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the Tartan Skirt

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The
Magazine
Of The
Scottish
Transgender
Community



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The TARTAN SKIRT is the magazine of the Scottish Transgender Community brought to you through the efforts of members of the community and the support and encouragement of Reach Out Highland.

We are proud to acknowledge the generosity of all concerned who selflessly contribute to these pages giving freely of their time, expertise and experience.

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cover: Christine

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EDITORIAL

Ringin' In The New

It's really a bit late to wish you all a happy new year but as this is the first opportunity I'll have had to do it ... HAPPY NEW YEAR.

How was it for you? Never mind, in truth I'm more interested in how it's going to be for you in the coming year. If, while the balance of your mind was temporarily affected by Hogmanay, making resolutions was your thing ... how are you getting on with them? It's probably safe to say that if you haven't fallen by the wayside by the time you're reading this, you're probably

feeling highly chuffed with yourself and exercising airs of superiority over the rest of us poor weak-willed sods.

Ringin' Out The Old ...

I've taken encouragement from the apparent trend on the part of society to see us as human beings - albeit several times removed. Recently too, by reading the report of the Southern Comfort Conference in Alabama, USA, held in September last year. The mood of the conference was one of a growing sense of solidarity and empowerment across the American transgender communities.

I suppose it struck a chord with me as I read of the coming together of the different groups of people there. As someone with a strong desire to feel connected to other human beings, it reminded me of the severe inadequacies of our language as a means of communication, and how additionally frustrating it can be when we try to be heard through the stereotype filters of assumption and prejudice.

You see, I've never found it actually helped to have others see me as a transvestite. What perverted sexual activities I may or may not indulge in when wearing female clothing is nobody's business but mine! (and anyone else who happens to be present!) - and make no mistake, the focus is lost when this word is used - and I object to having it taken away from who I am, to rest on assumptions about my behaviour

Well, in the coming year I hope to ring a few bells of change for the Tartan Skirt - that's my resolution. And with your continued help and support the magazine will not only do you good ... by gum it'll look good, too!

To start with, this issue has been produced on our brand new second-hand photocopier! After lengthy negotiations with the suppliers, involving the Reach Out Highland begging bowl - a receptacle of immense proportions and no bottom (not to be confused with Big Mary) - and much pleading of poverty, it arrived in January. No more having to spend hours trying to extricate shredded paper from deep, inaccessible corners of the innards of our old machine. No more having to treat it for heat exhaustion while attempting a print run of the magazine. While our nice new machine won't yet let me compete with National Geographic in the quality reproduction stakes, it will help make sure you do get your magazine!

which carry such damning prejudices.

But then, neither have I found it helpful to be thought a transsexual. I believe I have no more conflict between my mind and my body than someone who chooses to have electrolysis for excessive body hair, or who chooses to have her breasts enlarged, or a nose-job to improve her body-image. Indeed, I have found it positively unhelpful to have assumptions made about my emotional stability, my sexual orientation and my genitals. And make no mistake, the focus is lost when that word is used - and I object to having it taken away from who I am, to rest on assumptions which prejudice your ability to hear what I am saying.

I object to not being taken seriously, to being thought miserable, to hating my genitals, to being screwed up. If I come across as screwed up it's because I'm trying to live my life in an alien and hostile environment, that's all. I consider my life to be enhanced by the expression of myself in female terms, but in a world that

Caption Competition

Win a year's subscription to the Tartan Skirt!

All you have to do is think of a funny caption for the picture and send it in. The winning entry will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Closing date for entries is 31st April 2000.



The winner of the last Caption Competition was ...

L. Miller of Milngavie, near Glasgow.

Congratulations!

Peter took his knicker-snatching from washing lines very seriously indeed ...

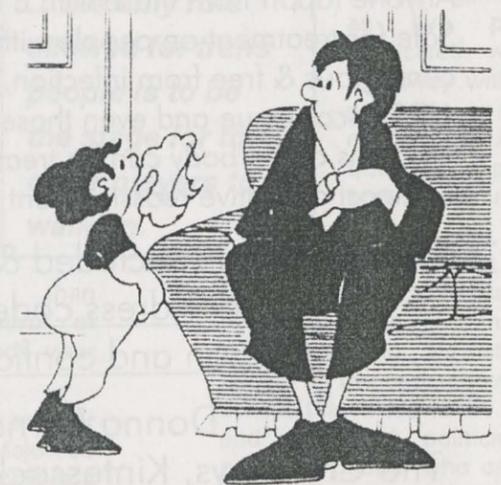
recognises only male and female, it's not always easy.

It hasn't helped to have allowed ourselves to be persuaded that we define ourselves by the pain of our exclusion and must therefore choose either to become assimilated if we are to ease the pain, or forever remain outside. I object to being made to feel this pain. I do not believe I deserve this pain. I do not believe it even belongs to me - it belongs elsewhere.

But the pain of fear is self-inflicted and will stay with us so long as we are unable to see past the assumptions we make through the use of labels like 'transvestite' and 'transsexual', and start to listen instead. Then we will begin to learn something of the other's world. Through this understanding will come a change in our perception of the other's world - how can it not? ... then in time we will no longer need to fear, and when we no longer feel afraid we will no longer have need of pain.

More than any slight thawing of society's hard attitude towards a few of us, I am encouraged by our own growing awareness that to embrace each and every one of us as a valued individual, within the broadest spectrum of transgender, is to serve both our individual and our collective needs best ... and let go of hurtful labels.

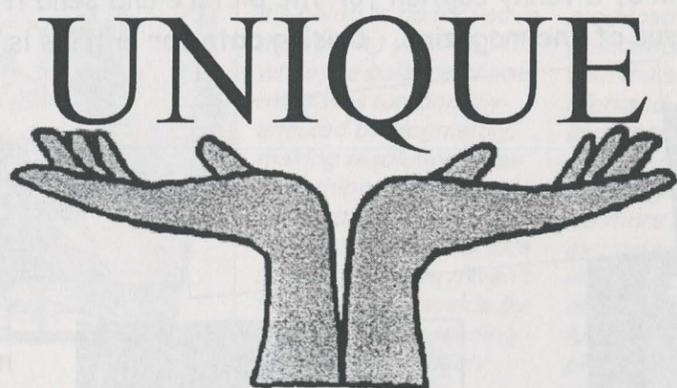
Julia Gordon



"She won't be long. Would you like to run your fingers through her hair while you're waiting?"

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The Missing Voice

Christine Burns, Vice President of Press for Change, ponders the entire industry constructed around the lives of Trans People... pathologising, pitying, attacking, blaming, stereotyping, demeaning, exploiting .. occasionally defending .. but never, in all the public places where this sport takes place, granting them the recognition of a true political voice.

If you were to ask me for my most vivid recollection of campaigning in Press for Change for the last seven years then, without a doubt, top of the list would have to be the grope I received from TV presenter Richard Maddeley.

Sorry. *WHAT* was that? Oh .. I thought that would grab your attention.

Well, of course , it wasn't a *real* grope. I'd like to assure Judy about that straight away (not to mention Richard's lawyers).

Really, it was just the verbal equivalent of a grope. Still, when a man you've never met before demands to know what's there between your thighs, for the benefit of two and a half million live viewers, then forgive me if I say that the effect can be just as gob-smackingly disarming. If you're a trans person appearing on television as the political representative of five thousand seriously harassed people though, then these things are also very much par for the course.

I can laugh about things like this, of course. It certainly wasn't the first time or the last, that I've been asked such questions .. and so I also have a special sympathy for the athlete Kathy Jager who, for a few brief hours, joined the ranks of those of us conditioned, since childhood, to expect a different standard of manners and care when the question of their sex is considered a public concern. One can only speculate upon her fate if the so-called 'blood test' performed upon her had shown one of the many possible natural variations in human chromosome makeup. For not all those legally labelled 'female' have two X chromosomes and nothing else. As Kathy now knows, the mere claim that you are a woman is insufficient if someone else decides that you're not though.

What really concerns me is the political consequences for fairness and human rights in the face of all this alternate trivialisation and body fascism however. I'm concerned when mockery and stereotyping become such a set piece that they cut off access to the original debate in this field, by creating scripts in which crude characterisation and cliché become the only framework in which an argument can be conducted.

I am especially concerned when the only role allowed for trans people is to be the stage for the other players to walk on.

This is the position which trans people have found themselves in, since three of our number had the temerity to ask the Appeal Court to uphold the ruling of Justice Hidden last Christmas and overturn the policies of a glorified Kangaroo court of administrators and accountants denying their access to a treatment. When you rush to condemn their victory though, do you consider the far greater freedom they have conferred on everyone now? Might you not some day appreciate the opportunity to use their precedent to end post-code medicine, and to place doctors rather than accountants back in control of priorities? Who understands your need better?

Similarly, if you rush to snigger at the trans soldier Sgt. Major Jo Rushton for managing to achieve a feat that has so far eluded generations of gay and lesbian soldiers, do you in your haste ignore the fundamental problem which Jo is now posing for her superiors? They may have correctly distinguished her gender identity from questions about

her sexuality, but that still leaves a burning question: Who can she have a relationship with under the status quo? If she goes to bed with a man then, operation or no operation, her legal status would make her relationship technically homosexual. Yet, if she is to satisfy the law and sleep with another woman, then the social implication is also clear. So what happens to Jo? Are her superiors to say that she must confine her interests to the regimental goat as the only safe option? We await the human rights case with glee, if so. Or are they to eventually concede that her existence places the final nail in the coffin of an anachronistic and pointless rule which hounds quiet and dedicated people out of their jobs for the crime of loving someone else with the same genitalia.

Continuing the theme, what would happen to the potential for discrimination against you if, as I've personally advocated, we simply did away with the sex column on birth certificates? And if that question promotes howls, why is that?

My point, if it needs spelling out, is that

behind all the trivialisation and hypocrisy in the reporting of trans affairs lies an almost wanton refusal on the part of the media to accept that there is an intelligent and increasingly politically aware group of people who can see, in the correction of their own problems, an opportunity to change the rest of the world for the better.

Before I get onto that, I can feel your attention wavering though. You *really* need to know.

... the only role allowed for trans people is to be the stage for the other players to walk on.

Is she or isn't she? Is it or was it?

Yes, I know my role. The principal place of a trans person in British media is to be there confessing something, isn't it? Not challenging. I can sense that we are going to get nowhere until you've extracted something frightfully private from me, preferably about my .. um .. privates. Oh well. Needs must ..

Well, the simple answer is that I'm very happy with my genitals. They sort of fit in with me, if that makes any sense to you. My vagina may not work perfectly ... I carry a little tube of that lubricating stuff around "just in case", and occasionally the orgasm goes on the blink too ... mind-blowing one day, phone lines down the next. These little glitches are important to some commentators, I gather. Mind you, the hours I work could explain both a little vaginal dryness and an intermittent ability to orgasm equally convincingly.

... there is an intelligent and increasingly politically aware group of people who can see, in the correction of their own problems, an opportunity to change the rest of the world for the better.

Besides, as a gynaecologist once ruefully remarked to me, "Christine, if women's bits worked perfectly all the time I would be out of a job". I must be careful not to overstate my sense of contentment with my genitals though, otherwise it has a fancy term - autogynaecophilia - which I thought had something to do with car enthusiasts until it was explained.

I can safely say that I am content with my genitals, however, in a way that once I was most categorically not. The same goes for the other bits of me too. I quite like my legs. I'm positively proud of my nails. As I come to terms with its ageing, I still quite like my face too. Feel free to offer etymologically suitable pathologising taxonomies for this catalogue of pleasures on a postcard please. Put at its simplest though, I'm at home ... at one .. with myself, in a way that four years experience of once being a

Samaritan have taught me to think of as quite rare in contemporary life.

I feel like a completely integrated person. But why? Of course, as you'll judge me on how I look before I ever open my mouth, I've always suspected that the source of my contentment is that my mind doesn't have to prepare to fight your pre-conceptions when you meet me for the first time. The body on the outside is a suitable advertisement for the soul on the inside, and I know that when I speak to you as a stranger, you'll interpret my words and my feelings as they were meant and felt, without me having to fight with your stereotypes. In my experience it has always struck me that the stereotypes harboured by non-trans people are the real problems, not mine.

Throughout this explanation you'll notice that I've not actually labelled myself though. That's your job. And society gives you only two boxes to choose from on the form. Man or Woman. No in-betweens. No nuances. No room to accept that people may

not all be the same as each other, or even the same as one half. As your equal, however, the only demand I make is that you exercise good manners in your choice. As far as I'm concerned, you can argue till the cows come home about whether there is a scientific cause to explain my existence. I exist. Of course, I doubt that I might be an 'effect' without some sort of cause or other. The simple fact that I exist should be enough to satisfy you though. Call it faith if you like .. a belief held in the absence of actual proof. It's always worked for Christians. Besides, I cannot see how proving whether I was born or nurtured (or both) into being as I am affects the fundamental question of whether you should exercise your manners properly; Nor whether I should enjoy equal access to anything else you take for granted either.

Like you, I'm here on this earth for only a limited time, half of which

I've spent already, and part of which I've wasted. All the people I represent want to do is to have the same opportunity as you, to live that life according to their consciences, and to the full. And if that means that some of them want to make an immensely brave statement about their inner selves in a way that would earn medals in any other context, then they have my absolute unquestioning support. Whilst the majority of them are quite invisible to you anyway (contrary to folklore), Press for Change supports all Trans people without ever asking what they look like .. or by applying any qualification criteria other than their own belief in themselves.

This is my third attempt to write this article though. The reason is that I'm determined not to write an apology for trans people, nor some sort of mitigating explanation .. nor allow the message to be determined by responding to the tired and repetitive agenda set by the sort of presentation of ourselves that I've known since I could first read a newspaper. As I'm finding, however, it's hard when the agenda is already so well established.

I am privileged, of course. Through my position as a leader of Press for Change I've had the opportunity to see the wood for the trees. I can see that the stereotypes don't fit. I can spot the lies used by columnists to justify a point, and I can see how they lack an argument unless they do embroider the truth. I can see the tremendous harm they do. I've met the people who, until very recently had no job protection whatsoever. I've talked to the people who regularly deal with bricks through their windows. Jobless, excluded from their families, jeered at in the street. I know first hand the emotions of hurt and powerlessness created when another writer opens the lies and distortions cupboard, and does a formula-piece on trans people to fill a thousand word space before lunch.

Oh I'm sorry, it's not trans people or even transsexual people, but 'transsexuals' isn't it? A clinical noun in its' own right, devoid of humanity, and constructed according to the same semantic rules that brought us 'blacks', 'homosexuals', 'Jews and 'the disabled'. Words that

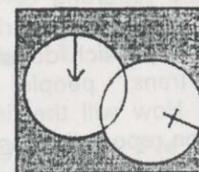
define people by a sole characteristic, but without having to use the word people.

The really bitter irony is that the writers often centre their attacks on the notion that trans people are doing the world a disservice by *not* taking part in a gender war. The suggestion is that trans people should instead make a stand as feminine men or masculine women. Well, of course, we have a model for that .. we call people who express that now and then transvestites .. and forgive me if I've missed something, but I don't notice them being hailed as heroes .. nor would they claim to feel in themselves the hunger for recognition of their souls known by transsexual and transgendered folk. I don't see them being welcomed as contributors to the debate on gender either .. a debate that demonstrates its thinking by objectifying and seeking to exclude the experience of trans people. Besides, to come back to my main theme, trans people are fighting that war in a far more fundamental way according to their consciences .. prepared to lose everything except their identity to speak the truth that they see.

