



# News & views

# RENAISSANCE

## The Responsibility of Leadership

### Essay by JoAnn Roberts

Ariadne Kane of the Outreach Institute often refers to what we call "TV/TS Support" groups as "Social Contact" groups and to an extent she's correct. Most of our organizations are not like other mainstream support groups in that we aren't trying to help people, for the most part, get over serious traumatic events like rape or physical abuse. Most of our groups provide peer-support to their members by letting them know they are not alone and by providing a safe environment in which to socialize and meet other transgendered people.

Because of this social nature, we tend not to give a lot of consideration to important aspects of leadership that might be required if our organizations were more like mainstream support groups. The social and "fun" aspects of our organizations do not necessarily require strong leadership skills in order to survive at the local level.

However, we now have in our community several organizations that have taken on a more serious role of education and proactive outreach to the world at large. We have created these organizations in the image of larger non-profit corporations and we've taken advantage of state and federal regulations to acquire tax-exempt status so that certain doors which would otherwise be closed are now open to us.

But, we have not overcome the "social contact" mentality when it comes to selecting the leadership of these corporations. Are we choosing or electing the best qualified people? Are we looking for genuine leadership skills in our leaders? Do these corporate officers understand the financial and legal responsibilities they assume when elected to office in a tax-exempt organization? Do we *not* understand the seriousness of the roles these individuals play in these organizations? The people we choose to lead these special organizations must be the best that our community has to offer and they must understand the tremendous responsibility that we hand them.

The prime responsibility of a leader to an organization must be the organization itself and not personal ego. We have created these organizations to, ostensibly, help people understand the nature of

the transgender phenomenon. That must be the organization's primary goal. If a leader gets some personal ego strokes along the way, that's fine. It's a bonus. But, we must never permit self-aggrandizement and/or personal gain to be the driving force behind any action taken on behalf of our organizations. Someone once said, "There is no greater treason than to do the right thing for the wrong reason." We don't want or need leaders who will only do what is best for themselves. We must require our leaders to do what is best for the organization, even when it means a hardship for themselves.

Our chosen leaders must fully understand and respect their roles as care-takers of our community organizations. Regardless of who founded what, the moment an organization accepts a tax exemption from the federal government, that organization now belongs to the public and that means us, the transgender community at large. We must expect, no, we must *demand* of our leaders only the highest ethical behavior. Any leader who feels that an organization is "their's" to do with as they please, is violating the trust we've placed in them and does not deserve to be in a leadership position.

Organizations can and do come and go on the whim of its supporters. In order to build anything of permanence, leaders must inspire the respect of their followers. The best way to do that is for a leader to show respect to his/her followers *first*. Any leader who will not respect the supporters of their organization is surely on an ego trip and not at all concerned about the organization itself.

Any person who seeks a leadership position in one of these organizations should be qualified for that position. We should not choose merely by personality, although that is important, but also by education, real-life experience, and appropriate people/organizational skills. It is not sufficient reason to put someone in a leadership position simply because the organization was their idea, especially if that person has no skills to sustain the

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## Chapter & Affiliate Information

### Chapters

#### New Jersey

**South Jersey/Shore Area:** Write Renaissance SJ, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open at 7 p.m. Call 609-435-5401 for details.

#### Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia area:** Write Renaissance GPC, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020-0530. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 p.m. all year 'round. Call 610-630-1437 for information.

**Lower Susquehanna Valley:** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (1578) for location and times.

Would you like to start a group in your area? If so, we can help with our chapter/affiliate program. Write to the Director of Outreach, Chapter Development, Renaissance National, PO Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or call 610-630-1437 and request our Community Outreach Bulletin No. 1.

### Affiliates

#### Georgia

The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-987-8535. Information resources.

#### Louisiana

The Gulf Area Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300. Local support group.

#### New Jersey

Monmouth/Ocean Trans-Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Local support group.

#### New York

Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332. Local support group.

## Renaissance News & Views

© 1994, Renaissance Education Association, Inc., PO Box 60552, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406-0552, 610-630-1437.

\$2 per issue, \$16 per year (12 issues). Back issues are available for \$2 per copy plus \$0.52 postage and handling. Send check or M.O. to the above address, attention: Beth Marshall.

### Editor-in-Chief

*Angela Gardner*

### Contributing Editors

*Dina Amberle*

*JoAnn Roberts*

### Layout

*Creative Design Services*

### Distribution

*Beth & Rachel Marshall*

### Business Manager

*Susan Persing*

Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to our editorial office care of Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020-0530. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public.



## Resources

### Background Papers:

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

### Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940.

### Pen Pal Program:

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, care of Maryann Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940. Maryann will put you on the Pen Pal List and give you a copy of that list so you may correspond with as many new friends as you like.

### TransParent Forum:

If you are transgendered and have children, that makes you a TransParent. If you'd like to network with other TransParents contact Elsa Larson, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, Pa., 17105, attention: TransParent.

## Events Calendar

### March

- 5 Renaissance LSV Meeting
- 5 Ren SJ - Dr. Lee Etscovitz
- 5 MOTG Movie Fund Raiser
- 12 New Delaware Group Forming
- 13 MGN Meeting
- 16 IFGE Con., Portland, Wash.
- 19 Renaissance GPC Meeting, Turrey Kepler, Legal Issues
- 19 MOTG Meeting
- 25 My Dinner With Dina
- 26 Sunshine Club Anniv. Banquet

### April

- 2 Ren LSV- Dinner at Bube's
- 2 Renaissance SJ Meeting
- 10 MGN Meeting
- 16 Ren GPC - Lingerie Party
- 21 Moonlight In Manhattan, NYC
- 23 MOTG Meeting
- 30 EuroFantasia, Denmark



News Beat  
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by Angela Gardner

OK kids, fasten your seat belts, it's going to be a bumpy ride! Not really, but if you can use a Bette Davis line in your column, what the hey! I've got oodles of bubbly, fluff stuff in this column and with out any further ado let's get it whipped to a froth.

### COLLEGE CAMPUS CUTIES

First up, an informed source at a prestigious, Mainline college has informed me that there are transexual coeds on campus. Gasp! When I queried her as to how she had ascertained that fact, she replied that it was known to all the girls on campus that three of the college's coeds were former guys. The interesting thing is, the women on campus are not friendly to these ladies and the transsexuals stay together all the time in a separate clique. "Why these barriers", I asked and my source told me the campus women don't like the transsexuals because they just don't fit in. I thought she meant they didn't fit in because of their "difference." She said it was because these three are always "done" to the nines. They attend classes every day in designer outfits, "with matching hose and pumps."

Must be nice girlfriend! The regular female students all wear rugby shirts and jeans. No wonder the "TS" students don't seem to fit in. I can't help but feel, if these three girls are spending that much time on their clothes and makeup (I'm told they are done like Christie Brinkley every morning) then they just may be transvestites. Don't you wish you were

young and rich, had your parents and therapist bamboozled and got to go to college as a female? Ah to be young and crossdressed.... But, I digress. My source told me everyone would be happier if these three would just enroll at Haverford College. It seems all the coeds at Haverford get all done up everyday. Excuse me, I have to go to some Mainline college campus's now.

### SURFS UP...

On the television waves. It seems like there have been a veritable potpourri (I love that kind of talk) of guys in dresses and references to guys in dresses on television lately. That's not even counting The Kids In The Hall every Thursday night. I know, in January I said they were on Friday. Well, right after the newsletter went to the printer the suits moved them to Thursdays. Guess too many kids in baggy clothes with their caps on backwards were upset by men in women's clothes on Friday nights. Tune in on a Thursday or tape them.

Anyhow, in a one week period during January I counted seven crossdresser related incidents on my TV set. I know there must be more that I missed and I'm not counting daytime talk shows or news programs. Wanna know what they where? I thought you'd never ask.

