



News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

Vol. 10, No. 5 • May 1996

Renaissance Goes Online

In early April, Renaissance National opened the "doors" to its electronic presence in the Internet. Thanks to a sympathetic service provider the organization now has a web site at <www.ren.org>. JoAnn Roberts, co-director of Outreach, set up the initial pages. Said Roberts, "We're not the first organization on the web, nor are we the biggest, but we're there and that's what's important. We'll be a major presence." Kalina Isato, the Klub Kid, has volunteered to be webmistress. Both Roberts and Isato currently run web sites of their own.

The present set of pages provide basic information about Renaissance, its Chapters and Affiliates and how to contact them, a national newsletter sampler from previous issues, one Background Paper and one Community Outreach Bulletin. Over the next few months, the site will be greatly expanded.

Angela Gardner, editor in chief of *Renaissance News & Views*, says that one immediate goal for the site is an electronic version of the newsletter available by email at a reduced subscription rate of \$10 per year. The reduced rate is possible due to savings in paper, ink, and postage. She hopes to start delivering the electronic news in June of '96.

Two Renaissance Affiliates have gone beyond just a simple listing at the site. Both Powder Puffs of California (PPOC) and the American Educational

Gender Information Service (AEGIS) have their own pages installed with detailed information about the organizations, how to contact them and their activities. Roberts says another goal is to have all of the Renaissance Chapters and Affiliates have their own pages at the site, perhaps with selected segments from their local newsletters.

Renaissance will also post all of its Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins at the site for anyone to download.

Eventually it will be possible to register and renew membership electronically as well as register for special Renaissance functions and activities, like the 10th Anniversary Celebration in 1997.

"Our goal," say Roberts and Gardner, "is to bring the organization closer to people who live far away. As far as the web is concerned, it makes little difference if you're in the next state or the next continent, the site is up and running 24 hours a day, seven days a week delivering information." Visit the Renaissance site at <<http://www.ren.org>>.

Renaissance is eternally grateful to Alaina Hardie for getting us wired to the net.

[If you would like to subscribe to the electronic *News & Views*, send a \$10 check or money order to E-News, care of the Renaissance national office and be sure to include your correct email address.]

An Open Letter From The Co-Director of Membership

Some of you may have noticed the change in the typeface on the *News & Views* mailing labels. That is the only visible sign of the effort to move the mailing list from the creaky, overloaded system it was on, to our new, improved, up-to-date system.

Thanks—many thanks—are due to Trudy and Elsa who constructed and maintained our old list, but everyone who knows that anything running on an 8088 with DOS 3.1 is out of date and, with the size of our mailing list, hopelessly overburdened.

We owe a great debt to Elaine [redacted] who, in addition to her duties as National Secretary, acted as System Engineer and did everything necessary to transform our old database into what we needed, and while patiently suffering the foolishness, and aggravation coming from yours truly, who was learning to be a database clerk on the job.

To do what needed to be done, and for the time it took, a software professional would have charged us thousands of dollars. Elaine did it all for free, and for love of her transgendered sisters. Whether you understand any of this at all, or not, if you see Elaine tell her thank you. She deserves it.

Thanks again Elaine, *Emily Sheldon*

Thank you Emily. Without you and Elaine—and the list verification help of Joanne [redacted], Liz [redacted] and Dina Amberle we would have never been able to get our newsletter mailing list cleaned up and upgraded. Elaine's official title, beside being Executive Secretary, is Renaissance Database Manager. As Mr. Grace in the the British comedy *Are You Being Served?* used to say; You've all done very well!

Angela Gardner

Renaissance

Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 pm all year 'round. Call 610-975-9119 for information.

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

Affiliates

California

Orange County: Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven: connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 770-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 770-939-2128.

Illinois

Chicago: The Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, 708-863-7714.

Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836, 504-833-3046.

New Jersey

N. Central Jersey: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 Call 908-219-9094. Email: [redacted]@aol.com

New York

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

Long Island: New York GIRL & Partners, PO Box 456, Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-5115 for info.

Long Island: Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 3015, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0147.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Rachel Rudnick, P.O. Box 575, Norman, OK 73070.

Pennsylvania

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Northeastern Pa. Transgender Alliance, NEPTGA, meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

South Jersey Residents

A new Renaissance Affiliate is forming in South Jersey to replace the old South Jersey Chapter. Due to personal problems, Terri [redacted] will not be able to lead the reorganization. However, this will not stop the effort. Please call the national office if you're interested in helping re-establishing the affiliate.

As soon as a new meeting location is verified, a notice sent out to all former SJ Chapter members.

Renaissance News & Views

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WWW - <http://www.ren.org>

\$2 per issue, \$20 per year (12 issues). Back issues are available for \$2 per copy plus \$0.52 postage and handling. Send check or M.O. to the above address, attention: Beth Marshall.

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

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, make your check or M.O., payable to Renaissance and send it to our National office. Your contributions will help us continue our efforts to provide education about transgender issues. Donations can also be made through your local United Way agency.

Local Calendar

May

4 Ren. LSV meeting

11 Ren. Delaware

11 NEPTGA, Allentown

16-19 Paradise In The Poconos/CDS

18 Ren. GPC

June

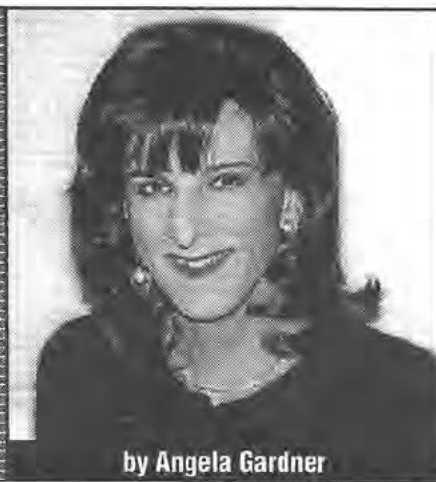
8 Ren. LSV meeting

15 Ren. Delaware

15 NEPTGA, Allentown

22 Ren. GPC

News Beat & Reminder



by Angela Gardner

Well my kittens, here in the Northeast, Winter's chilly grasp has finally relaxed, giving way to Spring showers, with occasional sunny days when a short sleeved floral print dress is the perfect outfit. I'm doing my best to enjoy these days when it's not too hot and not too cold. Soon the relentless Philadelphia Summer will melt our makeup with high humidity and boiler room temperatures. Of course I'll still be out there, trying my hardest not to dew, and dashing from air conditioned mall to air conditioned mall, but it's not gonna be any fun. Oh, all right—I'll be loving it. Any chance to wear a sun dress or romper has gotta be a good time. Speaking of a good time, here's da news...

CD Marketing?

Last month we did it again—we perpetrated another April Fools joke and a few folks (Angie Fox of our NEPTGA affiliate among them) called to say we had taken them in completely. Hee, hee, hee. The joke this time was a phony front page article that told how companies were marketing directly to CDs and using high tech methods to find their customers, even those deep in the closet. Today it's a phony article, but who knows what the future may hold.

A friend of mine, Patti from Penn, sent me a bit about how Subaru is marketing it's cars to lesbians. The company has found that for some reason lesbians are already four times more likely than the general population to buy a Subaru. Armed with this info

they are loading the deck by placing ads in gay magazines that show two smiling, outdoorsy women looking at each other and the ad copy reads, "It loves camping, dogs and long term commitment. Too bad it's only a car."

With companies looking for money wherever they can get it, and with Subaru leading the way with lesbians, how long will it be before somebody gets the bright idea to market traditionally feminine products to guys like us? I think we'll see it soon when they realize the profit potential. Perhaps our greatest acceptance from society will come from the marketers.

In the meantime, if you are interested in a woman and want to know more about her—take a look at her car. If it's a Subaru maybe she'll be more excited by your feminine side than if she drives a Toyota or Ford.

The Governor Was A Queen

Back in March the *Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* had an article all about New Jersey. One section of the article was devoted to New Jersey governors who have worn a dress. All the dress wearing governors were listed in reverse chronological order as follows: Christine Todd Whitman, 1994 to present; Edward Lord Cornbury, governor of New Jersey and New York, 1703-08. Yes, Eddie liked his dresses. He said it was because he was so fond of his relative, Britain's Queen Anne. He often dressed like her and even sat for his official portrait in a beautiful blue gown. His hands may have been feminized by the portrait artist for they

appear to be very slim as the governor toys coquettishly with a fan.

It does look as if the artist left some of the governor's beard shadow (I wonder what the colonial crossdresser did for beard cover? Ye olde Derma Blende?) but Cornbury still makes a comely lass. If you want to see it for yourself the portrait is in the possession of the New York Historical Society. Put on your best dress and strut on down to see one of our earliest role models. I bet Queen Anne used to send Cornbury communiques that read, "You better work, girlfriend."

Thanks to Lizabeth who first sent me the article.

Speaking of The Queen...

Her mom, the Queen Mother, had a hip replaced back in November. Oh, don't worry she's doing fine. Well, she's a little upset about Charles and Di, but at least her hip is OK. Anyhow, one of the surgeons who was trusted with the operation has come out to the world as a M to F transsexual.

For years William Muirhead-Allwood has been living a double life—William in the operating room and Sarah in his spare time. Sarah hasn't decided on having SRS yet but she feels it's the logical outcome of transsexuality. (Evidently she hasn't heard of the Paradigm Shift.)

No word from the Royals on how they felt about a transsexual surgeon but Sarah says her colleagues have all been supportive. She felt she had to out herself publicly before the British press did the job. They've done a good job on the Royals, haven't they? Sarah was very smart to beat them to the punch. Good luck Sarah.

Other Queens Hit The Big Screen

Those versatile Canadian comics have released their first feature film, *Kids In The Hall Brain Candy*. (Not as long a title as recent crossgender hits.) and as we all hoped, the boys play a variety of roles, including several female roles. When asked, in an interview with David Letterman, if all the drag

continued next page

News Beat...

says anything, K.I.T.H. member Scot Thompson said, "It says we're Canadian and we like to dress up in drag."

And dress up they do. We all know and love their characters from the television show. (If you don't, get cable and start watching them on Comedy Central.) In the new film the five Kids perform a total of thirty different characters. The female character breakdown is as follows: Bruce McCulloch portrays Alice, Kevin McDonald is Doreen, Mark McKinney plays Nina Bedford (a talk show hostess), a teenage girl named Melanie and the White Trash Woman, and Scott Thompson does Mrs. Hurdicure and The Queen. Oh yeah, they do some male roles too.

