

Renaissance News



Volume 7, No. 9

Vision - Integrity - Quality

September, 1993

BOARD VOTES CHANGES TO AFFILIATE POLICY

In the past if a group wished to become a Renaissance affiliate it was a requirement that they have at least five members who were also Renaissance members. Now, due to a vote taken at the last meeting of the Renaissance National Board of Directors, the number of Renaissance members needed in a group has been reduced to three.

Other requirements are that the group applying for affiliate status must be an open group and a not-for-profit organization. Incorporation is not necessary for affiliate status. The group must pay a one time fee of \$25. This fee goes to cover the cost of a complete set of 8 Community Outreach Bulletins, 7 Background Papers, Affiliate Chapter Handbook and a camera ready copy of the Renaissance Affiliate Logo for use in any of their publications or stationary. Affiliates are allowed to reprint articles from the newsletter in their local newsletter.

Renaissance affiliates include MOTG in Red Bank, New Jersey, AEGIS in Decatur, Georgia and MGN in New York City. Currently considering affiliate status are the L.A. area, Powder Puffs of California and the Carolina Transensual alliance of Charlotte, North Carolina.

BATHING BEAUTIES PLEASE APPLY

How many of our readers have had an opportunity to slip into a bathing suit this summer? Last issue I wrote about my trip to the Raven pool and that has inspired me to put together, sometime this fall or winter, a Renaissance Swim Suit Issue. If you have a photo in your swimsuit, preferably somewhere at the beach or a pool, send it to us and keep your eyes open for the big Swimsuit Issue.

Try to make it a photo that is mostly of you. We don't want to see lots of empty space or loads of other people. Color photos are okay but we'll be printing them in black and white. This isn't USA Today. Be sure to include your name, the location and date so we can caption your pic. Send bathing suit photos only, no lingerie, to: Swim Suit Issue, Renaissance News, P0 Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. No photos will be returned so be sure you have a copy for yourself.

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Is God Against Us?

by Lee Frances Heller

Is God neutral? Does God care? Really, is God neutral regarding our crossdressing? Or is God against us?

Our life style involving even occasional crossdressing, openly or "in the closet" is a variance from the "norms" of society. We have been told we are unacceptable to society. We have been told we are especially unacceptable to Church society. We have been branded: "Sinners" by the Church. Therefore, how could God ever stoop to love a Crossdresser?

In some cases families are divided over the issue of Dad being a Crossdresser. Some of these divisions have ended in divorce, shattering the family apart horribly. Crossdressing can be a real source of conflict. It can be a horrible emotional stressor for others.

"God is not the God of Confusion and Disorder!" we are told in First Corinthians 14: 33a. In the Mosaic Law stated in Deuteronomy 22: 5, God has declared those who crossdress to be an abomination to Himself.... "...neither shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all that do so are an abomination to the Lord your God." These references do make it appear God and society are lined up solidly and irrevocably against us. How can we beat these odds? Can we beat them?

(continued on page 12)

Chapters & Affiliates

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 435-5401 or write Renaissance SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Chapter leader - Terri Risley, Assistant Leader - Phil Muniz

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Meets on third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, PA. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Write to Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020 or call (215)630-1437. Chapter Leader - Maryann Kirkland

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York, Pa. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or call (717) 780-1LSV. Chapter Leader - Yvonne Sullivan

Affiliates

MOTG: Meets on the fourth Saturday of the month. For information contact Terry M., PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Metropolitan Gender Network: 561 Hudson Street, Box 45, New York, NY 10014 (201) 794-1665 Ext. 332.

American Educational Gender Information Services (AEGIS): Dallas Denny, PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, (404) 939-0244

Renaissance News

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

And, don't forget about...

Articles, opinion pieces and letters to the Editor are always welcome at the Renaissance News. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to Renaissance News, P. O. Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Complimentary and irate letters to the Editor may be sent to the same address.

Significant Others who have article ideas or opinions they would like to share should send their ideas to Evelyn Kirkland, c/o Maryann Kirkland, P. O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940.

Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics, and 9-Understanding Transsexuality.

Pen Pal Program: If you would like to be a pen pal contact Maryann Kirkland at P. O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940. Attn: Dept. PP.

If you are a transgendered person with children and would like to network with other transparents, contact Elsa Larson at: Transparent, C/O Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

For TS information and peer counseling in South Jersey call Kelly Harris at 609 641-3782.

Events Calendar

Renaissance GP	Renaissance LSV	Renaissance South Jersey	MOTG
Sept. 18: Vendor's night	Sept. 4: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	October: Terri M. on the	Sept. 25: Paula J. Sinclair
Oct. 16: Dr. Sheila Kirk	Oct. 2: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	NJ Gay Alliance	Oct. 23: Bra & Girdle
Nov. 20: Mariette Pathy	Nov. 6: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	November: Halloween	Factory night
Allen, Photographer	Dec. 4: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	Party!	Nov. 27: TBA
Dec. 4: Christmas Party		December: Elections	Dec. 4: JoAnn Roberts
			Jan. 22: Alison Laing
			Feb. 26: Dr. Roger Peo

Chapters wishing to have their programs listed should get them to the Newsletter at least one month in advance. Two is better.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#81)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph. D.

There was an article by Deborah Tannen in the June 20, 1993 *New York Times Magazine*. In it Dr. Tannen used the term "marked". Let me use Dr. Tannen's own words to define it: "The term 'marked' is a staple of linguistic theory. It refers to the way language alters the base meaning of a word by adding [something to it] that has no meaning on its own. The unmarked form of a word carries the meaning that goes without saying – what you think of when you are not thinking of anything special. The unmarked tense of verbs in English is the present – for example, *visit*. To indicate past, you mark the verb by adding *ed* to yield *visited*."

Dr. Tannen then extends this concept to clothing. She observes that there are fundamental clothing styles for men and women and they are different. She comments that most styles of clothing worn by women are marked, that is their attire differentiates them from the "basic woman." Interestingly, though, women can be marked by not wearing makeup, etc. for in our culture the "basic woman" is expected to do so! Men, on the

otherhand, do not wear clothing that is intended to differentiate them from other men. Granted, there are different styles of clothing for men, formal, informal, etc. but in a given setting most men dress in the traditional form. The time a man's style of dress would be marked is when it is inappropriate for the setting, for example wearing casual clothes to a formal dance.

Dr. Tannen also wrote, "Men can choose styles that are marked, but they don't have to . . . unlike women they have this option." Marking includes hair styles, beards, etc. as well as clothing. In sum, marking is the way in which an integrated appearance provides non-verbal clues about the wearer.

"Enough!" you say, "what does this have to do with cross-dressing?" Women, because they have a wide variety of styles from which to choose and which can fit a variety of occasions, learn, sub-consciously, how to put together a style that fits, both for her and for the situation. Men don't often get that kind of training. So, when a man crossdresses he may not have the skills to make the pieces of clothing,

make-up, etc. seem to be a coordinated whole. He is dressing for the sensuality of the clothing, not the social effect they have. Thus, crossdressers in public may be "read" because their outfit is inappropriately marked for the situation.

Wives and partners can be of help here because they instinctively know what works. Sometimes the result, while "socially correct" may not be pleasing to him because it does not contain all the elements of sensuality he desires. For example, jeans, running shoes, and a casual blouse may be appropriate but he would rather wear a miniskirt, black stockings, and 4" heels.

For the crossdresser who chooses never to go out in public, the concept of marking has little use. However, for those who do, it seems useful because it is a way of having a check list.



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This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. Others must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of such a reprint should be sent to Dr. Peo.