First, on the eighteenth, NYPD Blue did some drag bashing. This one wasn't fun since the crossdresser was a strangulation killer. Not only was she evil but after they tracked her down (her hairdresser ratted on her), the guy I can't help but call Buntz, even though they changed his name to Sippowitcz, moved in for the bust. (Shouldn't that be plural?) He asked the leggy, blonde TV if she wanted to do it the easy way or the hard way. She replied by pulling her tight, Spandex mini up around her waist and dashing off down the block. One of the other officers blocked her escape and Buntz, I mean Sippowitcz tackled her. She lost her long, blonde tresses and when she asked if she could have her hair back as they lead her away in handcuffs and a nylon stocking cap, one of the cops kicked her hair into the street.

Not a very positive appearance, and no way to take care of an expensive wig.

Later, on The Late Show with Conan O'Brian, Malcolm McDowell was Conan's guest. They showed a clip from one of McDowell's early, starring vehicles, Caligula. This film was shot in a slipshod manner. In one particular scene McDowell as Caligula makes love to his sister while John Guilgud looks on. The two shots don't match up at all. They look as though they were shot at a completely different time with a different camera, which, as it turns out, they were. To make a joke of this Conan had himself inserted into the Guilgud part. He was dressed in a toga with those olive branches on his head. After the clip ran McDowell said, "Any excuse to get into a dress, eh?" After the applause died down Conan replied, "Maybe." Let me point out that Mr. O'Brian is the producer of The Simpsons. I think we've seen Bart and Homer in dresses pretty often. Conan also dressed up as René Richards for a tasteless skit about dropping balls in a previous program.

As far as I know, the nineteenth of January passed without any drag stuff on television but on the twentieth, boy oh boy. First up was Entertainment Tonight with not only RuPaul but Elton John taking Ms. Charles to the induction ceremony at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. They made a lovely couple. ET ran clips from their video which has Elton in drag too. Then, that hot bed of crossdressing, The Simpsons featured a plot that had the family in the witness protection program. They packed up and left town but they forgot Grandpa Simpson. He is seen standing outside their old house in Springfield, pounding on the door and calling out for his medicine. Well, the plot is resolved and the Simpsons return to their old home. Still outside the house is Grandpa, but a transformed Grandpa. He has long hair, lipstick and breasts. It seems this transformation happened since the old guy didn't get his pills. Another old guy gives him a bouquet of flowers and as the credits roll we

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# News Beat...

hear his voice saying, "Well, we can go out but there's something you should know about me." Talk about the Crying Game!

After The Simpsons came the Sinbad Show, also on Fox. I don't really watch it but it was on while I was getting made up or something. The star of the show, Sinbad (oddly enough) was talking to his little girl. She was telling him how much she hated wearing the dress she had on. He said, "That dress kept me out of Vietnam." In another Sinbad Show on the sixth of January he had been making her a costume. At one point he was demonstrating the different types of thing they could make and he wrapped the fabric around his hips. He told the little girl that he could wear a skirt cause big hips run in his family. When she says he can't wear a skirt cause he's a boy Sinbad replied you don't have to be a girl to wear a skirt. He went on to add, "Boy George wore a skirt. He had to wear a long skirt since his leg's so bad. I could wear a short skirt cause I got good legs."

Sounds like a good positive role model to me. But back to the twentieth, Matlock featured a macho FBI man on the run. This guy was accused of nefarious deeds by the Bureau and Matlock was trying to defend him. The agent was a Col. Flagg type. Remember the guy on MASH who used to spy on them and interrogate Koreans? This FBI agent is just like that only not as

much of a putz. While he's hiding out from the Bureau he uses various disguises. Right, one of his disguises is a typical crossdresser outfit. He eats lunch at a restaurant. He is seated at one table and a friend he has made contact with for information about his case is seated at the next table. He's probably about six two or so and when he stands up from this not-very-undercover conversation his friend says, "Your slip is showing." Yuk, yuk!

On the Dick Van Dyke show, Diagnosis Murder which ran the next evening, the guy using disguises is Dick's son the police detective. When Dick comments on how he thought he had been able to tell it was his son disguised as the stage hand the son tells him he'll probably be in a red Spandex dress the next time he goes undercover. Dick says he hopes not since his son doesn't have the legs for it. The son says it must be Dick's fault since he's his father. Again, big yuks.

## **LSV BRINGS BACK THE LUAU**

Erica Edwards, the Co-chairlady of the Luau committee informs us that the LSV Luau will return this year to the Sheraton Inn East in Harrisburg, PA on August twenty seventh. Last year there was no one available to organize the event so they didn't have one. This meant that those interested in performing during the Lumberjack Song sing-along were forced to stay in the closet, perhaps quietly humming the song to themselves during a regular LSV meeting.

This year, in addition to the popular group sing there will be an all star lip

sync show following the buffet dinner. The doors open at seven PM with the dinner happening around seven-thirty and the glittering, sequin slathered show follows at nine. Stay tuned to *Renaissance News & Views* for updated info on the entertainment lineup. So far a former Miss Gay Pennsylvania, our own JoAnn Roberts and the informative Miss Edwards are signed up to perform. Tickets are available before August fifteenth for \$35.00. Prices go up to \$37.00 after July fifteenth and up to \$40.00 after August fifteenth. Plan ahead, get those tickets early and save money. We're mentioning this early in the year in order to give all the girls a chance to snag a bargain dress for the event.

## **MOM, YOU'RE TALLER AREN'T YOU?**

Michelle Lynn sent in a short clip from the Newsmakers section of January eleventh's Philadelphia Inquirer which gives the results of a poll conducted by several alternative newspapers. (We used to call them underground papers in the old days.) Members of Generation X (that's teenagers, not members of the band of the same name.) were asked who they would choose as their parents. Fourteen percent picked Al Gore as dad and twenty two percent wanted Whoopi Goldberg as mom. Point seven percent wanted RuPaul as their father but one point five percent wanted RuPaul as their mother. I think we can see just what percentage of Generation X has all the good taste.

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**MONTEL MANIA**

Sharon from California sent a clip from the December twelfth edition of the National Inquirer about the Montel Williams Show. Not only can you watch the show but now you can read reports about the show in the tabloids and then later read a rewritten version of that report in a crossdresser newsletter. What a country.

Back to the report. It seems Montel had a woman on the show who said that she was divorcing her husband because he wore dresses. On further questioning by Mr. Williams she admitted that she wanted the divorce not because of the crossdressing but because she had to find his things hidden in a trunk and , "Because he didn't say it to me. I had to find out myself in such a shocking manner, which devastated me.." She added, "Had I known, I would not have married him." I think we can see her husband's mistake clearly enough. It is very difficult to come out to the woman in your life but it's better to do it early and not try to hide an important part of your personality.

A ray of hope for husbands in the closet is the woman's further assertion that though she has filed for divorce, she still loves her husband and may seek a reconciliation. Wish we knew who they were. We could ship them a copy of *Coping With Crossdressing*.

**GIVE THE SUPREMES A HAND**

The Montana Supreme Court doesn't mind a little crossdressing. (Of course they do prance around the

courthouse in robes.) It seems a lower court had awarded custody of a three year old child to it's mother since dad confessed to crossdressing. The Montana Supremes said, "Hey, give a crossdresser a break" and reversed the decision. This information came in a another tabloid clip, *Clothes Don't Make The Man* also sent in by Sharon.

**GOVERNOR'S A GOOF**

Northern Arizona University doesn't mind a little transsexuality. In a clip from USA Today, sent by Wendy Smith from Pittsburgh, we find out that Governor Symington had demanded that a course in transsexuality be dropped from the University's curriculum. The University said it was up to them to pick the curriculum.

Symington has backed down on his request but still says the course is frivolous and an insult to tax payers. Tell some of the tax payers struggling with transgender issues that it's frivolous. Maybe Governor Symington needs a few enlightening letters from our readers?

