



# News & views

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A publication of the Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc.

## Update on Cyber Censorship Case

[Washington, DC July 9, 1998] Angela Gardner, Executive Director of The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc. was called to Washington today to give a deposition to the attorney representing the Loudoun County, Virginia library being sued by Renaissance (along with others) with the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Loudoun County public library system serves the population of Loudoun County, Virginia through six branches and served approximately 966,000 citizens who checked out more than 1.7 million books, magazines, videos, audio cassettes and compact discs in 1997. The Loudoun County libraries contain books and other materials on a wide array of subjects, including books providing information about safer sex; books of interest to the gay and lesbian community; feminist literature; books such as James Joyce's *Ulysses* which have been subject to censorship in the past; romance novels; and books advocating political viewpoints of every stripe.

The library has a connection to the Internet

for computers available for public use, but has employed a blocking software program called X Stop to deny access to sites the library deems pornographic. In addition to the Renaissance site (<http://www.ren.org>) blocked sites include The Association of University Women Maryland, The Safer Sex Page, and Sergio Arau, a Mexican painter, composer, and musician who lives in Los Angeles

The ACLU maintains that the plaintiffs in this case provide valuable information for free on the Internet, and they seek injunctive and declaratory relief from library for its enactment and implementation of an Internet access policy that prevents the plaintiffs from communicating their constitutionally protected speech to patrons of the Loudoun County Library.

The Board of Supervisors of the Loudoun County Library established a policy entitled "Policy on Internet Sexual Harassment" in a meeting held October 20, 1997. This policy requires that "site-blocking software . . . be

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## The Movement for Transgendered Rights in Canada

*The People's Voice*, a newspaper in Canada carried an article by Chris Frazer in their June issue outlining the transgender movement in their country.

Frazer writes that in 1992, transgender activist Leslie Feinberg – an American Marxist – published "Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come", a call for gender-queers to fight the oppressive gender ideology of capitalism.

Feinberg's manifesto coincided with an upsurge in political organizing by trans-activists in the United States and is now gaining ground in Canada, where two recent developments have focused greater public attention on the presence of transgendered persons and their issues.

In Toronto, more than 250 transgendered delegates arrived from across Canada, the USA, England, and Australia for the 12th Annual convention of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), March 23-29.

The IFGE gathering addressed a range of topics – from human rights, to HIV, trans-prisoners, gender theory, spirituality, marriage and relationships, and "how-to" make-up sessions – that reflect the diversity of politics and issues that concern male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, crossdressers, gender-queers, and many others who simply do not conform to the "conventional norms" gender identity. It

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## Chapter & Affiliate Information

### Chapters

#### Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808. Phone: 302-376-1990 or email to: <sadeCD@aol.com>.

#### Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open at 8 pm all year 'round, Call 610-975-9119 for information.

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Renaissance Lehigh Valley, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955, or email to <RenLV@ren.org>.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (780-1578) or send email to: <lsv@ezonline.com>.

### Affiliates

#### California

Orange County: Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

#### Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven: connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

#### Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 770-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 770-939-2128.

#### Illinois

Chicago: The Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, 708-863-7714.

#### Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836, 504-833-3046. Email: <crysgga@juno.com>.

#### Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117. Phone: 314-367-4128, email: <stlgf@aol.com>.

#### New Jersey

N. Central Jersey: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972. Call 908-219-9094. Email: <vikimmotg@aol.com>.

Western Central New Jersey: New Jersey Support, call Susan at 973-334-0416 or Dorothy at 215-744-4746 (weekends only). Write PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045 for information. Email: Susanw@aol.com. Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing.

#### New York

Manhattan: Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), 561 Hudson Street, Box 45, New York, NY 10014. Call 201-794-1665, ext. 332. Email, <uravampire@mindspring.com>.

Long Island: Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 1311, Water Mill, NY 11976-1311. Phone 516-283-1333. email to <brenvee2@aol.com>.

#### Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Write to P.O. Box 60354, Oklahoma City, OK 73146. Email to <cota@transfemme.com>, website: <www.transfemme.com/cota>

## TRANSGENDER News & COMMUNITY Views

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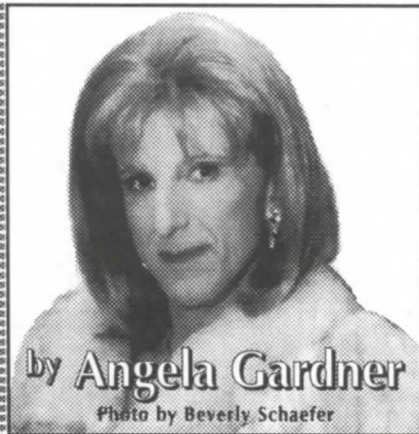
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Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, make your check or M.O., payable to Renaissance and send it to our National office. Your contributions will help us continue our efforts to provide education about transgender issues. Donations can also be made through your local United Way agency.

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# News Beat & Reminder



August already? Can the busy social Fall season be far away?

## Going Social

It's no secret that I can be found most Friday evenings cavorting in a short skirt at our local Philadelphia hot spot, **Shampoo**. If you read Dina's column this month you'll note that she misses some of the old places we used to hang. One such was a little club, only open on Wednesday and Saturday nights, called **Swingers**. **Swingers** was a small, loud, dark, intimate space full of scantily clad humans. Ah, those were the days. **Shampoo** is only a pale substitute for **Swingers**. It's a large, loud, dark space filled with scantily clad humans, but hey, you go with what ya got, sometimes.

The amount of fun you have on any given night in the club scene really, like most everything else, boils down to who you are with. Either you bring fun folks with you or you meet them there. Last Friday I was having an OK time when a charter bus pulled in and unloaded a gaggle of New York queens. I met the very nice **Flotilla DeBarge**, and she introduced me to **Cherry Vine**, and NYC drag singing sensation, **Joey Arrias**. The girls were not at all attitude queens. We chatted for awhile and I found out that I may have replaced **Joey** in the last episode of *Absolutely Fabulous* a few years ago. It seem she was slated to do one of the three New York drag queen parts along with her back up singers, and another commitment kept her from doing the gig. The casting direc-

tor called me, I got the part and the rest is video history. (Available at your local video store. The show's called "The End.") Small world ain't it?

Even though the NY girls were fun I wondered why the Philadelphia night club scene needs to import its drag queens. The regular hostess at **Shampoo** is the fabulous **Fee Fee LaDada** and she has got just as much glamma as any out of town queen. If the girls from the Philly suburbs would just get their butts into the downtown club scene, hang out with Miss LaDada and learn glamma it wouldn't have to be imported from other cities.

I don't know if other parts of the country have this kind of problem, but in Philadelphia the suburbanite crossdressers are reluctant to enter what they see as the scary city. No matter that the inhabitants of the scary city have seen it all, and are more prepared to deal with men in women's clothing than the sheltered residents of suburban enclaves, or the truck drivin' boys with shotgun racks that you find in the rural USA.

We get calls at the Renaissance office from girls asking where to go for a good time. Most are willing to make the trek out of town to New Hope, Pa. and the attractions of The Cartwheel restaurant and nightclub, but when you say the word Philadelphia, they don't seem as anxious to get the directions. Well, it can be scary to go anywhere by yourself, and I see that they might be reluctant to head into the city dressed, when

they try to avoid it at all other times. I recommend that they come to a meeting of Renaissance, or their local support group, and meet other people. Then, with the help of the older and wiser wigs of those groups, they could make plans to all meet up at such and such a club on such and such a night. Or meet at the meeting site and car pool in to town. Heck, with enough crossdressers showing up at one time we could even take over a straight club. Come to think of it, that's how GPC starting hanging out at The Ship Inn. So, get to those meetings and network. I'll see ya Friday at **Shampoo**, no excuses.

## By Laws By Any Other Name

Most members of Renaissance have no clue about what goes on behind the scenes. To most it is the monthly support group meeting they attend. To others it is just this publication in their post office box every month. Here's a quick course in what Renaissance is all about.

Around eleven years ago a small group of TG folks who were getting over the "gosh, you mean I'm not the only one" phase, got together to start a group for transgendered people. (It was so long ago we weren't even called transgendered then.)

There were support groups and "clubs" for crossdressers around the country, but most were interested in staying small and "discreet." It took me at least a year to find the South Jersey group that I first attended. Our plan (yeah, I'm one of the founders. If we weren't crossdressers I'd have a long gray beard) was to start an *organization*. Its purposes would be, first—to provide support for those struggling with transgender issues, and second—to educate both the transgendered, the counseling community and the general public about transgender issues.

To do these things we established rules for how the organization would be run. Those rules are the By laws of Renaissance.

## News Beat...

### Changes To The By Laws Approved By National Board

The By Laws layout everything about how Renaissance is run. At the last meeting of The Board, changes to the By Laws were voted on. I proposed these changes after seeing how Renaissance has operated for the past 11 years, and how the world has changed since we started out. To assist me with a new marketing approach for Renaissance I proposed changes to the By Laws and the *Chapter & Affiliate Handbook* at the May Board meeting. At that time our Acting Chair, Dr. Carol Cobb-Nettleton, suggested that we table the process for two months while a committee studied the changes, and the Board reviewed both the *Handbook* and By Laws.

At the July 12th meeting I presented the results of the committee's work, and the Board approved the changes to the *Handbook* and the By Laws. We ran out of time and the proposed changes to the Policies & Instruction segment of the *Handbook* were tabled till the September meeting.

In the old By Laws a Renaissance membership was good for the calendar year in which it was established. This meant that if you signed up in January of 1998, you are good till December of 1998. But, if you signed up in June of this year you're due to renew in December, along with everybody else.

This was not good for cash flow. Revenue tended to clump up at the end of the year, and beginning of the next, since some folks take about three or four months to realize they haven't seen *News & Views* for a while. It also made it tough on me. If you signed up in June you could ask for the whole pile of newsletters you didn't get. Not only extra work for the Executive Director, but additional First Class postage expense. And who wants to read old news anyway?