Despite Thompson's take on why the boys do so much drag, Mark McKinney says it stems from the British music hall comedy tradition and always went down well in Canada. In fact, the Kids are so loved in their native land, the first weekend *Brain Candy* opened in Canada the hometown Kids pulled in \$265,769 for the number five position. They only played at 37 theaters across the Great White North so even though the gross seems low, it was actually better than many of the pictures playing at more theaters.

The plot revolves around a pharmaceutical company that develops a radical new anti-depressant called Gleemonex. Of course it has certain side effects. *Brain Candy* sounds like the perfect mood altering film for the Spring. Check it out at a theater near you or at their website at: <http://38.15.17.68/braincandy/welcome2.html>.

Seattle's Close To Canada

Diane Franklin sent some email about another one of those "high school boys in skirts" controversies. In an article titled *Boys Skirt The Rules* the *Seattle Times* postulates that "The next social revolution may well be led by a boy in a dress."

It seems two troublemakers showed

up for class in skirts and were forced to change clothes by a school administration that "feared the skirts would disrupt the learning environment." Au contraire! As we well know, the lads were now open to a vast amount of education on gender, gender roles and how it feels to have a cold wind blow up your tush on the way to school.

All this took place at Washington Middle School and two weeks after the leg baring and skirt wearing more than 100 middle school students gathered to show their support for the boys. The protest was organized by a group called Empowered Youth Educating Society (eee yes!) and they say it was all about personal rights.

The student body president said she couldn't condone skirts on guys in school since it was against the dress code and she further pointed out that girls aren't allowed to wear mini skirts in school cause that also violated the dress code. (As if...)

Of course, we are again faced with a case where we don't know the boys' true motivation. Maybe they wore skirts to scare the principal. Maybe they wanted to be like their favorite grunge rock star. Perhaps they are crossdressers, or maybe they wanted to get some attention. Back in the Sixties guys wore long hair as a protest, cause they wanted to be "freaks." Shoulder length hair didn't mean you wanted to be a female. Skirts today don't mean the boys are crossdressers. Sure, maybe back in the Sixties there were some underground gender subversives who really liked their hair long for the feminine joy they got, but as long as they never came out of the closet about it there wasn't any real gender revolution involved. Maybe some of the young skirt wearers who are transgendered will take some inspiration from the more visible gender rebels of today and admit that they're wearing skirts cause they like to feel femme. Then we've got a revolution.

Tidbits

Anybody see the Mountie on *Due South* in drag? He was a little bit dowdy but he *was* concerned that his

outfit might not be stylish. **John Lithgow** could do some fashion consulting since he's had some experience with drag. He gave the new kids a femme fashion demo by slipping into a dress and pumps last month on his hit television show *Third Rock From The Sun*. (While he's all gussied up he puts the move on co-star **Jane Curtin**. Hubba, hubba.)

I found a very interesting, highly unofficial, spot on the Internet where a mysterious writer is posting chapters of the adventures of the Eighth Doctor, as in Dr. Who. Of course there were only seven Doctors in the BBC series so this new one is a total invention of the mystery writer. (Some punk college kid who should be studying.) It's interesting cause the Tardis materializes in Denton, Ohio right after Riff Raff and Magenta have shot Frank N. Furter with the antimatter laser and left for the planet Transsexual. There were only two or three chapters there when I found it and the typos and misspelling lets you know it's homegrown, but it is a cool concept. What this kid needs is a good editor. Maybe he'd be interested in a sweet transvestite from... never mind. Look for *Transvestites and Relative Dimension in Space*, *The Adventures of the Eighth Doctor*, <<http://www.math.grin.edu/~hamilton/rhps/doctor-rocky.txt>>.

At press time *The Birdcage* had racked up a five week gross of \$87.6 million. Gee, I guess nobody really minds homosexuals and drag queens when they make you laugh. At least that's the debate that is going around the gay press. I say, so what? If it leads to greater acceptance for people who get marginalized by society then bring on the whipcream pies.

Now my pets I must go. It grows late and it is difficult to clean all the whipcream pie out of your eyelashes if you're groggy from lack of sleep. See ya next month.



Queer MDs Clarify Mission With TG-ecotomy

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - April 5, 1996: In a move that left transexual members stunned and angry, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious organizations for queer physicians, has backed away from its policy of trans-inclusion, only recently implemented, and removed all reference to transpeople from its letterhead and mission statement.

While GLMA began officially welcoming transphysicians as members in 1994, describing itself in its letterhead and literature as "a U.S. and Canadian organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered physicians, medical students, and their supporters," in an unpublicized and unannounced move during its February 16 meeting in Washington, D.C., GLMA Board members voted to strike "transgender" from the group's description.

The word "Canadian" was also removed in the same motion. The Board has emphasized that transgendered physicians (and presumably Canadians) are still welcome in GLMA.

Neither GLMA transmembers, nor its general membership, were consulted or informed in this action, learning of it only during the last week of March when a disgruntled Board member leaked word to founding member and transexual physician Joy Shaffer, M.D. While some members are troubled by the vote, others have seen the covert handling of the matter as equally troubling.

In a letter sent to GLMA transmember Anne Lawrence, M.D., GLMA President Valerie Ulstad, M.D., explained the decision to remove transpeople grew from the Board's conviction that GLMA should better define its mission. Although transphysicians comprise under .05 percent of GLMA members, Ulstad stated the Board doubted it had the resources or expertise to effectively advocate transgender issues. She further stated that retaining references to transpeople under such conditions was "potentially disrespectful."

However, it is worth noting the GLMA Board elected not to consult with transphysicians on whether in fact they perceived any lack of advocacy, on any potential disrespect in keeping the original mission statement intact, or on the more obvious potential for disrespect by removing them quietly and unilaterally, in absentia.

In addition, in a statement eerily reminiscent of recent "mainstreaming" by other national queer organizations, Dr. Ulstad questioned whether GLMA should expand its long-standing advocacy of "sexual preference" to also include "gender expression."

Said Dr. Lawrence, "Unfortunately, the Board seems not to have understood that sexual preference and gender identity are often intertwined in ways that defy easy distinctions." She added, "Dr. Ulstad has assured me that the Board will reconsider this decision at its May meeting. I trust that the

Board will reverse this regrettable misstep. Transgendered physicians are often an endangered species in the world of medicine. The visible support of queer organizations is critical in our struggle for acceptance in the wider medical community."

GLMA members, transgendered and otherwise, have already communicated their objections to Board members and the organization's Executive Director, Benjamin Schatz. Among those expressing concern was lesbian film-maker Dee Mosbacher, M.D., producer of the award-winning documentary "Straight from the Heart."

In a gratuitous and completely fatuous remark, Transexual Menace spokestrans Riki Wilchins hotly declared, "We are shocked, shocked at this blatant display of phobia. While we can certainly sympathize with transphobia, especially national groups' desire to put the gendertrash out for the night, it is absolutely inexcusable that *anyone* would want to treat our wonderful neighbors to the north in this exceptionally thoughtless and cavalier manner. Canad-o-phobia must not go unchallenged." Despite feverish efforts, Menace staffers could not substantiate rumors that transactivists were launching a green-shirted "Canadian Menace" movement.

GLMA can be contacted at: 211 Church Street #C, San Francisco, CA 94114. 415-255-4547; or email to <gaylesmed@aol.com>.



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Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Breastforms And Didn't Know Who To Ask

Do you have questions about what to put in your bra? We are serializing a document available on the WWW (<http://www.eskimo.com/~bloo/>) that's of special interest to those seeking something to fill their cups. Welcome to the Breast Form FAQ, compiled by The Blooberry Jedi 8.

FAQ stands for Frequently Asked Questions and this document should answer most that you have come up with, and probably give you information of a few questions you didn't think of. In order to save space in our hard copy the questions have been deleted so this version could more accurately be called the Breast Form Answers. For sake of continuity though, we'll continue to call it the...

The Breast Form FAQ

The BFFAQ has been compiled to provide information about all aspects of breast forms for the TG community, or for those seeking to simulate natural breast tissue. Much of the information here relates to silicone breast forms, since that is the primary material used in commercial forms. Currently, most of the details in this document relate to complete forms for those without chest development. However, information about other types of forms (thin-shelled forms, breast enhancers and pads) can also be found here.

A breast form is a prosthesis worn either inside a bra or attached to the body to simulate the weight, bounce, feel, movement, and especially shape of the natural female breast. Depending on the material or shape used, these qualities can be achieved to different degrees. More expensive modern breast forms are designed by computers and can even be attached to the chest. They can be worn while bathing, sleeping or even during strenuous activity.

The main intent behind the commercial breast form industry has been to supply genetic women with replacement prosthetics to restore physical

symmetry and to restore peace of mind following the devastating effects of breast cancer. This year alone, over 180,000 women will be diagnosed with some form of breast cancer (of that number over 45,000 will die because of the disease.) Traditional treatments often involve chemotherapy, radiation or hormonal therapy to halt the spread of the cancer, coupled with a removal of the affected tissue areas. The traditional removal method is called a "radical mastectomy" or "modified radical mastectomy," and involves removal of the entire affected breast, the lymph nodes under the arm, and possibly the lining over the chest muscles. In recent years, new techniques have been used in which it is not necessary to remove the entire breast (lumpectomy or partial mastectomy.) This results in an industry that produces a wide variety of prosthetics for a large (unfortunately) market. The range of products which are available to the post-mastectomy patient (to restore the visual and physical balance between the affected breast area and the non-affected area) is amazing.

Most medical insurance plans allow for at least partial reimbursement for the purchase of breast forms and surgical bras each year (section 6109A of a 1974 Medicare ruling). Unfortunately, this is limited to genetic women who have had breast surgery, and the TG community can not take advantage of this. The TG community can benefit from all of the work by this industry to develop materials and form shapes that resemble the natural female breast as closely as possible.

The predominant material used in the more expensive commercial breast forms is silicone gel inside a very thin, slick plastic shell with tapered edges. Other materials such as rubber/latex, foam, or cotton batting are sometimes used. Here are the qualities of each of the types of materials used to help in deciding if a material is right for you:

Silicone

Good Points: The material gives the form a comparable weight, movement and feel of a natural breast. The silicone can be colored. Many forms of this type are available in a variety of shades to match skin tone. The material of this type of form warms to your body temperature and feels very comfortable.

Bad Points: Silicone forms are expensive, ranging anywhere from \$100 to \$400 per form.

