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#75

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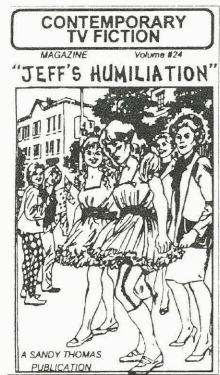
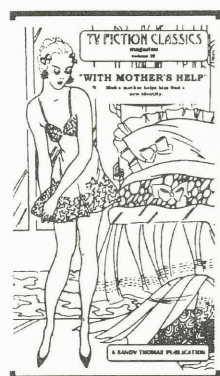
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CROSS-TALK

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JANUARY 1996
 (ISSUE #75)



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[Linda Peacock, who wrote the "Woman To Woman" column, has resigned from the Cross-Talk staff.]

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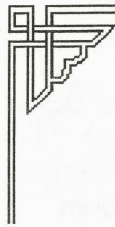


KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

GOOD TASTE AND COMMON SENSE

by Kimberleigh Richards
Publisher & Managing Editor

I have been at the forefront of a revolution for the last few years ... a revolution in how society perceives the transgendered and learns to better tolerate (if not accept) us. I consider myself a leader in this revolution, if for no other reason than my life is that of an openly



"I get easily irritated by those in our community whose words and actions have the effect of undermining our best efforts."

transgendered person who makes no apologies for who and what she is. Since I make every effort to make myself more "palatable" to the mainstream and I choose my words carefully when discussing the phenomenon of transgenderism to those who know little more than what the tabloid media has disseminated, I get easily irritated by those in our community whose words and actions have the effect of undermining our best efforts.

I am not going to name names here, although those who observe this community will undoubtedly recognize, in most cases, the individuals I am using as examples. I do this because I do not wish to embarrass them beyond what their own efforts have already accomplished, and also because in many cases you, the reader, will know someone who almost nearly fits the example and will hopefully approach that person in a spirit of friendly advice.

One of my least favorite people is a CD who believes it is entirely appropriate for someone in their thirties to dress publicly as a teenager would. Unfortunately, this person does not even *remotely* have the body for this, and also manages to compound her error by wearing wigs that apparently haven't seen a brush since the day they were purchased and a makeup job so garish it is truly terrifying to look at. Yet this person, upon being read, joyfully engages members of the public in her own convoluted version of outreach. (One major community weekend has declared her *persona non grata* because they don't want to handle damage control with the hotel later. I kid you not.)

There is also a sparring partner of mine on the Internet, who insists that because she is a post-op transsexual, that her view -- and only her view -- of transgenderism is valid.

To her, every TG is a non-op TS; those who conceal parts of their past to avoid difficulty are "transphobic"; and every helping professional is really out to get us. (And those are only her most recurrent themes.) Once, when she said something I agreed with, and I said so, she denounced me for agreeing with her!

Then there are a couple of our activist leaders. One is ready to haul out the picket signs at the merest hint that someone might be offending us, even if most in the community found nothing to be upset about; the other makes political demands that are not always

achievable and then condemns those who fail to achieve her demands.

I must not forget the publisher of a well-known magazine who loudly proclaims that it is serving our community's best interests, yet has to sensationalize the magazine's content by including photographs and artwork of people with both breasts and penises because "that's what sells."

Several in my acquaintance believe the words "crossdresser", "transgenderist", and "transsexual" are stigmatizing and insist on using phrases such as "gender conflicted" to describe themselves. A few have withdrawn articles for publication in *Cross-Talk* because I wouldn't change *our* style book to fit *their* preferences.

All of these people are, to some degree, well-intentioned, but they all are also ignorant of some fundamental realities.

First, and foremost, if you are going to strive for tolerance and acceptance, you have to realize that a sane, non-threatening image is going to put you in a much better position. Appearing as the "crossdresser from hell" only reinforces society's perception that we are all crazy; insistence on portraying all transgendered people as sexual objects convinces the general public that they were right in believing that we are all perverted; picketing over an issue most find a non-issue makes us look like a very angry and emotionally unbalanced lot.

Second, coalition-building is necessary. Alienating allies is counterproductive. If a gay political action organization has to eliminate transgender concerns in order to keep from losing potential gains, we cannot condemn them for this.

(continued on page 14)



The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Well, that is it! Ms. Sinclair is on the verge of giving up drag all together. This most pleasant pastime now has been sullied by shameless (s)exploitation not seen since Morton Downey Jr. left the television airways. All she can say is that when Howard Stern gets into drag, its time for the rest of us right-thinking folks to get out! For those of you who have just returned from Mars, the "Queen of all Media" has just published his second book, *Miss America*. On the cover of same Stern appears in full drag, his long hair coiffed, his face painted, and his falsies peeking coyly from his bodice. The picture evidently has something to do with a gag running through the book that Stern could become the next Miss America. Continuing this outrageous notion, Stern and other members of his syndicated radio program (Robin Quivers, Gary Dell'Abate, and Scott the engineer) donned outlandish drag costumes for publicity photos. And Stern even appeared in drag at a book signing at Brentano's on New York's Fifth Avenue (looking remarkably like Milton Berle).

Ms. Sinclair is not the only one offended by Stern's antics. Lawyers representing the Miss America organization wrote Stern's publishers complaining that the book sullies the pageant's good name and contains "photographs that have been called tasteless." Ms. Sinclair assumes that the attorneys objected to other photos besides the cover shot. All of this hype must have worked, for within a week of its publication, the book topped the *New York Times* best-seller list, displacing Colin Powell's *My American Journey*. But one wonders. If it hadn't have been for all of drag's recent visibility, would Stern have jeopardized his masculinity by appearing in front of his fans dressed as a woman?

Of course, there is another reason why Stern decided now



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was a good time to start doing drag. His book came out in early November, just two weeks before New York City's Club 58 held "The First Annual Best Female Impersonator of America Contest." Yes, that's it! Stern wanted to log some practice time in his high heels and test his wardrobe in front of his fans before taking to the runway at Club 58.

But Howard was too late for "The *Ultimate* Female Impersonator Pageant" held recently in Las Vegas' Riviera Casino, home of "An Evening at La Cage." Colorado hairdresser David MacDonald took away the \$5,000 first prize with his impersonation of Reba McEntire.

As many believe, the reigning *ultimate* female impersonator is RuPaul. She is the Energizer Bunny of drag with more mysterious appearances than the Virgin Mary. Her latest such appearance is on the cover of the *1996 Shopping Guide for Caring Consumers* put out by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The list of products that are *not* tested on animals includes M.A.C. cosmetics, the line that Miss Paul shills for. Guess this means we won't be seeing Ru wearing that drag queen standby, the feather boa. But we may be seeing her in a new movie -- *National Lampoon's Love Boat*, to be directed by Steve Miner. Casting isn't completed, but Miner hopes to team RuPaul with Charo as romantic rivals and for a "very twisted" singing duet.

More new movie news ... Last month, Ms. Sinclair told you that Drew Barrymore has been cast to play Brandon Teena, the pre-op male-to-female transsexual who was murdered in Nebraska two years ago. The working title is *All She Wanted*. Now Ms. Sinclair hears that there are two other movies about Teena in the works. One is an independent film by Rachel Horowitz (sister of Beastie Boy Adam Horowitz) which is certain to be politically correct. The other is presently just a script by Mark Christopher (*The Dead Boy's Club*).

From France comes news that makes David MacDonald and RuPaul merely penultimate female impersonators; the *top* ranking goes to any one of the six men who posed in

the nude as centerfold models for *La Femme* magazine. The magazine editors had more than a little egg on their faces when a unnamed photographer revealed that six of the many nude layouts he shot for the magazine actually featured men posing as women. He said he used creative poses and clever camera angles to pull off the hoax. "We have been the victim of an embarrassing prank by some very unprofessional people," managing editor Jacques Bavastro wrote in a recent issue of the magazine. "We hope our readers can forgive us." It seems that fifty million Frenchmen can be wrong after all.



Speaking about the printed word, three books relating to drag have been published recently:

Drag Diaries by Catherine Chermayeff, Jonathan David, and Nan Richardson (Chronicle Books). This is a coffee table book about drag, including a history of drag, a drag shopping guide, a drag calendar, a drag bibliography, a drag filmography, and interviews with today's leading ladies, both the overexposed and the underappreciated.

Tokyo Love by Nan Goldin and Nobuyoshi Araki (Scalo Publishers). Two years ago Goldin turned her camera toward the drag scene in the West and produced *The Other Side*. Now she collaborates with Araki to look at the Tokyo club scene.

Drag Queen by Robert Rodi (Dutton). This is a gay-themed novel set in Chicago. Naturally, drag plays a part in the plot. During an interview promoting his book, Rodi made an interesting observation about drag: "I have a theory that drag queens are the modern equivalent of what clowns used to be, back before they were sanitized. Clowns used to have a dark side, an edge to them. They were funny, but they also made you nervous. They threw all the accepted norms and values into stark relief so you can never take them for granted."



And speaking about clowns, how about those clowns at Hooters who used really bad drag to make fun of the federal equal opportunity commission warning that the restaurant chain could find itself with a discrimination complaint if it didn't open its waitress ranks to men. Now Ms. Sinclair imagines that there are a lot of thin, young queens out there who can't wait to slip into the famous Hooters hot pants and baby tees and strut some really good drag. But that isn't what this is about. It's about discrimination; employment discrimination that is just as ugly whether it is practiced in a San Francisco sheet metal shop or in a T&A emporium like Hooters. Besides, she might even patronize the place if she could be assured of being served by a hot stud.



Ms. Sinclair regrets that her deadline schedule often causes her to file late reports on significant events. So

without further delay, she'll turn to Halloween ...

A cherished tradition in San Francisco's gay and lesbian community ended this year after more than a two decade run. The annual event began spontaneously more than 20 years ago on a gay stretch of Polk Street, then moved to the larger venue of the Castro district in 1979. During recent years, it grew ever more elaborate, featuring live bands, skits and costume contests. And each year, the number of participants swelled. By the end of the 1994 party, which attracted as many as 500,000 people, organizers concluded it was time to search for a new location. They have not yet found one, but they say this is the last year the party will be held in the Castro. The huge annual party faced mounting criticism from Castro district residents and merchants as well as from partygoers who felt threatened by the rowdiness of a few. Among the troublemakers have been young gay-bashers who have lurked at the edges of the crowd and occasionally attacked people they thought were gay. Guys in dresses were prime candidates.



The huge and troublesome success of San Francisco's Halloween party was covered by some pretty strange media -- among them the staid *Wall Street Journal*. Readers were probably shocked to see a honest-to-goodness drag queen portrayed on the front page in the *Journal's* traditional line-drawing style. She was

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Sister Olive O'Suddin of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a group that is, the newspaper explained, "kind of a gay Lions' Club in habits." Not missing the financial angle, the money-minded *Journal* informed its readers that Halloween is big business in San Francisco. The city's largest costume shop had to hire extra staff "to keep up with the demand for drag gear," and the manager of the shop was quoted as telling about the man who spent \$1,600 on a custom made outfit that included a rainbow-colored bustier with a matching feather boa and bra. "This isn't a city where people buy \$1.98 skeleton suits at Kmart," the manager said. "Halloween is huge here. After this, Christmas is anticlimactic."



Halloween is also huge in West Hollywood, but there, too, the popularity has a downside. Three years ago, an estimated 60,000 people attended the annual street parade along Santa Monica Boulevard, and the city put the event in the hands of a promoter and sold licenses to street vendors. This year's crowd was an estimated 100,000, many of whom were spectators. The changes, traditionalists say, have resulted in a sanitized and purified city-sponsored "Halloween Costume Carnival," not the renegade romp down the community's main drag. "There is nothing worse than outrageous fun that has been legitimized," said openly gay City Councilman Steve Martin.



School officials in Ravena, N.Y. tried to sanitize Halloween at the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School by banning drag. But only for men. Two boys who showed up for school dressed as women were sent home to change to more appropriate clothing, while girls who donned male drag were permitted to stay in class.



When a boy in Illinois showed at his fifth grade class wearing girl's clothes, he didn't get into trouble, his parents did. The stunned teacher immediately called the unidentified boy's parents when the pupil showed up wearing a miniskirt and makeup. When the boy's mother said she made her son dress that way as punishment for misbehaving, the teacher notified a child-welfare agency which began investigating the parents for possible child abuse.




A Fayetteville, Ga., woman got into trouble with the law for a transgendered escape involving her two sons, but she was only trying to help the boys, not punish them. Linda Haney, 47, was given three years probation and ordered to have counseling after she gave female hormones to her sons. Haney was taking the female hormones herself last year when she started giving doses to her two sons, now ages 11 and 9, said Randy Coggins, an assistant district

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attorney. "She said, 'It made me feel good so I thought it would make them feel good,'" said Coggins. "She said she didn't realize she'd given them something harmful." Coggins said it doesn't appear the boys suffered any permanent damage.



It wasn't Halloween that prompted Officer Jerry Lozner to show up for his promotion test at the Metro-Dade Police Department dressed as a woman. Nor was he trying out for a spot on the Miami "granny squad." The 12-year veteran wore high heels, stockings, a dress, a red wig, makeup, and even red nail polish to protest a department rule that promotional candidates wear their uniforms or suits when taking the exam. One of Lozner's colleagues noted that he had "a good manicure -- there was no polish on the cuticles."



Perhaps the reason why Lozner's stunt didn't raise more eyebrows is that Florida law enforcement is no stranger to the transgendered movement. Consider the case of Hillsborough County Deputy Sheriff Tonye Baretto-Neto, a founding member of Transgendered Officers Protect and Serve (TOPS). Baretto-Neto, a female-to-male transsexual, is featured in a segment scheduled to air on ABC's 20/20 about TOPS, the National Gender Lobbying Day, and the growing transgender rights movement.



But acceptance of the transgendered is not limited to Florida. The government of Costa Rica has launched a program to teach police to respect transvestites and homosexuals. The program is apparently the result of lawsuits filed by drag queens who were abused by cops. Shades of Stonewall!



Officials in Malaysia's southern state of Johor are considering setting up "rehabilitation centers" for transvestites who frequently work as prostitutes in the nation's largest cities. After a member of the state assembly urged police to crack down on Kuala Lumpur's transvestites, officials with the state welfare department said they would look into ways to "check the activity which mostly occurs in dimly lit alleys and slum areas." No details of the "rehabilitation centers" were outlined, but a welfare department official said they would offer counseling and vocational and technical training for transvestites "so they can become useful citizens instead of soliciting."



Nearly two-thirds of all Malaysians are Muslim, but not all Muslims treat transvestites the same. Iranians have a more direct way of dealing with men who dress as women -- they whip them in public. A 31-year-old man identified only as Mohsen bet his father that he could get away with

riding in the women-only section of a bus. He not only lost the bet, but an Islamic court sentenced him to 20 lashes for actions "obscene and against social norms." Under Islamic law, men and women must sit in different sections of state-owned buses. When Mohsen sat in the women's section, the women were infuriated and some of them hit him. Since Iranian women must be covered from head to ankle when in public, how did the other passengers penetrate Mohsen's disguise? He wore his own shoes.