**CATCHING A SPY, ER, EYE**

Back in December I clipped a piece from the Philadelphia Inquirer titled "Eye Catching Headlines II." At least I think I clipped it. It's been so long it may have been sent by someone else. If that's the case, I apologize.

The eye catching headline that caught my eye was the last one in the piece, "Cross Dressing Confederate Spy." It seems that was the lead cover headline of a magazine called *America's Civil War*. I've been

meaning to get to the library and look this one up. I can see secret agent Beauregard in his hoop skirt and big hat now. "Oh General, I just love to hear about silly old military secrets! Get me a Mint Julep and then tell me everything ya'all know."

It's more likely the spy is a female-to-male, but if I ever get to the library, or if one of our Civil War buffs let's us know, I'll pass it along.

**FILMS FLOUNCING WITH FP's**

Jane Peabody sent me a column from the *Asbury Park Press* of January eighth. The Screen Notes column, originally from the *L.A. Times* had information about a bunch of upcoming releases that feature crossdressing.

The writer seemed to think this was the way things were going since the success of *Mrs. Doubtfire*. That is generally the way the Hollywood suits decide where to put the big development money but I have to disagree this time since two of the films mentioned were already in pre-production before *Mrs. Doubtfire* came out, (We even mentioned one in the *Renaissance News*, Vis a Vis, Sept. '93) and one is a film that was shot in Australia probably at least a year ago. I think the trend toward crossdressing in movies has more to do with a gradual build up from *Tootsie* to *The Crying Game* than *Mrs. D*.

Whatever the reason, here are the flicks to watch for in '94. Harvey Fierstein (who played Robin Williams brother in "Mrs. D.") has written a

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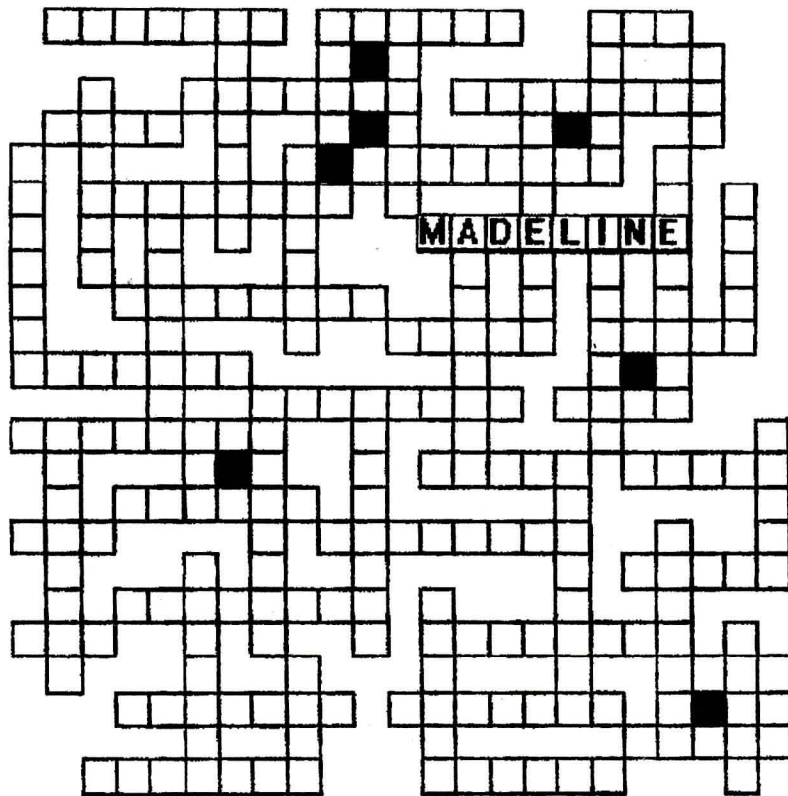
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# Sammi Rae's Memorial Puzzles

## Women's Names II



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| Angelica | Hortense | Melissa  | Rosalie  |
| Ann      | Hyacinth | Mercedes | Rosalind |
| Blanche  | Irene    | Michelle | Sabrina  |
| Daisy    | Isodora  | Mildred  | Samantha |
| Dawn     | Jennifer | Mindy    | Sharon   |
| Diana    | Leah     | Monica   | Suzanne  |
| Erma     | Lilian   | Nan      | Theodora |
| Estelle  | Lois     | Natalie  | Vera     |
| Evelyn   | Lolita   | Noreen   | Verna    |
| Faith    | Madeline | Pam      | Veronica |
| Fay      | Maria    | Patricia | Virginia |
| Florence | Marjorie | Peg      | Wilma    |

### New Chapter Forming

All it takes to get a Renaissance chapter going in your area is a little drive and determination. Just look at Danielle Lynn of Wilmington, Delaware. She contacted Renaissance National about starting a chapter a few weeks ago and the national board will vote on her petition at its March 13 meeting.

Before Danielle contacted the National board she had already lined up a meeting place, several interested members, and a group of officers for her board. If you join the Delaware group you even get a discount card for a local beauty supply place! Now that's organization.

If you would like more information on the soon-to-officially-exist Delaware Chapter of Renaissance, write them at PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE, 19808. We'll have more information on the group in next month's issue. In the meantime Danielle and Leslie will be happy to hear from you.

### MGN News

The girls from New York sent us the names and positions of their new steering committee. As their press release says, it's part of their, "Velvet Revolution." Guess they love the crushed velvet look. Anyhow, the new committee is as follows: Monica Ann Pedone is the Chair of the Steering Committee and is in charge of member services. Lynn E. Walker is Assistant Chair and handles publicity and outreach. Randi Ripley orches-

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### NOTICE:

**Dr. Peo has writer's cramp this month. His column will resume next month with #87.**



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I think everyone has quite rightly applauded the new layout and typeface of our newsletter that premiered last month. Did you notice also that we changed the name to 'News & Views'?

Of course the most important new view in this rag is my own photo atop this column. Someone asked me if it's true that I really write the column wearing rhinestones and feathers as the photo shows. The answer is 'Yes' because that was a condition of my employment here. I insisted on it.

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#### **IN WHICH I RENAME A GROUP**

I think a group that calls itself the Powder Puffs of Orange County should be a pretty fun-loving crew, doncha think? But in their two most recent 'Girl Talk' newsletters there is a cynical, bitter tone permeating it.

The IFGE seems to be their major target and there is certainly an axe being ground here by someone. Potshots are taken at other community stalwarts as well, including 'Cross-Talk', Tri-Ess, and even RuPaul. In the January issue of their newsletter, over half of the editorial content is negative towards some other individual or group. If you're looking for an uplifting read by perusing the Powder Puffs' newsletter, you got another think coming, girlfriend.

One of the things the author says as she takes a swipe at the IFGE is that they held their Directors' meeting in Boston in January. Then she writes that 'hardly anyone wants to go there, even in good weather.' Boston, even aside from its place in American history, is a great city, culturally diverse, and an intellectual capital.

Mind you, this great American city is being criticized by someone who lives in Orange County CA, where they named the airport after John Wayne, for cryin' out loud.

It's a free country and the free press should be able to take others to task for mistakes and missteps here and there but our friends in Orange County are inadvertently giving themselves a new image with all their negativity. Until I see some improvement in their monthly screed, I hereby re-name them the 'Puckered Pusses of Orange County'.

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#### **ANOTHER 'ISM' CREATES A SCHISM**

An unnamed author wrote an article in the IXE sorority's newsletter in which she brought up the subject of 'ageism' at their meetings. This older member of IXE noticed that she was having a hard time talking to people, or was being ignored, at their monthly meetings. She was bothered by this because it created some doubt about herself. Was she boring? Did she look bad? Did she give off some offending signal that made people not like her?

