

# Renaissance News



Volume 3, No. 12

Vision - Integrity - Quality

December 1989

## Merry Christmas

*From all of us at Renaissance  
to you and your family  
Season's Greetings.*

### Changes made to national by laws Board votes on new policies and project

The national board of directors, while correcting a few inconsistencies in the national bylaws, also approved a number of changes at the November 18 board meeting.

The most significant change provides for the re-election of the executive officers of the corporation by the entire board of directors. Other changes create a new board position of Director-At-Large, and give the board the authority to fill vacant positions from the general membership. The annual meeting has also been changed from December to November in order to avoid conflicts with holiday activities.

These changes will permit the board to develop, implement and continue its long term outreach projects and to provide more effective services to the chapters.

None of the changes approved affect the local chapters in any way. Chapters remain self-governing and continue to have representation on the national board.

In addition to the by law changes, the board also approved two new national policies. Policy NP-3 recommends that the Managing Direc-

tor should not serve more than a one year term, unless there is no new candidate for the position. Policy NP-4 states that no member of the board shall receive a salary nor shall they receive any compensation for services rendered, except for legitimate reimbursement of expenses. The Chapter Handbook will be update with these changes.

At the same meeting, the board reviewed a major new project for the group, MONA-mail. This project will set up a voice mail system for use by chapters, members and affiliates. A voice mail system will permit a caller with a touch tone phone to access a variety of information about Renaissance. Chapters will be able to remotely update their activity information, members will be able to leave each other voice messages and new callers will still be able to get basic information on the group. Renaissance may offer mailbox space to other groups and commercial enterprises on a rental basis. Trudi Henry was responsible for developing the project plan.

Overall, it looks like 1990 will be a great year for Renaissance.

### Veteran's Day Results are in

The October issue of the *Renaissance News* carried a call for transgendered veterans to share their personal stories and achievements for a media event that would spotlight our contributions to the nation. The target date was Veterans Day. Yet, Nov. 11 has come and gone and nothing happened.

"Basically, I screwed up," said Paula Jordan Sinclair, Renaissance director of outreach. "I didn't give people enough time to respond. About a dozen veterans did send the information requested, but I was hoping for a much larger response. I personally know of several veterans who didn't respond, perhaps because there wasn't time. Next year I'll issue the request much earlier."

While the responses didn't generate the kind of impressive numbers that would be needed to make headlines, they did show that transgendered people have played an important role in America's defense.

"Although my military service didn't come close to equaling the

*continued on page 9*

**Important Notice: The Renaissance national office has a new address. Please make a note in your files. The new address is, Renaissance, P. O. Box 0552, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Renaissance will also have a new phone number by January.**

## Chapter news & notes

### New Jersey

**South Jersey:** Address inquiries to chapter secretary, Emily Sheldon, Renaissance SJ, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807. Regular meetings on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Meetings start at 9:00 p.m.

**No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

### Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia:** Write to Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Regular meetings on the third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Meeting starts at 9:00 p.m.

**No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

Phila. 1990 schedule: Jan. - An acting coach will show how to create

a femme persona; Feb. - Dr. Richard Friend, local counselor and teacher; Mar. - The Magic of Aloe makeup.

**Reading:** Write to Renaissance RDG, Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607 for the latest information.

The Reading chapter meets for a dinner-social held at THIS IS IT, 801 Walnut St., Reading, second Wednesday of the month.

**Lower Susquehanna Valley:** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

This chapter has an irregular meeting schedule so please check with them for times and dates. They also offer a newsletter.

**Are you interested in learning more about Renaissance? Contact the national office for complete information.**

## Holiday Party Changes

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter Holiday Party starting time has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The location is the Great Valley Inne in the Great Valley Corporate

Center in Malvern, PA. If you need directions call the Inne at (215)-648-0680.

Tickets are \$25 and will be on sale at the door. Reservations are not required. All are invited.

## And, don't forget about...

- Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

- The last of the Benjamin books, *The Transsexual Phenomena* are back in stock. When these are gone, there are no more. The Deluxe Edition is \$39.95 and the Regular Edition is \$35.95.

- Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-

Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics. A paper on transsexualism is in work.

- 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.

- The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please let Alison know. Write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

## Renaissance News

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For information about events call: 215-640-9449, 24 hours a day.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community at large.

