

Renaissance News



Volume 4, No. 7

Vision - Integrity - Quality

July 1990

Chapter officer wins Pocono prize

The fifth "Princess of the Poconos" award was handed out last month to Michelle [redacted], director of membership activities for the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. This was the second time that a Philadelphia chapter officer has garnered this award. Former chapter leader Teri Kay was the first princess.

A Princess of the Poconos is named each spring and fall at the CDS Paradise In The Poconos weekends. The princess and her court are chosen by popular vote from among the event's participants.

"Michelle was the overwhelming choice for princess," said JoAnn Roberts, the event organizer. "What amazes me even more," she said, "is that all five princesses have been first-timers at the weekend."

[redacted] was astounded when her name was called for the award. "I'll remember this for as long as I can," she bubbled while posing with her court for photographs.

This was the second award in as many weeks for [redacted], who received recognition at the Spring Ball for her chapter activities.

Mayor Goode cites Pride month

Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode marked June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month with this message, sent to all 32,000 city employees with their paychecks: "Mayor Goode Salutes All Sexual Minorities During Pride Month."

Peg Conway, executive director of the Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities (MCSM), said the message recognizes transgendered people as well as gays and lesbians. "During Pride Month we must not forget that bisexual and transgendered people are a part of this community and part of this civil rights struggle. The role of the MCSM is to represent all of these groups and to ensure fair and equal access ... for all sexual minorities."

National officer honored at Ball

A surprise award ceremony took place during the Spring Ball and Birthday party to honor the contributions of three individuals to Renaissance.

Angela Gardner, presiding over the ball, first made two award presentations to Michelle [redacted] and Gloria A. [redacted], officers of the Greater Philadelphia chapter.

Gardner then called Alison Laing to the podium for brief, surprise remarks about JoAnn Roberts. Melanie Bryan, Trudi Henry, Paula Sinclair and Gardner, who along with Laing and Roberts formed the first Renaissance board of directors also spoke about Roberts' contribution to the organization. Together they all presented Roberts with a framed certificate which reads:

"We, the undersigned, hereby sincerely declare our eternal love, appreciation and respect to JoAnn Roberts for her dedication, caring and exemplary efforts in the found-

ing and development of the Renaissance Education Association. Awarded on the occasion of the celebration of the third anniversary of the founding of Renaissance, May 11, 1990 A.D."

Roberts is considered the motivating force behind the founding of Renaissance. She brought the five presenters together to form the organization, and she served as the first managing director.

Roberts, for once, was caught totally off-guard. At the podium, she said she was speechless, but quickly recovered. She thanked each of the five presenters and called them her "extended family." She then thanked all those present who had signed the certificate.

In closing, Roberts said that while she may have had a major part in getting the group started, it was, and still is, the effort and determination of its current members that keep it going so strongly.

Some Statistics

A student at San Francisco State University surveyed people attending ETVC and RGA meetings. Some of the results were:

Sexual Orientation — 62% straight; 28% bisexual; 6% unsure, 3% non-sexual, 1% gay

Of those married — 98% wife knew; 46% wife supportive; 27% wife indifferent; 27% wife upset

Fantasize about — 18% other TVs; 15% transsexuals; 14% B&D; 12% leather/latex/lace; 9% shoes/boots; 6% S&M; 5% being a real woman; 5% being a lesbian; 5% water sports; 3% forced transvestism; 1% forced homosexuality; 1% don't fantasize at all

Other — 60% considered themselves passable; 49% wondered if they were a TS; 18% used hormones. ETVC Newsletter, March-April 1990.

Chapter information

New Jersey

South Jersey: Kelly [redacted], chapter leader. Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Angela Gardner, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Summer hours: starts at 9:00 p.m. Call (215) 946-8887.

Pennsylvania

Reading: Susan [redacted], chapter leader Write Renaissance RDG, Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607. Meets twice a month. There is a dinner-social held at THIS IS IT, 801 Walnut St., Reading, second Wednesday of the month and a membership meeting on the second Saturday. Call (215) 376-8886.

Lower Susquehanna Valley:

Elsa [redacted], chapter leader Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404. Meets the first Saturday of the month in Camp Hill, Pa. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Call (717) 767-4095.

National information

✓ Renaissance has a new mailing address, please correct your records: P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa., 19406.

✓ Renaissance has a new phone number as well. Call (215) 630-1437 24 hours a day for current information about events and activities.

✓ The board of directors has approved a new policy for the development of chapters and affiliates.

—Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance chapter must be incorporated as a non-profit in-

stitution in their home state (except Pa.) before asking for chapter status.

—Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance affiliate will pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Co-director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406.

And, don't forget about...

• Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics. A

paper on transsexualism is in work.

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

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

• A few copies of the Deluxe Edition of Dr. Benjamin's *The Transsexual Phenomenon* are still available at \$39.95 postpaid. Make checks payable to Renaissance.

Renaissance News

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\$2/copy, \$12 per year, 12 issues.

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For current information call (215) 630-1437 24 hrs. a day.

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

Events Calendar

July

7th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

7th RenLSV Chapter

14th Ren. Reading Chapter

21st Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

August

4th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

4th RenLSV Chapter

11th Ren. Reading Chapter

18th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

September

1st Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

1st RenLSV Chapter

8th Ren. Reading Chapter

15th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

20-23 Fall Paradise In The Poconos — CDS

October

6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

6th RenLSV Chapter

13th Ren. Reading Chapter

20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

12-21 Fantasia Fair

Provincetown, Mass.

S *JoAnn Altman Stringer* **SURVIVAL**™

Know Your Reasons

Recently three individuals appeared on "The Sally Jesse Raphael" show. Here we have a lady who not only mixes metaphors but probably has red wine with fish as well. She had one each pre-op and post-op transsexual and a female impersonator, and entitled this segment: "Men who cross the gender gap to get better jobs."

From the producer's point of view this must have seemed a topic no other show had done. But, from the viewpoint of those of us in the gender community, it's like having a show about the similarities between rocks, oranges and balloons. The sad part is the millions of viewers who got trapped in the middle learning nothing, being misinformed and misdirected as to the realities of the gender-conflicted.

Sally's guests included: a self-touted, post-op, M-t-F transsexual running for mayor of her California town; a pre-op, M-t-F transsexual who is an ex-biker and appeared on the show with 'her' wife; and a male who "changes his sex" to get work as a singer.

The whole premise of this show was that in their original sex roles these individuals could not cut it in society. They were supposedly either outcast (the biker), couldn't get work (the singer), or were more successful (the would-be mayor and businesswoman).

I am not going to take anything away from any of the panelists for indeed they were seemingly all successful or better people as women than as men. Each of their achievements were notable. But this program gave the viewing audience the wrong impression; it is okay to change sex simply because you ain't cuttin' it as a dude.

Let's dissect each of the individuals to uncover some meaning to this mindless show.

Probably the least harmful was

the male/female singer. Though he had a lot of talent, the entertainment world was not beating a path to his door for singing gigs. His wife, as a joke one evening, made him up and he rehearsed in the female voice. They were both surprised when he came across better sans the male image. He tried out his new act and was hired on the spot. Since he changed sex roles for his onstage work, he has worked continuously, but he never lets the audience, or most employers, know of his true sex. (He is not a transvestite.) Is he wrong to do this? No, he's not. His reasons are valid. He is merely doing an act, nothing more, nothing less.

The pre-op TS (with wife) in "before" and "after" photos was remarkable. Before, he was the icon of what Mad magazine would epitomize as the bearded, tattooed, beer drinkin', leather-clad biker. The kind that crushes Coors cans on his forehead - before they're empty. The "after" shots showed a mild mannered, meek, yet husky woman. She went for reassignment in Belgium and had a heart attack in surgery. Her reassignment has been on hold until her health improves. From the discussion that followed we learned the tough exterior was just a put-on show for her true feminine feelings.

We can all identify with that thought, but is she a better person as a female than male? From what we could see on the show, maybe. But is it a logical decision to seek sex reassignment simply because you think people will like you better as a woman than as a man? Her rationale is a bit twisted. I can't condone, nor recommend, anybody do what she's doing because they think they'll be better liked.

You have to like yourself before you start the road to transition in order to successfully finish. This woman didn't like her old self, and I don't think she is too happy with the new one either.

Finally, we come to the post-op transsexual woman. Terri made no bones about her gender issues, and seems to have gotten a good response from the local public vis-a-vis her honesty. She had been a very successful businesswoman for over 15 years before the bid for political office. She noted that although successful before the change, she was even more so following the surgeon's snip. She did not, as we are lead to believe by the show's title, jump the gender fence to get a better job. Terri was simply taking advantage of her gregarious personality and ability to influence people. No problem here with the reasons; I applaud her efforts in the political ring. Sally tried to make it sound like Terri changed sexes just so she could become mayor. Terri's motives were sound. Sally's efforts at responsible journalism were not.