What is more fundamentally supportive of your sisters than putting on the uniform and standing shoulder to shoulder? What is more seditious than telling the world that biology isn't destiny .. that being born with a penis isn't an explanation or excuse for behaving like a jerk? I didn't enter womanhood with my eyes closed or with romantic notions either. I have one advantage of which I'm not ashamed though. Unlike you, I've sat on the grass both sides of the fence. I have experienced gender in a practical way that beats all theorisation. I live gender role anarchy in a way that scares the socks off people.

It's popular to brush aside that knowledge and conviction though, and to stifle any possibility of giving credence to the debate offered by trans people, simply by ignoring the available information, or omitting any connection with trans people when relevant information is discussed.

For instance, a long overdue reappraisal of the practice of neo-natal sex assignment is now taking place. Is there any consideration of the ironies this opens up though? For



Press For Change

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Campaigning for respect and equality for ALL trans people

Press for Change is a political lobbying and educational organisation, which campaigns to achieve equal civil rights and liberties for all transgendered people in the United Kingdom, through legislation and social change.

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generations, it has been accepted paediatric wisdom that infants with ambiguous genitalia should be immediately operated upon. That is, any child with a 'small' penis, a clitoris considered 'large', or any combination of the two, should have that ambiguity immediately obliterated. For children with small penises, the usual practice is to reassign the child as a girl. For those with a large clitoris, the western equivalent of 'female circumcision' is performed, with all the same consequences for that person's erotic capability in the future. It *is* a scandal. Estimates of the

.. I'm determined not to write an apology for trans people, nor some sort of mitigating explanation ..

number of children involved range from 1 in 2000 to 1 in 500. That's an awful lot of sex-reassignment without the individual's consent. The justification for this practice is the famous twin study written up by Professor John Money of Johns Hopkins Medical Center, which concerned one of two boy twins reassigned from birth because of a horrendous electro-cauterisation accident whilst he was being circumcised just after birth. The study appeared to show that consistent nurturing aimed at

bringing the child up as a girl had been completely successful, and that the child was maturing into a happy and well adjusted woman. Nurture, he claimed, was everything. Recent follow-up investigations show, however, a pitched battle fought by the child, whose innate male identity surfaced from an early age, in spite of every attempt to quash it. The follow-up paints a compelling picture of academic fraud, and one of the principal texts used to justify the primacy of nurturing is thoroughly discredited. The child, incidentally, is now an adult man .. mutilated

not once but twice, of course .. but quite happy, like most trans men, to be a man without a penis, rather than something he is not.

The irony is clear though, but never reported. On the one hand the medical profession has been happy to reassign children with XY chromosomes and no sign of female genitalia as girls since the 1950's. They obtain the word 'Girl' on their birth certificates and are brought up with every effort made to conceal the facts of their past. Surgeries are scheduled for them

and they are strongly encouraged to accept every step in a climate that communicates, by way of the secrecy, a deep sense of shame. You can see why they don't make a lot of fuss later too. Who wants to willingly enter this battleground after that? On the other hand, we display a completely different attitude towards those 1 in 11,000 children brave enough to express their gender identity in womanhood or early adolescence, and deny the possibility that they could wish the same course for themselves.

There is no room to list all the ironies and the unreported issues surrounding trans people in just one article though. Where, for instance, was the reporting of the government's recently enacted regulations, supposedly writing trans people into the Sex Discrimination Act, but in practice containing two pages of clauses dedicated to removing rights obtained in the European Court of Justice? Was that not relevant in a newspaper that considers itself the

natural hole of fair-thinking people? Where is the reporting of a twelve-department government working party on trans issues which doesn't favour including trans people in its meetings? How will the findings of that group be reported when they are published next Easter? What proportion of the column inches covering that news will give space to the voices of the people who, in quiet obscurity, made it happen and have a 100% interest in its effect on their quality of life?

One week the Guardian publishes a prominent apology for rudely objectifying a trans woman, the next it publishes a full page article plunging the knife back in.

To recap, therefore, it is my view that the long term media trivialisation and characterisation of trans people, which defines a restricted agenda and permits only a bicycle-shed level of debate, is the largest single force that has subjugated them for three

decades and more. The effect is a profoundly undemocratic one, which actively impedes progress by repeating misinformation, by undermining justice, and by creating a climate in which government finds it hard to act.

The greatest irony is that most people I've met actually like trans people. Ask the 18 million who watched Hailey Patterson marry Roy Cropper on Coronation Street last spring. Hailey is a fictional character and not actually trans herself, but she is modelled on a real trans woman. If you love Hailey, you love her too. People warm to the vulnerability of people who've grown up in fear and shame. They encourage us to fight. They get angry and tremendously upset when they read the pure hatred aimed our way. For a moment they feel ashamed.

Can the media pause and feel ashamed too?

Christine Burns

HOW MANY MEMBERS OF YOUR ASTROLOGICAL SIGN DOES IT TAKE TO FORM A SUPPORT GROUP?

Aries

Just one. *You want to make something of it!!!*

Taurus

One, but just try to tell them it won't work.

Gemini

Two, but the group never gets under way - they just keep discussing who is supposed to do what and how.

Cancer

Just one, but it takes a therapist three years to help them through the grieving process!

Leo

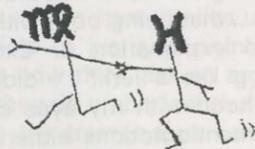
Leos don't go to support groups, although sometimes their agent will get a Virgo to stand in for them.

Virgo

Approximately one million! - with an error of +/- one millionth.

Libra

Er, two. Or maybe one. No, on second thoughts, make that two. Is that OK with you?



Scorpio

That information is strictly confidential and only shared with Enlightened Ones in the Star Chamber of the Ancient Hierarchical Order.

Sagittarius

The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got the whole of our lives ahead of us - and you're inside worrying about a stupid support group?

Capricorn

I don't waste my time with these childish questions.

Aquarius

Well, you have to remember that everything is energy, so ...

Pisces

Support Group? What support group?

SAFETY FIRST!

If I ever needed an excuse for not wearing trousers, I've certainly got one now - and it's official, it's SAFER! At least according to an article that appeared in the Dundee Courier last September. The Department of Trade and Industry claim it's healthier to wear the kilt rather than troos - particularly if nothing is worn underneath!

I can personally vouch for the safety aspect as I'm getting on in years and find it increasingly difficult to struggle into trousers. I have to hold onto something in order to steady myself. Getting the second leg in is even more difficult than the first.

Now, a skirt is much easier to slip on - but even here I have problems. I find it necessary to step into the garment and more than once have caught my heel in the hem of the skirt, with the subsequent need for repair.

Safety first: wear a kilt

REVEALING STATISTICS in a new safety report show, what every true Scotsman has always known, donning a kilt instead of trousers is good for your health.

The benefits, according to Department of Trade and Industry figures, are even greater if the kilt is worn in the traditional manner—without underpants.

The government survey into home accidents found that putting on trousers poses a serious risk of injury because people lose their balance and hurt themselves toppling over.

The yearly home accident report by the DTI estimates there were 4400 trousers victims last year. Another 400 injured themselves putting on their underwear.

But a kilt! There's a real safety garment.

It wraps round, so no problem in stepping into it, getting legs crossed, ripping hems, etc. I'd also

add that another adorable benefit of the kilt is that it is 'expandable'. For those of us constantly battling with our waistline, this can be a

real boon. So, apart from being safe, a kilt is also a highly

efficient garment.

Mind you, I would always recommend wearing the mini kilt. In case there is any doubt, this will tell us apart from those horrid macho males who wear long kilts and thick woolly stockings!

However, the most important advice to be found in the article ... is to be a true Scots lassie and shun knickers. These present similar hazards as trousers ... as well as inside out, upside down, back to front ... better to do without altogether.

Indecent exposure? Well, don't bend down - or if you drop something, smile sweetly to your friend and let them take the strain!

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Well, wouldn't you guess! Just when I thought Alexandrina had cracked it, I found *this* article ...

A woman police officer in Alabama, USA, was sacked for *insisting* on wearing a skirt! She claimed it was against the teachings of the Old Testament which proclaim it to be an abomination to wear the clothes of the opposite sex. Her employers were unrepentant, however, taking the view that her skirt constituted a health HAZARD!!

Ed.



ROOTS - MON!

DANIELLE SEARCHES FOR HER HIGHLAND ANCESTRY

It all started when my dad asked me to help him with some ancestral research.

I was eager to get involved with this since a few years back I'd experienced regression hypnotherapy and Gustav, my Austrian hypnotherapist friend, did record a number of females amongst my memory ancestors. He said I also apparently spoke fluent French, which I can't normally. I didn't remember any of it at all - I thought I wouldn't even be capable of being hypnotised. From Gustav's recordings of my hypno-state verbalisation - none of which sounded much like me - it was a thought that some of my predecessors may have had a hand in my current inclination to cross dress.

So I had often wondered if my mind record and the historical ancestry bore any relationship. And of course we all want to discover if we are the direct descendants of the rich and famous. So, "Fine", I said to dad. "Where do we start?"

He produced a couple of library books telling us just how to go about it. For a few weeks he, myself and my darling significant other dug about in such family records as exist, and obtaining a number of relevant birth certificates, spent some time examining dusty tomes in obscure English parishes to produce a family tree of sorts. I did discover I'm not descended from royalty or riches, unfortunately - my S.O. comes from Yorkshire stock and for reasons to do with the wars, Kentish people. I come from a polymath of ordinary, if unusually diverse, stock including some sailing folk from Lymington, Hants (who

may have included tars who manned convict ships to the new world), a Jewish great great grandfather; a French woman from Normandy, some Oxford brothers who became soldiers and later farmers - and some Scots who had come South at the turn of the century in search of work (possibly?) ... a married couple on my mother's side, named McKenzie and MacKintyre (nee), whose only known previous address had been in Kingussie.

How could I, I asked myself, particularly since the Blair devolution, have become such a devout English



... In (pseudo) McIntyre short kilt.

isolationist (keep your hands off my baubles, I say!) and yet admit to being part descended from Kingussie Highlanders?

In an attempt to resolve this vexed question, my S.O. and I decided we would combine a visit to some old friends in Aberdeen with a trip to Elgin (couldn't find the marbles?) and on to Inverness. This we duly did and, in common with all tourists to the Highlands, failed to spot Nessie as we drove alongside Loch Ness, although we did spot a couple of cross-dressed monsters of indeterminate nationality. Somewhere along the way we visited a whisky distillery to be totally dumfounded to discover that, although we were able to taste the stuff, we couldn't actually buy it there! However, by way of compensation, I drank my

S.O.'s free samples and let her drive for the rest of that day! Then on down through the Cairngorms, seeing the mountains in high summer. We knew it was summer because the rain was warmer and the millions of damned mosquitoes were both fully grown and bloodthirsty in the extreme! We stopped to see what records we might find of our ancestors on the way through Kingussie although this proved disappointing since we learned these were all kept elsewhere.

And finally across to the West Coast to meet some more long lost relations in Oban, English folk this time who farm fish north of Scourie in the Northwest Highlands. Interestingly, it took our fishing kin almost as long to get from Scourie to Oban as it took us to get to Aberdeen from near Portsmouth, where we live now! They were fascinated to discover they were part Scottish too!

Away from any family gatherings, I planned to be Danielle as much as I could. This would be a rare opportunity for two 'girls' together, as my S.O. is not altogether happy to accompany Danielle out and about back home. My good friend Colette (who often fills space elsewhere in these erudite columns) reckons I might have seen more of Scotland than most Scots on this trip! Anyway, I figured if you can't beat 'em, you might as well join 'em! So I invested in a couple of mini tartan skirts before I went. Hide & Slek did me an excellent one in the "Dress McKenzie" (based on my fashion need for it to be in a black and white pattern rather than of the clan, although the tartans shown in my illustrated AA Guide to Britain did point me to the best selection), and another

from Oxfam, Fareham, who had one which might be close to (but probably isn't) a red and black McIntyre.

I can report that, although I got some funny looks, at no time when dressed in your outstandingly beautiful country (what we could see of it through the rain, anyway), was I given any hassle or treated other than as the tourist lady I purported to be, not in my PVC swing mac and not even when my legs began to buckle after the distillery trip!

We'd just like to thank all the lovely people north of Hadrian's Wall (I gather some English separationists are planning to re-build it?) who made our visit so memorable. All the Scots we met on our journey were generous and warm-hearted and extended us a welcome everywhere we went, as did the owners of the guest houses and hotels we stayed at - despite some difficulties in communication, although my Sean Connery impersonations did seem to help somewhat. We love you all ... WITH THREE EXCEPTIONS! those bloody Highland mosquitoes, haggis - urggg! and Edinburgh! For us, the grey, leaden skies deprived the capital of Scotland any sense of the beauty for which it is supposedly famed, and the snotty folk we encountered here encouraged us to keep going on our way north, after a very brief tour around the city.

Did my getting in touch with my roots throw any light on my hypno-regression memories? I have to tell you, yes - I did find it strange beyond belief. There were many details which fell into place, feelings and perceptions which seemed to fit so easily ... Suffice to say I am continuing to investigate it as a confirmed believer of the human regressive memory experience.

End

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - HARASSMENT

"Everyone has a right to be free from any form of harassment. No one is entitled to cause personal alarm or distress to another person." The Law Society of Scotland

Harassment may be encountered by individuals within the transgender community from neighbours, relatives, work-mates or fellow students, as well as complete strangers in social and other settings.

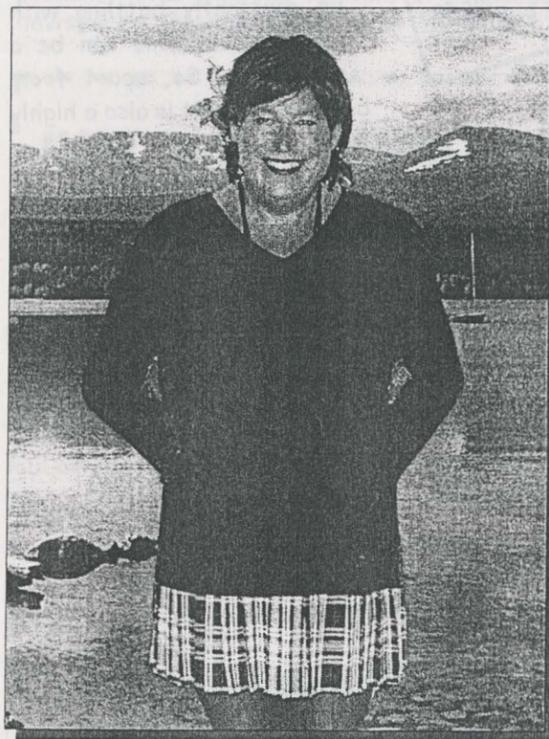
No one need be the victim of harassment. The law has a number of powers to protect adults from conduct which is likely to cause fear and alarm. Such conduct may be considered a criminal offence of breach of the peace, and could result in the person responsible being convicted and sentenced to one of a range of punishments, including imprisonment.

If you believe you have been the victim of this kind of crime, you should report it to your local police office. (You may, in the first instance, prefer to speak to your community liaison officer.)

Under Scottish Law another witness to any incident is needed before action will be taken. However, any complaint - no matter how trivial it might seem - should be reported. This will assist the police in recognising the extent of any problem we encounter and will help to bring about an appropriate and effective response.

The law also provides various civil as well as criminal orders to protect you against nuisance or harassment and you may want to discuss your situation with a solicitor. Harassment includes shouting, swearing, intimidation, threats, violence, obscene phone calls, damage to your property, and stalking. You can ask your solicitor to apply to the court for a non-harassment order against the perpetrator. If the court is satisfied there is a course for such conduct, that is, if it occurs on two or more occasions, then it may grant an order stopping the conduct and may also award you damages. If the harassment continues, the person responsible may be fined or imprisoned.