The change to Article 4, Section E makes your membership an anniversary date membership. If you join in any month you get 12 months of *News & Views*. No back issues (unless you want to buy 'em for a couple of bucks each) and no more membership year. Of course, this makes more work for the E.D., too. Now I have to sort the database and make sure folks get a renewal notice by First Class mail. A small price to pay for a better cash flow and more satisfied customers who don't have to worry about back issues.

Article 8 was deleted. It said that we would produce a monthly newsletter. Not that we won't produce one, but if it's not a part of the governing rules, we have the freedom to do different things with our publication by leaving Article 8 out.

Article 13, section B was changed from "any member of Renaissance" may petition to start a new chapter, to "anyone" may petition to start a new chapter.

Article 13, Section E was changed. It dealt with Chapter Finances. In the old version the Chapters were permitted to collect both National and Chapter dues. The National dues stuff was taken out. Chapters are not responsible for collecting any dues but those they establish for their local unit. Article 4 already states that if a member offers to pay their National dues to a Chapter, the Chapter has to send us the money.

The last change came under Article 15, Section B, Numbers 1 and 2. The word "positions" was added to the part about the Board being able to approve additional staff. Before this change was made I was the only Board approved staff person, even though several folks have held positions of responsibility for awhile. Now the position of Business Manager held by Gloria Vogel is an official position.

The changes to the *Handbook* are all items based on the changes to the By Laws. The *Handbook* is an operat-

ing manual for local support groups, whether they are full Chapters of Renaissance or the less connected Affiliate group. It is basically a how-to book that was created so folks didn't have to figure it all out by themselves. As JoAnn would say, why reinvent the wheel. The *Handbook* has been in the drawer for a couple of years, but now it's been dusted off, given a new coat of paint and we're going to promote its existence and use by any group that want to join Renaissance.

The final changes to the Policies & Instructions that were tabled till September give us more ways to promote the addition of Renaissance chapters around the country. I have felt for a long time that the process of becoming a chapter was too complicated for an established group. If a group in the Midwest wanted to become a chapter they would have to petition and then prove they had 75% of their membership already members of Renaissance National. A group like our Affiliate, MOTG, would have to get 75% of their members to sign up for National. This put a big strain on people's finances and was just enough of a reason to not pursue Chapter status. If the proposed Policy & Instruction changes are approved a group will not be required to have any Renaissance National members. The group will fill out an application, pay a yearly fee and get their *Chapter & Affiliate Handbook*. They still must agree to follow the By Laws of Renaissance and be an open group. They will also be expected to promote membership in Renaissance National and the National Office will do everything to help them with that goal. Since you hold the biggest benefit of a Renaissance National Membership in your hands, I don't have to tell you what it's worth. And, with a larger member base and bigger cash flow we will be improving and expanding all the things that Renaissance can do.

Hey Angela, enough of this business stuff. How about some gossip

# News Beat...

and fun?

## Gossip & Fun Section

Our favorite on-screen TS, **Steven Macintosh**, from *Different For Girls*, is appearing in a definitely male role in a new film called *The Land Girls*. Back in WWII when the English farmers had to go off to war, the English women stepped in and worked the land as part of The Women's Land Army. Hence the title. This all volunteer outfit got the crops in and kept things running while the mad dogs and Englishmen were out putting the kibosh on Jerry, or Dennis, or... whoever.

Macintosh plays Joe, the landowner's son. He indulges in typical male behavior by having amorous entanglements with three of his father's new female "Land Girl" field hands. They all fool around with Joe, and one of them falls in love with him, but then he has to go drop bombs on Germans. If it's not one thing it's another. No TG stuff in this one but you might want to see Macintosh play a male character.

There are a couple of films coming up that bring familiar names back to the screen, or deal with subject matter that may lend itself to some type of TG plot device. Keep your eyes and ears open... and always read me. I'll dig up more info as soon as it's available.

The director of *The Adventures of*

*Priscilla, Queen of The Desert*, **Stephan Elliott**, has another outback comedy. MGM has released *Welcome to Woop Woop*. We'll see if Elliott has a drag theme running through all his work. Woop Woop could be a drag related thing, or, on the other hand, it might just be something aborigines say after a long walk about. In any event, one drag legend does appear in the pic; The originator of Dame Edna, **Barry Humphries**, has a role. Another star is the woman who was an inspiration to thousands of cross-dressers as Ginger on *Gilligan's Island*, **Tina Louise**. This one could be good. Check your listings for feature times.

*The Velvet Goldmine* is on the way from Miramax. It's about 1970s glam rock and stars the lad from *Trainspotting*, **Ewan McGregor**. Oh boy, a glam rock band you can't understand. What'd he say?

Since the theme is glam rock there could be some drag slipping into this one. I know the glam bands inspired a lot of teenage boys to wear things most of the population thought of as girly clothes. Hand me my spandex pants and platform boots, it's time to rock on.

Also coming from Miramax is a film that *better* have a little drag. **Dame Judi Dench** stars as Queen Elizabeth I and **Joseph Fiennes** (related to Ralph?) is Will Shakespeare in *Shakespeare in Love*. No word on who he's in love with but the film also stars the lovely **Gwyneth Paltrow**. I love Judi Dench, but given a choice...

Since we're talking theater in Elizabethan times there should be more than adequate opportunity for drag parts in this flick. Perhaps Will is actually in love with one of his male actresses? There has been talk, but they're not gonna waste Ms. Paltrow as a hand maiden to the Queen. She's gotta be the love interest.

Since we're talking about film here, how about that *Mulan*? One film critic, Moira Macdonald, said in a recent review, "It's the studio's [Disney] first animated feature in my memory to use the words "cross-dresser" and "drag show..." It's also broken new ground by being the first film to feature the voices of Harvey Fierstein and Donny Osmond. Now there's a co-starring combination. Who **is** that casting director?

Ya don't suppose there's anything to the allegations by the religious right that Disney's got some kind of homosexual agenda, do ya? Nah! It's a transgendered agenda. The lead character crossdresses to save China. Keep up the good work Disney. Walt's really spinning now.

Finally, I sorry to report that the Board regretfully accepted Lisa Cross' resignation from her position as Chair of The Board. The Board expressed gratitude for her time and leadership skills. Both the Board and myself wish her all the best.



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## Canada...

was the first IFGE convention outside the U.S.A. and illustrated the extent to which the transgendered community is becoming organized and visible.

Meeting for the first time outside the USA, the convention illustrated the extent to which the transgendered community is becoming organized and visible – and that there are real possibilities for confronting stereotypes and discrimination.

This trend is especially evident at universities and colleges where many academics are not only “coming out,” but are also researching and teaching “transgender studies.” And equally as impressive are the growing numbers of young people, both on and off campus, who “are confronting their transgenderism at an earlier age,” said Gilbert.

Gilbert is a member of *Xpressions*, an Ontario-based support group which hosted the IFGE meeting. For many years, such groups provided a much needed network of contacts for transgendered people, many of whom remain closeted in the absence of reliable protection against discrimination.

But things are starting to change. It may not have been surprising to see Toronto playwright Sky Gilbert mingling with delegates. But Miqqi Gilbert could not suppress a chuckle when telling the *People's Voice* that Ontario Tory Premier Mike Harris supported the *Xpressions* bid for the conference with a machine-signed form letter. “I’m not sure that he really knows what he signed,” said a delighted Gilbert.

Far more significant was the speech of Ontario Human Rights Commissioner Keith Norton who told surprised delegates that transgendered persons are protected in Ontario under the province’s sexual orientation provisions, but that the time had come to include specific reference to the transgendered in the provincial human rights act.

“He began doing research and discovered that we are the least protected people,” said Gilbert. At pre-

sent, only Quebec offers explicit human rights protection for the transgendered.

Many queer and transgendered activists argue that protections based on sexual orientation are insufficient for checking discrimination against trans-people. Groups like the International Conference on Transgendered Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP) point out that transgendered persons have the same range of sexual orientation as non-transgendered people.

The issue is also one of physical appearance and how this reflects gender identity, which is why many trans-activists believe that human rights protections must be extended to include provisions on gender identity as well as on sexual orientation.

This is the question facing activists in British Columbia who are struggling to prevent the NDP government from sweeping human rights protection for transgendered people under the carpet.

In January 1998, the B.C. Human Rights Commission urged the adoption of eleven amendments to the provincial Human Rights Code, including one that would “prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity.”

The amendment would provide recourse for transgendered people who presently face a largely unchecked range of discrimination and hate crimes, said Victoria-based activist Gail Owen in an interview with the *People's Voice*.

“In this province, transgendered persons are attacked every day of the year. They are beaten up, fired from their jobs, denied medical attention, and discriminated against in the court system,” said Owen, who is a male-to-female transgendered person. She is also a business agent for the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and was formerly a provincial organizer for the NDP.

Owen served on the Transgendered Advisory Committee for the B.C. Human Rights Commission, which heard from hundreds of witnesses, including male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, cross-

dressers, and drag queens and kings, during the autumn of 1997.

However, B.C. Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh wants to shelve the amendments. Owen believes that the NDP government is afraid of a backlash from the religious right-wing and the opposition Liberals.

Last year’s recall campaign against three NDP legislators started when the religious right-wing took up the cudgel against elected officials who supported gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered rights.

The Liberals also oppose protection for transgendered persons. Liberal human rights critic Jeff Plant cynically hides his trans-phobia by arguing that the timing is wrong. That’s the same kind of logic that racists used to defend segregation in the USA and apartheid in South Africa.

However, the fight is far from over, and trans-activist are not alone.

Among those supporting the amendments are the B.C. Federation of Labour, the Victoria and District Labour Council, the B.C. Teachers Federation, and – despite the legislative wing’s equivocation – the provincial NDP.

Transgender activists and their allies are stepping up pressure on the B.C. government. They are urging supporters to call the Attorney General at 250-387-1866.

Many hope that the struggle will be strengthened by the recent Supreme Court decision (*Vriend vs. Alberta*), which ruled that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground for discrimination and must be included in Alberta’s Individual Rights Protection Act.

