

Renaissance News



Volume 6, No. 7

Vision - Integrity - Quality

July, 1992

IFGE deadlocked

Congress of Reps fate still undecided

The relationship between the Congress of Representatives and the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) is still in limbo after a meeting of the Executive Committee of the IFGE board held last month in Dearborn, Mich.

According to Nancy Cole, vice chair of the board, there was no consensus on the committee about the relationship between the two organizations. One IFGE faction wants to recognize the congress and simply appoint a liaison to the congress as the committee agreed to do in April. Another faction wants the congress under its direct control by making the congress an IFGE standing committee with a chairperson reporting to Merissa Sherrill Lynn, IFGE executive director.

Lynn leads the effort to bring the congress under the control of IFGE. She refers to the organization as "the IFGE Congress of Reps." Yet in a May 22 letter, she wrote, "The Congress does not, in fact, exist and does not, in fact, have any officially recognized status with IFGE." This was after Lynn had received a legal opinion to the contrary from Naomi Owen, chair of the IFGE Legal and Bylaws Committee.

At the IFGE convention held in April in Houston, Lynn had developed a three step plan to bring the congress under the control of IFGE which would have named a congressional "coordinator" in charge of the congress. Lynn withdrew the plan in the face of opposition from both the IFGE board and the Congress of Representatives. The congressional reaction was so strong that the

body declared itself autonomous and elected officers. The congress then asked the IFGE board to appoint a liaison. The IFGE board agreed to do so, but so far no one has been appointed to that slot.

JoAnn Roberts, a member of the IFGE board and one of the originators of the congress, strongly opposes any attempt by IFGE to impose itself on the congress. She said, "Merissa is operating solo on this one. No one on the board wants to make a big issue out of the congress, but no one knows how to keep Merissa from making new proposals. So we have a deadlocked board."

IFGE will now send a letter to the congressional leaders asking them to formalize the structure of the congress themselves and recommend a working relationship between the two organizations.

Support group open to other family members

The Greater Philadelphia spouse and family support group led by Fern [redacted] a professional counselor and the significant other of a Greater Philadelphia chapter member, has been up and running for six months.

Approximately a dozen attendees (no crossdressers) gather during the regular Greater Philadelphia chapter meetings each month. In addition to providing an opportunity for spouses, significant others, and family members to talk face-to-face, members of the group have also established an informal "network" among themselves.

Mayor's commission needs to act on transgender concerns

The Philadelphia Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities (MCSM) has been sworn in by Common Pleas Judge Mary Collins. The ceremony, which took place in City Hall in May, was a departure from the precedent established under former Mayor Wilson Goode. Previously, members of the commission were not sworn in.

At the ceremony, Mayor Ed Rendell invited commission members to confer with him "anytime."

"Many of the initiatives you want, I believe we can put in place," Rendell said. "You can expect a meaningful, real, substantive response from us."

Some in the local transgendered community are wondering if the initiatives the mayor spoke of include the recommendations drafted two years ago last month by the now-defunct Transgendered Issues Workgroup at the direction of the MCSM. The workgroup held several "needs assessment" sessions in Philadelphia and at a Renaissance meeting to determine how Philadelphia city government could be more responsive to the needs of transsexuals and transvestites. In 1990, the draft report was forwarded to then-MCSM Co-Chair Steve Aurand, and nothing has been heard of it since.

Announcements...

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-*Understanding Transsexualism*, and 8-*AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics*.

Pen Pal Project

If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland or write to the main office, c/o Dept. PP.

Prisoner Project

A gift of only \$8 gives a transgendered inmate 12 issues of the *Renaissance News*. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

Our chapters...

Greater Philadelphia

Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Meetings start at 8:00 p.m. year round. For information, call (215) 630-1437, or write Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Michelle [REDACTED], chapter leader.

Lower Susquehanna Valley

Meets the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York. Call (717) 780-1LSV for latest information, or write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Brenda Davidson, chapter leader.

South Jersey

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, or write Renaissance SJ, c/o Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Kara [REDACTED], chapter leader.

Our affiliates...

Groups wishing to become a Renaissance affiliate must 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, Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Our affiliated organizations are:

• **Monmouth/Ocean Group**, Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

• **AEGIS**, Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 939-0244

Events to note...

July

4th No formal meeting, but site will be open for members.

18th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting: crossdressing and religion
— William Stayton, D.D.

No Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting this month.

August

1st South Jersey Chapter meeting:
Electrolysis with Barbara Susinno, R.N., C.P.E.

1st Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting in York at The Greens at Westgate

15th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting: vendors' night

September

5th South Jersey Chapter meeting:
Group rap on relationships led by Frances [REDACTED] (rescheduled)

5th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting in York at The Greens at Westgate

19th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

Renaissance News

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Report from Turkey

Kutu beybi! Madi paporon!

by Phaedra Kelly

⇒ This is the second part of Phaedra Kelly's initial report of her visit to the transgendered community in Turkey. In it, she discusses the community's efforts to fight back against official oppression.

The dire situation faced by transvestites and transsexuals in Turkey has been escalating over a period of years, unaffected, it seems by anything, including international pressure. With Turkey's attempt to gain entry into the European Economic Community, the government saw a need to clean up its human and civil rights reputation and established a ministry for minorities. *Travesty* were among those who were lured to make petition to the new ministry. But *travesty* have been arrested and persecuted ever since. The nation's left wing and human rights press were arrested with them, and now give *travesty* more attention than they receive anywhere else in the world. Even so, the situation continues unabated.

Four years ago, four *travesty* were angered into fighting back and slashed at police. They then barricaded their flat, throwing bottles at the surrounding police. Three hundred police officers plus a fire brigade came for them. They were arrested and faced up to seven years in prison. Demet Demir, a central figure in the *travesty* rights movement, and others involved in human rights got them out of prison in two months. But there was a price. Ever since, the movement has been a target for police harassment.

