

FANTASIA FAIR 1980 INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL

AN OPEN LETTER IN RESPONSE TO THE PLAYBOY ARTICLE

If you ever wanted to see how you come across, dynamically, in an alternative gender role (without the use of mirrors or photographs) and, to learn how to improve your comportment, the best approach is through the use of closed circuit television. At the Fashion/Beauty program this year, coordinated by Ms. Paula Neilsen, use was made of this medium to allow a Fan/Fair participant to see, in a short time interval, how (S)he walks, stands, sits and talks in an alternative gender role. Within minutes after a particular set of exercises, one could see the recorded experience, played back, and also receive a critique of how they did and in what ways improvements could be made. We are indebted to Professor L. Budner and Ms. Maxine McDonald for their technical assistance in making the project successful.

Another innovation at the 6th annual Fantasia Fair was a special workshop on *BECOMING AWARE OF YOUR ANDROGYNY*. Conducted by Dr. Ed. Elkin and Ariadne Kane, it consisted of two parts. First, participants were introduced to the BEMS GENDER ROLE INVENTORY SCALE which is used to measure to what extent one may be androgynous as opposed to being considered strictly, masculine or feminine, by the norms of our society. The second phase of the Workshop led participants to discover the anima or animus within themselves through the technique of The Guided Fantasy. This experience was quite revealing for some participants. While the results from this workshop were not definitive, we all learned something about our own androgyny.

We offered three seminars which dealt with legal, medical, and sociological aspects of the paraculture. All of them provided participants, who attended, with new insights and awareness of how to cope with particular problems and to guide them in making future decisions concerning their lifestyles.

At the Legal Aspects Seminar, a panel of lawyers and law enforcement personnel discussed the nature of the law with regard to crossdressing, both on a State by State basis and on the local level. One member of the panel has offered to write to the attorneys general of each state to find out the nature and extent of any statutes that may exist concerning crossdressing. The Institute will publish the results of this study as soon as it has been compiled. Many other important issues were also raised.

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In November of this year, the long awaited article on Fantasia Fair 1979 appeared in Playboy Magazine. Entitled "It's No Fun Being a Girl," it was written by D. Keith Mano, also known as Deidre Bustagarter. Instead of giving the Playboy readership an unbiased, straightforward account of the program and some in depth perceptions about some of the feelings of the participants, he proceeded to write a *personalized* and somewhat biased *diatribes of his experience* at the Fair.

Last summer, I received a telephone call from the Editor of Playboy Magazine, asking if they could do a serious article on Fantasia Fair. After some lengthy discussions and negotiations with both the editor and members of the Fantasia Fair Steering Committee, it was decided to allow Playboy to send a writer to cover the Fair. I met Mr. Mano in September and spent the better part of 10 hours, providing an overview of this paraculture, its various modes of behavior and some of the conventional psychological/psychiatric theories about the phenomenon, and detailed account of what he might expect to see and discover at the Fair. I had read some previous articles by him, on other subjects, and felt that his writing style is witty and rather stylistic. I also discovered, at our September meeting, that he was somewhat macho-sexist in his approach to topics that are at variance from the conventional norms of society. During our marathon session in which he recorded every word of our discussion, I thought he might have gleaned some idea of the complexities of the issues and that he would be sensitive to what he might encounter at Fantasia Fair.

He came to the Fair and stayed for the full nine days, attending as many phases, both programmed and informal, as the 24 hour day would allow. It was he who suggested that he wanted to have a crossdressing experience during the Fair. He was emphatic about his never having been a crossdresser in his life. When the moment of truth arrived and he had to make preparations for the transition from Keith to Deidre, distinct signs of ambivalence made themselves apparent. Of course, one could argue that this was a "natural" outcome of a new and potentially gender threatening situation. He could have backed out of his decision but, he didn't. He felt he had to have this personalized crossdressing experience *in order to do justice* to a credible article for Playboy Magazine.

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The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, also called the Outreach Institute, is a non-profit, educational corporation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It serves as a resource for crossdressers, androgynes, transsexuals and members of the helping professions.