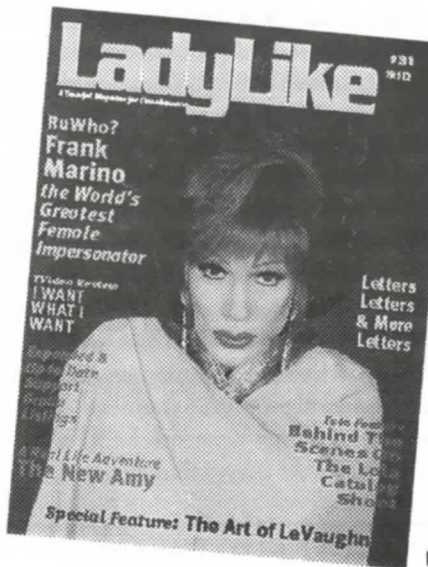
But the decisive weapon in winning this struggle lies in unity and solidarity between the transgendered and queer communities, and the labour and democratic movements. In the final analysis, human rights protection for transgendered persons is a class question as well as one of democracy and human rights.

As long as transgendered people are unprotected, the employing class

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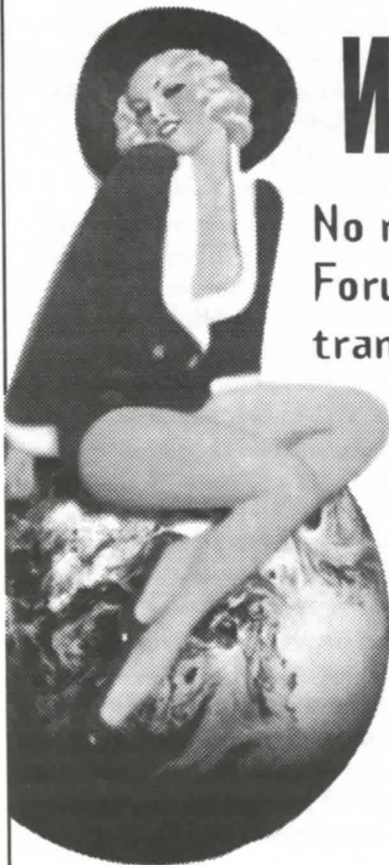
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August is my birthday month and as anyone who's over 35 can attest, time seems to move more rapidly the older you get. I've been crossdressing actively for over nine years now. At one time, everything I did as Dina was in my recent past. When I start to tell a story of something that happened, or some place we had a good time, I have to stop and think about how long ago it was that some of these memorable events took place. I'll often interrupt my story and say, "Hell, that must have been five years ago." It seems like yesterday.

Sometimes I think of some of the places we went that no longer exist, events we participated in that are no longer held, and wish somebody would bring them back. Dancing in panties and pumps at the "Boys in Briefs" nights; dressing like a tramp and getting propositioned outside the "Hooker's Ball"; walking around a hotel lobby in vinyl lingerie at "Dressing for Pleasure." But, they've been replaced by new things and experiences that are even better in their own way. You move on, but when you reminisce, the amount of time that's passed amazes me.

For now, the memories are still fresh. Almost like I was still young.

#### **THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW**

The *Reflections* newsletter of the Neutral Corner group in San Diego California printed an article by member Carolyn Joy Clark titled "Ma'am, May I See Your License, Please?" Carolyn's article was a first person experience of being stopped by a cop while driving en femme.

On her way out to a nightclub, she saw the flashing lights of a patrol car

behind her and pulled over to the curb. The police officer approached her and asked for her license, registration and insurance cards—and also asked her to step out of the vehicle to open her trunk.

Carolyn tells us that she was wearing one of her short nightclubbing minidresses with all the other glamour makeup and accessories one would wear for an evening out. As luck would have it, there were a group of teenage boys hanging around the sidewalk nearby. Following the officer's request to get out and open her trunk, the boys immediately began hooting and whistling at her. The officer told the boys to knock it off, then looked into the car's trunk, asking about the gym bag that resided therein. When Carolyn told him that it was her change of clothes, the officer nodded and returned to his car to report the stop. When he returned a short while later, he gave Carolyn's cards back to her and said that there was a vehicle matching her's that was reported stolen but she was free to continue.

Carolyn tells us that the officer never acknowledged her crossdressing, or made any remark about the name and photo on the license being obviously masculine against her feminine appearance. He had been polite and courteous, even intervening against the teenagers' remarks.

I have had several instances of being stopped by police while driving and have never had anything but fair treatment from the officers. Even in cases where I received a ticket, they all wrote it for a lesser violation so as not to blot my driving record. Some of them have asked why I was dressed in

drag, but more out of curiosity than anything else. And, I have heard many similar tales of professional conduct by police officers who've stopped friends of mine while they were cross-dressed. In fact, I have never heard of a single bad incident for any cross-dresser stopped by police.

A couple of months ago, I wrote about an article that excoriated a television show for making fun of some transgendered folk who decided to try to outrun the police officers rather than simply pulling over to the curb like a normal person would do. I'm sure there have been isolated instances of poor police behavior against crossdressed or transgendered drivers but none to my knowledge. The best policy is to behave the way you normally would if you are en femme when stopped. Police officers—like the people who develop film for a living—have probably seen more unusual things than a guy in a dress.

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#### **DESCENT INTO DARKNESS**

One of the more interesting newsletters we receive is the *FTM International* published out of San Francisco, California. As the name implies, it is for and about the female-to-male transsexual. The June 1998 issue included an article by Jaron Kanegson titled "After the Butch/FTM Conference."

Jaron relates her experience and observations as a planner of a conference to discuss issues for Butch women and FTM transsexuals. The article was fascinating because of its use of jargon to describe the various points on the women's side of the gender spectrum, and also because it related the same type of in-fighting that occurs on the male end of the transgender continuum.

First, the jargon—it's a dizzying spew of categories, none of them defined because it is assumed that the readership knows each of them without elaboration. Unfortunately, I don't know them without elaboration. Some I can guess, on some I'm clearly clueless. I'll lift some references right from Jaron's own words. "...the con-



ference was not strictly about 'Butches' and 'FTM's,' but also about boy-dykes, transfags, bulldaggers, crossdressers, wannabes, marimachas, etc." He also drops the terms "Bio-fags" and "Dyke-fags" into the article.

There have always been attempts to classify the various points along the male transgender spectrum (drag queens, transvestites, crossdressers, MTF transsexuals) but I never thought about our opposite numbers doing the same thing for themselves. Is a "Boy-dyke" more masculine than a "Dyke fag?" Could a "Bulldagger" have a meaningful relationship with a "Marimacha?"

The conference article was about as designed to build some bridges between the Butch lesbian community and the FTM transsexual community. Again, I have very little frame of reference for what the issues may be, but one imagines there must be some tension between women who identify as "Butch" and those who desire to transition to masculinity. Jaron, in her role as one of the conference planners, had wanted to include some of these other categories in the discussion. But other organizers wanted to keep the conference focused on the Butch-FTM dichotomy. Jaron felt that "reinforced" the idea that every FTM 'gained' is a Butch 'lost' and that all FTM's are straight."

Jaron mentions that he "has heard hateful remarks about FTM's from dykes, and sexist remarks about dykes from FTM's." The gender world is not a very harmonious place on either side of the coin, it seems. Jaron's idea for the conference seems to be a better, more positive way to build a coalition. He writes, "I think a more positive context—such as a workshop focusing on the oppression Butches and FTM's face from [the general] larger society, including some discussion of the pain we cause each other—would have been more likely to lead to a sense of community." Apparently, building community when the issues of sex and gender are involved is not an easy task for men or women, biological or not.

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## THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG

Renaissance Affiliate, The Monmouth-Ocean TG Group in Red Bank, New Jersey carried an article in their February newsletter by member Diane titled, "Essentials for Every Crossdresser's Purse."

Diane lists about two dozen items that all crossdresser's should carry with them. Some of the items are very basic, but I remember when I first started going out how many of them I never carried with me... until an emergency, when their presence would have been a godsend.

Of course, you should always carry ID for the occasional traffic stop (see item above) but also because some clubs want ID for admittance, even if you are obviously beyond the legal drinking age.

An ATM card for emergency cash is essential. This I learned by having my car towed one night and needing \$70 to retrieve it.

A phone card, either one of those prepaid cards, or a phone company calling card. Chances are, you won't have enough loose change to cover even a toll call on a pay phone if you have an emergency.

Diane recommends carrying a few safety pins. Personally, I haven't needed a safety pin since the punk rock clubs kind of faded out.

Pen and paper to jot down names, addresses, and phone numbers. I think there's always something a little sleazy about giving or receiving a number on a cocktail napkin.

One dose of any medication you might need is on Diane's list. And I agree. I always have a small flask of Jim Beam handy—for medicinal purposes, of course.

Condoms... dream on, dreamer.

Breath Mints. Even before you might need the condoms.

Band-Aids. When the going gets tough... it might draw blood. Especially useful if you visit the Vault or Hellfire in New York.

And finally: house keys. Imagine stumbling up the driveway at 3AM only to realize... "Wilma!"

Of course, we all know that no

matter how much or how little we carry with us, whether our purse is gigantic or dainty, the thing we need will always find its way to the bottom recesses of the bag, beneath all the junk we could have done without.

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## ART IMITATES LIFE?

One of the newsletters I see every month is the *Dresseret News* published by the Alpha Rho sorority in Salt Lake City, Utah. It's one of my favorites, if only because they pepper the pages with cartoon illustrations of sexy women. In the May 1998 issue, they have a large Jessica Rabbit illustration on the cover sheet; on another page, a small Femlin cartoon, on a back page, a drawing of a woman in fetish clothing.

I enjoy pinup art as much as pinup photography. There is something satisfyingly unreal about seeing a beautiful woman depicted by an artist's hand in a way that real-life could never quite equal. I'm sure this says something about me and my view of femininity, and I'm sure it has a lot to do with how I approach my own cross-dressing.