She asked someone she trusted for an honest assessment of why others didn't want to talk to her. The answer was simple, in the view of the confidant. "You're older and the others don't identify with you." she was told.

This was sort of a 'good news, bad news' for the author.

At least it wasn't something personal about her appearance, attitude, or hygiene but there isn't anything she can do to reverse the aging process.

The author thought it was worthwhile to bring up the subject of

ageism. She doesn't know how to change people's attitudes towards older crossdressers but perhaps just broaching the subject will enlighten some people who sub-consciously reject their older sisters. She made it clear that she still thinks IXE is a great group and harbors no ill will towards anyone in the group. She has a positive outlook despite this problem.

In any group of people there will always be some banding of people of like interests, tastes, etc. Being a minority in any social setting can be a disadvantage. And there's no easy answer for changing people's social patterns. But my experience has been that crossdressing is more of an equalizer—particularly with regard to age—than many other activities. Older crossdressers think younger than most others of like age and aside from the obvious crossdressing related issues, all of us are usually interesting people in our 'normal' lives. If you think you may be a closet 'ageist', think about it and don't make assumptions about our older sisters.

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#### **GENDER IN A BLENDER**

Two recent articles in other publications took on the concept of gender 'blending' and gender stereotyping. Daniela Bruzzese wrote in a *Tapestry* article that transsexuals are victims of gender stereotyping because they feel the need to change their outward appearance in order to become their 'true gender' selves.

Ms. Bruzzese's point being that if gender is truly in your head, as opposed to sex—which is defined by physical characteristics—then there shouldn't be a need to change physical characteristics to actualize oneself as the opposite gender. By feeling the need to conform to society's standards of femininity (or conversely masculinity, for F-t-M's), transsexuals who undergo reassignment surgery, or even cosmetic transformations, are capitulating to the stereotypes rather than blazing their own trails, expressing their own unique gender.

In this construct, gender is seen as a spectrum with shades of gender coloring in the space between the



polar opposites of male and female. If transsexuals didn't feel the oppressing need to blend-in to whichever pole they sought, we would have a world with many different expressions of gender, individualized by each person's own vision of themselves.

The *EON Accord* carried an article by Ann Harper which used this concept of gender blending to make the point that not everyone can feel comfortable being their own island of gender. While acknowledging that some may prefer to express their own gender concept, many crossdressers - who may not have as strong a sense of their true gender as transsexuals - need the stereotypes of gender to guide them. In order to jump back and forth between their male and female selves, it is necessary to have some definition between the two points on the scale.

The interesting thing about these two points of view is that they question the concept of 'passing' as the be-all and end all for everyone in the TG community. There is a movement out there that eschews passing in favor of individual expressions of gender and that is an interesting idea because conformity is restrictive. Anything that promotes greater freedom of expression—in gender issues or in broader topics—is a positive thing.

**ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE  
— IN ENGLISH**

The Erie Sisters group newsletter *Mirror Images* carried an article by one of their own named Diane L. titled 'Unintended Wisdom No Excuse'. I would like to tell you what it

said but I am at a loss because it was almost unintelligible. It had something to do with religion because there was a lot of scripture quoted but the rest of it was, well, let's just say that it needed some editing, punctuation, spelling, and grammatical structure. Other than that, it was great.

Here is a brief example: "The Erie Sisters is a club who's so exist is to educate the public. We as associated individual gives our club a virtuous repetitious."

My suspicion is that Diane L. may in fact be the femme name of that master of the malaprop, Norm Crosby, or perhaps the femme alter ego of the double-talking Professor Irwin Corey.

**LEADERSHIP**

Just to show that I'm not picking on the Erie Sisters, I want to point out something I found very interesting in their newsletter, written by their new president Kris Holt.

She applauds her predecessor Pam Dresser for being aggressive in establishing the group through its infancy. Kris points out that it takes a special person, 'a spark plug', to make a go of a new venture. Sometimes these types of leaders are hard to work with because they can be abrasive—but without that drive the chances of success are greatly diminished.

**BEDROOM FANTASY UPDATE**

In a previous column I mentioned an article that teased us by mentioning an 'ultimate bedroom fantasy' without providing any details. I invited readers to furnish their own details in an

attempt to give this story the 'climax' it richly deserves.

The suggestions ranged from the romantic (chiffon nightgowns and satin sheets), to the slightly kinky (6" heels and lace-up corsets), to the more bizarre (matching Girl Scout uniforms and three boxes of chocolate cookies).

I guess we're not going to be able to reach a consensus here on this fantasy scenario. So keep your fantasies to yourselves. I don't want to know everyone's deep, dark bedroom secrets. As for myself: I'm going to change into my Girl Scout uniform and have some cookies.

See ya next month...



**My Dinner With Dina**

*Vis a Vis* columnist and Greater Philadelphia Chapter Leader Dina Amberle will be your hostess for a dining out adventure on March 25. The first fifteen people to sign up with Dina at the GPC meeting on March 19 will be joining her for a fine dining experience en femme. Dina **won't** be picking up the dinner tab so bring your money clips. She will do what every good hostess does, make sure the party is fun! We're not announcing the restaurant location yet since we don't want a raft of crashers spoiling the intimate atmosphere. We will tell you that it's a good restaurant in the King of Prussia area. Get to the meeting, see Dina, and sign up!

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# Hot • Buzz

JoAnn Roberts

Some people think they are generous because they give away free advice.



We start buzzin' this month with the weather. While it was Rumbly in Reading (Pa.) it was Knockin' in Northridge (Ca.). And if that wasn't enough, it was bitterly cold in the East breaking all records for lows everywhere. It all seemed to start on Saturday, January 15. About 7:30 PM. Reading was hit with, not one, but two earthquakes in the 4.6 range. Some of us felt it here in King of Prussia. Almost exactly 36 hours later, Northridge experienced its 6.6 quake. We received a call from our son at USC about 7:35 AM, Monday, to tell us about the quake and that he was OK. (Thank you to all who called to inquire about him. He's fine.) Later that day, it started to snow here and then turn to rain and ice. We were "iced in" here for three days. And it was **nasty**. Alison Laing slipped and cracked her skull, requiring a few stitches. Meanwhile, we tried to get word from California about our friends and acquaintances. First to call was Kym Richards of *CrossTalk*. Kym reported that she was a little shaken but undamaged. She reported that all the windows in Lydia's store had shattered during the quake. Next we called Virginia Prince who reported her worst damage was losing the cable TV signal. But that was more than she could say for Drs. Richard Docter and Vern Bullough. Dick and Vern both live almost on top of the quake's epicenter. Docter's home was badly shaken and the water heater fell off its base as did the chimney taking out their electricity. At last report they were still trying to get it hooked up. Several calls to Jim Bridges did not get through until Friday and then the phone was unanswered. Kym called back and told us Jim and Anthony were fine. We called Dave at NS products and spoke to Mary. (Dave? Dave's not here.) She told us everybody there was okay, too.

Checked on a few others and almost everybody made it through with just minor damage. Thank goodness.



With all of the natural disasters we've experienced this last year, quakes, blizzards, hurricanes, and floods, it's no wonder the *fin de siecle* kooks are out in force. Add in the fact that it's also the end of a millennium and we've got every nutball in the world babbling about conspiracies and the end of the world as we know it. Is it the hand of God? Are we about to be wiped off the face of the earth? Or are we so arrogant that we forgot it's not nice to fool with Mother Nature and we just needed reminding?