### Events Calendar

#### January

6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter  
11th Ren. Reading Chapter  
20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
Create a femme persona  
27th Ren LSV

#### February

3rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter  
8th Ren. Reading Chapter  
17th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
Dr. Richard Friend  
24th Ren LSV  
22-25 Texas 'T' Party  
San Antonio, TX  
25-28 Mardi Gras, New Orleans

#### March

3rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter  
8th Ren. Reading Chapter  
17th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
Magic of Aloe makeup  
24th Ren LSV  
27-1 IFGE 4th Annual Conv.  
Natick, Mass.

#### April

6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter  
13th Ren. Reading Chapter  
20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
27th Ren LSV

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## 1990 Membership Renewal

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Yes, I want to renew my membership in Renaissance for 1990:

Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Grt. Phila. Chapter (\$32), PO Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020
- ☐ South Jersey Chapter (\$30), Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807
- ☐ Reading Chapter (\$30), Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607
- ☐ York/Harrisburg Chapter (\$30), Box 7412, York, PA 17404
- ☐ Nat'l newsletter subscription only (\$12), Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406
- ☐ Additional donation to national \$\_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

*Please note: Membership in a chapter includes a national newsletter subscription.*

*Make all checks or money orders payable to Renaissance.*

You may mail your renewal to the national office or send it directly to your chapter.

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## Membership Change of Address

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If you have changed your mailing name or address since you last renewed your membership, please complete this form to insure uninterrupted delivery of your newsletter and other important information.

Previous Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU ARE A RECENT NEW MEMBER (JOINED AFTER OCT. 1), OR HAVE ALREADY RENEWED, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE. THANK YOU.



## Opinion - **Forum** - Information

### Are you lonesome tonight?...words of wisdom by Sharon M.

On a recent Saturday night I sat home alone for the first time in years. My four year old son was ill and his mother kept him for the weekend. What to do? I sat on the sofa looking through the *Philadelphia Inquirer* entertainment section, considering which TV to switch on: the football game or Sharon.

"To Hell with football," I thought. I'll spend all day Sunday watching the Eagles. I've never gotten crossdressed and gone to a club alone. The thought seemed a challenge. With my first Renaissance meeting confidently behind me, I was ready for new excitement.

I showered, shaved, and tugged on three pairs of pantyhose. After applying war paint, I squeezed into my favorite black dress. It has a low back, reaches to mid-thigh, and has a habit of slipping off my shoulders. It clings in all the right places too.

As a man, I couldn't care less about clothes. My wardrobe has been acquired through Christmas and birthday gifts. My favorite clothes are t-shirts and old jeans.

Sharon is quite the opposite. It takes about 30 minutes in front of a

mirror to bring her alive. Part of my joy as Sharon is enjoying her appearance. I have a seven foot tall antique wall mirror in my living room. The room is completely bare except for the mirror and a fireplace. Sharon is the only person who ever uses the mirror.

Using the living room means turning on a light and revealing my form through lacy curtains to my neighbor's view. The young woman who lives next door is a snoop. On occasion she's told me what programs I was watching on television. Using the mirror is a delight, but the risk of detection is a discomfort.

Getting out of the house is always an adventure. I wasn't in the mood for donning wig and heels in the car, and opted for the mad-dash down the driveway to the barn. Inside the barn there is safety. As I fumbled with my keys, for about the zillionth time, I cursed the secret lifestyle of a transvestite.

Speeding up the street, I found myself rising back up in my seat. As a man, I drive my Porsche through the center of town with a certain amount of smug pride. My car is a

curse, though, when I'm dressed. I stick to dimly lit back streets, charting a course that avoids street lights and stop lights.

On the previous night I had gone to my girlfriend Lynne's home in Philly to show her a new outfit. Cruising down Castor Avenue at night is like driving in broad daylight. Fortunately, I'm far from home so there's little fear of detection. Consequently, my attitude is completely different. I zip down the windows and turn up the stereo. Give me a pair of sunglasses and I'm ready for "risky business."

Once I was out of my town and speeding up the road toward New Hope, I began to relax. I thought of Lynne, and knew she'd be angry when she learned what I'd done. See, I've only been dressing for a year. Unlike most transvestites I didn't discover Sharon alone; it was with Lynne and with her encouragement. She was with me at my first Renaissance meeting. Without her Sharon would never have existed. Going out without Lynne, therefore, seemed wrong.

*continued on page 8*

### Dog Daze...can it get worse than this? Paula Jordan Sinclair

As confident, proud cross-dressers, we know that we shouldn't worry about being spotted by people on the street when we are dressed in the clothes of the other gender. We've read those columns in the *Renaissance News* about being "read," and how we should act if some uncouth person points at us and says in a voice more appropriate at a sports arena than on a boulevard, "It's a man!" Yeah, we all know those things, but deep down inside we still want to pass, right?