Besides unmasking thinly veiled attempts to raise talk-shows ratings, this article has another point: analyze why you may want to cross the gender line. Is it because of your inner feelings, or is it because you are not successful in your current gender/sex role? If you're unhappy in your life, you can't be happy in your work. If you're unhappy at work, you can't be successful. But that's something you need to take a long hard look at before you do anything rash. I was very successful in a pseudo-male role, and have been very successful in my many years in the female role. Don't try "the other sex" just because you aren't happy in your work!

As for Sally, I will only say that she set back the public's understanding of transsexualism 5,000 years. She caused more problems than she made contributions. I wish she would do a show about transsexualism, talking only about personal gender issues and problems.

I give Sally and her stupid show two thumbs down.

JoAnn Roberts SOAPBOX

I've lost a friend to "transsexual fever" My "lost" friend, we'll call her Tes, is planning on a new life in a femme persona. The problem is she's doing it outside of the Standards of Care. Tes is taking female hormones without proper medical supervision, and has had facial plastic surgery. But she has had no psychological counseling. She thinks that reassignment will make all of her present personal problems disappear. Tes is headed for disaster, but won't listen to anyone.

Issue #6 of *Gender Expressions* is a diatribe on the Standards of Care which were developed by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. Most ethical gender clinicians follow the standards, which include counseling and a two-year real life test.

The polemicists at *GenEx* want

the standards abolished. They want "surgery on demand" for all self-diagnosed transsexuals. That's fine except for two problems: the diagnosis of transsexualism itself and a refusal to accept responsibility for one's actions.

There generally seems to be two very different types of people who label themselves M-t-F transsexuals. The first type has known they are transsexual from a very early age. From their teen years forward their only goal is to correct the error that nature appears to have set on them. If you meet one of these people, you have no doubt that reassignment is exactly what they need.

The other type is Dr. Richard Docter's "secondary" transsexual, a person who identifies as transsexual in middle age or later following years and years of crossdressing. If

you meet one of these people, you may wonder if they are making the right choice, the evidence of masculinity is so strong in them.

So what? If they want reassignment, why not just give it to them, like cosmetic surgery? Because people change their minds; they make mistakes. And a lot of people are not willing to accept the responsibility for their own mistakes. They look for a scapegoat. The doctor shouldn't have done the surgery without being absolutely sure. It's not my fault. Blame him.

You can't expect surgery on demand unless you are able to accept the responsibility that YOU might be making a mistake. My ex-friend, Tes, is not accepting responsibility for her actions and the editors of *GenEx* neglected to discuss accepting responsible at all.



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THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair*
NEWSQUEEN™

The political season is rapidly approaching, and that makes us wonder if there are any transgendered folks who profess to be Republicans, especially if they have read what Rep. William E. Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) told his Golden State GOP colleagues.

"We do not endorse special recognition for gays or cannibals, transvestites or people who practice bestiality. Any acts of human indecency, we'll leave that element to the Democrats."



Unfortunately, there are those people who crossdress, do terrible things, and give the rest of us bad reputations. One of those people is Florida Highway Patrolman Timothy Scott Harris.

Harris, an eight year veteran of the patrol, confessed to murdering a woman he stopped for a traffic violation. He said he killed the woman after they had sex on the I-95 median strip because of stress from his impending divorce. Harris became a strong suspect in the murder after his estranged wife said that Harris broke into her house wearing nothing but panties and pantyhose and tried to beat her.



Not only was this story from Florida bad enough for the public image of transgendered people, but last month we may have lost one of our oldest role models — Viscount Cornbury, Royal Governor of the British colonies of New York and New Jersey from 1702 to 1708. A scholar now claims the reports that Cornbury paraded about the street of New York dressed as a woman were a vicious libel begun by his political enemies in the colonies. Patricia U. Bonomi, a professor at New York University, also claims that the famous portrait reputed to be of Cornbury in drag is actually the likeness of an unknown — but undoubtedly ugly — woman.

Cornbury has long been held up, depending on your point of view, as a transvestite who became successful in spite of his crossdressing, or as an example of the eccentricity of transvestism. Part of the story is that Cornbury, who was a cousin of England's Queen Anne, believed that he resembled his cousin so much that he dressed like her in order to better represent her to the colonies. The story has been repeated in so many books that Bonomi is seen as something of a rebel.

Meanwhile, the New York Historical Society, which still has the painting on prominent display at its New York City museum, and still identifies it as a portrait of Cornbury, will conduct its own research into the matter.