Artists like Vargas, of the famous *Playboy* and *Esquire* renderings; Elvgren, who drew 40's and 50's era women in playfully sexy predicaments; Olivia, who has a decidedly more contemporary take on beautiful women; Vallejo, who uses women to great advantage in much of his lush sci-fi artwork; and Sorayama, who often draws futuristic android sex goddesses, have as much to do with my view of pure femininity as any real-world images. That may be a helluva confession to make in a newsletter concerned with serious transgender issues, but I have a feeling I'm hardly by myself on this viewpoint.

There is a lot of art that goes into being a crossdresser. We are painting our own feminine selves each time we pick up the brushes. We might not think about it consciously but we have some inspiration for how we go about it quite aside from however we rationalize it. For each individual approach

*continued on page 14*



# Gender Reflections

by *Barbara F. Anderson*  
*M.S.W., Ph.D.*

## Past Passing

This article is in response to a reader's request for my views on the male-to-female transsexual who, despite having little chance of passing, requests and is approved for hormonal therapy and SRS. One of the cruelest ironies is that M-to-F transsexuals do not seem to be any more likely to be petite, free of body hair, or have high-pitched voices than does the average biological male. Nor does hormonal therapy prompt major feminization in a man's appearance.

A tall, balding, hairy man who seeks sex reassignment will be a tall, balding, hairy woman after hormone administration and cosmetic and genital surgery. Does that mean that such an individual, who has the experience of being a woman in the wrong body, should be denied the opportunity to take feminizing hormones and anti-androgens and to have whatever cosmetic and surgical procedures she believes will facilitate her feeling more complete and comfortable within herself?

In the past, passing was one of the criteria applied to clients in psychotherapy prior to being given approval for hormonal and surgical reassignment. Even if the applicant accepted that she would never pass as a genetic woman, but still elected the procedures, she was denied them. Some individuals had lived for years in the feminine role, knew the pain of being read, and were thwarted in their desire for reassignment because of the mental health practitioner's well-meaning desire to protect them from society's rejection.

Today, the philosophy of those of us who work with the gender community has shifted to one of client empowerment and self-determination. Our emphasis is on education, self-awareness, advocacy and referral to appropriate resources. Rather than expecting clients to conform to an image of femininity that only a fraction of M-to-Fs can attain, therapists seek to assure that clients are fully capable of understanding the process

of transitioning, the importance of cross-living for one year, and ultimately of giving their informed consent for desired procedures.

The role that the therapist plays in an individual's successful transition is first to provide a competent evaluation. Is the person truly transsexual? If so, the second function is to assess where the client is in the process of transition and what are his/her goals. Third, the therapist is a guide on this journey providing information, referrals and support. This may include individual or family therapy, vocational counseling, and information about resources necessary to facilitate transition. Last, the therapist may write a letter to a physician endorsing a medical or surgical treatment. At no time should the client's appearance be a factor in the decision to approve such treatment.

As I write this I have in mind a former client, C., who coined the expression that I have used as the title of this article. She was a large person, 50ish, with a dark, glossy wig and a resonant voice. She was clocked (read) frequently in her San Francisco neighborhood, and accepted the inevitability of this occurrence. She told me often that she was "past passing" and concentrated on getting on with her life, which despite her inability to pass strangers' scrutiny, was now happier than at any time in her past.



## Canada...

and their right-wing representatives will continue to use a climate of fear and intolerance as a weapon to discipline, intimidate, and divide working people - in the same way they use sexism, racism, and homophobia.

Legal protections won't make these things go away by themselves, but they can serve the working class and its allies in forging stronger unity in the struggle against exploitation and oppression.



Do you have something that you'd like to share? **News & Views** is a two way process. If an article or opinion provokes a reaction in you, whether positive or negative, don't go unheard. Send your opinions and comments in a letter to the Editor. Send letters to: Editor, c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087, or email to <Editor@ren.org>.

## Resources

**Background Papers are \$1.25 each:**

1. Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing
2. Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing
3. PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others
4. The Matter of Children
5. Annotated Bibliography
6. Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View
7. Understanding Transsexualism

All of the Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins are available for free at the Renaissance web site <www.ren.org>

## Carolyn's Corner: Will the Real Me Please Stand Up?

Recently, a break at work coincided with the absence of my family and I had the chance to crossdress much more frequently than usual. In fact, I even spent a couple of whole days as Carolyn without ever putting on male clothes, a rare experience for me. This opportunity allowed me to relax into being female much more than I usually can if I am able to crossdress only for a few hours once or twice a month. The pleasure I got out of crossdressing increased immensely as a result. It just felt wonderful to be fully in the female role. My anxiety about how I look, how I am walking, whether I am being read, etc., just dropped away, and I could simply enjoy myself. This was why I started crossdressing in the first place—to get that feeling of transcendence into a female world, utterly different from my usual life.

During that time, I went to the shopping mall crossdressed on four separate occasions in one week. One time, I even sat in a department store makeup chair for over an hour and got a full glamour makeover, something I never had the courage to do in the past.

I began to feel so comfortable as Carolyn that when I went downtown once to run some errands, it seemed a bit strange to do so as my male self. I was beginning to associate shopping, dining out, and going to plays and movies as something I do as a woman rather than as a man. Without my family around, my social life was Carolyn's social life. I bought a ticket to a play, planning to go as Carolyn, but a power outage made it impossible for me to do my transformation in time and I had to go as my male self. Somehow, it felt strange being there alone in the theater and not to be there as Carolyn.

One of the questions I have never had to face before is which side is the real me. Previously, I have always identified myself as a man who likes

to dress as a woman. I am biologically male. I spend something like 98% of my waking life as a man. I am sexually attracted to women exclusively. And I enjoy both my physical and psychological "maleness."

Even crossdressed, my maleness was always with me. When I went somewhere as Carolyn, before I got out of the car I usually had to remind myself that I was dressed as a woman and that my department must conform to how I appear. It usually took some time out in public before I stopped feeling nervous about being a "man in a dress." I avoided crowds in the past as Carolyn and shunned any interaction where I might have to talk with someone, even a sales clerk. At the movies as Carolyn, when the movie ended, the credits started to roll, and the house lights came up, I would suddenly realize that I was dressed as a woman and had to make a special effort to start acting like one in order to leave the theater. The rarity with which I dressed as a woman made being Carolyn feel somewhat foreign, or at least subordinate, to my male "real" self.

When I was a young man, one of my pastimes was rock climbing. I found that if I did it nearly every weekend, I did not mind standing on a narrow ledge looking down hundreds of feet. I got accustomed to the "exposure," and my actions became almost automatic in handling the ropes and equipment on which my safety depended. However, once my life got busy and I could go climbing only a few times a year, the exposure to heights frightened me. I began to make stupid mistakes, and I decided to give up rock climbing altogether.

I have had much the same reaction to "exposure" to crossdressing. Only by getting used to frequent public exposure have I been able to fully enjoy the experience. If I go a month without crossdressing, I find the same old discomfort when I first go back

out in public.

When I can dress more frequently, being Carolyn does not require as much effort. Like an actor or an athlete, I get into the "zone" of being Carolyn, and a sense of femininity takes over without being self-conscious about it. When I have been able to crossdress frequently, I can go shopping and out in other public places with much more confidence in myself as a woman. My walking, gesturing and talking as a woman has seemed to come almost naturally.

It is not just the clothes, the make-up, the wigs, and the shoes. It is the feminine being that we get into. My feminine mode is where very different parts of me find expression than those that make up my male life. These parts have to do with beauty and inner space. Carolyn is friendlier, more optimistic, and more generous than my male self, as well as less cerebral.

We often talk about our female side in the third person ("Carolyn went...") instead of saying, "I went as Carolyn." That is not just a language convention. It is, I believe, that we understand our female side to be distinct from our male one.

So, which is the real me, Carolyn or my male self? I think both are the real me. Carolyn is no longer just a small footnote to my male life. She has achieved a defined existence of her own. I see her emerging more and more as a clear presence and counterpart to my male self within my one psyche. Carolyn is my other side, my female mode, separate and equal to my male self.

*Reprinted with permission from the June 1998 edition of Northwest Passages, the newsletter of the Northwest Gender Alliance.*



# Hot•Buzz

JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



*"It is not the fact of liberty but the way in which liberty is exercised that ultimately determines whether liberty itself survives."*

— Dorothy Thompson

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The **Human Rights Campaign (HRC)** is still the target of selected protests by transactivists around the country. The most recent protest took place on July 25th outside an HRC fund raising dinner. Members of **It's Time Illinois (ITI)** passed out educational leaflets on transgender issues to those attending the event. The action was planned because ITI believes (as do many of us) that while HRC gives the transgender community lip-service, it is still as anti-tg as ever. Several members of the Chicago transgender community paid \$175 a seat last year to attend the annual dinner but were not allowed to pass out information. This year, no transgenders will attend but will try to educate from outside with a small one-half page leaflet. As one member of ITI puts it, "HRC is wrong on this one, folks! As long as one single person is denied human rights so another can have them, *it is wrong!*" If you're in the Chicago area and want to learn more about ITI, here's their contact info: Phone/fax (708) 535-1506, Email <ItsTimeIL@aol.com>, PO Box 33, Oak Forest, IL 60452.

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Plans for the **Millennium March** (April 30, 2000) continue to move forward. At a June meeting of several organizations, a 15 member board of directors was established with a larger leadership council. The Board will have parity for people of color and by gender, and will include bisexual and transgender representation. **Jessica Xavier of It's Time America!** was offered a seat on the board, but she turned down the offer. Seven members were elected to the Board and two additional members were appointed after the meeting. Six additional members will be appointed at a later date. Among the initial board members are **Elizabeth Birch** (Ex. Dir., HRC, Washington, DC) and **Nicole Ramierz-Murray** (Co-Chair, National Latina/o LGBT Org., San Diego, CA). Anyone remember that last name? Ms. Ramierz-Murray was on the planning committee for the last March on Washington and argued against transgender inclusion and we know where Ms. Birch stands on the issue. If no one from the transgender community steps up to the bar to participate then we're sure to get short shrift and we'll have no one to blame but ourselves.