We spend hours on our hair and make-up. We search through our closets for just the right outfit that doesn't make our shoulder look too

broad or our hips too flat. And when we finally step out of the house confident that *this* time we'd fool our own mothers, some jerk in a pick-up truck drives by and makes what can best be called an impolite remark. But as bad as that is, have you ever been read by a dog? I have, and let me tell you, it isn't the most complimentary way to start a day.

My neighbors keep a large Labrador in their back yard. Our yards are open and so the dog can see all the comings and goings over at my place. But instead of just watching, this beast feels the need to comment on every movement. We're not talking a yip or a yap. This is serious

barking. The Hound of the Baskervilles should have barked as loudly. His barking is reassuring if someone were climbing over the fence, but it gets annoying every time I walk out my back door. Fortunately, the dog eventually learns that the guy who comes out of my door isn't going to do him any harm. But the dog has a short memory, and if I have been out of sight for a while, the dog starts barking as soon as I set foot outside. After a few gentle reminders (like shouts to "shut up!" and dirt clods hurled in his direction) beast allows me to enjoy my garden in peace.

*continued on page 8*



## Discoveries: The Facts About Transgender Behavior — Part 4

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### Transgender Issues

People who exhibit transgender behavior must deal with a number of personal and social issues. These issues can cause emotional problems, even physical problems until they are dealt with in an open and honest way.

### Personal Issues

At the personal level, transgendered people often have very low self-esteem, especially in early childhood. These feelings come from an "inner" knowledge that their gender role/identity does not fit their sex. They often experience guilt about their feelings and almost always feel extreme loneliness. The loneliness comes from not being able to share their feelings with other people. They "know" they will be rejected by friends and family because they are "different". Add the

additional stigma of erotic arousal, as in the case of most transvestites, and they begin to believe they are "sick". They carry this burden of guilt silently. In some cases, the burden is so great that they turn to substance abuse (alcohol or drugs) as a means of relief from their guilt and "sickness". In reality, transgendered people are not "sick", just different. Unfortunately, simply being different, even in today's society, can still be a significant source of inner conflict.

It all boils down to fear of rejection and loss of love on discovery of transgender feelings. Everyone needs to be loved by someone. It tells us that we are worthy human beings. No love means no worth. Worthless is equal to being "bad". Bad people deserved to be punished. If no one is punishing us, we feel guilty, which is a form of self-pun-

ishment. Yet, we are driven by our feelings and often reject love when it is offered because we feel unworthy. The trick is to break the chain.

Transgendered people must realize that there is an inherent goodness in each of us and that sex, sex role, sexual preference, or gender role/identity have nothing to do with whether we are a moral, ethical or just person. (The recent preacher-sex scandals should give you a hint about apparent behavior and moral/ethical standards.) We must learn self-love first, so that we can share ourselves with others and accept love in return. The things we fear the most are often only those barriers which we create in our minds ourselves.

There will be rejections to be sure, as there will always be people who

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### The Psychological Resource Center

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## Paula Jordan Sinclair... **The NewsQueen**

The printer's ink in the NewsQueen's veins flows a little faster when presented with the opportunity to report *real* news as opposed to the fluff and sensationalized curiosities that represent the transgendered community in the national press. Our thanks to René Fenner for sending in this item...

♣ ♣ ♣

Perhaps the nation's first avowed transgendered political candidate lost a bid for the Houston City Council last month. Charles "Kathryn" McGuire, a transvestite who reportedly lives full-time as a woman, came in second in a three-way race to represent the city's District C which includes the heavily gay Montrose area.

While incumbent Vince Ryan won the endorsement of the gay *Montrose Voice*, the paper applauded McGuire's courage in campaigning as a transvestite. Her gender role played only a small part in the campaign. McGuire said the attention she did receive as a transvestite was positive because it was free publicity.

"I had a lot of people stop me and say they admire me and are going to vote for me because I had the courage to run," McGuire said before the election. "They think we need a good man."

By the way, her primary campaign issue was the redevelopment of a housing area in her district.

♣ ♣ ♣

Another major story recently concerned a transsexual's change of heart more than a decade after having the operation.

A Missouri town was surprised when one of its two pediatricians announced that she was a man until her 1978 sex change, and that she was eventually going under the knife to become a man again.

"I was born a male, and I was raised male and I feel that's the way I'll be most contented," said Dr. Janis

Ashley, 38. "I want a mate and a family. If I don't change, I'm faced with life without the potential of having a mate."