While we lose one famous member of the club, we perhaps gain another. According to a supermarket tabloid, Barbra Streisand is worried that her son Jason Gould, 23, is a gay drag queen. The reasons for the maternal concern? Since he was a teenager, Jason has shown a desire to do drag and displayed talent for impersonating Dianna Ross and Streisand herself. But the clincher for Mom came when Jason moved out of her ocean-side mansion and into his own apartment in West Hollywood, the L.A. region's prime gay neighborhood. Perhaps it was all that worry that caused Streisand to lose her temper when Jason appeared at her 48th birthday party recently wearing one of her designer creations. Then again, she could have been angry because he had ripped out the seams in the \$6,000 gown.



Speaking of celebrities, here are a few tidbits you won't hear on "Entertainment Tonight," and a few you might.

Stories about Divine still appear in entertainment columns months

after his death. According to an article in *Vanity Fair*, this is how Glenn Milstead, broke the news of his new career to his parents:

"Frances and Harris Milstead were unsure what their son was doing with the skinny, long-haired Waters boy until one day in 1968. They opened the trunk of their car and found a pink Chanel-like 'Jackie Kennedy' suit covered with fake blood — a prop from Waters' latest 16mm atrocity (*Eat Your Makeup*). 'What is *this*?' they gasped. Glenn knew they could never possibly understand his art. 'I am Jackie Kennedy!' he screamed.



Charles Pierce, the inimitable Bette Davis impersonator, recently told an interviewer how he got started in the business:

"An earthquake hurled me into Mother's shoes and a dress slipped off a hanger and cascaded over my head. I took one look and myself and said, 'F—, I'm in show biz.'"



Is Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), the former hubby of Elizabeth Taylor, trying to come out of the closet? Warner's picture recently appeared in a newspaper ad for Annette Dean, a dress shop near Richmond.

While a "production error" was blamed for switching Warner's photo with that of a female model, an aide to the senator did not actually deny that his boss might crossdress. "To my knowledge, he doesn't wear dresses," said Phil Smith. A spokeswoman for the store would only say "You never know who you'll run into shopping at Annette Dean."



To wrap up the celebrity section, here's news about two gender switching roles played by women.

Pat Carroll, who recently played the voice of the evil sea-witch in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, won raves reviews for her portrayal of

continued on page 6

NewsQueen...from page 5

Sir John Falstaff in Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Folger Theater in Washington. While it was common in the Bard's day for boys to play female roles, it is uncommon for a woman to take on a leading male role. *New York Times* critic Frank Rich said Carrol played Falstaff "so convincingly as a man ... that he still seems masculine when the plot requires him to adopt the drag outfit of a witch."

Actress Tilda Winton's next film role allows her to change sexes in the midst of a movie. She's been cast as Orlando in the upcoming film version of the peculiar 1929 novel by Virginia Woolf, also called *Orlando*. The fable, which involves the transformation of a man into a woman, gave Woolf the opportunity to explore gender roles and sexual orientation.



Real life sex changes are some-

times as dramatic as those in books or in the movies. Take New Hampshire transsexual Sarah Luiz for example. Her sex reassignment was halted after Blue Cross said they would no longer pay for the procedures, and so Luiz had decided to stop hormone therapy and revert to being a man. Just as things looked darkest for the 24-year-old transsexual, an unnamed surgeon stepped forward to donate surgery after he saw a television report on Luiz and her \$30 million lawsuit against Blue Cross.



Things were just as bright for a transsexual student at the University of Alabama in Birmingham who won a seat in the school's Undergraduate Student Government Association after campaigning as "the only transsexual to run."

The student qualified for the race under the name of Kenneth Wright,

but later changed his name to Caitlin Kiernan. She received the second highest number of votes for any candidate in the election.

Kiernan attributes her win to her visibility. She stands 6 feet 4 inches tall and sometimes dresses as a woman for classes.



The issue of visibility came too late to prevent a 38-year-old Chinese peasant from being bilked out of the \$155 he paid to a marriage broker to find him a wife.

The couple hit it off well, and the wedding was held in the eastern province of Shan-dong. It wasn't until the honeymoon that the peasant discovered that his bride was a man.



Be like Joan [redacted]; send clippings about crossdressing to Miss Sinclair at the Renaissance office.



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● Paul Mitchell	● Hayashi
● KMS Research	

... AND MANY, MANY MORE!