You can find out more information on this and other legal topics by calling The Law Society of Scotland's Dial-a-Law service on 0870 [redacted] If you need to find a solicitor you feel will treat your situation with respect, try asking your local Gay and Lesbian Switchboard if they can help.



... In McKenzie Tartan visiting Loch Morlich near Aviemore

INTERPRIDE CONFERENCE - Glasgow, September 1999



a report by Roz [REDACTED]

Susan [REDACTED] and I were asked by the organizers of Interpride to conduct a workshop on transgender issues to explore the relevance these issues have to the gay community. This was an important opportunity to put a message across to a wide international audience and we jumped at the chance.

We shaped the workshop in three parts, beginning with the breadth and extent of our community. I felt it was important to clarify the term transgender as one that was inclusive of people who occasionally cross dressed to post-operative transsexuals.

In the second part of the programme we introduced a multiple-choice quiz, which the participants were asked to complete in pairs. The quiz highlighted important issues such as the implications of changing birth certificates, legal recognition of gender identity, the effect on partners, and NHS funding. When we looked at the answers we were able to identify areas of concern we share with our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

The final part of the workshop saw delegates organised in groups where they were invited to come up with proposals to establish more

effective links with their transgender communities back home.

I felt the workshop, which ran on each of the two days of the conference, was a success, with approximately twelve participants taking part on each day. Most delegates were from America and it was interesting to share ideas about our communities. Then there was the young lesbian who told us about the lesbian drag king bars in London where some of the drag kings take testosterone to enhance their masculinity only to find that they are then considered male and are barred because of the female only restriction!

The general tenor of the workshops was very good humoured with a free and open exchange of ideas and experiences. As part of our reward for facilitating these we were invited to the Ceilidh held at the end of the Conference - a very sumptuous affair which included a five-course dinner. It was really quite amusing to watch the Americans play with their haggis! ... and enquire as to which part of a sheep it came from! And then to the birlin' - some of those American and Mexican guys looked very sexy in their kilts. As the whisky flowed they danced faster and faster ... it was a bit like a gay version of *Tam O' Shanter!*

For me personally it was a very worthwhile conference and I believe we were able to help the other communities in their understanding of our issues and concerns.

End

Hormone Therapy in Male to Female Sex Reassignment Therapy - a Doctor's Perspective

Gordon McKenna
Consultant Physician

Highland Sexual Health, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

I am grateful to be asked to contribute to the Tartan Skirt, and what follows is my best attempt at making sense of hormone prescribing. It is not meant to be authoritative, because in my eight years of prescribing, I only have experience in a small number of cases (less than forty). Compare this to the large Dutch series that exist (often greater than one thousand), and you see that there is certainly a wealth of data on the subject, but that the expertise usually lies overseas.

I think this reflects the difficulty we have in this country in coming to terms with the scenario of sex (or gender) reassignment. Even trying to research for this article in the two most famous medical textbooks in the world, *Harrisons* (American), and the *Oxford Textbook of Medicine* (British), as well as a major textbook in endocrinology, I was struck by the paucity of information on prescribing hormone therapy in this context.

Textbooks are useful references for the genetic disorders associated with sexual problems and difficulties, and both mention the rare intersex states which account for a small fraction of the total adult sex reassignment therapy, but neither acknowledges that perhaps one in 10,000 or so of the population with an XY genotype will feel discomfort at their own external sexual identity. So no real help there. But I have had some very useful feedback over the years from the most important client group possible, *you*, who are taking hormones on a daily basis to maintain your sexual identity and body image with which you feel most comfortable.

As I am sure you are aware, hormone therapy is only a part of the process of change, and that its use is really driven by patient priorities. In the context of this article, it is the use and limitations of **feminising hormones** and **antiandrogens** I specifically wish to address. Hormone therapy cannot undo much of the body changes that puberty produces, and in very young individuals who have a serious concern with their phenotype (basically their external appearance and particularly their external genitalia), it is better to actually arrest the pubertal process, rather than watch muscle bulk forming, voice deepening and thyroid cartilage become prominent. These are changes that are uncomfortable to watch, particularly if it seems just to cement into place a change you did not want to

happen in the first place. I have no personal experience of the hormone manipulations required here, although the Dutch do, and they are willing to intervene to help early, while we in the UK usually wait until the post-pubertal stage before offering feminising therapy. The hormone therapy used in this instance is called **Goserelin**, and acts directly at the level of the pituitary to delay the masculinising changes of adolescence.

Hormone therapy usually starts in the so-called "real-life test", a term given to part of the Harry Benjamin criteria. A period of time then elapses, at least two years, during which the feminising hormone therapy (oestrogens) produces significant changes in the individual. Perhaps the most important change in the subtlest, the effect it has on the brain and the psyche. The use of oestrogens will act on the sex steroid receptors in the brain and *feminize* its responses as best they can. Usually this means a less aggressive, less competitive approach to life, and perhaps an ability to see the world more from the woman's perspective. Similarly, oestrogens will act on the steroid receptors on latent breast tissue and produce a glandular hypertrophy. The overall eventual size of the breasts produced is very variable, but most individuals would start to see tissue forming in a few weeks, with growth still continuing at twelve months. Oestrogens also produce effects on the testis, adrenal gland, the liver, some circulating carrier proteins like the sex-hormone binding globulin (SHBG), lipid metabolism and the important proteins involved in blood clotting. Indirectly they can change blood pressure and the individuals body weight, mainly through water retention. They have little effect on secondary sexual hair growth, which is under the control of the androgens. This is not an exhaustive list, and a number of other effects have been described, for example on calcium metabolism or perhaps increasing the risk of gallstones, but they do not directly relate to the issue in hand.

So what oestrogens are used clinically, and what is the usual dosage and method of delivery? The use of feminising hormones has to satisfy normal pharmacological criteria - it must be effective, safe, convenient and with a good side effect profile. If a feminising hormone is not working for you, then consider a change.

Let's start with what is rarely, if ever used, and

TAKING THEIR SECRET TO THE GRAVE!

When morticians prepared to embalm the body of 76-year-old nun Sister Iris, who'd died after spending 50 years in a convent in Bilbao, Spain, they got the shock of their lives - the sister turned out to be a man! Authorities say the man bears a slight resemblance to escaped prisoner Raul DeBraga, who vanished in 1949.



Eric Cramp, an 82-year-old retired steelworker shocked his former colleagues by leaving instructions that he should be buried in lace underwear, a cocktail dress and made up like a woman. He had hidden his longing to be a woman from them for years.

Surprise was also in store for Rosalinda de Hernandez. After her husband Gustavo was murdered, she was stunned to be told that he was, in fact, not only a woman, but pregnant too. Rosalinda, of Tegucigalpa, in Honduras, who had been married to Gustavo for nine years said: "Our love life was a bit strange, but I never suspected he was a woman."



that is **stilboestrol**. Its efficacy over the newer more natural oestrogens is questionable, and it carries a major risk of deep venous thrombosis. It cannot be recommended as first line therapy. I have not prescribed it in three years.

Conjugated oestrogens from pregnant mares, or **Premarin**, is a popular choice first line. It is commonly used in female hormone replacement therapy (HRT), usually in a daily dose of 625-1250 micrograms to counteract menopausal symptoms. It comes in tablets of several strengths - 625 micrograms, 1.25 and 2.5 milligrams. The dose for hormone therapy in sex reassignment therapy is higher, usually 2.5 milligrams or more, and even up to 7.5 milligrams daily for the duration of the real-life test in the pre-operative phase. After sex reassignment surgery and particularly with the removal of the testes (orchidectomy), the dose can usually be cut by 50%, as the oestrogens now are not having to act directly against the action of the male hormone testosterone (see below).

Because of the excess risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) with Premarin especially in the over 40's, many individuals will be offered the most natural oestrogen, **oestradiol**. This comes in a number of preparations, e.g. oestradiol valerate (Climival, and again used for HRT), or in patch form Estraderm MX 100mg patches, releasing 100 micrograms of oestradiol through the skin daily. The patches are change twice weekly, and seem very effective and safe, but recently I have had to change two patients from this preparation because the patches lost their stickiness after a day or two. There are also oestradiol implants, inserted under the skin by a small procedure performed under a local anaesthetic. These can last for three months or more. Transdermal oestradiol has the safest profile as far as DVT goes, and is to be preferred in individuals over the age of 40 (according to Dutch practice).

I should talk more about deep vein thrombosis, as it is by far the commonest problem encountered with oestrogen therapy. The mechanism of action relates to oestrogens making the blood 'stickier' or hyper-coagulable, and that oestrogens metabolised in the liver seem to increase this risk. In a large Dutch series, the estimated risk of DVT was 20 times that of a control group not on therapy. In the under 40s this equated to an annual rate of only 2.1%, but 12% per year in the over 40s. Smoking increases the risk further and cannot be recommended on medical grounds. If your leg or calf swells up and becomes red, hot, heavy and sore, you must seek medical advice as a DVT is likely to have developed. The risks for thrombosis are increased dramatically with surgical procedures, and so in your own best interests all hormone therapy should be stopped six weeks prior to any operation, including the sex reassignment procedure and commenced one week post-operatively.

Monitoring hormone therapy is usually straightforward. Clinical measurement of weight, blood

pressure and hormone levels is carried out every few months or so. The practitioner should also offer to palpate the liver to check for enlargement, and ask about breast lumps as there is a (theoretical) increased risk of breast cancer. Additional measurements of blood lipids are occasionally done as well. The pituitary hormones FSH, LH and prolactin are routinely measured too. The former, particularly FSH, give a measure of what level of hormone your body is 'seeing' in the blood. If the level is too high, the FSH tends to be suppressed. This is called over-replacement, and is important to detect. It means that the level of oestrogen is unnecessarily high, and the dose should be reduced.

There is no evidence that running hormone levels at high doses brings any extra benefit, and there are good scientific reasons for this view - the hormone receptors are usually saturated and cannot respond to any more hormone.

Another feature of oestrogen therapy is a raised prolactin, often to 3-5 times the normal level. Sometimes this will produce a milky nipple discharge (galactorrhoea) and the oestrogen level should be reduced. Occasionally, the prolactin production can become *autonomous*, that is, self-sustained, leading potentially to pituitary enlargement. This is rare, but must be identified by your medical professional.

If an extra gain in size of bust becomes an important issue, the use of **progesterone** to develop the ductal breast tissue may be a useful adjunct. 5mg twice daily of Provera for three months should produce at least a cup-size difference. Breast augmentation surgery remains the treatment of choice for those unhappy with their hormonally stimulated breasts, but NHS funding for this procedure is very difficult.

It is important not to forget that feminisation with oestrogens is naturally antagonised by the androgens, and in particular the hormone **testosterone** and its powerful derivative, **dihydrotestosterone**. These hormones are important in male and female bodies, and have powerful and useful effects in controlling libido as well as other important metabolic activities. The androgens also act on hair follicles and pilo-sebaceous glands which are switched on as part of the secondary sexual characteristics, notably on the face, chest and abdomen. Hair on arms, legs and axillae (armpits) is less dependent on the androgens. It follows that by antagonising the androgens and reducing their effectiveness, then a reduction in secondary sex hair will follow. The skin will also soften and pilo-sebaceous activity falls, giving the skin a smoother texture and feel, as well as less acne-type spots. The two hormones most widely used for this purpose are **cyproterone** (Androcur) and **spironolactone** (Aldactone). The former is probably more effective, working as a specific testosterone antagonist, but has a significant side effect profile particularly affecting the liver. It has never been licensed for use in the United States. It is also worth

noting that cyproterone and oestradiol (as ethinylestradiol) exist in a combined contraceptive pill, Dianette. I have used this sometimes, but in my experience the dose of cyproterone in this pill, 2mg, was too low to produce significant hair changes, though some skin texture changes did occur. When cyproterone is used by itself, the usual daily dose is 50-100mg. The usually quoted side effects are lassitude, mood swings, depression, intolerance to red wine (ouch!), DVT and loss of libido (because it directly antagonises the effects of the androgens).

Spironolactone, 100mg to 200mg daily is generally held to be safer, and recently was shown in a big trial on heart failure to be a very effective drug in keeping people with heart failure alive for longer. This is mainly due to its other activity in the body, that of a salt regulator. Spironolactone has been used for many years as a treatment for young women with hirsutism, and has a generally safe and acceptable side effect profile. It is worth pointing out that after the operation, or an interval orchidectomy (done in very special cases and with strict criteria) has been carried out, then the dose of oestrogen, as I have mentioned, can be reduced.

Does it also mean that the anti-androgen can be stopped? - after all, the circulating oestrogens will be blunting the circulating androgens by reducing their release from the adrenals, and by increasing the SHBG concentration the free circulating androgens are reduced. The answer however is an ambiguous *sometimes*. Although there is no testosterone derived from the testes any more (the body usually produces 6mg per day of this hormone), a significant quantity of androgen called **androstenedione** is produced in the adrenal glands, up to 3mg per day. Although not as powerful as testosterone, it still can nonetheless produce unwanted effects on the skin and secondary sex hair patterns. It is likely that the reason this happens is that the body up-regulates its hormone receptors and just becomes hypersensitive to any androgen that is still present, but this is another story beyond the scope of this article. The only way forward now is to continue the anti-androgens in some form to combat the effects of the androstenedione, or alternatively, continue with electrolysis of the troublesome hair follicles.

One final question to consider - what do all these hormone changes do to the bones or heart, long term? The answer is not really known for sure, but there is no hard data supporting any concerns of increased heart disease or osteoporosis, although a bone density scan may be useful if there has been long term exposure to hormone therapy. Like breast augmentation, however, funding for this test can be difficult to source.

So there you have it, a hop and a skip through the endocrinology of hormone therapy in sex reassignment surgery. As I have already said, I couldn't have written this without help, your help.

I wish you well on your respective journeys.

End

The Beaumont Society

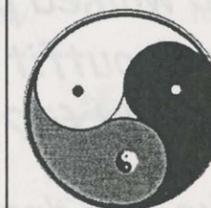


The Beaumont Society is a nationwide self-help organisation for people who cross dress or who are transsexual. The Society has many open social meetings around the country and offers a good quality quarterly magazine, a Bulletin for members only, a confidential mail-box system and access to the Beaumont Society library.

Further details can be obtained from:

The Beaumont Society,
27, Old Gloucester Street,
London WC1N 3XX

Telephone information line - 01582 [REDACTED]
Web site - <http://members.aol.com/Bmontsoc>
E mail - [REDACTED]



GENDYS

A network for those troubled by their gender identity, and their loved and loving ones, those who were troubled in the past and who care, and a forum for professional and lay people.

For further information, write to:

Gendys Network
BM Gendys
London WC1N 3XX

or to the Scottish representative:

Sue Robb

[REDACTED]
Strathcarron
Ross-shire IV54 8YR

Transfiguration by Zab.

*It's happened to all of us -
we've seen the ideal dress
but it just doesn't fit!*

*Maybe the sleeves are too short,
the waist too high, or it cuts off
the circulation at the arms.*

*How often have you walked past
that (almost) perfect outfit and
just wished it would fit?*

*Well, Zab can make any dress
to your size and shape -
whatever the style.*



Phone Zab on
01506 (Bathgate) [redacted]
for an appointment

Tiffany [redacted]'s Tit-Blitz!

Well hello there sugar buns, did you have a prissy sissy Chrissy and a mincing Millennium? I so hope so, coz it is absolutely the bestest time to be out and about dressed to impress as a wriggling giggling christmas tree t-girl in public ... and so delightful to have a pretty fairy on top too ... mmm just for that little seasonal extra! And gosh everyone goes ever so decorative at this time of year ... even Boots the Chemist were selling tinsel tampons ... for the Christmas period! But ok ...so who needs an excuse to wear a wonderful sensational something outrageously sissy frilly sexy tarty latex whatever? We-ll in a way we all do ... the shy girls need a push ... mm-hm ... the bold girls need a thrust ... oo-er ... and the old girls need a bag over their head ... oh dear that must be me!