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Meanwhile, representatives from 36 state organizations met in Denver, Colo., in mid-July for the mid-year meeting of the **Federation of State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Political Organizations**. The purpose was to plan for the "**Equality Begins At Home**" actions slated for March 21-27, 1999 preceding the Millennium March. Oddly, Pennsylvania and California, states with very large and active gay, lesbian, and transgender communities, were not represented. I've made several public and private appeals for information about this federation and have not had a single response. So, while I'd love to tell you who to contact about your local state's action, I have no idea whom to send you to. Please, if anyone reading this is in contact with the federation, ask them to contact me.

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Generally, I'm glad when someone sticks up for the transgender community, but then there are times when I cringe. Like when the **National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)**, the **Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)**, and **GenderPAC** wrote a letter to Ford Motor Company protesting the **Ray & Charlie Make A Bet** ad. The loser of the bet has to wear a dress to a local diner. The letter said that representations like the Ray and Charlie ad trivialize transgender lives and identities. Puhleeze! I've seen the ad and there is nothing in the ad that should offend any transgender sensibilities. The constant whining and complaining about how we're victimized by such images is bullshit. I'd much rather GenderPAC wrote whining and complaining letters to HRC than FoMoCo.

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Someone once said, "It's not what you don't know that will get ya; it's what you know that ain't so." So, I'm looking through the latest issue of **Transgender Tapestry** and the editorial on page 4 says, "... Subscription and paid advertisements barely cover the costs of paper, printing, and postage." Guess what? It just ain't so. Any publisher who says they don't make back at least twice what it costs to print is jivin' or out of business. Nevertheless, I found issue #83 intriguing. I liked it a lot. It was fresh and new; eclectic, diverse and interesting to read. This is exactly the format that is needed to build newsstand sales. Unfortunately, I believe it is going to cost them their subscription base which is mostly male crossdressers who don't want to read articles about how to tie a tie. Sales are down already and this issue will convince fewer subscribers to renew.

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**Nancy Nangeroni**, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) was Grand Marshall for the Boston Gay Pride

March. Nangeroni is extremely active in the Boston g/l/b community and is a self-acknowledged bisexual. While I don't agree with much of Ms. Nangeroni's politics, I can find no fault with her address to the Boston g/l/b/t community and agree with her on several important points. In particular: "... Being queer is about being different, and this movement of liberation that brings us together today, *unites us* not in a single vision, but in a *common purpose*... If we want to stand strong, unshakable in the face of all opposition, solid against all attempts to undermine us, vigorous in meeting any challenge, *we would be smart to stand upon the broadest possible platform*." [emphasis mine] Now, if the rest of the IFGE ruling junta felt the same way, our community would be much better off.

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IFGE founder **Merissa Sherrill Lynn** suffered a nonfatal stroke at the beginning of July which left her partially paralyzed on her right side. As of this writing she has recovered some use of her right hand, but remains without the full use of her right leg. If you'd like to send her a note, Merissa can be reached at P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, or by telephone at 508-358-5919.

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Enough! Lets do some fashion. Have you always wanted a **corset** but were put off by the high prices? How about a corset kit? A simple to sew waist cincher corset kit with all custom pre-cut material supplies and instructions, is available from US\$38/Cdn\$55 plus S/H (for waist sizes up to 32). Lace/trim, garters and larger sizes are available at additional cost. The corset is a slip-on style with back lacing and a waist reduction of 4 inches. It comes in black, red or white jacquard. For ordering info, send email to <[leed-pro@cadvision.com](mailto:leed-pro@cadvision.com)>.

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I received an announcement for a new online makeup store - **Make Up Mania!** <[www.makeupmania.com](http://www.makeupmania.com)>. Supposedly Make Up Mania! is run by professional makeup artists in Hollywood, California. Well, maybe, but the site was extremely disappointing. The design of the site is clever with the metaphor of a department store. Go to a certain "floor" for founda-

tion and base, another for nails, another for wigs and hair; and so on. Once on a floor, you go to different "counters" for specific items. Many of the "counters" we would be interested in, wigs for example, were labeled "under construction." This has become a Cardinal Sin in web design. Web sites are *always* under construction if they're any good. Then I started looking for an address or phone number. Neither were listed, not even on their order form. That set off alarm bells. So, I wanted to leave them a message but there was also no convenient way to send feedback. Overall, I say skip Make Up Mania! and stick with our community vendors.

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As we work our way into the last days of summer (can you believe it already?), **metallics** are the colors to work with. I especially like warm **bronze** and **copper** tones in the daytime for eyes, cheeks and lips. Here are some items to try... **François Nars**: eyeshadow in **California** or **Key Largo**... **Clinique** Transparency **Bronze** face powder or eyeshadow in **Spiced Mocha**... **Artistry** eyecolor in **Suede** or **Tahitian Sunset**. For nighttime switch to a cool silvery shadow like **Nars** eyeshadow in **Bombshell**, **Cover Girl** eyeshadow in **Charcoal Frost**, **Prescriptives** eyeshadow in **Moonlight**, or **Clinique** eyeshadow in **Grey on Grey**.

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Sometime ago I mentioned that some of the hipper young adults were wearing clothes that came out of the **late forties** swing era. Well that trend seems to be increasing in popularity along with a 90's version of **swing music** (disco is really dead). Dance clubs everywhere are hosting "**swing**" nites where kids can jitterbug to the likes of the **Squirrel Nut Zippers**, **Big Voodoo Daddy**, and the **Brian Setzer Orchestra**. (Yes, that Brian Setzer of former Stray Cats fame.) One problem is that older adults think "swing" parties means wife swapping. Ha! Old fogies. Anyway, I fully expect to see **pencil thin mustaches** and **Ricky Ricardo** jackets be the rage this Fall.

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The **Fall** (yes, we must start thinking about colder weather now) **Fashion Buzz** is longer coat and jacket lengths,

like **3/4 car length** and **maxi-coats**. A great look would be a 3/4 length coat with narrow lapels over a **charcoal grey** sweater and knee-length **black leather** skirt. *Tres Chic!* Another great look is the suit made up of **longish jacket** and **sleeveless dress**. The right touch is a bit of fur (faux, of course) at the ends of the sleeves of the jacket. The alternative to the dressy suit is the pant suit but this time with a **maxi-coat** over **slim legged, flat front trousers**. Very 70's, yet very 90's **Foxy Brown**.

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More good news for the bigger girls in our camp. **Lane Bryant** reintroduces **Venezia**, a line of clothing for 17 to 25 year olds that doesn't look like it was designed by Omar the Tentmaker. LB found that young women in this age bracket are about **10 percent heavier** than their counterparts of 20 years ago, thus the need for younger, stylish casual clothing in larger sizes. Sizes range from **14 to 28** and include jeans, tees, camisoles, tanks, and chinos.

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The tag line for **Godzilla**, the movie was "Size Matters." Anyone who says it don't is lying. Size is especially important when accessorizing outfits. Here's two tips from the pages of **MODE** magazine about accessorizing for larger women... If you have a long neck, try wearing long dangly earrings... Hand bags look best proportioned to your frame. If you're bottom-heavy, don't use a bag that bangs against your hips. If you're big-busted, a bag with a longer strap is preferred.

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Quotes with comments... "I love seeing the **drag queens** do me. It's such a compliment. [My] new album is full of songs the impersonators are going to jump all over. I can't wait to see what they do with *Real Woman*. They're going to have a field day with it." — Singer **Gloria Estefan**... "**Viagra** is the greatest thing for trophy wives since the invention of the joint bank account." — Political commentator **Fred Barnes**.

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So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? Comments? Write me care of this publication or send email to the <[CyberQueen@cdspub.com](mailto:CyberQueen@cdspub.com)>.

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## Vis A Vis...

to creating our femme selves, there is some amalgam of subconscious images that we are trying to duplicate. For some of us, the inspiration is something close to reality... for others, it is a collage of two dimensional images that have an artist's name scrawled underneath.

### THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS

The Gulf Coast TG Community group in Houston, Texas publishes

*The GCTC Transmission Line* newsletter, and I owe them a debt of gratitude for their June issue.

Pictured prominently on the cover page is their Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Rene. Jennifer is one of those natural beauties who at once makes you happy to have seen such a work of art, and kind of pissed off that you can't look like that yourself.

That's a natural emotional mix to have, don't you think? Joy and envy. It's the theme behind the "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful" slogan. But it's such a fine line to walk, especially

when you think that we're all starting from scratch... so how come she looks that good and I don't?

The photo of Jennifer was taken at the Unity Conference in what appears to be a hotel lobby. Smiling sweetly above her sleeveless cocktail dress, shapely legs and pointy pumps, one wonders what it would be like to be Jennifer at that moment?

It's Jennifer's world, we're only living in it.



## Philadelphia's ActionAIDS Has TG Job Opening

ActionAids is looking for someone to fill the position of Outreach and Education Specialist to the Transgender Community.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

Respect for diversity. Knowledge and understanding of and sensitivity to the transgender community. High school degree and 3-5 years experience working in the transgender community. Broad knowledge of HIV disease, education and prevention interventions and strategies. Ability and willingness to collaborate as well as work independently.

### BASIC FUNCTION:

Provide education, street outreach, information and support to the trans-

gender community with the goal to prevent HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. Assist transgender individuals to get into systems of care.

### SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work with representatives of area agencies providing transgender services to collaborate and design viable strategies to prevent the spread of HIV in the transgender population.
2. Provide outreach and education to transgender individuals and groups in the community.
3. With a view toward the diversity within the community, provide and create support groups for transgender individuals.
4. Supervise outreach assistants.

5. Develop and distribute a transgender resource pamphlet.

6. Provide transgender and AIDS education to agencies and organizations working with the transgender population.

7. Distribute prevention materials.

8. Participate in training, supervision, and staff development.

9. Collect statistics and maintain accurate records.

10. Other duties as required.

Those interested in applying for the position may mail or fax resumes to: ActionAIDS HR, 1216 Arch Street, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107. The fax number is 215-864-6930.



### PLEASE NOTE:

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## Anything For A Buck?

by Jessica Brandon

In the July 13th edition of *Transgender Forum*, Kalina Isato mentioned an article from a politically incorrect men's magazine called *Maxim* about Brian Zembic, a guy who took a really insane wager: to wear breast implants for an entire year to win \$100,000.00!