The other hot buzz comes from New England, home of the International Foundation for Gender Education (what would a Hot Buzz column be without news from IFGE?) Chair of the IFGE board, Linda Buten, and Executive Director, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, sent out a press release announcing several new initiatives. First to be implemented is a search for a new "qualified executive director" and the second is a "special fund drive to hire that person." The announcement says the search will begin immediately with screening interviews to be held at the annual meeting in Portland, March 16 - 20. Potential applicants should write to Lynn at P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. The release also quotes Lynn as saying: "Once [the new executive director] is found and the funds raised, I will be better able to pursue my responsibilities as founding director..." Ms. Lynn wants IFGE's By Laws amended to create a new lifetime position for her called "Founding Director" which would give her a permanent voting seat on the board and on every committee. The new position would also come with a stipend. Ms. Buten adds: "Our fundraising efforts have helped tremendously to meet financial needs, but

more investment capital is needed..." For my views on such things, please see "The Responsibility of Leadership" elsewhere in this issue.



While we're up in New England, let's talk about the revitalization of Fantasia Fair. At last year's Fair, a small group of Fair supporters approached Fair manager Ari Kane and offered their assistance in getting the Fair back on track. FanFair and the Outreach Institute, the Fair's sponsor, had fallen on hard times with decreasing attendance and little community support. With just a teeny bit of arm twisting, Kane was convinced to accept the offer of help. From my vantage point, it looks as though FanFair '94 will be as good as ever. In fact, good enough that I'm going back. Ari Kane is to be commended for recognizing that an organization like the Institute and an event like FanFair cannot be run single-handedly. She is working closely with her board and the "Friends of Fantasia Fair" to restore the Fair to its status as the pre-eminent community event. Oh, yeah, there is *absolutely no truth* to the rumor that IFGE will host a program titled "Fund-Raising for Fun and Profit."



Now on to the important stuff... Many of you have heard me mention Clinique's Continuous Coverage foundation as a good beard concealer. Well, it seems that this very good product has been improved. Clinique has announced Soft Conceal Corrector, a foundation that goes on sheer and light, yet hides almost any flaw. This new product deserves some investigation and will be the subject of a later report, but you may not want to wait, so check it out at \$10.50.



Those of us over 35 (and some of us are well over...) know the impending signs of ageing show up first around the eyes, i.e. crows feet. Neutrogena Intensified Eye Moisture helps elimi-



# Hot • Buzz

## Queen of Prussia

nate, temporarily, crow's feet and other fine lines for up to twelve hours. That ought to be enough time for almost anybody.



I am sorry to report that Spring and Summer fashions show no let up in the silliness department. Designers continue to cast about, seemingly randomly, for a new trend and in the process will try anything. Even Donna Karan, who usually shows good design sense (even if it is pricey) has taken a dip in the pool of foolish fads by showing long (to the ankle) sarong skirts for men. True, some hip-hop clothing looks almost like a skirt, but Mr. Corporate America is not likely to bring Karan's ideas to the boardroom.



Complaints of exorbitant fees for so-called supermodels have not fallen on deaf ears. While models like Claudia Schiffer, Christy Turlington, and Cindy Crawford have been known to earn \$20,000 for a single fashion show in the past, such sky-high fees are a thing of the past. Organizers of the New York fashion shows proposed rates ranging from \$250 to \$750 per hour. (That's still not chicken-feed!) Claudia Schiffer, who earned \$30,000 at the Chanel show, would have had to work 37 hours overtime to earn the same in New York. Poor baby!



Television shopping networks like QVC and HSN are a big hit with many crossdressers because there is the security of anonymity. Well, there's good news for you home shopping addicts. More new shopping channels are on the way. Macy's has announced a 24-hour shopping channel, *ViaTV*, that will offer high fashion from small catalogs. Then there is the Catalog Channel that will offer selections from large catalogs like Spiegel (one of my faves); and a show called *Can We Shop?* hosted by Joan Rivers. But will the anonymity still be there when television goes interac-

tive? Will there be an Information Highway Patrol as depicted in a recent *Outland* cartoon? ... Excuse us, Mr. Jones, but according to your ShopNet account, you're a single male living alone and you've been making large purchases of ladies lingerie. We have a search warrant here... Technology is a sword that cuts both ways.



Brassieres may be uplifting, but their prices are soaring. I remember buying a new bra in Macy's for twelve dollars. That same bra is now closer to \$20. Sure, I could buy a white cotton bra from the L'eggs outlet for a few bucks, but my tastes run a little more fanciful and I have a penchant for front-hook underwires. My advice is wait until Victoria's Secret has a sale. They have a wide variety of styles and colors and the bras can be bought for \$13.



King of the sleazoid mail-order sales business, Michael Salem, made it into the *New York Post* last month. Salem, if nothing else, knows how to work an angle and he used the hype surrounding the film *Mrs. Doubtfire* to hype his crossdresser mail-order business. Those naifs at the Post sucked it up, too. Salem claims 100,000 regular customers and a mailing list of 250,000. He also says he's been in business for 25 years. **Bull!** All of it. If you're new to this community, beware of Mr. Salem (not to be confused with Phillip Salem on the West Coast, and, no, they are not related). Michael Salem makes his living preying on the fear and insecurities of closeted crossdressers and charges exorbitant prices for commonly available items. How's \$100 for a gaff that shouldn't cost more than \$15 to \$20 or \$150 for a waist-cincher you can order through the Fredericks catalog for \$18? Stay clear of this guy.



Things may be bad at times here in the U.S. of A. but I'd rather live here than anywhere else. For example, the

Ontario ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations issued an order to the Toronto rock band *Drop Kick Me Jesus* to change its name because it might incite religious violence (now there's an oxymoron). And speaking of morons, there are plenty of them here who would like to see the First Amendment repealed. Such as...



A recent editorial in a well-known publication admonished that "criticism poisons and decays." I suppose one might feel that way if the writer were the point of the criticism. No one is perfect, however, and everyone can use a little criticism now and then, even this queen. This country was founded by people who believed in the right to freely speak one's mind. They fought a war to preserve that right and they wrote it into the basic document that defines our political ideology. If we give up the right to free speech, we give up a basic tool of democracy. In fact, there are some who believe that we have a responsibility to criticize in order to preserve and protect our freedom. The following quote is from author/writer Noam Chomsky: "It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and expose lies. Intellectuals are in a position to expose the lies of [organizations], to analyze actions according to their causes and motives and often hidden intentions. In the Western world at least, they have the power that comes from political liberty, from access to information, and from freedom of expression. For a privileged minority, Western democracy provides the leisure, the facilities, and the training to seek the truth lying behind the veil of distortion and misrepresentation, ideology, and class interest through which events... are presented to us."



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## Responsibility, cont'd.

organization. Placing the organization's fate in the hands of unskilled personnel is irresponsible.

Any person elected or appointed to a leadership position should understand their job and what is expected of them. Organizations should set standards and goals for each position of responsibility, then measure their leaders against these criteria. Organizations should periodically review the performance of their leaders and let them know how they're doing and have the courage to tell them where they need to change or improve their performance. Organizations should also have the courage to be clear about the consequences of unacceptable job performance.

As our community's organizations grow in scope and complexity, it is not unreasonable to compensate leaders for their work. But, such compensation should be linked to performance in the position. No one is entitled to compen-

sation solely on the basis of their community status. No one has a *right* to compensation of any kind. Each must carry their own weight and *earn* whatever compensation is granted them. Anyone who does not perform to expectations, does not deserve a dime, regardless of who they are.

People in leadership positions are usually granted perks, little favors to "sweeten" their position. There is no problem with this practice as long as such grants are legal and above board. Organizations cannot condone under-the-table subsidies, or back-room agreements for perks, especially if they are designed to benefit only a select few. That generally violates the principle of every tax-exempt organization that no one shall personally profit from the proceeds of the organization.

Any person in a leadership position who wants a guaranteed position in perpetuity should be considered suspect in motivation. Such people are concerned only with their personal status, not the organization's goals. If someone is a good leader, there will

always be a place for them in our community's organizations. In fact, the very best leaders will always in demand for their skills.