People in the town of Sedalia have rallied around Ashley, although there have been some reports of crude jokes made behind her back. Neither the parents of her young patients nor authorities at the hospital where she practices said the sex change-back would affect her professional standing.

She tells her 4-year-old adopted son Michael "that I am his mommy and I will always be his mommy, but I'm also his daddy." She added that she has consulted a child psychologist on how best to deal with confusion expressed by Michael or her child patients.

Ashley said she has begun taking male hormones and will eventually have reconstructive surgery. She provided no details about the surgery that changed her sex to female when she was 25.

♣ ♣ ♣

And now, back to the fluff. According to the new, unauthorized biography of Diana Ross, the former lead singer of the Supremes isn't the only person who wants to be called "Miss Ross." Author J. Randy Taraborrelli reports that the mutual admiration felt between Ross and Michael Jackson took a strange turn when Ross caught him in her dressing room putting on her makeup and, as Taraborrelli writes, "transforming himself into the very image of Miss Ross." The book also quotes a chauffeur as saying Jackson once instructed him to "please call me Miss Ross."

♣ ♣ ♣

However, according to the latest Hollywood gossip, another major star isn't at all concerned when a certain man in her life paints his face and slips into high heels and a beautiful gown. You see, he does that for a living. After months of

keeping it a secret, female impersonator Jim Bailey has admitted that he and Angie Dickinson have had a year-long relationship.

"I guess this is no secret now," he said. "I love Angie very much. She's a sweet lady." But Bailey has no plans to ask the stunning blonde to marry him. He also has no plans to add an Angie Dickinson impersonation to his act. "I'd never do an impersonation of her—she'd kill me. But we did talk about it jokingly one night."

♣ ♣ ♣

Back when Bailey was a little boy (and perhaps learning how to walk in his mother's high heels), Milton Berle was entertaining television audiences with his unique brand of female impersonation. Last month, Berle's drag was again in the spotlight at the opening of the Frederick's of Hollywood lingerie museum and debut of the flagship store following its \$300,000 facelift. "Mr. TV" (that's TV as in television) emceed the event and donated one of his drag outfits—complete with undergarments—to the Frederick's collection.

♣ ♣ ♣

Jim Bailey would probably be the first to admit that his profession is not all glamour and fun, despite earning a reported \$500,000 a year to dress like Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand, Peggy Lee and other *fabulous* stars. It is, after all work; and the gowns, wigs and jewelry are really work clothes. That's the way Tina Turner feels.

While out promoting her newest album, Turner was asked about her sex siren image. It's silly, she says. And what's even sillier is that the practical work clothes she wears on stage are though to be sexy too. She wears high heels because the make her feet feel good. Leather skirts because they don't snag and don't

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## Discoveries...from page 4

would rather be ignorant than to have their own values challenged and possibly overturned by enlightenment. Rejection may come from anywhere—family, friends, and/or spouse—and these must be dealt with on a case by case basis. To our great surprise and relief, many transgendered people do not find the rejection we assume will occur on revelation.

### Family Issues

#### Spouse

Most transvestites, and many transsexuals, in an effort to fit into society's predetermined gender role will marry and some even start families. For transvestites, we hope that marriage and a "normal" sexual relationship will help us to stop crossdressing. For transsexuals, marriage may be an attempt to "fit in". In both cases, the transgender feelings of the individual are not shared with the spouse before or immediately after the wedding.

It is very rare for a spouse not to discover the transgender nature of their mate at some time. Sooner or later they are either told by us or they find out by accident. Almost always, the initial reaction is negative, if for no other reason than something of great importance to the relationship has been hidden. The next typical reaction is to assume that we are homosexual, followed by fears of sexually transmitted disease. (It is stereotypical how a gender issue becomes one of sexual preference and then one of morals and ethics.) If homosexuality is not an issue, the next step for the spouse is to seek professional help to have us "cured" or "fixed". Unfortunately, too many counselors and therapists have only book knowledge of transgender issues and probably very old knowledge at that. In general, transgendered people cannot be "cured", although there are some individuals who will benefit from therapy. Most, if not all, TVs and TSs, do not want to be

"cured"; they just want to stop feeling guilty. With a lack of positive results from therapy, a spouse becomes frustrated and angered.

