

CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

#70
\$7.00



SOLVING PROBLEMS BY NEGATIVE CONCENTRATION
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TRANSGENDERED AND PROFESSIONALS
A PSYCHOLOGICAL, REVERSABLE SEX CHANGE
THE EBB AND FLOW OF TRANSSEXUAL THERAPY
TRANSGENDERISM IN PRE-CHRISTIAN TIMES
WHAT WOMEN GET FROM NETWORKING
MOVIE REVIEW: WIGSTOCK
NEWS ... INFORMATION ... COMMENTARY ... HUMOR



FROM SANDY THOMAS

I'm still recovering from the birth of my baby in December. Hope to get back on schedule now with new books every month.

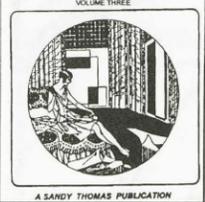
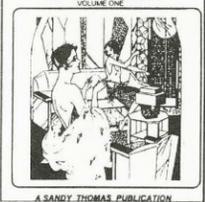
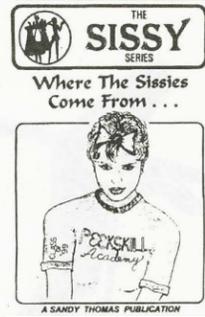
CONTEMPORARY TV FICTION # 21 is "RED TOES!" Two couples make a bet. Which wife can feminize her husband to look the most like a woman. Great!

A few years ago, I published a 600 page book called the APARTMENT. Thought by some to be the best TV book ever written. THE APARTMENT OF FEMININITY is four, jam-packed issues that take you through the main characters lives as they move in with a landlady that makes them dress up for dinner and more!

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Also you'll find two new non-fiction books. I have bought the rights to two books that changed my life. One, THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIFE. 140 pages of support in telling a loved one about the desire to cross-dress. Two, HOW TO BE A WOMAN, THOUGH MALE. Written by Virginia Prince who has lived as a woman for over twenty years. An "everything you need to know" guide about living as a woman. Legal, social, fashion, job change, everything! 190 pages.

Thank You for your direct support.
SANDY

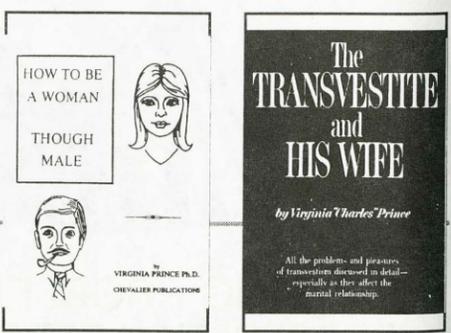


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CROSS-TALK

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

FINDING THE POSITIVE AMIDST THE NEGATIVE

by Kimberleigh Richards
Publisher & Managing Editor

After my editorial in *Cross-Talk* #68 about the problems IFGE is facing, which included what I intended as constructive suggestions to improve their financial health, I received letters from many of our community's leaders. You won't see their remarks in "Vox Populi" because (1) we tend not to publish letters agreeing with my editorials

"The only way to solve problems is to bring them to light, offer solutions, and hope others will take the impetus and help solve them."

-- I prefer opposing or differing viewpoints -- and (2) these were **personal** communications and therefore not for publication. I have even heard from several members of the IFGE board, and all the feedback has been positive, except for three responses chastising me for attacking the organization and making a major point of noting my lack of acknowledgement of the many achievements of IFGE. The common theme of those three responses was that I was making the problem worse by focusing on the negative aspects of the problem. To which I say: The only way to solve problems is to bring them to light, offer solutions, and hope others will take the impetus and help solve them. To try to solve problems of the magnitude IFGE is experiencing by focusing on the positive makes it appear that there are really no problems at all, and thus the immediate need for action is not conveyed. In my opinion, IFGE needs to focus on its problems and address them, rather than continuing to operate in a "cheerleader" mode about its achievements in the hope that people will then support the organization on that basis. The fact is **that cheerleading is not working** and it never will again unless the organization is strong enough to weather criticism from people like me.

I have a reputation for writing extremely "negative" editorials, which is to say that I tend to adhere to the philosophy of concentrating on the negative to an extreme at times. How strongly I speak out is based on how serious I perceive the problem at hand. If I didn't make it clear in my original editorial: Many of the problems that plagued IFGE in the past have either been corrected or are being

addressed as part of their reorganization.

It's human nature to be in denial about your problems for as long as you can. So I doubt that the naysayers believe my statement that the past actions of various people connected with the organization has eroded the support of what should be its primary constituency. The major problem is that even as change happens, it has not happened quickly enough to placate the constituency that has been alienated by those past actions. I'm **certain** my detractors believe my motives are to bring IFGE down even further by taking cheap shots. Believe me, with the kind of money involved there, these shots

aren't cheap!

This reminds me of the situation that ultimately led to my editorial on constructive criticism back in issue #54. IFGE was under attack then as well, for sending fund-raising letters that one prominent leader interpreted in print as proving that "someone" was "misappropriating funds". Dina Amberle at Renaissance took that leader to task for taking potshots without offering suggestions to improve the situation, and I pointed out that there is a very fine line between the two.

Well, I crossed over that line when I offered my suggestions for addressing the perceived problems in #68. And failure to accept constructive criticism while accusing the offerer of taking cheap shots is hypocrisy of the highest order, in my opinion.

Sadly, the jury is still out on IFGE. There **are** many things of a positive nature going on there. Some of them even parallel my own observations and suggestions. But while their new membership drive is yielding results, the numbers are not increasing quickly enough to be the primary solution to the problems. The money still goes out as quickly as it comes in ... a situation I am all too familiar with, although the order of magnitude is much higher there than here.

I do hold out hope for their survival, though. Alison Laing is now beginning her official term as executive director, and she is well-known in our community for being a no-nonsense achiever. Perhaps with her in charge, there will soon be concrete evidence that the mismanagement of

(continued on page 6)



The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

After several months of invisibility (at least in **this** column), RuPaul has burst back on the scene with another new side to her persona and establishing her even more firmly in the mainstream.

"I think the reason I've been accepted by the mainstream is that my character, the woman I become, is so Walt Disney," RuPaul says. "It's not really threatening. I'm like a cartoon."

The Disney connection is not just a figure of speech; Hyperion, a Walt Disney company, has recently published RuPaul's autobiography, *Lettin' It All Hang Out*. In addition to chronicling his rise to stardom, the book presents an impressive assortment of beauty tips -- from how to wear a wig to how to look great in photos.

The book is just the latest career move RuPaul has made. After being the first drag queen to top the Billboard list, she became the only drag queen in recent memory to have a co-starring role in a major family movie. In *The Brady Bunch Movie*, she played, of all things, Jan's gorgeous guidance counselor. More recent film credits include *Wigstock*, a newly released documentary about the annual drag-queen festival in New York's Greenwich Village, *A Mother's Prayer*, which will air Aug. 2 on the USA network, and the long-awaited *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*. Then there was the Las Vegas revue complete with backup dancers and Bob Mackie costumes, the possibility of a nationwide tour, and finally two new albums, *Snatched for the Gods* and *Covergirl*. With so much exposure, one might expect RuPaul to be on an ego trip. Instead, he sounds quite down-to-earth about his success as a drag queen.

"I think people recognize that there's a sweet person behind all the paint and powder," he says, smiling. "We all play roles. You're born naked and the rest is drag. We all dress up, whether we're a nurse or doctor or an executive, but underneath we're all the same. We have a heart and soul.

Though RuPaul is looking forward to *Wong Foo's* release, he is equally excited about a smaller film, *Red-Ribbon Blues*, in which he makes his first non-drag big-screen appearance. Lypsinka (also out of drag) is in the cast as well. The movie, which will probably be released early next year, is about three members of an HIV support group who rob a pharmaceutical company.

"*Red-Ribbon Blues* is a comedy, but there are some terrifically touching moments," RuPaul says. "It was a

challenge for me. But it was great to know that I could step out of drag and reach that place, because I've always been called upon to be very flamboyant." Does that mean he may eventually hang up his wig and heels to become a serious actor? Not a chance.

"I don't think I'll ever give up drag as long as people enjoy it," he says.

"My whole being comes into focus when I'm in drag."



If RuPaul has been making drag more mainstream, she also has had a hand in making drag queens (oops, **female impersonators**) more mainstream. How else can you explain Jimmy James' recent New York gig, a one-man show (and we do mean **man**) called *Voices*. James ditched the Marilyn, Barbra, and Judy drag and focused on his ability to mimic the most diverse group of female entertainers, ranging from Karen Carpenter to Janis Joplin.



And, of course, the trend works the other way. Female heartthrob David Hasselhoff recently got dolled up to play a female impersonator in his show *Baywatch Nights*. Frank Marino, whose portrayal of Joan Rivers has been packing them in at Vegas, guest starred in the drag episode.



Of course, we shouldn't forget singer Jayne County, the first transsexual rock 'n' roller. Her new autobiography, appropriately entitled *Man Enough to Be a Woman*, is just out.

In it, she chronicles her upbringing in Georgia by a strict Christian family, her life as Wayne County with the likes of Andy Warhol and the New York Dolls, and more modern adventures.

The publication of the book coincides with the release of a new album, *Deviations*, which includes the song *Transgender Rock & Roll*.



An even older drag icon gets trashed in RuPaul's autobiography. To wit: "He was putting his hands all over me -- honking my foam rubber breasts, grabbing my crotch, putting his hands all over my bottom -- and I was pushing him off, thinking, 'What is this? If I had been Cindy Crawford, there would be lawsuits flying all over the place within five minutes and the show would **not** have gone on.'" So who was the backstage masher? None other than Milton Berle, just before he and RuPaul made their now-famous appearance on the MTV Music Video Awards show.



It is unlikely that Berle would have put those moves on Cindy Crawford if he had run into her as she sometimes appears so to avoid unwanted attention from fans.

While away from the set during the shooting her latest movie, *Fair Game*, she took to dressing like a man, complete with false moustache.



By doing male drag, Crawford is bucking a trend. According to a survey conducted by the *National Enquirer*, only 22 percent of women said they wanted to be men in a following life. **However**, nearly twice as many men -- 42 percent -- said they would want to come back as women. Surprisingly, of the ten cities surveyed, the highest rate of reincarnated transgenderists was in Dallas.

Generally, men wanted to be women so other men would spend money on them; women wanted to be men to increase their earning power (and spend all that money on women?).



San Francisco transsexual Roberta Dunne has first-hand experience about the comparative earning power of men and women. Before she told her employer she was transsexual and was beginning transition, she had a steady job as a highly-rated sheet metal foreman for a heating and air conditioning company.

But after the disclosure and before her 1994 surgery, she was laid off, allegedly because of poor job performance. "There wasn't that much physical difference," she said. But there was the perception that "somehow as a female my abilities had diminished."

Because the job discrimination occurred before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a law that protects transgendered residents from discrimination in the areas of housing, public accommodation, employment, and social services earlier this year, the city's Department of Industrial Relations ruled that Dunne has no basis for a claim. But if she had claimed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, then both state law and city ordinance would apply.

So that is what Dunne is alleging. In her appeal she claims that many contemporary medical experts -- including several at the prestigious Johns Hopkins Medical Institute -- believe that transsexualism is "simply a medical response to profound homosexuality." Her appeal also states that "a clear definition of the term refuting their evaluated and empirically studied reports must be established to exclude me from protection as a homosexual under Labor Code Section 1102.1."

She expects a response from the state in a month or two.



Despite the problems that some transsexuals face, it is amazing the lengths some people will go to in order to change their gender. Take the case of a man in Swansea, Wales, for example.

The unidentified middle-aged man couldn't afford sex reassignment surgery, so he tried a do-it-yourself

technique. He dipped his genitals in acid in hopes of dissolving them. He only succeeded in causing minor damage that doctors were able to repair.

But there was one consolation. He was admitted to Swansea Hospital under a woman's name.



Perhaps hospital officials got the man's name from his public transportation ID card. According to a London Transport spokeswoman, Britons undergoing a sex change can have two cards: one with their male name and one with their female name.

The system does not apply to transvestites.



It is doubtful that London hairdresser Jean-Paul McCracken worries that he can't get a tube ID card for his female identity. You see, he probably never travels by underground; it is so *declassé*. McCracken fancies himself the spitting image of Princess Di. He is so smitten with his resemblance to the princess that he plans on having a sex change so his dream can be a reality.

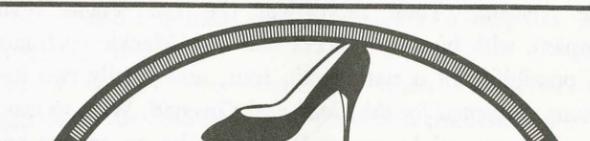
"Thanks to Di, I have a brand-new life," he said.



Let's hope that Jason Emley doesn't get as carried away with his resemblance to Marilyn Monroe.

As part of the festivities for the new MM stamp, the Franklin Mint held a Marilyn Monroe look-alike contest. Although judges gave Emley the "best costume" award, as Associated Press photo suggests that he really got the award for a combination of courage (his) and sympathy (the judges').





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No matter how certain Jean-Paul or Jason are that they have to live as women, they can't get a sex change in Brazil. Laws put on the books years ago with the support of the Roman Catholic church ban sex change operations, forcing transsexuals underground or out of the country. Those who have their sex changed overseas cannot have their names changed.

But all of that will change soon. Legislators in Brasilia recently gave preliminary approval to a bill that would legalize sexual reassignment surgery and allow transsexuals to legally adopt feminine names. The bill's sponsor said "yesterday's standards of moral rigidity must give way to today's reality."

Understandably, transsexuals are elated. "This would be the achievement of a dream, a great thing," said Tony Star, a petite brunette who performs at the Alaska Club in Rio de Janeiro. Since he was 14, Isaias Ponciano has been forced to live a double life. That was when he discovered that he was "macho but delicate." He lives as a woman and even married a man in an unofficial ceremony. But once a year when it is time to renew his federal identification card, he has to assume the role of a man.