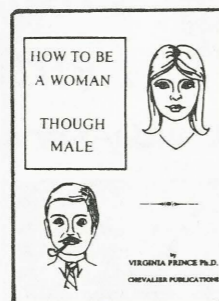


Another Iranian man evidently went to greater pains to pass as a woman and succeeded in cheating 18 lonely men out of their money by promising to marry them. There was no word on what punishment he received.



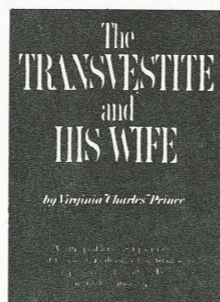
Don't tell *The Wall Street Journal*, but crossdressing for profit seems to be a growth industry. The Japanese are gaga over advertisements using Western models, but they don't look too closely at the details. When a Japanese company wanted a certain style of young boy for an ad, a modeling agency produced 40 Western boys for an audition. All were turned down by the director because they didn't have the right look. But then he saw a child who was exactly right. Terms were negotiated, a contract was signed, and the commercial was filmed. You guessed it, the

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child actor was a girl.



Denver police weren't much more on the ball when they arrested Jimmie Joe McGee on prostitution charges recently. Only after McGee spent 15 hours in the men's jail and had sex with two inmates did police realize that he was actually a woman. Another inmate ratted. McGee, 38, said she willingly had sex with the inmates -- one of whom was a friend -- for free, so police didn't add to her charge sheet. "We've had very effeminate-looking males come into the jail, including transsexuals and transvestites," said Captain Carlos Jackson. "Those are things that contributed to the mistake."



Elsewhere in Colorado a case of mistaken identity has taken a much more serious turn. After Sean O'Neil, 20, was arrested on a minor charge, Colorado Springs police discovered that the person they had in custody was actually a woman. One thing lead to another, and authorities learned that as a teenager O'Neil engaged in consensual sex with four teenage girls. The girls claimed that they did not know O'Neil was a woman. O'Neil does not use the words "transsexual" or "transgendered," and reportedly has a fluid approach to gender. He lives primarily as a man and prefers male pronouns.

O'Neil's sex partners at first refused to cooperate with authorities, but in response to pressure for their parents, police, and the prosecutor, they filed charges against him. Authorities have charged O'Neil with 11 felony counts, including sexual assault, criminal impersonation, and sexual assault on a child. Transsexual Menace notes that if this prosecution is successful, it would establish a precedent whereby "failure to disclose one's genitals/genital status" could be labeled criminal deception. Any resulting sexual activity -- whether consensual or not -- could be considered sexual assault or rape. Therefore, a person who attacks or kills a transvestite or pre-operative transsexual could claim he was defending himself against sexual assault.



The "transgendered panic" defense that Riki Anne Wilchins predicts will allow killers of transvestites and transsexuals to go free didn't work in an Chicago courtroom. David Feikema, 55, was sentenced to 21 years in prison for the first-degree murder of Larry Venzant, 20. Feikema had thought Venzant was a woman when the two arranged to have sex in December 1993. When Feikema discovered Venzant was a man, Feikema stabbed him repeatedly and castrated him. "The only threat that this victim posed was to the defendant's masculinity, and for this he made the victim pay with his life," said Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Catherine Sanders.



We hope that courts in Massachusetts and Georgia follow the Chicago example ... A man who took someone he thought was a woman home from a Boston bar in November allegedly strangled his date after learning she was a man in drag. William Palmer, a 34-year-old computer programmer, has pleaded innocent to murder and was ordered held without bail. Police had discovered the body of 23-year-old Roman Pickett in a bedroom at Palmer's home in Watertown, Mass. Pickett, who went by the name Chanel, was wearing jeans and a woman's top, and police also found a curly, long-haired wig. Authorities said Palmer had met Pickett near Boston's Combat Zone -- the city's adult entertainment district -- and apparently learned the victim's secret in his bedroom. Prosecutors would not say whether the two had sex.



The murder of a transgendered 16-year-old has police in Atlanta wondering if a serial killer has struck again. During the past four years, at least five African-American transvestites or transsexuals have been found shot to death around the city. The latest victim was Quincy Favors Taylor. His body was found behind a supermarket shot once in the chest. Police say that the person who found the body saw a taxi racing from the scene. Taylor was believed to have been working as a prostitute. When asked if police interest in the cases was diminished by the victims' lives at the margins of society, Lt. R.G. Christian replied,

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"Everyone has the right to live their life the way they choose. No one has the right to take it."



Other old business delayed by early deadlines is November's election. Here's what happened in some important races: Joanne Conte lost her second election in a year, and said it was because she used to be a man. After losing her Arvada, Colo., City Council seat by 60 votes, Conte said she is through with politics. Last November, she lost a bid for the state legislature, running as an independent. "The way I feel right now is that I must start a new stage in life, basically because I learned that a person who has had sexual reassignment for whatever reason cannot win an election," said Conte, 62. "Last year, the bigotry that I and my campaign workers experienced, I almost felt like a Jewish person in Nazi Germany. There were instances that were overwhelmingly bigoted." Conte said that during her two recent campaigns, the first since her sex-change became public knowledge, her staff endured ridicule. "People told a woman on my staff that they could not vote for me because, as they put it, I would be condemned to burn in hell because I had a sex change," Conte said. Conte has lived in Arvada for 16 years. In 1991, she won the city's District 2 seat. Two years ago, she disclosed that she had undergone sex-change surgery 20 years earlier. The revelation came because someone dug up information about her surgery and anonymously provided it to a newspaper reporter.



Palm Springs mayoral candidate Kitty Cole, a 6-foot-5 drag queen, lost her campaign to put the party back in this California resort town. "If I get one vote, that's enough ... that's just enough to prove that I made a difference," Cole, 26, told NBC's *Extra* in an interview aired election night. "I shock people, they laugh, then they listen," said the former modeling agent, who likes designer dresses. Cole, who campaigned in \$3,000 blonde wigs, wanted to paint no-parking zones with red or gold glitter and sponsor celebrity croquet tournaments on the city's renowned golf courses. He would reopen the city to college kids on spring break, and try to attract "movie stars and mobsters." That would reverse the family marketing trend championed in recent years by former Mayor Sonny Bono, who is now a congressman. But Cole's ideas weren't all glitz. He called for faster response to city permit requests, looser sign regulations, giving a boost to the city's ad image and easing regulations for sidewalk cafes and street vendors.



But a New Zealand candidate didn't take a smear campaign sitting down. When rumors began spreading that Georgina Beyer had not undergone sexual reassignment surgery and was still a man, the candidate for mayor of Carterton did a national television interview

in which she "was pretty direct ... It probably cost me some votes." It takes a while for New Zealand election returns to reach Ms. Sinclair, but according to the latest pre-election reports, Beyer, who is a city councillor, has wide support.



This month's contributors are Vera Rae House, Dallas Denny, Mark Hocker, and the ever-vigilant Melanie Yarborough. If you see news items regarding crossdressing, send them to Ms. Sinclair in care of **Cross-Talk**. Remember to note the name and date of publication.

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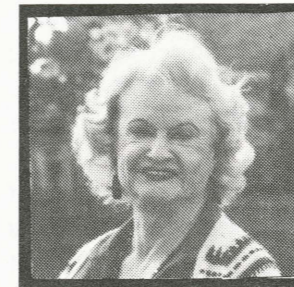
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VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

166 MEN IN DRESSES

by C. V. Prince, Ph.D.

[Editor's Note: The following article originally appeared in the March 1962 issue of *Sexology* magazine. It was one of the earliest articles on crossdressing to appear in a professional publication. The introduction to the article was written by the late Dr. Harry Benjamin, and we include it here as well:]

"Dr. Prince, who has been well known to me personally for several years, is to my mind one of the foremost authorities on the subject of transvestism, not so much from the medical as from the psychological and sociological points of view. He holds a Ph.D. in the biological sciences, is a transvestite himself, and now edits *Transvestia*, a publication for transvestites.

"Although he approaches the subject with natural self-interest, this is easily compensated for by his knowledge and insight into the psychology of the transvestic personality. The combined subjective-objective viewpoint sometimes leads to better understanding than the views of an outside observer who cannot know the emotional satisfactions involved.

"The survey which Dr. Prince conducted as the editor of *Transvestia* has a very definite scientific value, and he deserves credit, thanks and commendation for his efforts."

Transvestism, or the love of dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex, has long been known. Isolated examples turn up in history and, every now and again, in the daily press.

Unfortunately, medicine has not been in a position to learn all that should be known about this phenomenon because cases coming to a doctor's attention are usually persons who have either gotten into trouble with the law and are sent to a psychiatrist, or persons who are so upset by their activity that they go seeking support or help.

Very frequently these individuals suffer from a variety of other behavioral patterns which overlap their transvestism and cause confusion in the diagnosis and treatment.

Doctors have no occasion to see the larger number of transvestites who are better-adjusted and more stable. Consequently, the cases reported in the literature are relatively few and do not represent a fair cross section of those practicing transvestism. The conclusions drawn from the cases seen are necessarily tentative.

Transvestia, a publication written for and about

transvestites, has just concluded a survey among its readers, sending out several hundred questionnaires to its subscribers. Of those sent out, 166 have been returned and form the basis of this survey.

It will be noted that all were males -- primarily because it is males who are involved in this type of behavior almost,

A look back at the first scientific survey of crossdressers to be published in a scientific journal.

though not entirely, exclusively. Also, females in our culture are not penalized for wearing male clothing.

Before going into the results in detail a few observations are in order. First, it is recognized that, in any questionnaire sent to a group of people by mail, there is no control over the way it is filled out. Answers may, in some cases, be given because the individual wishes to paint a good picture of himself. However, names did not have to be given so that this source of error is somewhat reduced.

Other facts having to do with childhood may be incorrectly reported because they are no longer in the individual's conscious memory, or contrariwise, things may be reported as happening that really did not occur because over the years the individual was led to think that they *probably* occurred and thus eventually to think that they *did* occur. In general, it is to be expected that there has been a proportion of erroneous replies in the responses. However, it is believed that, in the most important areas, any reasonable allowances made for errors either of omission or commission would not alter the significance of the results.

The ages of those who replied ranged from below twenty to above seventy, with the greatest number in the thirty to forty bracket. In height there were just a few below 5'4" or above 6'4", with nearly half between 5'8" and 6'. Weight ranged from less than 140 lbs. to greater than 220, with the largest group falling between 140-160 and almost as many in the 160-180 range.

Thus, there seem to be no gross distinguishing factors in these physical characteristics which would set the transvestite group off from the rest of the population.

38 per cent of those responding went to college and of these twenty per cent went on to graduate or professional school. This is a considerably higher figure than for the general population.

While in school 55 percent of those reporting engaged in one or more active masculine sports such as football, baseball, track, etc. and a further 40 percent displayed their talents in drama, music, school offices, etc.

These results tend to indicate that the educational and cultural level of transvestites may be well above average.

Perhaps the most useful light shed on the subject by this survey is that dealing with childhood experiences.

Orthodox medical opinion, as expressed in many articles on the subject, attributes the transvestic impulse to events in childhood. Adult transvestic impulses are said to be due to such experiences as the parents wanting a girl, getting a boy and proceeding to bring him up in a manner more or less befitting a girl.

Other authors cite cases of boy children being kept in long curls and pinafores to a relatively late age. Still others relate it to what has been called "pinafore punishment" -- disciplining a boy by making him wear girls' clothes.

Experts in sex role development usually see the parental figures as the causative factors. They point to a family situation where the mother is the dominant parent, giving the child the impression that she is the important one and the one to emulate, while at the same time the father provides a poor figure for the boy to identify with because he is absent, excessively weak or sets a poor example through drunkenness.

Lastly, and as a generalization, medical opinion says that whether the above were the causes or not, it all started in childhood.

What light does the survey of 166 cases shed on causation?

Fewer than twenty percent (one out of five) of the cases showed any history of being kept in dresses and curls, or of the parents wanting a girl, or of punishment in dresses.

Only fourteen percent were raised in broken homes; fewer than twenty percent reported the father as being away a lot; and fewer than ten percent listed the father as drinking.

Furthermore, of those answering the question, 55 percent rated the father as the dominant parent, which would probably pretty well match the situation in society in general in these times.

Thus, none of the causes generally presented by the medical profession for this behavior pattern finds any great support in the data cited in this survey.

Further indication that young childhood may not hold all the answers comes from the reports of the age of first experiences of a transvestic nature. Although about 44 percent reported their first experience as being before ten years, another 44 percent had it between ten and eighteen years, while as many as twelve percent discovered transvestism after the age of eighteen.

It may be argued by some that behavior of a transvestic nature may have occurred earlier than the recollected age but that such events were forgotten. It might also be possible that these tendencies existed earlier but were latent, or hidden.

The fact, however, that more than half -- 56 percent -- of the cases set the age of their first significant experience as after ten years could be indicative of an entirely different mechanism not related to latency at all. Other factors are probably at work that have not yet been discovered by psychiatry.

It is interesting to note that not quite one-third of the cases found their problem sufficiently disturbing to go to see a psychiatrist at all.

Of these, about half (or about sixteen percent of the total) took any treatment at all from the doctor. About two-thirds of those who did (or eleven percent of the total) reported that they had been helped to any appreciable extent.

Thus, it appears that doctors see only a small portion of the transvestic group and are unable to do much for many that they do see.

The average person, knowing that some homosexual individuals affect feminine attire, is likely to reason that any male who enjoys wearing feminine attire is therefore homosexual.

This, of course, is based on two fallacies: one, that such feminine activities are characteristic of homosexuals, when in actuality only a few of them show such interests; and two, that because one class of persons shows a particular behavioral trait, that all those showing the trait belong to



Dr. Harry Benjamin and Virginia Prince in a photograph taken in 1962, when this article originally appeared.

that class.

This is like saying that since criminals use guns or forge checks anyone using a gun or writing checks is therefore a criminal.

It will be enlightening, therefore, to learn that about one-third of the 166 cases had had homosexual experiences. This would seem a lot until it is pointed out that Kinsey reported that over one-third of all adult males in his sample had had one or more homosexual experiences in their lives.

Thus, this group of transvestites had a slightly lower incidence of homosexual experience than was reported by Kinsey for the male population at large.

The heterosexual nature of transvestism is further emphasized by the fact that ninety percent, including some that had homosexual experiences, consider themselves to be heterosexually oriented.

In family matters transvestites are much like other people. 72 percent of them are married, about twenty percent for the second or third time, while about 26 percent of the total group had been through one or more divorces.

Eighteen of these, or 41 percent of all the divorces, were wholly or partly due to transvestism. Many, if not all, of these eighteen marriages might have been saved if there had been sympathetic understanding of this kind of behavior. Of the married individuals about 70 percent have children, which is about what one would find in the general population.

In evaluating the degrees of acceptance of the transvestism by wives, it turns out that one-third of all the wives were completely accepting, while a further group of 29 percent were at least tolerant.

This means that nearly two out of three wives went along with their husband's transvestic behavior with some degree of understanding.

This is higher than would have been expected and offers some hope to the unmarried transvestite seeking an understanding wife. It apparently depends a good deal on when she is made acquainted with the facts and how it is done.