Finally, it is not sufficient to hold high standards of ethical behavior for one's self. Leaders must require the same high standards of ethical behavior from everyone in the organization without exception. And, every rule and regulation governing the exempt organization must be followed scrupulously to the letter. Expect no less.

It is also important for our community to know what its rights are concerning these public corporations. You have the right to know who sits on the board of directors, who the officers of the corporation are and what compensation they receive, if any. You have the right to inspect a tax-exempt organization's Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, and original application for tax exemption. You have the right to inspect a tax-exempt organization's tax returns (Form 990) for the past

*continued on page 15*



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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In her January column, JoAnn Roberts remarked that she had heard a lecture of some sort mention that electrolysis may lead its user to need a facelift. Her electrolysis commentary was presented rather offhandedly and is, at best, incomplete information of a complex subject.

Galvanic Electrolysis, where the user holds an electrode and completes an electrical circuit with her body, can tend to dry the skin. This method causes the buildup of lye compounds under the skin due to the electrical current and may contribute to the drying of the skin. I find this method less suitable for facial hair removal.

Shortwave is the preferred method, as it generates no heat and does not rely on a lye based chemical reaction to destroy the hair follicle. Electrologists, in fact, note this method stimulates blood flow, which is potentially beneficial to healthy skin. Regardless, the most current dermatological studies (refer to Tapestry and the Renaissance Library) find no significant evidence that short-wave electrolysis leads to facelifts.

Electrolysis is a long term commitment. Anyone considering it should evaluate their situation and goals with a qualified, accredited operator.

I've heard some express concern that close shaving, where the hair is cut down below the surface and the skin is constantly stretched, might lead to skin wrinkles and sag. However, skin aging has many interactive factors, not the least of which is heredity.

I couldn't say why Ms. Roberts friends now appear older to her, but anyone can do things to minimize the effects of aging. These include avoiding ultraviolet sun exposure, following a sensible skin care program, getting enough sleep (without scrunching your face in the pillow), eating a vitamin and mineral rich diet, drinking several glasses of water a day, and by not smoking. But above all, don't obsess

over this; aging is a natural process. Besides, your mother was right, worry can cause wrinkles.

Michelle Lynn

Dear Editor,

I am an electrologist with 17 years of experience, working in the suburbs of Philadelphia and moving to Washington, D.C. sometime in the future.

One of my many T.S. clients showed me an article printed in the *Renaissance News* that caused me great dismay. JoAnn Roberts claims that after having completed beard removal, you'll likely need a facelift. What nonsense! Hair follicles do not support the skin, muscles do. Where does Ms. Roberts get her information? I have been working for one of Philadelphia's most prominent plastic surgeons for ten years and can assure you that this is erroneous and emotionally dangerous for any client needing of beard removal.

I suppose a client might need a facelift after electrolysis if the procedure takes so many years to complete. This would happen only with an incompetent operator. I have never seen facial

skin sag in 1-2 years.

Please inform your readers. Printing such untrue information is unfair to those who need help.

Sincerely, Kathryn I. Kailian  
Electrologist & Para-Medical  
Aesthetician

*JoAnn Roberts replies:*

The information about sagging skin after full-beard electrolysis came from a well-respected medical doctor and was verified by an electrologist who has 20 years experience working with transsexuals, transvestites and female impersonators. However, both writers missed the real point of the piece.

*the Editor replies:*

I didn't know one little mention in the *Hot Buzz* column would set off such a storm of controversy. Your letter and that of Michelle Lynn take JoAnn to task as if she were a Nazi propagandist. All she said was, "Your face *may* sag."

That was a minor point. The main thrust of the piece was talking about transgendered people thinking electrolysis is a necessity. Personally, I haven't had any hair removed electrically and I probably won't. It hurts. I'm chicken.

Let me start my own controversy by saying, in my experience, I have seen people who've had electrolysis and even though the beard hairs are all gone it is possible to tell from the texture of their skin, when light hits it from certain angles, that this person once had a beard.

As JoAnn said, "What's necessary is that you hide your beard effectively." People should investigate their options and make a decision on what products or services to use after they have taken the time to become well informed.

• • •  
After reading "Trading Places" in the *January Ladies Home Journal*, I felt

*continued on page 15*



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# News Beat...

script called "Plucked." It's the story of a drag queen who has to raise his sister's kids after she deserts them. It's being produced by Dolly Parton's company Sandollar Productions. Sounds like it could be a hoot. No word if Harvey will play the DQ.

## WALK ON THE ....

Next up in the cavalcade of queens is the life story of Holly Woodlawn. "Holly came from Miami, F.L.A. Hitchhiked her way across the U.S.A.." Holly's in Hollywood now and her autobiography, "A Low Life In High Heels" has been optioned by the producer who brought us the ever memorable "Father of The Bride." (Huh?) This was reported as a starring vehicle for Madonna and I mentioned it way back in the May 1993 issue. Madonna was reportedly set to play the role of Candy Darling ("Candy came from out on the Island. In the back room she was everybody's darling.") and Harvey Fierstein was penning the script. Well, they don't mention Maddie or Harv in this latest report. That's show biz. More on this one when we get more information.

## WITH 3 YOU GET EGG ROLL

The film we mentioned in the September '93 issue was the Steven Spielberg project, "To Wong Foo, Thank's For Everything, Julie Newmar." It's the story of three drag queens who make a journey through

the South (and live to tell about it!)

Nobody called me to audition so let's move along to another drag road picture, the aforementioned Australian film titled, "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of The Desert." This time the queens go walk-about in the outback in a beat up bus called Priscilla. (This gives Crocodile Dundee a chance to check there gender without having to travel to New York.) If we think back to the success of that other Aussie import "Road Warrior" maybe we can look forward to a whole series of pictures about these drag queens in Oz.

## WHITHER WOOD?

Not mentioned in the Screen Notes column was the Johnny Depp vehicle, "The Ed Wood Story." I don't even know if that's the title but they have wrapped shooting. (That's show talk) Stories about Ed Wood (The transvestite director of "Plan Nine From Outer Space" and "Glen or Glenda?") have hit the infotainment shows recently so they're no doubt the beginning of the Ed Wood promo blitz. Johnny was featured in an interview in *Us* magazine in which he said preparing for the role gave him a new respect for what women go through when they get all dressed up. He further stated that he has more regard for crossdressers now that he knows what they have to go through to feel pretty. He always keeps some of his wardrobe from his films. He reveals in this interview that he kept an Angora sweater and a pair of pumps from the Wood flick. See ya at the Queen Mary Johnny.

## WORLD NEWS

Phaedra Kelly of the International Gender Transient Affinity has gotten word on the condition of Turkish *travesti* activist, Demet Demir. Phaedra reports that Demet was not imprisoned by Turkish police when she disappeared back in August. The police had broken through their flat wall while the girls were out (shopping no doubt) and then ransacked the apartment and sealed it so they could not re-enter with out being arrested. Demet and her friends are well and avoiding the police.

Miss Kelly is trying to raise money

*continued on page 16*

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**Letters, cont'd.**

*compelled to offer my praise.*

Myrna Blyth, Editor-in-Chief

As a life long transvestite and practicing crossdresser for fourteen years I must applaud your "Trading Places" piece in the January issue of the Journal. The experience of crossing the gender border was an eye opening one for me and your couple expressed how it feels perfectly. We tend to take so much about our "natural" gender role for granted that most people don't stop to examine the issue that closely.

It is hard for transvestites to talk about these important concepts in a serious manner in the public forums that are available; like television talk shows. They tend to concentrate on the sensational aspects of a man in a dress and the lessons learned about how we treat

each other as men and women get lost in a scramble for rating points.

By not discussing motivation and concentrating on presenting ones self as a member of the opposite sex I feel your article is a large step forward in understanding between the sexes. Congratulations to your actors and the entire team on a job well done.