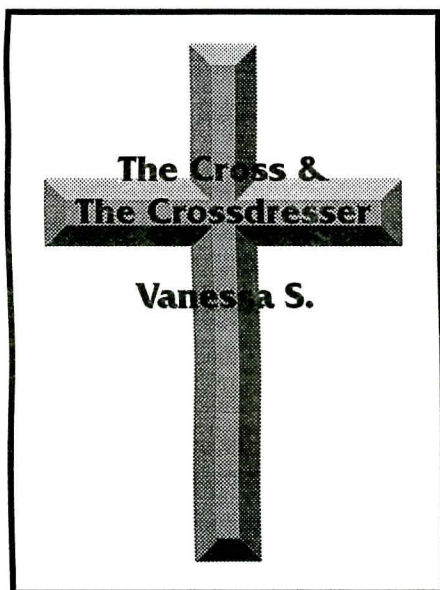


New from CDS

Sacred Cows Make the Best Hamburger — A collection of 39 of the best essays and editorials by JoAnn Roberts from the pages of *LadyLike*, *Femme*, *ITS* and *Renaissance News*. You'll find out why JoAnn is one of the most respected writers in the TV/TS community. 100 pages for \$12.00 postpaid. Pa. residents add 6% sales tax.

Who's WHO in the Transgendered Community & Resource Guide

Who's Who in the Transgendered Community — Who is Billie Jean Jones anyway? Where can I find large size shoes? Is there a support group in Kansas City? You'll find the answers to these questions and more in the first annual *Who's Who in the Transgendered Community*, which includes • **Bios of VIPs** • **Detailed info on support groups** • **Where to buy goods & services** • **List of counseling resources**. All for just \$15.00 postpaid. Pa. residents add 6% sales tax.



NEW! The Cross & The Crossdresser

Have you struggled to reconcile your crossdressing with spirituality? Have you wondered if Scripture can give you any guidance? Have you wondered if you can be transgendered and still be a good Christian? If you answered "Yes" to these questions, then you need to read this new book by Vanessa S. Here are the answers and guidance you've been looking for! Find out what Deuteronomy 22:5 really means, Vanessa gives you the benefit of her search for reconciliation. Footnoted and amply referenced. Available by October 1, 1993. Estimated price \$12.00 postpaid. Pa. residents add 6% sales tax.

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Even Know-it-all editors make mistakes and Miss Gardner is BIG enough to say "oops." Here is a comment on silk that sets the record straight.

Letter

To the Editor,

Close, but no Cocoon-wrap!

Alarm and revulsion were among my initial reactions to the note about silk (fabric) coming from the bodily fluids of spiders which appeared in the Clip and Save tips for silk in Renaissance News, Volume 7, Number 8, August 1993. How could I possibly feel comfortable and be at my fashion best stepping out in garments made from the secretions of a common house pest? (Yick!)

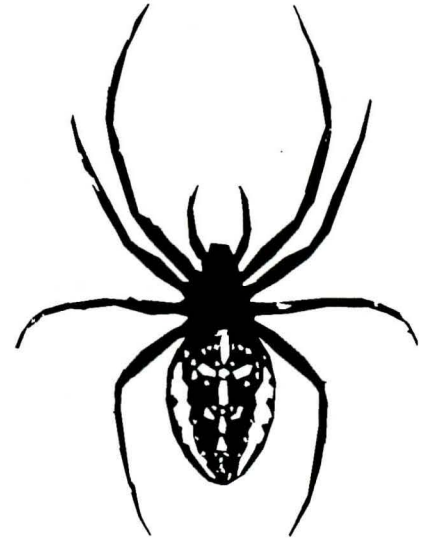
A quick trip to the library for a look at the encyclopedia uncovered the correct answer. The silk fiber that is used to make commercial silk fabric is gathered by unwinding the

lustrous fibrous cocoons produced by the larva of an Asian moth, *Bombyx Mori*. (A side note: Silk-worms are finicky eaters, having a decided preference for Mulberry leaves.) The only commercial use I could find for spider silk was making crosshairs in gunsights.

Okay now, calm down, relax, breathe slowly and evenly, stop perspiring and follow the quick tip instructions for cleaning your blouse...

Stacy-Lynn Carlton
P. O. Box 930
Devon, PA 19333

[Footnote: On a recent "scientific" TV show, this editor watched the hostess make worm and spider cookies. The claim was made (alas, probably true) that spiders are almost entirely protein and are GOOD for you. Cooked, that is! - GHL]



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Opinion: *Cutting Claws of the SS*

by Janet Powers

Don't you just hate those lectures and articles purportedly aimed at helping you be more feminine, but actually leaving you ready for suicide-or men's clothes?

You know, the kind that require perfection of you in the first place, flawlessness before you even start working on your flaws. The authors usually look reasonably good themselves and desperately want the rest of us to know it. It is important for their egos. Of course, it can destroy yours.

Examples abound. Take the sort of instruction about walking that suggests there is really only one way and if you can't do it you're a rhino or a linebacker.

"Keep your knees together as you walk." Simple enough. For you, maybe. But what happens when they don't come together, when forcing them together causes your shin bones into an angle resembling a bridge truss? Never mentioned, notice that? Legs like that present a problem and our authors are not interested in problems, really, just in expressing their superiority.

Legs are a tough proposition for many of us ladies of special choice. They say the perfect legs have per-

fect diamonds between ankles, calves and thighs. Mine are perfect, perfect parentheses. They curve out from the hips in perfect arcs and meet again gracefully at the ankles. In between is space. There is no solution short of long skirts.

It is not easy being a woman under such circumstances. The last thing we need is jeering or mockery from those who pretend to be our own. The Supercilious Sisters. The SS. A good name for those who disdain us common girls.

Makeup is a great mockery source for the SS crowd. Applying makeup takes practice, true, but it requires some basic dexterity to begin with. Some learn well. But some of us have trouble holding the brush, much less using it deftly. I'm in that latter category.

The only time I ever feel presentable is when Jim Bridges or some other pro has done me and before I have had a chance to smear it. My own work resembles that of an inebriated barn painter. That's for the basics, like foundation. The more esoteric makeup devices elicit hidden comic skills in me.

Like the time I decided my eyelids were too thin, too rapid, too

vague I purchased a set of those simple-to-apply false eyelashes and went to work, eager to turn myself into a vamp or sexy siren. The kit said application was the work of only minutes. That's true. In less than three minutes I had glued both eyelids firmly shut. It's quite an experience. They were so tightly cemented that they might be still in position but the face powder I had spilled caused me to sneeze so fiercely that I blew both eyelashes onto the mirror. Now settle for shakily applied mascara and the indulgent love of some sisters who care.

I am the kind who would buy one of those home electrolysis kits and electrocute herself. I am the only Tri-Ess member in a 17-state area who regularly applies her lipstick to the end of her nose. Unintentionally, of course. It's a very long nose.

Any intelligent reader, even an SS, gets the idea by now. I have seen some real knockouts at our gatherings, lovely in every way, made up and coiffed in elegant perfection. Then there's me.

Many of you come to our events nourishing an understandable secret hope that you might wind up

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Miss Appalachia or Ms. Congeniality or some such. I approach it negatively. I just pray that I will NOT be named Klutzette of the Month. But there's the rub. I attend anyway.

I go for the joy and elation and peace that comes to me when in a public place dressed as a woman, expressing a feminine side that for bitter years screamed to be free. I go for the company of some beautiful sisters whose presence and conversation are to me wealth and riches. I love them and they do not laugh at me.

The only time I have ever been really angry at a CD gathering was hearing an attractive, expensively dressed, polished SS snidely dissect some poor dear attending her first gathering. I don't think the victim ever came back. The SS, unfortunately, is a regular. How can you tell? There is one good way to spot an SS. Invariably they will say of someone that her "wig looks like it just came out of the box." It's a catch phrase the SS probably heard from someone else. Maybe the wig does look like that, but the new sister will learn in time that it really takes two brushes and a styling comb to get that hair all fluffed out nicely, and she will learn. Meanwhile, when you hear that phrase,

take a hard look at the person who said it. She is probably incurably obnoxious. The victim is not.