The problem entailed in dealing with it after marriage are much more complex than those that might result from consideration of the matter beforehand. Most married transvestites would advise another contemplating marriage to tell his fiancee before she becomes his wife. Too often this is not done out of fear of the consequences or under the mistaken assumption that "it will go away after marriage." *It doesn't!*

Just as the public tends to presume that transvestism is related to homosexuality, so do many of those who know of the term "transsexuality" (referring to those who wish to have operations for the removal of male sex organs) think that this is common to all transvestites also.

The results of this study show that only about one-fifth of those replying would accept such surgery under any of a

variety of improbable conditions. On the other hand nearly seventy percent flatly stated that they would not want surgery at all. About ten per cent did not answer this question.

Many of those replying negatively to this question accompanied their answer with some statement to the effect that they enjoyed being male and would not want to change.

Two other conditions often considered as being part of transvestism are those of bondage -- satisfaction obtained from being tied up or otherwise forcibly restrained; and domination -- where the individual relinquishes control over his acts to someone else, i.e., a male wishes to be dominated by a woman and forced to obey her every wish.

Both of these behavior patterns are manifestations of masochism, a psychological condition in which the individual obtains pleasure by being hurt physically or morally. In this survey only eighteen percent of those replying had experienced bondage and only fourteen percent had undergone domination.

This indicates that while these masochistic manifestations may accompany transvestic impulses, they are definitely not a necessary part of them and not even present in the large majority of cases.

One major conclusion emerges from these findings: transvestism should be studied separately and dealt with

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on its own -- not as a by-product of studies on homosexuality, transsexuality, masochism or fetishism just because some of these types of person sometimes enjoy cross-dressing.

In fact, the term "transvestism" itself should be changed insofar as most of the types of persons reported upon in this survey are concerned, because this word merely says "cross-dressing" in Latin. It is not helpful to name a class of persons after a type of behavior when the same behavior is demonstrated by others not belonging to the class. This just adds to the confusion.

Since the predominant interest of the so-called transvestite is a love of things feminine and a desire to enjoy some of the prerogatives of, and participate in, the woman's world while at the same time retaining a normal male sexual interest and masculine social and business activities, the

word "femiphilia" -- love of the feminine -- would be a much more descriptive term.

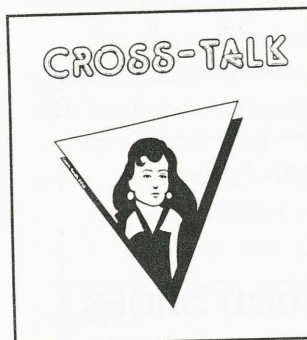
This love of feminine things is not a characteristic of homosexuals as a class, nor of masochists, transsexuals or fetishists. Even transsexuals do not love feminine things for themselves while retaining masculinity. Their desire is to "become a woman" and if they have surgery their interest in the clothing and other aspects of the world of women is approximately the same as any other woman. Only in transvestites is this an end in itself.



Virginia Prince is a co-founder of The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) and the former publisher of Transvestia magazine. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 36091, Los Angeles CA 90036.

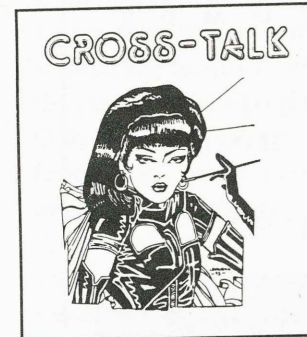
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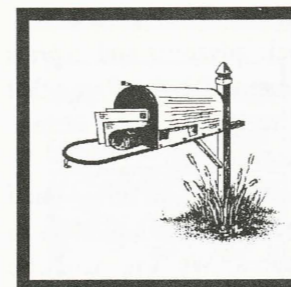
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Vox Populi

Letters to the Editor

Re "Farewell" (#73): After reading Joan Goodnight's letter in #74, I went back and re-read Merissa Sherrill Lynn's article and I feel I must respond to both at this point.

Most of Lynn's assertions about why she resigned are fantasy cobbled up to cover up the truth. She was most assuredly *not* going to be fired by the IFGE board of directors. I know because I was a member of that board right up until her resignation in March of 1995. Here is what really happened.

In March of 1994, at the IFGE board meeting in Portland, Ore., the board created a new position specifically for Lynn titled "Founding Director." This was a lifetime position with a seat and vote on the board. This new position had few specific responsibilities other than to be a spokesperson for IFGE and write editorials for *Tapestry*. However, the board did not see fit to attach a salary or stipend to this position. (Since the inception of IFGE in 1986, Lynn has served as its Executive Director and the board gave her a salary with expenses beginning in 1990 or 1991.)

It was agreed and understood by all on the board that a new Executive Director was needed for the organization since Lynn had repeatedly plunged IFGE into controversy through her unique style of "mutual respect and common purpose" management. A search committee was created to find a new Executive Director. None of this was hidden from Lynn. It was also agreed that when a new Executive Director was found, Lynn would move from the Executive Director chair (with salary) to the Founding Director (without salary) chair.

After the motion to create the position was approved, Lynn completely ignored these restrictions and agreements. She immediately adopted the title Founding Director but kept taking the Executive Director's salary, in effect holding not one but two seats on the board: Founding Director and



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Executive Director. No one on the board wanted to make an issue of this as long as Lynn would relinquish the Executive Director's chair when a new Executive was found. In March of 1995, the board officially offered the position of Executive Director of IFGE (a salaried employee) to Alison Laing, who accepted.

Apparently, Lynn never accepted the possibility that someone other than herself would ever be Executive Director of IFGE. Rather than move to the Founding Director position as agreed, she resigned from the organization completely. Several members of the board tried in vain to convince Lynn to stay on with IFGE in the Founding Director capacity. She refused.

Leaving IFGE was Lynn's choice. She was not forced out as she claims and she was not about to be fired. The move from Executive Director to Founding Director was planned over a year before.

(This is not the first time Lynn has "re-written" history in her favor. Lynn now claims that the Congress of Transgender Organizations was her idea, when, in fact, it was co-founded by Alison Laing and myself. Lynn was totally against the formation of the CTO. But I digress.)

Joan Goodnight asks the rhetorical question "Does the community owe a debt of gratitude to Merissa Sherrill Lynn?" Maybe. Maybe not. That point can be debated endlessly. Most people only know the "image" of Merissa Sherrill Lynn as she has painted it in print through the pages of *Tapestry*, i.e., Saint Merissa.

I, unfortunately, had to deal with Lynn on a personal basis as a member of the board and what I witnessed was not saintly. Lynn never respected anyone's opinion or ideas other than her own. Lynn virtually ignored every directive given her by the board and did as she pleased. Lynn often made decisions and commitments that were not hers to make, like her decision to hold the 1997 IFGE convention in Los Angeles without regard for the existing organizations in the area. Lynn complained constantly that she was not a "people-person" nor a "money-person" and did not want those responsibilities. Yet, she never gave up the Executive Director's title or salary which carried with them people and money responsibilities. And, the issue for Lynn was always money. In her article is this telling statement: "IFGE was my world. I created it so I could escape from [the corporate world], so I could survive ..."



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There it is in black and white. IFGE was created by Lynn so she would not have to work in the real world. Anyone who knows Lynn more intimately than a passing "hello" knows that she considered herself the embodiment of IFGE. To Lynn, there was no difference. She was the "I" in IFGE, and the rest of the community owed her a living for just being there.

I often called (both publicly and privately) for Lynn's resignation as Executive Director of IFGE. She was (and still is) completely unskilled for the position and responsibilities. However, I never even suggested she be kicked out of the organization. I expected her to take the Founding Director position as she agreed.

Someone said, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Lynn has certainly not learned anything. This is the third time she has been removed from an organization she helped to create. Maybe, just maybe, the third time is a charm.

JoAnn Roberts
King of Prussia, PA

[Editor's Note: Although Ms. Roberts is also an associate editor of Cross-Talk, she is speaking as a former member of the IFGE board and former chair of the IFGE Personnel Committee, and her views do not necessarily represent those of this publication.]



Vox Populi is the transgender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in Cross-Talk, please feel free to contribute. We suggest keeping letters to 400 words (one page typewritten or 2000 characters ASCII). Cross-Talk reserves the right to publish only those portions of a letter specifically addressing the issue. Personal attacks will not be published.

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ... continued from page 2

We must congratulate them for their advances and express our hope that we can work with them on the next issue that affects us both. And we need to reciprocate and include their issues in our fight more often.

Third, we need to stop the constant bickering and in-fighting that go on in our community on such matters as terminology and personal preferences. We will never be understood by the masses so long as every individual paints a different picture of what word represents which group and what philosophy represents which lifestyle. Pre-op, post-op, non-op ... crossdresser, living full time, or androgynous ... on hormones, going through electrolysis, or not ... hetero, gay, lesbian, or bi ... none of this has any effect on how the masses perceive you. What you do and say reflects on us all, regardless of whether or not you count yourself in the number of those who are being degraded.

I entitled this editorial "Good Taste and Common Sense" because every one of my examples suffer from a lack of one, the other, or both, yet these are the two most important qualities that are needed to elevate us to a position where being transgendered is not an issue.

Ask yourself how much of those two qualities you possess. Ask how much those you look up to as leaders depend on those qualities to lead. Ask how much these two factors -- or lack of them -- contributed to problems you may have had in explaining your situation, of your own self-acceptance.

I have been both right and wrong in my life. I have altered my position on some issues in the light of reasoned argument. But I will never change my mind about this most fundamental and incontrovertible fact.

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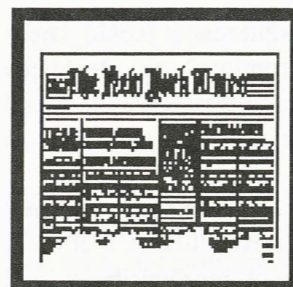
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Cross-Talk Newswire

News of the worldwide transgender community

SURVEY SAYS: MALE TRANSEXUALS' BRAINS RESEMBLE WOMEN'S

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Scientists in Holland have found preliminary evidence that male-to-female transsexuals have a different brain structure from other men, at least in one key area about the size of the colorful ball on the end of a pushpin. The discovery, one of the researchers said, might begin to explain why these people feel female although genetically they are male.

In the November 2 issue of the journal *Nature*, a team of researchers from the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research in Amsterdam reported that it conducted postmortem exams on the brains of six male-to-female transsexuals. Specifically, the researchers studied one particular part of the hypothalamus, called the central division of the bed nucleus of the *stria terminalis* (BSTc) and found that the BSTc is smaller in women than in men, and smaller still in male-to-female transsexuals. At 2.5 cubic millimeters, this area is on average 44 percent larger in men than in women (1.73 cubic millimeters). Yet all six transsexual subjects had BSTc regions that were the size of women's or even smaller, averaging 1.3 cubic millimeters. Research on rats and other laboratory animals indicates that this part of the hypothalamus helps coordinate sexual behavior and the release of essential reproductive hormones.

Dick F. Swaab, who headed the research team, said it is

likely that the differences arose before adulthood, probably as a result of interaction between sex hormones and the individuals' developing brains. He added that he doubts that BSTc itself is responsible for transsexualism. Instead, it appears to be a part of a larger brain network that makes a man feel like a woman.

"I'm convinced that this is only one structure of many that are involved in such complex behavior," Swaab said. "This is just the tip of the iceberg." But the question of when the structural differences developed -- in the womb, during childhood or adolescence, or perhaps even after the individuals began the sex-change procedures -- cannot be answered with certainty. This is because these regions of the brain can only be measured after death and only with a handful of subjects. It took the researchers 11 years to collect six transsexual brains.

"Until technology enables us to measure them repeatedly in the same person at different ages, there can be no definitive answer as to whether these regions can direct psychological sexual differentiation or are themselves directed by it," said neurobiologist Marc Breedlove at the University of California at Berkeley. However, Swaab said, his team took pains to rule out the impact of adult hormone treatment by including brains of transsexuals who had stopped estrogens years earlier, as well as the brains of otherwise ordinary men and women with varying hormone conditions. In no case did the size of the BSTc appear to be influenced by adult hormone levels.

One of Breedlove's colleagues at the University of California at Los Angeles, neurobiologist Roger Gorski, said it was "a big leap" to expand the findings regarding one small brain structure to an explanation for a person's sexual identity. But he said the study was "a step in the right direction, and I think it is an important one." The Dutch researchers found that BSTc volume is not related to sexual orientation. Following postmortem analyses of 36 other brains, including those of gay men and heterosexuals of both sexes, the researchers concluded: "The BSTc was 62

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Kalina Isato, Miss Philadelphia Party Girl 1995

Mary Lerario, 2300 Walnut Street # 405, Philadelphia, PA 19103

percent larger in homosexual men than in heterosexual women." Nor does BSTc volume appear to be a factor in sexual orientation in general. Of the six transsexuals, three had been attracted to women, two were attracted to men, and one was bisexual.

Psychiatrist Sandra Witelson of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, said the work adds "to the body of knowledge that has been accumulating in the past five or six years, all of which shows that there are biological correlates to variation in human sexual behavior." In that regard, a study of male-to-female transsexuals conducted by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver found that 35.6 percent are left-handed, compared to just 11.6 percent of the general male population. Drs. Diane Watson and Stanley Coren theorize that transsexual become different before they are born due to conditions in the womb that change the development of their brains.

Dr. Joy Diane Shaffer, director of the Seahorse Medical Clinic in San Jose, Calif., and herself a transsexual, noted that the results of the Dutch study jibed with those that she and her colleagues were gathering using a very different approach to brain analysis. "They are using magnetic resonance imaging to scan the brains of hundreds of living people -- heterosexual, homosexual, male-to-female transsexuals, and female-to-male transsexuals. This method will not pick up the tiny differences in the BSTc, but it may show differences in other, larger structures, like the *corpus callosum*, which connects to two hemispheres of the brain."

The possibility that a physical differences could cause transsexualism "would be a great comfort," said Dr. Sheila Kirk, speaking on behalf of IFGE. "Transgenderists spend the earlier part of their lives puzzling: 'Why do I need to do this?'" she said.

But not all members of transgendered community are not as excited about the new brain research. "I think that these studies have a very poor history of reproducibility, and they're undertaken with a particular social agenda," said Cheryl Chase, editor of *Hermaphrodites With Attitude*, the newsletter of the Intersex Society of North America.

The Dutch researchers are now trying to collect brains from female-to-male transsexuals to see if their BSTc regions are similar to those of genetic males.

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Newswire is compiled from transgender community newsletters, Internet news feeds, and press releases. Owing to shortened deadlines during the holiday season, our usual summary did not appear this month. We will return to our normal format next issue. News items may be mailed to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, sent by Internet to newsserv@xconn.com, or faxed to (818) 347-4190.

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OUT OF THE CLOSET AND MAKING IT

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

On June 9, 1976, I was given my two weeks notice and sent home by my boss. It seemed that as a guy, my hair was too long, my eyebrows were too thin, my conversation was too honest and "the clients wouldn't be able to handle it." That marked the beginning of the end of my career as an engineer and the beginning of the beginning of my transition to become who I truly was inside.

The two weeks notice ended on my third wedding anniversary. Needless to say, my spouse and I were apprehensive about the future, but (if you like to read the last page of a novel first) I will tell you now that she and I have been out of the closet for almost 20 years and we are making it together in Houston.