One single *travesty* began her own protest. She tried, like Demet, to organize. When police came for her they said she was drunk and highly emotional, and fell from her balcony to her death. But eyewitness reports say she was pushed. That case has come to nothing.

During the Gulf Crisis of early 1990, my wife and I engaged in a three-day introductory mission to Istanbul. There we were able to find, meet, and interview Demet. On our return to Great Britain we established links by mail and eventually got the group listed in the world directory of transgendered groups. But in August of that year, Demet was unlawfully arrested, tortured, abused, and thrown into Istanbul's most infamous mixed prisons, where she stayed until just before Christmas.

Demet was shopping in the market when she was hailed by a *change-polis* who demanded money from her. When she refused, she was arrested for homosexuality. Once in police custody, she was beaten and raped. She was released when she protested that homosexuality was decriminalized by Kemel Attaturk, the founder of the modern Turkish state (who himself is believed to have been gay), but she was arrested again and charged with insulting Attaturk's memory.

Upon learning of her arrest, I persisted in nagging Amnesty International to take an interest in her case. Following their own visit

to her in prison, they agreed to represent her. I was also able to return to Istanbul for 10 days earlier this year after raising enough funding from transgendered groups in the United Kingdom and United States (including Renaissance). I lived with Demet inside the community itself, taking the same risks and gathering and documenting the experience first-hand.

Amnesty International had managed to get Demet released from prison pending trial. She was markedly thinner, and her once long red hair was gone, shaved off by police. It was now short, black, and in an androgynous style. The problem of diet — or lack of it in prison — has escalated her varicose vein problem, and at the time of my visit, she was only just becoming accustomed to two meals a day. I photographed the scars of repeated whippings on the small of her back.

Let me leave you with one single image: I stayed for some of my time here with Demet's own blood family. One day when her sister was at the market, I sat and watched, then filmed, as Demet gently nursed and fed her infant nephew. She was, I

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Kurdish sexual minorities also feel the sting of discrimination

The situation faced by Turkish sexual minorities is similar to the plight of Kurdish gays.

Delegates from Kurdistan recently attended the International Lesbian and Gay Association Conference in Berlin and outlined the same sorts of harassment Phaedra Kelly has documented: random arrests, police beatings, attacks by fundamentalist Moslems, and social pressure to dress as women.

After a gay man is arrested, they said, he is unable to find work and is

left with prostitution as his sole career option. The only way to turn enough tricks is to dress as a woman, thus joining the ranks of the *travesty*.

The delegates also reported that sex between men, even after they marry women, is "customary and common."

"But everything has to happen secretly," one delegate explained, and "only feminine men are considered homosexuals."

Law affirms that beauty is not in the eye of the beholder after all

In May it became illegal in Santa Cruz, Calif. to discriminate against a person for housing or employment because of the way she or he looks. Detractors call it the "ugly ordinance," while supporters say it protects people with physical deformities and specifically protects people who have had sexual reassignment surgery.

Even though the version of the "anti-lookism" statute enacted by the city council was a less sweeping form of the ordinance first proposed in January, it is still believed to be the most far-reaching in the nation.

The first version of the ordinance would have banned discrimination based on "personal appearance." The version actually enacted prohibits discrimination because of an individual's "physical characteristics."

Opposition came chiefly from the

town's business community which worries that employers will have to hire the proverbial person with "15 rings in their ears and green spiked hair."

"Where are the rights of property owners?" asked Kathy Manoff, co-owner of Manoff's Rancho Burger in downtown Santa Cruz. "I don't care what people do in their spare time, but they shouldn't be shoving it down my throat."

But City Councilman Neal Coonerty who authored the ordinance, says that a business can still have dress codes for employees and that grooming and cleanliness standards will be enforced to satisfy legitimate health and safety concerns. He added that disputes would have to be submitted for mediation before any legal action is taken.

Religious fundamentalists also oppose the law, claiming that it is

intended to promote homosexuality and immorality. Some religious groups suggested that they might begin a voter initiative to repeal the new city ordinance, but no action has surfaced thus far.

Bring money!

Angela Gardner, director of meetings and programs for the Greater Philadelphia chapter, has a message for members regarding the August meeting: "Bring money!"

A vendors' night is scheduled for the Aug. 15 meeting, and Gardner wants to make sure that members can buy and take home many of the items offered for sale. These will include wigs, makeup, clothes, handbags and accessories, jewelry, and books and videotapes.

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It's that time again...

Transsexuals unwelcome at lesbian summer fête

The issue of whether transsexuals can attend the 17th annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival next month remains as cloudy as ever. For the first time, the producers of the event are advertising it as solely for "womyn born womyn," but say that they will not hunt for transsexuals among the 7,000 to 8,000 attendees.

"I don't sit around and wonder are there transsexuals or a guy in drag wandering around," said Lisa Vogel who, along with Barbara Price, produces the festival. "We know there are transsexuals who attend the festival. Nobody wants to give that a lot of attention. It's not our focus."

Yet the question of transsexual attendance at the festival came into sharp focus last year when festival security personnel, acting on complaints from other attendees, evicted Nancy Burkholder on the suspicion that she had once been a man despite the fact that both her New Hampshire drivers' license and birth certificate listed her sex as female. (RN, Nov. '91)

Burkholder said that if she had known of the policy excluding transsexuals, she would not have attended the festival in 1991 nor in 1990 when she faced no difficulty whatsoever. Now that policy has been put in writing. "I guess I can take credit for that," Burkholder chuckled.

Vogel explains that the "womyn born womyn" policy has been the practice at the week-long gathering for more than a decade. "What we're about is trying to create an event for women that reflects women's experience and women's sensibility," Vogel said.

"This isn't a new issue in the lesbian community," she added.

"The Michigan Festival didn't dream up this issue.... The question of whether or not transsexuals are part of the lesbian community is the same discussion we had 12 years ago. The discussion was as heated and as difficult as it is now."

But on at least one level, Vogel sees the issue coolly and simply. Asked if she feels male-to-female transsexuals are not women, she replied, "Yes."