The way to deal with your spouse is by honest and open communication. It is only right that a transgendered person inform a prospective spouse before the marriage. But as such is usually not the case, once the issue is out in the open, only honest, straight talk will resolve problems. It is only the most exceptional spouse who can fully accept a transgender partner with no problems. Most every other spouse will fall somewhere from tolerance to total rejection. The ability of a spouse to tolerate transgender behavior has a lot to do with their own self-esteem. (See, there it is again.) The problem is similar to the one of the transgendered person themselves. The spouse who derives their self-worth from their mate will have the worst time with a relationship that does not fit the accepted social definitions of husband and wife.

For transvestites there is hope that the marriage and relationship may continue. The issue of crossdressing must be addressed head on and compromises must be made on both sides. If the marriage is strong in all other areas, it will most likely survive the discovery of transvestism. The spouse must realize that the need to crossdress will not go away and so it must be accommodated in a way that does not interfere with the rest of the relationship. The transvestite must understand that the spouse has rights and feelings, too, and the accommodations must go both directions to be successful. For example, the ground rule may be no dressing at home when children are up and about. The agreement must be a "win-win" deal for both parties.

For transsexuals there is little hope that the marriage can continue as before. There are legal problems and, eventually, physical barriers. It has been known for two

partners to remain together after the reassignment of one, but it is rare that such a relationship is permanent. The best hope is to get the issues out so that an amicable separation can be arranged. It serves the interest of neither party to prolong the agony any longer than absolutely necessary.

### Parents

Parents of transgendered people need special care and feeding. Most of our parents were raised with very traditional values (i.e. rigid), particularly when it comes to gender roles. They can be terribly shocked and dismayed with their child who now displays transgender behavior. Part of their feelings are due to the constantly changing values of our society, which may leave them longing for the "good old days." If your parents feel this way about the world around them, they might just be better off not knowing if their child is transgendered. You have to make a trade between the potential anguish you may cause them and your own feelings of guilt for not being open and honest with them.

Transvestites definitely have this option of not making disclosure to their parents. A transsexual, on the other hand, really has a difficult decision to make and it is probably best to tell them as soon as possible.

The initial reaction from a parent is usually, "Where did I go wrong?" They must be told that it is not their "fault", that likely nothing they did or did not do was the direct cause. Next will come the questions about sexual preference, again. The most important thing to impress upon parents is that you, their child, are still the same person they raised, with the same moral and ethical values they tried so hard to teach, but now they know something special and different about you that they never knew before. And, they have a chance to show that parental love transcends gender roles.

[ To Be Continued ]

## **Lonesome...from page 2**

I couldn't believe all the cars in the Cartwheel parking lot. I'd heard the 'Wheel was busy on weekends, but I wasn't prepared for this. It was easier to find a parking spot at the "Dead" concert at JFK.

So I tried the Raven. I'd never been inside Raven Hall, but I'd heard that we were accepted there. I parked and sat for a couple minutes fussing over my makeup. Finally, with a deep breath, I got out of the car and walked toward the bar.

My heart started beating rapidly. I found myself looking for "sisters." No one. Four men stood talking by an entrance. There was a second door by a payphone. I headed away from the group and stood outside the door for several minutes. Peeking through the window I

could see it was packed inside. Again, no femme faces anywhere.

Trembling, I opened the door and entered. The crowd was shoulder to shoulder. The only clear space was right where I stood at the door. Three guys turned their heads in unison. I was certainly getting attention, but positive or negative, I hadn't the slightest idea.

I began to lose my nerve. An older man was gawking at me. My confidence ebbed. The place seemed like a truck stop without waitresses. I felt like the only woman in a three mile radius, completely out of place.

I fled and headed toward my car. Behind me I could hear two men jabbering. As they drew close, I overheard one of them say, "My goodness, broad shoulders." I knew the

remark was directed at me and I cringed hearing their laughter.

I sat in my car and thought if I were a true woman I'd cry. The last time I cried was four years ago when I first saw my newborn son. Those were tears of happiness. Now I felt incredibly alone. I drove home pondering what I'd learned. When dressed, we're more vulnerable. To put yourself in a precarious situation, alone, is a big mistake.

My feelings of fear and rejection that Saturday night did not leave a scar, but it did make me realize that when my next free Saturday night comes along, it'll be spent either with Lynne or a "sister" at my side.

Are you lonely tonight? You're a Renaissance member, so call a friend. You don't have to go it alone.

## **Dog Daze...from page 2**

One recent weekend, and after a long absence from my garden, I had one of those retraining sessions. After reestablishing my identity to this canine skeptic, I spent a peaceful morning doing some necessary yard work. In the afternoon, I got dressed up, complete with long red wig, full makeup, a dress and heels. In short, a costume as different from my gardening clothes as night is from day. This, I thought, would be

the perfect way to enjoy the fading afternoon light in my garden.