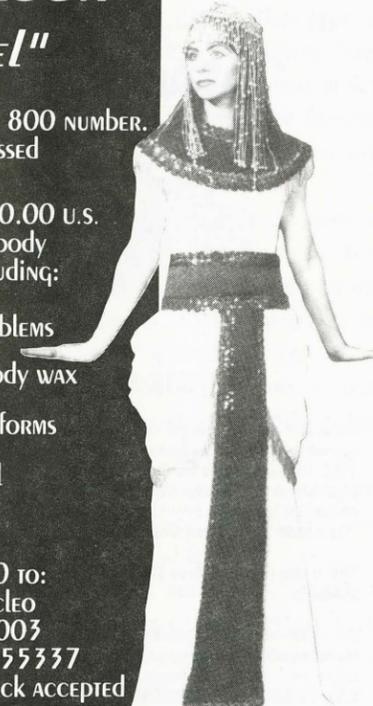
But not all transgendered Brazilians are thrilled about the new freedom.

"Being a woman is in the head, not the genitals," said Rogeria. "If you're a man or a woman down there makes no difference."

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Far from the bright lights of Rio and the government offices in Brasilia, there is another sign that Brazil is becoming more accepting of alternative lifestyles; a gay transvestite has been elected to the city council of Colonia do Piaui in the northeastern state of Piaui.

Katia Nogueira Tapeti, 42, who lives openly with her "husband," campaigned on foot and on bicycles to become, according to one news report, "the most popular politician in the state's history." She had made a name for herself by serving as a midwife and taking care of children at a local day-care center. Her platform was simple. "I want to do the best job I can for this city," she said. "I want to be respected for my work, not for my sexual orientation."



But all is not peaceful. An off-duty policeman shot and killed a transvestite activist. The officer claims that he acted in self defense after Gisele Gaga attacked him with a knife and her long nails. But witnesses say that Gaga was unarmed and that the policeman shot her after trying to obtain sexual favors without payment.



The problem with name changes being illegal for transsexuals has had a serious impact on Mariela Munoz, an Argentinean transsexual. Claiming that she had falsified official records by signing her name as Mariela

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instead of as Leonardo, authorities have removed the three young children she and her husband adopted.

Originally, Mariela and Jorge had adopted four children who are now grown and have families of their own. Although she loves her many grandchildren, Mariela missed little ones of her own, and so she and Jorge adopted three toddlers. Everything was fine until Mariela mentioned to one of the children's natural mothers that she used to be a man. The woman went to the police and the children were put in foster homes."



And now its time for a medical update.

Researchers reporting at the June meeting of the Endocrine Society said that the hormone most always associated with masculinity -- testosterone -- has gotten a bad rap when it comes to aggression, competition, and generally boorish behavior. Instead, they noted, it is probably a testosterone **deficiency** that led to the negative behaviors normally linked to the hormone.

The researchers from UCLA studies a group of 54 so-called hypogonadal men (men who have low testosterone levels). The men were studied before they were given extra doses of the hormone and afterwards. Surprisingly, prior to treatment, the men said they felt angry, edgy, irritable, and aggressive.

After testosterone replacement therapy, their moods improved dramatically and they reported being calmer, friendlier, and happier.

The commonly held belief that testosterone produces antisocial behavior "may be a misconception," one expert said of the research.

Other work presented at the meeting suggests that estrogen is a source of aggression in males. When male mice were genetically deprived of their ability to respond to the small amounts of estrogen occurring naturally in their bodies, the mice lost a lot of their natural aggressiveness and were much less likely to fight with other males. Remember, these are males whose bodies do not respond to estrogen. Other studies have lead some researchers to propose that the sudden increase in aggressive and insolent behavior in human teenagers of both sexes is caused by estrogen.

Are we feeling femmey yet?



Here's more bad news for estrogen lovers. Environmental lobby groups and scientists gathering at an international

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conference in Denmark in June said that many chemicals in common use around the globe mimic the female hormone estrogen, increasing feminine characteristics in males of many species -- including humans -- and damaging sperm counts. The chemicals are called organochlorines.

According to a report from the Danish Environment Ministry, "Male reproductive health has declined progressively since the Second World War."

Sperm counts have declined and instances of testicular cancer and abnormalities of male genitalia have also increased.



Mindful of busy summer days, Ms. Sinclair was pleased to provide an abbreviated column this month. **Besides, no one sent her any clippings, anyway!** Don't let this happen again. Send clippings regarding crossdressing to her in care of **Cross-Talk**. And kindly note the name and date of publication.

KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ... continued from page 2

the past has been relegated to the history books, and that those who have withheld their support for IFGE can once again find it a worthy cause.

I think I need to repeat the last line of my original editorial two issues ago: **If we can save IFGE, we should.** The potential for positive action benefitting our community is many times greater with their presence than without it. Keep watching.

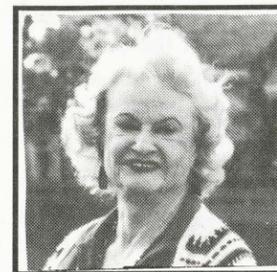


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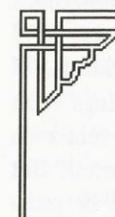


VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

A NON-SURGICAL, REVERSIBLE SEX CHANGE

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

There are all kinds of behaviors, both animal and human, that originate in the fact that an individual is either an egg maker (female) or a sperm producer (male). The reproductive instinct requires that one animal can tell another animal's sex. Animals determine this by sight, by smell and -- in some cases -- by behavior. Humans



"There is a lot of latitude as to the ways we choose to express gender, but in the last analysis they all represent femaleness."

simplified this by inventing clothes. Clothes are the principal manifestation of gender, which to others is a non-verbal, visual, well-understood statement about one's genital anatomy. There are only two items of clothing that serve specific anatomic purposes. These are jock straps for males and bras for females. (Although I have seen some males with such well developed "pecs" that they really ought to wear a bra.) Other than these two, every other type of clothing -- underwear, hosiery, outerwear, shoes, hats, sweaters, coats, sleepwear, etc. -- are made in two styles, cuts or materials with one being appropriate for females and termed "feminine" and one designed for males and termed "masculine".

At the bottom, gender itself is a sexual matter. It starts at birth when parents, siblings, nurses and doctors first impose general distinctions which the child has no choice but to accept. Later, peers, teachers, coaches, mates and the general public, perpetuate and elaborate on these general distinctions. As children and adolescents, society evaluates conformity (sissy and tomboy) and finally judges them as "a beautiful woman, wife and mother" or a "handsome man, husband and father". The descriptive adjectives reveal the sexual origin "feminine" and "masculine" clearly derive from male and female.

Once you consider gender this way, it puts crossdressing in a different light. It isn't just a matter of the clothes being softer, prettier, etc.; it becomes a kind of non-surgical **psychological** sex change. Think about it: When you see a "person" in a nice dress, heels, hairdo, etc., you immediately decide that she is female ... and you begin to evaluate her as males always do, because she is a female

and you are a male. Now imagine **you** wearing that outfit and "Mr. X" sees you and arrives at the same conclusion that you just did about the person you saw. That is, he sees **you** as a female. You might drop something and he picks it up for you, or he smiles and says "Good morning, Miss" or says, "excuse me Ma'am (or Miss or Lady), which way to

the nearest bank (or post office or whatever)?" You are pleased with his use of the words Miss, Ma'am or Lady. Why? Because he has assumed that you are female and that is what you wanted when you put the outfit on and walked out the door in the first place. He wasn't talking to your gender, he

was talking to your presumed sex.

After all, that is what "passing" is, isn't it? Being able to be taken to be a member of the opposite sex. We don't cover up that fact by saying "the opposite gender". We all like to be as "feminine" as possible even though our idea of being "feminine" may not be the same as someone else's. There is a lot of latitude as to the ways we choose to express gender, but in the last analysis they all represent femaleness. Now really the only difference between the CD and the TS is that the latter is fixated on the anatomical and feels that she just can't be a woman (basically, she means female) unless she can get rid of her penis and testes and get a vagina constructed. SRS is basically only cosmetic surgery ... just like a face lift. The woman with the latter has the surgery because she doesn't like the eye bags, the wrinkles, the double chin, the saggy cheeks or whatever and feels she would make a better impression on others and be closer to her personal concept of what she "ought" to be if she has the lift. The TS just gets a "face lift" between her legs for the same reason, namely that after the surgery she will look more like the person she "ought" to be and wants to be. Then if "Mr. X" makes a move on her she won't have to worry about his frustration and disappointment.

You dress and go out because you want to be seen by and presumed to be a female! You will probably deny this, but you surely have different reactions than if you were out as a man and you certainly don't want to be seen as a man in a dress, do you?!? No, you want to be seen as what you look like ... a woman, which is "gender-speak" for female. You would not get nearly the same pleasure out of

wearing the same attractive outfit if everyone around knew that you were a male. It might be fun and you might get compliments on the perfection of your "masquerade" but it wouldn't be as satisfying because to you you are **not** masquerading even though it might be defined that way by others. No, you are portraying your feminine/female side.

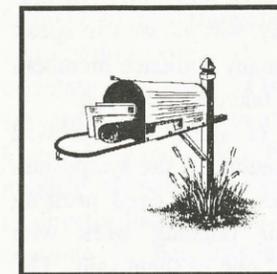
Why would you want to do that? Because you have envied and been jealous of girls/women since you were a child. Something about them made a big impression on you. Perhaps it was envying some privileges they got or resentment that you, a boy, had to conform to some norms that girls did not and therefore had more freedom than you, or the different way you were treated, a sense that females were more valued by society than males, or some other factor that put a premium on "girlness". It sure as hell wasn't the stars or some "past life" event that did it. **You** started it and **you** can stop it any time **you** want to! But none of us ever do, because the pleasure we obtain from this periodic adventure into "Femmland" is so satisfying that we can find no compensatory reason for giving it up!

These days, there are a number of people trying to sell the idea that neither sex nor gender is bipolar, meaning a two -- and only two -- ended relation. What they mean is that neither sex nor gender is an either/or proposition, that there are many intermediate positions. But stop and think a moment. It takes two -- and only two -- specialized cells

(called gametes) one from a female known as an egg and one from a male known as a sperm to start the process of reproduction. There is no room or purpose for a third, fourth, fifth or any other number of gametes to be involved in the process, so sex is indeed bipolar. The reproductive process is basically at the beginning a two gamete process. However, once fertilization takes place and the egg starts to divide the process becomes complicated with genes, chromosomes, hormones, etc. At this stage many irregularities can occur such that embryo, then the fetus and finally the born child may be abnormal structurally, or functionally.

There are a number of abnormal chromosomal counts, there are mutated or ineffective genes and there are various kinds of intersexes. At this level there are a lot of conditions between a perfect male and a perfect female. There are even a few hermaphrodites (not "morphodites"); persons with both male and female organs, sometimes functional and sometimes not. Abnormalities of any kind need to be studied by appropriate medical specialists, of course, in order to get information as to how things went wrong and why. Such information may help to prevent such conditions or to allow treatment for those afflicted. But such abnormalities are **not** an intermediate form between male and female; they are simply pathological conditions. Therefore there is no reason to consider them as they

(continued on following page)



Vox Populi

Letters to the Editor

There were no letters submitted for publication this month. *[Although we did get plenty that we couldn't publish; see my editorial. -- Ed.]*

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

You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to **Cross-Talk** on Cross Connection ... voxpath@xconn.com via Internet. We also accept DOS ASCII files on disk at our P.O. Box.

VIRGIN VIEWS ... *continued from previous page*

don't contribute anything to the study of crossdressing.

Crossdressing is regarded as abnormal by society as a whole. It is a behavioral matter rather than a structural or functional one. Ideally, as indicated above, gender is a visual indication of sex when genitals are not in view. What is important is the reproductive type of the individual ... not necessarily the genital anatomy, which might be abnormal in some way. And since as there are only two kinds of reproductive cells (which is why I explained that previously) there are only two kinds of organs to make those cells: The ovaries and the testes. It therefore logically follows that there are only two kinds of persons -- possessing either ovaries or testes -- and so only two kinds of normal gender. Note that I say "normal", simply because we are not concerned with various kinds of abnormalities.

Now what is overlooked by those trying to sell the idea of there being three, five or more types of gender is that they are looking at various kinds of behavior that are not generally included in the lives of "normal" (meaning statistically most frequent) persons of either sex. Since humans have the ability to imagine, create and modify most anything they certainly can and do modify general behavior. Fetishism plays a part; imagination, imitation, fashion, attention-getting and sexual advertising all contribute to different ways of manifesting gender. But even within all these manifestations there are indications of either femininity or masculinity, because for CDs the whole idea is to cross from one gender to the other. In costume parties or masquerades the attention is on the costume, not on the person wearing it.

In summary, then, sex and gender are indeed two different things, but they are intimately connected like heads and tails on a coin. One side of it deals with individual anatomy, physiology and reproductive contribution. The other with social status and function, psychological self concept, public visual announcement and observer interpretation and expectation. But you can no more isolate sex from gender (or vice versa) than you can separate the head side from the tail side. You can't see the tail side when you are looking at the head side, but you know darn well it is there!

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

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Cross-Talk Newswire

News of the worldwide
transgender community

A transgender health symposium at June's National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Minneapolis was taken over by transgender protestors claiming the symposium's panel was "not comprised of representatives of our community, despite claims that it is."

The panel consisted of Martine Rothblatt, author of *The Apartheid Of Sex*, Dallas Denny of AEGIS -- both post-operative MTF transsexuals -- and FTM TS Armand Hotimsky. All three are long-term transgender activists.

Protestors had handed out materials prior to the symposium documenting problems with health care for transgendered persons, including health-related materials published by AEGIS. As introductory comments were being made by symposium organizer Walter Bockting of the University of Minnesota's Program in Human Sexuality, one of the protestors, Margaret O'Hartigan, who had seated herself with the panelists, interrupted and began to read a pre-prepared statement concerning the recent abolishing of government funding for transsexual surgery in Minnesota. O'Hartigan accused Bockting of "remaining shamefully silent" about the funding cuts and demanded that all transgender and transsexual persons present be given equal opportunity to speak as panelists.

Although Bockting pointed out that time had been set aside for this purpose, other protestors from as far away as San Francisco and Pennsylvania sat themselves at the panelists' table, at which point Bockting left the dais, turning the program over to the panelists.

O'Hartigan then took control of the discussion, announcing that all speakers -- including the original three panelists -- would be given ten minutes to speak, forcing Rothblatt to cut short a slide show based on her book. Rothblatt left the room as Denny took the podium, but she was interrupted by O'Hartigan's announcement of Michale Little of Action AIDS in Philadelphia as the next speaker.