Rubber/Latex

Good Points: Cheaper alternative to silicone, while still retaining some of the qualities of silicone that make it so desirable.

Bad Points: While still having some of the qualities of silicone to a certain degree, rubber/latex can not match the weight, feel or movement of even the cheapest silicone forms.

Foam

Good Points: Commercial foam forms are very cheap and can even be easily homemade.

Bad Points: Will not likely have the drape, weight or movement approximating a real breast. The primary goal of this type of form is to approach the shape of the natural breast

Cotton Batting

Good points: Very cheap and easily homemade. This can be a good way to estimate what cup size might fit best for your frame and body type.

Bad Points: very light and has no draping qualities. This type of form will not move the way a natural breast would due to its lightness. The goal of this type of form is usually to restore the visual and physical balance of a missing breast.

Commercial breast forms come in all shapes, materials and prices to meet

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The Man In The Red Velvet Dress

J.J.Allen

NEW ARRIVAL!

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The Renaissance affiliate juggernaut rolls on. And this month we welcome our newest affiliate group: The FreeWomen of Montana. The FreeWomen approached the Renaissance board for affiliate status with a unique application. Either we accepted them into the fold, or they would expose us as pawns of the U.N. conspiracy to promote a one-world government and park a van filled with explosive fertilizer outside our King of Prussia headquarters. Our Board's resulting press release (announced the same day) said that we "were excited to welcome the FreeWomen as new affiliates." The FreeWomen are always interested in new members provided you are the right race and religion, and swear that you aren't an undercover ATF agent. If you're visiting the Big Sky country and are looking for support, you might consider attending one of their monthly meetings. Upcoming programs include: The Ammo Belt; a high caliber fashion statement; Paranoia; it's not just for schizophrenics anymore; Color coordinating with Camouflage; and Accessorizing with Plastique and Gratina. They are also planning a spring cotillion with the theme The Right to Bare Arms and a special July 4th picnic honoring patriots David Koresh, Randy Weaver, and Timothy McVeigh. The FreeWomen have also set up the Joan Birch Foundation (named after the first crossdresser killed while cleaning her deer rifle) and welcome contributions that will be used to lobby in favor of bulletproof vest-piercing ammunition. However, since the FreeWomen don't trust the US Postal Service (part of the government conspiracy, doncha

know?), cash filled envelopes can be left behind the Ammo Shack, RR 45, Jordan, MT. Renaissance welcomes FreeWomen and we're sure we'll get a bang out of having you as an affiliate.

It's Mighty White Of You

Callan Williams wrote a scathing article in *The Transgenderist* newsletter of the TGIC group in Albany NY in which she lambasted the group's president Winnie Brant for an apparently flip remark towards pre-op transsexuals. Winnie had written about NY governor Pataki's proposal to end Medicaid funding for SRS and used the phrase "Fatten your piggybanks, girls!" as a suggestion to those contemplating reassignment surgery. Ms. Williams tore into that remark and took it one step further by accusing the organized crossdressing community of being a predominantly white, middle class, conservative establishment that is part of the problem rather than part of the solution. It was a harshly worded essay—but one that drove a few points home. One of the major public relations points the crossdressing community makes is that we are average citizens who just happen to crossdress. In the case of many transsexuals (especially those who would be dependent on government funded SRS), they are not part of the mainstream white middle class society. Callan asks us to remember the film *Paris Is Burning* which showed transgendered minorities "who dream not only of a simple gender shift but of making a place for themselves in this culture." Unlike most support group crossdressers, "they don't have a nice home in the suburbs to retreat to when it all seems

too much." Callan takes the traditional liberal viewpoint that government should assist the less fortunate members of society so that they might be able to realize their potential and not be kept on the outside looking in. She asks "how many SRS procedures would Medicaid fund each year? 10? 100? 1000?" Her implication is that the visible cost may pale in comparison to the costs associated with a lifetime of problems (unemployment, welfare, prostitution, drug abuse) fostered by an uncaring policy. There is a lot of evidence that the gap between the haves and have-nots in this country is growing larger. Even within the "haves" there is a widening gap between those at the top and those struggling to maintain their position. Maybe it's time to start reassessing the policies that gained weight in the past 15 years and think about where we're headed—and who we're leaving behind.

Grading On A Curve

The 1/96 *AEGISNews* Quarterly published in Decatur, Ga., carried an article by Dallas Denny that analyzed the performance of seven TG support organizations with a national scope. The organizations studied were IFGE, Tri-Ess, The Outreach Institute, Renaissance, AEGIS, ICTLEP, and FTM International. Ms. Denny's article was fairly lengthy but her research was distilled into a page of graphs and tables showing the results of a small survey sample conducted over the Internet. The ratings for "Awareness" by respondents broke down as follows: Tri-Ess (91%), IFGE (76%), Renaissance (74%), AEGIS (69%), Outreach Inst. (37%), FTM (35%), and ICTLEP (15%). Those surveyed graded "Helpfulness" of the groups on a scale of 1-10 and the mean scores were: FTM (9.0), AEGIS (8.4), Renaissance (8.3), ICTLEP (8.0), Outreach Inst. (7.7), IFGE (7.5), and Tri-Ess (6.0). The "Helpfulness" scores may have been skewed by the number of "contacts" reported by respondents, e.g., FTM had only one contact but received a 9.0 score by that individual, while Tri-Ess had the most "contacts" with 22 and their score averaged down to 6.0.

There was also a grading on something called the "Signal to Noise Ratio" which attempted to measure the amount of performance versus hype of the groups in the survey. It graded out this way: ICTLEP (90%), FTM (90%), AEGIS (84%), Renaissance (81%), IFGE (75%), Outreach Inst. (73%), and Tri-Ess (70%). One last chart was very interesting. The annual income of the groups, in thousands of dollars: IFGE (\$325), Outreach Inst. (\$72), AEGIS and Tri-Ess (\$25 for each), ICTLEP (\$20), Renaissance (\$12), and FTM (\$6). Ms. Denny points out that the amount of education and outreach done by the groups is more dependent on the efforts of the volunteers in those organizations than the income levels. She points out that FTM International with only \$6000 in income in 1994 conceived and held a huge conference of 375 attendees, received national coverage on FTM issues in three widely published mainstream magazines, held support group meetings, and published a comprehensive resource guide for FTM's, along with other activities. This far surpassed anything the wealthier organizations accomplished. Dallas goes on to say that, in her opinion, AEGIS, Renaissance, ICTLEP and FTM have a "sense of the avant-garde about them," while IFGE, Outreach Inst. and Tri-Ess represent a more conservative constituency. However, the assessment is not intended as a put-down. In fact, she says that the conservative groups are as needed as the liberal because many TG people feel more at home with those types of organizations.

The Quality of Friendship

The Serenity newsletter published by the support group of the same name in Hollywood, Fla., carried a cover essay titled *Who Are We and Where Are We Going?* by an unnamed author. The author believes that one reason the TG community is misunderstood by the public is that we are such a secretive group. "How can anybody judge us as people if we are always hiding our feminine side?" she asks. Of course, the author understands how hard it is for us to open up

to friends, family, and co-workers, and is "guilty" of the same secretiveness herself. Then she raises an interesting point: "I can't help but wonder how much of a relationship it was if a wife walks out over crossdressing; or how much of a friend did you have if they have difficulty with you after finding out; or how good a job you had if your boss fires you because you like to dress after work." I think a lot of us have wondered the same things when thinking about the consequences of disclosing our crossdressing to others. In cases where we never do disclose it, we still are curious to know how they would react. We'd like to think that the people closest to us would be supportive. But each of us knows someone close to them who they suspect would have a negative reaction. The question raised by the *Serenity* author can be expanded this way: how many people do we call friends who hold prejudicial or bigoted views of other individuals or groups? And if you don't trust their probable reaction if they discovered you were a crossdresser... why do you bother with them at all?

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Some newsletters make excellent use of photographs to spice up their pages. One such is *The Channel*, the newsletter of the ETVC, group in San Francisco. In their March-April issue, *The Channel* carried a first person story by member Veronica Smith. Veronica relates her experience as a crossdressed model for an audio equipment advertisement. The idea of the ad was that you can be fooled by some things in life—but not by the sound produced by the audio equipment being advertised—and they were going to use a drag performer as the spokesmodel. Veronica is "just" a crossdresser, not a drag artiste, but she got a shot at the ad and her story is humorous in that she had to try to look glamorous but not *too* passable, since the nature of the ad was that the audience should be able to tell that the model was really a man in the dress. It's a nice story illustrated with two photos of Veronica seated on a stage

stool in a stunning above-the-knee sequin dress. She looks just gorgeous.

The Femme Forum newsletter of the Tau Chi Tri-Ess chapter in Houston, Texas, has been revamped recently and used photos to great advantage in its March issue. Noteworthy in the photos was a petite blonde named Katherine [REDACTED]. Katherine is a doll and I'm still not completely sure if she isn't really some member's wife or girlfriend. Remember these newsletters are available in our library for those of you who would like to see that beautiful women can make even a support group newsletter interesting.

I Love It When You Speak Latin

The Saltaire newsletter of the Lambda Lambda Tri-Ess Chapter in Salt Lake City carried a brief blurb under the heading, "Notice." It read as follows: "We the Board... regret to announce that Deborah [REDACTED] has been declared persona non grata and is no longer welcome to attend any group activities." I've always had a fondness for latin phrases peppered into our everyday English, to the point that is almost a sine qua non of my reading habit. In fact, I could read them ad nauseum. But before I get pulled off course, let me proceed *pari passu* to the main topic vis a vis the subject matter of the Lambda ladies' notice.

Just what transgression must a person make in order to be publicly declared persona non grata? Poor Deborah. She must have done something *infra dignitatem* and her compatriots were forced to take steps to maintain the status quo. Still, one wonders if there isn't some way *mutatis mutandis* that she couldn't be readmitted and things returned *ab initio*. But before we drop the idea completely, it might be fun to guess just what it was that got Deborah banned. After all, the mind does tend to take a flight of fancy as to what prompted this measure in extremis. So drop me a line with your guess for Debbie's ouster. I have my own theories and they are all sordid—so be creative. I'll publish the best (*id est*, the worst) in some future issue. *Pro tempore...* I'm outta here.



Noted Sex Researcher Bonnie Bullough Passes Away

Dr. Bonnie Bullough, sex researcher, sex historian, author, and spouse of Dr. Vern Bullough, died at 7:30 pm April 12 of pneumonia, the last attack of her interstitial lung disease. She was 69 years old.