The Newsletter is co-edited by A. Kane and N. Ledins and all inquiries should be mailed to the Outreach Institute, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston Massachusetts 02215.

MY LOVE TO KEITH MANO OR HEY KEITH, YOU MIGHT TRY HORMONES by Glenda Rene Jones

The following letter was sent to our office by Glenda Jones. It her reaction to the Playboy article, entitled "It's No Fun Being A Girl."

Ari had told me that the long awaited Playboy article was to come out in the November issue. When my wife Linda called me at work and said that she had picked up a copy, I could not wait to get home. Wisely, Linda had already read it and I immediately settled into it almost forgetting my glass of California grapes. It was fun to relive the Fair even if from the viewpoint of a reporter who could not possibly understand the thing he was reporting on.

In deference to Keith (I met him at the '79 Fantasia Fair and had had a good chat) I will say that no one outside the culture can really understand it. I have been gender dysphoric since my first childhood memories. To Keith, I suppose, it was quite discomforting to wear women's clothes. Still he has said some things worth hearing.

One is on this matter of "passing." Many many times when I was the Alliance president I was asked whether I thought a guy could pass. As Keith points out, the answer is "very seldom." There are those who can pass (very few). And those who can't and think they can. Female-to-male transsexuals have it all over us males because one can lower a female's voice with hormones. Similarly with the male facial features (even electrolysis will make most men look only like they have had a super close shave); and the male frame? My wife just has a different wiggle in her behind than I do even with padding. Maybe, at most, 10% of males can pass as women even with the aid of electrolysis, hormones, makeup, and a good diet. I will go this far. Take the average mature male, do all the technical things (hair removal, etc.) teach him to walk, talk, and act like a woman, and dress him appropriately for the occasion and he may pass a fleeting inspection. Ok, one for Keith.

His remarks on Gladys Talbot and on shopping in general left me mixed. Buying women's clothes is not against any law I know of. CD's treat their clothes like they were contra-
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NOTICE

Those subscribers who did not receive the Summer Issue of the Outreach Newsletter; please write to us and we shall be happy to send you a copy. We were in the process of updating and codifying the mailing list and at the time of mailing the summer issue, the process was not ready. We hope you will bear with us during this period and thank you for your patience and support.

THREE NEW MONOGRAPHS

The Institute is proud to announce the publication of three new monographs on the Sociology of the Paraculture. Here, for the first time we go beyond analyses and theories about the why and wherefore of this behavior and concentrate on the Social Dynamics of the Issues from a historical and anthropological perspective. The titles are:

- *History and Anthropology of Crossdressing*
- *Transvestism: Deviant or Minority/Group*
- *Transvestism and Androgyny*

They were written by John T. Talamini, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at the University of Scranton. They will be available from the Outreach Institute in January 1981, and will cost \$5.00/monograph or \$12.00/set of 3.

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER: Please complete the order form below and return to the Institute with your money order or check, made payable to the Outreach Institute.

Please send _____ copies of each monograph

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Fantasia Fair 1980 Innovative and Successful

At the Medical Aspects Seminar, a superb presentation was given by Dr. D. Wesser, on the surgical procedures for sex reassignment. There was good discussion about the long range preparation prior to surgery, the intelligent use of hormones and ancillary cosmetic surgery techniques (breast augmentation, rhinoplasty, etc.).

At the Sociological Aspects Seminar, a panel of three experienced members of the paraculture discussed the social dynamics involved in making a transition from one gender role to an alternative one. Highlights here included the nature of the "satin doll" image, "passing in public" what it means and how to incorporate an outward physical appearance into a realizable, credible inner sense of gender identity. Particular situations, like how to act when stopped by a law enforcement officer, social behavior at a cocktail lounge, buying clothes at a women's department store and at the beauty salon were role played to illustrate possible coping strategies.

Tapes of these seminars will be available from the Outreach Institute. Please write for details.