O'Hartigan was forced to capitulate when members of the audience, comprised largely of physicians and other health professionals, called out, "Let her [Denny] speak." However, Denny's portion of the program on transgender oppression was interrupted by Christine Tayleur, a protestor who was acting as sergeant at arms, who told Denny her time was up. Denny instead concluded her remarks at her own pace and went into the audience to sit beside Bockting.

Following Denny's remarks, various protestors each spoke

briefly, expounding on the problems mentioned earlier. The third invited panelist, Hotimsky, was allowed to speak at the end of the symposium, but many audience members had already left in disgust when the takeover occurred.

After the symposium, a number of attendees expressed their regret that the educational content of the symposium had been overshadowed by politics. Many cited pressing practical needs because of their ongoing work with transgendered clients. "How ironic," one of them said. "The supposed concern of the protestors has resulted in a net negative impact on health care of this population."

Denny was not surprised at the action. "Margaret O'Hartigan had been agitating to be on the panel. I suspected something like this would happen, and I was convinced of it when I heard Tayleur being paged at the airport," she said. "This action was not born out of concern for transsexual and transgendered persons. It is not about the panelists not being members of the community -- the charge that we are not is specious -- but about Margaret O'Hartigan's long-standing grudge at PHS. The other protestors served as her dupes."

OOO

The summer meeting of the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) resulted in several actions reinforcing Tri-Ess' support of the entire transgender community even as it focuses on the needs of heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

A resolution approved by the board at its June 24 meeting stated their opposition to discrimination in the workplace and support of firm punishment for those convicted of hate crimes based on bigotry, racism and bias. The statement comes at a time when increased attention is focused by the transgender community on such issues as "gay bashing" and termination of employment for reasons of transgenderism.

In addition, the board committed a substantial amount of its outreach budget to a joint effort at this fall's National Association of Social Workers' convention in Philadelphia, in conjunction with the Outreach Institute, IFGE, AEGIS, and Renaissance. It will be the second year Tri-Ess has joined with the other organizations at the NASW event. Other outreach programs supported by the board include new pilot programs at its largest chapter in Chicago for newcomers to the crossdressing community and parents of crossdressers, and a regional advertising campaign proposed by a coalition of chapters in the Southwest.

Tri-Ess reported no substantial changes in its membership total, despite numerous commentaries from various

MOVING?

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factions in the transgender community denouncing the organization over the past year over its focused orientation. A proposal to create a new photo membership ID card was referred to a committee for research.

Chairman Jane Ellen Fairfax also announced that the publicly announced resignation of Kymberleigh Richards as director had not been accepted and that Richards would continue in her existing capacity. In her resignation, published simultaneously in *Cross-Talk* and the Tri-Ess national magazine *The Femme Mirror*, Richards had expressed concerns over her public comments reflecting negatively on the organization; in making the announcement, Fairfax said "making those concerns public effectively negates them" and thus there was no need for Richards to distance herself.

The board holds its major meeting each summer in order to deal with the majority of matters concerning the national organization. A second meeting is held during each fall's "Holiday En Femme" for matters of urgency and the approval of the following year's operating budget.

OOO

The transgender community political action groups It's Time, America!, Transexual Menace and Transgender Nation have jointly released a statement denouncing the Human Rights Campaign Fund for its continued exclusion of transgender-friendly language in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1994.

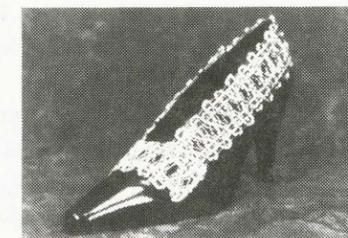
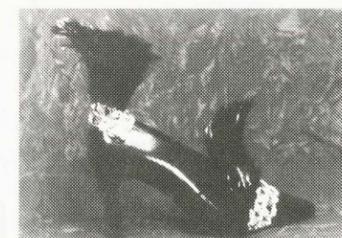
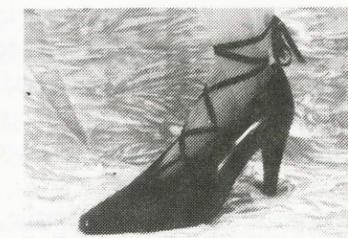
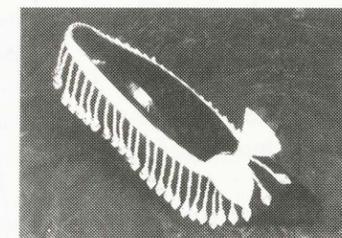
When ENDA was first introduced in Congress, HRCF "actively worked to have transgenders excluded from the language of the bill," according to the joint statement. The HRCF's Chai Feldblum -- drafter of the bill -- acknowledged to the recent International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy that transpeople were purposely omitted from the bill's language, and the HRCF reinforced that exclusion in June. As a result, transgendered people have been excluded from the protection offered by ENDA, and the three groups are now organizing joint action in a protest of the HRCF.

The three organizations plan to picket and/or hand out informational pamphlets speaking out against the HRCF at each of its fund raising events around the country. The pamphlets will demand that the HRCF cease their opposition to transgender inclusion in ENDA, release a statement that they will immediately become transgender inclusive, and release a second statement recognizing transgender inclusion in the Queer Rights Movement.

In reply to the charges by ITA!, TM, and TN, HRCF issued a prepared statement that said, in part: "The Human Rights Campaign Fund supports Federal protection against discrimination for all Americans, including transgendered people. We have offered to work with the transgendered community to explore different strategies for achieving this goal. We do not believe that changing the language of ENDA in its current form is the best way

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of accomplishing this goal."

HRCF says it has offered to discuss possible options including amending the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, other relevant legislation, or pursuing case-law solutions.

○○○

The board of directors of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy have announced a celebration entitled "International Transgender Employment Day," to occur in the U.S.A. on Monday, September 4th, coinciding with Labor Day, and the previous day elsewhere.

In making the announcement, ICTLEP referred to its International Bill of Gender Rights, which states that the third gender right of all human beings is "The Right to Secure and Retain Employment and to Receive Just Compensation," and said the purposes of the September celebration would be to declare that right, commemorate transgender employment victories, and document transgender employment discrimination.

ICTLEP's Phyllis Randolph Frye said the ongoing dispute over the Employment Non-Discrimination Act currently before the U.S. Congress, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund's omission of the transgender community from the bill (see previous story) will add to the U.S. celebration a mission to raise local funds to send transgendered people from around the country to Washington, D.C. on October 2 and 3 for National Transgender Lobby Day, and "to expose and shame discriminatory 'human rights' organizations such as HRCF for both its omission of transgenders and its deliberate dumping of transgender legislation." Frye claimed that HRCF successfully lobbied Members of the U.S. Congress to dump the ICTLEP-drafted, transgender-inclusive ENDA bill.

The entire IBGR is being made available to anyone sending a self-addressed, large, stamped envelope to The International Bill of Gender Rights Project, ICTLEP, P.O. Box 930, Cooperstown NY 13326. The IGBR also appeared in **Cross-Talk #62** last year.

ICTLEP has also begun a campaign to document transgender employment discrimination, in order to bring to lawmakers' attention. Frye said that many legislators "are unaware of the challenges faced by transgenders, [and] need to see how many transgenders have been fired, harassed, intimidated or denied promotion or re-employment solely for being transgendered." Frye said that while incidents of transsexuals being fired are obvious, they seek to include situations such as the married, heterosexual crossdresser who is fired or denied a promotion because management discovered that he crossdressed in the privacy of his home or ventured to a group meeting once a month while crossdressed. Frye compared these situations to the gender firings of many

women in the 1950s and 1960s who sought to wear trousers to the office, and hopes to compile a database and collection of specific case histories. A form to report cases is available from ICTLEP Employment Documentation Project, P.O. Box 65, Kensington MD 20895.

○○○

Responding to disappointment over the cancellation of the "Dignity Cruises" two years ago, Peggy Rudd has arranged a December cruise to the Florida Keys the weekend of December 8 through 11.

In making the announcement, Dr. Rudd said the original cruises had been halted due to the closing of the travel agency that had coordinated them, but that a new agent was able to arrange pricing as low as \$313 per person. However, Rudd advises that there is a limited number of inexpensively priced cabins, and advises early contact with the new agent -- Brenda Cyrus of Cruises Unlimited, 1-800-345-9564 -- to ensure availability.

Rudd may also be contacted c/o PM Publishers, P.O. Box 5304, Katy TX 77491-5304 for information.

○○○

Newswire is compiled from transgender community newsletters, Internet news feeds, and press releases.

CROSS-TALK COMIC REPRINTS



The Toni Compendium: Cartoon adventures of a transgendered high school student plus four single panel cartoons not published during the series' run.

At Worst, We'll Wind Up In Therapy!: The first five years of "The Adventures of Karen" plus five unpublished strips and a new two page story.



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THE BEGINNING OF A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

by Sheila Kirk, M.D.

[Editor's Note: This commentary is adapted from the keynote speech given by Dr. Kirk at the International Congress on Gender, Cross-Dressing and Sex Issues on February 25 of this year.]

My dear friends ... sisters, brothers, and colleagues:

What a special and choice time this is. This convention is extraordinary. It's a phenomenal experience to have the "gender gifted" and the health-care professionals who observe them, care for them and report to the literature about them, all come together to discuss the phenomenon

of transgenderism. To come together to discuss, inform, and to educate, and in addition to build a platform for increased respect and understanding of each other. Yes, I say **of each other**, because, my good colleagues and peers in medicine, surgery, and mental health-care, often there is

distrust and a lack of comfort with the professionals' management of the transgendered. Often times they appear to the transgendered to be uncaring and without interest, and in many instances they seem to be without knowledge or resilience in the management of this population.

Equally, my dear sisters and brothers, your physicians and surgeons, your mental health-care professionals would like **you** to be far more patient, much more cooperative and completely without manipulation. Believe me, you often demonstrate problems in these areas.

A meeting such as this can break down many barriers and many obstacles. I congratulate you all in your efforts to instruct and to find comfortable ground together.

This meeting, in reality, still is in the area of the unique, for I am aware of only several other times in the past three years where the transgendered took part in presentations such as this as actively and in an equal capacity.

The first that comes to mind took place in the Netherlands at the Colloquy for Legal Affairs and Medical-Surgical Reporting under the auspices of the Free University of Amsterdam. I attended those conferences. It was quite inspiring. The next set of conferences that come to mind are those that took place in Manchester, England several months ago, where under the planning of Alice Pernel researchers and clinicians met with a large number of transgendered to discuss transgendered medicine. **There must be more of these.**

You all must recognize: There is so much to learn about the transgendered spirit and behavior. There is so much to observe and report in contra-gender medicine and surgery. The need for long-term follow up for larger series of

patients and clients is great. The need is tremendous also for clinicians to be motivated to make report to the medical literature so that their colleagues can be informed and enlightened. In like manner, the transgendered individual needs to have awareness of the importance of research and to make themselves available so as to provide information for long-term follow up. The research-minded professional needs this opportunity to do meaningful research. We all need to understand the necessity to expand our information, to plan studies, to report our findings. We need to cooperate with each other. I extend

Remarks by Dr. Sheila Kirk to participants at a major educational conference this spring, which contain a message for the entire transgender community.

that thought to all of you here tonight, both professional and patient/client. It's true, I may be preaching to the choir, and if I am, I ask that the choir sing along with me with louder voice and with more appreciation of the music. You must tell your colleagues and peers. You must remind them that research and reporting benefits us all, the patient **and** the professional. It is of no value to operate on large numbers of both male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals and conduct no significant follow up and report nothing to the medical literature. It is of no benefit for clinics to have no cooperative interchange with other clinics. It is tremendously worthwhile for clinics to pool information and combine protocols in order to report significant data. It is a sad commentary when medical physicians tell me -- and they have -- that they have well over 100 patients on contra-hormonal regimens and they compile none of that data, telling no one through journal reporting, of their successes or failures.

It is quite sad also to know of transgendered individuals who travel meaningful pathways, yet refuse involvement in follow up studies and surveys, and will often deny meaningful support to another transgendered who could be afforded a smoother path as well.

Let me point out: We are at a very meaningful time in transgender history. We have for centuries been hidden away or forgotten in the archives of the world, even though we have significant places in that history. In the records of the world's existence, the transgendered has always had a place, but it's only in the past 25 years that we have just begun to emerge, to come into light, to be seen. In the last few years because of the printed word, because of the motion picture industry, and in particular because of

television, the transgendered has been thrust into public awareness. The manner with which it has been done is not always complimentary, to be sure. We are not always seen with best high heel forward, for we are looked at often as bizarre, as material for base entertainment, and it's obvious that we are used regularly in order to increase network ratings. Yet in spite of this, through the exposure -- whatever it may be -- through the curiosity, through the various levels of interest, we do have increased support and we are becoming more acknowledged and more accepted. The message is of our specialness and it is being transmitted to more and more in society.

Let me tell you that **you** are unique. You are special. I believe that you are chosen, that you do live and function with the God force's approval. Did you ever think that you may be a part of a divine and eternal plan, a plan to test the peoples of the world through centuries of existence, to test them and teach them to acknowledge, to embrace and to love diversity, to accept alternate lifestyle, to allow and to encourage different drum beats and different tattoos? It is here that I want to give my transgendered community a pat on the back, and you should give yourself a great deal of credit as well. You do live with responsibility, with awareness of what you owe to family, employer, to loved ones, and to friendship with others. You pay your taxes and bills. You advance and support the economy. You are citizens, parents and workers in the world, and through the centuries you have died in wars, written music, built huge bridges and have planted forests. You do all in your life with the creator's approval and if you have another view of **that**, you are very wrong.

Yet in addition to the pat on the back that I have just given you, I want to give you a rap a little lower down. For some reason, we in the transgendered community can't seem to find the formula for cooperative effort ... for coming together, for getting along. I repeat: For some reason, we can't seem to find ways to utilize cooperative effort in our dealings with each other. We in the transgendered community can't find common ground very often. In a world where there is distrust, dishonesty, disinterest, in a world wherein we exist as transgendered, all the non-transgendered around us can't get along either, and we practice those very same approaches that they do in our dealings with each other. Why is that? Why is it that we -- with our talents, with our abilities, and with our sensitive spirits -- can't detach ourselves from that way of living, that warfare and that "my way only" mentality?