That's the thing. There are some good teaching vehicles and this complaint is not about them. LadyLike Magazine, for instance, has JoAnn Roberts' advice column, a feature loaded with how-to tips, lucidly written with the aim of helping cross-dressers, not trashing them. Her Creative Design Services markets excellent books and videos on technique and improvement in every phase of crossdressing. So does IFGE.

So this is not about sensible instruction and critique; it is not a complaint about self-improvement help. It is about those whose male aggression and competition sense lie just under the fabric of the expensive dress, ugly and venomous, and most unladylike. We could use fewer of them. We could use less heckling of the less gifted among us. We could use more feminine gentleness of spirit.

The snobs are in the minority, after all. Most of us are nice folks. And sometimes something happens to remind one of that and of the fact that snobs and SS's aside, there are exquisite moments when you cut it and can tell yourself with elation "You've come a long way, Baby!"

There was a moment at the Cleveland Be All two years ago that I shall remember forever. I had just heard a rather well-known "leader" of obvious SS propensities do a number on a rather plain girl. It was funny and it was cruel. I went to my room a few minutes later wondering how badly I would fare under such scrutiny.

Just as the elevator door was about to close, an elderly couple got on with two large suitcases. They were clearly at what one could call the "wrong" end of the hotel. They were very old.

His eyesight was also very poor. The lenses of his glasses were like something from a movie projector. He dropped the heavy bags suddenly and I had to whip my left pump out of the way instinctively. No damage. But he turned, lifted his straw hat and said, in a marvelous Southern accent, "Ma'am, that was clumsy of me. I do crave your pardon." I smiled back.

When the elevator stopped at my floor, I eased between the two of them and smiled at him again. Then the devil grabbed me. As I stepped away into the hall, I put a little extra English on my bottom movement and smiled farewell over my shoulder. The old boy absolutely beamed. It was good for him. It was good for me.

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by Angela Gardner

Well ladies, here it is September again. The girls are all getting back from their summer vacations to ManlyLand. Soon the shaving cream and razor companies will notice a spike in their sales and municipalities will notice a drop in water pressure as all the girls get those hairy legs, chests and arms whipped into shape. The cool nights of fall are coming and the crossdresser calendar is full of dates the girls won't want to miss. Let's mention a few.

LET'S PLAY DRESS UP & GO OUT

September starts with the South Jersey Chapter and LSV having their regular meetings on the first Saturday of the month, which happens to be the 4th. LSV is having a picnic on Labor Day, September 6th. Call them for more information. The Greater Philadelphia Chapter meets on September 18th and welcomes the big fall crowds with a vendor night. The GPC meeting site is transformed into a transgender flea market with bargains for one and all. Southern Comfort brings crossdressers from all over the country to Atlanta, GA for five days of fun from September 29th to Octo-

ber 3rd with special guest speaker, world renowned SRS surgeon Doctor Stanley Biber. Scores of other speakers are included. We've heard a few of these names before I think. How about Jim Bridges? Merissa Sherrill Lynn? Mariette Pathy Allen? Of course, our own JoAnn Roberts, newly named Chair Person of the AEGIS Board of Directors, (Mucho kudos kiddo!) will also be on hand. For more info call 404-603-9426 or write P.O. Box 33296, Decatur, GA 30033.

Speaking of JoAnn Roberts, she'll be fresh from her own Paradise In The Poconos weekend. Actually it's an "extended" weekend that runs from September 15th though the 19th. For those who still don't get it, this is not a Renaissance event. JoAnn as a private individual owns CDS which throws the Poconos party. For information on any of CDS's activities, call them at 215-640-9449 or write CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA, 19406.

If you're one of those people who likes to plan ahead, maybe as far as October of 1994, why not plan to spend some time rollin' on the river with a real queen? The Delta Queen is a riverboat and she's hosting Dignity Cruise V October 4th thru 7th, 1994. There will be partying in Pittsburgh before

the cruise and riverboat fun for all. Better be. It costs \$711.00 per person, double occupancy plus \$30.00 tax. The pre-cruise party at the Westin William Penn will also cost you. For an informative brochure with a break down on activities and charges, write to Dr. Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy, Texas 77449 or phone 713-347-6563.

Of course there are tons of other things to do just in this year. LSV will be hosting outings to the Hippo in Baltimore for beauty pageants. If you'd like to know when they are and how you can go along, contact Dawn at LSV. 717-780-ILSV. MOTG goes to the Bra & Girdle Factory for a TV spending spree in October. Write to Terri M., P.O. Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 for info.

Renaissance South Jersey has a Halloween Party on November 6th. That's two weeks after Henri

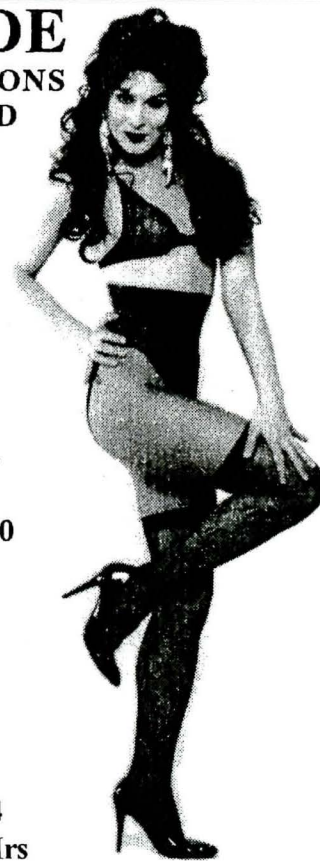
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David's enormous Halloween Ball at the Bellvue in downtown Philly. The 31st is a Sunday this year so it shouldn't be quite as crowded. Last year some of our girls couldn't get in since the place was packed.

GPC is presenting another glittering holiday party event on December 4th at the same venue as last year, the Great Valley Sheraton Inn. Don't fall in the pool while coming back from the bar.

Of course all these events don't just occur by themselves. Getting together an event like the Holiday Party or Spring Ball or organizing a Luau, (Which will return in '94. Contact LSV for details.) takes planning and planning takes people who are willing to put in the effort. Even getting a group together to go to the Hippo or Henri David's Ball means having a person or two who are willing to be leaders. If you would like to be more than just a rider on the fun train talk to your Chapter Leader or Program person about getting involved and leading an outing or planning an event. Be sure you let me know well in advance and I'll publicize it in the Newsletter.

THE GLITTER, THE GLAMA! IT'S SHOW BIZ!

As I am always alert to the slightest mention of a man in a dress, I am ever vigilant with the media so I can find these little tidbits and pass them on to you, the reader. Actually I miss a lot and that's why I need you to write down details on anything you happen to see. Like what? Like this.

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

Wednesday, July 28. In a question and answer session with the audience a woman asked Jay if he ever wore his wife's lingerie for fun. Jay replied that he had never worn it for fun but he used to be a lingerie model. He then held up a photo with his head pasted on the body of a well built lingerie model. Obviously my letter to the show has had an effect and now Jay is trying to position himself with us so we don't all start watching Letterman in the fall.

ATTACK OF THE SIX FOOT SEVEN DRAG QUEEN

Media attack that is. RuPaul, the pop/drag phenomena who has been mentioned in these pages before, has penetrated that most mainstream of all publications, TV Guide. (Appropriate don't you think?) In the "Grapevine" section TV Guide reveals that the luscious "supermodel" is really a man and goes on to quote Ms. Charles, (That's her last name honey.) as saying her current love interests are Muppets Barney and Big Bird. Since RuPaul and Big Bird are around the same height I'm sure they make a lovely couple. Go on girl!