**M-F: 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**



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SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER
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JULY 1990

Kelly [REDACTED] - Chapter Director
(609)641-3782

Emily Sheldon - Secretary

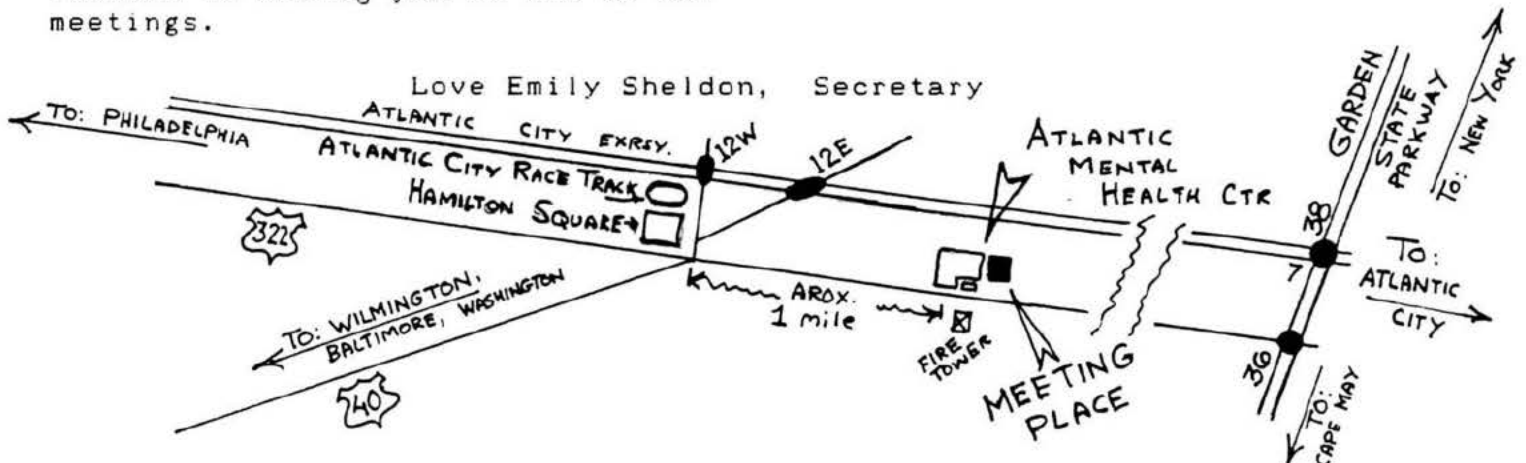
Hi girls (and boys) here we are in the Renaissance News at last!
we meet the first Saturday of each month at the offices of the Atlantic
Mental Health Center - 2002 Black horse pike - McKee NJ Meetings start at
nine or thereabouts, doors open at eight. These are professional offices
like those at the meeting place of the greater Philadelphia Chapter, and
we also have plenty of space for you to dress in. No need to miss any-
thing, or worry about sneaking out past the neighbors!

June marked the first full year of our chapter meetings. For those who
remember only the disappointments as the late Phi Chapter of the late
Gateway Gender Alliance quietly sputtered out into oblivion, and the
series of non-meetings that didn't get held while we were trying to
find a place to meet - take heed! take heart! you have missed a whole
fun and activity filled year, But theres lots more to come!

We will finally get it together and become a corporation like the
by laws say we should! With the help of an Atlantic City attorney
J. David Alcantara (Who offers legal council to any New Jersey "girl"
who needs help with legal difficulties arising from the cross-gendered
state - for a fee of course - 609-347-4848) We should become incorp-
orated some time this year

Come on in girls - the waters fine! Take the opportunity to mix your
REALLY favorite activity with a trip to the beach and casino town.
find sisterly company to relax among after a struggle with one-arm
bandits. This near a resort there are many any accommodations nearby for
those coming from a distance, so come on down.

Need a sympathetic ear for your troubles? (maybe a shoulder to cry on?)
First time out? Need help with your face or whatever? Afraid you won't
look good enough? Don't be! Most of us didn't look all that good our
first time either. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. We may not be
beauticians but whatever anyone knows she will be glad to show you. Need
more information? Want to talk to someone? - Chapter phone number is
(609)641-3782. Its dark, lonely and dusty in that closet with moths! Look
forward to seeing you at one of our
meetings.



Lower Susquehanna News

Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter of Renaissance Education Association, Inc.

Volume 2, No. 5 - Elsa [REDACTED], Editor, P O Box 7412, York PA 17404 - July 1990

Chapter Meetings

LSV meets the first Saturday of each month at Classic Designs Hair Care Center, 250 S 15th St. Camp Hill.

Doors open 9:00 p.m. Program 10:00.

Directions: I-83 to Exit 22-Lemoyne, right at light onto Third St. (from I-83 N, you can only turn right). at second traffic light on Third St., turn left on Market St. (Hardees), bear left onto State St (Hess gas) and go about a mile to Classic Designs, on the right just past the West Shore Plaza and a NAPA auto parts store. Use the parking lot on the west end of the building. Enter door facing the parking lot.