Our traditional Fashion show was presented before a packed audience, at the Back Room of one of the Hotels in Provincetown. Under the direction of Ms. Betsy Shaw, who also served as a moderator, 12 participants modeled outer wear for the casual occasion and for an evening on the town; a fabulous display of class and good taste.

In place of our Annual Symposium, which was our way of meeting townspeople on a social basis, Ariadne Kane presented portions of two video appearances that were made during this year. This show was open to the general public, and the shows presented were the Phil Donahue Show and The Morning Exchange. The purpose of this program was to allow the audience to see the kinds of talk show appearance that the Institute will consent to make, and to invite a critique of these programs, as educational vehicles for better understanding of the paraculture and its various behavior patterns. Held at the Universalist Church meeting hall, over 100 people attended this Evening With the Community. It was followed by a well prepared buffet supper.

The Fan/Fair Follies, our unique talent show, was held in the Madeira Room of another hotel in the town. Playing before an audience of over 200 people, 25 different acts were presented. These ranged from a credible impression of Mae West to individualized folk/paraculture song performances. Coordinated by Ms. Delores Carter, our maitre of ceremonies for this major event was Ms. Betty Ann Lind.

In addition to the many unscheduled outdoor events such as a horseback ride on the Province Lands Dunes, bicycle rides along the trails of the Cape Cod National Seashore, we were challenged to a volleyball contest with an informally organized women's team (the Pied Piperettes). In a three game series with the Fantasia Fantastics (our team), we won the contest by winning the first two games of the series.

There were also many apres events including wine and cheese parties, pajama parties and cocktail parties. These usually took place before a major event or after an evening program.

The high point for the Fair was our Awards Banquet. Here each participant, dressed in formal evening wear, relived with others the joys and pleasures of the 9 day

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My Love to Keith Mano, or, Hey Keith, You Might Try Hormones

band. All it takes to buy women's clothes is money. You want a dress, blouse, shoes, underwear or whatever, go into any Sears, Macy's, Penny's, etc. and buy whatever you want. I do not normally wear men's underpants. I like the fit and feel of panties. How do I buy them? simple: walk in with a smile on my face (in men's attire—I don't pass) and say, "may I see your better panties in size 7?" I have never had the slightest trouble. As for buying shoes it is a good idea, as Keith points out, to have peds of your own or simply knee hi's on (under your regular socks) and simply try on shoes.

I realize that some CD's are a more uptight group than other guys. They go to great lengths to keep from buying what they need. So there are Gladys' around. I like Gladys a lot. I was happy to take her from Boston to the Fair last year. I also told her that for the average crossdresser, paying \$200 for a set of breast prostheses was rich, at least for my blood. Yet, she is not "ripping" anyone off. If you want the best in detachable "breasts," \$200 is about what it will cost. Fine, for a woman who has had a mastectomy, or the really serious TS. I told Keith that he should simply be content with a pair of \$4 spongies. Gladys has some nice lingerie at an inflated price because of the nature of her business. Back to the old theme. You can buy a nice slip from a TV boutique for \$25 or from Penny's on sale for \$9.50.

The PJ party (I was "the gynecologist's" roommate for the first part of the Fair and I had no choice but to attend the PJ party) probably does seem a bit odd to an outsider. Yet, by gum, Keith baby, it *was* fun. Fun to gab in pretty nightwear and sip wine. For many CDers this is the only opportunity to gab in pretty nighties all year. I had a good discussion with one guy on theoretical physics and with another on speech recognition problems. Where else can you discuss engineering in pretty feminine nightwear?

Keith doesn't understand the phenomenon. I do know that from the time I was four I realized that a terrible mistake had been made and that I was supposed to have been born a girl. Mind you, I know the difference between sex and gender as well as anyone can. Wake me from a deep sleep at four in the morning and ask me to recite it and it would come rolling out. It is a useful model. It is not a complete explanation.