Some background will help although my story is probably very similar to yours: the similarity being in that neither you nor I drool, molest children or fulfill the other stereotypes portrayed in books, on television or by Jesse Helms. My parents are still married. I am the middle child with an older brother and younger sister. I excelled in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (Eagle, Senior Patrol Leader, Order of Arrow) although I would have preferred to wear a Brownie and a Girl Scout uniform. (Note: All Eagle Scouts, please write so we can form an association.) I remember those "different" feelings from before age five and began crossdressing often from age eight.

As a youth I was a softball player, singer, swimmer and hunter. In high school, I participated in the school newspaper, a capella choir, Senior play, rifle team (two letters) and R.O.T.C. (Cadet Commander). Taking accelerated courses, I graduated with an A+ average and went on to get four college scholarships at Texas A&M University. (Note: All Aggies, please write so we can form a "T-Aggies" Chapter.) While at A&M, I did Singing Cadets and R.O.T.C., got married, finished a Civil Engineering degree in three and a half years, stayed for a Masters in Mechanical Engineering, sired a child and was commissioned to be a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1970.

During my overseas military tour, my first wife didn't like me wearing her panties and opted for divorce and custody of our child. Needless to say, I'd done the purges and possessed tons of guilt. The military moved to discharge me: I promised to embarrass them if I didn't get an honorable. Later I even cut my wrist. This was August 1973. I was a mess. (See, my story is close to your story.)

In September 1973, I was born again to Christ. I remain a Christian of strong belief, but I am not writing to proselytize. Your religious beliefs are your business: mine are mine.

Also in September 1973, I met the person who became my best friend and who also became my current spouse of more than two decades. I told her about who I might become. We later fell into love and she decided to marry me with the comment, "If that is all that is wrong with you, I think I've got a bargain".

**Phyllis Randolph Frye
 recounts the circumstances
 that led to her living openly
 as a transgendered woman.**

In June 1976, I'd already lost some jobs for being honest about my private crossdressing. (I hated having to lie about things. One boss that I told had a lot of nerve for firing me even though all the while he was cheating on his wife with his married secretary.) Anyway, we decided together that I would begin applying for work as a man but that I would be up front during the interview about crossdressing in private. Guess how far that approach went in the engineering community in 1976? After a bundle of "want-to-hire-you-but"s my sweetheart told me that if they wouldn't take me openly for who I was privately, that I should just become myself and carve out a niche. So on September 13th, 1976, I became Phyllis full time and haven't looked back since.

I became aware of just how badly society treats women. I began to hate the term "girl" very quickly and joined N.O.W. shortly thereafter. I became politically active with the lesbian and gay community (our natural allies) and the Democratic Party (also our natural allies).

Thirdly, I did not try to hide my past nor did I try to hide what I was doing. (Of course, I tried to pass out on the street.) We live in the same house despite the years of eggings, spray paintings, burning soiled baby diaperings, and obscene phone callings (most frequent around christian -- little c intended -- holidays). I called universities and lectured everywhere. I openly defied the crossdressing ordinance in Houston and began to destroy it by not giving the cops nor the bigots a legitimate, stereotype fulfilling reason to arrest me. In 1981, the ordinance was repealed [Editor's Note: The full story of Phyllis' battle against the Houston crossdressing ordinance will be published in Cross-Talk #77], and in 1991, Houston's Mayor gave me a certificate of appreciation on the ten year anniversary of that repeal. (For more on the

history of such ordinances, go to any law library and ask for *30 Hastings LJ 1151*.)

We tried to survive economically. My income had accounted for two-thirds of our living in 1976. We had a mortgage, child support, a car note ... but also only one-third of what we'd been spending. I learned how to sew. I did almost anything to get work, to no avail. At Christmas 1977 our Metropolitan Community Church brought us the canned food that was given the Sundays before. Yes, it got that bad. I fought the ruling of a bigoted administrative judge for over a year to finally get \$42 per week in unemployment benefits. I sold (and still sell) Amway products. I used my G.I. Bill to go back to school to get a Masters of Business Administration and a law degree at University of Houston in 1981. My legal internship was a semester in the Office of the District Attorney. I learned a lot about the courtroom while the D.A.'s office learned a lot about myths and stereotypes. Even though I was a licensed attorney in 1981, my ego was still very weak. I'd gone through a lot of hell during the past five years. I was making good money with my Amway business, and I had a few engineering clients because I had continued to pay to keep my engineering license current even during the lean years. So that is what I did for income during the next five years along with a little law practice. But mostly what I did during the years 1981-1986 was fight the fights for individual liberties and

for lesbian/gay/transgender rights. I also cussed (and still do cuss) Ronald Reagan a lot.

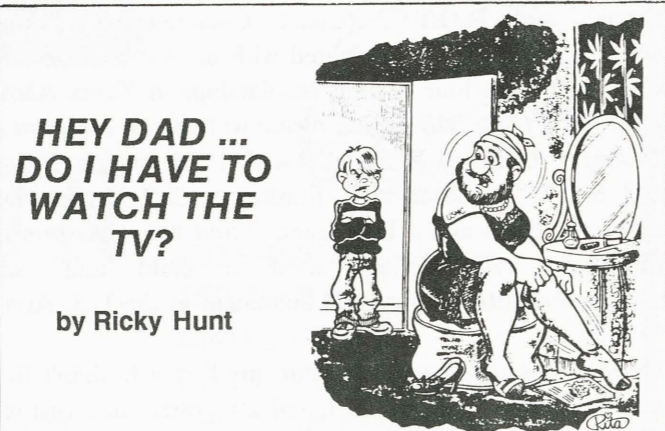
In 1986, my ego was stronger and I began to practice law as a trial lawyer. All of the political chits from the earlier years were paid, because many of the judges already knew me and respected me from their campaigns. Therefore, I got many appointments early in my practice and the courthouse gossip was good from the beginning. I began to make good money, so we paid off our home mortgage. I even went to my high school class 20-year reunion.

If you were to plot a graph of the joy in my life since 1986, you would see a continuing positive climb with only a few dips. Life is great. I remain a transgenderist (for want of a better label, I'm a full-time and completely ready for surgery transsexual who stopped and may just hold here for the rest of her life). I'm well known and respected in my work. The neighborhood has gotten over itself. We also bought a lake house in 1990. I was elected last year by my peers as a director in my legal organization. I am a director with the Houston League of Women Voters. And I am a director of the Gulf Coast Transgender Community. The point of all of this is to say to you that 1996 is a lot better time to be out than 1976. And to say that if I could make it starting in 1976, you can make it now.

Sisters, take advantage of what I and others like me have done. Claim for yourself who you are and to hell with the bigots. You have nothing to be ashamed of, be proud of who you are. And ending with an old cliché, "You only have one life to live." Just one life, that's all. So get on with being who you are.



Phyllis Randolph Frye is the founder and executive director of the annual International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy.



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T NOTES

DANCES WITH THERAPISTS, PART 2

by Anne Vitale, Ph.D.

Last month I wrote about the machinations -- or to put it more poetically, the dance -- that goes on between a potential gender client and a therapist before and during the intake appointment. This time I'll concentrate more on the specifics of the intake appointment.

If you recall, I said that there is a large amount of sizing

"Both parties have a great deal at stake in establishing a favorable therapeutic relationship ... the wrong therapist can set an individual back for years."

up that goes on by both parties on the first appointment. This is as it should be. Both parties have a great deal at stake in establishing a favorable therapeutic relationship. The client is dealing with an extremely important and personal problem. The wrong therapist can set an individual back for years. Meanwhile the therapist is deciding whether or not to commit to the clearly defined professional, legal and ethical responsibilities that are inherent in accepting any client.

Although the routine varies from therapist to therapist, almost without exception, a prospective client can expect the intake appointment to be very structured. The reason for the structure is that along with accessing the presenting problem, there is a certain amount of legal, ethical and plain ol' business for the therapist to attend to. The therapist needs to know as much about the prospective client as possible in that first hour. Furthermore, she has to do this while showing the client that she has the willingness and the capacity to help resolve the problem. To save some time, some therapists ask that a biographical form be filled out prior to coming into the office. Others, such as myself, prefer to ask for biographical data directly. I consider it part of the mental status exam I spoke of last month.

No matter what the presenting problem, the therapist should provide as safe a place as possible for the individual to work in. Obviously, only a very small portion of what is really going on with the client will come out in the first session. However, an experienced therapist should be able, in that short time, deduce the extent and kind of psychotherapeutic work required. Because of the extremely

private and frightening nature of gender issues, gender clients tend to be extraordinarily cautious. As a way of both honoring the individual's caution and easing the situation, if I have not already been told in the phone conversation that set up the appointment, I start the intake session by asking how the individual got my name. If it was from a

former transgender client, my writings or an ad I have placed in a transgender newsletter, I learn immediately that I am dealing with a gender issue and direct the interview accordingly. For example, I frame my inquiries in such a way as to reflect my knowledge of gender and crossdressing issues. This

reassures the individual in two ways. First, the individual can immediately tell that she or he is not going to be taken for some sort of kook or, even worse, considered psychotic. Second, if I do my job well, the individual will start to gain a sense of confidence in me at a very critical stage of the therapeutic relationship. Confidence in the abilities of the therapist is extremely critical in all therapeutic relationships. However, when dealing with gender identity issues, a client's confidence in the therapist can be the difference between life and death if matters should eventually get to that level of difficulty.

As the intake hour nears the end, if I feel that the client and I are not a therapeutic match, I will tell the individual so at this time and give him or her several referrals. However, if I feel that I can work with the individual, I gradually begin to volunteer more information about my professional qualifications in regard to being a therapist in general and a gender specialist in particular. This includes a short description of my therapeutic orientation and what I expect from my clients. I also let the individual know that I take a case management approach to my gender work and describe my professional association with other mental and medical health professionals who may eventually become involved in the healing process.

If the client agrees to work with me, we can close the intake session with the discussion of several disclosure forms I require each person to read and sign. Two of these forms are standard to all therapists. They are the Limits of Confidentiality form and General Business Practice form. A third statement I issue, if the situation calls for it, is the portion of the HBIGDA, Standards of Care (SOC) that

deals with therapy.

Although the privilege laws vary from state to state, the Confidentiality form states that the therapist is severely prohibited, both ethically and legally, from disclosing any information the client reveals to the therapist. This includes the fact that the individual is in therapy. Because there are some very important legal exceptions to the laws regarding privilege in California, I take this time to explain them. These exceptions come into play if and when a client was to make a serious threat of suicide or physical violence to others. Child and elder abuse are two other disclosures the therapist is required by law to report to the proper agencies.

My general business form is typical in that it contains my fee and payment expectations, insurance repayment policies, telephone call policy, etc.

With business matters completed, and agreements to continue working together in place, it remains only to set a regular appointment schedule. The next time the client and the therapist meet, the situation is far more relaxed for both individuals and the real work of resolving the client's gender issues can begin.



Copyright 1995 by Anne Vitale, Ph.D. Dr. Vitale is a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues, and is an associate of the D Street Counseling Group, 610 D Street, San Rafael CA 94901, (415) 456-4452, avitale@nbn.com. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Vitale's name and address appears with it. Other publications must obtain written permission from Dr. Vitale. A copy of any reprints must be sent to Dr. Vitale.

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THE VINEGAR TASTERS

by Vanessa Kaye

I frequently hear and read about religion and transgenderism. These conversations are exclusively centered around how to interpret Christian teachings and tenets in such a way as to "justify" our right to be who we are.

I find it odd that a relatively "new", predominantly Western, minority religion is used as the spectacles through which to view a universal and timeless phenomenon. Among the Five World Religions are Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. There is value in all "good books" and in all "good teachings." Without a doubt, when we are dealing with such an issue as transgenderism -- which is certainly not a Western issue only -- we should expand our scope.

Let me talk to you about an ancient Chinese painting. Roughly translated, it is entitled "The Vinegar Tasters." In this painting we see three men standing around a vat of vinegar. Each has dipped his finger into the vinegar and tasted of it. The expression on each man's face shows his individual reaction. The painting is intended to be allegorical and each of the three men represent one of the "Three Teachings" of China. The vinegar they are tasting represents the Essence of Life. The three men represented are: K'ung Fu-tse (Confucius), Buddha, and Lao-tse (author of the oldest book of Taoism). For the purposes of this story we shall call them Confucius, Buddha and Lao-Tse. The first man has a sour look on his face, the second wears a bitter expression, but the third man is smiling. Why the difference? To Confucius, life seemed rather sour. He believed that the present was out of step with the past and that the world would be a much better place if there were strict rules. Confucius emphasized a strict order which ruled the affairs of all in his land. Anything that did not fit into the established order, was bad and not worthy. To Buddha, the second figure in our painting, life on earth was bitter. This world, according to Buddha, was filled with attachments and desires that led to suffering. The world was seen as a setter of traps, a generator of illusions and a revolving wheel of endless pain. In order to find peace, Buddha maintained that it was necessary to transcend this world. The Buddhist sees the path to happiness constantly being interrupted by the bitterness of this world.

Now we come to the third man in our painting, Lao-Tse. According to Lao-Tse, the world was governed by the laws of nature, not by those of men. He maintained that the more man interfered with the natural balance of things, the more out of balance the world became. As things became unbalanced, trouble followed. So why is Lao-tse

smiling? We all know what vinegar tastes like. And, if the vat of vinegar represents the essence of life, should he not also have the bitter expression on his face as the other two? From the Taoist point of view, sourness and bitterness come from the interfering and unappreciative mind. Life itself, when understood and utilized for what it

Relating Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism to the subject of transgendered lifestyle.

is, is sweet. That is the message of "The Vinegar Tasters." How does all of this relate to transgendered behavior? Let us look at ourselves through the eyes of the three men in the painting and we shall see. Confucius set rigid standards of behavior. This is much the same as with Christianity. To step outside of these guidelines, is the determining factor for what is right and wrong, what is good and bad. Under this type of system the individual is not allowed to explore and "shame" as well as "guilt" are often the tools used to keep people in line. It is no secret that any type of transgendered behavior falls outside of these guidelines. As a result, many of our sisters feel tremendous guilt immediately following the joyous exploration of their alternate gender roles. This leaves them with a sour taste in their mouths that is always associated with their feelings and need for self expression. Through the Buddhist's eyes, while there exists no clear black-and-white definition of right and wrong, the key is desire. Buddha emphasized that desire causes suffering. He explained that when one strives to become or achieve something, failure results in sadness and misery. If, on the other hand, one had no desire, there would be no suffering. In Genderland, we all have desires. We want to achieve a complete expression of the alternate gender within us. If we fail to reach the level of experience we wish for, we feel a "let down." According to Buddha, we would be happier if we never tried.

Now, let's look through the eyes of Lao-Tse. To the Taoist, the femme nature within us is much like a reservoir of water waiting to be released. The water will flow eventually and cannot be stopped. In time, cracks or leaks will develop, and the water will flow. Trying to impede the natural tendency of the water to flow its course results in

(continued on page 24)



HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

"Telling the future by looking at the past assumes that conditions remain constant. This is like driving a car by looking in the rear view mirror."