ET PHONE DRAG QUEENS

Entertainment Tonight which is also firmly in the middle of the American pop culture stream really loves men in dresses. They have done pieces on RuPaul and other crossdressers before and on August 8th they talked about her, Lady Bunny and Lypsinka, mentioning

how they were having such a big impact on night life in New York. They even mentioned Miss Vera's Academy for Crossdressers. Now who do you suppose is the crossdresser on the ET staff? John Tesh? The producer? What if it's Mary Hart????!! Now that would be a story.

CATWOMAN RETURNS

Someone gave me this bit at a meeting, I think. Since Aunt Angela is old and getting senile she has forgotten who it was. Normally I like to let the readers know who sends in things. This time I'm stumped. Sorry.

In any event there was an article with accompanying photos that this editor found very interesting. It seems a professional female impersonator and "real life transvestite" named Charles Battersby showed up at the Great Eastern Comic Convention in New York earlier this year dressed as Catwoman. When she first appeared on the convention floor Catwoman was treated like royalty by the DC Comics staff on hand. It seems that no one figured out that she was a he. Having seen the pictures in the article I can see why they didn't know. The artist who draws the comic character took her to the DC booth, had his picture taken with her and even talked about having her do some modeling work for a series of fantasy artworks. Then, someone, (there's always someone) saw thorough the glamour and noticed that Catwoman was a man. When DC executives first found this out they asked her not to hang around their booth. Could the boys be a little

homophobic? More than a little. DC rep, Rich Markow went to the convention organizer and had Catwoman evicted. Batman hasn't been able to get rid of her for years but these guys got her out of the way pronto.

After the fact, DC vice president Paul Levitz wrote a letter to Charles Battersby and apologized for the way Catwoman was treated at the Convention but he also said the treatment was based on their policy of only using talent from authorized licensee's of DC. Talented amateurs like Charles (and Mrs Peel, another leather cat suit clad cutey) need not apply. He actually wrote, "We believe that, this experience aside, you have no reason to brand DC as homophobic, and that we have exhibited a sincere commitment to nondiscrimination based on sexual preference."

Now where does Levitz get off making any assumptions about Charles' sexual preference? Ignorance has struck again. The Catwoman character has always been one of the kinkiest so who knows her sexual preference. (We know she likes leather or latex or what ever that suit is.) Everyone from DC treated her swell until they found out she was a guy. Then they had her thrown out of the conven-

tion. What's that look like to you?

If you'd like to read the whole story and see the great pictures of this cool kitty find a copy of Comics Buyers' Guide #1027, July 23rd, 1993. After you've read the article maybe you should pick up a DC Comic, get their address and write a letter to Paul Levitz telling him what you think of how they treated Catwoman. If enough of us write Levitz and his cronies will wind up in the kitty litter. Meow!

FROM KITTIES TO HYENAS

If you are ever on safari, making your way through the trackless plains of the Dark Continent, wearing a simple linen safari suit with low heeled boots and a scarf wrapped pith helmet, pray you don't run into a female spotted hyena. First of all, according to information found in the Philadelphia Inquirer on August 1st, you'd think it was a male spotted hyena. "What's that thing hanging down under that hyena if it's a female?" That, gentle reader, is an enlarged, very enlarged spotted hyena clitoris. "How could that be?" Read on.

During pregnancy maternal hyenas, (how they ever get that way

I'll never know) produce a large quantity of a steroid called androstenedione. This steroid could be converted into either estrogen or testosterone. In a spotted hyena most of the steroid is converted into testosterone even when the mother is carrying a female pup.

This testosterone bath causes the little female pup to develop such marked male characteristics that even close inspection of the genitals can fail to discern the true sex. The clitoris, as already stated looks like a penis. It leads to the animal's uterus and the vagina is sealed up. It, like the human appendix is vestigial and serves no purpose.

This next part is what makes me wonder how the hyenas ever get pregnant. Mating is carried out through the enlarged clitoris and the pup comes out of the same opening. Ouch. Due to the enormous amount of testosterone they've been bathed in baby hyenas are not cute and cuddly. They'll rip your face off. In fact, few second born hyenas survive since the first born has had time to get its first breath and then kill its siblings.

Oddly enough, the hormone cocktail makes the females more aggressive than the males. Male hyenas tend to be smaller, eat less, and worry more about their per-

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sonal appearance than females. "Is my tail all knotted up? Oh! What will I do about this spot on my forehead? It's not at all like the others."

For more information on the spotted hyena visit your local library. In the meantime, stay out of their way. Those females will do more than dirty your nice linen safari suit. I think they'd make me soil my undies!

A PLEASANT OUTING IN THE PARK

This is one of those TV horror stories that we certainly aren't thrilled about reporting. The August 23rd issue of the Philadelphia gay weekly, Au Courant, carried a story about an incident in Tyler State Park, North Hampton, PA. A young woman was riding her bicycle along a park trail when her trail intersected another that was occupied by a thirty year old, white man of average build who was wearing a blond wig, a pink dress, and dark glasses. As she biked across his trail the man began to chase her. The trail became too rough for the bike and the woman was forced to get off and run to the shelter of the park's canoe concession. Ranger Jim Schirmer said that

the man had been spotted earlier in the park and a few days after this incident another park patron reported another sighting of the same man.

The paper, unfortunately chose the following headline for the article, "Transvestite Terrorizes Tyler State Park." While the person in question was crossdressed, we have no evidence to indicate that he was a transvestite. What if he's just a simple garden variety pervert who thought he had hit on a good disguise?

Despite the sensational coverage of the story it did have some good news for any TVs planning a Tyler Park picnic. Ranger Jim was quoted as saying that how a man chooses to dress in the park "...is his business," but if the TV is harassing visitors "that's entirely another matter." He went on to say that the next time the man appears in the park rangers will be mobilized to apprehend him.

Now isn't that swell for any one of us who likes to dress up and go bird watching? All TVs look alike to rangers who are hopped up on revenge. Some poor innocent girl could end up paying for this pervert's fun.

If any of our readers happen to be the pervert, please ask us to cancel your subscription to the Renais-

sance News and have us purge your name and address from our data base. And please, stop chasing women in the park.

LAST GASPS

Business is booming at the Renaissance News. That's why we don't need the Tyler Park Pervert's subscription money. Anyway, our ad revenues are up with the addition of several new advertisers. Remember, these advertisers are buying space in the News so they can reach our kind of people. They want us to make use of their goods and services. They are all accepting of us and our lifestyle so don't worry about what they'll think. Give them a call and tell them what you are interested in. If they have special hours or conditions please abide by them. Ok girls? Let's shop!