Dr. Bullough had been hospitalized less than a week. She had played bridge a couple of days before she went in the hospital, so she was active almost to the end. In fact, she has two books in press, and one manuscript she was completing when she died. Although she could not meet regularly with her class at the University of Southern California, she continued to give occasional lectures and spoke at the Nurse Practitioner Convention in San Diego a couple of weeks ago.

A memorial service was held in Los Angeles April 21 at the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society.

In a note to friends and the community Dr. Vern Bullough said of his wife, "Bonnie was a strong and determined woman and one of her last requests was that there be no flowers sent. In lieu of flowers, if you would like to contribute to a memorial in her name, she specifically mentioned the Department of Nursing of the University of Southern California, Center for Health Professions, 1540 E. Alcazar St., Los Angeles 90033, and the School of Nursing, University of Buffalo, Buffalo NY 14214. The contributions to Buffalo should be designated for the Bonnie and Vern Bullough collection

in the History of Nursing, a collection she established while dean there. She also was interested in Planned Parenthood, but her interests were so many and varied, I am certain she would like anything you care to do."

Vern and Bonnie Bullough were co-authors of *Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender* (U. of P. Press, 1993). They are long time friends, not only of our community, but of many of us personally as well. The members of Renaissance extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to Vern.

[This information was provided to us by Kymberliegh Richards a long time friend of the Bulloughs.]



Letters to the Editor

To The Editors

Apparently JoAnn [Roberts - Hot Buzz, April 96] wasn't aware that the new book store is in fact a real "walk-in" store; not a "virtual" bookstore. The initial start up includes shelving for book display, counters, and other start up materials in addition to the salary that we pay Vanessa [Murray], the book store manager. Vanessa also supports the mail order sales, the traveling bookstore, and does a great deal of outreach both by phone as well as face to face. I must say that Vanessa has been incredibly resourceful in locating the needed hardware and setting up the book store at minimal cost.

The early indications show that we should easily meet our initial goal of having \$1,000 of gross sales a month very shortly. The value of the outreach of having an open building, for both professional and members of our community to come to, is immeasurable. What we really need, is to expand from 50 titles to 100

as soon as possible. That is where the money donated to the store is going.

With regard to the \$2,000,000, I believe this may be an accurate figure. What JoAnn apparently does not take into account, is that at least 80% of that was for "goods of value" received; Tapestry subscriptions and books. The \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year beyond that, have gone to outreach and initial start up cost. I expect that number will increase due to the overwhelming generosity of the knowledgeable and caring members of this community who are aware of the wonderful work that is going on. We have many new outreach projects that we want to get started. There is no income, much less profit, from the educational outreach projects and services. Our friends and members appreciate the educational outreach that IFGE does, which after all, is what we are all about.

Alison Laing
Executive Director, IFGE

JoAnn Replies:

My criticism of IFGE's bookstore was a mistake. I admit that. It was simply a segue to the larger issue of IFGE's finances. Focusing on the bookstore comment deflects the discussion away from the intended topic.

The two million dollar figure was, in fact, income from *all* sources, sales as

well as donations, from 1987 to present.

Certainly a walk-in bookstore will increase revenues, but, at the same time, it increases overhead as well. It is not a given that opening a walk-in bookstore helps the bottom line significantly.

In any case, IFGE has not made a true financial statement to the community since 1993. Members have a right to know how their money is spent.

The photo below was received in our mailbag last month. And, there's another letter on page 15.



Renaissance member Josie [redacted] blending in with the other ladies enjoying the Philadelphia Flower Show in March.

Geminis at Convo '96

By Debbie Johnson

Interweave is a dialogue group between gay, lesbian, bi, transgendered and straight people sponsored on the national level by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and on the congregational level by Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the country. This year the national convocation took place over the weekend of February 14-16 at the First Unitarian Society of Madison in Madison, Wisconsin, with worship services and workshops ranging from the "Dynamics of Coming Out" to "Growing up Gay on the Farm." Pam [redacted] and Debbie Johnson from the Gemini Gender Group in Milwaukee set up a transgender information table across from the library with free copies of *Transgender Tapestry*, donated by the IFGE, informational Background Papers donated by Renaissance on *Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressers* and *Understanding Transsexualism*, as well as flyers explaining the major U.S. gender organizations. All of the Background

Papers were gone within 24 hours.

On Saturday afternoon Pam and Debbie conducted a workshop for ten participants on transsexual issues. Pam told about her self-discovery as a transsexual, participants viewed the film *What Sex Am I* and asked questions. Debbie reminded the participants that some of the discrimination gays suffer, both within and without the gay community, are related to their gender presentation, which is public, rather than their sexual practices, which are mostly private.

Tammy Baldwin, Democratic Representative of the 78th Assembly District (Madison) gave the keynote speech which, without downplaying the necessity for political action and passing laws against discrimination, emphasized the need for more of us to make friends with the straight community by coming out and telling our stories. She warned particularly of attempts by the Christian right to exploit public anxiety about our communities in order to promote their own agenda.

She gave as an example a recent right wing attempt to introduce a same sex marriage ban in the legislature which was only foiled by hundreds of gays and lesbians calling the legislator who introduced the bill and telling him the personal hardships such a ban would cause. As a result of hearing these stories, the legislator in question abandoned the attempt. Representative Baldwin's speech received a standing ovation from the audience. The applause was for her speech and for her part in the phone tree that got the bill withdrawn. However, it will not be the last of such attempts in this Republican state legislature.

Why should transgendered people be concerned? Possibly, states which adopt a ban against same-sex marriage would wish to (1) nullify currently valid marriages between transgendered couples of the same gender, affecting spouses who have chosen to stay together, (2) nullify previously valid marriages if the same-gender transgendered couple moves to a new state with such a ban, or (3) reinstitute requirements for divorce before SRS, as was often the case in the bad old days.

GLBT Conference Against Workplace Discrimination

Washington, DC: When it comes to equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, some would argue the boardroom is far outpacing the halls of government. For example, more than 350 employers, many from corporate America—including such blue-chip titans as AT&T, Disney, Eastman-Kodak and Xerox—currently have domestic partnership benefits and other recognitions for their gay employees. And though job discrimination based on sexual orientation is still pervasive, the list of supportive companies is expected to grow dramatically.

Which is why hundreds of representatives from the American workplace, including large and small companies, employee groups, human resource executives, labor organizers and others gathered in April for the 5th Annual "Out and Equal in the 90s National Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Workplace Issues."

The conference was held April 20-21 at the Ramada Hotel in San Francisco. A special Human Resource Professionals Institute was held on April 19. The gathering was sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"Out and Equal in the 90s" is the premier national educational forum for people dedicated to changing the work environment to be a safer, more productive place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees. A "Who's Who" of gay workplace America is expected to attend.

Several companies have sponsored the conference and representatives from their gay employee groups were in attendance. AT&T sponsored the event with a \$5,000 gift. Pacific Gas and Electric contributed \$5,000. The Chevron Lesbian and Gay Employees Association, PacBell, The Mentor Group and others were also sponsors.

"AT&T, in partnership with

LEAGUE, our lesbian/gay/bisexual employee resource group, is proud to support NGLTF's fifth annual conference on workplace issues," said AT&T Community Involvement Manager Allen Scott and LEAGUE-Northern California Co-chair Michael Albert added, "The conference's focus reflects AT&T's Common Bond values that include the importance of treating each other with respect and dignity, and valuing individual and cultural differences."

Keynoting the Human Resources (HR) pre-conference was Hechter Motroni, Corporate vice president of Human Resources and Quality, Xerox Corporation. Kate Butler, founding director of the American Humane Management Association, a human resources consulting and training firm specializing in the integration of

continued on page 24

Hot Buzz

JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

— Ann Onymous

So I have to wonder just what was it that **Kelly Harris** was trying to accomplish in early April when she appeared on **AM Philadelphia**. The topic of the show was "Should Child Molesters Be Castrated?" brought on by the request of a child molester about to be released from a Texas prison to be voluntarily castrated. The show featured a legal expert, a victim's rights advocate, **Dr. Terrence Malloy** of Pennsylvania Hospital who has done castrations for that purpose, and Harris, a post-operative MtF transsexual. I did not see the show, but, girlfriend, did I hear about it. I have to wonder what the producer of AM Philadelphia was thinking when she invited Harris on the show. And then I have to wonder where Harris' head was to accept. There couldn't have been a worse mismatch of subjects: transgendered people and sex offenders.

After two and a half years of publishing, **Davina Anne Gabriel** decided to call it quits with *TransSisters: the Journal of Transsexual Feminism* according to a March press release sent out over the net. Gabriel says the primary reason was the pressures of publishing the magazine had deleterious consequences on her health, physically, emotionally and psy-

chologically. Also the work involved in publishing *TransSisters* had expanded to such an extent that it left her with almost no social life, and also without providing any significant income. The readership of the magazine never grew beyond 250. Gabriel also said she had become increasingly disillusioned with the "Transgender Movement." Back issues of *TransSisters* are still available for \$5 each until gone. Write to Davina Anne Gabriel, [redacted], Kansas City, MO 64110 or send email to Davina at [redacted]@aol.com>.

Gabriel isn't the only transsexual disillusioned with the "Transgender Movement" as she calls it. The newsgroups alt.transgendered and soc.support.transgendered were aflame for most of February and March when the two groups were (some would say) "invaded" by transsexual absolutists. These absolutists claim there are only transvestites who are men and "true" post-op transsexuals who are women. A trans-genderist is really just a transvestite playing at being a woman. Now, I haven't been on the net that long, but I have been in one or two flame wars myself and I've observed several, but the nasty, mean-spirited rhetoric coming from both sides in this so-called debate could have stripped the epoxy paint off a ship's hull. At the heart of the, ahem... discussion was the absolutists' desire to create a new transsexual-only hierarchy: alt.new-women and alt.new-men. As in real wars, there was plenty of collateral damage. Anyone at all involved with transgender politics, like **Riki Wilchins**, and **Phyllis Frye** were fair game even though they were not directly involved in the postings. The real extent of the damage was revealed in a private post by a newbie who was afraid to attend a local support group meeting for fear it would be a hostile environment. Fortunately, she was convinced it would be safe and enjoyed her first visit.