Is it because we have the influence of that very unwholesome commodity, ego, which causes us to forget that **healthy negotiation** earns more in the short and long-term than any other device, any other technique, any other approach? Ask yourself: What are the components, the prerequisites needed to negotiate successfully?

To begin with, people in negotiation must be open. Hidden agendas always interfere with fairness and truth.

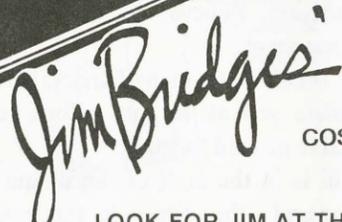
When transgendered people come together to negotiate, there has to be an openness, a frank and non-clouded presentation. Perhaps all of the cards that are on the table are not comfortable to play, but they should be on the table face up, nonetheless.

Next, all participants in negotiation must be active listeners as well as active talkers. Listen to understand and to come to a plan. Don't listen to obstruct or frustrate a plan, but rather learn to process what you are being told accurately and then come together in agreement, giving and **taking** appropriately.

Lastly, and I say this with great emphasis, there must be **respect for each other**. It must be demonstrated, it must be totally evident, it must be recognized and received by all parties involved.

Individuals who have success with negotiation utilize these tools, and **that's why they are successful** and their previous successes prompt ability to continue to be successful.

In my experience here on earth, careful and considerate negotiation does not take place in this world very often, and it doesn't very often take place in the transgendered community. Have you any concept of how powerful we could be if we could unite through negotiation, how we could influence if we would come together without ego and the testosterone pool that it is soaked in? If we could put our energies into cooperative effort much more and not into ugly diatribes in our own literature, wouldn't that be a healthy beginning? If we could put heartfelt devotion to working together and not to pulling apart, society out there could come to a respect of us and an appreciation of us



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that it does not have at this moment. And what's more important, we would move to a greater comfort and respect for and with **ourselves**. This is not a Pollyanna attitude ... it is something we must all think about seriously and now.

I ask that professional health-care givers continue to provide thoughtful, expert care of the transgendered, that they do it with continued interest in researching our needs and implementing their knowledge of this community. Even more, I ask that **our** people in the community continue in their pursuit of their goals with reasonableness, with caution and a genuine desire to know themselves **accurately** and **appropriately**. And as we begin to understand ourselves, appreciate ourselves, find comfort with ourselves, so can we find comfort and appreciation with all our transgendered sisters and brothers, and meaningful and cooperative coming together can be a very real possibility at all times and in all things.

I want to borrow from my friend Dallas Denny ... to paraphrase a piece she originated and published not too very long ago. It truly is a message to everyone everywhere.

The transgendered person is everywhere in the world, at all times, in all places. The transgendered can be parents, grandparents, siblings and close friends. They may have been in the Marines, or in the Air Force with you. They may be your fellow employees, or they may drive your bus, or style

your hair. They are on the auto assembly lines in Detroit. They teach in schools. They attend schools. They are your attorneys, doctors and accountants. They were Civil War soldiers and in his day, may have heard Jesus Christ preach. They are of all colors, races and religions. They are young and old. They are male and they are female. They have always been in the world and they always will be.

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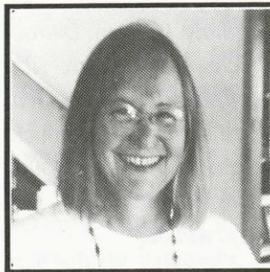
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T NOTES

WATCHING THE WAVES

by Anne Vitale, Ph.D.

One of the most memorable moments in my transition was when I walked into the Group Room at my therapist's office for the first time. There they were; six other people who wanted to be female. Up to that point I had only met one other transsexual in my life and that was just the week before. Frankly, I was scared to death.

"The objectives and female maturity of the participants [in transsexual support groups] tends to move in waves."

As it turns out, I was right to be frightened. My life changed profoundly that night. It was the beginning of the end of my life as a man and the real beginning of my transition. Never mind that I had been on hormones for two years. Going full time was so frightening for me, I thought I could have faked it as a man forever. My therapist -- an internationally renowned sex therapist -- knew diddley about transsexualism. Other than setting up the group, he was of no real help to me at all. As it turned out, I got the courage I needed from my peers.

Ten years, SRS and a Ph.D. later, I started facilitating my own gender identity groups. I have been running the groups for the last eight years and they now represent the core of my practice. All of my groups are MTF and they meet for an hour and a half every other week.

The objectives and female maturity of the participants tends to move in waves. The waves start with people who are either anxious to get started or people who are unsure or in denial about their transsexualism. Eventually the wave is comprised of only people who have decided to seriously explore the reality of changing their sex. Then to people who are well into transition and eventually, people who are post-op.

The most complex and challenging group for me is the "starter" group. Lots of drop-outs at this level ... people who decide that transition is either not for them or that this is not the right time. The first group session seems especially hard to get to. I estimate that only half the people who call and ask to be included actually show up for the first session. However, once the group settles down and becomes a working body, attendance is very regular. The

first two or three sessions usually deal with establishing the "legitimacy" of gender identity concerns. I have noticed that every one has at least some working theory to justify their troubled sense of gender identity. As time goes on the talk moves to more practical matters such as how to buy clothes, the wonderful effects of hormones, changing on the job vs. starting over again and other mechanical aspects of early transition.

The second wave -- a group that has been together for at least eight months and everyone is now living in their new gender role full time -- is the most technically interesting to me as a therapist. First of all,

everyone knows by this point that what they get out of a session is directly related to what they put into it. It is my way of modeling what I expect from them in life: Participate or get left out. Secondly, the subtleties of being women really start to show at this point. It is visible in how people dress (usually what they wore to work that day), the subject matter (sexism in the workplace, new partners, unexpected sexuality changes) and the complex dynamics of interpersonal conversation that takes on a very female pattern.

The third wave begins when some members of the group begin to announce dates for SRS. This can be the beginning of the end for some groups. It can also become a time when the deepest work gets done.

The biggest threat to the group at this third stage is often a financial one. Everyone knows that by virtue of completing their real life test and their work with me, that they now all qualify for SRS. Yet there are always those in the group, who because of child support payments (often for kids they are forbidden to see) or because their earning capacity has decreased drastically during transition or some other, less altruistic reason, haven't the slightest idea how they will raise the money for surgery. Understandably, this can be a very depressing stage of transition for members caught in this dilemma.

So here we are: On the one hand we have members who want to celebrate their upcoming "graduation" and on the other hand there are those who feel totally bogged down after all they have been through. Fortunately, what often saves a group at this critical time is their now mature

(continued on page 19)

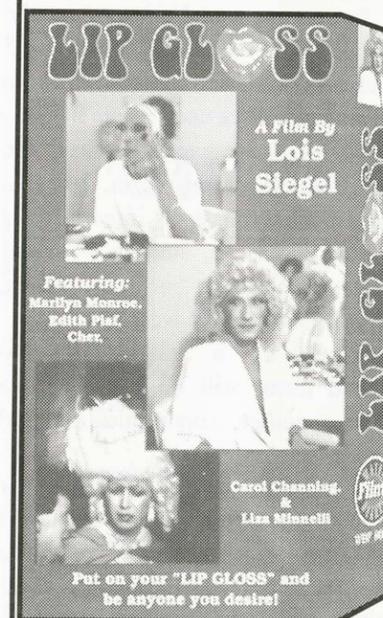
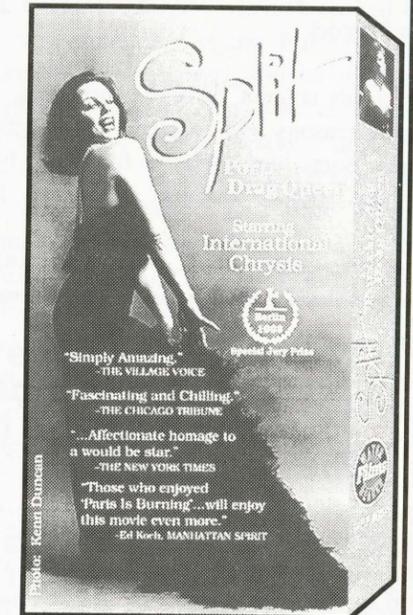
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WOMAN TO WOMAN

THE WAY A WOMAN SHOULD BE TREATED

by Linda Peacock

As I write this column, SPICE approaches, and I've been thinking of reasons why women want to come to such a conference. Some may come for fun, some to learn, others for support, others because they are frightened or frustrated.

Whatever the reasons, those of us who work with SPICE

"I wonder about the women who come [to SPICE], and those who call, and how they perceive the relationship they are in."

want to make it a positive experience, one which will let the woman leave with a rebirth of inner strength, better prepared to deal with the gender issues, and others, in her relationship.

In my reflections, I wonder about the women who come, and those who call, and how they perceive the relationship they are in. I wonder what it is that they want in such a relationship, and if they'll ever get what they are seeking.

For the last couple of years, one of the best selling books has been *The Bridges of Madison County*. I read this book recently and was enchanted with it. Although it deals with a married woman and a man, who have a four day affair, you come away from the book feeling as though you have been privileged to observe what deep, true love really is. It is not my place to serve judgement on these two people, for I am no more perfect than them. But the story line does provide interesting thoughts on marriage, relationships and love.

Francesca has been married for some years to a man who is kind to her, who takes good care of her, but the relationship is not an exciting one. They are sort of used to each other. Her life is unfulfilling; yet, she does nothing to change it. She is sedentary. She doesn't admit to being unhappy; yet she dreams of happier days, and what-might-have-beens.

While her husband and children are out of town, a stranger, a photographer, comes to town to photograph the covered bridges of Madison County. To shorten the story line, they meet, talk, visit, eat together, and fall totally in love with each. They spend the four days and nights together, finding a fulfillment beyond their dreams.

However, reality sets in, he leaves and they never see each other again. Yet, the love is one that is true, and it remains with them for all their lives.

As I read the book, I said to myself that she was a fool; that she should have gone with him. However, there are two sides to this story, and one is that she felt that leaving with Robert would destroy her husband's place in their small town society and upset the teenage children. She gave up the most important thing in her entire life to do what she perceived to be the right thing.

How, then, does such a story relate to those of us in gender-related relationships?

For one thing, I think it is important to look at the whole relationship, to see if you are meeting each other's needs. A woman needs to put aside the gender issues to honestly appraise her entire situation. Is she treated with respect, with love, with honor? Is she his equal partner in the relationship, or is she shoved to some sub-servient level? Does he cherish her, does he please her sexually, does he bring out the beautiful woman who lives deep inside her?

A woman needs to ask herself these questions. And she needs to be totally honest in answering them. It's like making a list of goods and bads. Honesty is imperative in all relationships if they are to succeed, and we must not forget that we have a relationship with our inner selves; thus, we must learn to be honest with ourselves.

So many issues can cloud up a relationship. No relationship is perfect, and never will be, but for two partners who want to be together, communication and honesty should be their priority.

In all of us there are seeds of doubt. We doubt his or her love; we doubt ourselves, afraid to see inside. We doubt that we can accomplish something; we doubt our own inner strengths. Even though we can put on a tremendous act as we face the world, those doubts flourish and fester inside.

So if we can pull together the strength to look into ourselves, we can be honest about who we are and what we feel. In doing so, we allow ourselves the freedom to begin to look outward to our relationship, and honestly appraise it. We must decide if this relationship is worth the pain, the time, the effort to not only keep it alive, but to grow and prosper.

The old saying goes, "be true to thine self." Some people may believe that this is a selfish statement; I do not. We must love ourselves before we can love another. Self-love is simple acceptance of who lives inside.

If we honestly appraise our relationship, without allowing the gender issues to be considered, we are testing the waters. If we find that the relationship is unfulfilling, if it is leaving us empty, then we have our answer. And we have two choices: To stay and exist, or to leave and move on in life. If we are to stay, we must have that base of desire to continue the relationship, and begin dealing with



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the gender issues.

A couple of days ago, a wife from Indiana called me and told me she could not forgive her husband for his crossdressing. Upon further investigation, I found out that not only had she never seen him crossdressed, but he had not dressed since meeting her. Thus she was condemning him for simply being the person he was created to be. I asked how she could not forgive when there had been no sin. The sin is in her mind, not in him. Further questioned, she admitted she loved him, he was a tender and thoughtful lover, a good provider, a gentle man who cherished her. I urged her to reconsider these questions and leave his transgenderism out of it ... would she leave him if he were not transgendered? Of course not. This woman was unable to admit her own imperfections, but intent on finding his. There is a lack of humanism in her inner self, a selfishness which I found appalling.

When a woman comes to SPICE, we want her to leave a stronger person, one who knows she is not alone, who can turn to new friends for help, and who can make the choices with logical thought processes and rationality. Like Francesca, she has two choices: To stay or to go. If the relationship has worth, her choice is easy. So, too, will it be easy if it has no worth. But until a woman can honestly appraise it, and herself, she cannot make that choice. No one says it will be easy, no one says there won't be pain and hardship, but when she makes that decision, she should go forth with it, knowing she is strong.

[Linda Peacock is the Tri-Ess director of wives' and partners' concerns, an IFGE board member, and chair of the SPICE board of directors. She also publishes the quarterly newsletter for spouses and partners The Sweetheart Connection, and may be reached by mail at P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221, by e-mail to kmhj27a@prodigy.com or by phone at (501) 227-8798.]

Sales of the publication *Hey Dad ... Do I Have To Watch The TV?* directly support the Spouse/Partner International Conference for Education (SPICE). See the ad on page 32 for details.

T NOTES ... *continued from page 16*

understanding of female sensitivity. This is manifested by a marked ability to provide helpful, heartfelt advice and to talk about concepts and situations everyone still has in common. The work can push deep into what it means to no longer be gender dysphoric or what life can be like if you never have to think about changing your sex again. It can be a very close time indeed.