YET ANOTHER EVENT

One other event that I didn't mention earlier is coming up from September 23rd through 26th in California. That's when the Third Annual New Woman Conference for new (post-operative) women and their M or F partners occurs. It

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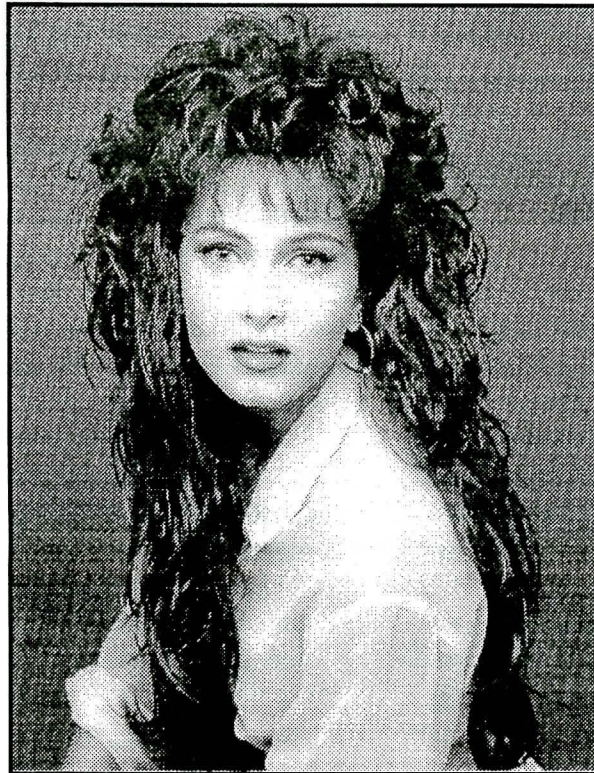


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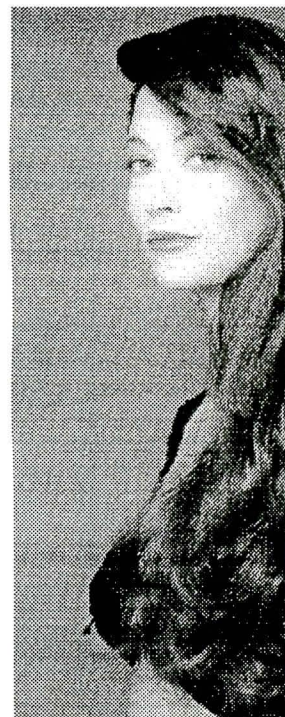
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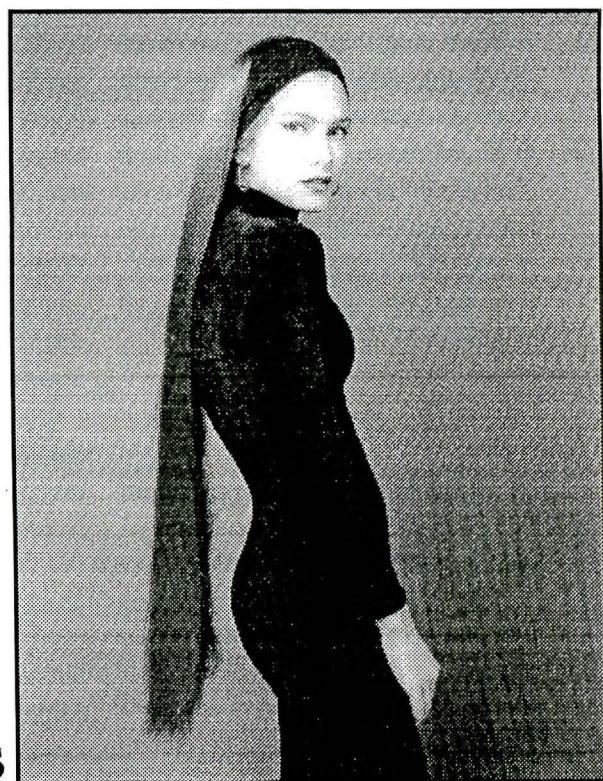
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all sounds kind of Left Coast and New Age to me. Communing with nature, culminating in a Rite of Passage ritual and of course since it happens in California, there will be a hot tub.

For information write, New Woman Conference, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick, ME 03908 or telephone 207-676-5870.

STANDARDS OF CARE QUESTIONNAIRE

Aegis, a Renaissance Affiliate in Georgia, is circulating a questionnaire concerning the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. The Standards of Care have served as minimal guidelines for hormonal and surgical sex reassignment of persons with gender dysphoria since 1979. They are regularly revised and were last revised in 1990.

The Aegis questionnaire is to provide feedback from the transgendered masses to the people who do the regular revising of the Standards. If you'd like to add your two cents write for a copy of the survey to: Aegis, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033. You can call them at 404-939-0244.

TA TA

That's it for September, kiddies. Write us letters, send us clippings, don't chase people in the park, (guess he didn't wear heels) and never use old eye makeup. October here we come!

(GOD? - continued from page 1)

We can! You bet we can beat these odds!

Look way back to the beginning of recorded Bible History. In Genesis chapter six, Moses tells us: "God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented God that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And the Lord said. 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the Earth; both man and beast and the creeping things and the fowls of the air; for it repents me that I have made them.'" Then God caused to happen the events of Noah, the Flood, the Ark and the new beginning.

After the Flood, Noah opened the Ark. The animals and creeping things left to repopulate the Earth. Noah, communed with God. "... and the Lord said in His heart, I will not curse the ground any more for man's sake, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite anymore every living thing, as I have done." (Genesis 8: 20). Again we are told in Genesis chapter nine.... there will never again be a universal flood. "I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off anymore by the waters of a flood; neither shall there anymore be a flood to destroy the earth."

The resultant of the Flood was the demise of one bad crop of humanity. Afterward, the ground dried, Noah made a vineyard, harvested the grapes, made wine and got drunk! Staggering to his bed, his cloak fell off and in a drunken stupor he slept naked! Then his son Ham came in and, in violation of the Levitical Law, saw his father naked.

(Leviticus 18: 7-8) Speculation has it that somehow Ham violated the sexual code with his father as a result of this incident. (Genesis 9: 24). Bible scholars writing in Commentaries at best can only say this is a fuzzy area. The point I'm trying to make is: Sin has flourished since the beginning of mankind and event he Flood did not wash it out!

In order to place some control on man's evil nature, God set forth, by the Holy Spirit, through Moses, beginning with the 20th chapter of Exodus and continuing through Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, the Ten Commandments, Rules, Regulations and Ordinances. This was a spiritual fence built by God to keep His children protected from the surrounding evil pagan world. This Law of God is burned into the heart of every one of us by the Holy Spirit to make us aware of our shortcomings. Therefore, we, as Christians, are extremely sensitive and acutely aware of sin in our lives.

The core point of all this, for us, is for us to lay our (false - as you'll soon see) guilt where it belongs. All our sin, all our guilt belongs on Jesus Christ. It was the purpose, as Christ himself told us, of His coming to assume the burden of all our sin. For we read in St. John 1: 29: "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!"

Simply put: God got sick of sinful man once again and took upon Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, the task of coming, in the flesh, into the created world, living as a man, exposing himself to all the temptations and all the trials of being human so he could then take upon Himself the sins of the past, the present, and the future. Thus, Christ became our sin-bearer. In his atoning death on the Cross, he fulfilled

his own prophecy given in Ezekiel 18: 4 "...the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Atonement for sin had long been established as being possible only by the death of a sacrificial lamb, perfect and without blemish. Jesus Christ became our sacrificial substitute when his Passion was fulfilled and hanging on the cross in an agony we cannot imagine, he cried out: "It is finished!" He meant the requirements of ALL of the Law had thus been met and the free gift of the remission of sins for all mankind had been earned and nothing more was then or ever would be needed...God's plan for the redemption of sinful mankind was finished...complete...whole...and required nothing more...Christ became the sacrificial lamb for all of the human race...including cross-dressers!

Finally, St. Paul writing in Colossians 2: 14 tells us: "Having


canceled and blotted out and wiped away the note, the bond the ordinances with it's legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us), this note with it's regulations and decrees, and demands, He set aside and cleared it completely out of our way, nailing it to His Cross."

We are not sinners because we crossdress. Our very nature is sinful. We have the same inherited sinful nature and condition which has been the bane of every human who has ever lived. There always is conflict between good and evil. We possess a grossly enlarged sense of guilt because we cross the invisible line between the sexes. We are males who feel and desire to live as women live. WOW! This is really a mind blowing thing. Never-the-less, we cannot entertain the notion we are alienated from God because of our crossdressing. We are what we are

exactly as God had made us.