As I opened the back door, I immediately remembered the vigilant yet forgetful dog, and planned my feminine response to his unwelcome attentions. For example, how would I throw those dirt clods as a girl? But instead of raising a ruckus that could be heard three blocks away, the beast simply looked at me with an expression that seemed to

say "Oh, its you again."

While I would prefer to believe that this response showed the dog to be the tolerant sort who recognizes the validity of transgendered behavior and who is committed to the rights of the individual, deep down inside I know that the creature simply read me for what I was—"that guy over there wearing a dress."

## **So, you want to be a leader; are you well equipped?**

It takes hard work and dedication to build and run an effective organization like Renaissance. But it also takes management skills and the ability to make tough decisions. Here are some recommendations from a well-known management consultant. Do you measure up?

- **Build Trust.** You must have complete trust in your team members. If you find you can no longer trust someone, you need to make the tough decision to remove that person or the morale of the rest of the team is at stake.

- **Don't solve** every problem yourself. Facilitate the problem solving process but let your team

gain self-esteem by arriving at solutions themselves.

- **Set standards.** Don't condone incompetence or laziness. Weak links impair an organization. Replace those people who do not make effective contributions.

- **Provide vision.** Be an agent for change. If you are not good at long range planning, add people to your team that can. Look for the innovators.

- **Be visible** and available. Get to know the people in your organization. Talk with them and get feedback. Give praise where due. Don't just be visible, be approachably visible.

- **Maintain** a sense of humor. Take everything and everyone seriously except yourself.

- **If you** make a commitment, keep it. Never renege on a promise.

- **Be a good** communicator. You must be able to teach your team the skills you have and share your insights and experiences with them.

- **Set high** personal standards of integrity. Never compromise your principles. Of all the qualities a leader must have, integrity is the most important.

Source: *Taking Charge: Making The Right Choices*, by Perry M. Smith, Avery Publishing Group Inc., 350 Thorens Ave., Garden City, NY.

## NewsQueen...from page 5

show sweat. Fishnet stockings don't run easily and they are almost like support hose. In short, Turner says, her attire is sensible, not sexy.

Sure, Tina. We feel exactly the same way about our cashmere sweater sets and Chanel suits.

♣ ♣ ♣

Women's clothes are so practical we suspect that David Keith Fesko, 42, was simply adding to his working wardrobe when he used to sneak into neighbors yards and steal lingerie from their clotheslines.

We say "used to" because the Tempe, Ariz., resident last month pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary for entering a neighboring yard to snatch women's underwear. He is suspected of having committed similar crimes for the past 10 years.

♣ ♣ ♣

It was recently revealed that one of Spain's most popular matadors, Salvador Sanchez, had a different sort of secret regarding transgender work clothes. Moments after he was fatally gored by a bull in the Pamplona bullring, doctors cutting away his bloody "suit of lights" discovered that Sanchez was really a woman.

News reports quoted a life-long friend of the matador as saying that as a little girl, Olivia Andrade dreamed of being a bullfighter. But because the profession is closed to women, Olivia became Salvador at age 15 following the deaths of her parents.

Nine years ago Sanchez married, and he and his wife later adopted two daughters. His wife was quoted as saying that throughout their marriage the couple slept in separate rooms and "never had sex because Salvador said he needed his

strength for the bullring."

♣ ♣ ♣

There were still more surprises in Europe. This year's competition for Miss Italy turned chaotic when it was discovered that Miss Naples, Lisa Visonti, was actually a man named Vincenzo. Journalists later discovered that the stunt had been staged by the Milan-based gay magazine *Babilonia*..

♣ ♣ ♣

Now its time for an exercise in hypothetical logic. Suppose Salvador and Vincenzo were in Cleveland, Ohio, on a Saturday night and wanted a drink at the U4ia nightclub. Would they be admitted? Well, under the club's dress code, Vincenzo could get in, but Salvador would be turned away. The club requires that women wear dresses or skirts, but also admits men wearing dresses or skirts.

According to manager Rob Farinacci, women in pants are bad for the club, but he refused to say why. Former patron Bynna Fish (yes, that's her real name) says that the club, which is not a gay bar but has a mixed clientele, actually discriminates against lesbians. "This is unacceptable," she said. "They will allow men in drag to enter, but not women in drag."