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

GELDING FOR THE GODS IN ANCIENT TIMES

by Roberta Perkins

Changing gender and dress are very ancient behaviors. The first recorded incident of crossdressing is a 7th century BC Assyrian tablet showing King Assurbanipul getting into drag. But customs and rituals associated with crossdressing were very much older. For instance, the priests of the ancient Earth Goddess Ishtar in Babylon dressed as women to appease the deity. There are many accounts throughout the ancient Near East of priests attached to goddesses donning female apparel, and in the case of the priests of Attis, consort to the Earth Goddess Cybelle, in the kingdom of Phrygia, they also castrated themselves because, according to mythology, the God had removed his testicles whilst sitting beneath a pine tree. In Babylon an annual ritual involved young men slicing off their own genitals, including the penis, and flinging these into nearby houses as they ran bleeding and in great pain through the streets of the city. In return for this sacrifice women's clothes were handed them and thereafter they spent their time at female tasks. With so much crossdressing/gender changing going on in Near Eastern civilizations in deference to their gods and goddesses, it is little wonder that the Hebrews, fearful of their more powerful enemies (and with a solitary masculine god, Jehovah, opposed to other gods and their ceremonies), introduced the *Deuteronomy 22:5* law, which made donning the clothing of the opposite sex "an abomination before the Lord, your God". While such laws and isolationist stance were a source of strength to "God's chosen people", unfortunately Christian civilization later adopted these attitudes, to the detriment of every transgender in Western society since.

A source of great interest to the Greek historian Herodotus in the 5th century BC were the Scythians, a bold equestrian warrior tribe from the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia who terrorized the civilized centers of Asia Minor. He noted that their priests, or *enarees*, dressed and behaved as women, but accompanied the warriors on raids, even participating in the battles. According to Greek mythology, the Scythians were punished by the Goddess Aphrodite for sacking her temples in Syria by changing their leading warriors into women. The Greek physician Hippocrates thought that the *enarees* had slowly demasculated themselves by riding horses too much and squashing their balls.

Greek mythology is full of incidents of crossdressing or changing gender, a clear indication of the bisexual and androgynous minds of the ancient Greeks, especially when the supermen of their legends, like Achilles, spent some time in female drag. The strongman of Grecian mythology,

Hercules, was obliged to live as a serving maid to Queen Omphale in punishment for killing the catamite Iphitus. Many of the deities were crossdressers or bisexual, most notably Hermaphroditos, after whom the modern term for a biologically androgynous person comes from. The young God Dionysos once disguised himself as a woman to enter

Does transgendered behavior date back to ancient, pre-Christianity times? Yes, in a big way.

the kingdom of the warrior-women, the Amazons, in order to conquer them. There are many examples of role reversal, like that of the Amazons, such as the masculine women guarding Sappho on the island of Lesbos, or of the boy Ganymede, who served as both a water carrier and sexual playmate to the gods. Foremost among female transgenders in Greek mythology is Kainonis, who was changed into a man by Poseidon, but because he made his spear a phallic symbol and demanded adoration of it by the people, the centaurs slew him with tree trunks (their phallic symbols). Then there was the mortal man Tiresias, changed into a woman as punishment for killing a female snake. Ten years later the Goddess Hera asked Tiresias how she liked being a woman and she replied that she enjoyed sex ten times more as a woman than as a man. With that Hera promptly changed her back into a man.

That gender-crossing was also a fact in Greek society is seen in the existence of the Goddess Venus Castina, whose sympathy and understanding for "feminine souls locked up in male bodies" prompted men with a yearning to be women to pray to her. Much later, a similar custom existed in the Roman Empire. The 2nd century AD Jewish philosopher Philo wrote of certain men in the city of Alexandria: *Expending every possible care on their outward adornment, they are not ashamed even to employ every device to change artificially their nature as men and women ... some of them, craving a complete transformation into women, have amputated their generative members.* The Roman poet Manilius, observing the same phenomenon among some of his countrymen, commented: "(They) hate the very sight of (themselves as) a man, and long for arms without growth of hair. Women's robes they wear ... (their) steps broken to an effeminate gait." In the satires of Juvenal is this poem:

*Isn't it now high time for them to try
The Phrygian fashion and to make
the job complete -*

*Take a knife and lop off that
superfluous piece of meat?*

Thus sex change surgery, however crude, was alive and well from the earliest civilizations to the time of the Romans.

Some of the Roman Emperors themselves were not beyond crossdressing, and a few went even further. In his youth Julius Caesar apparently lived as a girl in the court of King Nicomedes, and later he was referred to behind his back as "Queen of Bithynia" who, it was said, was "every woman's man and every man's woman." Another story associated with Caesar concerns a senator, Publius Clodius, who fancied Caesar's wife, Pompeia, and on one of his assignations with her disguised himself as a woman in order to meet her during a ceremony to the Goddess Bona Dea, exclusive to women adherents. Clodius, however, was unmasked by the women and dragged before a court on a charge of sacrilege. He was acquitted, supposedly by bribing the jurors, but Caesar's enemy, Cicero, exposed him, forcing Caesar to divorce Pompeia and to break up his friendship with the unfortunate senator. The story of Clodius' crossdressing antics was used by the enemies of the emperors to discredit the aristocrats as decadent.

But propaganda was hardly needed in many cases, for some of the emperors brought about their own ruin, and others genuinely enjoyed crossdressing. Caligula turned up at banquets dressed as Venus. He believed himself divine and therefore might be expected to have imitated the deities, but his choice of the Goddess of Love was an interesting one. In the end his own guards thought he went too far and assassinated him while attending gladiatorial contests. Nero killed his wife in a fit of rage and then in deep remorse for her loss sought a companion who closely resembled her. He found a young male slave, Sporus, closest to the ideal, had him castrated by his surgeons, and the two were formally married, with the young man acting as the wife. Later he married a gladiator and this time he was the wife, screaming like a deflowered virgin on their wedding night. His excesses ended in his suicide. Eliogabalus was a particularly tragic figure in Roman history. He also married his slave and thereafter became the wife "delighted to be called the mistress, the wife, the Queen of Hierocles". He even offered half the empire to the surgeon who could refashion his genitals into a vagina. Obviously, Eliogabalus was a true transgender and lived well before his time, but the Romans weren't amused and after four years into his reign he too was assassinated.

Another Roman Emperor known, or said, to have crossdressed was Tiberius, who, by all accounts dressed as a female during sexual escapades on the Island of Capri.

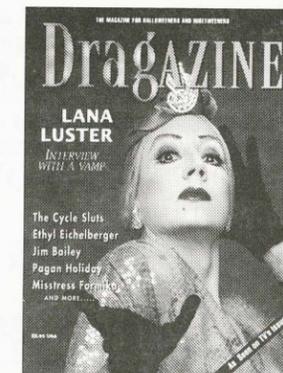
Domitian and Hadrian took as lovers female impersonators from the stage. All of these rulers defied the ancient Scantian Law against homosexuality, which the Romans observed, and this may have been no small contributor to their violent ends. On the other hand, the Roman histories are so full of propaganda by those critical of the aristocracy that fact and fiction may have become indelibly confused, particularly in the caustic writings of Plutarch and Pliny.

Emperor Commodus became fascinated by the hero of Greek mythology, Hercules, and introduced a cult to the mythical strongman in which he himself dressed as a woman in recognition of the time Hercules was a servant maid to Omphale. Rather than desire to be a woman, it is thought that Commodus was endeavoring to gain some of Hercules' strength by representing him at his most subdued moment. Claudius introduced the Phrygian ceremonies to Rome, allowing men taking part in it a moment to publicly dress as women. The harvest ritual of Saturnalia already incorporated dancing in which both sexes changed clothes as a form of disguise magic, and this continued into Christian times as a remnant of Europe's pagan past, eventually becoming the Medieval Feast of Fools in which not only common men and women crossdressed but the king became a beggar and a beggar the king for a day. Ritualized crossdressing continued to play a part in the harvest festivals of northern and western Europe as late as the 18th century when puritan evangelism finally stamped it out.

[Roberta Perkins is affiliated with the School of Sociology at the University of New South Wales, Australia. This article is part of a series on historical and cross-cultural transgenderism -- which is also appearing in the magazine Polare -- edited from Ms. Perkins' thesis in anthropology.]

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HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

"We can't all and some of us don't. That's all there is to it."

-- Eeyore (A. A. Milne)



The **HotBuzz** for this month is the formation of a GenderPAC to fund transgender political actions. It's about time this community got off its collective butt and did something productive instead of admiring itself in the mirror and giving itself awards. We need people like Riki Ann Wilchins to remind us that life isn't always a bowl of cherries; sometimes it's the pits. (Apologies to Irma Bombeck.)



With retro-fashion in great demand, what could be more retro than full-fashioned, non-stretch nylon hosiery like the kind Mom used to wear. (How many TVs cut their baby teeth on these?) Well, if you thought you'd never see this type of stocking again, guess again. Classic Fashions of Tulsa carries seamed hosiery of this era with reinforced soles and reinforced heel and toe. They do a mailing every five to seven weeks with new items and specials. Send \$1.00 to get on their list and send it to: Classic Fashions of Tulsa Dept. AD1-I, P.O. Box 700271, Tulsa OK 74170-0271.



Looking for more makeup and fashion news? Try a makeup newsletter. One such publication is *Main Floor*, named after the television show of the same name. Both the show and newsletter cover news of fashion, makeup, make-overs and skin care. A single copy is \$2.00 and 15 weeks is \$22.50. Contact: *Main Floor* Newsletter, 121 East 24th Street 4th Floor, New York NY 10010, or call them at (212) 982-9300.



We've talked about finding the correct shape eyeglass frames for your face shape in this space many time. Now, a Japanese firm has automated that process with computers and a dab of AI (that's Artificial Intelligence to you non-dweebs). Miki Cycglass boutiques have integrated a color scanner, analysis software and an eyeglass production unit on a local area network. A digitized image of the customer's face is analyzed by the software and then displays the customer "wearing" the recommended frames. Neat, huh! Once a pair of frames are selected, they are made on the spot. Systems have been installed in Japan,

France, Australia and Germany. Maybe they'll be coming to the USA real soon.



Well, after touting them for so long, I finally bought a WonderBra and guess what: It works! Yep, even for a flat chested old broad like me. The increase in chest cleavage is quite noticeable and with the help of some extra push up pads, it was downright respectable.



Speaking of push up pads, the latest in high-tech pads aren't pads at all, but mini-breast forms. Half-forms and molded mini-forms of polyurethane covered silicone are the latest rage for increasing the apparent size on one's bust. The pads slip into any bra and help hold the breast tissue in place, high and visible. Try: Curves Invisible Breast Enhancers by Bodylines ... Shapely Secrets by Kathleen Kirkwood ... and Intrigue Breast Enhancers by Amoena. I found an ad for Curves. They come in Large and Small. Large adds almost 2 cups sizes to your bust. They are \$150 per paid with \$16 express shipping and handling. Bodylines gives a 30 day money back guarantee, so what have you got to lose? Try 'em today. Call 1-800-528-7837 or mail a check or money order to BodyLines Inc., 951-2 Old County Rd M/S 255, Belmont CA 94002.



So, lemme put my two cents in here about breasts. Having breasts is the most visible sign of femininity and I guess that's why so many non-transsexuals start fooling with hormones. My take on hormones and breasts is: It's far cheaper and far safer to have implants than to take hormones, especially unsupervised. You are playing a chemical Russian Roulette with your body and you're going to lose. Okay, okay, I'll lighten up. Know how the classic Champagne glass got its shape? Legend has it that the glass is the size/shape of Marie Antoinette's breast.



What the Hell! This is too good a subject to pass up. Here are some interesting breast facts: Average size of an American woman's breasts: 36B ... Average size of a Playboy Playmate's breasts: 34C ... Total amount of money spent by American women on bras in 1994: \$2.85 billion (yes, billion) ... Number of Wonderbras sold by Macy's NYC in the first 10 days they were available in the U.S.: 3000 ... Largest size of a Playtex 18-Hour bra: 50DDD.



Two fashion staples that signal summertime are polka dots and stripes. But remember, don't mix them; it looks way too busy. Classic dots and stripes color combinations are navy and white and red and white. They not only look cool, they are cool. So, go get summery. Don't forget the other summer standby, madras.



The first M.A.C ads with RuPaul are starting to show up in the fashion mags. *Allure*, *marie claire* and *Glamour* ran the ad with La Ru in red vinyl hip boots and corset-bustier. The ad shows RuPaul in various poses forming the letters that spell out "Viva Glam," M.A.C's best selling lipstick. By the way, every cent of the retail selling price of Viva Glam lipstick is donated to AIDS research. Check out how they made the "M."



A couple of people asked about the address of my web site on the Internet. We've been moving stuff around and adding lots more interesting content. Consequently, links sometimes get a little fouled up. Your best bet is to surf on over to the top page at <http://www.cdspub.com> and check out what's new. Last month, we added a bibliography of transgender articles and books.



If there's one thing I've learned about fashion it is that you must keep experimenting with new looks all the time else you begin to appear dated. One way to completely change and update your look is to change wig styles. We're lucky in that respect. I purchased a short dark wig, *a la* Liza Minnelli, and wore it on the last night of the Be All in June. Not only didn't my closest friends recognize me, many said I looked 10 years younger. Lessee, that'd make me 18.



I've finally learned why the fashion industry seems to be so confused about what's going to sell and what won't ... consultants. According to the *New York Times*, fashion consultants, not designers, have been driving the market, and driving it into the basement it would seem. So, designers are taking back their turf and the result is the "new femininity" we've seen cropping up the last few seasons. Hot for Fall are still nip-waisted suits with skirts to the knee. Very '40s retro yet very modern. Get out those corsets, girls, it's a tight fit!



Here's a bunch of designers that must have been bored.

Warnaco (Warner lingerie) one of the largest manufacturers had some extra Lycra and spandex lying around and decided that bathing suits made from basic girdle material might be "cute." Actually, they look like you forgot to put on your clothes! Yecch.



Someone recently asked me if it was permissible to wear a short sleeved sequined gown in the Fall. I'm not sure all those old rules still apply, but the answer would be ... No. There are some rules, rather guidelines, for evening wear that do apply: A long gown is for black tie affairs ... A short dress is for cocktail parties (that's why they're called cocktail dresses) ... any other event (like a wedding) a dress with matching jacket will do ... Don't wear velvet after April or cotton after September .. With skimpy, tight evening clothes "invisible underwear" is a must (thongs & strapless bras) ... Keep jewelry to a minimum ... Carry the smallest evening bag you can; it should just fit in the palm of your hand.



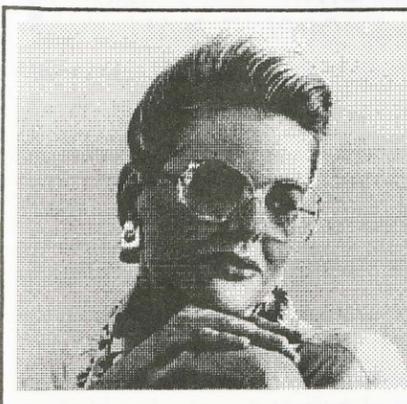
That reminds me. I've noticed that many crossdressers don't carry a purse. What's up with that? Can you imagine any woman without a purse? Get with the program, kids. Buy a nice leather purse and stuff it with all those goodies a real woman would carry: Tissues, car keys, wallet, comb, touch-up makeup, etc.