If your magazine would be interested in doing anything on crossdressing or transvestism in the future please feel free to contact us for information and assistance. Our group is a support organization with over four hundred members and we routinely supply speakers for university sex ed/psych classes and television programs.

Angela Gardner, Outreach Director

Dear Angela Gardner:

Thank you so much for your positive letter of January 7. Myrna Blyth has seen your letter and she asked me to respond on her behalf.

"Trading Places" dealt with gender roles and preconceptions in a positive, non-sensational way and I'm glad that you, and members of your organization, fully appreciated that. While we never know for certain which stories we will do a follow-up on, your letter will be seen by our articles department, and we will keep it on file for future use.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share this with us. The editors do truly appreciate words of praise about our articles.

Sincerely, Jill Benz, Reader Service

**Responsibility, cont'd.**

three years. If you are denied the right to inspect these documents, you have the right to file a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service; they will investigate. (Having the *right* to inspect does not mean an organization is required to mail you copies of documents. They can require you to inspect on their premises. This regulation may change in the next year so that a request by mail must be honored.)

To recap, the leadership of our new tax-exempt organizations should be the best educated, most experienced,

and most skilled people with only the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. If we accept anything less, we are doomed to experience a vicious cycle of organization creation and dissolution designed to benefit a select few.

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Renaissance News & Views is the place to have your say, spread your news, or share the juicy rumor. Send submissions to the Editor, care of the address on the masthead (see page 2). For those of you who are byte-deprived, please type double-spaced. Those with computers should send ASCII text on a 3.5" disk.

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## News Beat...

for a trip to China to investigate reports that a Chinese doctor has perfected complete genital transplants. If you care to contribute to this effort send a check to IGTA, 1, Bank Buildings, School Green Road, Freshwater I-o-W, P040-9AJ, UK. Checks should be written in pounds Sterling, not dollars. The banks will convert it and let you know how much it is in U.S. dollars. Remember, the pound is worth about \$1.50

Miss Kelly is hoping to stop by the Middle East while she's traveling and would be interested in visiting our Kuwait correspondent, Billie. Hey Billie, would you like a house guest for a few days? If so, drop Phaedra a line at her address above.

### IT'S A SMALL WORLD...

One of those things that make people say it's a small world happened to me the night of the GPC meeting. I attended dinner with the girls who participated in the CDS seminar that was conducted that day. We were dining at Lulu Wellington's and the girl across the table (you must know that there were thirty of us there and I ended up across the table from this lady.), leaned over and said, "You're Angela, aren't you?" I could only reply that yes, I was and she said, "Do you live in (insert the name of my exclusive condominium complex here).

How could she know that? Had she penetrated my security? Just as I was seriously considering the instant dismissal of my personal security firm, she went on to tell me that she lived in the same exclusive complex. There's crossdressers every where. You could almost trip over 'em. I'm gonna have her over for tea. Maybe we'll start a very small chapter in the complex.

### LETS KISS & MAKEUP

In January I mentioned that Eric Lee was more involved with other pursuits than his beauty work. This unfortunately implied that Eric had

retired or something else like that. I ran into Eric at the New Prelude one night and he set me straight. So to speak. He is definitely available for all your beauty needs and can be reached at 215-862-2369. His makeovers are \$45 to \$55 and if you want to go shopping at the mall he will escort you and help you co-ordinate outfits for \$150.00 (That includes the makeover.) He has wigs and makeup kits for sale and is ready to transform you into the glamour queen of your dreams.

All right Eric, put down that teasing comb! I told them, I told them!

### A REAL BOOB

He keeps turning up in the media like a cold sore on a cheap hooker's lip. Who? Michael Salem, the robber baron of TV boutiques. He's been at it for twenty five years, catering to the needs of the TV community; or ripping it off. I guess it all depends on your point of view. Anyhow, he managed to get mentioned in the press because of *Mrs. Doubtfire*. Salem maintains in a piece in the January 27 *Daily News* that the breast forms Robin Williams uses in his hit movie are, "terrible." He dismisses Robin's all-in-one undergarments as far too bulky. "It's so clumsy, it's ridiculous." Mike, it is a comedy.

He goes on, of course, to tout the simplicity of using his brand of breasts. "Our breasts go on and off in three to six seconds." I have a vision of Salem with a stopwatch and a line of flat chested drag queens holding silicone breast forms. The mind boggles. What some people won't do for market research.

His absurd closing remark is that anyone coming to his boutique can, "come in as a man and leave as a woman in just a few seconds." Yeah, right Mikey. I'll bet they look just great after six seconds of makeover.

I had my first rip off experience in the TV community when I purchased some of Michael Salem's breasts back in 1981. The Pleasure Chest was guaranteed to look and feel lifelike. When it finally arrived, around four months later it was hard as a rock and the elastic band that was supposed to

hold this "lifelike" wonder on to my body fell off in my hand when I tried it on. Fortunately I had purchased it with my American Express card. I called them and said I was unsatisfied with the merchandise and was returning it to Michael Salem. They credited my account.

The only thing I can say for the man was he did seem to be discreet. The bill from American Express listed the merchandise as "leg wear." I guess he could have just written it up as "tits." So other than discretion, there are few reasons for patronizing the Michael Salem Boutiques. He's high priced and offers low quality.

### HOWARD'S END

It seems that Howard Stern, the shock talk jock who broadcasts his juvenile, but lucrative, smut all around these United States is fascinated with penis size. He continually makes comparisons between his equipment and that of those around him. One of his guests on the, much-talked-about New Years Pay-Per-View program that Stern hosted was the lovely and talented, transgendered model and actress, Tula. She postulated in a *Daily News* column on January 27 that perhaps Howard's penile preoccupation might have something to do with the relatively teeny size of his weeny. At one point in the festivities Howard mooned and Tula got a good view.

She commented, "What he had between his legs was far smaller than what I had removed." Howie, Howie, Howie! I've seen you in drag on your television show. You didn't look bad. If it's as small as Tula says, maybe you should consider a little elective surgery. Think of the headlines that could generate: **Stern Seeks SRS! Film At Eleven**

### OVER AND OUT

That's it for another month. I leave you with a quote from Sophia Loren: "Sex appeal is fifty percent what you've got and fifty percent what people think you've got." Au voir kittens!





# **F**ocus on Page Two

Last month we presented a completely redesigned news-letter for your reading pleasure. One important part of that redesign job was making the information on page two more understandable and useful. In the old *Renaissance News*, page two just kinda existed. Everything ran together and didn't give the reader a reason to bother trying to decode it.

Now, page two sings to the reader. You can tell immediately that we have various chapters and affiliates, where they're located and how to contact them. In the Resources section you can find how to contact our Significant Other Support group, the TransParent Forum, and the Pen Pal Program. The Background Papers are clearly enumerated and upcoming events in the community are listed in an easy to read Events Calendar.

This month we're spotlighting one of our affiliates from the page two

listing; AEGIS, The American Educational Gender Information Service in Decatur, Georgia. Their major mission is to, "...foster communication and respectful interaction between caregivers and consumers." They publish the *Chrysalis Quarterly*, a very slick journal for the transgender community which has covered issues from Health and Transition and The Realities of Transexual Surgery to Transgender Perspectives on the Return of The Goddess (in the most recent issue.)

Unlike our other affiliates and chapters, AEGIS is not a support group. It is strictly an information resource for the transgendered, particularly those seeking sexual re-assignment surgery. If you are seeking in-depth information on SRS and related topics call AEGIS at 404-939-0244 or write them at PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 and ask for their list of publications.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ads are \$3.00 for 3 lines for 3 months. Service ads only.

Private, professional counseling for drug, alcohol, gambling, sex & food addictions. Insurance accepted. Mary Reynolds DDV, CAC 215-744-4777.