It's not just a few transsexuals playing politics on the net. At least one transvestite is into playing games. **Debra Berube** operates a web site under the sobriquet DBAssociates. At her site, Berube claims, is *all* the information you'd ever want or need to know about the transgender community. Now, that's a big claim and anyone making it ought to be able to back it up. So, I went browsing in her Resource listings and guess which national organization is conspicuous by its absence. Yep, Renaissance, not national nor any of the chapters are listed. Click on Delaware and you get a message that says she's sorry but there are no transgender support groups in the state. See if *you* can convince her to list Renaissance. She won't talk to me because my web site "competes" with hers. The address is DBAssoc., P.O. Box 2085 Natick, Mass. 01760. Call her at 800-893-2829, or email to: dba@tiac.net.

While we're up New England way, a press release from **Dr. Sheila Kirk** in mid-March announced her relocation to Pittsburgh, Pa. Kirk moved from the Pittsburgh area four years ago to work as a volunteer at IFGE. The release says that Kirk will continue her association with IFGE, but that she finds it necessary to move back in order to continue her transgender research projects and to expand her writing projects. Kirk is the author of two books on hormones for Mt-F and F-t-M transsexuals and coauthor of *Medical and Legal Issues for Transgendered People in the Workplace*. As of May, Dr. Kirk can be reached at PO Box 38114, Blawnox, PA 15238 or by calling 412-781-1092.

This off the net: On June 1st there will be a large TG mobilization in Philly, with **Leslie Feinberg** as lead off speaker. This event is still in the open planning stages, and this is a call for participation. The event is being co-sponsored by **Giovanni's Room** and **The Bridges Project** (GLBT youth program at the

HOT•BUZZ

Friend's Center). Anyone is welcome to help organize, and TG youth and TG multiple minorities are especially encouraged to participate. Contact **Ben** by Internet: bensing@gandalf.rutgers.edu or at: 215-386-1120 (box #6). PLEASE pass this along to folk who are off line!!

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Enough politics. Time for fun and fashion... I finally made it over to the newly expanded **King of Prussia Mall** and, wow, it really is big. We wandered into **Nordstroms** and I was amazed at what I saw there. First there was the ladies shoe department that took at least two-thirds of the floor. I don't think I've ever seen a shoe department that big before. And, they carry shoes up to size 13 WW, nice looking ones too. Next I spotted the **M•A•C** counter. I think this is the only **M•A•C** outlet in the Philadelphia area. **M•A•C** is the cosmetic line that hired **RuPaul** as its spokesmodel. I'm definitely going back and spend some serious money (it was mobbed when we there). Next stop was the dress department on the second floor—again, huge and a large selection of sizes, up to 24. We cruised by the couture salon where I spotted this cute little orange tank dress and immediately recognized **Hervé Legère's** signature "bandage" style. So I peeked at the price tag and instantly got a nose bleed: \$7700. And no, it wasn't a mistake. There were two at the same price. Who buys this stuff and do they wear it with or without insurance?

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While I'm on the subject of dresses... There is often confusion between Misses and Womens sizes, so let's try to clear that up. Womens sizes tend to be shorter through the trunk, as much as an inch or more. And, Womens sizes are designed differently. Typically, a Misses dress is designed as a size 8 and is then scaled up to an 18 and down to a 2. A Womens dress is designed as a size 20 and then scaled up and down. The result is that the proportions end up quite different. A Womens 14 (14W) is really much closer to a Misses 16 than a Misses 14.

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To help you squeeze into that Misses 14

is a whole new array of foundation garments from the likes of **Nancy Canz Bodyslimmers** Hourglass Dress slip, corset-like body briefers from **Natori**, and Miracle Slips from **Victoria's Secret**. Even the **Hane's One Place** catalog has a corselette. On a recent visit to **Lee Brewster's Mardi Gras Boutique** in NYC, Ms. Brewster steered me to an industrial-strength corselette by **Jezebel** that is just fabulous and it's really pretty too. Ask for item# 751. You'll love it. The boutique is located at 400 W 14th St, near 9th Avenue, 212-645-1888.

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Makeup tips for summer... Avoid opaque frosty lip and eyecolor. The idea is to get sheer see-thru color. Don't try to match your eyeshadow to your eye color. And don't use two dramatically different pastel eyeshadows. As for mascara, you've got more options than just black and brown these days. Try: **YSL's Navy**; **Guerlain's Mauve**; **Dior's Moss Green**; or **YSL's Violet**.

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You also have to pay attention to your nails this summer. It'll do no good to have a pastel face and blood red nails. The fashion pundits recommend the following: For the Office... **Estée Lauder** Pink Ice, **L'Oréal** Mauve Beam, or **Cover Girl** Pink Snow... For the Evening... **Chanel** Metallic, **Chanel** Orange Sherbert, **L'Oréal** Moon Berry... For Casual... **Face** Pastel Yellow, Pastel Green or Pearl Blue. The preferred nail shape for summer is rounded and just to the fingertip.

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Lipstick shades in browns are hot for the summer, from beige to dark chocolate. Brown is a universal color and anyone can find a shade that works for them.

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Cosmetics haven't made it big time on the Internet yet, but there are a few sites for cosmetics. **Aveda** can be found at www.aveda.com, and **Biomedic** is at www.bioskin.com. **Clinique** cosmetics can be found at www.univbkstr.com/clinique/ although it is not an official Clinique site. Cosmetics specifically for our community are sold at **Genteel Products** at www.aaconsult.com/genteel. Tell Cindie I sent you.

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Have a hard time finding shoes that look nice and fit properly. Thanks to computer technology, those days may be numbered. A new store called **Custom Shoes** may be coming to your shopping mall soon. Custom Shoes scans your feet, generates a custom pattern and then sends the pattern off to Italy where a pair of shoes are made just for you, in any size. The cost is between \$120 and \$200 which is about what you'd pay for a really good pair of shoes. It takes 2 weeks.

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Joan Rivers used to joke about shaving her legs all the way up before visiting her gynecologist, but it seems it's no joke. According to a survey, 92 percent of females 13 and older shave their legs, but 33 percent of those shave only from the knee down. I wonder how many males shave from the knee down?

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Summer skirt lengths seem a bit schizophrenic this season. The runways are showing skirts at the knee or very, very short, like mid-thigh.

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Lots of people in this community are interested in cosmetic surgery. Some are looking for breast augmentation. Some are looking for nose jobs, brow lifts, or cheek implants. Well, look no further than your Internet connection to find out all about cosmetic surgery at the **American Society of Plastic Surgeons** web site: www.softcom.com.asaps. It was pretty busy when I tried to get into it (unsuccessfully), so be patient.

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Awhile back I mentioned **Revlon's** new ColorStay foundation. I haven't tried it yet, but I did get email from **Nicole** who did and she liked it... a lot. She said it was as good as the **Max Factor** Active Protection base I've been touting for years. There is one negative. She says it takes tons of makeup remover to get it off. Better your face than your clothes.

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So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? The only person I ever compete with is myself. That way I never get complacent and I'm always trying to be better. Comments? Write care of this publication or email them to cdspub.com.

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BF FAQ...

a variety of needs. With all the choices available, it can sometimes be difficult to make sense of all the terminology.

Symmetrical:

A form that can be worn on either side of the body. Symmetrical forms come in these shapes:

Triangle (tri-corner): This is the most general type of form, and offers the most complete and natural bra fit for most users.

Teardrop: The name implies its shape. The tapered end is used for a better fit either under the arm or on the upper part of the chest.

Heart shape: This type of form has double extensions, both for under the arm and the upper chest wall.

Asymmetrical

A form designed to be left or right side specific. Asymmetrical forms come in these shapes:

Curved teardrop: This is essentially the regular teardrop type with one rounded portion of the teardrop having a slight extension for the upper chest wall.

Extended triangle: This is a modification of the symmetric style. One of the lower corners of the triangle will have an extension which goes under the arm for better fitting in a bra with some wearers.

Other types of breast forms and accessories

Thin shell breast forms: These usually serve as an augmentation for surgeries that remove only a portion of the breast. They can also be worn as breast pads to augment the size of smaller busts.

Attachable nipples: Most breast forms do not have a preformed, colored nipple built in to the form (only a very few do.) Several manufacturers carry nipples that can be applied to forms that do not have this feature. Unlike the form itself, this accessory is rather cheap. A pair of silicone nipples usually costs about \$20 - \$40.

Attachable forms: These are a newer type of form that is becoming quite popular. Such forms are usually silicone and more expensive than the non-attachable types.

An attachable breast form consists of two parts; The skin support and the form itself. The skin support is an upside down "V" shape with the soft half of velcro on one side and an adhesive on the other. The form itself will have the hook (rough) half of the velcro permanently attached at points on the back side of the form. This type of form allows the wearer to be free from special considerations that are necessary for other forms (special bras, having to wear a bra, etc.)

With this type of breast form, the form is very securely attached to the chest wall and can be worn for a wide range of activities including sports and swimming (generally safe in chlorine and salt water). They also tend to move with the wearer more naturally than non-attachable types.

Attachment: [After doing this a few times it only takes 5-10 minute to complete the attachment process]

1. Shaving the chest area (if necessary): The area must be free of any hair for the supports to hold properly over an extended period of time.

2. Preparing the skin: This type of form will usually come with an exfoliating cream that is applied to the area that will be covered by the skin support. The exfoliating cream will help clean off any dead skin, oils, soaps or shampoos that build up over time. Doing this helps the support stay on for the longest period of time.

3. Marking the position for the supports: Place the support on the form in the proper position, then put on the bra you will be wearing. Place the form in the bra and position it to the correct location. Pull the bra strap down and away from the form and use a pencil (usually comes with the form) to mark key spots on the support and your body to help in placing on the chest. Take off bra and form and carefully detach the support from the form.

4. Attaching the support: Remove the adhesive cover and place on the chest. Hold in place for several minutes

to assure a good bond. After doing this several times, it becomes easier, and the support stay on longer—up to a week, depending on your skin type.

5. Attaching the form to the support: Hold the form over its intended location and depress the middle of the form slightly toward the chest so that the upper portion connects first. This is to ensure a better drape.

6. Detaching the form from the skin support: At all times holding the skin support to the chest, slowly pull the form away from the support, starting from the armpit area.

7. Detaching the support from the chest wall: "This might sting a little." You have been warned. It is a gigantic band aid. If any hair is underneath, this may hurt a bit, but generally, it is far less painful than you might think (It is also easier if the support is removed in the shower or when wet.)