That sentiment is echoed by many lesbians, including syndicated writer Marilyn Murphy.

"A (male-to-female) transsexual is not a woman. Woman is a cultural construct more than physiology — how we've been raised our entire life. You can't cut it out with a knife. A transsexual is raised as a man. The fact the he has surgery doesn't make him a woman."

See Dallas Denny's essay "Can a man become a woman?" on page 10.

The Michigan festival is not alone in barring transsexual women. Similar festivals on both the East and West coasts have the same policy. Last year's National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta was for "natural-born womyn."

The belief that transsexuals, even after surgery, will always be male, violates the idea of "women's space," a concept developed in the early days of the feminist movement. Because of the difference in power and economic resources between men and women, and the fact that women are subjected to violence from some males, feminists set aside times and places where men are not permitted. In some cases, this exclusion applies to the male children of the women attending, regardless of the child's age.

While supporting the idea of women's space, not all women would exclude transsexuals. Burkholder has received much support from other women. "It has helped me a lot to know that there are many women out there who care. It's been an unexpected kind of gift."

One of those women who supports Burkholder is transsexual lesbian Anne Ogborn of San Francisco. She has formed an organization called Womyn for Womyn which she describes as "a loose coalition of women across the country who are concerned about the matter" of excluding transsexuals from women's space. "It's an ongoing problem at festivals and in the lesbian community as to the way issues get addressed," she said.

To spark more discussion — and possibly to prompt Vogel and Price to change the anti-transsexual policy — Ogborn has put up skull-and-crossbones posters in San Francisco's lesbian and gay neighborhood, "the Castro." The posters warn that the Michigan festival is unsafe for those who are not "womyn born womyn." They charge that any woman attending the festival risks being ejected merely on suspicion of being transsexual.

Ogborn notes that despite Burkholder's surgery and two forms of identification that showed her to be a woman in the eyes of the State of New Hampshire, she was kicked out primarily because people believed she was transsexual. Ogborn claims that anyone could be likewise expelled from the festival if they don't look enough like "womyn born womyn."

"Almost anyone can eventually pass as nontranssexual with enough surgery," Ogborn claims. "Is that

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THE ^{Paul Hanson} NEWSQUEEN™

A Wisconsin man is arrested for having himself handcuffed to a toilet while dressed as a French maid. A Pennsylvania mail order company sells black lace panties for men. But the big story from the "Action NewsQueen" this month is the Filipino man who was reported to be six months pregnant.

According to several reputable news organizations, doctors in the Philippines confirmed that 32-year-old Edwin Bayron was carrying a baby that would be born next month. Doctors said they had performed ultrasound tests which confirmed that in the man's "womb is a healthy baby complete with all physical faculties. The nation's health secretary, Antonio Periquet also confirmed the pregnancy.

Later reports said that Bayron was a true hermaphrodite with complete sets of male and female reproductive equipment. Bayron had been living as a male, and had a male lover who was reportedly the "other" father of the baby. The two wanted to be married but could not because same-sex marriages are not permitted in the Philippines. Nor could Bayron apply for maternity leave because he is employed as a man.

Then, after the story was flashed around the world, came the news that it was all a hoax. Somehow, Bayron, who is a nurse, managed to convince everyone that he was pregnant.

The NewsQueen, however, was not taken in. Perhaps she had read too many stories in the *Weekly World News* such as this next item...



A woman in Honduras got a double shock recently. Her husband was shot during a robbery outside their home, and then police told her that he was four months pregnant.

It seems that Gustavo de Hernandez was posing as a man when he married Rosa almost ten years ago. Only two minor problems

clouded their otherwise happy marriage. Gustavo's job took him out of the country many months of the year, and when he was home he insisted that he and Rosa make love in the dark.

After the deception was uncovered, police theorize that Gustavo lived a true double life: as a man in Honduras and as a woman while traveling abroad.



Police in Milwaukee are clueless about what happened to Michael Synowicz, 40, after he jumped bail while appealing his convictions for disorderly conduct and lascivious acts. He had been arrested after police found him handcuffed to a toilet in a women's rest room on the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee campus. At the time of his arrest, Synowicz was dressed as a French maid.

It turns out that Synowicz paid a woman student at the university to chain him to the toilet. The woman told police that Synowicz also paid her \$100 to let him clean her apartment while wearing his maid outfit and toenail polish.

The rest room stunt landed Synowicz in front of a judge who sentenced him to a year in jail. He was freed on bail awaiting appeal when he vanished.



Lauren Cook Burgess got in trouble with the National Park three years ago for using the wrong bathroom, and now she is finally getting her day in court. What was the woman's offense? She used the women's rest room.

It all happened in August 1989 at Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md. Burgess was dressed as a Confederate fifer and was there to take part in an officially sanctioned Civil War reenactment. Everything was going well until Ranger Ted Alexander spotted the "soldier" emerging from a

women's rest room. After determining her true gender, he prohibited her from taking part in the "living history" presentation.

Burgess sued claiming sex discrimination. In papers filed in federal court recently, she argued that if middle-aged guys with beer bellies could "pass" as young soldiers, she could cut her hair short, bind her breasts, and pass as a man.



Some young men in Japan dress up like women and work in gay bars trying to pass as gay men, but they may not be.

Agei boi in Japan is not necessarily a gay boy. Rather, he is young man with effeminate ways who works in a gay bar, probably in drag, serving drinks and entertaining the customers regardless of his sexual orientation.

If traveling to Japan, you can identify these establishments by the sign that says "*Gei boi-san-tachi to enjoi shite kudasai* (Please enjoy yourself with the Mr. Gay Boys)."



Here's good news for those of you who complain that men's underwear isn't as exciting as women's. The folks in the mail order Mecca of Hanover, Pa., have just the thing—men's underwear in black lace or leopard print chiffon.