The article, titled "The Man With The \$100,000 Breasts" begins with Brian living in a bathroom on a \$14,000 bet that couldn't stay there for 30 days. Eventually, his gambling friend, Joey who made the bet caves in after ten days and gives Brian \$7,000. That's the basics of life with Brian. He's described as being a Joe Sixpack kind of guy who hates to punch a clock. A serious gambler, Brian earns a living through Backgammon, poker, and the wild and crazy bets he takes to win some easy cash.

The boob bet came about after another friend of Brian's, Jobo offered him a hundred grand if he'd get implants, 38C's like a female friend of theirs and wear them for a year. Brian agreed after losing \$30,000 on a bad stock tip, he even managed to get the implants put in for free!

Brian knows a plastic surgeon he occasionally gambles with and won the money he needed, \$4,500 after two hours of backgammon. So Brian goes under the knife, has the implants inserted then filled and, voilà, instant 38C.

To make a long story short, Brian has the time of his life with the implants, showing them off to his buddies, his sex life even improved as the women Brian courts like his breasts instead of being repulsed by them. Meanwhile, Brian's family thinks his escapade is a real hoot, and his father boasts that if someone offered him a hundred grand, he'd wear implants too. Also, Brian, something of a lech claims to have become a better man for his experience, coming to understand what women go through.

Now, here's the kicker. Nearly 18 months have passed since the surgery, and while Brian's long since collected his money from Jobo, he's yet to remove the implants, saying it's fun to have breasts and that he might keep them for another six months to a year. Does this mean Brian's entertaining thoughts of trans-

vestism? Not hardly as the topic never comes up during the course of the article. While Brian's clearly not the transgendered type, apparently, he seems to love having breasts.

This begs the question: if someone offered you a hundred grand to have 38C implants put in for a year, would you do it? Would you have the nerve to do what Brian did? I have to admit I think I would. The lure of such money would be hard, if not impossible for most people to resist, especially those who never seen such money. Oh, sure, the dangers of implants are well known, but are they any less menacing than black market hormones sold to street queens in dark back alleys?

Perhaps even to entertain such thoughts are insane enough, but then, to certain segments of the public, we're crazy as hell to begin with. Still, it took tremendous amounts of courage for a guy who probably couldn't even spell transvestite to do something on a lark that we fantasize about. A copy of this article will be made available to the Renaissance library.



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Ms. Lynda



# BOOK NOOK

## **Drag: A History of Female Impersonation in the Performing Arts**

by Roger Baker, with contributions by Peter Burton and Richard Smith. New York: New York University Press, 1994.

*Review by Jennifer Mae Barnes*

Drag originally appeared in 1968. The late Roger Baker had updated most of the book at the time of his death in 1993. Peter Burton wrote Chapters 4 and 5 of Part III, in addition to updating the preface, bibliography and notes, and Richard Smith wrote Chapter 6 of Part III.

It may seem the reverse of normal practice for me to advise readers not to miss the trees for the forest. If I do not, I fear that there are remarks in this work which will cause transgendered readers to tune out. The reviews of *Tootsie* and *Yentl* (227-228, 232-233), and the espousal of "boys' dresses" (244-245)-the macho kilts and Greek warrior tunics-are examples of this. I would suggest that you use the work as an extensive compendium on female impersonation in the performing arts. But I

would also recommend that you greet certain passages with laughter, not anger, then ponder the questions raised and answer them for themselves, in particular regarding the unfortunate conflict between the gay and the transgender movements.

The work is divided into three parts, the first dealing with the history of male actresses from the miracle plays of the Middle Ages up through the Elizabethan period, to their replacement by female actresses during the reign of Charles II. The second part serves as an interlude on offstage female impersonation (including the castrati of opera, and the creation of "trouser roles" after their demise), beginning with the Chevaliere d'Eon. The third part runs through the diverse forms of female impersonation in the twentieth century, from night club impersonators, to soldiers in dresses, to movies, to rock groups.

If this work were written simply as a compendium however, few would probably read it as a whole. It is in part the authors' thesis on the historical development of female impersonation in the arts which makes the book good reading-by raising eyebrows. Baker distinguishes between real impersonation, and false disguise (p. 14-16). In the former, the spectators are unaware that the actresses are male. In false disguise, they are aware. He goes to great lengths to contrast Elizabethan and Asian (Chinese and Japanese) female impersonation traditions to argue that real impersonation did occur in Shakespeare's time, but not in Asia, nor in the West much beyond his time.

This sounds fine, but in the second part, in speaking of offstage acting in the interlude between the Restoration and the twentieth century, Baker notes that in

some Western impersonation acts, the male actress reveals his/her genitals at the end. When he implies that the revelation of the Chevaliere d'Eon's male genitalia in the morgue means that the stories of his living disguised as a female may be false, what a wonderful piece of structuralism (121-122, 125-126)! Perhaps readers should not blame Baker for failing to state that allegations that Edward Hyde, an early Governor of New Jersey, wore dresses in public may have been slander (99).

But when he seems to say that in Elizabethan times (the age of real impersonation), women were chattels, while when fashion replaced rank as a sign of status in the time of Charles II, the rise of the companionate marriage and homosexuality (with of course, false disguise) signaled an improvement in the status of women — really? Did not Plato write the Symposium (and the Lysis and the Charmides, for that matter) long before Charles II? Of course, many are those who believe that Queen Elizabeth I was in fact a woman, though Baker does delve into Bram Stoker's hypothesis that she may not have been (127-128), noting that she was portrayed by a man in Orlando.

The recommendation of "boys' dresses" sheds light on a refrain throughout the work that a man who engages in real impersonation mocks women. For in a male dominated world, a man in a dress is not to be taken seriously. This should give pause for thought. When I wear pleats, I think of females I went to school with and worked with, not brawling thanes. Maybe this is because though I am Celtic, I am American, not English. But when a man

*continued on page 19*



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## The ConnecticutView Promotes Inclusion

by Denise Mason

The connecticuT View, a social and support group for over 50 Connecticut and local states cross-dressers, are planning to expand their membership by inviting female to male crossdressers to join their group. Denise Mason, Newsletter Editor says, "We realize that the majority of crossdressers in need of a support group are males who dress as females and want to be accepted by society. The females, who have easily assimilated into the male roles, don't get looked at twice because jeans, boots, floppy tops, short hairdos, and no makeup are much more acceptable, and society doesn't really know whether the person before them is a female who just likes male attire, or a female who is trying to "be" male. Society, doesn't care."

Recently the connecticuT View began to wonder if there are issues

female crossdressers have that might be similar to those of the male to female crossdresser. Are they stared at? Do they have the "bathroom problem" that (female) impersonating males have? Are they called "Sir?" Do they like it?

Because the connecticuT View is the only open crossdresser club in Connecticut, we invite everyone, as long as there is some connection to transvestitism, crossdressing, or transsexualism. We welcome wives, significant others or lovers of the TV/CD/TS. We want children of transvestite parents, or parents of TVs to contact us, and we offer any support we can. There are other clubs, but one admits the need to screen potential members, and also does not allow transvestite admirers to join their group. Another admits to being strictly heterosexual, and a third is aimed at helping mainly transsexuals.

That is why we want it known that we feel female crossdressers joining with us would be a benefit, possibly more to the male to female crossdresser, but who knows? Dialog between us might be very enlightening. And as one TV who admires women, I would love having the female to male side of issues aired to see if a better acceptance, union, and understanding can start between our respective groups, and help us work together to have society understand and accept everyone.

If there are any female to male crossdressers out there reading this who wish to discuss this further, please contact Denise Mason at <masond@aol.com>. If anyone wishes a sample newsletter, please contact the connecticuT View, P.O. Box 2281, Devon CT. 06460.



## PFLAG Announces "Transgathering"

PFLAG'S Transgender Special Outreach Network (TSON) invites all those interested in transgender issues, particularly all PFLAG members in the Bay Area and the entire West Coast, to attend a special "Trans Gathering" September 11-13 in San Francisco. The dates were chosen to coincide with the PFLAG Annual Meeting, Saturday, Sept 12 at 3 PM, when a vote is expected on proposed by-laws changes that would make PFLAG officially transgender inclusive.

The tentative agenda includes work-

shops on "The Gender Spectrum" by Jamison Green, FTM activist, "Gender Identity Disorder and Gender Variant Children" by Nancy Sharp and Shannon Minter, Esq., and "TG Support in a PFLAG Context: Several Models" by Karen and Bob Gross, TG activists. The workshops will be separate, not concurrent, to allow attendance at all three and each will feature a diverse panel.

Registration for the Trans Gathering is \$35 per person, which includes all workshops, lunch and TSON Receptions. Unemployed persons may be admitted

for \$10 and may volunteer to help with the conference. TSON will be meeting at the Shannon Court Hotel, 550 Geary Street, San Francisco 94102, phone 415-775-5000. Room rates are \$109 for 1-2 persons. Other occupancy rates are available.

For more information, contact Mary Boenke <maryboenke@aol.com>, 540-890-3957, Karen Gross <KateyGR@aol.com>, 216-691-4357, or Nancy Sharp <stressgone@aol.com>, 540-283-0664.)



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# Making Sense of It All

by Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

## If Not Now, When?

All human beings, and especially those of us who are transgendered, face a fundamental dilemma which, one way or another and to one extent or another, we each resolve during our lifetime. That dilemma can best be expressed in the form of a question: What is the relationship between what one does for oneself and what one does for others? A classic expression of this same question can be found in an ancient Jewish saying:

If I am not for myself,  
who will be for me?  
If I am for myself only,  
what am I?  
If not now, when?

In terms of my own experience as a transgendered person, the significance of this question, however it is expressed, has increased with the years. I recall the first time the question became a conscious part of my life. I was in college, and I wrote a paper entitled: "Individual Happiness and Social Responsibility." I do not recall what specifically triggered my intellectual interest in this issue. I do know that my father could not understand, let alone encourage, my vocational wishes to be a writer or a musician or possibly a rabbi.