For many of us, the festive season started early with Repartee's anniversary night at Ron Stormes in London, Roses Scarborough Weekend, and last but not least, Loraine [redacted]'s Hide and Sleek Beauty Festival at the Minto Hotel in Edinburgh ... what a fabby fun frillingly feminine event that was, with just everything needed to make any male look like an attractive female! No matter how embarrassed you might have been about wanting to be a girl for the day, worried if you would look pretty or even what dress to wear ... all the "new girls" were put totally at ease! And in the wonderfully relaxed and feminine atmosphere created by Loraine and her staff, every man there was truly thrilled to find he had been sensitively, professionally and tastefully transformed into a most beautiful and gorgeous woman! So never ever look in your mirror again and just wish babe .. because the good news is ... if you missed the 1999 Beauty Festival ... there will be another event this year, yippee! I so hope to see all you pretty girls there for the Beauty Festival 2000 ... and mmm remember girls you can even wear wonderful big posh frocks to flaunt your feminine charms over dinner!!! Oh and special congratulations to the lovely Joanna, a sweet young t-girl from NE England, who won the title of Miss TV Scotland 1999 ... and hey honey it could be you in 2000!

But always for us girls it is the question of just what to wear for that special event, ambassador's party, fabby first date ... kisses to my hairy hunk ... or even the Miss TV Scotland Contest! Can we go contagious outrageous ... or must we conform to the norm?

It can be a real bitcheroo to decide upon. Well it always is for me at any rate! I mean clothes maketh the man, but outrageous frills maketh the t-girl ... and help, there are

loads of different feminine looks, modes and poutfits to choose from. ... a poutfit? We-ll that is one of those yummee dresses that screams ... without a doubt you've got to pout!!! And so the big, nail biting, knee trembling, mirror mania madness is ... just exactly what to wear when?... Sexy sultry, sissy missy, tweeds and twin-set, force-it corset, divine domination, submissive sensation, blond and brassy, sweet and sassy, bold centrefold, digger for gold, supermodel catwalk ... or the popular ... bloke in a frock! And it doesn't just end there, oh no, what hair style, heels, foundation, lippy, perfume, bangles and just all the sweetest little everything accessories that we find are ever so essential to convince us we look good. Ok so it is best to start with the basics ... a makeover, make-up lesson or waxing and so many more yummee girlie things, like eye-brow shaping, all over tan or lash tints .. as understandingly provided by the gorgeous and wonderful Roseanne Foy at Divine Beauty ... mmm I can thoroughly recommend her full body waxing ... of course how much you want done is up to you, but she can turn any horrid hairy boy body into a fabulous feline feminine shape! Then for clothes and every feminine accessory the easy answer is ask Loraine Walker of Hide & Sleek ... but a big start to solving part of the problem for ourselves can be to try and suss out a theme for each occasion, and then let all the other girlie bits follow that main theme!

I mean ... there you are, a Raquel Welch look alike ... oh yes please ... in Two Million Years BC aka Jurassic Tart ... oh, fret fret ... what on earth shall you wear to fire up those cavemen and get the dinosaurs all horny? We-ll no choice really ... it just has to be a fur lined bikini showing oodles of feral feminine flesh! Most appropriate for the t-girl who wants to be molested by a monster ... sort of T-girl meets T-Rex! So there we have our theme ... cavegirl chic ... ever so sensational when teamed with bone earrings, necklace and anklet ... a



Miss TV Scotland
2 million BC

contagious outrageous ... or must we conform to the norm?

...smarty tarty ritzy glitzy bimbo limbo pubby clubby ...

chicken leg nose piercing and a little dab of rancid goose fat behind the ears and in your cleavage is most definitely optional! But certainly an eau de pong lends a convincingly coquettish pre-historic touch ... mmm ... just irresistible to any Neanderthal male ... unless he too is sporting a chicken-leg nose piercing! Coz we-ll, then everything smells just totally fowl ... tee hee ... oops sorree.

But whoa girlie ... no way will that do for you flirting with Rhett Butler in the steaming sultry sassy Old South of GWTW ... oh no, you must have mega tight corsetry courtesy of Mama your maid ... yaas ooh curtsy missy ... and masses of prissy sissy petticoats to wear with your mega big frilly balloon frock ... gasp for breath ... that famous

flouncing femmie fabulicious Green Sprig Dress ... check it out girlz, it is the scrummy big one Scarlet all Hairy wore to the barbeque. It is absolutely the most divine dress! A veritable cross-

dresser's dream dress to cream ... er I mean die for! If you wear a dress like this don't forget to sport a matching shawl, big floppy bonnet, sassy southern drawl and become a complete coquette in your mega frockette! You will be the romantic heroine of any ball, banquet or blazing big burnings of Atlanta ... and pretty popular with the local boy scout troupe as a mobile tent too! Though take great care to hide your ging gang goollie goollie whatzits ... as believe me you really do want to avoid a paraffin lamp being strung to your ging gangs by every conceivable type of knot!

But of course, for you girls who wish to pursue that lifelong lifetime ambition of getting picked up and pampered by a millionaire ... it is not

the where or the when, it is the what-not ... you must dare to bear all! So why not slip into a Julia Robert's super looker hooker poutfit, as strutted to perfection in Pretty Woman. Tight tiny micro skirt, skimpy vampy top and sexy thigh high boots that go on for ever up your long slim legs. Mmmm ever soooo arresting ... and they will be doing that if you wear this on street corners. But this is definitely an outfit in which to make a little extra pocket money! Also on this theme are those smarty tarty ritzy glitzy bimbo limbo pubby clubby raunchy miniscule dresses ever sooo essential for the millennium gal to display her wares in!!! Oh honey, check out the videos ...High School Reunion and Clueless ... such pretty delish poutfits showing just everything you have to offer ... these my darlings, are must haves to open those big fat wallets!

Now it seems to me that dear Miss Money Penny from the Bond Movies, swinging sixties hair, pointed white blouse, tight womanly black skirt, high heeled courts and I am sure, sussies and seamed stockings ... was dressed perfectly for the secretarial role ... she presents the epitome of understated "cold war" seething femininity ...and ever so appropriate for those essential sixties office tasks of a secretary ... fit for a fondle in the filing room ... buttocks begging to be pinched ... or ...

sitting sweetly and submissively on the bosses knee! Yes the Miss Money Penny look is just perfect for taking something down for your boss! And babe, dressed like Miss Money Penny, you could be completely confident you would not look out of place in any orifice, oops office, sorree ... even when spread-eagled, legs akimbo, saucy silky knickers at half mast, over your bosses desk! And for you inexperienced t-girl secretaries out there, please note such secretarial duties are of course obligatory in such a poutfit ... we-ll in sixties make-believe and tranny fantasy land they are!

Please do not adjust your sets as we now take you to "the utter limits" ...

"You're a shite ... a shite for shore eyesh Mish Funnyfanny!"

... mmm there she sat, a pretty prim secretarial t-girl ... Miss Charlotta Funnyfanny ... as, shaken not shtuurred, Bond, Orange Bond, threw his bowler... in that devil may care, licensed to thrill manner, onto her hat stand! Wow she was a woman, all woman, her bosom beaming such a pointed big girl welcome he could have hung his, hat, coat, gloves, apron, sash, umbrella and big bass drum, from either nipple! She, confident in her feminine charms, merely smiled that knowing smile of hers, and purred ...

"Oh mmm are you ... oh, oh, 7?"

...and let her deep lambent eyes beg ... rodger me rigid big boy!

"Um we-ll it's like thus musses ...how'd yi settle for one inch ... seven times?"



"...let zem eet, er vot you say ... cack"

Of course, the Miss Funnyfanny look, belongs in that traditional sixties female mould, but the fifties theme perhaps is one most suited for adoption by those womanly Marilynnesque, dress size sixteen plus, t-girls. Big hems big pettis, big hips and even bigger pointier bosoms ...which endow any girl of any size with such a womanly look and mmmmm such an ever so slender tiny waist! Oh you must check out the girlie dresses in the movie Pleasantville ... ok so it's a crap movie, who cares that's not the point ... I just adored all the fifties dresses especially that seriously sissy floral pink frock! And as for accessories we-ll ... in fifties mode, suspenders and seamed stockings scream ... sexy!!!

And hey they still seem to rouse every living red-blooded male around and I am sure they could raise a few stiffies from the dead too! Think of Gentlemen Prefer Blonds and anything you've ever seen with Sophia Loren and you are there ... and the fifties style transfers neatly into shopping in a gorgeous floaty below the knee dress! For this, of course, you really gotta find an air vent and do that Marilyn Munro hot air updraught panty flash, as also sweetly copied in Woman in Red, or was it Back-side Draught?

Then never forget the little black dress ... always a winner since its invention by Coco Chanel, right up to today ... simple, elegant but always ever so alluring to wear ...black transforms any sexy sissy or sassy dress style into a cleavage enhancing shapely little number, ever so appropriate for an evening of dry martinis, sucking your cherries ever so provocatively ... er I mean cocktail cherries of course ... and lets you smoulder with subdued sensual

femininity inviting every man in the room to undress you with his eyes!!! Right then, so we have been around a few themes girls ...ok? But for my definitive solution as to how we are ever going to decide exactly what outfit to flaunt and when to wear it ... let's get back out to those "utter limits"

"Woui, woui? Darlingk why rrrr zee pezantes revoltingk?"

"Ah ma cherree zey lack of eets for theirrr leetle toomeez"

"oh, zut alors, sacre bleu, merde ... let zem eet, er vot you zay ... cack"

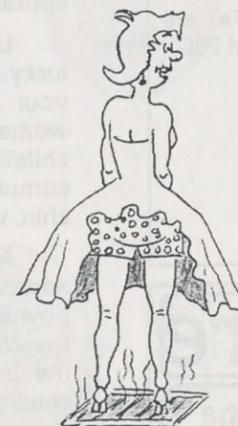
With that biting riposte, her beauty spot astounding and stark against her rouge reddened cheeks, MarieAntoinette, big milk jugs swinging to and fro, the masses of her milkmaid petticoats swirling in a flurry of frills ... spun on her slender heel and flounced off down the Hall of Mirrors, leaving the perplexed Louis the 14th completely baffled! Why did he feel so strangely aroused by this peculiar queen who dressed as a milkmaid? What on earth was cack? If he was Louis the 14th had she made it with the other thirteen? And most intriguing of all, when would he next get his hands on that fine big pair of jugs!

Wow what a hysterical historical figure was Marie Antoinette, she is such a wonderful icon for t-girls everywhere ... dressing up as a milkmaid in outrageously frilly gorgeously silly sumptuous bodice ripping poutfits ... such a thrilly frilly brill costume and just ever sooo suggestive! And to top it all off with a beauty spot ... oh how divinely delicious ... just a little something to draw attention to her perfect

complexion with a certain seductive je ne sais quoi thrown in for good measure ... a sort of mole with a hint ... which as everyone knows is a little sucky sweetie ...Ok? Now this fantasy romantic look is always such a winner at things like weddings ... preferably your own ... and for holding grand balls ... preferably someone elses! But my point here is, whatever the event, like Marie Antoinette, remember if you too are a bit of a Mad Queen who loves dressing up... then hey girl that means you can wear just whatever you damn well please, so long as it makes you happy and you have the balls, oops er ... confidence to carry it off! And the best bit of it all, you can leave the boys guessing!

So next manic mirror session deciding what to wear, please ... just please yourself ...pick a theme, any theme, but whatever, carry it all the way through your whole costume and look and try and stick to it! And then if you feel happy wearing it, whatever you choose to wear, will look totally alright! Y'see if you feel good, you will look good! But if you go for an outrageous style then for sure there are way too few trannie venues or events which specifically cater for us girls who adore dressing up in outrageous poutfits ... and then, oh dear we may feel we have nowhere to go! Except perhaps to Sing-Along-A-Sound of Music ... which I am dying to go to as I have the very dress to wear, but boo hoo total sob, it is sold out! But hey this really is no problem, all we have to do is to star in our very own one girl extravaganzas, go wherever we please and take all those sad grey people to where we want to be ... the Utter Limits!

See you there sugar plums! hugz, Tiffany x



NORTHERN FETISH FAIR

PRESS RELEASE

It's a New Millennium and the Northern Fetish Fair have done it again.

Last year they set the Fetish scene in the North of England alight, by holding the very first pure fetish market in Manchester. Now they have moved forward in leaps and bounds by turning the market into a part of a fun packed weekend of events by teaming up with the Purple Pain Palace's Saturday Munch and Club Lash's monthly (Saturday night) fetish parties. In addition, in order to satisfy demand they have decided to hold the fair BI-monthly (Second Sunday) from March 2000.

The Northern Fetish Fair is now well established as a market for the selling of items associated with the Fetish Scene and as a social event for meeting old & new friends. As an added improvement they are making two additions to the event. The first will take place at the May event & will be a charity raffle in aid of "The Christie's Against Cancer Appeal". Skin Two, Marquis, Daxine & Mystery have already made donations. During the September event they intend to hold a fashion show which will require co-operation from stallholders who wish to show their products. The Geo Master, their official photographer, will choreograph it. They are looking for volunteers who would be interested in being a dance model for the show.

Bar Berlin (Cavernous on two levels) is situated on the edge of Manchester's Gay Village in what used to be Blooms hotel. The entrance (on street level) of which is in Richmond Street, M1 3HS, with ample parking nearby. It is situated on the edge of the hugely popular "Gay Village". One minute (walk) from Chorlton Street coach station, 3 minutes from Piccadilly Bus terminal and 5 minutes from Piccadilly Railway/Metro stations.

The policy of the Northern Fetish Fair is of non-discrimination, where everyone is welcome, irrespective of colour, creed, sexuality & lifestyle.

The next event will take place on 12th March from 1230 to 1730. Entry is a mere £2 on the door. Look out for flyers in shops, bars etc throughout the Country, particularly the North.

Where other organisations are falling by the way side the Northern Fetish Fair are going from strength to strength with the announcement of dates for the rest of 2000, 14 May, 9 July, 10 September and 12 November.

Mailing address: c/o Daxine, 395 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 1AW

Stall booking, Info-line / Fax: 0161 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Marketing / Publicity Tel: 0161 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobiles (on the day): 0410 [REDACTED] & 0411 [REDACTED]

Welcome To Cheshire



Shirley and Christine offer overnight stays and meals at their cosy cottage in Northwich. Only 30 minutes from The Hollywood Showbar and just 6 miles off the M6 at junction 19. A friendly and totally safe atmosphere is assured for all.

Telephone 01606 [REDACTED] for details

Making the most of yourself is the Art of Illusion - bringing attention to your best features and diverting the eye from the least flattering.

Your face in particular can benefit from these principles, using cosmetics to create the ultimate illusion - a concept of which many women are sadly unaware. Women are much more likely to get away with just a dab of lippy because they have women's faces to start with!

But for us, the process of presenting the best possible visage starts with an honest assessment of our bare unadorned face.

Scary, isn't it! Are the eyes too close together? nose too broad? thick neck? and so on. All can be corrected or minimised with the application of a little skill and a lot of honest, objective appraisal.

Unless you are very lucky, you will have to make your face look more like a woman's. In essence, more childlike, that is, smooth complexion, small nose and chin, with large eyes.

A tall order, but it can be approached with foundation, powder, eye shadow, mascara and lipstick, etc. and the intelligent application of shading.

If you think this is all a bit too much, remember you need apply a great deal more expertise than the average woman. After all, make-up for us is a disguise as well as an enhancement.