The black floral lace undies come in three styles: thong, briefs, and square cut. The chiffon line includes bikini, boxer, and thong panties along with a matching shortie lounging robe.

Our catalog arrived just in time for Father's Day. You can get one of your own from Undergear, Hanover, PA 17333-0077.



Speaking of Father's Day, the event must be a paternal paradox for three families profiled in our favorite supermarket tabloids recently...

First, there was the case of Mandy

THE NEWSQUEEN™

Paul Hanson

Carter of Syracuse, N.Y. Given up for adoption when she was an infant, she spent many years trying to find her birth mother. When she succeeded she received the surprise of her life. Her 43-year-old mother, the woman she knew as Martha, had a sex-change and was calling himself Martin.

"I had been looking forward to seeing my real mother. But, without warning, there's this guy standing there, saying he was my mom, but now he's my father. But after a while I came to realize that no matter what he was then or is now, he's someone who loves me as his own."

Franz Doeker loves his 4-year-old son so much that he reportedly had a sex change to retain custody of the boy.

After Doeker's wife was killed in an auto accident near their home in Bonn, Germany, social workers removed the boy from his father's home because he was a gambler and hung around with unsavory characters. Figuring that a woman would have a better chance of getting custody of the boy, Doeker allegedly underwent sexual reassignment surgery and changed careers. Magistrate Gerhard Haberman was so impressed by Doeker's "ultimate sacrifice" of becoming a female travel agent, that he awarded custody to the new woman.

Finally, consider the case of Emma Johnson, a 3-year-old girl living in Birmingham, England. Her father, Eugene, has become her mother, Cathy; while her mother, Anne, has become her father, Christopher.

The transsexual couple met five years ago and soon were living together. That was when they decided on their future. Anne would become pregnant and bear the child. Then she and Eugene would have sex changes and would then marry. So far the plan is working fine. Both are receiving hormone treatments

prior to surgery and are living in their preferred gender roles

♣ ♣ ♣

Franz Doeker and Judge Haberman may have a simplistic notion of what transsexualism is all about, but their ignorance is nothing compared to the lesbian who wrote to syndicated sexual advice columnist Isadora Alman recently with an answer to a problem raised in a previous column...

"To the guy with 'a small problem': Tell him that most dykes would consider themselves endowed if they had 'just' three inches. He should consider a sex change, keeping the penis of course, and consider him/herself lucky!"

♣ ♣ ♣

A Chicago transvestite didn't consider herself lucky last September. First, she was arrested on disorderly conduct charges. Then, after she was put in a North Side lockup, she was sexually assaulted by her two cell mates.

But justice prevailed and the two men were each sentenced to 15 years in prison for what prosecutors called a "homosexual hate crime."

♣ ♣ ♣

Ecuadorian law enforcement officials have a different way of dealing with people who attack crossdressers — they encourage them.

According to gay activist Orlando Montoya, newspapers last year reported that a "death squad" had been formed to "clean" the capital of Quito of gay men and, in particular, crossdressing prostitutes. Some of the victims are kidnapped and raped before they are killed, and their bodies are often dumped in public places.

In response to a public outcry, police arrested two youths who confessed to two of the murders. While authorities are trying to blame all the killings on those two, transvestites are reporting that the death

threats continue.

♣ ♣ ♣

It's update time. In May we reported that Lady Colin Campbell, the author of a biography on Princess Diana — *Diana in Private: The Princess Nobody Knows* — had become something of a target herself with repeated questions from reporters about rumors that she is a hermaphrodite.

The rumors continue. Reports now say she had a sex change at the age of 18, and the questions have become more pointed. At one recent meeting between the antagonists, a reporter came out and asked, "When did you become a girl, Lady Colin?"

"My dear, I absolutely never discuss my childhood," she replied. "I would end up stripping myself of all my dignity. Everyone knows I had a very odd upbringing."

♣ ♣ ♣

Finally, here are three intriguing but unrelated tidbits gleaned from obscure sources...

Actor Jim Varney, who created the Ernest P. Worrell character, has a new persona — Bunny the hairdresser, complete with a beehive hairdo, cheap jewelry, and too much makeup.

The magazine *Advertising Age* recently asked its readers to suggest the "next realistic toy." Responses included PMS Barbie, Cellulite Malibu Barbie, Anorexic Barbie, and Transsexual Barbie.

Then there is this report from a medical research team in Boston: It is not uncommon for male heart surgery patients to come out of anesthesia thinking that they had just given birth to a baby.

In addition to asking for clippings concerning crossdressing, the NewsQueen has a special request this month. Can readers in New York State, Germany, and Great Britain confirm the stories about the transsexuals with those strong family values? We'd like to pass the corroborated information along to Vice President Quayle.

The **For Ideas**
FORUM

Reflections from the closet

It's been hot and dry.
So awfully hot and dry.
What little green grass there was,
is long forgotten, lost in the dust
that hangs in the air, like a choking fog.
All the furry little animals have either
dug down against the scorching heat,
or died.

Early in the morning, before the wind
stirs
this ocean of dust and death;
Early in the morning, when raptors still
search
in vain for their sustenance;
Early in the morning, when I can still see
the distant peaks:

Hoping from day to day
for a smile, an accepting gesture,
wherein I may lift my mask and breath freely
with my own true face, exposed;

Early in the morning, my eyes strain to see
even the first hint of rain, the wisp of a cloud,
perhaps a thunderhead in the farthest
distance.

To express to someone the secret longings;
to leave the confines of this room, this isola-
-tion,
if only via correspondence,
would be that long awaited wisp of cloud.
If indeed, I could find friendship and accep-
-tance;
then I would stand joyfully in the pouring rain
though the ground is parched around me.

—Suzanne

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Haiku for Cindy

Tenuously with
last July's hot lingerie —
the sweet beginning.

In black lace and white
lies we played opposites that
humid summer night.

Masks fell to the ground
and we saw each other true
in autumn's crisp chill.

Harvesting the love
sown in summer, ripe in fall,
is all seasons' joy.