LSV Phone: (717) 767-4095

Our answering machine has a special message segment with late-breaking news and events that can be accessed from a tone phone. To talk to a human being, please leave a name and phone number or call back most evenings or weekends.

Harrisburg callers may call Brenda on weeknight evenings at (717) [REDACTED] for chapter information and carpools to King of Prussia meetings.

Call Heather at (717) [REDACTED] for meeting and events information.

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offers full hair, wig, cosmetic and electrolysis services to our community. Private areas available for all services. Phone (717) 761-2284 or (717) 761-2285. Treva specializes in wig styling. For other salon services ask for Vicky. Phone (717) 763-8254 for Tracy Evens. Electrologist.

Board Notes

June 2, LSV Board approved a half-year proration of annual dues. For members joining the chapter from July 1 thru September 30, dues for remainder of 1990 are \$9. No charge for 1990 dues for those joining October 1 thru December 31, so long as 1991 dues of \$18 are paid.

Non-member requested contribution remains \$3 per meeting. One guest fee may be applied toward the appropriate dues as of the date of the guest fee.

June 25, Elsa resigned as Chapter Leader to become Director-at-Large handling Membership, Newsletter & Outreach. Brenda "Roxy" [REDACTED] becomes Chapter Leader and continues as IFGE Rep. Heather Laverne [REDACTED] becomes Program/Meeting Coordinator.

Heather and Brenda are organizing the first annual LSV Luau for August 25. If successful as a one-day event this year, we will consider expanding to a weekend event for next year.

A mailing is being prepared for 20 local colleges offering transgendered speakers for Human Sexuality classes. LSV will fund the cost of a booth at Unity Festival 90 on July 22 and half of the cost of tickets for two additional persons to "man" an information booth.

As of June 25, LSV has 34 members. Our treasury of about \$370 will allow us to break even for the rest of the year.

Susquehanna Calendar

●July 7 LSV Meeting. Program features dance instruction. *Wear your Capezios.*

●July 14 Dignity/Central PA 15th Anniversary Celebration begins with 6:00 p.m. Mass at Friend's Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts, Harrisburg. Then at

8:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn, Center City Harrisburg, dinner followed by speaker. Jaime Grant, Director of Development, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Dinner cost is \$25 due July 10. Mail to Dignity/Central Pennsylvania, P O Box 297, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

●July 15 beginning at noon, Dignity picnic at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Bring beverage and side dish or dessert to share. Dignity Info: (717) 652-7683.

●July 22 noon to 8:00 p.m. Unity Festival 90 at Ski Roundtop, Lewisberry. Features continuous live entertainment, arts & crafts, vendor & organization booths. Admission \$22/person at the gate or \$20/person in advance. Write: Unity Festival 90, 4409 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill PA 17011.

●August 4 LSV Meeting. Possible computer makeovers at a different location. Check August newsletter.

●August 25 8:00 p.m. First annual LSV Luau at Sheraton Harrisburg-West, I-83 & PA Turnpike. \$25/person until August 10, then \$30/person.

●September 1 9:00 p.m., LSV Meeting.

To contact our new leadership:

Brenda "Roxy" [REDACTED]

P O Box 383

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

(717) 766-8527

Heather Laverne [REDACTED]

P O Box 631

Carlisle, PA 17013

(717) 249-5841

*Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter of
Renaissance Education Association, Inc.*

Presents: First Annual **Hawaiian Luau**

Featuring: Traditional Hawaiian Feast, Patio Setting, Disco 'til Closing

Entertainment By: Morgan's Ann Margaret,

Harrisburg Hula Hula Hipsters

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If you are planning to attend only one transgendered function this summer.

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or Brenda [REDACTED] at (717) [REDACTED]

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&

LSV Renaissance Hawaiian Luau Reservation Form

Mailing Name: _____ Femme Name: _____

Address: _____ Guest Name: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Name Tag Name(s): _____

Please reserve _____ seats @ \$25 per person By August 10 (\$30 after August 10)

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- Body Shock: The truth about changing sex. by Liz Hodgkinson: \$18.00
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From around the TV/TS community NATIONAL GENDER NEWS™

GREELEY, COLO. - *Survival* columnist **JoAnn Altman Stringer** has written a book entitled, *The Transsexual's Survival Guide to Transition and Beyond*. The book covers a range of topics from choosing a therapist to networking a new social life. The book will be published later this summer.