Furniture, Appliances, Household goods, Records, Antiques, Toy trains and other goodies - Bought and Sold - Beth Marshall: 610-259-4945 - Leave a message

Need professional typing or resume service? Call Bonnie Allen, 610-326-8734. All work done on PC. Reasonable rates.

Need the police? Dial 911. Need computer help? Write ECC, P. O. Box 911, Havertown, PA 19083

Member in So. Phila needs transportation to GPC meetings. If you can help, please call 215-389-5097.

**What group is nearby?**  
**Where can I buy shoes?**  
**When is Southern Comfort?**

These and most all your other questions are answered in our 1994 *Who's Who & Resource Guide to the International Transgender Community*. We have bios of international community leaders, 100's of listings for Support Groups with detailed membership information, Businesses supportive of the transgender community, and Professional Counselors, Therapists & Health Care Providers. All cross-indexed for easy use. There is nothing else like it anywhere. Pick one up today, \$10 postpaid. From... who else?

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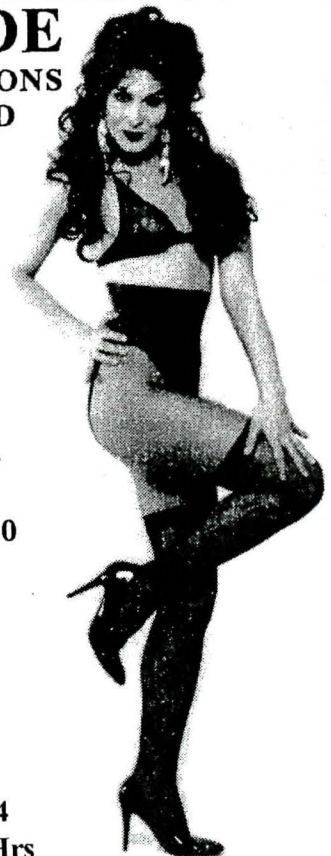
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## SHOPPING WITH JACKIE

by Jackie Thomas

It's a new year and here is a new source for shoes. How about a full line of shoes (just like in the store) available in sizes to thirteen WW? Wow! A gold mine for transies and, it's regular mail order, no beefed up prices. A cute, smartly tailored, low heeled pump with an adjustable T-strap runs forty two dollars. A supple, soft leather, low boot with fleece lining is fifty nine ninety five and there are a nice selection of sandals and heels in the same price range. Want a catalog? Call 1-800-362-8410, or write: Coward, Palo Verde at 34th, Box 27800, Tucson, AZ 85726-7800.

For nice outer dressing; shells, tees and sweaters, try Bedford Fair. Good prices! Call 800-964-1000, or write; Bedford Fair, 421 Landmark Drive, Wilmington, NC 28410 for catalog.

My favorite mail order source (at present) is Chadwick's of Boston.

Expensive name but inexpensive clothing. Nineteen dollar skirts, twenty nine dollar dresses, fifty nine dollar suits and thirty nine dollar silk blazers. Nice quality for the price. In fact, I'm wearing one of their skirts and a sweater as I write. Order the catalog from them at 1 Chadwick Place, Box 1600, Brockton, MA 02403-1600. They carry sizes to 20 for most items.

JoAnn Roberts is the expert on makeup (along with a bunch of other things) but I want to pass on the results of a *Mademoiselle* magazine rating on the new cream and powder foundation in a single compact. If you're not familiar with it, the cream and powder foundation combines the best of both makeup base and face powder in one. The magazine rated six of these: Shiseido (\$27.00), Yves St. Laurent (\$36.50), Estee Lauder (\$25.00), Cover Girl (\$5.95), Lancome (\$25.00) and Chanel Perfecting

Makeup (\$40.00). Cover Girl, in twenty shades, was as good, if not better, than the expensive ones. Applied by finger or with a dry sponge, it gives thorough coverage and leaves a slightly dewy finish. Works best on normal to dry skin. It gave such good coverage that it worked well as a spot concealer too. It seems to work pretty well for me and it's a lot cheaper than what I've been using. For \$5.95 give it a try, it may be good for you. (*Mademoiselle* is still my favorite subscription magazine for a buck.)

Drop me a line at PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122 with your sources, questions and comments. I'll try to answer them in this column. I need your input and help, share your knowledge with the rest of us. So, until next time...happy shopping!



### *The Gender Journey*

A small-group exploration of the various stages in the life of a crossdresser, with implications for personal identity and human relationships.

Held at the Wayne Counseling Center (where Renaissance Gr. Phila. meets) with Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Renaissance National Librarian, former Professor of Human Behavior at Drexel University, and currently Director of Human Dimensions, an organization specializing in gender education. \$25 per person per two-hour session. Meeting times flexibly arranged. Write: Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090 or call 215-657-1560.

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### *Romania's Lingerie*

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**NATIONAL BOARD MEETS**

*Compiled from the minutes taken by National Secretary, Bonnie Allen.*

The Renaissance Board met on January 15 in King of Prussia, Pa. At that time Co-Director of Membership, Elsa Larson, reported that membership renewals were up compared to the same time in 1993. It was resolved that former members would be sent a sample copy of the newsletter in order to stimulate interest. Treasurer Joanne

White reported the opening balance for 1993 was \$752 and the year's closing balance was \$3338. The proposed budget for 1994 is \$8480. The possibility of having a permanent office space in the King of Prussia area was discussed. Such a space could be a home for the Renaissance Library and Bookstore. It would also be a convenient, non-threatening, spot where interested novices could meet

with Renaissance members one-on-one if they found the idea of attending a regular meeting too intimidating. No vote was taken on this item but it was agreed that the option should be explored. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 13 at the GPC meeting site. Anyone wishing to place an item on the agenda or obtain a copy of the January minutes should contact Bonnie Allen at 610-630-1437.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF EXPANDS**

We are pleased to announce the addition of a Business Manager to the News & Views staff. Susan Persing, former National Secretary felt a desire to get back in the swing and has volunteered to step in and handle the newsletter's business matters. Ms. Persing's responsibilities will include billing advertisers, acting as the contact person for ad copy changes and soliciting new ad business.

Eventually the Business Manager will assume control of distribution of Renaissance News & Views to retail outlets. Presently we are only available to the non-subscribing general public at one bookstore in the Philadelphia area; Giovanni's Room at twelfth and Pine. We are projecting an increase in retail outlets by the year's end and are hoping to place the newsletter in several main-stream bookstores or

newsstands. Ms. Persing comes to the Business Manager position with the necessary computer skills and equipment to handle the billing for ads and collection of payments for issues sold on the newsstand. She also has the people skills needed to deal with the concerns of advertisers and retail outlet managers. Welcome aboard Susan.

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## **MGN News, cont'd.**

trates meeting programs and edits all of MGN's video tapes. (Got anything racy?) Barbie Muller keeps a tight rein on finances. Felicity Kacsik is active on the activism front. Stacey Richkus has the thankless task of editing their newsletter and Samantha Lewis is the librarian.

Congratulations to all the ladies of the "Ruling Junta". Let us know what exciting things you have planned for the Big Apple and we'll pass them along to our readers. If anyone is interested in attending a Metropolitan Gender Network meeting, check out page two for their contact information.

## **Hidden Fantasies**

### **Intimate Apparel**

Everything from leather to lace. Petite to Extra-large. Crossdressers welcome.

### **Compare Our Prices!**

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## **V/O CD Available**

**A professional voice over announcer who happens to be a crossdresser is available for commercial and corporate announcing work. Leave a message for Angela on the CDS machine: 610-640-9449. For a sample of my announcing style call the Renaissance Voice Mail at 610-630-1437.**

**I won't arrive at the recording session *en femme*. (Unless the producer wants me to.)**

## **TV/TS? FETISH? DOMINANT/SUBMISSIVE?**

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*Love, Nancy*