-- Herb Brody

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I'm back from my extended vacation and I need to work to get some rest. I'm gettin' too old to party hearty.

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But, I'll never be too old to help make a point and that's just what we did at the Fall Harvest in St. Louis. Riki Anne Wilchins made one of her "surprise" appearances on Saturday at lunch and whipped up the crowd with a review of transgender activism for the year. Then Lynn Walker (NYC) and I did a one-two plea for support to GenderPAC. People kept putting money in our hands all night long. We raised over \$300 in a few hours. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to GenderPAC, send your check to GenderPAC, c/o IFGE, 123 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154.

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By the time you read this, the community alliance will have participated in another professional conference (this time in Chicago) and the Creating Change Conference in Detroit sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Ya know, this community building stuff really works.

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So, what do you think of the new name for the former *TV-TS Tapestry*? In case you haven't seen it yet, the magazine is now called *Transgender*, with "Tapestry" in small letters underneath. Personally, I feel it is a welcome change and is likely to draw new subscribers for IFGE. Others, however, were not of that opinion. Our own Kym Richards thinks "it looks like a tabloid. It's going to hurt [IFGE]." It remains to be seen how subscribers react to the new design and new editor, Jean Marie Stine.

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I'll make this an equal-opportunity and ask how people like the new *LadyLike* as well. I'd really like some feedback.

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Henri David's Halloween party in Philadelphia was another huge success. Well over 1000 people were in attendance. Yours truly was asked to be a judge again.

Last year I ended up sitting next to the mayor of Philadelphia, Ed Rendell. This year, I had Pierre Robert, a local radio celebrity from WMMR, on one side and Jim Bailey (yes, that Jim Bailey) on the other. Mr. Bailey is such a nice man and we had a ball judging over 200 contestants. Afterwards, I mentioned that I was coming to see his show. He said, "Great! We'll hang out afterwards." We'll see!

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As we head out of the holiday season, there's not much cookin' in the transgender pot, so I'll get onto the fashion scene ... The latest word in makeup is from Revlon. ColorStay makeup is oil-free, sets in 60 seconds and won't rub off on your clothes. Now, that's a great selling point for us. I'm going to check it out and give a report in a future column.

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Makeup products by makeup artists have been hot ever since M.A.C. started selling their own stuff. But you usually have to get M.A.C. or Bobbi Brown or any of a host of other lines in specialty stores. That's about to change with the introduction of a new line called Professionals, from a division of the clothing-luggage company, Wathne. (Never heard of them? Neither have I.) Professionals combines products gathered by consultation with several professional makeup artists with a more generic name designed to attract consumers. Look for the line in department stores.

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In regard to companies you never heard of, anybody ever hear of Warnaco? Maybe not, but I'll bet you've worn their products. See, they make almost 50% of the lingerie in this country and produce some of the most well-known names, like Victoria's Secret for one.

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While I was away, my mailbox filled with Vicky's catalogs but the catalog that stole my heart was the new Newport News Holiday catalog. I found six items that I just had to have, including a sequined mini-skirt I've been looking for over two years. The best part was the price: \$29.99. I also found a copy of the dress I'm wearing in the photo atop this column. I paid \$90 from Bloomies By Mail for that dress. I bought the Newport News version in a (ahem) slightly larger size for less than half that price. Almost all the fashions in the Newport catalog go up to size 20 and that's pretty large these days. So check it out.

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Tidbit: "Straight men who like to cross-dress and pass as real women are fond of calling themselves 'girls,' and they are almost as afraid of being mistaken for lesbians as they are of being read as cross-dressing men" -- Sallie Tisdale in her book *Talk Dirty To Me*. I wonder who Tisdale interviewed for her book?

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Here's a twist. Jean Paul Gauthier's Eau de Toilette comes in that fascinating bottle shaped like a female torso encased in a corset, but the twist is in the container, a tin can. Well, it looks like a tin can, but the can unscrews to become three bangle bracelets. Kewl! \$58.

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While East Coasters are still into Chanel's Vamp and vampire-black/red nails, Left Coasters are opting for pastels and candy colors. The rage is so hot, there's a new line of polish called Hard Candy. The colors look disturbingly like Liquid Paper with a gloss finish. \$12 each.

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There's another new trend, the American Manicure. If you always thought a French Manicure looks *tres* sophisticated, you'll love the American Manicure. Rather than just white tips over nude nails, the AM puts just hint of red over the entire nail. Your nails look finished yet natural. I did an AM while in Provincetown for FanFair and on those days that I didn't crossdress, I didn't have to take off my nail polish and then redo it later that night. Very chic.

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One of my fantasies is to go gambling in Las Vegas as JoAnn and I may get my wish in January when I visit the Consumer Electronics Show there. If I do get to go out as JoAnn, one of the places I'm going to visit is the new Estee Lauder Boutique inside Caesar's Palace. The new shop is getting a reputation for having the best lipsticks in town and for sales staff that rival the best Vegas showgirls in looks. I wanna makeover!

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Crossdressing and drag remain hot entertainment staples. Julie Andrews is cashing in on the current drag-fest with a Broadway revival of *Victor/Victoria*. Off Broadway, Charles Busch has a new show and in Philadelphia we have a comedy-play called *High Heel Feelings* about ... three drag queens! Hey, this is getting boring. How about the next play is about two FTMs or three TVs and a TS.

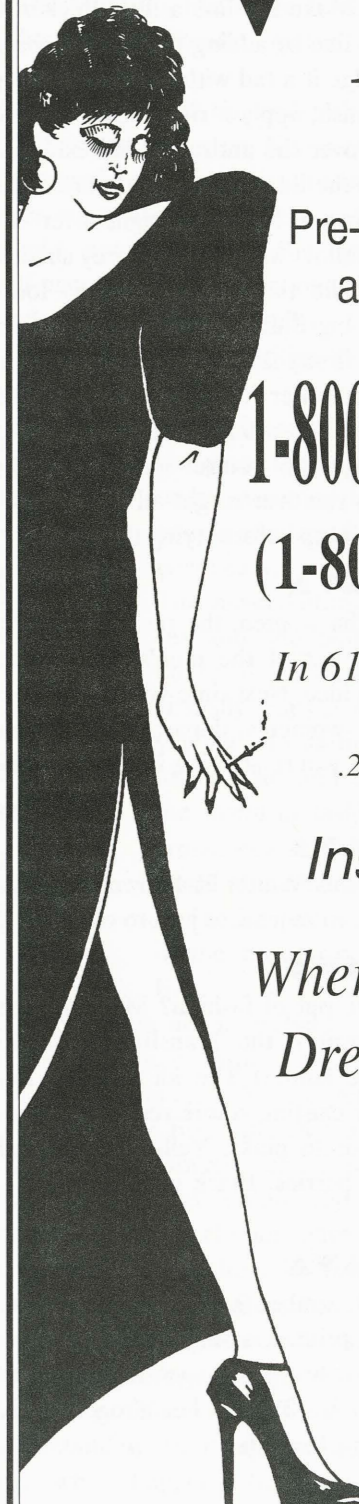
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If the play's the thing, then movies are another altogether. Some of my favorite movies are now featured on the World Wide Web. Film distributor Miramax has posted film clips of all its movies, but the ones I'm interested are: *Paris Is Burning* (<http://www.miramax.com/dlpages/parisidl.html>), *The Crying Game* (<http://www.miramax.com/dlpages/cryingdl.html>) and *High Heels* (<http://www.miramax.com/dlpages/highhedl.html>). These clips can be downloaded to your computer and played with a video viewer.

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While perusing the net I also found a kewl site with a list of just about every mail order catalog in the world (well,

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The eye design for Winter is smoky and smouldering. Here's how to get the look ... Use a light foundation over lids and a concealer under if you need it. Line both upper and lower lids with black. Liquid liner is best, although cake liner works well, too. Make the line a little thicker at the outer edges. Soften the line by adding brown just above and over the black or smudge it a tad with a Q-tip ... Using an small angled shadow brush, apply a rich brown shadow (I like a Cinnamon color) over the entire lid and extend it about a quarter-inch above the lid crease. Lightly brush the same shadow along the lower lash line right over the black/brown liner ... Now follow with a smoky grey shadow exactly the same way you did the brown ... Apply loose translucent powder with a big fluffy brush over the entire eye area. (Close your eyes first!) ... The final step takes us back to the '60s -- line the lower inner rim of the lid in black pencil ... Add jet black mascara and you're done. You look *AbFab* dahling! Ah, but you're going to need industrial strength makeup remover to get all that goo off before you hit the sack. Stock up before trying this.



Well, they're at it again. The women, the real women, are borrowing menswear right out of the men's department. It's so unfair. Hey, I got an idea. Next time you want to buy a new dress, go to the women's department in your favorite store and tell them you're starring in a new movie about three drag queens.



The *HotBuzz* about color this Winter is Brown in almost any dark shade from coffee, to mocha, to java to camel.



Stuck with lipsticks that are out of fashion? Makeup artist Trish McEvoy has an answer -- the Transformer Kit for \$35. (Doncha just love the name!) The kit includes four sheer shades to blend over existing colors resulting in new colors. White brightens reds to pinks. Yellow warms reds to corals. Blue make reds berries. Black makes reds deep plums.



Guess who's back in the December issue of *Playboy*? Tula, that's who. The magazine printed a single page from the famous pictorial Tula did a few years ago. If you missed that, here's your chance to see Tula in her altogether and taken altogether, she's simply beautiful.



Well-known transgender community vendor Vernon's Specialties in Waltham, Mass. is in serious financial

trouble and said to be filing for bankruptcy, according to informed sources. Vernon's is continuing to do business, though. If you decide to order something, use a credit card. That way, if your order is not filled, you can cancel the payment and get your money back. *Caveat emptor*.



On a much sadder note, two well-known community activists are very ill. Jennifer Richards of the St. Louis Gender Foundation is responsible for pulling together the first community coalition, Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE). Richards has AIDS related complications and while she attended the recent Fall Harvest, she seems to be fading fast. Likewise, Anne Forrester, editor and publisher of *The Tartan Skirt*, a transgender publication from Scotland, is extremely ill from bone cancer. The last issue of the *Skirt* announced that Forrester will no longer accept subscriptions. She will continue publishing the *Skirt*, but one issue at a time.



So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think *Talk Dirty To Me* should be confined to the bedroom, not the bookshelf. Comments? E-mail them to cyberqueen@cdspub.com. Copyright 1995 by Creative Design Services.

THE VINEGAR TASTERS ... continued from page 21

disaster. To Lao-tse, only by working within the laws that govern the flow of water will happiness be achieved. To further illustrate, imagine washing your hands in the sink. If your hands work with the water, the task of cleansing your hands is accomplished quite well and without incident. Now, put your finger into the faucet to try to stop or alter the direction of the flow of water. What a mess! The water is going everywhere and you really can't stop it or control it. We all have had experience with trying to "stop" our transgendered behavior, and the result is calamity. Trying to "control" it with artificially imposed rules is often equally disastrous. Lao-Tse would encourage us explore our gender roles. He would also caution us to neither impede nor force the emergence of our femme self. For the transgendered individual, the development of our femme selves should be natural and balanced, only in that way, will we find joy and not bitterness.



This commentary previously appeared in The Sooner Belle, the newsletter of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance. Reprinted with the permission of the author.

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IF YOU SEE A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DEALING
WITH CROSSDRESSING OR TRANSSEXUALISM,
please send it to us!



Alternative Presses

by Kimberleigh Richards

(This month's guest reviewer is Emily Alford.)

To Wong Foo, Priscilla, Wigstock, Vested Interests: these titles and many more make it plain that transgender is a hot subject. At first glance, the English writer David Thomas is an unlikely author to enter this debate. His previous book *Not Guilty* is an extended defense of the male sex against the charges that feminism has brought. Yet in *Girl* he switches positions completely. Writing in the comic mode, drawing on the pulp tradition of sex and shopping novels, and making wickedly funny use of 1990s British culture, he gives us a victim of accidental sex reassignment surgery and turns her into a heroine of power and genuine conviction.

The accident happens because of a gurney mix-up in an overworked National Health Service hospital and the novel begins as our unexpectedly new woman emerges from anesthetic. The deed being done, the former Bradley has no choice (other than suicide, which she attempts) but to accept it and become Jackie.

Thomas has done his homework on gender change and sex reassignment. He takes us through the sociological distancing and reintegration that Anne Bolin writes about in *In Search Of Eve*.

He describes classes in feminine deportment. Necessarily, his Jackie is a most unusual transsexual, because she never intended to emerge from hospital as a woman. In this sense, Thomas draws on a device that turns up frequently in what passes for transvestite/transsexual fiction: the boy who is forced to do it. In Jackie's case there has been no real life trial, no learning to pass, no slow coming to terms with a reality that can be avoided but that cannot be denied. There is just the sudden fact that Bradley is a man no more.

Kate Bornstein writes in *Gender Outlaw* that being forced to do it is part of "the erotica of my people" and what happens to Thomas' Jackie represents the ultimate case of forcing. Given the realities of the British medical service in our time, the forcing is plausible, and Thomas deals brilliantly with contemporary British hospital culture. He is splendid as well with his handling of the British tabloid



press, for whom nastiness and exploitation are ways of life. With a daughter who is a British physician and a spouse who has had to deal with the tabloids, I can testify to how well Thomas handles both themes.

The novel's extended argument deals with two issues. One is Jackie's awakening to just how awful men can be to women. She suffers a real ordeal at the hands of a mob of football (soccer) fans, whose favorite chant to a girl is "get your tits out for the lads." (I've heard it chanted). She learns what it's like to be treated as an airheaded bimbo. (Naturally, Thomas makes her tall, blonde, and well-shaped).

Jackie also learns the codes that women use to deal with another and with men. Not surprisingly (to anybody who is transgendered), she comes to the conclusion that she really likes what she has become and that given the choice she would not go back. But peace requires more than self-acceptance. Thomas builds from Jackie's realization that she likes her new self to a powerful demonstration of

what a British transsexual must endure from laws and a society that recognize her as female by courtesy only. Jackie does arrive at the place where transgendered people want to be, accepted both by herself and by the people who count in her life. But it does not come easy.

The novel falters only when it turns to the sex and shopping theme. So swift and so entire is Jackie's transformation that she virtually leaps from being a standard British job with no particular future to being a very highly paid and extremely svelte woman of the world of fashion. In this sense, she is a crossdresser's dream, existing entirely in a world of clothes that would cost most people a month's pay, scents to match, and dinners in the most expensive London restaurants. But since the circumstances of her

transformation are improbable, we may as well relax and let the outcome be improbable too.

I'm an academic, so let me get academic for a moment. *Girl* is not the first time that a male writer has taken on the theme of forced feminization. James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, Mark Twain, and a long list of others that reaches back to Homer have all done it too. As the feminist critics Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar note (in *Sexchanges*), male writers have treated it as a matter of profound derangement. Women writers like Virginia Woolf (in *Orlando*) have seen the same matter very differently. The key to understanding *Girl* (as to understanding *To Wong Foo* and, in the end, *Priscilla*), is that what happens to Jackie turns out not to be derangement at all. That a man rather than a woman has seen it this way says something about transgender in our

(continued on page 30)

BEING SPOTTED AS TRANSGENDERED

by Fran Springfield, R.G.N.