Stringer would also like to edit a book of real life experiences from other pre- and post-operative transsexuals. She is interested in good or bad experiences with family, friends, jobs, or any aspect of their life. Names will be kept confidential if desired. Names are not as important as the experiences.

Stringer is a post-operative transsexual woman who is married, with step-children, and owns her own professional photography business.

Interested parties may correspond with Stringer care of Southwind Studios, 2036 1st Ave., Suite 211, Greeley, CO 80631.

We applaud Stringer's efforts to return something to the transgendered community. Most often, successful transsexuals just disappear.

NGN

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. - We're very pleased to see other groups copying

our style. The "Partyline" section of *Puff & Stuff*, the newsletter of I.M.E., (I am me.) has snippets of news from other support groups and the general news. They even used two items from this newsletter.

But more importantly, I.M.E. is considering different community service activities to boost the public's dim view of crossdressers. Some of the activities suggested were: volunteering to assist at the regional Special Olympics, aid to the hearing impaired, aid to the elderly, and volunteering to assist local Public Broadcasting television stations during their fund-raising telethons.

We really love the last suggestion, but we're afraid patrons might call the station and ask that their last contribution be returned. Overall, the idea is a good one.

Friends in the western Michigan area can contact I.M.E. at P. O. Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

NGN

ALEXANDRIA, VA. - It's May as we write this and it'll be July when you read it, but now is the time to start planning for the 1990 Fantasia Fair.

Betty Ann Lind, the fair director, wanted us to remind everyone that the fair offers work scholar-

ships for community members with special skills need at the fair.

The skills and number of people required are:

- Newsletter editor (1) - must have MS-DOS computer skills
- Assistant photographers (2)
- Supervising Sound Tech. (1)
- Assistant Sound Techs. (2)
- Videographer (1) - must have their own VHS camera
- Assistant Videographer (1)
- Administrative Go-fers (2)

Anyone interested in applying for one of these jobs should send a resumé to Lind at P.O. Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312. If accepted, you'll receive a hefty discount on the fair fee.

NGN

BOSTON - The whole crew at *Gender Expressions* must have a knot in their pantyhose. We've rarely seen such anger smeared across the printed page. Their targets seem to be the health care establishment and the Standards of Care for the treatment of transsexualism.

They also made a big hoo-ha about the *Tapestry* (published by the International Foundation for Gender Education) "borrowing"

continued next page



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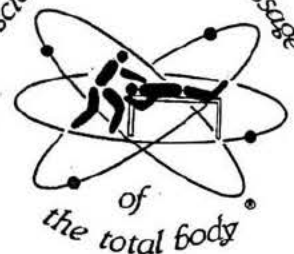
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From around the TV/TS community
NATIONAL GENDER NEWS™

and excerpting copy without written permission from the publisher.

Maybe they should read their own stuff. Editor, **Janet**, revisits an article from their charter issue entitled *Future View*. In her remarks she makes it sound as if the original article was her own.

Well, we know differently, and Christon should know better. The original *Future View* was reprinted in *Gender Expressions* with permission from another publication. Christon just forgot to mention that.

We guess it's easy to forget your principles when you're so angry.

NGN

FULLERTON, CALIF. - The girls of Powder Puffs of Orange County (PPOC) were treated to a soliloquy in their May newsletter from president **Joan** on the benefits of becoming a Tri-Ess chapter. The part we liked the best was: "**Jane Ellen Fairfax**... is now chairman of the board and she sees a need for **Tri-Ess** becoming a more virile... part of the community..." Virile? How appropos. Does the word "oxymoron" ring a familiar note?

Prez Joan is also the Tri-Ess Director of Membership for the Western Region. Hmmm. Is conscription illegal in California?

NGN

BROOKLINE, MASS. - **Hopeful** is the name of a special program aimed at couples where one partner is a crossdresser. The objective is not to deal with crossdressing but all the other related issues that crop up in a relationship. It also deals with changing gender roles in society.

Sponsored by **Theseus Counseling Services** and **Ari Kane**, the program was held in Vermont over the June 22-24 weekend.

If you missed this workshop, contact Ari for the next one. Write Theseus Counseling Services, 223 Harvard St., Suite 302, Brookline, MA 02146 or call 617-277-4360.

NGN

ALTONA, AUSTR. - There's Aussies in the air lately...

We received a nice note from **Ms. Elaine Barrie** of the **Elaine Barrie Project** in Australia, along with a copy of their monthly magazine *Nu-Scene*. It was very nicely done and we thoroughly enjoyed the piece by **Lady Paula Howard**.