— PH

Dreams

From deep within it begins to engulf, bit by bit, every sense, every emotion. It spreads its wings of peace and warmth, lifting and transporting me from this life of turmoil into a dream unlived. Closing my windows to the world, I become reborn, a citizen — no longer an outcast — joyful in my being. My joy is yet complete as there is something denying me life. It is that dark realization hiding within the joy of my mind that as surely as my pain has given birth to me dreams, the pain to others will again give rebirth to the turmoil.

God, I wish I had the strength to resist their pain, for my dreams must live if I am to, for my true life is the dream.

—Your Sister

Quote/unquote...

"Beware of beautifull boyes transformed into women by putting on their raiment, their feature, lookes, and facions ... because a womens garment being put on a man doeth vehemently touch and moue him with the remembrance and imagination of a woman; and the imagination of a thing desirable doth stirr up the desire."

— Dr. John Rainolds, a Puritan and an
Oxford scholar in Elizabethan England

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The For Ideas
FORUM

Can a man become a woman? (and vice versa)

or why I wear a lapel button which reads "Biology Is Not Destiny"

By Dallas Denny

This is in response to Christine Beatty's article "Is this why women hate crossdressers?" which originally appeared in the Nov.-Dec. 1991 issue of the *ETVC Newsletter*. It was reprinted in the next issue as well. Now I see Christine's article has again been reprinted in the May issue of the *Renaissance News*. Here we go again.

As usual, Christine made me put on my thinking cap, and another little cap which reads "Devil's Advocate."

When British model Caroline Cossey ("Tula") appeared in *Playboy*, Atlanta-based columnist Lewis Grizzard fired off a column titled "Even *Playboy* used to be for heterosexual men." In a letter I wrote in response to his column, I told Grizzard, Ms. Cossey "is a woman, and has been so for most of her life. She is not a him/her, but a her. The fact that she may have once had different genitalia is as irrelevant as the fact that you once shat your diapers. She is what she is, not what she once was."

That's what I wrote, and I stand by it. We are not irretrievably locked into a single expression of gender, but are free to experiment with and change ourselves. And that change is real. Grizzard's typical *Playboy* bunny, "Tanya, 19, who enjoys swimming and sunbathing and who is planning to study to be an archaeologist or a brain surgeon," is not the person she was 18 years ago, or will be 18 years hence. She is what she is now. If Grizzard were to take her to bed, he would not be molesting a child; nor would he be with a 37-year-old woman. He would be with "Tanya, 19." It's that simple.

There are many roads to a destination. The fact that the "Tanyas" of this world receive Barbie dolls for their fifth birthday and the Barry Cosseys get dump trucks is proof of that. It is the end-point — and not the route — which is important. After all, lots of girls get dump trucks for their fifth birthdays nowadays. Do dump trucks diminish those little girls' femininity? Of course not. And they don't diminish the femininity of the Barry Cosseys either.

Giving birth and menstruating are things, it is often said, that transsexual women cannot do. Christine, in fact, dredges up that argument. She's right. But many non-transsexual women have never borne children, and many women do not menstruate (including most girls under 11, most women over 50, women who have had hysterectomies, and women who have physical problems affecting their reproductive systems. As Devo might ask, "Are they not women?")

You know the answer to that one.

Many transsexual people engineer the social and physical changes which they deem necessary and, thereafter, function seamlessly in their new roles. Lewis Grizzard, and those who are like him, interact with and sometimes marry transsexual people. And who knows, Lewis (I'm sending him a copy of this article), maybe Tanya, 19" was once named Tim. And if so, what of it? Does that make her less a "Tanya?"

No it doesn't, Lewis, so you can rest easy in your fragile heterosexuality.

When transsexual people reach the point of "realness," when they are integrated into society and can-

not be "read" (or "clocked," as we say in the South), then they have become what they have been trying to become. They don't just walk like ducks and talk like ducks; they are ducks. They function entirely as men or women, with bodies which are consonant with their place in society as men or women.

Admittedly, many (perhaps most) transsexual women never reach this point of total integration. Their vices, physical characteristics, and mannerisms convey their transsexualism to the astute observer and keep them transsexual. But some women and most men leave their transsexualism behind. Their pasts are real (for were they not, like "Tanya, 19," once babies?). But their pasts are relevant only as pasts, and not as limiters of the present.

If a man like Billy Tipton lives, marries, raises children, and dies a man, does the revelation upon his death that he has a vagina make him less a man? No! Manhood is a social phenomenon, and has nothing to do with genitalia. Billy Tipton was a man, and Caroline Cossey is a woman.

Some women indeed do have problems with transgendered people. (The word "problem" may be an understatement. A woman was expelled from the 16th Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for being transsexual [see story on the latest developments in that case on page 5 of this issue]). Some object to less than perfect presentations, some to stereotypical presentations, and some to the mere idea that someone who was originally assigned to one sex would dare to live

(continued on page 11)

The **FORUM** For Ideas

A Nigerian reader asks for help

To the Editor:

I am pleased to inform you that I was delighted to discover the name of your organization in *LadyLike* magazine I purchased in Canada recently.

I am really interested in this subject of TV/TS trend and there are few other friends down here who are really dressing up but need more information on the subject to enable them to take the right step.

On the surface of the above, I would appreciate mailing me your monthly magazine or books and publications to assist us grow.

I would advise you to keep on your good works and continue reaching out to the TV/TS all over the world.

Sincerely Yours,
J.A. [redacted]
Nigeria

⇒ As pleased as we are to receive fan mail from overseas, Mr. [redacted]'s letter is all the more in-

teresting because he writes on the letterhead of his employer, *Transformation Search Limited*. No, it's not what you think. TSL bills itself as "the world's leading business search specialists." Mr. [redacted] is the company's foreign business manager.

Renaissance will be sending him some material, and we hope to hear more of him and his friends. Individuals who wish to correspond with Mr. [redacted] may write him in care of TSL, P.O. Box 1006, OTA, Ogun State, Nigeria.