Many's the time when I'm enjoying a quiet shopping trip into town, taking a break from work, when all of a sudden a woman walks by who catches my eye, and I do a double take: Is she or isn't she TS/TG? My sixteen year old son is now capable of joining in the debate and will often make very valid points.

What causes her to be "spotted"? I refuse to use the terminology "being read", as that belongs firmly to crossdressers who can truthfully be described -- and thus can be "read" -- as being men dressed as women. This does not apply to MTF TSs -- who are, after all, women, no matter what stage of transition they are at -- or TGs. But I do contend that TS/TG women can be spotted just as it can be possible to spot lesbians or gay men.

I have over the years met a very large number of MTF TSs, probably well over the thousand mark, and there have been quite a number that I would regard as being virtually unspottable; their presentation is excellent, often they are many years post-surgery, and *time does make a difference*. There are some that even I, with many years experience, would pass by at close quarters and not detect.

I often feel very sorry for those TS/TG women that I do spot, who realize that they have been noticed; they frequently look very puzzled, clearly wondering what it is that they have got wrong. For they have probably been totally ignored by everyone else that they have met that day, and of course, I have no chance to tell them that because of my profession I have a rather more practiced eye than most non-transgendered women!

There are some MTF TSs and TGs who do not worry whether they are spotted or not, they are quite happy to make their own statement to the world. That of course is their right. I am well aware that there are others in the same situation who would strongly disapprove of that particular stance, feeling that it inevitably leads to problems for the rest of the transgender community. I would accept this as a very valid point but would also defend the right of an individual to act as she sees fit, providing that by her behavior she does not bring other members of the transgender community into disrepute. Quite often those who choose to make their condition very public do so in an attempt to educate others and if this is done in an accurate and non-sensationalist way, it can only be for good. (I know that there are those who are solely attention-seeking and I deplore that sort of attitude.)

But, back to my original question: What creates "spotability"? Often it is not just one particular aspect of someone's appearance that causes this, it can be a variety

of things. The TS/TG woman may not have just made one glaring error, but have a number of small things "not quite right".

If it is facial appearance that gives someone away, this could be due to problems with makeup. Is there too much, not enough, is it the wrong shade, does lipstick clash with

What "gives away" a transgendered person in public? Some of the answers are surprising.

clothes' color? The list is endless, and I as someone who does not wear makeup (unless she has to), will be the last to attempt to give specific advice. There are plenty more qualified to do so than me. The best person is probably your electrologist who will have trained in all aspects of beauty care. *It should not need to be said that early completion of electrolysis is vital to a successful role change.*

Hair styles are another area that can create difficulties. Why is it that so many "new women" insist on getting their almost shoulder length hair tightly over-permed, full fringe across, whether it suits them or not? This at one time, within the U.K. almost seemed to be becoming the standard MTF TS hair style to prove that someone had changed over gender roles. From my point of view it is one aspect of appearance that would almost guarantee "spotability". There are so many other styles that can be far more flattering. Get good advice from a professional hairdresser. Many are expert too at creating styles for those who still have to oscillate between gender roles.

Wigs can cause any transgendered individual to be spotted. Of course, for some they are an essential requirement to a total female image. *The loss of head hair does not make someone any less transgendered or less suitable to go through the process of gender reassignment. It is a person's intrinsic transsexuality that counts.* If a wig is properly selected, fitted and looked after it can look as good as the natural thing ... if not better in some cases. There are plenty of experienced and specialized firms around that are well worth using.

Of course it is sometimes undeniably masculine facial features that create the problem. If one has the money to deal with this, all well and good, one only has to find a suitably qualified surgeon (via one's counselor or psychiatrist, of course) and then just go through the

surgical process and all that involves. But for those who are not so fortunate, and that must apply to at least 50% of the MTF TS population, life becomes a little more difficult. There have been occasions when I, as a gender counselor, have been in the situation of seeing someone whose features combined with their overall size and stature would make it almost impossible for them to change gender roles and not be constantly recognized as being born male. Such people, if they are truly transsexual, are faced with an impossible dilemma. I am personally aware of one individual for whom the only answer was suicide. But, I remember only too well another such person, who lived nearby to me for a period, and whose appearance combined with her attitude and behavior constantly lead to altercations and the involvement of the police. (I eventually had to refuse to stand bail for her because of her persistent re-offending behavior.) She had already gone through surgery via an National Health Service clinic, and I still question whether the right decision was made by both client and professionals in that case.

Gender Identity Disorders produce no easy answers and it has to be remembered that *what is right for one person may not be right for someone else*. This applies as much to the decision to change gender roles as to what clothes to wear having done so. Making sure that accessories, handbag, shoes and jewelry are right for the outfit being worn is important too. Getting a wardrobe together is lifetime experience: I certainly know non-transgendered women who have not got it right! It is essential to choose clothes that are correct for you, both in terms of color and style. One of the best investments you can make, if you can afford it, is to visit a color consultant, specially trained to work out which of the seasonal color spectrums is right for you, i.e., spring, summer, autumn or winter, and to advise on the best clothes containing those shades that you should wear.

If you cannot afford this, just take a look at how other women around you are dressed, and read the fashion pages in women's magazines. Also, cultivating the friendship of someone who runs a nearly new shop can be a great asset to the purse as well as your image. But please, *avoid looking "tarty" ... it only attracts the wrong sort of attention!* Try to blend in.

The following rules should also help you be less spottable.

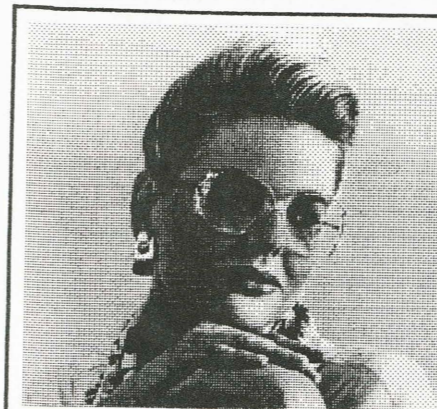
- 1) Wear clothes suitable for your age group
- 2) Make sure they are appropriate for the activity you are undertaking
- 3) Check that colors and patterns do not clash
- 4) Ensure hem lines are right and that skirts do not show below coats
- 5) Correct fitting is important too, as is sizing
- 6) Don't wear shoulder pads, your shoulders are probably broad enough already and the pads make good bra fillers
- 7) Your bust size should be in proportion to the rest of you, and remember they will probably grow post-surgery (if you opt for that route)
- 8) Clothes that are too drab are as likely to again attention a those that are too colorful
- 9) If you are tall, don't wear shoes with too high a heel, and don't stoop, either
- 10) Keeping up with the latest fashion can be expensive and selecting one from the past is not helpful -- the "classic look" is often best.

Always present a positive image.

Two more things that can cause "spotability" are deportment and demeanor. Movement, behavior and voice all go to help make up the image that the TS or TG needs to portray. Many speech therapists are more than willing to assist with deportment as well as voice training. Learning to move in the correct manner not only helps with presentation but also prevents problems created by muscle strain and bad posture. There can be a great deal of debate as to how a woman should behave and speak. Try to cultivate a voice that fits the person that you are, and speak in the manner that you would wish to be addressed. Remember that masculine gestures and swearing can give you away, you need to make that bit more effort than the non-transgendered woman.

There are two more areas that you need to consider. The first is the "Marion Wells (*my partner -- a TS woman who is many years post-surgery*) Square Rule": If one TS or TG Female goes out on her own her chances of being spotted are low, if however there are two TS/TG women together the chances of being spotted quickly rises to being four times more likely than one TS/TG woman on her own,

(continued on page 36)



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The Diva of Dish

by Angela Gardner

Yo kiddies, Typhoon Angela just back from wreaking havoc in the Phillipines. Boy that worn me out. I was so worn out that I caught, and kept, the Dreaded Change of Season Cold. By carefully allowing myself to get worn down, not watching my diet and exceeding wind speeds of 170 MPH, I managed to turn it into a real doozy. Don't mess with me, I'm on medication! Antibiotics, actually. (Sometimes I feel sorry for the poor biotics. There are so many drugs against them.) Now, I make the supreme sacrifice and stay up all night, just plain trashing my health, to write another witty and exciting column ... just for you. Fortunately the fever causes the manifestation of something approximating creativity. And now, we're cleared for takeoff so here we go ...



HOWARD, WHAT BIG BOOBS YOU'VE GOT: Howard Stern, the King of Sleaze has a new book hot off the presses. It's called *Miss America* and surprise! Howard's in drag on the cover. Not just drag but pretty well done drag. So well done that some of his fans have posted messages to the Howard newsgroup on the Net asking how could he do such a "homo" cover. But wait, the drag doesn't stop there. Inside the book are pictures of the "rejected" covers. (Great way to use up space: Oh, I don't know, let's just put all these other cover shots inside and tell them the rejects are a bonus.) Those "covers" include shots of the whole Stern show crew in drag. Everyone is identified on page 164 so you have a chance to know what your favorite Sternoid looks like in a dress. (What about Robin Quivers? Did she dress as a drag king or drag queen?)

I remember Howard appearing in drag on his ill fated television show. He interviewed Tula and her sister, and he dressed in drag. Of course throughout the interview he claimed he was a transsexual and all of his sophomoric fans laughed and laughed about how Howard was making such a joke of Tula. I wonder ... with all this dressing up; where there's smoke, could there be fire?

The folks who run the *Miss America Pageant* got a little upset too and prepared to file suit, so Stern's publisher fast forwarded the release date to beat the injunction.

Ya know how Howie has his legions of fans call up talk shows and TV shows like *Real Personal*, pretending to be legitimate callers, and then they proclaim Howard as God

when they get on the air? Well, how about if all of the crossdressers start calling in to Howard's show pretending to want to comment on some of his scintillating wit and then start asking him if he's wearing panties? Go on, ya know ya wanta.



KITTY ES QUATRO: Statuesque drag beauty and Palm Springs mayoral candidate **Kitty Cole** went down to defeat in the November election. Her mascara faced a tough test as the plucky glamour candidate heard the election results come in and she saw herself shaping up as only fourth place in the hearts and minds of Palm Springers. (She should have kissed more babies. Imagine the little tykes all smeared with Wet & Wild. It kind of gives a girl goosebumps.)

Miss Cole managed to garner (I love that election talk) 2.9% of the vote. That's a hefty three hundred and seventy one votes-- from people with great fashion sense. Kitty was quoted in the *L.A. Times* (they were "shocked") as saying, "I can't believe that there are that many hundreds of people out there that would put their butt on the line for me." Too bad more of *our* crowd didn't turn out at the polls and carry her to victory but hey, fourth isn't bad for a first time candidate with no record and a great pair of gams. Perhaps she should have started with City Council to kind of get in the political groove.

Let's help her out next time she runs for office. When she announces her candidacy we'll all move out there and register to vote. If we all get together in one place we should be able to elect her by a landslide. Of course the impact on the local beauty supply houses would be incredible.



TEMPTRESS TELLS ALL: Well, not all, but, imagine my surprise when I was Net surfing through Cindy Martin's Transgender Forum (<http://www.zoom.com/personal/cindym/indextg.html>) and saw Chuck (the founder and guitarist of Temptress, the crossdressing rock band) Garabaridian's face and name listed as a "New Girl." And, in the Transgender Artists section I was told you could view the cover of the Temptress comic book. I quickly clicked on the proper icon and it opened before my amazed eyes: a painting of some hot babes in next to nothing but a few strategically placed leather straps and their instruments. Of course, they also look nothing like the boys in the band but hey, what's wrong with a little wishful thinking?

Now it was not so long ago that I heard Temptress swearing on the **Joan Rivers** show (OK, it *was* that long ago) that they were *not* transvestites or crossdressers or any of that kind of thing, thank you very much. No indeed, they're just red blooded American boys who dress up as a

gimmick to promote their musical careers. I even talked with Chuck on the phone one time and he reiterated the band's straightness. Now, at last, they've come out of the closet. (He still isn't using a femme name but I'll bet his main squeeze doesn't call him Chuck when he's wearing his favorite teddy around the house.)

While not actually issuing a release to the media or painting it on the side of buildings, by appearing in Transgender Forum, Temptress is telling everybody what we already knew. They walk around in drag cause they like it ... and it's a good gimmick to promote their musical careers.

Good luck girls. Keep on rockin'.



SPEAKING OF GIMMICKS ... The popular eatery in New York, **Lucky Cheng's**, has flatterers in Merry Olde London Towne. It's the sincerest form of compliment they say, and it's also the quickest way to latch onto a good gimmick. According to a piece in the November issue of *Beaumont* magazine the owners of *Diva*, a new restaurant in London's Soho district, have decided to have an all drag wait staff. Giacomo Capizzano and Kevin Garrity found all ten of their waitresses by word of mouth and, "ad-ver-tiss-ments" (must use that Brit accent, ya know) in *Boys* magazine. (Everyone knows ... for a boy in girls' clothes ... put an ad in *Boys*.) The girls will all sport sophisticated London fashions as they sling the chow, and

the chow, also like Lucky Cheng's, will be "pan-Asian food." Mr. Capizzano said there is also a drag restaurant in Paris. (Where? I love Paris in drag in the Spring!) The waitresses there are very drag queeny, with lots of feather boas and glitter. "We call that 'anti-appetite' drag" said Capizzano. The Diva girls will dish out the food as they delight the eye in outfits ranging from Sloane Ranger to Mary Quant in the Swinging '60s.

I simply must return to London this year. Perhaps they could use a Yank queen in the dining room. Hey chef, Adam and Eve on a raft. Wreck 'em. Youse want coffee wit dat hon?



FEETS DON'T FAIL ME NOW!: Take heart girls, it's not only the poor TV who has to look hard for big shoes. *Mortal Kombat* star **Bridgette Wilson** has admitted to possessing a pair of size of eleven and a half feet. She told **Jay Leno** that the only place she can find shoes that fit is ... you guessed it, crossdresser stores.

All you girls in L.A. keep an eye open when you're in the shoe department. You might find Bridgette there looking for a new pair of pumps.



A WONG FOO FROM HONG KONG: Keep an eye peeled for a Hong Kong produced film that's not exactly a karate flick. It's a crossdressed comedy called *He's a Woman, She's a Man* and it's been playing in the 1995 Asian American International Film Festival. It's the usual wacky plot where a guy dresses as a girl and a girl dresses as a guy and they get together, but it's all in Chinese with subtitles. That means you'll be so busy reading the bottom of the screen you won't be able to see that much of the crossdressing. Aloha honeys. Keep those cards and letters coming.