Howard's writing showed up this month in no less than three periodicals that crossed our desk; *Nu-Scene*, *Narcissus* (TransEssex, U.K.), and *Gender Euphoria* (Boulton & Park Society, Texas).

Is that some sort of record?

NGN

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. - "Finally, in one place, everything you wanted to know about the 'T' phenomenon."

Yep, that's what the press release for *From Masculine to Feminine And All Points In Between* says. Everything! In one place! We can't wait to see the tractor trailer that delivers this baby.

Author **Jennifer Anne Stevens** was a guest speaker at the I.F.G.E. convention in Boston and she was kind enough to give the attendees a run down on the book. It does try to cover everything from makeup to sex reassignment, but that sounds like too large a bite to cover adequately in one book.

We'll reserve final judgment until our copy arrives. Meanwhile you may request your copy from Different Path Press, PO Box 251, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA 02238. Enclose a check or money order for \$22.45 (P&H included).

NGN

WOODLAND HILLS, CALIF. - **Kymerleigh Richards**, editor of the *Valley Girls Cross-Talk*, wonders whether or not the Vals should be offended at receiving a MONA from us this past April. (Actually, the MONA was awarded to Val Gal Eileen McCleary.)

Offended? We hope not. Embarrassed for McCleary, maybe.

NGN

TORONTO, ONT. - Things are heating up in the Great White North.

Two transformation services are engaged in an advertising war in this city. **Deb Pyke** of *Fantasyland* and **Paddy Aldridge** of *Walk on the Wildside* are trading snipes.

Pyke had a captive audience in the **Monarch Social Club**, with which she is affiliated. Apparently, a disgruntled Monarch member delivered the club mailing list to Aldridge, who promptly sent out a mailer for her services.

Pyke was incensed and called Aldridge with threats of a lawsuit. Monarch sent a letter to its members encouraging them to sue Aldridge for breach of confidence. (Right! A TV is going to take someone to court for "exposing" them.)

Aldridge followed with a second mailing assuring Monarch members that their names and addresses are still secure with her.

While Aldridge took advantage of an opportunity to expand her business, the real nasty in this episode is the Monarch member that gave Aldridge the mailing list. She should be drawn, quartered and converted to fish food.

NGN

UPPER MONTCLAIR, N.J. - If you're into leather, rubber, or shiny vinyl, then you'll be interested in a very unique showroom being developed by **Constance** and **John** of **Constance Enterprises**, those same folks who produce the *Dressing for Pleasure Ball* each fall.

The showroom is open by appointment only. It will feature clothing, lingerie, shoes and other paraphernalia garnered from all corners of the world. Only the finest quality items will be available. You may inspect items at the showroom and then place an order.

For a private appointment and showing, call John at 201-746-0072. And ask about the next *DfP Ball*.

The **BACKPAGE**

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Renaissance is a non-profit organization staffed by unpaid volunteers. Our operating capital comes from you, the members. Most national members pay only their membership dues which covers the production of this newsletter each month leaving a little left over for other activities. We typically finish the year with a few hundred dollars in the treasury.

Perhaps some of you have forgotten that Renaissance is also a Federal tax exempt, publicly supported entity. You can make donations to Renaissance which are deductible on your Federal income tax. We receive an occasional donation.

We tried a few fund raising ideas, but the response has been weak. We also considered private voice mail-

boxes and you rejected that.

So, here is a chance for you to tell us what additional benefits would entice you to make donations to the organization. What can we do for you to make Renaissance better? More pages in the newsletter? More week night meetings? More outside activities?

Send your ideas to Membership Suggestions, c/o Renaissance, PO Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

TIPPING TIPS

Minorities generally have terrible reputations when it comes to tipping for service. Lesbians are particularly ill-treated in restaurants because many gay male waiters believe them to be lousy tippers.

Transvestites and transsexuals seem to be lumped into a similar

category for tipping.

As a public service, we're providing a tipping guide based on currently recommended practice.

- Restaurant service - Tip 15 percent of the total bill. Tip 20 percent if your server was especially attendant.
- Parking Attendant - Tip \$1 or \$2 when your car is delivered.
- Bellhop in hotel/Skycap at airport - Tip \$1 per bag, more if the bags are large or heavy.
- Maids in hotel - Tip \$1 per night. Leave tip in a plainly marked envelope.
- Hairdresser - Tip \$5 for a wash & cut, more for a perm.
- Manicurist - Tip \$2 for sculptured nails, \$1 for polish only.

(Some of this material was taken from Meeting News, United Newspaper Group, N.Y.)

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