—PH

Can man become woman?

(continued from page 10)

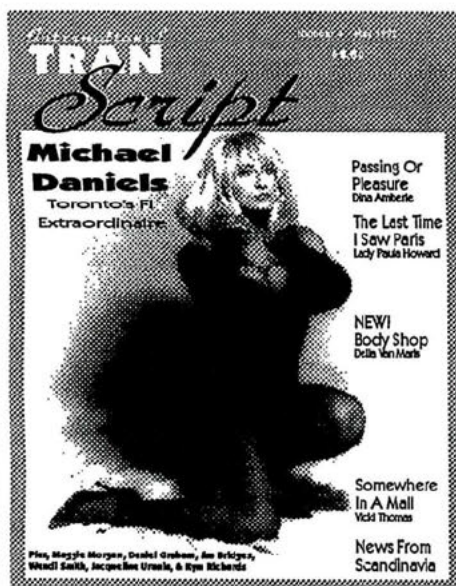
in the gender role normally reserved for the other sex. But some of us go through life in our preferred role, undetected, fitting in. No one objected to Billy Tipton, and no one was objecting to Caroline Cossey before she was brutally "outed" by a British tabloid. People like them are men and women. No more, no less.

⇒ As always, we respect Ms. Denny's opinions and thank her for sharing them. However, we feel that by targeting Christine Beatty's essay, she is somewhat off the mark.

Ms. Beatty's premise is that "many women fear and/or despise transvestites, transsexuals, and other transgendered persons." While Ms. Denny's logic is precise regarding transsexuals, we trust she is not attempting to apply it to transvestites, who are not what they wish to appear to be. In this regard, we believe that Ms. Beatty's points are exceptionally appropriate.

Ms Denny is executive director of the American Informational Gender Information Service (AEGIS).

—PH



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Pageant draws 10,000 fans

Tandy Andrews named Miss Gay USA

by Paul Hanson

Attendees at the 1992 Miss Gay USA pageant held in San Antonio in May were delighted when hometown girl Tandy Andrews took the title. The tall, dark haired beauty is a former Miss Continental USA, making her one of only a handful of impersonators to hold more than one national title.

Tandy follows in the glamorous footsteps of Sable Channel, Miss Gay USA 1991, who set a record of her own during her year. She performed at events and shows around the country 318 days during her 12 months with the crown, the most performances of any national title holder.

Tandy may be well on her way to beating that record. Jerry Byrd, president and chief executive officer of USA Pageantry, Inc., said she already has bookings through the remainder of this year.

At last year's pageant, Tandy was selected first runner-up to Sable, who also hails from Texas.

One hundred contestants from 28 states competed during the six days of competition held at the Bonham Exchange, across from the famed Alamo. The entire six-day pageant drew 10,000 spectators according to Byrd. He said 1,800 witnessed the final night's competition.

All 100 contestants were winners

or first runners-up in official USA Pageantry regional or state preliminaries. Twelve finalists competed during the final evening of the pageant in talent, evening gown, and street wear. Andrews earned top honors in the talent and evening gown competition.

The first runner-up is Bianca Paige of Nashville, Tenn. Second runner-up is Mahogany of Winston-Salem, N.C. Third runner-up is Denise Darshell of Pittsburgh. Fourth runner-up is Sweet Savage

from Dallas.

In addition to Denise, the local region was represented by Billie Jean of New Jersey. But neither New Jersey nor Pennsylvania currently has an officially sanctioned preliminary for Miss Gay USA.

Observers said that this year's pageant the best ever. Byrd must have agreed, for he announced that next year's pageant will return to San Antonio, the first time the traveling event has ever been in the same city two years in a row.

Several new books have transgendered themes

Crossdressing is the theme of several new books: three biographies, two novels and a memoir.

Two books explore the stories of women who successfully passed as men in the armies of their countries. *Amazons and Military Maids* by Julie Wheelwright traces the careers of dozens of such women. *Cavalry Maiden* consists of excerpts from the journals of Nadezhda Durova, a woman who while disguised as a man served ten years in the Russian light cavalry during the early years of the 19th century.

Mary Diana Dods, A Gentleman and a Scholar by Betty T. Bennett tells how Victorian society accepted Dods as Lindsay Robinson, husband

and father.

Transsexual author Jan Morris has written *Pleasures of a Tangled Life* as a sequel to her autobiography *Conundrum* in which she further explores her personality, passions and doubts.

Tama Janowitz's newest novel, due out in September, is full of crossdressers. *The Male Crossdresser Support Group* tells the story of a woman in hiding finding a refuge among a covey of Manhattan drag queens. Her last work was *Slaves of New York*.

Finally, *Gerald's Game* by Stephen King is a psycho/sexual/horror drama complete with a he/she killer.

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Roberts named to AEGIS advisory board

JoAnn Roberts, one of the founders of Renaissance, the first managing director, and now a director at-large of the national organization, has been named to the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board of AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc., based in Decatur, Ga.

Roberts, who holds a Ph.D. degree, joins 27 other members "prominent in their fields, and who are dedicated to the study and welfare of transgendered persons," according to AEGIS Executive Director

Dallas Denny.

Other members include Dr. Anne Bolin, Drs. Bonnie and Vern Bullough, Caroline Cossey (Tula), Sister Mary Elizabeth, Ariadne Kane, Dr. Sheila Kirk, Dr. Virginia Prince, Kim Elizabeth Stuart.

In addition to Renaissance, other organizations represented on the panel include the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, The American Psychiatric Association, The Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, The American Association for Sex Educators,

Counselors, and Therapists, the International Foundation for Gender Education, the Ingersoll Center, and the Society for the Second Self.

A number of the members are transgendered.

But despite this "establishment" tone, the advisory panel also includes special advisors representing some areas that may be considered unconventional, such as Delores French who provides input on prostitution.

"We are fortunate to have been able to assemble such a fine and distinguished group of advisors," Denny said

AEGIS is a Renaissance affiliate.