Tips for attachable forms

Note a freckle or mark on the skin you can use as a guide when positioning the skin support. It works best to put on the skin support at night and wait until morning to put on the form. The heat from your body helps the attachment last longer. Most skin supports are **not** reusable. The replacement skin supports are sold separately. If you are wearing something strapless or a swimsuit, you might find it helpful to attach the support while wearing the garment. Be careful when positioning the skin support, as the adhesive will work better if only used once. You can keep the skin supports on without the forms attached, and no one will be able to tell under an undershirt and a shirt or sweater. This way, you can get more use out of the supports if you cannot live full time as a female. You can even shower with the supports on, but make sure the support is thoroughly dry before attaching your forms.

Attachable forms do not have to be always worn attached—they will fit in a regular bra, and they have a fuzzy velcro padding that covers the rough side of the velcro on the back of the breast form. You will have some slight redness if you leave the skin supports on, so plan ac-

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Gender Reflections

by **Barbara F. Anderson**
M.S.W., Ph.D.

A Concise History of Transgender Behavior...

Or, the answers to last month's quiz.

Individuals have crossdressed and cross-lived for all of recorded time. During the early study of transgender behavior little distinction was made between sex and gender and, therefore, sexual orientation and transgender identity were intertwined and considered similar phenomena. Such behaviors were indiscriminately referred to as homosexuality, Eonism, androgyny, sexual perversion, psychic hermaphroditism, and transvestism.

Initially, individuals presenting with gender concerns were considered moral degenerates. Later they were viewed as criminals and by the dawn of the 20th century had advanced to the questionable state of mentally disordered. Throughout these periods they were disdained and persecuted.

While the treatment of transgendered people in the U.S. reflected the above attitudes, in Germany, progressive sexologist, Magnus Hirschfeld, himself a self-identified homosexual and crossdresser, fought for the rights of the transgendered and influenced the police to issue permits allowing such individuals to cross-live and crossdress. He was the first to separate

the concept of "transvestism" from homosexuality in 1910. Following his work, Havelock Ellis further distinguished transsexuals from transvestites. In 1920 the first recorded modern attempt at SRS occurred in Denmark. A genetic male [Einar Wegener] underwent several procedures in an ill-fated attempt to become a woman [Lili Elbe].

The 1950's in America marked an exciting time in the study of the transgender condition. Bear in mind that it was the era of McCarthyism, a time in which conformity was raised to a position of sanctity and anyone violating well-defined gender boundaries was targeted as a threat to national security. But ironically, the 1950's also gave voice to Harry Benjamin, the "father of transsexualism," Alfred Kinsey, and the most newsworthy event of 1953, the return of Christine Jorgenson from a "sex-change" in Denmark.


Although Harry Benjamin is often credited with the coining of the term "transsexual," the honor belongs to Alfred Kinsey who used it in his 1948 ground-breaking book, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. However, this

new term was totally overshadowed by the public's hysterical reaction to Kinsey's findings that 37 percent of all males had had a homosexual experience. Kinsey had studied various aspects of transgender behavior throughout the '40s and in 1953 proposed a wide-ranging study of the phenomenon. A year later, all funding was withdrawn from the Kinsey Institute, allegedly due to pressures from political conservatives, and instead was awarded to another group to develop "vital religious leadership."

Harry Benjamin was luckier. His research was funded, and he presented a paper on transsexualism at a major medical conference paving the way for the notion of transsexualism as a medical entity. Defining transsexualism as an illness both served to elicit sympathy for the condition as well as to pathologize those who experienced it.

The 1960's saw the opening of the first official gender identity clinic at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. In 1966 Benjamin published *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, the first guide to the treatment of transsexualism and a vigorous proponent of SRS.

Dr. Virginia Prince, the "grande dame" of transgenderism coined the term "transgenderist," connoting the person who cross-lives without obtaining SRS. She formed the first crossdressing organization, Tri-Ess and published the first journal, *Transvestia*.

Last month's quiz and this month's column, in which all the answers are diabolically concealed within eruditely complex sentences, were derived from Gordene Olga Mackenzie's book, *Transgender Nation*. 

Letters...

A few lines of reflection after reading the latest issue:



If I were blind, I could not see if you were black, and I were white. I could not see if you were tall or short, fat or thin, pretty or homely. I could not see if you were gay, a transsexual, or a transvestite. I couldn't see if you

had a mental or physical defect, because I was blind.

What I could "see" was your acceptance of me, even though I might be different from you, or perhaps from what you thought was acceptable in your belief system. I couldn't see your facial expression, but I could feel your body language, and hear your tone of voice. I could tell if you accepted me for who I am, rather than for how I appeared. I could tell if you were willing

to get to know me, or if you were blinded by judgmental attitudes that would not allow you to progress beyond where you are.

I am willing to let you be you, and I am willing to risk being me to satisfy my needs, as well as to enable you to grow in understanding. Are you willing to really see, or do you want to remain blind.

rikki 
Allentown, Pa. 

Transsexual Murdered in Chicago

In what appears to be one of the most brutal hate crimes in years, Christian Paige, a 24-year-old transsexual woman, was found savagely murdered in her apartment, Friday, March 22, at 10 PM. Ms. Paige had been brutally beaten about the head

and ears, then strangled, and finally stabbed deeply in her chest and breast area between 15 and 24 times.

Prior to fleeing the scene, her assailant set fire to the apartment, apparently in an attempt to destroy evidence. Paige had been so savagely

assaulted that some friends believed she had been deliberately mutilated.

Ms. Paige, a native of Nashville, Tenn., had only recently moved to Chicago where she was working to save money towards sex reassignment

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Having It Both Ways

Too worried to assume a female personae in the Modern World? Pray thee consider good sir, the possibilities of being the fair maid in a Medieval fantasy. Read on, forsooth.

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) most often catches the public eye through its simulations of knightly combat in full armor. The SCA was founded thirty years ago to recreate the pageantry of the Middle Ages. In addition to combat, heavy (full armor) and light (fencing), SCA activities include medieval dancing, music, song and cooking.

SCA knights exhibit their prowess in settings ranging from informal practice in public parks, to university sponsored festivals, to the annual crown tournaments. Each August the Kingdom of the East and the Kingdom of the Middle battle for Pittsburgh, Pa., in the Pennsic Wars. The loser takes Pittsburgh. The Iron City has become practically a permanent possession of the Kingdom of the East.

The ladies of the Kingdom of the East seem to compensate for the lackluster performance of their knights. The East is noted for championship performance in dancing, mostly a prov-

ince of the ladies and for achievements in music, cooking and costume.

Several years ago, lady warriors began to appear. These modern Joans of Arc assumed male personae and male Society names. Some have their own armor and engage in heavy combat. Many are fencers. Typical light combat, lady warrior fatigues (for informal partying) include a pixie hairdo, frilly white blouse with puffy sleeves, pedal pushers, hose and flats.

No knight can fight without receiving a token from a lady. Some non-combatant ladies refused to bestow tokens unless male SCA members followed the example of the lady warriors and donned female garb, assumed female personae and Society names, and bestowed tokens on warriors. The ladies protested that, while the women will dress up as men, no men wish to dress up as women. The ladies pointed to their achievements within the SCA, and to advances in the status of women outside, in the mundane world.

I mulled it over but hesitated to an-

swer the ladies' call because of the notoriety it might bring. There might be other reasons to hesitate. First, SCA centers around the exploits of its warriors. This applies both within the Society and for media covering its events. Second, the Society attracts scholars, people knowledgeable of Medieval languages, philosophy, history, and the like, but also people who simply wish to live in an age infamous, perhaps unjustly, for intolerance. Third, many knights who apparently lack an obliging lady to fashion authentic garb for them don (modern) women's skirts, dresses and pantyhose. They would never admit to crossdressing though, and a transgendered male might raise uncomfortable questions for them. For those who can overcome these hurdles, joining the ranks of SCA ladies could offer a transgendered male a non-transgendered environment in which to impersonate a lady on a part-time basis, perhaps without even having to admit being transgendered.



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BOOK NOOK

The Bliss of Becoming One! Integrating "Feminine Feelings" Into the Male

Psyche, Mainstreaming the Gender Community, by Rachel Miller (paperback, 110 pages) Highland City, Florida: Rainbow Books, Inc., 1996.

Review by Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

Rachel Miller's *The Bliss of Becoming One!* is a transvestite's manifesto written by a heterosexual, married man who crossdresses. It describes the crossdressing experience and at the same time urges transvestites to fight for their right to express themselves more openly. The oneness which Miller extols is, therefore, twofold: the integration of one's being, a self-integration which encompasses male and female feelings simultaneously, and the open and direct involvement of transvestites in society at large. In other words, be yourself, and be yourself with others.

In terms of recognizing, accepting, and integrating oneself as a genetic male who crossdresses, Miller takes the transvestite reader on a journey into greater self-realization. The author uses his own experience to illustrate the various challenges facing the transvestite, such as discovering one's crossdressing preferences, handling those preferences within a marriage, assessing one's sexual preference, and

developing one's vision of life as a whole, a vision which includes crossdressing.

When it comes to the problem of social acceptance, Miller climbs atop a soap box and shouts a call to action, saying in effect: "Transvestites of the world, unite! Throw aside (not necessarily away) your wingtips and put on your high heels. You have nothing to lose but your tension!" It is true that Miller is somewhat idealistic in his exhortations, but he does give the reader something to think about. Face it: he apparently practices what he preaches. Of course, what works for him may not work for everyone else. But he does set a good example of positive thinking and doing.

Overall, this book is easy to read, and yet it covers the major aspects of the transvestite experience. I see Miller as being on the right track when it comes to facing both oneself and society as a transvestite, for he realizes, and he even states, that personal and social change begin inside oneself. In other words, the courage which transvestites need in order to face both themselves and society is an inner courage. With courage like that, even the clothes begin to look better on the outside, because they fit better on the inside. That's bliss!



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BF FAQ...

cordingly if you need to have your shirt off for whatever reason.

Is a special bra necessary?

This depends on the fashions you wish to wear while using your form, but for a more seamless look, a full coverage bra will be better suited to a breast form. Most breast form manufacturers also carry special lines of bras that contain a pocket that the form can be placed in to reduce movement of the form while worn. The more support offered, the better the fit, since there will be less chance for the form to move in the bra. Bras with underwires tend to work better than those with just elastic because they offer better support for the form (just like for natural breasts.)

Push-up bras, on the other hand, will generally not work with breast forms, since they need to push something from someplace where it is attached. Unless the form is attached to the chest, this type of bra will have no chance to create the desired effect of enhanced cleavage.