Victoria's Secret has yet another catalog on the streets. This one is called *In Between* and it features clothing for that in-between season as Summer wanes and Fall comes on. The catalog is packed with stretch satin tees, skirts, jeans, and the like. The only real problem is you need a near perfect body. Stretch satin shows nearly every bump, wart, crease and dimple. There's no way to wear structured undergarments without having them show through, unless, of course, that's the look you're going for.



Got a little pot below your waistline left over from the winter hibernation? Try an A-line skirt or tank dress. It flares out just enough to hide that paunch and looks really



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Peggy Rudd has a new book on the market, *Crossdressers: And Those Who Share Their Lives*. Unlike the other offerings from Peggy, this book is hardback (and pink!). The book is a collection of photos and vignettes about, by, and for crossdressers and their families. This book is going mainstream and should help bring out a lot of useful information about our community. Contact: PM Publishers, P.O. Box 5304, Katy TX 77491 for price and availability.



Last April, a group of interested individuals proposed a home on the net for the Congress of Transgender Organizations (CTO) and the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE). Through the efforts, in large measure, of Jamie Faye Fenton (California), Jenny Sands (Norway), and Dawn Wilson (Kentucky), the transgender community now has a World Wide Web site. More interesting is that it has its own domain: *transgender.org*. Now, any organization can have a Home Page on the triple-dub and an e-mail address. Crank up your Web browser and hie thee to [http://](http://transgender.org)

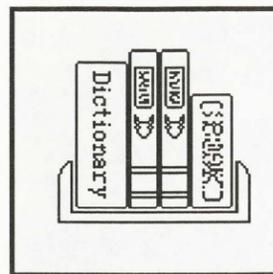
www.transgender.org/tg/ifge/ for a peek at their resource listings.



Riki Anne Wilchins wants **you**. Yes, you! for Transgender Lobby Day, October 2-3, 1995. I know that's a long way off, but you're going to think about this all summer to make up your mind. Last year, Phyllis Frye, Riki and Karen Kerin made the rounds of the Capitol talking with various staffers about transgender issues. This year, they want you to help. A coordinated effort will be made to get transgendered folks in to see their Representatives and Senators. Imagine walking the hallowed halls on Congress en femme. Gives a girl the willies. But seriously, these people know literally nothing about us based in reality. So it behooves us to call on them to make known our concern about the total lack of protection under present laws. So, if you can spare the time, getcher cute little buns down to Washington, D.C. Contact Riki Anne Wilchins at (212) 645-1753, or Karen Kerin at (802) 223-4756, or Phyllis Frye at (713) 723-8368.



So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I could be getting arrested for doing drag in Congress. Comments? E-mail them to cyberqueen@cdspub.com. Copyright 1995 by Creative Design Services. All rights reserved.



Alternative Presses

by Kimberleigh Richards

Body Guards: The Cultural Politics of Gender Ambiguity (Routledge, 1991) has been bouncing around my desk, my laptop case, my bathroom -- where, like many of us, I do a **lot** of my best reading -- and various other places for several months now. (I think the staff at my dentist's office got tired of seeing it accompany me on the half-dozen appointments I had there the first five months of this year ...) And the book had been in print for three years before someone on the Internet recommended it to me and I requested a copy from the publisher. But I've finally finished reading it, and I am sufficiently impressed to share my thoughts with you, even this long after its original appearance.



This book takes as its theme the fact that -- as editors Julia Epstein and Kristina Staub say in their introductory essay -- "gender [is] what we make of sex on a daily basis;" that is, this book explores the many variations that gender presentation and identity takes, both in modern day and throughout history. And while it has the obligatory essays on transvestism and transsexualism, its real treasures are in contributions that tell of shifting gender in a way that conflicts with our community's concept of transgendered.

One essay concentrates on early Christianity "masculinizing" the prominent females in its history in order to legitimize them. It quotes a passage from the noncanonical *Gospel Of Thomas* in which Jesus Christ reportedly had a confrontation with Simon Peter over the presence of Mary in which Christ is reputed to have said "I myself shall lead her so as to make her male, that she too may become a living spirit." It then goes on to discuss many lesser-known persons in the early history of Christianity before concluding that the long-standing patriarchy of religion has had its points of "slippage" where gender was concerned.

Elsewhere, my friend Gary Kates makes the statement -- disappointing to those who have regarded the Chevalier d'Eon as an early champion of transgenderism -- that d'Eon was "neither a transvestite nor a transsexual," no more homosexual than heterosexual, not even specifically a man or woman. (D'Eon's public "masquerade" was actually a solution to a political problem that the Chevalier had created for the French king while on a spy mission.) Kates

makes the point that in late eighteenth-century Europe, the view of sex and gender was substantially different than in modern times, and he essentially condemns contemporary theorists for attempting to force this famous case into the categories used by psychology today.

Gender transgression in the important bohemian community of Montmartre in the late 1800s and early 1900s is the focus of another essay, which in many ways blurs the difference between lesbianism and male homosexuality, even as the former became the subject of popular derision.

Other essays concentrate on gender crossing in Arab cultures, both in medieval times and more recent years; biology as a factor in gender ambiguity; modern day lesbianism, as well as Sapphists in the mid-to late-1700s in London; the tradition of crossdressing in the theatre; and fetishism used to categorize gender roles.

I find, as my experiences in the transgender community broaden my view, as well as take me into new thought processes, that it is books like *Body Guards*, more than writings from within our community, that tell me more about what we are really about. This book, in particular, legitimizes the old saying that "you need to know where you've been to know where you're going."

While obviously not a quick read, taking the time to properly digest its contents will answer many questions and start you thinking about other factors in our nature that you may not have considered before.



Two issues ago, I reviewed Kalina Isato's *Tales Of A Sexy Vampire*, only to be advised afterwards that the second edition of same has now been released. The new edition (which will be automatically sent to those ordering the original) has not only revised some sections but added an entire nine page section for mature crossdressers (as if any of us will admit to that).

Kalina has also published a companion book, *The Sexy Vampire Cookbook*, which delves deeper into the subjects of "passing", makeup, reading material, and philosophy. Naturally, there are also more of Kalina's adventures, and **eight more pages** of pictures of the author. (All right, already, Kalina, I'm sufficiently jealous now.)

Like the first volume, *Cookbook* is \$20.00 postage paid in the U.S., \$24.00 elsewhere from TransVamp Productions, Ltd. c/o Mary Lerario, 2300 Walnut St. #405, Philadelphia PA 19103. Or e-mail Kalina at isato@chem.upenn.edu to see if there's a third volume yet. :)



I'm finally making a dent in the pile of 'zines, books, and other stuff, so if you know someone who publishes a transgender-friendly 'zine or a book dealing with the subject, have them send me a copy!

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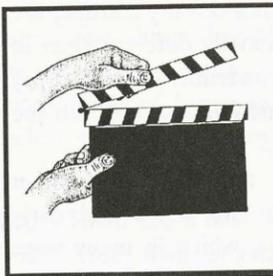
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MOVIE REVIEW

Wigstock: The Movie

by Diane Chaplin

Misstress Formika (sometimes a male named Mike) opens *Wigstock: The Movie* singing *The Age of Aquarius* in elbow-length purple gloves, a long, skinny diva dress and a wig with furred braids sticking out of her head like Mouseketeer ears.

Partly a documentary and partly a celebration of outrageous wigginess, the film chronicles the annual drag festival that takes place in downtown Manhattan over Labor Day weekend. The singing and lip-synching males on stage wear mountainous blue and pink wigs and sequins to spare, and the audience is almost as fantastically glamorized.

A distant cousin to the Halloween parade in Greenwich Village, Wigstock, the event and the movie, is good-natured, campy fun.

The Wigstock mistress of ceremonies is the Lady Bunny, wearing an exaggerated Barbie platinum wig and too many pairs of false eyelashes for the naked eye to count. One of the festival's founders, the Lady Bunny introduces unknown drag performers as well as some of the well-known who have moved in the mainstream, including RuPaul and Lypsinka.

With their sense of feminine style, the Wigstock performers owe a lot to Broadway show-stoppers and movie idols. Two males in identical chic suits, brunette hair falling over one eye, smeared red lipstick and a handbag slung over a wrist look somewhat bizarre until they are hilariously identified as the Dueling Bankheads (as in Talullah).

Filmed during the 1993 Wigstock in Tomkins Square Park and the 1994 festival at the



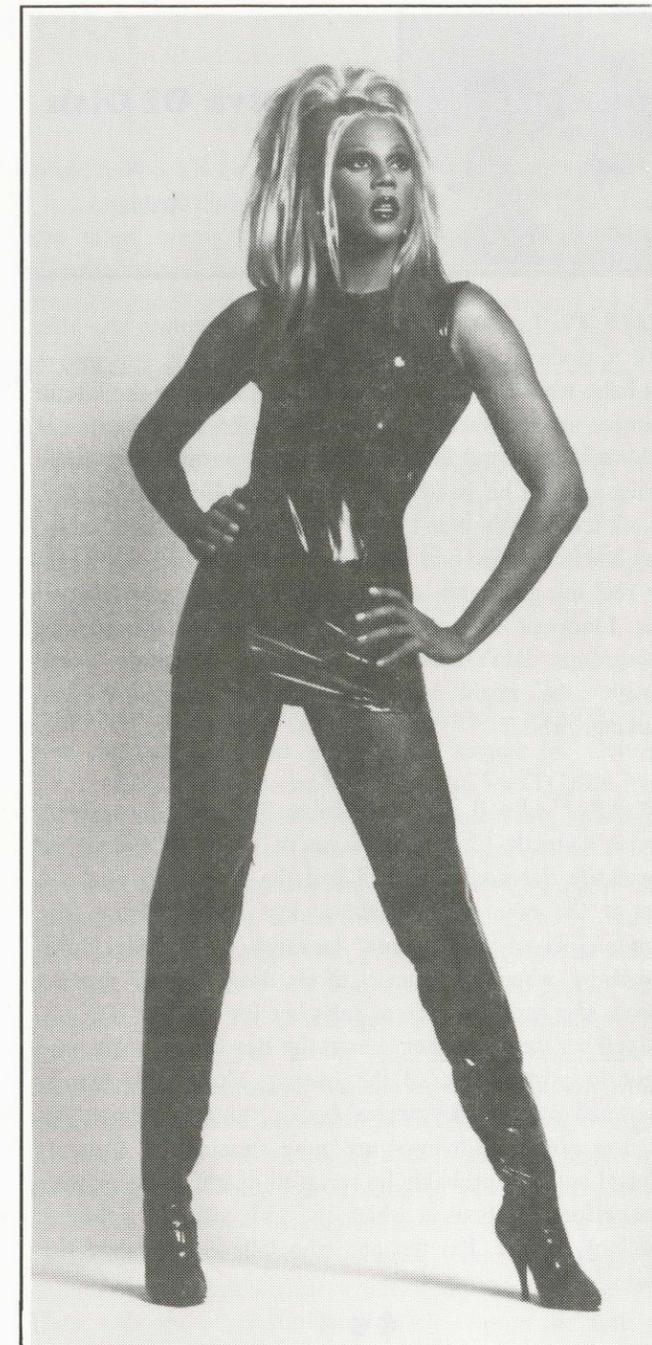
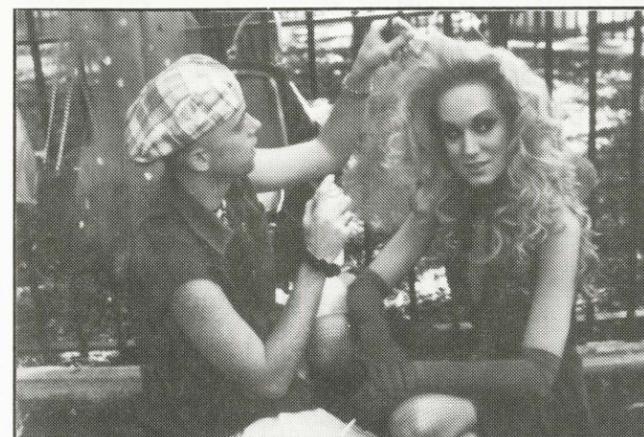
Above: Misstress Formika (right) poses with another drag queen.
Left: The "Lady" Bunny, founder and reigning diva of Wigstock.



Christopher Street Pier, the movie includes brief glimpses of the stage shows as well as interviews with performers primping and rehearsing. Alexis Arquette and Jackie Beat are a fairly charmless pair guiding viewers through the events.

Too often *Wigstock: The Movie*, directed by Barry Shils, seems to be looking over its shoulder at what Middle America thinks, working overtime to argue that drag is a harmless diversion, which it is.

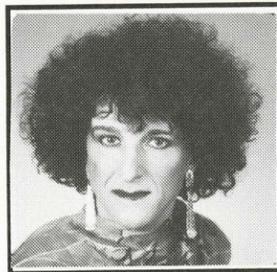
The film might have done better to jump in and let the performances speak for themselves. "I'm paying homage to strong black women," a tall, African-American male explains. It's a lot more entertaining and illuminating to watch him rehearse a dance number out of costume, then



Left, top to bottom: Daisy and Christy Love; A Boy Bar Beauty gets some last-minute touch-ups; Drag queens "working it"; Jackie Beat and Alexis Arquette with director Barry Shils. **Above:** Supermodel RuPaul. Photos courtesy The Samuel Goldwyn Company.

turn up on stage with his female side showing. Cutting away from the performances too quickly in favor of interviews and audience shots, the film seems at times somewhat jumpy and skittish. What self-respecting diva would behave like that? *Wigstock: The Movie* is not much as a film, but it works well as a glitzy, lively, lovingly-made show.

Not rated. Written and directed by Barry Shils. Edited by Barry Shils, Tod Brody and Marlen Hecht. Produced by Dean Silvers and Marlen Hecht. Released by the Samuel Goldwyn Company.