Give it a try. Spend an hour or so in front of a mirror. I promise you won't look back!

Carolyn [REDACTED]

Carolyn's Corner

Face Shaping to Perfection

Few of us are lucky enough to have the classic oval face which is thought to be the most perfect of face shapes. But it is possible to improve any shape with a little corrective contouring to play down the bad parts and highlight the good.

Don't be upset if you don't get it right first time ... with a little practice you can achieve the perfect balance. (Since you are aiming for a perfect face, deal with any other faults - like poor skin condition - before you start to shape!)

SQUARE

Apply highlighter to cheekbones, chin and forehead. Use shader at the 'corners' of the face.



OVAL

Apply a little shader in the hollows of the cheeks and use highlighter above cheekbones



ROUND

Shade in hollows of cheeks and at side of face, also under the chin. Highlighter on cheekbones and temples



HEART

Reduce wide forehead with shader at sides and temples. Widen jawline with highlighter at the cheekbones.



OBLONG or LONG

Shader on chin and forehead, in the hollows of cheeks. Highlighter on cheeks and temples



How to choose your blushers, shaders and highlighters

With such a large selection of face shapers available, its easy to get confused. As a basic guide, you need two or three shades of blusher (one pink, one peachy coral, and one tawny brown), a darker foundation or deeper blusher for shading, and one or two pale shades for highlighting. You may want to use a gold or silver highlighter for evenings, but only a creamy shade with the merest hint of shimmer for daytime. For concealing, make sure you have a matt white or cream highlighter or a pale foundation.

It's not difficult to select toning blushers, shaders and highlighters - some manufacturers have made it even easier by putting all three products in one compact. Cover Gurl and Rimmel make good powder palettes. You can choose from creams and powders, as well as liquids and gels. All except powders are suitable for most skin types - powders tend to be a little drying so those with dry skin should avoid them.

Application is quite simple, especially with fat pencils, creams which have their own sponge-tip applicators and soft, bushy brushes with powder palettes. Apply cream products after foundation and before face powder - blend with clean fingertips or a small sponge. Powders should be applied after foundation and face powder. When you have made up lips and eyes you can add more powder blusher for extra depth of colour.

Remember to apply a little colour at a time and build it up slowly rather than trying to use too much at once. Keep a clean brush handy for blending - a fat one with a medium-length or long handle is ideal.

Our Forgotten History

THE GALLAE AND THE GODDESS CYBELE

A historical fiction set in the eight hundredth year of Rome's founding.

Laura Darlene Lansberry

Parthenia awoke in the early hours before false dawn. Restless, a sense of purpose moving her limbs almost without conscious volition she slipped out of her bed. Rhea, who was sleeping beside her, continued to breathe slowly and regularly in deep slumber. She stirred not at all; not even when Parthenia bent low and kissed her gently on the lips.

Slipping into her long white stola, positioning her small bare breasts to maximize their perkiness, she moved out into the garden courtyard in the compound of the temple of Cybele. She always thrilled at the sight of the well-tended and fragrant roses, the emerald ferns, and the other flora of the garden. However, in the wee hours of the morning when everyone else was sleeping, the full moon spreading its shimmering light over the landscape, she was awed by the sense of mystery that surrounded her. A mystery that was enhanced on virtually cloudless mornings by thousands upon thousands of dazzling stars in an inky sky.

Puzzled by the jittery feeling that propelled her, Parthenia strolled over to the exterior door in the garden wall. Nervously she lifted the wooden latch, opened the door, and strolled out into the city streets. Casual walking outside the compound, forbidden under Caligula (Little Boots) and Tiberius before him, had been recently legalized by Claudius Drusus (45 CE). Claudius, a sophisticated man who loved learning, was scholarly, wise and gentle, and seemed to recognize the significance of the Gallae to the citizens of Rome. After all, had not Roman forces been losing the Second Punic War until the Sibylline Oracles of Cumae predicted the way to ascendancy? The text of the prophecies had promised victory if Rome would move the shrine of the Magna Mater (Great Mother) from Pessinus in Phrygia to Italia.

Five Roman senators were sent to King Attalus in Pergamum to request the sacred black stone and the illustrious Claudia Quinta formally received the Goddess at Ostia in 204 B.C.E. Thus the Metro'on (Mother Temple) was raised upon the Palatine Hill. True to the prophecy, although the armies and navies of Carthage had been laying waste to the Republic, the tide of battle turned under the Great Mother's protection and

within two years the war was finished. Rome emerged victorious.

Roman citizens were awed by the mysterious forces that stirred in the spirits of the Gallae. Because of this traditionalists in positions of authority feared social mixing. They feared "Oriental" influences on the residents of Rome. Oh yes, they could live in the Great City, practice their magic in favor of Roman Culture, pleasure them with games, song, and dance, but freedom to roam the streets ... not until Claudius was proclaimed Emperor after the murder of Caligula.

Of course, liberty to roam the streets didn't encompass the dark of the morning when respectable people should be asleep. Parthenia knew she could suffer severe consequences if the night guards found her out and about at this time. Nonetheless, compelled by some mysterious force she was helpless to do aught else.

Near the center of town was the plaza and a well beneath a sheltered ramada. Sitting down on the ledge of the well she tried to puzzle out why she was taking such a risk. It was a danger to her and, perhaps, even of some danger to the sisterhood. Did not the actions of each Galla reflect on the entirety of the Gallae? Perhaps it was time she returned to the compound.

At that moment a silhouette stirred in the dark shadows on the opposite side of the well. Parthenia, startled and afraid it might be one of the guards, made to run away.

"Wait! Please! Don't go!" pleaded a masculine voice as the shadow transformed into Sabinus Tarquinius, a senator of Rome. She knew little about the man, save that he was respected by all who knew him. "I won't harm you or let harm come to you. I give my word." Parthenia, nodded her head slightly, and settled herself back on the ledge of the well. "You are a Gallus of Cybele, are you not?" he asked.

"Yes, I am! But we consider the masculine address an insult. Only the guards address us with such contempt, and not all of them." Spoken softly, her words came more as a gentle reminder than a harsh rebuke.

"Oh, of course, I'm sorry. I meant no offense. It's

well known in Rome that good fortune smiles on those who treat the Gallae with respect. It's also well known that those who treat Gallae poorly suffer grave consequence." replied the Senator, moving closer to Parthenia and placing a hand on her knee.

"In either case, it's not the Gallae that bring this to pass," she answered. "Our Goddess, Cybele, favors kind people and sends good fortune to them. Mean spirited people make their own dark fortune. The Mother doesn't direct it to them. What brings such an illustrious citizen of Rome to the streets at this time of morning?" she questioned, knowing he could ask what brought her out as well. With few exceptions, only the disreputable roamed the night.

"My wife is very ill. She has been ill for the past three years. She takes little food, can't leave her bed, and doesn't speak. She can do nothing for herself. All her needs must be tended by servants. It has been nearly six years since she was as a wife to me. I am so lonely and a man has needs that can not be put off forever. Please, understand what I am saying. I care for my wife. She was a dutiful woman and she gave me two worthy sons and an exceptionally fine daughter. I am a principled man. I have no wish to offend the Goddess, but ... I sometimes think I should end my wife's suffering, and my own, in the only way left to me. Hemlock, they say, is painless." Pausing in his narrative the Senator waited for a response.

"You would take her life, then?" asked Parthenia, without trace of judgement in her voice.

"... and my own," he replied. "I couldn't live with the knowledge of such a thing," he continued, his hand still resting warmly on her leg.

"You must dismiss these dark thoughts. You've lived an honorable life, a noble life. You've raised fine children to be noble citizens of Rome. You can't pass on a legacy of horror. Nor can you do this to Rome. Rome admires you and has been good to you. Is this how you envision to repay her?" Parthenia, speaking with soft considerate tones, placed her left hand gently on top of the hand resting on her leg.

"What can I do, then?" asked the Senator, desperate pleading in his voice.

"You must take a concubine to wife and begin to live again, to attend festivals and plays. You must take joy back into your life. Let your servants help your wife through these last days. They will tend for her until she slips beyond this realm. You must do whatever is

necessary to keep away the dreadful thoughts that are consuming you," she said, gently admonishing the Senator. Then Parthenia smiled and patted his hand.

"Would you come with me, lay with me?" he asked, knowing she would turn him down.

"I can't! I have someone special who makes my life complete. I must return now," she spoke with her somber tones. "It was meant that I find you and tell you what you needed to know. It's not your time and out of your pain will come your greatest joy."

Then, rising, Parthenia returned to the compound and to her lover, Rhea, still soundly sleeping in their bed. Slipping off her clothes and sliding into bed, Parthenia smiled and thanked the Mystery for once again allowing her the privilege of helping someone in need.

When dawn came Parthenia rose and began preparing the morning meal. Shortly, Rhea, fresh from her morning toilet, added her efforts to the morning chores. As she straightened the bed covers Rhea questioned Parthenia about her activities of the morning. "Did you leave our bed last night?"

"For awhile!" answered Parthenia.

"Where did you go?" Rhea continued with her questions.

"I spoke with Senator Sabinus by the well in the town square," she replied

matter-of-factly.

"You know I don't like you to leave the compound at night. It hasn't been that long since we were forbidden to go out. Rome could make it illegal again," complained Rhea.

"Yes, I know," responded Parthenia, setting the last of the frumenti on the table. "Let's eat! I will try to do better."

Later in the morning a young couple, carrying a newly-born child, entered the temple and asked for Parthenia by name. When Parthenia presented herself they asked her blessing on their child. The man was a 'miles' (Roman Soldier) named Laurentus and his wife was called Lavinia. The child, a boy, had been named Marcus. Parthenia called down the blessing of Cybele on the child and prophesied a life of duty and exemplary honor. She neglected to tell them that she thought it would likely be far too short. Sons of Roman soldiers often became soldiers themselves and were not noted for the length of their years.

"You may not remember us, priestess, but you were at our wedding. You blessed our union and promised I



would live to see a son born. This is that son! We will leave some denarii when we depart, but is there anything else you would ask of us?" queried the soldier appreciatively.

"Yes, there is something you can do for me. When you hear another soldier scorn us, make jest of us, call us Galli and not Gallae, tell them that they are rude. If we decided to leave Rome because of such attitudes your enemies would once more take a toll of Roman lives," threatened Parthenia, still disturbed by the Senator's use of the masculine forms.

"Yes, M'lady, I do and I always shall. The Gallae have been good to us. You best of all," responded Laurentus as he and his family made their way out of the temple.

Returning to the waiting arms of Rhea, Parthenia requested a glass of Falernian wine and, after it was served, she bade Rhea sit beside her and talk. "Rhea, will it ever change? The ignorance and hatred we must endure is such a great sadness."

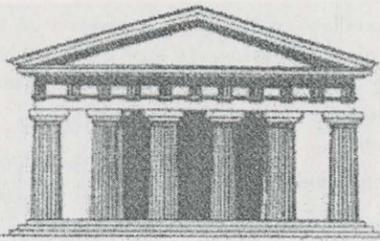
"I know, my sweet love, but you are loved by so many people. Surely, you can't be distressed over a few ignorant soldiers," reproved Rhea. "Our mysteries grow from the pain. Without the pain, from where would our strength come?"

"Yes, but even the Nazarenes are starting to despise us. When their Messiah still lived he respected us and talked of our spirituality, promising their heaven for those who castrate themselves for the sake of righteousness. Now, with their prophet crucified, there's that citizen of Rome, what's his name ... oh yes, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) and he speaks of us with hate and malice. Soon he will be more important to the Nazarenes than their Anointed One. How could they allow a Roman citizen to defile the gentle beliefs preached by their Christ? Don't they understand that it was Jesus that brought their salvation, not those that came after him?" uttering her words with passion Parthenia was near to tears.

"It's true enough. I've heard rumors of this man Paul. His words will surely not bear that much weight. Jesus has been dead for seventy or eighty years, maybe more. Paul never met him. He can't speak for him and those who follow Jesus know the truth," returned Rhea, attempting to comfort her distraught lover.

"Perhaps you're right, for now. What of the future? When time has blurred the separation between the word of Jesus and the word of Paul, what then? Will they still spurn the doctrine of Paul, or will his doctrine become holy and the true voice of their gentle shepherd be brushed aside? Does not the roar of the sporting events at the Circus Maximus draw more attention than the peaceful music and sensuous dancing at the temple?" inquired Parthenia, unwilling to drop her line of reasoning.

"I don't know, my love. The future you speak of is



too far off for me to know," countered Rhea in frustration, obviously not wanting to pursue the subject further.

Late in the afternoon Parthenia left the compound to purchase rare cloth for ceremonial robes. It was, after all, the week of the Megalesia (Great Games), the festival of Cybele, Eternal Mother of All Gods and the

Elders of the Elder Gods. As she moved from stall to stall, choosing and picking those items she wished to purchase, she was treated with respect, almost a reverent awe, by all the common folk. However, rounding a corner she came face to face with a surly imperial soldier. "Out of my way, Gallus," he commanded, pushing Parthenia aside. Irritated by his remark, she nonetheless backed away.

In the next moment the soldier pushed a young girl to the ground. She couldn't have been more than thirteen. When Parthenia rushed over to help the child up and soothe her injured pride the soldier made to strike Parthenia. Swiftly, like the strike of a serpent, Parthenia grabbed the wrist of the soldier, and then stepped in close and looked directly into his eyes. "This doesn't become you, fine sir," she spat venomously from a tight lipped mouth. "This child has done you no injury."

It was dangerous to confront a Roman soldier so directly, but the Mystery was on her and the soldier, sensing this, backed down, albeit with a gruff remark to save face.

"I've no time for the likes of you," he growled and then stormed off.

Turning to the young girl Parthenia smiled and gave her a quick hug and then returned her to her mother who was standing near by. "Thank you, priestess. Will you be at the Procession of the Pine Branches this evening?"

"Yes, of course. I wouldn't miss the commemoration of Attis. Because the God is saved, we are saved. Blessed be Cybele, Mother of the Gods," replied Parthenia with sincere enthusiasm, "Besides I'm offering the invocation."

That night, before a gathered crowd of devotees of Cybele, Rhea proudly at her side, Parthenia spoke the following words of summoning:

"Mother of the immortal gods; she who prepares a fast-riding chariot drawn by bull-killing lions, she who wields the scepter over the sacred pole, she of many names, the Honored One; thou who occupies the central throne of the universe, and thus the earth; she who provides delicacies to eat; by thee who brought forth the race of immortal beings; by thee who rules the rivers and the seas; come ye to our feast, O' Lofty One. Delight in our drums O' tamer of all, savior of the Phrygians, bed-fellow of Kronos, child of Uranos, Old One, Elder Goddess, life-giving, passion loving, mirthful One, let us gratify you with our acts of personal piety and joy. We shall make love and laughter in your Holy name this

night!"

Turning to Rhea, before the mingled crowd, Parthenia embraced her and then they kissed, a long lingering kiss that left no doubt of their love for one another. The crowd cheered and then began the singing, dancing, and reveling everyone had been anxiously awaiting. "Thank you Rhea," whispered Parthenia, "that was a lovely invocation. I don't know what I would do without your knowledge of the formalities."

"Nor I without your presentations," responded Rhea.

"Yes, but I also need your sweet and gentle nature. Not all Gallae are as tender and lovely as you," cooed Parthenia, who had already had her first goblet of wine.

"There are even fewer like you. Your strength sustains me more than you might know," said Rhea, running a gentle hand through her lover's hair.

"Let it be said then that together we accomplish far more than either could alone," smiling Parthenia offered Rhea a large chalice of wine. "To the Great Mother, let us celebrate with the others."

End

KEEPING A HEAD!

"What do I do now?"

