lately. A lot of people still seem to think it has folded and that has chapter president, **Donna Marie** steaming hot.



THE **ICONOCLAST**™  
JoAnn Roberts

**Charlene** at the **Chi Delta Mu** chapter wrote to the IFGE *Tapestry* and told them to delete the **SNP** chapter and to change the **South Jersey Renaissance** address and phone number to **XAM's**.

When I investigated the change in the listing, I decided the error was unintentional. The matter was corrected but pursued no farther.

Donna Marie is not satisfied that the change was so innocent. According to her editorial in the December issue of *News Briefs*, she informed Charlene of her intention to keep **SNP** alive five days before Charlene sent her letter to IFGE.

Donna Marie wants Charlene, and then **XAM** president Joanne, to personally apologize to all parties involved.

I don't think that's really necessary. I spoke with Charlene shortly after the incident and she was profusely apologetic. I still believe this was an "administrivial" goof. Let's let sleeping dogs lie.

▼▲▼

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** - Open mouth; Insert foot...

A very prominent member of our community announced on television that transgender behavior is caused by "defective genes." So goes a report in the December, 1991 issue of *FIESTA!*, the newsletter from the **Fiesta Chapter of Tri-Ess**.

A letter addressed to *FIESTA!* by **Neil Isbin**, president of the **New Mexico Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance**, was reprinted after two transvestites appeared on a local talk show. Isbin admonished them thus, "Natural differences that are not harmful should be referred to as natural variants and not defects." "Otherwise," Isbin said, "[they] did a good job to reduce fears and promote understanding of transgender behavior."

No inquiries have been received from the show to date. No wonder on that. Would you want to admit

you have "defective genes?"

This wonderfully ludicrous quip goes into the Hall of Shame with a quote from a transvestite on a radio talk show a few years ago who said, "The sperm doesn't fully penetrate the egg and that's why we're crossdressers." Not true!

Both of these ridiculous remarks point out the need for a national speaker's training program and clearinghouse. Can we afford PR like this for the community?

▼▲▼

**TORONTO, CANADA** - I wonder when they'll start selling stock...

The former **Toronto Cross-Dresser Club** has undergone an expansion once again to become the **Canadian CrossDresser Club**.

Slightly over a year ago the **TCDC** was founded by **Paddy Aldridge** and her partner **Veronica Brown**. According to Brown and Aldridge, since there is virtually no "organized" TV community in Canada, they felt they had the expertise and resources to create one. The new organization is an extension of the old one in that the **CCDC** is *not* a non-profit organization and has no officers. This, says Brown, keeps out the political in-fighting and allows the organization to get things done.

Well, they appear to be doing something right. The new organization also has a new magazine, *The Canadian CrossDresser*.

Anyone interested in joining the **CCDC** should contact them through **Wildside, Inc.**, 429C Dundas St. E., Toronto, Ont., Canada M5A-2A9.

▼▲▼

**EVERYWHERE, U.S.A.** - Plan your vacations accordingly...

Here's a quick list of upcoming events for our community:

April 6-12, IFGE Annual Convention, Houston, Tex., IFGE.

April 29-May 3, California Dreamin', L.A., PPOC.

May 13-17, ESPRIT 92, Port Angeles, Wash., Emerald City.

May 14-17, Paradise In The Poconos, Pa., Creative Design Services.

June 11-14, Be All Convention, Detroit, Mich., Crossroads.

Contact the event sponsor, your local IFGE representative or IFGE itself to get more information.

▼▲▼

A little over a year ago, we received a request for affiliation from **EON**, an up-state New York group that seemed to have revitalized itself and was growing in leaps and bounds. All that is now in question with a recent "take-over" by three of **EON's** board members.

In what sounds like a script for the movie *Wall Street*, **Charliss D.**, **Angela S.**, and **Audrey M.**, wrested control of the growing group by filing incorporation papers with the state naming themselves as the sole members of what used to be a six- or seven-member board of directors.

The new organization still wanted to affiliate with **Renaissance National**, but the radical change prompted **Renaissance** to explicitly request a copy of the new organization's bylaws. A lot of paper has passed between here and there but none of it has been the new bylaws.

More serious is the resulting rift in the Syracuse gender community. **Molly Kennedy** and **Diana A.**, former members of the **EON** board, disenfranchised in the process and furious with the incorporating trio, have formed a new organization called the **Syracuse Alliance for Alternative Gender Education**. The new group claims almost half the membership of the old **EON**.

This was a struggle about power, control, and male egos and is nothing to be proud about.

▼▲▼

**NOTA BENE** - The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone. If you have a comment, positive or negative, write me at P.O. Box 61263, KofP, PA 19406-1263.



# Brenda Davidson:

## Motorcycle racing and crossdressing

Brenda Davidson, managing director of the Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter of Renaissance, appears as a "Profile" subject in the latest issue of *LadyLike* magazine, a slick, international publication for "sincere crossdressers."

As in all "Profiles," Davidson reveals her early experiences with crossdressing, along with the problems of being a transvestite. Like many of us, she abandoned crossdressing several times, but found that left her with "empty feelings." Returning to crossdressing made her feel "in tune with myself."

But the new happiness made her wife both suspicious and jealous. They were divorced after she found Brenda's wardrobe. But Brenda was only free to dress for a short while. She soon met a girl, and they began a relationship. "I purged Brenda into the Goodwill bin, and we moved in together," she said.

As the urge to dress returned, Brenda decided she had to tell her girlfriend of her crossdressing.

"If she accepted me — great! If she didn't, then I wasn't going to put us through the mental anguish I had experienced in the past," Brenda said.

She did accept it, "the doubt was dispelled," they were married, "and we continue to build our life together."

In addition to her family and crossdressing, Brenda has a deep interest in motorcycle road racing. A photo of her in a race is included in the article, along with several photos of her crossdressed, including one in motorcycle leather.

Motorcycle racing also provides an analogy for Brenda's process of coming out.

"Every corner in a race is a flirtation with disaster. On each subsequent lap, you enter it a little harder,

a little faster until everything, the breaking, the tires, the angle of lean, and your reflexes are right on the edge. It is also necessary to develop the skill of going over the edge just enough to define the boundaries, or else, how will you know it is there?"

"With these principles in mind, I began my inquiry into the transgendered community. So far, the corners have been relatively easy and the most direct line through them has been easy to achieve.

"In closing, it must be said that I am enjoying my new role in the community. I have met many people and never fail to find a special quality in each one of them. I've taken up the cause for much the same reasons that I enjoy the challenges of motorcycle road racing: showing others there are achievements to reach for, and limitations we have yet to discover."



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