Moreover, he was always trying to "make a man" out of me, though I could never understand his concern. So given these experiences among others, I began to ask, as a college student, why I could not be true to myself, at least vocationally, and still

be part of society, which meant acceptance by my family.

I did enter rabbinical school, only to drop out after six months with a "deep inner unrest," as my condition was labeled. In retrospect, that "condition" had deep transgender implications, but at the time I only knew that I did not fit into the expectations my father had of me, nor was I able to concentrate on more studies, even those of my own choosing.

I was invited back to rabbinical school after two years, but I chose instead to get my doctorate in educational philosophy and human relations. All through my graduate studies I saw psychiatrists, because I was increasingly unhappy in ways I could not fathom. The psychiatrists could not fathom my unhappiness either, except to note that I was a very anxious person. My "inner unrest" increased, though somehow I was able to get my course work done, write a dissertation, get my degree, and obtain a position as a professor of education.

During my graduate studies I also got married, more out of loneliness than love. There was nothing wrong with my spouse. Instead, there was something wrong with me, for I continued to be puzzled by my very being. Perhaps the fact that all of this was taking place in the late 1950's and early 1960's helps to explain, at least in terms of gender confusion, why I and my psychiatrists could not understand my anxiety and depression. Little was known at that time about the transgender phenomenon.

During the next fifteen years, as husband and father, I tried to give to my spouse and to my three children, but the more I gave of myself, the less I felt alive. I felt increasingly drained of my very existence. One psychiatrist said that my love bucket was low. He never helped me to see that I did not love myself, let alone my male self. Love from others did not really help, because others were loving an image of me that, at least subconsciously, I did not really own or even want.

I needed to give to myself, and that need increasingly gave way to activi-

ties that culminated in a divorce.

When I remarried seven years later, I still did not know I had transgender feelings, though I did know something, perhaps the same inner unrest I had experienced years earlier, was still bothering me. I just hoped that whatever it was would go away with a new relationship. It did not, and that was when the dilemma of which I have been speaking hit me harder than ever.

It has been during my second marriage that I have discovered and acted upon my transgender feelings. That discovery and the decisions following it have been the source of my greatest happiness and my greatest pain. I truly love my spouse, and she loves me equally. After much soul-searching, and with the help of professional counseling from someone who recognized and understood my transgender feelings, I decided to take a stand on my need to make a gender transition. I could not put off making such a decision without putting my life on "hold," and I had already done too much of that.

My decision has brought me much anguish, because the pain it has brought to my spouse means I might lose her. But we are still together, though two women living together is not what my spouse intended when she married me. She points out that she originally said, "I do." Now she can only say, "Oy Vey!"

There may be some humor in all of this, if only for occasional relief, but the seriousness and painfulness of it all, regardless of the outcome, underscores the dilemma expressed in the original question and amplified in the ancient Jewish saying. Simply put, from my own point of view as the transgendered partner, the dilemma is that, if I do not honor my transgender feelings, I am a walking dead person; and if I do honor those feelings, then I risk becoming a very lonely person. If I am not for myself, will anyone else really be for me? But if I do not take into account the feelings of those closest to me, especially spouse and children, can I still enjoy my life? After many years of inner misery,

what should now be my greatest joy is turning out to be the source of another great misery. And yet, if I do not do something now, when will I?

Perhaps there is no satisfying conclusion to any of this. There is just the ongoing struggle to find as much meaning and happiness in life as possible. The following poem, called "If," is my attempt to make some sense of this whole dilemma:

If I am not for me,  
for feeling good,  
for reaching in  
and discovering my should,  
whatever that be,

if I am not for all of that,  
who will really be for me  
in those deepest moments  
of an inward chat?

But if I am for me alone,  
if I never think of someone else,  
not ever reaching out beyond  
the life I call my own,  
if I do none of that,  
what am I, then,  
that I dare give  
my back a pat?

So if not now,  
when?  
When will I reach

to share,  
to teach,  
to give to others  
out of my living  
and fulfill myself  
out of that giving?  
If not now,  
when will I do all of that?

Ah,  
the tragic  
and the magic  
of all those "ifs,"  
of all those "whens,"  
just waiting  
to be "thens."



## Book Nook...

dons a kilt to be more macho than men who restrict themselves to trousers, how is he furthering women's rights? Perhaps when a man can engage in what Baker calls real impersonation of a woman, and be taken seriously, this will truly be a sign of equality between men and women.

If this book is taken as Gospel, it will be put aside. But if it inspires transgendered persons to read the plays, novels and historical works cited in it, see the movies, hear the operas, use its excellent bibliographies to organize female impersonation studies, all the while challenging many of the work's basic theses, the writing will prove to be more of a classic than Baker, Burton and Smith could ever imagine.



## ACLU...

installed on all computers" for the purpose of limiting access to materials that are "pornographic" or "harmful to juveniles." By using blocking software to implement this policy, the library is, in effect, "removing books from the shelves" of the Internet by blocking many Internet sites with valuable educational, political, literary, artistic, social, and religious speech that would otherwise be available to library patrons.

"Renaissance provides information about transgender issues to anyone with an interest in those issues," said Ms. Gardner. She continued, "To block our site as 'pornographic' is absurd. To keep this information from low income transgendered individuals who may not be able to afford Internet access is simply wrong."

When Ms. Gardner and her ACLU

attorney, Chris Hansen, were asked how the deposition went Ms. Gardner said, "It was much easier than I expected. The cab ride from the train station to the attorneys office was more harrowing." Mr. Hanson added, "The Renaissance deposition went extremely well. The library's lawyer found no information that would damage our case."

At press time the ACLU is continuing to provide depositions from the plaintiffs. Meanwhile, the Loudoun County Library Board has changed composition since it made its Internet policy. At a meeting on July 20th The Board may make some modification to its Internet Policy. Check the Press Release page on the Renaissance site for up to the minute information on the Loudoun case.



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# Letters to the Editor

Angela,

Tsk, tsk, tsk...I never thought you would want to "rip Denise's viewpoint" on my article on "passing". Thank goodness Dina saw the benefit qualities of the article.

As for "laws on criminal impersonation"... I am aware of very few state laws, and wonder if all states require the intent of performing a crime before arresting a CD. Some silly things have happened, and I feel we need to break the "criminal intent" by being open about who we are so there is no chance of someone else determining 'my' intent.

It is nearly impossible for any CD who goes out to dinner, to not want to pass. For it's just easier, if they did pass, for the evening to go without hassle. Discussions about passing are difficult ones... and my article was intended to show a different side.

I hope it was food for thought for some.

Denise Mason

Thanks for your comments on my comments, Denise. I don't think the

passing debate will ever go away, and it's good that people hear a variety of opinions. Still, in the "is it legal or illegal" area, it doesn't matter if you are not trying to pass or boldly announcing that you are a male in femme attire, if a cop decides to arrest you, he'll arrest you.

Here's another viewpoint on the subject of passing.

Dear Editor,

In comment to a couple of articles in the July issue which seem to have a common thread woven in them, it is now very apparent that a new sub-category of TG has been identified.

The two articles are, first, Dina's column, "Another Note On Passing," in which she commented on Denise Mason's essay, "Passing;" and second, Rikki's letter to the Editor in which she responded to Diane Dale's article.

The common thread of these two well-woven journals is that of the CD who wishes to express his feminine side openly, without the hassle of trying to "pass"-which, to me, is a TRUE (male) CD! When GGs wear masculine clothing, do they attempt to "pass" as a GM? Not on your Nellie! They may wear male cut three piece suits, neckties and wingtips, but do they cut their hair, put on five-o'clock shadow and not wear makeup? Not on this planet! (Some look great!)

Denise published my letter to her in which I stated that I "enjoy being a guy" who, like Rikki, wears women's sportswear whenever possible. I enjoy my stirrups and pants-boots with

tunic tops most of the time. I present the self-confident attitude of "THIS is who I am" and all who see and know me respect me for my courage and happiness!

Bobbie Stafford

Bobbie,

The transgender community contains many variations and, as you point out, the most important thing is that we are all proud of ourselves. As the old expression goes, whatever blows your skirt up. In my particular case I enjoy going out into society and interacting with people as a woman, not a guy in a dress. So, in order to be treated as a woman, I do my best to be womanly. If people catch on, I don't let it bother me. If they can't deal with it, it's their problem. But, by presenting myself as a female, even if people figure out that I am not female, they still tend to treat me as a female-and that makes me happy.

Sorry to disagree about women not wearing men's clothes and attempting to pass as male, but there have been a number of stories in the TG press and on TV in recent years about female crossdressers. They do exist and their big thrill is to be addressed as "sir." Yes, they even put on five-o'clock shadow and wear prosthetic anatomy to enhance the illusion. (It's called a Packy, and I'm peeved 'cause prosthetic breasts cost a lot more than a prosthetic male part.) Take a look at the latest Transgender Tapestry's feature on Drag Kings.

Angela



## To all Chapters and Affiliates:

If you have any special events or programs you wish to publicize, please inform the Editor at least one month prior to the event so it can be mentioned in *News & Views*.

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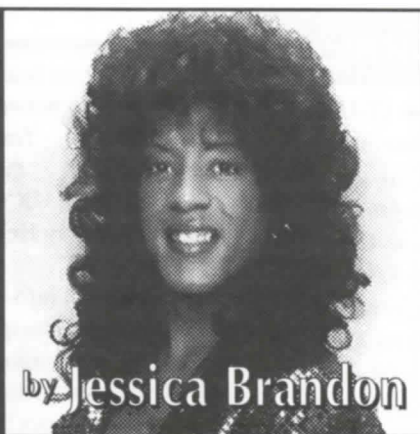
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# Shopping With Jessica



Greetings, girlfriends! I hope your summer has been as enjoyable as mine. I tell ya, kids, there's nothing like lovely day upon lovely day to give a body an excuse to get out of bed in the morning. If you can't bring yourself to have nothing but fun during summer, then you might as well move to Tibet and become a hermit 'cause you're really nowhere, man.