Sources in the Cleveland gay and lesbian community claim that the bar encourages gay males and crossdressed men so that the club's "tourist trade" has something to gawk at.

♣ ♣ ♣

Women in pants, Italian beauty queens and matadors aren't the only people who aren't all they seem to be. Take Episcopalians, for instance. Janice [REDACTED] shared this item

from a church publication with us.

A letter-writer to the publication's "Dr. Church" advice column quotes a *Newsweek* item that said "you won't find stiletto heels on an Episcopal woman." The writer, without disclosing his or her gender, says, "I sometimes get a hankering to swish about in a pair of stilettos. Would that compromise my Epsicostatus?"

"Yours is a delicate question," Dr. Church replied, tongue firmly planted in cheek. "As a rule, shoes are a good guide to religious affiliation... Presbyterians favor stiff, stout brogues... Quakers and Unitarians are into Birkenstocks... For Southern Baptists it's cowboy boots." But high heels are "hard to identify with any reputable Christian group."

"Keep your hankering in check," Dr. Church warns. "You may find yourself sliding... and end up as a TV evangelist's groupie"

We assume Dr. Church meant "TV" as in television. But then, there are those "high church" Episcopalians...

♣ ♣ ♣

And finally, here is a factoid that may be useful in a yet-to-be-published transgendered version of Trivial Pursuits: Approximately 60 sex change operations are performed each year in the Soviet Union. Operations are permitted after lengthy psychiatric evaluation. Soviet doctors reportedly consider transsexuals "psychologically healthy."

*Miffed that she was not asked to make a donation to Frederick's lingerie museum, Miss Sinclair has dropped The Los Angeles Times from the list of newspapers she reads daily. If you see an item of transgendered interest, even in the Times, kindly clip it and send it to her in care of the Renaissance News. Kindly note the name of the publication and date.*

## Veterans...from page 1

combat duty of some of my sisters, I am proud of my time in the Navy," Sinclair said. "I hope that next year we can collect the amount of information that will enable Renaissance to show that transgendered people

are a dedicated and are as patriotic as other Americans. This will help to break down some of the stereotypes that bind us."

Sinclair said she will hold on to the information she has received,

and will add to it military service data from others as it comes in. All information will be kept strictly confidential. She can be contacted through the *Renaissance News*.



# National Gender News™

from around the TV/TS community

TORONTO, CAN. — We received a delightful notice last month. **Rupert Raj** "tied the knot" with Michelle on September 16, 1989 and celebrated by spending their honeymoon in Cleveland while attending the Eleventh International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria. Now that's what we call an exciting honeymoon.

Actually, it's not so surprising if you know that Raj-Gautier is a post-op female to male transsexual who is also a gender counselor with 18 years of experience in the field. Michelle will be joining Rupert in his counseling practice, formerly known as Gender Worker and now to be known as Gender Consultants.

Gender Consultants provides information, referrals, counseling, workshops, seminars, peer-networking, Significant Other mediation and community liaison services.

Anyone interested in their services should contact them at P. O. Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W-1G7. And while you're at it, send congratulations and best wishes.

Raj-Gautier suggested that we change the title of the department to International Gender News since

we're collecting information from all over the world. We seriously considered it but IGN isn't a symmetrical acronym.

## NGN

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. — A "Triple Whammy" goes to *Serenity* this month. While paging through our Florida sisters' newsletter, we stumbled across a familiar cartoon which originally appeared in *Playboy*. Renaissance paid the artist a royalty fee to reprint the cartoon in our November '88 newsletter with a "special permission" notice.

It appears as though the *Serenity* editor had no qualms about copying the cartoon without paying the royalty, but, worse, she rearranged the artwork after copying it from our newsletter.

We read a lot in our community newsletters about protecting our right to dress as we please and deserving respect as people. How can we expect such treatment when many of our people don't respect the rights of others?

## NGN

LONG ISLAND, N.Y. — Speaking of copying in newsletters. We've often mentioned *Lifeline*, the newsletter

of the Long Island Femme Expression, as being one which extensively employs the "Cut 'n Paste" method of newsletter production.

The October issue arrived at the office and while scanning through it we noted the following special message, "From our CUT & PASTE Department: Apologies to Renaissance but we couldn't resist the temptation to throw in a few original articles, hope ya'll don't mind."

## NGN

PHILADELPHIA — We are very, very pleased and proud of our sisters in the 3R recovery group here.

They started a year ago with an idea to help sisters who have a substance abuse problem in addition to their gender issues. That idea has now grown into a newsletter called *Recoveryline*.