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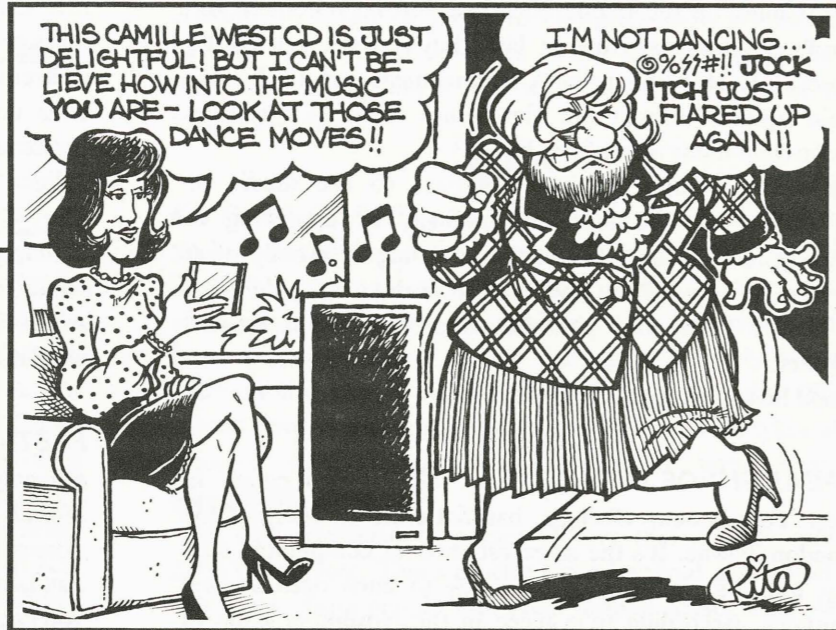
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The Bearded Lady

by Ricky Hunt
Illustration by Rita



I just have to stop reading, or tone down my imagination a bit. I have been reading the latest issue of *Discover* magazine and found myself fascinated. There is an article in there on the importance of fungus in the process of evolution, a scholarly work with a great deal of background information and a startling new hypothesis concerning the evolution of life on land. But there is one fact that sticks out in my mind with a blazing, neon, luminescence: fungi have some 5,000 sexes. It boggles the mind, five thousand sexes. Could there be an equal number of genders involved? How in creation could you tell? Suppose for a moment fungi wore clothes. Just think of the problems for our hypothetical thallophytic TV. Of course the individual would have to be a crossdresser, even the most fevered minds in the fashion industry could never contrive 5,000 separate fashion schemes to differentiate themselves. But that's not the end of it, not by a long shot. I, as most males, have suffered from the ailment tactfully referred to as "jock itch" in those disgusting commercials. This is a phenomenon produced by myriad little fungi taking up residence in the damp regions under those pretty but airtight nylon panties we like to wear, and announcing their presence with gusto. Now I not only have to cope with exponential overgrowth, but I have to face the fact that there are five thousand different sexes copulating in my crotch. I dare any person on the planet to tell me I'm a homosexual because I'm wearing a bra and panties! Enough of the imagination already, there are limits on civilized discourse even I will not cross. On another subject entirely, I want to recommend some music to you, or perhaps I should just be honest and say I'm going to deliver an unabashed plug. One of the most frustrating parts of writing a column is the utter inability of the printed word to convey the impact of a well crafted song. I

have a collection of many songs that would knock a gender bending audience dead, but writing them on paper just won't work. So I urge you to get the CD *Mother Tongue* from Camille West, a very funny lady who bills herself as The Suburban Mother from Hell. She doesn't know it, but her sardonic view of the various ways femininity can be expressed is sure to be appreciated by crossdressers. My favorite is *Ladies Against Fanny Floss (LAFF)*, a plea to fashion designers to make clothes that a normally proportioned woman (or CD) can wear without embarrassment. *Mother Tongue* is a droll comment on how we end up sounding like our mothers, especially when we do those things we swore we would never do to our kids when we grew up. You can join a seagoing family of yuppies on *The Nervous Wreck of Edna Fitzgerald* or have *The Candidate's Wife* explain how to be the perfect woman -- publicly, that is. For those of you in therapy, learn how to turn it into cash in *Your Family's Disfunction* or go drinking with the Good Doctor Freud in *The Viennese Drinking Song*. This is one of the funniest and best recordings to come along in years, and her backup musicians are a who's who of the best in folk music.

(\$15 from Mother Tongue Music, P.O. Box 4299, Queensbury NY 12804.)

ALTERNATIVE PRESSES ... continued from page 25

times. A footnote: As I sat composing this, my trans-Atlantic spouse telephoned me to read a news story from a British paper. A physician there is quoted as saying that stressed out males would do a lot better to put on silky lingerie and a dress, if they want some peace, than to go to the pub and drink too much. I'll second the point, as my spouse knows perfectly well, though I quite like English beer. The doctor's name is Vernon Coleman, and he has just published a book called *Men In Dresses*. That Coleman votes with Woolf and Thomas rather than Joyce and Hemingway about the topic seems obvious. *Girl* is not available yet in the United States. I discovered it last summer in England. I'm going back this month, and I will get a copy of Coleman's book. If Kym lets me, I'll review it here.

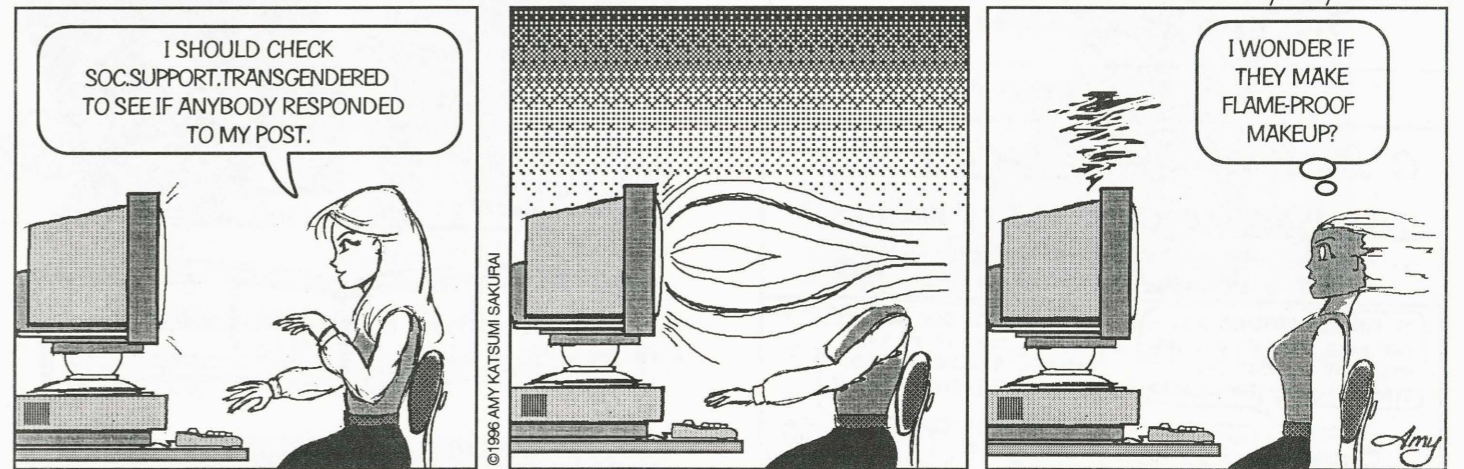
THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



PANDORA'S BOX

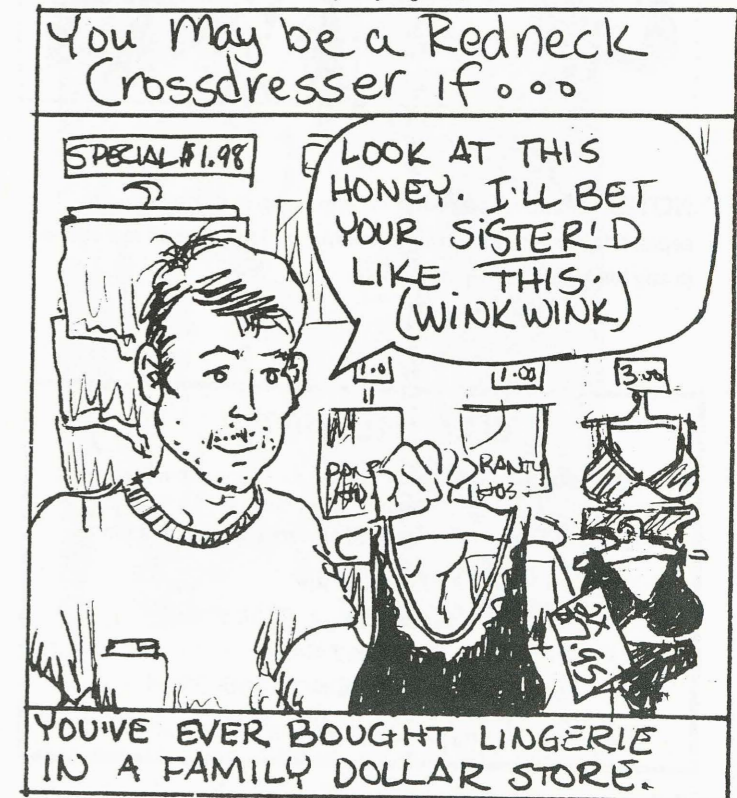
by Amy Sakurai



WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT? by Christine-Jane Wilson



THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner



Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard



"Well, that ought to skew their data ..."

A Few Seconds with: T.S. & C.D. by Calie

THIS MONTH: "DON'T SHOOT! IT'S HARMLESS"

... A WIG IS NOT UNLIKE A PET. YOU BATHE IT, BRUSH IT, AND YOU TAKE IT FOR A WALK ...

IT FINALLY HAPPENED, T.S. THE WIND BLEW MY WIG OFF AND SENT IT DOWN THE STREET LIKE A TUMBLEWEED



NOT YET. A COP GRABBED IT AND TOOK IT TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER. IF I WANT IT BACK I'LL HAVE TO ADOPT.



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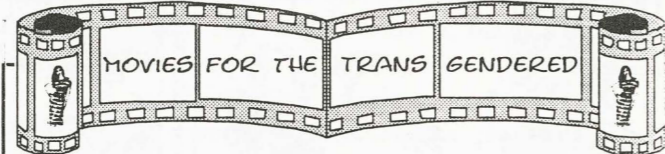
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Cross-Talk is once again looking for talented people to contribute to the best transgender comic section in print! Please send a sample of your best work for consideration to:

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(We're also looking for tasteful artwork for the front cover!)

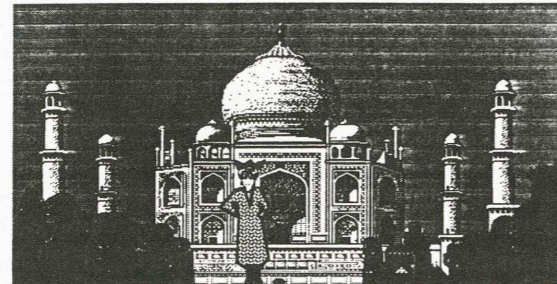
here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



by Karen Rusnak

The sequel to
 Yule Brenner's masterpiece
 The King and I

THE QUEEN AND I
 are one in the same!



Accessorize...Accessorize...Accessorize!

I could have danced all night...
 but my heels were too tight!

Rex Reed,
 Critic at large ...
 Oh the fashions are hot!

Kevin '13

GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



8/22/83: Willard Scott, in an effort to raise money for the USO, dresses as Carmen Miranda on *Today*, NBC.



6/25/90: Sam (Scott Bakula) leaps into the life of a gorgeous secretary in 1961, and Al (Dean Stockwell) finds her disconcertingly appealing on *Quantum Leap*, NBC.



11/14/75: Guest star Bob Hope encounters Geraldine during a Navy-themed sketch on *The Flip Wilson Comedy Special*, CBS.



10/10/85: Scott Baio plays a man who takes a job as a female impersonator and Howie (Doug Barr) takes a similar job to protect him ... while Heather Thomas checks her makeup between them on *The Fall Guy*, ABC.

I AM THE SANDWICH LADY

by Helene H.

This is not going to be about food. To avoid further confusing the reader, I will explain what I am about. First of all, there is no such thing as a Sandwich Lady but there used to be someone that people referred to as a Sandwich Man. He was usually a guy down on his luck who needed to earn a few bucks to tide him over for the day and possibly for a place to spend the night if he didn't spend it all beforehand on booze. You saw him on the busy streets walking up and down, back and forth, East and West and North and South. All you could see of him was his head and feet because the rest of him was hidden behind two signs that hung from his shoulders by straps on either side. Front and back, the two signs reached almost to his feet and bore identical inscriptions like:

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NEXT TO THE BANK

Sometimes there were business cards stuck on the signs so interested passersby could grab one in case they had bad memories or else the man who carried the signs would have them in his fingers as he rested his arms on the edge of the signs he was carrying. Since he walked around all day between the two signs he was called a "Sandwich Man" and job agencies listed him as such. Whether you were behind him or passing before him you could not avoid seeing him and what he was proclaiming forth. A walking advertisement; that's what he was.

That's what I am, too. I am a Sandwich Lady. I walk the streets wherever there are people. East and West and all the points of the compass, I carry my sign; I am advertising *CROSSDRESSING*.

Whereas most of my sisters are hiding themselves in closets or attempting to fool the public into believing that they are really women while performing a secret rite they call "passing", I am out there in the bright sunlight advertising the fact that I am a Crossdresser. If I were a true Sandwich Lady, I would carry two identical signs stating that fact in as big and bold a style of lettering possible.

However, I do not need to do that. You take one look at me and you will understand right off without a doubt that I needn't bother with the expense of having any signs made up. Anybody who is not being led by a seeing eye dog will catch on to me right off. In a dimly lit coal mine at midnight you couldn't miss what there is under that dress. A brief physical description of me will reinforce that statement beyond a doubt. I am six feet tall with shoulders like a football player. When I order dresses I usually

spend the morning removing the shoulder pads. (I have a number of pillows stuffed with them. For years I tried to find some practical use for them, but that is the best I could come up with.) I wear size 12W shoes. I have a big masculine nose and an Adam's Apple that is only slightly smaller. My voice is low and loud; I can be overheard

By being honest about who and what you are, you can sometimes effect outreach just by being yourself.

through a brick wall without straining your ears.

Sometimes I make an attempt to console myself by thinking that there are lots of ugly women out there as well, but to be perfectly honest about it I never see teenage girls snicker at them the way they do when they see me. If I do not attract any attention on occasions when I walk the shopping malls, I do not kid myself that I am fooling anybody. Most people who frequent these places are too busy minding their own business to even bother registering any kind of reaction if they even take any notice of me. If anything, they might think I was a trifle nuts. Who in this world would want to be taken for a dame the way women are treated by their husbands, their bosses or even society in general? So I won't go any further than admit that I am simply tolerated.

A few years ago, I found myself in a position of complete independence. I lived by myself, with no responsibilities to anyone ... nor had I to conform to any one. I had been a crossdresser for many years in closets of different sizes but now I was free to follow my own desires and dictates. I filled the house with dozens of dresses. Ordinary closets proved to be inadequate so I hung dresses festooned from nails hammered in the walls. I had 50 pairs of shoes, a dozen nightgowns, hose in all shades, and a complete collection of cosmetics. That was some closet, I can tell you.

But sometimes I got a little restless sitting out on my porch. I wanted more. It gradually came to my mind that I was still in a closet ... an enormous one, but still a closet. This feeling grew to the point where I decided to leave this enclosure and get out into the world.