Now that all the Fourth of July festivities have concluded, it's time to tear yourself away from the beach, the mountains, or your chaise lounge, and tune in to my fabulous fifth installment in my guide to shopping for beginners. To recap, I've discussed taking your measurements, shopping for clothes, shoes, lingerie, handbags, jewelry, hosiery, and makeup - which is where I'll pick up the chat.

Makeup is the paint you add to your face, your "canvas," to enhance its female characteristics. Some of us are extraordinarily talented at makeup (**Michelle Lynn** immediately comes to mind) while others, like myself, struggle along as best we can. Of primary importance in achieving our goal of a feminine appearance is determining our color group. The best way to find yours, and what colors will suit you best, is to go to a makeup counter in a major department store.

For example, **Prescriptives** has their unique "colorprinting" system (mentioned in a past column) with which their salespeople can accurately gauge what color group you belong to, and show you an extensive array of cosmetics for your group. Whether you shop in your boy or girl guise, pick their brains and get all the tips

and advice you can so you can buy the right makeup and apply it with confidence.

How much makeup to have? That depends on the amount of dressing you do. I've found you should have at a minimum, the following items: 1 foundation, 1 concealer (if needed), 1 powder, 1 mascara, 2 eyeliners, 2 lipliners, 3 blushers, 6 eyeshadows, 6 lipsticks. From here you can add as necessary, but if you only dress once or twice a month as I do, why stock more makeup than an Avon Lady? That's just wasting money.

You should also have a good collection of brushes for makeup application. Department stores sell fine quality brushes that have durability and work wonders with cosmetics. A brush collection should consist of: powder brush, blusher brush, eyeshadow brush, eyeshadow sponge, eyeliner brush, brow & lash brush, eye contour brush, lipstick brush, and sponges for applying foundation.

Next we come to the topic of image consultants. If you don't feel confident enough in your ability to shop, you might want to employ the services of an image consultant who provides help to those sisters unable to shop for themselves. These people, or businesses, can shop for you, shop with you, determine your colors, and teach you how to put on makeup. Some even provide photography services or lessons in department.

I've never used an image consultant (I.C.) myself. I'm proud to say that I've built Jessica Brandon from the ground up through trial, error, hard work and lots and lots of practice, learning from past mistakes to

make myself better. But if you're a beginner and you have no idea what you want to look like, or how to achieve your vision if you do, then an I.C. might be the way to go. However, it can be a very expensive proposition.

Some consultants charge by the day, others by the hour, and that's usually not counting the added cost of clothing, shoes, wigs, makeup, etc. Why, I read once that a sister spent a whopping \$9,000 on a five day spree with an I.C., \$3,200 on clothes alone! And that girl said she had a great time! Obviously, that sister has more than enough disposable income to indulge in her passion, but the majority of us don't.

One complaint I've heard about consultants is that some of them aren't exactly top-notch pros at the makeup table, and yet they still charge top dollar for their services. A rookie fresh out of the closet might not know the difference, and therefore take the lessons to heart, leading to years worth of cosmetic errors that would go unnoticed, since this poor soul thinks she's doing it right because the I.C. said so.

Does this mean that image consultants are bad? Not really. For the closeted, they provide help where perhaps no one else can. If you do contact one, ask about her credentials, how long she's been in business, her experience, even for references if available. Is there a better way? Absolutely! Just by going to a support meeting where one can meet caring sisters who have "been there, done that" and love to impart advice to anyone who asks for it.

As for the image itself, that depends on the look you choose to portray to the world at large. You can be sleek, stylish, contemporary, sophisticated, urban, country, exotic, the list goes on and on. The idea here is to choose an image you'll feel most comfortable with. In my opinion, you don't need to spend hundreds, perhaps thousands, on an image consultant when you can, with a little study, do it for free.

*continued on page 23*

## Organization Listing

• **Transgender Health Action Coalition (T-HAC):**

The Transgender Information and Peer Counseling Hotline is now helping to serve the needs of the greater Philadelphia Transgender community. The hotline operates every Monday and Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. Call: (215) 732-1207. Organizational meetings of the are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Washington West Offices, 1201 Locust St. Phila. PA. All are welcome to attend.

• **ActionAIDS:** Support groups and information for HIV+ people in the Philadelphia area. 215-981-0088 for general information. Sponsor Passages, a support group for gender variant people. Call 215-981-3349 for Passages information.

• **William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bi, TG Community Center:** Many programs and diversions for the LGBT community in Philadelphia. For info on upcoming events call 215-732-2220.

• **Community Alliance of Transsexuals (CATS):** TS support group that meets in Burlington County, New Jersey. 215-536-1209

• **The Attic:** Center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and TG youth ages 12 to 23 in Philadelphia. 215-545-4331.

• **Phila. TS Support Group:** 4 p. m. the first Saturday every month at 1201 Locust Street 215-483-7647.

TransEssex International is a British-based voluntary self-help network dedicated to serving the needs of Transvestites, Transsexuals, their families and friends.

It hosts the UK's biggest monthly TV/TS group party, runs friendly HelpLine services and publishes a wealth of useful information.

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# TG Community Calendar

## LOCAL RENAISSANCE

### CHAPTERS- AUGUST

1: Lower Susquehanna Valley, New Jersey Support

8: Lehigh Valley, Delaware

15: Greater Philadelphia

22: Monmouth/Ocean Trans

Gender

### AUGUST 1998

1: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

### SEPTEMBER 1998

2-3: Sexuality and Gender in 20th Century Europe, Dr Petra Bagley, or Dr. Helen Jones, Department of Languages, University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE, <c.williams2@uclan.ac.uk>, <p.m.bagley@uclan.ac.uk>, h.l.jones@uclan.ac.uk; tel: 01772 - 893927 or 893126, fax: 01772 - 892919 or 892909

5: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

11-12: Creating Healthy Lives: A Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Women's Health Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago LCCP, Conference Planning Committee, 4753, N Broadway, STE 602, Chicago, IL 60640 <[http://www.uic.edu/orgs/healthy\\_live\\_s/program](http://www.uic.edu/orgs/healthy_live_s/program)>, <lccp@enteract.com>

18-20: The Third International Congress on Sex and Gender, Exeter College, Oxford University. Jan Cobb, PFC BM network, London, WC1N 3XX Tel: +44 (0) 1473 421385, fax: +44 (0) 1473 421386, or email to: <Cong.bool@pfc.org.uk>.

30-10/4: Southern Comfort Conference, Holiday Inn Atlanta Central, Atlanta, GA. Call (404) 633-6470, or write to SCC, P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591, or email to <sccatl@aol.com>.

### OCTOBER 1998

3: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

15-17: Lavender Law Conference,

Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA.

Contact <LAVLAW98@aol.com>.

16-18: Colorado Gold Rush, GIC of Colorado, 1455 Ammons St., Ste. 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993, 303-202-6466, <GICofColo@aol.com>

18-25: Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA. Contact Alison Laing, P.O. Box 473, Portsmouth, RI 02871-0473, phone: (401) 624-4317.

24: 4th Annual

Transgender/Transexual health Empowerment Conference, Audre Lorde Project Inc., 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn NY 11217. For more info or input, please contact: Rosalynne Blumenstein Director GIP, 212-620-7310, E-mail: <rblumenstein@gaycenter.org> or Nguru, 718-596-0342, <alpinfo@alp.org>

### NOVEMBER 1998

5-8: Paradise in the Poconos. Fantasy getaway weekend. Contact CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, call (610) 640-9449, or email to <poco@cdspub.com>.

5-8: Fall Harvest 1998. Sponsored by City of Lakes Crossgendered Community in Minneapolis, MN at the Sheraton Metro Dome. For info, contact CLCC, P.O. Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Call (612) 229-3613 or email to <CLCC@topcity.net>.

7: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

8-13: Dignity Cruise X and Holiday at Sea II. Miami to Key West and the Bahamas. Contact Cruises Inc.: Barbara Arendt at (800) 621-6699 or Mike Sinn at (800)818-7830.

11-15: Joint Meeting, The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Sex Therapists, "Sexuality and the Media: Hooray for Hollywood?", Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, CA

write Joint AASECT/SSSS Meeting P.O. Box 240, Mount Vernon, IA 52314-0240, 319-895-6407, fax: 319-895-6203

20-22: Riverside Gala Weekend at The Inn at Franklin on Liberty Street, Franklin, PA. For info, write to Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th Street, Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505. Email: <rgw98@usachoice.net> or <esc@csonline.net, fax: 814-437-5996.

### DECEMBER 1998

No events scheduled

### JANUARY 1999

2: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

### FEBRUARY 1999

6: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

### MARCH 1999

3-16: Dignity Cruise XI on the Marco Polo from Sydney, Australia to Cairns. Contact Cruises Inc.: Barbara Arendt at (800) 621-6699 or Mike Sinn at (800) 818-7830.

If you know of any upcoming events of interest to the transgendered community, please contact the Editor with the pertinent information at the address on page two.



## Shopping...

Well, girls, that's all for now. In Part Six, I'll move on to wigs and outerwear. As always, my mailbox is open for your comments, tips and opinions at

<treetop@voicenet.com>, or by snail mail to the Renaissance National office on page two. Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!



# Jay Ann

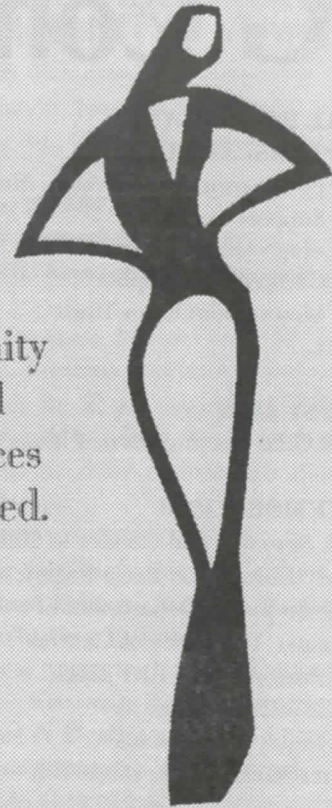
## Intimates

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