The Diva Of Dish

by Angela Gardner

90210 TV: Joanne White called to my attention the May 24th episode of *Beverly Hills 90210*. The boys run into a hot babe who captivates one of them. Of course the fateful moment arrives when he bends her back over a sports car to have his way and finds a bulge in the wrong place and a breast form in his hand. She says, in a dubbed male voice, "Don't tell me you didn't know?" Of course he didn't know, they had a woman, one **Monica Sklar**, play the part. She's the real life girlfriend of Philadelphia Flyers hockey player **Eric Lindross**. A few girls on the Internet transgender newsgroups didn't know she was really a female. Some thought she might have been **Jahna Steele**. Wishful thinking, girls.



I'M AB FAB: If you have cable TV and your system carries Comedy Central then you're probably already an *Absolutely Fabulous* addict. I had the chance to work on one of the new season's shows last August. Patsy, the blonde (played by **Joanna Lumley**) is walking down Broadway when she meets three drag queens dressed almost like her. The queens take her for a fellow TG gal, and tell her they'll see her later at the Boy Bar.

I got to portray one of the queens, along with two of renowned vocalist **Joey Arrias'** back up singers. I bring this up now since the shows are now running on Comedy Central and will probably be rerun to death, so check your listings for the show in which the girls visit the colonies, and look for me. I'm the one who tells her she has nice chains.



STONE BUTCH PIC TO CLICK: Who says the transgendered aren't making progress? **Leslie Feinberg's** novel *Stone Butch Blues* is in development, as they say in L.A., to be made into a film. The screenwriting chores will be handled by **Pamela Gray** -- who worked on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* -- and **Jan Oxenberg** will direct. Since they're only working on it now it will no doubt appear in this column for months to come. Oh boy, something I can keep using to fill this space. **Christine Vachon**, who brought us *Go Fish*, is co-producing with **Jelayne Miles**.



DR. JEKYL AND MS. HYDE: I saw this concept so long ago it was "Miss Hyde". They're at it again though.

Give Hollywood a chance to do a brand new script or a remake and which one do you think they'll pick? Anyhow, in this version **Tim Daly** is the unsuspecting perfumer who finds himself being taken over by **Sean Young**, an ornery character who spreads chaos wherever she/he goes. Young was pregnant when she did the film and they not only had to use special effects to turn Daly into Young but also to hide the big belly. You should be able to find this one in theaters after July 28th. Go quickly, I wouldn't count on a long run.



LATE RELEASE IN SPACE: *Vegas in Space*, starring the late **Doris Fish** and the late **Tippi**, had a late release. It took them eight years to finish the film. You know how cranky those drag queens can be. It hit the screen in 1991 and shortly thereafter Ms. Fish left us, followed by Tippi. Fortunately their legacy lives on in video. Keep checking the video store, girls. Troma Films, the people who brought you *The Toxic Avenger*, own the rights and are planning to release *Vegas In Space* sometime this year. You'll thrill to the adventure and glamour as the butch male space explorers journey to planet Clitoris and undergo a strange but exciting metamorphosis.

If you'd like the soundtrack to play as you get made up and fantasize about your trip to planet Clitoris, there is a cassette available for \$12.00, including postage or UPS delivery. Contact: Smiling Professional Music, 1256 Guerrero, San Francisco CA 94110.



FINAL RAMBLINGS: *A Low Life In High Heels* is again in the news. **Holly Woodlawn's** book was last mentioned as a vehicle for **Madonna** and **Harvey Fierstein**. Now it seems Holly has sold the rights to independent producer **Michael Zoumas**. They're talking about not even mentioning **Andy Warhol**.

That's it kids. I must rest my manicure. See ya next month.

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15 YEARS ON: THE END OF AN ERA

by Fran Springfield, R.G.N.

The Gender Dysphoria Trust International began its life in 1980, like so many of its subscribers, with another name that eventually became inappropriate, SHAFT (Self Help Association For Transsexuals). In the words of its foundress, Judy Cousins, it was to be "a shaft of light in the darkness for all transsexuals". The only organization in the U.K. at that time catering for transgendered people was the Beaumont Society, which was (and still is) much more oriented to the TV rather than the TS. Judy was a woman of vision and many talents; she rose to the rank of Major in the Indian Army (in the days when Britain still had an empire), married and had three children, became a successful inventor before "disappearing" to live her life as a woman, undergoing surgery in March 1971 just twelve days after changing gender roles full-time! (The cost was astounding too, just \$600!)

From its early days the organization was very much Judy's baby -- she was the figurehead and ruled by a benevolent autocracy (!) with others doing much of the work behind the scenes to keep everything running. There was much practical help given in those days with changing facilities available and transport provided to and from the Gender Identity Clinic at Charing Cross Hospital in London. In financial terms SHAFT only kept running due to the goodwill of officers and the ability of Judy and others to put their hands in their own pockets and make up the inevitable shortfall.

Judy eventually decided that she wanted to take something of a back seat and her deputy became ill due to overwork, there were many upheavals and the distribution of an "alternative" and very satirical newsletter, as well as other very political sub-groups and publications appearing on the scene. One move also involved a change of name, to Gender Dysphoria Trust. But once again things did not run smoothly ... those appointed to do jobs became overwhelmed with their own problems and failed to carry out their tasks.

Back in October 1989 I was the first non-transsexual to be appointed to "The Committee". My original role was to deal with all the incoming post, and as they say, from there "it just grewed!" But not before the organization had undergone another trauma. The then-chairperson began to blackmail me, writing letters demanding that if I did not resign from the group, she would inform my ex-husband and my father about my sex life! I should explain that at that time I was a somewhat closeted lesbian who was battling through the courts to retain custody of my son, and my father was a senior clergyman who could not cope with me getting divorced. Thus disclosure of my private life

would have not been helpful to me.

I was fortunate that I that received much support from Judy and many others, and the person concerned with the blackmail threat was duly removed from office and left the organization. She took with her a few supporters, a copy of the confidential membership list -- to which she was

Was the Gender Dysphoria Trust International doomed from the start of its 15 year existence? You decide.

entitled as Chair, but should have returned -- and from this base she began another group. This became the Gender Trust, with a diverse membership base of TV/TG/TS. The GDT continued to serve solely the transsexuals and their family. We set up a telephone helpline, appointed a new caretaker-chair, I became Administrator and we began our quest for charitable status. This had long been Judy's dream but was it fraught with problems, not least of which was that of the cost. We had a number of people who promised success for us but nothing ever seemed to be achieved. Indeed, the group then lurched into another crisis and for a short-time was run by a coordinating group who added the word International to our title and changed the name of our newsletter to *Dyscourse*. The hoped-for stability never came, but a turning point arose which fortuitously led to the formation in 1991 of the GDTI as a Company Limited by Guarantee, i.e. a **non-profit** organization. At last we had achieved some success.

There was one other stumbling block. One of the aims of the group had always been to seek a change in the law; indeed, we had supported both **Caroline Cossey (Tula)** and **Mark Reece** in their European Court battles. The bureaucrats of the time decided this was "political" and thus we couldn't become a Charity which would give us much needed status together with the ability to seek grant funding. So with some sadness this aim was dropped from our aims and in 1992 our Charitable Status was granted.

In management terms stability had been achieved, our trustees were all dedicated and hardworking, and the board of directors keen to work together to obtain the funds we now so desperately needed to keep going. No longer were we in a position where there was in-fighting or jealousy -- all the directors and trustees came from professional backgrounds and it showed. Funding had

been put up by two of the trustees and there was much generosity from the directors to enable us to have a suitable office base. We found two adjoining rooms in an out-of-town small office block, and after the initial curiosity from the other residents we settled in. In this we created history, we were the first gender group in the U.K. to be based in a building shared with others, as well as retaining our solely transsexual stance.

Our phone lines became increasingly busy and the counseling service took off, with plenty of referrals from other professionals and many clients who self-referred. Our program of outreach continued and Norma (my partner, who had her own reassignment surgery in 1989) and I found ourselves travelling all over the U.K. to talk about GDTI and transgender issues. The task of securing funding began in earnest, as the directors drew up strategy documents as a base from which to begin to approach grant-making bodies, went on courses to learn the best way to approach people and talked to others who had been there before. While there is government funding both locally and nationally for Charities, the very nature of our work meant that the inherent homophobia within both tiers made obtaining funds from those sources impossible, so we approached over sixty of the private Trusts, and the total response was \$450 (which barely covered the leasing

costs of our photocopier for one quarter!). Our subscriber figures remained stable at the 400 mark, but the fact that over 50% were unemployed and had to be subsidized by the subscriptions of the employed meant that the finances remained on a tightrope. No one working for the organization claimed any expenses, but we needed money and it wasn't there.

The other major difficulty that we encountered was a lack of suitable volunteers being able and willing to work within the office to the standard required. For the organization to function efficiently it required a minimum of three people full-time in the office, and bearing in mind the time spent on outreach this meant that at least one other person was required to assist full-time in the office. This was rarely achieved and when it was there were difficulties. Petty jealousies combined with an element of power-building served to undermine much of the professionalism we had achieved. Some of our volunteers found it difficult to deal with our evolution from a self help group to a professionally run organization. (This was heightened in April 1993 when my wonderful Norma died very suddenly of liver failure. All of a sudden not only had the organization lost one of its key personnel but I had lost the person I loved. The days and weeks that followed are a blur of emotional pain and of fighting officialdom to

ensure that Norma was at least given the dignity of a funeral as a woman, despite the gender on her death certificate. Because I refused to give the authorities evidence of her original name it took days to register her death, and a malicious call from one of her family had alerted them to her background so her previous gender was known and there followed a battle to ensure that her death certificate bore only her female name and not the male one that they were insistent upon.) Meanwhile the practical problems that now faced the organization were enormous.

We did not have the continuity of volunteers that were needed to run effectively. Those we had could not often be trusted either to do their jobs as required or at times even to turn up at all. We were faced with the question: Was it better to have some volunteers who were not suitable than no volunteers at all? We found that those had gone through surgery were not necessarily any more suitable or stable than those who were going through transition. We had some excellent people, but all too often they had either their own employment (and were only available at vacation times) or their personal circumstances meant they could not relocate. I was the only one of the trustees and directors who could work full-time for the organization. While I had the support of Norma we could effectively manage the volunteers together, but on my own it became impossible and this resulted in attempts to undermine the

authority invested in me by the Board of Directors. None of this was made any easier by what appeared to be a concerted campaign by certain other U.K. gender groups to destroy our very existence. Rumors abounded that we had folded, were being investigated by all sorts of government agencies, or were about to be "exposed" on either television or the gutter press ... none of which were true. At least one other group reprinted a letter in its newsletter that stated we no longer existed and a conference organized by our former chairperson, printed in its programme that we were a Limited Company (i.e., profit making) instead of Company Limited by Guarantee, which in U.K. law means non-profit. Despite requests by our Directors and other leading gender professionals she refused to apologize or make any public announcement as to our correct status.

The final straw came when -- having been forced by financial constraints to move out of our rented offices -- we were offered a room for our furniture and files, by someone who said she would deal with all the routine administration. She then not only completely failed to do this, but conspired to undermine totally the whole organization. A rescue package was set up, and after a brief hiatus we found a large cheaper room within a local voluntary services headquarters, but then had to fund the re-purchase of furniture as well as installation of phone lines, etc. A new financial director was appointed who

BACK ISSUES!

For the convenience of those who have only recently discovered **Cross-Talk** (and those who rejoin our readership after an absence), we have maintained a stock of most issues published in magazine format.

1995 issues are available at the regular cover price of **\$7.00**, including the following recent issues:

CROSS-TALK



#64 (February): Personal growth and moving ahead; The four "whys" of crossdressing; When personal politics affect community politics; Part one of roundtable discussion of transsexualism by lesbians; Exploring sexuality in the context of shifting gender roles; Avoiding second-guessing your decisions; Review of *StarGate*.

#65 (March): Calling the transgender community by its logical name; Finding your true path amidst peer pressure; Suppressing behavior patterns that prevent your passing; Choosing methods of gender expression; Encountering the public's fear of transgenderism; Part two of lesbian TS roundtable; Review of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

#66 (April): Contrasting diplomacy and radicalism as means for change; Sexism in the TG community; Avoiding the "man in a dress" mentality; Successfully transitioning on the job; A 12-step program for pride; The side effects of transgender rights; Staying true to yourself.

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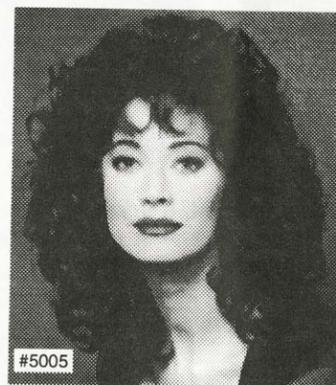
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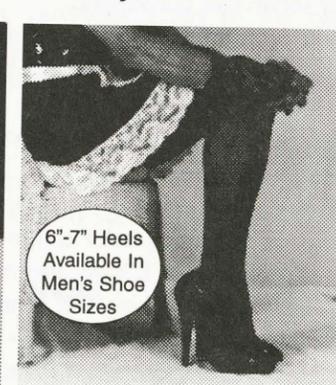
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claimed that she would easily get us funding, but this all came to naught and the help she and her partner (who had both been involved in the SHAFT days) promised to the organization so that we might be able to run effectively, evaporated. This placed an intolerable strain in financial and practical terms; within the last eight months of the life of the organization, I, together with my new partner, gave over \$1500 to enable everything to continue, and other directors and professionals were also generous. At the end, it just became impossible to exist, our subscriber base was eroded by almost a third, we had neither the personnel or the finances to continue, so we had to close.

It was a hard decision to make, and left a vulnerable group of people even more vulnerable, for there is no other similar organization to take over where we have left off. You are all transgendered, and maybe others had a hang-up about me not being so, and also being an out lesbian. (The one thing that blackmail did for me was to bring me out of the closet -- it couldn't happen again!) I have found myself at the end of a lot of jealousy and prejudice. Some of this I can understand, but much of it only serves to make the transgender community poorer.

I do not regret the past five years. I have met some truly wonderful gender gifted people who have greatly enriched my life. Looking back, I wonder if the outcome would have been different if GDTI had not been solely transsexual based. But that in many ways was a great strength and one which drew so many people to us. While it restricted our subscriber base it enabled us to focus on the special, particular and very separate needs of the transsexual. We were in many ways the victims of our own success, those who had completed their transition more often than not went out into mainstream society and had no more need of our services or our support.