... was my first thought. My gorgeous little car, so lovingly polished and cared for, had failed its MOT - severe corrosion. And when I asked how much it would cost to get it welded up, I was met with hoots of laughter.

Bummer! If in doubt ... shop. I didn't really mean Safeways, but that's where I wound up.

Fate or what?

At the checkout I just happened to glance over at Customer Notices and saw a little card which said, "MIG welder for sale. Cheap". "Wow," I thought, "fate or what?" I don't think I've ever moved so fast before, or since! It was cheap, and I bought it.

First problem was I couldn't get it out of the car boot. Boy, was it heavy! And then came the realisation I had no idea how to use it! Not one to be thwarted by minor details, I enrolled at my local college for their evening course on welding. At this point I should mention that I had been living in female role for a year, so I knew this was going to be an interesting experience in more ways than one.

Looking good in a boilersuit!

How can you look feminine wearing overalls three sizes too big that totally destroy all evidence of budding womanly curvature, heavy boots, and for that extra touch of chic, massive welding gloves in this year's shade of Sherwood Forest green? Yeuck! Oh my God, what had I done?

As we all clumped along to the welding room, I'm



sure we looked like the seven dwarfs going off on a day's work down the mine ... with yours truly, Herman Munster, bringing up the rear! Well, that's how it felt. Just the thought of it made me start to giggle and next thing I had the attention of our instructor!

Lots of sparks ...

"Right Aileen," he said. "I'll weld this and then it's your turn." In at the deep end - no change there then. I fixed my helmet and had a go. There were lots of

sparks ... but not much joining together of metal! Suddenly I felt a tap on my shoulder. Turning round, the instructor informed me my hair was on fire!

It was a synthetic wig and was blazing away merrily. Not stopping to think, I pulled it off and plunged it into a handy barrel of water (kept there for just such an emergency, I'm sure) - then put it back on again!

"Fire out?"

There was a stunned silence, with everyone staring at me with goggle eyes and jaws at chest level. "Fire out?" I smiled brightly, everyone roared with laughter and, thank God, suddenly I was one of the guys ... in a manner of speaking!

The rest of the course passed without event. Everyone was lovely to me and in due course, I learned how to weld and was able to repair my car.

Unfeminine? Well, I never have been the sort of girl given to taking off when the sparks start flying!

Aileen



VIKKI'S WEBWATCH

Although I've been cross dressing from a very early age it was only five years ago that I was able to find information about this and realise that I was not alone. This came about when I acquired my first computer and decided to explore this 'Internet' thing, I was hearing so much about. Today there is a vast amount of information out there and in each magazine I'd like to share with you something of what I've found on my travels.

Vikki [redacted]

SUPPORT SITES

These are the Internet homes of national organisations like the Beaumont Society, The Gender Trust, Press for Change etc. These sites are great for general information, especially if you are struggling with the myriad of different terms that are applied to the transgender community or if you are looking for some first time information. Typical features include news pages, membership details/application forms (if applicable), background information etc.

Also in this category I would include the pages of local support groups like Northern Concorde (Manchester) and TransEssex (Brighton/South of England). I find these tend to be less formal than the nationals and the focus of the information supplied is, understandably, more of a local nature.

PERSONAL SITES

It never ceases to amaze me the number of personal web sites maintained by members of our community. These sites offer such a huge variety of information and personal experiences that you cannot fail to find something that you can relate to. Despite the apparent variety of pages, I find the underlying format of most of these sites remarkably consistent. Typical features include:-

- *Biography* - who I am, where I come from, some likes/dislikes etc.
- *Picture Gallery* - the essential ingredient (after all, who doesn't like to show off!)
- *E-mail address* - it's good to talk!
- *Links Page* - a list of those sites that the person has found useful or interesting.

COMMERCIAL SITES

How do you shop for size 10 high heels without coming face to face with a shop assistant who just *has* to know they are for *you*? Simple - 'on-line' shopping. It's possible to buy just about anything on-line these days. So if the thought of buying underwear in M&S brings you out in a cold sweat, then on-line shopping may be the answer for you.

In each magazine, I'll review a selection from the three different types of sites.

SUPPORT SITE REVIEW

The Northern Concord (Manchester)
Internet Address:-
<http://www.northernconcord.org.uk>

The website of the Northern Concord group was one of the very first sites I discovered on the net. As well as containing lots of information and articles in itself, its links page proved to be a really good springboard from which to access other sites. The site has recently been re-vamped and contains the following:-

- links to other support groups
- background information on other support groups (nice touch!)
- telephone helplines
- membership details
- TV/TS definitions and local 'what's on' information

In addition you will also find a great classified ads section, an article on Police Policy and a promising section simply called MORE INFORMATION. (Check out the 'bra sizing' feature).

Conclusion - An excellent source of information delivered in a relaxed style (although I do miss the links page from the old site).

I thought it would be helpful to start by looking at three different types of sites you might want to visit - support sites, personal sites and commercial sites - as identified by their aims in supplying you with information.

Support Sites

Typically, these are sites run and maintained by trusts, societies and voluntary support groups. They tend to be the best sources for information on all aspects of transgenderism.

Personal Sites

These sites are designed and maintained by Individuals.

Commercial Sites

These include on-line shopping sites and sites which advertise services and products for sale.

OTHER SUPPORT SITES TO CHECK OUT

- **The Plaid**
http://www.wintermute.co.uk/%7Esuffles/The_Plaid/

Excellent site with a myriad of information. This is the only Scottish support site I could find - come on Scotland, surely we can do better!

- **Beaumont Society**
<http://members.aol.com/Bmontsoc>
- **Beaumont Trust**
<http://members.aol.com/Bmonttrust>
- **Gender Trust**
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust>

PERSONAL SITE REVIEW

Sian Louise (Lovely Lingerie)
Internet Address:-
<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/5308>

This is a very good example of a personal site. It has all the features of this type of site (extensive biography, excellent links page (lots of lingerie-related sites), e-mail and picture gallery (with a difference). In addition to the standard features, Sian Louise has personalised her site with a theme (i.e. the emphasis on lingerie) and the addition of 'Picture of the Month', 'Website of the Month' and 'Favourite piece of fiction' pages.

Conclusion - Great site with a great theme.

OTHER PERSONAL SITES TO CHECK OUT

- **Ruthie's Site**
<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/café/8124>
Excellent photos, good links from this Scotland-based site.
- **Sue's Scottish Site**
<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/4579>
Good site with a definite Scottish/Celtic flavour.

<http://trans.sister.org>

Not your typical personal site, but you won't find better for links!

COMMERCIAL SITE REVIEW

Hide & Sleek (Fife, Scotland)
Internet Address:-

<http://dSPACE.dial.pipex.com/Hide.Sleek/>

For those of you who, like me, thought that Hide & Sleek was just a dress shop, then I think you will be pleasantly surprised by their website. It has been very well put together and offers a wide range of products - clothes, naturally - but also lingerie, corsets, wigs, make-up, jewellery, etc. There is also a page giving details of events as well as a links page.

Conclusion - I never knew there was so much in it!

OTHER COMMERCIAL SITES TO CHECK OUT

- **CrossDress**
<http://www.crossdress.co.uk/idx1.htm>
Lingerie designed for us.
- **Hay-Way Shoes**
<http://www.hayway.demon.co.uk>
An excellent site, great range plus extras.
How about a look at an American site?
- **MR-MS bargain boutique for cross dressers**
<http://www.mrms.com/mrindex.htm>

Why not let me know how you get on. Suggest sites yourself you think I should take a look at. Tell me if you're having problems accessing/browsing the Internet, etc. Like everyone else at The Tartan Skirt - I'm here to help. You can write to me C/o The Tartan Skirt or e-mail direct to:

[redacted]

ELECTROLYSIS
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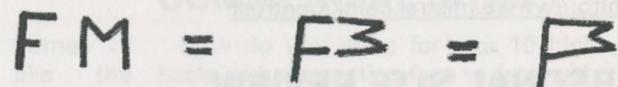
A SIGN FOR OUR TIMES

Aids Awareness has a red ribbon, Breast Cancer Awareness has a pink ribbon, Gay Pride has a rainbow - all symbols that identify the wearer to those in the know, and proclaim their support.

After last year's Gay Pride swim around the sodden streets of Edinburgh, a group of us sat gently steaming and discussing the issue of a 'corporate image' for us T-folk. One decision reached was that the next time we went on a march we should try to have our own banner to march under. This is now in the process of being made after the design was agree.

Another issue discussed was to do with some sort of

badge that would enable us to subtly proclaim who we are. Paper was produced and various designs scribbled, each more complex than the other ... then something clicked. The badge should be simple and not obviously any one thing. We started to look at combinations of male and female (some of which will appear on the banner) and came up with the following: using the letters F for female and M for male, if you take the M and turn it on its side and match up its 'legs' with the sticking-out bits of the F, you get a banner shape ...



The next consideration was colour. This was quite easy - blue for a boy and pink for a girl, mix them together and you get - purple!

So, there we have it, a unique and subtle badge for T-folk - a purple pennant. What do you think? We believe it would be nice to see this adopted nationally and would value your opinion. In the meantime, why not make your mind up to join us this Millennium Year in Glasgow for the Pride March, under our own banner and waving our pennants. With the colour theme of purple, you might want to wear something (anything) purple on the day.

Cath Brown
West Lothian Transgender Support Group



There once was a trannie from Skye
with a shape like a capital 'I'

She said, it's so sad

but then, I can pad

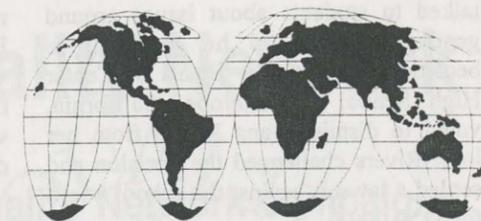
Which shows you that figures *can* lie!



With the Obesity Class, the AA meeting and the Cross-Dressers Group all on the same night, Chuck finally had the chance to stop eating, drinking and being Mary.

NEWS

From Around The World...



UNITED KINGDOM

Sex-change gangster denies being the 'Glasgow Godmother'

A 29 year old serving 18 months in Barlinnie Prison for a viscous axe attack, appeared in court dressed as a woman to answer charges of breaching a community service order. Wishing to be known as Lisa Ann Docherty, she said "I want my sentence to be finished so that I can get on with my life". Docherty is currently waiting for surgery and is having hormone treatment.

Please Sir ... er, Miss

A 52 year old teacher has won the support of staff and pupils at the Ridgeway School in Wroughton, Wiltshire, following the announcement of his intention to transition to living as a woman. Terry Crag said, "I have been very happily married. I love my wife and daughter very dearly. They are coming to terms with what I am doing." He expects to return to teach in female role after the summer recess, following surgery.

CANADA

Toronto

Detectives failed to spot the cross dresser

Even the most hardened detectives didn't know constable Peter Cousens' secret after working with him for 28 years. But it became clear when Cousens, aged 49 years old and now known as Cynthia Cousens, waltzed into her retirement party last November wearing a dress! "Coming out was one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make," Cousens said. "Most of my colleagues were very supportive." Cousens spent most of his 28 years with Toronto's finest at 14 Division, one of the toughest, busiest precincts. During that time Cousens earned 26 service commendations and a 1998 Chief of

Police Award.

Calgary

Change in Calgary Police Service

A 25 year old employee who wishes her identity to remain a secret, is undergoing gender reassignment with the support of her bosses. Deputy Chief Jack Beaton, who oversees human resources issues, said the Department immediately took steps to educate other people in the work area to ensure everyone was at ease with the transition. "We're quite proud she stayed here and wanted to go through the transition here."

Vancouver

No room at the lesbian inn for transgender

A lesbian group in Vancouver, British Columbia, has been ordered to pay more than \$2000 dollars by a Human Rights Tribunal hearing, following their ban on Susan Mamela, a 'pre-op transgendered person' who tried to use their drop-in centre. Mamela described herself to the Human Rights Tribunal as a radical lesbian feminist who rejects male society's attempt to define her and "make a woman out of me." She was accused by group members of being 'aggressive and mannish' and it was felt inappropriate that Mamela should answer phones to the women's crisis line because she had a male-sounding voice. The tribunal upheld Mamela's complaint and ordered the group to pay damages for injury to Mamela's 'dignity, feelings and self-respect'.

Vancouver

Hammer slayer to have sex-change in prison

A convicted murderer has been given the go-ahead to get a sex-change operation and be allowed to complete her life sentence in a woman's prison. Synthia Kavanagh, convicted for the 1987 hammer slaying of a transsexual prostitute

in Toronto, was preparing to appeal to a Human Rights Commission when the Canadian Department of Correction officials agreed to her request. Her lawyer, Barbara Findlay, said her client was "routinely taunted, harassed and sexually assaulted by male prisoners". Kavanagh, born Richard Chaperon, had already started hormone therapy when she was arrested.

UNITED STATES

Texas

Appeals Court rules 'woman can't be man-made'

An Appeals Court in Texas has ruled that surgery does not change the male chromosome and denied Christie Lee Littleton's legal standing as a woman. Her marriage was declared illegal as this ruling made it same-sex. (Interesting to compare this with Canada's Supreme Court ruling last year, which recognised same-sex partners as 'spouses' for all legal purposes.)

Washington

Reuters reports predictions of artificially-grown sex organs

According to a Reuters report, Dr. Myra Murdock, National Director of Impotence World Association is predicting that artificially-grown penises and vaginas for implanting as functioning organs, could be a reality within the near future due to recent breakthroughs in genetic research. "As unbelievable as this may be, the process of tissue engineering, and the ex vivo (outside the body) production of functioning human organs such as the penis and vagina are being done today in the laboratory," he said.

California

Parents disapprove of teaching reassignment to pupils

Following complaints from parents

that an award-winning high school teacher talked to students about issues around gender identity and her decision to become a woman, the Board of Center High School in Antelope, California, voted to dismiss Dana Rivers from her job. Rivers challenged the decision and settled a lawsuit against the school board for \$150,000.

Cleveland *Never say die!*

Frank G. Spisak, 48, a convicted murderer on death row, insists on being known as Francis Anne Spisak and is suing state officials because they refuse to refer to him legally as a woman. Requests to allow him to have hormone treatment and an operation have repeatedly been denied by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Spisak claims he suffers from an untreated mental illness called gender dysphoria, or transsexualism.

A similar request was made the year before by Peter 'Commander Pedro' Langan, the transsexual leader of a white-supremacist bank-robbery gang, who asked to have a sex-change operation in prison, arguing that he suffers from sexual identification problems and other mental disorders.

And in Boston, Robert Kosilek, serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife in 1990, has filed a federal lawsuit to try to force the state to pay for his sex-change. Since his conviction in 1993, the 50 year old has been denied the hormones and surgery that would allow him to "assume some level of psycho-sexual congruity".

New York *Police brutality alleged by whole family ... and their neighbour!*

A transsexual woman has filed a lawsuit alleging that police stormed her apartment and terrorised her family because they disapproved of her gender change. It has been alleged that following an emergency call for medical assistance, several police officers arrived at her apartment and proceeded to verbally abuse her before spraying Mace, assaulting her and her mother and brother, and a visiting neighbour. It is further alleged that other officers arrived and joined in, wrecking the apartment, stealing money and tranquillising two pet dogs, one having to be put down

afterwards. JaLea, the transsexual, was removed to a psychiatric ward at Bronx Lebanon Hospital and held overnight, while her mother, brother and visiting neighbour were arrested and charged with various felonies. All charges were later dismissed.

Atlanta *Get on board the name-change merry-go-round*

William Edward Lyndsay, a 47 year old aviation mechanic, filed a name-change petition and was told by a Cobb County Judge to have his sex-change first - and his medical adviser has told him he has to assume his new gender role before he can have surgery!