Crossdressing and sin are not synonymous. A thumbnail sketch of the Hebrew word translated "abomination" is: *to 'ebah*. This is connected historically with idolatry in the pagan world where crossdressing was done for ceremonial sexual purposes. It was the crossdressing

(continued on page 21)



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Hot • BUZZ

JoAnn Roberts

"Anyone who thinks she's indispensable should stick her finger in a bowl of water and notice the hole it leaves when she takes it out."

Oh, the shame! The Queen must admit to not one but two errors in past columns... Last month, I stated that everybody has both XX and XY chromosomes. Upon reflection, that's an absurd statement. The Queen has no idea where her brain cells were when she wrote that. However, it is true that chromosome typing (called a karyotype) is often misleading, which is why the Olympic Committee no longer takes a scraping from the mouth of athletes for this purpose. The statement about both males and females having androgens and estrogens in their blood is correct... The second error was a typo in the phone number given for the Newport News (nee Avon) Fashions catalog. Seems the number I gave out was for the *Naval Exchange* in Newport News. The correct number is 804-825-4250.

The rising tide of the Mississippi hasn't dampened the spirits of some people. I have been asked by my very good friend, Jennifer Richards, of the St. Louis Gender Foundation, to pass along the following information. . . One evening during the 1994 convention of the International Foundation for Gender Education in Portland, Ore., there will be a *DREAM of a Reunion*. (The DREAM weekends, held in the late 70's & early 80's on the West Coast, were the first of their kind.) The idea is to gather those who attended any of the DREAM weekends and honor those who pioneered these events. If you were a DREAMer, please contact Jennifer care of the St. L.G.F., PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117. They are also looking for photos from any of the DREAM events.

Wigs have arrived (once again since all fashion is revolutionary). A recent report in *Glamour* by staffers said that wigs were more wearable and comfortable than ever. Two companies that sell high-

quality wigs by mail are Jacquelyn with more than 200 styles (800-272-2424, or in New York, 212-302-2266) and Revlon (800-777-9447). My fave is Jacquelyn.

I use a "sport" foundation for its high coverage. Such "sport" makeups use a silicone base which is affected by neither oil or water so they tend not to rub off easily. Check out Max Factor Active Protection Makeup (my choice), Clinique Workout Makeup, and Almay Moisture Tint Sport Formula. All are SPF 6.

The hot-hot buzz is about a new book that's got the feminists' ire aboil. Warren Farrell, Ph.D. has authored *The Myth of Male Power: Why Men Are the Disposable Sex*. Farrell says male power is actually male sacrifice. The traditional male role has meant taking unfulfilling, dangerous jobs to support the family and dying years before females do, statistically. He goes on to say that the women's movement helped people rethink all the things society was doing to imprison women. Now we need to do the same for men. Hell, Doc, just put 'em in a dress for a while, that'll do it. If you're interested in finding out more about Dr. Farrell's thesis, check out the July and August issues of *Playboy* (and don't look at the centerfold, you sexist pig).

Speaking of male power myths and sexist pigs, how about this myth: "If your wife is 'thinking' about coming to the [event], all you have to do to convince her is to mention 'SALE.' No woman alive can resist the siren call of a Tag Sale." Guess which event makes this claim? Why those good-ol gals from the Texas "T" Party, that's who. And you thought all transgendered people were enlightened about stereotypes, didn't you?

While we're talkin' 'bout Texas, the really hot buzz down that way is the ouster of Tere Frederickson as president of the Boulton & Park Society, sponsor of the "T". And, no, her removal wasn't over the

remark above, but rather over the premature announcement of Boulton & Park International as an umbrella organization for open support groups. (See Hot Buzz, July 1993). The board of B&P claims they knew nothing of such plans and offered a public apology to a southern group that expressed an interest in joining B&PI. Ah, well, the best laid plans of mice and [TVs] sometimes go awry.

I Want My FTV. If you are lucky enough to have cable access television, then you're lucky enough to get at least one of three hot TV (as in television) shows about the latest and greatest fashions. Leading the pack is Cindy Crawford and MTV's *House of Style*. The show is hip and the music is as hot as the fashions. Crawford's insider status gets her places no one else can go. Usually airs on a Wednesday evening at 10:00 PM... Then there's CNN's *Style with Elsa Klensch*. This show has been around since 1977 and portrays fashion as news. There's lotsa detail but not much flash. This show airs Saturday at 10:30 AM and at 2:30 PM, repeats Sunday at 6:30 AM... The newcomer is VH-1's *FT*, Fashion Television hosted by Jeanne Beker. Not as flashy as *House of Style* nor as staid as *Style with Elsa Klensch*, this may be the one for you. Beker did get an on-camera chat with Madonna. *FT* airs Saturday at 1:00 PM, and repeats Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

The fashionable jacket for Fall is fitted and flared, that is fitted at the waist and flared from there down. Suitable variations include single and double breasted models in fabrics from tweed to gabardine to velvet. Looks great over a pair of black cotton-Lycra leggings and knee-length boots (with or without heels).

Speaking of boots and heels, this dyno-combo ruled the roost at Micam Modacalzatura, a trade show for Italian shoemakers held in Bologna. (The Queen has a weakness for things Italian since she's 100% herself.) Most of the Fall col-

Hot • BUZZ

lections showed lotsa boots. . . slip-on boots. . . tie-up boots. . . ankle-high boots. . . over-the-knee boots. . . and they all sat on platform soles. Be not afraid, however, that designers have abandoned sexy high-heeled shoes. They, too, were in abundance.



Next time you run into one of those religious fanatics ask this question: If sex is dirty and disgusting, why should I save it for someone I love?



Congratulations are in order for Renaissance affiliate Monmouth Ocean TransGender. They are the first transgender group in the state of New Jersey to become a member of the New Jersey Lesbian & Gay Coalition. The kudos go to Cathy Cummings of the NJLGC for supporting inclusion of MOTG and to Terry M. of MOTG for making it happen.



On the more technical side, they're buzzin' in China about the experimental work of Dr. Zhao-Ji Xia. Xia has performed over 20 sex reassignment surgeries, both M-t-F and F-t-M. What's hot is the good doctor's experiments with transplanting testes and ovaries into his transsexual patients. The grafts were performed to alleviate liver and metabolic problems caused by exogenous hormone administration. According to Xia's own report in a letter to Phaedra Kelly of the IGTA in the UK, the grafts' function were excellent. But there's a lot more work to be done.



The community has lost a resource. As of July, Lavender & Lace, a business aimed at supporting transgendered people since 1988, closed its doors and shut off its phone. Owner, Gloria Mathis could not be reached for comment. If anyone has contact with her, please ask her to contact me care of the newsletter.



Boos 'n Kisses were awarded to *Cosmopolitan* last month. The kisses go to *Agony Column* author Irma Kurtz. Kurtz pub-

lished a letter from a wife who discovered not only her husband's crossdressing but her own dominant desires. To Kurtz's credit she answered: "What are you worried about? You're not hurting anyone... The only thing that astonishes me is that you were married for ten years before discovering how perfectly matched your sexual fantasies are." Go Irma!... The Boo's go to writer Michael Bywater for *26 Reasons Why Men Stay Faithful*. The reasons are alphabetical. Reason #20 is the letter T, for transsexual. Check this out: "Suppose you are living with a man who decides he wants to become a woman... In the transitional stages, however, your partner's fidelity is assured. What precise form that fidelity will take is a matter for some negotiation and imagination, but you need not worry about that. After all, think back to how you felt when you were first confronted by a dish of snails." Is this supposed to be funny? Bywater makes more gaffs including citing geriatric dementia (g), jealousy (j), and zoanthropy (z) as reasons to remain faithful. What an ass.



I have often mentioned skin correctors for blotchy or uneven skin tone applied before foundation, but they're not easy to find. I've found another source which may be available in your area, Physician's Formula makes three compacts (\$4.95) in peach, mint and grape shades to conceal redness, dark spots or sallowness.