I would point out too that what happened within GDTI has occurred in similar ways in other U.K. transgender groups. The "Queen Bee" syndrome is all too evident. It also appears to be an all too common experience in self-help groups that are not gender based. I have learned a lot and I am sure I will continue to do so, as I intend to remain working in the transgender community and giving back to it. I inherited what I have always regarded as a "sacred trust" from Judy Cousins and in my own way I will honor that.

This article represents my own views and is intended to present facts without embellishment or back-biting, as there was already enough of that without my adding to it.

[Copyright 1995 Fran Springfield. Ms. Springfield is a clinical nurse specialist and gender counselor who has begun a new transgender-oriented practice in the aftermath of GDTI's demise. She may be reached via Internet e-mail at fspringfield@cix.compulink.uk or at Gender Identity Consultancy Services, BM Box 5434, London WC1N 3XX, U.K.]

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HEY DAD ... DO I HAVE TO WATCH THE TV?



by Ricky Hunt

Cross-Talk's "Bearded Lady" offers a humorous, yet factual, discussion of crossdressing from the perspective of a teenager's father. Presented in a question and answer format for easy understanding of the issues involved.

Out of print for more than three years, it has been completely re-typeset and spiral bound for this reprint. **Cross-Talk** will donate \$1.00 to S.P.I.C.E., the Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education, for each copy sold.

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The Bearded Lady

by Ricky Hunt
Illustration by Rita

You may have noticed that of all the regular columnists in **Cross-Talk** I am the only one who doesn't have her picture at the top of the page. I suppose this is an indication of the taste and perspicacity of our esteemed editor, not to mention a valid reflection of reality as my hirsute visage could never compete with the coifed and ladylike portrayals of my fellow writers. I don't feel slighted in the least by this omission, however, because I have something they don't: The redoubtable Rita.

I'm not sure how to say this without risking my modesty, but when **Cross-Talk** arrives in my mailbox the first thing I turn to is my own column. Even though I am in love with my prose, it is her artistic talent I eagerly seek out. This woman has been able to succeed at something I have been trying to accomplish for the 25 years I have been wearing dresses: She has made me downright cute. In my mind I have always been Miss America, but to the rest of the world I more resemble Miss Piggy, and even Kermit keeps his mouth shut on the subject.

As I think of it, Rita's talent has obviated the need for me to be able to pass. Every month I appear before a national audience and I never have to lift a finger, put on any makeup, or exert myself in the slightest. On the pages of **Cross-Talk** I am always at my finest. Except on those months when my male self appears in a safari suit, that is. I must confess I have never even owned a safari suit, but they do look good on me, don't they? Maybe I ought to get one.

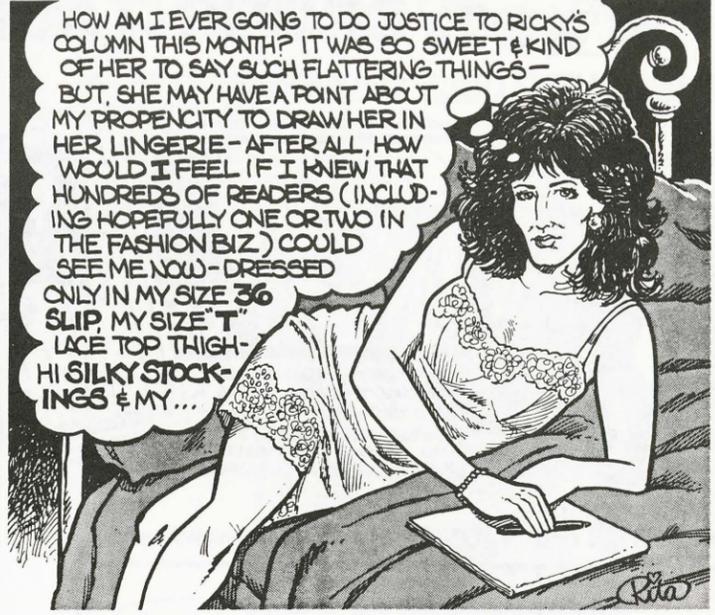
Rita must also imbue her art with some kind of protective magic, as well as humor. I must admit her rendering of me is very true to life; it is recognizably me on the page. I was worried that my cover might be blown, as it were, until my daughter did a report on transvestism for college.

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HOW AM I EVER GOING TO DO JUSTICE TO RICKY'S COLUMN THIS MONTH? IT WAS SO SWEET & KIND OF HER TO SAY SUCH FLATTERING THINGS - BUT, SHE MAY HAVE A POINT ABOUT MY PROPENSITY TO DRAW HER IN HER LINGERIE - AFTER ALL, HOW WOULD I FEEL (IF I KNEW THAT HUNDREDS OF READERS (INCLUDING HOPEFULLY ONE OR TWO IN THE FASHION BIZ) COULD SEE ME NOW - DRESSED ONLY IN MY SIZE 36 SLIP, MY SIZE "T" LACE TOP THIGH-HI SILKY STOCKINGS & MY...

Naturally she used **Cross-Talk** as one of her sources, and her roommate couldn't resist reading some of them. She tells me she nearly burst a gasket laughing when her roommate wondered if the cartoon looked like the author. Now that is my real name that appears at the top of the page, and her roommate has spent a good deal of time with our family, but she never twigged. It has got to be magic ... nothing else explains it.

I must be honest, however. If Rita has one flaw, it is her proclivity for drawing me in my underwear. I was actually embarrassed when I saw myself prancing around the museum in my "Maidenly Form Bra", but it didn't last long. I now find myself in the decidedly odd position of being jealous of myself. Really, I wish my undies were as nice as the ones I wear in the cartoons. If any of you readers happen to be in the publicity department of a major fashion house, I'm available cheap to plug your product, as long as it comes in 46C. Just send one of everything to me and a duplicate to Rita so she can make it look good on me. I don't know her sizes, though. Sorry.

And Rita, I can hardly wait to see how you illustrate this column.



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by KAREN ANN MICHAELS

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HALLOWEEN, 1966: SOMEWHERE THERE EXISTS A PHOTOGRAPH OF MY CONSIDERABLY SHORTER BEST FRIEND AS A WWI FIGHTER PILOT AND MYSELF AS A TEENAGE GIRL...

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HALLOWEEN, 1989: AS "ELVIRA"™...

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NOVEMBER, 1987: LIVING AS A WOMAN FOR A WEEK, I TOLD MY NEIGHBORS I WAS PLAYING A TRANSEXUAL IN A LOW-BUDGET MOVIE. THEY BOUGHT IT.

©-1995, Karen Michaels

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

I KNOW YOU ASKED PERMISSION, SON! ... BUT YOUR MAW AN' ME THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO DRESS UP AS A SIOUX!!

Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard

"Oh, heavens, no! I'm fine with my crossdressing ... only I keep taking those HOME PREGNANCY TESTS! Do you think that's crazy?"

THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner

YOU KNOW, I REALLY LIKED THAT EDWARD WOOD MOVIE. HAVE YOU SEEN PRISCILLA QUEEN OF SOMETHING?

A SURE SIGN YOUR MOM IS READY TO TALK ABOUT "IT."

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

THIS MONTH: "FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES" ... OFTEN WHEN WE FEEL MOST ALONE WE WILL FIND AN UNEXPECTED ALLY...

SO, CD, YOU WERE DRESSED LIKE A SHOWGIRL, A LADY COP & HER MACHO PARTNER CLOCK YOU DOING 20 OVER, AND THEY LET YOU GO!!! NO HASSLE?

YOU SEE, OFFICER DARLA USED TO BE OFFICER DARREL AND OFFICER BOB LIKES TO RIDE SIDESADDLE. THEY EVEN GAVE ME A DOUGHNUT TO GO!

GIRL, SOMEBODY'S WATCHIN' OVER YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT, T.S.

CDTV by Karen Rusnak

here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson

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Sergeant
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This is the city... a city full of boyfriends and husbands. When they dress up in women's clothes... and do it badly... I must step in and do my job... I'm a cop. Gender Police. Fashion Division!

Karen '93

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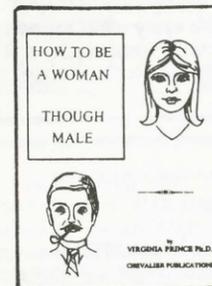


10/22/79: Gemma Craven, David Kernan and Millicent Martin perform a previously unreleased Alan Jay Lerner song on the opening segment of the new series *Song By Song*, PBS.



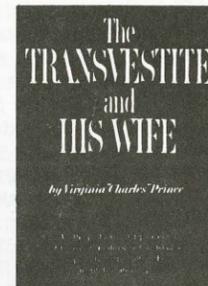
7/25/77: The husband-and-wife mime team of Robert Shields and Lorene Yarnell perform on the premiere of their summer comedy-variety series *Shields & Yarnell*, CBS.

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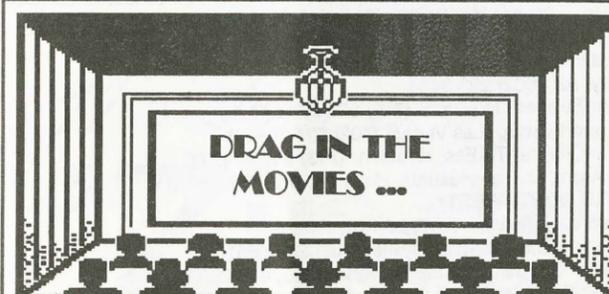


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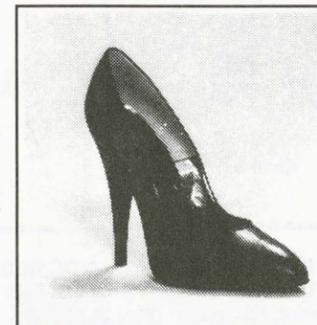
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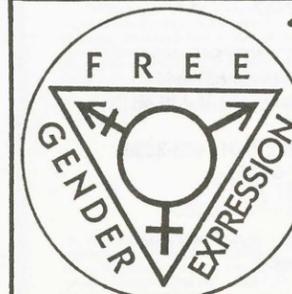


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CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 439-9618 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 657-4344
Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389
Cross Expressions, Binghamton: (607) 862-3203
Enterprise, Boston: (617) 983-3264 #
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Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Images, Hartford: (203) 779-9708 #
Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9858
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
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Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050
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Northern New Jersey Group: (201) 663-0772
Philadelphia TS Support Group: (215) 567-7879 #
Renaissance Delaware Chapter: (302) 995-1396
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (610) 630-1437
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Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 435-5401
Sigma Nu Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Trenton: 1-800-480-3152 @
Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417
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TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822
Transgender Support Group of Baltimore: (410) 837-5445
TransGenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181
Tri-State Transgendered Club, Cumberland: (301) 453-3538
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
Atlanta Gender Exploration: (404) 875-9846 #
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
Eclipse, Tampa: (813) 546-3089 #
Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (305) 784-9316 #
Enchante, St. Petersburg: (813) 972-2617 #
Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335
Gulf Gender Alliance, New Orleans: (504) 523-4203
Kappa Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Charlotte: (704) 358-3838 @
Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570
Metro Area Gender Alliance, Arlington: (301) 949-3822 #
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 332-6638 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 523-2466 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
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Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @
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Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3847
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 265-7488
Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee: (414) 297-9328
Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 241-1411 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (812) 876-5635
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (309) 755-2310
Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258
Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292
Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 997-9897
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Agape, Dallas: (214) 424-1234 #
Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
Alpha Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Salt Lake City: (801) 553-8141 @
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788
Central Wyoming TG Support Group: (307) 473-2429
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver: (303) 595-5874 @
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 202-6466
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632
Metroplex CD Club, Dallas: (214) 264-7103 @
Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460
Sorority, AZ: (602) 293-3456
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
TS Support Group, Las Vegas: (702) 594-7884 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @
Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #

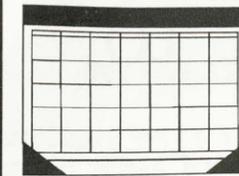
PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071
Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
Trans-Port, Portland: (503) 774-8463
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
Androgyny-East, Riverside: (909) 360-5584
Born Free, Riverside: (909) 278-0958
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 937-8432
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
FTM, Oakland: (510) 287-2646 #
Gender Expressions, Los Angeles: (310) 869-4241
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 482-7742
Sigma Sigma Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Lake Tahoe: (916) 544-2460 @
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

For a list of organizations outside the United States that maintain hotlines, send a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon to **Cross-Talk**, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365 USA.



EVENTS CALENDAR

September 14-17, 1995: "Paradise in the Poconos", produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information via Internet: poco@cdspub.com or by phone: (610) 640-9449.

September 27-October 1, 1995: "Southern Comfort", Atlanta GA. Details from P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta 30357.

September 28-October 1, 1995: "Mardi Gras '95", Port Sydney ON, Canada, presented by the Monarch Social Club. Details from P.O. Box 386 Mississauga A, Mississauga ON L5A 3A1, or by phone or fax to (905) 279-7723.

October 5-9, 1995: "Fall Fling", Cape Cod MA, sponsored by the Tiffany Club of New England. Information from TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA, or by phoning (617) 891-9325.

October 15-22, 1995: 21st Annual "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA, sponsored by the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies. Registration information from Fan Fair, P.O. Box 941, Southeastern PA 19399-0941.

October 26-29, 1995: 6th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and hosted by St. Louis Gender Foundation. Information from SILGF, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis MO 63117, telephone (314) 358-0410.

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

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

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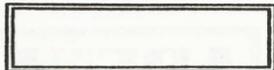
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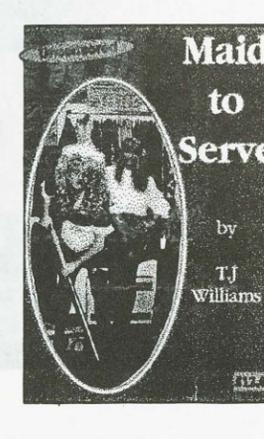
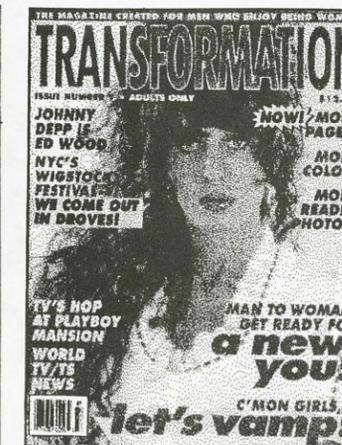
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