SOUTH AMERICA

COLUMBIA *High Court restricts genital mutilation*

The Constitutional Court in Bogota, Columbia, is the first to address the human rights violation by restricting the ability of parents and doctors to resort to the scalpel when children are born with atypical genitals. The genital mutilation of intersex children has been widespread practice for over 40 years in most industrialised countries. The court recognised that intersex people are a minority which enjoys the constitutional protection of the State against discrimination, and that every individual has a constitutional right to define his or her own sexual identity.

NEW ZEALAND *First transgender Member of Parliament*

The New Zealand Labour Party's Georgina Beyer has become the country's first transgender member of parliament in the rural seat of Waiararapa in the North Island. Beyer's recently published biography describes how she worked as a stripper and male prostitute in Wellington and Sydney before having a full sex-change operation. Her autobiography 'Change For The Better' was published early in 1999 and is a candid account of her extraordinary past. Georgina was born additionally disadvantaged because she's Maori, the indigenous and marginalised ethnic group that makes up

ten percent of New Zealand's population.

College amend Charter to remove discrimination

Inspired by the country's first transgender member of parliament, a Canterbury University student has successfully had the rights of cross dressers and transgender students recognised on campus. Following abuse and threats to her own person, the student, who has had reassignment surgery, persuaded the University Council to amend the charter, banning discrimination on the grounds of gender expression. The student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said the amended charter recognised the social legitimacy of people like herself, "Finally they're saying you exist and we believe you have worth".

IRELAND

Dissatisfaction with surgery gives rise to claims for compensation

Two persons who were sent by Ulster Health Board for reassignment surgery in Edinburgh in 1990, are now suing the Board claiming problems arising from the operations ruined their lives. One of the individuals concerned, Barbara Barrett, alleges she has had severe physical, social and psychological problems and is appealing to people to look beyond the nature of the operation and understand that there are wider issues involved. The case is likely to be heard in Edinburgh some time this year.

Award for harassment

A Belfast agency of the Department of Health and Social Services has agreed to pay £10,000 compensation to a former employee who was transsexual. Over a period of four years she was sexually harassed by her colleagues until she felt obliged to leave because of severe depression. In the settlement, the DHSS apologised for 'the hurt and distress' she suffered and agreed to review its policies and procedures on sexual harassment and transsexualism.

Alarming suicide statistics

A recent report has indicated that gay men in Northern Ireland are 30 times more likely to try and kill themselves than heterosexual men. The research was carried out by The Science Shop, a joint initiative between the University of Ulster and the Queens University, Belfast. Of

No-one can have failed to notice the stooshie over Section 28. The House of Lords was able to prevent the repeal of this damaging piece of legislation in England, now it remains to be seen what the Scottish Executive will do with it later this year. Should I be getting my hopes up? ... or does the real power in Scotland still reside elsewhere? For me, Section 28 is not about promoting homosexuality in our schools - it's about removing discrimination which prevents our young from making informed choices about their lifestyle ... whatever these may be. Ed.

the 122 who took part in the survey more than a third had attempted to commit suicide. Most of those had taken a drug or alcohol overdose.

SWEDEN

More claims of a genetic finger in the pie ...

According to Swedish psychiatrist Mikael Landen from the University of Gothenburg, the desire to change sex is genetic, not psychological. Dr. Landen claims to have discovered three genes present in transsexual males that make them less sensitive to testosterone, the male hormone that stimulates the development of the male sexual organs.

ITALY

Worldpride 2000 has Vatican proclaiming the persecution of Catholics

Officials in the Vatican are up in arms against the first GLBT Worldpride which will be held in Rome between 1st and 8th July, this year. The Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Sodano, told the Italian authorities to reconsider their authorisation of the event. It is being claimed that it is an offence against Catholics and that it breaks the treaty between the Italian State and the Vatican State (the Cordato), which imposes the respect of Rome as a holy city. In his response, the Lord Mayor of Rome, Mr. Rutelli, considers Rome an open city which "will not close its doors to freedom of opinion and expression".

HUNGARY

Anything you can do, I can do ...

A husband and wife are each receiving hormone treatment prior to them both having sex-change operations at St. George's Hospital near Budapest, later in the year.

EGYPT

Transsexual student has the guts to bounce back!

A medical student who was expelled after having a sex change is hoping to resume her studies, having won the right to do so in a legal battle with the Islamic University of Al Azhar. Her case was financed by her earnings as a belly dancer. The University appealed against the court decision that it must admit Sally Mohammed Abdullah to the women's faculty, arguing that she did not meet its ethical standards, but the court ruling was upheld.

The contribution made by Press for Change News list is gratefully acknowledged by the Tartan Skirt

Equality Network

The Equality Network campaigns to remove the inequalities facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the laws and institutions of Scotland.

58a Broughton Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3SA

Tel: 07020 [REDACTED]

Fax: 07020 [REDACTED]

Web site: www.diversity.org.uk/equality/

Email: [REDACTED]



You Can Help Make Pride Scotland Today

Whether it's volunteering with one of our working groups, helping raise money or staffing our offices in Edinburgh or Glasgow. It takes all kinds of people with all levels of experience to make Pride Scotland a success. Contact us today to find out how you can be a part of it:

Keith Cowan, Human Resources Director

Pride Scotland

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Edinburgh EH1 3SA Glasgow G1 4AL

Tel/Fax: 0131 [REDACTED]

Tel: 0141 [REDACTED]

Fax: 0141 [REDACTED]

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 Contact Pearson or Maria on
 0131 [redacted]

The Spectacle Shop
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 fashion or fun.
 Telephone 01592 [redacted]

Joplins Beauty
 27 High Street
 Kinghorn
 Fife
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 detoxification, toning and
 weight loss programmes,
 manicures, eyebrow
 shaping and ear piercing.
 Wig styling by Barry.
 Telephone 01592 [redacted]
 or arrange an appointment
 through Loraine at Hide &
 Sleek.

DM Photographic
 'Blicht Heri'
 Nairn Road
 Ardersier
 Dnuerness-shire
 DV1 2SE
 Tel: 01667 [redacted]

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 Kinghorn
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 For wigs, clothes, jewellery,
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 Made-to-measure service.
 Tel: 01592 [redacted]

Beauty Festival

Saturday the 20th November 1999 was the date for Hide & Sleek's Beauty Festival at The Minto Hotel in Edinburgh.

Before the event got under way folk were starting to arrive, some to take advantage of time in hand to get changed for what had been heralded as Loraine [redacted]'s biggest and best show to date.

I was staying overnight and so went up to my room to relax after my journey and to get myself ready. When mid-day arrived I went down to take a look at the function suite which was set up with a variety of stands offering products and services from ball gowns, jewellery, beauty treatments, image consultancy and spectacles, to piercing and photography.

Several talks and workshops had been arranged for the afternoon and a good number of folk were in attendance by 2 pm when these were ready to get under way.

The first one dealt with styling and was conducted by Carolyn [redacted]. She gave lots of helpful hints on how to make the most of a limited wardrobe and how to accessorise with effect. Carolyn gave us the benefit of her experience and then opened her talk out to the audience by inviting us to discuss our own ideas.

Then came Linda [redacted]'s Finishing School. Linda looked at what we might need to refine our feminine presentation. She covered many aspects of behaviour including deportment, how to sit, how to eat and drink without destroying your make-up - even how to hold your shoulder bag correctly!

Louise gave a talk on The Law, how to respond to being stopped in the street or in your car by the police,

the vexed problem of using toilets and changing rooms when out shopping.

Afterwards we had time to revisit the stands and talk freely amongst ourselves.

I disappeared to my room about 5 pm to change for the evening and wondered about putting my name down for the Miss TV Scotland Competition which was to take place at 7pm. In eveningwear I then went for a drink in the bar and chatted with others who had arrived for the next part of the event. The Minto Hotel had provided a room for anyone arriving and needing somewhere to change. It was a bit like the television programme 'Stars In Their Eyes' as a body in trousers would disappear into the room to re-emerge totally transformed as female.

By now there must have been close to a hundred folk milling around with wives and friends. Pre-dinner drinks were served in the Premier Suite, followed by a three-course dinner, and rounded off by coffee and mints - a lovely meal and everyone I spoke to was in agreement here.

After dinner, Louise hosted the first part of the Miss TV Scotland. Contestants were called - Tiffany, Neula, Lisa, Leanne, Heather, Gina, Michelle, Joanna, Liz [redacted] and Kelly - all in casual day wear or evening wear. And then, before the next part of the competition, we were treated to a cabaret turn - Miss-ter Ruby, a drag queen from Blackpool. Ruby's various comedy acts and jokes left little to the imagination!

The second and concluding part

Miss TV Scotland -
 Joanna from Newcastle
 (right)
 Heather (below)
 Obviously enjoying herself.



(above)
 Joanna with
 Loraine and
 Louise from
 Hide and Sleek

Kelly (left)
 looking very
 elegant in
 her evening
 dress

of the Miss TV Scotland Competition saw Louise chatting to each of the contestants in turn while a panel of three judges looked on. The proud winner was announced - Joanna! and duly crowned by Loraine in the manner of Miss World. Joanna received a prize of £200 towards an outfit designed and made by Hide & Sleek Designs.

Hide & Sleek's Loraine Walker was given a round of applause in appreciation of her effort in staging the event, then the disco took over until the wee small hours when the festivities began to draw to a close.

Loraine tells me she'll be having another event next November, so if you are new to the scene and feel you would like to venture out a bit more to meet others at a safe and friendly event, give Loraine a ring on 01592-[redacted] for details, or write to her at Hide & Sleek, 14 St. Leonards Place, Kinghorn, Fife. Look forward to seeing you there.

Jackie



Leanne (above)
 daywear section

Tiffany (right)
 "Of course swimsuits
 are daywear."



Photographs kindly
 supplied by Loraine
 [redacted] and Tiffany
 [redacted]



Gina (above)
 "Do you really
 think this
 dress is too
 short?"

Michelle (left)
 all the way
 from Hull

Your
Stars

with Seòras MacTheàrlaich



Aries ♈

(21st March - 20th April)

March - The Sun is transiting your 12th House until it enters your sign on the 20th March, the Spring Equinox. From the 23rd onwards you'll have more energy to spend improving your financial situation. It pays to be prudent, but this doesn't mean you're not allowed to spoil yourself, especially at this time of the year.

April - The end of the month is very eventful, with Mars, Venus and the Moon clustering in your first house. You'll enjoy communicating and will feel sociable, this should come as a relief after the last couple of months!

May - Guess where the main attention of this month will lie? Well, it's money! Surprise, surprise, Lady Luck is smiling on you. On the interpersonal level you seem to be looking for quarrels with everybody. Go out, socialise and have some fun, for Goddess' sake!

Taurus ♉

(21st April - 21st May)

March - With the New Moon in your eleventh house, friendships will be very important on the 6th. There is also the chance that you'll find some new, exciting, interesting friends. On the 23rd Mars will enter your first house and you will be more forthright. Health on the 20th, however, could be a major concern.

April - Scary! Your birthday is creeping nearer and nearer but if you socialise all your needs, including your spiritual ones, will be met. Your health will improve greatly around the 18th. Try to relax ... soak yourself in a wonderful bubble bath.

May - Things are happening left right and centre for you now. From the 14th onwards you'll have the chance to improve your fortune. Communication is very important! It's good to talk, as they say.

Gemini ♊

(22nd May - 21st June)

March - The social aspects of your self are emphasised this month. It could be important to be in touch with parents at this time. The Full Moon on the 20th will see romance enter your life. Go for it!

April - Groups will be very important for you now, either support groups, political groups or just your circle of friends. There is a

good chance that if you go out around the 18th you'll come across someone interesting.

May - An atmosphere in your workplace around the 18th might not be to your liking but trust your intuition and you'll overcome any problems it may bring. With Mercury, your sign ruler, returning to your first house on the 14th you'll be glad to hear that muddled thoughts will become clearer..

Cancer ♋

(22nd June - 22nd July)

March - Your irritability will disappear after the 23rd when you concentrate on improving your social standing. You'll also enjoy opportunities for wonderful sex, though you have to guard against guilt trips from the 13th onwards! Around the 20th you will spend lots of energy in domestic affairs.

April - Aye, you can be a real party animal if you just throw yourself into the fun! And also allow yourself to daydream, instead of worrying about whether you turned off the tap at home! Friends are supportive.

May - So many hopes and wishes, and so many worries. Trust yourself - you are unique and people around you appreciate this. Institutions of all sorts are going to hold significance for you this month. Around the 25th would be a good time for operations.

Leo ♌

(23rd July - 23rd August)

March - Now is the time to bury that hatchet of yours, as otherwise retrograde Mercury might only make matters worse if you continue wagging your sharp tongue! Any siblings you may have are going to be important to you around the 20th. With Mars entering your 10th House on the 23rd your energy flow will improve, though you have to remind yourself not to forget the needs of others!

April - As a fiery animal you are craving the Sun right now. Foreign holidays seem to be on your mind all the time and why not, you deserve to spoil yourself. Some deep philosophical thoughts will also preoccupy your mind, don't be afraid of this!

May - With spring arriving you feel your energy rising as well as your need to socialise. You'll manage to balance your domestic life with rewarding social outings. From the 8th until the 11th you will experience many opportunities and challenges, that's right up your street, isn't it?

Virgo ♍

(24th August - 22nd September)

March - Relax, the Full Moon on the 20th indicates lots of good financial vibes coming your way. With Venus entering your 7th House on the 13th you are likely to meet that special person you have been waiting for, or if you are already romantically connected, a romantic and fulfilling time lies ahead!

April - Yes, now is once again one of the few times when prudent Virgo becomes a sex-kitten, and as things should be going fine on the

financial side, there is really nothing holding you back!

May - This month communication will take centre stage in your life. You have an uncanny way of presenting yourself to the outside world, and they even believe you. Metaphysical and spiritual affairs might have greater significance than usual, but don't analyse everything to death!

Libra ♎

(23rd September - 23rd October)

March - On the 20th you'll be simply radiant and irresistible. If you've been having problems with colleagues in recent weeks, now is the time when peace and harmony are restored to the workplace. From the 23rd onwards there is a chance of some unearned income coming your way.

April - With the Full Moon in your 1st House on the 20th you'll experience a very emotional time - isn't this a good excuse for your mood-swings? It's also a good time to spend some quality time with a one-to-one relationship.

May - Your social life will improve immensely with lots of opportunities to enjoy yourself. You now have the opportunity to enjoy sex, especially towards the end of the month. The 7th might be problematic for you.

Scorpio ♏

(24th October - 22nd November)

March - Love is in the air. The first rays of the sun may bring a real swing to your hormones. However, you are also very accident prone! The Full Moon on the 20th will bring mysticism into your life.

April - The focus will shift to what is happening to others around you, like at work where you may feel threatened, but you have all the social graces not to lower yourself to their behaviour. Your wilder nature will manifest itself, however - in bed!

May - You tend to be rather selfish this month, so don't forget the needs of others. It's OK to take care of yourself, but it's also up to you to decide whether people close to you aren't worthy of some attention too. Be careful around the 20th, your fuse will be very short.

Sagittarius ♐

(23rd November - 21st December)

March - You will have a strong need to turn inwards and spend quality time with those dear to you. Spoil yourself and your loved ones. With your chart ruler still transiting your 6th House you still have wonderful job opportunities. On the 16th you might feel that things aren't moving, but persevere!

April - Friends who share your outlook on life will be very important for you this month, especially around the 18th. You should be experiencing a month full of joy and contentment, though the 6th might prove quite a tense day for you.

May - Now is the time to address your health and plan ahead. Relaxation exercises seem a good way to get you in the right state of mind for doing this. The 28th will see you deep in thought, but don't lose sight of the joy of life!