Only one person (and she's disqualified) gave the correct answer to my two-month long QwickiQwiz from July. "Karen Johnson" is Whoopi Goldberg's real name, so the correct answer to my question is Guinan. Kym Richards of *Cross-Talk* knew that. Okay, here's a question closer to home: Who coined the term "transsexualism" and what year? For extra brownie points, who was the first person in the 20th century to have a "sex change?" The first correct by mail will receive a CDS video. Send your answer to CDS-QQ, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.



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My mommy says ifin' I do'ed dis next piece I get a wippen I DO'ed IT!

TRI-ESS MESS

The Northern Ohio Tri-Ess chapter Alpha Omega president Megan Parsons recently found herself taking a long run on a short pier. She was trying to do what she thought was right in bringing to a vote whether or not to let a former heterosexual crossdresser (now a transsexual) maintain her full membership in Tri-Ess. (FYI: Tri-Ess is a national crossdressers organization requiring its full members to be heterosexual.) The problem started for Megan when they got the necessary unanimous vote to let transsexuals into their "club." At the following monthly meeting she proceeded to be grilled by the members absent from the month before. One was the very person she was trying to help who showed up with her own definition of transexuality. She then informed the group that she did not fit her definition or theirs but would be rejoining Tri-Ess and the Northern Ohio chapter. It was then decided by the group (?) from the influence of a few (?) that the vote was anti-constitutional and declared null and void. (Wait! this gets even more twisted.) All this time Megan is trying to wake up Jane Ellen Fairfax, the Tri-Ess current head-fez, on what is happening but only receives a reply in the form of a letter from the regional coordinator with "veiled threats and innuendos." To make matters worse Ms. Parsons finds out through the same regional coordinator the person had refused a "Friends of Tri-Ess" membership offered by Jane Ellen herself. Megan has yet to receive a reply from Jane Ellen and had even forwarded a copy to the regional coordinator and asked that she try to get an answer. Jane and

company must be too busy printing some more of that "save the heterosexual queen" drivel she spews forth from time to time. (If any of you wish to read any of it I will be more than glad to provide references to find it.) Not surprisingly, Megan has given leave for the chapter to elect a new president.

POINTS TO PONDER

Why does Tri-Ess feel so strongly about something that just isn't necessary to worry about? Be thankful that Renaissance is more than adhering to an archaic set of By-Laws. Who or what are they protecting, who or what from? (Don't tell me it's the spouse, family or newcomers and I won't tell you that's a lot of BS.) It's almost like they reason that if John Q. Public were to corner them in an alley, posed to beat them, a simple "Wait a minute! I'm a HETEROSEXUAL man in a dress." would save them. Now I preach to people that Vis A Vis is not about throwing punches at other groups. There's enough of fickle bickering between other groups as it is and they should just stop it and take a look at the forest for a while. That does not mean that I or you should not intelligently question an individual or group agenda when it just doesn't seem to fit the puzzle. Next time you are at the mall, or in church, or at a sporting event take a look around and try to figure out who the heterosexual people are, who the homosexual people are, which of them are bi-sexual, and out of those, who are the transvestites and transsexual people. Some of them are easy to spot, most are not and, what does it matter? If you do this for some time you will soon grow tired of this game and realize that they are all just people. (And that's good enough to go on about your business and let someone look at you.) Shame on you Alpha Omega for your "flip flopping, too many irons in the fire, goal with a useless focus" stand.

NOTICE

To: Megan Parsons; Brenda Davidson would like to introduce you to Renaissance.

GRAND THEFT EROTICA

Recently a friend of mine experienced a very unusual theft while staying at a Comfort Inn on a long business trip. It seems that someone entered the room during the day looking for items of worth and found something of

greater optic value instead. My friend, a male transvestite who always travels with at least some evening lingerie had also on this particular stay packed some erotic literature.

Ohh, that's bad. No, that's good because while the intruder was going through the suitcase he was distracted by the adult reading and forgot all about the travel money and items of popular theft left in the room.

Ohh, that's good. No, that's bad because whomever it was left the lingerie but took the adult reading which was of the gender bending nature and contained most of the "best of" from the owner's collection.

Ohh, that's not so bad. No, that's not so good because of the break-in and not wanting the rest of his belongings stolen the next day it was decided that reporting the entry and the missing literature to the police was the best option.

Ohh, that's bad. Yes, you're right. An unplanned educational opportunity was missed because the thief is either illiterate or does not read English. How do we know? The latest issue of Renaissance News was mixed in with the literature and was left behind. I'll leave it up to you to come up with a moral to this story.

UNTOUCHABLES RAID MEETING!

Ok, would you believe the whole gang from the Mod Squad? Ok, would you believe two really old guys from Dragnet? Ok, would you believe one guy from the Chicago Police Civil Rights Unit? The Chicago Gender Society had an officer from the unit explain their state's hate crime statute and how it is enforced. Twenty-two states, including Pennsylvania, currently have hate crime statutes but the trouble is in defining what a hate crime is. The offense must include physical violence, and must be committed because of the sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation of the victim. I was unable to find in time exactly what the punishment is in this state for such a crime, but in Illinois the punishment (remember we're talking assault and battery) didn't seem to be all that stiff. A first offense required only one hundred hours of community service. A second offense got two hundred hours of community service. The officer commented that the judge will usually assign service in the community of the person attacked. That's great! Now you have to look at the guy who beat you painting the curb and fire hydrants every time you leave or come

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Reaching for the Stars

by Lynn E. Walker

Seems a lot of us like to talk about exploring or getting in touch with our inherent femininity. Certainly, we have an undeniable affinity for certain aspects of the feminine experience as we perceive it and understand it. And indeed, some of us – many of us – are taking various means to achieve congruence between our internal and external modes, and we assert that we indeed are women within ourselves. To make matters worse, if you report a hate crime CGS was advised that it may be considered newsworthy and to be ready to find or hear your name in the evening news. Nonetheless, if you find yourself a victim make sure and do the right thing. REPORT IT TO THE POLICE!

YANKEE QUEEN GOES SOUTH

Queen of Prussia says: Too many irons in fire? Build bigger fire! And that's exactly what has happened. Ms. JoAnn Roberts was elected chairman (chairperson?) of the board of the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) out of Decatur in the great southern state of Georgia. I've been informed that AEGIS has also been approved as an IRS 501 C3 which makes them an official non-profit, tax-exempt organization in the eyes of the federal government. Between Ms. Roberts and Ms. Dallas Denny we may soon have a new meaning to the word REBEL.

SPIELBERG TRY'S CROSSDRESSING

The Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN) in New York, N.Y. is one of our affiliates and puts out a monthly newsletter called City Lights. In it I found this bit about Steven Spielberg working on a new film based on the screenplay "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar." No Spielberg title yet but the story follows three transgendered people from New York City who pack their bags, pick a car, and head west on a roadtrip. They make it to somewhere in the midwest where the car breaks down in a town that "never seen anything like that before." I'll be waiting, and watching, and hoping. If this flicks a hit I'm going to need two others that love long car rides, can half read a roadmap (part of the fun of a roadtrip is getting really, really lost), and can talk sense quick while wearing a miniskirt.

Take care of yourself, then pass it on.

Yet, for so many of us, our social center is in the transgender community. Not the YWCA, not the YWHA. Not the League of Women Voters. Not the National Organization for Women. Not, you note, for the most part, with 'congruent' women. Someone might ask one of us, "If you are a real woman, as you assert you are, how come you hang around with a bunch of transpeople? You know, most women don't choose to associate with people like them, so why do you?"

A good point, you know. If we enjoy and prefer the company of women, why do we choose to associate with transfolk? If our attraction is for men, why do we hang around with a bunch of gender people? On first consideration, the issue could engender considerable discomfort, as it kind of shakes up some very basic notions, and causes a shift – if only momentary – in our perspective.