Many silicone forms have two year warranties, and you should be able to get at least that much life out of one. "Casual" wearers (not full daily use) should be able to get much longer form life spans than this; possibly 5-10 years or more. Fiberfilled or foam forms are not as resilient as silicone over time and may change their shape, decay, or become compressed. The time involved is dependent again on how much the form is worn.

Taking care of your breast forms (especially silicone)

While temperature extremes should not adversely affect a form for a short period of time, storage temperatures should stay at more moderate levels. You can sleep in your forms, but it's not recommended. The original boxes for most forms are designed to protect the form and help keep its shape. You should wash your form every day you wear it. Use warm water and a very mild soap (possibly unscented dish soap). **Do not** use soaps with perfumes or moisturizers—one fitter singled out Dove as an example of a bad soap to use. Rinse thoroughly and pat dry. Remove all jewelry before handling your forms. The edges and stones of rings could damage the form. If you plan to wear a pin or brooch, put it on your clothes before putting your forms in place. You can wear your forms for pretty much any normal activity, but be careful around pets—their claws could puncture your forms through your clothing. Don't use perfumed deodorants. Even better, stick with antiperspirants, as sweat can damage the form over time. Putting your forms on while sitting on the floor or the bed can help protect them if one happens to slip. Putting a cotton make-up remover pad behind your form can help absorb perspiration during hot weather and strenuous activity. Some adhesives can damage your forms, so be careful (especially with respect to attachable nipples.)

Fitting Tips

The range of options available in

breast forms is truly astounding. Some manufacturers make over 500 different shapes, sizes and colors of breast forms for the needs of different body types, breast shapes and surgeries. Since many in this community will be starting from scratch, matching a form to an existing breast will not be a factor.

DON'T EXAGGERATE. This is the most important tip to be stressed if passing is your goal. Many of us wish to pass as well as possible, and this point was stressed to me by my fitter. Nothing will draw attention more than a bosom that looks too buxom. By the same token, if you have a large frame, a smaller cup size can look unnatural. Try for as natural a look as possible.

Breast form sizing can be a little different than bra cup sizing. As much difference as there is in bra cup size or shoe size, or between different manufacturers, there is as much difference between sizes of natural breasts. Instead of letter cup ranges, breast forms are usually numbered (smallest sizes having the lowest number.) There will typically be 2 or 3 numbers within a given size range. This will affect not only the depth of the form but the volume and coverage as well.

If you are lucky enough to be fitted by a professional they recommend bringing a favorite bra that fits comfortably. Another good idea also is to bring a blouse or some other piece of clothing that will give you a good idea of how you will look. If you are having trouble finding a store that sells breast forms try looking in the phone book under BREAST FORMS, PROSTHETICS, or OR-THOTICS for local retailers.

Continued next issue.



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Ms. Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

Making Sense Of It All

On Being Visible (Part One)

I have spent a good portion of my life being invisible. Now don't get me wrong. Others have been able to see me. They have seen—at one time or another—a man in a business suit, or on a motorcycle, or playing with his children, or teaching, or selling cars, or playing trumpet. But they did not see the secret female, the invisible woman in all those activities. I was, in that sense, invisible to others.

But I was also invisible in my own eyes, and in a double sense. I did not really see myself as a male, even though I did all the things appropriate to my assigned gender. Nor did I really want to recognize who I was in terms of my feminine wishes. I used to peer into mirrors a lot to see if I could discern the real me. Over the years I experimented with my male appearance a great deal, such as going from clean-shaven to bearded and back in an endless number of variations.

What was seen by others as vanity was really my own deeply felt insecurity. I felt like two people, each wanting the other one to go away, because the two of them could not really live together. The mirror did not help. I ultimately became so invisible in my own eyes that I thought about suicide as a way to make real on the outside the invisibility I was feeling on the inside. In death I would have become truly invisible, burying both the male and female parts of me, and, in effect, burying my inner conflict.

It was this inner conflict that led me privately, not publicly, to blame others for not really seeing me. I inwardly blamed other people for my own inability to come to grips with my feminine wishes. I can recall blaming my parents and my wife for not understanding me. But, I was really hiding from myself as well as from them. It was as if I wanted everyone else to take responsibility for bringing me out of

the closet and for making my inner struggle an outer reality. I wanted other people to make me visible, even visible to myself.

And so I played it safe. My parents died before I owned up to my gender issue, and I got a divorce before I ever faced the issue with my first wife. She now knows the truth about me, but such knowledge on her part does not matter as much anymore in terms of our non-marital relationship, though we do remain friends. But did those denials really make me safe? The truth is I was continuing to avoid my underlying gender struggle. I was keeping it all invisible, even to myself. And so I blamed others. I blamed the world for not appreciating me. My personal unhappiness was everyone else's fault. I was behaving like a victim, a victim of gross neglect.

My way out of this morass of self-pity began on another negative note with the previously mentioned contemplation of suicide. I say "contemplation" of it, not an attempt at it, though I think a serious car accident was an indication of my inner disturbance. Symbolically, at least, I faced my depression head-on with my head-on car crash, for which I was completely at fault. With that car accident I saw, or at least began to sense, that I was responsible for my own life, for my very existence. The point is that I began to allow myself to experience my own depression and sadness, my own inner conflict and pain, my own life and its future. The neglect that I had once attributed to others turned out to be self-neglect.

If there was any death in all of this, it was finally the serious rejection of my male self. What had been a living death, that is, a reluctance to recognize and accept my ongoing feminine wishes, became the basis for a suicide, so to speak, in the other direction. Whether I displaced, and therefore replaced, another part of my self, or was

reborn, or simply accepted myself more totally for who I am, the fact is that I came out of my personal depression into my own particular form of gender expression. Without going into detail here about that form, the point is that I went from dysphoria to euphoria, from personal irresponsibility to personal responsibility. I went from being invisible to being visible, visible first to myself and then to the world.

One of my poems, called *Instead*, tries to capture the resolve behind my personal emergence:

*I know I'm not supposed to say
that I would rather pass away,
and yet in moments of despair
it is as if I just don't care.
There is so much to fill my heart,
and yet I still would soon depart.*

*But somehow after all is said
I find myself alive, not dead.
Perhaps I do not have to be
what everybody wants to see.
Instead, I'll try to live the goal
of being faithful to my soul.*

(To Be Continued Next Month)



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Shopping With Jessica

by Jessica Brandon



Greetings, girlfriends! By the time you read these latest words of wit from my trusty word processor, it might actually be Spring, and after the absolutely gawdawful Winter we had, the slowly warming weather is a welcome sight. Of course, two months from now when it's 100°F in the shade and my makeup is running faster than **Jackie Joyner Kersee**, I'll probably regret the words I've written today!

This month, girls, I want to address the subject of mail order, both the pros and cons of this particular brand of shopping. For the majority of us, we began our accumulation of women's clothing from catalogs, mostly because we were probably too nervous, or even afraid to buy such things in person. This is not unusual. In my capacity as a Renaissance phone volunteer, I've heard from folks who'd sooner be locked in a room with Dracula, Freddy Krueger and a dozen po'd Klingons than go into a store to buy women's wear. Far be it for me to be critical of them. Just six years ago, I was every bit as timid as they are, perhaps more so. Back then, I thought it was the height of embarrassment, if not paranoia, to be seen even looking at women's clothes, much less buying them.

For that reason I shopped from catalogs. It was a safe and easy way to buy what I wanted without actually having to be seen by John and Jane Q. Public. You pick up your phone, dial a number, tell the person on the other end what you want, how you'll pay for it, where you want it sent and you're done in perhaps all of five minutes, simple as pie. You avoided driving,

crowds, not finding what you want, long lines at the register, the whole nine yards. And, most of all, you avoid the stigma of abnormality, real or imagined, that's associated with a man buying women's clothing. Shopping through a catalog provides a much needed comfort zone, from the newcomer wanting to build her wardrobe from scratch to the veteran who might hate the hassle of shopping in person.

I could take up three or four pages describing what mail order outlets to utilize. Angela might not like me hogging that much space, so I'll limit them to only the most recognizable names in the trade. We begin with my favorite outlet, **J.C. Penney's**. Regular readers of this column know that I do the bulk of my shopping here because they have a large selection of clothes for tall girls. It also happened to be the very first mail order outlet I used when I began amassing my wardrobe. Penney's produces two large books every year, the Spring/Summer edition and the Fall/Winter edition. In addition to these big books, Penney's also produces several smaller specialty catalogs (50 to 60 pages), one of which being for tall girls. J.C. Penney's phone number is 800-222-6161.

Sears is also a good resource for mail order shopping. At one time, they also produced large seasonal catalogs like Penney's, until huge losses prompted them to end the practice some four or five years ago. Nowadays, they only put out specialty catalogs, and their clothing is quite good. During the course of the year, I usually get at least four of these books (around 70

pages each), coinciding with the seasons, and they feature a fine selection of clothing (including suits, c'mon, you **knew** I'd get around to that sooner or later!), lingerie and shoes along with sizing charts. Sears' catalogs also have tall sizes, though not in great selection like Penney's, but, what they have is pretty good. You can't go wrong with Sears for selection or quality. You can call them at 800-783-7577.

Next up is **Spiegel**, yet another excellent resource. Spiegel features a good many major brand names in clothing like Calvin Klein and Donna Karan, top drawer all the way, so expect to see some fairly steep prices when compared to Sears and Penney's. Still, it's more than worth the money for the style and quality you get. Spiegel's catalog, published twice yearly in Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer (Available in major bookstores like B. Dalton and Waldenbooks for \$10.00) also has evening wear, dazzling jewelry and a scrumptious lingerie section with names like Vanity Fair, Valentino, Olga, Lilyette and, of course, the still miraculous WonderBra. Spiegel's number is 800-345-4500. In the Delaware Valley, the Spiegel outlet store at Franklin Mills has a great selection of everything at equally great prices.

Less expensive, but good quality venues for mail order include **Chadwick's of Boston** (800-525-6650). They feature loads of good looking clothes at very affordable prices. Dresses, suits, skirts, pants, tops, blazers, coats, casual wear, you name it, it can be found here. If Chadwick's had clothes for tall, this would far and away be my number one resource, just for the prices alone.