Womyn's music

(continued from page 5)

really the feminist ideal?"

Small print on the poster calls for "all womyn to boycott the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival until they change their exclusionary policies." But, Ogborn said, the boycott is a small element in the Womyn for Womyn campaign. "We want to change the policy regarding transsexual women and for the festival to provide honestly safe space — space that's spiritually and emotionally safe for transsexual women."

Turkish report

(continued from page 3)

saw, not a cartoon figure whom if hit, shot, or killed springs back into shape and keeps on running. This was and is a human being, capable of bleeding. Also capable of loving, caring, and nurturing during this simple, quiet, unhurried, and natural familial moment; a moment that if we are lucky, we all will come to have, even policemen. The travesty merely survive between these brief moments. But they want and intend to live in this world, and peacefully assimilate into the country of their birth. Who will help?



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ALIEF, TEX. - TV Comments I...

I guess all the negative commentary about the seemingly heavy emphasis on transsexualism at IFGE finally got to **Merissa Sherrill Lynn**. In an uncharacteristic letter-to-the-editor, the executive director of the **International Foundation for Gender Education** took exception to the Winter edition of the *Femme Mirror* (**Tri-Ess National**) that had a special section on secondary transsexualism.

Writing in the spring issue, Lynn said, "I understand... many members of Tri-Ess feel threatened by me... Neither IFGE nor I are, were, or ever will be dominated by transsexualism, or any other special interest group." Oh? Keep reading.

▼▲▼

SAN FRANCISCO - TV Comments II...

I couldn't believe what I was seeing and reading in May-June issue of the *ETVC Newsletter*. Here was yet another letter-to-the-editor by **Merissa**. Is it snowing?

In this letter, Lynn, commenting on remarks by former editor **Roxanne de Lyon** that were unflattering to transsexuals, said, "...it seemed like something that would more likely appear in the *Femme Mirror*..." Wow, two with one stone.

Lynn took yet another swipe at Tri-Ess later in her letter when she said "...*Tapestry* #59 caused quite a furor among many members of Tri-Ess and other transsexophobes."

Hey, neat word! Can you say transvestophobe? Looks like the old TS vs. TV, I'm-better-than-you BS-line is alive and well.

▼▲▼

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. - TV Comments III, just so you don't think it's *lapsus lingua*...

Lynn's transvestophobic remarks are not an isolated incident. I ran across similar sentiments by Lynn in Vol.2, No.2 of *GenderFlex*, formerly *TV Guise*, edited by **Billie**

Jean Jones, currently Miss ETVC.

Sunday night, as the IFGE convention wound down, Jones said to Lynn, "You look tired." Lynn replied, "I am. All this fighting and arguing [about the Congress of Reps] wears me out. I think there's too much testosterone around here..."

Earlier in the convention, Jones and Lynn had been talking about a variety of things when Lynn quipped, "You still have that thing between your legs, don'tcha?" Jones, who for once seemed at a loss for words, replied, "You still got a thing between your legs, don'tcha?" Lynn replied, "Yeah, but mine's better."

Better? Better!? Than what?

Is this the new **Merissa Sherrill Lynn** or just a side of **Merissa** we never got to see before? Perhaps the bad joke about the last step of the reassignment surgery is true.

In any event, ask yourself this question: Is this the person you want to represent you?

▼▲▼

WASHINGTON - If the mountain won't come to Mohammed...

IFGE lived up to the "education" part of its name this past May when several of its board attended the 145th annual meeting of the **American Psychiatric Association** (APA).

Handing out IFGE information packets were **Nancy Cole**, vice chair of the board; **Yvonne Cook-Riley**, director of operations; **Sheila Kirk**, director of research; **Laura Cauldwell**, Winslow Fund trustee; and, of course, **Merissa Lynn**, executive director.

Also joining the group for one day were **Alison Laing**, newly elected chair of the **Congress of Representatives** and myself.

Every person I talked to was interested in our message. I had expected some hostility and found little. The exceptions were the military shrinks. Other than that, we blew a few minds and made quite a number of professional contacts, including

members of the *DSM-IV* committee. We also made quite a few "friends" with many of the women working the other displays.

The IFGE display was designed and built by **Delia Wolfe** and it was on a par with many of the best.

Our group must have made an impression since the APA staff invited us to next year's convention.

▼▲▼

WELLINGTON, N. Z. - Sorry to see it end, but enough is enough...

After 21 years in the same job and 26 years working for the government, **Minorities Trust** founder and Executive Director **Leone Neil** has called it quits.

Neil says she just couldn't take the daily grind anymore, and she's "fed up being treated like a mentally retarded idiot simply because of my gender."

Neil will continue to publish *TransCare* at least until December.

▼▲▼

ISLE OF WIGHT, U. K. - On the road again...

Readers will recall the plea for funds to support **Phaedra Kelly's** trip to Turkey. Well, Miss Kelly barely received enough money in time, but the trip did happen. I'm in possession of a manuscript describing her exploits in contacting Turkish activist **Demet Demir**. We're looking for a publisher.

Miss Kelly now has a new mission, one that will take her into the former Soviet Union, and, once again, funds are needed. Anyone who would like to help fund Miss Kelly's extraordinary outreach efforts may send contributions to me and I will see that they reach her.

▼▲▼

EX-U.S.S.R. - Who can keep track nowadays...

While Miss Kelly plans her next trip, I've been in contact with a transvestite in Latvia and a transsexual in what used to be the USSR.

Transvestite **Elga** [redacted] has

THE ^{JoAnn Roberts} TM **ICONOCLAST**

been writing to me for about a year and she's trying to start up a support group in her newly independent nation. Kelly will be visiting Remes on her trip.

Maggie [REDACTED], a pre-op transsexual, says that life for a TS in the former Soviet Union is pure hell. One thing that might help is some mail from sympathetic sisters. If you'd like to write to her, send me a letter in a plain envelope with 50¢ postage and I will forward it to her.