Maybe a couple of issues impact on this situation. One is that after many years alone, when we find ourselves among others who are like ourselves, we are reluctant to leave. After all, we were so many years in the dark, in the closet, isolated from others, not even knowing there were people like ourselves, when we finally found them and found that their life stories were our life stories we felt a little bit like we had finally come home. How can you leave? Another is that while we may talk of celebrating our lifestyle, and we may talk about being "gender gifted" and all that, sometimes we still feel a lot more disphoric than gifted. And it's okay to feel gender disphoric. And when we do, it's important to have someone to talk with and maybe a shoulder to cry on. Sometimes we feel like this isn't much of a gift, we feel angry, abandoned, ugly, and alone again. And we need to be with a few people who have been there themselves.

Another still, is that the transgender community, although small, tends to be open and hospitable. So many of us not necessarily out of any kind of emotional indolence or timidity, find a kind of refuge or oasis here. We need not be concerned with passing. We need not worry quite so much about what others will think of us.

We can relax a bit and be at ease. On the other hand, we may not necessarily quite know just how it is that congruent women are, when they are together. Perhaps we don't quite get into novels by Marilyn French or Terry MacMillan. Perhaps we don't get excited reading about women's epistemological ways, or women's spirituality, or Deborah Tannen's work on gender differences in communication style. Perhaps we're more into reporttalk than rapport-talk. And so it's easier to be with gender folk than it is to be with congruent women or men.

All these issues, and many more, of course, are related to one much larger issue. Western society has a tendency to marginalize and minimize certain visible minorities, and to encourage a kind of compartmentalization of groups of people. Within the compartment, within the ghetto, there is comfort, security, acceptance, support and community. Apartheid, you know. Not to say we should get rid of support groups, or social groups, or networking within the transgender community. But, we need to be open to the notion that there is more. Life is larger than that. We can, if we want to, grow, and stretch, and reach. We can dream, and dance. *Aspera ad astra*. Reach for the stars. Until society changes a bit more we may be condemned to a kind of half life, in the shadows, on the fringes. But we can work to make the community—our community, our transgender community—something which is solid, nurturing, and accepting. And active. And more open to change, more open to the notion that we can help make the non-transgendered more aware, more understanding, more accepting, more tolerant. Totally female we are most emphatically not. No one is. Not Tula, not Cher, not Lauren Bacall, Bette Davis or Tina Turner. Nobody. Our situations, or life stories, our world-views, are different from most people. We have a lot in common with each other, though. And we need each other. We don't need to be marginalized, demeaned, ignored, isolated or victimized; and we don't need to be patronized, pacified, or ghettoized. Things in general are improving, though painfully slowly. In a generation or two, our daughters and granddaughters will look to us and our situations, and our agonies and concerns, and they will wonder. They will see themselves in us, and we will see ourselves in them. But times, and laws, and societies will have changed.

Aspera ad astra.



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SHOPPING WITH JACKIE

by Jackie Thomas

I've been out and about again. It's fun to "shop 'til you drop." Besides, look at all the time and money I save you.

Well, this month I'm going to recommend a TV supply house to you. Vernon's Specialties, Inc., 386 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02154. Telephone 1-800-227-0605 (for orders only), 617-894-1744 for questions. Call and request a catalog, which is \$20.00. The catalog is nice and has many hard to find items that we girls all seem to need. Vernon's will also put you on their mailing list (which is not given out to anyone) for their almost monthly specials and sales. They have a com-

plete selection of TV books, magazines, and VCR Tapes at normal prices, along with corsets, cosmetics, wigs, bras, panties, slips, gloves, shoes, hose, fetish items, and more. Although you can buy some things cheaper at other places, Vernon's is one stop shopping for the TV. If nothing else, the catalog is a great resource for comparative shopping, and the sale items are generally a good buy. Be aware however, (and Vernon's tells you this) that lingerie is not returnable. Make sure you are ordering what you want and in the correct size. I had a bad experience with this. I ordered my size, and they sent me a smaller size that would not

fit. I called them, and was told they could not be returned - Sorry. Needless to say I was a little (actually a lot) put out by this mistake of theirs that cost me money. Besides, I wanted the items (sexy). My favorite item is a pair of nylon panties with S-rows of ruffled lace in front and back (I happen to love lace) for \$12.95.

I need your input. Tell me your sources and experiences so I can share them with the community. Write me at LSV Renaissance, P.O. Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or call and leave a message at 717-780-1578.

Until next time. Happy shopping.

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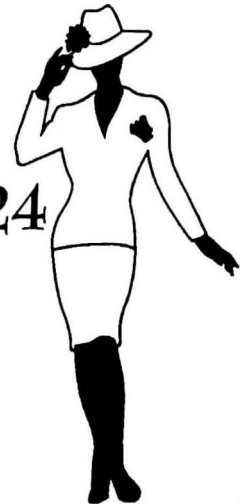
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(GOD? - continued from page 13)
for ceremonial sexual purposes which was addressed by the Law in Deuteronomy 5: 22. Pagan worship in it's many forms, of the God given reproductive power of humanity was the abomination. It still is.

My crossdressing doesn't fall into any such category. I see no sin in our crossdressing!

Oh My! I've tried to condense a 300 page book into these few paragraphs. As a Crossdresser, I pray the Lord will use these few words to ease some long held guilt and give spiritual relief. God is for us. As God's created beings we are beloved of the Lord. Let us therefore, allow the Lord to bless (make happy) our lives. We have discovered already, we are helpless to do anything about our crossdressing. We have tried purges. We have tried beseeching God for deliverance, and we have tried all manner of human

interventions.... still we dress. For booze, for dope, for tobacco there are means of deliverance. For crossdressing, none exists. I have personally been delivered from booze, from drugs, and from tobacco by divine intervention. I am now convinced to ask for deliverance from being who, what, and how God made me to be is unreasonable. To be delivered from the very nature God placed in me is an unreasonable expectation. I tried it. It just did not happen! It couldn't!

If my love for you is seen in each word I've written here, then just think, how much greater is God's love for you. As crossdresser to crossdresser, I say: GOD BLESS YOU!

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Vendors' Night

Smart shoppers' alert!

The Philadelphia Chapter is having its annual Vendors' Night during the September 18th meeting. This promises to be the biggest ever, with everything you could want for your one stop shopping needs. Consultants, jewelry, photography, seamstress and much more. Starts at 8:00 p.m. so bring your procketbooks and shop 'til you drop.



EVERYBODY GET W.E.T.

Just after it was too late to get anything in the Newsletter, Nicole, the young lady who used to run the Fur Salon lesbian dance raves at the Silk City lounge here in the City of Brotherly Love, gave us a call to invite us to her new party at The Casbah. Like I said, it was too late since the party was August 20th, one day before our GPC meeting. The new parties are called W.E.T., which stands for Women Entertaining Themselves. As with the old Fur Salon the main emphasis is on young lesbians but like before crossdressers are always welcome. We're so welcome that if you mention Renaissance at the door they take \$2.00 off the \$5.00 admission charge.

The parties will happen once a month and each one will have a different theme. August's theme was Speakeasy Night with flapper costumes encouraged. Who knows what the future parties will be. Nicole knows, so call her at 215-413-3400 for more information.

NEED A BACK ISSUE?

Selected back issues of the Renaissance News are now available for \$2.00 per copy. Send requests for specific issues to Renaissance, P.O. Box 60552, King of Prussia,

PA, 19406. Attn: Beth Marshall. Include a check for \$2.00 per issue ordered plus another fifty two cents for each issue to cover postage. If the issue you have ordered is not available we will send your check back. You may also ask Beth in person about specific availability if you attend one of our meetings.



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