Then there's **Victoria's Secret** (800-888-8200), the shrine of lingerie. In my opinion, the best (and I might add the sexiest) lingerie around can be found here. Not only that, V.S. also has a surprisingly large selection of clothing and leisurewear as well as some positively killer swimsuits, all at moderately good prices. A girl could quite possibly do all her shopping here.

continued on page 23



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Shopping

Roaman's (1-800-274-7130) and **Lane Bryant** (1-800-477-7070) seem to offer the same sort of clothing, undergarments and shoes, making them almost indistinguishable save for their names. If you were to flip through both catalogs simultaneously, you would find no practical difference between them. Virtually everything under the sun can be found in these catalogs. I was drawn towards Lane Bryant as it was the first mail order outlet I found that carried size 13 shoes. The prices from both of these sources are exceptionally reasonable and are good for those of you shopping on a budget. Heck, they even offer free shipping and handling, but what they feature doesn't really thrill me, there's nothing super stylish here, only the down to earth and practical.

I saw my first **Frederick's of Hollywood** catalog twelve years ago, and

thought: "This was where streetwalkers bought their clothes!" Compared to the more sedate things seen in mainstream catalogs, this was fetish city! **Frederick's** (800-323-9525) specializes in super sexy, glamorous clothes, daringly short skirts, skin tight jeans and pants, shoes with nothing *lower* than four-inch heels, and perhaps the most outrageous collection of lingerie and bedroom costumes you'll ever see. I have never bought anything from here because they never carried anything that looked practical to me, furthermore, the company lives solidly in the past regarding sizes. If you're taller than 5' 7" or wear larger than size 12, don't even think about shopping here!

Then there's **Avon**, the only place where one can buy cosmetics through the mail. I've come across a catalog or two over the years and found their products very affordable. Besides cosmetics, Avon has perfumes, cleansing products, some clothing and a very nice collection of jewelry. However, the company's mainstay is cosmetics,

an Avon lady come to your home to select the things you need. And how many have the courage to do that?

I haven't mentioned any mail order outlets for wigs because, just like cosmetics, it's something you're better off doing in person. When you look through a **Paula Young** or **René of Paris** catalog, you see a perfectly styled wig on a model. There's no way on God's green earth you can buy a wig through the mail, shake it out, comb it, and then slap it on your head and make it look so much as a fraction as good as it does in the catalog. I've fallen into that trap more than a few times myself. To avoid disappointment, use catalog pictures for reference regarding what sort of wig you want and go to a shop. That goes for everything else you might buy through the mail. What looks good on a model in a catalog might not look good on you when you put it on.

While there are great advantages to shopping by mail (convenience and security), there's nothing that beats the fun of buying something in the flesh. And remember, when buying through the mail, always keep your receipts in case you have to return something.

Before I close, I'm still waiting for your suggestions on places to shop, I could talk a blue streak, but I want to know your views and comments, so send 'em to me

<[redacted]@aol.com>.

Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart. Happy shopping sisters!



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Workplace...

women and other "corporate cultural foreigners" into companies, provided the HR day lunch speech. Frank Kameny, long-time civil rights activist, gave the plenary speech.

Dozens of workshops, plenaries, panels and other presentations were offered. Workshop topics included, "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Sexual Orientation in Diversity Training But Were Afraid to Ask;" "What's New In AIDS Educa-

tion;" "Protecting Your Civil Rights;" "Case Study: Growing the Xerox Lesbian/Gay Employee Group;" "Dealing with Closeted People in Positions of Power;" "Gay/Lesbian Parents in the Workplace;" "Labor Dialogue: Fighting the Far Right;" "Activism and the Professional Career;" "Screening for Gay-friendly Workplaces;" and "Gays and Lesbians are Franchising!"

A reception for the conference, "Work It Out!", was held on Friday, April 19, 6:30-8:30, at the City Club of San Francisco. A special NGLTF award was presented at the reception to a leading corporation that has dem-

onstrated commitment and progress on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employment issues.

NGLTF, founded in 1973, is the nation's oldest gay and lesbian civil rights organization. NGLTF is a progressive group that supports grassroots organizing, pioneers national advocacy, and has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. NGLTF works to build a stronger gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement.

Visit the "Out and Equal in the 90s" web page at <http://www.nglftf.org/workplace.html>.



TS Murder...

surgery. She was employed at Chicago's trendy downtown Baton Lounge, where she was well regarded. She had a highly successful career in clubs as a former Miss Gay Nashville and Miss Midwestern Continental.

Ms. Paige's body was discovered

when the Chicago Fire Department responded to reports of arson at her residence at about 10:00 that evening. The premises, which Ms. Paige shared with 2 friends, was also ransacked and valuables were stolen.

Members of the Chicago chapter of The Transsexual Menace have planned a demonstration/vigil for Friday morning May 17. Activists are seeking to the

protest the savageness of Ms. Paige's murder, focus public attention on trans-related violence, and remind people (including the police) that her murderer is still walking the streets.

The demonstration will start from the Baton Lounge and proceed to Daly Center where the Police Department and City Hall are located.



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For Immediate Release

2nd International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues

June 19 - 22, 1997 The Park Ridge at Valley Forge, (King of Prussia, Pa.)

The Second International Congress On Transgender Issues is co-sponsored by the Human Sexuality Program in the Graduate Department of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and The Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc. The Center for Sex Research at the California State University at Northridge (CSUN) organizer of the first Congress endorses this, the second congress.

The Congress will be held at the Park Ridge Hotel in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Activities will begin Thursday evening, June 19, with a Welcome Cocktail Reception at the Hotel. A preliminary schedule of activities is shown below.

The Park Ridge Hotel is located in King of Prussia, Pa., about 30 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport. The hotel is served by several limousine services for which the cost is about \$18. The hotel is located close to Valley Forge National Park and the now-famous King of Prussia Shopping Mall. Rooms rates are \$90/single, \$100/double (1997 rates) + 8% occup. tax. Free Parking. Participants should make their own room reservations by calling The Park Ridge at **800-337-1801 [610-337-1800] or by FAX at 610-337-4624.**

Fees: \$80 per person. **Register before January 1, 1997 for only \$60 per person.** Rooms and meals are **not** included in the Registration Fee. Make check or money order payable to the **Renaissance Education, Assoc., Inc., Congress Registration, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.** The Saturday evening banquet with Guest Speaker Kate Bornstein, author of Gender Outlaw, is extra cost (\$37). Please indicate if you will attend the banquet.

Preliminary Schedule

Thursday, 6/19

5:00 PM Registration Opens
7:00 PM Welcome Cocktail Reception

Friday, 6/20

8:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM Opening Plenary Session: Guest Speaker
10:00 AM Workshops, Seminars, Exhibit Rooms open
Noon Lunch on your own
2:00 PM Workshops & Seminars
6:00 PM Exhibit Rooms close, Hospitality Room opens
7:00 PM Extracurricular activities (TBA)

Saturday, 6/21

8:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM Plenary Session: Guest Speaker
10:00 AM Workshops, Seminars, Exhibit Rooms open
Noon Lunch on your own
2:00 PM Workshops & Seminars
6:00 PM Exhibition Rooms close
7:00 PM Cash Bar in Banquet Room
8:00 PM Banquet — Guest Speaker: Kate Bornstein

Sunday, 6/22

9:00 AM Workshops & Seminars
11:00 AM Closing Plenary Session: Guest Speaker
Noon Lunch on your own, conference ends

CALL FOR PAPERS

2nd International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues

INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

Major Themes of Interest:

- Brain Sex and Gender Identity: Nature vs. Nurture
- Gender Identity in The Third Millennium: Social and Legal Issues
- Counseling Issues & Methods
- Transgender Identity and the Arts

Format

Three General Morning Sessions: Fri., Sat., Sun. (Jun. 20-22)

Four sets of 50-minute concurrent sessions

Workshops; one and two hour formats (optional)

Each conference day will be structured to provide ample time to attend sessions and conduct general discussions. Meetings and workshops will take place between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Social and business functions will be in the evenings.

Papers

Papers offering research data and theoretical positions are welcome. Experimental work is particularly desired. Clinical material is welcome particularly to illustrate how counseling helps resolve transgender issues. Non-clinical presentations on the social and legal issues of gender and gender identity are especially welcomed.

Workshops

There will be opportunity to present significant material in workshops. Submit topic, length of time required, goals of the workshop, and facilities required for presentation. Workshops will be open to all conference registrants.

HOW TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS/WORKSHOPS

1. Two copies of abstracts of papers and workshops must be submitted to both of the Program Committee Co-Chairs: Vern Bullough, Ph.D., R.N., 17434 Mayall St., Northridge, CA 91325, and Sheila Kirk, M.D., PO Box 38114, Blawnox, PA 15238-9998.

2. Abstracts and Workshop Descriptions should contain sufficient information to adequately judge the proposal. Those proposing a workshop are not required to submit an Abstract but rather include information about the format of the workshop, e.g., experiential, demonstration, discussion, et al., and what the workshop will accomplish.

3. Proposals should be typed on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, one side only, double-spaced. Send four (4) copies. Proposals may also be submitted by email to <cngrs2@cdspub.com>.

4. All proposals must include:

Title

Author's name, position and/or title, address of affiliation or institution, phone#.

Specific area of contribution (educator, therapist, counselor, researcher)

Objectives of presentation

Methodology of presentation

Outline of presentation content

Time needed to make presentation

A list of equipment and aids required: slide projector, overhead projector, chalkboard, newsprint pad, etc. This information should be included even though it may be tentative.

Questions, ideas, or general correspondence may be directed to: JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D., PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, Pa 19406. Phone: 610-640-9449, Fax: 610-648-0257; Email: <cngrs2@cdspub.com>

Registration Form: 2nd International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues

Please reserve ____ registrations for the 2nd Congress at \$80 each (**\$60 each before Jan.1, 1997**) and ____ tickets for the Saturday evening banquet @ \$37 each. Total amount due: \$_____
____ Check ____ Money Order enclosed.

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE INFO BELOW

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

**Renaissance Education, Assoc., Inc.,
Congress Registration
987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719
Wayne, PA 19087**

The author of *Stone Butch
Blues and Transgender
Warriors,*
Leslie Feinberg

will speak at the Friends Center, 15th
and Cherry in Philadelphia on
June 2, 1996

The program will include a TG memorial service, a panel of local speakers on TG issues, and a question and answer session after Leslie Feinberg's speech. A reception featuring information tables from local TG/TS groups and a book signing by Leslie Feinberg will close out the day. Refreshments will be served.

The goal of the program is to have an afternoon to help TG/TS people move towards their own identities and voices, gain improved access to local services, and to have a space where non-TG/TS Philadelphians, especially from the queer community, can be educated about transgender issues. The event is free so come out and visit the Renaissance table. The program runs from 3 to 6PM on Sunday June second. See you there.