I was also out to correct an impression that people have about us. Some of them have seen us on TV or in the films but that is not really representative of what we are. Most



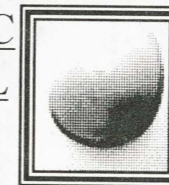
of us are quite ordinary looking people. We are not all gorgeous like the drag queens, who could turn the heads of any men, nor like Tula who had a part in a James Bond film, nor like the beautiful crossdresser in *The Crying Game* or like the dozens of fortunate sisters who could easily pass through the severest test. There must be dozens of our sisters who look so great that they have already disappeared into the world accepted as women after their painful struggles. When I go to these big gatherings like the one they run in Texas and I am sitting around a big banquet table I am never sure who is what. I wait for a signal to find out which one of them is the wife because I am dead wrong so often. I definitely would not enjoy being fatally wounded by a salad fork in the hands of an irate genetic female.

I do not try to attract attention to myself. I am quiet and dignified. I wear conservative clothes, low heels and long skirts. I am polite and considerate of others. I talk to people at every opportunity that is afforded me. There is always a smile on my face even when the checkout girl says "Thank You, Sir." In four years of conducting my personal affairs dressed as a woman, I have never experienced anything that upset me in any way. Hecklers always keep their distance. Their taunts are loud coming from moving cars but since I do not react in any way, no one within hearing distance connects them with me and it is all over in seconds. On the other hand, thousands of

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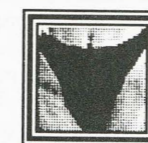
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people I have passed during the past four years I have been "out" and recognized me for what I am, will have seen a crossdresser in their town and it didn't offend them, or frighten them in any way. If the subject comes up in a future conversation they might say "Oh yeah, I saw one the other day on the street. I guess there are a few of them around."

I know that Nature has played a dirty trick on us. Our insides don't fit our outsides. In my time, I have been as confused and frustrated about it as anyone you can name. I have been unhappy about it to the point where it has blighted my existence and made the people around me unhappy because I myself was not a together person. Some of us resort to more harmful things like booze and dope in order to get some relief from it unless we are lucky enough to meet someone who takes the trouble to help us out. At last, I have learned not only to accept my dual nature but to be proud of my individuality. So I am a Sandwich Lady. I know I am not a very god looking dame but let me tell you something; a stranger in a bar in Albany once bought me a Manhattan.

Say I'm weary, say I'm sad

Say that health and wealth have missed me

Say I'm getting old but add

A guy in a bar in Albany once bought me a drink.

With apologies to the poet Leigh Hunt.

BEING SPOTTED ... continued from page 27

and if there are three of you the "spotability" ratio rises to 9! (This rule also applies to crossdressers.) Personal experience has taught me that, as a non-transgendered woman, if I am part of a group of TS/TG women and one of them gets spotted, not only do the others, but I get spotted too!

The final point is this: *Do not be paranoid.* Consider the fact that if someone is noticing you it may just be because you happen to be looking very attractive and are wearing an outfit that particularly suits you. Well dressed women are likely to attract the attention of others. If you happen to be dressed more smartly than those around about you this will not go unnoticed, You may find someone is looking at you because they are admiring you and not because you have been spotted.




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 Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389
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 Enterprise, Boston: (617) 983-3264 #
 Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 388-7022 #
 Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
 F2M Fraternity, NYC: (908) 298-8797 #
 Gender Identity Support Services, MA: (617) 720-3413 #
 Gender Talk North, New Hampshire: (603) 924-8828
 Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
 Images, Hartford: (203) 779-9708 #
 Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9858
 Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
 Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter Tri-Ess, Utica: (607) 547-4118 @
 LGCSC Gender Identity Project, NYC: (212) 620-7310
 Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 283-1333 @
 Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050
 Monmouth Ocean Trans Gender, Central NJ: (908) 219-9094
 Northern New Jersey Group: (201) 663-0772
 Philadelphia TS Support Group: (215) 567-7879 #
 Renaissance Delaware Chapter: (302) 995-1396
 Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (610) 630-1437
 Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
 Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 435-5401
 Sigma Nu Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Trenton: 1-800-480-3152 @
 Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417
 Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325
 TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822
 Transgender Support Group of Baltimore: (410) 837-5445
 Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
 Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181
 Tri-State Transgendered Club, Cumberland: (301) 453-3538
 Victoria Club, MD: (301) 805-2255
 Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
 XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (770) 939-0244
 Atlanta Gender Exploration: (404) 875-9846 #
 Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 #
 Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
 Eclipse, Tampa: (813) 546-3089 #
 Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (954) 784-9316 #
 Enchante, St. Petersburg: (813) 972-2617 #
 Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
 GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
 Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
 Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335
 Gulf Gender Alliance, New Orleans: (504) 523-4203
 Kappa Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Charlotte: (704) 358-3838 @
 Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570
 Metro Area Gender Alliance, Arlington: (301) 949-3822 #
 Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
 Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 332-6638 #
 M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
 Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 523-2466 @
 Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
 Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 253-9882
 Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
 Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @
 Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 633-9653
 Tennessee Vals, Nashville: (615) 664-6883
 Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 222-6796

These hotlines are run by non-profit organizations, and may not be answered "live" at all times as a result. Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups. While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice. If you find an incorrect listing, please let us know!

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Alpha Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Cleveland: (216) 556-0067 @
 Beta Gamma Chapter Tri-Ess, Minneapolis: (612) 870-8536 @
 Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
 Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 262-8707 @
 Chicago Gender Society: (708) 863-7714
 City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 229-3613
 Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (606) 581-3711
 Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3847
 Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
 Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 231-1368
 Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee: (414) 297-9328
 Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 241-1411 #
 Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 781-0834
 Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (309) 755-2310
 Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072
 N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258
 Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292
 Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
 St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 367-4128
 Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

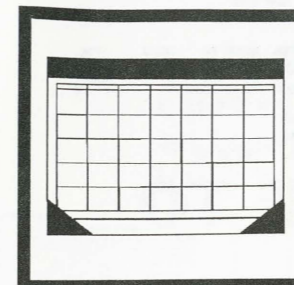
Agape, Dallas: (214) 424-1234 #
 Alpha Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Salt Lake City: (801) 553-8141 @
 Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788
 Central Wyoming TG Support Group: (307) 473-2429
 CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
 Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver: (303) 595-5874 @
 Evolvere, Tucson: (520) 884-0541
 Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 202-6466
 Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282
 Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632
 Metroplex CD Club, Dallas: (214) 264-7103 @
 Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460
 Sorority, AZ: (602) 293-3456
 TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
 TS Support Group, Las Vegas: (702) 594-7884 #
 Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @
 Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 827-9494
 Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651
 Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802
 Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
 Trans-Port, Portland: (503) 774-8463
 Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
 Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #
 Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
 Androgyny-East, Riverside: (909) 360-5584
 Born Free, Riverside: (909) 278-0958
 CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
 Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 937-8432
 Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
 FTM, Oakland: (510) 287-2646 #
 Gender Expressions, Los Angeles: (310) 869-4241
 Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
 Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
 Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
 Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
 Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 482-7742
 Sigma Sigma Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Lake Tahoe: (916) 544-2460 @
 Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
 Society for the Second Self Spouses/Partners: (909) 820-6734
 Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: 1-800-610-7926



EVENTS CALENDAR

February 10, 1996: 7th Annual "Gala Ball", Cedar Rapids IA, hosted by Iowa Artistry. Write P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids 52406-0075 for details or telephone (309) 755-2310.

February 23-25, 1996: "Weekend Break", Bollington Cheshire, U.K., sponsored by The Northern Concord. Information from P.O. Box 258, Manchester M60 1LN.

February 27-March 3, 1996: 8th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", Dallas TX. Information from P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163 or by calling (210) 980-7788.

March 24-31, 1996: IFGE "Minnesota Pride Celebration '96", Minneapolis MN. Information from IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154, telephone (617) 899-2212.

April 25-29, 1996: "California Dreamin '96", San Francisco CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs Of California and co-hosted by ETVC, Diablo Valley Girls, Rainbow Gender Association and Sacramento Gender Alliance. Details from PPOC/California Dreamin, P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686, by Internet at dreamin96@aol.com or by telephone at (714) 779-9013.

May 4, 1996: "Prom Night in New Jersey", Edison NJ, sponsored by the Chi Delta Mu and Sigma Nu Rho chapters of Tri-Ess and Monmouth Ocean TransGender. Details from (201) 439-9618.

May 16-19, 1996: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 19206, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information via Internet: poco@cdspub.com or by phone: (610) 640-9449.

July 3-7, 1996: "Transgen '96: Transgender Independence Weekend", Houston TX, sponsored by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. Details from ICTLEP, 5707 Firenza, Houston 77035-5515, by calling (713) 723-8368, by Internet to prfyre@aol.com or by fax at (713) 723-1800.

July 24-28, 1996: 4th Annual "Spouses'/Partners' International Conference for Education", Wilmington DE (Philadelphia PA). Details from Dr. Peggy Rudd, P.O. Box 5304, Katy TX 77491, fax (713) 347-8747; from Betsy at (909) 875-2687; or from Evelyn at (215) 860-9271.

September 1-8, 1996: "Dignity Cruise #7" to Bermuda from New York, sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd. Details from Cruises Inc., 1-800-247-7021.

September 19-26, 1996: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May listing for details.

November 6-9, 1996: 7th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and hosted by Iowa Artistry. Information from P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids IA 52406-0075, telephone (309) 755-2310.

(Please send information on national transgender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Listings must be accompanied by a written authorization by an officer of the sponsoring organization or be listed in their group newsletter. Information will not be accepted via e-mail.)

INTERNATIONAL HOTLINES

CANADA:

Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874
 Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #
 F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591
 Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (819) 770-1945
 Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661

U.K./REP. OF IRELAND:

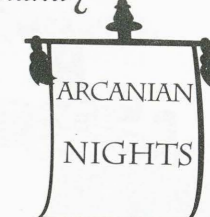
Beaumont Society, London: 071-756-1782
 Crosslynx, Glasgow: 0141-332-8372
 Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
 Grampian Gender Group, Scotland: 03398-83695
 Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
 New TransEssex: 0268-583761
 Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049

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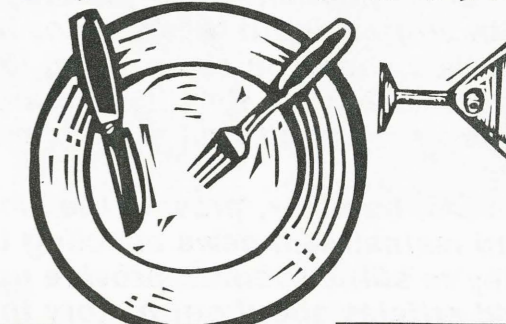
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Transvestite Self-Help Group, London: 071-289-5240

GERMANY:

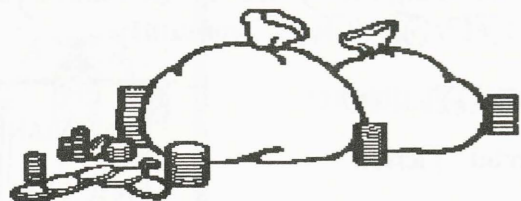
FPE Frankfurt: 069 4950446
 Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030 2082157
 Viva, Muenchen: 089 134681 #

AUSTRALIA:

Australia TG Support Association: (07) 846 3787
 Chameleon Society, Australia: (09) 293 8338
 Elaine Barrie Project, Australia: (03) 369 2613
 Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: (02) 569 6239

OTHER OVERSEAS:

De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 010-4503469
 Ice & Fire, Moscow: 287-7096
 Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158
 SETA, Helsinki: 358-0-135-8302
 Travesty, Istanbul: 157 892



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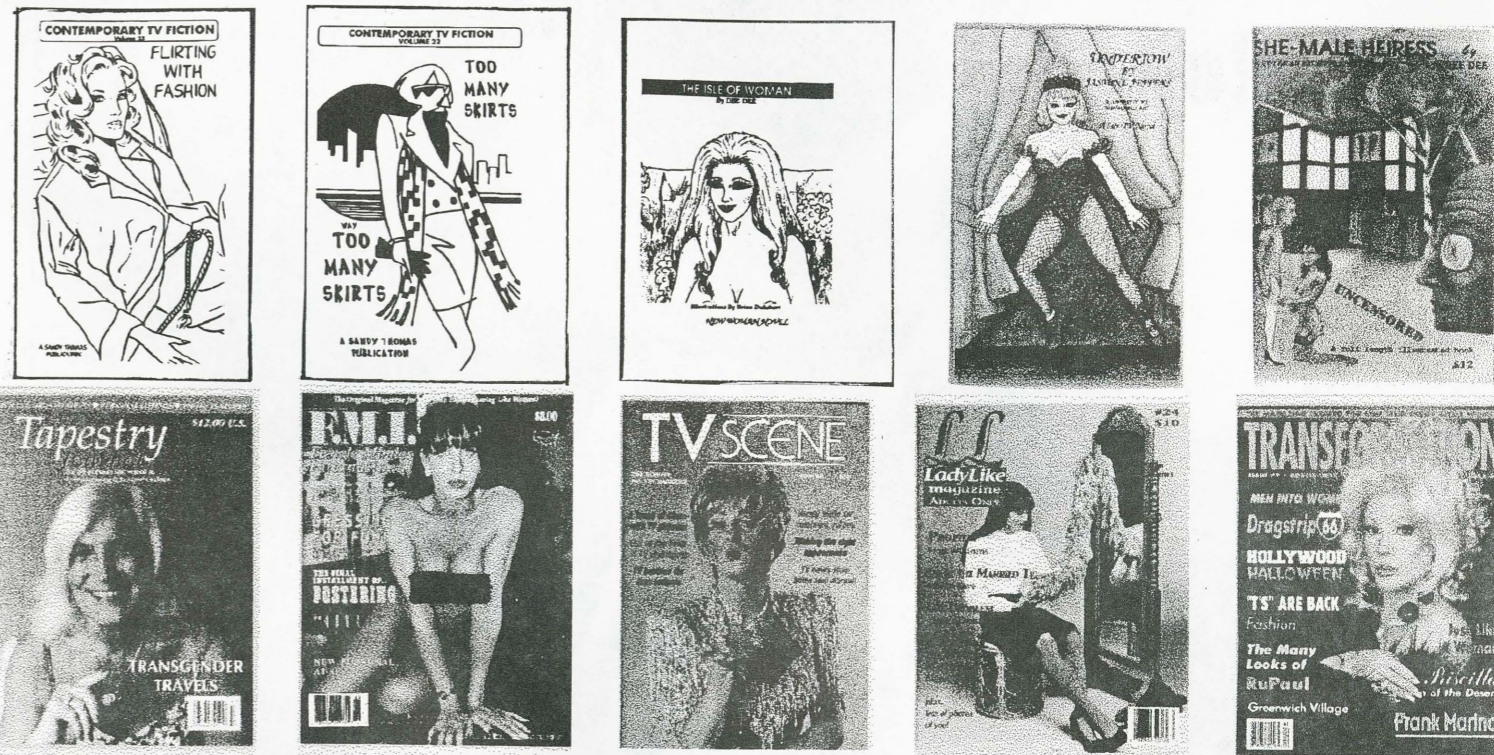
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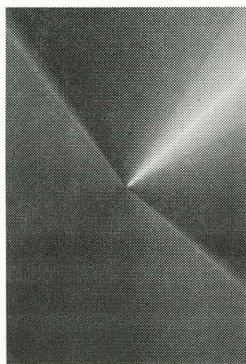
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