Capricorn ♑

(22nd December - 20th January)

March - Although you can be very reserved, this month you'll be strutting your stuff! You have the chance to meet exciting people and you just can't seem to put a foot wrong. Grab the opportunity and indulge in a little "joie de vivre"! Around the 23rd there might be a love interest on the horizon!

April - The month starts with an issue around neighbours (what can a sensible person like you do to upset them?), but love is on top of your mind most of the month. Perhaps the new romance from last month?

May - You seem to have the winning raffle ticket! Your love life is still in full swing. Enjoy it, you really deserve it but don't neglect your friends. Parties seem to have significance - be yourself and have fun!

Aquarius ♒

(21st January - 18th February)

March - You still have some soul searching and self definition on your hands, but this month you have the chance to share the task with someone else. Moneywise, things should look up from the 15th onwards.

April - Of course everybody knows how independently minded you are, but should you really fall out with everybody in your family? (Well, some deserve it, I know.) Why not try to broaden your horizons with the Full Moon energies around the 18th?

May - Families, aren't they wonderful? This month you'll really be able to say so. Interesting times are coming your way and now is when you have a strong urge to represent your view of the meaning of life, the universe, etc. to everybody who is foolish enough to listen!

Pisces ♓

(19th February - 20th March)

March - Although you can be such a caring person, you haven't been able to choose the right words recently when dealing with other people. This is due to all the insecurities you've had to experience recently. Mercury, however, is going to turn directly around in the middle of the month, and things should become easier again.

April - All the work of the last few months will prove to have been very useful indeed, and it seems that your financial difficulties might ease a little bit. Regain your balance - treat yourself to days away.

May - You have the opportunity to discover that there is more love in your life than you thought. Unexpected showings of affection should make you feel better about yourself and life in general. Furthermore, many group discussions will stimulate your intellect. It might be quite a hectic time so don't forget to look after yourself.

Sex, Gender & Sexuality: 21st Century Transformations

Susan [redacted]'s report on a lecture by Dr Tracie O'Keefe:

Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre, Glasgow, 8th November 1999

This lecture was part of a lecture tour visiting various parts of the UK to coincide with the publication of her book of the same title. Dr O'Keefe is a well-known face on the gender scene down south and I have met her on various previous occasions. She changed roles from male to female whilst still a teenager and is now in her early forties, having lived as a woman for around 25 years. She is twice married and currently lives with her partner in London.

When I received notification of this lecture back in September, I was of the



The question is not,
to whom do I talk,
but who listens?

OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE ...

The wonder and the beauty of my message cannot and will not be affected by what people think of you. Indeed, you are one of the best ambassadors, because you have lived your life in a way that you call less than perfect. People can relate to you - even as they judge you. And if they see that you are sincere, they can even forgive you your "sordid past".

Yet I tell you this: So long as you are still worried about what others think of you, you are owned by them. Only when you require no approval from outside yourself can you own yourself.

Conversations With God, Book 3.
Neale Donald Walsch

OF TRUST ...

You must begin to trust yourself. If you do not then you will forever be looking to others to prove your own merit to you ... and you will never be satisfied. You will always be asking others what to do and at the same time resenting those from whom you seek such aid.

The Nature of Personal Reality
Jane Roberts

OF INTEGRITY ...

Those who preserve their integrity remain unshaken by the storms of daily life. They do not stir like leaves on a tree or follow the herd where it runs. In their mind lies the ideal attitude and conduct of living. This is not something given to them by others. It is their roots ... it is a strength that exists deep within them.

Anonymous Native American

opinion that it might appeal to a limited audience of T-folk. On arrival at the venue I was therefore pleased to be hailed from a distance by a familiar voice, which I recognised as one of our Glasgow sisters, who along with others was making a beeline for the entrance. Once settled into my seat I cast my eyes around the lecture theatre and noted a number of familiar faces from amongst the Scottish T-folk, in an audience of around fifty. Also in the audience were academics and students, at least one of whom was TS and I was pleased to note - not afraid to speak her mind.

The lecture was not intended to cover only TV/TS issues. Perhaps a misconception that this was to be the case may have led to the disappointment amongst some attendees of which I have subsequently heard. The lecture covered what it said in the title - *Sex, Gender & Sexuality*. Whilst there is no denying that at times the lecture was heavy going, I would hope that all attendees derived at least some benefit from it.

After the lecture I talked with Tracie who said she was pleased to see the turnout in Glasgow. I thanked her on behalf of Scottish T-folk for venturing up to Glasgow and explained that I knew of many more who would have liked to attend but were prevented due to the distance involved. She was somewhat amazed that I had an eighty mile drive to get home!

Dr Tracie O'Keefe is a clinical hypnotherapist, psychotherapist and counsellor at the London Medical Centre, Harley Street, and is the co-author of *Trans-X-U-All: The Naked Difference*. Her new book *Sex, Gender & Sexuality: 21st Century Transformations*, explores sex, gender and sexuality and considers gay, lesbian, transsexual and transgendered identities as well as intersex groups, such as hermaphrodites, and people who identify as androgenous, or as being without sex or gender.

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PRESS RELEASE

"TJP Release A Male-To-Female Make-up Video"
3rd November 1999.

One of the most important aspects for anyone involved in male to female transformation is the make-up. However, there are very few quality resources available which adequately show how to apply such make-up properly. Written articles, even with pictures, do not usually convey enough information for readers to feel comfortable that they are interpreting the instructions correctly.

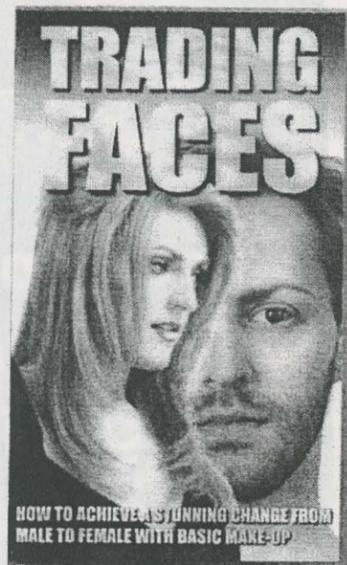
TJP aim to redress this with the release of their first video, 'Trading Faces', which is designed to teach the art of male to female make-up application.

The video centres around a make-up session by Pandora De'Pledge, who has over 17 years of professional experience working at Madam Jo Jo's, in film, theatre and magazines. Pandora draws upon her wealth of experience to demonstrate the amazing results that can be achieved with simple make-up.

Packed with an informative narrative, useful tips, computer-generated animations and information pages between each section, 'Trading Faces' represents a complete, polished and entertaining reference tutorial.

TJP have made 'Trading Faces' available world-wide via mail order for £24.95 plus delivery, available immediately.

More information can be obtained from TJP Promotions Ltd. PO Box 1422, Ilford IG6 3HF England. Telephone +44(0)20 8365 7075, fax +44(0)20 8366 7234 or visit the website at <http://www.tjpvideo.com>



For further information, a copy of the video or sample artwork, please contact Jodie Pattison at TJP Promotions Ltd on 0208 [redacted]

TRADING FACES - Our 'Girl in the Know' lends her voice.

I can still remember my first attempts at making up years ago - pale pinkish pressed powder dabbed over my face, plenty of blue eye shadow (well, eye shadow is blue, isn't it?!), and badly applied bright red lipstick! All this combined with a mangy-looking, brown, curly wig from a jumble sale, and I looked ... well, need I say more ???!

Despite the fact that I'd enjoyed dressing in feminine apparel since an early age, like many others I'd failed miserably in my attempts to turn a frog into a princess. Eventually, through meeting a more experienced cross-dresser I was shown how to apply make-up, appropriate for a man's complexion. From here on I certainly looked more acceptable ... if not totally convincing! Had 'TRADING FACES' been around years ago, I could have capitalised on my fair skin and youthful looks!

'TRADING FACES' is a new, first video release from TJP Promotions and centres around a male to female make-up session conducted by Pandora De Pledge, of longstanding experience in this matter. I found the transformation easy to follow as Pandora, in her unhurried manner, proceeded deftly through each step of the way, from foundation and concealer, through eye-shadow, liner, mascara, false lashes (yum!), blusher and lippy, until the subject/model was transformed (with wig) into an attractive she-male/blonde. Each step of the makeover is introduced with a list and still shot of the cosmetics and application required for it, and ends with a list of the main points covered.

Although a wee bit pricey for my own pocket, it has to be essential viewing for anyone who wants to improve their looks and learn a trick or two under Pandora's expert guidance. A good tutorial video, methodical and clearly explained and demonstrated. An afterthought ... for a touch of realism they could have used a wrinkled old bag like myself, as opposed to the fair-skinned youth who modelled, but perhaps that'll be TJP's next production....we'll have to wait and see!



Christine



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DEMEANOUR

by Colette

Demeanour - in 'Glasgow-speak' would translate as - 'do you mean her'. Now in some cases that's not too bad a description for this word. The dictionary definitions are: a) the way a person behaves towards others, and b) one's bearing.

It's my opinion that trannies are no more or no less inclined to be catty towards each other than our R.G. counterparts. If anything, we are probably less so as we cannot afford to throw too many stones in the 'glasshouse environment' we inhabit. However we do occasionally throw out hints - subtle or otherwise - to certain sisters who are considered to be a little over the top. It's true that I have felt on occasions that I was the target for such criticisms but I immediately discarded the notion as being ridiculous and they could not possibly be referring to me. Well I ask you - me of all people? They could of

course have been intimating that perhaps I'm a touch on the dull side and should lighten up a little - wearing some more colourful outfits etc. So perhaps I'll bear that in mind.

Now I don't want to be all alone on this 'journey' so how about joining me in becoming more adventurous in our attitude to dress, make-up and outlook. It does not need to be all the time but now and again would be nice. I know it's the male species who is supposed to be the colourful peacock type but why should they have all the fun.

Let's not be too like so many of the younger RG's of today and dress down all the time. If you feel that my demeanour has altered when next we meet then it could be the 'new me'. On the other hand - it could be the gout.

Along with clothes, poise etc - one's bearing is affected by an attitude of mind

and one's approach to life. An RG girl friend of mine says she likes me because I make laugh. (It takes all sorts. Thank you - I like the coconut ones with the liquorice centres.) Now at first I took this as a compliment but I started to wonder when every time she meets me she goes into hysterics. I tell her that she will be old one day too. I know I do laugh a lot and I cannot help it. I do try to curtail it but it just has to come out - as the actress



said to the bishop. I have been 'read' when 'a l'homme' more than once because of my laughing. There was an occasion where I was quite enjoying being in male mode with a group of trannies and I could see they were wondering who this suave, distinguished gent was - (it was me silly). Then I laughed and the dawn of recognition burst on their countenance - or was it

their faces? Well we all have a cross to bear - but why is mine so heavy?

When you think of it - try. Oh you are trying. One's bearing is also affected by how you see yourself. Take the words: composing, disposing reposing - or in my case - just plain posing.

End

NOTICE BOARD

I'm afraid the 50p postage is no longer covering the cost of mailing out your Tartan Skirt. The new rate for posting is 60p per single magazine mail out and subscription has had to increase to £9.50 in line with this.

15 months on, I'm looking at the need for a price increase in the magazine itself. I'd appreciate any feedback about this you care to give me. A realistic figure would be around £3.50. Ed.

Cover Girls Please Note -

Your photograph will say so much more if you smile! You may also want to choose your setting with the the picture in mind - outside works well and when indoors, an uncluttered background is usually best.

STOP PRESS!!

Hide and Slek have just announced details of their next event. This will be a fashion show held in Cafe Stella, 15 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, from 8pm till 1am on Saturday 15th April. There will also be a buffet and disco, and changing facilities will be available. Further information and tickets from Loraine at Hide and Slek. tel: 01592- [REDACTED]

Please Note:
Deadline for all advertising and submissions for the Summer 2000 Issue of the Tartan Skirt is:

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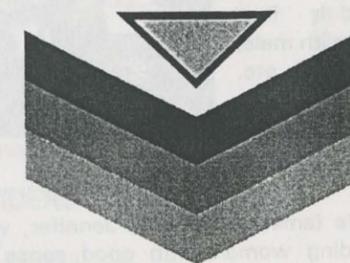
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Box No. 008

Nicole, Bi-TV30, 5'10", slim and attractive seeks professional male to treat me like a lady. Can travel anywhere but not accommodate. **Glasgow**

Box No. 009

Slim, convincing, W/E, Bi-TV seeks adult fun/correspondence with male, female, couple, TV, etc. SAE please. Can travel. **Anywhere**



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The Tartan Skirt Directory

Scottish Support Group Network National Helplines and Agencies

CROSSLYNX TVITS GROUP

Meetings are held in Glasgow on the second Wednesday of the month
Tel: 0141- [redacted] Monday, 7.30 - 9.30
or write to: CROSSLYNX
c/o SLGS
PO Box 38
Glasgow G2 2QF

GRAMPIAN GENDER GROUP

Meetings are held in Aberdeen on the third Saturday of the month
Contact: Gillian
Tel: 01224- [redacted]
Mondays and Tuesdays, 6.30 - 9.30 pm
or write to: Grampian Gender Group
PO Box 18201
Aberdeen AB21 9YF

HIGHLAND T-GROUP

Meetings are held in Inverness on the first Saturday of the month.
Contact: Julia Gordon
Tel: 01463- [redacted]
Fax: 01463- [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]
or write to: Highland T-Group
c/o Reach Out Highland
34 Waterloo Place
Inverness IV1 1NB

SCOTTISH TVITS GROUP

Meetings are held in Edinburgh on the last Saturday of the month
Contact: Agnes
Tel: 0131- [redacted]

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Meetings are held on Tuesdays from 1 till 4 pm and on Fridays from 6.30 till 9.30 pm at:
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Contact: John
Tel: 0780- [redacted]

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the Tartan Skirt

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Vol. 7 No. 2

Equality For All: 1998 Equality Network Conference Report, Hepatitis: Know Your A, B and C's, Interview With Alice Purnell, Transgender Agenda: Report On The 3rd International Congress On Sex And Gender, Self-Esteem, The Bench Test: Niplettes, Hide And Sleek's Christmas Bash, A Trio Of Trannies, Tiffany's Tit-Bits, Our Forgotten History: Continuing Tales Of Transgender In Myth And Legend, News, Personal Listings, and much more.

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The Brussels Experience, Carolyn's Corner; Wigs, Tiffany's Tit-Bits, Just Another Bottle of Prozac, Having Your Cake... And Eating It, Whatever I Feel, News From Around The World, Shaping Up, Our Forgotten History: Continuing Tales Of Transgender In Myth And Legend, Equality At Holyrood, Minto Fashion Show, Millenium Menu, The Purple Nails, Personal Listings, and much more.

Vol.7, No. 4

Pride Scotland 1999, Our Forgotten History: Continuing Tales of Transgender in Myth and Legend, Fashion Bash at the Minto, Crossdress to Impress, London Pride, Potty Training: the Legal View in Scotland, Love, You Can't Change What You're Born With, Can You?, SNAP: Quietly Progressing, I Wasn't Born in the Wrong Body, I am Nothing Without Clothes, Released After 43 Years, and much more.

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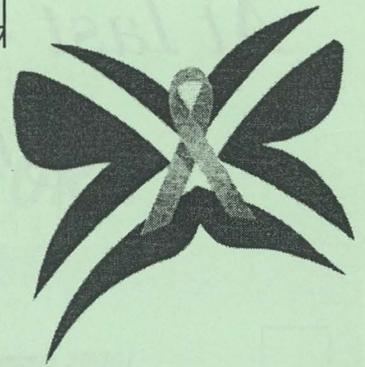
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