Keith cannot know what it was like when I was six and I saw the little girls with their long, beautiful hair, their silky underwear and pretty shoes and me having to wear cottons and boy shoes and having to play those abominable boy games; to see the girls at the dance and wishing beyond all hope that I could wake the next morning with developing hips and breasts and be asked out for a date; to be told by my father that I was sick and that Dr. So and So would make me well; only to realize that I must forever be looked upon by my own father as a "faggot"; the repression when I would throw my clothes away and vow to God that I would repent of my sin; only to go back to that wonderful "secret garden"; that sickening feeling of going with a girl, getting serious and getting turned down because I finally told her about "my thing."

Keith cannot know what I went through when I met that final moment of truth. Electrolysis, hormones, learning to dress properly, all that only to realize that I could never be a

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An Open Letter in Response To the Playboy Article

Finally, with the aid of some of our consultants (Gladys and Carlotta), Deidre Bustagarter emerged in full bloom of her femininity. S(he) didn't look too bad, considering the difficulty in getting the correct cosmetic face for his physiog-nomy and proper fit of a handsomely tailored woman's suit to his body. He even admitted that when the consultants were finished with him, Deidre was not a bad looking woman. That evening in which s(he) made her debut to the Fair friends and participants, s(he) felt very good (a couple of good stiff, straight shots of bourbon helped somewhat).

So long as s(he) was in a pleasant, socially tolerable en-vironment, things went along quite well. When s(he) had to leave to pick up the car, s(he) encountered some "yahoos" on bicycles who s(he) claims gave her some harrassment. Apparently, this was an unnerving experience for our debutante, Diedre; for s(he) was unable to handle the situation "en femme." Immediately, that quick macho response of "I'll get you, you f___g b____ds, coupled with those adrenal secretions that accompany an angered person. The tranquil Deidre, under this stressful happening, became a discombobulated Keith. He was mad as a hatter, that his masculinity had been challenged, even though it was not visibly present. It was all he could do to get back to the car, come back to the locale of the event and then quickly retreat with two of us back to his residence. S(he) was calmed down with the aid of some more bourbon.

This is some of the background behind the man who wrote the article for Playboy Magazine. A detailed analysis of his behavior under this particular situation is beyond the scope of this letter or of the writer's capabilities. It does point up the difficulty of deftly learning a coping strategy to deal with harrassment situations in which neophyte crossdressers may find themselves. Furthermore, Mr. Mano's experience certainly colored the manner in which he wrote about his Fantasia Fair experience. In the opinion of this writer, the Playboy article clearly reflects his inability to separate his

macho-sexist attitudes and biases from any open, honest exploration of the nature of gender role alternatives and androgyny within and to share the positive outcomes of such explorations with the Playboy readership.

Sincerely, Ariadne Kane Director of the Outreach Institute.

***** woman. My spouse has given birth to two children and I can only wonder at what it must be like to have a baby. I am not a female. I have never been a woman, at least the way she is a woman. I came to a bitter moment of truth; gender is (for me at least) impenetrable. I am a man. I cannot change it. Keith can never know that emotion. He cannot know the soul; the soul of a TV, TG, TS, or whatever alphabet soup you want to tack onto the whole thing.

I wished that he had talked to Linda. She was at the Fair, but wives of CD's (or whatever I am) was not his forte. He mentioned little about wives. Linda could have helped. And perhaps could have made his article more relevant. As it stands, the Playboy piece served a purpose. A few will understand. A little bit more has been accomplished and for that our friend Ari is to be thanked. Keith can say that he is one of the few straight guys who attended the Fantasia Fair.

That I suppose is the final straw. The '79 Fair for me was the most fun thing I have done in a very long time. I will do my damndest to make the one next year. Keith, it is a lot of fun to be a "girl," at least once in a while.

Note: for a reprint of the Playboy article, send \$1.50 to the Institute.

***** experience. Despite the inclement weather, which caused an electrical blackout throughout the entire town, the event took place in a fine restaurant under candlelight (an added romantic touch). Many service and six major awards were presented.

Truly, the 6th annual Fantasia Fair was an experience to remember.

RENEWAL TIME

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