▼▲▼

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. - There's lotsa comfort in this holiday...

I just received notice that the annual **Tri-Ess Holiday Enfemme** will be held November 11-15 in Atlanta. The host group this year is **Sigma Epsilon** headed by GG **Linda Peacock** one of three females on the Tri-Ess board.

I would have supposed this meant that Sigma Epsilon would **not** be involved in the October 1-4, **South-ern Comfort**, since two similar events so close would surely drain the group's energy, but I'd have been wrong. The group will participate in SoCom along with the **Montgomery Foundation** (Ga.), **AEGIS** (Ga.), **Fantasia** (Fla.), **Reality** (Fla.), **Phoenix** (N.C.), and **DCEA** (D.C.)

Special guests for the '92 event include Drs. Michael Sieghers, Sheila Kirk, and Anne Bolin.

▼▲▼

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - This could get really nasty...

No one can prove anything, but there are rumors that at least two former members of EON have been "outed" by someone from within the group. **Molly Kennedy**, who was at the center of the EON-SAAGE controversy has lost her patronage job with the City of Syracuse and suspects that she was "outed" by someone with a grudge against her. Kennedy knows who did it, but she's not telling tales out of school.

A similar incident occurred with

another former member of the original EON board, but in that case her employer didn't care.

I think that the situation in Syracuse has gotten way out of line.

▼▲▼

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Is this what gave Jesse his heart trouble...

I received this nice note from someone named **Divinity** who is trying to get a support group started in the Carolinas. She's originally from the L.A. area, so she knows what can be accomplished with the right energy. Anyone who might be interested should contact J.G., P.O. Box 25100, Suite 188, Charlotte, NC 28229-5100.

▼▲▼

ESSEX, MASS. - Non-women need not apply...

We could get real hung up in the semantics of what makes someone a woman, but I'll pass that up in favor of getting the word out that the second **New Woman's Conference** will be held from September 10-13 in Essex, Mass.

The conference is a celebration of the post-op transsexual's rite of passage and to exchange ideas, information, and experiences. Discussion will also explore the need for a national "new woman's organization."

Interested persons should contact **Christina Young**, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) [REDACTED], (FAX) (617) [REDACTED]

Although the first conference was sponsored by the **Outreach Institute**, this year's conference was seeded by a grant from **IFGE**.

▼▲▼

SOUTH PORTLAND, ME. - This is Rumor Control...

Speaking of the Outreach Institute (OI), there is no truth to the rumor that **Fantasia Fair** will be canceled this year. Fair officials admit that registrations are down, but that's true at almost every event in the country (the Texas "T" was the exception) so that's no surprise.

What was surprising, though,

was the letter from *Our Sorority* publisher **Betty Ann Lind**. The letter was postmarked "The Outreach Institute" from Alexandria, Va. Hmmm? Everyone knows the Outreach Institute is in Maine.

That, in a nutshell, is the issue. Lind has been selling *Our Sorority* as the official publication of the institute; it isn't and never was. But Lind went ahead and committed to a print run of the little pink magazine assuming OI would pay for printing and distribution. You know what they say about what happens when you assume something.

So, with 1992 income down due to the recession, OI can't and won't pay for the ugly pink magazine and Lind is real upset cause she has to cease publication. R.I.P.

▼▲▼

INDIANAPOLIS - Maybe they just can't read?...

The June issue of the **IXE** newsletter carries a notice about winning a 1991 **MONA** for two of their "newsbreaking" but phony articles. Well, I hate to burst their bubble, but they did not win any such award. Here's why:

- Last time I looked at the calendar, the year was 1992, not 1991, and so is the **MONA**.

- I never mentioned a specific article in the award. How could I? They've all been so... well, bad.

Maybe **IXE** editor **Shannon** [REDACTED] is angling for an award in creative writing. If so, she's barking down the wrong fishing line. I'm really not that impressed with an editor who doesn't at least spell check her copy. What's a **Mactinosh SI** (sic), and who cares anyway?

▼▲▼

NOTA BENE - The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone. If you have a comment, positive or negative, write me at P.O. Box 61263, KofP, PA 19406-1263.

Warning issued on hormones

Feminizing and masculinizing hormones are necessary for most transsexual persons in order to live in the gender of choice. But they are not without risk and should never be taken without medical supervision.

Experimenting with hormones is illegal and can be dangerous. Black market preparations may be contaminated and may not be hormones at all. Even with the proper substances, overmedicating can cause a variety of debilitating and even fatal conditions; undermedicating may result in few, if any, of the desired physical changes. The type of medication, dosage, and route of administration are critical and can be regulated properly only by a physician.

Estrogens, the female hormones, are not magic bullets to grow breasts. Their effect is global. They will affect major bodily systems, includ-

ing the emotions, the sex drive, and the ability to procreate. This is also true for androgens, the male hormones.

It is important that those who desire to be on hormones understand the physical changes which will occur over time and the effect those changes will have on their careers and on their relationships with others. To do this, the individual should explore his or her gender dysphoria with a psychiatrist, psychologist, or counselor prior to beginning hormone therapy.

Hormones should never be taken without an authorizing letter from a clinical behavioral scientist as defined by the "Standards of Care" of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., and then, only under the supervision of a physician who specializes in internal medicine or endocrinology, and who periodically monitors

hormone patients' blood chemistries. It is critical that the individual be aware of the risks and benefits of the medications they are taking so that they can make informed decisions about them.

Those who are interested in learning more about the benefits and risks of hormones may read *Hormones* by Sheila Kirk, M.D. This book thoroughly discusses hormonal therapy in language the consumer can understand. It is available for \$9.50 postpaid from the International Foundation for Gender Education, P.O. Box 3657, Wayland, MA 01778.

Remember: Safeguard your heart and your life. With competent medical supervision, the risks from hormones are minimal.

⇒ This "Medical Advisory Bulletin" was issued by AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc.

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