The first issue of the newsletter, published this past October, went out to folks in five states; Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Texas and Alaska. It is the hope of the publishers to extend distribution to all 50 states.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy should write to: *Recoveryline*, Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19004. *continued next page*



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# National Gender News™

from around the TV/TS community

lem, PA 19020. There is no charge for the newsletter.

NGN

WOODLAND HILLS, CALIF. — Those brash, bold Valley Girls are up to their funny tricks again. After pulling out of Tri-Ess, we wondered just what they could do to top that. We were not disappointed.

In the October issue of *Cross-Talk*, **Anne Blackwood** proposes a political action committee (PAC) to represent transvestites. She's dubbed the committee **TAG**, for Transvestites Action Group. Blackwood says that the PAC would go about "... educating the rest of the world, exposing them to the common experiences that TVs share."

We thought that was what we were already doing with Renaissance. But, seriously, we are glad to see others giving studied thought to how we can make the world a little better for all of us. We're not sure that TAG will be the answer but we'll wait to see how Blackwood develops the concept further.

NGN

WALTHAM, MASS. — The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) has been threatened with a lawsuit by an anonymous and angry letter writer.

It seems the unknown author has taken offense with two listings in the *TV/TS Tapestry*, charging that the members of one of the listings are "gay and bi-sexual", while both listings are charged with giving "TV/TS a bad name."

Tapestry editor and IFGE Executive Director, **Merrissa Sherrill Lynn**, stated, "... under absolutely no circumstances will IFGE refuse a listing to an organization because it welcomes people who are gay or bi-sexual. In fact, the suggestion we do so is offensive."

Bravo and well said.

NGN

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — We guess it had to happen eventually. With

all this coming out and public socializing, one can easily forget the appointments one makes. Well that excuse goes by the wayside now.

Available in limited quantities is the first **Crossdresser's Calendar and Date Book**. (Oh-oh! That anonymous writer better not get wind of a *date* book.) Our sisters at I. M. E. in western Michigan are selling these little beauties for only \$3.50 each. The book has major TV/TS events listed on the page for each month.

Send a check or money order to I. M. E. of Western Michigan, P. O. Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

NGN

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — We'll still have them to kick around...

Last month we reported that one of our favorite publications, *Twenty Minutes*, might go out of print. Not to worry! **Becky**, former copy editor, will don the editor's cap left behind by **Veronica Brown**. Brown will continue to pen editorials in her inimitable style from the Great White North.

NGN

SEATTLE — Emerald City racks up another victory for TV/TS rights.

The credit for this achievement goes to **Sarah Jean Querry** a friend and former member of Emerald City. Querry was the subject of harassment and discrimination when she went full time on her job as a bus mechanic with METRO, a regional municipal transportation corporation. Through Querry's efforts, METRO passed Resolution 5388 which prohibits discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation and specifically protects the rights of transvestites and transsexuals.

Querry also recently won a seat on the union and officially represented METRO at the Women In Trades Convention this summer.

Our congratulations go out to Sarah for not backing down and to

Emerald City for setting the example of what can be accomplished.

NGN

ISLE OF WIGHT, U.K. — We have further word on the Christian White Fund from **Phaedra Kelly**.

Young Christian, you may recall, is in dire need of a kidney transplant. Ms. Kelly almost put herself in dire need of an ankle transplant performing a charity parachute jump while transformed. A hard landing in those high heels will do that, you know.

In any case, Ms. Kelly tells us that she is gathering signed celebrity autographs for an auction scheduled to be held in February 1990. The auctioneers have agreed to a commission of only five percent.

An appeal in *Stage* brought 50 assorted signed autographs from the Actors Benevolent Fund. Adding that to Ms. Kelly's own personal collection brings the total to 83. But, as she states she is not an expert in this area, she is going for quantity rather than quality. (Here comes the pitch.)

If anyone would like to contribute autographed photos of famous or infamous Americans to the auction, please send them to the Renaissance main office and we will forward them to Phaedra.

NGN

WITS, SOUTH AFRICA — A while back we commented on transvestites and trains. **Thelma**, one of our correspondents from south of the equator informs us that steam locomotives still run in South Africa and that many historic locomotives have been maintained in operating condition for fan trips.

Thelma says that on these trips many people dress in Victorian or Edwardian costume. She mused that since they don't celebrate Hallowe'en in South Africa wouldn't one of these trips be a splendid opportunity to dress up in pre-WW I costumes.

Watch out for the cinders, dear.

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